



DHIMURRU

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

2017 – 2018





DHIMURRU ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

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CONTENTS

Foreword: Chair	2
Notes On Yolŋu Orthography	3
Vision Statement	4-5
Dhimurru Board	6
Dhimurru Staff	7
Our Guiding Principles	8-9
Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area	10-11
Working Together: Dhimurru's Partners and Collaborators	12

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Recreational Area Management.....	14-15
Access Permits and Visitor Management.....	16
Wathawuy Merge Project – Official Opening Ceremony.....	17
Bäru Management	18
Fire Management.....	19
Weed Management	20

STAFF PROFILE CHRISTINE BURKE	21
--	-----------

SEA COUNTRY

Marine Debris Management	23
Wanuwuy Marine Debris Survey Project	23
Dhambaliya (Bremer Island).....	24
Seagrass Mapping	25
Sea Temperature Logging	26
Tern Monitoring Program	27

FISHERIES COMPLIANCE TRAINING: GATHAPURA MUNUŋGURR.....	27
--	-----------

STAFF PROFILE DAVID GUYMILILI BIDIŋAL.....	28
---	-----------

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Learning on Country	30-31
Training and Staff Development	32

SPECIAL EVENTS

Australian Sea Country Delegation to 4th International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC4)	34
Garma Festival.....	35
Territory Natural Resource Management Conference	35
His Royal Highness Prince Charles Visit.....	36

STAFF PROFILE LUKE PLAYFORD	37
--	-----------

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE	38
-----------------------------------	-----------

FINANCE CONTRIBUTIONS SUMMARY

Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation Income 2017-2018.....	39
---	----

YOLŋU MATHA ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS.....	40
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FOREWORD

Rartjiwuy Melanie
Herdman
CHAIR 2017-2018

Nhämirri bukmak!

This year will be my final year as Chair of Dhimurru Board. I have taken an opportunity with Jawun to move to Sydney for a year, to take up a secondment in the corporate sector. I hope the year will be one of excitement and learning and I look forward to returning to Nhulunbuy to put my new skills to good use. I have been on the Dhimurru Board for five years and wish to thank all those who assisted me in my role as Chair. I feel the Board has achieved many great things and I know Dhimurru will continue to grow and flourish in my absence.

In addition to my news, there has been much change at Dhimurru, with the departure of Steve Roeger, who has been the Dhimurru Executive Officer since 2002; and Lisa Roeger who worked at Dhimurru for around eight years.

I would like to thank Steve Roeger, in particular, for his work over the last 16 years. His contribution to Dhimurru has been significant and he has moved our organisation to a level of professionalism and operational success that is something to be proud of.

During his time with us Steve worked tirelessly for the Board to deliver its outcomes including our new office and workshop complex, great improvements to our operations and governance, our current Plan of Management, working with our members to expand the Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area, identifying and negotiating significant funding and also delivering on many collaborative partnerships which has transformed Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation into a well-known and respected organisation in the area of Indigenous Protected Area management. In recognition of his work Steve also received a Territory Natural Resource Management Award in September 2017. Steve will remain a trusted and valued friend of Dhimurru.

Also, I would like to welcome Christine Burke, who started as Executive Officer in February this year. The Board and staff have worked hard to help her settle into her new role and look forward to working closely with her to continue to deliver high quality outcomes for Dhimurru.

As with any change of leadership this year has been a period of transition for us. I would like to thank the staff who acted in the Executive Officer role whilst it was being recruited, and the staff who continued to work hard in unsettling times.

Despite the change in leadership over the last 12 months, Dhimurru continues to deliver outcomes. This year the Wathawuy merge project was completed and formerly opened, the marine debris program has continued to deliver cleaner shores for our community, we have been successful in winning three grants from Northern Territory Natural Resource Management to improve the quality of marine water temperature data for this area, using drones to map sea grass and cultural mapping. These projects will get fully underway during the next financial year.

This financial year saw the end of the Working on Country and Indigenous Protected Area projects, funded by the Australian Government over the last five years. This is a significant outcome for Dhimurru both in delivering broader environmental management, employment and many other less tangible outcomes for Yolŋu and for all Australians. Dhimurru has also been successful in winning another contract, commencing next financial year, to carry on this important work for another three years for Working on Country and five years for Indigenous Protected Area management.

This year the Learning on Country program has also been in transition with Dhimurru supporting the establishment of a Learning on Country Aboriginal Corporation and participating in partnership with Yirralka Rangers to deliver the Treaty *Galtha Rom* at Biranybirany where we also celebrated Dr Yunupingu's work in writing Treaty, but more significantly for his work in developing both-ways and bi-lingual education for Yolŋu students.

Staff have continued to receive training to support them in their work and there has been a significant milestone in this area with Gathapura Mununggurr successfully completing his Certificate III in Fisheries Compliance, one of only six Indigenous Rangers in the Northern Territory to do so. Congratulations goes to Gathapura for his commitment to his studies and achieving such a great outcome.

Finally, I would like to thank all our partners who have supported Dhimurru and in particular I would like to personally thank Jawun who have provided me with this secondment opportunity to enhance my career, build important networks and grow professionally.

I wish you all the best and hope that you enjoy reading this report.

Njilmurru bukmak djäka wäŋawu.

All of us together looking after country.

Rartjiwuy 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	<u>t</u> – 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 reference 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 YOLŲU MATHA
BY THE LATE ROY DADAYŲA MARIKA MBE**

From dhawuru dhanu naya yaka wŲna ga hundred or more than one hundred years dhanu dhŲruk naru dhŲya wekarram. MŲ nhŲn yaka naru yolŲuyu bŲki, banhaya naye generation ga generation ga generation. Naye yaka naru dhŲya, mŲ dhanal naru nhŲma banhaya naye, banha yakan nhalpiyan dhanal nyenan nŲtŲil dilak. Ga nhalpiyan dhanal yakan gatŲpu'yuan nŲtŲil dilak. Yo - Dhuwa Yirritja, Yothu ga Yindi.

Bukmak naye malanyinha yaka dhŲya manikaymi, rommi, dhulanmi, dhŲwu'mi. BanhalaŲa nayeŲa, dhanalŲgu nuku djalkiri. Bitjan nhan yaka nayeŲ malanya dhŲya gaŲunha Land RightsŲa dhŲruk bilanya bili. Yo, decision maker nhanbayi yana landowner.

Naru nhan naru, narunam gonmurrum nhumaliŲ gurumuru, Conservation Commission or Rangerwurumuru, Dhimurruwurumuru. Bukmak naye malanyinha djŲkawu gonŲa Dhimurruwura. Yirritja ga Dhuwa naru warkthun dhanal further development bilanya bitjan Conservation ga dhal yun naru protecting nhŲnuru developmentŲuru.

Dhanu naye yolŲuwu yana, YolŲuyu naru warkthun dhŲruk nhanbayi YolŲuyu yana. Djinaku nayeŲu narakawu, yaka Gapmandhu wo bilan yolthu waripunuyu nayeŲharayyu yolŲuyu. Nhanbayi yana naye-watanuyu, rom-watanuyu, wanarr- watanuyu, gamununŲu-watanuyu wo madayin-watanuyu.



Narru dhärukma dhanu gunyanda bayikun galapalmiyu banha narrunan ga dhanu badak nyena yaka.
narru dhärukma dhanalingu ga gatipum badak wälja.
Djinaku Dhimurruwum self developmentkum, ga self-managementkum.

VISION STATEMENT IN ENGLISH

(Adapted in 2013 following the declaration of extensive sea country estates to be 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 Dadayja 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 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 2017 - 2018

CHAIRPERSON

Rarrtjiwuy Herdman

DEPUTY CHAIR

Rärriwuy Marika

DIRECTORS

Djarrambal Marika
Ishmael Marika
Natjingu Marika
Nayarri Marika (nee Yunupinu)
Butjarri Munungirritj
Daylulu Yunupinu
Djawa Yunupinu
Velda Winunuj
Bawuli Marika (until October 2017)
Boyan 1 Yunupinu (until October 2017)
Caroline Dhamarrandji (until October 2017)

DHIMURRU STAFF 2017 - 2018

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Mandaka Marika

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Christine Burke (from Feb 2018)
Stephen Roeger (until Jan 2018)

SENIOR CULTURAL ADVISOR

Djalinda Ulamari Yunupingu

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT OFFICER

Gurumin Marika (until Dec 2017)

BUSINESS SERVICES MANAGER

Maureen Neil

BUSINESS SUPPORT OFFICER

Tiffany Crane

PROJECT FACILITATORS

Paul Augustin
Luke Playford
Lisa Roeger (until Dec 2017)
Jonathan Wearne (from Feb 2018)

LEARNING ON COUNTRY COORDINATOR

Jonathan Wearne (until Dec 2017)

SENIOR RANGERS

Gathapura Munungurr
Terence Wunungmurra
Grace Wunungmurra

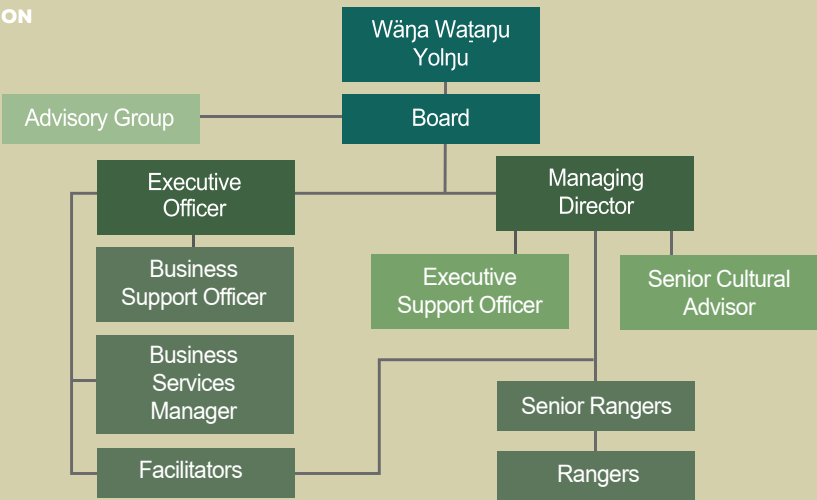
RANGERS

David Guymilili Bidiŋal
Hamish Gondarra
Daniel Balawurrurr Hick
Rakrakpuy Marika
Wulwat Marika
Rrawun Maymuru
Wangawuy Mununguritj
Banula Marika (until Dec 2017)
Gurumin Marika (until Dec 2017)

LEARNING ON COUNTRY RANGERS

Madawurrk Marawili
Bayini Yunupingu
Nalakan (Billy) Wanambi
Gudatjipirr Yunupingu
(until July 2017)

FIGURE 1.
ORGANISATIONAL
STRUCTURE OF
DHIMURRU ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION



GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DHIMURRU IPA

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 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 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 ŋäpaki (or mainstream) 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

Ŋäpaki recreation values

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

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 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 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 Wānga Waṭaṇu (landowners) 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 a further 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 landowners 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 in return for environmental and cultural heritage management services.

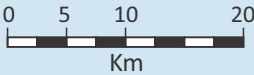
Many other government and non-government partners share their expertise and resources to help us achieve the conservation and sustainability goals of the IPA.

Our IPA is one of 75 Indigenous Protected Areas across Australia. Together they contribute about forty-five 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)

Excluded
Mine
Lease



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; *Njilimurru bukmak djäka wäŋawu* – All of us together looking after country. This is often referred to as Dhimurru's "Both Ways" approach where contemporary Njäpaki expertise is sought to help inform Yolŋu decision making.

DURING 2017–18 DHIMURRU'S COLLABORATIONS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:

Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)
Aboriginal Benefits Account (ABA)
Arafura Marine
Australian Border Force (ABF)
Australian Defence Force - Norforce
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)
Australian Government Department
of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
• Learning on Country Program (PM&C - LOC)
• Indigenous Protected Area Program
(PM&C - IPA)
• Working on Country Program (PM&C - WOC)
Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)
Batchelor Institute of Tertiary Education (BITE)
BirdLife Australia
Buku-Larrŋgay Mulka Art and Multi Media Centre
Centre for Aboriginal Economic and Policy
Research – Australian National University
Charles Darwin University (CDU)
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial
Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA)
Cotton on Foundation
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
– Bio-Security
Department of Environment – Parks Australia
Department of Education – Northern Territory
Government through the LOC program
Develop East Arnhem Land Limited (DEAL)
East Arnhem Land Tourist Association (EALTA)
East Arnhem Shire
Ghost Nets Australia
Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation (GAC)

Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC)
Jawun Corporate Partnerships
Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation
and Yirrala Rangers
Lirwi Aboriginal Corporation
LJ Hooker Foundation - Culture College
Marine and Coastal Community Network (NT)
Melbourne University
Miwatj Employment Program (MEP)
Miwatj Health
National Heritage Trust (NHT)
Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited (NCL)
Nhulunbuy Volunteers
North Australian Land and Sea Management
Alliance (NAILSMA)
Northern Land Council (NLC)
NT Correctional Services - Datjala Work Camp
NT Dept of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
NT Dept of Primary Industry and Resources
– Fisheries
NT Dept of Tourism and Culture – Parks and
Wildlife Commission (P&WC)
NT Police and Marine Enforcement Unit
NT Tourist Commission
People on Country – PEW Foundation
Regional Ranger Groups
Rio Tinto Gove Operations
Rirratjirju Aboriginal Corporation (RAC)
Seafood Council NT
Seagrass-Watch
Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM)
Threatened Species Network (NT)
University of New South Wales (UNSW)
Yolŋu Business Enterprises 2 (YBE 2)
Yirrkala School
Yothu Yindi Foundation (YYF)

**MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES**



RECREATIONAL AREA MANAGEMENT

Careful and diligent management by Dhimurru ensures Nhulunbuy residents and tourists can continue to enjoy our recreation areas whilst minimising the impact to the environment and significant cultural sites. Ongoing and frequent works are necessary to maintain the Designated Recreation Areas (DRAs) as they are situated in dynamic landscapes containing several sensitive ecosystems.

Maintaining and improving the vehicle track network continues to be a key aspect of Dhimurru's work. Many tracks are several decades old, lacked planning and consideration of important factors such as terrain and the impacts of seasonal weather patterns.

The track management strategy developed with a Jawun secondee (www.jawun.org.au) guides Dhimurru's repair, re-alignment and construction program. Our project areas are independently assessed by local Yolŋu-based civil works contractor YBE (2) Pty Ltd. Their field support provides Rangers with valuable experience in civil works, rehabilitation and ongoing management approaches.



The following vehicle track improvements have been completed:

- Wathawuy (Latram River and Goanna Lagoon) was closed in April 2018 for crossing repair works undertaken by a civil contractor and Dhimurru. The closure enabled preventative erosion control activities and installation of bunding over a 10 km area.
- Guwatjurumurru (Giddies River) Recreation Area track repair and upgrades were completed in December 2017.



- Repairs to the Djatula escarpment lookout, track smoothing and replacement of 130 metres of corduroy on dune access areas assists with erosion control at Wanuwuy.
- The Daliwuy road was re-routed by Rio Tinto to enable access through the mine lease to Numuy (Turtle Beach) and Barijura (Little Bondi) recreational areas.

In addition to the track maintenance and routine tasks of maintaining the DRA's, Rangers have also completed the following improvements:

- New General Permit and Special Permit signage was installed throughout the DRAs. These signs, in bright colours of orange and purple, are visual reminders for all visitors to obtain a permit before accessing the DRA's. It is hoped the new signage will lead to an increase in compliance.
- Improvements at Wanuwuy included the installation of new barbecues and a pit toilet.
- Ongoing revegetation, fencing and installation of traffic bollards and erosion control measures were implemented throughout the DRA's.
- New pit toilets were also installed at Wathawuy (Goanna), Barnambarrja, Numuy, Gapuru, Garanhan, Daliwuy and Guwatjurumurru (Giddy River).
- Beach access tracks at Wirwawuy and Middle car parks were upgraded using Geotex, a special matting product, which has proved very successful.



ACCESS PERMITS AND VISITOR MANAGEMENT

Dhimurru manages and maintains 19 Designated Recreation Areas (DRAs) located within the IPA. A key priority for Dhimurru is the management of visitors and the protection of culturally and environmentally significant sites from potential threats associated with recreational use. This is to a large extent achieved through an Access Permit system. Visitors must obtain an Access Permit and agree to a set of terms and conditions before being given permission to enter. Traditional Owners, through the Northern Land Council, have delegated authority to Dhimurru to issue Access Permits and manage visitor activity on their behalf.

Non-Yolŋu (Nāpaki) residents and visitors who want to enter DRAs within the Dhimurru IPA must obtain a Permit. There are four identified DRAs where visitors require an additional Special Permit to enter Maŋaŋgaymi, Waŋuwuy, Gapuru and Gaŋami. These Special Permit areas are of particular cultural significance, sensitive to environmental damage, and/or provide privacy as a destination for a limited number of visitors at a time.

Visitors to the region have a cost effective option of purchasing short term permits. These are available in three categories – one day, seven day and two month permits.

Due to the pleasant dry season weather and school holidays a higher number of permits are issued during the months of June through to August. DRAs are less busy during the wet season.

From July 2017 to June 2018 permits were issued as follows –

- General Permits (six months and 12 months) issued to 2,548 people
- Visitor Permits (one day, seven day and two month) issued to 2,129 people
- Special Permits issued to 3,887 people

Dhimurru rangers carry out weekly compliance patrols throughout the year in DRAs. A minimum of two patrols are carried out during the week and a rostered patrol system is in place on weekends. Most compliance issues relate to expired permits or persons being in areas without permits.

With the continuing development of tourism across North East Arnhem Land visitor numbers are



increasing. Promoted and marketed as a prime tourist destination, the region attracts increasing numbers of independent travellers and is also rising in popularity with commercial tour operators. More frequent commercially organised tours, pose considerable challenges to visitor management and maintenance of infrastructure. However they also provide stakeholders with new economic opportunities. Dhimurru's Management Plan provides guidance and is a key component of our visitor management strategy.

Income from the issuance of permits is a comparatively small percentage of Dhimurru's total turnover. Yolŋu landowners continue to donate all funds raised from permits to assist with Dhimurru's operational costs. This is important discretionary income which Dhimurru uses to lever and value add to its initiatives.

The online permit system remains a highly efficient and popular form of service delivery, providing users with 24 hour access to General, Visitor and Special Permits through the Dhimurru website – www.dhimurru.com.au. The website is regularly maintained and with the Dhimurru Facebook page and local radio announcements, residents and visitors are kept up-to-date on matters such as bāru sightings, our management program, Ranger activities, and the status of DRAs.

Further information for residents and visitors can be found in The Visitor Guide, available at the Dhimurru office, and "Fishing the Northeast Arnhem Land" brochure, sponsored by NT Fisheries. Both resources provide tourists and locals with an overview of our activities, background on Yolŋu culture and practice, and information on the Dhimurru IPA.



WATHAWUY MERGE PROJECT – OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

The Wathawuy Merge Project to upgrade and merge Goanna Lagoon with Latram River recreation areas, was completed in 2017. On Thursday 19 October, Dhimurru held the “Official Opening” to celebrate Yolŋu landowners, community organisations and funding bodies who supported the project over the previous 12 months. Respected Rirratjinu elder, Bakamumu Marika, cut the ribbon and declared the new crossing to Goanna Lagoon open.

It was a memorable day of speeches, manikay and bungul (traditional song and dance), recognition and most importantly, reflection. Dhimurru believes an important part of our work culture is to acknowledge and celebrate our staff’s achievements.

The Wathawuy Merge Project helps achieve management outcomes by protecting biodiversity for future generations and enhancing the visitor experience. Over \$200,000 of Northern Territory Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics funding was utilized to resurface access tracks, including a new crossing allowing extended recreational use to the area over the wet season. Amenities for visitors have been expanded and trees planted for future rehabilitation, aesthetics and shade. Support for the official opening was gained from Rio Tinto Gove Operations through the Sponsorships and Donations Program and nursery plants and laterite were also provided. We wish to thank our many partners in this project for their support and contributions.



BÄRU (CROCODILE) MANAGEMENT

Bäru is an important totem to Yolŋu. With the support of Yolŋu landowners, particularly Gumatj clan members, Dhimurru continues to help manage bäru. Dhimurru provides information to raise community awareness and minimise interactions between bäru and people. General and current information is provided by several means including:

- Online through Dhimurru website and Facebook page
- Printed information provided with Dhimurru access permits
- Parks and Wildlife Commission’s Croc Wise signs at recreational areas in both English and Yolŋu matha (Yolŋu language), and community presentations
- Local community radio stations – Gove FM and Yolŋu Radio

Bäru are everywhere in the IPA and can appear in the most unlikely places. In January, Dhimurru received a request to remove a bäru from a Nhulunbuy public area – quite a distance from a water source. Local Gumatj community member, Gapanbulu Yunupingu reported the wandering bäru and assisted Dhimurru staff in its capture. It was assumed that the bäru had travelled along the drainage system from the town lagoon or the ocean from Gäloru (East Woody).

Dhimurru Board recognises that threat management services are essential to

ensure community safety and to help in the protection and care of this important species. With limited resources, Dhimurru has adapted its approach to management and is committed to only trapping bäru that pose an imminent threat to the community.

When trapping bäru in and adjacent to the town lease, Dhimurru is assisted and supported by the Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited and seeks professional advice from Parks and Wildlife Commission.



FIRE MANAGEMENT

In recent years, Dhimurru has focussed on reducing the risk of fire to our visitors and infrastructure in recreation areas. Dhimurru has done this by burning as early as possible in the cool beginning of each dry season. A wildfire in late 2017 almost burnt out the entire Wathawuy riverside recreation areas and was only stopped by a hazard reduction burn several months earlier and a track that served as a fire break.

The early protective burning in 2018 has been our most thorough for several years. Rangers have been monitoring the readiness of country for burning as part of their regular patrols and then burning when conditions are favourable and culturally appropriate. A particular achievement this year was the staged burning of areas within the redeveloped Wathawuy recreation area, many of which were long unburnt and had very high fuel loads. This has significantly reduced the risk to the sensitive riverside vegetation and visitors, of a very hot wildfire.

In late 2017 Dhimurru completed a five-year study examining the relationship between fire and biodiversity in the IPA.



The results of this work now help guide Dhimurru's planned burn program. Our goal is now to work in partnership with Yolŋu landowners and custodians to maintain a fire regime that not only protects the cultural and environmentally significant sites, but also perpetuates the important place of fire in the relationships between people and their country.





WEED MANAGEMENT

The North East Arnhem Region (NEAR) Weeds Group established to coordinate and strategize weed management activities across the region, has made significant progress this year. The group relies on contributions of time and expertise from stakeholders to progress its vision. Dhimurru has taken a lead role in establishing the group and worked closely with Yolŋu Business Enterprises 2 (YBE 2), Rio Tinto Gove Operations and Yirralka Rangers in completing the NEAR weeds strategy. Key actions identified for the first year have been achieved.

Weeds identified in our Weed Management Plan were sprayed in many areas of the IPA, particularly DRA's and roadsides. Part of the weed program this year included the continued development of weed identification/treatment skills for the Dhimurru Rangers. Before each field trip the Rangers and Facilitator held a team meeting to discuss the type of weeds to target, effective treatment of each species and safe handling of the chemicals used to spray the weeds. Rangers were then able to use the skills learned to spray weeds in priority areas.

A specific program on Dhambaliya to eradicate Coffee Bush occurred in May this year. Rangers completed control at 10 sites, but were unable to complete the remaining three sites within the five days allocated to this program. A second trip is planned to complete this work.



STAFF PROFILE



CHRISTINE BURKE

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Christine commenced work with Dhimurru as Executive Officer in February 2018. Christine has a range of skills developed as a result of many years working in various positions overseas and in Australia. She has worked primarily in regional and remote areas; however, this is her first time working in East Arnhem Land. During much of her career Christine has worked with Indigenous communities in natural and cultural heritage management and looks forward to working with Dhimurru Board, Wāṇa Waṭaṇu (Yolŋu landowners) and staff in their quest to achieve Dhimurru's vision.

Before joining Dhimurru, Christine worked as an Australian Volunteer in Timor Leste as an Organisational Mentor for about two and a half years. Prior to leaving Australia she was the Park Manager at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park in Central Australia for five years. As Park Manager of a jointly managed park, she worked closely with the Board to implement strategic directions as determined

by the Board and over saw day to day operations of the Park.

Christine studied Australian Aboriginal Archaeology at University of New England achieving a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree, before moving into other roles in Tasmania, NSW, Victoria, Queensland, Africa and Fiji.

Christine has worked in both State and Federal Government, including in the Queensland Government where she was the Regional Manager, Cultural Heritage in the Environmental Protection Agency before moving across to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, as District Manager of Longreach District.

Whilst employed by the Australian Government Christine worked with Australia's Aid agency formerly known as AusAid, before moving across to the Caring for our Country program in the Community Capacity Building Team working with the regionally based Facilitator Network.

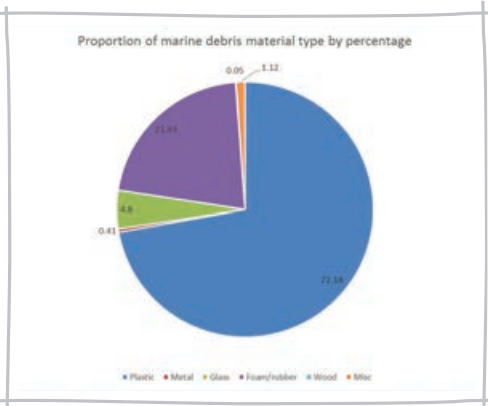
When away from work Christine enjoys visiting recreation areas of Dhimurru IPA. Her favourite past time is walking the long wind swept sandy beaches around town.

SEA COUNTRY



MARINE DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

Dhimurru has been conducting marine debris clean-up operations for many years. Over this time the organisation has finely tuned the successful and efficient extraction of vast amounts of rubbish. Marine debris is washed up on our very remote beaches from places such as Indonesia. Debris collected by our Rangers varies from minute plastic pieces to huge ghost nests. This year 4,694 kg of debris was removed from beaches. Dhimurru's efforts in clearing marine debris from beaches has attracted worldwide media attention.



WANUWUY MARINE DEBRIS SURVEY PROJECT

Since early 2000 Dhimurru has conducted the annual Marine Debris Survey Project at Wanuwuy (Cape Arnhem). This year's survey was held from 25 to 27 September 2017. Debris was collected and followed by five days of processing and analysis. Approximately three and a half kilometres of beach was cleaned and 2,040 kg of debris collected, compared to 440 kg in 2016. The increase over the three-day period was attributed to the increased density of debris spread over the same area, making collection faster. In addition, more person hours were spent collecting, due to a crew camping on site.

The survey in 2017 comprised of nine Dhimurru staff, three local Border Force staff and for the first time six Datjala Work Camp personnel. This year the Datjala crew and some of the rangers camped at Wanuwuy during the

collection phase of the survey, greatly improving efficiency. The Dhimurru truck was parked at the top of the escarpment to create an efficient removal process.

Standouts from this year's survey was the volume of medical waste that we plan to have tested. Border Force is interested in the type of drugs contained within the ampules and containers holding foodstuff as it has the potential to spread diseases or pests. Dhimurru also found a message in a bottle, however we have yet to locate a translator, as it is not written in English.

The method of collection from beach to Dhimurru compound and finally to the tip, enabled each item to be separated by hand into categories, counted, weighed and data recorded. Analysis of the data was undertaken as part of the finalisation of the survey. Dhimurru now has a significant collection of research data spanning 15 years and can track the change in density of debris over time.





DHAMBALIYA (BREMER ISLAND)

The small population of Dhambaliya (Bremer Island), unable to cope with the large amount of debris washed up on the beaches, requested support from Dhimurru to assist in the clean-up.

In early May Dhimurru Rangers and Facilitators, spent a week at the northern end of Dhambaliya clearing beaches of marine debris. Utilising the facilities of Banu Banu resort located on the northern end of the island, Dhimurru staff were able to relocate to the island for five days for the clean-up process. This achieved two outcomes – a team building exercise for Dhimurru staff whilst tackling the continual problem of marine debris removal.

Over six km of beach was covered in marine debris impacting tourism, the local population and wildlife, particularly turtles and sea birds. “We were hoping to clean up all the beach this week, but only managed to clear about one km of beach because the debris was so thick and took a long time to collect” said Djalinda Yunupingu, senior Yolngu elder who was assisting with the clean-up.

With limited time and resources, Dhimurru was able to collect 2.86 tonnes of debris which was transported by boat to the mainland for disposal. Much of the debris comes to northern Australia from Indonesia where the sea currents deposit it on the beaches of Arnhem Land.

Banu Banu resort owners, staff and guests continue to assist by collecting marine debris from the beaches near to the resort on Dhambaliya. Dhimurru has committed to assist by transporting this debris back to the mainland for disposal.

Ultimately this way of coping with marine debris is not sustainable and Dhimurru continues to work on the cause of the problem and partner with those who have the power to assist in reducing marine debris at its source.



SEAGRASS MAPPING

Seagrass meadows are important aquatic ecosystems which function as key habitats for marine turtles and dugongs. They provide coastal protection through the stabilisation of sediments, nutrient cycling, support fisheries and are a critical source of subsistence for the Yolŋu people. Hence, monitoring the extent and condition of seagrass meadows is a priority for Dhimurru.

Melville Bay and Port Bradshaw have been identified as primary areas of interest for the development of regular seagrass surveys. Interestingly, seagrass meadows in Melville Bay are quite distinct from those in other locations around Australia, and resemble meadows found in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. Extensive industrial operations and an international port in close proximity to such sensitive ecosystems emphasise the need for long-term observations and mapping of meadows.

Since the initiation of the project in partnership with the then NRETAS in 2009 (now the Department of Environment and Natural Resources), Dhimurru has carried out multiple surveys around Melville Bay and Port Bradshaw. Initial helicopter surveys were conducted for broad-scale identification and extent of seagrass meadows, while ground-based

operations serve to assess the species composition, coverage, and to make biomass estimates. By creating baseline maps and facilitating ongoing monitoring we can detect changes in spatial extent and condition of seagrass habitats over time.

Three days of seagrass monitoring took place in July 2017 coinciding with the lowest tides – one day at Melville Bay and two days at Port Bradshaw. This contributed an additional 82 assessments of the extent, condition and diversity of seagrass in the existing database.

Dhimurru staff received training in all aspects of seagrass mapping from scientists and partner organisations. Surveys were carried out following protocols recommended by the Northern Territory Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The data obtained including photographic documentation is forwarded to DENR for analysis and inclusion in their database.

Dhimurru has been successful in their application for funding through NTG Aboriginal Ranger Grant program to conduct aerial surveys and map seagrass using drone technology to support this work. The project is scheduled to commence next financial year.





SEA TEMPERATURE LOGGING

Seawater temperature is the most important environmental variable governing the abundance and distribution of life in Australia's coastal seas. The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), in partnership with Dhimurru, NT Fisheries, Macarthur River Mine and local communities along the Arnhem coast and Gulf of Carpentaria is working to improve the currently sparse network of ocean observations and collection of data around North East Arnhem Land.

AIMS Sea Temperatures program uses a range of technologies, from temperature loggers to satellite images, to build a comprehensive database of baseline water temperatures. Working with AIMS researcher, Dr Jessica Benthuisen, Dhimurru and Yirralka Rangers commenced deploying sea water temperature loggers at several Sea Country locations throughout the Dhimurru and Laynhapuy IPAs during 2017.

As part of the collaboration AIMS provided Dhimurru with three temperature loggers for deployment in the IPA. Dhimurru Rangers deployed these at Banu Banu, Barrbira and Bonner Rocks in April 2018. Moored to the sea floor, these instruments produce continuous records of sea water temperature. Dhimurru Rangers will retrieve the temperature loggers in six months, deploy replacement instruments and forward the retrieved loggers to AIMS for downloading of data and recalibration.

Funding for the purchase of an additional seven sea temperature loggers has been attained from a Northern Territory Government Aboriginal Rangers Grant. This will ensure Dhimurru has sufficient instruments to provide a continuous collection of data.

The data collected will enable AIMS to develop ocean temperature climatologies for specific locations. These climate studies will show the historical water temperatures as averages and minimum–maximum variations, allowing the identification of long-term sea water temperature trends and extreme weather events that could lead to significant environmental consequences. These may include wide-spread coral bleaching and mangrove die-backs. It also enables an understanding of how sea water temperature varies year to year and decade to decade.



TERN MONITORING PROGRAM

In association with BirdLife Australia, Dhimurru has continued surveying Tern populations on Yilipa (Higginson Island). With its internationally significant populations of Bridled and Roseate Terns, Yilipa has been identified as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) according to the global standards established by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

This high, rocky island sits in a chain of small islets northeast of Bremer Island (East Bremer Islets). Yilipa remains one of a very few known breeding sites for Crested Terns and Common Noddies in the Northern Territory. The Island also harbours significant numbers of other species of Terns and seabirds that regularly visit or nest there. Importantly, Tern colonies frequenting the East Bremer islets are a significant totem and resource for Yolŋu people and are highly valued.

Dhimurru Rangers record the species, abundance, and nesting habits of birds on Yilipa Island, recognizing eight different bird species, four of which belong to the family of Terns.

The monitoring is designed to contribute to BirdLife Australia's KBA Easter health check program, and aims to gather further information on these important bird colonies while providing Dhimurru with guidance for future management.

Two Tern surveys were conducted in August 2017 and April 2018, recording significant shifts in species abundance and nesting activity. The information collected contributes to improved understanding of Tern populations utilising the island at different times. Dhimurru will continue to monitor population densities.

FISHERIES COMPLIANCE TRAINING: GATHAPURA MUNUNGUERR

After completing the Certificate III Fisheries Compliance course in 2017, Senior Ranger Gathapura Munungurr, undertook further training and qualified in May 2018 as a Fisheries Inspector (Class 1). He is one of only six Indigenous Rangers appointed as Fisheries Inspectors (Class 1) in the Northern Territory.

Gathapura received training and development through the Indigenous Community Marine Ranger Program while continuing his duties

as a Senior Ranger at Dhimurru. The Fisheries Inspectors Program was developed to provide fisheries compliance powers to appropriately skilled and experienced land and sea rangers that have undertaken the required training. It encourages Traditional Owners to be actively involved in the monitoring and management of aquatic resources, ensuring compliance with the NT Fisheries Act. These training programs support the development of a capable and skilled workforce committed to the protection and management of sea country.

Under the NT Fisheries Act as a qualified Fisheries Inspector (Class 1), Gathapura is authorised to exercise compliance powers including:

- Presenting authorised identification and approaching vessels
- Collecting personal information (including names and address)
- Recording evidence (including taking images, video and audio recordings)
- Viewing licences and permits
- Inspecting fishing equipment in use

Gathapura's skills as a Fisheries Inspector are a valuable addition to Dhimurru's sea patrols and the protection and management of Sea Country within the IPA.



STAFF PROFILE

**DAVID GUYMILILI
BIDIÑAL**

RANGER

Guymilili has worked with Dhimurru as a Ranger for two years. He belongs to the Ritharrŋu clan and his homeland, Doyndji, is located near Gapuwiyak (Lake Evella). Guymilili enjoys returning to his homeland for ceremony. On his visits he passes on the knowledge and experience to the younger people of his clan which he learned whilst working at Dhimurru.

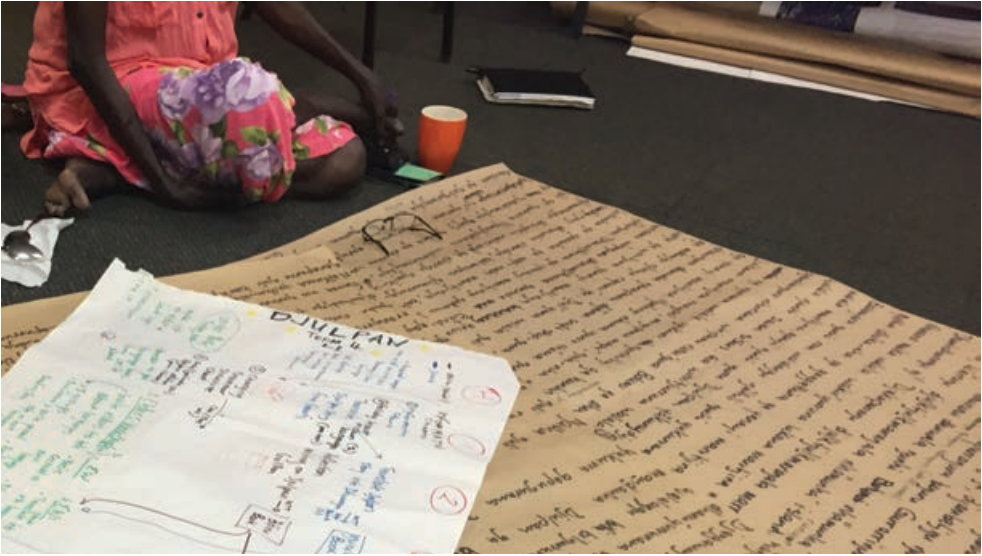
Guymilili's role as a Ranger includes a variety of recreational area maintenance djäma (work), burning off, collecting marine debris, permit checking patrols, vehicle maintenance and nursery djäma. He has also assisted with seagrass mapping at Bawaka.

During his time with Dhimurru he has completed a variety of nationally recognised training units that contribute toward his Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management. Guymilili's training has included: 4WD operation and recovery, first aid and participating in OHS processes, operating and maintaining chainsaws, safe operation of quad bikes and apply chemicals under supervision.

Guymilili likes working on country and working with the other Rangers, as they all have a good time. When not at work Guymilili enjoys fishing and spending time with his family.



**EDUCATION
& OUTREACH**



LEARNING ON COUNTRY

The Learning on Country educational partnership with Yirrkala School had another very successful year. Learning on Country supports and encourages Yolŋu students to engage deeply in their education and complete senior secondary school and/or vocational certificates in Conservation Land Management (CLM). The program also supports intergenerational transfer of Yolŋu knowledge about country, and formally integrates this knowledge in the delivery of Northern Territory and Australian curricula.

In order to reinforce concepts and the students' connection to country and culture, classroom studies were complimented by field trips on country, and Yolŋu-directed Galtha teaching and learning workshops, based on fundamental Yolŋu knowledge, skills and traditions. The centrepiece Galtha workshop for 2017 was about the Djulpan (Seven Sisters constellation), at Gulumaywuy on the shores of Port Bradshaw near Dhanaya community. The intensive workshop was an engaging academic learning experience for students and Rangers, that integrated a wide range of learning about astronomy during the workshop and in the months that followed.

The centrepiece Galtha workshop for 2018 was at Biranybirany, near the meeting of two waters, near Garma, the foundational both-ways

philosophy for Yirrkala School and Dhimurru.

The final day of the workshop was a public memorial to the contributions of Dr Mandawuy Yunupingu, also marking the 30th anniversary of the international hit song "Treaty" by Yothu Yindi. This Galtha was the culmination of many months of study and preparation by all secondary students at Yirrkala School. Dhimurru Rangers supported Yirrkala Rangers in the preparation and delivery of the workshop.

Yolŋu senior secondary students at Yirrkala School continued to benefit from a regular program of rich country-based and country-inspired learning. Dhimurru Rangers co-delivered Certificate II in CLM study units and contributed applicable Yolŋu knowledge and practice to



the learning. Seven senior secondary students completed this qualification which is highly valued by the land and sea management industry.

Transition pathways to further education and employment were explored and emphasised to students. Rangers who once participated in the Learning on Country program at school now as Rangers provide invaluable motivation to students by sharing their personal experiences, and acting as powerful reminders of the importance of completing school.

Several Learning on Country students had opportunities to work alongside Rangers this year and were introduced to Dhimurru's operations. Students were involved in on-ground activities such as weed management, maintenance of DRAs, and marine debris clean-ups. Three students took up the opportunity to work at Dhimurru as Learning on Country Rangers during their month long mid-year break, an exciting boost to the Dhimurru workforce and recognition of their commitment to their studies supported by Learning on Country.

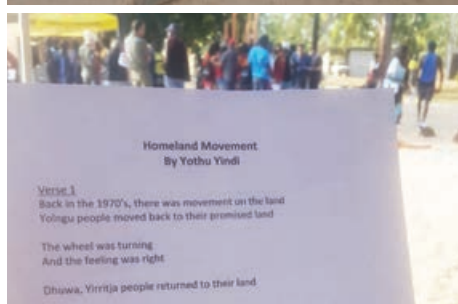
The Learning on Country program contributes to the personal and professional development of Dhimurru Rangers. Rangers were provided with opportunities to adopt leadership and

mentoring roles, practice public speaking in both English and Yolŋu languages, obtain experience in project management, and fulfil their obligations for knowledge transfer to the next and future generations.

The Learning on Country 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.

The Cotton On Foundation partnership with Learning on Country continued to deliver finance and expertise to Galtha teaching and learning workshops. In 2017 Cotton On Foundation expanded their support to include the Learning on Country Wellbeing and Pathways initiative at Yirrkala School. This initiative is providing each person in the secondary program with specialised culturally relevant resources and support to grow, develop and reach their potential. In 2017 the program focussed on supporting year nine students and their families to transition to year 10 and the demands of senior secondary studies.

Jonathan Wearne finished as the Learning on Country Coordinator in December 2017 after five years of service and took up a position as a Ranger Facilitator with Dhimurru.





TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Dhimurru is strongly committed to the professional development of all staff members according to each individual's specific interests and abilities. The focus of training at Dhimurru is on study units that enable the successful implementation of our primary objectives.

This year Rangers received workplace training in vehicle prestart checks, boat checks and safety for coxswains, workshop practices and safety, fencing, quad bike use, 4WD and trailer maintenance, forklift and chainsaw use and introduction to fire science. A week of workplace computer training was also completed (funded by the Department of Agriculture). Three staff also completed Rio Tinto Gove Operations site induction and safety training to support workplace exposure that aligns with their formal training.

Dhimurru established the Nursery Project with the assistance of Gareth Wise, a plant propagation and ethnobotany consultant. The Dhimurru nursery infrastructure was reviewed and updated, Rangers were trained in seed collection, propagation, planting and maintenance of native plant stock. The resulting stock of plants and seeds will be used in the rehabilitation of DRAs along with plants donated by YBE (2) Pty Ltd.

The skills learned by the Rangers contribute to their Certificate II and III studies in Conservation Land Management. All Rangers receive support in their studies and can access one-on-one

assistance with literacy and numeracy skills. Two Rangers are on track to complete their qualification in Certificate II CLM in the coming year and three Rangers have completed several units towards Certificate III. Senior Ranger, Gathapura Mununggurr, qualified in May as a Fisheries Inspector (Class 1), one of only six indigenous rangers appointed in NT.

At Dhimurru, staff professional development is not limited to formal training and qualifications. Both-ways learning is essential and all staff learn about Yolŋu traditions for caring and managing country, and how Yolŋu culture, kinship and country are the foundation of Yolŋu well-being and identity. The Yolŋu-directed *Galtha Rom* workshops and Learning on Country program particularly support this both-ways learning, and directly contribute to a rich environment for professional development at Dhimurru.



SPECIAL EVENTS



AUSTRALIAN SEA COUNTRY DELEGATION TO 4TH INTERNATIONAL MARINE PROTECTED AREA CONGRESS (IMPAC4)

In September 2017, Dhimurru's Senior Cultural Advisor, Djalinda Yunupingu was one of seven Sea Country delegates from Australia to attend the 4th International Marine Protected Areas Congress in La Serena, Chile from 4th to 8th September 2017.

The purpose of the trip was two-fold, firstly to share information about Sea Country governance and management in Australia, specifically between Marine Protected Area professionals and Indigenous Ranger groups; and secondly, to learn about the work of other nations, to make contacts and network.

The group participated in pre-conference events, such as a field trip focussing on management of the Humboldt Penguin Marine Reserve, where delegates learned about the challenges of managing a reserve and balancing commercial fisheries. Australian delegates also attended a lunch hosted by Parks Australia to meet other delegates to the conference.

Our Senior Cultural Advisor, Djalinda Yunupingu attended the conference and presented in formal sessions and general discussions with other sea country delegates. She participated in a panel discussion titled "Talking about Sea Country" and also gave a 15-minute presentation in partnership with Jackie Gould on Indigenous Sea Country management. Djalinda spoke on her role at Dhimurru as the Senior Cultural Advisor which included talking about her work with the

Learning on Country program and her role in intergenerational knowledge transfer through that program. She also talked about the spiritual and cultural significance of Sea Country its relationship to land, and the significance of water, in particular the mixing of the freshwater and saltwater and how it reflects the relationship between the two moieties that are the corner stone of Yolngu culture.

This event was a highlight in Dhimurru's work this year and was very beneficial for our Senior Cultural Advisor. Dhimurru thanks the IMPAC1 Scholarship Fund, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Country Needs People and WWF-Australia who provided financial support for our staff to attend the Conference.



GARMA FESTIVAL

Dhimurru has supported the Garma Festival since its inception in 1999, continuing the ongoing partnership with the Yothu Yindi Foundation. The festival display was an opportunity for staff to highlight and discuss Dhimurru's work and achievements. Staff also attended presentations and participated in onsite events.

Prior to the start of Garma, Dhimurru and Yirralka rangers worked together to repair and improve the entrance and exit to the Learning on Country (LOC) walking track. Extra steps were installed on the steep decline at the eastern end of the track due to damage during the wet season and buffalo. The redevelopment took place over a two-week period.

During the festival the LOC guided walks with the Rangers and LOC students were very popular.



Over two days eleven walking groups, each comprising 15 Garma guests, were guided by 15 Dhimurru and Yirralka Rangers, who talked about the cultural and environmental significance of the North East Arnhem region.

TERRITORY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

A number of staff participated in the Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) Conference in Darwin in 2017. A highlight of the conference for Dhimurru was the presentation of the Individual NT Natural Resource Management Award won by Steve Roeger, outgoing Executive Officer of 16 years, for his work at Dhimurru. Steve received his award in the company of Dhimurru staff: Jonathan Wearne, Djalinda Yunupingu, Gatha Munungurr, Paul Augustin and Luke Playford.

Steve was nominated by Dhimurru for excellence in his work as Executive Officer. Awarded for his ability to work in productive relationships at multiple levels with different individuals and organisations, and for developing sustainable, systemic and practical results in NRM. Steve developed a unique style of collaborative leadership with his Yolngu and non-Yolngu peers by managing differences and building capacity in respectful ways. He built on the strength of Dhimurru as Yolngu organisation and led it to being a high performing operation focussed on delivery of land and sea management outcomes for Yolngu.

Other staff also made presentations at the conference with Luke, Gatha and Djalinda giving



a presentation on the process Dhimurru went through to declare Sea Country within the IPA; and Jonathan and Djalinda presented with Dr Margaret Ayre from Melbourne University on Dhimurru's "Looking Back to Look Forward" research project, both of which were well received.



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE CHARLES VISIT

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales visited Nhulunbuy on 9 April, 2018.

To prepare for his visit a ceremony was held on the previous evening at Nhulun, a sacred site of great cultural significance for Yolŋu people. The ceremony was performed for the first time at this site by the younger Rirratjinu and Gumatj clan members. Dhimurru Rangers assisted with the preparation of the site for the ceremony and the Prince's visit.

The following day Prince Charles was officially welcomed by Senior Elders of the Rirratjinu clan - Mandaka Marika (Managing Director, Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation), Bakamumu Marika and Wanyubi Marika (Rirratjinu Aboriginal Corporation Directors). He was presented with a traditional feather-stringed headdress (Malka string) and a woven string bag (Bathi) and told the history of the place as viewed from Yolngu land owners.

Dhimurru Rangers, staff and Board members attended the ceremony and Learning on Country Ranger, Madawurrk Marawili, presented His Royal Highness with

a Dhimurru cap. Dhimurru Managing Director, Mandaka Marika and Paul Augustin, Dhimurru Ranger Facilitator, escorted Prince Charles up to the lookout and spoke about the Indigenous Protected Area and Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation's role in the land and sea management.



STAFF PROFILE

LUKE PLAYFORD

SEA COUNTRY FACILITATOR

Luke Playford has been working in the position of Sea Country Facilitator since February 2016. The most rewarding part of Luke's job is working alongside the Rangers on country. He enjoys learning traditional knowledge from the Rangers, and teaching them what he has learned about contemporary land and sea management practices and other practical skills. Luke values the fun and teamwork enjoyed when working as a group on country, and is strongly driven by achieving positive outcomes in land and sea management.

Luke is grateful to have this position, and is enjoying the Sea Country focus after having a predominantly land management focus for many years. He feels it is an exciting time to be working on sea country with Dhimurru as there are many new projects and partnerships emerging, as well as a stronger focus on fisheries compliance activities.

The main projects Luke is responsible for are:

- Marine debris and ghost net management along our coastline
- Sea patrols and Fisheries Compliance activities
- Tern surveys at Yilipa (Higginson Island)
- Sea Temperature monitoring program
- Sea grass monitoring and mapping
- Weed management
- Visitor area management



Previously Luke was employed as a Park Ranger with NT Parks and Wildlife Commission. He worked in several locations including Litchfield and Judbarra/Gregory National Parks. In 2009 Luke moved to North East Arnhem Land where he worked with Yirralka Rangers for three years. The area and its people had such a strong influence on Luke and his family that they were drawn back here after moving to Townsville in North Queensland for a few years.

In his leisure time Luke enjoys much of what the Nhulunbuy lifestyle has to offer. Fishing and camping with his family and friends are always favourites. He is a keen gardener and always has many projects on the go. Luke and his family love to travel and explore Australia and the world, especially if there are some good diving sites involved!

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS ACT SECTION 19 AGREEMENT RENEWAL

Yolŋu landowners make access to their country available for use by non-Yolŋu residents and visitors for recreational purposes. Dhimurru has been managing access to DRAs and issuing associated permits through a delegation and an agreement with the Northern Land Council for over 20 years. The agreement is currently up for renewal.

In preparation for renegotiation of the renewal, Dhimurru is working with Yolŋu landowners to put together a proposal that considers the expected increase in visitor numbers, opportunities for improved economic outcomes for landowners and aligns with landowner wishes in regard to continued access by visitors.

Consultations with landowners have been led by Mandaka Marika, the Managing Director, Djalinda Yunupingu, Senior Cultural Advisor and Djawa Yunupingu, Board Member and ex Managing Director supported by a small team of consultants and other Dhimurru staff.

Once a new agreement is in place, Dhimurru will work toward implementation. Implementation of the new agreement will take some time and require the online permit system to be updated, planning and infrastructure development, changing the fee structure and communicating to our users about the proposed changes.

LOOKING BACK TO LOOK FORWARD

In 2017, Jonathan Wearne and Djalinda Yunupingu, together with Dr Margaret Ayre from the University of Melbourne collaborated on a research project covering the history of Dhimurru and its Yolŋu Rangers. The project entitled “Looking Back to Look Forward: the value of Yolŋu Ranger work” explores the value of this work for each individual, for Dhimurru and for the Yolŋu communities and the Yolŋu landowners whose lands are part of the Dhimurru IPA.

The researchers conducted interviews with 41 people, including current Yolŋu Rangers, landowners, the Dhimurru Board and others who have worked closely with Dhimurru since its inception in 1993. Participants were asked questions including what is important about the work of Yolŋu Rangers and how they decide if Yolŋu Rangers are doing effective and meaningful work.

The research identified three important sets of practices for ‘both-ways’, Yolŋu-controlled land and sea management that met the expectation and requirements of Yolŋu Ranger work.

1. Knowing and being known by country
2. Mobilising the Dhimurru Vision Statement
3. Being Ralpa (disciplined, committed and hard working)

These sets of practices will also be used by Dhimurru in the coming years as criteria for evaluating how well we are performing, and to help demonstrate our success to the Yolŋu that own Dhimurru and our partners that invest in Dhimurru.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS SUMMARY

DHIMURRU ABORIGINAL CORPORATION INCOME 2017-2018

INCOME SOURCE	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet	Working on Country Program	\$ 946,300
	Learning on Country Program (Auspiced through NT Dept of Education)	\$ 80,000
Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy	Indigenous Protected Areas Program (Administered by PM&C)	\$ 336,500
NTG Department of Environmental and Natural Resources	Cultural Landscape Mapping	\$ 25,340
	Sea Temperature Monitoring	\$ 3,500
	Harnessing Drone Technology for Seagrass Mapping	\$ 23,617
NTG Department of Trade, Business and Innovation	Immediate Works Grant	\$ 100,965
Rio Tinto Alcan	Wathawuy Merge Project Opening	\$ 5,000
Aboriginal Benefits Account	Residential Accommodation	\$ 360,000
Cotton on Foundation	Learning on Country Program Support	\$ 97,500
TOTAL		\$1,978,722

YOLŲU MATHA – ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

YOLŲU MATHA	ENGLISH
bāru	crocodile
bungul	dance
dhāwu	story
galtha	both-ways learning workshop
manikay	songs
merri	string
miyalk	women
ŋāpaki	people other than YolŲu
ŋatha	food
rom	law and/or belief

DESIGNATED RECREATION AREAS AND PLACE NAMES

Baŋambarrŋa	Rainbow Cliffs
Bariŋura	Little Bondi
Binydjarrŋa	Daliwuy
Gaḡalathami	Town Beach
Gālaru	East Woody
Gaŋami	Wonga Creek
Ganinyara	Granite Islands
Gapuru	Memorial Park
Garanhan	Macassan (Makassar) Beach
Gumuniya	Buffalo Creek
Guwatjorumurru	Giddy River
Łombuy	Crocodile Creek
Maŋangaymi	Scout Camp
Nhulun	Mount Saunders
Dumuy (Dumuwuy)	Turtle Beach
Waŋuwuy	Cape Arnhem
Wathawuy	Latram River and Goanna Lagoon
Wirwawuy	Cape Wirawoi
Yarrapay	Rocky Point





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