



Bamangka Kaban

"People's Paper"

Powering our future

This group has been working on a game changing microgrid opportunity for Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bama. They are pictured here working on a feasibility study at Wujal Wujal falls: L-R: Darryl Lam, Phil Keogan, Richard Schoenenmann, Sean Cross, Katrina Smith, Ava Keogan, Vincent Tayley and Kieran Jon Ryan. See page 12 for more!



A word from General Manager Josh Paterson

While there's a lot going on, with the departure of two really valuable senior managers from our ranger team - John Dockrill in August, and Dawn Harrigan has gone to Maningrida for a while - we have been in a period of restructuring and exploring our options, Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation General Manager Josh Paterson writes...



Josh Paterson, Colin Doughboy and Terrence Gibson-Douglas went to Brisbane to attend the Path to Treaty event in Brisbane in August.

We've taken that opportunity to look at how we've been doing things, and what we need to do to resource our ranger program properly - to make sure we're delivering against the objectives of our contract.

We have also looked at how we can better engage and provide appropriate activities on Country.

We have carried out a review of our work plans and plan of management, in collaboration with the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

We are, for example, making sure we have an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) program that engages with the Traditional Owners in an appropriate way, by empowering our clan governance committees to be more involved in the design phase of our activities.

This, in turn, feeds into activity plans in our ranger program, which are now led by local Traditional Owner Rickie Burchill.

We're really looking to making sure our programs are responsive to our community and culture.

We are also incorporating living culture into our program design.

We've initiated these changes with the Queensland Land and Sea ranger program to ensure there is a focus on culture and a focus on land, so the relationship between culture, land and sea is seen in the design of the activities going forward.

Bama back on Bubu

Turning to the issue of pink areas (Cooperative Management Areas) and our ILUAs (Indigenous Land Use Agreements) - which act to govern and put conditionality over our Native Title - we are working with Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) to conduct a review with the purpose of reducing red tape.

I have heard loud and clear people want Jabalbina to "do something" to improve Bama access to their Native Title.

Bama are saying they need a process that provides the granting of exclusive title (leasehold) to individuals from within their broader native title estate.

This year we began working with WTMA to review the existing processes managing activity on our pink and yellow areas.

The goal of this work is to identify suitable housing areas and establish a single Community Development Plan over places suitable for return to country within the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bubu.

The outcome we are looking for is the removal of the red tape and to end the need for direct Traditional Owner

engagement with WTMA.

Concurrently I have identified the need to for a Consent ILUA to be developed which would grant Jabalbina the legal right to enter into land lease agreements with individual Native Title common law holders.

This will mean that with an approved cultural authorisation process individuals will have the opportunity to acquire exclusive leasehold over pink or yellow Freehold.

Hopefully this will provide the confidence and security to people wanting to build and develop on their own land.

Under Native Title, common law holders have the right to use their lands in the traditional ways and, since September 2021, this includes the four Eastern Kuku Yalanji national parks.

However, when it comes to obtaining investment-ready tenure excised from Aboriginal Freehold for individual common law holders, there remains a substantial amount of work to do.

Over the next few years this will be the number one priority for me.

Joint planning

Joint Management of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji national parks continues with increasing engagement with the Department of Environment and Science (DES).

Guided by the Indigenous Management Agreement (IMA) we are working towards developing instruments of transfer allowing implementation of models that progress towards operational sole management.

We're still in the planning phase, but we're working positively with the



EKY awards night held 29 July 2022 at Sheraton Port Douglas, Jabalbina received the Caring for Bubu award, held here by Colin Doughboy.

A word from the Chair, Michelle Mooka-Friday



L-R Jimmy Stanton-Cooke (HalfCut), Kelvin Davies (Rainforest 4) and Michelle Friday-Mooka (Jabalbina)

The Jabalbina board has been extremely active, getting out and about and working hard for EKY, board chair Michelle Mooka writes...

We attended this year's AIATSIS Native Title Conference on the Sunshine Coast, and we also had a presence at the Queensland Government's launch of their Path to Treaty report response.

Colin Doughboy and Terrence Gibson-Douglas went along to that with our general manager Josh Patterson.

I have also attended a "Voice to Parliament" discussions.

So we're trying to keep as up-to-date as we can with issues that affect all of us, which I think makes us a progressive organisation.

We are continually moving forward, which at times can be challenging, and we are all constantly busy, but we've always got Jabalbina and EKY people at the forefront of our vision.

Internally we've started our strategic planning, we're updating our policies and procedures and

we're supporting an update of the Indigenous Protected Areas plan.

I'd like to welcome alternate member Junibel Doughboy onto the board, and I'd also like to welcome back Rickie Burchill, who has taken up our Ranger Manager position.

The Board and our Management Team together recently completed Governance Training with the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

We're looking forward to more of that in the new year and we'll also be training with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC), which will not only be for our Board members, but also for our Bama staff.

We are keen to strengthen the foundations of our governance and maintain our momentum as an active and compliant organisation.

I'm glad to say the majority of our managers now are young Yalanji future leaders.

I also wanted to mention we are supportive of two Native Title claims currently over our EKY land.

We are once again working with both Land Councils – Cape York and North Queensland – to share information and assist our Elders in getting to meetings.

We have a new website up and running, so please take a look at that (with your grannies!) if you can, and follow our Facebook page.

You'll see the notice for our AGM, which will be held on 12 November in Wujal Wujal.

We were keen to hold that further north, so we'll look forward to seeing you all there.

Yalada.

government to identify opportunities where we can fast track the transfer process.

We're also continuing to work closely with our partners and key stakeholders in the preservation and conservation of the Daintree National Park, particularly with our Stronger Together partners, HalfCut Limited and Rainforest 4 Foundation, and with our key partner in developing the Diwan Nursery, which is Rainforest Rescue.

Rainforest Rescue and Jabalbina are looking to employ a Yalanji trainee nursery hand to work in the Diwan Nursery.

We have received additional funding for our youth justice grant in the On Country program, now reaching in to support youth in Mossman and Port Douglas.

That will allow us to carry out more focused work, with more staff and more facilities.

NAIDOC Week was an important week for us, with the opportunity to contribute and engage across Eastern Yalanji country, Rangers and Jabalbina staff celebrated and supported NAIDOC in Wujal Wujal, Rossville, Mossman and Mossman Gorge.

Each year Jabalbina sponsors and

contributes to the EKY Indigenous Gala Ball and it was really nice to see Jabalbina's work caring for Bubu recognised with an award.

And finally I'm grateful to say we have a very active Board at the moment, and even more pleased to say my contract has been renewed for another year.

We are recruiting for positions and keen to employ some more staff in the nursery and other land regeneration projects, so if you are interested please get in touch through our office or social media channels.

Yalada.

Big walk for glider survey

Skipper & Assets Manager Roger Thomas and Ranger Gerard Kulka recently participated in the yellow belly glider survey with conservationist Rupert Russell.

They were joined by two rangers from Western Yalanji, and a number of volunteers.

"The group made their way to the top of the Daintree by helicopter and to the final survey location on foot," Roger said.

"Camping over five days, the team began actively searching for, recording and monitoring yellow-bellied glider populations.

"The species was listed as 'vulnerable' because of population reduction and habitat destruction following the 2019–20 bush fires, with continuing population decline occurring because of ongoing land clearing and fragmentation, extensive and severe bush fires, and climate change."

*Birds feed on a freshly scarred Red Stringybark (*Eucalyptus resinifera*) - the gliders make holes to get at the sap.*



Drone training takes Rangers to the sky

A trio of staff from the Jabalbina Ranger team are on their way to achieving Remote Pilot Licences (RePL), equipping them to legally fly drones in the area.



Skipper & Assets Manager Roger Thomas

Granted by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, the licenses will help Skipper & Assets Manager Roger Thomas and Ranger Nigel Minniecon in their work.

"Drones can be deployed to assist with fire management, monitoring

and maintenance of sacred places in consultation with Elders, patrols, monitoring of land and sea, and much more," Roger said.

"With permission from CASA, we will be able to fly in restricted areas.

"It's pretty massive."

New boat fit for 'all weather'

With a brand-new boat poised for delivery, Skipper & Assets Manager Roger Thomas says he's looking forward to being able to tackle 'all weather' in this leading-edge sea craft.

The 1850 Stabicraft, built in New Zealand, will support the team's work on land and sea monitoring and management, in partnership with neighbours, scientists and staff from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and other government agencies.



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**OUR NEW WEBSITE
IS LIVE!!**

Visit our new website to connect with us, find out information, download job applications, and more.



Backstage at Midnight Oil

Several Eastern Kuku Yalanji people, members of the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and Daintree Traditional Owners had an opportunity to attend the Midnight Oil concert as guests in Cairns in August.

They also got to go backstage to meet the band.

Midnight Oil has championed environmental conservation and First Nation land rights around Australia and all over the world for the past 40 years – perhaps most notably with their worldwide hit in the 1980s *'Beds are Burning'*, which includes the lyrics, *"it's belongs to them, let's give it back"*.

Jabalbina General Manager Josh Patterson said they were proud to show members of the band their own proof of how Midnight Oil's 'Call to Action' over the years had worked for EKY people.

"It was with great pride we were able to show Midnight Oil an official framed Deed of our Land Rights over the Daintree region that was handed back by the Queensland Government to the Daintree Traditional owners in a historic and landmark ceremony last September," he said.

Those who met Midnight Oil

before the big show included Josh and his daughter Jaramali Paterson, Taryn Stafford, Jabalbina Tourism Facilitator Crag Carttling and Senior Ranger Kallum Clarke.

"Our group exchanged gifts with the band including a set of Daintree Handback t-shirts, which the band autographed after the show and organised to have sent to us," Josh said.

"We were especially wrapped to receive an autographed poster from the band and took great delight in showing it to the office the next day – once it is framed, it will have pride of place on our wall near to the Deed - a fitting spot in acknowledgement of Midnight Oil's constant call for First Nation Land rights.

"During my brief chat with the band members, I was able to extend an open invitation from our Elders and Rangers team to offer to host any future private trips by Midnight Oil band members, office team

members or Midnight Oil crew members who decide to visit the Daintree Rainforest.

"We will show them a Big Day Out on the reef and into the Daintree with all the bells and whistles, as we did with Jim Moginie and Liz Stringer in early April."

Craig said they were grateful for such a great opportunity to raise Jabalbina's profile.

"We would sincerely like to thank Midnight Oil band members, Melissa at the Midnight Oil management office, Mahalia and the Midnight Oil crew who looked after us at the concert," he said.

"Also band member Jim Moginie, who organised guest tickets for the Jabalbina crew, as well as Integrated Media, who volunteered and came in at short notice to take footage and photographs.

"We had an exciting night meeting the Midnight Oil band members and then rocking on afterwards at the concert."



Band management and members with Jabalbina staff and family: TOP ROW L-R Andy Bickers, Adam Ventoura, Peter Garrett, Jim Moginie & Martin Rotsey MIDDLE ROW Jabalbina General Manager Josh Patterson & Liz Stringer FRONT ROW L-R Jaramali Paterson, Leah Flanagan, Taryn Stafford, Crag Carttling, Drummer Rob Hirst and Senior Ranger-Kallum Clarke holding the historic framed Land Rights Title of Deed Certificate for the Daintree, backstage at the Cairns concert. Image: Integrated Media.

Our role in protecting Eastern Yalanji lands, sea and culture

Work is ongoing to ensure Traditional Owners can get more involved in looking after their own country Principal Ranger Conrad Yeatman says.

“Jabalbina’s Joint Management Committee is looking at how the Indigenous Management Agreement (IMA) is going to be implemented, supporting Traditional Owners and Jabalbina towards sole management of the national park,” he said.

Conrad has worked hard with a number of Bama groups over the past 20 years to help set up Traditional Owners’ opportunities within CYPAL – Cape York Peninsular Aboriginal Land.

As joint managers of the land, Traditional Owners will be involved in all levels of park management, from resource and visitor management policies, to operational procedures for the day-to-day

management including pest animal and pest plant control, fire management, permits, presentation and facilities.

Traditional Owners may also economically benefit from contract work, commercial tourism and Indigenous ranger employment.

“Joint management members come and meet at least four times a year,” Conrad said.

“The group consist of nine Traditional Owners and three elected members from the three clan groups.

“We had two joint management meetings so far this year.

“We’ve talked about key principles and activities in national park.

“One of the highlights from our first meeting, was the DES

agreement that all casual Indigenous identified relief rangers are engaged and employed through Jabalbina – the first time in Cape York.

“We also identified issues such as an infestation of fire ants that’s now sneaking into the national park and also the islands.

“So, we’re going to try and look at ways of engaging with the state to train local Traditional Owners to be aware of those pests, train them up to be a business, and to then go out and look at cleaning up this land.”

The group will be developing an IMA protocol over the next two years which will include a visitor management strategy, Cultural Heritage strategy, cross cultural training, tourism



cultural information, burial and fire protection.

“We will need to secure funding from Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service to front-load our capacity building within the organisation,” Conrad said.

Ultimately, the goal was to provide best management of the park by Eastern Yalanji with the support of the state to ensure Eastern Yalanji lands, sea and culture healthy for our children for future generations to the benefit of all the people of Queensland.



Earlier this year Rangers Kim and Jason completed their Chemical Application, Machinery Operation, Workplace Health & Safety competencies at Jabalbina followed in July by Chainsaw Operation and Small Trees.

There are 16 competencies they are aiming for all up, to achieve their Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management.

North Region TAFE Leading Vocational Teacher in Horticulture, Vito Musumeci, said some of their studies were done in a ‘block’ system in Cairns, most of the rest were delivered ‘on

Country’, about every

“The competencies that the trainees are doing is he said.

“While there is theoretical each competency they also have to prove them practically.

“I always enjoy training guys, they are keen, enjoy their work and great for

farewell JD!

Head Ranger John Dockrill's last day in August was celebrated with him by JYAC and QPWS staff with a BBQ at the Alchera office. Thanks for your work with us, John, and good luck!



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LEFT: Ranger trainee Kim Missionary was named Sportsperson of the Year at the recent EKY Awards held in Cairns.

RIGHT: Mens' Summit in July



Starring on WIN local news!
A new program upskilling Indigenous Rangers to work on the Reef: Indigenous rangers are being taught how to scuba dive, as part of a new joint Federal and State Government program. Gaining hands-on experience to help care for, protect and promote our iconic Great Barrier Reef were Nigel and Gerard (pictured).



‘On Country’ healing

The Jabalbina Yalanji On Country team has been planning tailored activities to address disadvantage experienced by local teens caught up in the youth justice system.

Boys’ camp team leader John Ryan said that while the On Country program had been impacted by sorry business, as well as restructuring within the team, plans were afoot to work with the local Mossman kids thanks to the Community Partnership Innovation Grants initiative.

Designed to enable local communities to deliver locally designed solutions, the new programs support young people to turn their backs on crime and reduce anti-social behaviour.

Overnight On Country Healing Camps can now be undertaken at very short notice and may be used by young people within 72-hours of leaving detention – the time they are most vulnerable and at highest risk of re-offending.

MEANWHILE On Country program manager James Kerr said participants had done “great work” at a cultural workshop facilitated by Kija Creations, which was designed to help re-connect young people to culture earlier this year.

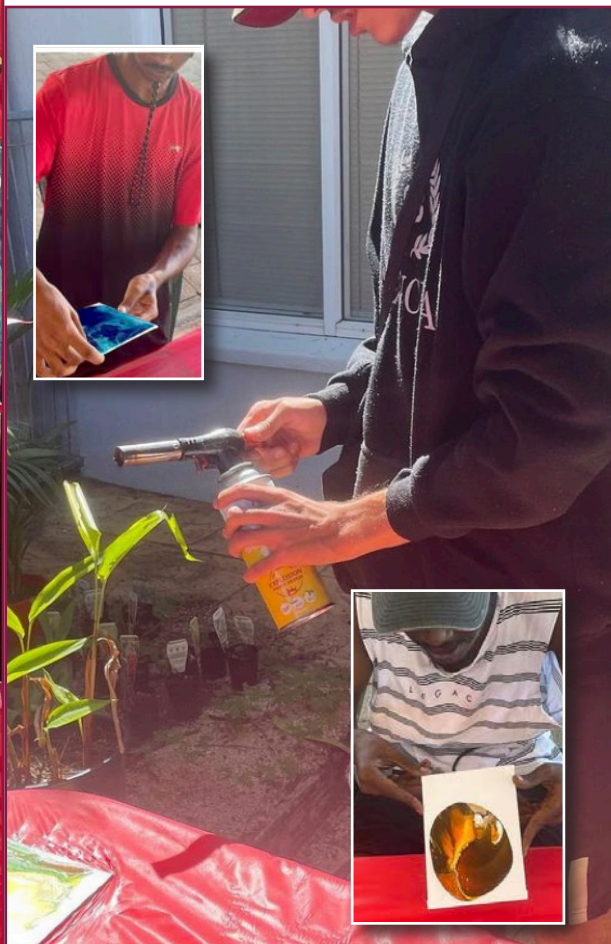
“The participants discussed where their homelands are, what does it look like, describing the landscape and what they know about it and what they would like to do there,” he said.

“They learnt a paint pour technique that represents an aerial view of country.

“Each participant was given three canvas each and

had the opportunity to pour each landscape: sea country, outback dry country and rainforest country.

“It’s a fun technique to learn and a good yarn to support identity.”



Nursery marks the start of a new era at Wawu Dimbi

A new nursery is only one element of some of the ‘big plans’ on the way for Wawu Dimbi, Jabalbina General Manager Josh Paterson says.

The Jabalbina team has been working with the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) to take over the lease of the Wawu Dimbi property directly.

The property was owned by ILSC, but leased to Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku Inc, with BBN sub-leasing to Jabalbina.

“We’ll be removing that subleasing arrangement and going directly to ILSC and leasing the property, with the goal of taking ownership over that property entirely within a year or two,” Josh said.

“We’ll continue to manage it on behalf of the Traditional Owners.

He said Wawu Dimbi supported Eastern Kuku Yalanji aspirations as a place for Bama to connect to Bubu.

“We’re going to continue to offer the same access and availability to that property as has always been offered with BBN,” he said.

“However, we’re looking to improve facilities there for camping and access ability for Elders, with one of the houses being upgraded for Elder use, including things like downstairs toilets.”

The team was also looking into a Land Restoration Fund (LRF) grant, in collaboration with the HalfCut Foundation and Rainforest 4.

LRF manages carbon sequestration, and the agreements that sit behind that with the government allowing

for carbon capture to be quantified and purchased by the government.

“We’re looking at a program there that would see us endeavour to regenerate 50 hectares of Wawu Dimbi,” he said.

“Those 50 hectares would generate an LRF income of around \$1.3 million over 15 years.

“In doing that, we’d also be seeking to build a nursery on Wawu Dimbi, and have an additional two or three staff to manage that project, as well as a program to develop that property for other purposes as well including, potentially, tourism.” Josh said.



Project Leader Lana Hepburn has been out and about checking fish barriers in the Daintree, Mossman and Lower Barron catchments with [OzFish Unlimited](#). Recently she was invited to participate in a smoking ceremony before walking on Eastern Kuku Yalanji country to look at potential fish barriers at Wawu Dimbi (northern bank of Daintree River).
[@_jabalbina_](#)



Conservation in our hands

Ongoing collaboration between Jabalbina, Rainforest 4 Foundation and the HalfCut movement continues to see blocks of Daintree Lowland Rainforest coming back into Traditional Owners' hands to conserve and manage - and explore ecotourism opportunities.

In April this year a further ten properties were returned to Traditional Owners.

Through the organisations' Stronger Together partnership, Rainforest 4 Foundation has purchased and protected 21 at-risk rainforest properties over the past two and a half years.

Home to endangered species like the Cassowary and Bennett's Tree-Kangaroo as well as the threatened plant Noah's Walnut and Isachne sharpie, these properties form part of Australia's most biodiverse and breathtakingly beautiful landscapes.

Over time, they will be returned to Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation for management by Traditional Owners and inclusion in the Daintree National Park (CYPAL).

Jabalbina Chair Michelle Friday-

Mooka said their partnership was unique in Australia.

"This partnership has been recognised by the Queensland Government with a Reconciliation Award," Michelle said.

"We are the only formalised, non-Government program which purchases land for conservation to be owned and managed by its Traditional Owners.

"Reconciliation means working together to correct the legacy of past injustices.

"Let us recognise the past injustices to Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bama (people), Bubu (country) and Jalun (sea).

"When it comes to reconciliation and righting the wrongs of the past, we must work together.

"We are stronger together."

Rainforest 4 Foundation CEO Richard Christian said

the partnership had achieved significant outcomes in its two-year history.

"We have already returned six blocks back to Eastern Kuku Yalanji people through Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation," Richard said.

"We were thrilled to hand over another ten blocks for conservation outcomes.

"Tens of thousands of donors across Australia and abroad have contributed to this program.

"We are giving people a real opportunity to invest in practical conservation outcomes.

"This is a win-win – not only are we delivering conservation outcomes, we are also supporting Traditional Owners to explore ecotourism opportunities and work on practical conservation projects on Country."





PICS thanks to Rainforest 4 and Steven Nowakowski.
 TOP : Smoking Ceremony; ABOVE TOP: Jabalbina
 Rangers and visitors planting trees; ABOVE:
 Kuku Yalanji Elder, Aunty Betty, at the Welcome
 to Country ceremony ABOVE RIGHT: Richard
 Christian (Rainforest 4), Jimmy HalfCut, Kelvin Davies
 (Rainforest 4) and Michelle Friday-Mooka (Jabalbina);
 RIGHT: Sobah cheers. p 10: Smoking Ceremony.



“Big things could happen” for Yalanji people, Volt Advisory Group for the Daintree Renewable Microgrid Project Officer Kieran Jon Ryan says.

The Daintree Renewable Microgrid (DRM) proposes to deliver a renewable energy microgrid for the Daintree community in two stages to improve the affordability, reliability, and security of energy supply to the region.

The project has secured \$19.7 million funding from the Federal Government to deliver a solar farm on Buchanan Creek Road out at Cow Bay.

“Volt Advisory has been doing great work up here, and I have become quite close with the members of the team,” he said.

“There’s a lot that could happen – even electric vehicle charging stations at our up-and-coming Tourism Hub.”

The Daintree Renewable Microgrid is the first of its kind in the world and aimed at displacing diesel consumed for power resources for both residents and businesses in the Daintree.

A feasibility study has been carried out for the potential development of a renewable energy microgrid for the Wujal Wujal community.

“For this project, they have really gone beyond their means to engage with our elders in a culturally respectful way and have created 3D printed drafts to give a clearer picture of what the study entails for our older community members,” he said.

For more information see <https://voltadvisorygroup.com/projects/the-daintree-renewable-microgrid-drm/>



In the pics at the Daintree launch meeting, and on a five and a half hour walk from Dawnvale to the Bloomfield River are: Beryl Ryan, Yindili Ryan, Veronica Solomon, Andrew-John Solomon, Andrea Ryan, Sean Cross, Richard Schoenenmann, Henry Fracchia, Nikita Jack-Tayley, Vincent Tayley, Katrina Smith and Darryl Lam.

