

Wait-a-While

Newsletter Edition 14: Summer 2022-2023



Congratulations to Vinnie Mundraby for completing his accredited commercial Advanced Open Water Dive Certificate and PADI Rescue Dive Certificate.

"This is an awesome achievement," ED Dale Mundraby said. "This important and valuable training will enable him to undertake reef health surveys, reef restoration projects, Crown of Thorns starfish surveillance and in-water visitor infrastructure maintenance."

Vinnie said he enjoyed his studies.

"It was great to catch up with rangers from the other ranger groups and yarn about the work we do as rangers and hear about other ranger group's work towards bettering their own people," he said. "You don't see many Murri people diving deep in the ocean with scuba gear on and it was great to get a better understanding of diving and the variety of marine life living deep down in the ocean."



INSIDE...



National recognition for award-winning initiatives...p 6-7

Our Indigenous Protected Area planning progress

Deadly Dinners are back!...p 10



A word from Djunbunji Executive Director Dale Mundraby

Our Indigenous Ranger Land and Sea program is based in Grey Peaks National Park and just into the first year of a brand new seven year contract Djunbunji Executive Director Dale Mundraby says.

What that entails is guiding and focusing on the rangers and our partners into looking after our country collaboratively.

We are, as we have always done, utilising science, the environment, culture and our partners in all of those areas to look after our country.

Water and soil sampling in East Trinity Reserve, for example, where acid sulphate has had an effect on that particular, unique, special environment.

We are also conducting fish surveys with CSIRO, James Cook University and the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries, which concentrate around not only fish, but non-vertebra

species such as eels.

We have eels in three diverse fish survey sites located within Mandingalbay Yidinji country.

The Cling Goby are born in a fresh waterfall stream in the mountains and have 48 hours to float down to the salt water to release its hatchlings.

The hatchlings then swim

all the way up to Papua New Guinea.

Once they become adult, they come back to that same waterfall and reproduce again.

We also have the Purple Crested Gutchen fish, completely different to the Cling Goby in that they will not leave the water stream, and stay with their parents



until they are adults.

That's just one example of two different species located in the same area – at the same waterfall – and that is unique.

We have worked hard to develop collaborative arrangements where we undertake the surveys and build upon the data we've collected over more than a decade now.

In addition to the fish surveys, last month we started fauna and flora surveys, in collaboration with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, particularly Grey Peaks National Park and East Trinity Reserve.

These two particular areas have not had any flora and fauna surveys conducted ever, other than those by the Mandingalbay Yidinji rangers and ecologist David Stanton.

Our 3D mapping was another example where the biodiversity surveys collected by the rangers many years ago, was value added to that data



collection, helping us to identify specific plants and animals located in these areas.

We can keep an eye on the count and continue counting throughout the seasons to identify if the species are growing, expanding, producing, or if they're not, we could look at why that is and identify those reasons.

In effect we are identifying, protecting, and managing both environmentally, scientifically, and culturally for now and for the future generations.

We are handing down that knowledge about what is contained within our country.

Under our new Indigenous Ranger program we are contracted for nine full-time employees.

Additionally we have a contract with Yarrabah's employment agency, Wugu Nyambil, for workforce development and training programs.

One of those is around the creation and development of walking tracks to be undertaken by a team of volunteers – a six-month project that will see the identification and construction of a Pine Creek walking track as well as a Mayi Bugan trail.

All of this is building the capacity of the participants so we can link them into potential further employment opportunities with the Ranger program or Mandingalbay Yidinji Authentic Indigenous tours.

Continued...



The Djunbunji Limited Land and Sea program was set up to support every endeavours of Mandingalbay Yidinji people, its members, and the Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation. MYAC is the Aboriginal Corporation and registered native title body.

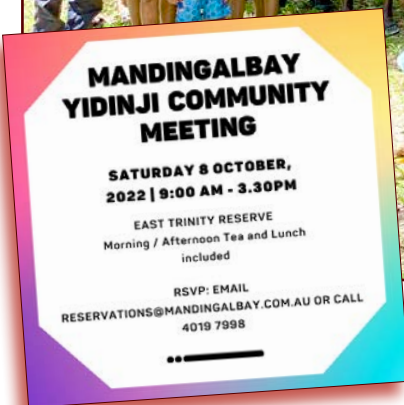
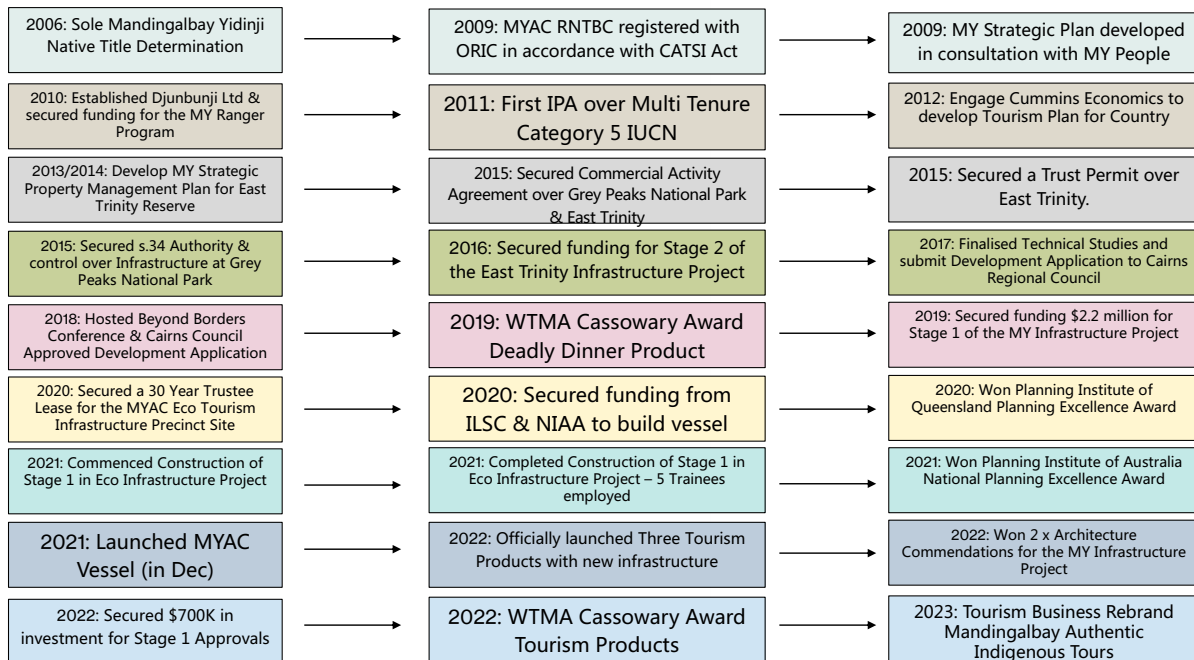
It is the authority for decision-making on our country, representing our native title rights and interest, and the community and our members. MYAC is celebrating our first year as a full-time tourism operation after entering the global industry.



We continue to move forward.

Dale

THE MANDINGALBAY JOURNEY



MYAC Board Members invited Mandingalbay Yidinji community members to join them for a community meeting on Saturday 8 October last year for an update on activities, including the Indigenous Protected Area, Indigenous Ranger programs, and the GMYPPBC Master Planning project.

Deadly Dinners are back

The first Deadly Dinner in more than two years was a huge success for more than 70 members celebrating this year's North Queensland Primary Health Network annual conference last September.



"It was the biggest group to have participated in the Deadly Dinner since we started," Djunbunji Executive Director Dale Mundraby said.

"We worked with Uncle David Mundraby and his dancers, MC Trevor Tim and again partnered with Ochre Restaurant in what was a fantastic night.

"These dinners are

important to us as one of our products which showcase the natural and cultural environment of East Trinity, from daytime and into the evening.

"We ferried everyone across the inlet in the afternoon, into Hills Creek, where they were bussed up to the dining area next to the wetlands and under the stars.

"All of that involves a lot

of work from pre-setup, utilising our community and staff, to packing down – that could be up to 20 people involved in training and employment.

"It's also a great way to showcase what we're doing as an organisation to a different group of people, who we wouldn't perhaps normally see on the tours or in our day-to-day work."

A word from MYAC Indigenous Protected Area Tourism & Infrastructure

Manager
Dewayne
Mundraby...



The Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation (MYAC) Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) has worked tirelessly to establish an economic foundation through tourism, Indigenous Protected Area Tourism and Infrastructure Manager Dewayne Mundraby writes ...

It's been a long journey, with enduring perseverance and commitment to establish the Ranger program in 2010 and dedicated Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) over Mandingalbay Yidinji (MY) lands – and partially over sea country in 2011.

The blueprint for successive achievements came from the MY Strategic Plan 2009, which set out several objectives and ambitions for

Country, Culture and People.

One of those was to establish and operate a tourism venture on Country, with the aim to not only showcase our beautiful rich culture and environmental values, but to create jobs and economic independence.

One of the key principles behind the delivery of this ambition was to align our Ranger and IPA program activities for consistency and coordination to ensure wrap-around support, stakeholder partnerships, consolidated resourcing and, most importantly, create intergenerational socio-economic betterment of MY People.

By 2012, MYAC was working with tourism industry experts to consider tourism products and modelling the delivery of a cultural experience utilising the MY Native Title determination area, including the MY dedicated IPA.

We embarked on a process of consulting with stakeholders, Cairns Regional Council, Big Cat Green Island Tours, Environment Heritage Protection, Tropical Tourism North Queensland, Queensland Parks & Wildlife, and other state and federal agencies to investigate and determine what legal instruments we needed, if any, and the process.

Between 2013 and 2014, MYAC worked through several processes to establish a Commercial Activity Agreement, Trust Lease and, in accordance with s34 of the Qld Environmental Act 1999, authority to utilise existing infrastructure: ie the MYAC Ranger Base located at Grey Peaks National Park.

In 2015, with all mechanisms and modelling in place, including ongoing support from the Ranger team, industry, MYAC and Djunbunji Ltd. Board of Directors, stakeholders and the MY community, MYAC began trialling its small-scale tourism products.

We initially called the experience, MY Eco Tours, MY Eco Cultural Tours etc but as our business evolved and dynamics changed, so did our name.

In 2021, MYAC rebranded its tourism enterprise and registered the name Mandingalbay Ancient Indigenous Tours





Pics: The official opening of the Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation's Eco Infrastructure Precinct Stage 1 Arrival Facility and MYAC's vessel.

with Djunbunji Ltd, in good faith, and with the assistance of industry expert Tourism Tap.

In 2022 the MYAC Board of Directors identified once again the dynamics had significantly changed.

In considering MYAC was the principal RNTBC – PBC authority, entrusted with the 2009 native title determination of rights and interests, and all legal instruments, including assets, the board determined to rebrand its tourism enterprise Mandingalbay Authentic

Indigenous Tours in its own right.

Today, in 2023, Mandingalbay Authentic Indigenous Tours has moved from strength to strength as we operate with new staff and employees and the Rangers remain involved in accordance with their Australian government funded Ranger Program.

The dynamics of the Ranger Program may soon change again, for the better and in the interest of all MY people – so stay tuned.

Dewayne



Our Indigenous Protected Area

Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation was a key player in our 2021 celebrations for the tenth anniversary of our Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) and associated ranger programs.

Since then MYAC has been working on a planning and review process to help develop priorities for the next 7-10 years.

"We have contracted Dermot Smyth of Bahrdr Consultants to assist us with this process," IPA Tourism and Infrastructure Manager Dewayne Mundraby said.

"Dermot will be reviewing the Mandingalbay Yidinji Indigenous Protected Area Plan of Management and development of the Monitoring Evaluation Reporting & Implementation (MERI) plan.

"The planning processes will review past experiences, discuss current and future goals and aspirations for the IPA and the Ranger team and identify actions required going forward."

He said they aimed to review and develop the plans through extensive consultation with Mandingalbay Yidinji community members and our key partners/stakeholders.

"As we take stock of our current position and consider members' and clients' expectations, the process will include initial consultations

with various partners/stakeholders," he said.

"We will report back to members and partners on our findings, including workshopping of recommendations and options, as the plans are formulated."

He said the Mandingalbay Yidinji Rangers played a key role.

"The Rangers manage our Country through tasks such as invasive animal and plant control, protection and management of significant sites, revegetation and rehabilitation and fire

What do you need to know about our IPA?

An Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) is an area of land and/or sea that Traditional Owners have dedicated or declared as a protect area, recognised by the Australian, State and Territory governments and managed for its cultural and natural values according to customary laws and practices, independently of legislation and in line with guidelines of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The ICUN defines a protected area as: *"a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystems services and cultural values"*.

In Australia, the planning and management of IPAs are supported by the Australian Government's IPA Program, with additional support from a variety of other sources, including State and Territory conservation agencies, commercial enterprises, research institution, non-government conservation groups and philanthropic organisations.

The IPA Program commenced in the late 1990s when the Australian Government wanted to establish protected areas in all Australian bioregions and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples wanted ongoing support to management their traditional lands and waters.

In 1997 at a national workshop to develop the IPA concept, Indigenous representatives drafted the following definition of an IPA:

"An Indigenous Protected Area is governed by the continuing responsibilities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to care for and protect lands

and waters for present and future generations. It may include areas of land and waters over which Traditional Owners and Islanders are custodians, and which shall be managed for conservation, permitting customary laws and practices and benefits. The definition includes land that is or has the ability to be co-managed by a government agency and the traditional owners. The Mandingalbay Yidinji IPA (Dedicated to Traditional Owners) is an existing government-declared protected area.

- Grey Peaks National Park;
- East Trinity Environmental & Recreation Reserve;
- Malbon Thompson Forest Reserve;
- Giangurra Council Reserve;
- Wet Tropics World Heritage Area;
- Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park;
- Trinity Inlet Fish Habitat Area.

The legal means for managing the IPA in

- Exclusive Native Title (above mean low tide);
- Co-existing Native Title (over Grey Peaks National Park and Malbon Thompson Forest Reserve);
- Memorandum of Understanding with Traditional Owners, such as, Trust Lease Agreement;

: making progress under review



management," he said. "However, the work of the rangers is not confined to environmental management, as the project is also in the process of developing a traditional ecological knowledge recording program and keeping place. "The important work they do will assist with documenting, recording, and transferring Mandingalbay Yidinji knowledge and culture from current to future generations."

ations. Indigenous Protected Areas for which Aboriginal and Torres Strait be managed for cultural biodiversity sustainable resource use and sharing it is within the existing conservation operatively managed by the current owners". (2011) includes part or all of these areas within the IPAs boundary:

ational Reserve;

k; and

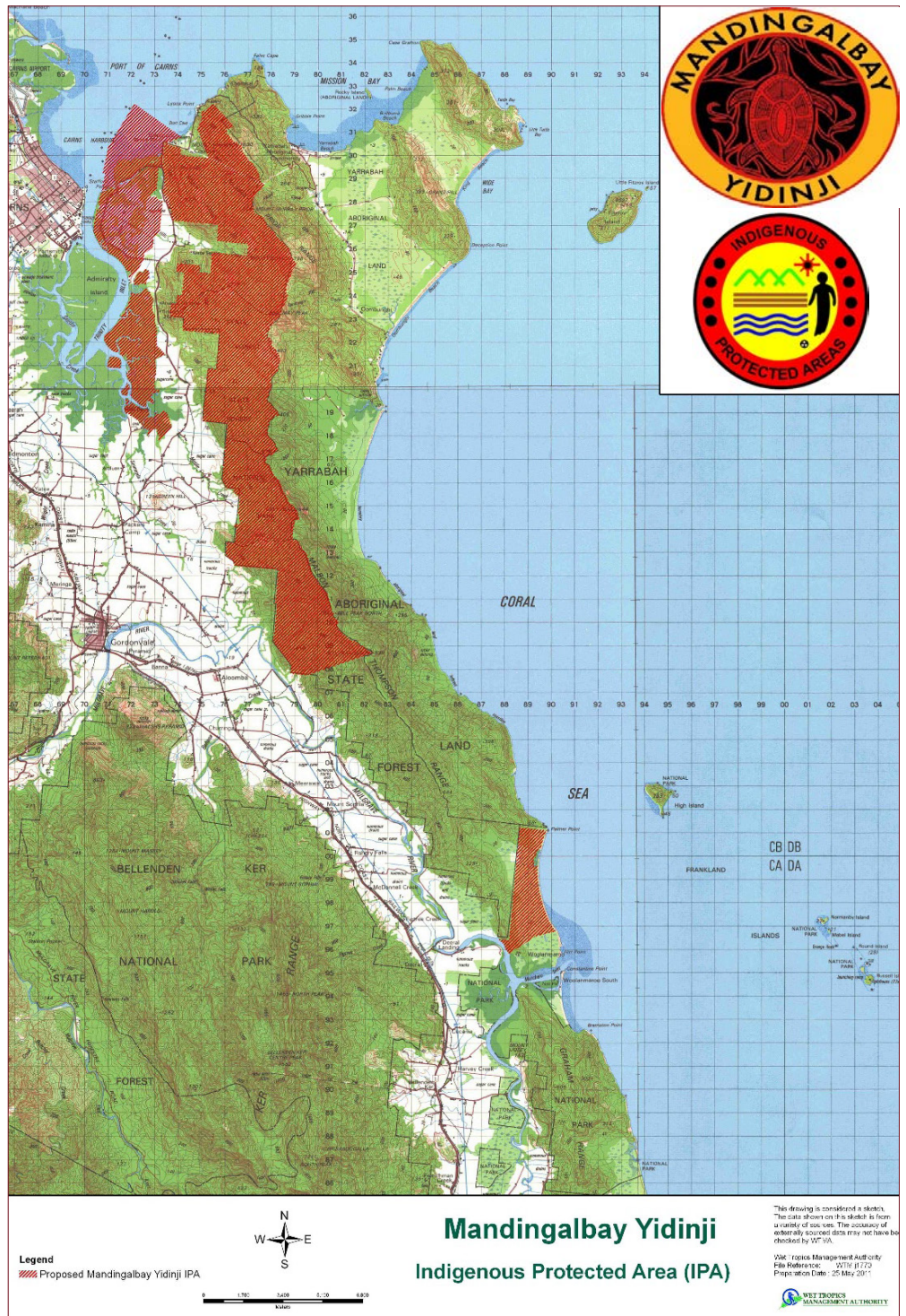
clude:

high tide in some coastal areas);

Peaks National Park & Malbon

h Stakeholders, including other such

se, Trust Permit and Commercial Activity



- Indigenous rights and interests recognised in Australian and Queensland legislation;
- Indigenous rights and interests recognised in international instruments, such as, the Convention of Biological Diversity and the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples.

The other effective means for management the IPA include:

- The Mandingalbay Yidinji Ranger Land & Sea Program;
- Partnerships with Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service QPWS, Fisheries Queensland, Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks Region, Department of Environment & Science, Department of Agriculture Environment & Fisheries, Wet Tropic Management Authority and Cairns Regional Council;
- Collaboration with research institutions, Community education and liaison, planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Awards, Commendations & Memberships

2022 Cassowary Awards – Winner Tourism and Presentation Award Category

This award recognises the extraordinary work of our people, and the regenerative nature of the business we are building together as a community as we share our culture with visitors from all over Australia and the world, Djunbunji Executive Director Dale Mundraby says.

“This is the wider mainstream tourism industry recognising the work we’re doing,” he said.

“It also shows we’re on the right track as we develop our commercial activity in the Indigenous tourism sector.

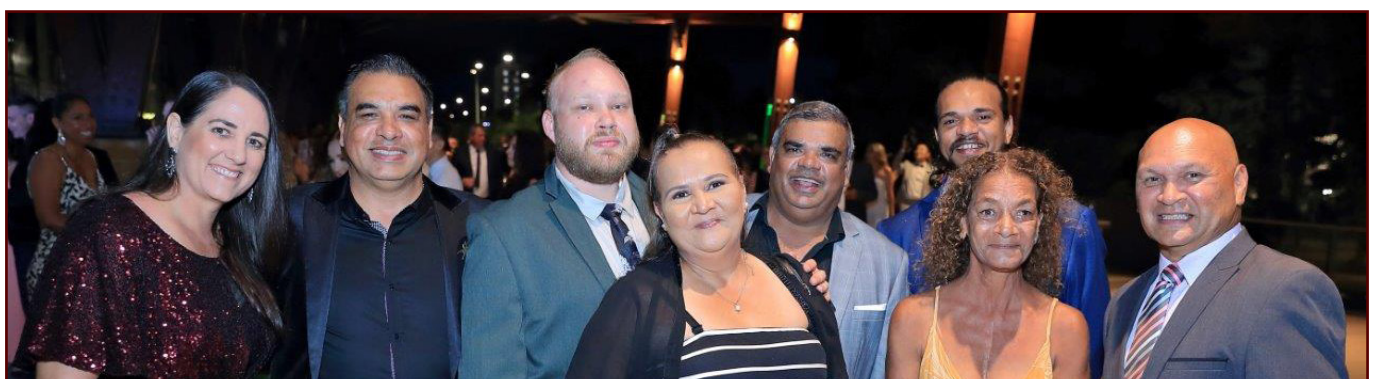
“We have job creation and the MY community is participating, not only in rangering and looking after country, but also as part of showcasing our culture through our tourism activities.”



2022 JCU Business Excellence Awards – Finalist Indigenous Business Excellence

It was fantastic to be a finalist in this year’s JCU Business Excellence Awards in the category of Indigenous Business Excellence Dale said.

“Even though we didn’t bring home the win this time, it was great to get together with businesses and leaders from all parts of the community,” he said.



Awards, Commendations & Memberships

2022 Australian Institute of Architects FNOQ Region + Queensland State Architecture Awards

Congratulations to Philip Follent Architects for winning the Queensland State Architecture Award for Small Project Architecture for our Mandingalbay Yidinji Eco Cultural Tourism Arrival Facility.

A commendation was also awarded at the FNOQ Region awards for Sustainability Dale said the awards were a testament to delivering an architectural design that captured the essence of the next stages of this project.

The Mandingalbay Yidinji Eco Cultural Arrival Facility is one of six stages of the larger Mandingalbay Yidinji Eco Cultural Tourism Precinct.



Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC)

Mandingalbay Authentic Aboriginal Tours has joined the Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) as an industry member to gain access to international trade and media events over 2022-23 as the international visitor market continues to return to Queensland.



As part of our membership we were able to attend 'Meeting Place', ATEC's major annual trade event which hosted Inbound Tour Operators and Online Travel Agencies in Cairns. Dale represented MAIT the ATEC event in front of over 1,000 trade members as a panel member discussing Sustainable Tourism Management at the Cairns Convention Centre in November last year.

Discover Aboriginal Experiences Signature Program

In November, MAIT become one of only 47 Indigenous Tourism businesses in Australia recognised by Tourism Australia as delivering a consistently high standard, quality tourism experience which was international market-ready.





Mandingabai

AUTHENTIC INDIGENOUS TOURS



Sharing our Country and Culture with Australian and international school students is an honour and always so much fun! These students pictured had just completed our 2-Day Camping and culture experience visiting sites of significance across our Indigenous Protected Area.

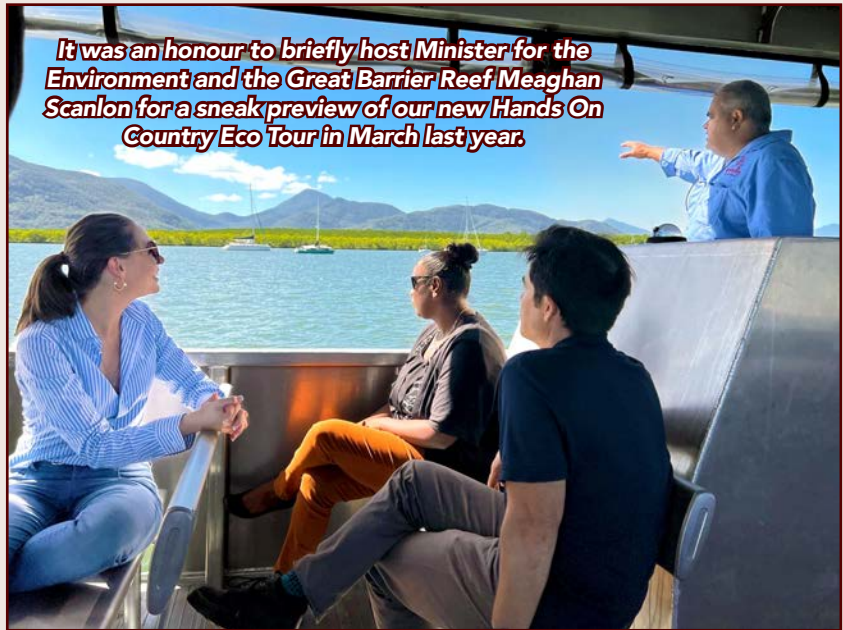
"Mandingalbay Authentic Indigenous Tours was featured in Drift Travel Magazine, which boasts some 4.5 million global distribution," Djunbunji ED Dale Mundraby says. "What this means is there are a lot of eyes in the world looking at our Indigenous product here in Far North Queensland, Australia. "So it's a big deal and a way of attracting further visitation to our products and to the Far North. "You can visit the reef, the rainforest – beautiful one day, perfect the next – as they say. "But on the third day you can have an Indigenous experience and you can come over to the MY Country and experience our Country and Culture."



In October last year our Mandingalbay Yidinji Ranger/Guides hosted the first of many Road Scholar groups, made up of 16 guests from all over North America.



Also in October 2022 we hosted the Sydney chapter of software company Kleu on Country and delivered our first "Music of the Trees" workshop in partnership with Mandingalbay Yidinji Ranger Laurissa Mundraby and award winning Harpist and Composer Natalia Mann.



It was an honour to briefly host Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef Meaghan Scanlon for a sneak preview of our new Hands On Country Eco Tour in March last year.



It was a fantastic day out on Reef Magic's new pontoon with our Ranger/Tourism team in July last year. Thank you to Trevor Tim and the Indigenous guides for hosting us and sharing your cultural connections to this extraordinary environment.

Out & About...



As part of our sales and marketing program, Mandingalbay Authentic Indigenous Tours (MAIT) was present as the only tourism exhibitor at the 2022 Indigenous Food and Business Expo, at the Pier in November last year.

As one of more than 80 businesses, the Expo was an opportunity to showcase to the community, and more than 1,500 visitors, our tours and events program.

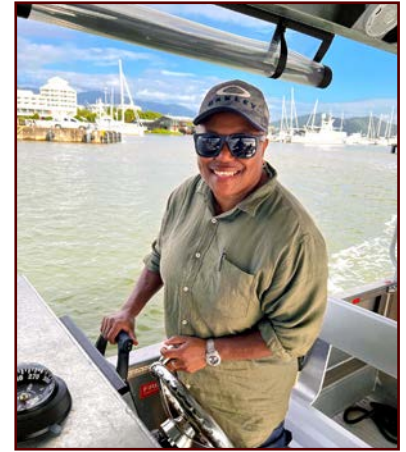
Djunbunji ED Dale Mundraby said the MAIT team, which included Gwen Kynuna (Reservations and Admin Officer), Vinnie Mundraby and Jamaya Kynuna (Tour Guides), did a fantastic job.

"The team enjoyed promoting our tours and events program," he said.

"It was great to see so many different businesses on show, and to be a part of that success – collaboration and diversification are the keys."



Gwen Kynuna and Sales & Marketing Manager Marcus Brady held the fort at our stand at the Eco-Fiesta in 2022. They were there promoting our new Hands on Country Eco Tours and events, which celebrate Mandingalbay Yidjinji culture, Country and sustainable land management.



The future of our tourism and events company is in good hands!

Over the past 12 months our members have stepped up as Tour Guides and Hospitality team members to share their culture and Country and help us deliver amazing experiences for our guests.

Special thanks to Jamaya Kynuna, Frederick Mundraby and Taleah Mundraby who recently joined our main team to assist with our special charters, the launch of our new Deadly After Dark Sunset Cruise and Education-Tourism programs.

Over the past 12 months we have also welcomed new touring vessel Skipper, Elizabeth (Liz) Crough and David Bhogal. Djunbunji ED Dale Mundraby said it was great to have them on board.

“They’re two of our leading tour guides on our products, and it is fantastic to have MY people working in this industry, hopefully attract more MY people into working in this area,” he said.

See our Facebook page for more staff news!



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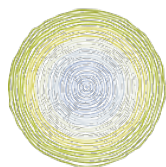
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See our websites for more information:

<http://www.djunbunji.com.au> and
<http://www.mandingalbay.com.au>

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