



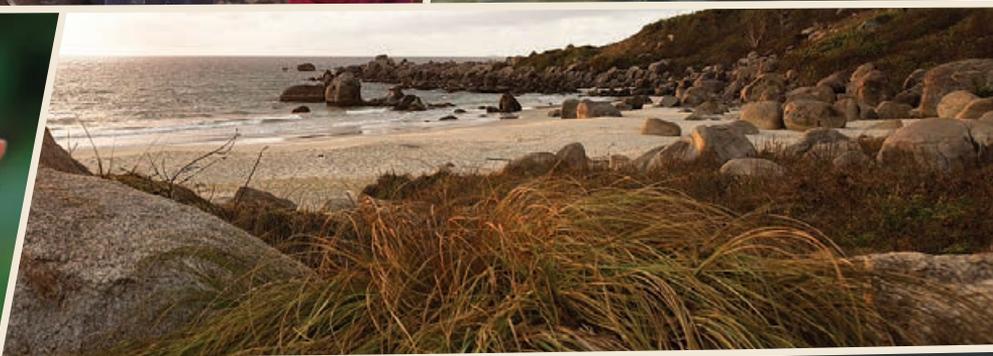
# DHIMURRU

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

## 2018 - 2019

celebrating

**25**  
years



## **DHIMURRU ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**

**PO Box 1551**

**Nhulunbuy NT 0881**

**Ph: 08 8939 2700**

**Fax: 08 8987 3224**

**Email: [permits@dhimurru.com.au](mailto:permits@dhimurru.com.au)**

**Web: [www.dhimurru.com.au](http://www.dhimurru.com.au)**

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Compiled by Dhimurru Staff

Design and layout by Rachel Ehrat

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## FOREWORD

Djawa Yunupingu  
**CHAIR 2018-2019**

### *Nhämirri bukma!*

It has been a very busy and exciting year for Dhimurru. I have stepped up to become the Chair this year and I've been very happy with the progress of the organisation over the last 12 months. Firstly, I would like to thank the previous Chair, Rarrtjwuy Herdman, for her effort and the good work she has contributed to the board and the organisation for over six years.

Many activities have been undertaken over the past year. Dhimurru and its members can be very proud. Dhimurru celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2018. With many clan members present, the day was very memorable. I look forward to celebrating our next milestone of 30 years and thank the broader community for your ongoing support!

One of our major projects for the year was to develop, with relevant clan members, Dhimurru's proposal for renewing the licence for managing recreation areas. In May 2019 the Northern Land Council undertook consultation regarding the proposal and this year work on the new agreement continues. Designated recreation areas are a mechanism to protect country and they stand as a tribute to Yolŋu landowners. Our tireless efforts to ensure that our land is protected in the way our fathers and grandfathers wished is still at the forefront of the board's mind when making decisions for the organisation.

This year has seen the departure of a number of staff from Dhimurru and I would like to personally extend my farewell and best wishes to them. I must make mention of our Senior Cultural Advisor, Djalinda Yunupingu, who has worked with Dhimurru for nearly six years.

Her contribution to the organisation has been immense and her work stands the organisation in good stead for the future. Djalinda will continue to work with Dhimurru as a consultant. Thank you yapa for your work.

In addition to these key events, the year has been a busy one. The marine debris work has continued at Djulpan, Yalanbara and Wanuwuy. Together with rangers and community members, we have made a dent in the amount of debris that has landed on our shores, but it is an ongoing issue that cannot be ignored.

The year also saw the start of a cultural mapping project at Port Bradshaw. This important work contributes to Dhimurru's ability to manage and conserve significant and sacred Yolŋu places. The Northern Territory Government and Rio Tinto Gove Operations (RTGO) have been significant partners in this project that will continue into the new year.

The board is working hard to implement the vision of the elders. Rangers have succeeded in many areas and this year we have focused on weed management. Our work on Dhambaliya (Bremer Island) and in other parts of the Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) is starting to yield some results, but weeds continue to be a significant threat.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to Dhimurru during the year. Our work is supported by many and varied groups and this does not go unnoticed by the board. As the Chair of Dhimurru I am proud to use both-ways learning and take a collaborative approach to achieve good outcomes for Yolŋu landowners and the broader community. Thank you all.

## YOLŬU MATHA SPELLING AND PRONUNCIATION

YolŬu Matha translates literally as 'the tongue of the YolŬu people'. It is a generic term describing the sixteen mutually intelligible clan languages of the Laynhapuy region of northeast Arnhem Land.

The characters used to write YolŬu Matha differ from those used for English since many of the sounds found in YolŬu Matha are not found in English. In pronouncing words in YolŬu Matha the emphasis is always on the first syllable. The following sounds are represented by letters in YolŬu Matha.

VOWEL SOUNDS	
a – as in mud	i – as in tin
ä – as in far	o – as in pore
e – as in feet	u – as in put
CONSONANT SOUNDS	
b – as in boy	nh – 'n' with tongue between teeth
d – as in dog	ny – 'n' with tongue curled behind lower teeth
<u>d</u> – retroflexed: retroflexed sounds are pronounced while the tip of the tongue curls back to roof of mouth	ŋ – as in singing
dh – pronounced with the tip of the tongue between the teeth	p – as in rapid
dj – pronounced with tip of tongue curled behind lower teeth and top of tongue touching palate	r – as in the American pronunciation of car with tongue retroflexed
g – as in ragged	rr – rolled sound common in Scottish pronunciation
k – as in bucket	t – as in tar
l – as in lump	ṭ – retroflexed
ḷ – retroflexed	th – 't' with tip of tongue between teeth
m – as in man	tj – 't' with tip of tongue curled around behind lower teeth
n – as in net	w – as in way
<u>n</u> – retroflexed	y – as in yellow
	' – apostrophe: indicates a stop in a word

This reference is taken from Raymatja Munungiritj & Trevor Stockly, *YolŬu Matha: : An Introduction to Gumatj and Related Languages in NE Arnhemland*, Yirrkala Community School Literature Production Centre, Yirrkala, NT, 1985.

## OUR VISION

*Dhimurru's vision statement honours the memory and wisdom of those elders who inspired and founded Dhimurru.*

*Dhimurru continues to be motivated by the commitment and passion of its leaders and elders.*



Roy Dadayŋa Marika MBE

### IN ENGLISH

*(Adapted in 2013 after extensive sea country estates were included in the Dhimurru IPA)*

Dhimurru's vision is guided by the wisdom of our elders who founded Dhimurru. They have inspired us in our work. They exhorted us to look after the land for those who will follow, to protect and maintain it. In 1990 on behalf of the elders, Roy Dadayŋa Marika said:

"Be firm and strong for the land, and the strength of your solidarity will sustain you in your cause.

Our country (land and sea) will exist forever. It must be protected so that it will remain the same, so that it can be seen in the same way that the elders saw it in the past. Our vision and hope is that Yolŋu will continue to use our country for all the generations to come."

The elders said:

"We the old people hope that Dhuwa and Yirritja country will continue to be looked after through the connection of yothu yindi.

All our country is Yirritja and Dhuwa. Our songs, our law, our sacred art, our stories are embedded in our country, which is the foundation of our knowledge. That's how we see our country; that is what our Land Rights Act says.

The decision-makers are the landowners, the clans that are connected through yothu yindi and märi-gutharra kinship. They have placed certain areas of our land in the hands of the Dhimurru committee, which authorises the Dhimurru rangers to manage and preserve, maintain and protect the areas designated for recreation use.

The landowners put the recreation areas in Dhimurru's hands to manage. They envisage one committee, one voice, and one body under one umbrella, Dhimurru. Only Yolŋu will make decisions for this land, not government officials or any other person who is not a land-owner.

We envisage working together with the Parks and Wildlife Commission and other IPA collaborators; we need their help in making our vision a reality. With respect to the sea country in the IPA, we are committed to working together with all relevant agencies to ensure that our sea country remains healthy, our sites and their stories are protected, and our marine resources are used sustainably. But the only people who make decisions about the land are those who own the law, the people who own the creation stories, the people whose lives are governed by Yolŋu law and belief."

## IN YOLŊU MATHA

*(As expressed by the late Roy Dadayŋa Marika MBE, with additions translated by Rarriwuy Marika)*

From dhawuru dhanu ŋaya yaka wāŋa ga hundred or more than one hundred years dhanu dhāruk ŋarru dhāya wekarram. Mā nhān yaka ŋarru yolŋuyu bāki, banhaya ŋayi generation ga generation ga generation. ŋayi yaka ŋarru dhāya, mā dhanal ŋarru nhāma banhaya ŋayi, banha yakan nhalpiyan dhanal nyenan nātjil dilak. Ga nhalpiyan dhanal yakan gatjpu'yuwan nātjil dilak. Yo—Dhuwa Yirritja, Yothu ga Yindi.

Bukmak ŋayi malanyha yaka dhāya manikaymi, rommi, dhulanŋi, dhāwu'mi. Banhalaŋa ŋayiŋa, dhanalingu nuku djalkiri. Bitjan nhan yaka ŋayim malanya dhāya ganunha Land Rights-ŋa dhāruk bilanya bili. Yo, decision-maker nhanbaya yana ŋayi waŋaŋu.

Ŋarru nhan ŋarru, ŋarruŋam goŋmurrum nhumaliŋ gurumurru, Parks and Wildlife-kura or rangerwurumurru, Dhimurruwurumurru. Bukmak ŋayi malanyha djākawu goŋŋa Dhimurruwura. Yirritja ga Dhuwa ŋarru warkthun dhanal further development bilanya bitjan conservation ga dhal yun ŋarru protecting nhāŋuru development-ŋuru.

Ga biyalpul ŋalma ŋarru nhāma ŋoy gapu banha dhāya yaka IPA-ŋa, ŋalma ŋarru djāma rrambaŋi waripu guŋkuwuy agencies-wuy, mā ŋalmaŋiŋu ŋoy gapu ŋarru ŋuwakurru ŋoyya, yaka marimi dhanan dhukun, ŋalmalinguŋ ŋayi. ŋoyŋa gapuŋa, ga dhāwu bayikuy ŋayiwuy dhanal IPA ga ŋalma ŋarru djāka, ga ŋoywuy gapuwuy maypal, miyapunu ga waripu mala banha ŋalma bayiŋa noka.

Dhanu ŋayi yolŋuwu yana, Yolŋuyu ŋarru warkthun dhāruk nhanbaya Yolŋuyu yana. Djinaŋu ŋayiwu ŋarakawu, yaka Gapmandhu wo bilan yolthu waripunuyu ŋayinharrayy Yolŋuyu. Nhanbaya yana ŋayi-waŋaŋuyu, rom-waŋaŋuyu, wararr-waŋaŋuyu, gamunungu-waŋaŋuyu wo maŋayin-waŋaŋuyu.

Ŋarru dhārukma dhanu gunyanda bayikuy ŋalapalmiyu banha ŋarruŋan ga dhanu badak nyena yaka. Ŋarru dhārukma dhanalingu ga gatjpum badak wālŋa. Djinaŋu Dhimurruwum self developmentkum, ga self-managementkum.





## **DHIMURRU BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018 - 2019**

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Rarrtjiwuy Herdman (until October 2018)  
Djawa Yunupinju

### **DEPUTY CHAIR**

Rärriwuy Marika (until October 2018)  
Lirriya Munungurr

### **DIRECTORS**

Ishmael Marika (until October 2018)  
Nayarri Marika (until October 2018)  
Butjarri Munungirritj (until October 2018)  
Daylulu Yunupinju (until October 2018)  
Banula Marika  
Djarrambaļ Marika  
Djatjalarmma Marika  
Gaylili 1 Marika  
Natjija Marika  
Dela 1 Munungurr  
Malati Yunupinju  
Velda Winunuj

## DHIMURRU STAFF 2018 - 2019

### MANAGING DIRECTOR

Mandaka Marika

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Christine Burke

### SENIOR CULTURAL ADVISOR

Djalinda Yunupinju  
(until January 2019)  
Rrawun Maymuru

### BUSINESS SERVICES MANAGER

Maureen Neil

### BUSINESS SUPPORT OFFICER

Cheryl Thomas

### PROJECT FACILITATORS

Paul Augustin  
Luke Playford  
Jonathan Wearne

### LEARNING ON COUNTRY COORDINATOR

Ian Hutton (from May 2019)

### SENIOR RANGERS

Gathapura Munungurr  
Grace Wunungmurra

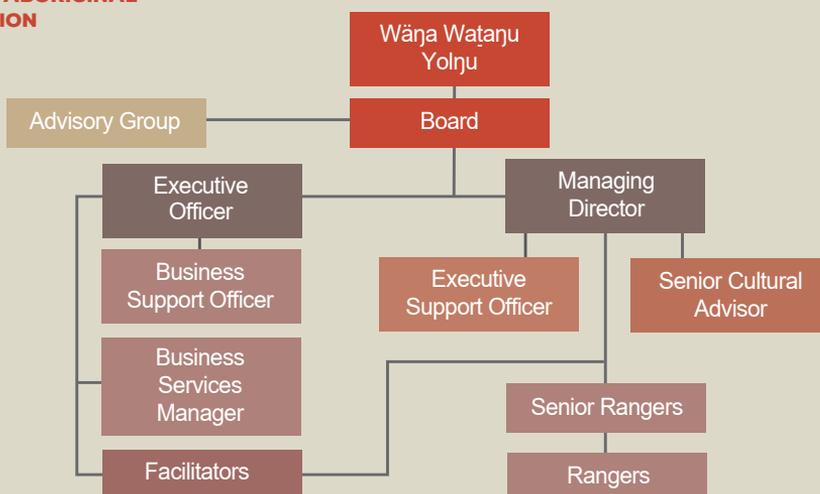
### RANGERS

Hamish Gondarra  
Wulwat Marika  
Wangawuy Munungurritj  
Rakrakpuy Marika  
(until April 2019 )  
Guymilili Bidingal  
(until December 2018)  
Guruguru Hick  
Georgina Gellett  
Yama Banu

### YBE PARTNERSHIP

Daryl Lacey

**FIGURE 1.**  
**ORGANISATIONAL**  
**STRUCTURE OF**  
**DHIMURRU ABORIGINAL**  
**CORPORATION**



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

*Through the wisdom of our elders, the direction set by the Dhimurru board and executive and the planning and management of our rangers in collaboration with relevant agencies, we are committed to the following principles in managing our land and sea country within the Dhimurru IPA.*



### Yolŋu control and empowerment

Yolŋu make decisions for their own country. Activities should maximise opportunities for Yolŋu as active participants in the management of their country in the IPA.

### Respect Yolŋu values

There are extensive and all-embracing values of all sites in the IPA for Yolŋu, and preserving these sites is a primary focus.

### Conserve and enhance natural and cultural values of the IPA

The use and management of the IPA must be sustainable and must protect the ecological and heritage values that are the result of generations of Yolŋu management.

### Manage both-ways

We maximise opportunities for Yolŋu to devise strategies through a mutual investigation of ŋäpaki (mainstream) and Yolŋu systems of knowledge.

### Collaborative relationships

We continue to develop collaborative relationships with government agencies and other organisations in programs and research to support sustainable use and management of Yolŋu land and seas.

### Ŋäpaki recreation values

The goal of our visitor management is to encourage an appreciation of the cultural and natural values of the IPA for ŋäpaki to promote an enjoyable experience and to ensure minimal environmental impact.

### Care for Dhuwa and Yirritja clan estates

We care for Dhimurru land and sea country holistically, in accordance with our cultural values, rights, practices and obligations.

### Protect sacred sites

We protect sacred sites and song cycles that contain our creation stories and link our land and sea environments together.



### Maintain healthy ecosystems

We maintain healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems in which all species and associated cultural values can thrive.

### Harvest sustainably

We ensure that dugong, turtle, fish and other culturally and economically important species are harvested sustainably for the generations to come.

### Recognise Yolŋu rights, interests and responsibilities

We ensure that Yolŋu rights, interests and responsibilities in land and sea country are recognised and respected, together with the rights and responsibilities of other groups and organisations with a legitimate interest in our land and sea country and its resources.

### Maintain Yolŋu knowledge

We ensure that Yolŋu knowledge and practices are maintained and transmitted from one generation to the next.

### Apply Yolŋu knowledge and practices

We apply Yolŋu knowledge and practices to the management of our land and sea country.

### Use best practices

We ensure best-practice management of our land and sea country long into the future.

### Develop Yolŋu enterprises

We support environmentally and culturally sustainable enterprises.

## **DHIMURRU INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA (IPA)**

An Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) is an area of land and/or sea country voluntarily dedicated by Yolŋu landowners as a non-legislated protected area. The terrestrial component of an IPA is recognised by the Australian government as being part of the National Reserve System of Protected Areas (NRSPA).

In 2000, Yolŋu landowners made a voluntary IPA declaration over approximately 101,000 hectares of their traditional country. This included 92,000 hectares of their land and about 9000 hectares of their sea country, incorporating previously registered marine sacred sites. This declaration established the first IPA in the Northern Territory and the first IPA in Australia to include both terrestrial and marine areas.

At a memorial ceremony in Arnhem Land in April 2013, Yolŋu wāŋga waṯaŋu (landowners) formally dedicated additional areas of their land and sea country to the Dhimurru IPA. This increased Dhimurru's IPA to approximately 550,000 hectares and extended the IPA's sea country boundary a further 40km from the coastline.

Each IPA is managed by Indigenous rangers and partner organisations according to protected area guidelines set by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Dhimurru's vision statement sets out Dhimurru's commitment to:

- support Yolŋu landowners in managing their land and sea country
- manage recreation areas designated for visitor use.

In collaboration with partner agencies, our rangers are responsible for the day-to-day management of the IPA, supported by the continued hands-on involvement of the Yolŋu community taking care of their traditional country. Traditional resource management practices such as the use of fire are critical to maintaining natural and cultural values of the IPA.

The Dhimurru IPA is supported by the Australian government's Indigenous Protected Areas program and the Working on Country program, which assist in funding, planning and management in return for environmental and cultural heritage management services.

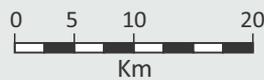
Many other government and non-government partners share their expertise and resources to help us achieve the conservation and sustainability goals of the IPA.

Our IPA is one of 75 across Australia. Together they contribute about 45 percent of the total area of the NRSPA, which also includes all of Australia's national parks and conservation reserves.





-  Original IPA
-  Terrestrial Zone (Aboriginal Land)
-  Sea Country Zone (Collaborative Management)



## 25TH ANNIVERSARY

celebrating  
**25**  
years

*In September 2018, Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation celebrated its 25th anniversary. Dhimurru grew out of the strength and determination of Yolŋu landowners to protect, conserve and make decisions for their land.*



Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation has grown into a well-known and respected organisation and a leader in IPA management. To celebrate these great achievements, Dhimurru invited over 100 guests to join the celebrations. Members from each of the clans were in attendance. In a historic bungul the Gumatj and Rirratjinj clans came together for the opening ceremony.

Leaders past and present gave speeches telling the story of Dhimurru's struggles and successes. They recalled Dhimurru's early days and the decision to take steps to manage unauthorised access. The gathering heard about the declaration of the Indigenous Protected Area, increased ranger employment and purchase of the current office and workshop through government and other funding sources. These achievements were instrumental in strengthening the organisation.

Former board chairs, executive officers, managing directors and staff returned to celebrate the event. Certificates were given to each clan to acknowledge and recognise their commitment and dedication to the organisation over the quarter-century. Many community organisations and partners supported the day with in-kind contributions and assistance.





# MANAGING LAND AND SEA COUNTRY



## PERMITS AND VISITORS

Under a licence agreement with the Northern Land Council, Dhimurru is authorised by Traditional Owners to issue access permits for visitors to enter recreation areas. Visitors' access is managed through the Dhimurru permit system that has been in operation for around 15 years.

In 2018–19 permits were issued as follows:

- general (annual and six month) permits – 2612 people
- visitor permits (two months, seven-day, one day) – 2419 people
- special permits – 3160 people

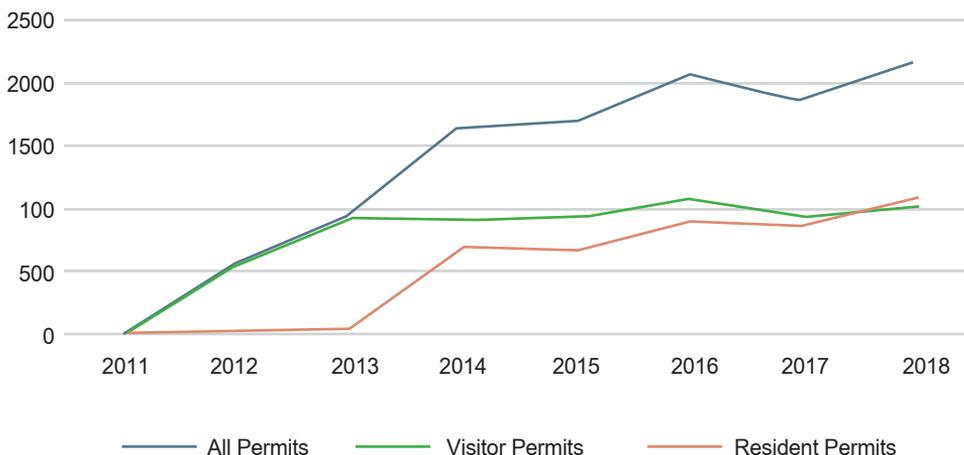


Dhimurru rangers carry out at least two patrols during the week and one on weekends. Most compliance issues relate to expired permits or unauthorised access.

With the continuing development of tourism across northeast Arnhem Land, visitor numbers are increasing. A review of Dhimurru's limited historic permit information (existing pre 2013 records) and its online permit system data (from 2014 onward) highlighted some interesting statistics (see Table 1).

Despite the closure of the Gove alumina refinery in 2014 the trend for general permits issued to residents remains stable. The increase in permits issued in 2016 can in part be attributed to: the introduction of the one-day permit for visitors; the increasing numbers of independent travellers; and commercial tour operators. Numbers dropped in 2017 but increased again in 2018. Dhimurru will continue to monitor permit data over time to support our understanding of visitor use in recreation areas.

**TABLE 1: NUMBER OF PERMITS ISSUED PER CALENDAR YEAR (EXCLUDING THOSE ISSUED BY TOUR OPERATORS)**





## RECREATION AREAS

Dhimurru rangers maintain and manage 19 designated recreation areas through a schedule of routine maintenance over the year. In addition to this ongoing djama (work) there are programmed improvements and upgrades to particular areas. Careful management ensures all visitors continue to enjoy these areas whilst minimising the impact on the environment and culturally significant sites.

This year, 12 kilometres of overgrown coastal walking track from Daliwuy to Bariṅura (Little Bondi) were cleared, remarked and rerouted for easier access where needed. This track runs parallel to the coast and offers walkers the opportunity to view land and sea belonging to several clans.

At the request of the Traditional Owners, Daliwuy recreational area has been a focus this year. A structure was removed by rangers with

assistance of the Datjala work crew. The shed was constructed in the early days of Dhimurru and had become unsafe due to the harsh coastal environment. Discussions continue with Traditional Owners about plans for the area.

At Bariṅura (Little Bondi) new fencing was constructed and the area revegetated to assist in protecting the casuarinas and sand dunes behind the beach foreshore.

Campground tables at Wanuwuy (Cape Arnhem) and Garanhan (Macassan Beach) were also replaced. Extra skills in welding fabrication and planning were learned by rangers during the project.

At the request of Yolṅu landowners, several closures have been implemented over the past year for cultural and conservation purposes. Other closures to protect infrastructure or manage threats and hazards to visitors have also been enforced

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## TRACKS

To maintain visitor access to Dhimurru recreation areas, road and track maintenance is a priority. Each year Dhimurru relies on funding from partners or grants to maintain the network.

As part of our scheduled maintenance, grading and drain-clearing of access tracks was carried out before the wet season at Baṅambarrṅa (Rainbow Cliffs), coastal access tracks from Daliwuy to Bariṅura (Little Bondi) and Wathawuy (Latram River and Goanna Lagoon).

An old beach track to Djulpan was recommissioned. This track was reopened in preparation for a marine debris clean-up campaign with representatives from Sea

Shepherd Australia. A boom gate was also installed to stop unauthorised access.

At Wanuwuy several corduroy sections were repaired, and the track edges were pruned. Areas of rough sand were smoothed making the track more accessible for visitors. Reflective markers were installed along the track to define the route. Alternate routes have been blocked off to allow environmental rehabilitation.

This year a significant proportion of the funding for track maintenance was provided through the Rio Tinto Gove Operations partnership agreement and the Australian Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy.

## MAPPING YOLŪ LAND AND SEASCAPES

In 2019, in collaboration with a team of Yolŷu landowners and custodians and consultant anthropologist Daniel Leo, Dhimurru began documenting and mapping Yolŷu places and sacred sites across Port Bradshaw. The approach was based on Dhambaliya mapping projects in 2012 and 2014.

The team reviewed existing published records and visited country to build a comprehensive map to support sustainable management of the land and sea by Dhimurru rangers. The 400-page provisional report was completed in 2019. There are 52 distinct areas within the Dhuwa Yalanbara estate and the Yirriŷa Bawaka estate in Port Bradshaw. The map produced as part of the report includes Yolŷu place names, sacred sites and sites that are significant archaeologically, historically and culturally. Connectivity between sites has also been recorded, especially songlines, ancestral journeys and stories. Threats to these sites were also assessed. This work will guide future management priorities.

The remaining Dhuwa and Yirriŷa land and sea estates have been mapped remotely with

Traditional Owners in preparation for on-ground surveys. At least 50 distinct places will be visited and documented. This project will be completed in several stages over the next two years with intensive boat-based field work planned later in 2019.

The current phase of the project was generously supported by the Northern Territory government's Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program and Rio Tinto Gove Operations through their partnership with Dhimurru. Remote mapping, follow-up and cross-checking at the Dhimurru office was greatly enhanced by a wall touchscreen on loan from Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation. Yolŷu businesses were suppliers in this project, including Bawaka Aboriginal Corporation who provided accommodation facilities at Port Bradshaw.



## BÄRU

Bäru (crocodile) is an important totem for Yolŷu, particularly the Gumatj, Maŷarra and Warramiri clans. Yolŷu landowners support the work Dhimurru does to manage bäru and minimise interactions between bäru and people while helping in the protection and care of this important species.

This year has been somewhat remarkable in relation to bäru management. Three bäru were trapped at Manarŷymi in mid-2018 and several have been caught in Daliwuy Bay. Bäru were regularly sighted around Nhulunbuy town beaches. In addition, the heavy rainfall in April caused flooding in many of Dhimurru's recreation areas, providing the opportunity for bäru to move to places they haven't been seen for several years. A 2.77m bäru was trapped at the Wathawuy river crossing, a popular recreation area with residents and visitors.

The Dhimurru board seek to keep visitors and the community safe and are particularly saddened when bäru must be trapped to reduce the risk of attacks.

It is also distressing when visitors ignore safety signage communicating the dangers of swimming. This year Dhimurru has trapped 18 bäru in areas frequented by visitors and closed some recreation areas to reduce the risk to visitors from attack.

Dhimurru is an active participant in the CrocWise program. To raise community awareness about bäru, rangers gave presentations to children at local schools and creches and participated in radio interviews with Yolŷu community radio and GoveFM.





## **WEEDS**

Dhimurru has taken a lead role in establishing the North East Arnhem Region (NEAR) weeds group to coordinate and strategise weed management activities across the region, and it has made significant progress. Relying on contributions of time and expertise from stakeholders to progress its vision, the group worked closely with Yolŋu Business Enterprises (YBE), Rio Tinto Gove Operations and Yirralka Rangers in devising the NEAR weeds strategy. Key actions identified for the group's first year have been achieved.

Weeds identified in the Weed Management Plan were sprayed in many areas of the IPA, particularly recreation areas and roadsides. Part of the weed program this year included the continued development of weed identification/ treatment skills including refresher sessions for rangers and other staff. Prior to commencing spraying, rangers and facilitators held a team meeting to discuss the type of weeds to target, effective treatment of each species and safe handling of the chemicals used. Rangers were then able to use the skills acquired to spray weeds in priority areas.

In recognition of the importance of weed control, Daryl Lacey, a former Dhimurru

ranger was contracted through a partnership with YBE to strengthen the program. Daryl used his experience and skills to work with rangers, spending many hours spraying priority areas including recreation areas, roadsides and other places where noxious weeds were found.

In addition, weed control efforts continued on Dhambaliya (Bremer Island) this season. Dhimurru has focused its effort on stopping the spread of coffee bush in special and sacred sites across the island. In May 2019, the coffee bush eradication program continued with rangers completing weed control at ten sites. A second trip is planned to complete the remaining three sites over a five-day period as soon as is practicable.



## STAFF PROFILE



## RRAWUN MAYMURU

### SENIOR CULTURAL ADVISOR

Rrawun Maymuru is a proud Mangallili man with his homeland at Djarrakpi. He joined Dhimurru as a ranger 12 months ago and took on the role of Senior Cultural Advisor in early 2019, following in the footsteps of Djalinda Yunupingu.

In the early 1990s Rrawun did work experience with Dhimurru, while a student at Yirrkala School. Impressed by the vision Dhimurru had for the future he knew that one day he would return to work there.

Always interested in his culture and the land, Rrawun has been greatly influenced by his grandfather, Roy Marika. Inspired by his grandfather, Rrawun has become a teacher, cultural advisor and leader of his clan. He has a great love and knowledge for the land on which he walks and understands the importance of sharing this with the next generation.

Rrawun brings a wealth of cultural knowledge and experience to his new position and is committed to sustaining both-ways learning and both-ways working in Dhimurru. He recently participated in his first Learning on Country (LoC) galtha rom. He enjoyed the opportunity to pass on his cultural knowledge to the students of Yirrkala school. Rrawun is looking forward to working with the Learning on Country program.

Rrawun previously worked for Laynhapuy Homelands as a training officer and with MEP as a coordinator. With his cultural knowledge and love of the land he has been employed with Lirwi Tourism and is also a tour operator and cultural advisor with Bawaka Cultural Experiences, a family venture.

A talented musician, Rrawun is lead singer and songwriter with world-renowned band East Journey. This talent has given him the opportunity to travel to many communities, towns and cities around Australia and overseas including to Vanuatu in the South Pacific and Los Angeles—a very different lifestyle when compared to living in Yirrkala.

# SEA COUNTRY





### MANAGING MARINE DEBRIS

Over the past 12 months marine debris collection events have seen significant community support, and debris weighing 16,137 kilograms has been removed from 26.6 kilometres of beach.

In July 2018 David Smith, a journalist with the *New York Times*, visited Dhimurru to conduct research for an article on marine debris and its effect on Yolŋu. Titled 'Aboriginal rangers face a Sisyphean task: 'Waves of trash' the article was distributed widely and gave the problem international exposure.

In response to this increasing media attention, a large group of community volunteers removed marine debris from Cape Arnhem beaches. The event attracted over 40 volunteers cleaning up 1.7 kilometres of beach. A 'Cleaning up Cape Arnhem' Facebook page was created to coordinate ongoing volunteer clean-up activities and distribute relevant information.

The annual Wanuwuy Marine Debris Survey was conducted over three days in September, with the assistance of Conservation Volunteers Australia. This year's survey documented the collection of 2549 kilograms of debris over an area of 3.6 kilometres, a record amount since it commenced in 2003. Sorting and data collection took longer than in previous years but assistance

from the Datjala Work Camp and local volunteers enabled rangers to complete this massive task.

Additional media focus followed an article by Matt Garrick, an ABC reporter. He interviewed Dhimurru's Managing Director, Mandaka Marika, and several Yirralka rangers for the story 'Toxic tides: The rubbish washing up in East Arnhem Land' published in the September–October issue of *Australian Geographic*. His story focused on marine debris as a world issue and provided data on the biggest polluting nations.

In October Dhimurru partnered with Sea Shepherd Australia to collect marine debris at Djulpan. Over a two-week period 11 Sea Shepherd volunteers, eight Dhimurru staff and locals conducted a survey of two kilometres of beach, using a method developed by Sea Shepherd. This partnership with Sea Shepherd will be ongoing, and the Djulpan clean-up will become an annual event. Sea Shepherd filmed the Djulpan clean-up, and the documentary is due to be released soon.

Between these large marine debris projects, the rangers continued to clean other beaches within the IPA. Community members also continue to collect debris when visiting and camping at recreation areas.



### USING DRONES TO MAP SEAGRASS

In November Dhimurru commenced a project to take high-quality aerial imagery of sea grass beds within the IPA. This project was funded through Northern Territory government's Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program. The purpose of the project was to facilitate future monitoring of the seagrass beds, assessing their health, distribution and density. It was complemented by on ground survey of the seagrass beds, assessing species composition, density and distribution.

Focusing on significant seagrass beds in Melville Bay and Port Bradshaw, Dhimurru worked with drone scientists from the University of New South Wales and a drone pilot from Aerolens. Drawing on the experience gained during the project the rangers refined the techniques used as they progressed. The scientists gained knowledge about the environment rangers operate in, and the challenges posed by wind, sunlight and tides to capture clear imagery. Rangers became



skilled at operating the drones as well as using the program to plan flight paths.

The scientists spent several months processing the image data to produce the clearest imagery. Further works are needed to ascertain if we can digitally assess density and species using the imagery. It is hoped that this will help Dhimurru to assess any changes to seagrass beds over time and to determine best practice in the management of these habitats.

### PROTECTING MIYAPUNU (SEA TURTLES)

For many years, Dhimurru and Yolŋu landowners have been discussing the actions we could take to assist miyapunu (Sea Turtles) conservation in the IPA. This year Dhimurru trialed a closure of the Wanuwuy (Cape Arnhem) area for six weeks during August and September. The closure was planned around the peak nesting time. The aim was to allow miyapunu a period where they can nest without pressure from predation and increase the probability of hatchling survival.

At the conclusion of the 2018 Learning on Country Miyapunu (Turtle) Galtha Rom workshop, Dhimurru held a meeting with Yolŋu landowners regarding miyapunu conservation at Yalanbara. An important outcome of this meeting was that the wāŋa waŋarŋu (landowners), led by Mawalan Marika, declared that the beaches of the Yalanbara and Djirrkawul (Seven Mile Beach) were to be a miyapunu sanctuary. This would be in place for three years, with miyapunu only being hunted for specific cultural occasions.





### CROCODILE ISLANDS RANGER EXCHANGE

From 12 to 17 August 2018, four Dhimurru staff—three rangers (Gathapura Mununggurr, Wangawuy Munungurrrij, Hamish Gondarra) and facilitator Paul Augustin—participated in a ranger exchange to the Crocodile Islands. The purpose of the exchange was to gather information on community practices for managing turtles that could be incorporated into the Yalanbara Learning on Country (LoC) Miyapunu (Turtle) Galtha Rom workshop the following month.

The Crocodile Islands community are leaders in community turtle management. A turtle sanctuary on Gurriba Island north of Milingimbi was established under the strong leadership of Laurie Baymarwanga (1917–2014), the senior Maringa Traditional Owner for the Malarra clan. The clan ceased turtle hunting in the area to conserve and protect turtle populations.

Flying from Milingimbi ranger base over the turtle sanctuary to Murrungga Island, the group stayed for two nights to learn about the work of the Crocodile Island rangers. Dhimurru rangers

enjoyed time exploring, hunting, presenting and sharing stories with the local community on the island.

It was also an opportunity for Dhimurru to share expertise and stories about our LoC program. Crocodile Island rangers and Milingimbi School have a similar program to that of the Dhimurru rangers and Yirrkala School. Dhimurru rangers did presentations to school children on Murrungga Island and at Milingimbi School.

Crocodile Island rangers were invited to take part in the LoC Miyapunu Galtha Rom workshop held at Yalanbara in September 2018; and two rangers were able to attend.

The group then travelled to Raminginning to overnight with the Arafura Swamp rangers and enjoyed the chance to share stories, network and see their country. The Dhimurru rangers learned much from their hosts and for some, it was their first visit to the region. It was a wonderful opportunity for the rangers to connect to family they had not met before and to reconnect with those they had not seen for a long time.

**STAFF PROFILE**



**WANGAWUY  
MUNUNGURRITY**

**RANGER**

'My dream djama (work)'—that is Wangawuy's description of her position as Ranger with Dhimurru. Dhimurru is like family to Wangawuy. Her grandfather was one of the founders of Dhimurru and her father was a director on the Dhimurru board.

Wangawuy started with Dhimurru in 2009 working with Lisa Roeger, Wendy and Daylulu Marika. After four years she took a career change and worked with Anglicare as a disability carer, however it became clear that Dhimurru was where she really belonged and in 2017 she returned, taking on the role of Ranger. She said, 'it's where I want to be and I enjoy coming to work every day'.

Wangawuy's passion for the work is evident in her reliability and consistent attendance and for

this she was awarded the inaugural Dhimurru Annual Attendance Award. She also won the monthly staff award twice this year, in August and January. These awards recognised Wangawuy as a steady, reliable, hard worker who is always willing to take on any challenge asked of her. Wangawuy displayed leadership qualities on the ranger exchange to Crocodile Islands and is very supportive of her fellow rangers in their tasks.

She also enjoys the learning and sharing of knowledge offered by the Learning on Country program, especially with children. Her own education is important and in May, Wangawuy graduated with a Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management at a ceremony held at Yirkala.

Away from Dhimurru, Wangawuy is a mother and grandmother who enjoys spending time with her family. She enjoys playing with her grandchildren, visiting her homeland at Garrthalala to camp and hunt with her family.

## **LEARNING BOTH WAYS**





### **TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

Dhimurru's training and staff development program reached a milestone this year with all rangers having completed a Certificate II or III in Conservation and Land Management (CLM).

Dhimurru is committed to the professional development of all staff members according to each individual's specific interests and abilities.

David Gardiner from Batchelor Institute delivered the accredited training and worked closely with rangers to achieve their goals.

Dhimurru rangers and facilitators continued regular workplace refreshers covering key areas of operations, with a special focus on activities that were a high risk to the health and wellbeing of staff.

At Dhimurru, staff professional development is not limited to formal training and qualifications. Both-ways learning is essential, and all staff learn about Yolŋu traditions for caring and managing country, and how Yolŋu culture, kinship and country are the foundation of Yolŋu wellbeing and identity. The Yolŋu-directed galtha rom workshops and Learning on Country program particularly support this both-ways learning, and directly contribute to a rich environment for professional development at Dhimurru. In 2019 Dhimurru began a series of teaching-learning workshops under the leadership of the Senior Cultural Advisor, Rrawun Maymuru. These workshops encourage all staff to expand their knowledge of Yolŋu language, places, kinship and culture.

**The Dhimurru board and staff are exceptionally pleased with the determination and effort of rangers to complete their studies:**

- Wangawuy Mununguritj received her Certificate II in CLM.
- Grace Wunurjmurra received her Certificate II in Fisheries Compliance.
- Gathapuru Munungurr will be awarded a Certificate III in CLM later this year.

**The following staff await the presentation of their Certificate II in CLM later this year:**

- Rrawun Maymuru
- Wulwat Marika
- Guruguru Hick
- Georgina Gellet
- Yama Banu



## **DHIMURRU STAFF AWARDS**

Every day, Dhimurru staff contribute to the corporation's success. Since May 2018, in recognition of their service, a regular award has been implemented to acknowledge outstanding efforts and achievements of individual staff members.

A second, annual award, to recognise staff attendance, commenced this year. The award is aimed at encouraging staff to maintain high levels of attendance.



*The awards for this year are as follows:*



**August 2018 and  
January 2019  
Wangawuy Mununguritj  
Ranger**

Wangawuy was a steady, reliable and hard worker who was consistent in her approach to djama. She was always willing to take on any challenge asked of her and continually showed support for her fellow rangers. Wanga also displayed leadership qualities on the ranger exchange to Crocodile Islands.



**October 2018  
Grace Wununmurra  
Senior Ranger**

Grace won this award for her dedication and commitment to Dhimurru. She worked hard at her tasks and led her team well. She was also committed to her training.



**November 2018  
Yama Banu  
Ranger**

Yama was a new member of the Dhimurru team but displayed commitment to his work, showed initiative and was keen to volunteer for tasks.

**DHIMURRU STAFF AWARDS** *continued...*



**December 2018**  
**Georgina Gullett**  
**Ranger**

Georgina was awarded Ranger of the Month for her contribution at the Adelaide Labor Conference and the CrocWise program. Her willingness to speak up and actively promote the work of the rangers assists in building understanding and appreciation in the wider community, improves safety and promotes the Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area.



**February 2019**  
**Wulwat Marika**  
**Ranger**

Wulwat won this award for his work in weed management. He was committed to spraying weeds and showed initiative in locating and reporting new outbreaks. He regularly volunteered for weed spraying and worked hard to achieve a satisfactory outcome. Wulwat has a good understanding of the requirements of this djama.



**March 2019**  
**Rawun Maymuru**  
**Senior Cultural Advisor**

Rawun's solid work on the cultural mapping project at Port Bradshaw ensured the program of work was completed and delivered on time. He applied himself to working through the logistics and organisation of the project and involved the right people at the right time. His understanding of the project's requirements delivered a successful outcome.



**June 2019**  
**Mandaka Marika**  
**Managing Director**

Mandaka has worked for Dhimurru since its inception and his long-standing commitment to the organisation is recognised by his staff. Mandaka has been a mentor, a role model, a leader and great support to all the staff working at Dhimurru throughout his time as Managing Director. This month staff recognised Mandaka's commitment to the organisation.

**Annual staff attendance award:**

Grace Wunungmurra and Wangawuy Mununguritj were both awarded this inaugural annual award in recognition of their consistent attendance to djama (work).



## LEARNING ON COUNTRY

The Learning on Country (LoC) educational partnership between Yirrkala School and Dhimurru rangers remained strong in the absence of a funded coordinator for much of the year. This resilience demonstrates the importance of long-term, carefully designed and mutually beneficial partnerships.

The LoC program supports and encourages Yolŋu students to intensely engage in their education and complete senior secondary school and/or vocational certificates in Conservation Land Management (CLM). The program also supports intergenerational transfer of Yolŋu knowledge about country, and formally integrates this knowledge in the delivery of Northern Territory and Australian curricula.

Key principles of Learning on Country include:

- the primacy of Indigenous ownership and authority
- the importance of intergenerational transmission of Indigenous knowledge and customary practice
- good both-ways practice informed by Yolŋu and other knowledge systems.

To reinforce concepts and the students' connection to country and culture, classroom studies are complimented by field trips 'on country', and Yolŋu-directed galtha rom teaching and learning workshops, based on fundamental Yolŋu knowledge, skills and traditions.

Two galtha rom workshops were organised by Dhimurru as centrepieces for student learning, the first at Yalanbara in September 2018 and the second at Garanhan in May 2019.

## MIYAPUNU GALTHA ROM AT YALANBARA

Dhimurru organised the Miyapunu (sea turtle and dugong) galtha rom workshop at Yalanbara as part of our year-long program focusing on miyapunu. The workshop was attended by senior landowners and custodians for the area as well as Dhimurru rangers and staff, the Learning on Country students and a marine scientist working for the Northern Territory government, Rachel Groom. Two Yolŋu rangers from Milingimbi also attended, reciprocating the Dhimurru ranger visit to their country earlier in the year.





Participants in the galtha experienced pre-dawn manikay (song cycles), bungul (dance) and sacred well-digging. Around these activities all participants discussed and learned about the range/migration of different turtle species, nesting behaviour and threats. Digital technologies such as virtual reality were trialed to collect evidence

of student learning and as a stimulus for further exploration of content covered during the workshop (especially for students that were unable to attend). Students and other participants regarded the workshop as a healing and invigorating time.

At the conclusion of the students' participation in the workshop, Yolŋu elders met to reflect on the workshop, discuss the video footage taken for a proposed documentary about marine debris, and make significant decisions about conservation actions for marine turtles on the Yalanbarra coastline and surrounds.

For four board members and staff of Cotton On Foundation, it was their first experience of a galtha rom workshop on country, an introduction to the inspiring Yolŋu leaders and rangers, and a way to experience first-hand the quality of the education programs that their Foundation is supporting.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE GALTHA ROM AT GARANHAN**

The second galtha rom workshop concentrating on the environment, with a special emphasis on climate change, was held at Garanhan (Macassan Beach) in May 2019. Leading up to the workshop, students were engaged in reading and writing activities in the classroom and supported by Dhimurru rangers when attending short field trips. The intensive four-day galtha workshop was an engaging academic and cultural learning experience for students, rangers and relevant landowners and custodians.

Participants enjoyed short interpretive walks, four-wheel drive trips to the surrounding beaches, being on country and listening to senior custodians and Dhimurru rangers interpret the land and sea scapes. The activities were documented as part of the students' academic schoolwork. Secondary students at Yirrkala School continued to benefit from a regular program of rich on-country and country-inspired learning.

As part of the LoC program Dhimurru rangers were provided with opportunities to adopt leadership and mentoring roles, practice public speaking in

both English and Yolŋu languages, transfer cultural knowledge and assist with the practical application of Certificate II in CLM units in a workplace. In 2019, Yirrkala School students completed several nationally-accredited units towards this Certificate II qualification.

The LoC program is supported by the Australian government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy, Northern Territory government's Department of Education, Northern Land Council and the partnership with Cotton On Foundation.



## STAFF PROFILE



## IAN HUTTON

### LEARNING ON COUNTRY COORDINATOR

Ian commenced work with Dhimurru as the Learning on Country (LoC) Coordinator in April 2019. The LoC program and the partnership between Yirkala School and Dhimurru rangers has been operating for seven years.

Having previously worked for three years as the LoC Coordinator for the partnership between Yirkala Homelands School and Yirkala rangers, and for over a decade as an Indigenous tourism trainer, Ian is no stranger to the region. He trained Indigenous and non-Indigenous adults and children in remote and urban settings, while employed by private training organisations and Charles Darwin University.

Developing Indigenous training programs with the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) enabled Ian to broaden his knowledge of Indigenous Rangers' diverse work programs. He enjoyed the opportunity to visit and learn about the rangers in Cape York, Queensland, across the Northern Territory, and in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

He also worked extensively across the Top End as a tour/field guide and operated his own tourism business.

As the LoC Coordinator Ian enjoys working closely and collaboratively with wänga waṯarṯu (landowners), teachers, cultural advisors, Yolŋu rangers and community elders to deliver a culturally engaging LoC program. In this role Ian hopes to gain a greater understanding of Yolŋu worldview. He is committed to Dhimurru's vision and looks forward to his involvement in strengthening Dhimurru's staff training and development.

**DHIMURRU OUT AND ABOUT**



## INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS CELEBRATE 20 YEARS



With the support of the PEW Foundation, on 4 December 2018 Gathapura Munungurr, Velda Winuruj and Christine Burke travelled to Canberra to join other ranger groups in the 20th anniversary celebration of Indigenous Protected Areas. Prior to the formal proceedings, there was an opportunity for rangers to share their experience and exchange ideas over breakfast at Old Parliament House.

The celebratory lunch was held on the internal lawns at Parliament House. Gathapura and Velda represented Dhimurru as one of the longest established Indigenous Protected Areas. Both Gathapura and Velda responded to the Welcome to Country from a local Ngunnawal man. Speaking in Yolŋu Matha, Gathapura thanked him for the welcome, and then Velda interpreted for the audience. It was a momentous occasion for them and for Dhimurru. They represented Dhimurru with great pride and honour.

### NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS WITH COTTON ON

In 2018, Cotton On Foundation invited Djalinda Yunupinu to celebrate NAIDOC week at the Cotton On offices in Geelong, Victoria. Supported by Cotton On to travel to Geelong and be a guest speaker in a series of scheduled but informal 'conversations', Djalinda spoke about her work with Dhimurru and the Learning on Country program, her home and her life as a strong Yolŋu woman growing up in East Arnhem Land.

Over the course of the week Djalinda did four conversation sessions attended by 99 participants. Each session gained greater interest as the word spread. Djalinda is an avid supporter of the LoC program and has worked with Cotton On Foundation for several years, leading and bringing together the galtha rom events with Yirrkala School. Recently



*Photo courtesy of Cotton On Foundation*

Djalinda has been working with Cotton On's Andrea Kingston to establish a wellbeing program at Yirrkala school.



## GARMA FESTIVAL



In 2018 Dhimurru continued their participation in the Yothu Yindi Foundation's annual Garma festival. In partnership with Yirralka rangers, Dhimurru rangers assisted with preparation of the site by clearing land and doing basic maintenance to structures.

Staff and rangers set up and looked after the Dhimurru display at the festival, highlighting for visitors Dhimurru's work and achievements over the years. They also had the opportunity to attend presentations and participate in festival events.

Popular with visitors again this year were the LoC guided walks led by the Dhimurru and Yirralka rangers. Over two days, rangers introduced about 150 guests to the cultural and environmental significance of the North East Arnhem Land.

**WORKING  
TOGETHER**



## WORKING TOGETHER: DHIMURRU'S PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

Dhimurru has developed and sustained partnerships with a wide variety of organisations over the years. We work together with Yolŋu organisations, government agencies, educational institutions, researchers, NGOs and corporate businesses on a range of programs, sharing knowledge, expertise and resources, investing in activities, and providing training. By extending and strengthening these partnerships Dhimurru seeks to develop mutual understanding and commitment to looking after country; *Njilimurru bukmaḵ djäka wäŋawu* – all of us together looking after country. This is often referred to as Dhimurru's 'both-ways' approach where contemporary n̄paki expertise is sought to help inform Yolŋu decision-making.

### DURING 2018–19 DHIMURRU'S PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS INCLUDED THE ORGANISATIONS LISTED BELOW:

Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)  
Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA)  
Aerolens  
Arafura Marine  
Australian Border Force (ABF)  
Australian Defence Force—Norforce  
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)  
Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet – Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS)  
• Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs)  
• Indigenous Ranger Grants  
• Learning on Country (LOC)  
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources – Biosecurity  
Department of Employment Education and Workplace Relations  
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs  
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities  
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)  
Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)  
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE)  
BirdLife Australia  
Buku Larrŋgay Mulka art and multimedia centre  
Centre for Aboriginal Economic and Policy Research, Australian National University (ANU)  
Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA)  
Cotton On Foundation  
Developing East Arnhem Limited (DEAL)  
Earth Collective  
East Arnhem Land Tourist Association (EALTA)  
East Arnhem Regional Council  
Ghost Nets Australia  
Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation (GAC)  
Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC)  
Jawun Corporate Partnerships

Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation and Yirralka Rangers  
Lirwi Aboriginal Corporation  
LJ Hooker Foundation—Culture College  
Marine and Coastal Community Network (NT)  
Mathakal Rangers  
Marŋarr Resource Centre  
Melbourne University  
Miwatj Employment and Participation (MEP)  
Miwatj Health  
NFP Industry Pty Ltd  
Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited (NCL)  
Nhulunbuy Community Volunteers  
North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)  
Northern Land Council (NLC)  
NT Department of the Attorney-General and Justice – Correctional Services – Daŋjala Work Camp  
NT Department of Education through the LoC program  
NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics  
NT Department of Primary Industry and Resources – Fisheries  
NT Department of Tourism, Sports and Culture  
• Parks and Wildlife Commission  
• Tourism NT  
NT Police and Marine Enforcement Unit  
NT Seafood Council  
Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination and the Indigenous Coordination Centre – Miwatj Region  
Parks Australia  
PEW Foundation – Country Needs People  
Regional Ranger Groups  
Rio Tinto Gove Operations  
Rirratjŋu Aboriginal Corporation and Bunuwal Investments (RAC)  
Rotary Club Nhulunbuy  
Seagrass Watch  
South Australian Museum  
Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM)  
Threatened Species Network (NT)  
The Christensen Fund  
University of New South Wales (UNSW)  
Yolŋu Business Enterprises 2 (YBE 2)  
Yirralka School  
Yothu Yindi Foundation (YYF)

## JAWUN

Dhimurru has partnerships with many organisations and groups. The Dhimurru and Jawun partnership commenced in 2013 and several volunteers have been seconded to Dhimurru to assist and strengthen organisational operations over a five-week period. This year Dhimurru had three secondees working on projects that support the work of the organisation.

### Elizabeth Mair

Elizabeth Mair's secondment with Dhimurru focused on the establishment of a new Geographical Information System (GIS) for Dhimurru's spatial mapping. Her work included gathering and sorting spatial data from previous Dhimurru projects and external sources. The new GIS will allow Dhimurru users to access mapping through desktop computers in the office as well as online and via mobile devices. The ability to display and interact with a variety of spatial layers at once, such as Dhimurru's IPA, managed tracks and high-resolution imagery, will be valuable for future planning and operations.

Elizabeth reflected on her time with Dhimurru: *"I have been thankful for my secondment through Jawun to learn about the Yolŋu culture and explore beautiful Arnhem Land."*

### Megan Utter

Megan Utter used her legal training and experience on a not-for-profit board to assist Dhimurru with governance and risk-related projects. She progressed a review of Dhimurru's rule book and drafted changes that will be put to the Dhimurru board and members for approval in the months ahead. The changes are aimed at ensuring smooth and effective running of the organisation in accordance with members' preferences and requirements of the Register of Indigenous Corporations.

Megan also researched the process of becoming a Public Benevolent Institution for the board to consider and looked at risk management challenges associated with bāru (crocodile) in the IPA. Her work added valuable insight into Dhimurru's management.

### Peter Lindenmayer

Peter Lindenmayer worked with Dhimurru in late 2018 and his brief was to focus on three main projects that were a priority for Dhimurru at the time. He worked on developing a workflow and project brief for a proposed overhaul of the Dhimurru permit system. He also researched the marine debris issue in East Arnhem Land and developed a brief for the Learning on Country Aboriginal Corporation, which could be used to seek external funding.

Five weeks is a relatively small amount of time, but Peter managed to complete all components of his brief, which provided great support for Dhimurru.

## RIO TINTO GOVE OPERATIONS AND DHIMURRU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

In July 2018 Dhimurru Board signed a new three-year partnership agreement with Rio Tinto Gove Operations. Whilst the two organisations have had an ongoing relationship for more than 10 years, the new agreement marked a new way of operating.

The agreement provides a framework for a collaborative approach to cultural and environmental resource management activities on the Gove Peninsula. Both parties are assigned Key Performance Indicators to ensure the realisation of mutual benefits under the agreement. The partnership consists of both financial and in-kind components.

The new agreement enables Dhimurru to direct funding to support its priority projects. This financial year has seen funds directed to track maintenance projects and cultural mapping in Port Bradshaw. In addition, Board members and Ranger staff

have participated in several Rio Tinto activities to support the business's cultural heritage, environment and mining activities. These include a tour of rehabilitation works at the mine and Residue Disposal Area as well participation in mine mapping and survey works. In addition, both parties have also worked together on monitoring and research projects of biodiversity within the area including the Black-footed Tree Rat.

The new partnership agreement has strengthened relationships and sets the scene for continued collaborations.



## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

### DESIGNATED RECREATION AREAS

Yolŋu landowners allow visitors access to their country for recreational purposes, and for many years Dhimurru has managed visitors' access to designated recreation areas (DRAs) and issued permits through a delegation and agreement with the Northern Land Council (NLC). Revenue gained from those permits have been returned to Dhimurru to help fund management of the permit system and maintenance of the DRAs.

This year, Dhimurru worked with landowners to develop a proposal that has been submitted to the NLC for a new licence agreement. Consultations have been undertaken and a new agreement is under negotiation.

The new agreement will provide Dhimurru with certainty over the management and maintenance of DRAs for the next 20 years. It is aimed at enabling land management practices to continue and be strengthened in line with landowners' wishes whilst accommodating the predicted increase in visitation to the region. Landowners continue to support Dhimurru by committing funds from permits. Under the new arrangements, landowners will also receive some financial remuneration from camping fees.

In line with the new agreement, a new online permit system will be developed. Permit conditions will be reviewed, and new visitor information and safety messages will be accessible online. These changes are forecast to be implemented over the course of the new financial year.

### DHIMURRU ANNUAL REPORT GOES DIGITAL

Next year Dhimurru's Annual Report will only be produced in a digital format. With a move away from the production of paper-based documents, the Annual Report will be digitally produced. A link will be found on the Dhimurru website for those wishing to access it.

## FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS SUMMARY

### DHIMURRU ABORIGINAL CORPORATION INCOME 2018-2019

INCOME SOURCE	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Australian Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet:	Indigenous Ranger Grants	<b>\$959,538</b>
Indigenous Advancement Strategy	Indigenous Protected Area Grants	<b>\$341,211</b>
Northern Territory Government:	Cultural Landscape Mapping	<b>\$10,800</b>
Department of Environmental and Natural Resources	Harnessing Drone Technology for Seagrass Mapping	<b>\$18,272</b>
	Remote Recreation Area Servicing Unit	<b>\$9,000</b>
	Indigenous Protected Area Marine Debris Management	<b>\$26,500</b>
Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation	Marine Debris Global Influence Program	<b>\$3,000</b>
Rio Tinto Gove Operations	Dhimurru Partnering Agreement	<b>\$100,000</b>
	Community Development Fund – Skidsteer Trailer	<b>\$45,455</b>
Landowner’s Sea Country Management Contribution	Sea Ranger Program	<b>\$100,922</b>
Cotton on Foundation	Learning on Country Program Support	<b>\$70,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,684,698</b>

## YOLŪ MATHA – ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

YOLŪ MATHA	ENGLISH
bāru	crocodile
bukmak	everyone
buṅgul	dance
dhāwu	story
dhimurru	east wind
djama	work
galtha rom	both-ways learning workshop
manikay	songs
merri	string
miyalk	women
ṅāpaki	people other than Yolŷu
ṅatha	food
ṅilimurru bukmak djāka wāṅawu	all of us together looking after country
rom	law and/or belief
wānga waṅaṅu	landowners
yapa	sister

### DESIGNATED RECREATION AREAS AND PLACE NAMES

Baṅambarrṅa	Rainbow Cliffs	Maṅaṅgaymi	Scout Camp
Bariṅura	Little Bondi	Nhulun	Mount Saunders
Binydjarrṅa	Daliwuy Bay	Dumuy	Turtle Beach
Dhamitṅinya	East Woody Island	Waṅuwuy	Cape Arnhem
Gaḍalathami	Town Beach	– Rāṅjura	– Caves Beach
Gālaru	East Woody Beach	– Gayṅaḍa	– Twin Eagles
Gaṅami	Wonga Creek	– Ḷurrukurru	– Oyster Beach
Ganinyara	Granite Islands	Wathawuy	Latram River and Goanna Lagoon
Gapuru	Memorial Park	Wirwawuy	Cape Wirwawuy
Garanhan	Macassan Beach		
Gumuniya	Buffalo Creek		
Guwatṅurumurru	Giddy River		
Ḷombuy	Crocodile Creek		





# DHIMURRU

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

PO Box 1551  
Nhulunbuy NT 0881  
Ph: 08 8939 2700  
Fax: 08 8987 3224  
Email: [permits@dhimurru.com.au](mailto:permits@dhimurru.com.au)  
Web: [www.dhimurru.com.au](http://www.dhimurru.com.au)

