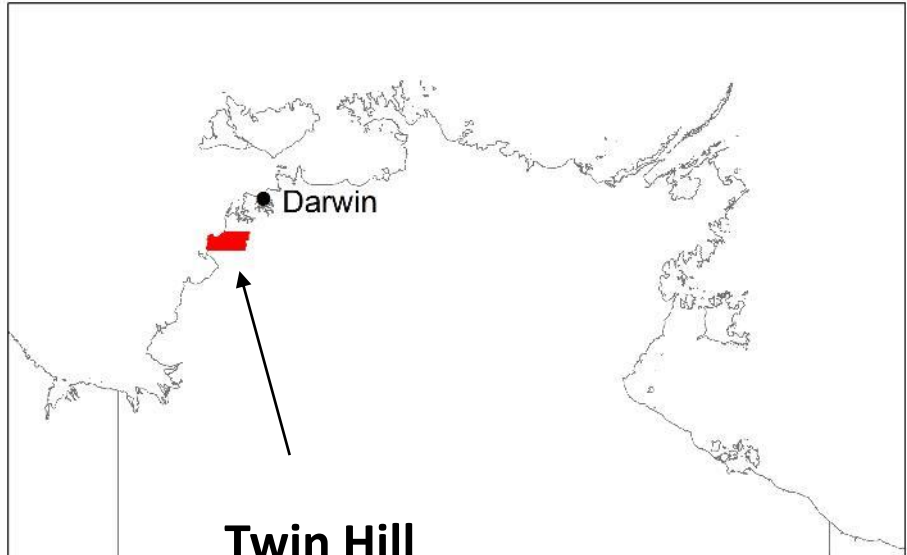




Looking after Mak Mak country
April Bright and Shane Bright





Twin Hill

- On the Wagait Delissaville Larrakia Aboriginal Land Trust
- 70km south of Darwin
- Finniss floodplain
- Mak Mak country
- Rak Mak Mak Marranunggu (White Eagle Clan)



Cattle Business

-premier
floodplain
agistment
property

Goal: Twin Hill continues to support a profitable cattle grazing enterprise without sacrificing the health of cultural and conservation values

The Cattle Business

- Provides employment for Traditional Owners on their country
- Provides financial resources to manage fire, weeds and feral animals

Other values



Bush foods



Sites of Cultural Significance



Biodiversity Values

Natural Resource Management Plan

Conservation Management
in the context of:

- Community
- Culture and
- Commercial
needs and desires



How we made the Plan

- Worked with an ecologist to survey country and collate information
- Had meetings with Twin Hill directors and other family members
- Held a Bush Holiday camp to involve the younger generation



Bush Holiday Camp



- Learning language and totems
- Collecting bush tucker
- Hearing from Crocodile egg harvestors
- Learning about Mimosa biocontrol
- Mammal Trapping
- Helicopter Rides to look at sites
- Disco



Land Management

- Weed Control
- Fire Management
- Feral Animal control



Weeds

- Mimosa control is our biggest achievement to date
- Reclaimed the floodplain with extensive Mimosa control
- Continue to spend >\$100K per year on aerial spraying
- Gamba Grass is a new threat we are trying to keep out of Twin Hill



Fire Management

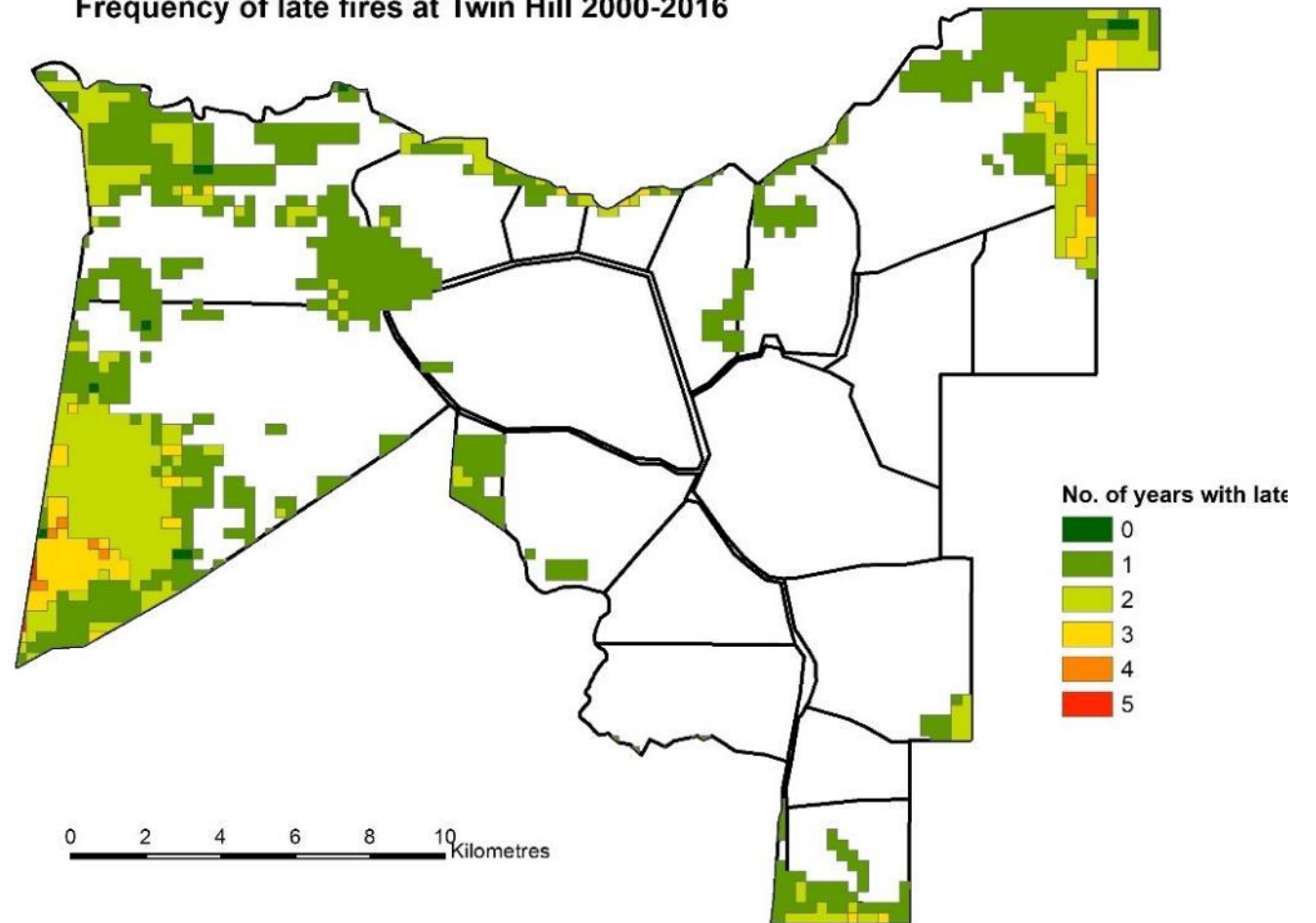
Early Burning to protect:

- Productive floodplain pastures
- Turtles when they are buried in the mud
- Jungle areas
- Infrastructure

Late fires have rarely occurred on Twin Hill

Now trying to leave a few more patches unburnt to provide network of refugia for mammals after burning

Frequency of late fires at Twin Hill 2000-2016



Pig Control

Aim to remove 200 pigs or >70% of population per year

- Annual aerial shoot
- Supplementary Ground shooting

Examination of gut contents to help understand how the pigs are affecting our values

Found they were eating the mimirri (water chestnut) = staple food for Magpie goose



Map of Mak Mak Dreamings

- Djulburr (magpie goose)
- Migut (dingo)
- Mak Mak (Sea eagle)

Cultural sites and responsibilities underpin management decisions



Migut (Dingo) Dreaming

– story of dingo and the cheeky yams

Gubirri – dingo dreaming site

Highly sacred site – pulij

Jungle Habitat – high biodiversity value

Requires protection from fire



Dingoes are protected as a

- Totem Species
- Apex Predator

Although it's a commercial cattle station, Traditional Owners are strongly opposed to any dingo control on Twin Hill

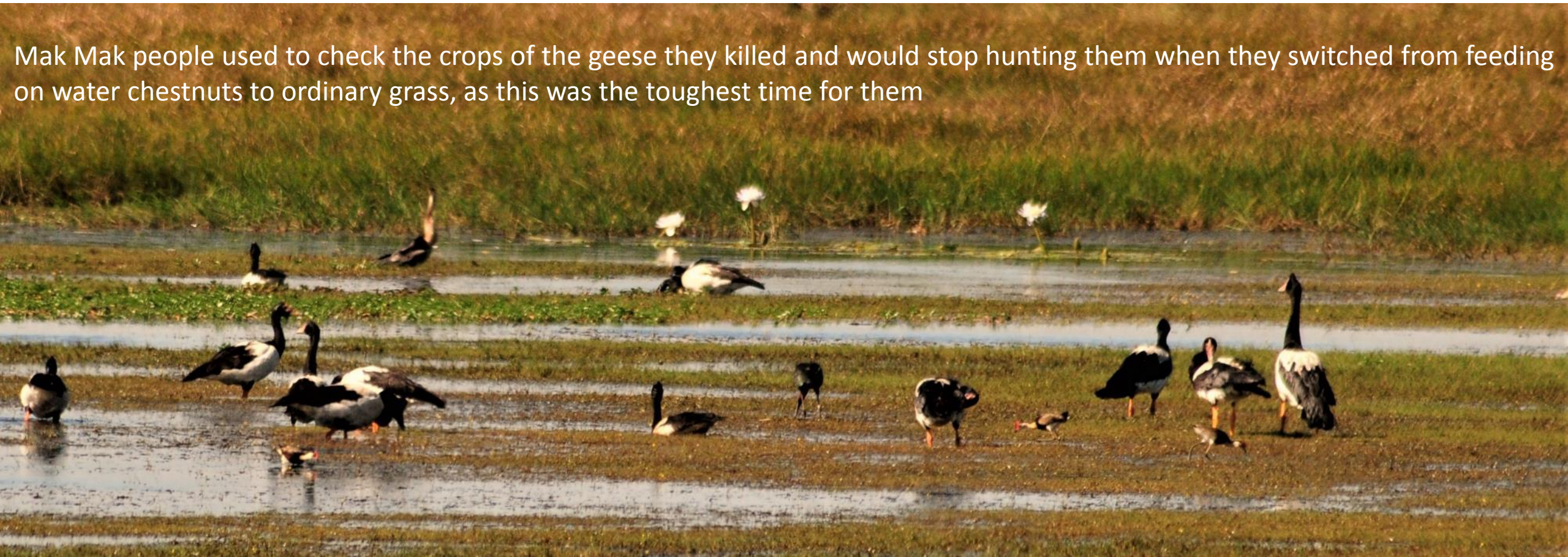
Djulburr (Magpie Goose)

Goal: to ensure Djulburr remains an abundant food resource for future generations of Mak Mak people by looking after its habitat, and hunting within sustainable levels.

Important totem species, and food species (birds + eggs)

Concern for declining numbers across the Top End

Mak Mak people used to check the crops of the geese they killed and would stop hunting them when they switched from feeding on water chestnuts to ordinary grass, as this was the toughest time for them



Wadaban (Crocodile)

- Culturally significant species
- No crocodile killing on Twin Hill
- Managed only through egg harvesting



A refuge for declining mammals

- Endangered Northern Quoll (Dadirrd Gul Gul) still regularly seen in the Twin Hill sheds
- Brushtail Possums in the jungle habitat
- High abundance of Northern Brown Bandicoots (trapped 30 in July)
- 5 other species of small mammals also captured in the annual mammal trapping

Twin Hill floodplain also contains waterbird breeding sites of International Significance





Our Vision: Twin Hill Aboriginal Corporation is a successful Indigenous cattle business that is owned and run by, and for its traditional owners Mak Mak Marranunggu.

Success is maintaining ecological, cultural and social values, while providing opportunities and capacity building for current and future generations.

Thanks

- Twin Hill Aboriginal Corporation
- Territory NRM
- Desert Wildlife Services

