



Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation

NEWSLETTER

November 2022



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Welcome to our first newsletter for 2022. Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation (DMYAC) Board and Staff thought this would be a good idea to get our good news stories out to our mob and keep you all up to date. This will be an ongoing newsletter that will be released every quarter, so please keep an eye out for it.

2022 has been an exceptionally busy year for DMYAC Board and Staff. The Board of Directors and Staff are continuously working hard and pride ourselves on achieving positive outcomes for all Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji People.



From the Board of Directors

2022 Board of Directors

Our current directors, elected at the 2021 AGM are:

Dulabed	Malanbarra	Yidinji
Keith Davis	Drew Solomon	Darryl Cooktown
Lillian Clubb	Natalie Terry	Patrissa Tranby
Jasmine Clubb	Allison Halliday	Vacant
Lorraine Muckan	Latisha Terry	Vacant

The first DMYAC Board of Directors meeting following our 2021 AGM was held on the 29 January 2022. At this meeting, the directors voted in the following office bearers who will hold office until the close of our 2022 AGM:

- Jasmine Clubb – Chair
- Allison Halliday – Deputy Chair
- Natalie Terry – Treasurer
- Latisha Terry – Contact Officer

Together the Board have volunteered a significant amount of their time to establish good governance for the Corporation and continues to work towards setting a clear path forward for 2023.

It is election time at our upcoming 2022 AGM, and under the new rotation of directors system, six directors will stand down (two from Dulabed, two from Malanbarra and two from Yidinji) and an election will be held to fill those vacant positions. Any DMYAC member (aged 18 and over) can nominate to stand as a director.

From 1 November 2022, those wishing to become a director of an ORIC and ASIC company, will need a Director Identification Numbers (**DIN**) BEFORE they are eligible to be a director.

Areas of focus for DMYAC Board

There were a number of areas identified that DMYAC wanted to focus on this year. Strategically, the Board are continuously working towards our goals set out in our Jiljirru Country Plan and ensuring that we are implementing the plan on behalf of our People.

A big focus for DMYAC was setting up our ranger program, funded by the Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program (QILSR). In February 2022, we employed Ranger Coordinator, Jeff Jackson to lead the team of four which includes Elder Saunders Ambyrum, Luke Clubb, Jason Ambyrum and Leanne Sarota. Refer to the Jawajawa Rangers update from page 8 to learn more about the team.



The Board and Elders have worked hard with staff on the planning and establishing of the ranger program workplan for country, that our ranger team will prioritise over the next year. Regular review of activities will be ongoing as there is a lot of work to manage on country. We have also identified the need

for more rangers and will be seeking further funding opportunities to expand the Jawajawa Rangers team, so keep an eye out.

For many years, establishing an Elders committee has been an aspiration that looks to be coming to fruition this year. Once introduced, the committee will act as an advisory group to DMYAC and will provide cultural advice and guidance to the Board when requested. Still in the early planning stages, we are currently assessing which model will work best within the current structure of the organisation. DMYAC are conscious that we are working in two worlds of 'Law and Lore' and the importance of incorporating cultural practices into our operations.

Protection of Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji People's cultural heritage remains our number one priority. With the establishment of our ranger team, we now have the ability to respond to future activities that require cultural heritage monitors. DMYAC has set up internal process that allows us to respond quickly to activities to ensure our cultural heritage is protected. With these tools, we have been able to manage country better and record sites in our cultural heritage database.

In July of this year, Woolworths opened in Gordonvale and was the first store nationally to embrace the local Aboriginal culture by seeking consent from our Elders to have a location name for the new Woolworths store, in which our Elders gave their consent to

use 'Gubuda' the Yidin word for Gordonvale, which means "fighting ground". While there are some views that this wasn't the correct name we have rechecked with Elders and linguists and we have it right.



DMYAC has been getting out and about this year and 'showing face' within the community. The Board, Elders and staff have been involved in a lot of cultural activities including welcome to country, smoking and NAIDOC to name a few. This has given us the opportunity to develop a community profile and to get us known within the community. This is an area that we will continue to work on in 2023 and look forward to creating long lasting relationships.

Employment opportunities are becoming more available for our mob. The Board has created an employment register form to assist Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji People into

employment. DMYAC is compiling a register for Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji People seeking employment which it puts forward to its partners and other businesses working on Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji People Country from time to time. If you would like to be on the register, please contact the office.

With our new rule book replacement, the Board will be working through a number of areas over the next year to allow us to grow into the future, including:

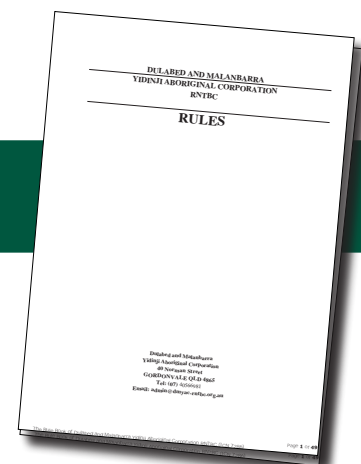
- Continue to set the foundation of our organisation
- Commence a business planning process
- Restructure of our corporation to protect our assets and allow us to grow into the future
- Look at other opportunities that DMYAC can work towards becoming self-sufficient

We are proposing to have a community meeting early next year to provide an update on our current projects and get feedback from our Traditional Owners about what they want to see in the future.

DMYAC Rule Book

Last year the Australian Government made changes to the *Native Title Act 1993* and to the Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) Regulations – the laws which say how PBCs must be run and make decisions.

These changes to the law require PBCs to make changes to their rule books around membership and to make sure there are agreed ways for the PBC to resolve disputes. These rule book changes must be made to our PBC rule book by 24 March 2023.



DMYAC will be asking members to consider proposed changes to DMYAC's rule book to comply with the necessary legislative changes and allow for the corporation to grow and deal with future business. The proposed changes will be presented by the North Queensland Land Council at our AGM.

Operations

I refer you to the Managers Report and Jawajawa Ranger Program part of the newsletters for more information regarding the work that is happening on the ground.

Lastly, we would like to thank our staff for their dedication and hard work they continue to put in each week. We are grateful for the

work they do on the ground to work towards fulfilling the aspirations of our People.

The Directors look forward to continuing to work with our Manager and staff to create positive outcomes for all Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji People in 2023.

New Funding Opportunity Community Fishing Grant Cultural Camps

Project category	Project	Organisation	Year
Recreational and/or traditional fishing education	Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji Elders will undertake Cultural camps with youth to educate them in the Cultural ways of managing and utilising Cultural fishing resources to keep People, Country and Culture strong and healthy.	Dulabed And Malanbarra Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation Rntbc	2021/22
Recreational and/or	To develop educational materials about freshwater fishing in fact, including an information brochure and display	Maranoa Regional Council	2021/22

We are very pleased to share that DMYAC has been successful in funding from Department of Fisheries to undertake cultural camps on country with Elders to educate Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji youth between the ages of 6 and 16 in the use, construction and management of cultural fishing resources, practices and stories.

Activities to be undertaken will include two 3-day youth cultural camps on Country, engaging Elders to educate youth, construction of Wan.gul, a seasonal stone fish trap and education around its use and maintenance.

The camps will be held during the April (Easter) and June school holidays in 2023 – so please keep an eye out.

From the Manager



The last 12 months has been one of renewal and consolidation. We ended the year with our Reef Assist rangers coming to an end and began 2022 with our new Jawajawa Ranger team with funding through the Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program.

This year has been a busy one for our Jawajawa rangers with training in Conservation and Ecosystem Management, Fire management and mapping as well as lots of work on Country managing Siam weed, assisting QPWS with burns on the Pyramid, Mt Peter and Stallions pocket areas. The Drum has also been a focus for works with weed control, burns and training with Firesticks Alliance undertaken. We were also able to employ some casuals to work alongside the Rangers to undertake this work.

Other activities included setting up camera traps to record animals on Country, collection of Cultural knowledge, managing the camping and day use areas in Kearney's campground, attending public events, getting to know Country better and working out what needs to be done to make Country healthy.

We continued to have Cultural Monitors employed through the E2G project with Transport and Main Roads as well as on the Gillies Range Road from time to time. As part of the Cairns Water Security Project, we have also had Cultural Monitors engaged on site to allow bore drilling to collect data to determine the feasibility of the project.



Woolworths opened this year, and we were able to have the site named Gubuda the language name for the area of Gordonvale. This is the first dual named Woolworths in the Country.



We were also able to direct Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji peoples to the Yellow Crazy Ant Program with several people being employed during the year. With the new infestation of yellow crazy ants found in the dry gully area we were able to bring together Elders and the Yellow Crazy Ant Program to look at Culturally appropriate ways of undertaking yellow crazy ant control.

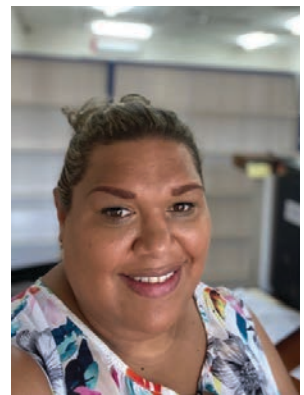


Our relationship with QPWS continues to grow and improve. We're regularly involved in planning and assisting with management of park, which is all Country.

The Cairns Water Security project started this year with Cairns Regional Council wanting to take water from the river down near Greenpatch, while we allowed Council to undertake drilling of bores to collect data DMYAC doesn't support the project at this stage. We require more information as well as having a Cultural Heritage Management Plan in place if we are to support the project.

We have also formalised our fee structure and invoicing system and now we are able to charge appropriately for services that we provide.

As the business of DMYAC grows we require better systems and policies to be put in place and to manage this we have employed Leanne Sarota as a part time administration assistant to look after the administrative side of the Corporation. In addition to Leanne's role in the DMYAC office, she is also the Ranger Support Officer for the Jawajawa Rangers. You can read more about Leanne in the Jawajawa Rangers staff profiles on page 8.



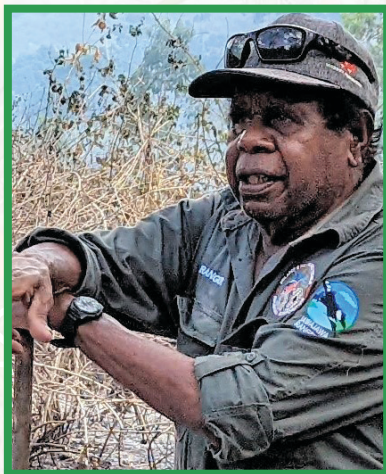
The year has been busy with meetings with partners, investigating other funding and business opportunities and just trying to get DMYAC known out there. It has also been a year of being involved in public events such as NAIDOC week and the Pyramid Race undertaking smoking ceremonies and welcomes to Country.

The coming year will see us starting to look at funding to develop a business plan to start our tourism program and with us starting to get bigger we'll be hunting around for a new office and Ranger base, We will also be chasing funding to expand the Jawajawa rangers as well as starting a research project with JCU looking at Water. The year ahead continues to look bright.



Jawajawa Rangers

MEET THE TEAM



Saunders

Saunders Ambyrum is a proud Malanbarra man. He was born under a cherry tree in Wright's Ck and has lived in Gordonvale for over 6 decades. He's walked all up and down Country and seen all the changes that have happened over the years. As an Elder, Uncle Saunders leads the Rangers during their Cultural Heritage days passing on valuable Knowledge while on Country. He also oversees many of the Rangers' activities including Cultural Burning practices.



Luke

"Hey to you mob that don't know me, my name is Luke Clubb from the Dulabed Group, my apical ancestor is Jimmy Langdon. I am proud to be a part of the Jawajawa ranger team, it has been an awesome but challenging experience, especially in the early stages of the Ranger group. It's been a long time coming and it's great for DMYAC to be able to have some eyes and ears on Country. Personally, I love my job, coming from working in construction to being an indigenous ranger has been the best career move, being able to represent past Elders and my family and working on the country my Grandfather was born and feeling the strong connection has been the best part. So you mob don't be shame, pop in the office for a yarn."



Jason

"Malanbarra Yidinji, Malanbarra meaning belonging to rock, that's who I am Jason Ambyrum. Ranger by day, Traditional Owner all my life. Working on and with the land gives me a chance to preserve, practice and educate how it is important to be in this role. The DNA of this country strongly runs through my veins which I have connection to. My Elders past and present have already gone back to the dreamtime leaving knowledge and wisdom but mainly culture which will be ceremonially passed on to the next upcoming generation."



Jeff

"Hey guys, I'm Jeff Jackson the Jawajawa Ranger Coordinator. I started back in February and have been loving every day since. I came up to Cairns 6 years ago to work in the rainforest, I never expected to be working in such an awesome program. The Country I get to work on is stunning and the crew is passionate and great to work with. My favourite activity by far is using fire as a tool to control weeds and restore healthy Country. I'm very proud to be involved in setting up the Ranger Program so if you see me out in the field or getting around town feel free to pull me up and have a yarn. I'm always happy to talk about what we get up to."



Leanne

"Hi Guys, I'm Leanne, the Ranger Support Officer. I joined the team in May this year after sitting as DMYAC Board Member for the last two years. During my time as a Board Member, I recall the many meetings about the possibility of our very own Ranger Program. It's so rewarding to see those discussions being brought to life through our JawaJawa Ranger Program. I love being part of a team who are passionate about respecting our history, preserving Country, and educating future generations. I can't wait to see where 2023 will take us."

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Much of Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji Country is dependent on regular fire to stay healthy. Native grasses require the right fire at the right time to provide food and habitat for local wildlife. Dry Country trees often require smoke to crack seed pods and fire can also be used to reduce vegetation thickening and combat invasive weed infestations.

The Traditional Owners of this Country used fire to maintain these ecosystems. The Jawajawa Rangers are honing their Traditional burning skills with Victor Steffensen of Firesticks Alliance. Victor has come out on Country multiple times to demonstrate Traditional Burning practices with the Rangers, passing on Knowledge that will help them to determine the right methods and timing in their own future fire plans.

The Rangers are also working with QPWS with their hazard reduction and conservation burns on National Park. The burns done on Walsh's Pyramid (Djarragun), Mt Peter and Stallion's Pocket were done together with the 'first match' and pre-burn words done by the Rangers. This experience has been valuable in preparing the Rangers in running their own burns safely and strategically.

In order to do burns on National Park the Rangers have had to do Fire Management (FM1) Training. Earlier in the year they went down to Cardwell and did the 4-day training course alongside Mamu, Mandubarra and Girringun Rangers on Girramay Country. It was an interesting

course, learning about the behavior of wildfires and operating firefighting equipment.

“Fire is a good servant but a bad master if you don't use it right.”

- UNCLE SAUNDERS

With the ongoing experience and training that the Rangers are getting, burning of Country will soon be back in the hands of the Traditional Owners. Plans are ongoing with DMYAC Elders, Board members and the Jawajawa Rangers for next year's fire season.





THE DRUM

The Drum is a Bora ground in the Goldsborough region. The open rocky area is an awesome sight as you step through the dense rainforest that surrounds it. The eucalyptus trees that mark the edges indicate that it was originally maintained with fire. Recently it has become overwhelmed by lantana and other noxious weeds. It was identified as a valuable Cultural site that required the attention of the Jawajawa Rangers.

Over a few visits with Victor Steffensen and other members of the mob, the Rangers developed a strategy to clean this site up and restore it to its original condition. The plan at first was to slash and cure the lantana bushes. The dried leaves and branches would work as fuel for the fire used to destroy the plants which often reshoot if not killed properly.

The Rangers visited the site multiple times with casual workers from the mob. They slashed the lantana with machetes, brush hooks and a chainsaw. The cured leaves and branches were then set alight weeks

later as the team continued slashing the wall of lantana. It soon became clear that this method was too time consuming. The Rangers opted to spray the weeds with herbicide, however due to the dry conditions this was less effective than we hoped for.

Then one day we organised for a team of casuals to join us for one last burn before the season was over. We knew the soil was moist, the wind was steady and the temperature, humidity and other factors were just perfect. The fire did its job, it followed the patches of lantana around the edges and made quick work of the weed that we struggled to slash by hand on so many trips. The right fire at the right time was a more powerful tool than all the previous attempts to knock the weeds down.





CARING FOR COUNTRY

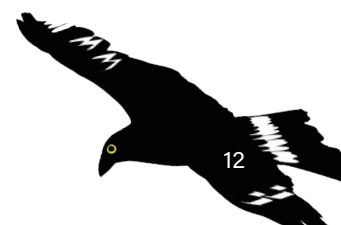
Weed management is an important part of taking care of Country. The Jawajawa Rangers use various tools to combat invasive weeds. This includes herbicides, slashing, fire and just recently a biocontrol gall fly. This fly has been well researched over many years and only attacks siam weed. It is one of many scientific approaches that the Rangers have up their sleeve to use when caring for Country. The Rangers also work alongside QPWS in maintaining the Goldsbrough campsite facilities. This involves mowing, removing fallen trees and constructing infrastructure amongst many other tasks.


In order to do many of their jobs they need to be well trained, this is why the Rangers are currently doing their Certificate 3 in Conservation and Ecosystem Management. This course has given them many practical skills such as chainsaw use, small machine maintenance and fauna surveillance techniques. One such technique that the Rangers have been doing is camera trapping. They've deployed multiple camera traps in the field that automatically take photos or videos of animals when their motion sensors are set off. This means they can monitor the critters that are usually too sneaky to be seen in the wild.

The cameras have picked up many different species including horses, pigs, padymelons, noisy pitas, giant white-tailed rats, melomys, bandicoots and various dingoes. A series of photos of a family of dingoes picked up near the Drum were shared with the mob and the greater community on Facebook. This post was shared by various people including international conservation groups.

Engaging with the mob and the greater community is an important part of the Ranger Program. The Rangers have been involved in various community events including NAIDOC celebrations, school visits and Welcome to Country ceremonies such as the one conducted by Ranger Jason during the Pyramid Race.

Caring for Country also includes caring for Cultural Heritage. DMYAC has set up a Cultural Heritage Knowledge system that the Jawajawa Rangers use to record data on sites, artifacts and stories. Uncle Saunders joins Luke and Jason during their Cultural Heritage days where they research available literature, explore possible sites and monitor known sites ensuring that they are protected for future generations. The Jawajawa Rangers will keep you up to date as they continue Caring for Country, preserving Cultural Heritage and fulfilling aspirations of Elders past and present.





On behalf of DMYAC Directors
and staff, we wish you a safe
and happy festive season and
look forward to working with you
in 2023.

Christmas Office Closure

Closed from 5pm Friday, 23 December 2022 and will re-open on Tuesday,
3rd January 2023.