# WHY WOULD TRADITIONAL OWNERS WANT TO DEVELOP THEIR LEADERSHIP?













### THE KARNYIRNINPA JUKURRPA MARTU LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



Nyari Morgan, Billy Landy (Butler), Mclean Williams, Stewart Watson, Andrew Minyardie, Galvin Roberts, Lindsay Crusoe, Tim Schneider

### The *BAMA MARRJA*LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

strong Bama for rainforest culture, country and kin

Robyn Bellafquih, Phil Rist and Joann Schmider



Can identify approx 25
Bama participants in
national or state run
Indigenous leadership
development programs
(how do you utilise these
people?)

20 Tribal Groups, 20000 Traditional Owners, 200 generations and 20+ years of looking after Australia's world heritage – our wet tropics rainforest country, culture and people

Project 2020:

Our 20 point plan for appreciating its cultural values



Canberra university student Lorna Schmider-Woodcock (front) was one of more than 70 to take part in a week-long Indigenous Leader's conference of Canazzano on Lake Tingron lest week

**Workshop in the rainforest** 

### Understanding Community, Government and Other Stakeholders

Knowledge and understanding

Skills incl engagement

Personal qualities

Walking in Two Worlds

Conflict Resolution and Peacemaking You represent your family, locality group/clan, Tribal Group and Rainforest people Bama ..... what do you need to know and understand about who you're representing?

- Cultural and NRMrelated NGOs
  - Regional NRM body
  - Catchment area groups, special interest groups
  - Culture related networks
- Government
  - Lead agencies including world heritage management body
  - Local LGAs, State, Commonwealth

(as well as whole-of-government approaches)

- The research community
  - Universities (domestic and international)
  - Research institutes
  - Special partnerships The Cairns Institute
- Domestic and international public
  - · Commerce and industry
  - · Tourism sector and park use
  - Business groups and chambers of commerce
  - Regional development networks



- We need leadership driven by the people.
- We need strong leaders doing it in a cultural way.
- How do we nurture this leadership in the community?
- We need specific leadership programs for Bama.
- I want leadership, old ways.
- Leadership has to be open to anyone wanting to take the next steps and willing to embrace success. When the whole community walks together, everyone prospers.
- What's the leadership you are showing in your family, TO community and organisation?
- What do we look like in 150 years time?
- The workshop was a means to connect Rainforest Aboriginal peoples who were deeply conscious of loss and cultural revitalisation.
- Helps to unpack the relevance of leadership development in a TO context.



#### Growing the Bama Marrja Leadership Program

- 1 Annual regional leadership workshop
- 2 Program design incl developing the facilitators/team
- 3 Signed off on by the 20 TO rep bodies
- 4 The regional program connects with 20 TO group plans
- 5 Invite neighbouring regional groups

### History and nature of Indigenous leadership development programs

from AIATSIS-led beginnings to programs across Australia

**Edward Watkin** 



## Traditional Owner Leadership and Governing Country

natural resource and land management, ecosystem services and governance

Allan Dale



#### Prediction

Over the next 50 years, self-defined
 Traditional Owner groups will become the
 dominant place-based economic entities
 across northern Australia

#### But, only if

 Strong forms of traditional owner leadership in governing country continue to grow



#### Key Strategic Roles at Different Scales

#### Country-based leadership built on

- Continuous improvement in people
- Strong and expanding economic control over land and marine resources
- A long term commitment to place
- A special place in regional development

Growing values
and cultural
foundations across
the whole group
human resource

Tenure Blind:
Growing rights and access to land and sea resources and wealth-based assets



#### Key Leadership Challenges for Traditional Owners

- 1 Ensuring the strength of and support for the key cultural champions/knowledge holders and business leaders
- 2 Rebuilding the values base across the entire group

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- 3 Reconciliation and rebuilding internal group dynamics
  - Collaborative alliance building across groups and defining clear roles for alliance groups at higher scales
- 5 Real leadership in strategically protecting country and defining economic opportunities (country planning)
  - Genuine clarity in pursuing native title rights and strategies and for strategic joint venturing approaches
  - Exceptional organisational governance and partnerships
- 8 Exceptional approaches to ensuring country delivers social, economic and cultural outcomes for the mob
- 9 Innovative ways to grow and share the benefits of tribal wealth (i.e. a TO nation's policy agenda)



Returning to the Prediction:

"Over the next 50 years, self-defined Traditional Owner groups will become the dominant placebased economic entities across northern Australia

but only if strong forms of traditional owner leadership in governing country continue to grow."

Name Indigenous leadership development group or individual programs you know your TOs have participated in

- 1 WHY would TOs want to develop their leadership?
- 2 HOW is such participation useful for CNRM and/or your organisation?
- 3 WHAT would a TO leadership development program look like?
- 4 WHAT 3-5 elements are most important?
- 5 HOW would you go about getting that in place?
  - The Call to Action

#### WHERE TO FROM HERE?

- WHY would TOs want to develop their leadership (natural resource and land management, ecosystem services, governance etc)?
- HOW do we do it?
- WHAT happens next
  - PBC level? Regions? Nationally?

