

# Eastern Kuku Yalanji Indigenous Protected Area (IPA)

***“Caring for our Country, Culture and Bama ”***

## Project Update—October 2012

The Eastern Kuku Yalanji IPA is one of the most important projects that Jabalbina has been involved in so far. It aims to put Eastern Yalanji Country back together, put Traditional Owners in charge of planning and management of Country and get resources to manage both land and sea Country. The IPA ties together a lot of the work that Jabalbina has been doing to help get *Bama* back on Country and look after it again.

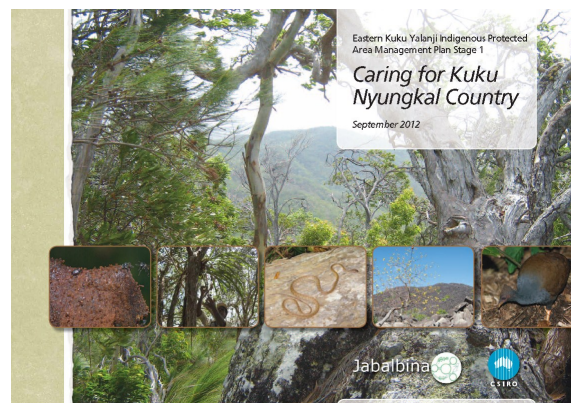
So far, the IPA has been mainly about *Bama* preparing management plans for Country. In 2009, Eastern Yalanji *Bama* decided to go ahead with a staged, clan-based IPA. Kuku Nyungkal Country is Stage 1, and the Caring for Kuku Nyungkal Country is almost finished. Jalunji-Warra Land and Sea Country is Stage 2 – the Jalunji-Warra Healthy Mob, Healthy Land and Sea Plan is finished. We hope that the Nyungkal and Jalunji IPA areas will be dedicated in the next few months.

There are two main jobs for the Eastern Kuku Yalanji IPA project for 2012-13. The first job is to finish management planning for the Yalanji-Warra Land and Sea Country. Wujal-Warra/Dikarrba-Warra have already done a lot of work, and it's Kubirri-Warra, Julay-Warra and Buru-Warra's turn over the next couple of months.

The second main job is building resources to care for Country under the IPA. Jabalbina will work with DEHP and Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council to set up an Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger team, and work to secure more funding to make the Eastern Kuku Yalanji IPA a reality on the ground and water.



**Jabalbina**



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***Yalanji warra muruku junkurrjimaka bamangka bubuku***

## Wujal and Dikarrba Warra plan IPA on Country

Wujal Wujal and Dikarrba Warra did IPA planning on Country around Wujal, Degarra, Zig Zag and Riba in August 2012.

Elders and Traditional Owners talked about the values of Wujal and Dikarrba Warra *bubu* and identified the threats to Country, *Bama* and culture that need to be addressed through the IPA.

Management strategies and actions were worked out; a priority is getting rangers. Elder Bobby Ball said, "We'd like to see our rangers walking on Country; we've got a lot of places back now – now we need the rangers to protect the Country".

The Yalanji-Warra IPA management plan is scheduled to be finished by the middle of 2013.

**IPA planning for Buru Warra, Julay Warra and Kubirri Warra Country is happening through late 2012.**

**Meeting dates will be out soon.**

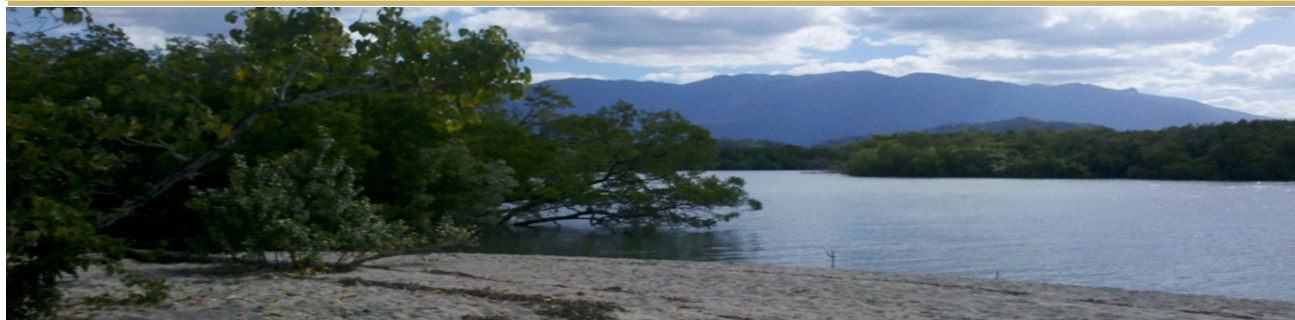


Wujal and Dikarrba-Warra camping during an IPA planning weekend at Zig Zag and Riba





## Cooya Community Action Grant work underway



Following successful Community Action Grant projects for Kaba Kada (Cow Bay) and Jajikal-Balabay (Weary Bay) reserves, Jabalbina has been funded by the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities for works at Cooya Beach Cultural, Environmental and Recreation Reserve in 2012-13.

Works have started, building on earlier works undertaken by Yalanjiwarra Jalunji Marrjanga Aboriginal Corporation: removing rubbish and weeds like resurrection plant and prickly agave, putting in a gate to stop vehicles driving on the reserve and realigning walking tracks to keep visitors safer from *bilngkumu* (crocodiles). A sign will let visitors know about caring for Cooya Beach. Revegetation will start in the wet season.

Linc Walker, Brandon Walker, Shane Walker and Owen Love have begun the works. Linc said, "It's good to be rehabilitating the land and cleaning it up after it's been abused over the years. We're practicing culture on the block, burning it and watching it come back to life, getting it ready for continued cultural activities."

Jabalbina IPA Coordinator Rowan Shee said the funding is welcome: "In 2010, Jabalbina was made trustee over 12 mainly coastal reserves on behalf of Eastern Yalanji *Bama*; our reserve management plans were approved, but we had no on-ground resources, so it's good Community Action Grants have assisted *Bama* to care for Country at Kaba Kada, Jajikal and now Cooya."



Linc Walker at a controlled burn undertaken at Cooya Beach Cultural, Environmental and Recreation Reserve

## Community Action Grant Helps Kaba Kada (Cow Bay) Traditional Owners Care for Country



A Community Action Grant has enabled Jalunwarra Traditional Owners again care for their Country at the Kaba Kada (Cow Bay) Beach Protection Reserve. Kaba Kada has important forest, *kurranji* (cassowary) habitat and a men's sacred site. Recently, Kaba Kada has been threatened by erosion due to vehicles and camping, and by the weeds pond apple and Singapore daisy.

With Community Action Grant funding from the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Jabalbina engaged a team of Kaba Kada Traditional Owners. Terrain NRM, Cairns Regional Council and Queensland Parks and Wildlife provided expert advice, plants for revegetation and boulders to close tracks and campsites. A weed survey was done, and all pond apple and Singapore daisy identified were removed. Four eroded areas were closed to vehicles and replanted with local species. The plants are being watered regularly through the 2012 dry season. A reserve sign and markers around the men's site were put in place.

Andrew Solomon (Jnr) said, "I would like to thank the Commonwealth for funding the Kaba Kada Traditional Owners' management plan. It has created awareness within the wider community that Traditional Owners want to look after Country, forming relationships with non-indigenous locals to work together to care for Country. For Cow Bay, there has been a significant change already – the revegetation plants are doing well (and) there has been no vehicular access into the men's area and no camping".

Thanks to Uncle David Solomon, Jason Solomon, Kevin Solomon, Reg Brim, Kenneth Brim Junior, Terrence Solomon and Shane Solomon for all the hard work on this project.





Jason Solomon spraying Singapore daisy.

Reg Brim cutting posts for signs



Revegetation January 2012

Reg Brim, Kevin Solomon, Kenneth Brim Jnr and Shane Solomon with reveg watering setup on beach at Kaba Kada.





## Jabalbina registered as Cultural Heritage Body for Eastern Kuku Yalanji Country



Jabalbina has been registered under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act as the Cultural Heritage Body (CHB) for the Eastern Yalanji ILUA area and neighbouring coastal areas since 11 July 2011.

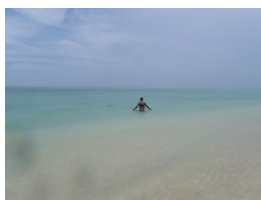
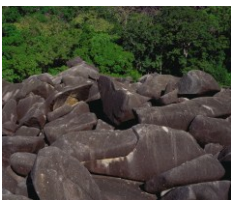
Jabalbina's role as CHB is to identify who are the right people to speak for Country. It is the first point of contact for governments and other organisations who need to consult with the Traditional Owners for an area about cultural heritage. Jabalbina can also now apply for some cultural grants that are only open to CHBs.

As CHB, Jabalbina works with other Eastern Kuku Yalanji organisations involved in cultural heritage survey and mapping.

Jabalbina also has an additional CHB application for an area around Port Douglas which is outside the ILUA area.

Recording and managing Eastern Kuku Yalanji cultural heritage is an important part of the IPA management plans.

Yalanji Bama met at Battle Camp, Upper Daintree from 28-30 September 2012 to work on the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Strategic Cultural Heritage Management Plan (more details soon in the Jabalbina newsletter).



## **Jajikal (Weary Bay)**

### ***Caring for Country***

Jajikal Traditional Owners have been caring for Country on the Jajikal (Bloomfield Mouth) Beach Protection Reserve. They have removed lantana, resurrection plant and other weeds and undertaken burning. Rubbish has been removed, including the old car body that has been an eyesore for years at Bloomfield Mouth. The next jobs are to close the vehicle track to the mouth and replace it with a walking track. Camps on the beach side of the track will also be closed and revegetated during the wet season. Reserve signs in Yalanji and English will be put up.

The work has been undertaken with Community Action Grant funding from the Commonwealth through Terrain NRM to Dabu Jajikal Aboriginal Corporation and Indigenous Small Grant funding through Cape York NRM to Jabalbina.



Barry, Leon, Philip and Uncle Sonny Olbar removing weeds around the croc sign at Bloomfield Mouth.



The Jajikal-Balabay (Weary Bay) Beach Protection Reserve north of the windy loo to Plantation Creek is joint-trustee reserve between Cook Shire Council and Jabalbina. The reserve management committee is Marie Creek, Betty Olbar (Jajikal), Shontell Walker (Jabalbina), Stephanie Thuller (Bloomfield resident) and Councillor Kaz Price and Ian McCrae from Cook Shire. The committee is working on signs and a management plan. We will soon start on weed work and signs, with revegetation over the next couple of wet seasons.

Marie Creek said it was good to see Jajikal Traditional Owners working back on Country again, "Thanks to Terrain NRM and Cape York NRM and everyone who's helping with this project. We would like to see this happening all year round, but we need more funding."

Thanks to Marie Creek, Barry Olbar, Leon Olbar, Philip Olbar, Betty Olbar, Lizzie Olbar, Kimmy Olbar, Ena Shipton, Gladys Olbar, Jimmy Olbar and Wade Mackinnon for all the work so far.



Weary Bay Beach Protection Reserve Committee meeting at the Windy Loo



**For more information about the Eastern Kuku Yalanji IPA, please contact Jabalbina:**

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Working with our partners  
to care for our Country



"See our *bubu* as it is to-day – it's beautiful. That's because the old people looked after it. We want to look after it and keep it that way too." Lizzie Olbar, *Jalunji-Warra IPA Plan: Healthy Mob, Healthy Land, Healthy Sea*

# Jabalbina

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