



DHIMURRU

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

2020-2021





**DHIMURRU ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION**

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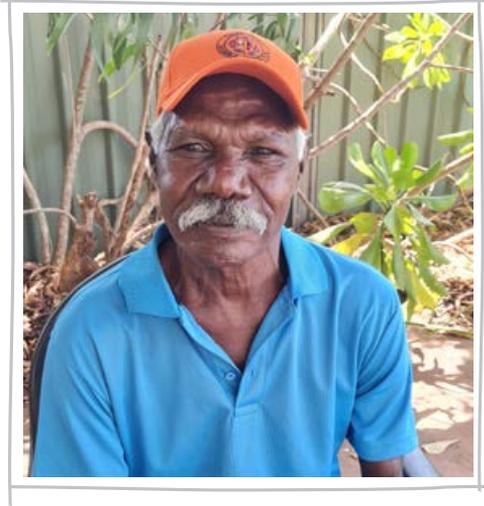
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FOREWORD

Malati Yunupingu
CHAIR 2020-2021

Dhimurru commenced the year operating under its new Rule Book, introducing a new two-year term for elected Board members. The new Board members have settled into the work of managing Dhimurru, discussing and planning work for the organisation. Whilst not forgetting the vision of the Elders who created Dhimurru, the Board is thinking about the next 30 years and how to keep Dhimurru strong and resilient.

With the instability created by the pandemic over the past year, the organisation has truly demonstrated its ability to adapt to changing circumstances. Rangers have worked tirelessly in these difficult times focussing on djama within the IPA.

The new online permit system came into operation on 1 July 2020. For the first time, a portion of the revenue generated from permit fees will be shared directly with Yolŋu landowners, who previously committed all revenue generated to the administration of Dhimurru.

A few staff members have left Dhimurru this year, in particular our long serving Managing Director,

Mandaka Marika has retired. Mandaka worked tirelessly for the organisation for over 27 years working his way up from Ranger to Managing Director. His commitment to the organisation is a model for all young people aspiring to make their mark on the world. A new Managing Director was appointed. Dhupilawuy (Fabian) Marika has taken on this important position and all the duties it entails. He is settling into his role and is keen to learn more working both-ways. The Board welcomes Dhupilawuy to Dhimurru.

Dhimurru has also recruited several new Rangers: Micah Pascoe, Nuwaniny Burarrwaja, Waninŋirr Bukulatjpi, Murray Mununguritj and Boaz Wanambi. It is with great pride that the Board sees a new generation stepping up and committing to djama and Dhimurru.

The Board would like to thank those Yolŋu who have worked as consultants during the past 12 months. Many projects would not have been completed without the support of our members and key Yolŋu Elders.

In closing I would also like to thank our supporters and partners who have worked with us over the past twelve months. We look forward to continuing these partnerships and working together into the future.

Malati Yunupingu
Chairman

YOLŲU MATHA SPELLING AND PRONUNCIATION

YolŲu Matha translates literally as 'the tongue of the YolŲu 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 YolŲu Matha differ from those used for English since many of the sounds found in YolŲu Matha are not found in English. In pronouncing words in YolŲu Matha the emphasis is always on the first syllable. The following sounds are represented by letters in YolŲu 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 MunurŲiritj & Trevor Stockly, *YolŲu 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 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 Yolŋu law and belief."

IN YOLŊU MATHA

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

From dhawuru dhaŋu ŋaya yaka wāŋa ga hundred or more than one hundred years dhaŋu 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, dhulanŋmi, dhāwu'mi. Banhalaŋa ŋayiŋa, dhanaliŋu nuku djalkiri. Bitjan nhan yaka ŋayim malanya dhāya gaŋunha Land Rights-ŋa dhāruk bilanya bili. Yo, decision-maker nhanbayi 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 dhaŋaŋ dhukun, ŋalmaliŋuŋ ŋayi. ŋoyŋa gapuŋa, ga dhāwu bayikuy ŋayiwuy dhanal IPA ga ŋalma ŋarru djāka, ga ŋoywuy gapuwuy maypal, miyapunu ga waripu mala banha ŋalma bayiŋ ŋoka.

Dhaŋu ŋayi yolŋuwu yana, Yolŋuyu ŋarru warkthun dhāruk nhanbayi Yolŋuyu yana. Djinaŋu ŋayiwu ŋarakawu, yaka Gapmandhu wo bilaŋ yolthu waripuŋuyu ŋayinharrayu Yolŋuyu. Nhanbayi yana ŋayi-waŋaŋuyu, rom-waŋaŋuyu, warjarr-waŋaŋuyu, gamunungu-waŋaŋuyu wo maŋayin-waŋaŋuyu.

Ŋarru dhārukma dhaŋu gunyanda bayikuŋ ŋalalalmiyu banha ŋarruŋan ga dhaŋu badak nyena yaka. Ŋarru dhārukma dhanaliŋu ga gatjpum badak wāŋa. Djinaŋu Dhimurruwum self developmentkum, ga self-managementkum.





DHIMURRU BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020 - 2021

CHAIRPERSON

Malati Yunupinju

DEPUTY CHAIR

Mawalan Marika

LIFETIME MEMBER

Djawa Yunupinju

DIRECTORS

Banula Marika

Natjinja Marika

Gurumin Marika

Djanggal Mununguritj

Bilipa Simon Yunupinju (Casual)

Yilipawuy Ganambarr

Ganbarrwalk Mununggurr

Nimiripin Wunungmurra

Djakapurra Munyarryun

DHIMURRU STAFF 2020 - 2021

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Mandaka Marika (up to December 2020)
Dhupilawuy Fabian Marika

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Christine Burke

SENIOR CULTURAL ADVISOR

Rrawun Maymuru

BUSINESS SERVICES MANAGER

Maureen Neil

BUSINESS SUPPORT OFFICER

Mahaliah Wangurra-James
Cheryl Thomas (up to December 2020)

FACILITATORS

Paul Augustin - Projects
Luke Playford - Sea Country
Samantha Muller – Miyalk Rangers

LEARNING ON COUNTRY COORDINATOR

Ian Hutton

SENIOR RANGERS

Gathapura Munungurr
Grace Wunungmurra

RANGERS

Hamish Gondarra
Wulwat Marika
Wangjawuy Munungurritj
Guruguru Hick
Boaz Wanambi
Micah (Markuwatj) Pascoe
Murray Munungurritj
Nuwaniny Burarrawaṅa
Waniṅkurr Bukulatjpi

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 n̄apaki (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.

N̄apaki recreation values

The goal of our visitor management is to encourage an appreciation of the cultural and natural values of the IPA for n̄apaki 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 wānga waṯaṯu (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:

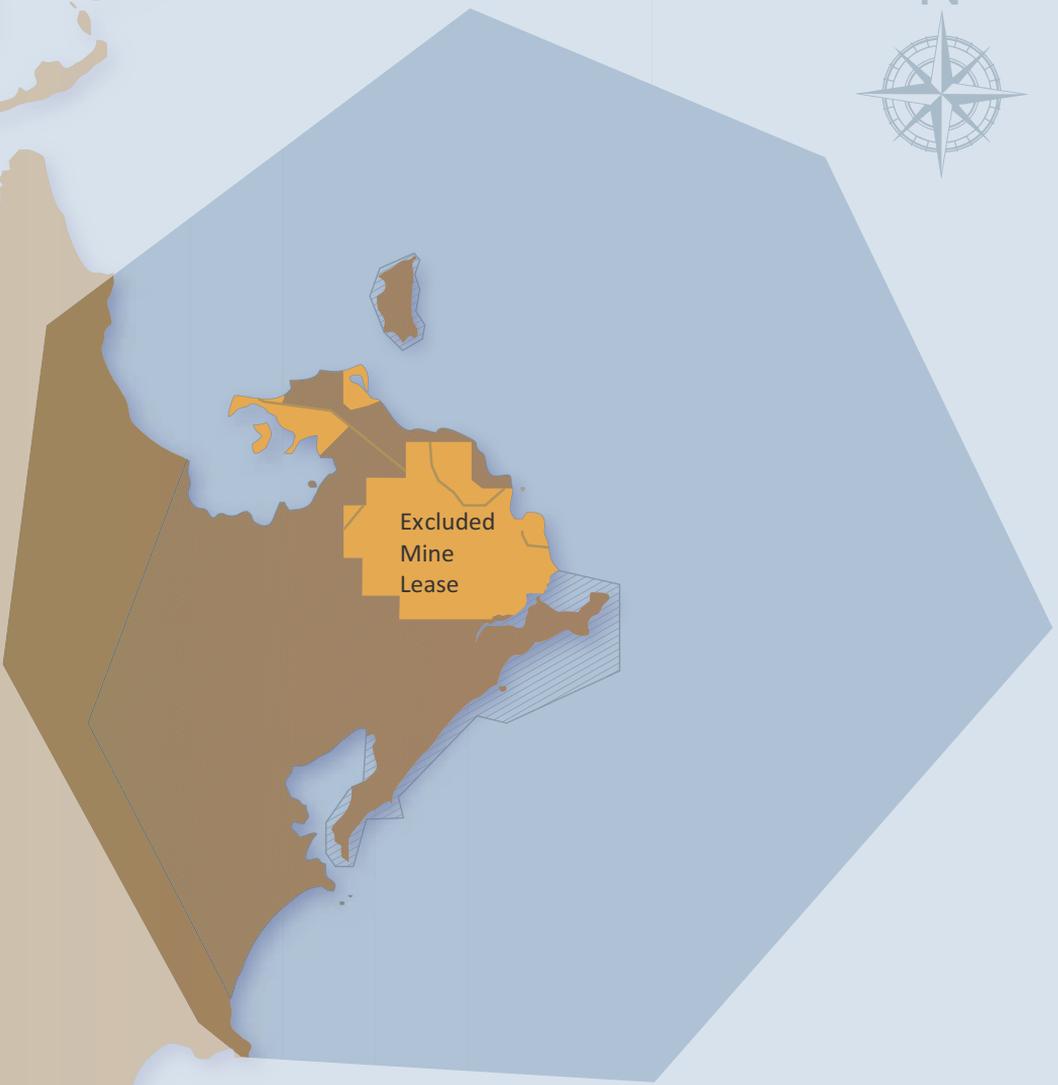
- support Yolŋu landowners in managing their land and sea country
- manage recreation areas designated for visitor use.

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.

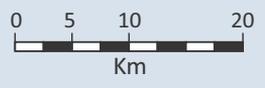
The Dhimurru IPA is supported by the Australian government's Indigenous Protected Areas program and the Ranger Employment program, which assist in funding, planning and management in return for environmental and cultural heritage management services.

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.



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





MANDAKA MARIKA – END OF AN ERA

Managing Director, Mandaka Marika retired from Dhimurru in December 2020 after 28 years of service. Mandaka started as a Ranger and worked his way up taking on roles of Senior Ranger and Cultural Advisor culminating in his position as Managing Director.

During those years he directed the work of Dhimurru, his ability to navigate the cross-cultural political landscape and maintain harmonious relations has been key in his achievements. Being able to successfully guide, mentor and support both cultural and scientific outcomes through his skill as an expert communicator and negotiator was evident in the day to day operations of Dhimurru.

As a Rirratjinju Elder and cultural representative Mandaka's skill working in the both-ways environment supported Dhimurru in its work in many areas including the Learning on Country program. Mandaka graduated from Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) with a Certificate IV in Conservation and Land Management.



Mandaka has been recognised by his peers with several awards during his time at Dhimurru. His work with Dhimurru and dedication to the conservation of his country and culture was rewarded with the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award – Territory Natural Resource Management. Mandaka was also named the Nhulunbuy Australia Day Citizen of the Year 2020 at a ceremony in Yirrkala.

Mandaka was instrumental in helping to deliver Dhimurru's current Plan of Management and more recently renegotiation of Dhimurru's Tourism Access

Agreement with landowners and the Northern Land Council.

One of his roles as a Rirratjingu Elder and Managing Director of Dhimurru was to welcome many people to country, including HRH Prince Charles.

Mandaka has handed over the reins to Dhupilawuy Fabian Marika, also a Rirratjinju man.

Mandaka has been mentoring and supporting the new Managing Director to understand the important role that he has taken on.



**LAND
MANAGEMENT**



PROVIDING ACCESS TO RECREATION AREAS

On 1 July 2020 the online permit system went live and hundreds of existing permits were transferred across from the old system. Visitors can now get an overview of campsite availability across recreation areas. Commercial operators also have their own portal enabling them to book online.

For the first time Yolŋu landowners will receive a financial benefit from revenue generated and a portion will be invested in Dhimurru’s management. Dhimurru will continue to improve the online system as resources allow to enhance usability.

Patrols of recreation areas are undertaken by Rangers weekly, to check visitor permit compliance. Most compliance issues relate

The graph below shows the number Visitor Access Permits issued.





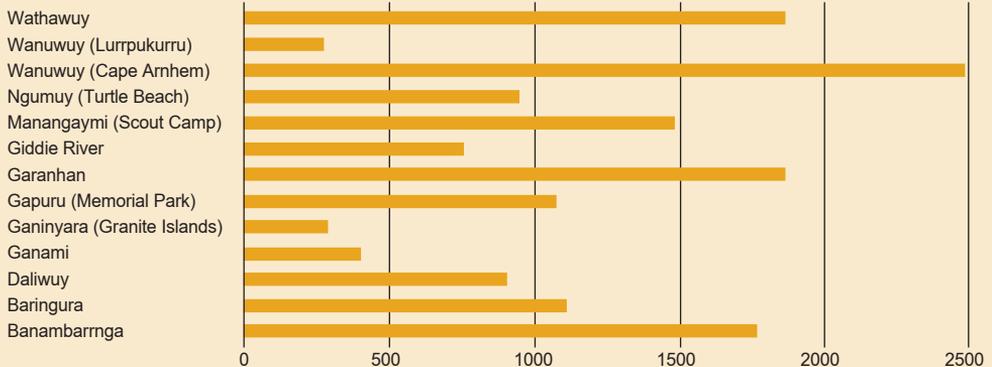
to expired permits, visitors being in areas without permits or accessing prohibited areas within the IPA. Reported permit breaches have resulted in formal interviews with offenders and penalties applied where appropriate.

Permit holders and visitor numbers were impacted by COVID-19 restrictions but with the arrival of the 2021 dry season many camp sites were fully booked.

The graph below shows the total number of person nights spent camping in the recreation areas. Clearly the most popular spot for camping is Wanuwuy (Cape Arnhem).



CAMPING 1 JULY 2020 TO 30 JUNE 2021





MAINTAINING RECREATION AREAS

Maintaining the recreation areas within the Dhimurru IPA is ongoing djama for the Ranger team. Rangers conduct weekly service runs visiting all recreation areas. Mowing, brush cutting, clearing of tracks, servicing toilets and infrastructure repairs are just a few of the tasks Rangers complete.

Due to the introduction of the booking system, a limit to the number of people camping in the recreation areas was set, reducing the impact on the environment and infrastructure, as seen in other years. However, this dry season most areas were fully booked and Rangers have been kept busy ensuring areas were clean and tidy for campers and day users.



Djama performed in addition to the usual maintenance tasks included:

- Installation of new fencing with bollards at Guminiya (Buffalo Creek) coastal recreation area to protect the fragile coastal ecosystem that has been impacted illegal access.
- New bump stops installed at Wirrawuy and Dharrpamiwuy carpark.
- Interpretative signs installed at town beaches: Gäluru, Dhamatjinya and Dharrpamiwuy.
- Clearing and marking of the walking tracks from Njumuy to Garanhan to Barijura with assistance from Learning on Country students.
- Installation of a shelter and signs at Waṇuwuy.
- Corduroy maintenance at Waṇuwuy.
- Repair and reinforcement of the gate at Dhulpan.
- Barbecues installed at Maṇangaymi and Daliwuy.
- Bäru signs installed at Shady Beach, Yirrkala boat ramp.
- Track clearing was carried out on the access tracks to Gulkula, Gaṇami and Maṇangaymi.



WEED MANAGEMENT

Dhimurru continued weed spraying around the IPA this year, with the eradication of coffee bush on Dhambaliya a priority. Dhambaliya has 13 different infestations that Dhimurru has been managing for the past 10 years. In October 2020 the Miyalk Rangers took a trip to the island to continue the management program. As coffee bush seeds have a 12-year lifespan, the team checked all sites noting the growth of seedlings following the wet season. The Rangers treated new growth at nine of the sites that are now free of established coffee bush and treated established coffee bush at two additional sites, Waykadawuy and Golmawuy.

Dhimurru also works as the secretariat for the North-East Arnhem Region (NEAR) weeds group. NEAR is a collaboration of organisations in the region responsible for weed management.

From January to July Dhimurru facilitates monthly meetings between stakeholders to communicate weed information, coordinate training and program development, implementing the weed management plan.

In February NEAR hosted a community information evening at Dhimurru led by Rangers. More than 40 community members came along to learn how to identify and manage weeds in the area. East Arnhem Regional Council provided a complimentary barbecue supper to support the event.

Over 50 people attended an event held in Yirrkala where Dhimurru and members of the NEAR group provided information on weeds and their control. Participants took part in a field trip to the local area to put the knowledge learned into practice.



FIRE

Dhimurru encourages the involvement of Traditional Owners when conducting burns on country. Dhimurru's Managing Director and Senior Cultural Adviser ascertain the correct Traditional Owners to consult for areas of the IPA as part of the burning program. It is vital that Dhimurru work together with Traditional Owners as custodians of the land to maintain the relationship between fire, Yolŋu and country while protecting cultural and environmentally significant places.

In preparation for the upcoming 2021 fire season Dhimurru held a collaborative workshop with the Yirralka rangers. Discussions included future collaborative burns within the two IPAs. Dhimurru and Yirralka Rangers are promoting Ranger exchanges where Rangers can be more involved with the management of the fire djama in their homelands.

All planned burns were carried out in June/July/ August of 2020 and 2021. Burning of coastal walking trails and recreation areas was completed.



At the request of Elders, Dhimurru and Yirralka Rangers conducted cultural burns on Dhambaliya, as well as at Yanjunbi and Yudu Yudu homelands.

Dhimurru continues to work with our stakeholders including Nhulunbuy Fire Brigade, Nhulunbuy Corporation and Rio Tinto Gove Operations Emergency Response Team for fire abatement around Nhulunbuy.



BÄRU

Dhimurru Rangers minimises close interactions between bäru and people while maintaining the protection and care of this species which is an important totem for some Yolŋu clans in the region. This year five bäru were removed from waterways.

In May, Dhimurru collaborated with NT Parks and Wildlife and Yirralka Rangers to undertake onsite training, locally and at Gängan in the Laynhapuy Homelands. This collaboration saw new Rangers learn about trapping bäru, whilst others had the opportunity to refresh their skills to safely capture and manage problem bäru. These skills were put into practice when Yirralka had the opportunity to assist Dhimurru with a trapped bäru at Gunyaŋara.

In June, the Miyalk Ranger team assisted NT Parks and Wildlife staff to deliver the CrocWise program to students at Yirrkala school. Students learned about bäru safety when living, working and playing in and near water. The Rangers also talked about their djama (working) with bäru in the IPA. The students viewed displays of bäru skins and skulls, and had an opportunity to see and touch the cage used for trapping bäru.

Dhimurru continually works to raise community awareness about living with bäru. Information is distributed via social media, the website and signage.

YOLŪ ELDERS PROVIDE CULTURAL EDUCATION FOR VISITORS

Rirratjinu Traditional Owners approached Dhimurru to assist with the design, manufacture and installation of interpretative signs for the town beaches. The signs were created by Laŋani Marika, Mawalan II Marika and Mandaka Marika sharing the journey of Wuyal, the Sugarbag Man.

These signs were installed at Gäluru (East Woody Beach), Dhamatjinya (East Woody Island) and Dharrpamiwuy (Middle Beach).





THE STORY OF WUYAL TOLD BY LAŊANI MARIKA

Long time ago, Wuyal the Sugarbag Man was dancing on top of Nhulun. He was dancing because he had created a special dreaming place. As he was dancing, he became thirsty and decided to go down to Gäluru to mix his guku (bush honey) with fresh water and quench his thirst.

He went to Dhamiŋjinya (East Woody Island) and mixed his guku with fresh water. After he had had a drink, he went toward the mudflats behind Gäluru (where the quarry is now), and named that place Wandjukpuy. Then off he went along the mudflats towards Lombuy. He named Lombuy. From Lombuy he went toward where Yirkala Business Enterprises' workshop is now, toward where

the red mud ponds are, and hung up his dilly-bag and it turned into a rock. The rock is called Dimbukawuy.

As he headed towards Bukbuk (Wallaby Beach), the Yirritja dog blocked his way, so he came back toward Gäluru, but Witiŋj the python was already there whipping his tail and flicking his tongue, causing thunder and lightning. He made a big rain and flood and that's how he made the lagoon which is Gayŋaru.

So Witiŋj the python went to live in the lagoon and Wuyal, the Sugarbag Man turned into a spirit and went all over the place to look for guku.

SEA COUNTRY





LOOKING AFTER SEA COUNTRY: MARINE DEBRIS

In June representatives from Australian Microplastic Assessment Project (AUSMAP) visited Dhimurru to deliver a presentation and training on their standardised field sampling method for collecting, sorting, and identifying microplastics.

AUSMAP is a collaborative science project translating data on microplastic pollutants collected from waterways and coastlines into detailed maps of plastic pollution hotspots throughout Australia. AUSMAP makes it easier for everyone to see the scale of this problem.

Information was provided on how AUSMAP is working on mapping pollution hotspots around Australia and building a network of data collectors who will collect information about microplastic pollution. A field session was held for staff at Rocky Bay so they could practice AUSMAP methods, taking samples, collecting, and recording the microplastic pollutants they found.

Dhimurru has been collecting and recording marine debris through the annual Wanuwuy Marine Debris Survey for 18 years. It is important for us to keep up to date with changing methodologies to help Dhimurru continue to track progress on this issue.



In September 2020, **950 kilograms of marine debris** was collected during the Wanuwuy Survey. Marine debris statistics for the year included:

1491 PERSON HOURS
spent cleaning up beaches

7541 KILOGRAMS
of marine debris removed from beaches

22.5 KILOMETRES
of beach cleaned

24 DAYS
of beach clean ups



HELPING HANDS

Arnhem Coast Clean Up (ACCU)

Arnhem Coast Clean Up (ACCU) community group conducted seven cleanup events with over 190 volunteers attending over the past 12 months. ACCU managed the marine debris for the Cape Arnhem section of the Dhimurru IPA; a massive achievement and contribution to managing marine debris. ACCU also organised a successful cleanup day at Dhambaliya, focusing on the north-eastern side of the island.

Arnhem Coast Clean Up presented their success story at a NT Environment and Waste Management Symposium in Darwin in October, promoting the work done by local volunteers to tackle the marine debris problem in North East Arnhem Land. This opportunity enabled ACCU to highlight this significant environmental issue to people in the waste management industry.

Tangaroa Blue

Tangaroa Blue Foundation is an Australian not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the removal and prevention of marine debris. Representatives from Tangaroa Blue joined Dhimurru for the processing component of the annual Wanꞩuwuy Marine Debris Survey. They introduced a new way of processing marine debris making it more efficient.

Local Assistance

Assistance from groups within the local Nhulunbuy region are vital to stay on top of the marine debris issue. Dhimurru Rangers are able to achieve more with this support.

Thank you to:

- Datjala work crew
- Arnhem Land Progress Association (ALPA)
- Norforce
- Australian Border Force
- Nhulunbuy High School students
- Yirrkala LoC School students





NAMURA (OYSTER) SURVEY

In February, NT Fisheries research staff visited Dhimurru to conduct a survey of Namura (native black-lip oysters) coordinated by Acting Facilitator, Gathapura Munungurr.

Using Sea Ranger 2, the researchers together with Rangers travelled to Dolphin Rocks and Dhaniya (Port Bradshaw). At Dhaniya Traditional Owner, Mawalan Marika, assisted by his family, performed a Welcome to Country for the researchers.

Namura were photographed in their natural habitat and two days were spent collecting samples that were measured, weighed and photographed onboard Sea Ranger 2. A day was then spent at Dhimurru workshop processing samples and documenting the data.

The data collected will assist to understand namura health and identify potential aquaculture opportunities in remote Indigenous communities.



**LEARNING
BOTH WAYS**





STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Dhimurru is focused on succession planning for staff, to enable Rangers to step into more senior roles. As part of this, Senior Ranger's Grace Wunurjmurra and Gathapura Munungurr were seconded to the role of Facilitator, organising work programs, planning daily activities and facilitating projects such as the Namura survey and weeds program. They displayed excellent team leadership, enthusiasm and project management skills during this period.

Senior first aid training was undertaken in two sessions. The first was delivered to Ranger groups in the homelands and another conducted at the Dhimurru office. This ensures that Rangers have the appropriate first aid skills and knowledge when working in the field and away from medical facilities. Refresher courses are held regularly to update those staff members with existing qualifications.

Rangers also undertook an accredited course in the use and maintenance of chainsaws. This skill set enables Rangers to safely manage track clearing operations, cyclone clean up and campground management activities.

This year several Rangers commenced learner driver instruction. Driving vehicles and equipment is an important part of Ranger djama

and Dhimurru encourages all staff to become competent drivers. Rangers also participate in the weekly inhouse refresher training including understanding vehicle maintenance and safety.

Dhimurru promotes the health and wellbeing of its staff. A walk from Dharrpamiwuy to Galäru and back was an enjoyable time together away from the office and workshop. A staff team also played in the Nhulunbuy weekly volleyball competition and were runners up in their grade.



CERTIFICATE IV – CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Senior Ranger, Grace Wunur̄murra, has chosen to do her Certificate IV in Conservation and Land Management, to achieve the requirements necessary to become a Facilitator.

As part of her Certificate IV course work, Grace has taken on several major projects during the year under the mentorship of Miyalk Facilitator, Samantha Muller. Grace's first project was the Dhambaliya Coffee Bush weed extermination program. In October 2020, Grace was instrumental in planning and managing the budget, risk assessment, and on-site logistics and co-facilitated the chemical training for Rangers. Grace is now facilitating the Baṅambarr̄na Interpretive Sign project. These projects form a component of her work for her Certificate IV qualification.



BANAMBARR̄NA INTERPRETIVE SIGNS PROJECT

Dhimurru was approached by Dhalwaṅu Traditional Owners for assistance with the installation of interpretive signs and a walking path at Baṅambarr̄na (Rainbow Cliff). As Acting Facilitator, Grace Wunur̄murra, has taken on this project with mentoring support from Facilitator, Samantha Muller.

Grace secured funding for the project through an NT Aboriginal Tourism Grant. The project seeks to work with the Dhalwaṅu Traditional Owners, Grace's family, to develop interpretive materials for the Baṅambarr̄na (Rainbow Cliff) area. Grace has hosted meetings with her family to document the stories and important features that will be included on the signs. The Traditional Owners have authorised a beach walk for visitors from Baṅambarr̄na to Guminiya (Buffalo Creek) near Nhulunbuy.

Her work on this project will continue into the new financial year.



DHIMURRU STAFF AWARDS

Grace Wunungmurra

October 2020 and January 2021

Grace is dedicated and committed to Dhimurru. In October she did a significant amount of hard djama at Dhambaliya Coffee Bush eradication program. She stepped up to lead the project organisation and ensured everything went well.

Grace, together with Gatha, took on the role of Facilitator for three weeks in January following the Christmas break, and displayed excellent team leadership, enthusiasm and management skills.



Gathapura Munungurr

January 2021

Gatha along with Grace stepped into a Facilitator role over the Christmas break. He worked hard to ensure the Ranger team continued to work effectively. Gatha also worked with NT Fisheries to organise and implement the Namura (oyster) survey.



Boaz Wanambi

February 2021

Boaz was awarded for showing initiative, working hard, and having great attendance during the month. He is always willing to do extra work and identifies other tasks to keep himself busy.



Micah Pascoe

April 2021

Micah was awarded for his consistency and attendance during April. He took initiative to help with the baru trap at Gunyanara by checking the trap on his way to and from work.

Micah was also ralpa (enthusiastic) at the Darwin Biosecurity Workshop.





LEARNING ON COUNTRY PROGRAM

The Learning on Country (LoC) Program is an educational partnership between Dhimurru Rangers and Yirrkala School, which with careful stewardship continues to develop and grow. This program has a multiplier effect with benefits to all participants by facilitating intergenerational knowledge transfer, increasing self-esteem and confidence, completing school-based curricula and natural and cultural vocational outcomes.

The Dhimurru Rangers work with senior students at Yirrkala School most weeks of school term. The students are enrolled in Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management and Rangers assist with their learning, both in the classroom and on country. Students also work with Rangers at the Dhimurru workshop and out in the IPA. They helped to repair fences and clear around the rock pictures at Garanhan. This learning is in addition to Galtha workshops.

Galtha Rom workshops are the centrepiece of Yolŋu-directed learning and teaching for the students of the LoC program. These workshops are based on fundamental Yolŋu traditions, knowledge and skills. Dhimurru plays an important role in supporting and assisting the organisation and delivery of Galtha

Roms within the IPA and Learning on Country program.

Nuwal Galtha was held in August for Yirrkala School middle year students. This centred around the Yambirra fish trap, which is a strong Yolŋu metaphor for Yirrkala School and especially for education. Camping nearby at Nuwal and visiting the Yambirra (fish trap) at different tides, Miyalk learnt to collect the leaves from gunga (pandanus) which they dyed with vibrant local colours. The leaves are used for weaving. Boys made gara (spear) to catch fish in the Yambirra.



Rorruwuy Galtha involving the Nyinyikay Homeland was a four-day event held in the neighbouring Laynhapuy IPA in May. Families from Rorruwuy were involved, talking about the two moieties, Dhuwa and Yirratja, which connect all the people in Arnhem Bay. The connection of each individual student to the land, the people, the songlines and the paintings was also explained by Wilson Guluwu Ganambarr. Students had the opportunity to speak and present on behalf of their connections to Rorruwuy and Nyinyikay and their connections to Yirritja and Dhuwa gapu (waters).

Marjar Marine Camp was a joint event with Laynhapuy Homelands School and Yirralka Rangers hosting the Yirrkala School and Dhimurru Rangers. Mimal Rangers, a ranger group from the adjoining Bulman region also attended. Fisheries NT, Northern Territory

Police, Charles Darwin University and Northern Territory Museum staff contributed to the success of the event.

A wide variety of saltwater themed activities unfolded over the four-day event. Dhimurru and Yirralka Ranger work boats enabled access to the sea country and the landscape to be named and mapped. A special artistic activity of fish printing called 'gyotaku' was carried out on selected fish, which created a series of lasting artworks.

In May cultural activities centred around the Daliwuy Bay brought together students, Rangers and Landowners. A walk from Garanhan to Daliwuy Bay lead by Njalapal and supported by Rangers, allowed cultural stories relating to history of land ownership to be shared, along with a broad ecological discussion about the varieties of plants, animals and natural landscapes.



**DHIMURRU
OUT AND
ABOUT**





STRONG WOMEN FOR HEALTHY COUNTRY FORUM – MAY 2021

The Miyalk Ranger team attended the second NT Strong Women for Healthy Country Forum held on 24-29 May at Banatjarl outstation, south-east of Katherine. They joined over 250 women from remote communities in the Northern Territory. Dhimurru Miyalk Rangers had an opportunity to network with other Rangers.

Djalinda Yunupinju (former Senior Cultural Advisor at Dhimurru) was invited to the forum as a guest speaker. She spoke on a panel of female Elders sharing their experiences and insights working as strong women providing inspiration to the forum attendees.

The women discussed the opportunities and challenges of working in remote communities and provided feedback on the Commonwealth’s State of Environment reporting process. This year’s discussions also defined new governance arrangements to ensure continuation of the forum into the future.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Managing Director, Dhupilawuy Marika and Executive Officer, Christine Burke, presented at the Nhulunbuy Corporation’s “Welcome to Nhulunbuy” morning to talk to new residents about the work of Dhimurru and give them an appreciation of living on Yolŋu land. The Executive Officer also presented at the Rio Tinto Community Engagement Sessions to keep the community updated on the activities of Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation.



**TERRITORY NATURAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
– NOVEMBER 2020**

Grace Wunungmurra, Wangawuy Munungurritj and Mahaliah Wangurra-James were invited to present at the Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) Conference in Darwin in November 2020. Their presentation showcased the value of having Yolŋu Rangers taking on the role of facilitators within the Dhimurru organisation.

CAMPING WITH CUSTODIANS WA TOURISM

Managing Director, Dhupilawuy Fabian Marika was invited to participate in a familiarisation tour hosted by Tourism NT. They travelled to the Kimberley's to experience and learn about the Camping with Custodians program. This program is an initiative of Tourism WA assisting Indigenous communities to establish and operate high quality campgrounds, art centres and other businesses, where tourists can visit Aboriginal land, share cultural experiences and have contact with Indigenous people. Funds generated promote employment and training opportunities for the community.

Dhupilawuy, together with other NT participants, spent a week studying the program in several communities and discussing how it could be adapted and applied to other locations.

"It was useful to learn about this program to see how I can support Yolŋu of East Arnhem Land develop business opportunities to highlight our culture," he said on his return to Nhulunbuy.

HAWKSBILL TURTLE RELEASE

In May Rangers, Grace Wunungmurra and Wangawuy Munungurritj, together with Facilitator, Luke Playford assisted with the release of a critically endangered hawksbill turtle "Bubble". The turtle was found at a boat ramp near Nhulunbuy last year, severely dehydrated, weighing just 16 grams. "Bubble" was nursed back to health at Charles Darwin University's Turtle Rehabilitation Centre in Darwin, before being returned to Nhulunbuy for release.



**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 in looking after country; *ñlimurru bukmaŋ djäka wäñjawu*—all of us together looking after country. This is often referred to as Dhimurru's 'both-ways' approach where contemporary ñäpaki expertise is sought to help inform Yolŋu decision-making.

DURING 2020–21 DHIMURRU'S PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS INCLUDED THE ORGANISATIONS LISTED BELOW:

Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)
Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA)
Aerolens
Arafura Marine
Arnhem Coast Clean-Up Community Group
Australian Border Force (ABF)
Australian Defence Force — Norforce
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)
Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)
National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)
• Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA)
• Ranger Employment program
• Learning on Country (LOC)
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
– Biosecurity
Department of Education, Skills and Employment
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 Larrngay Mulka art and multimedia centre
Centre for Aboriginal Economic and Policy Research,
Australian National University (CDU)
Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA)
Cotton On Foundation
Developing East Arnhem Limited (DEAL)
Earth Collective
East Arnhem Land Tourist Association (EALTA)
East Arnhem Shire Council
Ghost Nets Australia
Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation (GAC)
Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC)
Jawun Corporate Partnerships
Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation and Yirrkala Rangers

Lirwi Aboriginal Corporation
LJ Hooker Foundation — Culture College
Marine and Coastal Community Network (NT)
Mathakal Rangers
Marrarr Resource Centre
Melbourne University
Miwatj Employment and Participation (MEP)
Miwatj Health
NFP Industry Pty Ltd
Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited (NCL)
North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)
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 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
Country Needs People
Regional Ranger Groups
Rio Tinto Gove Operations (RTGO)
Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and Bunuwal
Investments (RAC)
Rotary Club Nhulunbuy
Seagrass Watch
Sea Shepherd Australia
Tangoroo Blue Foundation
Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM)
Threatened Species Network (NT)
University of Melbourne
University of New South Wales (UNSW)
Yirrkala Business Enterprises 2 (YBE 2)
Yirrkala School
Yothu Yindi Foundation (YYF)



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING YIRRALKA RANGERS

Dhimurru and Yirralka Ranger's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets a framework for the two Ranger groups to work together. This year the relationship has grown and strengthened as both parties collaborate. Board members of both organisations met over lunch to discuss how each can plan for the future, and identify opportunities and activities that can jointly be carried out.

Dhimurru and Yirralka groups have exchanged information on their respective fire programs and a joint planned burn at Yudu Yudu was undertaken. Several training workshops were held during the year including first aid, bāru management, chemical handling and storage, and marine activities. The Rangers regularly work together on the Learning on Country program and use kinship ties to identify who participates in the program.

DEVELOPING EAST ARNHEM LTD

Assistance from Developing East Arnhem Ltd (DEAL) enabled Dhimurru to implement the new online permit system, review and update visitor information. DEAL also co-contributed to the development of new signage at a number of recreation areas and has been an important partner over the last twelve months.



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

In the coming year, the Board, staff and members of the organisation will commence developing the next Plan of Management (PoM) to set the strategic direction for the organisation for the next ten years. The Dhimurru Board and staff will work with members of the corporation and landowners to identify priorities and define the work of Rangers. The project is aimed at developing a plan that is interactive and can be used as a tool to transfer knowledge and understanding between generations and cultures. Dhimurru will develop key performance indicators and methods for monitoring and evaluating progress of the plan implementation.

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN 2022

Next year Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation will celebrate 30 years. This will be cause for reflection to remember the Elders who have brought their vision, knowledge, skills and commitment to build Dhimurru and to celebrate those who have worked hard to make it a success. Plans for the celebrations will be made in the next twelve months with the celebrations being held toward the end of 2022.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS SUMMARY

DHIMURRU ABORIGINAL CORPORATION INCOME 2020-2021

INCOME SOURCE	PROJECT	AMOUNT
National Indigenous Australians Agency	Ranger Employment program	\$986,593
	Indigenous Protected Area program	\$350,832
Northern Territory Government:		
Department of Environmental and Natural Resources	Indigenous Protected Area Marine Debris Management	\$5,500
Tourism NT	Aboriginal Tourism Grant Program	\$9,674
Parks Australia	Wessel Marine Park	\$449,378
Cotton On Foundation	Learning on Country	\$70,000
Landowners Sea Country Management Contribution	Sea Ranger Program	\$77,614
Rio Tinto Gove Operations	Dhimurru Partnering Agreement	\$100,000
Developing East Arnhem Ltd	Permit System	\$21,322
Country Needs People	Sea Country	\$20,000

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 Cliff	Maṅaṅgaymi	Scout Camp
Bariṅura	Little Bondi	Nhulun	Mount Saunders
Binydjarrṅa	Daliwuy Bay	Ḍumuy	Turtle Beach
Dhamiṅjinya	East Woody Island	Waṅuwuy	Cape Arnhem
Dharrpamiwuy	Middle Beach	– Rāṅura	– Caves Beach
Gaḍalathami	Town Beach	– Gayṅaḍa	– Twin Eagles
Gālaru	East Woody Beach	– Ḷurrukurru	– Oyster Beach
Gaṅami	Wonga Creek	Wathawuy	Latram River and Goanna Lagoon
Ganinyara	Granite Islands	Wirrawuy	Cape Wirrawuy
Gapuru	Memorial Park		
Garanhan	Macassan Beach		
Gumuniya	Buffalo Creek		
Guwatjurumurru	Giddy River		
Ḷombuy	Crocodile Creek		





DHIMURRU

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