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## Welcome to Ewamian YarnUp #1!



Welcome to our first production of the Ewamian Aboriginal Corporation eNewsletter, we hope that we will be able to keep Ewamian People and our community as informed as we possibly can about Ewamian business and what's happening on Country. It is also very exciting for EAC as we have also this week launched our official Facebook page (Ewamian Aboriginal Corporation) and the new and improved website ([www.ewamian.com](http://www.ewamian.com)) which will be launched next week. We welcome all Ewamian People who have access to social media to join our Page and share with friends and family. In these emerging times EAC saw the need to improve our communication with Ewamian People and there is no better way to do this. We have not forgotten about our Elders and those who do not have computers and will still

send our Notices and Newsletters, but we hope that Ewamian People who have this access will share this news with their families as much as possible.

We hope to publish a monthly eNewsletter to keep you all up to date and informed.



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## What's been happening at EAC?

2016 has been a very busy time for EAC. Many milestones have been achieved and our Rangers are doing a fantastic job in managing Talaroo Indigenous Protected Area (our main Project). Many activities are going on around Ewamian Country and we are hopeful that major projects such as the Kidston Solar Project <http://www.genexpower.com.au> and the Forsayth Windfarm will begin construction in the near future creating prosperity and opportunities for not just Ewamian People but the Etheridge Shire community as well. EAC are disappointed that some developers have not undertaken proper consultation with the traditional owners on projects and it is a goal of EAC to improve these processes in the future.

The Board of Directors are currently undertaking a Review and Re-development of our Strategic Plan to incorporate a framework for our Community Planning focussing on Talaroo IPA and we are hopeful that this will be finalised by the end of year and presented at the AGM. We have engaged Consultants from Plan C based in Brisbane to facilitate this process and held 2 Meetings so far (one in Cairns and one at Talaroo).

The Talaroo homestead has also undergone some refurbishment this year paid for by the ILC and also EAC. 2 new rainwater tanks were installed to provide an extra water supply in times of drought and better drinking water. EAC has also undertaken maintenance on the old marriage quarters where the rangers coordinator resides and also the rangers' dongas. The hot springs pool fence has also been replaced with a new safety standards fence.

## Important Notice from the Board

EAC Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers have worked tirelessly since its incorporation back in 1994 and we have been committed and dedicated to ensuring that the objectives of the corporation and EAC business are being achieved and a success and that our office doors remain open. We are very proud of the organisation that we have become and the successes and milestones we have achieved with the limited resources and funding that we receive. Not to mention the challenges that we have overcome and mistakes we have learnt from.

EAC is required to undertake its day to day business in accordance with the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) ACT 2006 (CATSI Act) which is administered by the Office of the Registrar of Incorporated Corporations (ORIC) ([www.oric.gov.au](http://www.oric.gov.au)). We are also bound by a number of other Acts and Regulations which ensure that we are compliant with these policies.

The role of the Board of Directors is to work closely with the Coordinator to ensure EAC's goals and mission are being achieved and manage and control the affairs of EAC. Most importantly to ensure compliance with EAC's Rule Book.

With any organisation one can't please everyone and the current Board and staff members are no different. Far too many Ewamian family members talk negatively about our corporation because of the decisions that our board members make on behalf of Ewamian families. In the meantime, innuendos, lies, negative comments, and defaming any board or staff member will not be tolerated and will be dealt with under the rules of the Constitution. Threats will be taken seriously and these matters from now on will be handled by the police.

Believe it or not we only have 24 Ewamian financial members!! If you want your voice to be heard and wish to have a say and have your vote counted in decision making, it is important that firstly you become a member of EAC, secondly you pay your annual membership fee and thirdly you must attend meetings. We welcome your feedback at all times and we have a process by which you can do this (see our website) and it is our DUTY of CARE to address any legitimate issues that our members have.

Finally we remind Ewamian People that EAC has a process (set by the members and the Native Title Act) on how we advocate and engage with stakeholders and this process must be followed regardless of who we engage with. Individual Ewamian People do not have authority to engage with and make decisions about Country with any stakeholder. This is the role of our Board and nominated representatives appointed by the Board.



## Talaroo IPA Update

Talaroo Indigenous Protected Area IPA and Nature Refuge is a self declared area that Ewamian People have agreed to manage for the protection of the natural and cultural values in accordance with international guidelines. A Plan of Management was developed after Talaroo was acquired in 2012 and EAC has a responsibility to ensure that the guidelines are adhered to and all milestones are achieved before it can become a declared IPA. We are hopeful that this will occur in the next couple of years. Rangers have been working very hard since 2012 with the community, consultants, scientists, Universities and NRM groups to ensure that the focus and direction of the management activities are achieved. Decisions about Talaroo are made through a process by which a Talaroo Advisory Group (ie. Government funding representatives including Commonwealth (National Reserve System <https://www.environment.gov.au/land/nrs>), State (Indigenous Land Corporation <http://www.ilc.gov.au/> & DEHP <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/community/about-rangers/>), Natural Resource Management group reps such as the Northern Gulf Resource Development Group <http://www.northerngulf.com.au/> and scientific experts) advice is provided to the Board of Directors and the Ewamian Rangers.

We anticipate that the Deeds for Talaroo will be transferred to EAC from the ILC (hopefully by the end of the year) and EAC will mark this special occasion with a Celebration at

Talaroo. This will most likely be held early in 2017.



## Ranger Program Update

The Ranger Program has also seen some staff changes and challenges over the past year and we were fortunate to recruit Mr Scott Morrison back in December who came from Fish River Station in the Northern Territory working in a similar role. Scott has had over 20 years experience working with Indigenous Rangers and comes with a wealth of experience in conservation and land management. EAC also recently undertook a very thorough and transparent recruitment process for a new Senior Ranger which saw the appointment of Mr Davin Koolatah to this role. We look forward to having Davin on board and are sure that he will be a valuable team member. Rangers also now work in 2 shifts on a 9/5 roster which eliminated the need to engage regular caretakers for Talaroo.

The focus for the rangers over the past few months has been fire management, rubbervine eradication and boundary fence reinforcement to keep cattle out. The first Aerial Pig Cull will take place this week with our Ranger Coordinator conducting the shooting which is a first for the Ranger Program. EAC has been successful over the past couple of years in securing extra funding to engage extra casual rangers to assist our rangers particularly in weed eradication work. Unfortunately funding is not as accessible this year but we will keep Ewamian People updated through our new Newsletter and also the Facebook page if opportunities arise to work with the rangers.



## Visitors to Talaroo



Talaroo is currently not open to the general public and visitors numbers are limited but Ewamian People are always welcome to visit. You must firstly contact the EAC Office so that we are able to check with the Rangers to see if your visit may affect their work or if areas are restricted. All visitors to Talaroo (Ewamian and Non-Ewamian) must sign the Visitor's Register (now located at the front gate entrance at the homestead in a yellow box) and will be briefed about our Visitor Safety Information process. These are requirements under the funding for Talaroo and it also ensures that we know who is on Talaroo and for Insurance purposes.



**Do you have what it takes to be an  
Ewamian Director?**

Are you are a **driven, ambitious, motivated and inspiring** Ewamian person over the age of 18 and want to assist Ewamian Aboriginal Corporation in **achieving the goals and aspirations for Ewamian People and Ewamian Country**? Are you willing to **dedicate valuable time and commitment** to Ewamian business and **willing to travel to Country** to conduct business for EAC as reasonably required? You may be just who we are looking for. **Skills that you would need to demonstrate** or willing to learn and attain qualifications in are:

- **Literacy**
- **Financial Literacy**
- **Leadership experience**
- **Commitment to uphold all the legal duties, responsibilities and obligations of a director**
- **Standing and respect among Ewamian People and in particular your family group**
- **Able to produce a Police Clearance Certificate if requested**

Qualifications in Corporate Governance will be an advantage.



## Regional Meetings & AGM

We wish to advise that we will hold our Regional Meetings in December and our AGM will be held in January 2017. This is due to our Audit not being finalised until December and also allows for our current Board to serve out their full term. Dates for these meetings will be published in a later eNewsletter.

**A reminder to members also that if you wish to have voting rights at Meetings you must pay your annual fee (\$5.00) by the 30th June each year.** Check out our website to see how you can do this.



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## Jobs and Training Opportunities

Since incorporation, EAC has negotiated over 20 Indigenous Land Use Agreements, Cultural Heritage Agreements and other agreements. A lot of these agreements were mining and exploration agreements which unfortunately, due to lack of funding, mineral prices and other factors have not proceeded to production resulting in EAC receiving little or no compensation or benefits from these agreements. EAC have always prioritised jobs and training opportunities for Ewamian People and the negotiations of the Charleston Dam Project ILUA with the Etheridge Shire Council and the Forsayth Windfarm Project ILUA with Infigen Energy currently provide these opportunities.

**If any Ewamian person is interested in enrolling in a Cert III or IV in Civil Construction or being involved in the construction of the dam or the windfarm please register your interest with the EAC Office.** Alternatively if you wish to register your interest in any job opportunities and/or already have specific skills we encourage you to forward your Resume for our files. *Note: You must be prepared to relocate and live on Country for roles in these projects.*



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## EAC Recruitment Process

Over the last few years there have been challenges in retaining and upskilling quality staff members and EAC has had to undergo recruitment on quite a regular basis.

There have been both internal and external process applied to some positions and lessons have been learnt along the way. Casual positions are normally recruited internally and full time positions are advertised both internally and externally.

EAC have now developed a formal process for employment and strongly encourage Ewamian People to apply for positions but selection is based on previous experiences and merit which is determined through an assessment of an applicant's qualifications, experience, standard of work performance and personal qualities and credentials relevant to the requirements of the position advertised. The process briefly is:

- Job advertised internally or externally;
- A selection panel is then appointed to assess applications
- Applicants Shortlisted;
- Interviews conducted;
- Final Report with a recommendation for appointment of successful candidate provided to EAC Coordinator for approval;
- Follow up with all unsuccessful applicants

The selection panel may change for each recruitment depending on the position advertised.



## In Memory Of

Ewamian recently lost one of our most prominent Elders in Uncle Noel Lacey. Noel was born on the Georgetown Reserve in 1931 and grew up there with his family until he was a young teenager when he was forced to work instead of getting an education. Noel spent all his life working on Country working as a racehorse trainer, stockman, Police tracker and labourer and then settled in Mareeba to retire. Uncle Noel's health began to deteriorate in his later years and passed away in the Mareeba Hospital on the 10th August at the age of 85. Uncle Noel was buried back on Country at the Georgetown Reserve on the 26th August 2016. We were very honoured to have the Acting Chief Police Superintendent speak at his funeral

and present a letter to the family on behalf of the Queensland Police Commissioner in recognition for his service as a Police Tracker. Rest in Peace Uncle Noel



**With your help EAC would like to pay our respects to our Elders Past and Present in our eNewsletters and we welcome any information and stories you would like to share.**

**A friendly reminder to keep the office up to date on your current contact details. Go to our website and advise us under the Contact Us tab to do this or call us on (07) 40922 555.**



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