



Bamangka Kaban

“People’s Paper”



A word from General Manager Josh Paterson

Nine months into my role as General Manager of Jabalbina I'm still excited to be here, still challenged by the role and still really enjoying my time here, Josh Paterson writes.

In this new issue of *Bamangka Kaban*, I'd firstly like to congratulate our new Chair, Michelle Friday, who was elected into the position by the Board of Directors earlier this month.

I'd also like to congratulate our outgoing Chair Lyn Johnson and pay tribute to the great work done by herself and the outgoing Directors after our AGM late last year.

Highlights of their tenure include the Premier's Reconciliation Awards and the handback of four national parks to Eastern Kuku Yalanji (EKY) Traditional Owners.

We also welcomed Lee Yeatman



on board and congratulate him on his appointment as Deputy Chair.

This refresh of the Board after the AGM will see the continuation of the great work done by the previous Board and, I believe, it will renew our collective energy towards making Jabalbina a more inclusive and accessible organisation, providing meaningful and relevant service to our members.

New Senior Management Team

To that end we have gone through a restructuring of our staff within the organisation in order to maximise our expertise in each of our program areas.

There are several new positions, as well as a regrouping of some of our previous positions.

In our new Senior Management tier we have John Dockrill working as our Operations Manager and we have been fortunate to have secured the services of Crag Carttling as our Tourism Facilitator, heading up the Cultural Engagement team.

Within this team Saisha Schonenberger will play a supporting role to Crag as the new Assistant Manager of the Tourism Project.

We also welcome Conrad Yeatman back from our CYPAL to team up with Kallum Clarke, and take charge of the Indigenous Management Agreement (IMA), therefore stewarding the Joint Management of our national parks.

I would also like to congratulate Allira Alvoen for stepping up to the role of Indigenous Protected Area Manager.

Jon Ryan and Alexis Port are ongoing as Project Officers, and Charlie Ross Kelly and Anthea Solomon are to be congratulated for their promotions to supervisor roles.



'It's ours!'

Our feature in this issue is, of course, that very happy day in September last year when we finally formalised hand back of four national parks, the culmination of the many years of hard work by the Jabalbina CYPAL team and our Traditional Owners Negotiating Committee (TONC).

We all celebrated at the signing ceremony of the Indigenous Land Use Agreements and the Indigenous Management Agreements.

Whilst we at Jabalbina are ready and eager to commence the Joint Management process and progress Traditional Owners ambitions to be the eventual sole managers of our national parks, COVID-19 continues to play havoc with our ability to hit the ground running in this new year.

The Queensland Government's strict protocols in place around meetings effectively prevents them from being face to face.

We have employed Zoom where possible, but it does have its limitations.

Moving forward, however, we have already had a preliminary Joint Management meeting with the Joint Management Information Committee members with planning and strategy focus – see page 15 for more.

In this issue we'll also check in on how our tourism program – a collaboration between



The Wet Tropics Management Authority, 51st Battalion and senior Traditional Owners came together with Jabalbina staff and Rangers in Dikarrba recently, to show their respect and welcome our visitors to Country before we walked through two sites under consideration for future activities.

Traditional Owners in the photos are Billy Harrigan, Francis Walker, Kathleen Walker and Bobby Ball.

Jabalbina staff members present were Dawn Harrigan, Saisha Schonenberger, Josh Patterson, Crag Carttling, Charlie Ross-Kelly, and John Dockrill.

The visit involved walking inspection of the Ngamu (Mother) in an area proposed to be utilised as an army training and camping site.

The proposal did not include permanent buildings, and was determined to be low impact activities only, so it was immediately approved for dedication for this purpose.

The second site inspected referred to as Kija (moon), named for the Meg (area), was on the Dikarrba side of the river crossing.

This site was mapped by Elders and Jabalbina Rangers in November 2021 as a proposed site for a Healing Centre.

WMTA walked the site with us to evaluate the ecological integrity and potential impact such a proposal might have if it went ahead.

Indications were that WTMA would indeed support the development of a Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA) over the site, allowing for the development to go ahead on this Bubu (land) jointly managed WTMA and Jabalbina.

Jabalbina continues to work with WTMA and will commence conversations with (DES) Department of Environment and Science regarding securing the funding required to build this fantastic Healing Centre idea.



ourselves and the State and Federal governments – is progressing.

Over the past nine months I have heard, loud and clear, the frustration and despair our Elders and members have at their inability to achieve their greatest desire – to see Bama return to Bubu to live.

Unfortunately our land tenure is governed by multiple layers of agreements and management plans managed by several different agencies and general government – local, state and federal – jurisdictions.

Jabalbina is actively engaging with the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) and other agencies to seek solutions and pathways to increase the Bubu available to Bama to build on.

We are always working towards pathways for Bama to return, build and occupy their Bubu.

Josh Paterson

General Manager

INSIDE

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A word from the Chair Michelle Mooka-Friday

Newly elected Jabalbina chair Michelle Friday-Mooka is cautiously excited about her new appointment: I have mixed feelings, because I know how big the job is, Michelle writes...



I've been on the board for the past two years so I'm fairly confident I can do it with the right support.

I'd like to thank former-Chair Lyn Johnson, who has stepped down from the Board, for her hard work and leadership.

Terrence Gibson and Colin Doughboy were both re-elected at last year's AGM, and we welcomed new deputy chair Lee Yeatman to the board, in place of Desmond Tayley.

Our remaining female member is Maryanne Port, who will finish her term and be up for re-election next year.

There will be a temporary appointment by the board to take Lyn's place until this year's AGM.

We are all looking forward to achieving better engagement with an emphasis on moving forward.

I'm particularly keen to see our younger members be more involved, they are our future leaders, so we want to engage them

as much as we can.

We have an Elders' Committee, why can't we have a Youth Committee?

I believe they need to have a voice as well, they are the ones who will take the work we are doing now forward.

I'm also a really big advocate for connection and reconnection, because I'm part of the mob who were disconnected for so long.

Through no fault of my own, I grew up and lived on Palm Island.

My grandfather, his parents and siblings, were removed to Palm Island when he was three.

He made Palm his home - he married and grew his children on Palm. We, his grandchildren, also grew up there.

But he always maintained some level of communication with his older siblings, who went back home, and he also eventually returned to Wujal Wujal and Shipton Flats.

To this day there's still a void.

The dispossessed are not engaged as much as they could be, and I want to try work on that engagement.

It's not as easy as, 'let's just go and build a house on our Bubu'.

We need to actually work on some sort of plan and planning mechanism to get that done.

We've always been talking about that, but it is a very hard discussion, we've got so many land tenures that are overlapping and it is difficult.

It's not my intention, personally, but for those who want to do that, I want that opportunity to be available, and there needs to be clear and precise procedures in place.

All of our work is a learning process and some people can be impatient within that process, so I ask our members to have faith that we are trying to do what's best for all our Bama.

I know I am.

I know I have integrity and I know I'm here for the right reasons.

I look forward to working with you all and doing my best.

I hope to do my late Popeye proud.

Coming together is a beginning.

Keeping together is progress.

Working together is SUCCESS

Michelle Mooka-Friday

Jabalbina Yalanji AC Chair



A hub for our future



Plans are well-underway for a tourism project on Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bubu which will include a new culture and tourism 'hub' and visitor centre.

The project will boost awareness of Eastern Kuku Yalanji Culture within the tourism industry and give Bama training and experience in tour guiding.

Two new staff members recruited for the project are keen to progress the project over the coming year.

Jabalbina's new Tourism Facilitator Crag Carttling said he was excited about what would be the Eastern Yalanjiwarra Culture and Tourism Hub and Visitor Centre.

"The Hub will be built at Dubuji, in the Daintree National Park, next to PK's in Cape Tribulation," he said.

"The purpose of the centre will be

to protect Cultural Heritage in the area whilst also supporting tourism development through destination and product development.

"It will act both as an incubator to support emerging Indigenous tourism businesses and as a service provider to existing businesses, offering marketing and other business support services.

"The Hub will also drive regional tourism strategy development."

The new Hub will not only benefit visitors.

Jabalbina Tourism Cultural Assistant Manager Saisha Schonenberger said the Hub

would also be a place for Eastern Yalanjiwarra and local community members to access services and connect.

"The aim is to ensure tourism on Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bubu is done the right way," she said.

"We want to

welcome visitors to share respect for our Bubu and Jalun and also build some thriving new partnerships with the tourism industry."

She said the tourism project would involve site visits over the next few months that would include the recording of Cultural stories from Elders and Traditional Owners.

"The information recorded is to be used as part of the Cultural connections project in conjunction with assisting our Bama Eco Guide training and development," she said.

"The project will ensure that Cultural stories and knowledge of sites are communicated in a Culturally appropriate way to visitors by Bama."

The tourism project is the result of Jabalbina and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) securing state and federal funding.



Cultural Heritage is always a central consideration prior and during the delivery activities conducted on country, Jabalbina General Manager Josh Paterson writes. We remain vigilant and mindful of our duty and role under the Cultural Heritage Act to maintain and ensure Cultural Heritage is identified and protected. We do this through our Ranger presence on country and through our Cultural Heritage Management Plan and the Madja Code. We always ensure Cultural Heritage is forefront consideration of all third parties wishing to operate and conduct activities on EKY lands, and all our Jabalbina staff work hard to maintain sensitivity and mindfulness around culture in everything we do. We continue to maintain and build our Cultural Heritage team, looking to expand our reach and focus on Language, Cultural retention and returning Bama to their Bubu.

Dictionary reprint on offer to all members

In a drive to maintain Jabalbina's strong Cultural Heritage values, a Kuku Yalanji dictionary has been reprinted for use by our Jabalbina members, thanks to a small Indigenous Language Grant of \$5,000 from the Queensland Government.

Jabalbina Cultural Heritage Manager Sheryl Burchill said 200 copies have already been sent to members, with more to go out.

She said her focus was about Bama taking control and making sure Cultural Heritage went in a positive direction.

"There's a bit of a shift to the energy, I just feel like there's change coming for Bama," she said.

"I want to keep working on things like our Language and make sure our Cultural Heritage work is strong.

"We have to take control and look after all of our Culturally Significant Sites and our Language and we need to jump on this wave that is happening."

The dictionary itself was first printed back in 1982 and was put together by the Summer Institute of Linguistics, Darwin.

"I think it was done very close to

the time Bama weren't allowed to speak in our Language so the dictionary," Sheryl said.

"It was a valuable thing for our People to have.

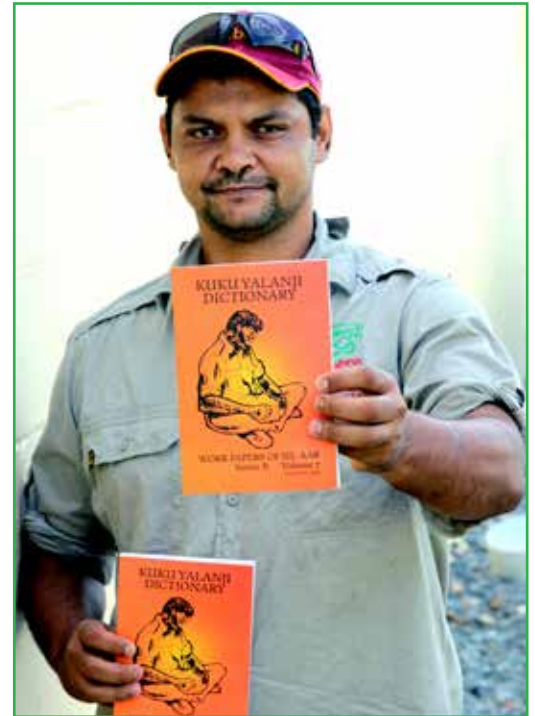
"I remember Nan Clare Ogilvie saying to me that when she lived at the dormitories in Daintree and attended lessons in class, they'd get a rap on the knuckle just for saying a word in Language."

She said the dictionary was put together by Henry and Ruth Hershberger.

"But there were also Traditional Owners involved," she said.

"Tony Bloomfield, Ruby Friday, Bobby Roberts, Harry and Dolly Sykes, Johnny Walker, and Bama who lived at Jajikal in Ayton are credited in the dictionary.

"They also did a Hymn book, a Bible and heaps of other literature in our Language, so they obviously spent years putting it together."



She said it wasn't just about the dictionary.

"I've also got a tiny little collection of Cultural Heritage books here in the Jabalbina office for our staff to read when they have a chance, and I wouldn't mind getting these reprinted and sent out to our Members as well," she said.

"As much as they say we've lost a lot, we're still here and our Culture is still here too.

"Our people have learned to evolve and will always be here."

She said thanks to Shannon Burke for her contribution to their application for the grant.



HEY Bama! We need you!

Our membership database needs updating!

If you are a member and your details are not up-to-date, please contact us to check!

If you're not a member - why not?

Contact the office for more information – don't delay, join today!

Five years after joining Jabalbina, proud Wakaman and Kuku Yalanji woman Allira Alvoen has been appointed as our new Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) Manager.

New role for Allira as clans come together as one

“Having worked across projects including the National Park (CYPAL) and Ranger Programs, and forged strong relationships with the Senior Management Team, I’m delighted to be embarking on this new chapter,” she said.

“It’s an exciting time for the IPA program, with our three Clan Governance Committees - Nyungkul, Yalanji and Jalunji - approving the collation and merger of three IPA plans into one single Eastern Kuku Yalanji IPA Plan.

“Ultimately our EKY IPA Management Plan will represent all our Bama, our Bubu and Jalun.”

An IPA Working Group has been established to work with Conservation Management Pty consultant Stuart Cowell and bring the reviews together.

“The Working Group met with Stuart over a two-day intensive session to start the process of collating and merging the three plans,” Allira said.

“The Working Group consists of a mix of Elders and young people working together all bringing a range of knowledge and experiences.

“It’s exciting to see a platform where our emerging leaders can work with our Elders on a project which will be used into the future.

“A consultation report of the work that was done will be available soon and will be presented to the Clan Governance Committees for initial comments.

“Final decisions won’t be required at this time to give Bama an opportunity to read through the report and understand what it is saying.”

Clan Governance Committee workshops held in September and December 2021 were presented with feedback and progress reports on a range of projects and key issues staff have been working hard on to assist them in making their decisions about Bubu and Jalun.

Workshops have now resumed with a commitment to COVID-19 compliance to keep Elders and staff safe.



“These workshops are very compact and busy,” Allira said.

“We appreciate committee members’ commitment and value their feedback and guidance into the work we do,” Allira said.

“Having worked with Jabalbina since late 2016,

I’m really looking forward to driving these projects forward and making a positive impact in my new role.”

The next round of IPA Clan Governance Workshops with the Committee will take place during March 2022.

Full details to come!

Brighter future beckons for Collingwood tin mine site

Native plants and a safe, usable site will eventually replace the abandoned Collingwood Tin mine site near Cooktown, thanks to a partnership between Jabalbina and the Queensland Government.

Member for Cook Cynthia Lui said specialists from the Department of Resources had been working closely with JYAC on the project to make the site safe and usable again.

“It’s so important to have Traditional Owners involved in the process of returning the land to a natural state,” Ms Lui said.

“Work is progressing well to deliver a safe, terraced site and a stable and secure tailings dam re-vegetated with native plants.” Importantly, the remediation work is expected to create up to 13 full-time jobs across the life of the project, part-time or short-term work for an estimated 50 people, and additional flow on work through local services and suppliers.

“The on-site crew has been moving tonnes of tailings – the crushed rock and waste material left behind after minerals have been extracted from ore.

“Once the tailings are reshaped, they will be capped, and the area topsoiled and re-vegetated with native plants from seeds that the Traditional Owners have collected locally.”

The former tin mine, 35km south of Cooktown, operated for three years from 2005 to 2008.

The operator went into liquidation in 2015, leaving the Government to make the site safe.



Work to date has included shutting off a 200-metre-deep ventilation shaft and ensuring there are no uncontrolled releases of water into the Annan River catchment, which provides Cooktown’s water supply and feeds into the Great Barrier Marine Park.

A grate is installed at the underground mine entry to prevent public access, while still allowing access for animals, including the endangered large-eared horseshoe bat.

Other work has included the demolition and removal of the abandoned processing plant and equipment, remediation of the former drill core area and significant work on the high-voltage electricity network to maintain power to Jabalbina’s Shipton’s Flat Ranger Base on site.

Works recommence later this month with replanting scheduled for later this year and early 2023.

The project is expected to be completed by June 2023.



ABOVE: Patrick Yeatman & Horace Friday seed collecting. Pics supplied.



It's ours!

Our Eastern Kuku Yalanji vision for a more promising future became a legal reality for Bama at Ayton in September last year.

The Jabalbina Eastern Kuku Yalanji (EKY) Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) was negotiated as part of the Department of Environment and Science's Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program.

"The program returns ownership and management of identified lands on Cape York Peninsula to local Aboriginal Traditional Owners, while ensuring the region's iconic natural and Cultural Values are protected, a Department of Environment & Science spokesperson told *Bamangka Kaban*.

"The program resulted in four national parks being converted to National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land - CYPAL) and the creation of Aboriginal freehold land."

Under the Indigenous Management Agreement (IMA), Jabalbina will work in collaboration with the Queensland Government in the management of the four national parks with plans towards Traditional Owners' sole management of national parks.

And in recent news the program has already produced results for other groups on Cape York.

"The Bramwell and Richardson properties will now be added to the program and will undergo a similar negotiation and tenure partitioning process with (their) Traditional Owners," the DES spokesperson said.

Through the IMA Jabalbina and the Queensland Government agreed to provide best practice Joint Management of Kalkajaka, Ngalba-bulal, Hope Islands and Daintree National Parks.

The Agreement means working together to make sure Eastern Yalanjiwarra take on maximum management responsibility for the national parks.



Jabalbina would like to thank the Ministers, Traditional Owners, Dignitaries and everyone who came to celebrate with us in Ayton.

Thanks to Peter Blackwood, the dealing Anthropologist, for his valuable knowledge, guidance and assistance throughout the negotiations, and Ryan Ellis, legal adviser to the TONC, for his steadfast advice.

Also thanks to Graham O'Dell and his team at North Queensland Land Council and Terry Piper and the team at Cape York Land Council.

And finally thanks to the State, Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution team: Rachel Small, Ross MacLeod, Crag Carttling, Simon Thompson, Jess Cousins, Lorinda Morrissey, Eric Wason, Nicole Batt, Kate Borger and the survey team, as well as all the officers who supported the deal and all their hard work throughout the negotiations and in organising the event.

It was greatly appreciated by the Jabalbina team, who were led by Conrad Yeatman (Junior), Saisha Schonenberger, Alexis Port and Allira Alvoen (pictured top right).

Pics thanks to Koori Mail (Christine Howes)

MORE NEXT PAGE!

The signing of Indigenous Land Use and Management Daintree and three other National Parks marked Committee (TONC) and the start of a new era for



Agreement over the World Heritage listed and the end of the Traditional Owners Negotiation for Eastern Kuku Yalanji (EKY) Traditional Owners.



It was a great day!

The signing of Indigenous Land Use and Management Agreements over the World Heritage listed Daintree and three other National Parks marked the end of the Traditional Owners Negotiation Committee (TONC) and the start of a new era for Eastern Kuku Yalanji (EKY) Traditional Owners.

The deal was the result of at least four years of hard negotiations between the State Government, the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) and TONC members who met on and off Country as far afield as Cooktown, Cairns, Yarrabah, Townsville and Palm Island over a period of years.

Jabalbina steered the negotiations and was appointed grantee of the Bubu on behalf of all Bama at a signing ceremony in Ayton in September last year.

“From the first minute of our first meeting, they [TONC] communicated to us EKY 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,” Jabalbina’s then-Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land (CYPAL) Tenure Resolution Manager Conrad Yeatman Jnr 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.”

Signing day was set for Tuesday

28 September and a hand back celebration was enjoyed by more than 300 people the next day.

Queensland Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister Craig Crawford and the Directors-General of their respective departments Jamie Merrick and Chris Sarra, WTMA representatives and TONC members signed off on the documentation at the celebrations.

TONC member and newly-appointed chair of WTMA, Chrissy Grant, said they were ready to go.

“From an EKY’s point of view it’s really really significant,” Ms Grant said. “The handback gives us an opportunity go into Joint Management with National Parks and other partners, and to gradually move into sole management.

“That’s our ultimate goal and aspiration, is to be able to manage those National Parks by ourselves.”

WTMA congratulated Bama as the first Traditional Owner group to be officially recognised for Joint Management in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

“We look forward to continuing a strong partnership with Bama and Jabalbina and continue to advocate for Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples’ management of the area,” they said.

MC on the day, Tahlia Burchill O’Brien said it was something to be celebrated.

“Not just by us, but by future generations of Bama and all people



of Queensland,” she said.

“The land being handed back is 160,213 hectares.

“I’ve been told that the TONC, nominated to speak on behalf of Bama, were innovative and strong in their negotiations.”

Former Jabalbina board member Desmond Tayley said a lot of hard work and effort had gone into making the day possible.

“The Bubu [land] has always been and always will be part of Yalanji Nation,” he said.

“This is not the end of the process, but rather, the beginning.

“Hand back excitement must be tempered with on the ground reality.

“We have to manage expectations.

“Today is the beginning of many things to come, but again, it only works if we are in true partnership.

“We approach the future with confidence and high expectation.”

Bama, Jabalbina, the Cape York Party, WTMA and the Queensland Government signed the Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

Bama were represented by Conrad Yeatman (Senior), Christine Friday, Carol Pierce, Cissy Ross-Kelly, Ian Woibo, Chrissy Grant, Harold Tayley, Sandra Houghton, Calvin Olbar, Uncle Clive Sykes, Josie Olbar and Andrew Solomon signing on behalf of all Eastern Yalanjiwarra.



History in the making...

STORIES & PICS ON THIS PAGE APPEAR COURTESY THE KOORI MAIL

ILUAs promise role for Kuku Yalanji in land management

"We know the land and native package in front of us does not deliver all the benefits we had hoped at the start it would, and we know that when it is in place we will still have to fight for our childrens' future. But we also know that it is the best package we can achieve these days. We are glad this agreement has been made."



APRIL 2007: The words above come from a statement from the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people after 13 years of negotiations for a bundle of 15 Indigenous Land Use Agreements.

The Agreements, signed in April last year, account for 230,000 hectares of land.

In an emotional ceremony, during which then Queensland Premier Peter Beattie acknowledged "200 years of bad policy", many spoke tearfully of elders who had not lived to see the Agreement signing and hopefully about the future.

Mr Beattie, paid tribute to the original native title claimants, the CYLC and local and Aboriginal Shire Councils who were involved in what he described as a complex process.

DECEMBER 2007:

Words by DARREN COYNE

In December last year, the Federal Court recognised exclusive native title rights over 30,300 hectares of unallocated State land, allowing the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people to exclusively occupy, possess and use the areas. They also had their non-exclusive rights recognised to access, camp, hunt, gather, conduct ceremonies and be buried in the ground in the 96,000ha of timber reserve and lease areas. Qld Minister for Natural Resources Craig Wallace told the gathering that the court had simply recognised what they already knew. "You have always known that you are the custodians of this land," he said.



What the ILUAs deliver:

- ☐ The largest grant of Aboriginal freehold land ever made in Queensland
- ☐ A greater role in land management, including management of national parks and some reserves, to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people of the Daintree
- ☐ Protocols and agreed development processes with three local government bodies and utilities
- ☐ Mining royalties and the grant of freehold land to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji
- ☐ Relaxation of some of the restrictions of the Wet Tropics Management Plan for the Eastern Kuku Yalanji

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WUJAL WUJAL ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL Newsletter February 2008

...reflecting back on EKY 2007 handover

In 2007 more than 200,000 hectares of land were handed back to Cape York's Aboriginal people in what many described at the time as the most significant land agreements ever made in Queensland.

Fifteen Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) between the Eastern Kuku Yalanji (EKY)

people and the government were reached.

The signing of the agreements was celebrated in a ceremony in Wujal Wujal in April 2007.

National Native Title Tribunal member Graham Fletcher said, 'this will be the most complex and far reaching native title claim to be resolved in Queensland'.

Then-Environment Minister Lindy Nelson-Carr said the agreement was a significant win for the environment, because of the creation of large new areas of National Park and Aboriginal land managed for conservation, and that it also provided employment opportunities for the eastern Kuku Yalanji community.

Moving to sole management started this month...



The Indigenous Management Agreement (IMA) is the primary legal instrument outlining arrangements for Joint Management between Jabalbina and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS).

Traditional Owners interests and aspirations towards sole management of National Parks are at its core.

Principles upon which the IMA is based on include:

- the EKY Indigenous Protected Area Management Plan(s) are the formally recognised management document for each National Park;
- the Minister's responsibilities can be delegated to Jabalbina, along with the commensurate amount of funding required, to discharge National Parks responsibilities to Jabalbina; and,
- Specific and achievable criteria are set for assessing the park management capacity of Jabalbina.

Traditional Owners believe we are now entering a new era of working in collaboration with the Queensland Government to set a clear direction that will lead to sole management of the four National Parks.

The first meeting of the Joint Management Directors took place in early February, and will continue.

Colin 'CJ' Fischer and Chrissy Grant were nominated to report to Bamangka Kaban on that first meeting.

CJ said he was keen to get into their agenda.

"I represent Yalanji, and I live in China Camp up here, in what we call Buru," CJ said.

"I've been in Buru a long time, and trust me, I might be the quietest one there, but I take on board a lot of things, and sometimes actions speak louder than words.

"There's only one agenda for me, and that's tourism and then creating jobs through tourism.

"I can't speak for anybody else's country or any other community, I can only speak for here, and I was interested in the Hub because I remember how the Mossman Gorge started small."

Chrissy said it was a good meeting.

"It was a good meeting to familiarise ourselves again

with what we had negotiated in the IMA," she said.

"And just get back into, 'okay, we have the Madja Code and the Cultural Heritage Management Plan which are the two documents people can refer to'.

"Then we just went over the different components and how we can move on things like Joint Management, the Tourism Hub and, the other big one, Bama returning to Bubu."

She said they needed to remember they were only dealing with the National Parks.

"All of these other things are related," she said.

"I think it's early days yet and that's good, but we're gathering a lot of background information, there's a lot of it is networking as well, but eventually we'll present something that may be, 'well, this is the way that you come into country now' and this is how we're going to manage it."

In the last week of February, and early March, the first meeting of all stakeholders – Jabalbina and the government – was held – we'll have more on that in our next issue.



We continue to build on our Ranger Program through training and building our expertise, and through the purchase of sophisticated monitoring equipment, Jabalbina General Manager Josh Paterson writes. Testament to our excellence in managing our Ranger funding is the recent news that Jabalbina has been successful in securing ongoing funding from National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) for the next seven years. This news, along with the success of Kallum Clarke moving from our Ranger Team and into Management, means we will be recruiting some new trainee Rangers this year so please watch this space and our social media for more on that.

Pics and captions here are from Ranger Dawn Harrigan



NAIDOC Rossville 7/9/21; Wujal Wujal 11/10/21 & Bloomfield River SS 12/10/21

NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS:

Jabalbina Rangers have always supported NAIDOC celebration in our local areas, since our last newsletter the Rangers helped Rossville, Wujal Wujal and Bloomfield State Schools with Smoking Ceremonies and even a Kurrma (earth oven). Left: BRSS; Right: Wujal Wujal; Below: Rossville.



Eyes 'n Ears Training 5/11/21

Eyes 'n Ears is a training course offered by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for Rangers who are keen to become Compliance Officers. That gives them the power to report and document any illegal activities in our waterways. We already have two Rangers who have their Certificate IV now.



Classroom on Country 22/11/21

CLASSROOMS ON COUNTRY is about bringing the kids out on country, doing some activities, and learning life skills. The Rangers work with Elders to tell stories of specific areas and do some Seasonal Hunting and Gathering as well. It also looks at social and emotional wellbeing so while the kids are having fun, it also gives teachers a chance for one on one time with any kids who might be falling behind. It was the first time this has been done on the east coast of the Cape and it worked really well. It's a program we're hoping to expand.



Wujal Wujal's Vaccination Drive

Ranger Jason (above) was more than happy to roll his sleeve up to help protect his Elders and community last month, during the community's latest vaccination drive.



Family Cultural Camp 24/2/22

This month our Rangers supported the Wujal Wujal Justice Group's Family Cultural Camp at Black Mountain in February. It was for students and staff from Rivermount College.



Our youth justice program 'On Country' continues to engage with those unfortunate First Nation youth who have run afoul of the Department of Youth Justice, Jabalbina General Manager Josh Paterson writes. The program offers mentoring and support to our clients, reconnecting these kids to Culture and Bubu through On Country camps. We believe diversionary activities and access to culture is the most effective way to break the awful cycle of crime and self-harm. I have great confidence that our program and team are delivering amazing results in this area. It's a good pilot program and we hope it is something the Government will want to continue.

Good things On Country

We have an exciting year ahead of us within the On Country program, Manager James Kerr says.

He said the impacts of COVID-19 had heightened the challenges faced by young people experiencing disadvantage.

"The harsh realities young people experiencing disadvantage face daily have not been put on hold," he said.

"Added to that, our front line staff had to make significant changes in order to meet requirements during the outbreak.

"While our office remained open, our staff adapted how we engaged with young people, providing one on one case management support with daily phone calls, text messages, Zoom, Facetime and face to face meetings to maintain connections."

He said the negative effects of self-isolation were very evident in the young people approaching us for help.

"The social interactions our young people would normally get at our Outreach activities and events were often their main or only social events of the week," he said.

"Now they're in isolation, it has led to some very poor mental health outcomes that demand extra attention from us.

"Our mentors are continuing to focus on providing individual case management support, giving young people help in navigating a range of issues through our program, including finding accommodation, re-engagement in school, employment, training, court appearances, accessing financial support and referrals to our counsellors and services.

"They are working hard to keep young people positive and resilient.

"Our service will continue to adapt our practices to meet government and



community requirements, and we all look forward to being able to have our young people meet together at our future On Country Cultural Healing Camps and Cultural activities and events in the near future."

Girls Mentor & Camp Crew Victoria Lees said they had been working hard to engage their young people in education or employment.

"One young person has made a dramatic turn around and has been going to school and has not re-offended for over six months," she said.

"Her whole attitude has changed from being aggressive and she is now proud within herself and enjoys positive interactions with her people and community."

She said were doing some good work with small groups before the difficulties of COVID in the new year.

"We did some day trips to Mossman, foraging in the mangroves with Elders and learning to cook turtle the Traditional way," she said.

"We are looking forward to doing activities together again."



Kieran Ryan Boys Camp Team Leader

- Boy's camp #12 will be held at Wawu Dimbi this year with attendance & Cultural guidance from Traditional Owner, Richard Burchill.
- A Jimal-making activity will be a first-time appearance within any of the On Country programs.
- Kurrma (earth oven) was a big hit on last camp and will be in camp #12's program.
- On the second day of camp we cruise on the "Sea Ranger" vessel with Skipper Roger Thomas and Ranger Jason Petersen on the Daintree River.
- For closing we will be hold a swimming activity at Mossman Gorge.

Rest in the Dreamtime

On New Year's Day the On Country Team and Cairns community suffered with the loss of a young person.

This young person was actively engaged with the Jabalbina On Country program and attended multiple camps held on Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bubu.

Memories of this young person on our camps will remain forever with our team.

Our favourite was when we went spearing he would always be the last person to

get out of the water.

He built a strong connection with Elders at Wawu Dimbi and Battle Camp.

He also obtained his tractor and learners licences not long before he passed, and had goals to find some work on a farm for 2022.

On behalf of Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation we would like to pass on our condolences to the family and friends of this young person.

**Alex Friday
Boys Cultural Mentor**

'Floating' turtle brought in to safety



An 'awesome' day of filming had an unexpected finish for Rangers and crew when a four-metre tinnie suddenly turned up with a crook turtle on board. Jabalbina Skipper Roger Thomas said step-siblings, Tony and Tracey, had found the injured turtle trying to go under the surface. It was a big one too, he said, one metre long and likely weighing around 50 or 60 kilograms. He said they put it on the boat under a towel and poured sea water on it to keep it cool while they delivered it to JCU's Turtle Health Research Centre. At the Centre Jenny said the turtle was at least 80 years old and that it was looking pretty good. She said they suspected it had 'floater disease' and we should expect about two months for recovery. We'll keep you posted! *[Pics by Chedwa White & staff]*

