

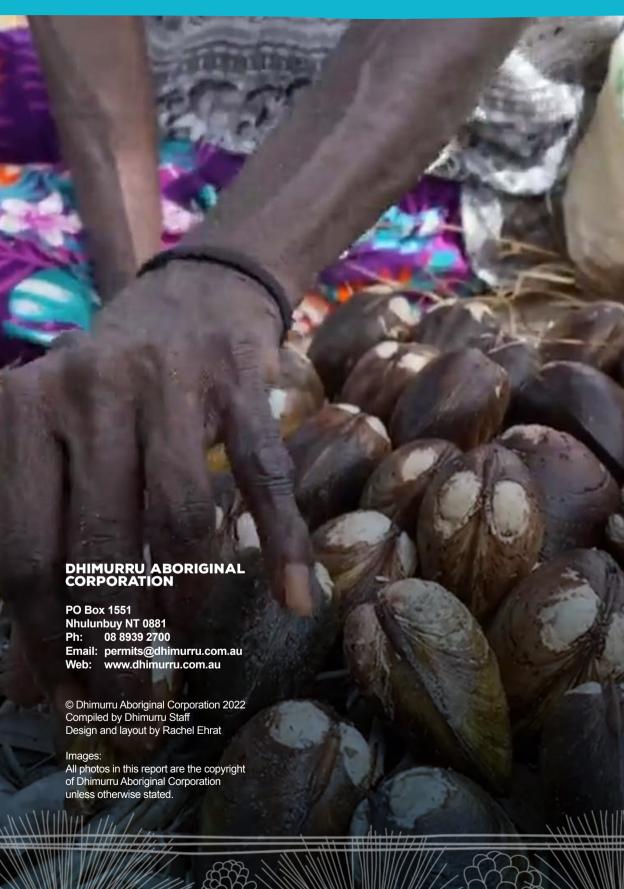
DHIMURRU

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

2021-2022







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FOREWORD

Malati Yunupiŋu
CHAIR 2021- 2022

In my second year as Chairperson, I am proud of what has been achieved in challenging times. This year we have learned to "live with COVID" whilst continuing to deliver on the Plan of Management, now coming into its final year.

We continue to work with our many partners, and in April Dhimurru, Yirralka and Marthakal Rangers spent time together on the AIMS science vessel learning about underwater monitoring, we are looking forward to hearing the results later in 2022.

After a hiatus due to COVID restrictions, we have re-engaged our staff in training programs and continue to commit to strengthening our staff knowledge and skills.

The Board has started thinking about the future of Dhimurru and with support from the National Indigenous Australians Agency, the development of a new Plan of Management is underway. Informing this process and placing Yolnu knowledge and knowing as the foundation of our work, Dhimurru working in partnership with Yirralka Rangers, are exploring innovative ways of expressing this in our

work. This work is supported by a grant from NT Ranger Grants.

This year we welcomed Djawa II (Timmy)
Burarrwaŋa, who took up the post of Managing
Director. Djawa II comes with a wealth of experience
to share with Dhimurru and help guide its direction
in the future.

We have also said goodbye to long-term Senior Ranger Grace Wununmurra who served the organisation for nine years. We wish her luck in her endeavours in Cairns.

Sadly, we also mourned the loss of a "critical friend" of Dhimurru – Paul Josif. Paul provided advice and support to the Board and staff of Dhimurru for many years and his loss is felt amongst those who knew him.

We continue to strengthen links with our partners as we re-connect with them after two years of disruption. The Board and staff thank them for their patience over this period and look forward to building stronger partnerships in 2022.

Many of the Dhimurru Board of Directors will stand down this year, after completing their two-year terms. I would like to take the opportunity to thank those who have supported me as the Chair of the Board as I complete my term. I hope to see you again.

Malati Yunupiŋu Chairman

YOLNU MATHA SPELLING **AND PRONUNCIATION**

Yolnu Matha translates literally as 'the tongue of the Yolnu 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 Yolnu Matha differ from those used for English since many of the sounds found in Yolnu Matha are not found in English. In pronouncing words in Yolnu Matha the emphasis is always on the first syllable. The following sounds are represented by letters in Yolnu 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

ı	CONSONANT SOUNDS	
	b – as in boy	nh – 'n' with tongue between teeth
	d – as in dog	ny – 'n' with tongue curled behind lo
	<u>d</u> – retroflexed: retroflexed sounds are	η – as in singing
	pronounced while the tip of the tongue curls back to roof of mouth	p – as in rapid
	dh – pronounced with the tip of the tongue between the teeth	r – as in the American pronunciation with tongue retroflexed
	dj – pronounced with tip of tongue curled behind lower teeth and top of tongue touching palate	rr – rolled sound common in Scottis pronunciation
	g – as in ragged	t – as in tar
	k – as in bucket	<u>t</u> – retroflexed
	I – as in lump	th – 't' with tip of tongue between te
	<u>I</u> – retroflexed	tj – 't' with tip of tongue curled arour lower teeth
	m – as in man	w – as in way
	n – as in net	y – as in yellow
	<u>n</u> – retroflexed	' – apostrophe: indicates a stop in a

ind lower teeth iation of car cottish en teeth around behind in a word

This reference is taken from Raymatja Munungiritj & Trevor Stockly, Yolnu Matha: An Introduction to Gumatj and Related Languages in NE Arnhemland, Yirrkala Community School Literature Production Centre, Yirrkala, NT, 1985. Other words and meanings are taken from R. David Zorc, Yolnu-Matha Dictionary, re-printed by Education and Technology Unit Batchelor College June 1996.



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 Dadayna 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 Yolnu 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 Yolnu will make decisions for this land, not government officials or any other person who is not a landowner.

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 Yolnu law and belief."

IN YOLNU MATHA

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

From dhawuru dhaŋu ŋaya yaka wäŋa ga hundred or more than one hundred years dhaŋu dhäruk ŋarru dhäya wekarram. Mä nhän yaka ŋarru yolŋuyu bäki, banhaya ŋayi generation ga generation ga generation. ŋayi yaka ŋarru dhäya, mä dhanal ŋarru nhäma banhaya ŋayi, banha yakan nhalpiyan dhanal nyenan ŋätjil dilak. Ga nhalpiyan dhanal yakan gatjpu'yuwan ŋätjil dilak. Yo—Dhuwa Yirritja, Yothu ga Yindi.

Bukmak ŋayi malanynha yaka dhäya manikaymi, rommi, dhulaŋmi, dhäwu'mi. Banhalaŋa ŋayiŋa, dhanaliŋgu nuku djalkiri. Bitjan nhan yaka ŋayim malanya dhäya gaŋunha Land Rights-ŋa dhäruk bilanya bili. Yo, decision-maker nhanbayi yana ŋayi waṭaŋu.

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

Ga biyalpul ŋalma ŋarru nhäma ŋoy gapu banha dhäya yaka IPA-ŋa, ŋalma ŋarru djäma rrambaŋi waripu guŋkuwuŋ agencies-wuŋ, mä ŋalmaŋiŋgu ŋoy gapu ŋarru ŋuwakurru ŋoyya, yaka marimi dhaŋaŋ dhukun, ŋalmaliŋguŋ ŋayi. ŋoyŋa gapuŋa, ga dhäwu bayikuy ŋayiwuy dhanal IPA ga ŋalma ŋarru djäka, ga ŋoywuy gapuwuy maypal, miyapunu ga waripu mala banha ŋalma bayiŋ ŋoka.

Dhaŋu ŋayi yolŋuwu yana, Yolŋuyu ŋarru warkthun dhäruk nhanbayi Yolŋuyu yana. Djinaku ŋayiwu ŋarakawu, yaka Gapmandhu wo bilaŋ yolthu waripuŋuyu ŋayinharrayu Yolŋuyu. Nhanbayi yana ŋayi-waṭaŋuyu, rom-waṭaŋuyu, waŋarr-waṭaŋuyu, gamunungu-watanuyu wo manavin-watanuyu.

Narru dhärukma dhanu gunyanda bayikun nalapalmiyu banha narrunan ga dhanu badak nyena yaka. Narru dhärukma dhanalingu ga gatjpum badak wälna. Djinaku Dhimurruwum self developmentkum, ga self-managementkum.





DHIMURRU BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

CHAIRPERSON

Malati Yunupinu

DEPUTY CHAIR

Mawalan Marika

(Mayatili Marika from end of June 2022)

LIFETIME MEMBER

Djawa Yunupinu

DIRECTORS

Banula Marika

Natjina Marika

Gurumin Marika

Bovan Yunupinu

Djangal Munungurritj

Lirrwa Ganambarr

(casual - taking over from Yilipawuy Ganambarr)

Diambuwal Munungurr

(casual - taking over from Ganbarrarrk Kevin Munungurr)

Nimiripin Wununmurra Djakapurra Munyarryun

FIGURE 1. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF DHIMURRU ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



DHIMURRU STAFF 2021-2022

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Dhupilawuy Fabian Marika (until December 2021) Djäwa II (Timmy) Burarrwaŋa

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Christine Burke

SENIOR CULTURAL ADVISOR

Rrawun Maymuru

BUSINESS SERVICES MANAGER

Maureen Neil

BUSINESS SUPPORTOFFICER

Mahaliah Wangurra-James Roshana Khatiwada

FACILITATORS

Paul Augustin - Projects Luke Playford - Sea Country (until July 2021) Jessica Puntoriero - Sea Country Samantha Muller – Miyalk Rangers/Plan of Management Grace Wunuŋmurra – Miyalk Rangers (until April 2022)

LEARNING ON COUNTRY COORDINATOR

lan Hutton (until December 2021) Daniel McLaren

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT ROM'GU DJÄKAMI

Mawalan Marika

SENIOR RANGERS

Gathapura Munungurr (until July 2021) Micah (Markuwatj) Pascoe Wangawuy Munungirritj (Acting)

RANGERS

Wakuratjpi (Hamish) Gondarra Wulwat Marika Boaz Wanambi Marratakthun (Murray) Munungurritj Nuwaniny Burarrawana Djiwuruku Yunupinu Ricardo Munungurr





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.



Yolnu control and empowerment

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

Respect Yolnu 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 Yolnu 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 Yolnu land and seas.

Näpaki recreation values

The goal of our visitor management is to encourage an appreciation of the cultural and natural values of the IPA for napaki 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 Yolnu 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 Yolnu knowledge

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

Apply Yolnu knowledge and practices

We apply Yolnu 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 Yolnu 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 Yolnu 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, Yolnu 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, Yolnu wänga waṭanu (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 forty kilometres 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 Yolnu landowners in managing their land and sea country
- · manage Recreation Areas designated for visitor use.

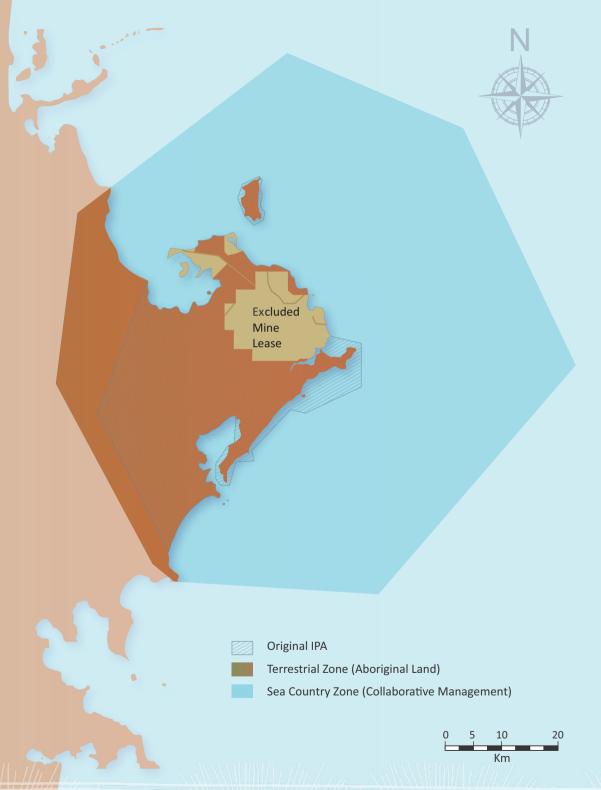
In collaboration with partner agencies, our rangers are responsible for the day-to-day management of the IPA, supported by the continued hands-on involvement of the Yolnu community taking care of their traditional country. Traditional resource management practices such as the use of fire are critical 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 Ranger Employment 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 78 across Australia. Together they contribute about 46.5 percent of the total area of the NRSPA, which also includes all of Australia's national parks and conservation reserves.







Lirrwa Ganambarr, with Dialinda Yunupinu, Diäwa II Burarrwana, Rrawun Maymuru and Lachlan Sutherland

YOLNU KNOWLEDGE FRAMEWORK

The Yolnu Knowledge Framework project is a collaboration between the Dhimurru and Yirralka Rangers to prioritise Yolnu approaches to managing Country in their Indigenous Protected Areas in North East Arnhem Land.

Yolnu formalized their caring for Country by establishing Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation 30 years ago. Over this period the work of Indigenous rangers has been recognised by governments, with other organisations supporting Indigenous land and sea management. While this support is very welcome, it often is provided through a Western lens which makes sense of environmental management in a different way.

Developing a planning framework based on Yolŋu worldviews will reinforceYolŋu as the core knowledge holders, experts and decision-makers for Country.

The project allows traditional knowledge to be recognised as the basis for local and regional management approaches. From this basis, western frameworks, tools and strategies can then be considered to complement and support the management approach.

YOLNU APPROACH

Yolnu approach to management is embedded in complex system of gurrutu (kinship) with country and with each other. These systems for management have enabled a sustainable relationship with Country that is guided by cultural practices and laws.

Yolnu customary knowledge, rights and responsibilities have always been the foundation for Yolnu to care as part of Country in the region and underpins Yolnu life and relationships with Country.

A Yolnu management approach is based on understanding wata (winds), nurruwilyun (seasons), gurrutu (kinship), manikay (song), ngatha (food) and miny'tji (paintings), as the foundations for djäka wänawu (caring as Country).

The process of developing the project is important and will ensure that younger generations are included in sharing of the foundations of this regional Yolnu approach. As such this project offers an innovative and exciting opportunity to re-envisage planning in Indigenous contexts that

can offer insights and lessons to other Ranger groups interested in reframing their management approach in the future.

The project includes employing a Rom'gu Djäkami (caretaker of the lore) and Elders from the region are being interviewed to guide the development of the project.

A series of Galtha Rom Wind Workshops will contribute to planning. The planning process

will also develop a Yolŋu indicator system for monitoring and evaluating work in the Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA).

A regional plan that outlines the key priorities and collaborations for Dhimurru and Yirralka will be formulated. To illustrate the outcome of the project a documentary will be made that is accessible to all Yolnu and other stakeholders.



Top: Mawalan II Marika with Warralka Wununmurra Bottom right: Andrew Leku. Bottom left: Yumutjin Wununmurra





PROVIDING VISITORS WITH ACCESS TO DHIMURRU RECREATION AREAS

Dhimurru have several designated campsites located on the coastline and beside the beautiful freshwater river systems. These accommodate local residents, tourists and Commercial Tour Operators that visit the IPA. Permits range from 3-Day Visitor Access to Annual Family Access Permits.

Camping availability can be checked online and booked up to six months in advance. With the

increasing number of visitors to the Recreation Areas, Dhimurru recommends planning your camping trips in advance to avoid disappointment. With COVID restrictions easing, Dhimurru saw a significant increase in the number of visitors, issuing almost 1,400 individual permits in the

a significant increase in the number of visitors, issuing almost 1,400 individual permits in the month of May alone. The busiest period of the year is from May until September when we saw a reduction in the number of visitors to the sites.

The graph below shows the number Visitor Access Permits issued.

VISITOR ACCESS PERMITS JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022





The graph below shows the number Camping Permits issued.

CAMPING PERMITSJULY 2021 - JUNE 2022



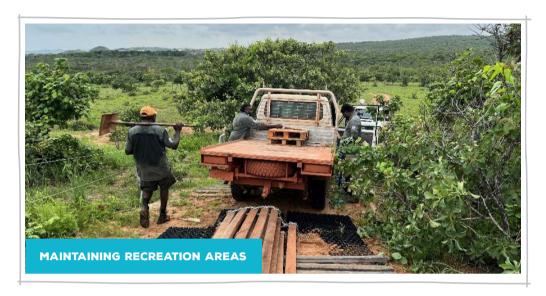
For those who aren't camping, Day-Visit Areas are available for those with Access Permits, except for the designated "Camping Only" areas such as Wanuwuy, Manangaymi, Ganami and Gäpuru.

Wanuwuy continues to close from mid-August until late September for turtle conservation due to the breeding season. Lurrupukurru has also been closed indefinately due to the passing of a Traditional Owner.

Ganami becomes inaccessible during the Wet Season and remains closed until the track dries out and is passable with four wheel drive vehicles.

Rangers patrol the Recreation Areas regularly, checking Permits and for compliance with permit conditions. Generally, visitors to the IPA are respectful of the conditions of the permit and appreciative they can enjoy the beautiful Dhimurru IPA.





CORDUROY UPGRADE AT WANUWUY

Repairs of corduroys at Wanuwuy (Cape Arnhem) commenced late last year before the peak visitor season.

This work is labour-intensive and involves significant resources to complete. Rangers worked hard to ensure visitors have safe access to the Recreation Areas.

The first corduroy at Wanuwuy was repaired along with two remaining corduroys that needed repair. The timber used for this work was sourced locally from the Gumatj timber mill.

This year, with recommendations from Gumatj, it was decided to change the design of the corduroys to prolong the life of the structure. It is envisaged that the new modification will prevent timbers from shifting when vehicles are passing over, helping to spread the weight of the vehicles evenly.

It is anticipated that future installation will occur at other locations once grading of the Wanuwuy Escarpment track is completed.







WEED MANAGEMENT

Dhimurru continued management of invasive weeds throughout the IPA this year with the return to Dhambaliya to control infestations of coffee bush at three active sites.

In October 2021, Dhimurru Rangers, Facilitators and three NEAL Aboriginal Corporation employees camped out at Gutjanan community to continue the 10-year eradication program of coffee bush. Over the 5-day period, Rangers completed eradication of established growth at two sites, Golmawuy and Waykadawuy, and treated established growth at Bakalala.

Two weeks following this event, Rangers returned to Dhambaliya with the support from 20 Australian Defence Force personnel to finish the eradication of coffee bush at the last remaining site, Bakalala. This collaboration was part of a two-way knowledge exchange between Dhimurru

and the Australian Defence Force to share knowledge in regard to weed management, OH&S and mechanical fault finding with equipment.

Unfortunately, due to extreme weather conditions, this site was not completed. A return trip is planned this year as soon as practical to complete the site and perform follow up weed treatments at all 13 sites. Weed treatment focused on key priority areas such as Recreation Areas, roadsides and other identified hotspots.

Dhimurru also continued their role to coordinate and strategise weed management activities across the region with the North East Arnhem Region (NEAR) weeds group. The NEAR group achieved a key milestone this year with the ratification of the NEAR Weed Action Plan (WAP) for the periods 2021 – 2026 and are planning further strategic engagement with key stakeholders during the upcoming 2022 weed season.



BÄRU

Bäru (crocodile) is significant to Yolnu and managed with support of Traditional Owners. Traps are placed in the recreational areas when Dhimurru receives reports of any sighting that may pose an imminent threat to the community.

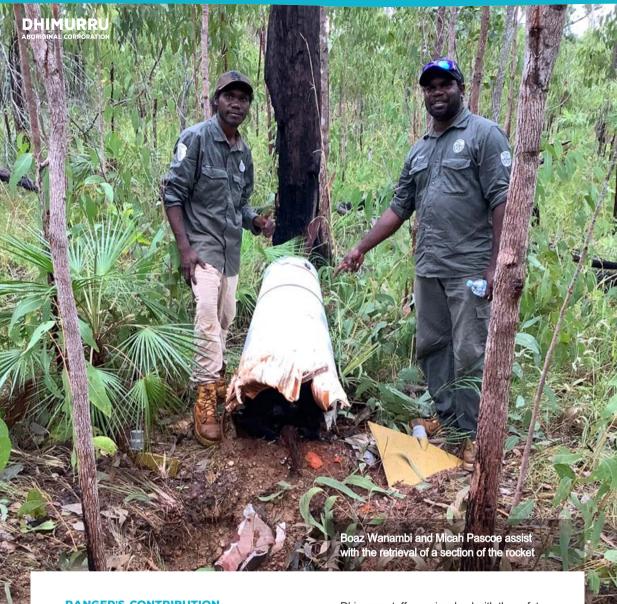
It is generally widespread knowledge that there is the possibility of bäru being in the waters of our recreational areas. Although Dhimurru continues to educate school children about the danger of bäru through the Crocwise program, it is the responsibility of visitors to the IPA to be vigilant.

TRACKS

Dhimurru has continued to improve the roads in the Designated Recreation Areas. Significant planning, approvals and finances go into the upgrade of the track network to ensure the tracks are accessible to visitors especially those who may have limited experience driving remotely.

Dhimurru aims to manage its track network with appropriate planning, formation and maintenance to avoid major erosion and damage to these valuable assets. Most importantly, the tracks protect the environmental and cultural values of the Recreation Areas. It also means that Rangers can do their work safely, efficiently and effectively.

The major project for tracks this year has been the renewal of the corduroys at Wanuwuy, grading and repairs of Banambarrna access track, Wathawuy access tracks including adding more bedrock to the creek crossings. These particular areas get the most vehicle traffic during the dry as these sites are extremely popular with young families and day visitors. Dhimurru keeps the tracks in these areas prepped for the wet season when the access track network takes a battering from heavy and extensive rain periods.



RANGER'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPACE INDUSTRY

Dhimurru has been in discussions with Equatorial Launch Australia (ELA), owner and operator of the Arnhem Space Centre for over 18 months, learning about the launch of their rockets from Gulkula.

An agreement was reached between Gumatj Corporation Ltd and ELA, on behalf of the Gumatj people, to lease a section of their country for the purpose of developing a space industry in the region. ELA was contracted by NASA to launch three rockets over a three-week period in June/July 2022. This is the first launch of NASA rockets in a commercial facility outside the United States.

Dhimurru staff were involved with the safety committee that discussed approaches that could be taken to retrieve the rocket, and the retrieval of a section of the rockets that landed in the Dhimurru IPA. Rangers played an important role in facilitating on country visits and providing advice and guidance to ELA staff during the project.

The Rangers escorted NASA and ELA staff on country to locate the rocket section before it was airlifted via helicopter back to the launch site. The payload section and other debris was collected by the Mimal Rangers 250 kilometres away near Bulman.







MARINE DEBRIS AND GHOST NET COORDINATOR FUNDING

Parks Australia has partnered with Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to deliver a Pilot Indigenous Rangers Coastal Clean-up Project (IRCCP).

This project provides Indigenous Ranger groups with training and the equipment necessary to locate and remove deadly ghost nets and marine debris from the northern coastlines and Sea Country.

Dhimurru Rangers were one of five ranger groups to be successful in securing funding as part of a pilot grant program under the IRCCP.

Dhimurru proposed a dedicated coordinator to support clean-up activities to enhance targeted outcomes and foster community and external participation to maximise the amount of ghost nets and marine debris removed.

A dedicated coordinator has been successfully appointed in this role and will work to achieve the following outcomes in the new financial year.

- A coordinated approach to manage data collection and project communication
- Work in collaboration with municipal services and other key stakeholders to develop recycling options for removed marine debris

 Coordinate local activities around Nhulunbuy and regional activities to the adjacent and shared Traditional Sea Estates (Gumurr' Marthakal/ Wessel Islands) to the west and Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) to the south.

In September 2021, **780 kilograms of marine debris** was collected during the Wanuwuy Survey. This information is documented and sent to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and is used as a benchmark for how the debris is impacting our coastline.

Marine debris statistics for the year included:

1352 PERSON HOURS spent cleaning up beaches

6497 KILOGRAMS

of marine debris removed from beaches

15.42 KILOMETRES of beach cleaned

28 DAYS

of beach clean ups



HELPING HANDS

Arnhem Coast Clean Up

Arnhem Coast Clean Up (ACCU) community group conducted seven clean-up events with over 180 volunteers over the past 12 months, removing three tonnes of marine debris.

ACCU collected marine debris for the Wanuwy section of the Dhimurru IPA; a significant achievement and contribution to managing marine debris.

The volunteers also joined Dhimurru and NEAL staff for a massive clean-up day at Dhambaliya in late October.

In 2021, the Arnhem Coast Clean Up were recognised for their outstanding contributions to the wider community and awarded 'winners' of the NT Landcare Award.

Dhimurru would like to thank the ACCU group for their continued support assisting in keeping our coastline free from marine debris.

Dhambaliya marine debris clean up

A joint marine debris clean up event at Dhambaliya was held with Arnhem Coast Clean Up (ACCU) and NEAL Aboriginal Corporation staff. Eight Dhimurru rangers, along with 16 ACCU volunteers and three NEAL staff assisted with this clean up.

Four hundred and fifty kilograms of marine debris was removed from Rirrpalna on Dhambaliya. Over two and a half kilometres of beach or four

and a quarter hectares was cleared over a three-hour period.

Two Dhimurru utes were used to transfer marine debris and ghost net fragments back to the Banubanu beach where the barge transported it back to Nhulunbuy.

The coordination of the clean-up on Dhambaliya is a logistical challenge due to its remote location, rough seas, and the strong winds of the dry season. The barge needs to be able to safely land on the island to deliver and retrieve the necessary equipment.

The weather prevents Dhimurru from being able to hold these clean ups in the peak marine debris and ghost net season when most of the rubbish is washed up on the beaches.

ACCU provided a BBQ lunch and the well needed shade. It was one of the hottest days in October and everyone felt the heat but were satisfied with the success of the day.

Norforce support activities on Dhambaliya and Daliwuv Bav

Dhimurru and Norforce continued building their relationship through discussions on how they could work collaboratively on projects that would benefit both groups.

In October last year, Dhimurru Rangers and Norforce personnel travelled to Daliwuy Bay to conduct Sea Country patrols using two Dhimurru and three Norforce vessels.



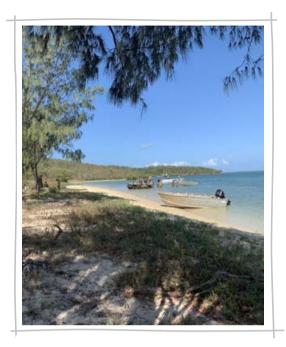
They then travelled to Policeman's beach where they embarked on a knowledge sharing exchange while Rangers demonstrated how to prepare weti (wallaby) in a ground oven and discussed ideas for large scale collaborative projects for 2022.

The outcome of this discussion was a proposal for Norforce personnel to assist this Dhimurru Rangers with the eradication of an infestation of Coffee Bush on Dhambaliya.

Norforce committed one day to assisting, working closely together to tackle the large infestation.

The team worked tirelessly to eradicate much of the infestation using the 'cut, stump method' by chain sawing large trees and quickly applying insecticide to the stump.

Dhimurru Senior Cultural Advisor, Rrawun Maymuru and skipper, Hamish Gondarra took the opportunity to take Norforce personnel for a trip on Sea Ranger III and explain the cultural significance of the area.



FISHING COMPETITION - COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

The annual ladies fishing competition was held on 12th and 13th March this year. As in previous years, Dhimurru were invited to present information on Permit requirements and general safety information whilst on the water and at the briefing night. This event is very well attended, with visitors travelling from interstate to compete in the competition.

Yirralka Rangers, Dhimurru Rangers, Nhulunbuy Police, Australian Border Force, Water Police and NT Fisheries team up together each year to conduct a joint patrol on the water for this competition.

Due to this competition attracting so many visitors to the area, Dhimurru welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with these key organisations to promote safety on the water and respect for Yolnu Sea Country.

Dhimurru Ranger, Murray Munungurritj also engaged in the learning opportunity to conduct

vehicle and vessel compliance checks with the help of the Nhulunbuy and Water Police.

Dhimurru look forward to participating in this collaboration each year. We thank Nhulunbuy Regional Sports Fishing Club for considering Dhimurru's role in this event.







Dhimurru, in collaboration with Yirrkala School, Yirralka Rangers and Laynhapuy Homelands School have agreed to amalgamate their resources to produce a series of short videos about the Yolqu seasonal calendar.

Yolnu elders have deep and detailed knowledge of the seasons and seasonal indicators, and deep observations of how the seasons are changing. They are passionate about sharing seasonal calendar knowledge and the six seasons by which they live. Yolnu follow the plants and trees that tell which season it is and what kind of plants and animals are available for harvest.





This series will benefit not only Yolnu children but also educate visitors and help develop an appreciation of the depth of Yolnu knowledge. It will also guide the collaborating organisations to prioritise their seasonal work.

The project so far has documented six Seasonal Calendar days.

Two days were at Daliwuy Bay where one focussed on namura (edible shell such as mud mussels, mangrove and black lip oysters) and the other on preparing maranydjalk (stingrays) during Rarranhdharr season (late in the dry when water is scarce and animals are getting thin). Another day held during Midawarr season (a time of plenty, after the wet, with easterly winds) focussed on harvesting yams with

school students. Another trip to Barrkira was focused on black lip oysters. Two videos are dedicated to Yalaŋbara,a sacred area including a waterhole, focused on rock oysters. Another trip was to Dhälinybuy to document the harvest and preparation of a variety of Yolŋu bush medicines.

The working group meet monthly with the aim of documenting, in video format, the seasons, the indicator species and the key foods for harvest at each time. These recordings also entail detailed observations of how to hunt for certain species, the preparation of foods and the related Yolnu metaphors of knowledge for those processes.



LEARNING ON COUNTRY

The Learning on Country (LOC) program has continued to deliver engaging meaningful activities to Yirrkala school students, the focus being on the transfer of cultural knowledge and developing skills. These activities also form part of the qualifications for Conservation and Eco-system Management through the Vocational Education Training program.

In 2022 the LOC program expanded from the Senior Secondary students to include Middle School students. This has proven to be highly successful with significant interest from the younger students. Weekly activities for the senior students has been focussed on completing units in Certificate II in Conservation and Eco-system Management through the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education. Students have gained skills in small motor use and maintenance, planting trees and shrubs, performing ecological restoration works, workplace communication and Work Health and Safety.

These skills have been developed on-Country and through classroom-based activities. Dhimurru Rangers have supported the students by passing on their expertise, and are seen as positive role models for the students.

Middle year student's learning has been focussed on cultural knowledge transfer in relation to the seasons, seasonal foods, indicators and activities. Under the guidance of Nalapalmi and Rangers, students have learned hunting and harvesting of bush foods including different types of yams and fruits, how to cook gurrumatji (magpie goose) and collect and prepare gadayka (stringy bark) for making traditional shelters.



GALTHA ROMS WORKSHOPS AND CULTURAL CAMPS

Students attended the first of four Wata (Wind) Galtha Rom Workshops hosted by Yirrkala School and Dhimurru. Laynhapuy Homelands and Gapuwiyak Schools along with Yirralka Rangers joined Yirrkala School, Dhimurru Rangers and Ŋalapalmi (Elders) to participate in the Dhimurru Wind Galtha Rom at Daliwuy Bay. Rangers and Ŋalapalmi worked together to teach students about the Dhimurru wind and rain, plants, animals, Climate Justice and Politics and Dhimurru Manikay (song) and Milkarri (crying).

For cultural reasons, the second of the planned Wata Galtha's was replaced with a Seasonal Calendar Camp at Manangaymi. This two-night camp focussed on traditional knowledge transfer of bush foods, indicator plants and seasonal activities associated with Midawarr and Wadut seasons. Students learned more about the indicators and on this occasion how to cook wallaby, how to find, collect and cook ganguri (long yam), and process djitama (round yam) safe for eating.







DHIMURRU ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Dhimurru is committed to ensuring our Rangers have the knowledge and skills to undertake their work on and off country safely and efficiently as part of our core business.

This year Rangers have participated in a number of training courses and certificates from firearms training for feral animal management to chainsaw operation, weeds and chemical training which are all essential skills for our Rangers.

Other essential skills training the Rangers have undertaken are defensive four-wheel drive operation and recovery on dirt and sandy tracks. Also, with the acquisition of a new all-terrain vehicle, and new staff, guadbike and all-terrain

vehicle operation training has proven invaluable for the Ranger's skillset. Rangers learned about safe operation of these vehicles, how to recover a bogged vehicle and basic maintenance. These skills enable the Rangers to travel out and around the Dhimurru IPA safely and confidently.

Other training that our Rangers have completed are forklift and skid steer operation which are useful for around the workshop, safer manual handling of equipment when heading out bush and maintaining tracks around our Recreation Areas.

Several Rangers also commenced their Coxswain licensing training. This is done in blocks across the year and upon completion there are more Rangers that will be able to skipper the vessels for sea patrols and Sea Country activities.

Dhimurru has several Rangers who are studying Certificate II and III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management.

Grace Wununmurra (Miyalk Facilitator) completed her Certificate IV in Conservation Land Management, making her the first Dhimurru Ranger to complete this qualification. She also attained her coxswain's licence. Grace, and the Dhimurru Board and staff are extremely proud of these achievements.









DHIMURRU'S PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

Dhimurru has developed and sustained partnerships with a wide variety of organisations over the years. Dhimurru works together with Yolnu 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 in looking after country; *nilimurru bukmak djäka wän awu*—all of us together looking after country. This is often referred to as Dhimurru's 'both-ways' approach where contemporary näpaki expertise is sought to help inform Yolnu decision-making.

DURING 2021–22 DHIMURRU'S PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS INCLUDED THE ORGANISATIONS LISTED BELOW:

Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)

Aerolens

Arnhem Coast Clean-Up Community Group

Arnhem Land Progress Association

Australian Border Force (ABF)

Australian Defence Force - Norforce

Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)

National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)

- · Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA)
- · Indigenous Ranger Program
- Learning on Country (LOC)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

- Biosecurity

Department of Education, Skills and Employment

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE)

Birdl ife Australia

Buku Larrngay Mulka art and multimedia centre

Centre for Aboriginal Economic and Policy Research,

Australian National University (CDU)

Cotton On Foundation

Developing East Arnhem Limited (DEAL)

East Arnhem Land Tourist Association (EALTA)

East Arnhem Regional Council

Equitorial Launch Australia

Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation (GAC)

Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC)

Jawun Corporate Partnerships

Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation and Yirralka Rangers

Marine and Coastal Community Network (NT)

Marthakal Rangers

Miwati Health

Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited (NCL)

Nhulunbuy Regional Sports Fishing Association

North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)

North East Arnhem Land Aboriginal Corporation (NEAL) Northern Land Council (NLC)

NT Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
— Correctional Services—Datjala Work Camp

NT Department of Education through the LoC program

NT Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security

— Parks and Wildlife

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

Country Needs People

Regional Ranger Groups

Rio Tinto Gove Operations (RTGO)

Rirratjinu Aboriginal Corporation and Bunuwal Investments (RAC)

Sea Shepherd Australia

Tangaroa Blue Foundation

Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM)

University of Melbourne

University of New South Wales (UNSW)

Wearne Advisors

Yirrkala School

Yothu Yindi Foundation (YYF)



YOLNU RANGERS ON SEA COUNTRY - A KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE IN THE WESSEL MARINE PARK

Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation was the successful recipient of a Marine Park grant that funded a project between Parks Australia, The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), Gumurr Marthakal Rangers and Yirralka Rangers. This project undertakes monitoring training and activities as part of a knowledge exchange between the two organisations, Traditional Owners and Rangers.

The Wessel Marine Park, in Commonwealth waters, includes a partial overlap with the Dhimurru IPA. The Wessel Marine Park lies between the northern tip of the Wessel Islands and Wanuwuy (Cape Arnhem).

The marine park is valued for its biodiversity and aggregations of protected species of marine turtles and seabirds. The waters surrounding the Wessel Islands are known to support some of the most diverse and species-rich environments in the North Marine Region, with coral reef biodiversity estimated to be at least 70 percent of that of the Great Barrier Reef

It also includes the soft sediment habitats of the Gulf of Carpentaria Basin, with communities dominated by echinoderms, molluscs, crustaceans, and polychaetes as well as higherorder species such as sharks, tuna and snapper.

The objective of this collaborative project is to understand the commonalities between communities in the Wessel Marine Park and the Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area (IPA).





This involved Yolnu Traditional Owners and Rangers from all three Rangers' groups coming together and undertaking various methods of training on board the AIMS research vessel "RV Solander".

In April 2022, Traditional Owners and Rangers went onboard the research vessel over a four-day period and learnt how to deploy baited remote underwater video (BRUVs) to survey fish populations, complete a drop camera transect to survey benthic communities and sampling water

for environmental DNA analysis. This identifies what animals live in an area, based on capturing and identifying their DNA from water samples.

During the voyage, Traditional Owners participated in the Ranger training on board RV Solander and explained the cultural importance of the area being surveyed. The results from this project will help better understand natural and cultural values of this beautiful marine park and may lead to longer term monitoring programs in the future.







STAFF PROFILE

Timmy Djäwa II Burarrwaŋa Managing Director

Timmy has recently stepped into the role of Managing Director with Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation. He is a Gumatj man who was born in Yirrkala and completed his schooling at Yirrkala Bilingual School.

Before commencing employment with Dhimurru, Timmy has had vast experience originally working for Yirrkala Dhanbul Association and then East Arnhem Regional Council.

He has many years' experience in the Tourism Industry being one of the founding members of Lirrwi Yolngu Tourism Corporation and Bawaka Aboriginal Corporation. His initiative to promote tourism in a culturally appropriate manner has earned him a reputation in the tourism industry.

Timmy has worked with corporate organisations such as Telstra, Commonwealth Bank and Qantas to assist in the development of their Reconciliation Action Plans and sat on the Expert Panel on Indigenous Constitutional Recognition. He is currently a director for Miwatj Aboriginal Corporation and Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation.

Outside of work Timmy enjoys spending time fishing and hunting with his grandchildren at his homeland Bawaka.

Dhimurru welcomes the Managing Director to his new role. Timmy's wealth of knowledge from both corporate Australia and as a Traditional Owner will provide a solid foundation from which to guide Dhimurru into the future.

STAFF PROFILE

Micah Pascoe

About two years ago, Micah Pascoe realised his heart's desire was to become a Ranger. It was not long before an opening became available with Dhimurru and Micah was successful in his application. Micah came to Dhimurru about 18 months ago after working at NEAL Aboriginal Corporation.

Since joining Dhimurru, Micah has been a willing participant in many facets of djama requirements. This includes everything from collecting Marine Debris to spraying of weeds. Recently he participated in the recovery of parts of the rocket from Equatorial Launch Australia's first launch.

Micah is passionate about looking after the land and enjoys going out on Country to do the most basic of tasks including maintenance runs at the recreational areas

He has also participated in training including his Certificate 2 in Conservation Land Management. Micah said some of his most rewarding moments have been receiving his qualifications when he completed the courses in chainsaw, forklift, skidsteer and quad training. Other training he participated in was first aid, four-wheel driving and the use of firearms.

Dhimurru recognised and acknowledged Micah's leadership ability promoting him to Senior Ranger in July, 2021. One of the things he enjoys about Dhimurru is the work crew he works with daily. Already a leader in his role with Dhimurru, in the future Micah would like to further his leadership potential.

Micah "Nanguwuy" is from Garmu outstation (near Maningrida) and is named after an island off Birany Birany. He said he misses the peaceful feeling of staying out at his outstation but "it's manymak" (good) being at Dhimurru. When out in community he enjoys hunting for marandjalk (stingray), djinydjalma (crabs), balin (barramundi), gurrumattji (magpie goose) and muthali (duck), his favourite bush tucker being gurrumattji and muthali.



Micah Pascoe (left) and Boaz Wanambi remove a ghostnet

Boaz Wanambi

Boaz Wanambi is one of Dhimurru's quiet achievers, always ready to greet with a smile. Hailing from Gurkawuy Homeland about a 150 kilometres south of Yirrkala, Boaz has spent much of his time at Yirrkala and lives there with his mother and sisters.

Boaz was working with Arnhem Land Progress Association (ALPA) when a job opportunity with Dhimurru became available. He stepped up and applied to see where things would go and has been with Dhimurru since January, 2021.

He has had a couple of milestones of late. He attended Gamba Grass training in Darwin with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and was very proud to be involved in the recovery of a section of the ELA rocket along with the NASA and ELA personnel.

Boaz said he loves contributing by working on Country and taking care of the land, doing the simple djama such as whipper snipping and maintenance runs at the Recreation Areas. He has also been a participant in training opportunities such as first aid, quad and chain saw training.

"I am proud to wear the Dhimurru uniform", he said. One day he would like to be a Senior Ranger.

When he gets the opportunity Boaz visits his homeland where he loves fishing, hunting and gathering bush tucker.



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

WEB BASED SEASONAL CALENDAR

Dhimurru envisages developing a new website/app to host the seasonal calendar as a web-based resource. This will enable young people, schools and organisations to access the information. The information documented as part of this project will inform future planning directions and approaches for Dhimurru Rangers to ensure their work is based on the seasons. Dhimurru will be lobbying for support for this project as it is seen as an essential step in the development of the seasonal calendar.

TRACK UPGRADE

Dhimurru will be upgrading the Wanuwuy escarpment track. Consultation with Traditional Owners has been ongoing and Dhimurru has received significant funding for these works. Works will commence in the 2022-2023 financial year.



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS SUMMARY

DHIMURRU ABORIGINAL CORPORATION INCOME 2021-2022

INCOME SOURCE	PROJECT	AMOUNT
National Indigenous Australians Agency	Indigenous Ranger Program Indigenous Protected Area program Capital Works Grant Learning on Country	\$1,115,580.24 \$355,744 \$270,000 \$76,537
Northern Territory Government:		
Department of Environmental and Natural Resources	Aboriginal Tourism Grant Program	\$9,674
Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment	Capacity Building Pilot Indigenous Ranger	\$45,995
vvaler and Environment	Coastal Clean-Up Project	\$164,993
Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security	Aboriginal Ranger Grants NT • Regional Yolngu Knowledge Framework	
	for Regional Planning • Cultural and Environmental	\$220,652
	Management System	\$78,400
Cotton On Foundation	Learning on Country	\$105,000
Landowners Sea Country Management Contribution	Sea Ranger Program	\$127,622
Rio Tinto Gove Operations	Dhimurru Partnering Agreement	\$100,000
Country Needs People	Regional Action Plan	\$25,000



YOLNU MATHA - ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

YOLNU MATHA	ENGLISH
bäru	crocodile
bukmak	everyone
buŋgul	dance
dhäwu	story
dhimurru	east wind
djäma	work
galtha rom	both-ways learning workshop
manikay	songs
merri	string
miyalk	women
ŋäpaki	people other than Yolŋu
ŋatha	food
ŋilimurru bukmak djäka wäŋawu	all of us together looking after country
rom	law and/or belief
wäŋa wa <u>t</u> aŋu	landowners
yapa	sister
wäwa	brother

DESIGNATED RECREATION AREAS AND PLACE NAMES

Banambarrna	Rainbow Cliff
Bariŋura	Little Bondi
Binydjarrŋa	Daliwuy Bay
Dhamitjinya	East Woody Island
Dharrpamiwuy	Middle Beach
Gadalathami	Town Beach
Gälaru	East Woody Beach
Gaṇami	Wonga Creek
Coninvers	0 " 1 1 1
Ganinyara	Granite Islands
Ganinyara	Memorial Park
Gapuru	Memorial Park
Gapuru Garanhan	Memorial Park Macassan Beach

Manangaymi	Scout Camp
Nhulun	Mount Saunders
Dumuy	Turtle Beach
Wanuwuy	Cape Arnhem
– Räŋura	- Caves Beach
– Gayŋada	Twin Eagles
– <u>L</u>urrupukurru	 Oyster Beach
Wathawuy	Latram River and Goanna Lagoon
Wirrwawuy	Cape Wirrwawuy





DHIMURRU

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

PO Box 1551

Nhulunbuy NT 0881

Ph: 08 8987 2700 Fax: 08 8987 3224

Email: permits@dhimurru.com.au Web: www.dhimurru.com.au

