

BARDDABARDDA WODJENANGORDDEE: WE'RE TELLING ALL OF YOU

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New book tells of our “remarkable history”



Elkin Umbagai and daughter Heather at Wotjululm in 1954

The remarkable history of our country, our old people and the resilience of our culture and community has been published by the Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation as a resource for future generations.

This comprehensive account of traditional and post-European contact life was commissioned by the Dambeemangaddee Traditional Owners whose homeland lies to the north of Derby and includes some of the most spectacular coastal country and environmentally significant areas of the world.

Barddabardda Wodjenangorddee (we're telling all of you) was compiled over a seven year period by two senior Traditional Owners, Mrs Janet Oobagooma and Mr Donny Woolagoodja, with six researchers who have a long relationship with the community. The 416 page book provides a wealth of detailed

information of people, places and narratives that highlight the deep history of this part of the Kimberley region. There are more than 50 pictures of striking rock art images illustrating key aspects of the Dambeemangaddee culture and detailed information concerning the Traditional Owners' ancestors with connections to this country.

Dambeemangaddee ancestors lived rich, prosperous and complex lives prior to European settlement in the nineteenth century. Their country provided a wealth of resources, they travelled the land on foot and used log rafts and dugout canoes to visit the islands of their traditional country including those 'over the horizon'.

The book describes the "often heroic" determination of the Traditional Owners to ensure the survival of their culture and connections to country in the face of outsiders attempting to regulate their lives and displace them from their lands. Mr Donny Woolagoodja, also a famous artist, describes the importance of the links between the land and traditional culture. "It's the land that gives you your culture. It is something that is very special and was given to the old people. Young people have to know that because, if you don't tell them, they can't understand it."

At the end of book Mrs Janet Oobagooma tells visitors from Australia and around the world who want to 'discover' the Kimberley region and Dambeemangaddee country. "Mostly, we want people to know that we are the Traditional Owners of Dambeemangaddee country and we respect our old people, our country and Lalai. We would like all people to respect us too and ask permission to come to visit us and our country. We welcome visitors who really want to know"

The book, along with other community based resource materials, is part of a larger enduring project called the Dambeemangaddee Future Generations Resources Project undertaken by the Traditional Owners with the Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation.

Copies of Barddabardda Wodjenangorddee are available from ...

Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation
reception@dambi.org.au

Mowanjum Arts Centre www.mowanjumarts.com



Pride of the fleet for Dambi sea country

A specialised Dambimangari-owned and operated patrol boat will be put into service before the end of the dry season to increase the Rangers' capacity to manage our Dambimangari sea country.

Acquired by the Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation, the 10-metre Global Marine Air Rider 'Manambadda' (meaning warrior) will be fitted out for wildlife monitoring, cultural site inspections, sea rescue, safety patrols and transport tasks.

Some of the key roles will include

- Research and monitoring of a wide range of flora and fauna.
- Cultural site management.
- The protection and management of Islands and other identified areas of ecological significance.
- Crew transfers, and the supply of equipment and provisions to our remote base camps.
- Increasing the presence of Dambimangari Rangers and Traditional Owners on the water.
- Increasing interaction with visitors using the visitor pass systems.

- Support for joint management operations in the Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park.
- Creating an avenue for fee-for-service-based work to generate an income for the Dambimangari community.

Operations of the Manambadda will be supported by a purpose-built five-metre tender 'Abeeya' (meaning brother). 'Abeeya' is being designed to assist with boat-based surveys and shallow water work around reefs and in mangrove creek systems.

Healthy Country Co-ordinator James Mansfield said the vessel would represent a substantial increase in the Rangers ability to access sea country.

"The Manambadda and Abeeya will play key roles in the management of the Dambimangari Indigenous Protected Area and implementation of the Healthy Country Plan," he said.

"One of the most important requirements for our work in the area will be the ability to travel efficiently and safely to sites which would otherwise be inaccessible. Essentially, we're adding a new dimension to our capability in the region."

Dambimangari to work with wildlife group

One of the most respected conservation and environmental management organisations in Australia has drawn up plans to work with Dambimangari Rangers on the Australian Defence Force Yampi Sound training area.

Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) will work together on protection of the virtually untouched wilderness area.

The 566,000 hectare site is traditional Dambimangari land and sea country.

AWC National Operations Manager Tim Allard said the group was hoping to contribute some capacity-building for the Traditional Owners of the land.

"We will be working with the Rangers for fire management and wildlife monitoring. In partnership with the Dambimangari Rangers, we will also be delivering feral predator and feral herbivore control, and weed surveying, mapping and control programs."

The area is part of a landscape described by naturalist and broadcaster David Attenborough as "one of the natural wonders of the world".

Yampi protects a wide range of endemic, threatened, and iconic Kimberley fauna, such as the Northern Quoll,



Preparing for joint programs on the Yampi Training area (from right) Dr. James Smith - AWC, Kieram Bangmorrah and Edmund Jungine - Dambimangari, Andrew Morton - AWC.

Golden-backed Tree-rat, Monjon, Western Partridge Pigeon, Black Grasswren, Gouldian Finch and Orange Leaf-nosed Bat.

Dambimangari Chief Executive Officer Peter McCumstie said the group would welcome the opportunity to work with one of the leading conservation and environmental management groups in Australia.

He said the plan would involve some fee-for service programs and a number of full time employment opportunities for Dambimangari people.

"We believe we have a lot to offer in the form of traditional know-how, up-to-date equipment and experience on this country," he said.

"The work we hope to be undertaking with AWC will build our skills base – and help to preserve the future of the area, consistent with our healthy country plan."



Yampi Training Area

Minister backs a key role for Dambimangari

Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation Chairman Francis Woolagoodja believes the new State Government will support a greater say for Dambimangari people on the future of the community's land and sea country.

Mr Woolagoodja and well known artist and elder Donny Woolagoodja met with the new Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Ben Wyatt at Parliament House in Perth in June. He said the newly elected State Government would back a strong decision-making role for the Traditional Owners.

He said that Dambimangari community leaders had set out a positive and responsible program for the future of the region.

Chairman Francis Woolagoodja said the meeting was productive and encouraging.

"We have a very good relationship with Minister Wyatt and we believe he has a sound understanding of our vision for the future," the Chairman said.

"We are establishing strong partnerships with Government and private organisations to develop the economy and maintain Dambimangari's healthy country.



Dambimangari Chairman, Francis Woolagoodja, Elder Donny Woolagoodja and Minister Ben Wyatt at Parliament House

"This includes a partnership with the State Government to manage the marine parks along our coastline.

"In a similar context, we are planning to work with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy to help manage the Australian Defence Force Yampi Training Area.

"If the projects go ahead as planned, we are confident the results will benefit our economy, our people and our environment," he said.

Chairman takes to the rough road

Francis Woolagoodja has completed a gruelling 660-kilometre Gibb River Road cycling trip to raise more than \$8000 for charity.

The 39-year-old Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation Chairman, who says he was talked into the ride by friends, took part in the Gibb Challenge in May. His team of five cyclists and two support crew, helped organisers to meet a combined target of \$350,000 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The relay teams cycled from Derby to the world acclaimed million acres El Questro Wilderness Park in five days.

Francis admits he was a bit saddle sore after the event, but says the ride was a great experience.

"The main reason for going in the event was the importance of the Flying Doctor to our region," he said

"The money has helped to buy a bigger plane which will provide a great service to the Kimberley.

"It's the second ride I have been on and it was definitely a worthwhile exercise."

"We started with five riders and ended up with four – so it was a pretty good effort."

A keen cyclist, he said he was planning to participate again in the future. Laying down a challenge to the staff and directors he suggested: "Maybe we will have a Dambimangari team next year."



Chairman Francis Woolagoodja (left) with his Gibb Challenge team

Dambi Ranger Projects “a lifelong dream.”

Dambimangari’s new Ranger Coordinator Dale Furley reckons he might just have hit the jackpot for Australia’s best environmental management role.

The 47-year-old sea skills trainer, wildlife enthusiast and some-time adventurer is making a key contribution to the protection of some of Australia’s most important marine parks.

As part of the Dambimangari Ranger team, he will be helping to implement a range of environmental management projects along the west Kimberley Coast.

He leads a well-drilled and well-equipped ranger team which has already established a reputation for effective monitoring and protection of Dambimangari sea country, incorporating areas like the famous Horizontal Falls and Camden Sound whale nursery. “This is one of the most important marine areas in the world,” he said. “Helping to look after a place like this has been a lifelong dream. The salt water is certainly in my blood.”

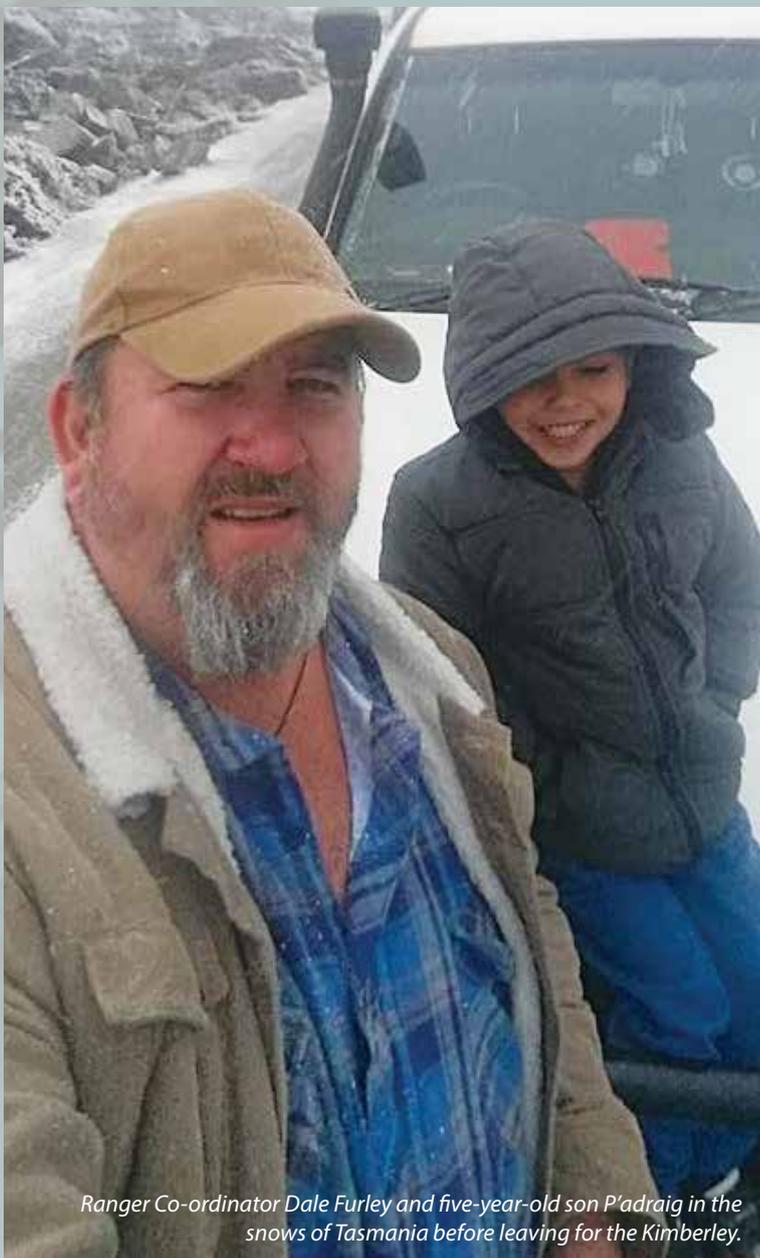
The former Tasmanian, who has spent most of his working life in Northern Australia, is a passionate advocate for the Kimberley region. “I have worked as a community liaison officer for the ADF in East Timor, as well training local rangers across the top end to learn some of the skills of the job.

At Dambimangari, he is training the rangers to build a broad skills base for work in the challenging maritime conditions of the Kimberley region.

He was a horticulturist and occupational health and safety officer before he joined the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, patrolling the northern Australian waters.

Sometimes, he had to intercept unidentified vessels by abseiling onto the decks from helicopters.

“It was a pretty interesting time,” he said.



Ranger Co-ordinator Dale Furley and five-year-old son P'adraig in the snows of Tasmania before leaving for the Kimberley.

Dale, who has settled in Derby, is a single father of five-year-old P'adraig. His son has joined him on some of his recent adventures, including helicopter round ups of buffalo and ocean turtle care.

Even though school is now a bigger priority in P'adraig's life, one thing is certain – father and son will still have time for wildlife in the magical Kimberley region.

Scenic Silver Gull – still a travellers' rest



Silver Gull Creek, one of the most picturesque inlets on the Kimberley Coast, will remain a favourite stopover for sea travellers under a new management plan approved by Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation. It will also become a strategic base for Dambimangari Rangers along with other coastal sites including Freshwater Cove, Coppermine Creek and Yalloon.

Silver Gull Creek and its original household – a modest home called the Squatters Arms were settled by Phil and Marion Wray in 1995. The area, which has cultural significance for the Dambimangari people, was part of a

Native Title determination in 2011. The Wrays remained on the site by agreement with Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation until the lease was formally handed over in 2016.

Dambimangari CEO Peter McCumstie said the plans for the future of the site would not preclude visitor stopovers. He said the corporation was developing concept plans which would respect the area's heritage at the same time recognising the attraction of the inlet for visitors to the area.

Coxswain's ticket for Senior Dambimangari Ranger



Gary Umbagai

Senior Dambimangari Ranger Gary Umbagai has qualified as a Coxswain Grade 1. Over the course of several years the Dambimangari rangers have been accruing sea time and gaining experience working on-board commercial vessels. In achieving this qualification Gary has not only increased the capacity of the ranger team, but also led the way for some of the younger rangers who are keen to work on the water.

Rangers with maritime qualifications will play a key role in crewing and leading expeditions aboard the new vessel Manambadda and in assisting with jointly managed operations in the marine park. Kieran Bangmorra, Jesse Bradshaw and Peter Oconor have also made good progress toward achieving the Coxswain grade 1 qualification. With several of our younger crew members setting their sights on Master qualifications we can expect to see a lot more of the Dambimangari rangers on the water in the years to come.

The combination of recognised maritime qualifications coupled with an intimate knowledge of Dambimangari sea country will put the rangers well on track to becoming some of the most skilled operators in the region. Dambimangari rangers are grateful to all of our trainers and partners who have helped develop the skill and knowledge of the Dambimangari team.

Introduction of visitors' passes

Most Kimberley tourist operators and sailing enthusiasts have reacted positively to the visitors pass guidelines drawn up by Dambimangari representatives during the past 12 months.

The Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation plans to phase in a program to manage commercial access to Dambimangari Native Title determination area. The protocols and potential long-term plans were presented to a tourist operators' workshop in Broome earlier this year. Dambimangari Traditional Owners have established a code of conduct and visitor registration program for the increasing flow of tourists to the region.

The initiative will help to protect some of the pristine environment and iconic cultural sites of the Native Title and Aboriginal Reserve areas between Robinson and Prince Regent Rivers north of Derby. The changes will also aim to improve visitor safety and public appreciation of the country's heritage value.

The visitor pass system includes a schedule of 75 popular tourist locations. Visitors to these areas will be required to register their plans and secure approval from the Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation. Under the current system, the majority of these sites are within Aboriginal Reserves where all visitors are legally required to apply for a permit. These permits are obtained through the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

If private or commercial operators wish to access any areas within the Dambimangari Native Title claim that are not listed on the visitor location schedule they are then required to fill in a special arrangement request form, also found on the Dambimangari website. For further and up to date contacts and visitor pass information please refer to:

www.dambimangari.com.au/welcome

Strategic fire breaks in place

With the Kimberley area experiencing one of the wettest seasons on record, Dambimangari country was covered with thick green bushland and dense undergrowth at the start of this year's fire management program.

Right-time burning has helped to implement fire breaks and reduce fuel loads but Dambimangari Rangers expect the fire risks to remain high for at least another season. The Dambimangari Ranger team worked from the air and the ground to carry out controlled burns between March and June this year.

During this period, the rangers also cleared undergrowth and drying vegetation from some of the most popular landing spots and significant cultural sites in the area. These included Freshwater Cove, Silver Gull Creek, Cone Bay, Yalloon and Coppermine Creek. The work will play a key role in protecting rock paintings and other areas of cultural significance.

This work is also making an important contribution toward reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions – a program which featured on the front page of the



Australian Newspaper last year. Strategically placed fire breaks reduce the risk of widespread late season wildfire while creating refuge and protection for a diverse range of threatened and endangered native species.