

MARCH
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JUNE, 2004



Kimberley Aboriginal Pastoralists Association Newsletter

Special Interest
Articles:

**KAPA unite with
Cape York
Cowboys.**

**Brotherhood of
St. Laurence
supports
KAPA's
innovation.**

**The Franchising
Strategy**

Inside:

**Meet KAPA's
newest member**



**KAPA and the
PGA**

**Kimberley
Regional Fire
Project**

KIMBERLEY AND CAPE YORK CATTLEMEN UNITED

The future prosperity of the cattle industry in northern Australia has been boosted by the creation of a new partnership between cattlemen of the top two corners of the continent. Cape York's Northern Cattlemen's Alliance (NCA) and the Kimberley Aboriginal Pastoralists Association (KAPA) have entered into a coalition called the National Indigenous Pastoral Alliance (NIPA) that will promote management skills and expanding the pastoral workforce in remote Australia.

Louie Dolby, President of Kimberley Aboriginal Pastoralists Association, said "There are many similarities between the Kimberley and Cape York. Both have dry savannah lands bordered by sea our primary cattle trade is oriented

towards live exports and there are common interests which we can explore in the development of strong commercial cattle operations led by professional Indigenous managers".

The cross-state initiative has been given a kick-start by the Indigenous Stock Exchange. During a recent trading day in Broome that was web-cast to several state capitals, the Brotherhood of Saint Laurence invested \$15,000 to assist in the development of a franchise model for remote cattle management.

"Working cattle has been a focus of remote indigenous life for several generations - it's part of our living culture," says Alan Creek, Chairman of the Cape York Land Council. "We see the growth of the industry as playing a big part in our future."



NEW ALLIANCE WINS FUNDING FOR INDIGENOUS CATTLE STRATEGY

NIPA wins \$15,000 innovation grant.

The recently formed Northern Indigenous Pastoral Alliance (NIPA) has won a \$15,000 innovation grant from the Brotherhood of St Laurence in Melbourne to explore ways to better manage and commercialise Indigenous cattle properties.

The grant will help NIPA to set up a new management strategy that has the objective of creating more professional and better paid roles for Indigenous cattle managers and developing commercially sustainable Indigenous pastoral operations. It is expected that pilot projects in the Kimberley and on Cape York Peninsula will start next year.

Spokesman for KAPA on the new strategy, Peter McEntee, said: "This grant from the Brotherhood of St Laurence will allow us to explore the detail of implementing a franchise strategy for Indigenous cattle operations. Through this means we will be able to streamline the relationships between Indigenous cattle operations and communities; set out clear performance guidelines for Indigenous cattle businesses and create a body of more professional, better paid Indigenous cattle managers."

KAPA Chairman Louie Dolby agreed, saying that "it is ridiculous to expect Indigenous cattle managers to perform at almost welfare level wages and conditions. By improving remuneration and at the same time improving the performance objectives for Indigenous pastoral properties and the returns flowing to Indigenous communities, we hope to bring about a new era of prosperity in the Indigenous pastoral industry."



KAPA and Cape York representatives at the Indigenous Stock Exchange in Broome, May 2004.

INDIGENOUS STOCK EXCHANGE

KAPA and Cape York Pastoralists, through the newly formed Northern Indigenous Pastoral alliance (NIPA) made a presentation to the trading floor seeking investment funds for the further development of KAPA's franchise model for Indigenous pastoral management.

As a result of the presentation, NIPA won a \$15,000 innovation grant. to explore way to better manage and commercialise Indigenous cattle properties (see article above).

Trial franchise projects in the Kimberley and on Cape York Peninsula will be developed as well as a range of systems and tools for franchising cattle stations.

THE FRANCHISE MODEL



KAPA has developed a new way of helping communities to run their cattle stations.

It is called the Franchise Model.

The idea behind the model is to help communities to set up their cattle stations as profitable businesses and to provide all key stakeholders with the skills necessary to direct and manage their pastoral enterprise.

The franchise model helps to make sure that people get paid properly for the work that they put in. Under the franchise model, the community gets paid because they own the land and the cattle and the manager gets paid because he has to work hard to make the business profitable. If there is no profit, the manager doesn't get paid. The better the manager runs the business, the more money he makes.

At the moment, most Indigenous owned stations don't make a profit. The Franchise model helps communities to set up a proper business structure and makes sure that the business is managed well. Training in management and the skills necessary to run a business are included in this model.

There are three main players in this model:

1. The Community / Traditional Owners who own the pastoral lease, cattle, bores, yards, fences and equipment;

2. An Indigenous Franchisee (Manager) who is given the right to manage the station and keep the money from cattle sales but is responsible for all costs of running the station, and has to pay a royalty to the community for the right to manage the station;

3. The Franchisor who provides detailed, on-going training and support to the community and the franchisee. Therefore the Franchisee's lack of basic or specialised knowledge is overcome by the skills and experience provided by the Franchisor.

It is a win-win relationship where Traditional Owners are able to protect their lands and assets while earning an income and the Indigenous manager is able to build a profitable business.

The idea is to set up trials (pilots) of this idea on two properties in the Kimberley in 2005.

Indigenous communities on Cape York are also interested in this idea and will set up a trial in 2005 as well.

KAPA will come and talk to communities about this idea over the coming months.

KAPA ADDRESSES PGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The relationship between the Pastoralists and Graziers Association and KAPA is developing in a manner that is beneficial to all pastoralists in the Kimberley.

At the recent Annual General Meeting held by the PGA at El Questro Station near Kununurra KAPA was represented by Louie Dolby Chairman, Marion Dolby,

Following is a copy of the Statement that Louie read to the meeting;

“Thank you for the invitation to participate in your meeting. I would like to inform PGA members about KAPA’s outlook on the future of Indigenous Pastoral Properties in the Kimberley.

- There are around 24 Indigenous held pastoral leases in the Kimberley. All but one is a member of KAPA



Senator Chris Ellison, Ruth Webb-Smith, Louie Dolby, Marion Dolby, Sam Lovell and PGA President Barry Court at the PGA Conference

- KAPA has for many years supported and advocated on behalf of these properties
- KAPA is owned and run by the people who own these lands
- It is the only organisation that can speak with any authority about the future directions of Indigenous pastoralism in the Kimberley

The Vision of KAPA is to see well managed pastoral enterprises owned by Aboriginal people, (individuals, families and communities) that are able to enjoy prosperous livelihoods by engaging in long term ecologically sustainable management of the rangelands.

KAPA is determined to be a responsible part of the Kimberley Pastoral Industry and is committed to initiating change to enable Indigenous people to benefit from a vibrant pastoral industry.

This is KAPA’s focus and concern. We are always going to be here. So stop dancing around us, accept us and move forward.

Although, having very limited resources, KAPA has, in the past 6 months:

- Developed a radical new model for the operation of pastoral enterprises
- Begun the process in order to implement economic analysis of the performance of member properties. This will assist all member properties, not just 3 or 4.

- KAPA wants to see all stakeholders in the Indigenous pastoral industry being involved in a partnership arrangement which addresses the issues facing them
- There needs to be a commitment to a ‘whole-of-region’ approach as the appropriate scale for planning and major decision making rather than a property by property approach.
- KAPA is establishing links with the private sector, particularly in the areas of business support and mentoring
- KAPA is dedicated to the hard job that faces us. We are dedicated to working with others who share our vision to build a great Pastoral Industry in the Kimberley.
- We are willing to work with everyone

THANKYOU

PGA Kimberley division President Ruth Webb-Smith called for greater cooperation between industry groups, including more discussion between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal pastoralists to share information and mutual concerns.

Justice and Customs Minister, Senator Chris Ellison who opened the Conference, said that in pastoral terms the Federal Government would be looking to groups such as KAPA and the PGA for higher levels of advice.

KIMBERLEY REGIONAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The Kimberley Regional Fire Management Project (KRFMP) has been operating since October 2000 collecting information on fire in the Kimberley.

The Project has been responsible for:

- an extensive community education campaign on the responsible use of fire;
- the production of a field guide on grassland curing rates to assist land managers (and the operators of the Aerial Control Burning program) to determine suitable conditions for controlled burns;
- the FireFax service to pastoral managers which provides information to property owners and managers on the location and progress of fires on their properties;
- training for the owners and managers of pastoral businesses in the use of computer technology and internet-based tools for fire and land management;
- research on the impact of fire on the region's vegetation and wildlife.

The project is overseen by a Management Committee, Chaired by KAPA Committee Member Alan Lawford and made up of representatives of land-holders and land-owners in the Kimberley.

Technical advice from experts is sought from both within the group and externally as required.

In January of 2003 the KRFMP began a pilot project with two Aboriginal groups to train people in both contemporary and traditional fire management to create 'Fire Control Teams'.



Left: *Pastoral lease fire trial to control shrub densities – Bohemia Downs Station.*

Over the next phase of the project the focus will be:

- **Sustainable pastoral management, training, employment** involving ongoing development and training of local fire control teams (FCTs) for practical, on- ground fire management particularly in pastoral land management.
- **Biodiversity assessment and management:**
- **Fire information for Kimberley rangeland managers:**
- **Communication and assessment activities:** involving communicating the activities and findings of the KRFMP to targeted regional audiences

School based apprenticeships

These apprenticeships allow trainees to work and train part time in the pastoral industry during the school year and provide a smoother transition from school to work.

Employment is usually for one day a week (or equivalent blocks), enabling students to combine school with paid employment and training.

The nationally recognised industry certificate attained (Cert II) can be included on the student's final secondary school certificate.

Contact Peter McEntee on 9192 5818 for more information.

KAPA website

KAPA should have its own website by the end of July.
Look out for it at www.kapa.org.au.

Economic Analysis of Member Properties

This project aims to undertake an economic analysis of KAPA member properties to diagnose business strengths and weaknesses.

Economic analysis of member properties is a key element in developing a sustainable regional strategy for the Kimberley Indigenous pastoral industry.

This process will help communities and station managers to understand what is

happening in their business and how to make more money.

The analysis will clearly identify the critical elements in the performance and management of Indigenous cattle businesses.

This will assist us all to make better decisions about the management of Indigenous pastoral lands and the levels of property infrastructure required.

KAPA COMMITTEE FOR 2004

Chairman: Louie Dolby
Deputy Chair: Robert Watson

Committee Members:
 Harold Boomer
 Alan Lawford
 Mark Gordon
 Wayne Gordon
 Sam Lovell



THE NEXT GENERATION OF KIMBERLEY CATTLEMEN ARRIVES:

The long-awaited arrival of Ivan Thomas Watson has occurred!!

Congratulations to KAPA Deputy Chair Robert Watson and his partner Sam Duinker.

Now maybe the rest of us can get some sleep!!!



HOW IS KAPA FUNDED?

KAPA is very grateful to the funding support of the following organisations:

- The Kimberley Sustainable Regions Programme has provided \$150,000 in 2003/04
- The Indigenous Land Corporation provided \$10,000 2003/04 and
- Lotterywest has provided \$54,356 towards the purchase of a motor vehicle and office equipment.

In addition, the Kimberley Development Commission, Office of Aboriginal Economic Development and Kimberley Area Consultative Committee have provided much needed support.

WHERE ARE WE ?

The KAPA office is located at 7 Barker St Broome. (The old Shire building).

If you are in town, call in for a chat and a cuppa.

KAPA CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN:
LOUIE DOLBY
TEL: 08 9191 7437

CEO:
PETER MCENTEE

OFFICE:
7 BARKER ST
BROOME W.A 6725

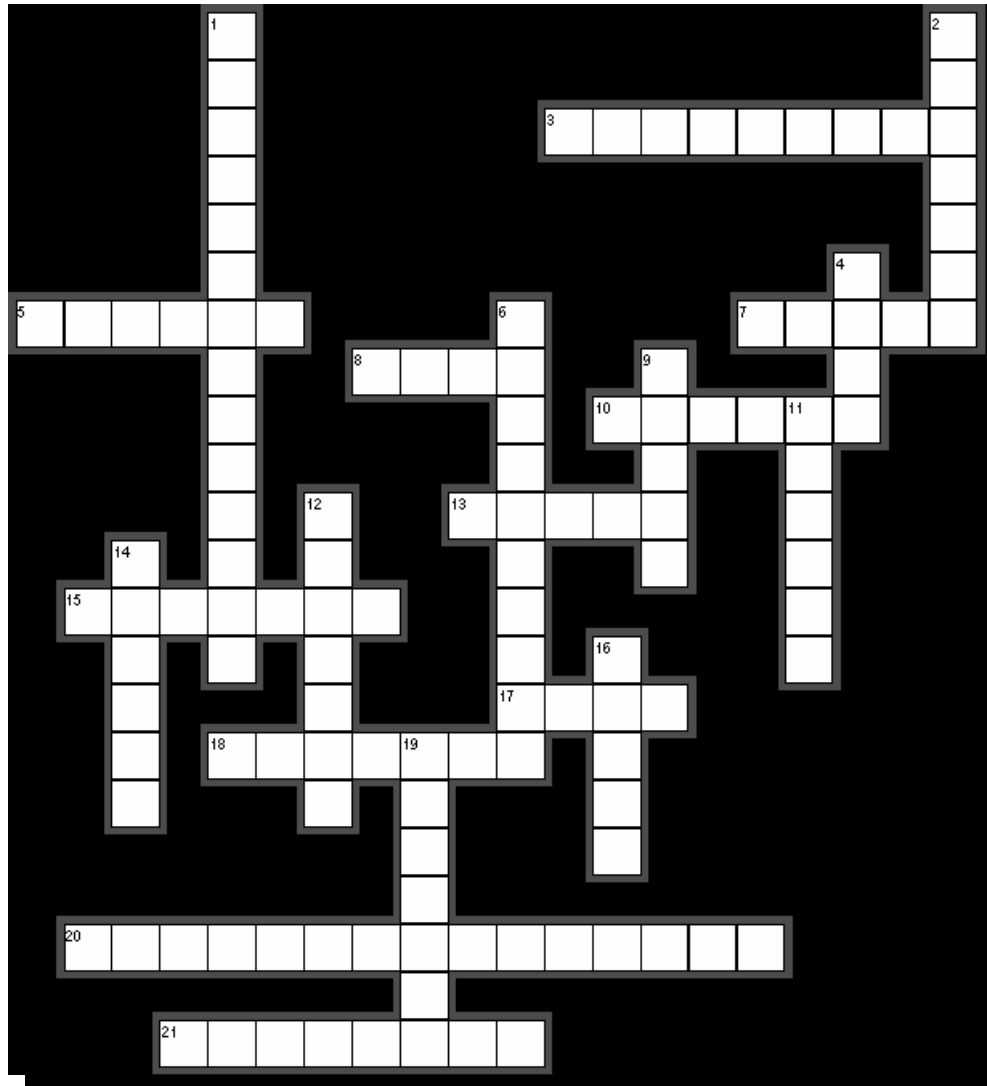
PO BOX 5967
CABLE BEACH 6726

PHONE:
08 9192 5818

FAX:
08 9192 5817

MOB:
0418 308 991

Email:
msuac@bigpond.com



CLUES

Across

- 3. USED TO TRANSPORT CATTLE
- 5. DRINK THAT WAKES ME UP AT 4 AM
- 7. GUIDE A HORSE WITH THESE
- 8. INDIGENOUS PASTORAL REPRESENTATIVE BODY
- 10. USEFUL WHEN RIDING
- 13. BUGS THAT ANNOY YOU
- 15. ROBERT AND SAM HAVE A NEW ONE
- 17. IMPORTANT PERSON IN A STOCK CAMP
- 18. KAPA CEO: PETER
- 20. TOWN BETWEEN H CREEK AND DERBY
- 21. POPULAR AT BBQ'S

Down

- 1. GREAT BAND FROM HALLS CREEK
- 2. NOTES TAKEN AT MEETINGS
- 4. WARLU
- 6. USED TO CONTAIN CATTLE FOR BRANDING
- 9. USED WHEN CATCHING CATTLE
- 11. KIMBERLEY LEGEND: SAM ...
- 12. HELPS WITH MUSTERING
- 14. DELICIOUS WITH A CUPPA
- 16. WATCH OUT FOR THESE IN THE YARDS
- 19. CRAVE FOR IT SOMETIMES

