

Mandingalabay Yidinji People

Wait-a-While

Newsletter | Edition 9

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DJUNBUNJI

LAND & SEA
PROGRAM



It was magic!



INSIDE...



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A word from...

IPA Manager Dewayne Mundraby

We take this opportunity to recap on some of the fantastic work and achievements over 2016 as we say good bye and look forward to an exciting 2017, Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) Manager & Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation (MYAC) Facilitator Dewayne Mundraby writes...

Firstly, we would like to give a big shout out and thank you to the Rangers, Ranger Coordinator and the Executive Director for their commitment and leadership.

We also would like to thank the MYAC and Djunbunji Ltd. Board of Directors, MY community, our partners, stakeholders and industry for supporting MY interests and aspirations.

We certainly acknowledge and extend our gratitude to the Federal Government with regard to supporting the MY Working on Country

(WoC) and IPA program.

The WoC and IPA program have proven to be significant enablers, coupled with our commercial agreements over tenure and the MY determined native title rights and interests.

The initiative of establishing a collaborative framework with stakeholders and industry, through the MY Strategic Plan Implementation Committee (MYSPIC) following our native title determination in 2006 has led to advancing our socio – economic


interests and aspirations.

The MY Strategic Plan 2009 and IPA management plan 2011 (see: www.djunbunji.com.au), developed and supported by the MYSPIC, has been a driving force behind recent developments.

Over the last several years, the MYSPIC has been instrumental in delivering socio-economic aspirations, including, workforce development, socio-economic participation, preservation of cultural and environmental values.



The image shows a certificate for 'Mandingalbay Yidinji Eco-Cultural Tours'. At the top, there is a collage of nature-related photos. Below the collage is the 'eco CERTIFIED Nature Tourism' logo. The text reads: 'Mandingalbay Yidinji Eco-Cultural Tours has been awarded NATURE TOURISM in the ECO certification program'. At the bottom left is a signature of Rod Hillman, Chief Executive. At the bottom right, it says 'Date Certified: 12/08/2016 Valid Until: 31/08/2017'. At the very bottom, there is another collage of photos and the 'eco TOURISM AUSTRALIA 25 YEARS' logo.



The image shows a certificate for 'Mandingalbay Yidinji Eco-Cultural Tours'. At the top, there is a collage of photos including a man in a hat and a person painting. Below the collage is the 'Respecting Our Culture ROC' logo. The text reads: 'Mandingalbay Yidinji Eco-Cultural Tours has been awarded ROC certification'. At the bottom left is a signature of Rod Hillman, Chief Executive. At the bottom right, it says 'Date Certified: 12/08/2016 Valid Until: 31/08/2017'. At the very bottom, there is another collage of photos and the 'eco TOURISM AUSTRALIA 25 YEARS' logo.



Our greatest asset is our team and their commitment

In this context, come and join us on the MY journey thus far, and pending initiatives aligned with strategically applying our model for healthy MY people, culture and land.

I take this opportunity to highlight 2016 and our progress

in implementing the MY Strategic Plan and IPA Plan with regard to socio-economic directives.

I introduce you to the MY Tourism Enterprise which smacks of co-existence, education, employment, preservation, cultural awareness, and reconciliation principles.

With regard to implementation of the MY Strategic Plan 2009, I am proud to report, many of the objectives have been achieved, or are well advanced.

In particular, during the period of the 15-16 financial year, I believe Executive Director Dale Mundraby has justified bragging rights with regard to having sustained a high retention of employment, recruitment of volunteers, contractual compliance, high level financial management, promoting community awareness and building business alliances.

It is my pleasure to enlighten readers on what all this means in terms of tracking our achievements and the many opportunities forthcoming.

MYAC and its agent company Djunbunji Ltd, is, in two words, rocking it, in

the commercial, cultural and environmental world, particularly in terms of successfully operating our newly established tourism enterprise, the MY Eco Cultural Tours.

As we can appreciate, if cultivated properly, from little things, big things grow (cited: Paul Kelly – song writer and poet).



Dale & Dewayne at the Yarrabah Leaders' Forum earlier this year



Fire, fish and flying in remote MY Country

Several fire monitoring sites from Toombul to the Buddabadoo River mouth, including the Bloodwood Plain, were surveyed and burned during November.

The surveys are part of an ongoing monitoring process on Mandingalbay Yidinji land, first held in 2013 as a part of biodiversity studies.

The surveys have measure weed intrusion, generally propagated by feral animals, and alter fire regimes in the area, and has delivered data outcomes to the ranger groups on fire regimes and water quality records.

This year Rangers Djallja, Randolph, Laurissa, Maynard and Vincent accompanied consultants David Stanton and Jen Redway on a seven kilometre hike along the beach to check on the progress of Fire Monitoring sites 5-9 along

Buddabadoo beach.

The rangers were able to light cool burns throughout these sites.

In early November the rangers set up camp at Acre Block to facilitate a fire and fish survey with the assistance of Mr Stanton and Tim Howell.

The rangers also climbed to the top of Bessie Falls to

monitor a rare plant Ranger DJ found last time Mr Stanton was there.

Mr Stanton and Mr Howell also conducted fish surveys along Hills Creek with Djallja and Laurissa.

The adventure didn't end there.

A helicopter was then chartered to transport staff to Clarke Camp so they

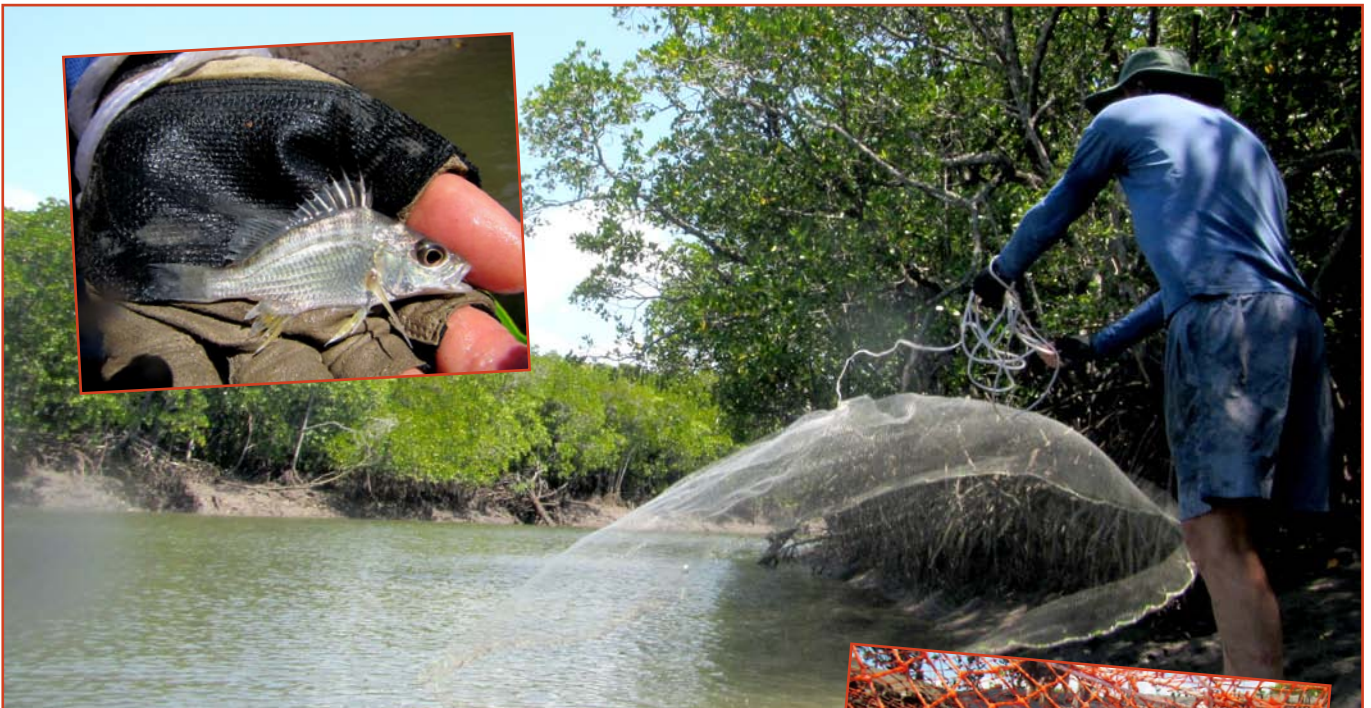


Culture students

Words by Richard Fourmile and Vic Bulmer

In September Djunbunji Rangers were invited to make a humpy display for Year 3 students at the St Andrew's Catholic College in Cairns.

Five rangers attended the school for half a day during which they showed the children how to erect a bark hut in the same way the Mandingalbay ancestors used to do. Humpies were historically used as a temporary shelter by the Aboriginal people of the Yidinji tribe, to help them to survive in the wild. The Rangers showed the students how to build the structures from the ground up using authentic materials such as bark, (gidila) lawyer cane, (jablum) and native hibiscus (burringun).

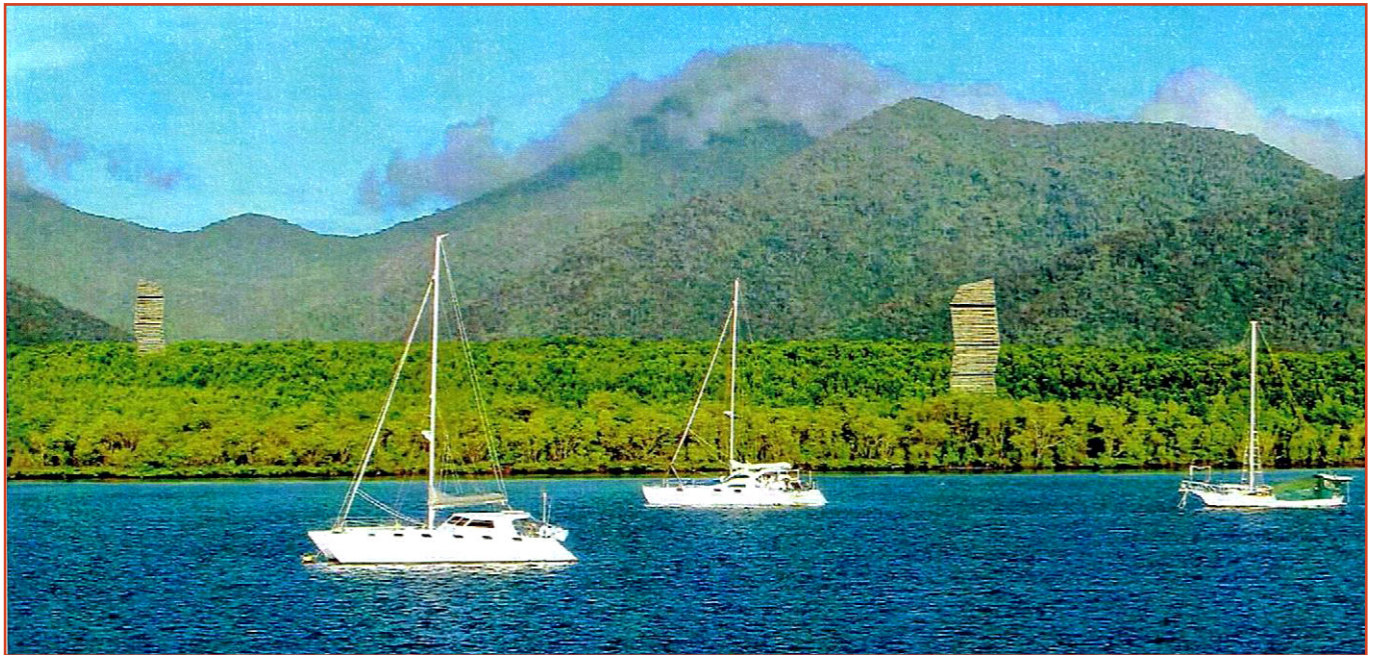


could continue their survey in more inaccessible areas including a small freshwater creek where a rare Cling Gobi was sighted.

The biodiversity surveys are an important part of the work Djunbunji and the MY Rangers do on an annual basis and they are integral to the ongoing health of our land.



Positive responses to



East Trinity Reserve, Lot 158, may soon be the site of a proposed tourism initiative which will feature 'twin towers', and possibly even a third tower, affording visitors new ways and opportunities to discover the natural beauty of MY country Djunbunji Executive Director Dale Mundraby says.

Each tower will have facilities to cope with large numbers of tourists and visitors wishing to access a viewing platform, information centre, guided tour, boardwalk, cafe and/or accommodation, dining and an amphitheatre, or engage in science and research or training and cultural facilities, along with various other activities and displays.

Each proposed tower site has been carefully considered with regard to natural and cultural visual values.

Visitors will be able to view local geographical surroundings including the Cairns CBD, Yorkeys Knob, Great Dividing Range and array of creation stories linking natural landscapes.

Each tower site will also

have its own unique appeal including board walk access.

The visual make up includes new and old growth mangrove forest, critically engaged salt pans, bird nesting areas, nursery environments for aquatic life, including crocodile breeding grounds.

The vicinity of each tower is facilitated by existing access routes which include the bung wall and current and future vessel entry points.

Current tour arrangements include transfers to and from the Reef Fleet Terminal.

There are currently no mooring points with the existing arrangements making tours subject to tide.

In future it is intended that a jetty will be constructed at

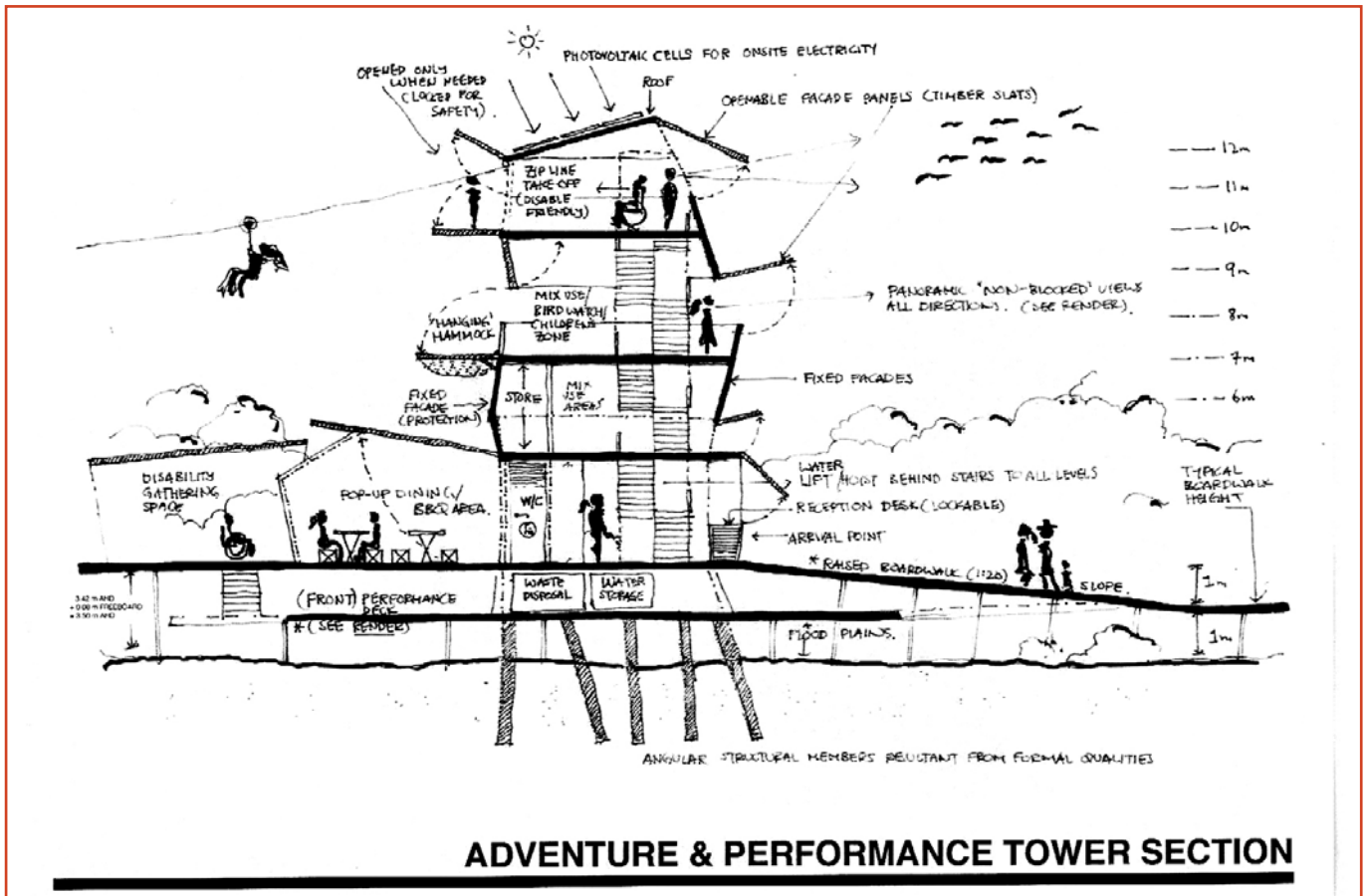
the 'Old Chinese Railway' corridor, which will enable vessels to be moored to the jetty.

This will improve accessibility to Towers 2 and 3 and increase visitor volume and tour rotations.

Discussions with Ports North regarding the Cairns Shipping Project are ongoing and positive. It is intended that there will be dual benefits.

The purpose of the Boardwalks are to provide an experience that captures the natural surroundings, ease of access, reduce congestion on the main access points and the bung wall, bird watching opportunities, shade areas, signage along the board walk will provide for a cultural and educational experience.

o MY towers concept



ADVENTURE & PERFORMANCE TOWER SECTION

As part of a Demand and Feasibility Assessment for the proposed Mandingalbay Yidinji Eco Infrastructure Project, a survey of opinions about the project was carried out with thirteen different industry personnel with experience in the markets for day/tours' attractions.

In addition to gaining feedback about the tour, the proposal to establish a Tower/Towers on the site was introduced to obtain a preliminary but not definitive response to the idea.

MY Tours were felt to be of most interest to Asian markets, particularly Japanese and Chinese tourists with the target audience being middle age and family groups.

The most positive thing about the MY Tours was felt to be the cultural aspects and experiential parts of the tour, such as campfires, food

tasting and dancing.

Other comments and suggestions were:

- o Good to see the proposal
- o Need different languages with use of headphones a good idea
- o Students showing off city to visiting parents
- o Would need highly visible marketing.

One response from a very experienced person in the field was that the Tour as structured at present, lacked a 'wow' factor and it was suggested that the 'wow' factor might be food and medicines – noting that the

indigenous food range in this area included substantial marine as well as terrestrial life.

Comments about the Towers concept included:

- o Good idea attract 'thousands more'
 - o Need to get a reputation and good food
 - o Better to focus on Aboriginal aspects
 - o The more that can be done in East Trinity the better
- By and large, the proposal was received positively, especially by persons very experienced in tours/ attractions.

Looking at country differently



Reef Magic marine biologist Marie Taylor took Djunbunji rangers Djallja and Vincent out to Flynn's reef in October.

Marie does coral reef surveys with several local ranger groups, schools and other partner groups to check on the health of the reef and ensure that it is looked after in the right way.

Djallja and Vincent took the chance to do an introductory scuba dive and were briefed about their safety equipment and breathing methods of diving down and resurfacing.

When they dove they were

able to look at the different reef formations from a different perspective which helped give them a better understanding of the effects different water temperature can have out on things such as coral bleaching, crown of thorns starfish and even marine debris.

They also got to go in the glass bottom boat where they had the chance to have a look from on top of different corals in the reef,

such as boulder corals, shelving corals, branching corals.

Overall they were lucky enough to have a 360 degree look at the corals from right below to right on top.

It is hoped this ongoing monitoring work in Far North Queensland will assist in preserving the health of the Great Barrier Reef, as well as continue to build capacity for all who were involved in this training.

Pig traps seeing results

Words by William Mundraby

Over the past few years more than 20 pigs have been trapped by Djunbunji Rangers thanks to a very successful pig trapping program.

We trap the pigs because of the destruction to native vegetation and to help stop the spread of disease.

In September this year we also had the US students from the School for Field Studies erect, bait and set a couple of traps as a part of their Aussie experience.

They really enjoyed it, having never had the opportunity to participate in this kind of activity in their home country.

The main ingredient we use to attract the pigs include old bananas we acquire from the WahDay Brothers banana farm, molasses, caro and sweet and cracked corn.

Our main focus has been on East Trinity Reserve (ETR) which is a one minute drive to the nearest gate from our office.

We also Patrol ETR along the Bund Wall, as well as inspecting the traps every morning in their various locations.

We've caught the most pigs at Hills Creek Memorial Site.

After the pigs are destroyed, we do an autopsy and check their livers to see if the pigs are carrying any diseases we can identify through spots or worms.



Above: American students who camped for several days working with rangers checking out the traps

Sharing knowledge and culture

Words by Djallja Mundraby & Vincent Mundraby

Mandingalbay Yidinji Rangers attended the First Indigenous Rangers workshop at Mission Beach hosted by Girringun Aboriginal Corporation and Djiru Traditional owners, along with other ranger groups Jabalbina, Yirrganydji, Gunggandji in September.

Day one: Meet and greet with all participants from Departments and other rangers, welcome to country by traditional owner Leonard Andy and Rona Hart. Executive Officers from Djunbunji and Girringun lead discussions about their groups' Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) experience, as well as the history behind IPA legislation.

Laurissa Mundraby said, "I think this was good chance for the rangers to hear about the history of Indigenous Protected Area, and how they came about".

Djunbunji Rangers CEO Dale Mundraby led discussion about economic opportunities Indigenous groups may take advantage of in the future, such as fee for service work, nature based products, and ecotourism.

Laurissa, Djallja & Vincent camped for the night.

Day two: The second day started with Girringun Rangers explaining how compliance training was relevant to the areas they patrol and their relationships with various agencies.

Prime Minister and Cabinet's David Crea spoke in regards to the recent compliance training that rangers were currently participating in.

"Rangers won't have compliance powers from the course but are equip to undertake surveillance and gathering information," he said.

The second session was a drone presentation and discussion led by Karen Joyce and her team from James Cook University (JCU).

Karen explained how drones might be relevant to Rangers in their work by taking aerial photographs

in difficult to access areas - for example flying over mangroves or other areas with dense crocodile populations.

As well as discussing legal issues, operator training, accreditation, technical consideration and issues, all of the Rangers participated in practical drone activities and identified areas of required training support.

It was agreed that in future the use of drones could successfully streamline data collection and reporting and sharing of information.

Other topics discussed included Cultural Heritage and Threatened Species Management by Leah Talbot, with assistance from Karman Lippitt, and Indigenous QPWS Rangers working in the Girringun Indigenous Areas.



The day finished with a field trip to Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation facility (Rainforest Reserves).

Day 3: The third day started with WTMA leading discussion on the meaning of World Heritage and how Rainforest Aboriginal cultural values are recognised. Specifically: how are PBC's Indigenous rangers supported? We then had Terrain Natural Resource Management Group Evaluation of the workshop and identified opportunities for future investment in knowledge sharing and learning opportunities. After tea everyone had an opportunity to express their views on the workshop and thanked the Traditional Owners for inviting us to their country.



Photo Workshop 1st November

Training in taking photographs and using cameras effectively was conducted by our newsletter editor Christine Howes in early November. The group learned about what settings to use on their cameras, how to frame pics (using different angles, focus and lenses) and were encouraged to take pics at every opportunity.



Utility Terrain Vehicle Training – 14th November

UTV training, including side by side maintenance and usage, winching and safe driving techniques was supplied by Australian 4WD and Advanced Driver Education.

The rangers utilise side by side vehicles for a large part of their work program to access country and transport people and equipment.

The smaller vehicle does not damage tracks or water crossings as a Land Cruiser might.

Video and power point elements of the training was held at the ranger office and the practical driving part of the training, conducted at the East Trinity camping area, included braking practice, and gear changing in and out of four-wheel drive (low and high) in all ranger vehicles.

First Aid – 18th November

First Aid Training provided by St Johns Ambulance was attended by eight Djunbunji staff as part of a requirement for our work in the relatively remote community of Yarrabah.

The training included units of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, basic emergency life support, and providing general first aid.

PowerPoints were also shown to give an idea of a potential emergency situations and practical work was also undertaken.





Croc attacks horse at Buddabadoo River

An attack on a privately owned horse at Buddabadoo River by a rogue crocodile triggered a meeting between the Djunbunji Rangers and the Department of Environment Heritage and Protection (DEHP) in November.

The meeting discussed the delivery of Level One Crocodile Management Training in collaboration with Yirrganydji (Dawul Waru) Rangers.

The training will enable ranger groups to assist Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and DEHP with the relocation of problem potentially harmful crocodiles to the community to more remote, less populated locations.

It is hoped that the crocodile population does not grow so quickly that they present a threat to families in Yarrabah however, it is recognised that crocodiles are a potential problem.

Rangers will shortly be installing Crocodile Warning signs in inhabited zones throughout the region to remind people they should be on the lookout when fishing and crossing the mouth of the Buddabadoo River.

Words by Vic Bulmer

Don't forget to log on!
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The MY Ranger Program is funded by the Australian Federal Government.



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