



Bamangka Kaban

“People’s Paper”

Cultural heritage database revived

More than 300 sites have been added to Eastern Kuku Yalanji’s cultural heritage database since September this year, Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation Cultural Heritage Officer Sheryl Burchill says.

She said they had been working with Environmental Systems Solutions’ mapping consultant and EKY descendant Troy Mallie to revive and update the EKY Cultural Information Managements System (CIMS) since September this year.

Ms Burchill said they also had support from trainee ranger Kallum Clarke, who was keen to work with the technology.

“Kallum and I have spent a lot of time uploading, downloading and transferring information into the new system,” she said.

“It’s work that will help to maintain documents which include traditional stories and recordings of Elders speaking about culture and their life.”

Mr Mallie said the team had made extraordinary progress.

“I work with many other Indigenous groups around the country and overseas but it is always great to come home and work with my mob,” he said.

“I love passing on my skills and expertise to them, and then I get to learn more Bama culture from the Elders and others – it’s just great to be here.”

Ms Burchill said the system should be available to Bama by mid-2020.

“There is more work to be done to secure and manage the intellectual property of our Cultural Heritage,” she said.



In the seven months since I have taken up the role as Chief Executive Officer for Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation time has certainly flown by CEO Kupa Teao writes...

It is the time of year when things (supposedly) slow down, giving us time to reflect on what we have achieved over the year.

I am extremely proud of our staff for their commitment and dedication to their work, and their continuous efforts to work above and beyond their roles and responsibilities.



I am certain the communities we serve, particularly Bama, appreciate our efforts.

Together, we have kicked a lot of goals, however we have a lot more business outcomes we will need to achieve in the coming months which I am confident, given our recent track record, we will reach.

Since coming on board I have been overwhelmed by the level of support from all government departments (QPWS, DES, WTMA, NIIA, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire and Douglas Shire), both Land Councils NQLC and CYLC and a plethora of private and community organisations.

I have been impressed by the backing of the Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation Board, who have complimented my role, offering constant guidance and ongoing support.

I look forward to working with our new Board

members elected at our AGM in November, and wish our previous members all the best for the future.

And finally, I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, surrounded by your precious family, and many blessings and best wishes for a very Happy New Year.

May peace, love, and prosperity follow you always.

Kupa Teao



PICTURED; This year I was proud to see our staff and their families happy to join other volunteers and Council staff with Douglas Shire Mayor Julia Leu's annual Christmas Hamper Appeal...great work.

Sea country planning underway



Sea Country planning sessions have begun as part of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation's Traditional Owner grants.

The first was the Jalunji Warra Clan Governance meeting where a new committee was established.

We are looking forward to a big effort in combined planning in the new year which will help to integrate the management of our jalun with all the work that has been done on bubu.

Bama engaged with AGM



Nearly 50 people representing Jalunji, Yalanji and Nyungkal attended this year's Annual General Meeting at the Mossman Shire Hall last month.

"It was a very good turnout this year compared to previous years," Finance Controller Robin Saltmarsh said. "There is always a lot of information to present to Bama at the AGM and we got through it all fairly quickly."

He said the AGM was held towards the end of every year to provide Bama with updates on projects, the CEO's work and our financial status for the year.

Jabalbina Chairperson Desmond Tayley and CEO Kupa Teao were pleased to report on the organisation's progress and successfully completed projects over the year.

New CEO Kupa Teao introduced

himself and partner Dee to the meeting before describing the many projects and meetings he has participated in and supported since starting with Jabalbina in June this year.

Mr Saltmarsh presented the audited Annual Finance Report for 2018/2019 before a well-engaged audience participated in general business raising around Eastern Kuku Yalanji issues and ideas.

Then, as per the Rule Book, three new female Directors were elected for the next four-year tenure.

"Firstly, I'd like to thank Emma Burchill, Fiona Jose and Gail Barry for their commitment and dedication to their role as directors

of Jabalbina, and for steering Jabalbina in a direction that should make Yalanji Bama proud," Chair Desmond Tayley said.

"A lot has been accomplished in their time, and I want to ensure they receive the recognition that they deserve.

"I'd also like to congratulate and warmly welcome our new female directors Lyn Johnson (Jalunji), Maryanne Port (Yalanji) and Michelle Friday (Nyungkal) as our new female Board of Directors.

"We look forward to having you join us at Jabalbina and support the corporation in reaching milestones for Bama."



Former-mine rehab plans nearly finalised



Reviewing and finalising the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) for the Collingwood Mine rehabilitation works was the focus of a meeting of Nyungkulwarra representatives, Jabalbina Board members and Department of Natural Resources, Mining and Energy (DNRME) staff last month.

Cultural Heritage Project Coordinator Shannon Burke said the Department provided an overview of the design stages of the project, and said strong engagement with Traditional Owners was key to obtaining funding for the rehabilitation works.

“To date DNRME have worked with a Nyungkulwarra subcommittee to establish aspirations and common ground, which include capping the dam,

leaving the workshop area for future development and partially blocking the vent shaft,” she said.

She said DNRME also recognised the committee’s preference for the use of existing materials on the site, rather than bringing in outside material onto Country and acknowledged their commitment to the capping of the dam.

“We provided Nyungkulwarra Traditional Owners with an overview of the contents of the

CHMP and sought their advice about key elements,” she said.

“The CHMP will ensure Cultural Heritage sites are protected in accordance with Nyungkulwarra Cultural Protocols and legislative requirements.”

She said fencing and the fence lines were also under discussion.

“Fencing and finalising the CHMP will be discussed further at the next Nyungkulwarra meeting,” she said.

IPA role expanded

Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) Manager Jeff Arneith is looking forward to more engagement with Elders into the new year, as a result of a staff restructure which will see his role expanded.

“As part of Jabalbina staff restructure I am steadily stepping away from day to day ranger operations,” he said. “I have been involved in supporting the Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land (CYPAL) Clan Governance project that is in the process of re-establishing our IPA clan group committees.

“In the new year my role with IPA will be more focussed on ensuring the communication flow between Bama and our external stakeholders such as Wet Tropics, local

governments and our funding bodies continues to improve.

“I am looking forward to engaging more with Elders and hearing their voice as a result of this.”

He said on another note he was keen to share some good work done by casual rangers Luke Hayward and Gerard Kulka.

“Luke & Gerard have been working with the Mossman rangers under the leadership of Adam Fischer on a fee for service contract at Kubirri (Marrs) Creek for the Mossman Botanic

Gardens development,” he said.

“With the help of Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku, Mossman State High School, Douglas Shire Council and community volunteers they have carted away truckloads of rubbish, old car bodies, sprayed weeds and prepared sites for planting 1,500 trees.”

He said Jabalbina would like to extend special thanks to project partners Rebecca Pearse and John Sullivan.





Clan governance committees set to provide direction

In July 2019 Jabalbina's Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land (CYPAL) and Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) teams worked hard together to set up our Elders' Clan Governance Committees.

"We've set up five out of six Elders' Committees in the past five months," Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) Manager Jeff Arneith said.

"And each of those committees has finalised their own Terms of Reference."

Native Title Tenure Resolutions Liaison Officer Saisha

Schonenberger said the purpose of the Committees was provide Jabalbina with strategic and cultural direction.

"It's not only to give the Elders their voice back but for us as Jabalbina to take direction from them for anything occurring on EKY bubu and jalun," she said.

"These Committees have been on the table for us for quite some time now and it's good to see them finally set-up and running.

"We look forward to working closely with our Elders committees and standing strong together as one."





TONC continues to move forward

Field trips to Cowie Beach and Black Mountain were an important part of the last meeting of the Traditional Owner Negotiation Committee (TONC) for the year. Native Title Tenure Resolution Liaison Officer Saisha Schonenberg said the meeting had some good outcomes. "There was good attendance particularly from the Jabalbina Rangers," she said. "This is the second TONC meeting they've attended, they will be the on the forefront for Joint Management and it's good to see the effort and commitment they have put into participating in these meetings. "TONC has been focused on an engaged approach to Joint Management from the beginning and are working hard to achieve good outcomes for all Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bama throughout the remainder of this project. "Over the past year there have been four successful TONC meetings held with great progress made, the CYPAL Team has had a great year and we're looking forward to next year!"

TONC Meeting Rules

1. Respect each other's views
2. Stick to the agenda
3. All Bama are welcome
4. The committee members are elected representatives and do the talking
5. Visitors must sign in and out of attendance list
6. There will be a closed session on the agenda for Bama and the committee members to talk together
7. Committee members sit at the table Bama and observers sit behind
8. If bad behaviour happens the committee will ask the stakeholders to leave and will talk Bama to Bama



Site IDs ongoing for CYPAL

Jabalbina's CYPAL team has been conducting on-Country meetings with Bama to identify sites of significance, tourism interests and living areas.

Native Title Tenure Resolutions Liaison Officer Saisha Schonenberg said they were particularly focussed on national parks tenure, with the help of Cultural Heritage Officer Sheryl Burchill and new Ranger Callum Clarke. "There are 300 currently registered sites of significance registered in our Kuku Yalanji Cultural Heritage Database," Ms Schonenberg said. "This information was taken back to Bama to show the progress of previous works done and to begin ground-truthing the sites." She said with help from the Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program (CYPTRP) Team from State, a number of Restricted Access Areas (RAA) had been identified. "RAA's give Bama the opportunity to restrict all access into cultural significant areas within the national parks," she said. "More site identification meetings will take place early next year."



Land management ready to move on to 'next level'

In early December Conservation Management Director Stuart Cowell made a return visit to Mossman to facilitate and work with Jabalbina staff on land management planning.

"Stuart came to help us review existing plans and actions," Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) Manager Jeff Arneith said. "It wasn't just about finding that pathway to effective joint management of the national parks, it was about moving our IPA plans up to next level. "Staff spent four days dissecting five management plans, assessing their content, grouping together similarities, evaluating and rating the state of actions, and noting any issues having an impact on the work being done. "We want to thank Elders past, present and future for the hard work they've done in creating and implementing the plans we worked with. "With Stuart's help we can move forward with an overall implementation plan which will help staff achieve the milestones they have set. "2020 will be a massive year of partnerships and progress and Yalanji Bama should be proud of how far we have come and where we are going."

Cedar Bay cultural camp connects families to land

A need for families to connect to land, as identified by Eastern Kuku Yalanji Elders, was the motivation behind the 2019 Mangkalba (Cedar Bay) and Hope Islands Cultural Camp, held in September.

While on the camp TOs had the opportunity to provide traditional food for their families including fish and a turtle, which provided plenty of food for everyone.

For some of the kids it was their first time witnessing cultural activities, such as how to prepare a turtle for cooking.

The Camp was hosted by Jabalbina with support from Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service & Partnerships (QPWS & P), and was attended by more than 50 people – a remarkable achievement in logistics for a remote area of the Daintree coast.

Activities were focussed around fostering connections, natural resource management, sea country planning and marine debris clean up.

Fostering Connections

- Foster the links Between TO's, JYAC Rangers, QPWS Rangers and Staff and Mangkalba Bubu and Jalun; and,
- Knowledge Sharing from Traditional Owners to younger generation and JYAC/QPWS Staff and Rangers.

Travel by boat and helicopter into the area ensured a safe passage to the Bay as well as going past a significant story site at Rattlesnake Point.

A Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony was held by Marie Shipton, Betty and Josie Olbar upon the arrival of the families.

Natural Resource Management Activities

- Cycad Patch - reduce the effects of rainforest encroachment, prepare site for late season fire management;
- Feral Animal Damage - determine a strategy to reduce the impact of feral pigs on waterways and ground disturbance; and,
- Invasive Plants assessment - determine a strategy to reduce the negative effect of coconuts, pond apple etc on the foreshore and surrounding areas.

Traditional Management of the area has taken place of many thousands of years, and Elders discussed some of the management options going into the future including a joint approach to managing the area between Jabalbina Rangers, Dabu Jajikal Traditional Owners and QPWS & P Rangers.

QPWS & P also sought management advice on a variety of natural resource management activities.

Assessment of damage caused by feral pigs took place on Cedar Bay and Rangers saw fresh tracks, diggings and waterway disturbance, and





discussions around alternative ways to manage their numbers were highlighted on Hope Islands.

Sea Country Planning

- Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) funding process review
- Review work already done;
- Establish key values for Mangkalba/Hope Islands Cultural Heritage;
- Record Language and stories across all activities;
- Capture Elders memories of the areas/processes in the past and aspirations on future management activities; and,
- How do Elders see the Bubu and Jalun benefiting from Joint Management?

The Jalun makes up a significant proportion of the

Indigenous Protected Area which is managed by Jabalbina and central to Yalanji culture.

Discussions were centred around future planning of the Daintree coast, reef and islands and identifying roles and responsibilities of different corporations and departments.

GBRF funding for these activities provided an opportunity for Elders to highlight key values of the Jalun including the development of a TO-managed hunting strategy and better training of tourism operators.

Marine Debris Clean Up

- Gather beach debris and analyse; and,
- Good educational project to do with the kids.

Tangaroa Blue's support for these activities was greatly appreciated.



Rangers urge holiday makers to be croc-aware

Our three Land & Sea Ranger crews – Shipton, Ayton & Mossman – have had a very busy few months, coordinator Dawn Harrigan says.

And this month's report comes with a warning, she said.

"Beware a crocodile has been spotted in the river at Shipton's Flats," she said.

"Any families going there for Christmas Holidays need to be on the lookout."

She said in the meantime maintenance work, including ongoing monitoring for crocodiles at Salt Water Creek and Newell and Wonga Beaches, was ongoing and plentiful for all crew.

"We maintain the camp grounds and toilets at Twin Bridges, Daintree and Degarra Cemeteries as well as managing the Blue Pool," she said.

"Some 900 plants have been put into Kubirri Creek with Douglas Shire, and an aerial survey for hiptage and siam weeds has been carried out along with plant host mapping animal health and exotic mangrove work biosecurity and watches.

"We have ranger Kallum Clarke is working on Green Island – Reef health studies with Reef Legacy and has taken on our database and fulcrum work with Troy Mallie and Cultural Heritage Officer Sheryl Burchill

"George's Yard has been tracked, marked and mapped, with more to come.

"And finally cool burns have been

carried out at Zig Zag and Buru while we were also involved in a wild fire response with the Rural Fire Services at Kings Plain."

She said several rangers attended conferences and courses away from Country over the past few months.

"Our Shipton's team leader Will has done a course in sediment erosion and Anthea and Nikita attended a Women's Ranger Conference," she said.

"Here in Country Anthea and Nikita have also trekked from Cedar Bay to Home Rule Campground with Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service – an outstanding effort.

"Rangers have also assisted with several Traditional Owner





Negotiation Committee (TONC) meetings which includes helping with transport for Elders and members and on-Country visits looking at day use areas, possible living areas and eco-tourism opportunities.

“Adam and the Mossman crew also did a presentation to the Julaywarra meeting on the work the rangers have been doing and received positive feedback.

“As a result it is expected regular presentations will help to keep everyone informed.

“There has been a Men’s Camp with Ernie Dingo and our local justice crew has been filming Elders on Country.

“We participated in NAIDOC Day at the Bloomfield River and Rossville State Schools, as well as an Elders Day Out in early November.

“Our Mossman Rangers are engaged with the local Historical Society and working at the local cemetery.”

She said there were also several ‘congratulations’ to pass on.

“Congratulations to Charlie Ross Kelly for completing his Firearms course, and to Charlie and Nikita Jack Tayley, who are off to New Caledonia in May 2020,” she said.

“Thomas Haughton and Nigel Minniecon have both graduated with Inspector powers at a ceremony held in Townsville, so congratulations to them.

“And last, but by no means least, Ayton Team Leader Alister Gibson is proud father to his second baby daughter Brooklyn.”

She said all three teams were motivated, inspirational and had worked hard.

“I’d also like to add a big thank you all our volunteers for their hard work and efforts,” she said.

“I think it’s been a very busy year!”





Welcome...

Welcomes to Country and Smoking Ceremonies are a significant component of several Cultural Clearance Assessments carried out over 2019.

Jabalbina worked through the processes with various stakeholders to help ensure our Cultural Heritage is protected and Cultural Protocol is correctly followed Native Title Tenure Resolutions Liaison Officer Saisha Schonenberg said.

“Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremonies are a significant component of this process and are performed by Traditional Owners with all contractors and stakeholders who are carrying out business on country,” she said. “These are culturally spiritual ceremonies that ensure safety, integrity and awareness.”

A Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony was recently performed by Traditional Owners for a film crew from Brisbane, who are working from the locally-known ‘Stamp House’.

The film stars Isabella Lucas along with Hunter Page-Lochard, who is a Murri from south east Queensland.

The crew have another couple of weeks of filming to go.

She said QPWS also recently approached Jabalbina for a Cultural Heritage Clearance Assessment to be provided for a walking tracks at the Mossman Gorge.

“The Mossman Gorge sits within the Daintree National Park and with the TONC currently negotiating joint management with the State, this is an opportunity to build on our partnership with them,” she said.

“We’d like to thank all our Traditional Owners for their support in this process and we look forward to working with you again in the future.”



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

Jabalbina staff were excited to celebrate the end of a successful year with staff from QPWS at Mossman Gorge before Christmas. We look forward to a happy and successful 2020 working together and wish all our EKY Traditional Owners and supporters the very best for the Festive Season.

