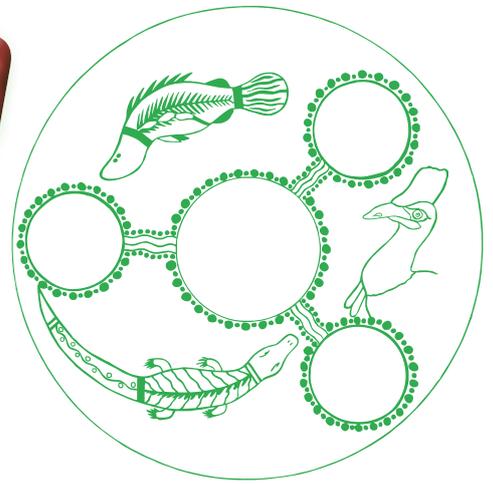


# Bamangka Kaban

Newsletter of the  
Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and  
Jabalbina Yalanji Land Trust  
JUNE 2011



## Plans for IPA well underway

**The Eastern Yalanji Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) project is well underway, with the Stage 1 – Nyungkal Country management plan now being drafted, and Stage 2 – Jalun Warra Land and Sea Country ready to kick off, writes Rowan Shee.**



Kuku Nyungkal Traditional Owners met in Rossville from May 9-13 (*pictured above*) to work on the IPA management plan and work out the vision for Nyungkal Country, priority values, threats and strategies.

Dr Ro Hill and Dr Petina Pert from CSIRO will draft the plan

and bring it back to Nyungkal for agreement.

Nyungkal Elder and Jabalbina project officer Hazel Douglas said everyone was happy to have so much input into the plan.

"I was impressed to see people who are usually quiet at meetings get up and speak

for their Bubu," she said.

Eastern Yalanji Traditional Owners decided in late 2009 to go ahead with a staged, clan-based IPA over Eastern Yalanji Country.

An all-Jalun Warra meeting is planned for 8-10 July 2011 to work on the IPA Stage 2 management plan.

**Welcome to Bamangka Kaban, newsletter of the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and Jabalbina Yalanji Land Trust.**

**"Yalanji warra muruku junkurrjimaka bamangka bubuku"**

Yalanji people stand strong together for our people and our land

PO Box 1430  
MOSSMAN 4873

Ph: (07) 4098 5500  
Fx: (07) 4098 5900

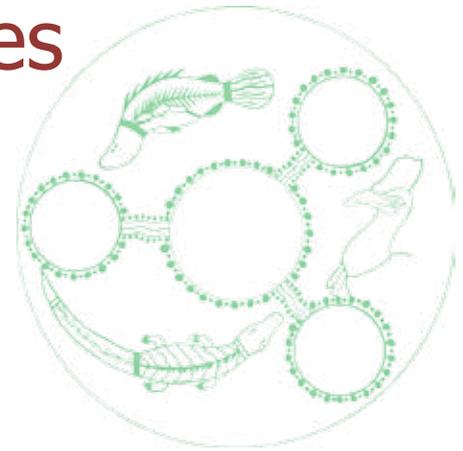
admin@jabalbina.com.au  
www.jabalbina.com.au

## What is Jabalbina?

The word Jabalbina means "Home of the Ancestors". Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation, with a current membership of 376 Eastern Kuku Yalanji (EKY) people, was established as a Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) in 2007 to look after the Native Title interests of Eastern Kuku Yalanji. Jabalbina is the Land Trust with responsibility for holding title to Aboriginal Freehold Land granted to Eastern Kuku Yalanji people by the Queensland Government as part of the EKY Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs). Jabalbina is presently facing the challenge of working through 15 ILUAs which cover a range of stakeholders including state and local government and business enterprises within EKY traditional estate. The goal is for EKY people to enjoy their Native Title rights, earn their livelihoods and establish themselves on bubu for the well-being of their families into the future.

## Good outcomes from 2010 AGM

**The Jabalbina Corporation Annual General Meeting was held at Daintree Community Hall on Saturday 30 October 2010.**



Chairperson, Francis Walker welcomed attendees and spoke strongly about the organisation and its future.

"Eastern Kuku Yalanji people brought Jabalbina into being just three short years ago on 18 September 2007," Ms Walker told the meeting.

"For many years Eastern Kuku Yalanji people were supported and guided by the Land Council and others during the fight to gain Native Title.

"Now we have to stand on our own, and for ourselves and our future generations to make the most of what was gained in that long fight.

"Jabalbina is not a Government agency or a Government funded organisation like a Land Council, it was created by Bama for Bama.

"Jabalbina is your organisation and like a young child can only grow strong and capable with the encouragement and guidance of those who created it"

Members expressed strong support for Jabalbina with ideas discussed at the meeting including:

- strengthening the use of language.
- through waterways, springs and waterfalls as a way of strengthening connection to country;
- the need for increased involvement of members and TOs from other places like Hopevale, Yarrabah, Palm Island; and,
- the need for Elders to be involved in cultural heritage work.

Members also confirmed the appointment of Alfred Diamond, Roslyn Port and Fr Vincent Sands as Directors, and thanked Shaun Creek, Doreen Jones and Troy Mallie, who had stepped down as Directors for various reasons since the previous AGM.

The Corporation's Rulebook was amended by resolution to allow for the creation of a Jabalbina Gift Fund which will assist us in seeking recognition as a deductible gift recipient.

While attendance was well below expectation, those who were there contributed strongly to discussions and enjoyed an excellent BBQ lunch prepared by the Mossman Boating and Fishing Club.

**Paul Barrett, CEO**



# Freehold land signing

**Jabalbina has acquired 16 blocks of freehold land promised to us as part of Eastern Kuku Yalanji (EKY) Native Title negotiations.**

The organisation was also seeking funding for a feasibility study into development opportunities for these blocks and Bama land.

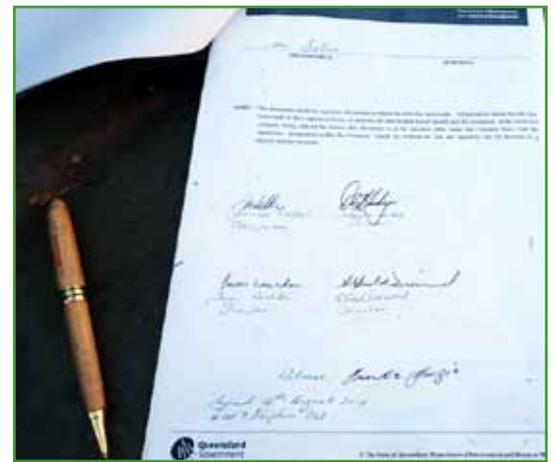
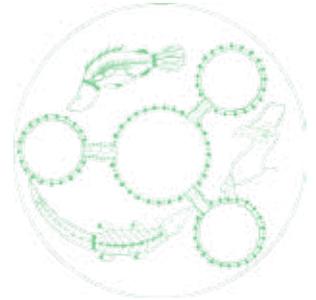
Acceptance of the blocks was witnessed by EKY Elder Frankie Yougie in August 2010 when Jabalbina directors met at Shipton's Flat.

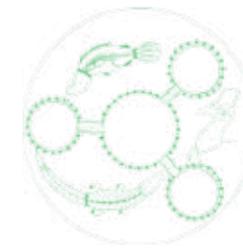
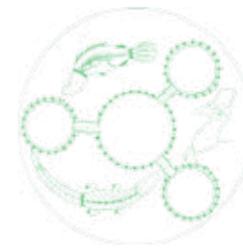
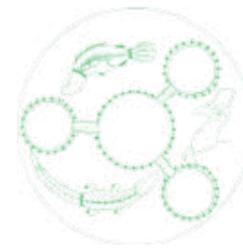
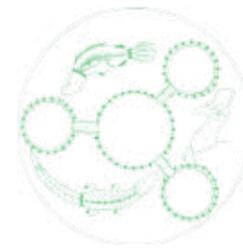
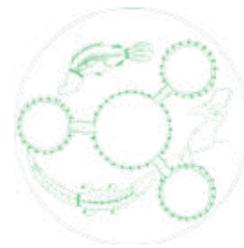
Jabalbina CEO Paul Barrett said the blocks would be used by Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation to support the operations of the corporation, and contribute toward assisting Bama develop enterprises on Aboriginal freehold land. "There are 16 blocks totalling about 50 hectares," Mr Barrett said. "However only a few of these blocks are suitable for development, quite a few are pretty rough and would require a big investment to develop."

He said Jabalbina, with the assistance of Northern Project Contracting, had been seeking Government funding for 2011-12 to pay for a consultant to do a feasibility study

on development opportunities on these blocks and looking at business opportunities for Bama on Aboriginal Land Act land.

"This study will assist Jabalbina to understand which of these blocks have development potential, how to maximise the return from these blocks and set out a pathway for seeking out investment partners," he said. "As always there are problems to be sorted out, one of the blocks was transferred with an unapproved occupied dwelling on it, which the State Government has agreed to deal with, and another block is subject to further negotiation with Cairns Regional Council."





# ***Serious now, it's time to meet our Board of Directors...***

**Our Chairperson and female Director for Northern Region since December 2007, is Francis Walker. Francis is a Wujalwarra woman who lives at Thompson's Creek.**

**Roslyn Port has been our female Director for Central Region since September 2010, and is a Nyungkal Elder who lives in Mossman.**

**Fr. Vincent Sands has been our male Other Areas Director since July 2010, and is a Nyungkal man who lives in Yarrabah.**

**Our male Director for Central Region, since February 2010, is Alfred Diamond who is a well-travelled Kubirriwarra clan Elder now living in Mossman.**

**Delores Friday, female Other Areas Director since September 2007, is a Nyungkal woman who lives in Townsville.**

**Our male Director for Northern Region, since October 2009, is Nyungkal man, Jason Wachter, who lives in Cooktown.**



*L-R: Roslyn Port, Father Vincent Sands, Francis Walker,, Alfred Diamond, Delores Friday & Jason Wachter*

## ***A word from our Chair, Francis Walker:***

*Yarra Ngayku Jawun-Karra,  
Ngayku burri Francis Walker.*

*Ngayku nganjan (Waka Kalbay-Jonnie Walker Snr) and Nyungkal Kuna-warra.*

*Ngayku Ngamu Ivy nee Yerrie and Yalanji Wujal-Dikarrba warra. I have six brothers and six sisters. I have two adopted children, a son, Charleston, and a daughter, Asheruhny.*

*I live on my mother and grandmother's Bawanya bubu with my sister Florence, nephew Stanton, niece Nikita and Asheruhny.*

*Our mother passed on in 1980, she always wanted to return back to our homeland with her family, so we are living our mother's dreams.*

*Since living on country we have been healed, our minds have been strengthened and we have spiritual connection to manage and take care of bubu and family.*

*The establishment of our Walker Family Tour tourism venture, owned and operated by us, makes us proud to promote our Yalanji culture and to educate the general public on our Bama heritage and value.*

*I am honoured that yurra ngayku jawun-karra have trusted me to be yurranga/ngananga voice on the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (JYAC) Board as Chairperson to be a part of a team to advocate for our Bama.*

*I have been with JYAC since establishment.*

## **And our staff...**

**Paul Barrett** was appointed as **CEO** of Jabalbina in April 2010, and is a qualified accountant with 25 years experience working in Indigenous organisations.

**Rowan Shee**  
**Planning & Development Coordinator**

I'm from the Flinders Ranges in Adnyamathanha Country in the dry lands of South Australia. I'm married with a seven-year-old son. After too much study and work in different places as a town planner, camping tour driver, English teacher, youth worker, vegetation mapper and national park planner, I ended up at Jabalbina in 2009. I'm looking forward to working with Bama on the Indigenous Protected Area and other projects.

**Hazel Douglas**  
**Eastern Kuku Yalanji Project Officer**  
I am an Eastern Kuku Yalanji Elder and Traditional Owner of this area.  
My hobbies are camping, fishing, music, reading, walking and meeting other people from all over the world.

**Andrew John Solomon**  
**Sea County Project Officer**  
I am a Jalunwarra Traditional Owner who has worked in many jobs around Australia but I have come back to live on country and work for my mob.



*Pictured  
L-R Louise,  
Robyn,  
Andrew,  
Rowan,  
Paul &  
Hazel*

**Robyn Bellafquih**  
**Pink Zone Community Development Officer**  
I am a member of the Jalunwarra clan group. I studied my Honour's in Community Development & Management at Curtin University in Perth in the hopes of assisting Bama with land and sea issues. I have been working with Jabalbina for the past 18 months.

**Louise Swansborough**  
**Corporate Services Officer**  
I am new to Jabalbina, I've only been here since March. My partner & I have been living in the area for 11 years, before that in Melbourne, where our four children and three grandchildren live. I am very much looking forward to being able to assist Bama over the coming months.



# Moving back to country – making the ILUAs work takes time and thinking!

**Legal advice is exclusive use rights (occupation) over particular blocks of Aboriginal freehold land is best done by lease says Jabalbina CEO Paul Barrett.**



Mr Barrett said a lease clearly sets out the rights and obligations of both Jabalbina Yalanji Land Trust as the landholder, and the occupier as the leaseholder.

“Although this hasn’t turned out to be as straightforward as we had hoped,” he said.

“Our current legal advice is that the Native Title rights and interests of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people as a group must be looked after as our highest priority.

“Our advice on the way to do this is to put in place an ILUA which sets out procedures Jabalbina, as the Native Title Holder, has to follow before giving the Land Trust clearance to negotiate a lease or any other agreement

for activities on the land.”

**So why can’t Bama just move back onto country?**

“We can only answer that we are taking the advice of lawyers who are expert in these matters and doing the best we can to solve a situation Jabalbina has inherited from the ILUA negotiations,” Mr Barrett said.

“Jabalbina is hopeful that with Cape York Land Council’s assistance this issue can be resolved reasonably quickly.

“However working out the ILUA procedures and obtaining the National Native Title Tribunal’s approval of those procedures may take some time.”



**Community Development Planning (CDP) has moved ahead in leaps and bounds so far this year, writes Pink Zone CDO Robyn Bellafquih....**

Jabalbina and Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) staff have been out and about consulting and updating clan groups, as well as Bama in off-country communities, about their Aboriginal Freehold land.

To date there have been three rounds of consultations from Hopevale/Cooktown through to Mackay.

Jabalbina's Pink Zone CDP project will finish at the end of this month, which means Community Development Plans will be done for most of the approximately 40 Pink Zone blocks. They will include:

- **Activity Guidelines** for many activities that Bama want to do as part of moving back to bubu, including building and looking after bayans, other buildings, driveways and roads, using timber for building, setting up gardens, keeping animals and getting rid of waste. There are special Activity Guidelines for Areas of High Conservation Significance (such as



Jarrabinna forest and rainforest along some creeks); and,

- **Mapping** of Good Living Areas (GLAs) showing the best areas to build on in the Pink Zones.

Bama building on the GLAs according to the Activity Guidelines will not need any WTMA approvals.

Bama wanting to build will still need to get consent from other Traditional Owners (through Jabalbina), Council planning and building approval and finance.

Once the Council approval is given, Bama can then begin clearing land and putting up their approved buildings.

Finally after many years of negotiations, we can move back on bubu!

**Draft Activity Guidelines and CDPs are available from Jabalbina.**



**At the Nyungkal forum in Rossville on May 9-13, Traditional Owners strongly supported a Kuku Nyungkal Elders Advisory Group being formed to guide and advise Jabalbina Directors in their responsibility for bubu and getting Bama back on bubu.**

The Nyungkal Elders Advisory Group held their first meeting on 23 June in preparation for the review of the Nyungkal IPA management plan. Jabalbina will talk with the other clan groups about setting up their Elders Advisory Group as soon as possible.

# Cultural Seasons

*June/July/August is the best seasonal hunting time for queenfish, Cooktown salmon and butterfish, also the bulkiji (shellfish), sea urchins and crabs are fat for the taking.*

*These months are also snake and lizard breeding season and care should be taken when hunting.*

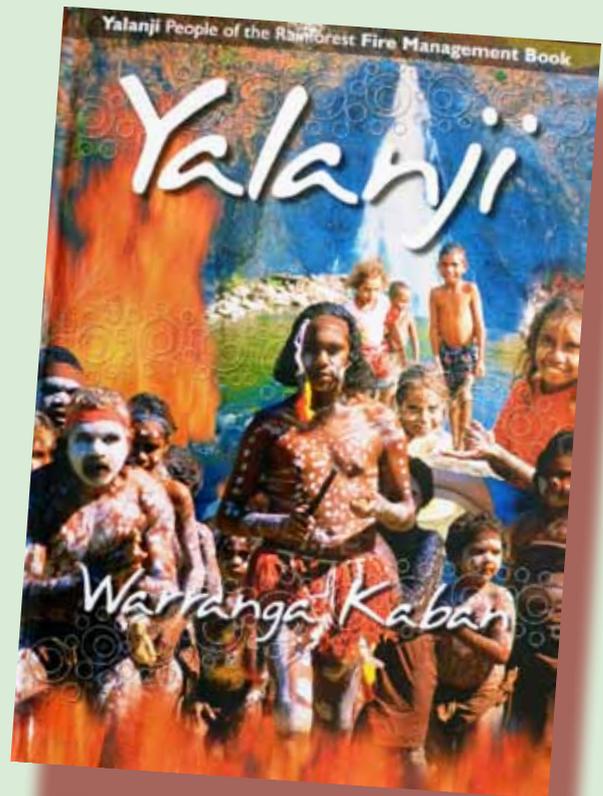
*Porcupine, wallabies, kangaroos, bandicoots and other small animals are easier to catch in the colder weather.*

*It's time for burning along the edge of madja (rainforest).*

*Julbin (cycad) nuts can be collected in the madja as well as all types of wild honey.*

*And this is the main harvesting time for wakay (yams) when the leaves die off the vines and the new vine starts to grow.*

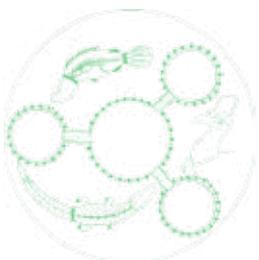
*Kababina freshwater lily fruits, tubers, stems and stalks can be found in the freshwater swamps from now until August as well.*



Jabalbina Yalanji  
Aboriginal  
Corporation and  
Jabalbina Yalanji  
Land Trust

PO Box 1430  
MOSSMAN 4873

Ph: (07) 4098 5500  
Fx: (07) 4098 5900



PRINT  
POST

PP424022/2615

POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA

