



# Bamangka Kaban

"People's Paper"

*Making progress*

*On Country*



**I want to really acknowledge the hard work all Jabalbina staff have put in towards our CYPAL sign-off coming up at the end of this month in Wujal Wujal, chair Lyn Johnson writes...**

# **A word from the Chair Lyn Johnson**

They've worked enormous amounts of time and put in a huge amount of energy for this very positive outcome.

So I want to say a big heartfelt thanks from me as a chairperson. Conrad and his team, Saisha and Alexis, have done an enormous job with meetings, going from as far as Cooktown and Wujal Wujal to as far down south as Townsville and Mackay.

They couldn't get to Cherbourg or Woorabinda because of the COVID restrictions.

I also have to say thank you to the Traditional Owners Negotiating Committee themselves for all the hard work they've put into the CYPAL process.

For all our teams, our rangers and everybody involved throughout the year, I just want to say a big heartfelt thank you because they've been the forefront of everything.

And we all know our rangers aren't just rangers.

They look after our cemeteries and funerals, they've looked after NAIDOC this year and they've done overtime in effort, even while they're doing their training.

We have a few people who have stepped up into team leader roles within Jabalbina itself, including Josh Paterson who has taken up the new role of General Manager.

I'd like to offer him a big welcome, he brings a great level of knowledge, not just from

government, but from growing up in Wujal Wujal and being known as 'family' there.

I'd also like to thank Kellie, our administration officer and receptionist for all the work she does to make us look good and for making sure everything is in place for us.

She's constantly on the phone!

It's been a most hectic time, particularly over the past six months, and in amongst it all we've had Rainforest 4 Foundation and HalfCut also doing a fantastic job at what they clearly do best.

They've raised an enormous amount of money, they're about to look into buying their 16th block, I believe.

**In June Jabalbina staff and directors attended the Wet Tropics Management Authority's 18th Cassowary Awards, which recognise and celebrate exceptional contributions to the conservation and preservation of the Wet Tropics' World Heritage Area.**





We expect more handovers by the end of this month. And we all know we're doing great work because we are getting recognition by winning not one, but two Reconciliation Awards and nomination for a Wet Tropics Management Authority's much-coveted Cassowary Award, which would have been our second!

Finally I'd also like to acknowledge the Board for working so hard this year.

We are all looking forward to seeing the results of all of the hard work we have done together as a Board along with our amazing staff and teams.

As we might take the time to reflect on, and be grateful for what we have achieved over these past few years, now is the time to look forward to a different but exciting future for us all.

It's the long term view we have for our long term goals and aspirations for our families and our mobs.

We have much to be grateful for and we have much to look forward to.

*Lyn*

Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation, Rainforest 4 Foundation, with HalfCut buy back partnership, along with our own Saisha Schonenberger were finalists for the Thorsborne Award for Community Conservation and Rehabilitation, and the People-Country-Culture awards this year.

WTMA former-Chair Leslie Shirreffs said the Awards was a night to gather and pay tribute to champions of the Wet Tropics.

**Huge congratulations to Saisha, we are proud of the work you have done and you are a winner in our eyes!**

"Choosing the 10 winners from the 40 nominees was no easy task as each of the nominees are valued and important members of the Wet Tropics community," she said.

"Many of these people have dedicated years and even decades to ensuring the Area thrives for generations to come."

Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation Rangers, based in Mossman, Ayton and Shiptons Flat near Rossville, received a Cassowary award in 2016.

# Welcome to Jabalbina Josh!

**In June 2021, we welcomed new General Manager, Josh Paterson to the team.**

Josh has hit the ground running and has already been working hard.

Many of our Traditional Owners know Josh, as he grew up on Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bubu as a child and has made many connections with Yalanjiwarra.

He has had an impressive career in the not-for-profit sector and senior management roles within the Australian Government for more than 15 years.

Upon accepting the General Manager role, he said that working in this new role for Jabalbina was his greatest honour.

"Yalada everyone," he said.

"It is a great honour and a homecoming for me to accept the offer of General Manager for the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation.

"I understand that with this job comes with great responsibility and hard work, however I am well prepared for this role and I feel privileged to have been offered the opportunity.

"I believe that together with all EKY Bama, Jabalbina are about to see significant steps forward regarding employment, economic opportunities, and the protection of Culture and Land management.

"This is an important and exciting time for me to be getting involved, I look forward to what the future holds."

**See next page for Josh's first 'Word'!**

## INSIDE

- **Tourism Hub ready to go**
- **Making progress 'On Country'**
- **CYPAL/TONC negotiations set to conclude**
- **Ranger News**

# A word from General Manager Josh Paterson

**I've been here for four months now and I'm witnessing the transition from Jabalbina to being an organisation that fundamentally is funded by government to delivering our own activities on EKY Traditional Owners' country, Jabalbina General Manager Josh Paterson writes...**



We are growing quickly and we are taking on new areas of responsibility.

On the 28th and 29th September this year we will complete the Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land (CYPAL) negotiations, and see the hand back of four national parks which will be jointly managed through an Indigenous Management Agreement (IMA).

That will be a five-year process of transition and, over a period of time, we will become the sole managers of those four National Parks.

That's a huge change for Jabalbina, probably tripling the land mass we currently manage, and with that will come increased funding and increased responsibility.

And we're doing it not just on behalf of the Traditional Owners, a national park by the very nature of the park itself is something that's for the whole of Australia - we're managing it for all Australians, and in the context of the World Heritage Area, the world.

It's a huge step up, but Bama have been doing and managing these lands for thousands of years.

It's nothing new to Bama, but it's certainly something new to Jabalbina.

Our organisation will need to grow and need to build capacity.

We have to fight to make sure we position ourselves to clearly demonstrate we are serious about what we are doing.

We need to be able to work in a way that is not only equal to what National Parks have been delivering, but an improvement.

We have to do that to demonstrate that to the world and to Australia, that this Bama organisation can do it and that is the expectation of our membership, our Bama.

The work we are doing now is changing the nature of who we are - we are moving from being reliant on grants to actually having a line of fixed funding into the future.

So we're setting up Jabalbina to be here not just as a Native Title Prescribed Body Corporate, but for the long term, particularly with our Tourism Hub, which is our other big project.

And we're doing a lot of other great things.

We're developing really strong relationships with conservation partners such as Rainforest 4, HalfCut, Rainforest Rescue and Queensland Fund For Nature, and that's seeing us involved in a lot of regeneration, and the buy back of high end, high quality conservation properties in the Daintree, all of

which is about maintaining Bama's role in managing their land for forever.

And that's our core.

We're also involved in developing a microgrid over Cape Tribulation, Buru and Wujal Wujal.

We're engaging with kids at risk and kids in the criminal justice areas who have been engaged in corrections in one way or another.

Jabalbina is a good organisation.

It's a strong organisation.

It has really capable staff.

I am amazed by the resources and the talent, especially of the junior managers, who are, as I see them, an untapped and under-utilised resource.

We are going to do great things with them.

When I grew up there was a dearth of talented, educated Bama, but these days there is so much talent to pick and choose.

People are educated, they're intelligent, they are hard working and they have a passion.

It's a tough place to work because you have a lot of pressure from your family and your community, but they are achieving great things and I'm very happy to be on board and be a part of that.

*Josh*



## Jabalbina's new General Manager Josh Paterson was born in Cairns but grew up in Ayton and Wujal Wujal.

He has worked across a wide range of fields in his working life, including a somewhat challenging three-year stint as a power pole inspector for Ergon.

"That was pretty physical and hard work," he said.

"I've had a long career including working in government at different levels in federal government, in employment and

education and in Indigenous affairs right up to Prime Minister and Cabinet.

"But I would say that the most rewarding and challenging role I've ever had is the one I'm in right now.

"I think it may have been my calling to come here and work with the people I grew up with – it's always been a passion of mine.

"I looked at this role and I could see there is a lot of work to do in this growing organisation – a lot of capacity building – but I also know that's something I have great skill in – managing people and getting the best out of a team."

He said he hopes to build a positive and cohesive organisation that feels like it's owned by all EKY Bama.



*Skipper-Assets Manager Roger Thomas (left) was born in Nambour and grew up in south east Queensland. He has worked for Queensland Rail, Mount Isa Mines and Cairns City Council, and as a commercial cray diver and earth mover. He has also been a 'decky' and dive instructor for Quicksilver before getting a start at Jabalbina because of his Skipper's Ticket. "I really really enjoy working here because of the variety of jobs, great people and the amazing country Jabalbina has the huge task of looking after," he said.*

## We'd also like to welcome...

*Accounts worker Sharon Doble (right) was born in Perth, Western Australia, where she grew up before moving to Sydney in her 20s. Seventeen years ago she and her family moved from Sydney to the Daintree, and now live in Port Douglas. Her first job out of school was in an independent record store, which she loved doing for ten years, but her favourite work has been doing public relations for Sony Play Station, helping to launch PS2 and PSOne to the Australian market. Her belief in the rights of Traditional Owners to manage their own land has brought her to Jabalbina.*

*"Jabalbina has been growing with a wealth of experience in these matters and I feel my organisational skills and my commercial acumen could contribute to greater efficiencies and thus assist Jabalbina in both accountability and gaining the best outcomes with funds and funding," she says. "It's also my heritage as my father was part of the stolen generation and I'd like to deliver something back to indigenous Australia. In hindsight this was a missing link in my life."*

## Tourism hub in development with TOs

**Jabalbina's new tourism hub is going to be a big deal, Jabalbina General Manager Josh Paterson says.**

"It's going to be a really big deal for the Dubuji area around Kulki, which is Cape Tribulation," he said.

"But this is something that will be for all EKY, and we're looking forward to their support as we look at having an actual building over the next 12 months, which is fantastic."

He said the strategy behind the building would be in development over the next year or so.

"The tourism strategy that sits behind

the building is also in play," he said.

"The project is funded jointly by the Queensland and Australian Governments through the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery funding for conservation, tourism and infrastructure upgrades at National and World Heritage places over the next few years.

"It will mean an appointment of staff to support it, which in the first instance would be looking at engaging with the existing tourism industry.

"They'll be hoping to infuse Indigenous culture and activities into their existing activities, and so enhance the experience for visitors to the park's area.

"The idea is to actually support existing Indigenous tourism enterprises.

"We also hope to see new business enterprises coming from the hub and particularly through the symbiotic relationship with Jabalbina managing the Parks."



**It's been a really busy 12 months here at Jabalbina Yalanji On Country program, with heaps of exciting things happening, Manager James Kerr says.**

"I am pleased to announce we have reached our goal of engaging 50 young people into the On Country program through pre- or post-camp activities or attending our camps," he said.

**COVID-19**

He said the COVID pandemic had impacted everyone, particularly in terms of wellbeing.

"Recent events where there are new cases and the very infectious variant is alarming, anxiety is running high for many of us concerned for our families, particularly our elders and those with underlying health conditions, our own health and wellbeing and that of our young people, families and work colleagues," he said.

"Despite the challenges over the past 12 months with COVID restrictions and snap lock downs, our staff have been resilient and have continued to carry on our incredibly important work with our On Country program.

"I commend all our staff for their commitment and dedication throughout these challenging times for maintaining focus on our core business.

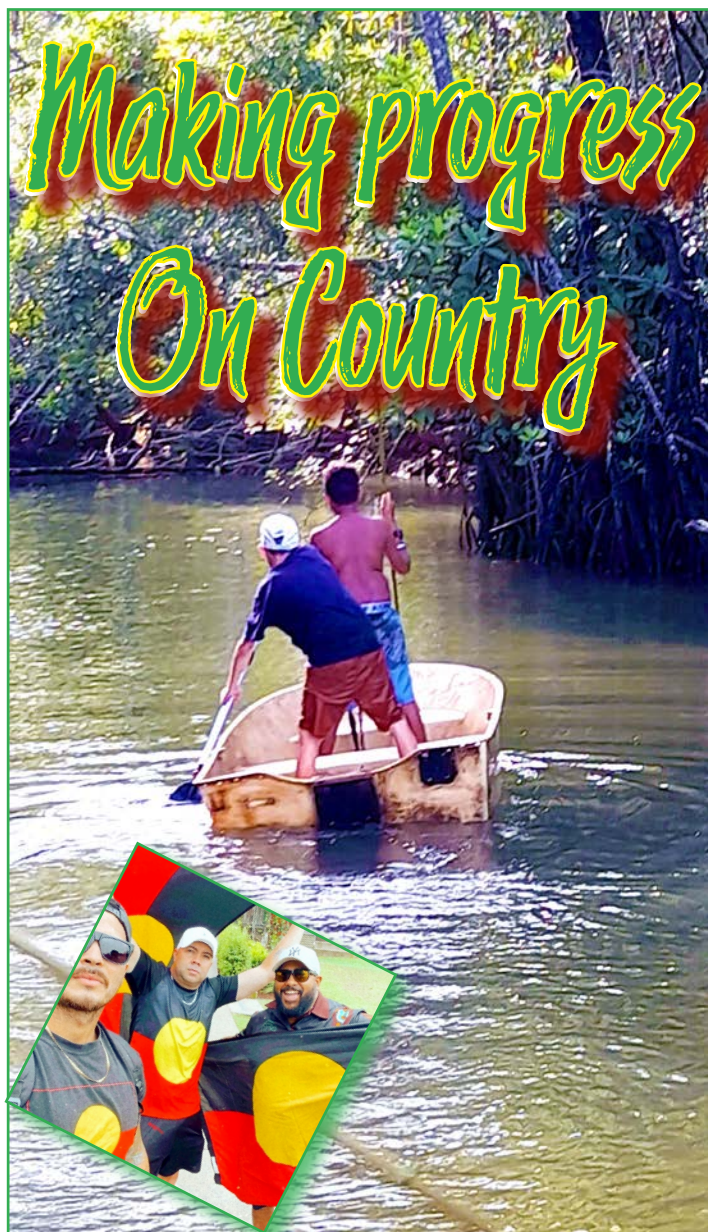
"Our board have also been a source of strength and wisdom for us during these challenging times, adjusting to becoming tech savvy to meet governance obligations and stay connected."

**TEAMWORK**

He said teamwork was incredibly important to the successful outcomes.

"A pivotal part of this is the work of our highly efficient Camp Team Leaders Kieran Ryan and Julie Williams who coordinate our On Country Cultural Healing Camps," he said.

"They work hard to liaise with elders and rangers, and prepare our camp programs, which includes risk



management, reporting and management of our young people and other staff.

"Whilst there has been some challenges, the team has continued to function at a high level of efficiency.

"This has enable our Camp Crew and Cultural Mentors to complete nine successful On Country Cultural Healing Camps over the past 12 months with a total of 54 young people attending the camps."

He said Boys' Cultural Mentors Alex Friday, Bree'an Munns and Girls' Mentor Victoria Lees had also achieved good outcomes.

"They have helped with applications for re-engagement in schooling, counselling support, healing camps, pre/post camp activities, family mapping, cultural strength plans and other therapeutic activities," he said.

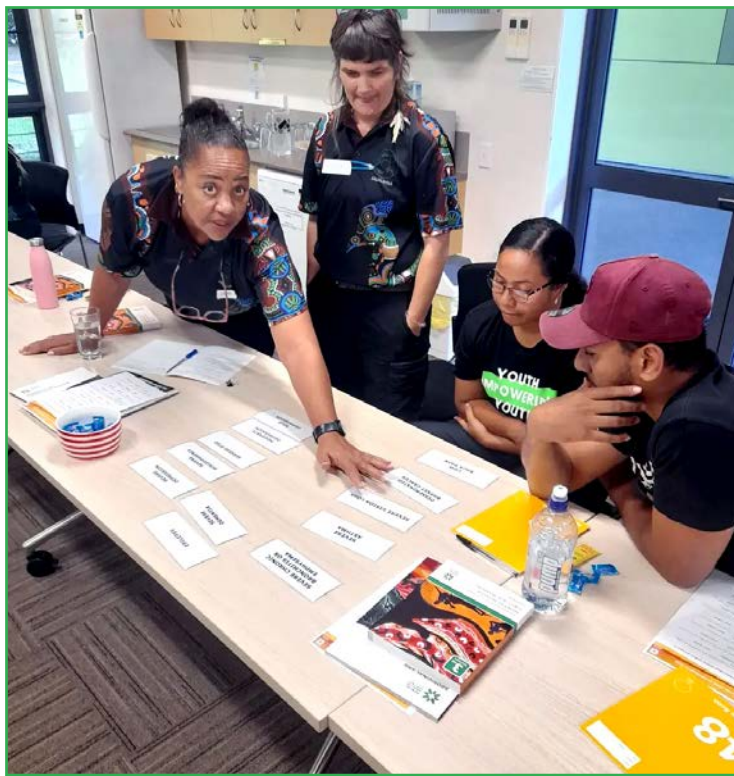
"The whole Jabalbina team, including admin, finance, managers, rangers, elders, community all have a very important role in our organisation and supporting our On Country program."

He also acknowledged the role funding bodies played in supporting our young people and the On Country program.



*On Country Staff - Iseta Harris, Alex Friday, Julie Williams, Charmaine Yeatman-Jackson & James Kerr*





## **Cairns service providers recently came together to participate in a two-day Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid Course with Tara Douglas from Indigenous Mental Health Service, Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG) and Jabalbina Yalanji On Country program staff.**

The 14-hour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid course is for any interested adult.

Using a practical, evidence based action plan we learnt how to help

an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander adult experiencing a mental health problem or mental health crisis until appropriate professional help was received or the crisis resolved.

This course was based on evidence from the expert consensus of Aboriginal mental health professionals, many of whom have lived experience of mental health problems.

## **On Country Camp Team Leader Kieran Ryan is a Leftwich/Nunn descendant. Kieran was born in Wagga Wagga, NSW, and grew up in many places, due to his father's job as a Staff Sergeant in the Australian Army.**

Kieran's totem is Kumurbina (Black Cockatoo).

He is a strong Nyungkal man

What does Healing on Country mean to him?

"Connecting with your ancestors and the land through traditional & cultural practices," he says.

"Taking the time to slow down & unwind to connect with your own thoughts, your spirit without the fast paced distraction of the city/town life and listening to elders & the land.

"As a child to a young adult, I have always identified as an Aboriginal person.



"Now that I'm that bit older and as a father, I now know the importance of actually knowing what that really means, what it is and how important it is to have that cultural knowledge within your life at an early age.

"Knowing Bama law, Bama

structure and its protocols plays a significant part in our own healing & grounding.

"I look to learn as much as possible in my time (from my people) and hope to build strong relationships within my community for my partner and our two daughters."





**Our Cairns team celebrated NAIDOC Week this year with Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG) at Fogarty Park with youth, families and the Cairns community.**

The team showcased different activities for kids to learn about keeping an active mind.

Overall the team had a great time interacting with the kids and watching the different Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Dancers throughout the day.



**Deadly Sistas, our Primary Indigenous girls group, enjoyed an interactive session and opportunity to make their own beaded jewellery and mural of rainforest beans at Bentley Park College earlier this month.**

The girls learned new skills from the Jabalbina Yalanji On Country staff whilst yarning about the cultural significance of the activity.

The mural will be glued onto a piece of blackboard and hung on display in Student Services.

The activity was organised by Julie Williams, who coordinates our Girls On Country Cultural Healing Camps.

Congratulations to the group leader from Bentley Park College Sonya Ball, and the girls involved for a productive morning and impressive interaction with community members.

Sonya indicated the girls were respectful and enjoyed the opportunity.

Thank you to On Country staff Julie Williams, Charmaine Yeatman-Jackson, Iseta Harris and Alex Friday for coordinating the activity.





**As part of the On Country program the young people participate in pre- and post-camp activities which include:**

- **Boomerang Carvings**
- **Spear Making**
- **Fishing, Hunting & Gathering**
- **AOD sessions with ATODS**
- **Mountain Bike Riding**
- **Behaviours Therapy sessions with Wuchopperen**
- **Swimming at local rivers and creeks**
- **Cultural Strength Plan**
- **Connection to Culture toolkit**
- **Basketball**
- **Traditional Arts & Crafts**
- **Kuranda Rainforest Station**
- **Mossman Gorge Gateway**
- **Croc Tours**
- **Rock Climbing**
- **Yarning Circles with Elders**



## Meet our participants...

Origin: Torres Strait Islander/ Badu Island

Totem: Crocodile

Nickname: J-dogs

Age: 16

Cultural Mentor: Alex Friday

Favourite Hobby: Football

Favourite Sport: Rugby League

Favourite Sports Team: Brisbane Broncos

Favourite Place in the Region: Josephine Falls

What does healing mean to you? Keep my Culture strong by staying connected and engaging in cultural activities.

What do you want to be when you get older? Start my own Tree Lopping business.

School: I don't go to school I'm seeking employment opportunities and plan to get my Certificates to become a Tree Lopper

Origin: Kowanyama

Totem: Wallaby

Nickname: Keljo

Age: 14

Cultural Mentor: Alex Friday

Favourite Hobby: Footy (Rugby League)

Favourite Sport: Rugby League

Favourite Sports Team: South Sydney Rabbitohs

Favourite Place in the Region: Harvey's Creek

What does healing mean to you? Connection to country to help me stay grounded.

What do you want to be when you get older? I want to be a football player when I get older.

School: I'm in grade 9

Origin: Torres Strait Islander/York Island/Darnley

Totem: Crocodile

Nickname: Miggy C

Age: 12

Mentor: BJ Munns.

Favourite Hobby: Basketball & playing PS4.

Favourite Sports: Basketball & Rugby League.

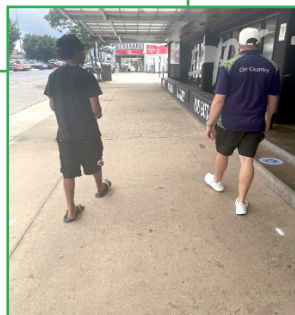
Favourite Sports Team: Golden State Warriors.

Favourite place around Cairns: Time Zone.

What does healing mean to you: Going to Church with my Grandparents and connecting with family.

What do you want to be when you get older: I want to be in the Navy.

School: I'm in grade 7.



Origin: Torres Strait Islander/York Island

Totem: Crocodile

Nickname: A

Age: 15

Cultural Mentor: BJ Munns.

Favourite Hobby: Kicking back and listening to music

Favourite Sports: Rugby league

Favourite Sports Team: Cowboys

Favourite place around Cairns: Go Karts

What does healing mean to you: Finding yourself/ healing your soul and getting back on track.

What do you want to be when you get older:

Professional Burnout Driver/Race car.

School: I'm in grade 10



# Jabalbina Yalanji On Country Boy's Camp

**The On Country's Boys' Camp #8 was held at the beautiful, Buru Healing Camp, next to Baird's Creek, Team Leader Kieran Ryan says.**

"The location of the camp has been a second to none experience as the site facilitated in a sleeping quarters, a kitchen shed and with shower and toilet facilities," he said.

"That made the camping trip a much easier 'bump-in' stay for everyone that attended, especially without the interference of mobile reception.

"All of our young participants thoroughly enjoyed the location and nearby sites such as the Kija (Roaring Meg) beach area, Baird's Creek and Madsen Hill – Roaring Meg Lookout.

"Everyone especially loved Kija so much they asked if could have our next camp there too."

He said camp crew member Jalun Williams had come through with another fun spear making and hunting activity.

"All the participants thoroughly enjoyed it," he said.

"Jalun had the young participants make their spears at Buru healing camp and then a hunting activity was performed down at Baird's Creek.

"There was no success in spearing any food but they enjoyed having a chance to try out their tools under the guidance and direction of camp staff.

"Jalun has proved to be a great asset to the On Country program with his vast knowledge of culture,

cultural sites and traditions, and he is always aware and attentive to the wellbeing and safety of our young participants."

He said Ayton Ranger Jason Peterson had also worked above and beyond (as per usual) with facilitating and creating fun activities.

"In particular with the swimming activity, Jason added to the atmosphere by creating a fire on the beach bank and opening up with some healthy conversations," he said.

"Jason has been an absolute gem when it comes to engagement and has proven his capability by helping the boys in regulating







their behaviour and always being a supportive person that our young participants could always turn to."

He said Cultural Mentor Alex Friday also had a great rapport.

"He showed that he really is the person for the job when it comes to managing the safety and wellbeing of the boys attending our camps," he said.

"Alex knows how to engage everyone around him in a healthy, good laugh.

"He is Nyungkal Bama, and we look forward to his presence & skill sets in our future camps to come."

He said Cultural Mentor Bree'an Munns had also shown strong

capabilities on his first camp.

"We could see Bree'an's capabilities in assisting our young participants with their self-management and helping with any issues that they may be experiencing throughout camp #8," he said.

"Bree'an has been a great asset for the camp crew with helping other staff members in completing tasks and supporting them with the delivering of their activities."

A Kurrma (aka Kup-Murri/earth-oven) activity was quite a hit with the young participants, he said.

"There was great interest in the building and burning down of firewood within the fire-pit and also

in the preparation of the food with the binding of Banana fronds to go into the fire-pit," he said.

"We can laugh now, but our food wasn't all the way cooked and we improvised with cooking the uncooked food in the cast-iron camp ovens we had on camp.

"The food was still a delicious treat for us all.

"In the future, Kurrma will be a more common feature in our On Country camps, especially when we have new participants."

Finally, Kieran said he was particularly thankful to CJ Fisher for setting up the Buru Healing campsite for their successful stay on Buru Warra Bubu.





# Jabalbina Yalanji On Country

# Girl's Camp

**The On Country camps have been a learning experience for everyone involved Girls' Camp Team Leader Julie Williams says.**

"As we get to spend more time with the participants we begin to better understand what they need and want in terms of cultural support," she said.

She said a pre-camp one day on country with the pre-selected camp participants was something that we would like to continue doing moving forward.

"We had a really fun day with the Mossman HACC group, Natalie Groth and HACC members and Elders, Lyla Buchanan, Ethel Fischer, Stella Creek, Lindy Oui and Trudy Pierce.

"The day was spent at Cooya Beach where we ate fish soup and rice for lunch and the girls learnt to peel coconuts.

"We did an afternoon walk into the mangroves to collect shell fish and then cooked them on the fire.

"I would like to say a big thanks to

Patricia McLean who volunteered her help on the day, the girls really enjoyed her company."

She said the camp itself was set for Noah's Beach.

"However big winds and bad weather saw us pack and move to Wawu Dimbi before the girls even arrived," she said.

"Even with the last minute change the program still rolled out positively, and without too much deviation, and I think overall the girls received a culturally significant experience.

"The Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony was performed by Maryann Port and Kim Missionary.

"We kicked off the camp with a couple of hours of good fun, swimming and spending time near the creek playing with ochre and talking about ways we use this

colourful earth.

"I was able to establish that none of the girls had been involved in cultural dance activities but were interested in learning.

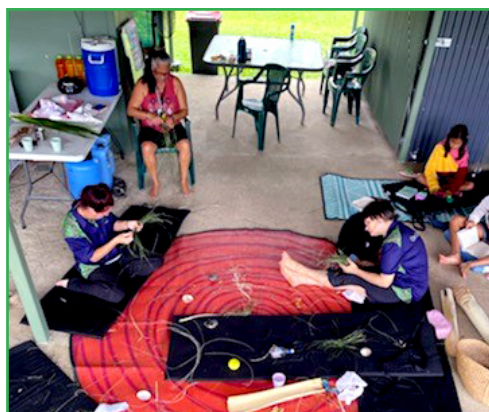
"I also took the opportunity to talk to them about language, and as they all had Kuku Yalanji connections, I was able to share with them an app which teaches Kuku Yalanji language designed by the Kuku Yalanji Advisory Group that could be download onto their phones."

She said the next day they collected fibre for the following days' basket weaving.

"The participants were very comfortable with this activity, it was like stepping back in time for them," she said.

"They were given needles and shown how to strip the grass into fibre that could be woven.

"This led into the weaving







workshop delivered by cultural presenter Delissa Walker, who arrived on the second day of camp with a wealth of knowledge and experience.

"She shared stories of her childhood in relation to weaving and a lot of botanical and cultural knowledge in regards to the fibre, the basket and the age old practice.

"Camp crew members Victoria Less and Nadia Sinkovich gently encouraged the girls to complete their first ever baskets."

She said an art activity, left out for the girls to access at any time, gave everyone something to put their minds and hands to whenever they felt anxious, unsettled or just plain creative.

"We painted and varnished forty rainforest beans that were then stuck onto a plaque which will be hung in our On Country office," she said.

"A Wawu stretching and breathing activity was a delivered by myself and something I would like to

develop further.

"The girls were attentive and joined in, there were a lot of noises that suggested they felt good from the stretching and then there was that lovely stillness that develops from using the breath."

She said each participant experienced a sense of wellbeing from the activity.

"Rangers Anthea Solomon, Kim Missionary and Sheryl Missionary along with cultural presenter Maryann Port then took the girls on a fishing adventure where two caught their first ever fish," she said.

"It was followed by an educational boat cruise that was given in kind thanks to Bill Smith and Crocodile Express.

"Horse riding was also a hit, I think every participant was eager for this activity to arrive on the last day of camp.

"Each participant spoke highly of the activity, one girl had a challenging experience with an unsettled horse, however this did

not discourage her and she took the challenge like a gem.

"They rode along the beach and were gifted to see a large crocodile sunning themselves in the estuary.

"Big thanks to the adventurous camp staff who supported the ride, Charmaine Jackson-Yeatman, Kim Missionary, Nadia Sinkovich and Maryann Port."

Finally, she said, the cultural style of cooking throughout the camp was appreciated by everyone.

"There were dishes such as coconut curry chicken, beef cabbage stew, damper, fried scones, fish soup and rice, freshly boiled corned beef," she said.

"These foods are familiar to the participants and keep that home style comfort present while on camp.

"We are looking forward to an upcoming camp in late November and into early December when we will be up against the wet season weather, so planning for this camp will be challenging."





# A long road is almost home...

**By the end of next month at least three Jabalbina staff – Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land (CYPAL) Tenure Resolution Manager Conrad Yeatman, Liaison Officer Saisha Schonenberger and Project Support Alexis Port – will be in different work.**



Their contracts are about to come to a happy ending after working tirelessly towards an authorisation ceremony to be held in Bloomfield on Tuesday 28 September.

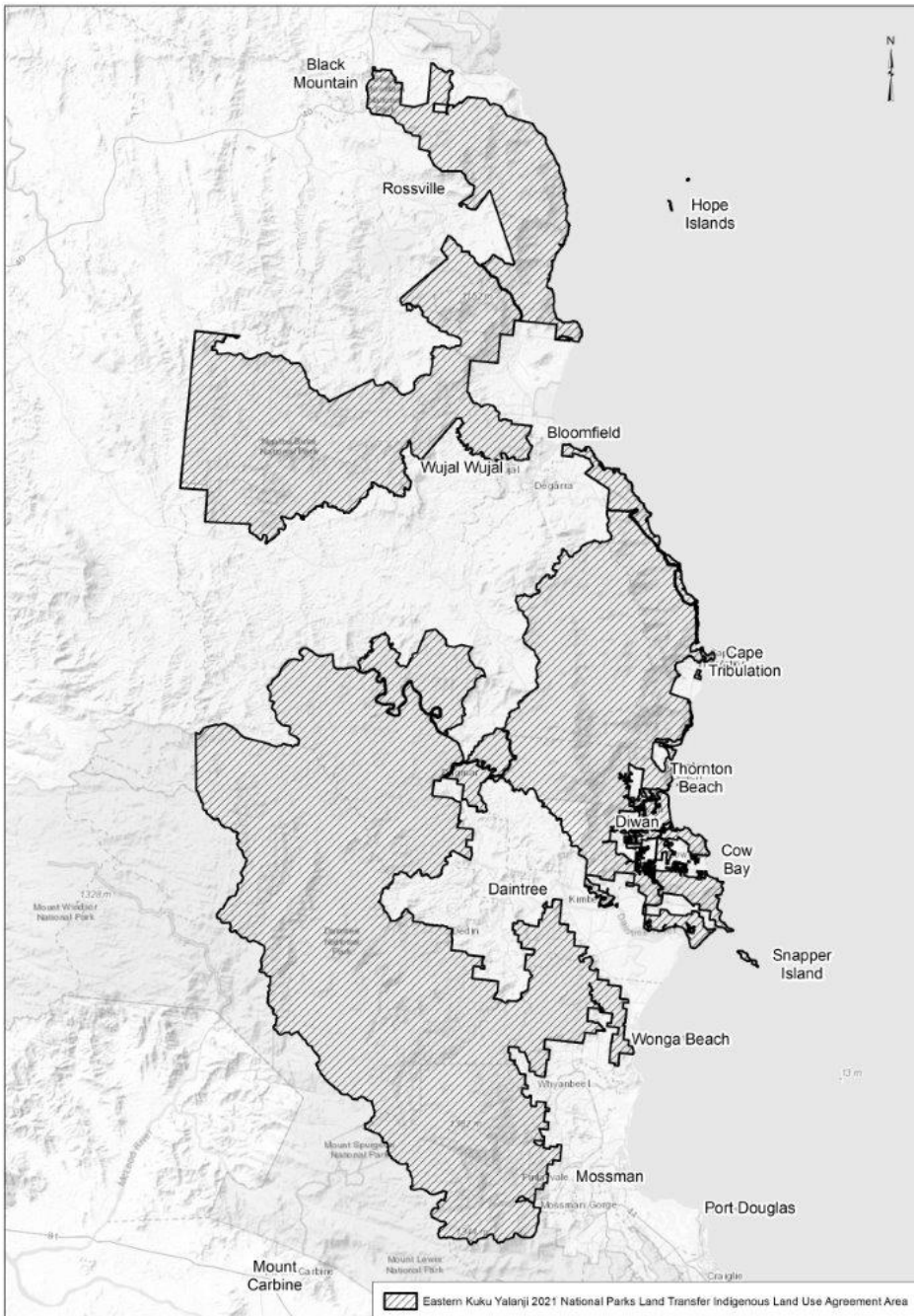
Mr Yeatman said he was grateful to everyone concerned, especially the Elders.

“My two colleagues, who are EKY Traditional Owners themselves, have offered their endless support and their skills in engaging with multiple stakeholders was the key to a successful outcome,” he said.

“I also thank the Jabalbina Ranger team, IPA administration Allira and our receptionist Kellie for their continued support throughout this project.

“Most importantly, the members of our Traditional Owner Negotiating Committee (TONC) who have put in some very long hours and serious consideration into getting us where we are today”

He said the final TONC meeting would authorise an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the State of Queensland (State) and the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA).







Mr Yeatman said he officially came on board with Jabalbina in 2016 – after being involved as a Traditional Owner himself since the late 1980s – supporting elders negotiations with the State Government for the joint management of four National Parks.

“Our work entailed visiting all Traditional Owners throughout this country, and off country with Cooktown, Palm Island, Yarrabah, Cairns and Townsville,” he said.

“Traditional Owners selected representatives from Eastern Kuku Yalanji country to be the TONC members.

“Over the past four years, they had many meetings, I’m sure over 20 meetings, to negotiate with the State Government.

“From the first minute of our

first meeting in Port Douglas, they communicated to us Eastern Kuku Yalanji aspirations for Traditional Owners to be enabled to live and work on country from Black Mountain, right down to Port Douglas.

“That’s what they wanted to see.”

Mr Yeatman said the work they had done over the past four years had been a great opportunity.

“We’ve had an opportunity to learn and extend our knowledge on the importance of culture, connection to country, sacred place, and most importantly, combining it and working towards unity, so all Traditional Owners can share and live and work on this country together,” he said.

“We haven’t just worked with Government, there has been several

stakeholders, we’ve worked with an anthropologist, Peter Blackwood, and we also got the support of two land councils, the Cape York Land Council and the North Queensland Land Council.

“One of the most important things about the whole process was the way Traditional Owners maintained their cultural practises in communicating back to their family groups.

“They’ve had the full support of their respective families to keep moving forward towards sole management of the national park, and that’s been great.”

He said he looked forward to seeing everyone at the signing day, which is set for Tuesday 28 September, and the next day where a hand back ceremony was being planned.



TOP: TONC meeting in Cooktown at Gungarde and LEFT at Mossman; ABOVE: CYPAL Tenure Resolution Manager Conrad Yeatman, Traditional Owner Alfred Diamond & Indigenous Protected Area Manager Jeff Arneth in the lead-up to this month’s signing ceremony



# Rangers 'on fire' in leadership and study modes

**The Jabalbina Rangers recently worked with Marine Parks to conduct a burn on Kaya-Biji (Snapper Island).**

Before the burns began visits to Kaya-Biji by Dingkar (male) Jabalbina Rangers and Traditional Owners & Elders were undertaken to conduct assessments on potential Cultural Heritage sites and record any conservation factors.

Rangers said it was crucial for them to perform best practice land management which protects Cultural Heritage sites, improves the health of Bubu (Country) and manages areas of pests & weeds that cause harm to the ecosystem.

With the support of Troy Mallie's program, Fulcrum, the Rangers were able to record massive amounts of supporting information from Cultural Heritage to healthy country assessments and compliance training.

The program is crucial to the development of the rangers program and to taking the next step in advancing our Rangers Program and the reports they produce.

**MEANWHILE Jabalbina rangers and staff have also been involved in the Indigenous Ranger Leadership Program, which kicked off with a four day workshop held in Palm Cove just over a month ago.**

Kallum Clarke and Allira Alvoen have continued to stay in touch in fortnightly Zoom meetings with James Fa'Aoso who guides conversations around goal setting, learning through failure, managing time, managing emotion, and reflecting on the different 'hats' that each ranger wears.

"I see this program as a great opportunity for us to build on our personal and professional development skills," Ranger Kallum says.

"By learning these skills we will be better able to manage our emotions, and adapt to working with our teams.

"I've really enjoyed being involved in this program because of the knowledge and experience James has, as well as the opportunity networking with like-minded people who are passionate about what they do."

