



# Bamangka Kaban

"People's Paper"

# Moving forward together...



**A low-key celebration has marked the handing over of title deeds to six rainforest blocks, no strings attached, to Traditional Owners through the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation Land Trust – and, they say, there's more than 200 to come.**

The partnership between local not-for-profit foundation Rainforest 4, international forest conservation group HalfCut and Jabalbina has worked towards the buyback of the six blocks (plus two under contract)

over the past two years, reaching momentum to a point where they now say they expect to finalise a purchase every two months.

Jabalbina Chair Lynette Johnson said it was an 'awesome' day.

"It's been an awesome day, building and working with Rainforest 4 and HalfCut; we are looking forward to moving forward with strong foundations into the future," she said. [MORE ON P 18...](#)



**Firstly, I wanted to say a big thank you to Kupa for working with Jabalbina, with the organisation over these past two years, Jabalbina Chair Lynette Johnson writes ...**

# A word from the Chair ...



He's worked very closely with several of Jabalbina's activities, programs and projects, successfully pulling people together and overall helping to expand our operations which will ultimately lead to a better future for all of us.

We are very grateful to have a much-improved relationship with the Douglas Shire Council, which we hope will be evident in the lead-up to this year's Reconciliation Week activities in Mossman, which have been planned in partnership with their Liaison Officer Margaret Ross-Kelly.

See page 4 of this newsletter for more, and please make sure you check local guides for events which

will be co-hosted by the Council and Jabalbina.

In the meantime, we haven't yet started recruiting to replace the CEO position because we're working on a new direction that will involve a bit of restructuring and change.

I'm really excited about our future.

While we work on that, our team leaders will be working with the board to keep things moving forward.

This will be a step up for all of us, and I'm grateful to my colleagues for the skills and experience each of them brings to the table.

Each of us will pick a particular program or project we want to run

with as part of our 'portfolio', and essentially we will be working in a more collective management environment which, when you think about it, is really more our 'style' as People.

We've got a really good board at the moment, and I'm very confident we will continue to move forward as we make this transition.

I want to acknowledge all our staff for their hard work and commitment to what they do; we have exciting things ahead of us, as you will see as you read through this newsletter.

On a final note, the Board of Directors and I wish Kupa all the best in his future journey.

*RIGHT: Jabalbina Rangers, staff and Chair with Rainforest 4's founder Kelvin Davies, CEO Richard Christian and Conservation Program Manager Zia Flook, and Jimmy HalfCut on a day for celebrating their partnerships and successes at Block 157 on the Daintree Road.*

*MORE ON  
PAGES 18-20!*







# A word from the CEO ...

**My two years as CEO with Jabalbina has come and gone – and ‘wow’ – what an amazing journey and an absolute privilege, Kupa Teao writes...**

It's been an absolute privilege for me to work with Eastern Kuku Yalanji people, my staff and all the stakeholders who have worked productively with me, achieving business outcomes in a number of projects.

The organisation has grown over the past two years, from ‘small’ to ‘medium’, with close to 50 staff and the potential to keep growing to ‘large’.

We are already spread across an office in Cairns, two buildings in Mossman and our northern ranger stations in Ayton and Shipton's Flat.

We were bursting at the seams at our main office, and the office in Cairns was necessary for our On Country team to be strategically positioned.

We are on track to meet our milestones for this financial year for this project, which is amazing considering our first camp didn't

start until September 2020.

I'm incredibly proud of our entire staff; they've worked above and beyond, demonstrating incredible dedication to their roles.

That's definitely been a highlight of the past two years I've been here; another has been my work overseeing the Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land (CYPAL) negotiations.

We received that agreement in principle from the Queensland Government in November last year, after many months of negotiations with the Queensland Government.

Representing the Traditional Owners and Jabalbina – and for them to have that ultimate confidence in me to sit down and be their voice throughout that process – that has got to be the highlight of my entire career.

The CYPAL team and Queensland

Government representatives are now planning a roadshow to go as far south as Woorabinda, Mackay, Palm Island and Townsville, as well as north to Hope Vale and so forth, to update everyone in the lead up to what we hope now will be finalised by later this year.

I have also been very pleased with our level of engagement with Elders and Traditional Owners in our day to day work, especially with our Rangers.

We now, as a matter of practice, try to have a Traditional Owner with us every time we're on Country – including with our Rangers.

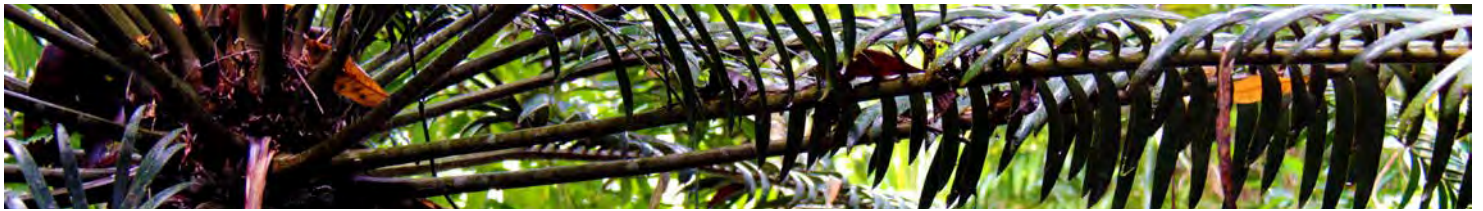
There are so many Traditional Owner Elders, who I will not attempt to name as I am certain I will miss someone, all of whom have been a pillar of support to me in my role, and a contributing factor to my successes as CEO.

*Continues...*

*RIGHT: A program of events has been organised by Douglas Indigenous Events Committee – who are Douglas Shire Council, Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation, Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku Aboriginal Corporation and Mossman Gorge Centre – for this year's Reconciliation Week, delivering a full and engaging program – see next page for details.*







Another of Jabalbina's successes is the extremely hard work we've done on grants over the past two years, gaining funds that have allowed ongoing delivery of services and our day-to-day operations of the organisation.

Some of my senior staff have been instrumental in our applications, for which I am extremely grateful.

I also want to acknowledge the ongoing support from local, state and federal governments,

our stakeholders, and our project partners – Jabalbina could only be in this position of success had it not been for their level of support and confidence in us.

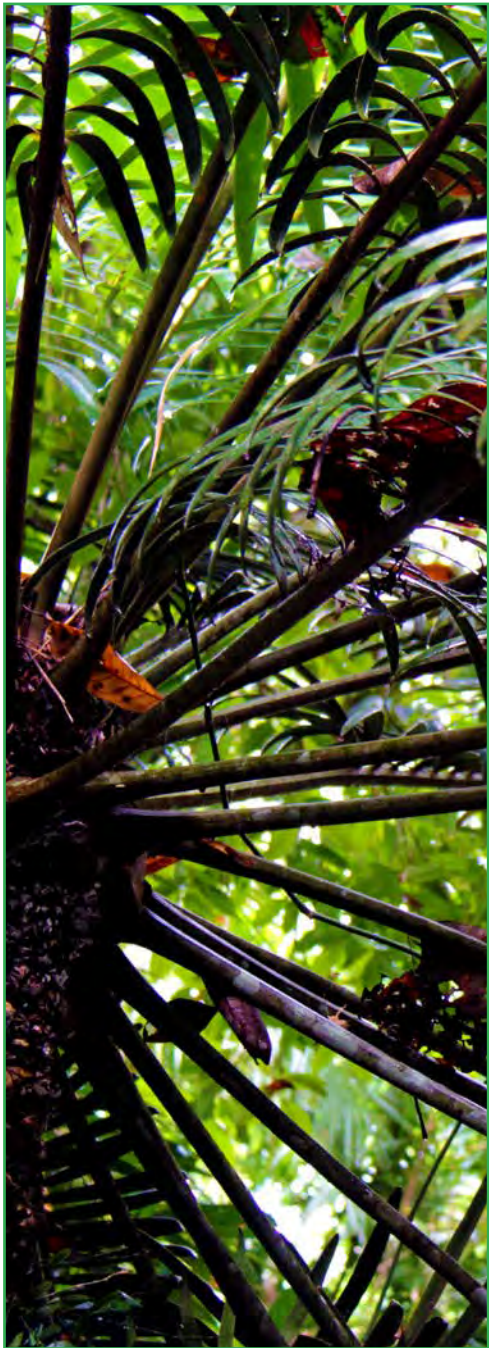
And last but not least, I wanted to mention the Douglas Shire Council, who have been instrumental in supporting us and allowing Jabalbina to come to their table with the NAIDOC, Reconciliation Week, and a number of other activities on their agenda over the year.

My last day will be in mid-May, and I fly to Western Australia to take up my new role as CEO for another Indigenous organisation.

Thank you Jabalbina for treating me like family, and your ongoing support for me as your CEO.

You have a bright and rewarding future ahead, that will be appreciated by Bama now and into the future.

Yalada.





## DOUGLAS SHIRE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK PROGRAM OF EVENTS 2021



National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

This year's National Reconciliation Week theme is *More Than A Word - Reconciliation Takes Action*.

Douglas Shire Council, Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation, Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku Aboriginal Corporation, Mossman Gorge Centre, and local organisations & businesses, have worked together to deliver an exciting, engaging and inclusive program of events and activities to celebrate this important week.

<b>DAY 1</b> <b>Thursday May 27</b> Opening ceremony at Douglas Shire Council, 9AM  Walk for Reconciliation, Mossman  Sea of Hands art installation, Mossman	<b>DAY 5</b> <b>Monday May 31</b> National Reconciliation Week Official Breakfast (invitation only)  Children's Storytime Mossman Library - celebrating Indigenous culture through storytelling, 10AM
<b>DAY 2</b> <b>Friday May 28</b> Reconciliation Community Day, Port Douglas, from 10AM  Colour Fun Run, Rex Smeal Park  Sea of Hands art installation and cultural celebrations	<b>DAY 6</b> <b>Tuesday June 1</b> Children's Cultural Playtime Port Douglas Neighbourhood centre - celebrating Indigenous culture through dance and language, 10AM  Netball Fast 5 Competition, Port Douglas Sports Complex, 4:30PM
<b>DAY 3</b> <b>Saturday, May 29</b> Rainforest Markets, Mossman Gorge Centre, 10AM - 2PM  Reconciliation Film Night, Port Douglas, from 4PM	<b>DAY 7</b> <b>Wednesday, June 2</b> <b>MABO DAY</b> Youth luncheon (enquire directly)  Ladies Luncheon (enquire directly)
<b>DAY 4</b> <b>Sunday, May 30</b> Reconciliation Church Service, Mossman	

**CONTACT DETAILS**  
 For further information on any NRW event listed please contact Margaret Ross-Kelly:  
[Margaret.Ross-Kelly@douglas.qld.gov.au](mailto:Margaret.Ross-Kelly@douglas.qld.gov.au) | 0467 806 459



20 years of Reconciliation Australia



**National Reconciliation Week 2021**  
 27 May - 3 June  
[nrw.reconciliation.org.au](http://nrw.reconciliation.org.au)  
 #MoreThanAWord #NRW2021

Supporting Partners





















# It's a 'yes' from us!



**Positive feedback on the Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land (CYPAL) tenure resolution project was the outcome of a Special General Meeting held in early March to present Jabalbina membership with some necessary rulebook changes to ensure finalisation of the project is legal, Native Title Tenure Resolution Officer Saisha Schonenberger says.**

“Traditional Owners Negotiation Committee (TONC), Traditional Owners (TOs) and key stakeholders are working towards identifying a hand-back date, expected to be later this year,” she said.

“A CYPAL road trip taking in several northern centres as well as Yarrabah, Palm Island, Townsville, Mackay and Woorabinda is also being planned for mid-year.

“The involvement and support from P&E Law, Ryan Ellis, Anthropologist Peter Blackwood

and the Cape York and North Queensland Land Councils has been critical, given the complexity of the ILUA area and the large population of TOs.

“The CYPAL team continues their efforts to ensure that all persons who hold or may hold native title or assert an interest in the four national parks, which are the subject of this negotiation, are being identified and are consulted in the making of an ILUA agreement.

“Jabalbina continues to take every

opportunity to present information about the CYPAL negotiation, both on and off Country, to TOs and key stakeholders.”

She said they had continued to receive positive feedback about the CYPAL process from everyone concerned.

**For more information, or to arrange a group or one-on-one presentation, please don't hesitate to contact Saisha at Jabalbina on 4098 3552.**







## Our Rangers have enjoyed a busy wet season so far as you are about to see, Manager John Dockrill writes ...

We have expanded our activities into new and exciting areas, such as our involvement in the On Country program, and we have several new trainees on board.

They are Kim Missionary, Jason Peterson, Sheryl Missionary and Levi Flinders, and we're happy to welcome them on board.

Ranger Kim has joined our Mossman Base, Ranger Jason and Ranger Sheryl are attached to Ayton, while Ranger Levi is working up at Shipton's Flat.

Congratulations are in order for Rangers Vincent Tayley and Nigel Minniecon (pictured right) for achieving their Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) Compliance Officer qualifications, which means a big step up for us in terms of being able to project our jalun (sea Country) in particular.



ABOVE: At Level 1 Croc Training in March with QPWS trainers Ashley, Daniel and Kristy, were Rangers Calum Clarke, Anthea Solomon, Dawn Harrigan, Alister Gibson, Kim Missionary, Levi Flinders, Sheryl Missionary, Angus McConnaghy, Nigel Minniecon & Clayton Doughboy

LEFT: Ranger Manager John Dockrill



LEFT: Earlier this year Yintjingga Rangers came to visit us from Lama Lama Country on Cape York to discuss the suitability of the Jabalbina Sea Ranger Vessel for their work. They had a good look at our design and what the boat can do. We were happy to 'be onboard' to share our ideas and offer our support. We are looking forward to a Ranger exchange in the near future.





Sea Country Patrols: Jabalbina Chair Lyn Johnson and Cultural Heritage Officer Sheryl Burchill with Rangers Gerard Kulka, Anthea Solomon and Nigel Minniecon were on deck waiting for the Daintree River ferry to cross as they enjoyed a Sea Country patrol up to Wawu Dimbi and around Snapper Island in March this year. "It was an amazing day of sharing," Manager John Dockrill said. With Ranger Coordinator Assets and Vessel Master Roger Thomas at the helm, each of our Rangers are rotated through driving and deckhand duties to ensure continued learning and development. Our team is keen to welcome more of our TO's on board, and they head out every Wednesday. Seats are limited, but please contact us if you want to come out on a Patrol for the day.



LEFT & BELOW: Daintree National Park is Growing: Allira Alvoen (IPA and Ranger Administration) joins Zac from QPWS Roger and John on a site incursion inspection, surveying Lot 330 with QPWS.

"It is important that we survey the entire block for any incursions before including them into our Daintree National Park, this is a pristine block with small blue-eyed fish and platypus identified in the creeks," they said.



ABOVE & LEFT: It was all Ranger hands on deck for this year's Harmony Day (31 March) at the Mossman State School as part of our outreaching activities into our local communities. There is much to be gained from listening and learning.





Biosecurity: LEFT: Ropes pose a biosecurity risk to our Country because they can transport marine wildlife and micro organisms that threaten our coast and delicate marine ecosystems. Rangers Nigel and Charlie are recording this on our biosecurity app. Rangers have also been working to find black scar oysters and are on constant lookout for this invasive species that is fast encroaching on our local waterways.

New Kubota for Ayton Base: RIGHT: A successful variation by Ranger Manager John Dockrill, through QILSRP Peter Barker, led to the purchase of this much needed resource. The Kubota allows better, low impact beach access, which means Rangers can conduct clean-ups and coastal surveillance. It also has enough room for our Elders to join us in getting to harder to access locations on Country. It is road registered – if you see us out and about, flag us down and come for a spin with us out on Country. Left to Right are Rangers Charlie Ross-Kelly, John Dockrill, Alister Gibson, Gerard Kulka and Nigel Minniecon.



BOTTOM LEFT: Ayton crew ready to go! BOTTOM RIGHT: IPA Manager Jeff Arneth and Ranger Resources Dawn Harrigan ready to deliver the new four-seat Kubota.



On Country Recording of Elder Stories: ABOVE: Rangers, IPA and Cultural Heritage work together to actively record important Elder stories. If you have important family history to share and record for your future generations, please reach out to us so we can ensure we keep Culture strong through safekeeping these recordings on the EKYCIMS.



Parley Clean Up, Wonga Beach: Jabalbina Rangers and office staff worked with Parley for the Oceans to clean up Wonga Beach in February this year.



Fire Workshop 2021: was held at Wujal Wujal Library and the JCU Observatory allowing for some planning and fire preparation for early burns. Uncle Billy Harrigan gave us some guidance on fire work while Ranger Vincent Tayley took the lead for negotiating fire work on Country and how it needs to be done Bama way. There may be other fires TO's wish to happen, please make contact with the Rangers so we can discuss and make plans for all our burning. In the picture is Marine Parks Kurt, Billy Harrigan, Ranger Assetts and Vessel Master Roger Thomas, Vincent Tayley, Calvin Olbar, Colt, Zac & Ruby Winkle

Government Investigation Training undertaken on Horn Island through Torres Strait Regional Authority: Jabalbina Ranger Manager John Dockrill was invited to this important training to upskill and further develop Jabalbina Compliance on EKY Country. This was a very well delivered program through Paul Cochran & Co, which included a practice run on a major scenario on Horn Island relating to possible illegal fishing and sales, ending in a moot court on Thursday Island. All attendees were given additional task books and assessments to complete. "Thanks and a big shout out to the TSRA for the invite and place and to Andrew Bates for his recommendation and help," he said. "As a direct result of this kind of work, Rangers hope to be able to gather the evidence required to have trespassers charged for entering sacred sites. There will be more to come on this front as we develop more Rangers to assist with protecting our Country."







## More than 50 Indigenous women Rangers from across Queensland gathered in Palm Cove in late April for a day of networking, empowerment and learning at the first Queensland Indigenous Women's Ranger Network (QIWRN) event for 2021.

Jabalbina Ranger Dawn Harrigan said it was always good to network with her peers.

"Catching up with my fellow women Rangers is the best," she said.

QIWRN was established in 2018 to provide a forum for women Rangers to share their experiences, ideas and information; and enable connections in remote and isolated communities.

Network Director Larissa Hale said the network gave women Rangers a voice and helped them develop more confidence in the workplace and at home.

"As a result of QIWRN, I've witnessed the ladies go from

strength to strength, taking more leading roles in their ranger teams and communities," she said.

"We have women from all over the state, working for Indigenous ranger groups and government bodies such as Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, and together they really bring out each other's strengths."

Network member Chantel Van Wamelen travelled from the Fraser Coast to attend the workshop and said being part of the group was worthwhile for her both personally and professionally.

"I've been with QIWRN since 2019

and have developed some great friendships. It's like being part of a sisterhood," she said.

"We all keep in regular contact in relation to work, sharing advice and giving support. QIWRN has helped me grow as a leader and supported me both professionally and personally as a mother, helping develop a better work-life balance."

As well as reconnecting with friends, conference attendees brushed up their media skills with Kirsty Nancarrow from Regional Media Training, explored their strengths and weaknesses and learnt about personal development with mentor James Fa'aoso and enjoyed team building with John Carr from Coach Central.

QIWRN is delivered by Yuku Baja Muliku Landowner and Reserves, a Cooktown-based Traditional Owner group who were the successful recipients of a joint Queensland Government and WWF Australia grant to establish a statewide women's land and sea ranger network.

QIWRN has been co-designed by Indigenous women, government and non-government agencies, land councils and other stakeholders as a highly collaborative program that delivers lasting support, opportunities and security for Indigenous women Rangers across Queensland.



LEFT: Dawn Harrigan, James Fa'aoso & Chantel Van Wamelen, Palm Cove, 22 April 2021



# Finding strength and Culture 'On Country'



**Jabalbina's On Country youth justice program has sparked unprecedented growth in our organisation, triggering an expansion not only in staff numbers but in skills and expertise across a wide range of areas from food handling to cultural awareness, CEO Kupa Teao says.**

"I'm incredibly proud of our On Country team; they've worked above and beyond," he said.

Manager James Kerr said the program was designed to address the over-representation of our young people in the youth justice system.

"Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders need to take the lead in service delivery to these young people," he said.

"Specifically, the program seeks to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are in the youth justice system get culturally appropriate supervision to help turn their lives around and end reoffending.

He said over the duration of the On Country program, it was anticipated the child or young person would have established the concept of possessing a

'Cultural Passport' which holds their identification of who they are, where they come from and what tribal lands they call Country.

"The Cultural Passport is built internally within them to carry and continue to build upon as they learn more about their cultural heritage as they grow and develop," he said.

"The Passport will help them have self-confidence and identify more with their Culture, having sureness when travelling and meeting other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous people."

He said the program was also about sustaining strong cultural identities, with a key component of Social and Emotional Wellbeing.

*Continues...*

## **Staff Training & Workshops since October 2020:**

- Staff Induction Workshop
- Service Record System Training
- Staff 'Ideas' Workshop
- Government Contract Management, Performance Reporting and Payments Training
- Traditional Owners' Elders Workshop
- First Aid Training
- Induction and Cultural Awareness Workshop
- Food Handlers Training
- Low Ropes and Group Initiatives Training
- Cultural Responsive Practice Workshop
- Supervisor/Management Training
- Group Development & Facilitation Training





“Here, an identity can be cultivated and maintained through participating in cultural events and developing a connection to family, community and traditional lands,” James said. “The strengthening of Culture serves to build resilience and positive coping mechanisms facilitating life balance and protecting against adverse life experiences including the impact of history in trauma and loss.

“This means things like working out effective responses to stigma, discrimination and the ongoing impacts of colonisation.

“Identifying and engaging in Indigenous Cultures has been linked with enhanced self-assessed health, improved educational and employment outcomes, and greater life satisfaction.”

He said the On Country program offered pre- and post-camp cultural connection activities, including On Country Cultural Healing Camps within the Cairns and Mossman region.

“We have had six On Country Cultural Healing Camps for 35 young people to date at Wawu Dimbi,” he said.

“Before the camps, our Cultural Mentors work with the young people and their families in an ongoing way.”

Mentor Alex Friday said they worked to support the young person and their family.

“We invite them to practice their Culture as dance, song, art, spear-making or simply sitting at a regular yarning circle,” he said.

“When we take the young people out on Country to connect with Bubu at our sites of significance, local Elders and cultural knowledge holders teach the young people and their families language, bush tucker and medicines, stories and more.

“We can also take the young people on activities such as visiting Sugar World, Dreamtime Tours or the Daintree National Park.”

James said referrals to the On Country program came directly from the Department of Youth Justice in Cairns as part of a coordinated information sharing process to ensure the complex needs of children and young people were identified, and the child or young person was willing to participate in the cultural healing camps.

## On Country priority levels are:

**Priority One:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 10-17 years with high or very high risk assessment rating (complex needs) referred by the Youth Justice Service Centre (YJSC) staff;

**Priority Two:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged 10-17 years with high or very high risk of reoffending referred by community, families, Queensland Police Service and courts; and,

**Priority Three:** If the target cohort is exhausted, then other young people can be included if a need is demonstrated, and by negotiation with the contract manager.

**For more information about the On Country Cultural Healing Camps, please contact On Country Manager James Kerr on 0477 967 723.**





# Boys' Camps

**Jabalbina's On Country program has proved to be hard, but rewarding, Boy's Camp Team Leader Jon (Kieran) Ryan says.**

"It's hard at times, not at all times, but it is rewarding," he said.

"You really feel for the kids, just getting to know them and how they're struggling with just life itself.

"A lot of people forget that, they see 'naughty little kids'; they forget that doesn't mean the kids are happy doing what they're doing.

"No kid acts up just because they can; there are reasons behind it. They don't want to be naughty, they want to be part of everything and make a go of their lives.

"A lot of them don't have family support, and they're disconnected from their Culture – we take this chance to get them involved in the Culture that's here and try to give them that spark again, so they want to know, understand and learn their own Culture.

"They don't get to go camping or fishing, or they don't have anyone to teach them how to throw a spear or go drag netting, all those types of things, so that's what we're doing on these camps."

*More next page...*



## Our On Country Staff

### Change of positions

- James Kerr – On Country Manager – James will focus on the day-to-day management of the program in Cairns/Mossman and oversee staffing in Mossman & Cairns. James will work with all stakeholders to ensure effective delivery of the On Country program and the authenticity of the program remains intact.
- Charmaine Yeatman – Jackson – Cultural Coordinator – Charmaine will focus on the Cultural aspects of the camps and the engagement of Traditional Owners on Yalanji Country. Charmaine will work with the Traditional Owners to ensure cultural norms and protocols are adhered to and that the cultural healing camps are consulted with Elders of the community and Traditional Owners.

### New Staff

- Alex Friday – Boys Cultural Mentor – Cairns base
- Nicki Marles – Admin – Works across both locations
- Girls Camp Crew Team Leader – Julie Williams – based in Mossman
- Boys Camp Crew Team Leader – Jon (Kieran) Ryan – based in Mossman
- Boys Camp Crew & Activities Officer – Jonah Wallace – based in Cairns
- Jalun Williams – based in Mossman



# Boys' Camps

**Jon said some of the activities the boys have done included:**

- The last two boys camps locations were held at Wawu Dimbi.
- The boys camps have had Ayton Rangers supporting throughout the camps.
- Jalun Williams held a spear making activity at Kabakada (Cow Bay) and with the Ayton Rangers assisting at Dubuji (Myall Beach).
- Kuku Yalanji Cultural Habitat Tours gave a tour with Kubirri-warra guides Linc and Brandon Walker @ Kuyu Kuyu (Cooya Beach).
- Nick Bohm (host and owner) of Daintree Crocodile Tours gave 'in-kind' contribution with a tour of Julay (Daintree River).
- Elder Roy Gibson held a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, Manjal Dimbi (Mossman Gorge).
- Richard Burchill was our Julaymba emerging elder throughout both of the camps.
- We travelled down the Mossman River on tyre tubes with the participants, starting just below Silky Oaks and finishing at Foxtan Bridge.

"It's all based around healing," he said. "Being out 'On Country', being about Culture and helping the environment. "The Ayton Rangers have really come through strongly in their support for these kids and have engaged in a really positive way.

"I'd also like to thank Richard Burchill for coming on board as well; his presence has been really huge and effective.

"Another person who has made a difference has been Jalun Williams, who held a spear-making activity the kids loved.

"They worked from the grass roots of actually making a spear to using it to catch dinner – it was just great."





# Girls' Camps

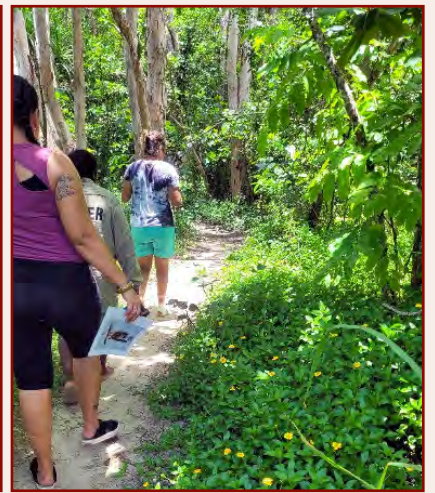
**The On Country program has facilitated only one girls camp; however, this camp was a prelude to the exciting things to come, Girl's Camp Team Leader Julie Williams says.**

"On the previous camps held at Wawu Dimbi in February, girls were welcomed to Country by Traditional Owner Karen Shuan," she said.

"They got to do some exciting activities during their stay, and the entire camp crew worked hard to make sure safety, learning and fun were paramount."

Some of the activities held during the camp were:

- Youth Justice staff Simone Stacy delivered her music program, which allowed the kids to express themselves and their identity through composing and recording a song.
- Cultural presentation was given by Julie Williams, who engaged the girls in a group discussion about connecting to Wawu/Spirit. The afternoon was then spent collecting driftwood at the beach for an activity that involved creating a driftwood mobile, all the while having a discussion about identifying their strengths and how these strengths have helped them up until now, and how they will continue to use these strengths to achieve their goals.
- Jabalbina Rangers Dawn Harrigan and Anthea Solomon were involved in the entire camp giving assistance with transport and supervision. They also assisted with the planting of native seeds and seedlings at the rainforest rescue nursery at Diwan, Cape Tribulation. A cool tropical fruit ice-cream and swimming at the creek, where the girls enjoyed painting each other and staff with river ochre, ended the day.
- Hair braiding with Iseta opened a nice space to talk about self-care.
- The food was plentiful and very tasty, the girls were also happy to show off their scone making skills and where and who they had learnt them from.





# Girls' Camps

**Julie said a second camp to be held in May was in place and ready to go.**

"The important welcome to Country will be done by Elder Roslyn Port," she said.

She said some of the activities planned for the camp include:

- a visit to the Daintree Discovery Centre where we will get some inspiration from the Madja/Rainforest. The girls will then create a canvas painting with help from Victoria, our arty camp crew member. The art created will be taken back to the Discovery Centre where we will set up a small art exhibition.
- a day with traditional owner Maryann Port to visit Tranquility Falls and on the



low tide explore looking for freshwater mussel

- a Yarning Circle with Traditional Owners and Elders
- a trip on the Daintree River in the Rangers' boat with the Sea Rangers looking at the river's wildlife.
- a self-care activity where we

will create bath products that are safe to use in the creek with ingredients you can find at home, then of course going to the creek to use them.

She said they were looking forward to Jabalbina Rangers Dawn Harrigan and Anthea Solomon joining them.



*On Country Crew & participants within a night Yarning Circle @ Wawu Dimbi*





# Cattle GRID ahead

**Jabalbina's tireless efforts to act on the wishes of Elders have been realised in the form of a new cattle grid on Shipton's Flat Road, Indigenous Protected Area Manager Jeff Arneth says.**

"The grid is situated on Kuku Nyungkul Bubu between our good neighbours, the Roberts' brothers' grazing lease (Monkhouse Timber Reserve) and Eastern Kuku Yalanji Pink Zone," he said.

"It was built to Transport Main Roads standard and was installed by Bubu Excavations (they will make the earth move for you!)"

"This project involved support from a range of stakeholders including Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Mines and Energy and Cook Shire Council, with the key drivers being the Nyungkul Elders committee.

"Along with the grid contractors, local Bama and the Jabalbina Rangers completed a 3.2km section of fence line from the Collingwood Mine site to the Annan River.

"A big thank you to everyone involved."





# Sharing our heritage culturally



**Jabalbina's Cultural Heritage work in Cross Cultural Awareness and recording Elders' traditional stories is in the hands of a new team working under Cultural Heritage Officer Sheryl Burchill.**

Sheryl has been joined by Cultural Heritage Team Leader Raymond Lafragua and Practitioners Pamela Salt, Karen Shuan and Jarrod Kulka to work on Cross Cultural Awareness delivery across the board.

"We've already delivered to Douglas Shire Council's 237 staff," Raymond said.

"We've got a list of other government departments who are interested in picking up our training, along with several smaller organisations.

"Word is getting around.

"We've got a small group at Cape Tribulation, an artists' group who are non-Indigenous and not-for-profit, and they've asked for some training.

"So, it's a good thing because where people lack knowledge, even our own people, we can fill the gap.

"We're hoping to change the

Culture of thinking in our community with this training."

He said they were working for acceptance of Indigenous knowledge and Culture across the Shire.

"We don't just talk about Kuku Yalanji Culture, we give an overall picture of how our people used to live through to colonisation, slavery, the taking of our land and

the massacres, and through to the present day," he said.

"For now Cultural Awareness training is a two-hour session, we hope to build on that.

"We find that we're adding more and more onto it, because there's so much history of Indigenous Australia that people don't know, and they do want to know."





## Elders and Traditional Owners will professionally record and protect Yalanji knowledge of healthy bana (water) management thanks to some new grant funding from the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

Cultural Heritage Officer Sheryl Burchill said the Jabalbina Eastern Yalanjiwarra Healthy Water Recording Project would include recording the key values – cultural, natural, social and economic – associated with bana as well as traditional management practices and lore.

“The videos and recordings produced as part of this project will be used to support Traditional Owner led healthy bana management actions now and into the future,” she said.

“With these funds, we can support Traditional Owners in planning and recording how they wish to care for their bana resources and provide support for activities that lead to

better leadership and supported on-ground management around bana and bana resources.

“We will also be able to identify, conserve, manage and promote our Cultural Heritage values, to secure and keep this knowledge strong for current and future generations.”

She said they had responsibility for the many waterways – fresh and salt – on Country.

“Our waterways are currently managed according to our Indigenous Protected Area plans, developed by our Traditional Owners,” she said.

“The management of our Sea Country is developing and will be strengthened by our Sea Country Plan, currently under development.

“A key priority was to establish a recording program to protect Yalanji Caring for Country knowledge and pass this on to future generations.

“Professionally recording Elders talking about the values of bana and bana management is one of the most important priorities for Jabalbina as there is limited time and Elders left.

“Recording our bana management knowledge and using the recordings to pass on the knowledge now and in the future will help us to keep our bana nyunjunka (healthy) and our Bama strong.”

Sheryl said they wanted to thank Project Coordinator Shannon Burke for her work on getting this project off the ground.

### The Jabalbina Eastern Yalanjiwarra Healthy Water Recording Project will include:

- visiting priority waterways with Elders, Rangers and young Bama and professionally recording them talking about water values
- mapping priority waterways within our Country to store on our database to be shared with Bama
- creating professional film content to guide Yalanji Bama now and in the future on how to properly look after land/sea Country
- producing and launching a publicly available marketing video to share our healthy bana knowledge with the public (only information endorsed to be shared)
- initiating learning opportunities between Rangers and Traditional Owners to strengthen the Jabalbina Rangers, sea Country management and cultural heritage management programs
- training our Rangers and staff in professional filming, recording and editing so we can continue this important recording work into the future
- discussing the results of the project with clan governance committees during IPA meetings to guide bana management in the future.







**We worked hard and long, and then there was ...**



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The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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Everyone who was there on the day – JYAC rangers, staff and chair, Rainforest 4 founder and staff, Jimmy Hall/Cut, donors and donor representatives and volunteer tree planters.

## True partnership enables return of Daintree blocks

By CHRISTINE HOWES

A LOW-key celebration last week marked the handing over of title deeds to six rainforest blocks, no strings attached, to a local traditional owner land trust in the midst of the Daintree, north of Cairns. And, they say, there's more than 200 blocks to come. A partnership between not-for-profit foundation Rainforest 4 (rainforest.org.au), international forest conservation group Hall/Cut (hallcut.org.au) and Jababina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (JYAC) has worked towards the buyback of the six blocks (plus two under contract) over the past two years, reaching momentum to a point where they now say they expect to finalise a purchase every two months.

JYAC chair Lynette Johnson said it was an "awesome" day. "Building and working with Rainforest 4 and Hall/Cut, we are looking forward to moving forward future," she said.

"Once these are finalised, by early June, it will be full steam ahead to do training for our Bama (people) who are interested in tourism and business."

"Then, as other properties are handed back, we will be seeing if our Bama would like to move back onto Country here."

Kuku Yalanji traditional owner Amelia Ryan said it was an exciting project.

"It was very meaningful, purposeful and wonderful to see the togetherness between the groups," she said. "It's a very special and significant moment for the future, for everybody to benefit, young, old and in-between, and especially for us as traditional owners on this Country we're on."

Rainforest 4 founder Kelvin Davies said he had been working towards this for more than 20 years.

**Celebration**

"I've learned a lot," he said. "Today we are celebrating the partnership, because we've done this together."

Rainforest 4 chief executive Richard Christian said there were 200 or so properties on the market across the region.

"It's probably about 204 now, that we need to buy back and get into the hands of traditional owners," he said. "We've still got a lot of work to do."

Hall/Cut co-founder James Stanton-Cook, known as 'Jimmy Hall/Cut', said they believed the path they had taken was "the only way forward".

"We can achieve incredible outcomes together for traditional owners, for the Daintree," he said. "I mean, this is the way forward, this is people wanting to be connected and feeling hungry for it."

"So we've brought on really fair dinkum ethical corporates who actually need to lead this, or smaller businesses who want to not only experience this but genuinely give back – this is their way of making a fair dinkum difference, and let's use this blueprint and replicate it."

"Individual, corporate, personal, just doing their bit, contributing their part."

Mr Davies said handing back the title deeds was an important part of their ethos.

"We don't hold the title deeds and say, 'We'll let you do things on our land to traditional owners,'" he said.

"These are properties that are for sale, and we've been buying them to prevent development."

"We don't want to see more and more houses built here, which would harm the rainforest."

"I've been doing this work since 1999, to identify land in North of the Daintree River that should be kept for nature conservation."

"We came to agreement with the traditional owners that this would be a good thing to do together, and today we have celebrated our partnership."

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**... the day we celebrated!**

