



BDTNRM Media Release

Deborah Cavanagh, BDTNRM Communications

Tel: (07) 4724 3544 Mob: 0427 243 001

deb.cavanagh@bdtprm.org.au www.bdtprm.org.au

13 August 2007

Kids Caring for Country

The Gudjuda Reference Group Aboriginal Corporation is launching its primary school cultural awareness programme at the Kids Caring for Country Day being held at the Riverway in Townsville on Thursday 16 August. Burdekin Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management (BDTNRM), in partnership with Dept of Education, Training and the Arts are sponsoring the event while Conservation Australia will be presenting information about water quality and tree planting.

Over 200 primary school students from four Townsville schools will be learning about traditional Aboriginal heritage. They will hear stories, learn to make tools and weapons, find out about Land and sea Management projects such as sea turtle tagging and coastal envirofund projects and there will be a water testing workshop to show kids how to get involved with monitoring water quality in the local rivers and streams.

The Birra Gubba language is spoken by four traditional owner groups in the Burdekin Dry Tropics region. The Gudjuda Reference Group Aboriginal Corporation, based in Ayr, received funding from BDTNRM to develop a comprehensive school based cultural awareness programme designed to get kids involved with traditional activities and knowledge to do with caring for country.

“The programme is really fun and it gives kids (and adults as well) the opportunity to explore different ways of seeing the world. It also gives us the opportunity to showcase the Aboriginal cultural heritage to a much wider audience”, said Leah Saltner, BDTNRM Land and Sea Coordinator.

The Department of Education, Training and the Arts will assist in coordinating the Kids Caring for Country Day. Through Education Queensland ‘Partners for Success’ strategy, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents will also engage in the event to enhance parent/student participation in school activities.

BDTNRM is a community based, not for profit company established in 2002 to deliver on-ground Natural Resource Management and enhance community involvement in those activities throughout the Burdekin Dry Tropics Region. Our activities are jointly funded by the Queensland Government and the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust Fund.

For more information contact:

Deborah Cavanagh: BDTNRM Communications mob: 0427 243 001

Leah Saltner: BDTNRM Land and Sea Coordinator mob: 0429 890 805