

August 2016



2016 Gulf Kids Environment Days

Curious minds are counting down the days! **Erica Blumson** and her team of staff and volunteers will be running two days of GKED this year. Approx 90 students are expected at each of the events.

Topics will range from hands-on soil erosion experiments to wildlife identification and understanding the drivers of primary production.

Thurs 25 Sept in Georgetown and Fri 26 Aug in Croydon. (*photo: Erica Blumson*)

General Meeting in Croydon

Come along for a 2-day special, **Tues 30 Aug** and **Weds 31 Aug**.

Northern Gulf is running the first day's program. Routine business first up, then a couple of important discussions about how we **improve representation in the sectors** and how we **make decisions about important (controversial) topics** in the region.

Follow this link to get the Agenda and other background documents:
[Northern Gulf Meeting Papers available here](#)

After lunch we shift to invited speakers and staff reports. On Tues night we'll enjoy a roast dinner special at the Pub.

And we're quite chuffed to receive a bit of support from **Scott Harris** so that 2 lucky farmers can attend the [Biological Farming Conference](#) in Cairns this Oct. It will be ideal for those looking to coax a sustainable livelihood out of tough country.

Pay Dirt!

Door Prize: 2x \$500 value

Your chance to win tickets and expenses to attend National Biological Farming Conference, Cairns (28-30 Oct)

<http://www.nationalbiologicalfarmingconference.org.au>

Prizes donated by

Strathmore Station

Promoting better farming practice in the region

Gulf Savannah Development Program: 31 Aug

Weds will feature Gulf Savannah Development's event: **Tackling real problems with Practical Solutions**, facilitated by ex ABC Landline presenter **Peter Lewis**.

GSD are laying on a BBQ after the program. See more

info: <https://www.facebook.com/Gulf-Savannah-Development-1066354213415445/>



Image: Courtesy of Etheridge Shire Council

Thoughts and prayers

This month saw the passing of respected elder **Dr Tommy George**, a prominent figure on the Cape for many years. His son Tommy also passed in the week. Representatives from Northern Gulf attended the services in Laura and gave condolences to the family.

We also lost the company of **Noel Lacey**, a much loved man of the Georgetown region.

Our dear **Janet Busch**, Tagalaka Elder from Normanton and Director of Northern Gulf Indigenous Sector, has had an operation in Mt Isa and is now recovering.

And please continue your prayers for **Noeline Ikin** and her family.

Solid results from Meeting in July

Thanks to all the Northern Gulf members who sent in their proxies or rolled up to our General Meeting at the end of July. 11 voting members attended and 11 valid proxies were counted out of an overall attendance at the event of over 30 people.

One of the important decisions taken was the **reversal of a membership sector resolution** that was passed at the 2015 AGM. Matters covered in that resolution are now going forward as discussions for consideration by the Northern Gulf membership. Please download and review the **DRAFT Minutes** from: <http://www.northerngulf.com.au/news/2016/189>.



Michael Anthony presenting Wildlife Project update (image: Vickie Mylrea)

The afternoon program featured the launch of the Biodiversity decks for the nature conservation properties that **Dr Carly Starr** and her team have been working on for a couple of years now. The books look fantastic and should be a real asset for the participating property managers.

NRM Alliance proceeding

The North Queensland NRM Alliance lays a foundation between Northern Gulf, Terrain, and Cape York NRM to more efficiently **share resources** and **advocate for improved outcomes** across our three regions.

Conservation Director **Ellen Weber** has been appointed to represent Northern Gulf in the ongoing developments at the governance level, and Executive Coordinator **Allan Holmes** will advance our interests at the operational level.



Far North Agenda: Regional Development Australia

Allan Dale and **Jann Crase** from the [RDA FNQ-TS](#) visited our Mareeba offices to outline regional development achievements to date and discuss our particular visions for the NRM sector.

We were able to confirm much of the existing vision has been well-captured in the **Regional NRM Plan** as developed by **Sarah Rizvi** and her team. The core of the opportunity for regional NRM remains as valid today as it has been in the past 2 decades.

We brought special attention to two areas that demand specific attention and investment:

[1] The need for ongoing monitoring and sensor networks, and interpretive capacity. As development opportunities and pressures continue to mount in the region, we will need greater understanding of land and ecosystem condition and trend.

Without ongoing monitoring programs there is no baseline or trend data. The regional NRM body should have a central role in establishing, coordinating and synthesising all monitoring efforts in the region.

[2] Programs to draw urban and remote communities into more productive dialogue. There is an alarming (and growing) polarisation between people living on country in our vast landscape and the people amassed in the urban seats of finance and power.

Common sense tells us that both communities depend deeply on each other, so **a win-win situation is the only logical goal.** The challenge is how to weave a constructive, healthy relationship across the divide so that we can reap the benefits into the future.

Northern Gulf has the role of **growing opportunities and building narratives** to make this happen.



Visit the always-surprising [Croydon Shire](#), Historic Gulf Savannah Region.

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Keen for the Croaker?

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