

Wait-a-While

Newsletter | Edition 7
July 2015

DJUNBUNJI LAND & SEA PROGRAM



Tourism plans a step closer to reality

Commitment, collaboration and more than 18 months of hard work have led to an agreement signing which is the first step towards a three-pronged tourism development project go ahead on the far side of Trinity Inlet.

Mandingalbay Yidinji (MY) people worked hard for many years to secure one of the first Indigenous Protected Areas in Queensland - now they want to put it to good use in the hope one day they will achieve economic independence separate to government.

Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing Director-General Dr John Glaister (pictured right above) believes



we are well and truly on the right track.

"This is really a small step, but it's a significant one," he said.

"I'm really encouraged that it's not just MY people here today but other mobs and it certainly is a fantastic outcome.

"The thing that's impressive about this group is they're setting achievable goals, they're not shooting for the sky, they're taking small but significant steps and if you do it properly the first time it saves a lot of pain for everyone."

Continued next page...

INSIDE...



Ghost net video to go national...p 5

Yeppoon clean up post TC Marcia...p 6

Cultural heritage on show for tourists...p 8

A word from... Executive Director Dale Mundraby

On the 15th of April this year Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation took part in a ceremonial handshake with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Director General John Glaister.

What the ceremonial handshake meant is the Mandingalbay Yidinji, in partnership with Djunbunji, has authority to utilise the Grey Peaks National Park for its natural and cultural resource management activities – that's the Ranger Program which is under Section 34 under the Nature Conservation Act.

The second component allows the Mandingalbay Yidinji and Djunbunji people to carry out commercial tourism activities within the Grey Peaks National Park area.

In addition to that, in the surrounding areas of East Trinity the Mandingalbay Yidinji now have a tourism permit.



Djunbunji goes undercover

In yet another result of this partnership, Djunbunji Ranger base has received from Queensland Parks and Wildlife a 7x8 metre undercover meeting area.

That will help us to showcase our work and provide a meeting venue for our community, our staff and our visitors.

This is fabulous and exciting news for the MY community.

All of this helps our people to improve their capacity and for all of us to continue our good work in looking after our country.

From previous page...



MY Traditional Owner Dewayne Mundraby said the result was an outcome of commitment and collaboration.

"The process that was undertaken is an example of how Indigenous people can fulfil their ambition, and as a community of MY people our ambition is to become autonomous," he said.

"That is non-reliant on government funding to manage country, land, culture and people, in keeping with those principles.

"Our focal point is to ensure that there is a future for the younger people coming



through, so we'll start with establishing our own industry.

"As Indigenous people we're an industry in our own right, there's many laws, legislations and caveats in terms of how we should behave and conduct ourselves.

"Within all of that we've been able to secure a future by way of establishing commercial activity agreements through the Nature Conservation Act (State) and an agreement which provides

for our ambitions - a way of generating income for our people and our future.

"Next month we'll be launching three products, one for the general community in terms of eco-tourism, one for science in terms of working with the universities and the most important one, cultural awareness for the wider and domestic community in terms of a better understanding of what we're about and who we are."



Colin Enoch, Dewayne Mundraby, Dale Mundraby and Vince Mundraby at the 2015 National Native Title Conference in Port Douglas last month. Pic courtesy Koori Mal.

P3D Mapping Stage 2

Mandingalbay Yidinji people constructed a 3D map which was showcased in Sydney last year as well as to schools and also any visitors who come through our office here.

The map was only Stage 1 of Our Country, we're in the process of completing Stage 2. Stage 1 was three tables and a DVD which was launched at April celebrations with the QPWS and that now is on the Wet Tropics website.

The best thing about this is how fantastic it is that something so simple can bring people together.

We will commence Stage 2 Mapping of the bottom half of our country in August – you will be notified shortly to come together and once again construct our country.

Social Media

The Djunbunji Land and Sea Program is now on Facebook. A community page has been set up to help share the work and good stories from the Ranger Program and MY community.

The new page also helps other organisations and partner agencies connect with us via social media. You can like and follow the page by visiting <http://www.facebook.com/djunbunji>

On the job

Everyday is a challenge here, it's not just a job it's an adventure. Having a job and earning a wage is one thing, but having this opportunity is a great thing. It puts a spring in your step to get out of bed each day and work on your country and to be paid for looking after your country – there's no better job in the world.

Dale Mundraby

MY tourism enterprise ready for CIAF launch

Cairns' East Trinity Reserve and Grey Peaks National Park, on the eastern side of Trinity Inlet, will soon be discoverable to tourists and locals alike as Mandingalbay Yidinji prepare to launch a unique new eco-tourism enterprise with the help of Big Cat Green Island Cruises later this month.

The experience will deliver meaning to the relationship between one of the oldest living cultures on the planet and the estuarine mangroves and saltwater wetlands of Trinity Inlet, and the open woodlands and rainforest of Grey Peaks National Park. Traditional Owner Dewayne Mundraby said they were aiming to deliver eco-tourism showcasing their cultural traditions and country. "The desire to do this has

arisen out of community empowerment and perseverance," he said. "The transmission of our knowledge is a powerful and exciting experience." Elder and Traditional Owner Vince Mundraby said a 'soft launch' of the planned tours would operate during the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, 31st July – 2nd August 2015. "This is our opportunity to showcase our culture through our activities which will have our

people interpreting and sharing that knowledge with visitors both near and far," he said. Big Cat Green Island Cruises Operations Manager Steven Davies said he was very happy to be working with the MY community. "I'm really happy working to see where the MY people take us," he said.

For bookings or more information see the Djunbunji webpage at www.djunbunji.com.au/tours

Hills Creek fish surveys collecting good results



Fisheries Queensland technicians have been working with the Djunbunji Land and Sea Rangers to process fish frames, conduct boat ramp surveys and to develop Indigenous fish survey methods.

In May this year a survey of Hills Creek, in East Trinity revealed the water quality and fish stocks were improving Ranger Howard Mundraby said.

"Hills Creek is situated on the eastern side of the Trinity Inlet," he said.

"It's one of the waterways we have in our Native Title Determination area.

"It's the main feeder for the wetlands in East Trinity, so we test the water quality and we conduct fish surveys down here in the mouth of the Hills Creek, on the other side of the bund wall to monitor the health of the wetlands.

"With the water quality, we not only do that in Hills Creek, we also do Fig Tree Creek and the Pine Creek catchment up in the hills.

"We test the PH level in the water to give us the quality of the water, so we do a before-rain test and an after-rain test. "Everything is all good; good quality water.

"The fish survey was alright, we caught a range of juvenile fish, like mullet, herring, pony fish and bream.

"The water quality whilst surveying was very clear which may have led to the fish avoiding capture in the gill nets.

"We had better success with cast nets, having about 60% success rate of fish capture when casting.

"The water quality was good and the variety of nursery fish and fingerlings show that the system is improving in health and the animals are returning to use the area."



Ghost net production goes national



Djunbunji rangers have been involved in filming a training video which will be used nationally to help ghost net research and data collection.

“The ghost net training video is going to be sent out to all of the land and sea ranger groups and posted on the ghost net website,” video narrator and Ranger Laurissa Mundraby said.

“So ranger groups anywhere around the country can access the training video and use it to know how to identify ghosts nets along with how to collect and upload the ghost net data sequence on to their PDA or tablet.”

Uncle Maynard Bulmer, John

Clarke, Victor Bulmer and Willie Mundraby worked together with Riki Gunn (GhostNets Australia) and Kathryn Dryden (Terrain NRM) on the step by step guide.

“Ghost nets are discarded nets that are found floating in the ocean or washed up on beaches, so rangers collect the data such as the size of nets, where the nets are coming from to if there’s any animals and details even down to twine and colour and stuff like that,”

Ms Mundraby said.

“And the training video is step-by-step, so they’ll hear my voice narrating and see Djunbunji acting out the scenes.

“Ghost nets are not a major issue in MY Country; however Djunbunji Rangers understand the importance of looking after our marine resources, like turtle and dugong, and we were happy to get involved in the training video production.

“It’s a good experience.”



Rangers clean up after TC Marcia



The highlight of a trip to Yeppoon with Tangaroa Blue and the Dharum Traditional Owners and their kids Djunbunji Ranger Lauri Mundraby says.



Tangaroa Blue Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation focused on the health of marine environments, and coordinates the Australian Marine Debris Initiative, an on-ground network of volunteers, communities, organisations and agencies around the country monitoring the impacts of marine debris along their stretch of coastline.

When category 5 Tropical Cyclone Marcia hit the Capricorn Coast near Rockhampton in February this year, it not only did extensive damage to countless houses, infrastructure and surrounding bush land, but also washed huge amounts of rubbish into the ocean and then dumped it back onto beaches, together with other ocean borne debris. Seven crew members from Tangaroa Blue and eight Indigenous rangers from around Queensland headed down to assist in the clean-up effort, specifically targeting the enormous amount of marine debris that has been washed up along beaches near Yeppoon.

Three rangers and Coordinator Howard Mundraby came down to help out.

Ranger Howard Mundraby has plenty of clean-up experience.

"It was good to get away from the office for a few days, full-on every day," he says.

"Getting the results of the clean-up was my highlight. The amount of debris picked up was my highlight."

"We collected 5.5 tonnes of debris over the four days."

"It made all the hard work worth it. We came from destinations all over Queensland."

"It's good to work with Tangaroa Blue. They have a workload, whenever they need help, they call us and we'll come and help."

Ms Mundraby said it was a great experience working with Tangaroa Blue.

"We were actually the first to arrive on the beach with Tangaroa Blue when we started."

"We were actually the first to arrive on the beach with Tangaroa Blue when we started," she said.



S
O
C
after
mbal
ssa



Coordinator Jon DeLaine drove
by said it was a full on
y for a while but it was hectic
he said.
ne amount of rubbish that we
ight.
s of marine rubbish in only
rk and the long drives to and
rth it.
angaroa Blue too, we share the
y want to go anywhere they just
nd give them a hand."
asn't the first time they had
Blue.
st indigenous group to work
n they started several years

"We continue to work closely with them and recently had a community clean-up at Gingarra Beach. "Then they spoke to us again about getting involved in the clean-up down in Yeppoon after Cyclone Marcia. "One of the beaches we worked on had thousands of tiny pieces of rubbish." What the crew achieved in those amazing four days would never have been possible without the support of many people and organisations, Tangaroa Blue said. "Our thanks goes to the Indigenous rangers from Djunbunji, Giringun and Gidarjil, to cameraman Christian Miller, to the Dharumbal Traditional Owners, the local on-ground support team – Shelly McArdle, John McGrath, Livingstone Shire Council, Fitzroy Basin Association, Fitzroy River & Coastal Catchments, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the funding support through the Federal Government's Reef Trust program," they said.





“Uncle Maynard does the painting,” Mr Bulmer said.

“Some of the pink eoudial, which is sap-type base that we extract off the tree by cutting the tree – we call it chulkul and we use that for making spears.

“We extract the sap of the chulkul tree and let it dry, then we crush it down and melt the chulkul on the fire.

“We mix that with the charcoal and then it just become like a hard resin we use to keep the shaft of a spear in place.”



Cultural artefacts to be on show for tourists

Showcasing cultural artefacts will be an important part of Djunbunji's tourism ventures, Ranger Victor Bulmer says.

"We're actually starting to showcase more cultural heritage due to the fact that we're having a little bit of tourism venture going on here," he said.

"So we're having some artefacts made so we can showcase them.

"There's quite a lot we can do at work to show the implements that we make for hunting and the use of some of the spear-fishing and stuff that we actually make.

"We're trying to keep it authentic."

Cultural heritage is an important part of the Land and Sea Program Work Plan, which means there are opportunities to spot what materials we need for artefact making while we are on country undertaking ranger tasks.

"We see dead timber alongside the road, and we actually leave the dead tree where it is and cut what we need," he said.

"As we go along with our day-to-day work we see the trees we need and collect them. We also collect wood and materials on our days off with our families.

"Part of the importance of cultural heritage work is teaching young ones and passing on knowledge.

"We've also been showcasing what we do in schools and teaching the kids what timbers to use."



Turtle training camp 'amazing experience'



Mon Repos turtle rookery near Bundaberg supports the largest concentration of nesting loggerhead turtles on the east Australian mainland and Djunbunji rangers Uncle Maynard Bulmer and David Kyle, along with Land and Sea Coordinator Jon DeLaine were invited to attend a week long marine turtle training camp.

They all said they got a lot out of it.

"It's a turtle rookery where all the loggerhead turtles go and lay eggs," Mr Bulmer said.

"I was invited there to work a week, to just find out what the turtles do from hatchlings to adults, and where they go.

"We learnt a lot about marine turtle management and how to collect data from the adult female turtles and little hatchlings.

"Once the hatchlings emerge on the beach, they travel for at least three to six months from here to New Zealand, then to South America, and they return back here to Australia as a juvenile, like a

teenager, all grown up 15 years later.

"The female ones always go back to where they been born or laid, they always go back to the same beach.

"I learnt about marine turtle biology and the different life stages of turtles from the hatchlings to adulthood.

"Probably one nest can have something like 120 eggs and out of that 120 there might be three or four who stay alive to breed as a mature 35-40 year old turtle; others get eaten by sharks or birds, or caught in fishing nets.

"It was a pretty amazing thing to experience."



Biosecurity maintained with teamwork



The Northern Australian Quarantine Service, or NAQS, have been working with the Djunbunji Rangers to undertake biosecurity and plant health surveys through MY country and around Yarrabah.

“We had a big day where we took out Djunbunji Rangers along with Gunggandji Rangers and staff from NAQS, including entomologists and botanists, and we went through the East Trinity and Yarrabah areas,” Djunbunji Land & Sea Program Coordinator Jon DeLaine said.

“We were looking at what the biosecurity risks might be, what the current weeds were and what we should be keeping our eyes out for.

“Coming up later in 2015 we

will be going back with NAQS staff and both ranger groups to concentrate on a plant survey around Yarrabah.

“That will include doing a plant health assessment of cultivated plants and crop plants, so flowers, fruits, vegetables that people grow around the community that could potentially harvest diseases.

“We also look at the movement of plants from the Cape or further up Northern Australia that transfer through into East Trinity and Yarrabah.

“Sometimes disease and plants aren’t easily detected because other people have moved them through into Yarrabah or through the region.

“As well as that, because a lot of MY country faces onto Trinity Inlet with ships coming and going, it’s also about looking if there is anything there at East Trinity that’s washed ashore or that is establishing itself there after coming into the area via one of the large ships or cruise liners using the inlet.”



New truck making weed work easy

A new spray truck fitted with a slip-on chemical spray unit has meant Djunbunji rangers have been able to catch up quickly on the number of days they have lost keeping on top of weeds throughout their management area.

Ranger Howard Mundraby said it was a big improvement. "We retired our old spray truck and so were without a spray unit capable vehicle for a few months, but as soon as we got the new truck we caught up with the spray

work and got things back on track," he said. "We have spent more than 50 days spraying in the 12 month period for this financial year. "We target areas in East Trinity and along the road from Jiljii to Buddabadoo.

"That mother-in-law tongue management up at Grey's Road, there's too much of it," he said. "You get patches of it growing here and there, and you go and pull it all out and next thing you know it's growing somewhere else and we got to catch up to that and keep it under control. You can only pull it out by hand, get straight to the roots of the system."

"We used the spray truck to spray weeds such as Singapore daisy, lantana, leucaena and guinea grass." He said one of their biggest problems were outbreaks of mother-in-law tongue along some roadways.



Don't forget to log on!
See our website for more:
<http://www.djunbunji.com.au>
Email admin@djunbunji.com.au
Address 1928 Yarrabah Rd
Bessie Point, Queensland
Postal PO Box 329,
Gordonvale, QLD 4865
Phone 4056 8283
Fax 4056 8284



The MY Ranger Program is funded by the Australian Federal Government.



"LIKE" us on Facebook! You can find Djunbunji Land & Sea Program at www.facebook.com/djunbunji

You can SUBSCRIBE to Wait-a-While by contacting us!

