



Wait-a-While

Newsletter | Edition #2 | November 2011

Highlights



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

A NEW DAWN FOR MANDINGALBAY YIDINJI PEOPLE



Sunrise over Grey Peaks National Park. *Photographer Ian Kuch.*

I am pleased to advise all Mandingalbay Yidinji People that at the first Board Meeting of the new board elected at our Giangurra Annual General Meeting on the 9th November that I was elected as the new Chair of Djunbunji Ltd for 2011/12. I look forward to working with my fellow board members over the next year and the Mandingalbay Yidinji community in general.

This year is the 5th Anniversary of our first Native Title Determination so it is particularly appropriate that Saturday 26th November will mark the Dedication of Mandingalbay Yidinji People's Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) over a range of tenures in our country in the East Trinity region. This is a historic day for our people and dedication of this IPA is the culmination of many years work for our people to be recognised in this way and for our country to be protected and managed by us for future generations. It is a first in many ways. It is a first for our people, first and foremost. It is also the first IPA to be

declared over a range of tenures, not just Aboriginal land tenures. It is the first for an IPA over already protected tenures. It establishes an ongoing working relationship between our people and many other partners. I hope these partnerships grow and develop in the coming years in a manner that contributes to the successful management of the area for both its natural and cultural values. I congratulate all the partner agencies and particularly the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Department of Environment and Resource Management and Cairns Regional Council for their support with this important initiative.

The Dedication Ceremony on the 26th will be held at the Hilton Hotel and I extend an invitation to all Mandingalbay Yidinji People to attend. Morning tea will be available from 9:30am for a 10:30am start. Please contact us on 4056 8283 for more information.

from Dale Mundraby, Chairperson



FROM THE CEO



Since the publication of the first edition of *Wait-a-While*, Djunbunji Rangers have been working on a number of projects.

The existing walking trail behind the Ranger Base has been marked with interpretative markers labeling particular useful plant species along with a map and guide. Several groups have visited the park to examine our operations including Griffith University Environmental Planning students in late September, the Qld Coastal Conference field trip on the 20th October and most recently the Cairns Regional Council Land Management staff. All groups have been impressed by the walk and the cultural knowledge of the Rangers about the local flora. In fact the students from Griffith University reckoned it was the highlight of their trip which also included a tour of the QASSIT site remediation activities. Considering they went to the Daintree, diving on the reef

and visited other North Qld tourist icons, the potential for greater visitation to the National Parks and State Forest Reserves on Mandingalbay Yidinji Country is obvious.

In December Djunbunji will be hosting a **Mandingalbay Yidinji Community Day** to show the people our work at the Land and Sea Management Centre. We invite all interested Mandingalbay Yidinji People to attend to learn about what we do, walk the Mayi Bugar Trail and enjoy a BBQ lunch.

On 16th December Djunbunji Rangers will be receiving training from Tangaroa Blue and Carpentaria Ghost Net staff in the use of Cyber Tracker GIS system previously purchased by Djunbunji. The training will include some sea debris monitoring on Mandingalbay Yidinji Country which could become an ongoing project. The effective use of this system will allow Djunbunji to proceed with the next project.

Wait-a-While

This project is currently awaiting approval from our funding body the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC). It is to undertake a proper Cultural Heritage Survey of Mandingalbay Yidinji Country including sites within the currently protected estate. This information will provide the cultural overlay to the natural and environmental values of Your Country and document it for future generations. Some additional casual positions will be available to Mandingalbay Yidinji People should the project be approved.

The 'Working on Country Program' is really starting to achieve some results on your country. We appreciate their support.

Ian Kuch



Griffith University students visiting Djunbunji Headquarters on 26th September 2011

WELCOME TO OUR NEW HEAD RANGER



G'day! My name is Jeff Arneth and I have just commenced employment as Head Ranger for Djunbunji Limited. If I'm not out and about with the Rangers you will find

me shivering beside Uncle Darryl (he has been watching an Antarctica documentary) in our air-conditioned office on Pine Creek Road.

My father lives in Normanton, my mother's family are in Townsville and I have two sisters. I live on the Tablelands with my lady, two dogs, some birds, frogs and a big brown snake that lives in the woodpile. I left home and school as a young fella and spent several years in 'the long grass'. Since then I learnt to drive a car! I have worked on a barramundi boat in the Gulf before I went to college to study to be a Park Ranger.

After many different jobs leading teams on conservation and land management projects, I worked for Cairns Regional Council and then National Parks at Innisfail & Lake Eacham. I grew tired of scrubbing dunnies so I left National Parks to climb trees for a living (too many mulla) and deliver horticulture training to community people.

Now I am very happy to be working for the Mandingalbay Yidinji - Djunbunji Working on Country team, they are a good bunch. We have many goals to achieve. If you think you can help us, or we can help you manage country, then please send us a smoke signal or call us at the Office.





DERM AWARDS POND APPLE REMOVAL CONTRACT TO DJUNBUNJI LTD

In a sign of things to come, the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) has awarded a contract to remove Pond Apple (*Annona Glabra*) in identified infestation areas at East Trinity Reserve. Djunbunji Rangers will be working side by side with DERM staff on the contract.

Pond Apple (Bullock Heart) is a particularly invasive plant that grows in the intertidal zone and disturbed areas on adjacent coastal flood plains. It is a significant problem in the Wet Tropics bioregion where it forms dense thickets covering around 2000 hectares. It is a real problem in Mandingalbay Yidinji Country. As part of the lead up to the project, Djunbunji Rangers received crocodile awareness training from DERM's leading Wildlife (Crocodile Management Officer), Brian Wright. One of the team of workers will act as a 'croc spotter' whilst other team members work on Pond Apple control. Who said that Ranger work wasn't dangerous?

The method of removal is to cut the trunks by chainsaw and immediately brush on the cut a chemical paste called 'vigilant' which is the most effective method of killing the plant. In this contract Djunbunji

will provide labour for the project with DERM supplying the chemical which is quite expensive. All of our Rangers have now completed their ACDC Chemical Safety and Application course with Kenny Kyle and Leo Wallis doing their course at Babinda on the 9th November.

Head Ranger Jeff Arneth is in the process of applying for all Rangers to obtain a 'commercial chemical spray licence'.

This contract, on a fee for service basis, is recognition by DERM of the efforts of the Djunbunji Rangers in Pond Apple, Singapore Daisy and other weed control activities on the East Trinity Reserve in the past and reinforces our progress towards providing a professional Ranger service on Mandingalbay Yidinji Country.

Well done Djunbunji Rangers!

Wait-a-While

Wait-a-While is informed that there may be more contracts of a similar nature coming up in the future.



Top: Applying 'vigilant' to Pond Apple trunks. Centre: Pond Apple on East Trinity Reserve.
Bottom: Crocodile resting by the banks.



4WD DRIVER COURSE

Recently Kenny Kyle, Damon Mundraby and Leon Wallis completed a 4WD course with Cairns Offroad 4WD Training and Tours. We did our course near Speewah Roadhouse, on the way to Mareeba. We took our work truck up for the training and put it to the test, it came through for us and we were happy we got a good 4WD to carry out the job that we do around our work environment. We took the truck up

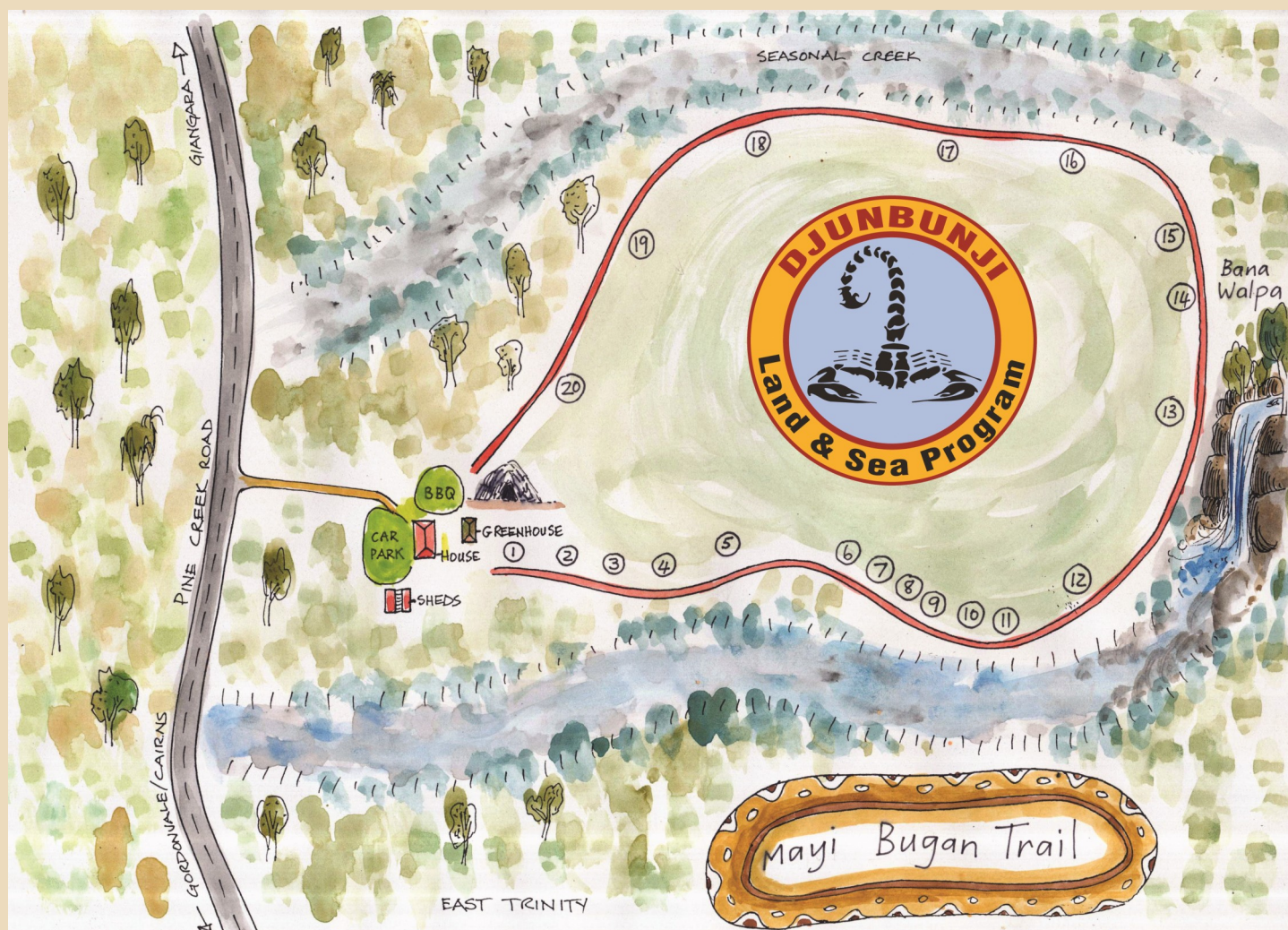
steep slopes and descents, as well as sandy beaches and very rocky terrain. The course will definitely improve our 4WD driving ability through any kind of terrain, or whatever nature can chuck at us. We hope to do more of this kind of training in the future to better improve our offroad abilities when we are on country. We have all received a certificate in our 4WD training and it was money well spent.

Article by Kenny Kyle.



MAYI BUGAN TRAIL

Djunbunji Rangers have identified with markers a number of useful plants to Mandingalbay Yidinji People on an existing trail at the back of the Ranger Base. The Rangers have prepared a guide to the fruits and medicinal plants located along the trail. See for yourself!



Mayi Bugar Trail Map (refer to the table on the opposite page). *Illustrated by Julie Haysom.*



Map No	Aboriginal Name or where unknown Common Name	Scientific Name	Traditional Usage	Season where applicable
1	YAKAL	<i>Pandanus solmslaubachii</i>	Nuts were eaten. Source of fibre for bags and weaving.	Gurabana
2	Wild Ginger	<i>Alpinia modesta</i>	Edible fruits.	Gurabana
3	DUKAL DUKAL	<i>Macaranga mallotoides</i>	Leaves used to wrap foods for cooking in a ground oven.	All seasons
4	Button Orchard	<i>Dischidia nummularia</i>		
5	JILARA	<i>Buchanania arborescens</i>	Sweet black fruits eaten. Only Australian member of the Mango family.	Start of the Wet Gurabana
6	Brown Damson	<i>Terminalia arenicola</i>	Edible Nut.	
7	DJIMRR DJIMRR – Mountain Yam		Edible tuber usually found on the mountainside.	Guraminya
8	NGARRABRAY – Red Beech	<i>Dillenia alata</i>	Indication that water is close by.	
9	Red Box Molloy			
10	SANDPAPER FIG	<i>Ficus frazeri</i>	Tasty black fruits with drop of nectar on base of the fruit. Leaves and sap used in the treatment of Ringworm. Stems can be used for Kukal sticks (fire sticks).	Guraminya
11	MAYI BADIL	<i>Cycas Media</i>	Nuts processed to remove toxins and baked in leaves to make a bread.	Guraminya
12	Midin Ground		Time capsule of Bama occupation.	
13	PORRITJAL (Cocky Apple)	<i>Planchonia careya</i>	Leaves and fruits used in the treatment of toothache.	Gurubana
14	Wattle	<i>Acacia flavescens</i>	Sign in nature that indicates when shellfish and crab are at their best.	Guraminya
15	Umbrella Tree	<i>Schefflera actinophylla</i>	Flowers and fruit attract parrots and green pigeon. Leaves are eaten by Bennett's tree kangaroo.	
16	Native Pepper vine	<i>Piper caninium</i>	Same as cultivated pepper.	Guraminya
17	Golden Bouquet Tree	<i>Deplanchea tetraphylla</i>	Large nectar laden flower bunches attract birds and butterflies and flying foxes at night. Flowers produce a sweet drink when dipped in water.	Flowers Guraminya
18	Supple Vine	<i>Flagellaria indica</i>	Natural contraceptive. String made from the vine used to tie up traditional canoes named BUNUL.	
19	Mountain Badil	<i>Lepidozamia Hopei</i>	Same as Mayi Badil.	Gurabana
20	Basket Yakal	<i>Scirpodendron ghaeri</i>	Sedge for Weaving Baskets.	All seasons
21	'Soap Trees'	<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	Natural alkaloid whose leaves lather easily with water.	All seasons



PARTNERSHIP BUILDING WITH CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

In late September, Djunbunji CEO Ian Kuch made contact with Cairns Regional Council's Land Management Officer, Terry Genever for some advice and assistance with developing our shade house to grow 'acid sulphate' absorbing trees such as Melaleuca leucadendra and Melaleuca quinquenervia for the eventual revegetation of rehabilitated areas in conjunction with Department of Environment and Resource Management on the East Trinity Environmental Reserve. In October, Terry and his staff hosted our Rangers for a tour of the Cattana Wetlands at Smithfield, a formerly acid sulphate affected site rehabilitated by the Cairns Regional Council.

Ranger Giles Mundraby reports, "We at Djunbunji can see how much work and effort has gone into the project of rehabilitating an area for eco-tourism. At Cattana Wetlands there are elements that can be applied at East Trinity Reserve. We

too would like to be able to make a park area for public use. The boardwalk concept is a great project to pursue. There are places down on the reserve that would open up not only for public viewing, but also scientific research. We thoroughly enjoyed the day out. Information gathered should prove beneficial to our goals towards East Trinity Reserve management".

The next day our Rangers learnt plant propagation techniques from Denise at the Cairns Regional Council's Stratford Nursery and planted a range of seeds of native trees collected from their Cattana Wetlands site. This will be an ongoing relationship with our Rangers attending the Stratford Nursery once a month where Terry and his staff will provide ongoing training in horticulture nursery operations. Already the first tree seeds planted by our Rangers have sprouted and our next visit should see those seedlings planted in

pots for future transfer to our own shade house at East Trinity.

On the 9th November we hosted a reciprocal visit and BBQ for Terry and his staff at our Ranger Base where our Rangers explained about the 'Working on Country' Program and gave them a guided tour of the Mayi Bugar Trail. They also provided some practical advice to Jeff and Darryl about shade house operations and irrigation systems.

We also organised through Terry for the Cairns Regional Council's Gordonvale based Land Management Officer, Matthew Scott, to conduct a workshop on the Cairns Regional Council's Regional Weed Management Plan and an overview of their feral animal control program. We have offered to collaborate with the Cairns Regional Council on land management in the East Trinity area in the future.



INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE FIELD OF LAND MANAGEMENT?

**ARE YOU PHYSICALLY FIT, HAVE A CURRENT QLD DRIVERS LICENCE AND WANT TO WORK
WITH YOUR OWN PEOPLE'S LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT CENTRE?**

Djunbunji Land and Sea Management Centre is seeking expressions of interest from Mandingalbay Yidinji People to go on a database of people interested in working with us in the future. This may be work on a casual or more permanent basis. Djunbunji have a small number of casual positions to offer in the near future and will use this database to recruit new workers for these positions and for other positions in the future.

Please submit your current resume with a brief statement of why you are interested in working in this

area by the close of business **Friday 16th December** to be considered for future work with our Company.

All applications should be addressed to the CEO, Djunbunji Ltd, marked as *Confidential* and submitted by post to P.O. Box 329 Gordonvale 4865 or by email to reception@djunbunji.com.au

Any existing qualifications over and above the minimum described relevant to the Land Management field will be highly regarded.

Check out our famous
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QLD COASTAL CONFERENCE

CAIRNS OCTOBER 2011

The Qld Coastal Conference was held in Cairns from the 19th - 21st October at the Pullman Hotel. The theme of the conference which was hosted by Girrigun was 'Ancient Knowledge, Contemporary Innovation'. All of our Ranger Trainees attended the conference where they had many opportunities to expand their overall understanding of sea country management principles.

Many of the conference participants were Indigenous Rangers from many other Indigenous Ranger Programs so it was a great opportunity for them to learn and share experiences with other Indigenous Rangers and gain information in relation to a number of issues affecting management of 'sea country'.

Our Rangers enjoyed the conference sessions on 'Policy & Planning for Managing Saltwater Country' by Dr Rod Kennett from North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA), the 'Working on Country Program Overview' and the 'Indigenous Protected Area Session' chaired by our old friend Dr. Dermot Smyth.

Damon Mundraby particularly enjoyed the conference session on 'Coast Watch', a camera monitoring system. These camera systems are installed around the world in environmentally sensitive areas and help to monitor the areas to protect their natural values. Damon feels it would be great to have a 'Coast Watch System' installed on East Trinity to monitor crocodiles, bird life and feral animal issues particularly with pigs.

Kenny Kyle was impressed that under the IPA program Indigenous Rangers can apply for enforcement powers on Aboriginal Land tenures. Kenny thought that the conference covered a wide variety of issues that affects the coastline up here in North Qld. When *Wait-a-While* spoke to Kenny he said,

"It was a coming together of all different people and agencies around Australia to talk about conservation and planning for



coastal areas. We all got something out of the conference that will give us a better understanding of what is really happening in our backyard".

Djunbunji Ltd sponsored one of the field trips to the QATSIP site at East Trinity and our Ranger Base at East Trinity on the afternoon of the 20th which was a great success despite the threat of heavy rain. The official conference program described the trip as:

"This trip combines DERM's innovative acid sulphate soil remediation and the Djunbunji Land and Sea Program. Attendees will catch a short boat trip across Trinity Inlet to Hills Creek. Upon arrival an inspection of East Trinity



Wait-a-While

Environmental Reserve (managed by DERM in collaboration with Djunbunji Land and Sea Program) will commence including inspection of acid sulphate soil remediation work and the recovery of wetland habitats from severe environmental degradation caused by drainage and clearing in the 1970's.

Tea and damper at Djunbunji Land and Sea Program Ranger Base will be available to attendees, including presentations on Mandingalbay Yidinji culture, history, land management and the development of Mandingalbay Yidinji Indigenous Protected Area.

Following Afternoon Tea attendees take a short walk through Grey Peaks National Park to visit Mandingalbay Yidinji cultural site, including interpretation of traditional marine and coastal resource use. A boat will pick up attendees for a short trip back to Cairns".

Djunbunji Rangers provided an afternoon tea of tea and damper for the 18 people on the field trip and gave them an interpretive tour of the 'Mayi Bagan Trail'. Cultural Heritage Ranger, Darryl Murgha gave them an overview of our Ranger Program and answered questions from the group while all of our Rangers impressed with their traditional knowledge of plants and medicines. Like Giles Mundraby said:

"To the Mandingalbay Yidinji, the forest is our supermarket and chemist shop. All of our needs can be obtained from the forest around us".

We are looking forward to hosting more visitors to our Ranger Base in the future.





INVITATION

The Directors of Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation cordially invite you and your family to celebrate the dedication of our Indigenous Protected Area.

Following the dedication ceremony we invite you to share a celebratory lunch with us.

Saturday 26 November, 2011

Hilton Hotel, Six Degrees Terrace, 34 The Esplanade Cairns

Morning tea will be available at 9:30am for a 10:30am start
The ceremony will conclude with lunch at around 12:30pm

Dress: Tropical smart casual

For further information contact Stacey Mundraby
4056 8283 | reception@djunbunji.com.au



Australian Government
Department of Sustainability, Environment,
Water, Population and Communities



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



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