

Mandingalbay Yidinji People

Wait-a-While

Newsletter | Edition 10
December 2017

DJUNBUNJI

LAND & SEA
PROGRAM



The Mandingalbay Eco Indigenous Tourism product was successfully certified at Nature Tourism level with additional recognition via Ecotourism Australia's Respect our Culture (ROC) Accreditation Program after an audit was carried out on behalf of Ecotourism Australia.

See page 3 for more!

ALSO INSIDE...



Fire outbreak threatens Ranger Base ...p 4...

Ranger exchanges take flight(s) ...p 8...

Biodiversity Survey results are in ...p 28...

GMYP PBC Masterplan Project Underway

The Gunggandji Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples Prescribed Body Corporate (GMYP PBC) was appointed as the registered native title body corporate after our Federal Court Native Title Consent Determination in 2012.

The GMYP PBC holds the Native Title rights and interests on behalf of the Gunggandji and Mandingalbay Yidinji People.

Following the Determination of Native Title, the Minister granted a Deed of Grant of Land to the GMYP PBC in accordance with the Aboriginal Land Act 1994 (Qld) and an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) on 21 December 2015.

As Trustees the GMYP PBC manages this land on behalf of the Gunggandji and Mandingalbay Yidinji Native Title holders.

Our land has a total area of about 8,200 hectares and stretches from east of the Grey Peaks National Park to the south Pacific Ocean.

The GMYP PBC Trustee Area is currently zoned as a 'Conservation Management Zone' in the draft Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council Town Planning Scheme.

The GMYP PBC Board of Directors have negotiated amendments to the draft Yarrabah Town Planning Scheme that would recognise the GMYP PBC's intention to undertake a Masterplan Project.

The GMYP PBC has funding from the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to develop the Masterplan for the Trustee Area, and to investigate and identify socio-economic opportunities to support the people and the ongoing development of the Yarrabah Peninsula.

This includes the initial establishment of a planning strategy for development and use (the 'Masterplan'), and the ongoing socio-economic

management of the lands in the Southern Trustee Area.

The GMYP PBC held the first Masterplan Project Community Consultation on the 17th of October 2017 and further consultations will be scheduled and undertaken with members of the GMYP PBC in 2018.

The Masterplan Project development and consultation period is estimated to take 12 to 18 months to complete.

When finalised, the Masterplan will be incorporated into the Yarrabah Town Planning Scheme after a legislative amendment process.

This process alone is lengthy and estimated to take a further 280 business days.

During the Masterplan Project, the GMYP PBC will also:

- work collaboratively with the Wet Tropics Management Authority to formalise a statutory Cooperative Management Agreement, which will accommodate the Gunggandji Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples' socio-economic aspirations with regard to rezoning, access and management of the GMYP PBC World Heritage Areas; and,
- develop an organisational Strategic Plan through Consultation with the GMYP PBC members and key stakeholders, which



is essential to ensuring effective implementation of the Masterplan and delivering the management actions. Other non-planning scheme measures will also be required to deliver outcomes such as land management plans.



To become a member of the GMYP PBC and be included in the Masterplan consultations email GMYP_PBC@gmail.com

Mandingalbay Yidinji Eco Cultural Tours keep getting better and better with two more certifications, both of which are excellent news for our Indigenous commercial tourism business.



For more information see page 18

After an audit was carried out on behalf of Ecotourism Australia, the Mandingalbay Eco Indigenous Tourism product was successfully certified at Nature Tourism level with additional recognition via Ecotourism Australia's Respect our Culture (ROC) Accreditation Program.

As a ROC certified businesses we are officially committed to protecting cultural authenticity and integrity, developing sound business practices, environmental protection and acknowledgement of Indigenous peoples spiritual connection to the land and water. "This is exciting stuff," Executive Director Dale Mundraby said.

"When visitors come, we have this level of certification which helps to draw them in, knowing we have

something of real substance to offer."

Social Media trainee Utah Mundraby said operating in an ecologically-friendly environment included making sure they were managing everything from worm farms and composting to air and noise management.

"Fiona Sleight (*pictured below with Ranger Laurissa Mundraby*) came over to conduct an audit of what we do," he said.

"We took Fiona to East Trinity to look at the rehabilitation status there, then we brought her up to the office and she went on the walking trail.

"Now we are developing our marketing and business planning which will include an operation manual, environmental management and transportation

plans, and climate change documents."

Ms Sleight confirmed the audit was a success.

"The certification audit was conducted to the higher Ecotourism Level," she said.

"Mandingalbay Yidinji Eco Cultural Tours have successfully demonstrated tourism products which offer interesting ways to learn about the environment from an operator that uses resources wisely, contributes to the conservation of the environment and helps local communities."

Ecotourism Australia Operations Manager, Emily Ellis, also congratulated Mandingalbay Yidinji Eco Cultural Tours for their Ecotourism Certification.





Fighting

Quick thinking by Ranger Laurissa Mundraby and rest of the team may well have saved the Djunbunji buildings and assets from an out of control fire which swept the lower areas of the Grey Peaks National Park in September this year.

Ranger Laurissa was alone in the office when a neighbour dropped by to alert her of the threat.

“After he left I went to the container and pulled out the blower to blow the leaf litter from around our storage and fuel sheds as a fire break,” she said.

“I also put the sprinkler out to wet the area.”

Queensland Fire Services officers praised Laurissa for her quick thinking, as did her colleague Ranger William Mundraby.

“When the Fire Brigade arrived they took control of the situation and we just did what was asked of us,” Ranger William said.

The two rangers - Laurissa and William - have Level I Fire Management Training and were also equipped with Fire Protective Gear and had been waiting for the chance to use them.

“With all the crews working together we soon had the fire heading up the hill and away from the Ranger Base, keeping the Djunbunji office safe,” Ranger William said.

The pair worked together, fighting the fire until early evening, helping



with back burning, clearing walking tracks with the backpacker blower and making fire breaks around the office area.

The next day they also helped, working with neighbours, to fill up water tanks and clearing debris.

Ranger Laurissa said it was a hot and intense experience, particularly when they assisted Queensland Parks and Wildlife to create a fire break with drip torches above the office area.

“I could just feel the heat on my face, but I just

fire with fire



walked ahead, showing them the way and stayed cool,” she said.

“Especially with the heat and the embers going up, we also had to keep an eye on embers jumping over into East Trinity.

“The trucks had to park on the other side because you could feel the heat.

“It was a good opportunity to work with QPWS.

“Their job is to look after the area, whereas the Queensland Fire Service’s job is to protect buildings and structures.”

BBQ'd tiger prawns, crocodile wontons and coconut pork ribs in plum sauce were just the first course (canapes) on offer at the inaugural MY Eco Tours' first 'Deadly Dinner by Night' in September this year.

The evening started with a short, smooth boat ride across Trinity Inlet to the 'Croc Cage' in East Trinity reserve, where Ranger coordinator Victor Bulmer, Uncle David Mundraby and the MY dancers performed a traditional Smoking Ceremony as a welcome to country.

With the sun setting in the west and the full moon rising in the eastern night sky, we were off to a great start with the star of the evening being internationally renowned harpist and composer Natalia Mann.

Ms Mann opened her set incorporating sounds from the rainforests into her music, setting the atmosphere for a wonderful culturally unique evening experience in the wetlands of MY country that are the Eastern Trinity Reserve.

Each meal course was inspired by bush foods local to the MY region.

Main course choices included whole baby barramundi done on paper bark, mud crab fritters with bush pepper aioli, or Moreton Bay bugs with bush lime remoulade and a salad of greens, fennel and radish.

Between courses Popeye David brought the young boys out to help with storytelling and dancing and before the night was over Ms Mann was back on stage to continue her magical performance.

The night was all but finished with a dessert of bush lime trifles, lemon aspen moonlight cheese cake and moon rock truffles but not before the MY dancers performed one last traditional dance.

Local food

MANDINGALBAY YIDINJI ECO CULTURAL TOURS IS HOSTING A DEADLY DINNER WITHIN THE NATURAL SURROUNDINGS AT EAST TRINITY

5.30PM • SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2017

FEATURES:

- Short boat ride across the Trinity Inlet
- Welcome Ceremony
- Three courses of traditionally inspired cuisine
- Traditional dancing and story telling
- Special guest and internationally renowned Harpist and Composer Natalia Mann
- Bus and vessel transfers

TICKET PRICE: \$135P/P
Tickets are available for purchase on Official Mundingalbay Yidinji Eco Cultural Tours Facebook page.

Visit the Djunbunji Ltd website for further information: www.djunbunji.com.au/tours
 • Official Mundingalbay Yidinji Eco Cultural Tours Facebook Page • Instagram

TRADITIONALLY INSPIRED MENU

CANAPES

- BBQ tiger prawn smoked paperbark oil finger limes
- Crocodile wontons lemon aspen remoulade
- Coconut pork ribs davidson plum sauce

STARTERS

- Reef fish and lemongrass skewers coriander chilli
- Mud crab fritters bush pepper aioli
- Moreton bay bugs bush lime remoulade
- Salad of greens fennel radish

MAINS

- Whole baby barramundi tamarind on smoking paperbark
- Grilled chicken in turmeric leaves rainforest spice lemon chilli lemongrass
- Kangaroo rump mountain pepper BBQ sauce
- Sweet potato fondant
- Steamed greens plum and chilli sauce sesame seeds
- Yellow rice pilaf

DESSERTS

- Bush lime trifles
- Lemon aspen moonlight cheese cake
- Moon rocks truffles

BEVERAGES

- Beer & Wine
- Soft drinks, orange juice & mineral water

The lucky diners then made their way back to Cairns under a very full moon by bus.

stars in Deadly Dinner



By all measures the evening was a success and MY Eco tours looks forward to our next opportunity to invite tourists and locals alike to see what we can offer in terms of our new product, Deadly Dinners by Night.

Words by Utah Mundraby

Biosecurity focus in Broome

Djunbunji MY Rangers Laurissa, Vincent, Jason and myself, Djullja, travelled to Broome in Western Australia for a workshop in September this year, Ranger Djullja Mundraby writes...

The annual workshop is hosted by Biosecurity (NAQS) and the Kimberley Land Council (KLC).

Upon arrival we met up with other Queensland Ranger groups from Cape York to Cardwell.

We then headed more than 200 kilometres outside of Broome into Pender Bay and then onto One Arm Point, both north of Broome.

Once we all arrived, we got the bus unpacked and were greeted by our hosts, Traditional Owners, the Bardi Jawi people.

There were almost 500 different

ranger groups at the forum including 160 ranger groups from Queensland with the rest mostly being from Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Overall it was one of the biggest Ranger forums to be hosted on traditional lands in Western Australia.

The workshop was held over five days with various activities including a Ranger Smackdown and Break it Down with TAFE, first aid with St John's Ambulance, cutting up animals to do autopsies with NAQS,

and many others such as social media experiences and a bit of drone flying practice.

On the last night the Bardi Jawi group performed a ceremonial dance which explained their connection to the land and sea.

This was a highlight of the trip for me because their connection to country is similar to ours — we share the same struggle for our land and country.

We then travelled back to Broome to fly to Perth to catch our six hour flight back through to Brisbane before catching yet another plane back to Cairns.

Ranger Laurissa Mundraby explains what a 'smack down' is:

"So smack down is where all the rangers in the Kimberley region come together to share their skills," she said.

"It's a grammar and literacy based activity, where ranger groups get to learn new skills as well as enhance the ones that they already have.

"Some of the activities were things like guiding another Ranger blindfolded through a maze, or predicting the tide using a formula.

"That was where we wanted to know where the tide would be and at what time using the low tide point

and the high tide point, and then working it out.

"So that was really interesting to learn.

"Another one was all about team work and communication.

"I think it highlighted the importance of teamwork, especially in the work we do, and communication because the information that we actually get out is really important, especially in an emergency situation.

"The smack down was the highlight of the trip for me."



Kimberley visit full of firsts

Mandingalbay Yidinji and Djunbunji Ltd, hosted a group of Rangers, coordinators and members of the Kimberley Land Council, based in Broome, Western Australia, in May this year, Ranger Laurissa Mundraby writes...

Each of our rangers gave a presentation on our Country, history and how we manage our Indigenous Protected Area.

The visitors stayed overnight at the Eastern Trinity Reserve camping ground, where we all shared stories about how they manage country and the differences between our landscapes, vegetation and stories.

On day two we packed up before giving the rangers a tour of the Reserve, then it was back to the office for them to hear about how our program uses Cultural and Ecological Information Management System (CEIMS), which means every ranger has an input into, and contributes to reporting of our country.

They hadn't seen that before and were quite interestedly surprised.

They did a quick walk of the Mayi Bagan Cultural Heritage Trail before we took them over to Yarrabah and out to Buddabadoo.



Networking FNQ-style

Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation hosted a 4-day workshop on Kuku Nyungkal clan estate, Kuku Yalanji country in in May this year, with support from Terrain NRM and the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

The workshop was a response to calls for continued support for networking and knowledge sharing opportunities raised at previous gatherings of Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers in the Wet Tropics region.

More than 60 people participated including representatives from established ranger groups such as Yirrganydji, Mandingalbay Yidinji/Djunbunji Ltd, Giringun and Gunggandji, as well as emerging and aspiring ranger programs such as Djabugay and Jirrbal.

The workshop featured sessions ranging from technical know-how and information about weeds, fire management, and drone operation, to joint management and enterprise development discussions. Jabalbina CEO Jim Turnour said the benefits extend far beyond practical skills.

“This is also about bringing people together— sharing knowledge and experiences, and inspiring and motivating,” Mr Turnour said.

“It’s not easy working in two different worlds, and it’s important to ranger groups to keep culture strong and making that work within a government context.”

Crossing to WA worthwhile exchange



Earlier this year Dr Rosemary Hill from CSIRO asked if one of our Rangers could fly over to Fitzroy Crossing in WA to present our P3D Map to the Bunuba and the Gooniyarndi people from the Fitzroy River, Ranger Victor Mundraby writes...

I was available to do it so I flew from Cairns to Darwin and then onto Broome the next day, where I spent a night in one of the resorts on the famous Cable Beach road.

The next day I travelled five hours inland to Fitzroy Crossing with Sarah from Fremantle University and Mellina from Griffith University.

On arrival we went to the Fitzroy River

Lodge to check out the conference room where the presentation was being held.

The next day Traditional Owners travelled 647km from Kununurra and Halls Creek to the workshop.

The P3D map presentation was an eye opener for these TOs, as they didn't think rainforest covered such a vast area of our country.

They also hadn't realised

we were so close to the Great Barrier Reef.

Sarah presented an ecology of the river and Mellina gave her presentation on water quality, which the Traditional owners were interested in.

Over all the 3D map presentation was the highlight of the trip, where I was able to present our land culture and people through the 3D Map.



Pig traps provide ongoing – if slow – work for Rangers

It's been a slow year for pigs, mostly because of a bait shortage, but trapping them is still part of the daily routine for some of our hard working Rangers.



SFS students helping to put together a new pig trap

Ranger Jason Mundraby says they go down every day to check on all the traps.

“I just go down to check if there's anything in there or if the bait has been taken,” he said.

“If there's a pig in there we need to call our neighbour, Dave, and he'll come down with his gun.

“Then we check it afterwards for disease.”

Despite the slow year, he said they had caught around 20 pigs over the past three months.

Ranger Victor Bulmer said baiting techniques were mostly half or over ripened bananas, usually supplied by the Wah Day brothers.

“Usually we'll offer them

free bait for a couple of days, just until we see evidence of some movement in and around the traps, then we'll set those traps to actually catch a pig,” he said.

Ranger William Mundraby said free baiting was simply a matter of tying back the gate so the pigs could walk in and out of the traps.

“Once we know there's adult pigs, then we'll set the traps,” he said.

“We've constructed all the traps ourselves, from cutting the material to welding it altogether.

“The picture is of some of our visiting students helping us out with putting them together and as they do that we're talking to

them about how it works.

“For the past few months the Wah Day brothers haven't been harvesting much themselves, so there's not been much bait around.

“We've had a long association with those brothers, from our grandfather and their father before them.”

He said when they did start trapping again after a short break they were immediately successful.

“One time we got about six pigs in one trap, they were between the ages of suckers to maybe a year to 18 months old,” he said.

“They were decent sized pigs, they can do a lot of damage.”



Mandingalbay

ANCIENT INDIGENOUS TOURS

Prior to the Federal Court's consent determination of the sole Mandingalbay Yidinji lands in April 2006, the best parts of it had been excised and made available to sugar cane farmers by a re-gazettal in 1907.

Other parts became State Forest, National Park and other environmental reserves.

Today, lowland rainforest has been replaced by sugar cane farms where feral cats, pigs and toads and other introduced animals continue to take their toll on the environment, particularly near the settled areas.

Our marine environments and traditional seafoods have also been impacted by commercial fishing, coastal development and changes to water quality.

The most devastating

impact, however, was in the 1970s with the destruction of extensive saltwater wetlands adjacent to Trinity Inlet, now known as the East Trinity Reserve (ETR).

The original Yarrabah Aboriginal reserve, gazetted in 1892, also included Mandingalbay Yidinji country to the west and south east of the current Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council boundary.

Since 2016, the transfer of trusteeship and responsibility has evolved and was entrusted to the Gunggandji Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples Prescribed

Body Corporate (GMY PBC) – our Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC).

The diversity of our lands has sustained Mandingalbay Yidinji people's preservation of identity for thousands of years.

Sustainable intergenerational planning is our foundational approach to delivering best practice and socio-economic wellbeing.

The ecology of our lands, saltwater and environments sustains many species of fish including, but not



From then to now...

On the left is the East Trinity Reserve and the damage done in the 1970s (<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/soil/acid-sulfate/east-trinity>).



The two pics below show how the well the area has recovered since being in MY care.



limited to over 30 species of shellfish, dugong, several marine turtle species, edible fruit and seeds from the mangroves.

MY country supports an abundant population of flora and fauna, such as, echidnas, bandicoots, kangaroos, wallabies, possums, kangaroo rats, fruit bats, goannas and other reptiles, cassowaries, ducks, geese, over 600 migrating birds, and more than 100 plant species with edible tubers, fruit and nuts.

The rich diversity of MY resources and lands has been extensively recorded, which led to registration of the dedicated MY Indigenous Protected Area IPA (November 2011) over MY Native Title Consent Determined lands.

Strategic and sustainable planning, use and management of our environmental and

cultural values remains an important objective supported by the Working on Country (WOC) and IPA Plan (see: <http://www.djunbunji.com.au>).

Description of country:

- Rainforest and open woodland on the Nesbitt and Malbon Thompson ranges;
- Estuarine mangroves and saltwater wetlands;
- Beach and intertidal environment; and
- Marine environments, reefs and islands.

MY people's persistence and perseverance are testament to the good work MYAC and its agent company, Djunbunji Ltd, which successfully delivers the MY Land and Sea Working on Country (WOC) Program in coordination with the implementation of the MY IPA management plan.

The WOC and IPA programs continue to serve

as an enabling mechanism to delivering MY peoples' aspirations and objectives in line with the goal of enhancing sustainable and feasible socio-economic wellbeing.

IPA Tourism & Infrastructure Manager Dwayne Mundraby says: "I'd like to take this opportunity to commend and acknowledge the leadership of the Board of Directors, both MYAC and Djunbunji Ltd, Executive Director Dale Mundraby, Ranger Coordinator Victor Bulmer and our Rangers – Maynard Bulmer, Laurissa Mundraby, William Mundraby, Djullja Mundraby, Utah Mundraby, Brenda Mundraby, Jason Clarke Mundraby, Vinnie Mundraby and Randolph Lefoe – and the domestic and international community."

Our Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) through the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

There are five Protected Area Categories and MY's dedicated IPA applies to the fifth category, which refers to sustainable use of natural resources.

That includes Protected Areas that conserve ecosystems and habitats, together with associated cultural values and traditional natural

resource management systems. Category V Protected Areas are generally large with most of the area in a natural state and where a proportion is under sustainable natural resource management or the low-level non-industrial use of natural resources compatible with nature conservation is seen as one of the main aims of the area.

More general objectives are set out below:

- To promote sustainable use of natural resources, considering ecological, economic and social dimensions;
- To promote social and economic benefits to local communities where relevant;
- To facilitate inter-generational security for local communities' livelihoods – therefore ensuring that such livelihoods are sustainable;
- To integrate other cultural approaches, belief systems and world-views within a range of social and economic approaches to nature conservation;
- To contribute to developing and/or maintaining a more balanced relationship between humans and the rest of nature;
- To contribute to sustainable development at national, regional and local level (in the last case mainly to local communities and/or indigenous peoples depending on the protected natural resources);
- To facilitate scientific research and environmental monitoring, mainly related to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;
- To collaborate in the delivery of benefits to people, mostly local communities, living in or near to the designated protected area; and,
- To facilitate recreation and appropriate small-scale tourism.

To learn more visit: <http://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/about/protected-area-categories>

The following policy statement is designed to provide some clarification within the political spectrum:

“... a concept in political ecology and environmental policy that advocates sustainability (sustainable development) as the supreme consideration for managing all human activities — political, social and economic...”

To learn more visit: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/political_ecology



Ability to practice good governance and maintain a strong administration influences stability.

This can:

- help to attract primary investment partnerships;
- support cultural transmission of knowledge;
- create employment opportunities;
- help to develop cultural and environmental planning management regimes; and,
- commission expertise to assist with realisation of our tourism infrastructure project in the ETR and other sustainable projects.

All of the above is undertaken in partnership with Local, State and Federal governments, industry and universities.

MY People are moving forward very quickly...

MY people's engagement with partners including the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (AGWR), Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) and the Department of Environment Heritage Protection (EHP) has progressed. The Indigenous Rangers Project (IRP) and the Direct Benefit Management Plan (DBMP) will establish collaborative agreements which will deliver research, monitoring, employment, surveillance and protection of the natural and cultural values in the MY IPA.



16 November 2017
Mandingalbay Yidinji Ancient Indigenous Tours
Djunbunji Land and Sea Rangers
East Trinity QLD 4871

RE: Nature Tourism and Respecting Our Culture Certification Audit

Dear Dewayne and Dale,

Thank you for your cooperation in conducting the audit for Mandingalbay Yidinji Ancient Indigenous Tours. May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your overall implementation of the Nature Tourism and Respecting Our Culture (ROC) Certification criteria.

Realising that you have high level interpretation opportunities and planning evident in your management documentation and interpretive displays, leaflets and guided walks, the auditor has conducted your onsite audit to the Ecotourism Certification level.

As per the auditor's report, Mandingalbay Yidinji Ancient Indigenous Tours have demonstrated that the business and tour experience are meeting all the requirements of the criteria to upgrade and retain certification at the Ecotourism level. No corrective actions were noted.

We will process your upgrade to Ecotourism level certification and issue your certificate and new Certification logo with this letter. There will be no additional costs associated with your certification upgrade.

The auditor has also made some recommendations that you might wish to consider. Please note that the following recommendations are not mandatory for maintaining your current level of certification:

- Re 4.3 Climate Change Action: Emission Reduction Planning: Your auditor has suggested putting the emission reduction measures in your Environmental Management Plan into a table format to make them easier to track and work on ongoing improvements.
- Re 5.4 Interpretation Skills Development: Your auditor suggests the EcoGuide Certification program may be of interest to your Rangers and provided information on the program during your audit. She recommends continuing discussions with Russell Boswell at Savannah Guides about the
- EcoGuide Certification via Ecotourism Australia;
- Re Products: Your auditor suggested your product, 'Deadly Dinner', may be eligible to be listed as a distinct product under your certification. For us to confirm whether it is possible please advise how regularly this experience is run.
- Re Maximising Marketing or your certified status: Your auditor recommended maximizing the use of your ECO and ROC logos by displaying them on your website along with descriptions/explanations of what they mean. These can also be used in promotions on your social media pages. Please contact EA if you would like any advice.

Once again, congratulations on the great result of your audit. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions regarding your audit results.

Best regards,
Emily Ellis
Operations Manager



In 2015 the Australian Government released the Developing Northern Australia and the Agricultural Competitiveness White Papers.

The Northern Australia White Paper aimed to harness opportunities for the north with a focus on building priority infrastructure, developing water resources, removing red tape, building a sustainable workforce and ensuring effective government arrangements.

The IRP aims to expand surveillance and compliance activities across northern Australia delivered by Indigenous Ranger groups.

Accreditation and Compliance, Tourism Activities

We are pleased to announce the success of our Eco Tourism accreditation following an independent appraisal, which means our tourism enterprise continues to retain our status and an upgrade. Well done to our TEAM, specifically Utah Mundraby, Helen Tait and Ranger Coordinator Victor Bulmer.

Cultivating Relationships

One of the important factors in going forward is cultivating partnerships with relevant stakeholders and the wider community.

In October this year Djunbunji Ltd, Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation and Gunggandji Mandingalbay Yidinji CEOs hosted a site visit with former Tropical Tourism North Queensland chairperson Max Sheppard and current chairperson Wendy Morris along with their CEO, Pip Close, Queensland Parks, Sports & Racing Regional Director Alison Webb, Wet Tropics Management Authority Planning & Conservation Manager Max Chappell and several others (*pictured above*).



Our Commercial Mitigation Plan continues to be developed in line with the MY Eco Cultural Tourism Infrastructure Project, a coordinated process in accordance with the approved Development Application which was lodged on the in September this year with the Cairns Regional Council.

There are a number of considerations to balancing commercial activities with land and cultural management activities.

A foundational approach supported by informed decision making, community

consultation, stakeholder partnerships, resource allocation, governance and compliance is required.

It is also important however, to recognise land, people and culture is universally linked, it's not plausible to have one without the other.

One of the fundamental challenges has been creating an alignment of determined native title rights in terms of access/rights, legal instruments, tenure, research all of which is guided by collaborative framework.



There are many many approvals required for us to achieve our MY Eco Cultural Tourism Infrastructure Project.

ETHOS URBAN was instrumental in assisting with the town planning aspects of gaining approval along with several consulting firms including BMT, WBM, Bligh Tanner, Philip Follent Architects, C Change, and Rider Levett Bucknall, all of whom helped us to establish a collaborative framework to being the Indigenous Land Corporation, Department of National Parks Sports and Racing and other federal, state and local authorities.

Cairns Regional Council and State Government agencies in particular have indicated they will all work towards helping us make this mega project become a reality.



Development Approvals to date:

- Development Approval for a Material Change of Use under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*
- Development Approval for Operational Work under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*
- Development Approval for Building Work under the *Building Act 1975*; and,
- Development Approval for Tidal Work associated with a Material Change of Use and Operational Work under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.

Development applications seeking approval for the above works will also trigger referral to the State government. The referral will be handled through a central agency called the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) who will examine matters affecting the following state interests:

- Vegetation clearing;
- Taking or interfering with water
- Tidal works;
- Development in a fish habitat area;
- Removal, destruction or damage of marine plants;
- Development in or near a wetland
- Access to and from a state-controlled road (South Pine Road);
- Development in a coastal management district; and,
- Tourist attraction impacting on state-owned infrastructure.



The exact nature of impact and a more accurate range of issues needs to be investigated as part of any development application, following the refinement of development. To that end we Environmental & Permit Approvals under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and Regulations. We may also require the following Ecological Risk Assessments (ERAs):

- Dredging a total of 1000t or more of material from the bed of naturally occurring surface waters, in a year (Schedule 2, Part 4, section 16(1)(a) of the Regulation) – however this would not be required for the construction of a building or place;
- an ERA may be required for sewage treatment / disposal under Part 13, Section 63 of the regulation depending on volumes (ie 21 EP or more).
- the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* may be required where the works impact on items or land of cultural significance, meaning a cultural heritage management plan may be required.



The *Water Act 2000* may require us to have:

- A resource operating licence to interfere with the natural flow of water
- A licence to take water from the catchment or taking water from a watercourse
- An interfering with a watercourse permit for interfering, taking and/or controlling the flow of water in a watercourse
- Interfere with overland flow of water or other works in a water course *Vegetation Management Act 1999* Clearing of Native Vegetation, in particular regional ecosystems classified as 'endangered' and 'of concern' would require appropriate offsets.

Clearing of Native Vegetation may also need to be approved as part of the development application process, for example:

- A clearing permit would be required under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* for clearing endangered, vulnerable and near threatened plants.
- The clearing of marine vegetation and the construction of waterway barriers requires a permit under the *Fisheries Act 1994*.

Additionally, Trinity Inlet is a declared Fish Habitat and any building or operational work requires a permit under the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* as does building and operational work within a high tide mark and development within a coastal management district. Stage 3 involves establishing an Investment Committee.

As we sign off for 2017, our operational activities continue to be conducted in accordance with WorkSafe guidelines and in compliance with with our Operational Health and Safety requirements. Governance and financial management remains strong with the assistance of accounting firm DFK Kidston and our IPA Tourism & Infrastructure Manager Dewayne Mundraby. We would like to particularly acknowledge the ongoing support from Working on Country and Indigenous Protected Area funding, and our continuing collaborative partnerships and support from our various stakeholders.

There is lots of work still to be done in 2018.

Beach clean-ups key to biosecurity



Over the past 12 months Djunbunji Rangers have worked closely with the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS), an initiative of the federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Their primary focus in our Country has been on biosecurity in the form of marine debris beach clean-ups.

Ranger William said they worked well together.

“They are always coming out here and giving us updates,” he said.

“We have a good relationship with them.

“We have done sea debris clean-ups all along the coast and all the way around to Second Beach.

“We jump on a boat and cover the whole coastline of our Country, which is why

our Coxswains tickets are so important.”

Ranger Vincent said most of what they picked up wasn’t from Australia.

“It just washes up on shore and we pick it up,” he said.

“It’s mostly very old and

most of it comes from ships.

“And that’s where NAQS comes in, they track the material to see where it has come from and gauge whether or not it might cause any problems for our biosecurity.”



Documentary-makers take interest in MY Country

A German television crew from ARD - a network of nine regional public broadcasting corporations across 16 federal states - spent several days in our Country filming part of a documentary with MY Rangers earlier this year.

Ranger William said he took the opportunity to shatter a few stereotypes. "I've been working since I was 14 years old on some of the cane and banana farms around here," he said.

"And I still finished school up to Year 12.

"All along we struggled, and a couple of us told them about that side to things.

"I also told them we have goals, no matter what

background, you come from, no matter how big or small your goals are, we just want to be seen equal as anybody else in this country."

WATCH our Facebook page for more!



MEANWHILE Biosecurity Ambassador Costa Georgiadis (also known for his hosting role on Gardening Australia!) visited Djunbunji and our Rangers in September this year.



His scheduled three-hour visit, to film a documentary on how we manage country, became five hours as his fascination with what we were doing and the country around him held his interest.

Ranger Victor took him on the Mayi Bayan Trail where he was able to contribute his vast knowledge of various species to the Rangers' existing knowledge.



Field study students offer many hands on deck in projects



Once again this year a group of School for Field Study (SFS) students have come to Australia to take a closer look at our environment compared to theirs [Ranger William Mundraby writes...](#)

We see a lot of them coming to study this very different environment compared to their own countries whether that be America, Japan, Hawaii, Africa or Korea.

As always we hope these students will leave with a positive perception of our lucky Country.

When they come out to Djunbunji Ranger Base we make them feel as welcome

as the other SFS students that came before them.

It's a credit to Justin and his interns to have them experience as much of our culture as we can offer them.

We always hope we can inspire them to come back and help us look after our land using Western Science and information we may not already know about.

Researcher Sean Reilly is

from California, USA, and was originally from SFS.

He currently enjoying working on a Pond Apple project with us (*See page 30 for more.*).

When the students come to Djunbunji we firstly welcome them to Country and tell them a little about what to do and what not to do while they are here.

Continued...

...continued from page 21...

After the formalities we split them into two groups - one group do the Mayi Bugan Trail while the others set up some pig traps, then we swap around when the groups are done.

We also like to show them how diverse our Country is, so we take them to the Grey Peaks National Park, the Northern Thompson Range and then to East Trinity Reserve.

That way they get to see some of our 187 species of birds, maybe a crocodile or two, and our wetlands, as well as our forests and beaches.

At the end of the day they



camp overnight with us and we take the chance to have a good yarn with them about their country.

Going by some of their stories I reckon we've got the best place in the world to live in.

Over the past four and

a half years or so we've met some very interesting people who have certainly opened our eyes.

We are always hoping they will let their friends know about our program so we can host even more visitors to our beautiful Country.



Our Ranger crew and visitors to our info stall at the Yarrabah Careers Expo

Careers Expo eye opener for kids

In July this year our Rangers participated in a Career Expo held in Yarrabah at the State School Brenda Mundraby writes...

It was a great opportunity for them to talk about their careers as Rangers to 10-15-year-olds who might be considering their future.

They took several items such as binoculars, telescopes, cameras, pamphlets and image booklets with them, and also the PD3 Map to show.

The Map was very much the centre of attention with many of the staff and children taking a very interest.

It was a pleasure to see them engaged and enthusiastic about hearing about what we do in our daily routine as Rangers.

They loved that we were working towards managing our own Country for the better, on our own Country, and on a full time basis.

Also popular was the telescope, to the point where it was hard to retrieve from some enthusiasts!

Overall the students were well-mannered and had lots of questions to ask, which was great to see.

These students have so much potential and a great future ahead of them, it was great to make their days and leave them smiling.



School visits (and visitors) in demand

This year the Mandingalbay Rangers have been involved with a number of school visits, here at Djubunji Ltd, as well as us going into their own spaces Rangers William and Laurissa Mundraby write...

At each visit we talk about the work we do looking after country and often the commitment and qualifications we need to do our jobs.

St Andrews School

Our Rangers visited St Andrews Primary School in the Redlynch area to showcase our culture and share with the kids.

Ranger Coordinator Victor Bulmer explained how we collected from the bush - what we use, where we get the material from and what the purpose is, such as making bark huts, etc.

Big words were out the door, as these very excited kids were only in Year 3.

Teachers asked their students to collect their own natural material so they could have a go at making their own hut and some of them really excelled in the challenge.

They may have struggled

a little to get the foundation of their build started, but we were there to give them a hand – without doing it for them, of course.

We could see on their faces that they enjoyed this kind of activity and the excitement was worth the moment.

Even the teachers themselves seemed to have learnt something new, including a better understanding of what it takes to use bush materials and resources to construct shelter on country.

We hope this kind of



‘hands-on’ learning of MY Indigenous culture will have a positive impact on their lives, encouraging them to find out more about Indigenous People of Australia as they get older.

This is one of the best ways we can think of to bring about change in the wider community as they grow and learn.

Gordonvale State High School

Laurissa was invited to Gordonvale High after meeting the girls who do Reef Education with Marie Taylor.

The program was about engaging our Indigenous girls in science and the importance science plays in regards to all living things and looking after country.

Djunbunji was happy to be help as we all believe combining culture and science adds value to our management of country.



Djarrugun

In February this year Djunbunji Land & Sea hosted Djarrugun's Rural Operations students. Later in the year we were invited to follow up from our discussions about the work we do with some information about the various partnerships we have with other agencies and stakeholders.



Tourism certificates help to guarantee brighter future

Bwgcolman Community School's Year 11 students were the first of what it is hoped will be many groups to complete their Certificate II Tourism Courses at the Cairns Business College last month.

Acting Bwgcolman Community School Head of Secondary Lyndal Thompson said she was very proud of the seven students and their dedication to completing their new qualification.

"They are the first group to do this and have certainly made the school and their families very proud," she said.

"They have opened themselves to many opportunities into the future, and they have banked themselves four points towards their Queensland Certificate of Education.

"I look forward to the future when one of these students is potentially running a high end tourism company right here on beautiful Palm Island.

"This success is another step forward in our school's 'Bwgcolman Compact' which guarantees post-schooling outcomes for our students." Cairns Business College



Back row (L to R) Zanthia Couatts-Landers, Jesslyn Johnson, Laurissa Mundraby (Djunbunji Indigenous Ranger), Fiona Sleight (Cairns Business College Tourism Trainer), Edward Robertson, Jalun Lowatta-Creed, Henry Doyle, & John Smith. Front Row (L to R) Hannah Gorringe, Jaydan Spencer-Johnson

Tourism Trainer Fiona Sleight said the Course had included Barista and Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) Certifications.

"The students also had several visitors, including a presentation from Indigenous Ranger Laurissa Mundraby," she said.

"She told us about Mandingalbay Ancient Indigenous Tours and the work of the Djunbunji Rangers, who are situated about half way to

Yarrabah along the southern side of the Cairns inlet.

"Laurissa's role includes tour guiding for Mandingalbay Ancient Indigenous Tours, so it was good of her to make the time to come and talk with the students about the realities of start-up businesses and working on country tour guiding,

"I'd like to wish all the Certificate II Tourism Students a bright future within the tourism industry."

Palm Island Students

Rangers Laurissa and Utah met Dale at the Cairns Business College a few months ago, where Year 11 students from Palm Island's Bwgcolman Community School were finishing their Certificate IIs in Tourism.

Dale spoke about our ventures into Eco-tourism and Laurissa gave a presentation about how the Mandingalbay run tours on country showcasing culture, tradition and land management.

The students were engaged and keen to go back home with the skills and knowledge gained through the course.

Their visit was recorded in the Palm Island Council's *Palm Island Voice* newsletter.

Rangers' training benefits

Executive Director Dale Mundraby says building capacity for our Rangers and staff is all about being able to operate more effectively and safely. "It means we can manage our Country better," he says.

Coxswains

Dale, along with Ranger Coordinator Victor Bulmer have completed the theory part of their Coxswain's training. The only section they have left to complete is a yarn with the Harbour Master and they will be set to operate a commercial vessel up to 12 metres long.



Emergency Response Training

Ranger Coordinator Victor Bulmer, along with William and Larissa Mundraby, recently completed a short, but exhaustive, biosecurity course on safety responses in case of emergencies such as fire, car accident, general first aid and operational health and safety in the workplace.

Victor said it was basically about the right and the wrong things to do in case of emergency.

"Trainers came from the Northern Territory and Western Australia and we worked with the Yirikanji, Girringun and Jabalbina Rangers crews," he said.



Crocodile Management

Late last year Djunbunji Rangers participated in Level One Crocodile Training, offered by the Queensland Department of Environment & Heritage Protection to learn more about the animals and how they behave.

The hands-on part of the course - putting together a trap and bait - was completed at Buddabadoo in February 2017 this year after a horse was reported as being attached in the area.



from hands-on experience



In November last year 2016 the Rangers became aware of several reports from Yarrabah community residents that a horse had been attacked by a crocodile at the Buddabadoo mouth [Ranger William Mundraby writes...](#)

We went out there to take some photographs of the injured animal and then went about contacting the relevant Authorities, who included the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) Crocodile Management Team.

They came out to do an assessment of the area with our Rangers in mid-February this year.

We carried out a survey with the EHP Team, which included our Rangers putting their hands up for a night survey.

It all turned into a bit of an adventure, at the time we tried putting the boat and croc trap in the creek the tide changed too quickly for us and we had to retrieve both. We also got bogged in the

soft sand a few times.

Once we had the vehicles out, we walked along the beach trying to spot any crocs with our spotlights, but without any luck, we didn't see any.

The next day we headed out again to try and put the trap into the creek - this time on the high tide - which we did.

After the usual team briefing, our work helping to set the trap up was counted as hands-on experience towards our Level One Crocodile Training.

The crocodile trap was set for about a month when the EHP team let us know the trap had been set off via an electronic device which sends a message back to EHP Headquarters.

When we arrived there was no crocodile inside the trap and the verdict was that the croc was too big for the four-metre long trap.

We did eventually catch a croc there, but we don't believe it was the same croc that attacked the horse.

Over the past 12 months our Rangers have been flat out monitoring/looking after Country as best as we can, whilst keeping ourselves safe from the dangers of this ever-present wildlife in our region, especially the crocodiles, which can sometimes be hard to spot in their natural environment. **We all need to pay attention to where we are and what we are doing at any given time on our Country.**

Biodiversity lists are long!

Mandingalbay Yidinji Country, including the Indigenous Protected Area, occupy approximately 180 square kilometres within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area boundary.

The Wet Tropics is an area internationally recognised for its significant biodiversity and landscape values.

Despite being only several kilometres from the Cairns City centre at its nearest point, MY Country nestles some of the least accessible and most spectacular areas in the whole of the internationally recognised Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

It is, for most of its area, untouched and unexplored by outsiders.

MY Country also includes 24km of pristine coastline, which is largely inaccessible other than by boat.

More than 40 Regional Ecosystems (REs) are recognised in MY Country, including:

- five Endangered REs totalling 66.3ha (0.8%);
- 10 'Of Concern' REs totalling 2413.2 hectares (28%); and,
- 25 'Least Concern' REs totalling 6230.8 hectares (71.2%).

MY Country also contains 29.8 hectares of the 'Critically Endangered' Littoral Rainforest Ecological Community, as

listed under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC) located on highly fragile coastal dune communities.

The existence of these habitats is immediately threatened by inappropriate fire regimes, which include uncontrolled wildfire.

Fifteen flora species known to occur within MY Country are listed as threatened under the EPBC Act and the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

They include the endangered *Sankowskya stipularis*, a highly distinct population of a plant previously known from the Mt Molloy region, and collected from Bulimba Creek during ranger biodiversity surveys.

The Endangered vine *Tylophora rupicola* was also collected during ranger surveys from within grassy woodland habitats.

Its habitat is under immediate threat from inappropriate fire regimes.

Endangered fauna species under the EPBC Act recorded within MY Country include eight species listed as threatened under state and federal legislation

including two frogs (waterfall frog and common mist frog) and one bird (southern cassowary).

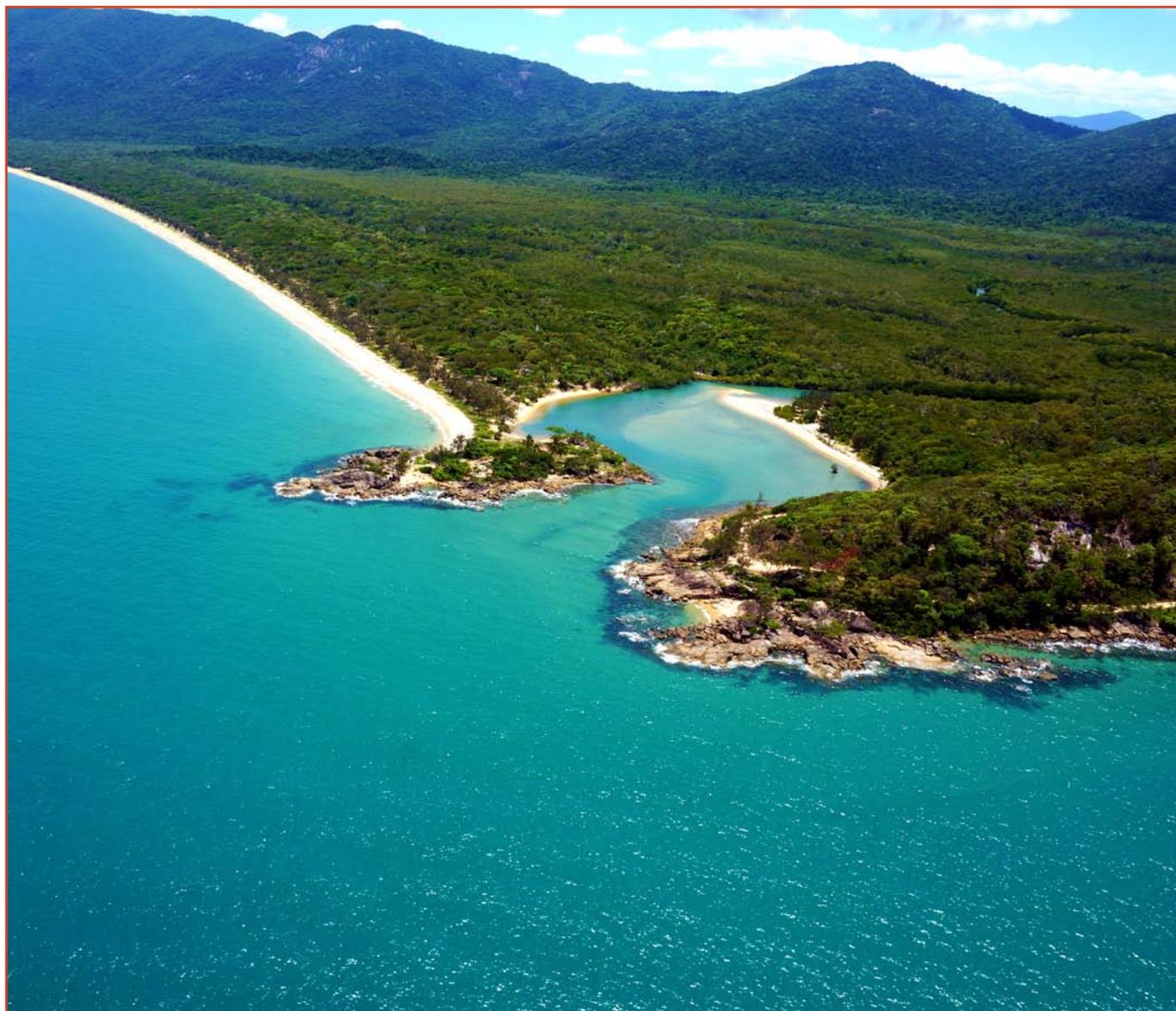
Fast flowing streams on the eastern coastal fall are also known to host freshwater fish communities that are unique in Australia, which includes seven species of cling goby, six of which are the first verified specimens recorded in Australia.

This includes the Critically Endangered emerald cling goby (*Stiphodon semoni*) which has been confirmed during ranger surveys in all fast flowing streams discharging into the ocean on the eastern fall.

Coastal dune habitats that retain native grassy cover are extremely rare in the Wet Tropics management area and the two best preserved examples of these forest types the Wet Tropics Bioregion are contained within MY Country.

These two grassy open forest areas provide for a superlative natural landscape and represent what could possibly be considered two of the highest value conservation assets in MY Country.

They give a powerful



indication on the value of maintaining traditional burning practices.

The dominant Clarkson's bloodwood canopy trees support an abundance of large hollows and the clearly defined boundary with the adjacent rainforest provides for superb fauna habitat for both arboreal mammals and bats.

These coastal woodland habitats have been the subject of an ongoing traditional burning program implemented annually, which aims to maintain

the natural values of these habitats.

Permanent monitoring sites have also been erected, aiming to:

- provide insight into role of traditional burning in maintaining habitat condition;
- measuring recruitment of native grassy groundcover;
- abundance of weeds; and,
- the impacts of feral horses, which are known to be impacting foredune communities.

It is imperative the works undertaken by Rangers in regard to the burning and maintenance of these habitats are continued into the future.

*Words & Pic by David Stanton, Principal Landscape Ecologist, 3D Environmental.
Pic: GMYPPBC Trustee
Area: Buddabadoo Mouth*

Pond apples focus of study

Sean Reilly, a former School for Field Studies (SFS) student who first visited in 2014, has returned to East Trinity Reserve (ETR) to help the Djunbunji Rangers undertake research on the invasive pond apple or bullock's heart (*Annona glabra*).

He said the pond apple, a cousin of the commercial custard apple, was utilised as a food resource by many members of the community. "Unfortunately, the species is highly invasive and poses a threat to East Trinity Reserve's (ETR's) extensive wetlands," he said.

He said he hoped his research would help the Rangers manage

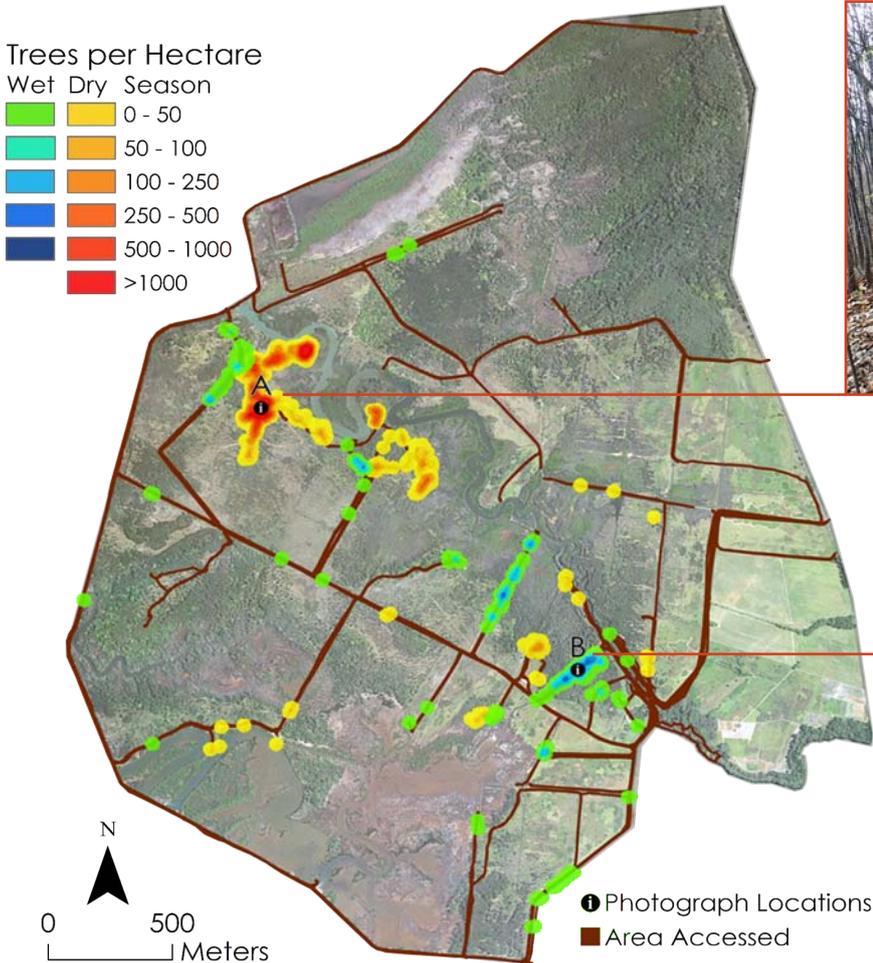
the pond apple in a manner that ensured the long-term health of the ecosystem while satisfying the concerns of the MY community.

"I visited ETR initially as part of an overnight camping trip with the Rangers back in 2014," he said. "My time with the SFS finished with a research project looking

at how Aboriginal groups could maintain cultural authenticity and a healthy ecosystem while expanding tourism.

"As part of the project, I had the opportunity to extensively interact with the Rangers and discuss their vision for the ecotourism development within ETR.

"I was deeply inspired by their work and went back to



Above: Site A

Below: Site B





the United States knowing I wanted to help if the opportunity arose.”

He finished his Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Science and Biology and wrote to MY and Djunbunji asking if there was anything he could do.

“They identified a couple projects and the issue of pond apple management really caught my interest,” he said. “As a result ,we are working to develop a plan to try to manage the pond apple as a component of the landscape within their Country.

“I was initially very unsure how we were going to delineate ‘good’ and ‘bad’ trees.

“However, as we progressed with our mapping, we realized that the areas with the worst infestations were inaccessible during the fruiting season due to flooding and as a result those trees can’t be used as a resource.

“Not only that, these pond apple populations are so dense that they have completely replaced the native vegetation with their thick groves.

“Even in the soil between the trees there’s nothing growing, it’s quite startling.

“On the other hand, there are many other populations alongside roads or near trails that are readily

accessible throughout the wet season.

“These trees, therefore, are the most useful for the community as a resource. Pond apple populations in these areas also tend to be less dense and can be easily monitored by the Rangers.

“We are working to identify the distribution of these two quite different areas and come up with a systematic plan for each.”

He said a mix of control of inaccessible populations and maintenance of accessible ones, guided by community input, will allow for the sustainable retention of the pond apple within ETR.





ANCIENT INDIGENOUS TOURS

The MY Eco Infrastructure Project was one of only three tourism ventures on show at the high flying Northern Australian Investment Forum 2017 in Cairns in September.

“Of those, from what I understand, we were the only Indigenous-run and -owned business,” Executive Director Dale Mundraby said. “We were invited by the Queensland Government to be involved and the display gave us the opportunity to engage in prospective



interests in Cultural Eco Tourism.

“So, for example, we able to present a 3D animation fly through of the Eco Tourism Project - the link to that through can be found on our Facebook page.

“We are very committed and looking very healthy in terms of moving forward with that project in 2018.”

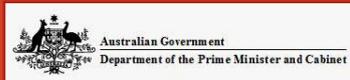
New Directors on board

We're pleased to announce the new Board Directors of Djunbunji Ltd and the Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation, as per the results of our two AGMs held in November this year.

They are William Mundraby (Wolfman), Stacey Mundraby, Veronica Mundraby, Kathleen Bulmer, Leah Tabui, Sharon Kyle, Dawn Kyle and Helen Bulmer.

Independent non-related member of Directors for Djunbunji Ltd, are Timothy Grey, Helen Tait and Russell Boswell.

The first meeting in 2018 will determine the positions of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, and continue the business of good governance overseeing our activities and ventures.



Don't forget to log on!

See our website for more:

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Fax 4056 8284

The MY Ranger Program is funded by the Australian Federal Government.



“LIKE” us on Facebook! Search for Djunbunji Land & Sea Program and the Mandingalbay Yidinji Ancient Indigenous Tours now!!!

You can **SUBSCRIBE** or **CONTRIBUTE** to Wait-a-While by contacting us!

