

Dambimangari News

November 2020

**TRIP OF
A LIFETIME**

**THE WAR ON
CANE TOADS**

**MEET THE
DAMBI
TEAM**

**YORNADAIYN
WOOLAGOODJA**
EXTRAORDINARY IMAGES

**CARE FOR DAMBI
SEA COUNTRY**

**VISITOR PASS
ERA BEGINS**

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FOR SILVER
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NOTICE: 2020 AGM

**NOTICE: MEETING OF THE WANJINA-WUNGURR
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From the CEO's desk

Wow! What a hell of a ride!! 2020 will forever be preserved in our collective thoughts as the year when the world changed, but for us here at Dambi' it will forever be marked as a year of operational mayhem with what seemed like endless ranger activities and admin shake-ups – and it's not over yet!!

We thought our rangers were kickin' butt early on (see the last Ranger Bumper Issue newsletter available online if you haven't checked it out already), but things went into overdrive once the crew from Mowanjum were released from Covid-restriction.

As you'll see in the pages to follow so very much has happened since the last newsletter edition we've almost doubled the content in this edition and we still had plenty more we could have included, but we had to say enough already or we'd never make it to print with this thing!

I'm particularly chuffed to have made it out of the office – a rarity for me – on the PBAMP fieldtrip and got to see the magic of Dambi country. It's an extraordinary stretch of country, made unique by it's cultural richness and the stories imbued in the landscape. It's why we fight so hard to protect it. Check out the story within and watch out for the video which will be available on our website soon!

There's been some fantastic things going on and we hope you'll enjoy reading about some of our adventures that have made this dry season one of the most full-on operational periods in Dambi history.

Check out our photo comp, celebrating our escape back into the wilderness and make sure you get your entries in. You gotta be in it to win it right!?

So sit back, put your feet up and immerse yourself in all things Dambi' with this new edition. ENJOY...!

Trip of a lifetime



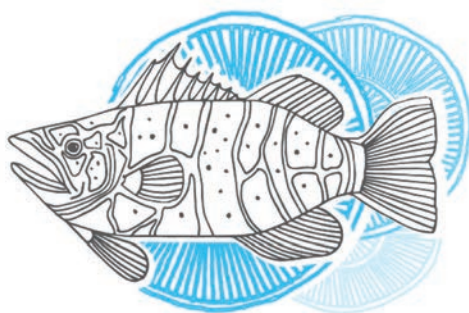
Co authored by Daniel Barrow, Aaron Mungulu, Kallum Mungulu and Maitland Ngerdu.

Lalang-garram Marine Park turtle research expedition with DAC Directors and Rangers

On the 11th of August 2020 three DAC directors, Aaron Mungulu, Kallum Mungulu and Maitland Ngerdu and three DAC Rangers Shorisha Ozies, Daphne Gilbey and Edmund Jungine embarked on what was to be called "a trip of a lifetime" expedition to Lalang-garram Marine Park with Parks and Wildlife Service on board the vessel Worndoom.

The trip was for a total of eight days and covered just over 600nm (1,200km) of Dambimangari sea country. The two main objectives were to get people back out on country, and to carry out some important turtle research as outlined in the Healthy Country Plan and Lalang-garram management plan.

The warlee (turtle) research was broken into two main projects: one was track counts on six of the main Galagarri (Flatback) nesting beaches



Lalang-garram marine parks



Croc and turtle tracks on Vulcan Island.

and the other collecting DNA (small skin samples) from feeding juluwadda (Green turtles).

Galagalardee track counts were a simple process of walking along selected beaches and counting Galagarri tracks. We just had to keep an eye out for cheeky Koyaya (crocodiles), which were feeding on the hatchlings. This project has been going since 2014 and gives the park managers a good idea if turtle numbers are stable and jurluwarra populations healthy.



Collecting DNA from feeding Warli turtles is a little trickier. The team targeted reef systems that had large numbers of Warli who which would be busy eating and therefore making them easier to capture. All Jurluwarra were captured by hand or by scope net for the fast ones. In total, 89 Greens, one Hawksbill and

three Flatbacks were caught. Once captured they were transferred to Worndoom (mothership) and then processed. Processing was a matter of taking measurements, placing identification tags on flippers, and taking a small DNA or skin sample from the flipper. This information helps park managers to understand the health of the Dambi Jurluwarra population and we can compare it to other areas on a global scale.

Aaron Mungulu explained -“the sharing of knowledge is important and helps us look after our animals. It’s important that our kids also learn about them”.

There was also plenty of opportunities for the Directors and Rangers to get out and about and visit sites on country, to check out all the good work that is getting done and soak up the peace and quiet.



Visitor Pass era begins

Coping with the dreaded “C” word (that’s covid-19 for you naughty ones!)



It’s been an unusual year to say the least. Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation officially launched the Dambi Visitor Pass 13 March 2020. It was hoped the initiative would help to fund ranger land management programs, particularly targeting popular visitor sites. Then, just a few days later, the world changed forever...

With the arrival of covid-19 the decision was made to close access to Dambimangari Country for the 2020 visitor season. Then the little Kimberley bubble was burst with the lifting of the Biosecurity restrictions on 5 June, opening the region to visitation from across WA, and, with that, the boats returned! Well, at least those that call Broome home...

So it hasn’t been a busy year by visitor number standards, as the cruise industry can attest to. Numbers have been steady though since travel restrictions have eased allowing other WA residents to “wander out yonder” to steal a phrase.

So far this year there have been 355 Visitor Passes issued. A meager taking to say the least, but every little bit helps to get our team out and about on the water and looking after country. And, despite all the drama of Covid-19, our Dambi Rangers have hit the open seas in a big way. Our incredible Ranger team has completed over ten trips in Dambimangari traditional waters

this year: six of these as crew on Worndoom; one participating in DPIRD fisheries research; and seven on our very own Manambadda.

One of these trips was the phenomenal family fieldtrip to visits the intended sanctuary zones of the proposed Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park (see Liz’s article included in this edition) which was another of those times when you realise just how awesome our rangers are! They did everything from setting up and pulling down camps, to cooking, to collecting firewood, to organising us all to get from A to B in a day. And they did it with a smile and made it look effortless! RANGERS ROCK!!

Two of the Manambadda voyages were very special involving an artist camp at Yaloon, providing transport and other logistics to get Dambi people back on-country; and the other a juvenile justice trip getting at risk youth out on-country in a joint initiative with the WA (Derby) Police.

Vessel patrols have all but ended for this season, excluding the end of season cyclone clean-up and pack away and a quick trip as fee-for-service using Manambadda for a Fisheries research trip. Despite the challenges, it’s been a great year in the field with heaps of work to keep our team busy, and happy!

Worrorra words

By Cultural Advisor Leah Umbagai.

The Dambi community is working with Traditional Owners and scientists to build an expanding reference resource covering our culture and history.

Few places in Australia can boast the same comprehensive records of traditions and values - passed from one generation to the next.

The Dambimangari people have participated in a number of important research projects into life in the Kimberley region early in the twentieth century.

Essentially, we are trying to reclaim our country and – to do that – we have to know who we are.

The studies are based, in part, on evidence from rugged rock art galleries. One of the priorities is to involve young people in our traditions and educate them on our cultural laws.

We're planning to make cultural and historical information, as well as bush food and medicines, a regular feature of Dambimangari News.

We will also be printing snippets of Dambi language.

In this edition Word of the Day is:

Waliny - meaning Dugong.

Sentence of the Day:

Arddgoombooloo Ngayeye - meaning good to see you all.

Focus on plants: *Flueggea virosa* is the latin name for anbamar/Snowball Bush/ White Current.

Gargum is the White Current.

The fruit is edible and it is in season during April, May and June. The plant itself is generally only small at 1-2m high, but can get up to 4m and is found in coastal areas right across northern Australia.



Yornadaiyn Woolagoodja extraordinary images

One of Dambimangari's finest artists and most respected community leaders, Yorna (Donny) Woolagoodja, has launched his new book at the Mowanjum Art Centre.

The book, Yornadaiyn Woolagoodja, is an exploration of the meaning of Country, Lalai (creation), Wandjina, Woongudd (snake) as found in the Kimberley. It is full of amazing images of Yorna's art and other images of rock art and stone arrangements from across the region.

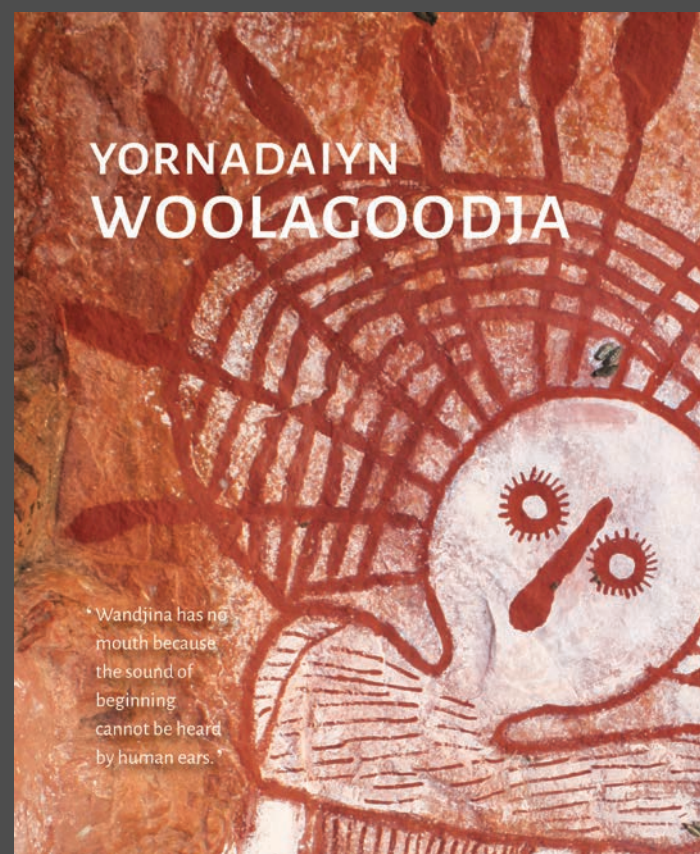
Part of a lifetime's commitment to Dambimangari culture and tradition, the book is aimed at future generations as well as the wider Australian and international communities. It is also a unique insight into the life of a dedicated elder in a time of rapid change.

Yorna is a renowned Kimberley artist who's giant Namaralay Wandjina featured in the opening ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. He is the chairman of the Mowanjum Artists Spirit of the Wandjina Aboriginal Corporation.

The book was officially launched at Mowanjum 8 November. Delys, Dambi's new 2IC was in attendance at her first Mowanjum event, and described the ceremony as a real pleasure to be at, really well run and organised.

"It was just so pretty with all the kids in their traditional dance costumes. There was so many people there to celebrate, it was just a great occasion to be part of!"

Be sure to get along to Mowanjum Arts Centre to get your copy, or visit Magabala Books in Broome.



A Wandjina tribute



With funding provided by LotteryWest and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Mowanjum Arts Centre has been constructing a new museum space to complement the existing gallery and shop spaces. Though slowed by the pandemic, work has now almost been completed and will be finished by the end of the calendar year.

The new space will provide a sensory learning experience for visitors to discover Wandjina Wunggurr rock art and Junba traditional performance. The Museum will feature multimedia installations, a Wandjina cave display and will feature the return of the Selsmark Collection courtesy of WA Museum.

The Selsmark Collection is an exceptional set of dance totems, costumes and musical instruments made in the early 1970s by senior Worrorra, Ngarinyin and Wunambal men and women from the Kimberley. The collection was created and used by the Mowanjum Dance Group, one of the first Indigenous dance groups to be recognised as professional dancers, composers and musicians.

It is a proud moment to see the return of this collection and the grand opening of the Mowanjum Museum next year.



The new Wandjina cave display soon to be opened at Mowanjum Arts.

Part of the new display will be an exhibition to celebrate the work done by the three ranger groups (Dambimangari, Wunggurr and Unguu) with Dambi proudly represented by Gunna.

Make sure you check it out when it opens and let staff know what you think!

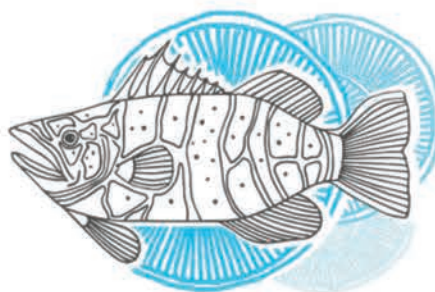
Lalang-garram turtle patrol

TURTLE DNA COLLECTION

Rangers on the Worndoom have been collecting DNA from turtles on Slate Island, Jackson Island and Augustus Island beaches. Rangers are targeting the Olive Ridley species, with the DNA samples sent to a laboratory in Perth.



LALANG-GARRAM MARINE PARKS NEWS



NEW LOGO OF THE ROCK COD & BALER SHELL

KEY UPDATES

JMB MEMBERS HAVE
CHANGED

ALL PARK ZONES ARE
NOW GAZETTED
(EXCEPT FOR
KUNMUNYA
RESERVES)

VISITORS PLAN IN
DRAFT FORM

PATROL REPORTS
FROM WORNDOOM
VESSEL

-READ MORE OVER-

LALANG- GARRAM PARKS LAUNCH NEW LOGO

ARTWORK BY
LEAH UMBAGAI

The rock cod Jimbirridy and the baler shell Ngarlangkarnanya pushed through many of the channels and rivers that are in the Lalang-garram marine park (LGMP), including the Prince Regent River and Saint Georges Basin. Out of the baler shell came St Andrews Island, which in Woddordda is called the same name as the Baler Shell, Ngarlangkarnanya. Back in Lalai when the world was soft, many of the geological and subsea formations were created. These two Wandjina beings are now reflected in the LGMP logo.





MARINE PARK JMB MEMBERS HAVE CHANGED

NEW CHAIR HAS BEEN CONFIRMED & THE ADDITION OF NEW MEMBERS

There have been a few changes this year to the make up of the Joint Management Board (JMB). Outgoing Chair Leah Umbagai is still heavily involved in the marine parks, by working as the JMB Cultural Advisor. This is a very hands-on position, Leah advises the JMB, operators and stakeholders on all Dambimangari cultural aspects. She is currently working on a cultural induction for visitors who enter the LGMP, and we will have news of that soon.

Francis Woolagoodja was voted in unopposed as the new chair of the board at the March 2020 JMB. A few vacancies within the last year on the JMB have left spaces open to new members, and we have recently welcomed Cecilia Umbagai to fill the seat vacated by Leah. Cecilia attended her first JMB meeting in June. Maitland Ngerdu has been endorsed by the Dambimangari board to join the JMB to fill the position made vacant by Warren Barunga, and we will be welcoming him at the next meeting to be held in December 2020.

Liz Vaughan has also joined the LGMP as the Administration Officer. Her role includes communication between DBCA and Dambimangari in the joint management space.



Welcome Cecilia Umbagai to the JMB

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

FRANCIS WOOLAGOODJA

CECILIA UMBAGAI

BRONWYN LIDDELL

JANET OOBAGOOMA

SANDRA MUNGULU

MAITLAND NGERDU

ISOBEL PETERS

INGA PEDERSON

CRAIG OLEGNIK (DBCA)

DARREN STEVENS (DBCA)

DANNY BARROW (DBCA)



Prince Regent River, in the northern reaches of the Lalang-garram Camden Sound Marine Park

AUGUST ON COUNTRY TRIP

For 5 days, members of the Proposed Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park (BAMP) Negotiation Team, Elders, Dambimangari Staff, Rangers and DBCA staff traveled from Koolan Island, south to Robinson river, recording information on areas in the proposed new marine park, particularly the areas slated to be Sanctuary and Special Purpose Zones.



PROPOSED BUCCANEER ARCHIPELAGO MARINE PARK • NEWS



BAMP UPDATES PORT WATERS NEGOTIATION

NEW ZONE TYPE PROPOSED FOR CULTURAL PROTECTION

ON-COUNTRY TRIP 24-28 AUG

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS IN PERTH

BUCCANEER ARCHIPELAGO ON- COUNTRY TRIP

FROM KOOLAN ISLAND TO ROBINSON RIVER

Darren Stevens, Lalang-garram Marine Park Co-ordinator



After a 12 month process of mapping out our key areas of significance within the proposed Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park (BAMP), it was time to take DBCA and the negotiation team, along with Elders, Rangers and Dambimangari Staff, out on the boat to Country to visit these places and record stories and information.

Roanna Goater and Michael Higgins from DBCA are the two main people who are putting together the new Management Plan for the Dambimangari marine parks. Roanna is writing the plan, and Mike is creating the maps. For this reason it was key to get both of them out on the boats with us, visiting the areas in person. Darren Stevens, the Co-ordinator of the Lalang-garram Marine Parks, was an important attendee as the proposed BAMP will come under his stewardship if the park's creation is endorsed by DAC members.

The existing LGMP Management Plans are being combined with the BAMP Management Plan, so Dambimangari will have just one Management Plan for all of its marine parks. Roanna and Mike have both worked on the previous LGMP plans for Dambimangari.



Roanna & Mike from DBCA's planning unit



Coppermine Creek Camp, where we camped for two nights during the on-Country trip

Some key creeks and areas currently lie within the Yampi Port waters, currently managed by the Kimberley Ports Authority (KPA). A critical element of the negotiations for Dambimangari is the request for these areas to come under the BAMP, so Dambimangari can manage them, along with DBCA. On Day One after arriving at Koolan Island, we visited these key areas by boat, which included Dog Leg Creek, Silver Gull Creek, Crocodile Creek and Coppermin. The negotiations are going well, and the KPA have indicated they are intending to relinquish these areas to the marine park. KPA want to maintain management of the deepwater channel in front of Koolan and Cockatoo Island so they can have control of their shipping areas, as well as the waters around Cockatoo Island and the west end of Koolan Island.

A new type of zone is being proposed for this marine park, called Special Purpose Zone Cultural Protection (SPZCP). The aim of this zone is to protect areas in a similar way to a sanctuary zone, however it would still allow Traditional Owner businesses to operate commercial fishing operations, such as trochus collecting or catch-and-cook cultural tours. This was particularly important for Bardi & Mayala in the negotiations, due to the existing cultural tour businesses that currently operate up the Dampier Peninsular. They didn't want to adversely affect these businesses, but still wanted to protect the fish and animal stocks from future overfishing or use. Dambimangari have agreed to use SPZCP instead of sanctuary zones in the areas neighbouring Mayala SPZCP to assist with continuity.

Something all groups are conscious of is the effect that the sealing of the Dampier Peninsular Road will have on Country as it creates easier access for recreational users and tourists to access areas including Dambimangari Country, coupled with the attraction of the proposed BAMP, which will invite and encourage people to visit. With this in mind, the need for a Sea Rescue Service has been a consideration of the Negotiation team, as many of these areas in the BAMP are well known to be treacherous to vessels, such as Hells Gates (Ubeeyal) and Whirlpool Passage (Wulbul).

ON-COUNTRY SNAPSHOT

DAY 1• ATTENDEE'S BOATED OR FLEW TO KOOLAN ISLAND TO MEET WORNDOOM. A WELCOME TO COUNTRY WAS DONE AT COPPERMINE CREEK.

DAY 2• WE VISITED PROPOSED SANCTUARY ZONES OF WHIRLPOOL PASS, AND DOGLEG, SILVERGULL & COPPERMINE CREEKS.

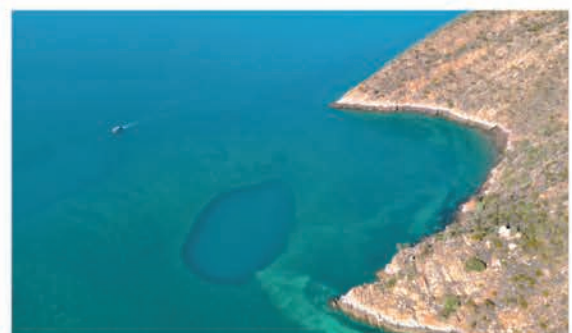
DAY 3• WENT TO GRAVEYARDS, A PROPOSED CULTURAL PROTECTION ZONE, CHANGED PERSONEL VIA HELICOPTER AT EDELINE ISLANDS. SMOKING CEREMONY AT CONE BAY.

DAY 4• VISITED SIR RICHARDS PASS, X+X'S, & CONE BAY FISH FARM.

DAY 5• VISITED THE BACK OF CONE BAY CREEK & UBEYYAL, A PROPOSED SANCTUARY ZONE, AND ILUMBU & ULUGUDJA (INLAND-SEA) WHICH ARE PROPOSED CULTURAL PROTECTION ZONES.



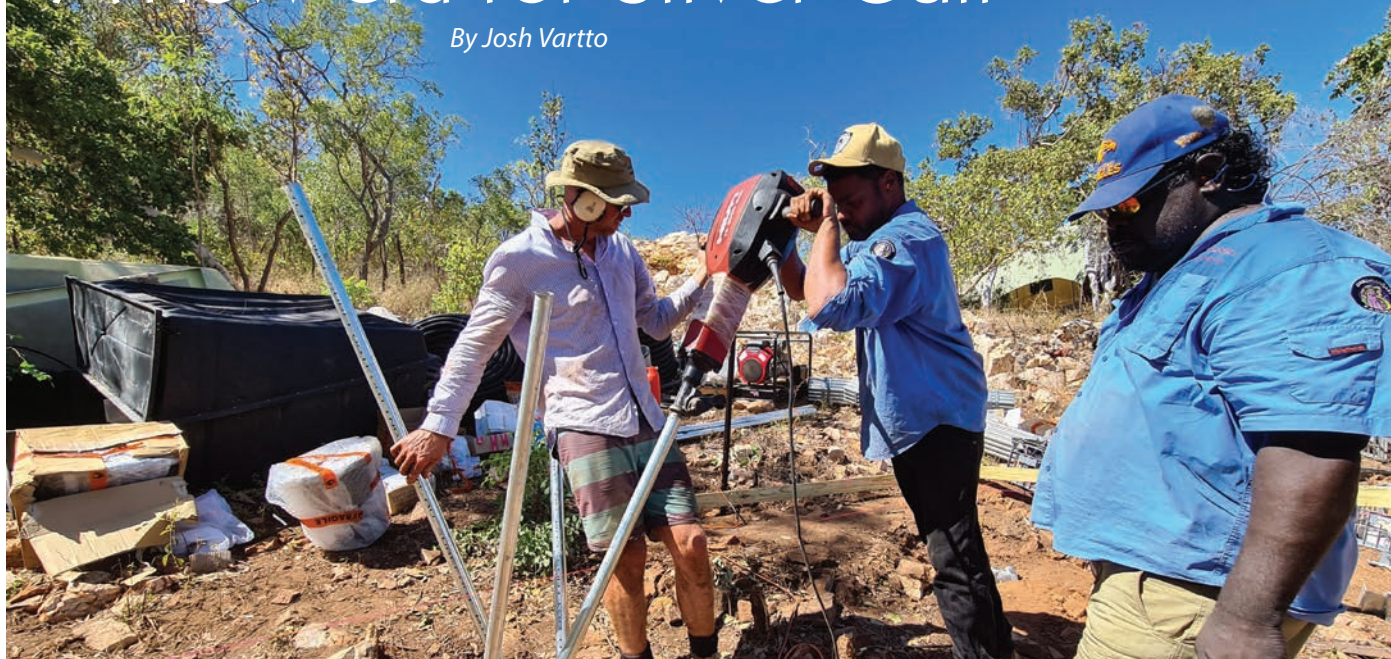
Donny Woolagoodja & Janet Oobagooma in Ilumbu (Inland Sea)



Sir Richards Pass at the north entrance to Cone Bay, a proposed sanctuary zone

A new era for Silver Gull

By Josh Vartto



So, this one was a long time coming, but finally the long-awaited ablutions block for Silver Gull has been built!

Construction began on Monday 14 September and was completed on the evening of the 19th. The week was hot, the days were long and there were countless challenges associated with the build.

Planning for this build began well over two years ago and proved to be a challenging logistical exercise given the remoteness and harsh terrain of the site.

There were two barge runs and two slinging operations undertaken to get the materials and tools to site. The first sling/barge operation occurred mid last year and involved the ranger team packing the materials into the correct weights and securing them appropriately so that they could be safely slung with a helicopter. This was a very time consuming exercise and took place at Koolan Island over two days and involved a squirrel helicopter as it is capable of lifting up to 500kg loads. All up there were nine sling loads completed.

The ablutions build was pencilled in to be the first major project/trip on country with Manambadda but then of course COVID 19 struck (no more needs to be spoken about that I think we are all sick of hearing about corona) so there was a lot of uncertainty if the build was even going to happen as we were relying on contractors in N.T. and Margaret River and with state and regional borders closed. It was a waiting game for a green light to get the ball rolling.

With corona easing in W.A. we were able to push on with the finishing touches on the remaining materials for the

build. We had to cut ties with the contractor from N.T. as the state borders were still closed. Luckily there was a newly appointed rep (Surefoot Footings) for W.A. who could supply the footings we required to ensure the building would be cyclone rated. Within the space of two weeks we got the footings fabricated and freighted from Perth to Derby, packed and weighed for slinging, loaded on to the barge and finally slung to site.

Dambimangari Rangers Frank Martin, Kieran Bangmorra, Pedro Pelacios, Wayne Rastus, Josh Vartto (Coordinator), and ex-Dambi Ranger Gary Umbagai and the contractors from Margaret River Cameron (builder) and Anthony (toilet and waste water guru) packed the boat and shopped for last minute essentials to then depart the following morning to travel to site.

Unfortunately Mitch Castellarin was unable to attend and skipper Manambadda for this trip as he was unwell, so Gary stepped up and skippered Manambadda for the trip (cheers Gary!)

Day one we departed Derby at 7am and steamed to Silver Gull in just under 4 hours with nice wind and sea conditions to make it a smooth Journey. We then unpacked Manambadda as soon as we got there, dragged all our food, camping gear, tools and other bits and pieces required for the build, up to site.

After a quick feed we jumped straight into marking out the site, rigging up the profiles and then cranking up the generator to power the jack hammer which was required for driving in the footing poles which were just short of 2 metres each. It was quite impressive how far we were

able to drive the footing poles in the ground considering how rocky the site was.

Day two continued with more establishment of footings and once all the footings were securely in place. We were then ready for the posts and floor frames to be attached to the footings and slowly but surely you could see a building emerging from the ground.

Day three we placed the water tank uphill from the site, connected the poly line and pumped water from the spring tank to the new tank. Floor sheets were then screwed down and wall frames erected, a trench needed to be dug to house the grey water dispersal network, another challenging job in hard rocky ground and not to mention on the back of two straight 12 hour days in very hot conditions. We did however get the slightest relief from the sea breeze and we still had a stash of block ice to keep the drinking water at respectable temperature.

Day four the bones of the building were starting to take shape but it was at a slower rate than we hoped as we were down a couple of critical tools and driver bits that would have made the day run smoother and more efficiently. We persisted and it was looking like we were likely to finish the build before the weekend was over. At 4pm the Dambi rangers were then picked up with two R44 choppers and flown to Derby so they could attend a funeral the following morning.

Mitch somehow wrangled up a trade assistant to give a hand whilst the rangers were off site, young Syd had never been up this part of the coast and I think he was pinching himself as to how he ended up here to help build a loo for a couple days.

Day five consisted of screwing the corrugated iron walls, cutting sheets of iron to size, fitting and sizing up the metal flashings and fitting the showers in place, this is when it started to feel like an ablutions block but we still had a fair amount of work to go.

Day six all the boys returned from Derby and got stuck in. You could start to see the finish line! The roof was quickly screwed down, toilets screwed and glued in place, showers plumbed in and grey water lines connected, fixtures fitted, signs screwed in place and doors mounted.

The last thing to do was give the building a blow down and sit back and marvel at this very remote toilet block.

So, a quick rundown of the facility: it has two compostable water free toilets, and two shower blocks, male and female. The maintenance of this facility is extremely low and it is going to benefit the environment around Silver Gull – currently the toilet facility that is in place at the moment is plumbed directly in to the

ocean and the only place to bathe is the water tank so any soaps, shampoos etc spill over the tank and flush straight to the ocean as well. This should benefit the quality of water in the tank and can be focussed more as a pool to cool off in as opposed to bathing.

A big thankyou to Gary Umbagai for skipping Manambadda and getting his hands dirty on site; Cameron and Anthony for their expertise and of course the bloody hard work by the Dambi rangers in a hot and challenging week up the coast. This facility will make it that little bit more comfortable for Rangers and Dambi people who will be visiting and basing themselves at this unique and stunning part of the country in to the future.



DAC staff news



First and foremost a hearty congratulation to **Amon Jungine** who is now working with DBCA on all things marine parks! Amon, who is a DAC employee, has been seconded to work with the marine park staff out of Broome and onboard the Park's vessel Worndoom. Over the next two years Amon will become a fully qualified Marine Park Ranger completing training in everything from crocodile management, fish kills, turtle monitoring, to coral and mangrove monitoring.

Amon has previously been awarded the Dambi Ranger of the Year, so it is no surprise to us that DBCA is delighted to have Amon aboard (no pun intended!) and they are rapped with his performance and development to date.



Also on the ranger front: **Pete O'Connor** has been successful in his application to become the first dedicated Cultural Ranger in DAC history! Pete will be out and about talking with Elders, collecting bush foods and medicines, talking with youngsters, presenting at schools, attending cultural activities here and afar, and even teaching our own Rangers and Staff about different facets of Dambimangari culture. For those of you who know Pete, you will know he's a perfect fit for this type of role and we all look forward to Pete teaching us something new!



As Pete moved into his new role a vacancy was created in the permanent Ranger team and the decision was made to promote **Pedro Pelacios** from casual to fulltime permanent Ranger. Congratulations Pedro! Pedro has been a devoted casual Ranger for a number of years now and has been tireless in his efforts and achievements and fully deserved of his new fulltime role. Pedro continues to show great leadership qualities which are highly valued by his teammates. Congratulations Pedro!



There's a new Koolan Island Co-existence Deed Administrator. Meet **Sherena Bin Hitam**, Mba: Also known by her family as Jaogerie. In her own words – "I am proud to be Bardi-Jawi (from my mother, Maryann Hunter) and Malay heritage. I was born in Derby and spent my early years then grew up in Broome raised by my dad Gabriel Dolby and Alberta McKenna (Dolby) & Jack McKenna - my connection to Yawuru people. I have six biological siblings and ten siblings from the McKenna/Dolby family, two nephews and with whom we grew up and our brothers' children being our connection with Worrora families and people. I feel blessed, grateful to be part of both families and privileged to have these connections.

Professionally, I have worked for 25+ years public service working in Aboriginal Affairs, working in areas for Essential Services, Housing, Mining & Oil and Gas. I hope that my experience can add value to Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation.

As the Administrator for the Koolan Island Co-Existence Deed between Mount Gibson Iron and Dambimangari people, I look forward to and am inspired to work for DAC on your country, to support you as the Native Title people towards your aspirations in social, cultural, economic and community development."



In other staffing news **Grace Matos** has been welcomed back into the DAC-fold as the new Member Services Officer. Grace will be doing all things member service wise and is the first point of contact for members enquiring about health, Education, Funeral, on-country trips, and the Regional Project Funds. Welcome back Grace – we missed ya heaps!



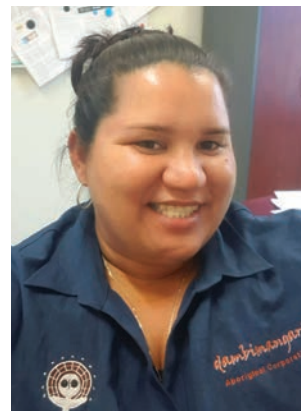
Delys Gebert started on 1st July as the Administration Manager and is responsible for the development of policy and procedures, overseeing and developing our Admin team, coordinating our data streams, contract management and a whole lot of other things required of an organisation such as Dambi.



Chloe O'Meara: our awesome Finance/payroll person and everyone's favourite person come payday!



Liz Vaughan: looks after the Joint Management Board and all things to do with Marine Parks, including administration of the Lalang-garram Marine Park. Liz comes to us directly from running her own tourism company in partnership with Francis.



Kerrissa O'Meara has started in her new role of Administration Support Officer. She is supporting general administration and compliance. A big job and I am sure she is up for the job. Kerrissa especially loves helping out the Healthy Country Team ('cause God knows they need it the most!). Well done Kerrissa.

Wow! Now that's a lot of new people in new positions! So, best we give you a summary of who's who in the zoo that is the DAC office!!



Natashka Ozies:

manages the front for us and helps you guys when you come in for your requests. Tashka also helps out with board meetings, mail-runs, logistics, and a whole host of stuff to keep us running.



Mitchell Castellarin:

Marine Ops Officer, looking after the Dambi fleet and all things wet!



Leah Umbagai: our JMB Cultural Advisor. Leah is a conduit between our Elders and stakeholders as well as keeping us all on the right path culturally speaking.



Kelly Gardner: Healthy Country Program Manager – who came up with that job title!! If it's to do with land and sea management then come and see Kel.



Josh Vartto: the Tool man, no I mean Ranger Coordinator. And I'm not being mean either, Josh loves all things heavy-metal!



Cass McCumstie: our illustrious Chief!

The cane toad tale

By Larissa Potter, Seior Field Ecologist – North West

Many of you may recall reading about the Annual Kimberley Toad Muster in the last newsletter (May-June 2020), where our fantastic Rangers Kieran Bangmorra, Phillip Ngerdu, Frank Martin and Josh Vartto spent four days travelling across the Kimberley to round up every cane toad they could find. These toads were then turned into sausages – not the kind intended for a Sunday BBQ, but to help save our native wildlife from being killed by toads as they spread across the Kimberley. We all know cane toads are highly toxic and dangerous to wildlife, but let's learn a bit more about them as they move closer to Dambimangari Country in the upcoming wet season.

The cane toad is an amphibian which lives naturally in Central and South America, from southern Texas to Brazil. And like they say about things in Texas, the cane toad is one of the biggest anurans (frogs and toads) in the world, growing up to 23 cm and weighing 1.25 kg. Like many of its relatives, cane toads are toxic (deadly if eaten). Adult cane toads have a pair of glands near their shoulders which produce the deadly mix of dangerous chemicals, but cane toads are also toxic in the egg, tadpole and young toad (metamorph) life stages.

The cane toad was foolishly introduced to many parts of the world, including Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and Australia (seems cane toads enjoy places with tropical beaches). Cane toads were introduced to north-eastern QLD in 1935 to help control the sugar cane beetle, an annoying pest for the sugar cane farmers. Initially, no one paid much attention to the newly released invaders, but after a few decades, people started to notice that the cane toad was spreading across northern Australia and leaving a terrible trail of dead animals in its wake.

It is difficult for an animal to survive in a new environment, so why have cane toads from the warm, wet Amazon been so successful on the harsh, dry Australian continent? Well, cane toads have five qualities that make them remarkable invading machines.

1. Cane toads are big and tough. Their large body size (compared to other toads and frogs) means they can live in places with extreme climates. This is because it takes longer for them to overheat or dry out, giving them time to find shelter. As a result, cane toads can live in many different habitat types, from rainforest to woodland. However, like many

people, cane toads thrive in towns and cities because artificial lights, abundant food and well-watered gardens are a toad's paradise!

2. Cane toads are flexible. Not doing the splits kind of flexible, but in terms of their ecology and behavior. Cane toads aren't fussy eaters, eating just about anything that will fit into their mouths (but they do prefer insects like ants, termites and beetles). They are also great at seeking out and using any opportunity they see. For example, they will find the damp patch from a leaky garden hose or hop over to a fresh cow pat to eat the incoming bugs.
3. Cane toads have great mobility. Being large also comes with long, powerful legs that they can use to travel long distances, travelling up to 2 km in just one night!
4. Toxin – being highly poisonous means you can knock off any animal that tries to eat you.
5. Female cane toads can lay two clutches of eggs each year, with each containing around 40 000 eggs. That's a lot of eggs!



Cane toads are amazing invaders – tough, flexible and highly toxic.

Ok, so now we know where cane toads came from and why they have thrived in Australia, but why are they a problem?

Most of Australia's animals are unique because they evolved over millions of years on an isolated island. While this means we have amazing animals like goannas, kangaroos and bilbies, it also means our wildlife is vulnerable to introduced species, like the cane toad. When animals and plants evolve together, they can adapt to each other: which species can and can't be eaten, how to get around another species defenses. But when a completely new species arrives, local animals don't know how to respond and that's when the consequences can be deadly. Australia has no native toads and our frogs have different toxins to the chemicals found in cane toads. As a result, Australian predators that usually eat frogs, but go for a toad instead, are poisoned and killed.

Is all our beautiful native wildlife threatened by these great big toad invaders, or are some species more at risk? Over the last few decades, much research has been done on the impacts of cane toads on the native wildlife of northern Australia, so let's find out.

Who doesn't love spending a Saturday by the river, line stretching into the water, waiting to catch that elusive Barramundi. Kimberley waterways are alive with fish: rainbow fish, archerfish, grunters and more. Since cane toads lay their eggs in water, and their tadpoles live in water, are these toxic additions a threat to fish? Luckily the answer is no. Toad tadpoles taste awful, so fish that go to eat one taste the toxin and spit the tadpole out before they can be poisoned. After a few times,

fish learn to avoid eating toad tadpoles. Toad eggs are more of a problem because the toxin is protected by a jelly coating that hides the taste. So, it's only after a fish has swallowed the eggs that it realizes its mistake, and by then the full dose of poison is released. But it's not all doom and gloom, because the eggs are usually tucked away and only around for a day or two before they hatch, so a few fish might die, but overall, the impact is quite small.

How about frogs? They behave like toads, look like toads, eat the same foods and live in the same places? Well, native frogs may compete with toads for food and are sometimes poisoned by them, but overall, the outcome is good. This is because climate seems to be more important for frog populations. Good rain can fill waterholes and support millions of frogs whereas low rainfall can dry up those pools. Any impact from cane toads is very small compared to this.

What about animals that might eat toads? How will our scaly friends fare? The reptiles in trouble are the species that eat frogs – Freshwater crocodile (koyaya), goannas (barndorn mana), pythons, Frillneck (dalanyaddee) and bluetongue lizards (liddiddinya nyia) and some of the large venomous snakes like the King brown (eewarnbarn ngaddee). It is this group of animals that have been hit hardest by the cane toad invasion. Numbers of goannas, bluetongue lizards and King Brown snakes have decreased in areas where cane toads now live. For Freshwater crocodiles, it is a bit more complicated, with animals dying in some areas but not others. These reptiles are what we call top predators, they're at the top of the food chain and because they eat other animals,



Goannas are badly impacted by cane toads.

they ensure balance in the Country. The loss of these important predators will affect the whole ecosystem.

On the other end of the scale, cane toads are not a risk to native birds. They can't climb trees, so most bird nests are safe from hungry toads. But how about birds that eat toads? Turns out most birds aren't interested in eating toads, and the ones that are, know to avoid the poisonous bits – flipping them over and eating their insides instead.

Lastly, what about our furry friends the mammals? Most of the native mammals in the Kimberley,

including possums, kangaroos and native rats, eat mostly plants, seeds, berries and fruits. This means they aren't likely to go eating a toad and being poisoned. However, wijeengaddee the Northern Quoll is not a picky eater and after encountering and eating a toad, often dies. Numbers of this adorable animal have dropped significantly across QLD, the NT and eastern Kimberley since the arrival of the toad.

While it may seem that the arrival of the cane toad will be bad for all native wildlife, the good news is that most animals will be ok. But our important top predators – Freshwater crocodile, goanna, King brown snake, and special wijeengaddee are in trouble.



This cute wijeengaddee (Northern Quoll) is at risk of being poisoned by cane toads.

Care for Dambi sea country

Students' reward

By Phil Cartledge, WA Police Force, Derby

Members of a Derby school group are reflecting on a trip to some of Dambimangari's sea country.

The trip was set up as a reward trip for the kids that have a good school attendance records and for their Community contributions as members of Derby and Mowanjum .

Six students were selected to go on the trip, 3 girls and 3 boys. Also in attendance were Kirsty Burgu, Pete O'Connor, Kieran Bangmorra, skipper Mitch Castellarin and three local Police Officers, Phil, Lisa and Tony..

The trip, consisted of learning about their Culture, Language, with a bit of fishing thrown in.

Traditional Owners spoke of the land of their fathers and grandfathers, how they used to hunt and fish, and where they would find fresh drinking water.

On the last day we spoke to the Kids on their views of the trip, and if they would like to do more of these reward trips ...it was a resounding YES."

Manambadda

Utilising Manambadda to access county, Dambimangari Rangers have completed a variety of work throughout the year, including:

- Dambi in-house ranger work
- Fee for service contract work
- Weeding and camera trapping with AWC
- Community projects – working with the Mowanjum Art Centre to deliver an on-country artist camp and the Derby Police to award young kids for their school attendance and good behavior
- Facilitating the Buccaneer Marine Park planning trip
- In-house Dambi compliance work which saw the rangers begin working with the tourism industry and recreational boaties.
- Helping to build infrastructure on the Dambi coastline.



And that doesn't even include other programs that don't need Manambadda to get access.

Manambadda has had nothing short of an incredible year, with more than 200 hours put on the motors and 1000km patrolled along the Dambimangari coast.

Our rangers have shared skills, talked about culture and country, gained experience in marine operations and spent valuable time with each other on country.

The 2021 season is already looking like an absolute ripper, with incredible work locked in over the wet season.

We will be training more crew to operate Manambadda as coxswains, as well as ensuring we have a number of highly experienced and qualified crew members. Moving forward, we are excited to begin working more closely with family and community to help people access and spend time out on country.

The most important lesson of 2020 is that it is nearly impossible to work along the Dambimangari coast without a fully operational in house Dambi vessel.

Stop the presses!!

We are super delighted and over the top pleased to announce that three Dambi Rangers have just successfully completed the super difficult Marine Engineer Driver II training. Kieran, Amon and Pete spent two weeks away from family and friends in Broome to complete this demanding course of study. This qualification allows these guys to act as the Chief Engineer on certain types of vessels anywhere in the Australian EEZ (exclusive economic zone).

Koolan employment focus



Cody Sibosado -

*Community Liaison Officer
Mt Gibson Iron Koolan Island*

Favourite quote

"I can accept failure but what I can't accept is not trying"

Favourite food

My favourite food to eat would have to be turtle or barramundi cod.

Pets name

Rubble

Family

I am married and have 2 children. Lila who is 6 and Nate who is 4.

Nickname

Munster

Date of birth

08.02.1987

Hobbies

Fishing, diving, Hunting

Favourite footy team

West Coast Eagles

Favourite footy player

Andrew Macleod #23



In each edition of Dambimangari News we hope to include stories from members of the Dambi mob working on Country.

If you have a story for our segment, please submit your stories send it to reception@dambi.org.au.

In this edition we'll be profiling John Goonack, a dump truck operator, Jorden Mouda-Hughes Heavy Duty Mechanic and Courtney Cox Light Vehicle Mechanic at Koolan Island.

"My name is John Goonack. I am a Dump Truck Operator at Mount Gibson Iron Operations, Koolan Island.

"This job has been interesting in from the beginning, and now I enjoy the challenge of doing my part in the Processing Area – getting loads and dumping either waste or iron ore to the set locations.

I started as a trainee in 2010 and then made it to a full-time operator up until 2012. I had a break for a few years and then returned in 2018, still working as a DT Operator at Koolan.

Work life in mining is a challenge – you must make sure you can balance your family and work life. At work, the important things to remember are to get good rest, eat well, stay healthy and if you drink, to limit your drinks after work so you don't wake up tired. This will affect your concentration and awareness operating the big dump truck with all the traffic - especially looking out for the smaller vehicles.

It is also very important to have the ability to use the radio communications. it takes time to get used to the radio but this is part of the job to let people know what you are doing and to let others know you are near them.

I encourage anyone to get a job at Koolan Island – it's close to home, on Country and the work teams all get on together!"





My name is **Jordan** and I am currently in my first year of completing an apprenticeship as a Heavy Diesel Mechanic at Mount Gibson Iron Operations – Koolan Island. I work on servicing, maintenance and the breakdowns of machinery ranging from 3600 Hitachi excavators to Bobcat skid steer machines. I also travel down to Perth where I complete the theory side of my apprenticeship at Tafe.

What I love most about working on Koolan is that I get to work on a range of different machines from different manufactures like Caterpillar and Hitachi just to name a couple. I started out as a general hand in the workshop and after showing that I was committed was given the chance to sign on as a HD mechanic apprentice.

Another aspect of my experience working out on Koolan that I really like is the variety of job scopes that I have been exposed to so far. That the tradesmen I am working with are willing to trust me in carrying out jobs unsupervised, but if I do ask for help are willing to share their knowledge without hesitation.

Finally I really like that I have the opportunity to set myself up for the future and I know that if I stay committed and finish off my apprenticeship that this will only open the door for opportunities that may arise in the future.



My name is **Courtney** I am currently in my first year of completing an apprenticeship as a Light Vehicle Mechanic at Mount Gibson Iron Operations, Koolan Island. This requires me to travel down to Perth occasionally to go to TAFE so that I can complete the theory aspect of my training.

The things I love most about working on Koolan are firstly that I have been given the opportunity to complete a trade. I started out working in the warehouse as a general hand and after proving I was committed to furthering my knowledge and skills, I was transferred to the Processing plant where I gained experience on various pieces of machinery. After a few months down at the crusher I decided that I wanted to become a mechanic and once a position became available, I was moved over then offered an apprenticeship.

I really like that in my job I am always challenged and that the tradesmen I am learning from have the confidence to throw me in the deep end without hesitation.

I am grateful for the friendships that I have made so far and finally I love that I am on country doing something that I enjoy doing and that I am able to support and look after my family.



Survey waits for whales

Intervention by Dambi Rangers has ensured that whale migration has not been disturbed by a survey to map the seabed floor on the outskirts of Dambimangari sea country. The rangers have been participating in the survey work over three months to be concluded in December.

Singapore-based marine services company MMA Offshore has been contracted by the Department of Defence to undertake a survey in the vicinity of Mavis Reef. The group started operations on September 22 deploying geodetic equipment to map the ocean floor around Adele, Degerando and King Islands under the watchful eye of Inga Pederson and Shorisha Ozies.

The survey, which is still underway, involves over 90 days of time at sea, travelling in transects over the area at 6 knots – that’s walking pace – using a multi-beam sonar pointed at the seabed to create a picture of the floor shape. At Dambi’s request the company delayed the start of the survey to ensure that all whales would have already left, departing to their summer retreat in Antarctic waters.



Area of the survey is shown in pink

To triangulate the results of the sonar signal, three geodetic tripods were temporarily placed on Degerando, King and Adele Islands, which will be collected at the end of the survey in December.



An example of a geodetic tripod array set up on the islands



Dan Burns from Blue Planet Marine delivering training to our crew

One of the risks of this activity was potential interaction with our marine megafauna, like whales. So it was a condition that MMA Offshore must have a Marine Fauna Observer on board at all time to prevent any strikes and report back to us, Parks Australia and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Another of our conditions was that there needed to be either a Ranger or a Traditional Owner onboard. This meant our crew would be working alongside the Marine Fauna Observer and created the perfect opportunity for training in this specialist field! So it was, in early September that four Dambi’ staff participated in Marine Fauna Observer training delivered by Blue Planet Marine.

The intensive training delivered over one and a half days, covered everything from Commonwealth and State legislation, fauna identification, to distances and range finding in the ocean (not an easy task when there’s no land in sight and no other features to help you). Once again, the team impressed!

At the time of print, the survey is six weeks into the ten required to complete the mapping exercise and has been a great learning experience for our participants in this type of marine operations. Oh, and just to clarify, there has been no sightings of whales – just one lonely crab!

The final days of the mission will again see Inga back at sea to finish off the survey component and to oversee the collection of the equipment off the three islands. But more on that next time...



**TO ALL MEMBERS OF
DAMBIMANGARI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (DAC)**

AUTHORISATION MEETING FOR THE DAMBIMANGARI BUCCANEER ARCHIPELAGO MARINE PARK

Date of Notice: 11th November 2020

Where: Mowanjum Community Hall, Mowanjum Community, via Gibb River Road, Derby WA 6728

When: Thursday 3rd December 2020 - 9.30am start

(following the AGM of Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation to be held at the same venue on
Wednesday 2nd December 2020 at 9.30am)

Registration will commence from 8.30am– all attendees must be registered in order to participate in the meeting

**MEETING OF WANJINA-WUNGURR DAMBIMANGARI NATIVE TITLE HOLDERS
(WAD 6061/1998)**

TO ALL THOSE WHO HOLD OR MAY HOLD NATIVE TITLE OVER PART OR WHOLE OF THE AREA OUTLINED IN THE MAP
(NEXT PAGE), including, but not limited to, Jangoot, Mungulu, Numendumah, Juboy, Barunga, Ngerdu, Morlumbun,
Peters, Umbagai, Woolagoodja, Oobagooma, Mouda, Sesar, Thomas, and Stumpagee Families and

ALL REGISTERED MEMBERS OF DAMBIMANGARI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (DAC)

PURPOSE OF THE AUTHORISATION MEETING

Dambimangari Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park

Dambimangari Country (Buccaneer Archipelago) Marine Park

For the Dambimangari native title holders to consider whether or not to authorise and consent to an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) between Wanjina-Wungurr (Native Title) Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (ICN 4692) and Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation (ICN 4691) on their behalf and the State of Western Australia and Others for the creation and joint management of Dambimangari Country (Buccaneer Archipelago) Marine Park.

ILUA Areas

The ILUA Area is depicted on the map below forming part of this notice. It is proposed that the whole of the ILUA Area, together with parts of the Derby and Yampi Sound Port Areas, will comprise the new marine park, consisting of offshore and intertidal areas only.

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE AUTHORISATION MEETING

- Introduction to the marine park
- ILUA description and briefing
- Decision-making by native title holders

If any Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation Members need assistance with Transport, fuel for transport and/ or accommodation, please contact your family signatory or below:

Delys Gebert; d.gebert@dambi.org.au or Kerrissa O'Meara; k.omeara@dambi.org.au

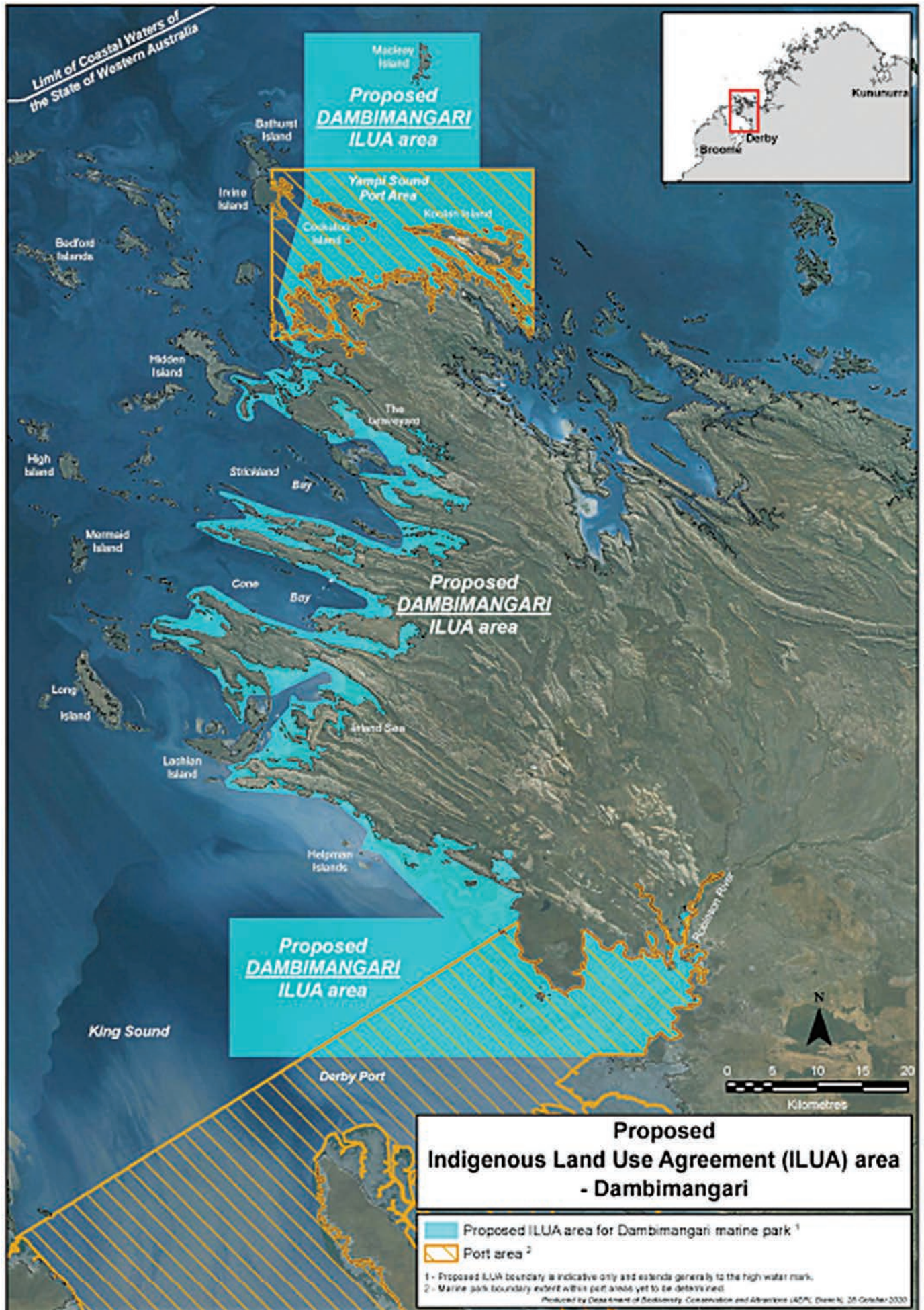
PLEASE NOTE: THESE ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE BY 3PM ON WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2020

www.dambimangari.com.au

T: +61(08) 9191 2383 E: reception@dambi.org.au

Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation 15 Guildford Street Derby 6728. PO BOX 648 Derby 6728

ABN: 48 508 877 524 ICN: 4691





Annual General Meeting

Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation Members



Date of Notice: 6th October 2020 General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting for Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation will be held as follows:

DATE of AGM: Wednesday, 2nd December 2020
TIME: 9.00am
VENUE: Mowanjum Community Hall, Mowanjum Community, via Gibb River Road, Derby WA

AGENDA:

ATTENDANCE/ APOLOGIES Membership List/Checking and updating. CEO to read out current Membership List and update where required.

ITEM ONE: Presentation of the Minutes of the last AGM (2019)

ITEM TWO: Report by Chairperson and CEO.

ITEM THREE: Presentation of Auditors Financial Report for 2019/20 and Appointment of Auditor for 2020/21.

ITEM FOUR: Related Party Benefits – Approval from Membership to utilise Traditional Owner owned and operated businesses for DAC goods and service provision.

ITEM FIVE: WW-PBC Membership; Current Members terms expired November 2020. Nine positions for Dambimangari persons available for 2-year term, 2020 to 2022 (*Nominations can be made by contacting DAC Office or on the day*).

LUNCH: 12.00 to 1pm.

ITEM SIX: Annual Report to Members from AET.

ITEM SEVEN: Update from Mount Gibson Iron Ltd – Koolan Island

ITEM EIGHT: Ric Davies, Davies & Davies Consulting; Update on Cockatoo Island, Tenement Tracking, Heritage Surveys, etc.

ITEM NINE: Healthy Country; Report on Ranger and Marine Operations for 2020.

ITEM TEN: Lalang-garram Marine Parks; Report of Activities in Dambimangari Marine Parks in 2020.

GENERAL BUSINESS: (Any relevant DAC business that a member or Members have requested is listed for discussion and or resolution at this AGM. Any other business raised at the AGM will be taken on notice by Directors and CEO if not able to respond to at this meeting).

If any Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation Members need assistance with Transport, fuel for transport and/ or accommodation, please contact your family signatory or below:

Delys Gebert; d.gebert@dambi.org.au or

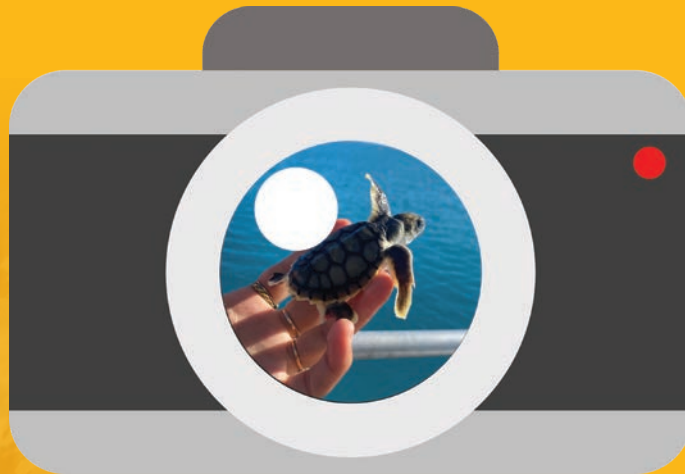
Kerrissa O'Meara; k.omeara@dambi.org.au

**PLEASE NOTE: THESE ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE DONE BY
3PM ON WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2020**

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Dambimangari People and Places Photo competition

We want your best photos celebrating
being out and about again.



Please share your photos of yourself, family,
friends enjoying the great outdoors
now we are free to wander.

Prize categories:

- Under 10: 18 mega pixel camera
- Under 18: Cannon ELPH IXUS camera
- Open: GoPro Hero 7

Vote for your favourite photo online and you can win \$100 Woollies card!!

Voting for People's Choice closes 15 December 2020

Submit your entries at www.Dambimangari.com.au.

All entries must be in digital format and accompanied by an entry form – check out the full terms and conditions online. Winners will be published in the next newsletter.

SO GET OUT THERE AND GET SNAPPING!