
WTYAC Newsletter



*Wadjanbarra Tableland
Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation*

November 2019

General Information

Dear Members,

WOW! It's been a hectic year. This newsletter has been a long time coming and we do apologies. The Newsletter is to inform everyone of the activities and information in general and to give all our members an insight of the daily operations.

The AGM Notice has been sent out informing everyone of this meeting and hoping to see you there. Our Webpage is going and more detail is provided in this Newsletter. Let's recap on this past twelve months. Hoping you enjoy.

Proof of Aboriginality:

We would like to inform members of the condition when requesting "Proof of Aboriginality".

1. Proof of Aboriginality will ONLY be for Members of Wadjanbarra Tableland Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation **OR**
2. Show Connection to 1 of the 7 families of Tableland Yidinji Native Title
3. Treat your "Proof of Aboriginality" form like a Birth Certificate
4. DO NOT LOSE or MISPLACE it
5. If you NEED a replacement of your "Proof of Aboriginality" - a small fee will be required for the replacement.

Eligibility for Membership:

1. Aboriginal persons belonging to the Tableland Yidinji People will be eligible for membership.
2. A person will **not** be eligible for membership unless and until he/she will have attained eighteen (18) years of age.
3. Only natural persons are eligible for membership.

Webpage:

But we believe there's an easier and quicker method to distribute information to all our members. As well, this method will save on paper, printing ink and the mailing cost. In future, all general information will be posted on our Web Page and for those members who have an email address we will use that process as well.

Web Page Address: <https://wadjanbarrayidinji.wordpress.com>

At the moment our staff will only mail/post out the following Notices:

1. Annual General Meeting;
 2. Special General Meeting;
 3. Members/Families Gathering – Connection to Country/Families
- Hoping you will access our Web Page.



Cultural Heritage

Protect, Prevents & Preserve Our Country and The Tableland Yidinji People

Return of Artifacts

Thanks to our members, families and the wider community, since 2018, many artifacts have been returned. There is one incident where one family from Tasmania, they were able to get in contact us through the NQLC.

Ben Jokisalo (Director) was honored to collect a stone axe head and meet with Scott Rawson. This is a journey of the stone axe head.

Returning Home

It is 1943, Europe is in the grip of Nazi occupation, in the Pacific Regions Allied forces struggle to get footing against invading Japanese forces, the world is at War.

In Far North Queensland an area known as the Tablelands, a Military Hospital is built for the rising number of men wounded in the Defense of Australia and its Territories.

Our story begins here.

Situated between Atherton and Mareeba, Rocky Creek, a naturally occurring spring is the reason for locale of the Hospital. A young private who regulars the water hole formed from the springs, William Juggins, comes across something on the bank of the waterhole, a stone axe head.

The envy of other soldiers and staff who frequent the swimming spot, William takes his find in the hope that it may be of some serious value to a collector. When the War ended in 1945, William took the artefact with him to his home town in Victoria. Williams, however, never gets the artefact appraised and it sits in storage for many years.

Before Williams passing in the 1970's, the axe head is passed to his daughter Winnie (later to be Winnie Rawson), who keeps the axe head on a mantle piece and is a point of interest and story telling for her family. Winnie passes the axe head to her oldest son Scott Rawson, who continued to praise the artefact as his mother did but also seek to find out more to the story behind his family's 'heirloom'. His searching took him to Universities and Historic Societies though no further information could be found on the artefact, he was told however that the item could not be donated for display, as the Indigenous people from where the artefact originated had to consent.

Feeling now that he had an obligation to the artefact's return or at least find its original owners, Scott sought to find its true home. Now living in Cairns – Queensland, he looks in all the appropriate avenues to be pointed for his artefacts return: Local Shire Councils, Historic

Societies and The University were no help to what people or to what area he should start looking.

Where by chance, he is told about a Memorial Ceremony to be held for Military Hospital at a place he recognised only through stories passed down through his family, Rocky Creek.

He knew at once that he is destined to attend the site where his family's stories and the axe head come from as to what he must do. The axe head had as he felt, returned home.

*Story told by Scott Rawson
Written by Benjamin Jokisalo*



Stone Axe Head

5G Telstra Tower on Bones Knob

The TRC (Tableland Regional Council) made a decision to grant Telstra the approval to erect a 5G Tower. Under the Cultural Heritage Act we objected to the construction of the 5G Tower. Bones Knob has a deep cultural significance to the Tableland Yidinji People and the 5G Tower has a more damaging report due to radiation.

The North Qld Land Council has been assisting us with this process. The next stage is to meet with the company (Visionstream) that has been contracted by Telstra to start the negotiating process with us.

We would like to give members the opportunity to be involved in this process. Any members who have concerns and interest over the erection of the 5G Tower please contact our office.

We will keep you updated on this issue on our Webpage.

10 NEWS

TRC approves Telstra tower at Bones Knob

Bronwyn Wheatcroft

PLANS to build a telecommunications tower on a site believed to be sacred Aboriginal land has drawn the ire of the indigenous community.

Tablelands Regional Council at its Thursday general meeting agreed to an application from Telstra to erect the mobile phone tower in Bowcock Rd, Tolga.

But the Wadjanbarra Tableland Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation said it had great concerns that Telstra had failed to notify them of the "request for future development of Bones Knob".

"Under the Cultural Heritage Act, we have the rights to protect and negotiate with our stakeholders or any person who have interest within our native title areas," the corporation said in a letter to the council.

"If this project goes ahead without any consultation regarding sites, flora and fauna, it would not be in the best inter-

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Wadjanbarra Tableland Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation

est of our native title".

The 73ha site contains a volcanic mound known as Bones Knob, which is a landform of scenic, environmental and cultural significance.

The site contains two World War II era concrete igloos and about 16ha of the site is listed on the State Heritage Register as the igloos are the remnants of a World War II RAAF radar station.

The site was a strategically important location for the storage of ammunition and

supplies during the war.

A council officer's recommendation was to approve the application, subject to a number of conditions, despite 15 letters of objection.

The application was impact assessable.

The key issues for the assessment relate to visual impacts, electromagnetic emissions, cultural heritage and environmental impacts.

Telstra regional general manager Rachel Cliffe said the tower was designed to improve mobile coverage on the Tablelands.

"Like with all of these sorts of projects, we have followed the correct process of submitting a development application through TRC," she said.

"We will continue to work with council and relevant stakeholders to reach the best possible outcome for the community."

Council voted unanimously to support Telstra's application on the motion of Kate Eden and Samantha Banks.

News clipping from The Tablelander

Massacre at Bones Knob

I asked for permission to write a segment regarding the Massacre at Bones Knob. Hoping this article doesn't offend anyone. Bones Knob is an area within our Native Title that has a very sad history. This incident occurred during the invasion of early pioneers and settlers to this region.

Since I've been involved with the operation of our Corporation this story has come to light more and more. With members and descendants of pioneer families who have come forward and openly expressed their sadness of this dark, sad history.

My concern is after I read a Historical Report by Dr. Roselyn Kidd, which stated that the story about Bones Knob is ONLY a myth... This is because this event was not written in any pioneers/settlers' dairies or white authorities records and ignored.

I'm thinking, how can this be? When families of our Tableland Yidinji mob and to my surprise, even the descendants of white pioneers/settlers' families speak about what occurred at Bones Knob. So!!! How can this be ONLY A MYTH???

Some ideas on what is being said....

- White Troopers and Pioneers herded our people onto a wagon and this wagon was pushed over the edge of Bones Knob. While they were still in chains.
- Before Rocky Creek War Hospital was established 1939, The local authorities of the day, gave orders for the bones to be removed.

- These bones were removed and transported to the Old Aboriginal Cemetery near the rubbish tip in Atherton. Dumped in a deep hole and not spoken of again. Not until now. It has been said that these bones still had chains on them.
- A family who attended the Tolga State Primary School in the 60's said that a skeleton head sat on a teacher's desk. The teacher also stated that it was a skull of an Aborigine from Bones Knob Massacre.
- An employee of one of our stakeholders, who's only been living in this area for a short time... Even made a comment about the massacre of Bones Knob. Silent Whisper within the white community is what I say and shame of this history.
- Residents of Bones Knob who objected to the 5G Tower, had a story too about Bones Knob and the Massacre. This was told to her by her grandfather – also a prominent Italian farming family of that era.

If you have heard, or had a story passed down to you by your elders concerning Bones Knob and wish to contribute, please contact Wadjanbarra Yidinji Office.

So, what is the next step? We need the support of our families to help and correct and write the true history. Any members of families who would like to follow through with an investigation with the Cultural Heritage Unit and to be a part of this process. Please, your response is important to achieve the best outcome to correct our history.

Written by Theresa



Top of Bones Knob

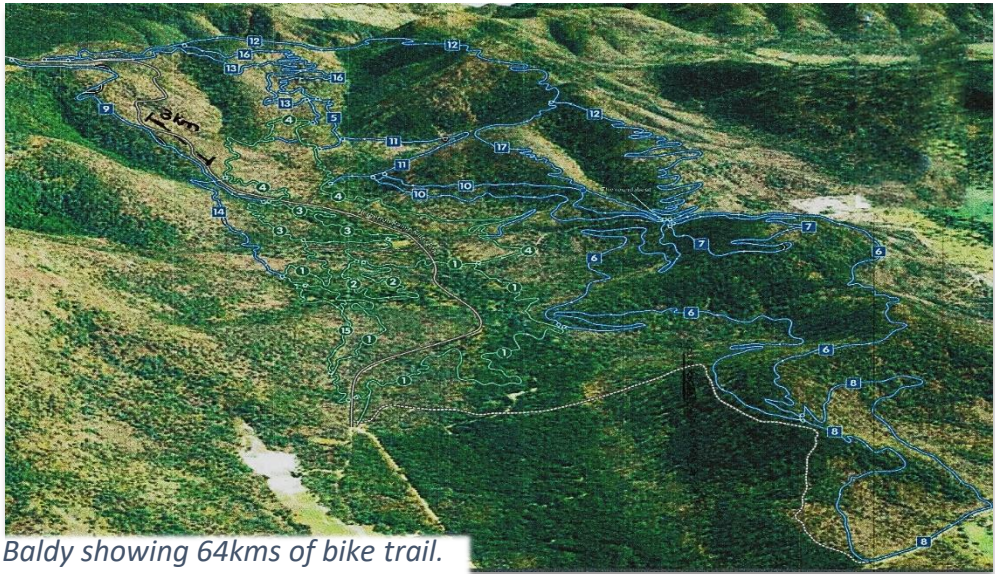
Atherton Cycle Sports – Mount Baldy

The Atherton Cycle Sports approached the Board to request an extension of another 3km. Daryl Joseph (Chairperson) and Graham Joseph (Director) accompanied the Chairperson of the Atherton Cycle Sports to see where they were wanting the 3km of new tracks.

Our objections for the extra 3km was due to the fact that it is untouched country and after 64km of bike tracks on Mount Blady, the Board felt there was enough for human activities.

Furthermore, NQLC has been acting on our behalf – NQLC responded with a letter. No response as yet from the Atherton Cycle Sports and QPWS.

We will keep you updated with this issue on our Webpage.



Mt Baldy showing 64kms of bike trail.

Playgroup News

Yes, we happen on Tuesdays every week from 10am to 12pm, at 38 Mable Street behind the office of Community Services Tablelands house which was the Neighbourhood House. We cater for all parents who have children aged birth to 5 years old. We have made partnership with Community Services Tablelands to have this beautiful facility with vegetable gardens kept by the volunteers at the Centre. We are also supported by Playgroup Queensland for quality assurance to provide this service.

If you have any queries, contact Lanora Miller Playgroup Coordinator,
Wadjanbarra Tableland Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation Phone: 07 4091 3250.



Raela



Aiden

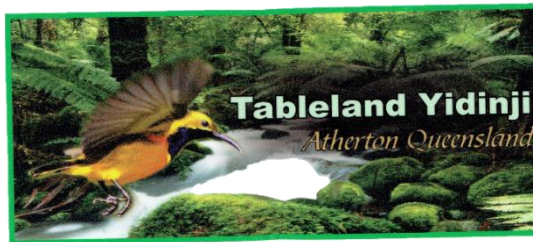


Mason

Billy Camp Family - 6th Generation

Stickers

We would like to inform everyone that we have stickers for sale. A very big thank you to Aunty Lorna Condie and Ryan Brown who kindly donated the funds to purchase our stickers. The price of each sticker is \$3... the profit will be used to purchase more stickers and other merchandise in the future. Please buy a sticker or two.



NAIDOC 2019 – Voice Treaty Truth

Once again, funds were very short, but we overcame that hurdle with the support of the Atherton Community. We were able to achieve a fun day out for all.

To all who participated in making Atherton's NAIDOC celebration 2019 a success, a very big Thank you.

Black Star Radio – Who broadcasted our event and they interviewed people before and on the day. It was great to see that no one was shy to speak live on the day. **TRC (Tablelands Regional Council)** – Jodie Coco. **Jirrbal (Herberton T/O)** – Desley Mosquito and the Gooliwana Bana Dancers. **CST (Community Service Tableland)** – John Russell – Once again they donated our NAIDOC cake and the cake was made by Giddy's Café of Atherton. **Representative of the TSI Community** – Lois Nehow, Roslyn Beazley, TSI Dancers – Simon and Cara Cloudee. **Face Painting** by Deanna Maich. **Local Entertainment** from Azaiah Davis and cousins and Laurie Padmore. **Midin/Mulungu Primary Health** donated the cost of the jumping castle and the climbing wall, the kids had a great time. Also, they attended to health checks. **Wuchopperen Primary Health Cairns** Had a display table full of information regarding family support. **NQLC Representative** - donated lots of promotional items that was given out throughout the day. **VPG** supplied a stall to make brochures and other items and **QITE** supplied assortment of fresh fruit.

But a very big special thank you to the people behind the scene.

To all our helpers, Evelyn Johnson, Nina Brevinet, Roslyn Beazley, Lanora Miller, Lorna Condie, Jazzman Saltmere, Ryan Brown, Clifford Johnson and Daryl Joseph.



Irene & Aunty Lorna



Dijon & Daniel



Uncle Laurie, Aunty Dawn, Daryl & Aunty Lois



Azaiah



Aunty Lorna, Aunty Dawn, Aunty Viola & Aunty Rosena



Daryl & Lanora



Merinda, Stefany, Jessie and Azaiah