

Bamangka Kaban

“People’s Paper”

Traditional welcomes for new Ranger Manager’s ‘homecoming’

FULL STORY ON PAGE 4!



Our new Ranger Manager John Dockrill (2nd from left) grew up in Wujal Wujal and was welcomed back to Country by Kuku Yalanji elder William (Billy) Harrigan, assisted by our Ayton Rangers: Nikita Jack Tayley, Alistair Gibson, Vincent Tayley and Dawn Harrigan (who took the pic!).

Huge funding win in trial for youth

Jabalbina will deliver a four-year, trial On Country program in Far North Queensland after the Palaszczuk Government’s extensive consultation with residents and community leaders on how best to support young people out of a cycle of crime.

CEO Kupa Teao said the organisation looked forward to sharing with young people a rich tapestry of cultural history and knowledge on behalf of the Yalanjiwarra.

“Through Dreamtime stories, each participant will be able to reconnect to their identity, and build on improving better relationships with families and communities,” Mr Teao said.

“It is an intervention program that has to work and it will work - it will create a pathway that can lead to a better life and strengthen their Wawu (spirit).”

Continues...

A word from CEO...

Jabalbina staff continue to demonstrate personal resilience through Covid-19 pandemic, and remain productive and positive when faced with this process.

As an organisation given the circumstances, we managed to adapt to these unforeseen changes. So at this stage Covid-19 hasn't

Huge funding win in trial for youth

From page 1...

Member for Cairns Michael Healy said they had taken the messages from the Cairns and surrounding communities on board.

"We have listened closely to people here and the strong message we received was that young people should be held accountable, while also having the opportunity to reconnect with their community in a way that works best for everyone," he said. "We have listened to the community and are trying new and measured approaches.

"We cannot use outdated practices and expect new and positive outcomes."

Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women Di Farmer said the \$1.5 million On Country trial for Cairns followed an open tender process.

"The Palaszczuk Government has listened closely to residents and leaders in Cairns about what they believe is best for their community and young people," the Minister said.

"On Country programs are designed to give high risk, repeat offenders the support they need to turn their lives around and return to work or education."

She said the On Country program would also be trialled in Townsville and Mt Isa.

slowed us down, in fact in many ways we've picked up the pace.

As CEO for this wonderful organisation, I am pleased Jabalbina service delivery and day to day operations have continued.

I can tell you we have been hitting up some runs on the board over these past few months.

Words almost can't express how proud I am in regards to the great work everyone has been doing with the National Parks CYPAL project.

Getting to this point in time took a lot of hard work from everyone – Jabalbina staff and our Board, all our Clan Groups and Bama Bama, Government representatives, our anthropologist and legal counsel, and others.

I am particularly grateful for all the time and effort our Traditional Owner Negotiation Committee (TONC) and Elders have put in to this project and for all their cultural knowledge, wisdom, strength and willingness to progress with it all.



Managing complex, sensitive and extremely challenging meetings in the current circumstances is beyond impressive.

I'm humbled to be allowed to see things through a different angle, through their lens, and that has just built my respect for them and their knowledge even more, it was an incredible moment to witness.

There will be a lot of things happening for us over the rest of this very difficult year.

We have put in for some major grants including working with our young people in the justice system, which was quite a complex application and, as you can see on these pages, successful.

We're working on several fronts in terms of tourism ventures, we're looking to continue work on our Master Plan which will help Bama on country work through all the processes.

The rangers in particular have kept busy and we're very happy to welcome our new Ranger Manager John Dockrill, who is originally from up here.



Practising social distancing in a meeting with local MP Cynthia Lui

On a final note, it has been an absolute pleasure and amazing journey to have me work alongside you and achieve our outcomes – great work everyone.

Kupa

...and the Board...

Jabalbina Chair Lyn Johnson and Deputy Chair Michelle Friday are keen to thank everyone for their work over these past few months, as we have all been tested by the restrictions in place due to the global pandemic...

"We'd like to offer a massive shout out to all Jabalbina staff for keeping the office and Ranger Bases conducting business as usual," they said.

"The Jabalbina Board are really appreciative and could not be prouder of you all for turning up and putting in the effort.

"We also take this opportunity to respectfully acknowledge and show our gratitude to our Eastern Kuku Yalanji Elders, who have had to embrace technology and join various Jabalbina meetings via Zoom.

"Participation from Shipton's Flat, Wujal Wujal, Mossman Gorge, Cooya Beach and elsewhere is what has allowed us to continue to advance, whilst we all maintain Covid-19 safety restrictions from our very own communities.

"The Jabalbina Board respects and cherishes the support of these Elders and we are indebted to their families for allowing us to share in their time, knowledge and learnings.

"Keep up the good work everyone, gratitude is the best attitude!

"Yalada."

Lynette & Michelle

LATE NEWS! SEE ABOVE: <https://www.newsport.com.au/2020/june/council-to-hand-blue-pools-back-to-traditional-owners>

I just wanted to let all our Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bama know of a significant and historical day for all of us – Blue Pool (Women's Water Hole) has been handed back to Jabalbina and our Elders, Clan Groups and Traditional Owners .

It's with the deepest gratitude that we recognise Douglas Shire Council, who have resolved to relinquish joint trusteeship and give all Yalanji Bama Bama something that has been culturally significant to us for centuries.

Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation would also like to acknowledge our previous and current staff and Board Members who have worked tirelessly to see this become a reality.

We also acknowledge our Ancestors and Elders for their guidance along the way, and support of our Traditional Owners over the years we've been in this process.

COUNCIL TO HAND BLUE POOLS BACK TO TRADITIONAL OWNERS
COUNCIL MEETING
KARLIE BRADY
JOURNALIST
Email Karlie
54% 46%
SHARE EMAIL COMMENT
Last updated: 02/07/2020 - 16:00 (AEST)

BLUE POOLS
This area contains sites holding great significance and sacredness to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji People. The pools of Cooper Creek have deep and spiritual meaning particularly to the Jalunjiwarra clan of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji People.
The Jalunjiwarra women are responsible to uphold the management and well being of the Blue Pools in accordance with their traditional lore and customs.
Under Eastern Kuku Yalanji lore and customs, no persons or pets should enter these sites without the express permission of the appropriate Jalunjiwarra women (Solomon or Johnson families).
Jalunjiwarra women don't want to feel responsible for any harm which may result from inappropriate use of these sites, so they encourage you not to use this area. In particular, swimming or other uses of the water are discouraged.
Jalunjiwarra women appreciate your respect and understanding of their lore on their traditional lands.
For any further enquiries, please contact Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation (Telephone 07 4098 3552). Jabalbina will inform the rightful traditional owner women.

Signage outside the sacred site. Image: Supplied.

54% 46%

The culturally significant Blue Pools will be returned to the Traditional Owners.
Douglas Shire Council has resolved to relinquish joint trusteeship of Blue Pools, located in the Daintree, to the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation.
The site is known by some as 'the Blue Hole' but, to the Traditional Owners, the locality is referred to as 'Blue Pools'.
Lyn Johnson, Chairperson for Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and Tradition Owner for the area were the Blue Pools are located said it has been a long time coming.
"It's a historical moment, to have blue pool handed back from Douglas Shire Council to Eastern kuku Yalanji Elders, past, present, and emerging," she said.
Ms Johnson said the clan group would have the responsibility of taking care of it and discussions will be had about where to from here.
Council began formal discussions with Jabalbina in 2017 and public meetings were also held in 2019.
In a statement Council said: "It is considered that Jabalbina and the Traditional Owners are best placed to apply appropriate levels of control in regard to the Blue Pools Reserve, which is registered on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register.
"Blue Pools is an Aboriginal Story Place associated with 'woman's business.'
As part of the 2020-21 Operational Plan, Council has also committed to introduce a position for an Indigenous Liaison Officer to work within Council to identify employment opportunities for Indigenous people

Yalada

Lyn Johnson

Chairperson Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation

News from our Rangers



Jabalbina has three Ranger Groups across the EKY footprint, representing Jalunji, Nyungkul and Yalanji...

“There has been some amazing work undertaken by our Rangers this year, from marine debris surveys, cemetery maintenance, to weeds and Collingwood mine remediation,” Ranger Manager John Dockrill says.

“As the new financial year unfolds, Rangers will crack on with our day to day patrols across country while Resource Ranger Dawn Harrigan, IPA Manager Jeff Arneith and I develop the 2020/2021 operational plan and activities.

“2020-2021 activities will include several on country camps with TO’s and youth from Buru to Cedar Bay.

“Families will be encouraged to participate in some of the more fun activities that Rangers undertake such as camera, pit and Elliot traps, which are laid out systematically and used to identify what animals are located on country in specific areas.

“This will also be an opportunity to share knowledge of EKY names and uses and if they are common, uncommon, endangered, or rare.”

He said he hoped to see the

Jabalbina Rangers continue to push the envelope by developing their maritime skills.

“We are looking to have a weekly presence in and around our coastal rivers, further protecting our marine resources from intrusions and illegal activities,” he said.

“And to that end we are developing their compliance training skills and qualifications.

“Ranger Vincent Tayley from our Ayton Base is pending endorsement by GBRMPA as a Compliance

Officer and several others are close to completion.

“This is undoubtedly an area our Rangers will be expected to deliver on as we progress with our shared park management.

“To that end, I have also been working on developing a strategy which will be the road works that allow Jabalbina Rangers to deliver properly supported systematic compliance activities, from patrols through to infringements and prosecutions, out in the field.”



John Dockrill with Mossman Ranger Crew members Nigel Minniecon & Anthea Solomon, alongside our new Sea Ranger Vessel



*On the 18th June, I visited the Ayton Rangers where I was welcomed to Country at the waterfall by Billy Harrigan, Vincent Tayley, Dawn Harrigan, Alister Gibson and Nikita Jack-Tayley, John says.
I was again welcomed at Shipton's Flat by Marilyn Friday and Peter Wallace (pictured above).
This was very special and humbling for me as Billy knows my parents, and Vincent and Alister and I went to school at Bloomfield River Primary School.
At Shipton's Flat Marilyn and Peter ran my Kuku Yalanji classes at school and Marilyn was my teacher through my entire primary school years - for me this was a deeply significant welcome to Country.*

2020 to date has undoubtedly been a life-changing year for all of us all with the onset of COVID 19, Ranger Manager John Dockrill writes...

Recently my family and I came to Queensland from the Northern Territory and self-isolated for two weeks at our home address in Cairns, before I started working remotely for Jabalbina in my new position as Ranger Manager.

Many of you know of me or have worked with me in the past, given I grew up in Wujal Wujal with my family and went to Cooktown High School.

From the minute I started, right back when we were all locked up from Covid-19 earlier this year, I was impressed with the spectrum and depth of the work being carried out by Jabalbina staff with little and no face-to-face contact.

We are now halfway through the

year, and there are many changes, implemented out of necessity, that will remain long term.

Zoom meetings are a good example of this, and they have become the new normal for Ranger Toolbox meetings to discuss various ranger projects.

Jabalbina TONC sessions are also conducted through Zoom video conferencing and Jabalbina Rangers have supported those TO's who needed transport.

It would be fair to say Jabalbina has adapted well to ensure continued communications throughout.

As they have worked on, Rangers have also ensured they have maintained proper social distancing

and safe practices as they keep an eye on who comes and goes across EKY Country.

The Jabalbina organisation that I see here today is in capable hands with a dedicated CEO in Kupa Teao.

Kupa leads a very knowledgeable Cultural Heritage Team, a dedicated IPA Manager and we are all well-supported by excellent office staff, who are well on their way to their potential leadership roles of tomorrow.

We are guided by a cohesive board who represent Eastern Yalanji Country interests, and all I can say from here is how proud I am – proud to be here as part of this team.

John



where students get to interact and learn about EKY culture and what Ranger work involves.

“We have to show them how they could then advance within Jabalbina or any organisation through a dedicated career pathway as a ranger that can then lead right through to senior management and even to CEO level.

“The way we do this is to work closely with our EKY TOs always keeping them well-informed and partnering with Queensland Education through work experience opportunities that are meaningful.

“We must also offer traineeships to fill not only our Ranger ranks but all Jabalbina positions as Jabalbina grows and diversifies.”



Some unfamiliar territory!



All three ranger bases found themselves indoors for a couple of days earlier this month, as they reported for workshopping in Port Douglas to have a look at where they are now, what they need to be and where they want to be, Ranger Manager John Dockrill says.

“We had Ayton, Mossman and Shipton’s Flat bases all in the one room together for two days to discuss current and future ranger work,” he said.

“We talked about future operations and aspirations as well as working on some of the challenges we’ve experienced out in the field.

“It was a real opportunity to discuss and clarify our reporting lines and reports in general and we also managed to identify some learning gaps, equipment needs and upskilling requirements such as the Biosecurity reporting tool and the EKY Fulcrum.

“It was also an opportunity for stakeholders to come along and present to the Rangers to reinforce good working relations and as a ‘meet and greet’ opportunity.

Some of the visitors included:

- Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program
- Terrain Natural Resource Management
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
- Qld Fire and Emergency Rescue
- Great Barrier Reef & Marine Parks Region
- Qld Fire and Emergency Services

Other items on the agenda included Post Covid-19 Ranger work, self-assessment; base asset checks and other essential paperwork updates, social media protocols, biosecurity and fire work update sessions.



Burns essential and ongoing

Various burns are ongoing with Rangers recently being asked to help King’s Plain caretakers John and Jan reduce their risk, Ranger Resources Dawn Harrigan says.

“We’ve also done some cultural burns up at Dawnvale,” she said.

“And there has been some spraying for sickle pod and gumba grass done up at Dawnvale, Zig Zag and Buru.”

She said Covid-19 restrictions

meant they’d had to be careful of public places, many of which were closed for a time, and their numbers.

“We have had to be careful about how many people were on the beach



All hands on deck to help with food delivery

Supporting on-country aspirations through the formation of a Cape York Traditional Owners Ranger Network is an initiative currently the subject of discussions facilitated by the Cape York Land Council, Ranger Resources Dawn Harrigan says.



“We want to establish a network to support on country aspirations to facilitate discussions around land management, share info and knowledge, learn from and support each other,” she said.

She said the initiative was already in play with ranger groups earlier in the month assisting Wujal Wujal Mayi

Market – the brainchild of Cape York Partnerships and Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council – with food drops.

“Frozen meat and fresh fruit and vegies are in the boxes, ready to go to families who aren’t able to get in to pick them up themselves,” she said.

The first formal meeting of the new network was hosted by

Jabalbina Deputy Chair Michelle Friday and CYLC’s Ricki-Lee Woibo and held in mid-June, Ranger Manager John Dockrill said.

“It was great to see Rangers Dawn and Nikita speak on behalf of Jabalbina rangers,” he said.

“Each group was asked to contribute by sharing what they hoped to achieve over the next 12 months, what was their best strength and strongest challenge and what opportunities were they looking for.

“We discussed the resilience of our ranger group, who have had to negotiate changes in management while continuing to achieve positive results – which was also one of the biggest challenges to our program.

“My aspirations for our rangers include getting on top of funding and reporting, and setting the benchmark in professionalism and process.

“This new network will connect us all and enable us to openly seek support and advice, it’s a positive idea that will continue to develop over time.”

when we needed to do clean ups and things like that,” she said.

Ranger Manager John Dockrill said the rangers had made good use of their time during restrictions to plan their 2020 fire abatement program.

“As restrictions have eased we also have started re-engaging with our neighbours and stakeholders,” he said.

“We’re keen to work with local Fire Wardens, Rural Fire Services, residents and other interested stakeholders to plan burns and work in partnership to reduce the risk of larger wildfires later in the year.”



Another land block under the hammer, now in good hands

Another land buy, thanks to Rainforest 4 and pro bono work from Colin Biggers & Paisley Lawyers, was exciting news for Jabalbina earlier this month, as the new block will save more than 170 native species from deforestation.

“This block is only one hectare but contains an incredibly diverse range of kanabina (plants and animals),” CEO Kupa Teao said.

“It’s also the primary habitat for the endangered Kurranji (Southern Cassowary).

“All in all 176 native species were surveyed on the site prior to purchase.

“We’d like to thank Bianca from Colin Biggers & Paisley Lawyers and a big thank you to Rainforest 4 for your continued work.

“We look forward to protecting

more nganan madja (rainforest) and returning Bama back to bubu (country).”

He said Jabalbina Rangers and staff were regularly inspecting other blocks to purchase and protect in the Daintree.

Rainforest 4 founder Kelvin Davies said they had purchased and protected an important piece of this ancient landscape.

“Lot 330 Cape Tribulation Road contains a dizzying array of incredibly special plants,” he said.

“The Black Palm (Normanbya

normanbyi), known as Duwar by the Kuku Yalanji, is a food source for the endangered Southern Cassowary.

“The near threatened Thornton Aspen (*Acronychia acuminata*) is also found on Lot 330.

“The Zamia Fern (*Bowenia spectabilis*) is found on Lot 330 as well.

“This is a great example of how collaboration between organisations with shared objectives can achieve practical outcomes for conservation.”

To read more about the new purchase see Rainforest 4’s website yarn at: https://www.rainforest4.org/lot_330_daintree_purchased_and_protected

Pic below: Rainforest 4 founder Kelvin Davies with a Zamia Fern, pic by Steven Nowakowski.



Language signs in place

Earlier this year the first of what it is hoped will be many more bilingual place signs were installed in several locations across EKY country, as a result of more than 12 months of hard work put in by Elders and Traditional Owners.

Throughout 2019 community workshops were held in Mossman and Wujal Wujal, where the aptly-named 'Indigenous Languages Signage Program Committee' (ILSPC) worked hard with Douglas Shire Council representatives, identifying sites and place names for 25 locations.

They held more than 10 meetings on Country, to develop the map below, for further extended consultation.

The ILSPC was asked to oversee planning and installation.

They comprised of six members, each representing a specific area of the Shire they connected to: Francis Walker and Laurel Doughboy for the northern area; Lizzie Olbar and Calvin Olbar for the central area, and Linda Burchill and Phillip Missionary for the southern area.

"It's been a long time coming, and is a step forward



towards reconciliation with the Bama's on their land," Elder Francis Walker said.

"It makes us feel proud," Lizzie Olbar said.

"I am happy that family and visitors will see Yalanji Language."

"It is good for young ones to see their language recognised," Calvin Olbar said.

The ILSPC said they were keen to see the signage program move further north into Kuku Nyungkul Country with the support of the Cook Shire Council.

They said signage was yet to be put up in Wujal Wujal, Dawnvale, Buru (China Camp) and Bulban areas in the north.

Douglas Shire Council Arts & Culture Officer Tim Ellis said some of the Town Entry Signs were still in development and would be installed later this year.

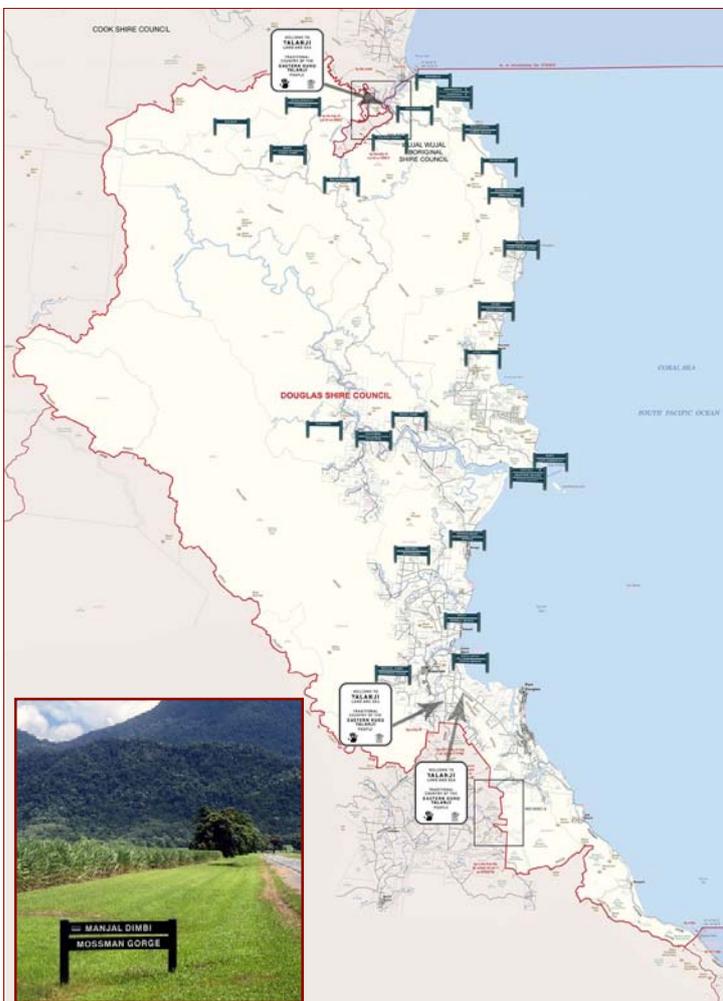
"The Douglas Shire is paving the way for further recognition of Indigenous culture and language across regions beyond our Shire," he said.

"Two 'Welcome To Country' signs should be installed in July for the Mossman area.

"The designs for the Town Entry Signs have been approved by the artists and Council, and are now with Main Roads for approval, so if all goes well they should be installed later this year.

"The remaining 'Place' signs, for north of Cape Tribulation, and the third 'Welcome To Country' sign will be installed once lockdown is ended."

Douglas Shire Council and Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation would like to thank the following Elders and Traditional Owners for their time, knowledge and support with the preparation of this project: Francis Walker, Laurel Doughboy, Lizzie Olbar, Calvin Olbar, Linda Burchill, Phillip Missionary, Jackie Ball (Snr), Bobby Ball, Doreen Ball, Kathleen Walker, Lesley Walker, Doreen Doughboy, Bobby Ball (Jr), Matty Boatboy, King Doughboy, Adelaide Baird, Ngumbi (Jack Martin), Jinamul (Oscar Olbar Snr.), Andrew Solomon, Jason Solomon, Linda Walker, Jimmy Olbar, Agnes Burchill, Cissy Ross-Kelly, Clare Ogilvie, Bennett Walker, Sheryl Burchill and the Kuku Yalanji Language Advisory Group (KYLAG), and Kelly Schreiber from the Burungu Aboriginal Corporation (BAC).



Welcome to Country an important start for workers



Contractors working on the Madja Boardwork, near Nuwu (Noah's Creek) were happy to go through a Smoking Ceremony before they got started last month.

Before the job of putting bitumen down at the parking area began Elder and Jabalbina chair Lyn Johnson performed the Ceremony with support from Jabalbina staff Allira Alvoen and Sheryl Burchill.

Future Acts Project Officer, Ms Alvoen, said it made everyone's day special.

"One of the many reasons this Ceremony is significant is it has a way of breaking down boundaries between Waybul Waybul and Bama Bama," she said.

"They had the biggest smiles by the end of the ceremony."

As a Cultural Heritage body, one of Jabalbina's many responsibilities is to encourage all the groups, contractors, researchers who want to work on our Yalanji Bubu (land) or in our Jalun (sea) to engage in a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony.

This very special and ancient Cultural Tradition has been passed down from generation to generation and is a significant Ceremony performed to welcome and protect them.

***Yalanjiwarra
muruku
junkurrjimaka
bamanga
bubuku**

Jabalbina

COME WITH US ON A JOURNEY INTO OUR LAND, OUR CULTURE AND OUR PEOPLE

**Yalanji people stand strong together for our people and our land*

A Traditional Kuku Yalanji Welcome to Country is a unique and authentic cultural experience that is performed by a Traditional Owner.

- Welcome to Country \$330 [2 weeks notice]
- Welcome to Country with Smoking Ceremony \$550 [2 weeks notice]
- Cultural Cleansing \$550 [2 weeks notice]
- Cultural Awareness Induction [5-15 people per session, call for a quote at least 3 weeks ahead]



©2020 Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation
07 4098 3552
reception@jabalbina.com.au
PO Box 463
Mossman Qld 4873