



KAAC Quarterly Newsletter

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Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for a prosperous New Year

Manbana Ornamental Enterprise **Marine Fish**

After extensive planning by KAAC and securing part funding from Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) to develop commercial activities at the Manbana Aquaculture Hatchery, Manbana is commencing its project for the production of marine ornamental (aquarium) fish.

Manbana will recruit a hatchery manager to work with existing staff and commence construction and fit-out of the marine ornamentals sector of the hatchery in January.

KAAC has submitted an application to the Regional Partnerships program (Department of Transport and Regional Services) for co-funding of the marine ornamentals project and is receiving wide spread support from the region and local community. The application is currently under assessment and a financial viability being undertaken.

An application is also being submitted to DEWR for project support.

Having undertaken extensive planning and market research in 2005 KAAC has identified the production of high value marine ornamental fish as the best avenue for commercial development of the Manbana hatchery.

The enterprise will have no reliance on the development of grow-out farms in the Kimberley for success and sustainability of the hatchery however will result in the establishment of a sustainable facility with the capacity to produce other species in the future.



Amphiprion perideraion, Skunk clownfish broodstock new to Manbana

Manbana is currently negotiating the purchase of marine ornamental broodstock already in production and established equipment from an existing ornamentals producer.



Clownfish, A. rubrocinctus, tending to eggs at Manbana hatchery

Prawn Farming in the Kimberley Project

In November the prawn farming commercialisation project completed its second production run in the hatchery for 2005 and stocked a grow-out pond at the Kimberley Prawn Company (KPC) farm in Derby.

KPC has spent the past few months drying and preparing ponds for the stocking.



Kimberley Prawn Company farm in Derby (Photo courtesy of Digby Fleming)

Due to the difficulty in accessing black tiger prawn broodstock, banana prawn broodstock were sourced and a production run commenced at the project hatchery at Manbana in late September and early October. Although low fertility was experienced larvae generally showed good survival rates and

250,000 prawn post larvae were stocked to the pond.

The hatchery will now dry out until further production runs in early 2006. The project is currently trying to secure a source of black tiger prawn broodstock for the final project production cycles in 2006.

Coastal Awards for Excellence - Winner

In November 2005 KAAC won the WA Coastal Awards for Excellence, 'Outstanding Indigenous coastal achievement' for the ACIAR Trochus Research Project recently completed.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure sent Charla Clements and Jacynta Fong from KAAC down to Busselton to attend the WA Coastal Awards finals ceremony where the award was presented.

Charla Clements accepted the award on behalf of KAAC, Project Management and staff, and the Department of Fisheries and communities participating in the project and implementing the outcomes. Thanks were given to ACIAR for funding the project.

This is a great achievement for KAAC which has successfully administered the trochus project with Project Manager Dr Chan Lee over the past 3 years.

The tri-nation trochus project, which included the

Kimberley region, researched the effects of integrating the replenishment of broodstock to selected reefs and community based stock management activities in order to implement a management plan to restore a sustainable trochus fishery.

The primary outcomes of the project included the community designation and management of 'Marine Protected Areas' for trochus broodstock protection.



Charla Clements and Jacynta Fong at the WA Coastal Awards with South West MLC Adele Farina and DPI's Bill Cuthbert (Photo Courtesy of DPI)

ACIAR Trochus Project

ACIAR has approved a continuation of the Samoa node of the ACIAR trochus research project, which ended in June 2005.

Samoa became involved in the project in 2002 and experienced delays in project results after a severe cyclone hit Samoa in 2003. This affected the hatchery and broodstock reserves, and caused difficulty in accessing broodstock.

The 2-year continuation will allow the Samoa node

to be able to assess the outcomes and results of the trochus stocking activities. KAAC will be the commissioned organisation for the continued project with Dr Chan Lee continuing as Project Manager and Charla Clements as Co-ordinator.



Samoa hatchery used for trochus project work (2004)

A meeting was held in One Arm Point in November with the Ardyaloon community, Project Research Scientist Justin Bellanger, and other Department of Fisheries staff, to discuss the application of results from the ACIAR project to management of the trochus fishery.

Community Aquaculture Licence Renewals & Returns

As agreed with communities, KAAC has recently renewed community aquaculture licenses involved in the trochus project including Wulgarding (Middle Lagoon), Jayedi, Nyumwah, Ngamakoon, Marnebulornge and Djarworrada, Djarajung, Mudnunn, Maddarr, Djarworrada, Chile Creek, and Pelling Pelling Aboriginal Corporations, and Beagle Bay

Community Incorporated. Remaining licences will be renewed in the New Year when due.

Department of Fisheries WA has again kindly waived the renewal fees for the licences for another year in support of the project and communities, given that the sites are not yet being harvested.

Also as agreed with communities, KAAC continues to submit nil aquaculture production returns on behalf of the licensees, which have now been changed to quarterly returns by the Department of Fisheries and are a requirement of all aquaculture licences.

Department of Fisheries Support to KAAC/Manbana

Department of Fisheries WA has provided support to KAAC/Manbana for the marine ornamentals project in waiving site fees for the Manbana Aquaculture Centre at the Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park until 2008, and waiving aquaculture licence renewal and amendment fees until that time.

The support of Fisheries will be important to the success of the marine ornamental fish enterprise over the 3-year period and has been integral in securing joint funds for the project.

MSH Pty Ltd Directors Sought

MSH is seeking new Broome based Directors with a mix of business and industry skills to support Manbana in achieving commercial sustainability in both its aquaculture and tourism operations.

Indigenous Community Volunteer (ICV) Wendy Ribbands travelled to Broome in November and worked with management and current Directors to identify the needs of the company and Board in terms of new Directors and their roles, and to prepare a document for attracting and recruiting suitable Directors to move the company forward.

MSH will advertise and seek new Directors in January and February. For more information on MSH Directorships contact Company Secretary Jacynta Fong on 9192 3844 or manbana@bigpond.com

Determination

“It is easier to go down a hill than up, but the view is best from the top”

- Arnold Bennett

KAAC AGM 2004/05

Kimberley Aquaculture Aboriginal Corporation held its Annual General Meeting for the 2004/05 Financial Year at the Indigenous Coordination Centre in Derby on 15th December 2005. A new Executive Committee and Office Holders were elected to KAAC for a 2 year term. Welcome and congratulations to the following KAAC Committee Members for 2005/06 - 2007/08:

Charla Clements (Chair)
Rueben Lee-Chi (Deputy Chair)
Charles Prouse (Secretary)
Warren Clements (Treasurer)
Graeme Ejai
Sean D'Antoine
Rita Clements
Leslie Marks

Mud Springs Aquaculture Pilot Project

The Mud Springs Aboriginal Corporation has completed construction of pilot aquaculture ponds at its site near Kununurra. The pilot includes 4 grow-out ponds, a storage dam, settlement pond, site shed, and a training facility.

With mains power to be extended to the site in 2006 and associated infrastructure to be completed over the next couple of months, the pilot aquaculture farm is expected to open in March 2006.



Mud Springs grow out ponds near Kununurra

Mud Springs' farm, which will be the first full pilot-scale community grow-out aquaculture project in the Kimberley, is planning to stock the grow-out ponds initially with barramundi fingerlings and red-claw on a trial basis. Mud Springs is already undertaking some local marketing for sale of its product.

Community members are completing related training, particularly non technical aspects.

Emama Nguda Mud Crab Pilot

Emama Nguda Aboriginal Corporation has now been issued with a fishing licence for their Mud Crab pilot in Derby. The project is progressing well with the lease for the processing site at the Derby wharf secure, and construction of the processing shed complete.



Emama Nguda mud crab processing shed in Derby.

Aquaculture Trainees at Emama Nguda continue their training with the Kimberley College of TAFE and the Mud Crab pilot will commence operations in Derby in 2006.

This newsletter is prepared on behalf of KAAC by Ms Jacyntha Fong as the editor. The views expressed and the information given in the Newsletter is provided without prejudice for circulation to all KAAC members. It does not represent the official views of KAAC or MSH Pty Ltd.

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