

Mandingalbay Yidinji People

Wait-a-While

Newsletter | Edition 8

June 2016

DJUNBUNJI

LAND & SEA
PROGRAM



Our children, our future



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A word from... *Executive Director Dale Mundraby*

Djunbunji Land & Sea Corporation and our own Mandingalbay Yidinji Rangers have had an exciting year to date, and it's all just getting bigger and bigger, Executive Director Dale Mundraby writes...

One of the projects the Mandingalbay Yidinji (MY) Aboriginal Corporation has been working on is the MY Direct Benefit Management Plan (DBMP) for multiple species. This is centred around offsets so, for example, if someone were to do development where they clear mangroves, MY can be in a position to offset that development here on MY country. We have also received a grant from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to conduct surveillance and monitoring on MY Country. That work will be done in collaboration with the Gunggandji Rangers and

activities will include utilising the quarantine vessels with customs and going out and identifying other potential impacts on country. We have two stories to go with changes to our Commercial Activity Agreement and you can read about it on pages 3 and 4. Earlier this year MY Rangers were able to experience the campgrounds and equipment used by Balnggarrawarra Rangers at Melsonby Station, on Cape York, thanks to an exchange. They undertook a cultural burn on country, which will help to build capacity for MY Rangers to do burns on our country, and some Cultural Heritage Work where they helped to clean out, manage and

protect cave sites and rock art paintings. Howard Mundraby shares more about this on page 8. Our new Board has been elected for a two-year term, so I'd like to welcome them into their positions and say how much I'm looking forward to moving forward with them. We had our first meeting in March this year at the MY office in Gordonvale. Overall our big picture is coming into sharper and sharper focus as we concentrate on holding our land and our culture close while we develop and maintain appropriate strategies for the sustainable future of our people.

Dale Mundraby



Left: Board members Helen Bulmer, Shakira Kyle, Dawn Kyle & Veronica Mundraby holding a drawing of Jubalum, the apical ancestor of the Mandingalbay Yidinji people in Gordonvale earlier this year.

Capacity grows with new Commercial Agreement

In an amendment to Mandingalbay Yidinji's Commercial Activity Agreement, the organisation can now cater for up to 160 clients looked after by 15 staff for up to 10 guided tours every month ED Dale Mundraby says.

"Our commercial activities can now include guided tours, art/cultural centre workshops, performance and special events, and commercial camping, including camp fires," he said.

"We have also been successful in receiving a grant from the Wet Tropics Management Authority to develop Mandingalbay Yidinji Walking Tracks on country.

"That project has started and will be completed in December 2016.

"It's hoped this will help us develop a framework for how MY can develop, construct and manage those walking tracks utilising our Commercial Activity Agreement to do the Walking Track Tours.

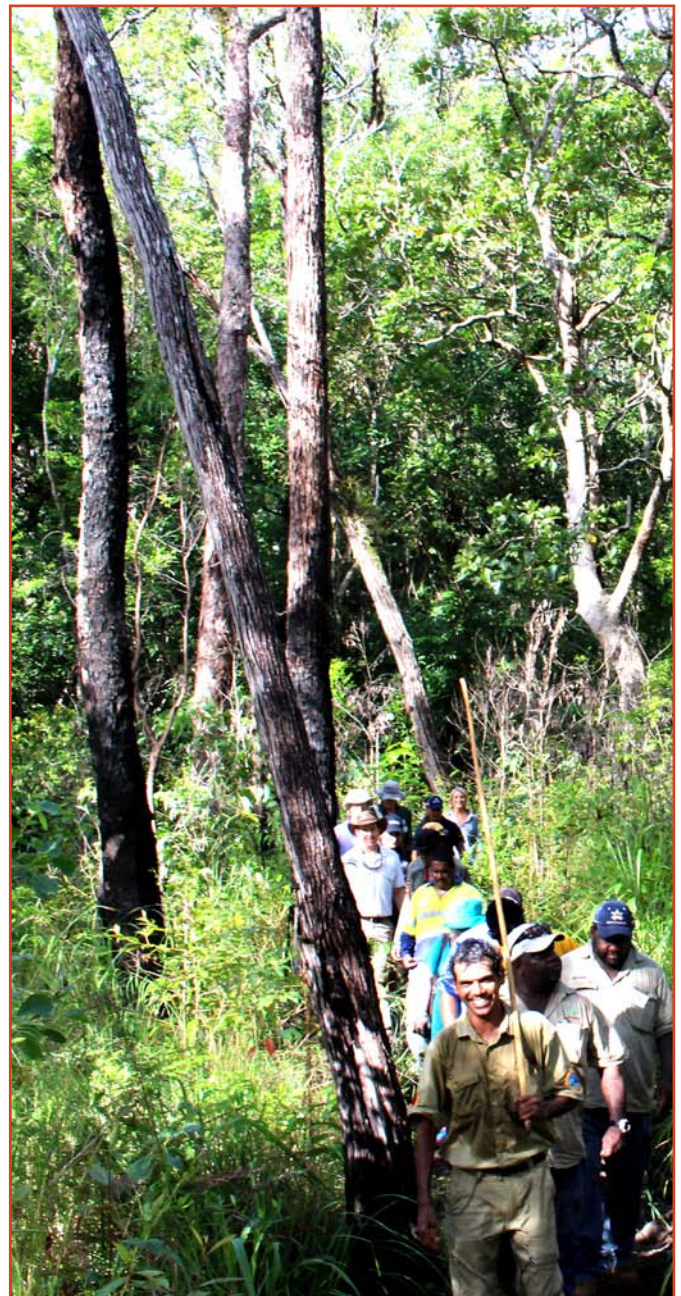
"To date MY have held 14 tours including for St Mary's College in Melbourne, the School of Field Studies back in February, 50 Indigenous Rangers from Queensland, funded by the Prime Minister Cabinet and the Environmental Heritage Protection Agency and that was at the same time as the Queensland Indigenous Ranger Conference, held in the region (see page 11). That day was funded by the

Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet.

"There have also been media tours with the Sydney Morning Herald and ABC, and we also had Shadow Minister for the Environment Mark Butler come out to our office.

"And finally this month we've been showcasing MY Tours from the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair for patrons and artists who have come across the water to experience MY Country and its tours.

"So, the word is out there."



Camping grounds go commercial

Another new amendment on Djunbunji's Commercial Activity Agreement allows for two commercial camping areas and a camp fire place, ED Dale Mundry says.

"The two sites are East Trinity Reserve, so we can actually do camp fires down there, and the second one is Grey Peaks National Park, which is great," he said.

"We've recently had our first group bookings of 30 USA students from the School of Fields Studies and a part of that tour was the Rangers showcasing the natural and cultural resource of MY country, as well as a cultural camp overnight down on East Trinity.

"We've also had our Junior Ranger Camp with all the Mandingalbay Yidinji young ones who came together to undertake cultural activities and cultural knowledge transmission.

"So the elders worked with the young ones making implements, stories, dancing, singing and eating – and there was a lot of laughter with that too!"



Pics on these pages by William Mundry and his son Ben









Winter School Holidays 2016

Pics by Christine Howes



Firing up on Cape York

The challenge and excitement of lighting controlled fires on one of the most hallowed National Parks in the country was not lost on Mandingalbay Yidinji rangers Maynard, Victor, Howard and Djulja earlier this year.

The four spent nearly a week on Melsonby Station where they took the chance to assist local Balnggarwarra rangers do one of their regular burns.

Maynard said it was an exciting learning curve and Howard has been good enough to share his diary for the first three days with us here...



Day 1

We had a tool box meeting, briefing run through the itinerary.

We left the office for our run north with a stop on the way in Mareeba. We then commuted through to Cooktown where we were to meet with the Melsonby Rangers in their office. A few last minute arrangements and a tour of the office, we then had a look at the 3D map they completed of their country.

The two trucks had then set off for a part of Garwan Country on Melsonby Station, after 1 1/2 hours of travel from Cooktown, we finally arrived at the homestead. Brother Banning gave us a smoking ceremony and welcomed us to Country. After a long day's travel, that and a feed had completed our day.



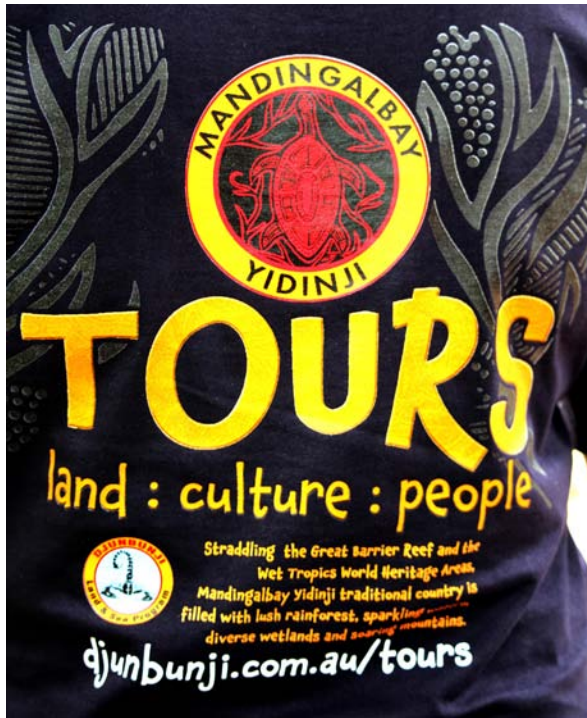


Day 2

After an early morning breakfast and briefing, we set out for the Yellow Man Cave, where we assisted with a clean up of the area. We then took part in the burn off to prevent soot build-up in the cave that will decimate the rock art. Morning tea and lunch was provided down by the Bull Creek Crossing. After lunch we made tracks to the lookout and a few photo spots, we then headed back to the homestead to set up the trucks for the following day's burn off.

Day 3

After an early rise and breakfast we sat down for our final briefing on the burn off. After that we made tracks for the burn off site on the edge of the boundaries. We then started the burn...



MY Eco Cultural tours highlight for State rangers



In March this year more than 50 rangers from all over Queensland experienced one of our first Eco Cultural tours in two groups. One of which walked the Grey Peak National Park Mayibugan Trail while the other took a boat ride on the Trinity Inlet wetlands before they swapped...they had plenty to say about their experience so over the next few pages are their comments.

“I’m one of the organising team for the 2016 Senior Ranger Workshop at Kewarra Beach,” Department of Environment and Heritage Protection Ranger Program Principal Program Officer Narelle Sutherland said. “More than 100 people have come in, which is terrific, from right across Queensland from as far away west as Dajarra, as far north as Injinoo and south to Murray Darling. The MY tours today have absolutely been a highlight, it’s been fantastic. It’s so nice to have a really authentic trip out on country as part of the week after very serious business over there. I think there’s a couple of very, what would you say, more manufactured experience options over in Cairns, but this is just great getting out on country for the other Rangers to see someone else’s country and how they’ve done their set-up for their Ranger programs and to see the local areas of interest, natural interest – fantastic. There’s lots of other groups who’ve got some aspirations around environmental and culture tourism, and this a unique version of that and I’m sure they’ll take away some ideas about what they can do.” *Continued next page...*



Pic: Anna Hertle

"I've really enjoyed the trip today, seeing all the good work that the Rangers and the IPA has done down here for the regeneration of the mangroves, the guided tour up at the Ranger Base and learning all about different plants and medicines up there," Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet Indigenous Environment Program Manager Brant Smith said. "It's just a great example of what can be done on country and good to see all the work's being done by our Rangers. "It's great and it's good to see the two parts – one down here doing the mangrove revegetation work and the excellent progress made; also it was fantastic seeing the Ranger Base and the guided tour that we did up there and looking at different plants and medicines. "It's just a great example of what can be done."



"The response to the tour today was pretty fantastic," MY Eco Cultural Tour Guide and MY Ranger Coordinator Victor Bulmer said. "I was relieved to have that many participants, so hopefully more in the future."

"It's my second time and I enjoyed it every time," Giringun's Evelyn Ivy said.

"This is my first time here," Lama Lama Ranger Alison Liddy said. "And doing the tour just now, I think it's really great. It was good to see the walk with the guide talking about all the bush tucker and medicines, which is basically what we all use on our country. We speak different languages, but we

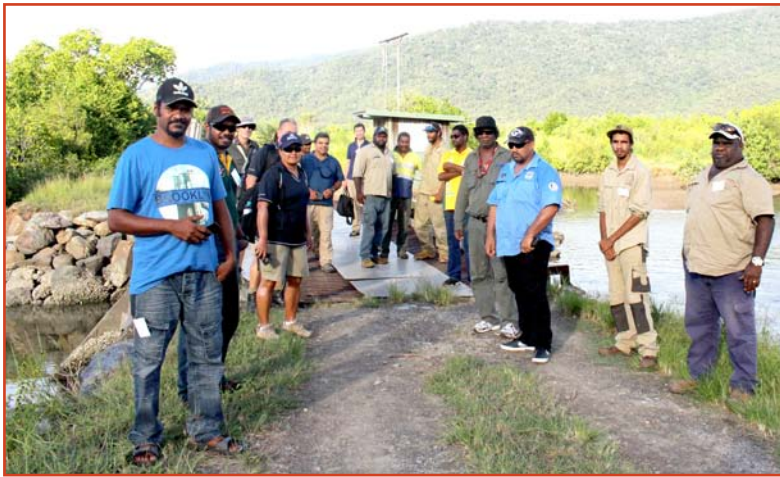


all share the one common thing in our medicine and food-wise. I really enjoyed this little trip here today to a different part of where I come from, different to my homeland. It was so good that I could come out here and enjoy this day with Traditional Owners of this country. It's a bit remote up there because we live on the East Coast of Charlotte Bay; but we could probably do something but at the moment a little guide like this is something we talk about."

"It was good," Gary Hudson from Kowanyama said. "It was very, very interesting."



"It was a good day," Gunggandji ranger Jason Smith said. "Hopefully we can start something up too."



"The tour was pretty good; I enjoyed it," Kowanyama Aboriginal Ranger John Clark said. "I learned a lot of things about the rainforest area."

"Victor gave us a great insight into the traditional uses of the plants in the area, I thought it was very good," Balnggarawarra Ranger Deni Kelly said. "We're about an hour north west of Cooktown we are, so west of Hopevale (on the Battlecamp Road).

"The guys and the TOs that I work with aspire to tourism as well.

"They have actually already done their tour guide training, so they're actually Cert 3 in Tour Guides, so they've had all the training and they got a great product out there. "It's good for them to see this other mob down here actually making a proper go of it."

"That was very good, very interesting to see how two sides of the Bung Wall work and how you guys had to put it all back together with not much help from the government," Lama Lama Ranger Chris Witana said.



"This is a great tour – very informative," Gudjuda's Joe Tallis said.

"Victor was a great tour guide. He knows his stuff about his plants and bush tucker and all that, and I'll definitely be taking it home with me because it's something we need to brush up on – our skills, like getting to know native plants and what their uses are.

"So it was pretty deadly. I'd like to do that one day – be as informative as him, I do know a little but not as much as that."



"It's good to learn what MY had to show us about the different bush tucker you've got here," Nanum Wungthim Land and Sea Management (Napranum) Ranger Cameron Jawai said.

"It was all right, something different from Hopevale," Hopevale Ranger Jarret Yoren said. "Those floodgates there were the best thing, and how that other ranger there was telling us all about the place - something different."



"It was something different, good for me, and I enjoyed it," Battlecamp Road Ranger Wencis Burns said.

"It's always encouraging to see our people out on country telling our stories from before colonisation and what's still here for us to can utilise that makes us unique," Hopevale Ranger Harold Ludwick said. "It's exciting to know we all share the same sort of things."



"It was a good thing to see," Eastern Kuku Yalanji Ranger Bradley Creek said.

"It was the first time for me, going on a tour like this with different Ranger crews.

"Hopefully one day we'll have one of those back at home there in Wujal Wujal.

"Overall I liked it."

"I really enjoyed it, especially the rehabilitation and the processes that were involved, it's cool," South Cape Ranger Jason Carroll said.

"It was good; something different about how they built the Bung Wall, how they went through all the effort of building it and trying to drain and start up the sugar cane fields," Hopevale Ranger Lawrence Jacko said.

"It's amazing on how close it is to Cairns; and I got to see Abbott Street and the other side of the creek, which is good."

"I really enjoyed the walk," Giringun Land and Sea Ranger Chris Maurita said.

"Victor has done a great job and hopefully we look at towards getting an economic benefit through here.

"I think you have a really good venture that could really work for you, this is really inspiring stuff, I really enjoyed it."

Pic: Anna Hertle



Our resident reptile at the Ranger Base



Pic: Anna Hertle



From p 16...

“Everyone worked so hard and put in a lot of commitment over a long period of time, and that’s hard to do in anybody’s books, so I really congratulate you on what’s been achieved,” Wet Tropics Management Authority Indigenous Partnerships manager M’Lis Flynn said at the launch of the display.

“You had to have vision to want to do this project in the first place.

“You had to have commitment; you had to have drive, and you had all those things in buckets, and that’s why we’ve gotten to where we are today.

“For me, I don’t see the model as a stand-alone thing.

“It might fit out there, separate from all us here, but I actually see that model as a leading piece that represents culture and country and people, I see it as a living thing that that’s going to change over time and that there’s a strong connection to.”

Elder Vince Mundraby said they had built good relationships through the process.

“The 24-year journey has seen us come from dirt poor, we didn’t even have a map,” he said. “Now we’ve got 3D.

“We have built relationships, not only with WTMA, neighbouring groups, the state government, the federal government and at the conference last year we actually developed international relationships.

“And now we have a field of knowledge and expertise to actually develop a lot more than that.”





3D map stars in Botanic Gardens display

Mandingalbay Yidinji peoples' Participatory 3D Modelling (P3DM) map was on display to the general public for the month of April as part of the Cairns Botanic Gardens' "Wild Exposure - Hands on Culture - Rainforest Aboriginal people managing country" exhibition.

The MY community - including kids, knowledge holders, rangers, men, women and elders - built the tables, assembled the model, made decisions about what to show on their map 'legend' and finally mapped out their knowledge in a 3D display

now bigger than a full-size billiard table.

The Wet Tropics Management Authority facilitated the P3DM project, acknowledging that rainforest Aboriginal people made a significant contribution to the management of cultural and

natural heritage within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Wet Tropics Management Authority Indigenous Partnerships manager M'Lis Flynn congratulated MY people on their achievement.

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Don't forget to log on!
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