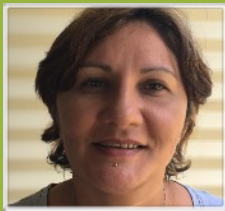


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this newsletter may contain images or names of people who have passed away.

Djabugay

Buwal-Barra Newsletter

Team Profile



MARIA GRAUNER
Communications/Administration
Officer

Maria Grauner is the organisation's Communications/Administration Officer. Maria is happy to once again be on country and working for her people. Getting in touch with her Djabugay culture, language and the kinship family of her grandfather, Dick Richardson, has been the main motivation behind her dedication to the Corporations' work.

"I am so excited to see the direction the organisation is heading. I can see a definite shift within the organisation & a momentum building to move the aspirations of the Djabugay people forward towards positive, life-changing and sustainable outcomes for individuals, families and the community as a whole."

"I would really recommend that the Djabugay people get engaged in what's happening: become a member, attend our cultural days, come along to our community meetings, participate in our language classes, follow our Facebook, drop by the farm and check out the grounds & building improvements, chat with our team....or just drop by for a cuppa. We'd love to see you & hear your concerns and comments."

"Times are a changing for sure, and I am so proud to be a part of it."

Bama Plan - Kickin' Goals for Bama

The Djabugay Bama Plan is out there doing its good work, with discussions having taken place with the Queensland Government and other key stakeholders about how we move our aspirations forward.

One of the key steps we have taken, is to establish the 'Madjay Advisory Group', which is made up of Djabugay people and includes members of our Board. The Group has been assembled to talk to government, on behalf of Djabugay people, with the purpose of talking about Djabugay country and issues that affect it.

The Madjay Advisory Group met with Queensland Parks and Wildlife (QPS) on 15 August for the first discussion towards a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This meeting took place on country at Big Sands, and was opened in ngirrma by head ranger, Gavin Donahue.



While the MOU process will take a while, it is important that Djabugay people, through the group, be clear on what we want, what we are asking for, and have a clear direction for moving forward on having more say over Barron Gorge National Park (BGNP). The Madjay Advisory Group will set this direction in discussions with our Djabugay Aboriginal Corporations (DAC) board.

The Bama Plan also looks towards a healthy economic future, and as part of this stage of the project, the Djabugay board recently met to consider the recommendations, and how this plan fits into the broader Strategic Plan currently being undertaken by the corporation.

All roads are leading to a healthy economic future for Djabugay, through economic development, key partnerships with stakeholders, and investment into our existing assets.

Bulmba Rangers



KDSC Certificate II Conservation and Land Management

The Djabugay Bulmba Rangers & Barry J Hunter have been sharing their knowledge and skills with the Year 11 & 12 students doing their Certificate II Conservation and Land Management at Kuranda District State College:

- Aboriginal Land Management
- Workplace Health & Safety Practices
- Weed Management
- Yellow Crazy Ants Project
- Water Quality Management
- Traditional Fire Management
- Biodiversity Surveys
- Plant Surveys
- Track Maintenance
- Ranger Personal Stories



Bulmba Rangers helping the endangered Northern Bettong

Our Djabugay Bulmba Rangers have been putting in the long hours as part of their involvement in the Northern Bettong Project. Several of our Rangers (Zane, Charlie, Ezekiel, Toby, Russell, Floyd & Mickey) have spent some chilly evenings camping out at Davies Creek in their trapping and tracking work to monitor the population of the endangered species.

Their typical day starting at 2pm with prep & team briefing before heading out at 3pm to set the 45 traps. Back to camp around 5pm to prepare dinner, have a feed and down for the night by 8:30pm; only to rise again at 10:20pm to head out to check traps at 11pm. Finish around 5am & head back to base for a sleep until breakfast at 11am, then lunch around 2pm..... REPEAT



Why it matters

The northern bettong plays an essential role in maintaining the health of its forest community. A large part of the bettong's diet is made up of truffles (a fungi that grows on the buried roots of trees), making them one of the top truffle dispersers; with quite a few truffles completely dependent on bettongs for the dispersal of their spores. If the bettongs disappear, so will the truffles dependant for their dispersal, leading to a loss of some of the trees that depend on the truffles. The truffles need the tree for water, sugar and a place to grow; and the trees rely on the truffles to fix and make nutrients available from the very poor soils. This ecosystem is so delicately poised that removing one element – the bettongs, the truffles or the trees – could cause the whole ecosystem to collapse.

RANGER TRAINING

Bio-Diversity Training (trapping)

The Rangers undertook a 2 day Bio-Diversity workshop on 14 & 15 April with trainer & ecologist, Mr Darryn Storch. The Rangers learnt: Monitoring techniques suitable for the environment and species, Installing and use of monitoring equipment, Developing systems to capture, maintain & analyse data, Make observations & record data on species diversity & abundance, and Reviewing data to ensure the monitoring process is correctly targeted & implemented.

Fire Management/Cultural Indicators

Bulmba Rangers have been working to bring together Indigenous science and cultural knowledge with western scientific methods. In particular, the Rangers have been undertaking a process of recording cultural indicators for fire and its effects on country using scientific methods. This training equips the Rangers with an understanding of the plants and types of habitat that is a result of good fire management. For instance, as a result of "good fire" there should be an increase in certain plants that include bush foods, medicines and native grasses, while eradicating weeds and invasive native species.

The training was led by PHD Candidate, Peta Standley, who has worked with elders on Cape York to develop these indicators over the last 15 years. As the process for recording the information is a scientific methodology, this gives the rangers a good grounding in understanding both aspects.

The Rangers have now established monitoring plots on and nearby Mona Mona, and in years to come the information from these plots will tell us the effects and changes of good cultural burning activity on country.

Certificate IV - Training and Assessment

Our Senior Rangers, Athol, Gavin & Toby, have commenced their Trainer & Assessor course, attending their first week intensive 26-30 August.

Horticulture & Asset



Maintenance(H&AM)



“Assets well Managed”

Our Horticulture team at Nyawarri Estate have evolved to add Asset Maintenance to their skillset. And they haven't wasted time making a huge impact at our facilities....

From painting and upgrading toilet blocks, sprucing up the kitchen, to digging trenches for the NBN, the team has had a busy few months.

Supervisor Trevor Kilby, led the team in the start of asset maintenance with the painting of the old toilet block, and upgrading of the toilet facilities. The kitchen hasn't missed out; receiving a new coat of paint to brighten and freshen up the space.

The reception and lunch areas have had a minor upgrade with a lucky purchase of table and chairs from the closure of Smithfield's Donut King, allowing multiple seating options be available for our staff, visitors and community members. We have also purchased a new outdoor lounge for the comfort of our Elders.

Moving with the times, the office at Nyawarri Estate has now upgraded to the NBN network. The H&AM team worked along contractors to dig the trench, and lay the conduit and cabling required for the office block to be connected. Internet is now faster & improving efficiency for all the staff.

The H&AM team have prepped the gardens for the spring planting by putting up netting on several of the garden beds. A great variety of seeds have been planted and most have already started sprouting... looking forward to a lovely harvest!

Cairns Festival “Voice of the River”

Central Queensland University's (CQU) Cairns Festival concert, “Voice of the River”, featured a joint production showcasing Djabugay's ancient connection to the Redlynch area. CQU's Creative Arts team worked alongside DAC to engage linguist, Michael Quinn, and Dennis Hunter in the development a video production, “Rilindji”.

The event (Monday, 26 August) was opened with a ‘Welcome to Country’ by DAC Chairman, William (Biri) Duffin, followed by the ‘Rilindji’ video presentation.

The video, which featured Dennis Hunter painted & dressed in cultural way and telling the story in language, was well received by the crowd. The evening event was a wonderful success, and so uplifting to see the opening giving homage to Djabugay people, language and culture in such a public arena.

The North Qld Land Council (NQLC) picked up the story in their latest edition of Message Stick, featuring Dennis on the front cover!







CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone,

It has been a very busy start to the 'dry season' here at Djabugay Aboriginal Corporations.

At Nyawarri Estate, the Horticulture & Asset Management team have been super busy, getting the NBN installed, upgrading the facilities, and renovating the office.

The Rangers have been hard at work doing cultural fire burns at Mona Mona, and undertaking Certificate IV training, while a couple of our younger rangers will be doing an exciting two-week placement with Skyrail in November.

Meanwhile, the board of directors and senior staff have been busy focusing on strategic planning for the corporations.

It is a time of great change and great opportunity at Djabugay.

We will now be focusing our energies on Nyawarri Estate, and developing a masterplan for the property, to establish it as the central Djabugay Hub for land, culture and economic development. The property is loved by all in the community, and has great potential to be established as a key resource and hub for the Djabugay people.

With a strong base, we will be developing a range of new relationships and partnerships to create employment, training and cultural development outcomes for community.

Whilst many of these conversations are in early development stages, we are hoping to announce some exciting initiatives in the near future.

With the establishment of the Madjay Advisory group, land dealing and consultations have a strong Djabugay voice to talk to country.

With an exciting logo and re-branding project underway, with fresh new designs from Wally Brim, Djabugay's profile is about to get a relaunch and significant boost.

Djabugay culture will again be on display with the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir at CPAC in October. After the recent 'Rilindji' project, developed with our partners at CQU, Djabugay culture is alive and reaching a wider public audience.

A consultation meeting with the community to discuss language (Ngirrma) in schools, will provide a great opportunity for Djabugay language owners to have their voice heard, and provide the education services with critical community feedback and perspective.

We all have a bright Djabugay future ahead, and I look forward to sharing more of the exciting projects with you in the coming months.

Yours,



William Duffin
CHAIRPERSON

Gondwana Choir sings Djabugay"



In exciting Djabugay news, young people from Kuranda District State College will perform at the Cairns Performing Arts Centre (CPAC) in October with the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and the Australian Chamber Orchestra collective.

The Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir has been working with young people from Kuranda District State College on a new choir work based on the Djabugay Buda:dji story. The composer, Dan Walker, worked with Djabugay cultural custodian, Dennis Hunter, to develop a song for the choir to include in their repertoire, that could be performed by a small orchestra.

Based in Cairns, Queensland, Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir is the most exciting and well-recognised group of young Indigenous performers in the country. For young people from Kuranda, the opportunity to learn, rehearse and perform alongside this established group is a very unique and exciting opportunity. They will rehearse for some 5 weeks leading up to the performance.

The Australian Chamber Orchestra collective will perform at CPAC on **Saturday 19th October**. The Djabugay kids performance with the orchestra will take place at **11.00am**.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Djabugay Burrindji.....A bridge to Djabugay – Monday 8 July

A group of bama and non-indigenous community members attended the bridging the gap NAIDOC event hosted by the Michael Quinn and the Djabugay Bulmba Rangers on Monday, 8 July. The evening focused on language and culture of our Bulmba (country), with participants learning the words related to land, water, sky & environment.

Queensland Rail – Wednesday 10 July

The Rangers rode with the community on Qld Rail's free trip from Cairns to Kuranda Wednesday morning, where Q-Rail held a NAIDOC event which included a Djabugay 'Welcome to Country' by Mario Williams.

NAIDOC Community March – Thursday 11 July

Bulmba Rangers and staff marched with community to celebrate NAIDOC Week, joining in the celebrations at the Kuranda Amphitheatre.

Kuranda Kindy – Wednesday 24 July

Rangers, Floyd Riley, Mickey Riley & Athol Brim attended the Kuranda Kindergarten NAIDOC day to share their knowledge of local bush food and medicine. Maria Grauner led the youngsters in their ngirrma version of Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes. Michael Quinn intrigued the kiddies and their parents with his magical storytelling of Djabugay stories, getting the whole group involved.

KSDC NAIDOC Career Walk – Wednesday 18 September

DAC unveiled their 'Djabugay's Pathway Partners' relationship with CQU & Skyrail; showcasing study and careers opportunities as part of Kuranda District School College's NAIDOC Career Walk.



'New look' for DAC

Djabugay Aboriginal Corporations (DAC) are pleased to have contracted Wally Brim to design logo/motifs for the rebranding of the organisation. As the Board are currently in the process of Strategic Planning and Visioning for the corporation, the rebranding will provide a fresh, new, professional & consistent profile for the organisation.

"Climate Change in Djabugay Country"

As part of a National media tour of the wet tropics to investigate climate change in our rainforests, Barry J Hunter gave a unique perspective from a traditional owner's perspective.

The media tour was organised by the Australian Conservation Foundation, and follows an alert by Professor Stephen Williams (Professor of Global Change Biology at James Cook University), on the impacts that increased temperatures and heat waves are having on native species inhabiting the area.

Barry John accompanied the journalists to Barron Gorge and spoke about the traditional landscape, and about changes he has witnessed during his lifetime.

A range of media stories were published following the tour of the wet tropics. Barry's comments were featured in a variety of stories, including The Sydney Morning Herald, Sunrise TV, and the Age Newspaper in Melbourne. See the extract from 'The Sydney Morning Herald' below...



The impact of climate change is also being noticed by Aboriginal groups that have traditional ties to the wet tropics.

Among them are the Djabugay people, who have native title over parts of the Barron Gorge National Park, north-west of Cairns. Barry Hunter, project officer for the local Aboriginal corporation, says he's noticed many changes since he was a boy scrambling up and down the spectacular Barron Gorge waterfall.

"Over the last 20 years, I have seen distinct change, particularly in the birds, some of which have a totemic meaning for family groups."

Climate change is also disrupting his community's traditional methods of fire management. "We have not had a dry season this year, which indicates changing weather patterns," Hunter says. "We should be well and truly into our traditional burning season," he adds, explaining that setting small mosaic fires helps minimise the risk of massive blazes in areas adjacent to the heritage-listed forests.

The Sydney Morning Herald (By Deborah Snow) July 28, 2019

COMMUNITY NEWS

John Moriarty Football launches in Kuranda

July 25th saw John Moriarty Football (JMF) launch Kuranda as their hub to offering regular soccer coaching clinics, holiday programs and tournaments in the region. The event commenced with an initial community leaders' workshop, with Christopher Richardson doing the Djabugay official 'Welcome to Country' and gifting Mr Moriarty with a locally made dilly bag.



COMMUNITY NGIRRMA CLASSES

**Every Friday morning
9:30am to 11:00am
in the Language Room,
Nyawarri Estate (the farm)**

Judging of YCA T-Shirt design competition

Bulmba Ranger Coordinator, Jimmy Richards recently assisted Ciara Bridgland, YCA Community Taskforce Coordinator, in the judging of their Yellow Crazy Ants T-Shirt design competition.



Jesse Baker' won the Best Junior T-shirt Design & Kali Harriss won Best Adult T-shirt, People's Choice Best Adult Logo and T-shirt design.

"Schools in Kuranda are hungry for Djabugay culture"

Barry J Hunter & Maria Grauner recently attended the Steiner School to contribute to the school's Reef & Rainforest Course, delivering a session on 'Indigenous Perspectives'.

Sharing their Djabugay perspective of connection, belonging, and 'being part of' country with the students, Barry explained totemic identities and the associated responsibilities with caring for that aspect of the environment. Djabugay forest knowledge and traditional land management practices was also discussed with the year 8, 9 & 10 students, highlighting the important work of our Indigenous Land & Sea Rangers.

The following day, linguist Michael Quinn accompanied Maria Grauner to educate the students on the language of the Djabugay speaking people. The pair shared language (ngirrma) terms relating to natures' landforms, waterways, skies and forests. The students plan to use the words learnt to label their new mural of the environment.

SHARING NGIRRMA

Script from 'Voice of the River'

Search our YouTube channel (Djabugay Aboriginal Corporations) for the full video & pronunciation

Ngawu Djabuganydji.
I am Djabugay.

Bama nganydji gulun-da nyina-ymu, galggarr-mu.
Our People have lived here from long ago.

Nganydjin gurra-gurra wabarr-a-galiny minya-wu, maa waygal-a-gali-ya, gulun-da, guyu, nyinggarra-djada duga-ya, warrma djundaya.
Our ancestors went hunting for meat, searching for bush foods, catching fish and eel, and dancing warrma (a corroboree).

Gudjumbarray gulbul ngundany magayiya bulmba djarri-ya.
They saw the sea rising and drowning the land.

Galgarr.
Long ago.

Nganydjin Bulurru Damarri bana burrungany, Gimuy guri: gundany.
Our Storytime Creator, Damarri, he stopped the rising waters and made Gimuy (Cairns) safe.

Our stories go way back in time. Once, our hunting grounds stretched twenty miles to the Barrier Reef and you could walk there. At the end of the last ice age the waters rose up and flooded the land all the way to where the coastline is today.

DJABUGAY MANYDJIRRI! **Community Cultural Day**



It's on again..... Sunday, 3 November
Kuranda Amphitheatre
1pm-7pm

CULTURAL art, dance, music, language

Entertainment, food & Jumping Castle

Come together and enjoy our beautiful culture
DJABUGAY MANYDJIRRI ! (Celebrate Djabugay!)
www.djabugay.org.au