



DHIMURRU

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

2015 – 2016



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CORPORATION**

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FOREWORD



Rarrtjiwuy Melanie Herdman
CHAIR 2015- 2016

Nhamirri bukmak! I would like to begin my foreword this year by congratulating Dhimurru's staff, Dhimurru's Board and all of our valuable partners and collaborators on the part that each of you have played in making our organisation such a success. You should all be very proud of your efforts and the outcomes you have delivered. I am sure our past and current leaders would be and are proud of the way we have stayed close and followed their vision in all that we are doing.

There are many great stories to tell. There have been some significant highlights such as the launch of our new Management Plan, celebrating the listing of Wurrwurrwuy on the National Heritage Register, the appointment of one of our Learning on Country graduates as a Ranger, major upgrades to our track network, seeing two of our staff qualify as Finalists in the Territory Natural Resource Management Awards, and successfully hosting the East Arnhem Ranger Forum. You will be able to read about all of these things and much more in this years report.

We continue to build on our strengths and with the solid support of the Commonwealth's Indigenous Protected Area Program and the Working on Country Program we are able to deliver quality management of our Environmental and Cultural Heritage for the benefit of Yolŋu and all Australians. We value all of our partnerships and collaborations.

Njilmurru bukmak djäka wäŋawu.
All of us together looking after country.

I hope you enjoy this years report.

Rarrtjiwuy Melanie Herdman

YOLŲU MATHA ORTHOGRAPHY 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 NE Arnhemland.

The orthography used to write YolŲu matha differs from the orthography 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
<u>l</u> – 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 list is taken from Raymatja Mununggiritj & Trevor Stockly, *YolŲu matha: an introduction to Gumatj and related languages in NE Arnhemland*, Yirrkala Community School Literature Production Centre, Yirrkala, NT, 1985.

DHIMURRU VISION STATEMENT

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.



VISION STATEMENT IN YOLŊU MATHA BY THE LATE ROY DADAYŊA MARIKA MBE

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

Bukmak ŋayi malanyinha yaka dhāya manikaymi, rommi, dhulaŋmi, dhāwu'mi. Banhalaŋa ŋayiŋa, dhanalingu nuku djalkiri. Bitjan nhan yaka ŋayim malanya dhāya gaŋunha Land Rightsŋa dhāruk bilanya bili. Yo, decision maker nhanbayi yana landowner.

Ŋarru nhan ŋarru, ŋarruŋam goŋmurrum nhumaliŋ gurumurru, Conservation Commission or Rangerwurumurru, Dhimurruwurumurru. Bukmak ŋayi malanyinha djākawu goŋŋa Dhimurruwura. Yirritja ga Dhuwa ŋarru warkthun dhanal further development bilanya bitjan Conservation ga dhal yun ŋarru protecting nhāŋuru developmentŋuru.

Dhanu ŋayi yolŋuwu yana, Yolŋuyu ŋarru warkthun dhāruk nhanbayi Yolŋuyu yana. Djinaŋu ŋayiŋu ŋarakawu, yaka Gapmandhu wo bilan yolthu waripunyuŋu ŋayinharrayu yolŋuyu. Nhanbayi yana ŋayi-wataŋuyu, rom-wataŋuyu, waŋarr- wataŋuyu, gamunungu-wataŋuyu wo maŋayin-wataŋuyu.

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

VISION STATEMENT IN ENGLISH

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 Dadaynja 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 māri-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 work 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."



DHIMURRU BOARD 2015 - 2016

CHAIRPERSON

Rartjiwuy Herdman

DEPUTY CHAIR

Djawa Yunupingu

BOARD MEMBERS

Rarriwuy Marika
Djarrambal Marika
Natjinga Marika
Bawuli Marika
Natjingu Marika (nee Yunupingu)
Daylulu Yunupingu
Djawa Yunupingu
Boyan1 Yunupingu
Rartjiwuy Herdman
Caroline Dhamarrandji
Deturru Yunupingu (now deceased)

DHIMURRU STAFF

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Mandaka Marika

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Steve Roeger

SENIOR CULTURAL ADVISOR

Djalinda Ulamari Yunupingu

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT OFFICER

Thomas Amagula

BUSINESS SERVICES MANAGER

Maureen Neil

BUSINESS SUPPORT OFFICER

Tiffany Crane

PROJECT FACILITATORS

Lisa Roeger

Paul Augustin

Luke Playford

Vanessa Drysdale

LOC COORDINATOR

Jonathan Wearne

SENIOR RANGERS

Yupunu Marika

Gathapura Mununggurr

Anthony Crafter

RANGERS

Banula Marika

Wulwat Marika

Hamish Gondarra

Brendan Yunupingu

Grace Wunungmurra

Rakrakpuy Marika

Mundatjingu Mununggurr

FIGURE 1.
ORGANISATIONAL
STRUCTURE OF
DHIMURRU ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION



GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DHIMURRU ABORIGINAL CORPORATION AND IPA MANAGEMENT

Through the wisdom of our Elders, the direction set by the Dhimurru Board and Executive, and through 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 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

Respect for Yolŋu values

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

Conservation and enhancement of 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

Both-ways management

Maximising opportunities for Yolŋu to devise strategies through a mutual investigation of Njapaki (non-Indigenous people) and Yolŋu systems of knowledge

Collaborative relationships

Continued development of collaborative relationships with government agencies and other organisations in programs and research to support sustainable use and management of Yolŋu land and seas

Njapaki recreation values

The goal of visitor management will be to encourage an appreciation of the cultural and natural values of the IPA by Njapaki to promote an enjoyable experience and to ensure minimal environmental impact

Caring for Dhuwa and Yirritja clan estates

Holistically in Dhimurru land and sea country consistent with our cultural values, rights, practices, and obligations





Sacred sites protection

Protecting sacred sites and song cycles that contain our creation stories and which link our land and sea environments together

Ecosystem maintenance

Maintaining healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems in which all species and associated cultural values can thrive

Sustainability

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

Recognition of Yolŋu rights, interests and responsibilities

Ensuring 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

Maintenance of Yolŋu knowledge

Ensuring that Yolŋu knowledge and practices are maintained and transmitted from one generation to the next

Application of Yolŋu knowledge and practices

Applying Yolŋu knowledge and practices to the management of our land and sea country

Best practice management

Ensuring best practice management of our land and sea country long into the future

Development of Yolŋu Enterprises

Support for environmentally and culturally sustainable enterprises

DHIMURRU INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA (IPA)

An IPA is an area of land and/or sea country voluntarily dedicated by Traditional Owners 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 Traditional Owners made a voluntary IPA declaration over approximately 101,000 ha of their traditional country. This included 92,000 ha of their land and about 9,000 ha 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 Wanga Watangu (Traditional Owners) formally dedicated additional areas of their land and sea country to the Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area. This increased Dhimurru's IPA to approximately 550,000 ha and extended the IPA's sea country boundary out to 40km from the coastline.

An Indigenous Protected Area is managed by Indigenous Rangers and partner organisations according to protected area guidelines set by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Dhimurru's Vision Statement sets out Dhimurru's commitment to:

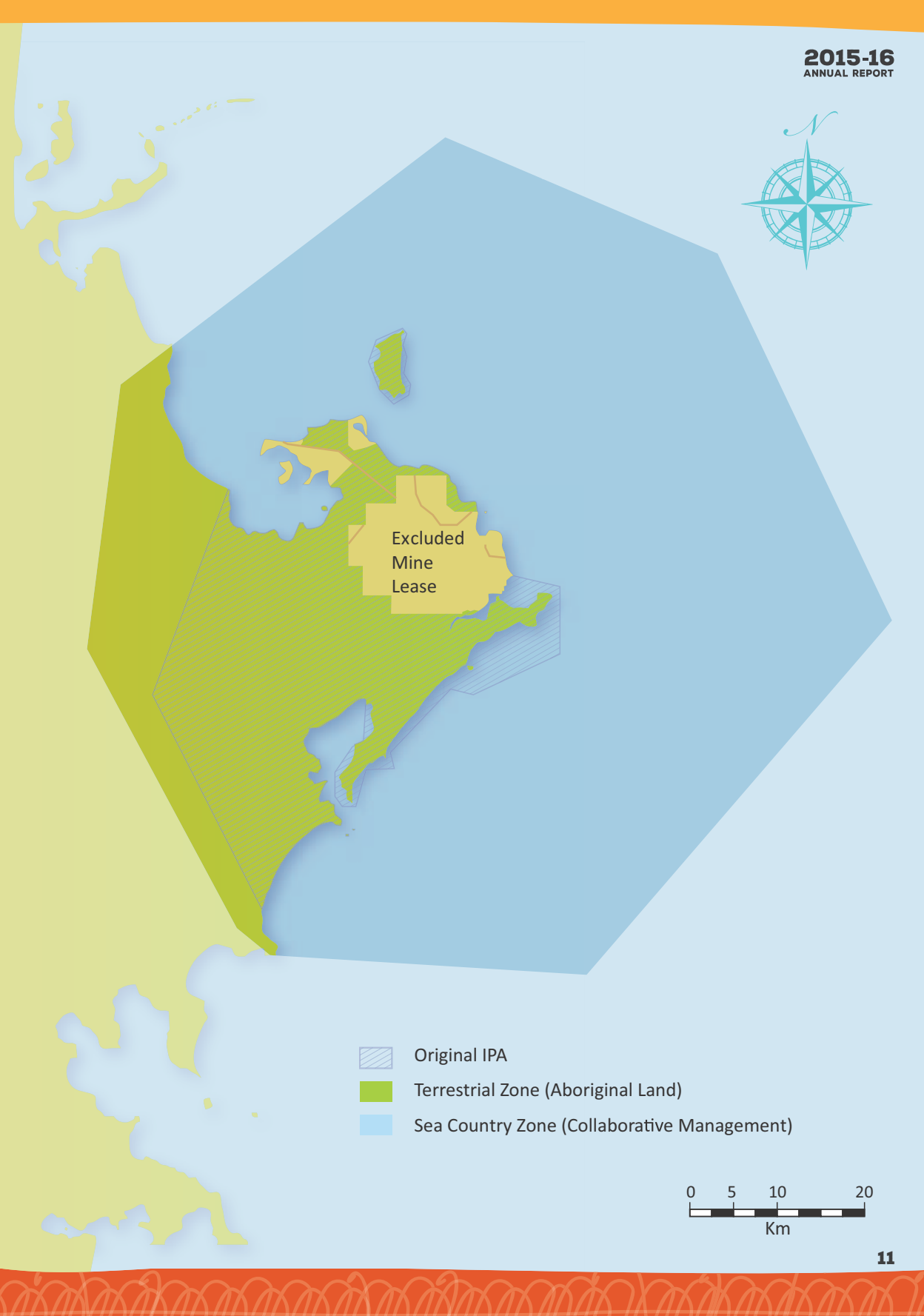
- Support Yolŋu Traditional Owners in the management of their land and sea country
- Manage recreation areas designated for visitor use

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 the maintenance of the natural and cultural values of the IPA.

The Dhimurru IPA is supported by the Commonwealth Government's Indigenous Protected Areas Program and the Working on Country Program, which provide assistance in funding, planning, and management.

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 60 Indigenous Protected Areas across Australia. Together they contribute about forty percent of the total area of the NRSPA, which includes all of Australia's national parks and conservation reserves.





WORKING TOGETHER: DHIMURRU'S PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

DURING 2015–16 DHIMURRU'S COLLABORATIONS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:

Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)
Aboriginal Benefits Account (ABA)
Australian Border Force (ABF)
Australian Defence Force – Norforce
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Studies (AIATSIS)
Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)
Batchelor Institute of Tertiary Education (BITE)
Buku Larrnggay Mulka Art and Multi
Media Centre
Ghost Nets Australia
Centre for Aboriginal Economic and Policy
Research – Australian National University
Charles Darwin University (CDU)
Commonwealth Department of Environment
– IPA Program (DoE - IPA)
Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister
and Cabinet - Working on Country Program
(PM&C - WOC)
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial
Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA)
Cotton on Foundation
Department of Agriculture Biosecurity
Develop East Arnhem Land Limited (DEAL)
East Arnhem Land Tourist Association (EALTA)
East Arnhem Shire
Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation (GAC)
Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC)
Jawun
Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation
and Yirrkala Rangers (LHAC)

Lirriwi Aboriginal Corporation
LJ Hooker Foundation - Culture College
Marine and Coastal Community Network (NT)
Melbourne University
National Heritage Trust (NHT)
Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited (NCL)
Nhulunbuy Volunteers
North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea
Management Alliance (NAILSMA)
Northern Land Council (NLC)
NT Correctional Services - Datjala Work Camp
NT Department of Planning, Infrastructure
and Logistics
NT Dept of Resources
NT Fisheries
NT Parks and Wildlife Commission (P&WC)
NT Police and Marine Enforcement Unit
NT Tourist Commission
People on Country - PEW Foundation
Regional Rangers Groups
Rio Tinto Alcan Gove Pty Limited (Rio Tinto)
Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation (RAC)
Seafood Council NT
Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM)
Threatened Species Network (NT)
University of New South Wales (UNSW)
Yirrkala School
Yothu Yindi Foundation (YYF)

Additionally, Dhimurru would like to recognise the volunteers and members of the general public who regularly give their time and expertise for little or no reward, and sends a heartfelt thank you out to those individuals.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

WEED MANAGEMENT

This year's weed management program was unusual because of the late arrival of first rains and their sporadic and light nature causing a delay in weed seed germination with the prolonging of growth and seeding of many species.

The season began in January with a survey of known weed infestations. Treatment then began on the high priority weeds (perennial Mission Grass, Coffee Bush and Gamba Grass) followed by moderate priority weeds (annual Mission Grass, Caltrop, Snakeweed, Sida sp., Flannel Weed, Gambia Pea, Hyptis and Mossman River Grass).

Treatment methods varied according to the form of the weed and the area of infestation. Most of the weeds in our IPA were eradicated by spraying with a 1Å solution of glyphosate using the quick spray unit or backpacks. Some weeds however, like Coffee Bush, required a multi-faceted approach including cutting and swabbing with neat glyphosate

or starane and spraying. Others like Caltrop and Mossman River Grass were effectively controlled by hand pulling where they occurred in small and isolated areas.

The Coffee Bush eradication project on Dhambaliya continues. All sites were visited and re-sprayed in August 2015 and again in May 2016. All sites required minimal effort with the exception of a new site (the 11th) covering approximately 1.5 hectares. It contained many mature trees, some to 20 metres in height and a dense understorey of juvenile plants, requiring a substantial effort to cut down and spray. Unfortunately, these sites will require continued follow up for many years to come.





FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire is a powerful land management tool that influences what plants and animals occur in a given area. Good use of fire results in healthy country with high productivity and biodiversity. Fire management in the Dhimurru IPA aims to achieve this goal through two components; on-ground seasonal burning and the Dhimurru IPA Fire Management Project.

Much of the burning in our IPA is done by Yolŋu community members, Traditional Owners and custodians. Fires are sometimes lit to clear country to make collecting *natha* such as honey or floodplain resources easier or to 'clean up' country by removing dry grass and promoting fresh green plant growth that will attract animals to the area. There are also important cultural dictates and protocols that guide burning practice. These and other traditional burning practices have given us our diverse flora and fauna.

Dhimurru undertakes two types of fire management in their IPA - protection burns around Designated Recreation Areas to protect infrastructure and reduce fire risks to visitors and, in conjunction with other Yolŋu land managers,

early dry season fuel reduction burns to reduce the risk of damaging hot late dry season fires. Fuel reduction burns were particularly important this year because of the high fuel loads as a result of cyclone activity in early 2015.

In 2012, Dhimurru began a five-year research project to investigate the interaction of fire with people and country; how plants and animals respond to fire events over time; and to determine the best fire regime for positive biodiversity and community outcomes. Activities as part of this project this year include monitoring photo-points, mapping the 2015 fire season and fire workshops that included discussions and interviews with community members. At the conclusion of this long-term project it is expected that we will have a clearer understanding of Dhimurru's role in fire management from community, cultural and ecological perspectives.



BÄRU (CROCODILE) MANAGEMENT

Dhimurru continues to support traditional owners and the community generally with bäru management and by providing information to help raise community awareness aimed at minimising bäru and human interactions. Dhimurru provides information through its' website, Facebook page, Parks & Wildlife Commission's (P & WC), CrocWise signs at recreational areas in both English and Yolŋu matha, and the local community radio station – Gove FM.

In 2015-16 the Gumatj Bäru Farm decided they could no longer receive bäru after trapping and this had been an integral part of our management program. In view of these changing circumstances and an earlier decision made to withdraw P&WC Rangers from the region, Dhimurru called a meeting of stakeholders. The meeting was called in the interests of finding a sustainable and realistic approach to bäru risk management in the region. At this meeting the Northern Territory Government committed P & WC support to

Dhimurru to provide training and advice, Rio Tinto offered some financial support through their partnership with Dhimurru, and the Nhulunbuy Corporation also pledged some support in relation to handling of bäru when trapped on the town lease.

Nonetheless, Dhimurru has had to take a very pragmatic approach to ongoing threat management both because of limited resources and a commitment to only trap bäru which pose a real threat to the community. Dhimurru's Board recognises that threat management services are essential to ensure community safety and to help in the protection and care of this important species. Dhimurru has developed a threat management plan with protocols for identifying high risk animals and has refined its bäru management policy and procedures with advice from P & WC. Dhimurru has continued to trap bäru identified through this process as needed.

During this reporting period Dhimurru Rangers received bäru handling refresher training, were involved in CrocWise talks, and P & WC also supplied two new aluminium crocodile traps.

TRACK IMPROVEMENTS

Dhimurru has struggled over many years to manage its recreational access track network. Most of the tracks we manage were created 40 years ago by Nabalco exploration and mining staff using company bulldozers and some were created by residents finding their own tracks to water holes and beaches. There does not appear to have been any planning and little consideration of contours to allow for high water run-off in the wet season. Without adequate track planning and formation coupled with limited management resources and capacity, major erosion to IPA Designated Recreation Areas access tracks has occurred.

Unfortunately access roads to some areas of the IPA require transit through the Rio Tinto Gove Operations special mineral lease (SML 11) and determining responsibility for these roads requires some negotiation.

Dhimurru needs to have its track network managed to a safe low maintenance standard so our Rangers can do their work safely, efficiently, and effectively. Dhimurru have taken on this important mission and are strongly supported by stakeholders with interests in access to Designated Recreation Areas. These include the Northern Territory Government Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and Dept of Environment, Rio Tinto, Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation (GAC), Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation (RAC), Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation (LHAC), Develop East Arnhem Land Limited (DEAL), and Lirrwai Aboriginal Corporation.

In 2013, Dhimurru hosted a Jawun secondee (www.jawun.org.au) from Leighton Constructions on a six-week secondment who developed a track management strategy. The strategy covered track construction methodology, equipment needed and costs associated to fix all of the Dhimurru IPA access tracks to the point where they were in a safe, manageable and low maintenance condition. This document is the basis for our track repair, re-alignment and construction program.

Thus far our project areas have been independently assessed by local Yolŋu-based civil works contractor YBE (2) Pty Ltd. They have recently carried out comprehensive works for us on the Binydjarrŋa and Banambarrŋa access tracks getting them to a safe and acceptable standard.

These projects and future projects offer civil works experience for our Rangers as well as rehabilitation and ongoing management experience. This experience contributes to the completion of units in Certificates II and III in Conservation and Land Management (CLM). Dhimurru are always looking for opportunities to build the capacity of our Rangers and we now own plant equipment including the recent purchase of a skidsteer funded through the Indigenous Land Corporation that will help with ongoing scheduled maintenance before and after the annual wet season event.

Dhimurru have come a long way from humble beginnings and the future management of our IPA track network looks positive!



ACCESS PERMITS AND VISITOR MANAGEMENT

There are 19 Designated Recreation Areas that Dhimurru manage within the IPA. To protect against the potential threat recreational use poses to the cultural and environmental values of the areas, visitor management is one of Dhimurru's key priorities. The use of an access permit system is a crucial element of Dhimurru's ongoing management strategy.

Traditional Owners through the Northern Land Council have delegated authority to Dhimurru to issue access permits on their behalf. Local residents and visitors who are not Yolŋu and are seeking access to Dhimurru's Designated Recreation Areas are required to obtain a General Permit from Dhimurru. Four identified areas require an additional Special Permit. Special Permit areas are separated because of their significance, their sensitivity to environmental damage, and/or to provide an exclusive destination with privacy for one group at a time

A new one-day permit option was introduced at the start of June 2016. This new option helps to make it affordable for visitors to experience Dhimurru's Designated Recreation Areas even if they are only here for a day.

A rise in the number of tourists to North East Arnhem Land has seen an increase in the number of visitor permits issued. In the 2015/16 financial year, we issued **1,026** General Permits (annual and 6 months) and **1,657** Visitor Permits (1 day, 7 day, 2 months) compared to 930 General and 1,283 Visitor Permits that were issued in 2014/15. There has also been an increase in Special Permits with **797** issued this financial year.

Increased marketing of NE Arnhem as a tourism destination has seen a significant growth in the number of Group Permits issued this year reflecting a rise in the number of commercial tour linked groups visiting the area. While this is a positive for the community it does place extra pressure on Designated Recreation Areas and more demands on Dhimurru management. Our Management Plan provides guidance and is a key component of



Dhimurru's visitor management strategy as tourism develops in the region.

Traditional Owners generously continue to donate all funds raised from General Permits back into Dhimurru's operations. These funds compliment other sources of income to facilitate Dhimurru's operational costs, but only provide a very small percentage of Dhimurru's total turnover.

The online permit system continues to be an efficient and popular form of service delivery. This allows continuous access to General and Special Permits through the Dhimurru website.

The website is regularly maintained and along with Facebook allows us to communicate directly with the public on things matters such as bāru sightings and management, Ranger activities, and the status of Designated Recreation Areas. We also stay in touch with the local community through announcements on local radio and through articles in the local paper.

The new Visitor's Guide continues to be an excellent resource that provides tourists and locals with an overview of our activities, some background to Yolŋu culture and practice, and information on Designated Recreation Areas.

During this reporting period Dhimurru Rangers received bāru handling refresher training, were involved in CrocWise talks, and P & WC also supplied two new aluminium crocodile traps.



DESIGNATED RECREATIONAL AREA MANAGEMENT

With increasing visitor numbers in the Gove Peninsula area, there is additional pressure on the recreational areas in the Dhimurru IPA. The recreational areas need careful management to ensure they can be enjoyed by both Nhulunbuy locals and tourists whilst minimising impacts to the environment and important cultural sites.

Over the past year, in addition to the routine maintenance of the Dhimurru recreational areas, Rangers have continued work on upgrades including:

- New signage was installed at the town entrance indicating which recreational areas are open or closed throughout the IPA
- The facilities at Banambarrja have been upgraded significantly and include the repair and re-alignment of the access track, new signs, upgrades of camping facilities and the establishment of an additional day use area;

- At the Wathawuy, a high use area, rehabilitation works were again undertaken during the wet season including the planting of native plant species to help mitigate erosion impacts during the wet season. A new self-composting toilet funded through the NT Environment Protection Authority Environment Grants was also installed to improve the facilities at this recreational area
- Track maintenance continued on the interpretive coastal bush walking track from the Binydjarrja to Barijura providing additional access to these recreational areas

Work at Wanuwuy is a long-term ongoing project due to the sensitive coastal habitat. While access is difficult, the vehicular access system allows locals and tourists to traverse the area whilst minimising damage. The new corduroys made from recycled plastic, despite having long-lasting environmental characteristics, proved not to be as successful as was hoped and timber corduroys are now the preferred material to minimise track erosion whilst providing a stable driving surface.

RANGER FORUM

Dhimurru hosted the 2016 East Arnhem Ranger Forum involving over 100 Rangers from 10 Ranger groups from the region and 30 staff from partnering organisations over a week in June. The forum was supported with funding and coordination assistance through Northern Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) and funding from the Commonwealth Dept of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR), Commonwealth Dept of Environment (DoE), Commonwealth Dept of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM & C), and NT Fisheries. This was an opportunity to bring East Arnhem Land Rangers together to meet face to face

and share stories. The forum provided a platform for Rangers to present and listen to talks about our current work and the challenges each group face locally, regionally and nationally.

Djawa Yunipingu (senior Gumatj Traditional Owner, Dhimurru Deputy Director, and one of Dhimurru's original Rangers) and Rarrtjiwuy Herdman (Dhimurru Board Chairperson), welcomed everybody to country and to the forum on behalf of Dhimurru. The event was held at the Yothu Yindi Foundation's (YYF) Gulkula site, which provided great facilities for the event such as a campground, amenities blocks, kitchen and the Knowledge Centre where the forum was held.

MIYALK RANGERS

YUPUNU MARIKA

Yupunu belongs to the Rirratjingu clan and has been working at Dhimurru since 2010. She is a Senior Ranger and in her role, she supports the other *Miyalk* Rangers at Dhimurru with ongoing work in the IPA. Yupunu has wide experience in all aspects of both land and sea management. She holds a Certificate II in CLM and a Coxwains Certificate. She is currently working towards her Certificate III in CLM.

In her role Yupunu particularly enjoys working on country and maintaining a strong bond to her culture.



GRACE WUNUNG MURRA

Grace joined Dhimurru after completing her secondary schooling in Cairns and returning to Nhulunbuy. She belongs to the Dhalwanju clan. In her role at Dhimurru she enjoys working out on country in the IPA and working in a team environment with the other Dhimurru Rangers. Grace has a Certificate II in CLM and is working towards her Certificate III. She would like to keep increasing her knowledge in land management and is especially interested in the work that Border Security do.





The Ranger groups who attended the forum were:

- Dhimurru
- Yirralka
- Djelk
- Crocodile Island
- Numbulwar
- Gumurr Marthakal
- Mimal
- Yugul Mangi
- Anandilyakwa
- Arafura Swamp

Each Ranger group gave an introductory presentation about their organisation, the country they look after the type of work they do focusing on their challenges and successes.

Many partner organisations attended the forum and some presented information about their work, future priorities and how these may align with Ranger programs. The forum was an opportunity to listen

to the stakeholders who support us in our work so we can generate new ideas and talk about what works well and what could be improved.

These stakeholders included:

- Territory NRM
- NT Fisheries
- Northern Land Council (NLC)
- Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)
- Dept of Agriculture and Water Resources
- Dept of Land Resource Management (Flora and Fauna and Weeds Branch)
- Dept of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Border Watch
- Country Needs People (Pew Foundation)
- Kimberley to Cape

The forum also included a field trip to Garanhan where Dhimurru staff guided their guests through this significant cultural site. Dhimurru also delivered several presentations at this site, focusing on cultural heritage management, the LoC program, visitor management and weed management within the Dhimurru IPA. Guests enjoyed the opportunity to see this important area and learn more about how Dhimurru manages the IPA.

During the event, the significant signing and acceptance of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation and the Yirralka Rangers was acknowledged. The MOU establishes the framework for co-managing the overlap between the two IPAs, that consists of a substantial area of land and sea country. The significant event was celebrated by *bungul* and *manikay* and the swapping of Ranger caps in a short ceremony which was enjoyed by all in attendance.

RAKRKPUY MARIKA

Rakrakpuy belongs to the Rirratjingu clan and has been working as a Ranger at Dhimurru for the past two years. In her role, she works throughout the recreational areas in the IPA and her job includes weed management, rehabilitation work, and campground maintenance. Rakrakpuy plans to continue with her studies in Certificate III CLM. What she enjoys most about her job is working with the other Dhimurru Rangers and working on her country.

She continues a fine family tradition. Her grandfather was the first Senior Cultural Advisor and her father and former Dhimurru Board Chair.



MUNDATJNGU MUNUNGGURR

Mundatjngu lives in Yirralka and belongs to the Djapu clan and her moiety is Dhuwa. Mundatjngu started her work experience at Dhimurru through the LoC project and has recently finished her Certificate II in CLM. After her work experience at Dhimurru she was offered a full-time Ranger position. In her job at Dhimurru she helps maintain recreational areas and her duties are varied including walking track maintenance, weed management and planting of native species. Mundatjngu is currently studying her Certificate III in CLM and is aspiring to go to university and become a Senior Ranger.



SEA COUNTRY





MARINE DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

Wanuwuy Survey 2015

The Wanuwuy (Cape Arnhem) Marine Debris Survey Project has been an annual event since early 2000. In 2015, the survey took place between the 31st August and the 4th September. The survey covers approximately three and a half kilometres of beach, and serves to record the volume of debris washing up on this beach each year and records the proportions of various items that make up the total volume.

This year the Marine Debris Survey Project collected over 670 kilograms of debris, approximately half the total weight of debris collected in 2014, an interesting comparison to the 2,000 kilograms collected in 2013. These figures indicate the volume of debris is declining, however variations in wind and ocean currents can dramatically influence the amount of debris that becomes beached versus the amount still at sea. This year not as many marine debris patrols were conducted as in previous years and the Wanuwuy annual marine debris clean-up was the main activity. This was largely due to the impact Cyclone Lam and Nathan had on the work program, with work priorities shifting to track clearance and repairs and maintenance to visitor recreational areas.

After the wet season, Rangers anticipated the Dhimurru winds would bring marine debris ashore as they usually signal the start of the

season for marine debris collection. However, this season was unusual with limited winds, a poor wet season, and a less pronounced dry season. Due to these weather conditions, marine debris was less abundant and it was noted the seas actually took back some of the debris from the bays around the Wanuwuy area during April/May.

The Marine Debris Survey and Ghostnets Project are very labour intensive and utilise a great deal of Dhimurru's resources. This year the survey project was resourced with seven Yolŋu Rangers, one facilitator, five volunteers from Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and two local Australian Border Force members. Although they did not directly contribute funding to this program, the ongoing in-kind support from both Ghostnets Australia and Tangaroa Blue is significant.



DOLPHIN RESEARCH

Following an intensive year of dolphin survey work in 2014 - 2015, including DNA sampling, the Rangers continued dolphin surveys and photo identification work to build on previous data. By taking photos of dolphins as they breach the surface, individual dolphins can be identified by distinct markings, scars and missing parts of their dorsal fins. This collection of photos, combined with spatial data, will be used to develop a better idea of individual dolphins, dolphin group range and habitat use.

This year there were eight dolphin surveys, mainly within Melville Bay and in the open water beyond the bay. This resulted in eight pods being observed and in most cases photographed for photo identification analysis.

These pods consisted of:

- Eight Bottlenose Dolphins
- Two Indo Pacific Humpback Dolphins
- Five Snubfin Dolphins
- Two unidentified pods



Although the research project with James Cook University (JCU) has been completed, Dhimurru plans to continue collecting dolphin data with the intention of further improving our understanding of these local and significant dolphin populations within the Dhimurru IPA.

2015 NORTHERN TERRITORY LANDCARE AWARDS

In November 2015, Sea Country Facilitator Vanessa Drysdale was recognised for her dedication and contribution to sustainably managing our land, water and biodiversity and was the winner of the 2015 NT Landcare Awards. The award winners were announced at an Awards Gala Dinner on 11 November as a highlight of the Territory NRM Conference at the Darwin Waterfront from the 10-12 November 2015. In 2014, Dhimurru rangers were also named the national winner of the Clean Beaches Australia Award for Keep Australia Beautiful.

For the past eight years Vanessa has managed multiple sea country management programs in the Dhimurru IPA including marine debris clean-ups and sea turtle rescues. She has been involved in numerous research projects including dolphin surveys and other marine surveys. Her role as Facilitator at Dhimurru have enabled her to share her skills and knowledge with other Dhimurru Rangers.

In early 2016, Vanessa and her family moved to Cairns where she has taken a position with Terrain NRM. Her role will enable her to keep working on country with stakeholders in all aspects of Natural Resource Management in the Douglas region, including Port Douglas, Mossman and Daintree.





TURTLE RESCUE

In 2015 - 2016 Dhimurru Rangers discovered 30 stranded marine sea turtles. This has increased from 26 in 2013 - 2014 and 17 in 2014 - 2015. The poor wet season for 2015 - 2016 was followed by an unusual dry season. In previous years, the strong south easterly Dhimurru winds arrived mid to late April. After the winds have been consistent for a period, the marine turtle rescue work starts. This weather pattern typically brings ghost nets to shore, and there is a high likelihood of these nets containing trapped sea turtles. The helicopter surveys are the most efficient method of covering all beaches quickly and being able to rescue the turtles before they perish. However, due to the lack of winds and reduced numbers of ghost nests arriving on shore, Dhimurru Rangers focused their efforts on beach patrols in the Dhimurru IPA following short periods of strong south easterly winds to check for the deposition of ghost nets, other marine debris and strandings.

In April 2015, Dhimurru Rangers recorded a number of ghost nets released from sand dunes eroded by the high sea from the storms during the two cyclone events that affected the region. Over time, many of these nets are pushed up to the highest tide mark and eventually are covered in a layer of sand that forms part of the dune system and disappear from sight. This year, however, many nets from the sand dunes were washed back into the sea. This event highlights the importance of completely removing the nets from the beaches, not merely burying them or dragging them above the high tide mark.



SEA PATROLS

Sea patrols within the Dhimurru IPA sea country are done for a number of reasons including:

- Recording marine megafauna sightings
- Patrolling for any ghost nets in the ocean
- Patrolling for any foreign fishing vessels
- Maintaining visitor areas on islands
- Accessing islands for land management activities
- Performing compliance activities for recreational and professional fishing

Notable sea patrols during this past year have been joint operations with Reef Watch, Australian Border Force (ABF), Fisheries Police and Yirralka Rangers.

The fieldwork undertaken with Reef Watch staff focused on surveying and mapping coral reef abundance and condition. Scuba and snorkelling were used to identify coral populations and record the diversity of species at particular sites. Several Rangers were lucky enough to be included in this trip and learned about reef check survey methods.

The primary objective of patrolling with ABF, was to identify foreign fishing vessels. It was also a great opportunity to work with the ABF team and learn what their priorities are in this region. We see this partnership as mutually beneficial, as ABF also learned about what Dhimurru aim to achieve in a sea patrol. In future, we hope to organise more combined patrols and further develop the benefits of working together.

Fisheries Police have been very helpful in encouraging our participation in their patrols and enforcement activities in the East Arnhem region. In April 2016, Dhimurru Rangers participated in a joint patrol with Fisheries Police, and Yirralka Rangers. These joint patrols are particularly valuable for Rangers as they are potentially involved in real fisheries compliance activities including observing and participating in vessel inspections and questioning of recreational and professional fishermen. The patrol covered Blue Mud Bay and Buckingham Bay and provided valuable experience in planning, preparing and executing sea patrols in remote areas. Sea patrols have also reinforced skills learned in the Certificate III Fisheries Compliance training that Rangers have recently completed. This training is jointly delivered by NT Fisheries, Fisheries Police and the Australian Maritime and Fisheries Academy. An additional two Dhimurru Rangers completed the Certificate II Fisheries Compliance training which was offered in Nhulunbuy in June.





GARANHAN WURRWURRUY STONE ARRANGEMENTS

On Thursday February 25th 2016, Dhimurru hosted a traditional Makassar influenced Yolŋu flag raising *Galtha* ceremony and celebration day. The celebration was open to community members and Yolŋu and took place at Garanhan where the Wurrwurruy stone arrangements are located. The event was held to commemorate and capture the significance of the listing of the Wurrwurrwuy site on the Australian National Heritage List which was formalised in August 2013.

The celebration was very successful with the Traditional Owners for the area educating the Yolŋu LoC students, teachers, Dhimurru staff and the wider Gove community on Yolŋu history, beliefs, stories, songs and ceremonial obligations focused on the Wurrwurruy site. The celebration contributed to a shared sense of community and identity for all involved.

The ancient Makassar language was used in the flag raising ceremony by one of our talented Dhimurru Rangers, Banula Marika. This language has not been spoken on this site for a very long time and helped to make this particular event very special.

In addition to the celebration day, archaeological and heritage conservation work on the Wurrwurruy Stone Arrangements commenced April 11th, 2016 under the direction of renowned archaeologist Professor Campbell MacKnight and Bill Gray (Professor MacKnight's colleague who assisted in the original recording of the site in 1967) and helped Dhimurru staff record and map all 45 sites from 1967.

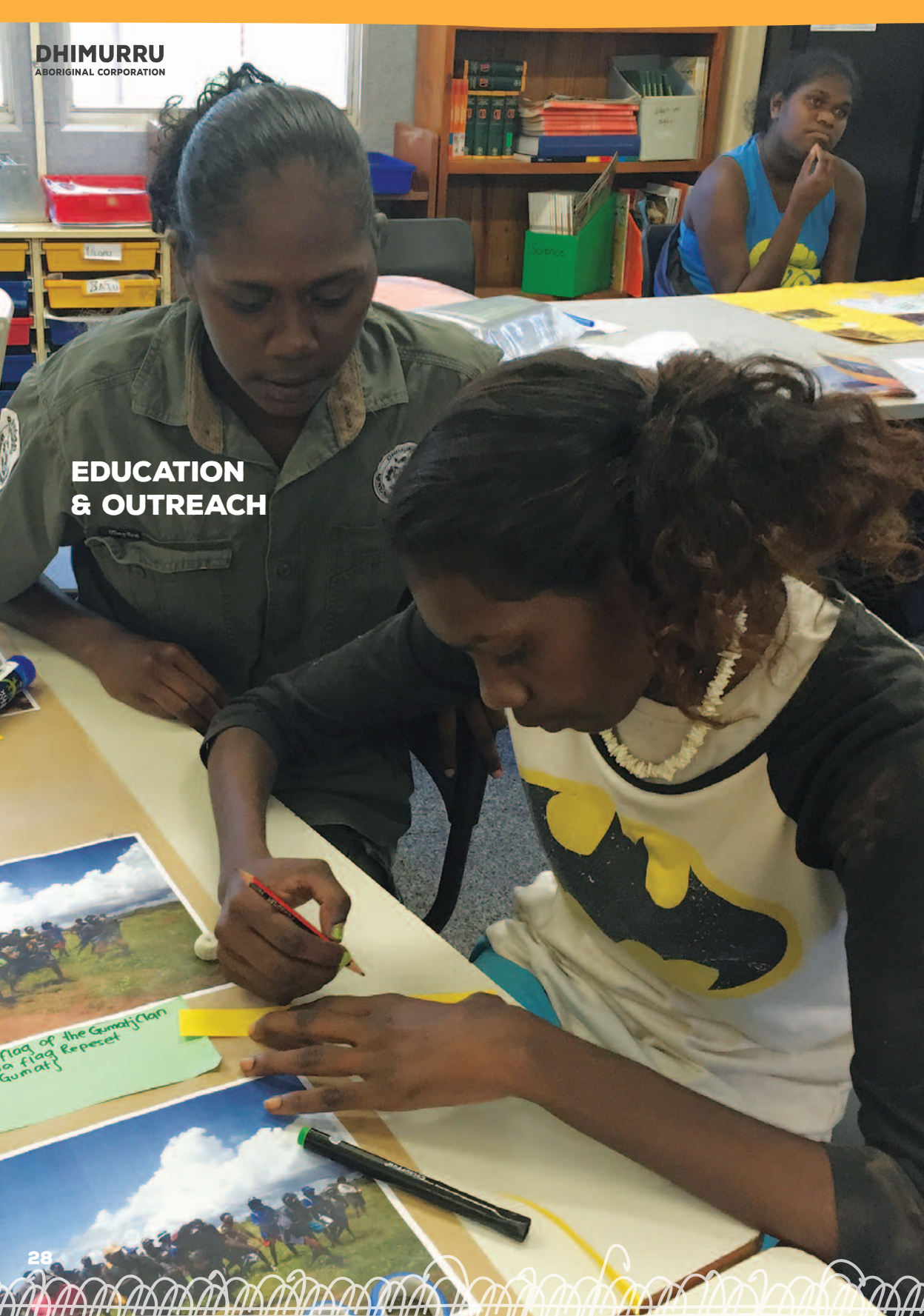
Professor MacKnight taught Dhimurru and Yirralka Rangers, LoC students and volunteer's archaeological survey skills on locating and correctly marking up the site, and finding the datum point. Campbell also shared stories from his adventures from Makassar where he visits regularly.

Participants also learnt how this restoration project aligns with the principles of the Burra Charter, a set of principles that provide a nationally accepted standard for heritage conservation practice in Australia.

Dhimurru Rangers spent a week onsite working toward the 'Protect & Maintain Cultural Places' unit of their Certificate II and III in CLM through Batchelor College supported by lecturer Dr Cheryl O'Dwyer. Prior to the celebration day, Dhimurru Rangers upgraded the facilities including dressing the car parking area with our skid steer funded by the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC). This project would not have been achieved without the support of the Australian Government Community Heritage and Icons Grant program and the NTG Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment who funded new signage.



**EDUCATION
& OUTREACH**





LEARNING ON COUNTRY

The Learning on Country (LoC) educational initiative meets the aspirations of Yolŋu people to transfer expert knowledge about country from one generation to the next, as well as supporting Yolŋu students to complete their senior secondary qualifications and/or a vocational certificate in CLM. Dhimurru continued as Yirrkala School's key partner in the LoC program this year.

Learning on Country maintained a regular program of inter-generational knowledge transfer and rich place-based learning for the Yirrkala School senior secondary students. Some examples of the Yolŋu directed Galtha Rom 'both-ways' workshops that build a foundation from Yolŋu knowledge, skills and traditions included:

- *Work* (fire in the landscape, songs, art and knowledge system) at Dhalinbuy Homeland Community in collaboration with the Yirrkala Rangers and the Yirrkala Homelands Schools
- *Garanhan* (Wurrwurray Stone Arrangements), including a celebration of the site's listing on the Australian National Heritage List
- *Raypirri* (discipline and identity for students and for staff in the Dhimurru workplace) at Yirrkala
- *Dharuk* (clan/adult languages for identity and for the Dhimurru both-ways workplace)

Rangers continued their weekly program of co-delivering the Certificate II in CLM units to the Yirrkala School senior secondary students, including enriching the learning with applicable Yolŋu knowledge and practice. Several LoC students benefited from the experience of working alongside the Rangers at Dhimurru.

Dhimurru Rangers were proud to stand beside two LoC students at their year 12 and Certificate II in CLM graduations. Congratulations Mundaŋtjŋu Mununggurr and Gutingarra Yunupirŋu! Both graduates were immediately approached by employers and accepted offers of full-time employment. Mundaŋtjŋu accepted a Ranger position at Dhimurru and Gutingarra accepted a position as a filmmaker at the Mulka Centre, Buku Larngay Arts. Mundaŋtjŋu is continuing her studies at a Certificate III level with Dhimurru.

The benefits of the LoC program for Dhimurru Rangers have been as compelling as for the Yolŋu community and students. The program has provided Rangers with leadership and mentoring opportunities, practice public speaking in English and Yolŋu languages, project management experience, and an opportunity to meet their obligations for knowledge transfer to the next and future generations. The LoC program is supported by the Australian Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy, the Australian Government's Working on Country Program (WOC), and the Northern Territory Government's Department of Education.



TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Dhimurru has continued to demonstrate its commitment to staff training and professional development. Last year a framework was developed for matching the needs of Dhimurru with the aspirations of each staff member. This year the framework was put into action.

The units of study we need at Dhimurru to meet our obligations and aspirations were the focus of our training effort, and Rangers chose a path that aligned with their interests and talents. Intensive workshops and workplace training toward the Certificate II in CLM continued for early career Rangers. Two Rangers were awarded their Certificate II after two years of consistent effort. Several mid-career Rangers and Senior Rangers completed units toward their Certificate III in CLM.

The Northern Territory Government has committed to equipping Indigenous Rangers with the skills to exercise inspection powers under the *NT Fisheries Act (1988)*. Three Rangers completed a Certificate II in Fisheries Compliance this year with the support in the classroom and on the water from Northern Territory Government Fisheries Officers and Water Police. Dhimurru now have four Rangers on a path to being granted inspection powers commensurate with their skills and experience.

Land and sea managers at Dhimurru are fortunate to experience the benefits of a rich professional development program. Both-ways learning is essential and our non-Yolŋu staff learn about Yolŋu traditions for caring and managing country; and about how Yolŋu culture, kinship and country are the foundation of Yolŋu well-being and identity. The LoC program and the Yolŋu directed *Galtha Rom* workshops are proving to be an excellent way to support and deepen this both-ways learning.





VOLUNTEERS VISITS AND EXCHANGES

In June 2015 Girringun Rangers from Queensland visited Nhulunbuy for one week to exchange knowledge with the Dhimurru Rangers. They were welcomed to country with a ceremony on Mt Nhulun. During the week Dhimurru Rangers escorted their guests around the IPA, showing them the different Designated Recreation Areas whilst on patrols. The Girringun Rangers were also taken on sea patrol within Melville Bay and shown some of Dhimurru's Sea Country responsibilities. There was an instant rapport amongst the Rangers with their shared interest in looking after country.

In late November, early December 2015, five Dhimurru Rangers reciprocated the exchange and travelled to Cardwell, Queensland. This involved a week working with the Girringun Rangers who manage the IPA in the Cardwell region as well as working with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). During this week, Girringun Rangers and QPWS showed Dhimurru Rangers some of the wet tropics region. This included parts of Paluma National Park, where the Rangers studied the signage and infrastructure in place to manage the tourists in this park. QPWS took some of the Rangers on a sea patrol around Hinchinbrook Island whilst they did fisheries enforcement work. They also visited the Mission Beach area where they had a look at the local National Park reserves.

Both Ranger groups delivered presentations to each other, teaching each other about their country, their organisations management structure and the issues they manage.

In August 2015, Dhimurru had a one day visit from Canadian Rangers hosted by Norforce. Dhimurru staff organised a presentation about the organisation and took the Canadian Rangers and Norforce staff for a tour of Garanhan. Dhimurru Rangers guided their guests through the stone pictures site and shared the history of the relationship between Yolŋu and Macassan people, when the Macassans took their annual voyage over to Arnhem Land.



STUDENTS FROM NEAR AND FAR

Rangers assisted the schools and early learning centres in Nhulunbuy throughout the year. We gave talks on marine debris, life cycles of marine animals, visitor management and bush medicine. Rangers supported the Northern Territory P & WC to deliver their Crocwise program at the schools in Nhulunbuy, Yirrkala and Gunyangara.

The Hooker Foundation's residential 'Culture College' in Nhulunbuy brings groups of secondary students from schools in southern states for a two-week cultural, environmental and outdoor education program. It aims to contribute to Yolŋu well-being and the local economy and promote both ways learning. Dhimurru Rangers welcomed each group of visitors to country and led them on the Gayngaru lagoon walk.



GARMA FESTIVAL 2015

Each year Dhimurru with Yirrkala make an important contribution to the Yothu Yindi Foundation's (YYF) Garma festival. Our partnership with YYF goes back to the commencement of the festival in 1999. We have developed and maintain a 'Learning on Country' walk where guests are guided by Dhimurru staff and introduced to cultural and environmental knowledge. We participate in key forums on conservation, land and sea matters and contribute to the youth forum. Our displays present Dhimurru's goals and the work we do, and Dhimurru staff are on hand throughout the festival to discuss our operations with local, national and international visitors.



GOVERNANCE

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

Dhimurru moved ahead this year negotiating and finalising the purchase of a three bedroom property on Aisa Street and negotiating and contracting the purchase of a four bedroom property on Wuyal Road and a two by two bedroom duplex on Lobelia Crescent. The purchase was finalised and renovations completed utilising funding from the Aboriginal Benefits Account (ABA) which will also cover the costs of purchasing the property on Wuyal Road. The purchase of the duplex will be completed partly with ABA funds and topped up with some of Dhimurru own savings.

These purchases, continuing support from the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation through our

Affordable Housing program, and further subsidisation from our own funds means that we were able to support accommodation requirements for eight of our staff. Our partnership arrangements with Rio Tinto are also important and help to provide accommodation for a further two staff under current arrangements.

The Affordable Housing actions are a transformative initiative. We have found that being able to provide meaningful support and assistance with accommodation has led to noticeably improved performance and well being outcomes. Sadly housing and accommodation remains in chronic short supply for Yolŋu in our region.

LAUNCH OF DHIMURRU'S MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015 TO 2022

In 2015 at the Garma Festival Dhimurru launched the *Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area Management Plan 2015 – 2022*. The launch was celebrated with Yolŋu leaders from both dhuwa and yirritja clans performing bungul and manikay. The plan was launched by the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs – Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion together with Djawa Yunupingu.

The plan is dedicated to Djawa in honour of the valuable service and commitment he has provided to Dhimurru over the life of our organisation. Djawa was an original Ranger and has been with Dhimurru since 1992. Djawa worked his way up through the ranks and assumed the role of Managing Director and although he is no longer an employee of Dhimurru, he still serves as Dhimurru's Deputy Chairperson. Djawa is a senior Gumatj Traditional Owner.

This is the third IPA management plan Dhimurru has developed and brings together our terrestrial and marine programs for the

first time. Dhimurru had developed two sea country plans which sat alongside the IPA plans previously. Amalgamating the plans makes much more sense from a Yolŋu point of view as land and sea are connected from a cultural point of view.

We acknowledge the contributions made by Yolŋu traditional owners who contributed their ideas, concerns, and knowledge during the development of the plan. Thanks and appreciation also to the members of the Dhimurru Advisory Group for their contribution to the planning process.

Dhimurru Board, staff, and our critical friends are also to be thanked for their efforts in helping to bring the plan together. Special mention though to the team leaders Vanessa Drysdale and Dermot Smyth whose expertise, energy, and attention to quality and detail helped to make this project such a resounding success.

Njilmurru bukmak djäka wäŋawu.
All of us together looking after country.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

LAUNCHING SEA RANGER 3

Our project to commission and build a new vessel utilising funding from the Aboriginal Benefits Account (ABA) is progressing and we expect to have the boat ready for launching in September 2017. The work is being undertaken by Custom Works, a Darwin based boat design and building company. The vessel will have much greater operational capacity than our current vessel, Sea Ranger 1, and almost the same patrol capacity. The new vessel is expected to increase our capacity in biodiversity and cultural heritage management in remote or otherwise inaccessible areas of our IPA.

THE LATRAM MERGE PROJECT

We plan to undertake major capital works in the Latram and Goanna Designated Recreation Areas this year. This area is referred to collectively as Wathawuy by Yolŋu. We plan to upgrade much of the existing access track, build a level crossing to connect the Goanna and Latram areas, undertake erosion control works, and develop a number of new camp sites. The work will see improvements to the way people can share the waterholes by encouraging camping away from the river terrace. The work will also make the current long and arduous access corridor to Goanna redundant. This work will be undertaken with YBE (2) as our primary contractor and with funding from Tropical Cyclone Lam and Tropical Cyclone Nathan Community Recovery Fund as well as the Department of Transport Regional Economic Infrastructure Fund (REIF).

LOOKING BACK TO LOOK FORWARD

A project undertaken in collaboration with Melbourne University and researcher Dr Margaret Ayre commenced this year with a report expected later in 2017. Marg's work has already contributed to a "Performance Story" provided to the Commonwealth as part of our 2015 2016 reporting commitment. This project is looking at Traditional Owners expectations when they established Dhimurru, at what has happened as Dhimurru has grown through the past 23 years and how those expectations have been

honoured. Early feedback from traditional owners suggests that there is a high level of pride and appreciation of Dhimurru but that there has also been some evolution of purpose.

A NEW ENTERPRISE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

Negotiations and drafting of a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) have been progressing through most of the 2015 2016 reporting period and it is expected that these will be finalised early in the coming period. The new EBA will provide for salary increases, increments, and cpi adjustments to recognise professional development amongst Dhimurru staff and keep pace with our changing economy. Dhimurru expects the new EBA to provide its staff with competitive conditions matching or exceeding award conditions.

DHIMURRU RULE BOOK REVIEW

The Dhimurru Board have called for a review of the Dhimurru Rule Book aimed at ensuring that our Governance Framework is up to date and accessible to members. The review will also consider how well clans with estates and interests in the Dhimurru IPA are represented with the current Governance framework.

TERN MONITORING PROGRAM

Dhimurru was successful in being awarded the Indigenous Grant for 2016 from BirdLife Australia. This Grant provides a training workshop in bird identification and monitoring techniques, and equipment to conduct monitoring work. The focus will be on several Tern species within the IPA, particularly Yilipawuy/Higginson Island, which is classed as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) due to its internationally significant populations of Bridled and Roseate Terns. The monitoring will contribute to BirdLife Australia's KBA Easter health check program, and provide Dhimurru with further information on these important avian species which will guide future management direction.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS SUMMARY

DHIMURRU ABORIGINAL CORPORATION INCOME 2015-2016

INCOME SOURCE	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet	Working on Country Program	\$913,120
	Indigenous Protected Areas Program (Department of Environment)	\$320,300
	Biodiversity Fire Management Project	\$30,500
	Staff Accommodation	\$1,230,000
	Patrol Vessel	\$193,868
Territory Natural Resource Management	Bremer Island Coffee Bush Project	\$4,750
	Coastal Management Dhambaliya	\$680.00
	Ranger Forum	\$20,000
	Marine Debris	\$23,750
Department of Chief Minister	Cyclone Recovery	\$150,000
Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries	Sea Ranger Program	\$96,158
	Ranger Forum	\$5,000
Department of Agriculture	Ranger Forum	\$25,000
Department of Transport	Track Upgrade	\$225,000
Indigenous Land Corporation	Skidsteer	\$77,623
TOTAL		\$3,315,749

YOLŇU MATHA – ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

YOLŇU MATHA	ENGLISH
bäru	crocodile
miyalk	women
buŇgul	dance
manikay	art
natha	food

DESIGNATED RECREATION AREAS

BaŇambarrŇa	Rainbow Cliffs
WaŇuwuy	Cape Arnhem
Łombuy	Crocodile Creek
Nhulun	Mount Saunders
Gälaru	East Woody
Gapuru	Memorial Park
GaŇami	Wonga Creek
Manangaymi	Scout Camp
Guwatjurumurru	Giddy River
Wathawuy	Latram River and Goanna Lagoon
Yarrapay	Rocky Point
BariŇura	Little Bondi
Dumuy	Turtle Beach
Garanhan	Macassan (Makassar) Beach
BinydjarrŇa	Daliwuy
Ganinyara	Granite Islands
Wirrwawuy	Cape Wirawoi
Gaġalathami	Town Beach
Gumuniya	Buffalo Creek
Yilipawuy	Higginson Island





DHIMURRU

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

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A solid orange background with a series of white, stylized, wavy lines that resemble a traditional Indigenous Australian pattern, possibly a snake or a wave.