



# Wait-a-While

Newsletter | Edition #4 | November 2012

## Highlights

- » New CEO
- » Ranger Coordinator
- » Sea Debris
- » Ranger Corner:
  - Leadership graduate
  - Ranger conference
  - Walking tracks
  - Fire management
- » Asian Honey Bees
- » Pig trapping
- » Mayi of the Month

*Initiating People,  
Country and  
Culture outcomes  
for the benefit and  
healing of the  
Mandingalbay  
Yidinji People  
and Community*

## OUR PEOPLE CELEBRATE NATIVE TITLE



Celebration at the Courthouse

**The Federal Court** handed down its Native Title Determination on the Combined Mandingalbay Yidinji - Gunggandji claim in Cairns on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September.

After the emotional hearing at the Cairns Courthouse, a celebration lunch was held at the Yarrabah leisure centre, hosted by the North Queensland Land Council.

The 82 square kilometres of land includes the southern part of the Yarrabah DOGIT (Deed Of Grant In Trust), some other areas of land around Yarrabah, and Gunjurra Island.

This is the land that is south of the Gunggandji claim (finalised in 2011) and east of the Malbon Thompson Range.

The determination gives traditional owners exclusive rights to hunt, fish and hold ceremonies on the land following their traditional laws and customs.

This is the 74th Native Title determination in Queensland, and it opens up social and economic opportunities for Gunggandji and MY people such as living on country and developing tourism ventures.

(cont. P.2)



# NEW CEO JOINS DJUNBUNJI

Wait-a-While

Tony Hobbs has recently joined Djunbunji Ltd as Chief Executive Officer.



Tony studied agricultural science, and worked in the quarantine service for 12 years before moving to Zimbabwe in southern Africa. He was a manager at a local training centre, which teaches poor subsistence farmers how to do jobs that bring cash income to the family.

Back in Australia he worked on projects at Mitsubishi and the Commonwealth Bank before moving to the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health in Darwin, where he managed grant funding to the Western Desert and saltwater people.

Getting restless again, he went to Cambodia to work with a UK Non-Government Organisation on

indigenous health projects. The projects work with the 'hill tribes' to teach people about basic health, build village pumps and toilets, and fight malaria and HIV.

Back in Darwin, Tony was regional manager of Bushlight, working with remote communities to plan and build solar power systems, to replace noisy, expensive diesel generators.

He told *Wait-a-While* "Its interesting to work really closely with indigenous people on different continents, to see the issues that they face and how each culture deals with them. Although people's lives look quite different, deep down we are really very similar".

## NATIVE TITLE

( ... from page 1)

Natural Resources and Mines Minister Andrew Cripps said: "Today's determination reaffirms the people's enduring spiritual connection to their land and its natural and cultural values.

"As part of the negotiations with the state, three indigenous land use agreements [ILUAs] for the ongoing management of cultural heritage and future activity have been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal."

The new determination (in red) and the previous Mandingalbay Yidinji and Gungandji determinations (in yellow)





# THINGS THAT BITE

Wait-a-While

## Tread carefully out bush...

This is a time of year when some deadly friends come out to play.

Recently our rangers met this plump **Death Adder** on the bank of Hill Creek. To their surprise he slid into the salt water and swam off to the mangroves. This is just a few weeks



after a young girl was bitten at Palm Cove in Cairns' northern suburbs.

As wet season looms, old man **crocodiles** start to patrol their territory. In October rangers were watching a 3 metre one stalking his dinner and realised that 'dinner' was a guy fishing from the bund wall. While they were warning this guy to watch his back the croc disappeared into the murky water .. and reappeared lunging at our heroes, showing plenty enough teeth to set them running!



**Shellback (Paralysis) Ticks** are also on the move; after you go walking or hunting in the bush have a good look through your hair, arm pits etc - and check your pets too. Toxins from the tick bite can cause paralysis and allergic reactions, and they carry diseases like spotted fever, typhus and Lyme Disease.

## A WORD FROM OUR RANGER COORDINATOR

**Jimmy Richards has taken the reins of the *Working on Country* Ranger Program.**

Hi All,

My name is Jimmy Richards, I'm a Ewamian person from the Gulf country.

I've spent the last 10 years as ranger with QPWS in the Cairns/ Mareeba and Kuranda Sub-districts. I took leave from there to take up a position as Ranger Coordinator with the Wild Rivers Ranger Program. The job was with my own people so basically I lived my dream by being able to work on my traditional country.

The area on which we worked was within the Staaten River catchment, a big area about 27,000 km<sup>2</sup> with three councils (Tableland, Carpentaria and Cook Shire) and

two National Parks (Staaten River and Bulleringa).

We focussed on Cultural Heritage, Weeds, Feral Animals and Community Engagement. A big part of the job was building relationships with the five Traditional Owner groups and getting them talking to the graziers and other stakeholders.

All the rangers said that it felt like the ancestors were happy with the work we were doing and we walked proud.

Back at QPWS as Indigenous Liaison Officer, I found the role changed a fair bit, my work stretching across the whole wet tropics from Ingham to Mossman and west to Ravenshoe. My heart has always been in the

bush so when the opportunity came to join Djunbunji I jumped at the chance.

I hope to help the Rangers reach their full potential and lay the foundations for future generations of Mandingalbay Yidinji people.



# BEACH CLEAN-UP SUCCESS

Wait-a-While

## Great community effort at Giangurra Beach

As part of the Great Northern Cleanup, Djunbunji Rangers invited the community to join in a clean-up day on September 14 at Giangurra Beach, East Trinity.

35 volunteers came, including local and Cairns people, officers from Parks, Fisheries and the East Trinity Soil Remediation project, local government workers and of course our partners Tangaroa Blue, who manage the sea debris program (and partner with Ghost Nets Australia to track lost and dumped fishing gear).



Sorting the 'catch'



The rubbish collected in the park and on the beach came to a whopping 915kg, with drink containers and broken glass the most common finds but a few bikes, beds and door frames adding some bulk.

The junk is not just carted away - first everything is counted and recorded ... the information is added to a huge national database which helps to study where rubbish comes from and how it is getting better or worse, so that

decisions can be made in future about caring for sea country. Most of the rubbish is dropped in the park itself but some comes from Cairns or the Mulgrave River, or from boats, or even from far away in other countries. We have to know whose it is before we can ask them to stop messing up our sea!

Well done Giles, Heidi, the ranger team and all the volunteers .. See you at the next one.

## Djunbunji Rangers and Tangaroa Blue work together to monitor junk on our shores

Since the middle of 2012 we have been collecting sea debris on 3 sites: the bund wall at East Trinity Reserve, the mouth of Mick Creek at Giangurra, and the fish trap in Brown's Bay.

Heidi Taylor of Tangaroa Blue has been guiding us on how to

## SEA DEBRIS

collect and store data using our hand-held i-tracker units. These use GPS to save the exact location, let us enter all the details of our visit, and even take photos.

Back at the office we load all that onto computer to share with Heidi and the national program, and to add to our new MY ecological database.

Tangaroa Blue Foundation is a non-profit group caring for the health of our marine environment.

It runs the Australian Marine Debris Initiative, a network of volunteers, communities, organisations and agencies around the country monitoring marine debris on their stretch of coastline.

In Maori and Polynesian mythology, Tangaroa is the god of the ocean. He is the son of Ranginui and Papatuanuku, Sky and Earth. Tangaroa is the father of many sea creatures and his breaths are the tides.

Tangaroa made laws to protect the ocean and its sea creatures -

*"Tiaki mai i ahau, maku ano koe e tiaki..."*

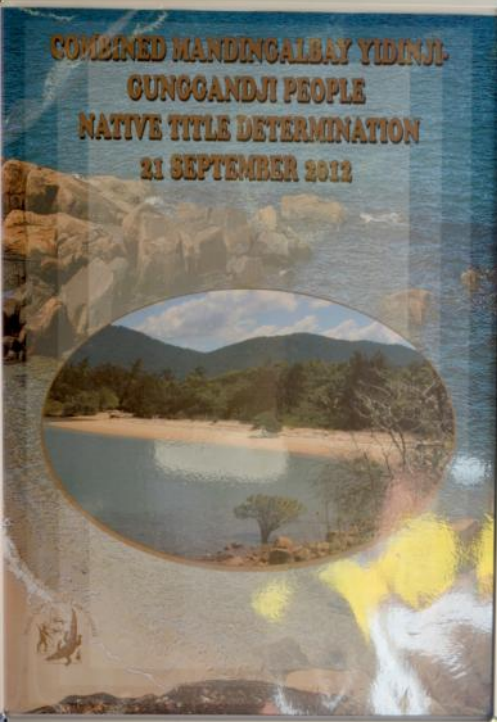
*"If you look after me, then I will look after you..."*





# DETERMINATION ... CELEBRATION!

Wait-a-While





# ASIAN HONEY BEES

Wait-a-While

## Biosecurity Australia and Djunbunji Rangers take on the invaders.

Back in 2007 Asian Honey Bees (AHB) were found in the Cairns area, they must have hitched a ride on a ship from overseas and then come ashore on cargo or in a swarm.



The old AQIS and Cairns Council tried to kill all the bees, but it wasn't possible and they have established themselves around Trinity Inlet.

Bees flying from flower to flower move pollen and make many of our food crops produce better - sunflowers, pumpkins, lychees, avocados ... and many more. Without bees almonds will not produce a single nut.

Losing bees would cost our farmers millions.

Asian bees aren't very damaging or vicious, though they will compete with native bees. The biggest danger from AHB is that they will bring in pests or diseases and spread them to the native bees

(sugarbag) and the European Honey Bees that produce the delicious tablelands honey.

So now the focus of Biosecurity Australia is on watching out for new arrivals who can carry diseases or Varroa mites that can kill bee nests.

Back in June our Rangers were trained in AHB Management, learning how to identify AHB, catch samples and remove nests. Now they are getting more training in tracking bees back to their nests and collecting nests for checking in the lab, and have tried out their skills in the field.

Djunbunji Rangers will work with their Gimuy Walubarra Yidinji counterparts to regularly collect nests from the mangroves of East Trinity and Admiralty Island. Its hot tough work climbing through the mud and roots while dodging the "snapping handbags" - big angry male crocodiles guarding their spots.

## PIG TRAPS

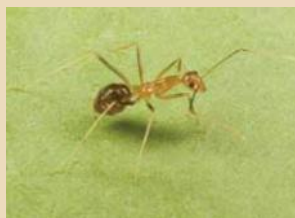
### Feral porkers in our sights

In 2011 the rangers did a quick course in metal fabrication and knocked up some pig traps, which are now being set in East Trinity Reserve to catch feral pigs.

The pigs do a lot of damage to soils and vegetation, kill native animals, eat crops, mess up waterholes and spread weeds and diseases. They also eat turtle eggs.

We give them 'free feeds' of bananas, corn and molasses for a few days while they get used to the cage and the smell of people, then we set the trap overnight.

Any we catch are put down by QPWS Rangers, who do an autopsy looking for diseases the pig might be carrying. Then its ready for the barbie!



Yellow crazy ant  
5mm



Fire ant  
2-6mm



Electric ant  
1-1.5mm

## IMMIGR-ANTS

There are a few nasty six-legged invaders that have recently made a home in FNQ.

They are **Tramp Ants**, which means ants from a group that are suited to wandering from their home country to set up a nest in a new place.

The nasties that make life hard for people are **fire ants** and **electric ants**, who get their name from the painful venom they inject when they sting. Stings can last three days and can cause severe allergic reactions.

Electric ants were first found around Smithfield in 2006 and were eradicated in four areas. Fire ants have been found around Brisbane since 2001.

While crazy ants aren't so painful to meet, they cause damage to the ecology by killing native animals; at Christmas Island they are killing off the famous red crabs. Yellow crazy ants were first seen in Cairns in 2001 and have now spread too widely to be eradicated.

Biosecurity Queensland has trained detector dogs that are able to sniff out nests hidden underground!

If you think you have tramp ants call BQ on 13 25 23.



# RANGER CORNER

## First Indigenous Rangers Leadership Course

The Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre (AILC) hosted its first Certificate II course in Cairns in August 2012. Twenty-three rangers from across the country enhanced their ability to be confident leaders at their workplaces and in their communities.



Djunbunji Ranger Laurissa Mundraby gave the closing speech of behalf of her fellow attendees. "It enabled me to showcase my strength and leadership as I stood in front of my family, fellow rangers, AILC staff and guests." she says.

"This was a very special day for me, not only did I stand there representing MY People, Djunbunji, and One Mob, but it was my Dad's 50th birthday. I know he would have been extremely proud of me."

## Cultural Heritage Workshop

Djunbunji held a Cultural Heritage Workshop on the 26 June for staff and Mandingalbay Elders, facilitated by Dr Nikki Horsfall, to clarify and identify Cultural Heritage sites of significance and how to protect, record and preserve them. The Mandingalbay Elders found it very engaging and informative.

Victor Bulmer and Kenny Kyle took Mandingalbay Elders and other staff for a walk up the Mayi Bugar Trail.

For most it was their first walkabout on the trail and the Elders were overwhelmed with a sense of pride making it a very successful day.

Eventually cultural heritage sites will be recorded on our new database.

## Ranger Conference

Girringun Rangers hosted the third Annual Indigenous Rangers Conference in Cardwell from the 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> September. Djunbunji rangers Giles Mundraby, Leon Wallis and Laurissa Mundraby joined Working on Country Rangers from across the country at the Conference. Several different workshops were held over three days with Government Partners such as GRBMPA and SEWPAC.

The main focus of the conference was to let WoC funded Ranger groups share stories and have their voices and concerns heard.

Though many ranger groups are at different stages they share the same vision for our future. "It was great to meet and network with other Rangers who share the same passion and the importance of having own mob look after country" said Laurissa.



## Wait-a-While

### Walking Tracks

The Old People used tracks to cross the ranges walking between different food sources, shelters and ceremonial grounds.

Some of these tracks were later used by foresters and some are still used for hunting.



The Parks Service is keen to have some walks south of Cairns and with some magnificent forest (like the Pine Creek area pictured) and great views MY country is a good place to have them. When tracks are developed there comes job opportunities guiding walks and creating tourism spin-offs like accommodation.

Our rangers have started to mark out tracks from Pine Creek to Cassowary Crossing and Bessie Falls., ready for approvals from QPWS and MY CPC to build tracks

### Fire Management

Wildfires can cause damage to life, property, our landscape and our heritage sites. They can occur any time but are most common in late winter to early summer.

Every year firebugs set light to bush around Giangurra, a worry for us as our office is right in the forest!

In October 2012 five rangers did their level 1 Fire Management training, and now are qualified to attend fires with the local Rural Fire Brigade, QPWS and our neighbours.





# MAYI OF THE MONTH

Wait-a-While

## Marata / Corkwood

*Carallia brachiata*

Marata can be found growing alongside creek beds up to 500 metres above sea level.

It is found in all the tropical coasts of Australia and across Asia, east to the Solomon Islands and west to Madagascar. It grows in well developed rain forest, dry rain forest, "gallery forest" (strips of forest in damp areas surrounded by more open savannah or grassland) and around swamps, where feral pigs can stop seedlings from growing up.

It puts out fruit during the festive season (Gurubuna/wet season).

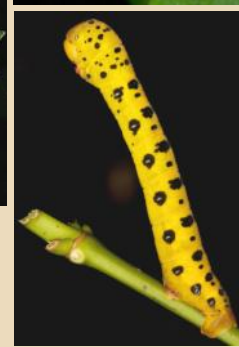
Marata is good eating for kids as it is succulent in flavour - the darker the fruit the sweeter it tastes - and is high protein. It is known to be good for the digestive system, and the bark can be pounded and boiled and made into a poultice for skin irritations and itches.

An Indian study found extracts from the bark help heal wounds, while Australian scientists found that leaf material was active against some tumours, so one day it could give us a modern medicine.



Top: Fruit and flowers of the Marata  
(Garry Sankowsky, Zodiac Publications)

Bottom: The 4 o'clock moth and its caterpillar, which lives on Marata leaves  
(Neil Hewett, Cooper Creek Wilderness)



## Mysterious Mangrove Deaths

Rangers have begun investigating an area of mangroves that are dying off north of the bund wall at East Trinity.

Just one species of mangrove is dying, in an area about 100 metres long and twenty wide. Where the soil is just five centimetres higher the trees are still healthy. Using our hand-held CyberTracker sets we can record the exact area, take pictures and watch how things change with time.

With the help of James Cook University mangrove experts, DAFF and Queensland Acid Sulphate Soils Investigation Team we hope to discover what is causing the problem. It could be that sand and silt piling up in the bay is changing water currents and they can't live with too much fresh water.

## PUBLICATIONS

Drop into the office or phone us to get your copy of the *Strategic Plan for Mandingalbay Yidinji Country*, an Annual Report, or a notice of the AGM. Or you can see it all on our website!

## MEMBERSHIP

Would you like to become a member of Djunbunji Ltd? If you are a descendant of Jabulum Mandingalpai (aka Jimmy), or an Aboriginal person residing in the Cairns Regional Council or Yarrabah

(Aboriginal) Shire Council region who is related to descendants of Jabulum Mandingalpai, please contact us for a form. Membership is free and you will be kept up to date with the latest news!

## HAVE YOUR SAY!

Please contact us with your news, photos and ideas for future newsletter stories. Drop into the office or email [ceo@djunbunji.com.au](mailto:ceo@djunbunji.com.au)



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