



Bamangka Kaban

"People's Paper"

Caring for our bubu
(land) and jalun (sea)



PH. BY JOHN DICKINSON

Yalanji negotiates big win for Bama

Three years of planning and meetings between our Traditional Owner Negotiation Committee (TONC) and the State Government have come to an end with both sides confident Eastern Kuku Yalanji People can and will drive Bama-led management of all our National Parks.

Daintree, Ngalba-bulal, Kalkajaka and Hope Islands National Parks will be legally owned by Bama with the state handing them back in 2021.

Bama and Jabalbina will work with the State to fund and manage the national parks.

Jabalbina's Native Title Tenure Resolution Manager Conrad Yeatman said the end results would bring co-stewardship of Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land (CYPAL) in line with the aspirations of Bama, once in place.

"This has been about putting Bama in the drivers seat, in charge of cultural heritage, ensuring respect is paramount for Bama culture," he said.

"Bama will have the lead role driving

new tourism development and increasing economic development for Bama across the board.

"With the negotiated support package funded by the State, Bama aspirations to shift towards sole operational management of our National Parks, will become a reality.

"This will give Bama the power to manage bubu, jalun and culture effectively.

"As we take on increased management responsibility of the National Parks more funding will become available to us through a funding package that was negotiated by the TONC.

"The agreement puts us in a position

to work on bubu, with seven living areas and eleven restricted access areas to protect cultural sites have agreed to, along with an increase ranger employment.

"This will help bama to develop tourism and businesses and manage our cultural heritage under the direction of our elders groups."

He said an authorisation meeting and handback celebration was in planning for early 2021.

"We can't wait to visit our families and discuss this outcome with them and we can't wait to celebrate this incredible milestone achievement," he said.

SEE PAGES 12-18 FOR MORE...



It has been a tumultuous year with COVID-19 and the restrictions associated with it, almost preventing our day to day operation from continuing, CEO Kupa Teao writes...

However, we manage to overcome some of the challenges and, amazingly, kicked a few goals along the way.

When I look back over the year I think of this magnificent Eastern Kuku Yalanji landscape we work and live on.

From our spectacular beaches, ranges and forests through to just watching the mist roll over the hills around Mossman Gorge, as I drive to and from Cooya Beach every day.

I am extremely grateful for the ongoing support from Bama, Elders and families for having me.

Their backing is one several contributing factors to our success over the year, including unwavering support from Douglas Shire, Wujal Wujal Shire and Cook Town Shire Councils, State and Federal Government, project partners, private and community organisations as well as the North Queensland and Cape York Land Councils.

My apologies if I have missed anyone, there has been so many.

This year our organisation embarked upon a youth justice program, with the introduction of the 'On Country' project, designed to address kids/youth subject to the justice system.

We are excited and confident about this four-year project, and look forward to achieving all the required outcomes.

It is great to see our kids come on country and witness the healing power of Bubu, combined with the exchange of knowledge from Traditional owner elders who will own and run these camps.

Jabalbina staff have been extremely busy organising meetings which has been a logistical challenge, even if, at times, a nightmare, and I am very proud of the admin team responsible for pulling all this together.

The first of our Indigenous Men's Cultural Camps was also held at Wawu Dimbi last month.

About 20 men came along and I was happy to spend an evening in support of the men and to have a bit of a yarn with them.

This was a wonderful opportunity for men to get onto Country for the purpose of connecting with others to look at their issues and needs, and assess where there might be any gaps in our Bama healing processes.

We hope these camps will continue on a monthly basis into the new year, and we'd like to see the same for our women too.



New Accounts Officer Tracy Priday is originally from Sydney, but relocated to FNQ 25 years ago and now resides in Julatten.

She has been employed by Jabalbina on a part-time basis after many years in administration and finance management roles for small/medium size businesses in fields as diverse as hospitality, environmental tourism and vegetation management industries.

She holds a Certificate IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping and says the opportunity to work for the Jabalbina is very exciting.

"This is an exciting opportunity, not only to provide day-to-day support to the Financial Controller and become part of a friendly and supportive team, but also to learn about the Cultural Heritage Body for Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bama and the important work they do," she said.



Staff meetings are held every Monday morning at 9am sharp with people often joining us via Zoom from wherever they are in the region, state or country.

These meetings are an opportunity for all our staff to share not only their successes, but something of their day-to-day activities so we are connected and ready to support each other as we face any challenges in our work.

Everyone one contributes to our weekly staff meetings and I believe they have contributed to a happy and positive vibe across all our different workplaces, as we all work together and in unity.

In August we all came together for a day-long workshop and an overnight camp at PK's (pictured).

Staff including our Finance Officer Robin Saltmarsh and media coordinator and newsletter

editor Christine Howes gave presentations, as did PK's owner Mark Biancotti.

We also had a very interesting and enlightening meeting with several local tour operators on the subject of Indigenous tourism and how we might smoothly and effectively enter into that space in the years to come.

We thank them for their generosity in sharing their insights and experience.

Overall it was another successful bonding exercise for all of us (Bama-oke included!), especially as we struggled through COVID-19 restrictions and limitations.

Jabalbina Rangers in particular have worked above and beyond their roles and responsibility, which has been recognised by the funding bodies who support our Ranger programs.

We have a positive, productive working environment in our

workplace, a direct result of our combined efforts to ensure as an Indigenous organisation, culture is at the forefront of our day-to-day lives and activities.

It gives me great pleasure working with a Board of Directors who are all dedicated to ensure we continue get the best for Bama: they only have the one agenda and that is Bama progression.

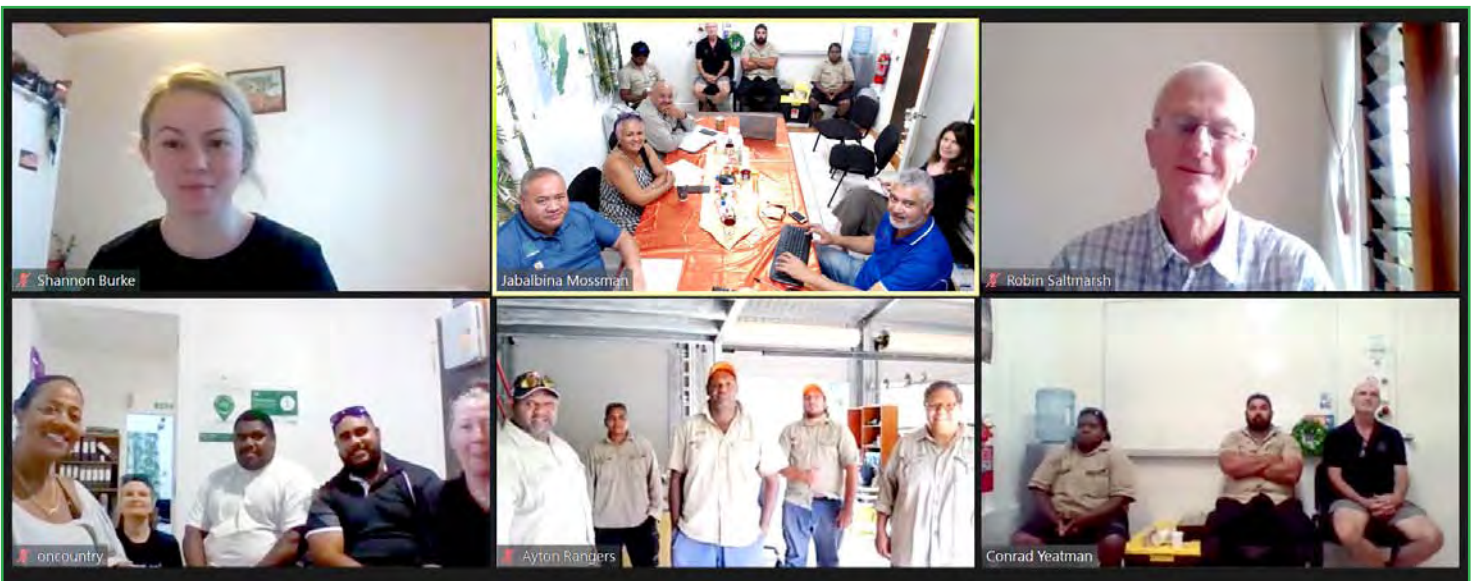
As we draw near to the end of 2020, I look forward to 2021 and what it has in store for us.

I am confident we will continue to prosper as an organisation.

My hopes are that Jabalbina will continue to showcase Bama aspirations and be the beacon for all the other Prescribed Body Corporates in Queensland.

May you and your families have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Yalada!

Kupa



ABOVE: Weekly staff meetings held 9am every Monday mornings. These are an opportunity for staff to share some of their successes with various projects, and a great tool to share info on everyone's day to day activities. Staff join in via Zoom (video link) from various locations throughout the region, state and country, if they are not in a position to join from our main office in Mossman. The meetings take up to one hour in total, and everyone contributes.



...and our Chair Lyn Johnson

Firstly I'd like to welcome our new Director Terrence Douglas-Gibson who was elected to take the place of retired member Clifford Harrigan at our AGM last month, Jabalbina chair Lyn Johnson writes...

Also in this newsletter we are so proud to say our Traditional Owners Negotiation Committee (TONC) and their work on the Indigenous Management Agreement (IMA) through Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land (CYPAL) is close to being finished, and that's a big story.

All I can say is they have exceeded themselves and I'd like to congratulate everyone for their hard work, which has paid off with this huge success.

It's been a very long three years, and we still have a little more to do, of course, especially in regards to making this work for us in terms of jobs, particularly in tourism and for our young people.

Most of all, we have a big celebration to plan, so please do watch this space into the New Year so you can come and join us.

The other big story for us this year has been the launch of our Jabalbina On Country Healing Camps.

The focus here is also on working to reposition disengaged youth as proud young people with purpose.

Congratulations to Charmaine and her team for the work they've done

so far and thank you all for coming on board.

And I want to do a big shout out to our rangers and all Jabalbina staff, which includes administration – for their work and support for this very important program.

Another of our successes over these past few months has been our work with Kelvin and Rainforest 4.

The buyback program has been really successful, some of the land has actually gone back to a national park - which means we can't build on them – but two properties have been handed back to us by Rainforest 4, Lots 155 and 157.

Lot 155 has a fence and a gate has been put up, but Lot 157 was already established and we looked at that as a possible site for a tourism venture in the future.

Our work with Rainforest 4 will continue into the New Year as one of the most important opportunities we have to project our Yalanji Bubu in the Daintree madja (forest).

On that front also we have the recent good news that the bridge over the Daintree River will not be going ahead, which is a great relief for us all.

We would have lost a lot of things had that gone ahead, so we're very relieved to hear these results.

Also in this newsletter you'll read about our very late NAIDOC celebrations, thanks to COVID-19, and some of our cultural heritage work.

And lastly, but by no means least, I'd like to thank everyone – from the board to the admin staff – for my first 12 months as chair: I couldn't have done it without them.

There's always so much going on but they've always been there for me and the board, even at the drop of a hat, whenever they've been asked to do anything.

So a big heads up to John, Jeff, Dawnie, Mossman, Ayton and Shipton's Flat rangers and their teams, Conrad and Saisha for their hard work, Sheryl, Allira, and Kupa for all their efforts over what has been a very difficult, yet big year for all of us at Jabalbina.

Let's all enjoy a safe, good and happy break over the Christmas period as we roll up our sleeves to be ready for 2021 and all it might bring us.

Lyn



LEFT: Staff and board members (missing Desmond Tayley) meeting in August 2020 in Cairns

FACING PAGE TOP: Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation's Annual General Meeting in Wujal Wujal last month.



New Director Terrence Douglas-Gibson was born and bred at the Mossman Gorge and completed his schooling in Mossman.

"I am a Kuku Yalanji and Kuku Nyungkul dingkar (male/man) and I want to express how truly honoured I am to be appointed as the new dingkar Yalanji Director for Jabalbina," he said.

"I am currently employed as a Coach Consultant with Cape York Partnerships (CYP) under the Mossman Gorge OHUB and have been with them for just over three years now, I enjoy working there.

"Some of my previous roles include working as a Tour Guide, Retail Assistant and Sales Rep at Mossman Gorge centre from 2010 – 2017."

He said he also gained valuable experience as a former Director at Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku Aboriginal Corporation (BBN).

"Working within a Yalanji run organisation that works for and represents the aspirations of Yalanjiwarra was a stepping stone for me," he said.



"I've learnt a lot and intend to continue to learn and support my community and Yalanjiwarra as best I can.

"I am here to listen and continue to support the goals of our Yalanji nation and as a young person, I hope to be able to contribute my knowledge and understanding of the world in order to support my Elders, my community and their goals as best I can.

"I hope to unite all our Communities, our ideas, thoughts and understandings to make a difference for our next generation.

"We as Yalanjiwarra have thrived through the hardest of times and I believe with more encouragement and people stepping up to make a difference we can continue to do so.

"I look forward to working with the existing Jabalbina Board of Director's and Yalanjiwarra."



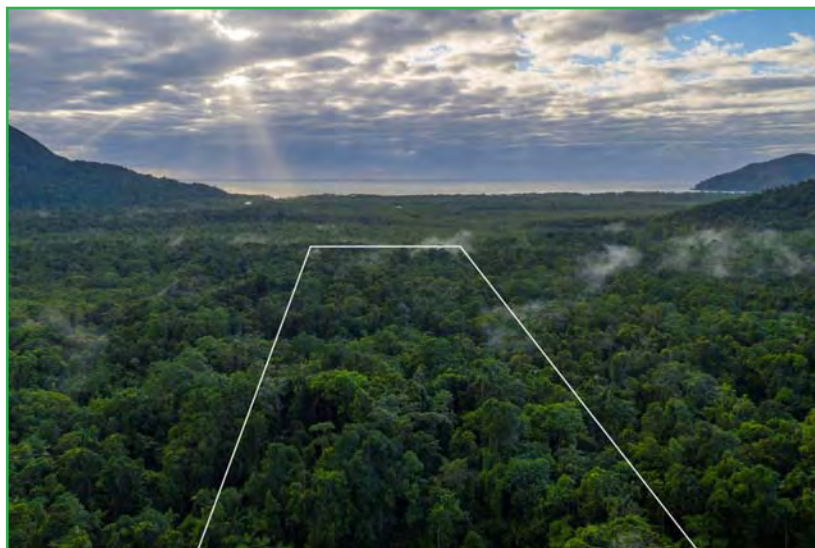
Traditional Owner Andrew Solomon checking out an Melastoma malabathricum subspecies malabathricum - er... common name Lasiandra, Rhododendron or Blue Tongue. He says the fruit are pretty tasty when ripe and the leaves, shoots and bark can be used as an antiseptic and anti inflammatory.

Buy Back Partnership moving forward

It's been a great year for our buy back partnership with Rainforest 4, CEO Kupa Teao says.

He said they had worked together to purchase and protect the following properties:

- Lot 155 Cape Tribulation Road, Diwan–Kambi (Flying Fox) - *pictured below*
- Lot 157 Cape Tribulation Road, Diwan –Kurranji (Cassowary) - *pictured right*
- Lot 390 Maple Road, Cow Bay- Jarruku (Scrub Hen)
- Lot 305 Cypress Road, Cow Bay– Wandi (Sea Eagle)
- Lot 124 Quandong Road, Cow Bay– Yindili (Kingfisher)
- Lot 3 Thornton Peak Drive, Forest Creek–Wabul (TSI Pigeon)



- Lot 107 Buchanan Creek Road, Cow Bay
 - Lot 330 Cape Tribulation Road, Cow Bay
- “Yalanji Bama and Rainforest 4 foundation have had several meetings on Country throughout the year to share aspirations and steer the partnership forward,” he said.
- “Jabalbina would like to thank Yalanji Bama, Rainforest 4 Foundation, HalfCut organisation, Collin Biggers & Paisley lawyers and all our donors for their support of our partnership over the year.
- “We are looking forward to continuing that work so we can purchase and protect more of Yalanji Bubu in the Daintree madja (rainforest) in 2021.”

No Bridge for Daintree River

The majority of those who completed the Daintree River Crossing Survey, undertaken by the Douglas Shire Council, preferred a two-ferry service with 66% of the count, compared to 33% of people who chose a bridge.

The Council has reported the result was consistent across different groups of survey respondents, including those who live north of the Daintree River where 63% preferred the two-ferry solution.

Douglas Shire Mayor Michael Kerr said he would vote with the community when a report was tabled at the Ordinary Council Meeting this month.

“I am now confident we can move forward with the two-ferry contract negotiation, continue applications

for relevant approvals for a second ferry crossing and work at improving the ferry experience for travellers and locals,” he said.

“The community is also fully aware of the costs Council will incur in establishing a second ferry crossing and have made an educated choice about the future of the crossing.”

Jabalbina chair Lyn Johnson said it was definitely a good result.

“This is a good news story,” she said.

“It matters a lot to Bama, we would have lost a lot if a bridge

had gone ahead.”

Rainforest 4 Foundation founder Kelvin Davies said while the results were great news for the Daintree there were still many challenges ahead.

“I’m sure you join me today in celebrating this great outcome,” he said.

“But while we celebrate this small win, I need you to know that this was only one of many threats on the horizon for the Daintree Lowland Rainforest – a living museum with direct links to 120 million years of evolutionary history.”

For more information about Rainforest 4 see their website at www.rainforest4.org

For more information about the survey see: <https://douglas.qld.gov.au/two-ferry-option-preferred/>

Traditional Owner's Clive Sykes, Chris Johnson and Clarence Ball conducted a Cultural Heritage Clearance Assessment at Noah's Bridge late last month, Jabalbina Future Acts Officer Allira Alvoen says.

"Jabalbina has been providing these Clearance Assessments for a few years now, and we continue to build on the process to strengthen the Cultural integrity of our Yalanjiwarra and our Bubu," she said.

Cultural Heritage Officer Sheryl Burchill said the clearances were significant.

"These clearances put Traditional Owners behind the steering wheel and leading the way in protecting, maintaining, respecting our Lore and Customs," she said.

"They play an important role in paving the way for our future generations to continue to care for our Bubu."

Allira said the employment of Ranger Manager John Dockrill, who is qualified in both Archeology and Anthropology, had made a big difference.

"Having John on board means we will be able to strengthen this process and ensure the right procedures are implemented," she said.

"This means we can continue to protect these any identified sites and materials, working closely with Traditional Owners and Elders.

"John has provided much insight from his experience for this round of Cultural Heritage Clearance Assessment and we appreciate him helping the men out in the field."

She said other areas the Cultural Heritage unit had focused on included implementing Cultural Lore with organisations.

"Contractors and other workers are now able to participate in a Traditional Welcomes to Country and Smoking Ceremonies, usually before they

Clearances offer cultural integrity for moving forward



conduct any work on country," she said.

"We have also implemented a number of Cultural Heritage Agreements aimed at protecting our Cultural Heritage and creating work and training opportunities for Yalanjiwarra.

"The employment of Cultural Monitors will help to identify Cultural Heritage discovered during ground works and help us to deliver processes which will appropriately protect and manage these sites."



TOP: The Cultural Heritage team working on Noah Bridge; ABOVE: Allira and Sheryl presenting their work to the staff workshop in August (with Ranger Kalum's help!)

Jabalbina supports United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity



SAVED THE DATE: November 30, 2020 at 9:30 (Aust Eastern Daylight Time).

You are invited to participate at the Indigenous Peoples' Virtual Dialogues on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for the Pacific Region

The post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will set the global agenda for the next 30 years (2020-2030 to 2050), and the participation of Indigenous Peoples is crucial to ensure the protection of nature and their rights as Indigenous Peoples.

Date and Time:

Australian Eastern Time: November 30,	9:30 am
Suva, Fiji: November 30,	10:30am
Hawaii Standard Time: November 29	12:30am
Sarnao Standard Time: November 29	11:30am
New Zealand Daylight time: November 30	11:30am

Background reading: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/3064/749a/0f65ac79def8670744eaf/post2020-prep-02-01-en.pdf>

Facilitator: Chrissy Grant, IIFB Regional Coordinator for the Pacific Region

Our Speakers:

- Mr. John Scott, (SCBD)
- Mr. Eduardo Brandizio, (IPBES)
- Mrs. Viviana Figueroa, (IIFB)
- Mr. Teanau Tuiono, (New Zealand)
- Mrs. Alisi Rabukawaqa, (Fiji)
- Mrs. Malia Nobrega-Olivera, (Hawaii)
- Mr. Ricky Archer (Australia)

Check your time zone here: <https://tinyurl.com/TimeZonePacific>

Join us by registering at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/IPLCPacificDialogue>

JABALBINA **IIFB** **Forest Peoples Programme** **Convention on Biological Diversity**

<https://iifb-indigenous.org> [iifb_indigenous](https://iifb-indigenous.org) [Facebook: IIFB](https://iifb-indigenous.org) [IIFB_Indigenous](https://iifb-indigenous.org)

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With Jabalbina's support, Eastern Kuku Yalanji Elder Chrissy Grant has been attending meeting of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) since 2011.

She said outcomes of the Convention which apply to the EKY Rainforest Bama, such as traditional knowledge and heritage matters around land and sea Country, as well as consulting on Invasive Alien Species on our traditional estate, have been incorporated into Jabalbina's work wherever possible.

As a member of the CBD's International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and the Regional Coordinator for Australia & the Pacific Region, Chrissy recently organised and coordinated a

webinar for her colleagues from as far afield as Hawaii.

“The idea was to gain the input and ideas of the Indigenous peoples on the targets of the CBD’s Global Biodiversity Framework from 2020 to 2050,” she said.

“There are milestones to be met by 2030 in regard to the protection of the biodiversity and ecosystems, the contributions of Indigenous peoples to maintaining and reducing the loss of species, and how Indigenous peoples will be impacted if the targets do not meet their needs.

“We had an update from the Secretariat of the CBD on the process and an overview from the IIFB on the targets. There was great input from New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii and other participants asking questions from Australia to the far north of the Pacific as well.”

She said the information was passed on to the Executive Director of the CBD as well as the seven global IIFB Regional Coordinators and the Co-Chairs of the Global Biodiversity Framework so it could be considered in the next draft of the Strategy for 2020-2050.

The Jabalbina office will be close on Friday 18 December 2020 and reopen on Monday 4 January 2021. Employees will be uncontactable during this time. Please email reception@jabalbina.com.au if you have any queries and we will get back to you in the New Year. For emergencies only, please contact CEO Kupa Teao on 0408170404. Thanks to the Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS) crew in Mossman for inviting us to their end of year BBQ, it was a great social event to end the year on.



Jalun (sea) Country plans underway

Jabalbina is developing a Jalun (Sea) Country Management plan funded by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation to manage and protect Yalanji Jalun Country.

The development of a Jalun Management Plan aims to address management gaps and strengthen Jalun health. The plan will build on all previous work and strengthen Yalanji governance and decision making for sea country management.

Some of the benefits of the plan will include:

- developing a strong governance framework for sea country
- a basis for developing hunting and netting protocol for Traditional Owners
- stronger Cultural Site management and visitor management
- identifying and building partnerships with researchers and other stakeholders
- a plan for further capacity building and education

Meetings have been held with the Yalanji Sea Country Steering Committee throughout the year to steer this important work forward.

Pictured below is Rangers Anthea and Nigel practicing driving the new Jabalbina Sea Country Vessel on the Julaymba (Daintree) River, the smoking ceremony for the new vessel; and our Yalanji Sea Country Steering Committee.





On Country Healing Camps bring new job opportunities

Six new staff members were welcomed into the Jabalbina On Country team after being smoked by Traditional Owner Alfred Diamond and his son Santos in October.



On Country Program Manager Charmaine Jackson-Yeatman said two On Country Cultural Healing Camps have been held at Wawu Dimbi (spirit in the background) on the Lower Daintree River since September with more to come.

"Ten young men attended the first two camps and they were welcomed with traditional smoking ceremonies," she said.

"They enjoyed some cultural activities, such as exploring Cow Bay Beach where they did a cultural walk along the beach to a sacred men's site, before being smoked by a local traditional owner".

Cultural Mentor James Kerr said they had also travelled to Wujal Wujal and Black Mountain National Park.

"We're offering inclusive, educational, fun and authentic

cultural experiences," he said.

"Each group is immersed in traditional knowledge, skills and the sacred spirituality of connecting to country through languages, stories and songs of Yalanji ancient lands."

He said mental health was a priority.

"Connection to Country, family and support services is a high priority, as are traditional activities such as spear making or fishing," he said.

"It's all about connecting through engaging with Traditional Owners and especially our rangers."

A third On Country Cultural Healing Camp was held earlier this month for young men aged between 12-17 years of age and a fourth was being planned to engage young women in February next year.



Jabalbina's On Country program hopes to reposition young people as proud cultural people, with a purpose to contribute positively to their local community and mainstream society.

The second On Country camp, held in November this year, was lucky to enjoy an exclusive Great Barrier Reef tours thanks to Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel.

"I was very proud of their efforts to get out of bed in time to be picked up at 6.30am," Cultural Mentor James Kerr said.

"This in itself was a massive achievement, congratulations to them for not missing out on a great day which they all thoroughly enjoyed.

"The Dreamtime staff were very impressed with their good behaviour throughout the day and applauded the boys' efforts.

"They also impressed others on board, including the rangers and marine biologists."

He said Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel and several rangers took them out to the outer Milln and Flynn Reefs.

"The boys had the opportunity to explore the underwater world which included snorkelling, a glass bottom board experience, and some of us were able to splash out with extra diving activities," he said.

"We spent a very relaxing five hours exploring and gaining a deeper cultural understanding of this diverse ecosystem and our Indigenous heritage.

"Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel are the only Great Barrier Reef cruise which allows their passengers to interact with original clap sticks and fire poles, plus get live demonstrations of traditional dances and the didgeridoo.

"It was a great day."

In March 2020, the Queensland Government announced a pilot of On Country programs to focus on 10 to 17-year-old repeat offenders and those with high and complex needs.

Jabalbina was one of three sites chosen to pilot the program which aims to engage and awaken the cultural and spiritual awareness each Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young person inherently possesses.

International and domestic literature suggests that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander designed and led justice programs consistently outperform those that are externally developed. They can significantly reduce the rate of offending.

The program aims to:

- Promote pro-social behaviour
- Improve and sustain school attendance, employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth
- Build stronger connections with family and community
- Develop stronger cultural connectedness and identity as a proud Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young person
- Improve mental health and wellbeing

The young people will participate in experiences of self-discovery and learning within a culturally safe environment where they will feel valued, listened to and a sense of love and kindness.

The program provides a compassionate response to complex social and historical intergenerational trauma as well as loss of spirit and self identity.



For more information about the On Country Healing Camps program please contact Program Manager Charmaine Jackson-Yeatman on 0409 964 653 or Cultural Mentor James Kerr on 0475 422 309.

Yalanji negotiate big win for Bama

In 2016 Jabalbina took on a big responsibility: a contract to support Bama to negotiate with the State of Queensland to return ownership and management of our national parks to local Aboriginal Traditional Owners, while ensuring these iconic natural areas and their rich cultural values were protected.

Jabalbina held large Bama community meetings on- and off-Country that were advertised in newspapers.

Staff consulted widely with Bama, asking them if they wanted to move forward in negotiations for the four National Parks under consideration, and to nominate who they wanted to represent them on our Traditional Owners Negotiation Committee (TONC).

The TONC was officially formed in December 2017 and the first formal negotiations were held in May 2018.

Since then Jabalbina has supported 13 full TONC meetings and numerous clan Elders and community meetings for the negotiation.

They negotiated outcomes for several major issues, particularly:

- Cultural Heritage,
- Tourism & economic development,
- Joint and sole management,
- Funding and land issues,
- Employment and training,
- Permits and compliance.

Working in collaboration with the Cape York Peninsula Resolution Program, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Wet Tropics Management Authority, the Northern and Cape York Land Councils and the Tourism Industry, it was ultimately agreed the State would return the National Parks to Bama ownership.

The land would become Aboriginal freehold Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal

Land, to be jointly managed, and with Bama taking an increasingly lead role.

This change will allow Bama to have more and more control over the management of the national parks, to return to live on country and to pursue employment and business opportunities in land management, and private tourism ventures.

Some additional areas of state land will be transferred as Aboriginal freehold land for nature refuges.

The TONC developed four strategies to support the negotiation (see page 15 for more details):

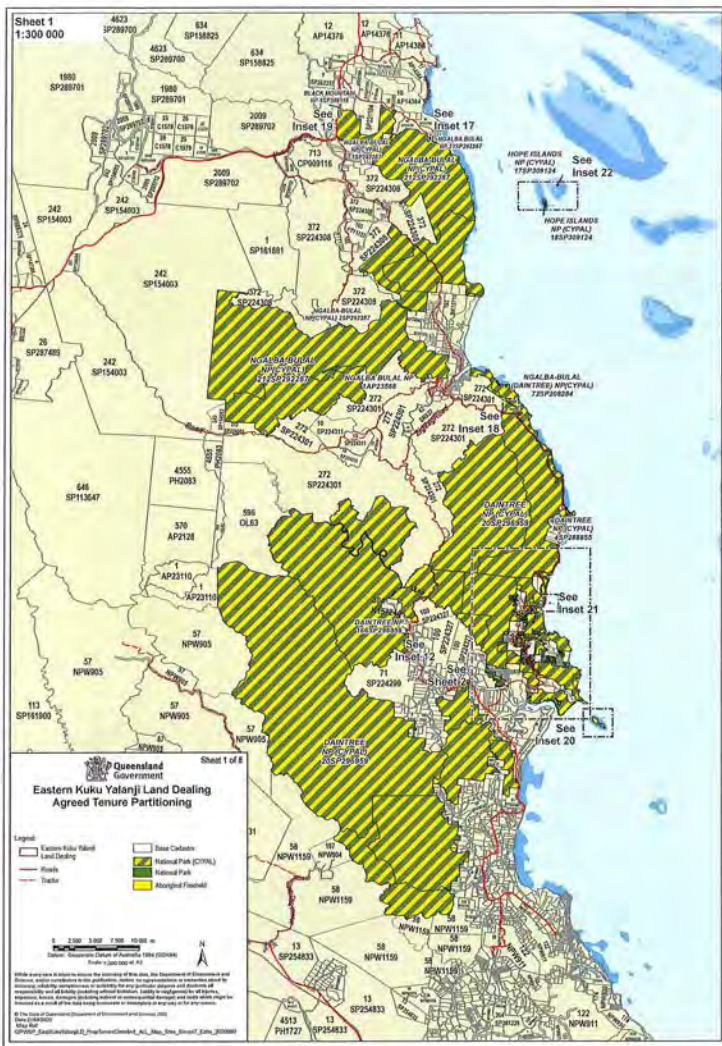
1. EKY Tourism Strategy
2. Bamangka Bubu-kija Kurramun Cultural Heritage Plan
3. Madja Code of Practice
4. Joint Management Implementation Framework (JMIF)

The TONC, with the support of Elders decision making groups, also negotiated for living areas, restricted access areas and the return of the Kulki ranger base as a Bama exclusive use area.

After three years and more than 40 days of TONC and elders meetings, the State Government wrote to Jabalbina in Novemebr 2020 to confirm they had reached in principle agreement on all major negotiation issues which was confirmed in writing by then-Minister Leeanne Enoch, with her congratulations and support.

In the picture is: Terry Piper, Craig Carttling, Peter Blackwood, Colin Fisher, Will Smith, Dawn Harrigan, Alister Gibson, Kupa Teao, Warren Kulka, Graham O'Dell, Peter Wallace, Saisha Burchill Schonenberger, Simon Thompson, Ross McLeod, Michelle Friday, Maryanne Port, Marilyn Wallace, Conrad Yeatman, Carol Pearce, Eric Wason, Alexis Port, Marie Shipton, Linda Burchill, Lizzie Obah & Ryan Ellis.





Our Tourism Vision Statement

**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!).**

Throughout the TONC negotiation meetings our members acknowledged the strength they drew from EKY land; its Traditional Owners; and respecting elders who have passed, who were present in physical and spiritual form, and those emerging. Over many meeting the TONC spent time going over CYPAL aspirations and EKY vision for the future to develop our tourism vision statement [above].



TONC Meetings 2019-20



Projects joint management will adopt and support include:

1. Eastern Kuku Yalanji (EKY) Tourism Strategy

The Draft EKY Tourism Strategy aims to build partnerships with the industry and increase the profile of Indigenous Culture in EKY National Parks while creating more opportunities for Bama employment in tourism roles, business creation, businesses ventures and partnerships.

The strategy sets out how Bama with business ideas can get support to work with key partners and stakeholders to turn ideas into action.

The first few years will be a prime time for Bama business development.

We acknowledge local tourism consultant Russell Boswell for his work with TONC to the development this plan.

2. Bamangka Bubu-kija Kurramun Cultural Heritage Plan

The Draft 'Eastern Yalanjiwarranga Bamanga Bubu-Kija Nyuja Kurramun Management Plan' is an overarching plan for all of Eastern Yalanjiwarra bubu (land, Country) and jalun (sea) including the national parks.

While Eastern Yalanjiwarra will use this plan to manage all of their Country, stakeholders such as Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and partners will only use it in relation to areas of land for which they have responsibility for, alongside Eastern Yalanjiwarra.

This Plan has been developed by many Bama over many years.

It is intended to be a living document that focuses on strengthening our connection to our cultural landscape.

The Plan discusses our vision and goals as well as our strategies and actions that will help us work towards achieving our vision for "Bama Junkurrjiku Bunday Bubuku Bamanka, Kijaka, Jalunka, Banaka" (Eastern Yalanjiwarra stand strong for land, people, sea, moon and water).

We acknowledge our Elders and Cultural Heritage Officer Sheryl Burchill, Project Officer Shannon Burke for their tireless efforts in the development of this plan.

3. Madja Code of Practice

The Draft MADJA Code of Practice is a framework that promotes effective engagement with Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bama and sets out principles, rights and processes for consultation, negotiation and agreement making and protecting our intellectual property rights on Country.

We acknowledge Chrissy Grant, who developed the Code and consulted with elders and bama, and the TONC for developing the Madja Code of Practice.

4. Joint Management Implementation Framework (JMIF)

The JMIF is to support Bama working and managing National Parks by building our capacity to take on sole operational management through a step-by-step process.

The State and Jabalbina have agreed to assess and develop capacity to transfer responsibility for Fire Management as a first step towards our aims.

We acknowledge Stuart Cowell, Jabalbina Rangers and the TONC for their hard work and support in the development of this Framework.



CEO Kupa Teao & NTTR Manager Conrad Yeatman at the Jabalbina staff workshop in August this year.

QUOTES FROM TONC MEMBERS & OTHERS IN NEGOTIATION

"Thanks to Land Council for coming – you were saying you are pretty happy with how TONC is running and things – just sitting here thinking this is going to be our last meeting – if you see it's all ok – I'd like to see if you are going to give us guarantee – that you'll sign on the dotted line."

TONC Member Warren Kulka, 17/11/2020

"I see the (TONC) have come so far – all the struggle – almost there – I'd like to see you keep going until then – means a lot to our younger generation – our younger ones are the future – I'd like to see our younger ones have big celebration to say their elders fought hard – our national parks mean a lot to our old and young people – I'd like to pat you on the back – as a Director."

Jabalbina Director Maryanne Port, 17/11/2020

"Working with the elders – throughout the two years – has been good for myself, listening to what they are saying about bubu – that's a real big thing for all Eastern Yalanji. I also acknowledge the state [Department of Environment and Science] – thank you guys for working with us throughout the 2 years – for still being here for us – listening what we got to say and what we want. I am a quiet fella. Overall – turning up to meetings – learning a lot from them – always been talking – want next generation to step up and be part of team – I learned a lot. We're not far. Nearly at the end there. Big celebration. Just want to say thanks, Crag and team, Peter – thanks for turning up."

TONC Member Alister Gibson, 17/11/2020

"Look how far we've come – we've fought, cried – look at what we've got – we can pat ourselves on the back – four years of frustration – brainstorming – as long as we keep that together – our priorities when we come together – I thank all of you for being here – and helping us fight for this – ways of doing things – you never thought was possible or could be done – nobody thought we could get this far in so short a time – as I always say – 'we don't win wars, we win battles'."

TONC Member Alfie Diamond, 17/11/2020

"Our aspirations – really important – effective pathway to sole management – when we started – long term goal was sole management – we know we have to put some things in place – for that future – for too long for instance – EKY Bama have been left out of tourism. It's time for something to be done at a higher level. Madja code – on the way to putting a framework in place on how all government agencies engage within EKY Bama and their country.... got to keep being able to work through all these processes, documentation etc.... it's time for Bama to take the steering wheel for our own destiny." **TONC Member Chrissy Grant, 20/08/2020.**

"I sit on the committee here for my great grandmother's country Black Mountain. Used to do a lot of work on country before Jabalbina started. Worked for 50 years now would like to see something happening on the ground." **TONC Member Auntie Carol, 19/02/2019**

"Firstly, I endorse what Ross McCleod said about your achievement in negotiating a CYPAL agreement. But you're still not quite there and I guess what comes to my mind from the last couple of days, and especially seeing the ranger video, are two themes: 'consolidation' and 'communication'. Consolidation is about pulling together all the work you've done for the past three years, which is what you have been doing this week. Communication will be fundamental to getting to a final agreement endorsed by all the Kuku Yalanji people. Finally, I thank you for the opportunity of being involved with the TONC negotiating process over the past few years". **Anthropologist Peter Blackwood, 17/11/2020**

"We respect the work that the Traditional Owners Negotiations Committee have done – not wanting to replicate any of that – our role will be to make sure in that area we are responsible for that free prior and informed consent is achieved. Working with the TONC to get to that point – we can advise Traditional Owners and Native Title Owners holders – this agreement is something we commend you sign. It is a good deal getting land back and having parks transferred to National Park Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land. We all recognise it will put Traditional Owners in a better position. Matter of making sure the detail is right. And that's where we want to put some more effort in over next month or so."

CYLC Acting CEO Terry Piper, 17/11/2020

QUOTES FROM TONC MEMBERS & OTHERS IN NEGOTIATION



We are one –
Eastern Kuku Yalanji
– look how far we've
come...

We're seeing light at end of tunnel. A lot of our people – glad to see the light at the end of the tunnel. That's good. A lot of our people have gone. Passed away wondering when going to go back to country. And now, hopefully – their dreams will come true."

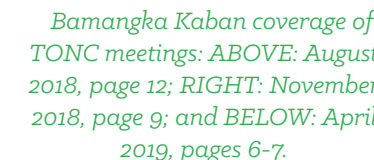
TONC Member Carol Pierce,
17/11/2020

"I want to thank everyone in the room – all part of this movie – we are all actors, superstars – everyone here connected one way or another – we're all looking in one direction for a better future." **TONC Member Colin Fischer, 17/11/2020**

"Good opportunity for me to come and see process – I've read a lot of the TONC reports and to see it first hand – very good – can see the passion you have for country and the desire to get it right – unfortunately we haven't been part of that process up until now – we do intend to work with you moving forward. It's been a good insight for Land Council to attend – I know we haven't been part of process last few years – we've seen a lot of documentation – shows along with past two years you've really put in a lot of work for these processes – we wish you all the best moving forward. Hopefully the NQLC can assist." **NQLC Legal Officer Graham O'Dell, 17/11/2020**

"(It) was a struggle for all of us – banding together as family not just clans that brought me through – especially times of struggle through illness – hierarchy respect within our community – should still remain. We want closure. Through unity. Because there are things you do not know because of our ancestors and our methods of passing down the knowledge. We are here on behalf of the young teaching those things. There are things untold when communication comes with you – when comes at high level – politics – we are grounded people. I want to know there is meaning in it – working together – get over what's been done in the past. Today is the change – let us see the change today. Closing what is in the past." **TONC Member Linda Burchill, 17/11/2020**

Jabalbina and TONC will continue to work with their legal representative, P&E Law lawyer Ryan Ellis, anthropologist Peter Blackwood, the Cape York and North Queensland Land Councils who will be invited to all our community and clan elders' meetings.



- Industry consultation regarding final tourism strategy
- Launch tourism advisory group
- Implement the Cultural Capability Project with tourism operators/industry
- Initiate Tour guide training for young Bama
- Develop interpretative stories for key sites
- Support partnerships with existing industry
- Construction and Launch of the Jabalbina Tourism Hub
- Support existing Yalanjiwarra Bama tourism businesses
- Establish a Bama Futures Fund for ongoing revenue
- Develop and propose other avenues of support for the development of a Bama tourism industry

[illegible]

The CYPAL project would like to acknowledge support from all our Jabalbinja staff and particularly all our rangers for their

Ranger Dawn Harrigan worked hard supporting TONC members living in remote communities with her assistance with travel to small meeting venues and her video conferencing support.



Ranger Report from John Dockrill : Pics by John Dockrill & Dawn Harrigan

Rangers had a slow start to the EKY fire year however we have finished with a spectacular array of cultural burns.

Our first burn at Cape Kimberley was a joint effort with Queensland Parks and Wildlife in light south easterly winds.

Headed up by QPWS Colt Pitt and Jabalbina Ranger Anthea Solomon, it was decided that burning from the ridge would allow for a very slow and low intensity burn which was exactly what happened as the fire line maintained stability and crept down the hill to meet the Coral Sea.

It was the first time we had administered the incendiaries by slingshot from the Jabalbina Ranger Vessel which was mastered by Jabalbina's Coxswain

Task Book Trainer, Roger Thomas.

The Cape Kimberley Joint burn was as close to textbook as we all could hope for.

It meant we were able to reduce the impact of fast-growing Wattles encroaching into our native grass species and threatening this fragile ecosystem.

Since then our rangers have conducted Cultural burns at Buru (China Camp) in mid-November, where there were some areas of fast-growing species (heavy fuel loads) that had not been burnt back for some time.

Our rangers' knowledge of Country and their careful

planning, right through to execution, ensured our fires did not jump across roads or end up where they were unwanted.

Well done to all for carrying out this extremely important work.

I would particularly like to acknowledge Vincent Tayley as our Cultural Fire Expert, for leading our rangers into most of our burns.

They are proven to reduce the threat of wildfire impacts to our Traditional Owner homelands which means they ensure new growth, a food source, and an environment necessary for our native wildlife species to thrive.



Jabalbina Vessel Master Roger Thomas has been instrumental to the development of our rangers' maritime skills, through his skilful mastering the Ranger Vessel.

Other partners including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Wavelength Reef Cruises continue to support Jabalbina's Rangers in training and skills development.

Ranger Anthea Solomon is close to completing her qualification, as is Nigel Minniecon, and we now have several rangers - Alister Gibson, Vincent Tayley, Charlie Ross-Kelly and Kallum Clarke – working towards completing their Coxswains Task Books.

They have also recently completed their Marine Radio Operators courses at Cairns TAFE.

We are looking forward to increasing our seamanship capabilities across our EKY Country.



A Ranger Seminar held recently at The Oaks in Port Douglas presented a glimpse into some of the work we have undertaken over the past year to our stakeholders.

Attendees included Queensland Trust for Nature, Rainforest 4 Foundation, the Department of Environment & Science, the Douglas Shire and local supporters who were offered a mere glimpse into the varied and essential work Jabalbina rangers perform across EKY Country.

The presentation included information about a number of our many and varied projects, from talking about how we have supported Wujal Wujal Shire Council in joint burns through to collaborating with our community stakeholders to deliver cultural camps for young people with the

development of our On Country Youth Justice Program.

It was a great turn out, showing the rangers the support they have out there while allowing for quality interaction and relations building.

Thanks to Kupa for creating this opportunity, we look forward to ongoing seminars in the new year.



Earlier this year I identified an opportunity to upskill our Jabalbina staff through Apprenticeship Network Provider, Registered Training Organisation, Group Training Organisation and Senior Vocational Trade College, the MRAEL Group.

MRAEL has funding on offer which will help us increase our organisational skills through 2021-2022, resulting in several of our staff undertaking training in everything from Certificate II in Conservation Land Management and

Coxswain certification through to a Diploma in Business Management.

Staff are excited to undertake this training and will meeting monthly to help each other out and achieve training success.



FACING PAGE: Rangers driving the vessel with precision; TOP LEFT: John Dockrill presenting to staff at the workshop in August; LEFT: Director of Great Barrier Reef Foundation Anna Marsden-Managing and work experience student Taleiha Kulka with Rangers Dawn & Vincent on a Wavelengths tour; BELOW: our crews ready to rock NAIDOC (see next page).



In summary, COVID has presented many challenges this year however our rangers continue to persevere and even build on their capacity to deliver a strong program with positive outcomes.

I'm grateful to all of them for their commitment, and especially our Ranger Resources Manager Dawn Harrigan for her supportive leadership skills.

I am sincerely grateful for everyone's efforts over the year despite some of the hardships we faced during COVID – yet we continued to implement and test our work practices while achieving our ranger goals for our People and our Country.

I hope and believe 2021 will be an amazing year of achievements for all our Jabalbina Rangers.



Always Was, Always Will Be.



Wujal Wujal



Mossman



**Always Was,
Always Will Be.**



May you have a
blessed, safe and
happy Christmas
& New Year with
your families.
God bless you all.

*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]



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2020 was a huge year but not in the way everyone anticipated Cultural Heritage Officer Sheryl Burchill writes...

The first half of the year – COVID-19
– it was like a ‘reset button’ was pushed
somewhere, and then the second half of the
year saw many of our staff chasing tails to
fulfil milestones and cross finish lines, while
trying to keep everyone happy and informed
about what was going on.

Here is hoping we can all take the time to
acknowledge and respect one another in
2021, and that we can love one another, take
time to listen and be patient.

We still have so much to do and we are all
trying our best for everyone, especially our
Elders.

In the meantime, please accept my heartfelt
Christmas wishes to all Jabalbina Board, CEO,
staff, members and families.

**ABOVE: the Yumba - pronounced Yoom-bah - (Wattle) has
many uses for Bama which include firewood, coals for cooking
damper, seeds for necklaces, leaves for Smoking Ceremonies and
timber for clapsticks, woomeras and digging sticks.*