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*Peter Harrison from Northern Gulf sharing knowledge on groundwater science. photo: Erica Hughes*

## **Gulf Kids Environment Day Success at Croydon and Georgetown**

Over 150 Students from across Carpentaria, Croydon, and Etheridge Shires participated in the 2016 Gulf Kids Environment Days, 25-26 August.

Students went on guided bush walks to look for riparian wildlife, learnt to tie fishing knots, throw lines and cast nets, how to set up an aquaponics system to grow fish and vegetables, and got up close and personal with water bugs and fresh water crayfish!

Northern Gulf Resource Management Group coordinated the event which featured a hands on approach to environmental curricula. Topics included freshwater ecology, understanding riparian habitat, and groundwater science.

The event was made possible through support from Croydon Shire Council, Sunfish

## Enthusiastic voices at regional meetings

Following Gulf Kids Environment Day we held a Board meeting on 29 August, a General Meeting on 30 Aug, and partnered with GSD and AgForce to support a day of presentations on 31 Aug.

The overall comment was "...those sessions were done well: lots of good information that we can put to practical use."

**Patrick Wheeler** opened our meeting on Tuesday with a welcome to Tagalaka country (**Janet Busch** is still recovering and was unable to attend). Patrick's key message was for us all to focus on what we're going to leave to our kids as a legacy in the region.

Our members meeting confirmed the interest in sorting out Sector Membership criteria. We look forward to more discussion on this ahead of making decisions at the AGM in Nov. For background, please download and read the [Membership-Sectors Briefing Note](#).

Executive Coordinator **Allan Holmes** rounded up news from operations. Of special note was the huge amount of work that staff and our contractors have been undertaking to get the year-end reporting over the line. Big props to **Vickie Mylrea** especially.

In the presentations section we were given projects updates and briefings from some of our key stakeholders. **Barry Hughes** from [Gulf Cattleman's Association](#) challenged us all to think in terms of collaboration and that idea echoed powerfully over the next 2 days.

**Gillian Teague** from [Gulf Savanna Development](#) was able to give us a good overview of their support of development initiatives in the region related to Karumba port, Roads, Communications, Land Tenure, and Energy.

Next day started early with **Russell** and **John Lethbridge** flying in to help stir up the [AgForce North](#) representation which included **Dominic Burden**, **Tahna Jackson**, **Andrew Freeman** and **Paul Burke**.

The day was coordinated by the cheerful and incisive **Pete Lewis**, ex ABC Landline presenter, who demonstrated his fine skills for facilitation and continuous social media. Catch Peter at: <https://twitter.com/endofthebitumen>

We are very pleased to announce that our lease with Larrakjia Shire for the use of Savannah House has been re-negotiated and commenced from end of August.

Over coming months we look forward to big changes to the layout and use of the facility, with an emphasis on providing benefit to the whole community as an NRM Hub.

Making this all possible is the bright-eyed enthusiasm of **Paula Ransom** who has re-commenced her employment with Northern Gulf this week. Paula will be keeping the doors open and lights on from 0900-1300, Mon-Thurs every week.

Paula will take on a range of responsibilities based in the Georgetown office, including communication and membership updates, event planning, facilities management, Board support, and liaison with Council.

It's a big job and we couldn't be happier than to have Paula take up the challenge.

Please make sure to stop in and share a cuppa and see what we can do to support your NRM ideas.



## Agricultural Resource Assessment underway in the Mitchell

CSIRO have commenced their assessment program for the Mitchell under the leadership of [Dr Ian Watson](#). The team features many of the same specialists who conducted the [Flinders and Gilbert \(FAGARA\)](#) assessment several years ago.

The remit of the study is to assess soils and waters for potential agriculture and aquaculture development. The report is expected to develop in consultation with local stakeholders, traditional owners, and science providers over the next two years.

**Musgrove** is scoping opportunities for Northern Gulf participation in the project.

[ANGIC](#) Chair, **Ron Archer** gave a presentation to the scientists at Chillagoe earlier this week, noting the fundamental rights of Indigenous people to water.

The poster features a dark background with a glowing light effect. On the left, a small green seedling grows from a white pot. On the right, the text 'NATIONAL biological farming CONFERENCE' is displayed, with 'NATIONAL' in a semi-circle above 'biological farming' and 'CONFERENCE' below it. A colorful logo of water droplets is positioned above the word 'biological'.

**28 - 30 Oct Cairns Convention Centre**

**PAY DIRT**

Learn the latest in effective, cost-efficient farming techniques from real-world farmers.

Grow your soils: harvest a fortune!

Keen to learn more about the "other way" to farm? Here's an unbeatable chance to catch up on the cutting edge. Hear about proven and experimental techniques from the experts: actual farmers. Take field trips to see the evidence for yourself.

Northern Gulf still have **two tickets to the Conference** we'd like to give to our regional farmers to help lift their operations.

The tickets have been donated by Strathmore as part of their commitment to encouraging sustainable agriculture in the region.

If you're interested, please contact **Paula Ransom** at our **Georgetown office**, or [corporate@northerngulf.com.au](mailto:corporate@northerngulf.com.au)

## Along the trail

We called **Janet Busch** in hospital last Monday to wish her well and a continued recovery. **Ellen Weber** has several sisters who work at Townsville Base, so we're hoping to get a bit of extra attention on the case.

Word has it that **Noeline Ikin** was firing on all cylinders in conversation on Weds. Her road back to full health is a long one, so it's really good to hear that she's up to feeling passionate about matters in the region.

Congratulations to our **Natalie Waller** and husband **Dan** who were joined on by the amazing and gorgeous **Marlo** late last week.



## Director Positions: Nominations Open

This coming AGM (Nov 2016) will see the normal election process for Sector Directors plus an election for Vice Chair.

We are organising information packets and nomination forms for all positions and will have them up online over the coming fortnight.

A number of our current Directors have indicated that they are eager to stand again, which is very encouraging. We also are keen to bring fresh ideas and new perspectives to the Board and look forward to a healthy discussion over the coming terms.

We encourage all interested members to consider serving in these Director roles.

## Sector Directors

### Conservation

Ellen Weber, 0439 778 051, [conservation@northerngulf.com.au](mailto:conservation@northerngulf.com.au)

### Community

Ian Adcock, 0408 603 316, [community@northerngulf.com.au](mailto:community@northerngulf.com.au)

### Indigenous

Janet Busch, 0400 109 598, [indigenous@northerngulf.com.au](mailto:indigenous@northerngulf.com.au)

### Local Government

Will Attwood, 0448 089 068, [localgovernment@northerngulf.com.au](mailto:localgovernment@northerngulf.com.au)

### Industry

(temp vacant), John Brisbin, 0407 471 565, [chair@northerngulf.com.au](mailto:chair@northerngulf.com.au)

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### Vice Chair

Riki Gunn, 0427 476 500, [vicechair@northerngulf.com.au](mailto:vicechair@northerngulf.com.au)

### Chair

John Brisbin, 0407 471 565, [chair@northerngulf.com.au](mailto:chair@northerngulf.com.au)

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## Executive Coordinator

Allan Holmes 0498 977 632

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## Take a closer look

The *North Queensland Naturalist* has been at the edge of natural science and appreciation for over 70 years. Northern Gulf is proud to support their ongoing work. [Browse the current edition #46](#)



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