

# Bamangka Kaban

“People’s Paper”

## Planning for Sea Country

Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation has successfully applied for funds through the Reef Trust Partnership Traditional Owner Grants Program to develop a Sea Country plan.

After an initial stage of collating previous work done in the Sea Country planning space, establishing a Sea Country working group committee-type structure will be next, National Park Planning Officer Dan Keynes said.

“Sea Country planning will complement the recently completed Daintree Management Plan, and will look at all aspects of the coast, reef and islands,” Mr Keynes said.

“It’s exciting and empowering for the Traditional Owners to finally

have the process funded because it means they can turn their aspirations into actual management operations out on Sea Country for the benefit of stakeholders and the general health of Bubu and Jalun.

“We had letters of support from partnering organisations such as Tangaroa Blue, Cape York NRM, Terrain NRM and Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership, outlining their intentions to assist with the project where possible, which we’re very grateful for.

“With the arrival of the Jabalbina Ranger Vessel in the near future, much of the planning and Traditional Owner consultation will happen out on the Eastern Kuku Yalanji coastline and Islands.”

For more information watch our Facebook page or contact Dan at the Mossman office.

The Traditional Owner Reef Protection Grants are funded by the partnership between the Australian Government’s Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.



ABOVE: Some of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Elders representing the 44 descent groups who met in early April at the Mossman Shire Hall . The meeting was a follow up to February’s Traditional Owner Negotiation Committee meeting. Full story pages 6-7..

It is another busy year at Jabalbina, as can be seen in the pages of this newsletter, outgoing-CEO Jim Turnour writes...

We continue to strengthen the ranger program through more sea country work.

In this edition rangers talk about the work they are now doing around crocodile management and Jabalbina has secured funding from the GBR Foundation to Strengthen Sea Country planning which will be rolled out later in the year.

Rangers have also been actively involved in fee for service work monitoring water releases from the Old Collingwood Tin mine during the wet season and supporting maintenance works in the Daintree National Park.

Jabalbina also hopes to progress with master planning of Pink Zones this year which will make it easier for Bama to return to live and work on country.

To this end we have also been engaged in the Wet Tropics Management Authority Plan review to ensure that any changes to the Plan do not undermine hard fought for development rights on pink zones.

A major Elders meeting has been held to strengthen Traditional Lore and Custom decision making and clan governance.

This workshop was facilitated by Peter Blackwood and involved Cape York Land Council anthropologists thanks to funding from DATSIP's Cape York Tenure Resolution Program (CYPAL).

Further meetings will be held through this year to develop terms of reference and decision making protocols for clan groups.

As people know, I have decided to stand down as the Jabalbina CEO.

A recruitment process is currently underway to appoint a new CEO and I look forward to working with them to ensure a smooth transition.

It has been a great privilege to work with Bama over the past four and half years and I look forward to seeing Jabalbina continue to grow and prosper into the future.



## In February Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation Chairperson Desmond Tayley announced Chief Executive Officer Jim Turnour would step down from his role in the middle of this year.

“The Board acknowledges the contribution Jim had made and really want to thank him for the work he has done and for his commitment to a transition

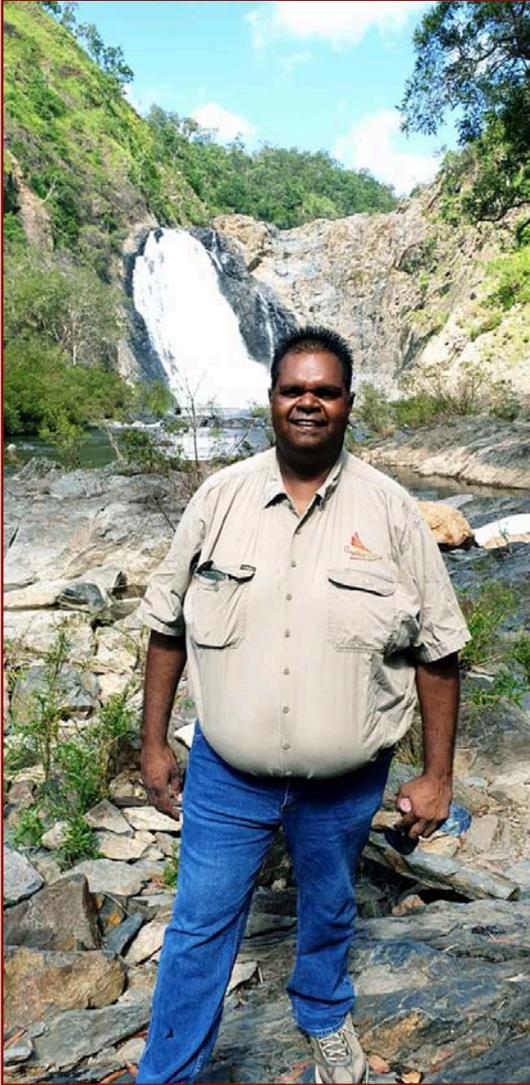
phase,” Mr Tayley said.

“Jabalbina is beginning the process of searching for a new CEO which will take several months.

“Jim has committed to continue

working until at least the end of the financial year.

“This will provide time to recruit a new CEO and ensure a smooth transition.”



## Securing funds to work on Sea Country planning has been in the pipeline for a little while, Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation chair Desmond Tayley writes...

Following a trip to Brisbane with CEO Jim Turnour to speak with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation about Yalanji sea country management it was really good to hear that Jabalbina’s application for funding from the Foundation was successful.

It’s really about management. I think there are similarities all over Cape York and Torres Strait, in terms of Sea Country. There’s a lack of management and a lot of our Traditional Owners have concerns about other people coming in and hunting and using Yalanji sea country without permission. We all want better management of beaches, river ways and the reef.

There are islands such as Hope and Snapper Island where we need to get out and manage weeds, as well as places like Cedar Bay, Weary Bay, Kangaji, right down to Port Douglas along that sea country area that all need to be better managed.

Jabalbina will take delivery of our boat before the end of the financial year, which is still being built. This will enable Traditional Owners to get out on sea country and complements the planning and better management that this new project will support.

The other ‘big ticket’ story in this issue of *Bamangka Kaban* is Springvale and the remediation works we’re teaming up with several other organisations, including Western Yalanji, to achieve out there.

Everyone has been very supportive of the project and we’ve managed to get the ball rolling with funding from Cape York NRM and the appointment of a Coordinator, Liam O’Neil, who is working for the Yalanji Joint Venture a business arm of our combined Yalanji groups.

Lastly, it’s now public knowledge Jim will be leaving us to explore some study options, probably at the end of the financial year.

On behalf of Board and Yalanji mob we just want to thank him very much in terms of what he’s done for our Bama, bubu and jalun in general and specifically for bringing the organisation from where it was to where it is today.

He has done a lot of hard work to showcase the positive things we have been doing in our Country which wouldn’t have been possible without his and his team’s hard work and support.



# Rangers team up with DES to trap crocodile

Jabalbina Land and Sea Rangers worked with the Department of Environment and Science (DES) in response to reports of a large crocodile near the mouth of the Mossman River ending with the capture and removal of a three and a half metre animal last month.

The croc was in a Targeted Management Zone under the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan and on that basis the baited trap was set so it could be removed.

Jabalbina National Parks Planning Officer Dan Keynes said they had been monitoring the beach for quite some time.

“There were reports that a crocodile had been displaying some aggressive behaviour to people walking dogs along the beach, launching boats and fishing in the area,” he said.

“Rangers made it part of their daily patrols to inspect the beaches and public use areas, particularly the Cooya Beach and Newell Beach boat ramps, first thing in the morning.

“Community engagement is extremely useful when we hear

about these kinds of incidents.

“Our Rangers are on site, and local members of the community themselves, and they are able to respond to reports very quickly.

“‘Recent Crocodile Sighting’ signs were placed as a precautionary measure on behalf of the Department of Environment and Science, who are currently the regulatory authority on wildlife issues.”

Mossman Ranger team member Anthea Solomon said it was an exciting and surprising afternoon.

“It was quick,” she said.

“We only set the trap on the Wednesday and it was triggered on Friday night.

“When we got there we saw the targeted animal was in the trap.

“So we jumped on the boat with Dan and watched what the DES

mob did, putting the bolt in and removing the anchors.

“It was lots of fun, doing that sort of work, it was good.”

Mossman ranger team leader Adam Fischer, who led the monitoring and assisted with trap deployment said he was disappointed he missed the removal of the croc but he was pleased to see training the group had undertaken being put to work.

“I’ve worked with crocs before in the mainstream,” he said.

“These guys at the moment, they’re just taking it step by step, which is a good thing.

“When we’re qualified we’ll be able to actually do the hands on work, retaining and removing crocodiles.”

A DES spokesperson said a 3.2 metre croc was trapped.

“The crocodile has been transported to a holding facility and will be provided to a crocodile farm,” they said.



*Left: On the scene was Mossman Ranger Team Leader Adam Fischer with Chris McCarthy (DES), Ranger Anthea Solomon, Michael Skeene (DES) and Ranger Nigel Minniecon. Ranger Nikita Jack-Tayley was also on site.*

# Pink zone master planning proposal

A plan to better enable Bama to live, work and return to Country within World Heritage Area 'pink zones' – without having to lodge complicated development applications or pay expensive up-front costs – is proposed to be developed by Traditional Owners in conjunction with Harwood Planning and Development, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council and Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation.

Principal Planner Dr Sharon Harwood (pictured) said they were essentially proposing the development of a 'master plan' for



areas within the pink zones which were established as part of the Kuku Yalanji Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs).

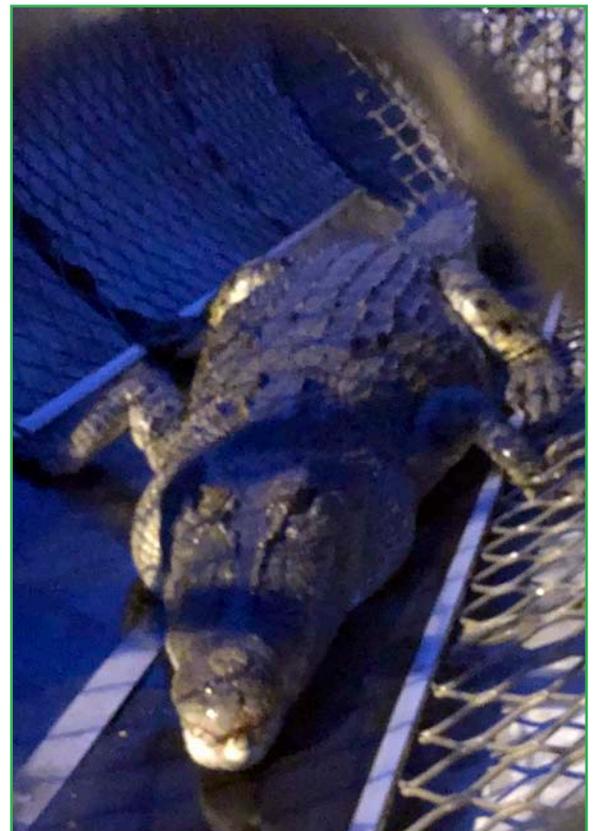
“Activities which aren’t normally allowed within a World Heritage Area can be allowed under what’s called a Cooperative Management Agreement as long as the TO’s sign up to a Community Development Plan and set of Activity Guidelines, but we’ve found constraints within the planning system that is making the process complicated and expensive,” she said.

“So essentially we’re proposing a master planning process through consultation workshops and meetings, which we hope will ultimately be accepted by

all stakeholders, including the government, to meet Traditional Owner aspirations for development such as bayans and tourism on Country.

“Above all, the end result should be a Master Plan which meets the cultural, social, economic and environmental expectations of the Traditional Owners groups concerned.”

She said the final Master Plan would be used by Wet Tropics Management Authority and Jabalbina to inform further negotiations under a Cooperative Management Agreement and the Wet Tropics Management Plan review and be included in the local government planning schemes.



# Hands-on approaches to

A three-day Traditional Owner Negotiation Committee (TONC) meeting, has produced a draft tourism vision to ensure culturally appropriate park management principles and practices will be implemented as part of joint management, Jabalina's Native Title Tenure Resolution Manager Conrad Yeatman says.

"We are focused on seeing a hands-on approach to management by Bama for the four National Park areas, with support from Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service, transitioning over time to sole management by Bama," he said.

He said the meeting agreed they were not opposed to tourism itself.

"EKY People have been powerless to influence how tourism is conducted and we have been left out of the benefits," he said.

"We hope to develop tourism in ways that are very clearly and obviously protecting our country and our culture, and we also hope to deliver meaningful benefits and outcomes for our people as a result of those tourism activities."

The February meeting – the fourth for TONC members – also resolved to maintain the development of clear protocols and guidance for joint management and reiterated the need for funding to support broad consultation, anthropological advice, administrative and project management resources.

"We have held a community meeting with Eastern Kuku Yalanji elders to properly review our cultural decision-making processes," Mr Yeatman said.

"And the next step from there will be looking for support from DATSIP to develop a holistic management plan."

He said communication with DATSIP had been open and productive.

"We have asked DATSIP to provide us with more information on the process to change some of the legislation around National Parks areas, and to follow up with some of our budget needs.

"DATSIP also gave us a presentation on how tourism can be incorporated into our Indigenous Management Agreement (IMA)."

He said regular contact between Jabalina and DATSIP had helped.

"Overall the meeting was a success," he said.

"Exchanging information with DATSIP on an ongoing basis helped us to plan the content and structure of the meeting, which had some good outcomes, including some very positive feedback from Traditional Owners about how we are progressing in our negotiations.

"The involvement and support of Ryan Ellis from P & E Law and anthropologist Peter Blackwood has also been critical, given the complexity of legal and anthropological issues in the proposed ILUA area."



## Eastern Kuku Yalanji (EKY) Elders represent Agreements met in early April to discuss fam

These groups are listed in the back of the Jabalina rule book and descendants recognised as Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bama and are eligible to be members of Jabalina.

The workshop was supported by DATSIP and was an outcome of the February TONC meeting.

"The TONC is our Traditional Owner Negotiation Committee that is involved in negotiating joint management over national parks and their conversion to Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land, through the CYPAL, process," Native Title

Tenure B

Yeatman

"So the

meeting

TONC. I

at getting

within th

to discuss

to countr

under tra

"It will e

further s

about Bu

CEO Jim

the meet

# joint management plans



*LEFT: TONC meeting and workshops.*

*RIGHT: from top to bottom: Nyungkal, Jаланji and Yalanji Elders at the follow-up meeting.*



ing the 44 descent groups identified in the 2007 Native Title Determination and Indigenous Land Use family and clan connection to country and how decisions are made through Traditional lore and custom.

Resolution Manager Conrad said.

EKY Elders Meeting was a held as an Action from the last For the Elders meeting we aimed a good representation of Elders the EKY boundary to the meeting s family and clan connection ry, and how decisions are made aditional lore and custom.

enable Jabalbina and Bama to strengthen decision making bu (Land) and Jalun (Sea).” n Turnour said the outcomes of ing would guide the Jabalbina

board and administration around decisions about Native Title, cultural heritage and land matters.

“This meeting will be followed by further clan based meetings to develop terms of reference and decision making protocols for Jabalbina decision making,” he said. “This process will eventually support decision making across all of Jabalbina.

“The meeting was over three days and the Elders came from communities across EKY Bubu as well as Palm Island and Yarrabah and even interstate.

“It was an opportunity for them to discuss

the links between the apical ancestors, modern day family groups and the different clans and connection to country.

“They were clear Eastern Kuku Yalanji was one nation but said it was important the right people are involved in decision making about Bubu and Jalun.

“The workshop was facilitated by anthropologist Peter Blackwood, who was involved in the original Native Title determination and ILUA package, and the Cape York Land Council, and particularly anthropologist Ann-Marie Boyd, also provided support to the workshop.”

# Rangers upskilling

The wet season is an opportunity for all our ranger teams to keep up to date with their various studies and stay on top of weed issues, Ranger Coordinator Dawn Harrigan says.



“Thomas Haughton and Nigel Minniecon have just graduated as Compliance Officers through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA),” she said.

“That means the whole Mossman Crew have their certificate which mean they have those powers to play an important role in protecting the values and integrity of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

“There is still only so much they can do, but it is a step up.

“All our staff are also up to date with their first aid and CPR training as well.”

She said other than that, spraying for weeds was a priority at this time of year across Jabalbina Yalanji’s

territory and two of the crews – Ayton and Mossman – have also been working on local cemeteries.

“Mossman crew have been clearing and maintaining local cemeteries, as well as some joint work with Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS) up at Cape Tribulation,” she said.

Ayton Team Leader Alister Gibson said they had been working with Elders on their local cemetery.

“We’ve been looking after the cultural side, cleaning grave sites and engaging with Elders,” he said.

“We’ve even recorded some stories.”

He said there had been a lot of

rain which meant a lot of ‘indoor’ time, working on maintenance and planning for the sun.

Shipton Team Leader Will Smith said so much rain had been a mixed blessing.

“One of the best things about the rain is all our tanks were filled, even though some of our roads were also washed out,” he said.

He said being a man down meant extra work, but they were still making plans to burn with QPWS.

“We’re in the process of getting ready for fire season,” he said.

“We’ll be working with national parks and that will be a good six months of work.”



## Juniors keen

At the time of going to print, Jabalbina’s Junior rangers were getting excited about this year’s ‘whole big bang’, currently being collaboratively planned by all three ranger teams.

Ranger coordinator Dawn Harrigan said the focus of this year’s camp would be seasonal calendars and traditional early burning.

“All three bases are in planning mode and there will be a range of activities for our juniors to take on, on country,” she said.

Ayton Team Leader Alister Gibson said it was important.

“It is important to talk to our youths about country, what’s happening in our culture and to pass on the stories our Elders have passed onto us,” he said.

# during wet season



*FAR LEFT: Ayton Crew Rangers: Vincent Tayley, Alister Gibson, Nikita Jack-Tayley & Bradley Creek*

*MIDDLE LEFT: Mossman Crew: Adam Fischer, Anthea Solomon & Nigel Minniecon*

*LEFT: Shipton Crew Rangers: Charlie Ross-Kelly, Kallum Clarke & Will Smith*

## Women's Ranger Network on solid ground



*TOP: The Women's Ranger Network meeting. ABOVE: Jabalbina Rangers Nikita Jack-Tayley and Dawn Harrigan with Yirrganydji Ranger Melanie Singleton.*

Nearly 50 rangers from Lake Eyre to Papua New Guinea workshopped together to mark the establishment of the Queensland Indigenous Women's Rangers Network last month.

Jabalbina Ranger Coordinator Dawn Harrigan – one of only five female ranger coordinators across Queensland – said she had loved the opportunity to connect with others.

“I wanted to say how much of a privilege it was to sit in a room full of strong, proud Bama women knowing we all have one thing in common – to work and take care of our traditional home lands,” she said.

“Listening to one another's struggles as well as their strengths and pure determination was awesome.

“This was my first meeting and totally look forward to more.”

# New venture shoring up run-off to the reef

Jabalbina has established a Joint Venture with Western Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation – the Yalanji Joint Venture (YJV) – to do gully remediation work on Springvale Station, just over 60km south west of Cooktown.

The project will be coordinated by Liam O’Neil, who is Kuku Nyungkal Bama.

“There are major erosion areas on Springvale Station, which is in the Princess Charlotte Bay catchment basin,” Mr O’Neil said.

“The project will involve coordinating between Cape York Natural Resource Management (NRM), the Department of Environment & Science and the Yalanji

Joint Venture Aboriginal Corporation.

“The important thing about this is helping to protect cultural heritage sites and a dozen or more endangered species of flora and fauna.

“Research published by Griffith University shows close to 550,000 tonnes of sediment flow from Springvale into the Bay every year, so we’re helping to protect the Great Barrier Reef as well.

“Primary outcomes from this work will be the stabilisation and rehabilitation of a major source of sediment but, more importantly, through trialling different strategies at the site there will be an opportunity to build the capacity of Traditional Owners to undertake similar works throughout the property and hopefully beyond.”

The project has been funded by the Queensland Government through Cape York NRM.

The Erosion Management Plan can be found at:

[www.qld.gov.au/environment/coasts-waterways/catchment-management/springvale-station](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/coasts-waterways/catchment-management/springvale-station)





# Springvale Station

Pics thanks to QPWS & Cape York NRM



# Guiding fire & pest control

Elders met in Mossman, Wujal Wujal and Shiptons Flat in the lead up to the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) Annual Joint Fire and Pest meeting in Wujal Wujal earlier this year.

National Parks Planning Officer Dan Keynes said the idea was to discuss how Traditional Owners wanted bubu managed for fire and pests, including pigs, cattle, dogs and invasive weeds.

“Those views were then

represented by Jabalbina staff at the Joint Fire and Pest Meeting, where our agreements were made with QPWS for the next 12 months,” Mr Keynes said.

“The end result is Country will benefit from traditional forms

of land management because Jabalbina Rangers, working with the Department of Environment and Science, will be able to better manage country with increased resources and access to cultural knowledge.”



*Our management team includes Ranger Coordinator - Personnel - Dawn Harrigan, IPA Manager Jeff Arneith & Ranger Coordinator - Assets - Phil Minniecon pictured here outside of a recent staff meeting at the Port Douglas Community Centre.*