SEA COUNTRY

INDIGENOUS ISSUES OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

NUMBER 9

AUGUST 2002

The ninth issue of Sea Country was compiled by staff of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA). If you have any questions or would like to go on our mailing list, contact us at the address on the back.

LOOK INSIDE

- **Representative Areas** - GBRMPA's Representative Areas Program Community Participation Phase 1 has started
- **Darumbal Rangers** – Traditional Owners working in the Marine Park
- **Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee** – new Indigenous members

NOTICE BOARD

The Far Northern Section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park has been proclaimed.

Do you want to know how to get traditional names for your reefs and sea country on Maps? Then contact Leon Jackson, the Murri Cartographer at GBRMPA to talk about how you can do it. Telephone (07) 47500 889

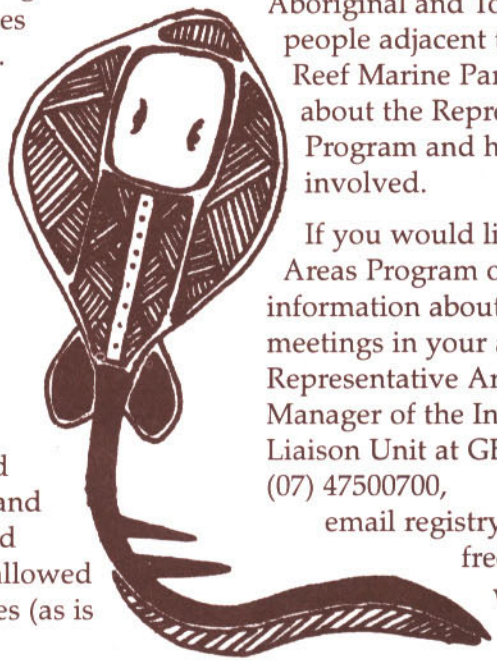
Illustrations by Lockhart River Art Gang.

Representative Areas Program Launched 7 May 2002

The Great Barrier Reef is well known worldwide for its 2900 coral reefs and its huge variety of wildlife – but there's more to it than just coral reefs. The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) includes many different community types, groups of animals and plants, which live together in habitats such as sponge gardens, soft coral gardens, mangroves, seagrass beds, sandbanks, mudflats, estuaries and reef drop-offs. These animals, plants and their habitats make up the 'biodiversity' of the GBRWHA.

The Representative Areas Program (RAP) aims to protect the range of biodiversity by protecting examples of the different habitats that occur in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: these examples will be 'representative' of these habitats. This will be implemented by creating a new network of Green Zones (National Park Zones).

In the new green zones, people will be allowed to visit these areas but they can't take things from them. Non-extractive activities will be allowed such as boating, diving, snorkelling, non-extractive research and tourism. Commercial and recreational fishing and collecting will not be allowed in the new Green Zones (as is currently the case).



Community Participation Phases

There will be two formal stages of public participation – the Community Participation Phase 1 leading up to the drafting of a new zoning plan for the whole of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and the Community Participation Phase 2 when the draft zoning plan is available for comment. The first formal Community Participation Phase commenced early in May. The second phase will be the crucial stage for you to have your say. Once the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has taken into account all the comments, a final plan will be submitted for Ministerial and Parliamentary approval.

The Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit (IPLU) has started consulting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to inform them about the Representative Areas Program and how they can get involved.

If you would like the Representative Areas Program overview or more information about the program or meetings in your area, contact the Representative Areas Planning Team or Manager of the Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit at GBRMPA on (07) 47500700,
email registry@gbrmpa.gov.au,
freecall 1800 990 177 or
write to PO Box 1379,
Townsville Q 4810.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY SEA COUNTRY

An education initiative from the Indigenous Policy and Liaision Unit.

Lets find out about the Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit

INFO

For further information about getting involved in the Representative Areas Program or other Marine Parks planning talk to the Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit on (07) 47500 700, Freecall 1800 802 251 or email registry@gbrmpa.gov.au

Lockhart River Art Gang Illustrations this issue:

Front Page, Silas Hobson
Page 3. Silas Hobson
Page 4. Edna Johnson
Page 5. Steven Short
Page 6. David Michael

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) employed its first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison officer in 1992 and later created the Indigenous Cultural Liaison Unit in 1995. In 2001, the unit changed its name and is now known as the Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit (IPLU).

Along with information dissemination, the unit facilitates the involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in major GBRMPA projects such as the Representative Areas Program, species conservation, fisheries management and other planning and permit processes. IPLU also works on developing co-operative management arrangements with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for natural resource management, including turtle and dugong.

This will be a busy six months for the unit with staff frequently out in the field visiting communities. Keep an eye out for them when they visit your region.

IPLU's four staff members are:

Leanne Sommer *(Manager)*

Leanne Sommer has been Manager of the unit since October 2000. Some of you may know Leanne already from her previous work as a Planner with GBRMPA from 1994 to 2000. She grew up with the Kunjen (Mitchell River) people at Kowanyama on western Cape York, and has studied natural resource management at university. Leanne has worked in four Australian World Heritage Areas (Kakadu, Wet Tropics, Great Barrier Reef, and Riversleigh Fossil Sites) and has a desire to see Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people receive greater recognition of their management roles in caring for their land and sea country.

Chicka Turner

(Project Manager)

Chicka was born in Cairns and raised in South East Queensland. He has spent the last 10 years in North Queensland. He has worked as a boilermaker, builder's labourer, National and Marine Parks Ranger, Community Liaison Officer, Project Officer for DPI Fisheries and Community Ranger Co-ordinator for GBRMPA. A lot of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities may remember him from when he was at GBRMPA from 1993 to 1996.

Chicka returned to GBRMPA in January this year and is responsible for managing the unit's projects. These include turtle and dugong management projects, co-operative management arrangements for Aboriginal Traditional Owner groups and consultation with Indigenous communities for the Representative Areas Program.

John Tapim *(Project Officer)*

John Tapim was born and raised in Townsville. His mother's family is from Murray Island in the Eastern Torres Strait. Since June 2000, John's role as Liaison Officer has taken him to various coastal areas in Queensland from as far south as Rockhampton and north to the Torres Strait. He is tasked with providing information to communities on management issues relating to the Marine Park. This helps community groups to make informed decisions and raises the awareness and level of involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in various programs that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is undertaking. He is also active in providing advice to other units within GBRMPA that seek to undertake consultation and negotiation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Holly Savage

(Administrative Officer)

Holly was born and raised in Cairns and is the third last child in a family of nine. Her parents are from the Eastern Islands in the Torres Strait. She has been the Administrative Officer with the unit since October 2000 and has assisted with fieldwork in Mackay, Cardwell and north Queensland. Holly has a keen interest in broad aspects of the marine environment and through her job aims to raise staff awareness of the importance of sea country to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.