



# Bamangka Kaban

“People’s Paper”



Rainforest 4 founder Kelvin Davies with Traditional Owners Andrew John Solomon, Clive & Betty Sykes and Dennis Solomon inspecting a block with a view to adding it to another recently block on Buchanan Creek Road recently bought by Jabalbina – full story on page 6!

## We’re here!

Coronavirus has changed things “a fair bit” for Jabalbina’s operations, CEO Kupa Teao says.

“As an organisation we’ve had to adapt,” he said.

“And more often than not in some fairly innovative ways to the changes as the Government has slowly clamped down.”



ABOVE: In the days before social distancing some of our TONC members, staff and stakeholders took an opportunity to test our video-linking technology

He said all the staff, various stakeholders and some members, particularly the Traditional Owners Negotiation Committee (TONC), had learned to use technology in ways they couldn’t have imagined only weeks or months ago.

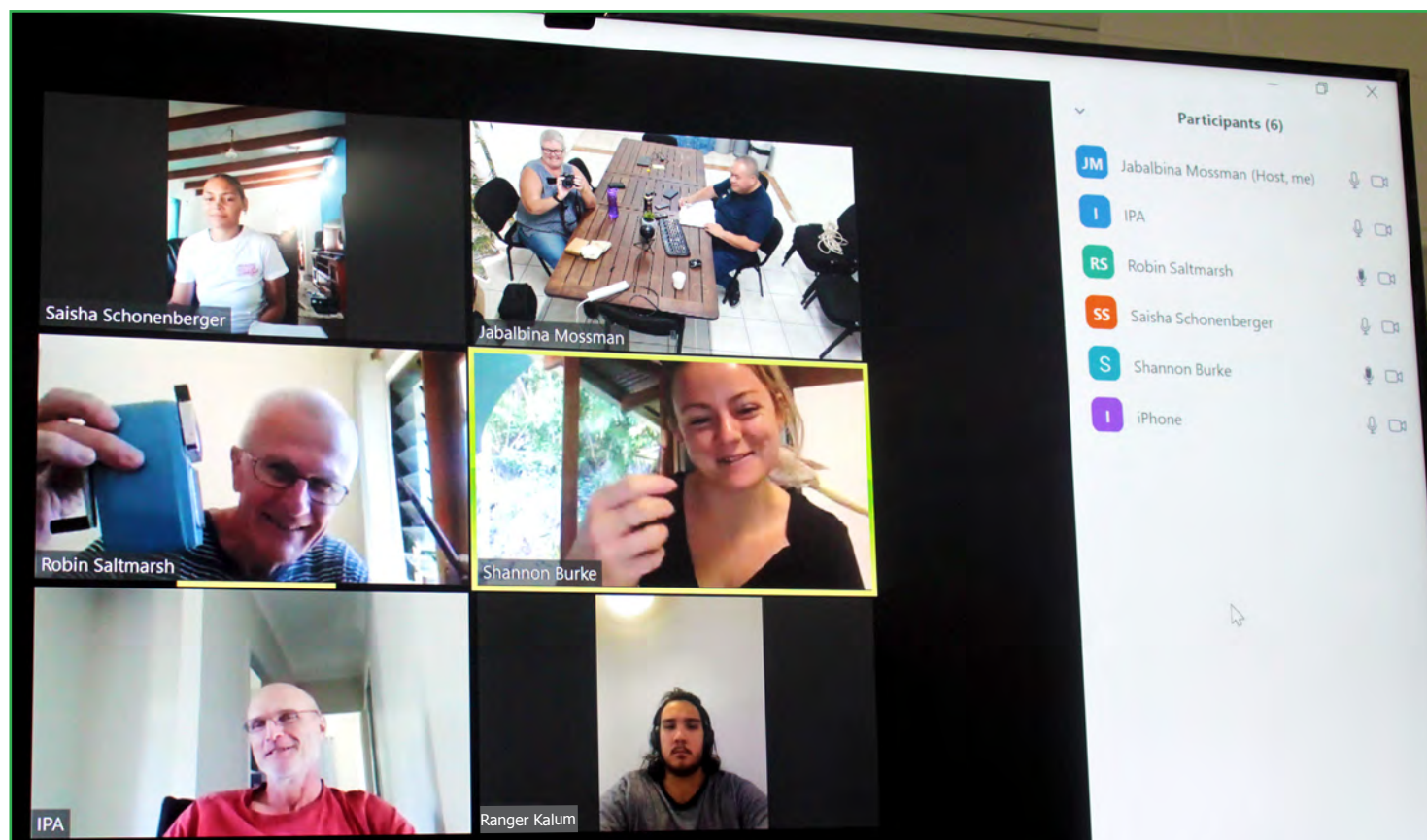
“We’ve been able to go ahead with most of our meetings, thanks to the internet and the big screen in our meeting room,” he said.

“I take my hat off to our Native Title Tenure Resolutions Manager Conrad Yeatman for the way he’s handled our meetings with Elders and the TONC meetings in particular.”

He said as things slowly returned to normal he hoped to start bringing more staff back into work, even if only on a rotational basis.



# A word from CEO Kupa Teao...



## Things have changed a fair bit since our last newsletter in December, CEO Kupa Teao writes...

December was quite a productive month leading up to Christmas and New Year, and we had a fantastic staff celebration up at PK's, near Cape Tribulation.

After we celebrated, we went down to the sea and sat around a fire until the early hours – it was quite beautiful.

Who would have known back then what 2020 would bring for us?

The Coronavirus has put a halt on a lot of our operations.

As an organisation we've had to adapt – and more often than not in some fairly innovative ways – to the changes, as the Government has slowly clamped down.

Over the past week or two I've had rangers come and do some maintenance work around the office, we've been meeting online with staff and other stakeholders.

Our AGM was last year but we had a board meeting before the shut-downs in January where Lyn Johnson was elected to the chair, with Michelle Friday as her deputy.

The board met again late in April – online, of course – and we intend to keep meeting on a monthly basis as the current situation progresses.

I've been keeping the board up to speed with how we are dealing with it all and we are, as a result, looking at some modifications to our health and safety plan where we can be a bit more comprehensive about what to do and how to do things in the event – heaven forbid – of another pandemic in our lifetimes.

By mid-May I hope to be able to have up to five people at work in the office here, adhering to all the proper social distancing rules, of course, but on rotation so everyone will have that opportunity.

In the meantime we've been able to go ahead with most of our meetings, thanks to the internet and the big screen in our meeting room.

I take my hat off to our Native Title Tenure Resolutions Manager Conrad Yeatman for the way he's handled our meetings with Elders and the Traditional Owners

Negotiation Committee (TONC) meetings in particular.

We've submitted quite a few grant applications over the past month, so hopefully we'll see those through.

Lastly, but by no means least, big congratulations to the following staff for their new on-the-job qualifications:

- Nigel Minniecon (Marine Radio Licence)
- Charlie Ross-Kelly (Compliance Training – Nature Conservation Act)
- Vincent Tayley (Compliance Training – Nature Conservation Act + Cert IV Government – GBRMPA Compliance Accreditation)

For various reasons we won't have much from the rangers in this issue of our newsletter but as we all slowly get back to normal we'll have a full report for you in our next issue.

Take care everyone, and stay well!

*Kupa*

# On the board...

Chair – Lyn Johnson

Deputy Chair – Michelle Friday

Directors: Colin Doughboy;

Desmond Tayley; Cliff Harrigan

& Maryanne Port



## My Mum was Kuku Yalanji, she was born here, newly elected Jabalbina chair Lyn Johnson writes...

I grew up all on the EKY, from Mossman to Mowbray to Hope Farm – all up and down the coast with my Mum.

We'd travel on the old bus, back in the day, when it was only one lane – scary days.

Lilly Johnson was my Mum's name, and God rest her soul, she's passed on.

My biological father was an Italian who left when I was baby, but my real Dad – the man who raised me – was Joseph Albury 'Stormy' Baird from Daintree.

In 1969 I went to live with my Aunt Mary McIvor and families in Hope Vale, where I lived for four years before going south to Victoria for 17 years

I started my career in health – or western health or medicine, as I call it – as what was called a 'Registered Nurse Aid' in 1976.

I had two children in Victoria but the pull to come home was strong, so I came back and I've been here for the past 20+ years.

I went into Aboriginal health in the 1990s and I've never left it, it's been my passion to work for our people, our Bama people.

I was part of the team who developed the Social and Emotional Health and Wellbeing Consortium, we were the first Registered Training Organisation set up in Queensland back in the early 2000s.

Social and emotional health and wellbeing is still my passion but when Jabalbina was first opened I started working alongside sister, Nyungkal Elder and project officer Hazel Douglas, whose memory lives forever in my heart.

She was my mentor for a long

time, and when Jabalbina first started I used to go on Country with a lot of our Elders.

I learned a lot from them, many of them have passed, but I carry that passion within me, no matter where I've been I've always kept that link with Jabalbina and I always hoped one day I could come back and be on the board – and so I am.

I'm so excited to be working with this board.

My passion is to work with our Bama on what they want to see – what's the outcome for them?

I want to be able to bring everyone together because before Native Title we all worked as one, we were one, we still are one, but that division was created.

We have to remain strong and acknowledge those who have gone and left us and we have to provide, care for and look after the Elders we've still got because they are precious – when we lose them, we lose a little bit of ourselves.

So that's my passion and that's why I'm here – I want to be able to make sure Bama can go back on Country, can live it, work it and really listen to our stories and language.

Those stories and our language is not just about going fishing or camping, it's actually everything, it's who we are.

And I'm in for the long haul too, I want to be able to have an open ear for all our staff, male and female, and especially our rangers.

I would rather talk about our problems and work them out, let's not divide and conquer, let's all be as one.

## Profile: Deputy Chair Michelle Friday



Where were you born and where did you mostly grow up?

I was born and raised in Townsville, and the beautiful Aboriginal Community of Palm Island.

What do you do?

I am a Field Officer in the Community Relations & Dispute Resolution Unit at Cape York Land Council.

Why did you want to be on the board for Jabalbina?

I have been a member since Jabalbina's inception, and an employee, so the decision to become a Board Member was a natural progression.



# Land buys securing future

Jabalbina has been working with a group called 'Rainforest 4 Foundation' to ensure land purchased for conservation is protected in the Daintree National Park and will be managed by the Traditional Owners.

Rainforest 4, a group committed to protecting and restoring rainforests, has ongoing and completed projects in Indonesia's Sumatran and Central Kalimantan rainforests, New South Wales and Victorian forests in the wake of this year's bush fire crisis, and several Daintree projects, including a plan to assist Jabalbina with the purchase of several more blocks earmarked for TO management and care.

"In 2019 we worked together to purchase and protect a block on Buchanan Creek Road," CEO Kupa Teao said.

"Rainforest 4 founder Kelvin Davies met with Jabalbina staff and Jalunji TOs earlier this year to look at some other blocks.

"The Jalunji Clan Governance Committee then confirmed their support for the project moving forward in February this year."

He said since then staff had continued to work with Rainforest 4 and have set up a relationship with a pro-bono lawyer to facilitate the partnership.

"We plan to purchase another block on the Cape



Tribulation Road and several others throughout the year, all of which will be transferred to National Park through the Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land (CYPAL)," he said.

"There are other blocks with infrastructure to support TOs in their aspirations to care for and return to Country."

He said the Coronavirus had caused some delay to moving forward as quickly as they had initially planned.

For more information see:

[https://www.rainforest4.org/jabalbina\\_partnership?fbclid=IwAR3I68rQUaXxytJSTU8sw\\_JHssHoiPOoVdWL1ou\\_zRdqZBM\\_ojIS5AVcl4oE](https://www.rainforest4.org/jabalbina_partnership?fbclid=IwAR3I68rQUaXxytJSTU8sw_JHssHoiPOoVdWL1ou_zRdqZBM_ojIS5AVcl4oE)

*Pics thanks to Steven Nowakowski.*

Jabalbina has been making use of this time to apply for funding and has submitted applications and expressions of interests for the following projects:

## Cultural Heritage Funding for Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land (CYPAL) National Parks:

Jabalbina submitted an application to work with Elders and Clan Governance Committees to identify Sacred Sites within the CYPAL National Parks and professionally record Elders Stories.

## Looking After Country Grant on behalf of Burungu Corporation:

Jabalbina submitted an application on behalf of Burungu Corporation for Cultural Heritage funding that aims to support Buru Corporation to work with Elders to map and record Cultural Heritage information and protect Sacred Sites.

## Master Planning update:

Jabalbina has been in contact with the Indigenous Land & Sea Corporation (ILSC) and is aiming to put in an application for the Master Planning project through their 'Our Country Our Future' program in the coming months.

*Shannon Burke*

# CYPAL / TONC planning work ‘full steam ahead’

Jabalbina’s engagement with the Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land (CYPAL) project has been full steam ahead over the past few months Native Title Tenure Resolution Manager Conrad Yeatman says.



He said before Coronavirus restrictions, site visits with Traditional Owners and Traditional Owner Negotiation Committee (TONC) member, Queensland Parks & Wildlife Services (QPWS), the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) and the Department of Environment & Science (DES) teams were ongoing.

“We’ve all been working hard towards identifying final Living Area and Restricted Access Areas for the project,” he said.

“The Jabalbina CYPAL Team held their very first Joint Management Workshop in January, with representatives from all our stakeholders and Stuart Cowell, a consultant, was also there.

“With his help we hope to finalise plans for the Indigenous Management Agreement (IMA), so he also ran some sessions on forward planning and land management.”

He said the workshop ran over three days and had some great results.

“It was good practice for both Jabalbina Rangers and QPWS

Rangers to start jointly working together,” he said.

In February, he said, the TONC came together in Port Douglas for their 8th meeting.

“The meeting ran for the usual three days with presentations from consultants on their draft plans that are to be submitted as schedules into the IMA,” he said.

He said the plans they looked at included:

- Cultural Heritage Management Plan;
- Tourism Strategy; and,
- Implementation Framework.

“The TONC has made some good progress and are working towards finalising everything at the next and final TONC 9 meeting,” Mr Yeatman said. “Alongside all of this activity TONC and Traditional Owners have had to adapt to a new way of communicating because of Coronavirus.

“TONC has started meeting via video linking, and it’s been challenging, however it is essential to keep things moving forward and the our members have continued with their hard work and best efforts in support of this project.”





# Rangers keep working above and beyond

Jabalbina Rangers have been doing some 'amazing' work while they've been locked down under Covid-19 arrangements, Ranger Resources Dawn Harrigan says.

"Clearing, mowing, whipper snipping, burns, helping with firewood drops, and being involved in the Local Disaster Management Groups, they've really put their hands up and pressed on with what they could press on with," she said.

"It has been a challenging time for us."

She said they had also done some trips with the Wujal Wujal Justice Group.

"They've taken them on country and looked at some places where



Djabugay Aboriginal Corporation's Bulmba Rangers and Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation's Yirganydji Rangers hosted this year's Indigenous Land & Sea Rangers conference, held at the Tjapakai theatre in early March, not long before social distancing came about.

Five of our Jabalbina rangers went – Dawn Harrigan, Nikita Jack-Tayley, Patrick & Nigel Minniecon, Anthea Solomon and Alister Gibson – to the three day event which was for rangers from all over Queensland.

"Monday was about leadership, which myself, Nikita and Anthea attended," Ranger Resources Dawn said.

"That was about different styles of leadership, it was a really crammed session hosted by Clinton Scott-Knight.

"The second day we looked at this year's theme which was 'more than a ranger' so I got to speak on a women's ranger panel talking about women working on country.

"The rest of the day was talking about social enterprise and our roles in business, with some examples of that, so it was about opportunities for Bama on country.

"We also did some fun things like boomerang and spear throwing, the train and the Skyrail, which was a bit scary."

She said all the rangers got a lot out of the event and look forward to the next one.

## 2020 Ranger's Conference



Conference pics thanks to organisers. Top three pics: Rangers at work; Below: the Queensland Indigenous Women's Ranger Network

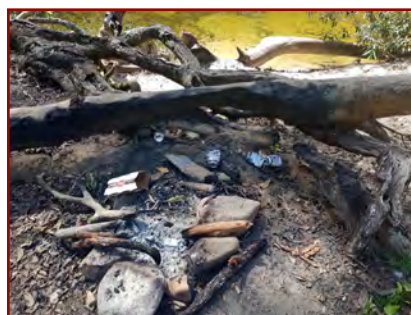
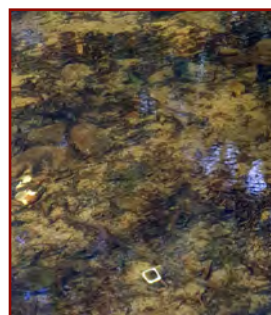


Mapping and survey work of Zig Zag, 8-Mile and Ngamu has been carried out in consultation with TO and Elder Bobby Ball by Nyungkul Rangers Charlie Ross-Kelly and Thomas Houghton, and Wujal Rangers Alister Gibson and Nikita Tayley.

"After surveying these areas we noticed a big fuel load so under the directive of Bobby Ball we did some small burns to reduce it," Ranger Thomas said.

"There were areas around 8-Mile and Ngamu that were not burnt last year.

"We also collected a ute load of fire wood for Bobby's camp at Banabilla."



they plan to build some resources for the community to work with," Ranger Dawn said.

"I want to acknowledge the hard work they have put in, particularly Thomas Haughton and Charlie Ross-Kelly from Shipton's Flat base, for their ongoing dedication and support."



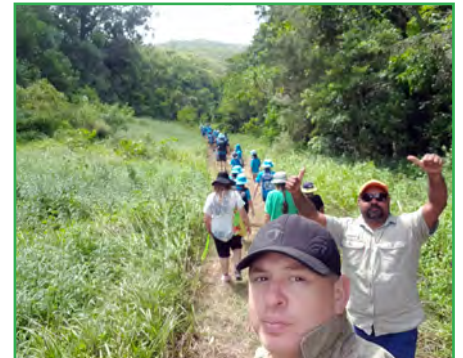
Congratulations to ranger Vincent Tayley and former-ranger Bradley Creek, both of whom have been re-elected in the recent local government elections. In the pic from left to right is Cr Robert Bloomfield, Mayor Bradley Creek, Cr Vanessa Tayley, Deputy Mayor Vincent Tayley & Cr Reagan Kulka.



# Rossville Primary School's great big adventure with our Shipton Flats Rangers



"It was the best day," they said. The school, the Elders and the rangers all enjoyed a day of hiking and learning in their own country, not long before Covid-19 restrictions came into play. "But we will do it again," they said.



Thanks to Jabalbina for their support in my successful application to the Milparanga 7.1 Leadership course, Ranger Dawn says.

"Held over a week, this course really challenged me at nearly every level. "I'd really like to encourage others to apply for this if they can."

For more information contact Tammy Hunter on 0498 555 750 or email [tammyh@rural-leaders.org.au](mailto:tammyh@rural-leaders.org.au)







# Collingwood work ongoing

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) is developing plans to ensure work keeps moving on the Collingwood Tin mine remediation project under COVID 19 restrictions.

All activities on the site are conducted in accordance with the Chief Health Officer's public health directions for COVID 19 and the Australian Government's restrictions on entry to remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, which apply to Cook Shire.

There are exemptions for people providing essential services including mining, oil and gas, and related operations.

Essential workers must carry an agreed human biosecurity management plan at all times while they are working in a restricted community.

A DNRME spokesperson said the Collingwood Tin Project team would continue to meet all relevant environmental, biodiversity protection and cultural heritage requirements in its site activities and investigations into remediation options.

Works for completion this financial year, in agreement with

the Nyungkulwarra Traditional Owner sub-committee, are:

- Portal closure
- Core yard remediation
- Workshop remediation
- Removal of pumping and electrical infrastructure no longer required

The project team will also present draft detailed designs for reshaping and stabilising the processing area and tailings dams to the sub-committee to ensure they meet the agreed vision and appropriately address cultural heritage values.

Works already completed on site this year include:

- Capping the ventilation shaft – a 5m-wide hole 196 metres into the underground mine that was a danger to the public
- Repair and maintenance work on the high-voltage electricity network on site, that allowed handover to Ergon Energy and ensured an ongoing power supply for the JYAC ranger office

- Road works and cleaning out culverts and drainage channels.

The project team worked closely with JYAC on the water release and monitoring programs that made sure the site had enough storage to safely contain wet-season rainfall and run-off in line with the site Water Management Plan.

Some quick figures on water management include:

- Approximately 550mm of rain recorded on site from 1 January to 30 April 2020.
- Minimal increases to water levels in the tailings and water dams
- Pre-wet season water sampling to establish the condition of the river
- There has been no water discharged from site in 2020.

DNRME has released a project update for stakeholders providing more information on completed and planned works.



# Unanimous support for tourism vision

The 8th TONC meeting was held in Port Douglas and attended by nearly all members Native Title Tenure Resolutions Manager Conrad Yeatman says.

“Our members unanimously resolved to support a tourism vision adopted for the purpose of developing an overall Tourism Strategic Directions Project, proposed to be a ‘schedule’ under our Indigenous Management Agreement (IMA),” he said.

The vision says:

*Ngana Eastern Yalanji warra, Ngungkal, Yalanji and Jalun warra, proud members of the world’s oldest living and surviving culture, welcome visitors to share respect for our bubu (country), where the world’s oldest madja (rainforest) meets our pristine jalun (sea and reef), bana yarralji (fresh water), kija (moon) and jiri (sky).*

*Ngana juma ngajil baja (Goodbye, see you again next time!)*

He said they had respectfully requested support from the State Government and the tourism industry for their goal to make it compulsory for commercial tourism operators to employ Yalanji-warra bama tour guides.

“TONC has also asked that all staff are properly inducted under the plan,” he said.

He said the draft Tourism Strategic Directions Report was tabled and discussed at the meeting, before being approved for further and ongoing consultation in the lead up to signing the IMA.

“TONC members also endorsed the draft Eastern Yalanji-warra Cultural Heritage Management Plan and its continued development for inclusion in the IMA,” he said.

He said 16 resolutions were passed overall (available on request), including assistance with the purchase of tablets and computer software to ensure TONC members were engaged and involved in ongoing meetings.



## Practical approach to collaboration sought

Jabalbina and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) have been working hard on a project to develop a “robust but practical” approach to collaborative management of EKY national parks.

Native Title Tenure Resolutions Manager Conrad Yeatman said the primary focus of the project was to find co-stewardship implementation approaches to shared priorities such as fire and pest management.

“This work will inform, but not replace, existing Indigenous Management Agreement (IMA) negotiation processes, such as TONC,” he said.

“We had hoped to finalise the project by mid-June this year.

“Co-stewardship implementation means we’ll all be on the same page and doing things in collaboration.

“We’re not trying to reinvent the wheel here, we’re trying to develop a ‘bolt-on’ – additional – solution that recognises, builds on and integrates the massive amount of work we’ve already done.

“If we have better synchronisation and an agreed pathway forwards, we’ll have progress.”

He said the approach should result in a practical mechanism for moving forward, whilst respecting traditional owners aspirations, guidance and support not just for now but for years to come.







## Positive feedback on process & progress

Jabalbina continues to receive positive feedback about the CYPAL process from Traditional Owners, Native Title Tenure Resolutions Manager Conrad Yeatman says.

“We’re taking every opportunity to present our Cape York Tenure Resolution Program work under the Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Lands (CYPAL) to Traditional Owners and key stakeholders,” he said.

“We have also maintained effective communication with the Traditional Owners Negotiation Committee (TONC) and over the past few months which has initiated and supported by our CEO Kupa Teao.”

He said the support of P&E Law, Ryan Elis and Anthologist Peter Blackwood, had been critical.

“Our Indigenous Land Use Agreement area is complex and we are fortunate to have a large population of Traditional Owners

involved in what we are doing,” he said.

“To have their support to ensure TONC members legal responsibilities and our own contractual obligations are met is critical.

“Our focus will always be on ensuring that everyone who holds or may hold Native Title to the four national parks which are the subject of our negotiations are identified and authorised in the making of this new ILUA.”

Mr Yeatman said several meetings have been held, including some via video conferencing, with various clan groups since January.

“Anthropology meetings with Peter Blackwood have been working towards establishing a framework

for clan governance, decision-making processes and terms of references,” he said.

“This engagement and support ensures suitable consultations and culturally appropriate processes are maintained.

“Legal advice in closed sessions during the 8th TONC meeting have also worked towards finding a way to support these processes.

“And our Jabalbina CYPAL team holds weekly meetings with key staff for updates and planning.”

He said information had been shared through community engagement, Bamanka Kaban, public notice boards, key community elders’ groups and social media and had involved a majority of TONC members.







# Our brand new custom-built boat...hits the road!

After almost two years in the build Jabalbina now has a ranger vessel IPA manager Jeff Arneth says.

He said he drove to Caboolture, in south east Queensland, himself to pick up new launch “camping along the road and listening to 80s tunes along the way”.

“Our next step is to secure a vessel

master and mentor for Jabalbina rangers to begin realising Eastern Yalanjiwarra aspirations for Sea Country,” he said. “This leads me to a brief update on the Sea Country Plan, which is on hold due to the

workshops that need to take place as part of the planning process.

“However our funding body, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, remains committed to supporting us through current uncertainties.”

## Rossville Primary School’s great big adventure...



...with our Shipton Flats Rangers

**SEE INSIDE FOR MORE!**