Centenary Medal

Congratulations to Mr Charla Clements, KAAC Chairperson, who was awarded a Centenary Medal for his contribution to Indigenous aquaculture development in the Kimberley.

The Centenary medal was presented by Federal Member Barry Haase at the June ceremony to award recipients.

The award was well deserved by Mr Clements' who has dedicated much time to the advancement of Indigenous aquaculture in the region.

Kimberley Sustainable Regions Programme (KSRP) Project

It's official! KAAC received confirmation that the Kimberley Sustainable Regions Programme will fund its submission for the ‘commercialisation of Black Tiger Prawn farming in the Kimberley’ project. Congratulations and thank you to all those involved for your support.

A Steering Committee meeting for the project was held on Friday 6th June 2003 in Broome. The

appointments of Dr Greg Maguire (Dept. Fisheries) to replace Dr Chan Lee as Project Coordinator and Steering Committee members were formalised as well as the roles and status of stakeholders, proposed work program and activities, and discussion held on the KSRP funding.

Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. John Anderson MP, will formerly present the grant in Broome on July 1st 2003.

The prawn commercialisation project will commence soon after with the first stage involving the sourcing of broodstock for production at Manbana hatchery.

Kimberley Aquaculture Aboriginal Corporation will finally hold the official
opening of its Manbana Aquaculture Hatchery and Discovery Centre (previously known as the MSH) in Broome on the 1st July 2003.

Manbana will be officially opened by the Hon. John Anderson MP, Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, with representatives of the major funding body ATSIC and other significant contributors, the State Government and Department of Fisheries WA.

Key personnel from those agencies involved in the development of the successful project will also attend together with local contributors and Traditional Owners, KAAC Executives and members, MSH Directors and staff.

The afternoon will include artistic performances and cultural ceremonies by local Indigenous people.

![Barramundi feeding on a Manbana Discovery Centre Tour](image)

The Manbana project is a great achievement for Indigenous people throughout the Kimberley and without the tireless efforts of those dedicated people who have supported the project over the years it would not have been possible.

**Dr Chan Lee – Retirement**

KAAC extends its sincere gratitude and thanks to Dr Chan Lee, who has been a dedicated Technical Adviser to both KAAC and its subsidiary MSH Pty Ltd over the past years.

Dr Lee, who retired from the Department of Fisheries this year and relocated to Melbourne, has resigned as Adviser to KAAC and MSH. He has supported KAAC in many activities and projects and was instrumental in the development of the successful Multi Species Hatchery, the ACIAR Trochus project and in instigating the KSRP Black Tiger Prawn project, not to mention the donation of his personal aquaculture and fisheries library comprising 35 years of collections.

Chan will continue in his role as Project Coordinator of the ACIAR Trochus project and will continue to support the objectives of KAAC.

**Workshops - Thailand Aquaculture Mission**

KAAC held a series of workshops and briefs in the Kimberley in April/May based on the Cherabin/ prawn aquaculture study tour in Thailand.

A presentation was held at Manbana Aquaculture Centre on 16th April focusing on Cherabin and prawn culture and the aquaculture industry in Thailand. Some 30 people attended at Manbana with very positive responses.

KAAC’s CAPO travelled through the Kimberley in April visiting Fitzroy and Mud Springs in Kununurra, and a workshop was finally held in Pandanus Park on 6th May.

A final report on the outcomes of the Thailand Cherabin/ prawn aquaculture mission was submitted to funding organisation Department of Education, Science and Technology (DEST), under the Innovation Access Programme – International Science & Technology.

Again, thank you to the DEST, Dr Chan Lee, NACA, Department of Fisheries Thailand, and all of those who assisted in making this training mission a success.

**Indigenous Aquaculture Unit**

KAAC hosted a visit to the Kimberley in May by the Indigenous Aquaculture Unit (IAU) based in Canberra.

The unit of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry - Australia (AFFA) is an Indigenous aquaculture development initiative of the Commonwealth established to implement the National Indigenous Aquaculture Development Strategy on a day-to-day basis, and consists of AFFA’s Mr Richard Mason and his Indigenous ATSIC counterpart Mr Dennis Ah-kee.
The IAU met with representatives of KAAC and MSH, Department of Fisheries, TAFE and ILC and visited Dampier Peninsula communities including the Bardi Hatchery at One Arm Point and Barramundi pilot pond at Bobieding. IAU previously held discussions with a representative from the Derby region.

**STREAM Initiative – NACA**

KAAC also hosted this visit for the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific’s STREAM Initiative, with Director Graham Haylor and associate Malene Felsing from the Department of Fisheries WA, visiting Broome in May.

The Support to Regional Aquatic Resources Management (STREAM) Initiative works throughout Asia-Pacific with issues relating to livelihoods, policy and institutional development and communications, in relation to managing aquatic resources.

NACA is investigating the possibility of working with Indigenous communities in Australia (particularly the Kimberley) with an interest in aquaculture to meet some of our common objectives.

**KAAC Constitution Change**

At the 2001/2002 KAAC AGM, it was resolved to amend the constitution to reduce the quorum at general meetings to the lesser of twenty (20) or more members or twenty percent (20%) of the total membership. This change was necessary due to the difficulty in obtaining a quorum at AGM’s with such a large number of KAAC members spread throughout the Kimberley.

In April 2003 the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations approved the alteration to the rules of KAAC, and the amended Constitution with the above change can be viewed at the office of KAAC.

**Artist in Residence Facility**

If you are an Indigenous artist or craftsperson and are interested in Manbana’s artist in residence facility please contact Malcolm Wells on 9192 3944.

**Board of Directors of MSH Pty Ltd**

KAAC’s new multi species hatchery and discovery centre in the Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park is seeking directors for its operating subsidiary MSH Pty Ltd.

The company seeks suitable Directors for the Board of MSH Pty Ltd to ensure the project maximises its participation in both the tourism and aquaculture industries.

The company is interested in persons with experience in aquaculture, business, tourism and marketing, to be involved in the project and Indigenous persons are encouraged to register their interest, although expressions of interest are sought from all persons with suitable experience and skills.

Interested persons are encouraged to express their interest by contacting Charla Clements (Chairperson) or Jacyntha Fong (Company Secretary) on 9192 3844 or by emailing mshptyltd@bigpond.com.

**Learning**

“Take the attitude of a student. 
Never be too big to ask questions. 
Never know too much to learn something new”.

- Og Mandino
**Trochus Stock Enhancement Project – Successful Spawning**

Manbana has now undertaken more successful trochus spawnings at the Hatchery and with many of the initial teething problems overcome and some now being rectified the Trochus stock enhancement project is well underway.

Now that most of the reefs of the 19 aquaculture licence holders involved in the project have been stocked with Trochus broodstock Manbana is now looking to commence stocking of juveniles to the licensed reefs of communities.

![Juvenile Trochus produced at Manbana (SMH) and soon to be reseeded.](image)

**Aquaculture Licence Renewals and Production Returns**

Aquaculture licensees involved in the Trochus stock enhancement project may have recently received a notice of licence renewal and request for 2002 aquaculture production returns to be submitted prior to the July deadline.

KAAC has now been authorised by most of the licence holders to sign renewals and submit nil returns to the Department of Fisheries on their behalf to reduce paperwork and the risk of loss of licence.

If you are a licence holder involved in the Trochus project and have not yet provided KAAC with this authorisation, please do so as soon as possible by contacting Jacyntha Fong on 9192 1482. KAAC will then submit returns and renew the licence on your behalf until the end of the project period.

**ACIAR Trochus Project**

Dr Chan Lee, the Project Coordinator of the ACIAR trochus project and Charla Clements the Community Coordinator, met with aquaculture licensees involved in the ACIAR project at Cunningham Point and One Arm Point in May.

The participants discussed ACIAR trochus activities and agreed on the protection of trochus in the research areas during and after the ACIAR project.

The annual meetings of the ACIAR trochus project were held from the 17-20 June 2003 in Port Vila, Vanuatu, and were attended by the Project Coordinator, Community Coordinator and field scientist Justin Bellanger for the Kimberley project.

**Community Aquaculture Projects**

**One Arm Point Hatchery**

The Bardi community hatchery at One Arm Point is successfully operating, employing trainees from the community and selling their product to the aquarium trade.

The hatchery employs 5 trainees from the community under the supervision of Barry Sharp, with four trainees undertaking Certificate II and one undertaking Certificate III in Aquaculture.

Bardi hatchery is producing juvenile Trochus and selling these at a size of 1-2cm to the aquarium trade throughout Australia. The hatchery has also produced juvenile tropical abalone which will be sold to the aquarium industry and will soon produce *Trochus pyramis*, the green coloured shell very popular with aquarium enthusiasts when polished.

![Aquaculture trainees at Bardi community’s One Arm Point hatchery](image)

If you are interested in aquaculture development, or would like more information on aquaculture, please contact KAAC’s Community Aquaculture Project Officer Jacyntha Fong on 9192 1482
This newsletter is prepared on behalf of KAAC by Ms Jacynta 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 the MSH Pty Ltd.

All enquires about distribution and contribution to this newsletter can be directed to:

Ms Jacynta Fong
KAAC
PO Box 180
Broome WA 6725
Phone: 9192 1482
Email: kaac.capo@bigpond.com

Additional information on KAAC and the MSH/Manbana may also be obtained from the following:

Charla Clements
KAAC
Phone: 9192 1482
Email: kaacadmin@bigpond.com