

# Dambimangari Newsletter

Jan- March 2026, Winyjugu

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## *Seasonal update*

**Winyjugu**, the hot, rainy season. This is cyclone or monsoon time. Cyclones are created when **Wandjina** and **Woongudd** make rain together. **Winyjugu** season makes the Country fresh.

# Dambimangari Newsletter

## Message from the CEO

Dear Members,

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2026. It has certainly been a busy start, not to mention a wild one with 2 cyclones hitting the region. As we step into the new year, our focus has been on strengthening the Corporation from within. Recruitment has ramped up as we build our team for the year ahead, with a strong emphasis on employee satisfaction, creating a positive workplace culture, and ensuring we effectively manage areas of business across the organisation. After a well-earned break over the Christmas period, it's good to be back as we build momentum for the year ahead.

Over the past quarter, our staff and Board have been involved in a range of activities and programs, and I encourage you to read through the following pages to see the important work being carried out on behalf of the Dambeemangaddee people.

**Community Roadshows / Briefings:** We have a series of community roadshows coming up. These briefings provide an opportunity for the Chair and myself to update members on the Corporation's activities and key developments. Just as importantly, they are a chance for members to share feedback, raise concerns, and let us know what matters most to you.

There will be four community briefings in 2026. While we had initially planned to begin in April, competing demands on our team have meant a slight adjustment to the schedule. The confirmed dates are:

🕒 **Mowanjum – 15 April | One Arm Point – 16 April | Broome – 22 April | Port Hedland – 17 June**

We strongly encourage members to attend and take part in these important conversations.

**Special Meeting of the Board:** On 17 February, the Board held a special meeting to consider its approach to the future management of Koolan Island following the conclusion of Mt Gibson's mining activities in late 2026. This is a significant matter for the Corporation and our members, and careful planning is underway to ensure we are prepared for the next phase.

**Implementation of the DAC Strategic Plan:** In November, our managers came together for a full-day workshop led by Deb Mackin and Ryan Dockery to begin detailed planning for the implementation of the DAC Strategic Plan. This plan was endorsed by members at the 2025 AGM and sets the direction for our work in the years ahead.

A further workshop will take place in March to review progress from the initial session and map out clear, practical steps to guide implementation over the coming years. This work is critical to ensuring the Corporation delivers its commitments and continues to grow in strength and capability.

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming community briefings and working together to make 2026 a strong and productive year for DAC.

Warm regards,

Paul Morgan



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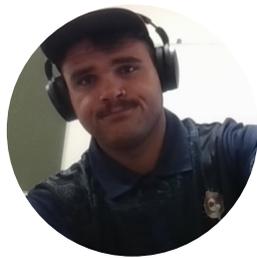
## NEW YEAR, NEW FACES

We've kicked off the year with some fresh faces joining the DAC team.

### Meet the New Faces...



**Sheridan O'Malley**  
Care Navigator



**Anthony Edgar**  
Care Navigator



**Lester Hamilton**  
Infrastructure Officer



**Patrick Clune**  
JMB Officer

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Creating Lilai Holdings Pty Ltd

**Lilai Holdings Pty Ltd, DAC's commercial arm, is now officially registered.** This has been a long process, and reaching this milestone is an important step forward for DAC's economic development journey.

With the corporate details and governance provisions now in place, the next phase will focus on bringing a manager on board, developing a Strategic Plan, and progressing commercial ventures that align with the Strategic Plan which will encompass DAC's values.

DAC continues to strengthen relationships with key regional stakeholders, including the Broome Chamber of Commerce (BCC).

- 19 February 2026 – DAC presented at the BCC Major Projects Summit, showcasing current and future opportunities.
- 24 March 2026 – The BCC is hosting a "Get Funded" workshop in Broome.

DAC has secured several places for members to attend this workshop. If you are interested, contact **Jess Forrest, Economic Development Manager**, to register your interest.

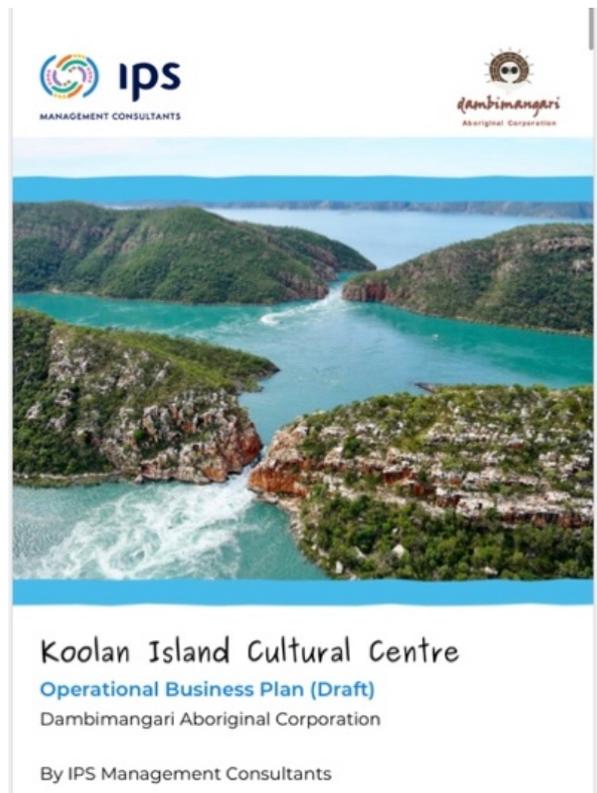
**Jess Forrest**

E: [edm@dambi.org.au](mailto:edm@dambi.org.au)

Ph: 0457 456 899

### Koolan Island Cultural Centre (KICC)

The Koolan Island Cultural Centre Operational Business Plan has now been completed. This was a critical requirement for progressing grant and funding applications.



WARNING: This newsletter may include references to and photographs of people who are deceased.

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In late September IPS Senior Consultant Marlon Motlop visited Koolan Island as part of the Operational Business Plan development.



Marlon Motlop, IPS Senior Consultant, Steve Poole, DAC Infrastructure Manager, Marilee Liddell, DAC Director, Scott Watson, Multistory Design.



Two major grant applications have been submitted this year, and we are now awaiting outcomes. These processes can take up to six months, and we will keep members updated as we receive news.

A very positive outcome from this work has been the strong industry support shown for the project. DAC received seven letters of support

from cruise operators, highlighting the demand for authentic cultural experiences and the desire for passengers to better understand Traditional Owners, culture, and sea country they travel through.

## Opportunities for Members – Products & Merchandise

If the KICC becomes a destination for cruise passengers, it will create exciting opportunities for members to supply merchandise and products for sale.

### *Have an idea but not sure where to start?*

DAC can help you turn your idea into a real product by offering:

- Simple business start-up support
- A practical, step-by-step guide
- Mentoring to help turn ideas into reality

### Contact Jess Forrest:

E: [edm@dambi.org.au](mailto:edm@dambi.org.au)

Ph: 0457 456 899

## Member Success Spotlight – Ngadaween Textile & Art



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We are proud to share a great outcome for Natashka Ozies and her business [Ngadaween Textile & Art](#).

After receiving business start-up support and mentoring through DAC, and with recent assistance from Kim Cream, Garaan Ngaddim Project Officer, Natashka has successfully launched her first product line a detailed Wandjina print t-shirt.

This is a fantastic achievement and a great example of what can be achieved through commitment, creativity, and the right support. We look forward to seeing what comes next for Ngadaween Textile & Art.

**Purchase yourself a t-shirt and support Dambeemangaddee businesses: [Ngadaween Textile & Art](#).**

## HEALTHY COUNTRY – Land & Sea

### New Appointment: Healthy Country Manager Land and Sea



**Leanne Ferguson,**  
**Healthy Country Manager -**  
**Land & Sea**

Congratulations to Leanne who has also, recently been

appointed to the IPA National Steering Committee. The committee brings together DCCEE leadership and national representatives to discuss the management of Indigenous Protected Areas across Australia. This is a great opportunity for DAC to share the successes of our Ranger Program and learn from other ranger groups nationwide. Well done, Leanne!

## RANGER UPDATE

### Kimberley Ranger Network Forum

A group of DAC representatives – Edmund Jungine, Tom Gill, Lenny O’Brien, Levi Nevill,



Frank Martin, Leanne Ferguson, Corbin Bedford-Dolby, Cheryln Ozies, Peter Cooper, Arzania Malay, Kirk Woolagoodja, Amelia Hurrell, Jermaine Umbagai and Kieran



**Arzania & Amelia’s breakout session**

Bangmorra – travelled to Broome for the end-of-year Kimberley Ranger Network Forum.

Over three days, Rangers from across the Kimberley came together to share knowledge, experiences and achievements.

DAC Rangers **Arzania Malay** and **Amelia Hurrell** led a breakout session with other female



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rangers, speaking about their journeys and experiences in the field. Their stories were powerful and inspiring, and we thank them for representing Dambimangari with pride.

Congratulations to **Arzania Malay, Amelia Hurrell, Cheryln Ozies** and **Levi Nevill**, who were awarded their Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management – a fantastic achievement and recognition of their hard work and commitment.

A special shout-out to **Corbin Bedford-Dolby**, who was nominated for the Men’s Achievement Award, and to **Cheryln Ozies**, who took home the Women’s Leadership Award. This recognition is well deserved. Cheryln is an outstanding leader and mentor, leading turtle monitoring in Lalang-gaddam Marine Park, supporting Traditional Owners and sharing ecological knowledge with her peers.

It was a great opportunity to connect with our Kimberley neighbours and celebrate the important work Rangers are doing across the region.

## JOINT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

### Local kids from Impact Club



Late last year, DAC invited Impact Club’s young artists to submit artworks for inclusion in the **Lalang-Gaddam Marine**

**Park Visitor Plan**, which is soon to be released. Twenty artworks were selected from local kids

and have been incorporated into the final design. DAC staff attended the young artists end-of-year BBQ with the Impact Club at Mowanjumb.



**Some artworks selected for inclusion LGM Visitor Plan**  
We would like to thank Impact Club and the young artists for their amazing contributions. The updated Visitor Plan is currently under draft review; DAC will share the final Visitor Plan once it is published.

## New Staff Member – MP and Joint Management Project Officer

DAC is pleased to welcome Patrick Clune to the team. Patrick is passionate about working with DAC and caring for Dambimangari country. He has spoken about the strong support he feels from the staff, stakeholders and community and is looking forward to helping deliver Joint Management outcomes in Lalang-Gaddam Marine Park, supporting strong governance, partnerships, and caring for country.

## TOURISM & TOUR GUIDE PROGRAM



**Garaan-ngaddim by Base Imagery for TWA**



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## Tourism at Garaan-ngaddim 2026

DAC's cultural tour guide program will continue through this 2026 season at Garaan-ngaddim, focusing on building our guides' local skills and developing new culturally informed tourism experiences.

Our team is working with the tour operators, with support from the State Government, to help shape future tourism offerings at Garaan-ngaddim. Operators will continue traversing the falls this season, while Traditional Owner families continue to provide cultural advice and guide the development of new experiences.

## Tour Guide Program



DAC hosted a **Tour Guide Open Day** in Derby, to encourage mob to come along and find out more about working as a tour guide on country.



A number of people showed up and expressed their interest in becoming a tour guide for the upcoming season.

We are interviewing applicants now and hope to have a bigger team this year as we continue to grow the tour guide program further.

We are all looking forward to getting back out on country and continue working with the tour operators to create tourism products.

## Dambi Visitor Pass (DVP) Price Increase

Recreational boat fees	2026
<b>Trailerable vessels</b> up to 12 m in length	\$50 inc GST
<b>Private Vessels 12m - 24m</b> - Motor vessels and sailing yachts with some liveaboard capacity 12m- 24m in length	\$75 inc GST
<b>Yachts over 24 m</b> - vessel of 24 metres or more in length, both power and sail and not operating commercial tours or charters.	\$120 inc GST
<b>Kimberley Locals Special</b> - Annual Pass (must be Derby or Broome resident). Trailerable vessels up to 12 m in length	\$ 110 inc GST

## CULTURAL PROGRAMS



## Frobenius – Wanjina Wunggurr Collection. Register in the Memory of the World UNESCO Programme

**On 6 November 2025, Traditional Owners of the Dambimangari Native Title Determination Area granted their Free, Prior and Informed Consent for the submission of 25 reproductions of Dambeemangaddee**



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## Country site images to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.



### Background

In July 2025, Dr Richard Kuba, a representative of the Frobenius Institute, approached DAC to inform them that the Institute is working to register 5,000 records under the UNESCO Memory of the World programme. The Wanjina Wunggurr Collection forms part of these records and includes 25 reproductions of images from Dambeemangaddee Country. These 25 image reproductions depict the sites of Malan, Amangura, Jandaree, Kobuda, and Jangallu. They were created during the Frobenius Expedition visits in 1938 and 1939 and are currently held at the Frobenius Institute in Frankfurt, Germany.



The **Free, Prior and Informed Consent** process was conducted between July and October 2025. During this process, Dambeemangaddee Senior Cultural Advisers raised concerns requiring clarification. These included:

- Public access to the images

- Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights (ICIP)

The consultation was extended to include family representatives from the country areas of the sites visited by the Frobenius Expedition, encompassing the Central Families and Northern Families.

### Consent Declaration

**Traditional Owners of the Dambimangari Native Title Determination Area hereby consent to the inclusion of the 25 reproductions of Dambeemangaddee Country site images in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register, acknowledging that this registration does not diminish Dambeemangaddee Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights.**

### Dambimangari Cultural Workshop – February 10-13, 2026

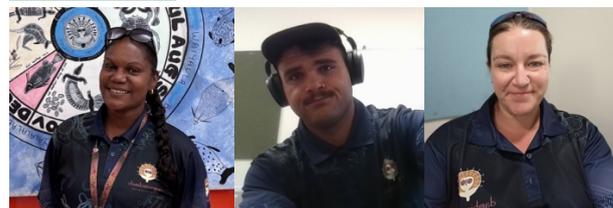
This meeting, sponsored by the Board brought together family members and Directors for four days to talk about cultural issues. The agenda was structured to allow all participants to have a say – to allow Directors and other families’ representatives to hear their point of view.

This is the first such activity led by the Board. Long-time anthropologists Kim Doohan and Richard Vachon, and our legal advisor Richard Bradshaw were present.

**The focus being continuity of cultural values for the corporation into the future.**

## WUDDGAM WENEE – JOB READY

### DAN Team



Grace Matos, Sheridan O'Malley & Anthony Edgar



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**At DAC we are supporting our members to be *Wuddgam Wenee* (job ready)!**

We have created new positions called **Care Navigators**, who form our DAN – Dambimangari Aboriginal Navigation – Team, supporting members into employment pathways, wellbeing and navigating life’s challenges.

Our Care Navigators work alongside community members to understand individual goals and needs, and to help remove barriers to employment, training, health, education, and wellbeing. This can include support with job readiness, accessing services, meeting workplace requirements, and building confidence to move forward.

DAC has a team of three supporting our members to build confidence and move forward. **Grace Matos**, Dambeemangaddee member and DAC employee has stepped into the role as Acting DAN team leader. Grace works alongside **Anthony Edgar** and **Sheridan O’Malley** who are both new to DAC.

Anthony started with us in early December 2025. Anthony has already thrown himself into the role. He has shared a bit about his background and what he hopes to achieve in his role:

*“My background is in the health sector; I am a current practising Enrolled Nurse. My previous role was a Court Diversion Officer with the Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service, working closely with the justice system I am excited to support any and/or all members to successfully navigate where you need to go in which ever capacity each member needs. If anyone needs help or support with anything please reach out.”*

Sheridan’s background is in the NSW justice system, where she spent 8 years working in an Indigenous focused Diversionary Program. Primarily supporting people to transition from custody back to community through programs to help remove barriers to employment, work

and education and providing support around behaviour change, AOD use, mental health issues and general living skills. *“I am excited to have been given the opportunity to relocate to Derby where I can learn about the culture and community and to provide support to Dambi members and families.”*

**Anthony Edgar | Ph: 0474 377 041**

**E: [navigator1@dambi.org.au](mailto:navigator1@dambi.org.au)**

**Sheridan O’Malley | Ph: (08) 9115 2000 | Ph: 0477 967 997 | E: [Navigator2@dambi.org.au](mailto:Navigator2@dambi.org.au)**

## COCKATOO ISLAND UPDATE

The **DAC Board** had their **first visit** to Cockatoo Island in December last year. They saw **Cockatoo Island Mining’s (CIM)** operations in action and toured the island with **Crestlink**.



Rebecca Barratt, Cecilia Umbagai, Marilee Liddell, Shontae Charles, Leah Umbagai



Both the CIM ILUA committee and the Crestlink



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ILUA committee had formal meetings to discuss how matters under both ILUAs are progressing.



Warren Barunga and Tony

### Crestlink

Things are getting close for Crestlink to commence their supply-base operations! Final environmental approvals were received in December 2025, and lots of planning work is occurring through this wet season. Once they start operations, expected in late 2026, Crestlink will be looking for Dambeemangaddee Traditional Owners who are interested in working in a variety of roles including port and aerodrome management, and village and camp operations.

### Cockatoo Island Mining

In a big start to the wet season this year, CIM made it safely through Tropical Cyclone Hayley and Tropical Cyclone Luana! There was a bit of damage to roads and ramps, but everyone is okay and everything is back on track on site. CIM continue to de-water the pit, and they are preparing to start underground mining this year. As CIM ramp up their operations, they will need more workers.

**CIM are looking for Dambeemangaddee Traditional Owners interested in working FIFO to Cockatoo Island. There will be a variety of roles available; operating dump trucks and other machinery, working on the crusher, doing maintenance, working on the barges and in the camp facilities.**

**Submit Expression of Interest to Rebecca Barratt, Cockatoo Island Administrator,  
E: [ciadmin@dambi.org.au](mailto:ciadmin@dambi.org.au)  
P: 0499 562 352**

## STRONG COMMUNITY, STRONG CORPORATION - Ayilwodda Mamangal Ngaddem



### DAC Staff Professional Development

DAC staff enjoyed an interactive staff training session with Lyndal Mackintosh and Melinda Jacobsen from Mosaic Lab. The session brought DAC staff together from across the



Mosaic Lab hosting professional development

state to talk about and reflect on our Code of



Conduct, internal values, and how we can continue strengthening the way we work together as one organisation.



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It was a really positive day, with great online and in-person bonding, meaningful conversations, and some solid personal development to carry forward into our daily work. We also shared some birthday cake to celebrate a couple of staff birthdays. A big thank you to Mosaic Lab, and to DAC Senior Management and the Board, for making this valuable training possible. We all came away feeling energised, connected, and motivated.

The presentation highlighted the unique challenges of delivering CTA training across a vast and remote landscape, contributing to a national conversation about applying landscape-scale ecology in Australia. Peter and Cherylyn did an outstanding job presenting this work, and we are proud to share that the project was Highly Commended in the National Prize for demonstrating exceptional 'right-way' science.

## AWC PARTNERSHIP



Peter Cooper, Cherylyn Ozies, Larissa Potter

## VACANCIES

- 👤 **Healthy Country Manager**
- 👤 **Sea Country Manager**
- 👤 **Dambimangari Tour Guides**
- 👤 **Trainee Executive Assistant**
- 👤 **Marine Park Administration Trainee**
- 👤 **Male Community Support Officer**
- 👤 **Part-time Community Support Officer - Hedland**
- 👤 **Part-time Admin Assistant Yampi Sound**

E: [dambi@wcasolutions.com.au](mailto:dambi@wcasolutions.com.au)

## 🎉 2026 DATES FOR THE DIARY 🌟

<b>11 Mar</b>	JMB Meeting	Derby
<b>15 April</b>	Community briefing / Roadshow	Mowanjum
<b>16 April</b>	Community briefing / Roadshow	One Arm Point
<b>22 April</b>	Community briefing / Roadshow	Broome
<b>17 June</b>	Community briefing / Roadshow	Port Hedland

## Outstanding Right-Way Science Recognition

Dambimangari Rangers Peter Cooper and Cherylyn Ozies, alongside Larissa Potter (AWC), represented Dambimangari late last year at the Ecological Society of Australia Conference, presenting to more than 700 delegates from across the country. They shared insights from our collaborative project with DBCA trialling conditioned taste aversion (CTA) training for Wijeengaddee (Northern Quolls).

The project aims to protect these culturally significant and threatened animals by teaching them to avoid eating cane toads as the toads move closer to Dambimangaddee Country.



# Dambimangari Newsletter

## IN THE MEDIA

**4 NEWS**

### Leaders look ahead to 2026

From housing shortages to cultural preservation, infrastructure upgrades to community rebuilding and a special election, regional leaders across the North West are tackling big challenges in 2026. We asked leaders from the Kimberley and Pilbara regions about their priorities for the year ahead. Here's what they hope to achieve for the North West in the coming months. **Phoebe Solon reports**

**Dambimangari ranger Amelia Hurrell**  
 "I'm excited to see what the future has in store for us and to see the progress we've made in the last year. I'm looking forward to continuing to work with the community to improve our services and facilities. I'm also looking forward to continuing to work with the community to improve our services and facilities. I'm also looking forward to continuing to work with the community to improve our services and facilities."

**Pilbara MIA Kevin Michel**  
 "I'm looking forward to continuing to work with the community to improve our services and facilities. I'm also looking forward to continuing to work with the community to improve our services and facilities. I'm also looking forward to continuing to work with the community to improve our services and facilities."

**Dambimangari ranger Amy Kavanagh**  
 "I'm looking forward to continuing to work with the community to improve our services and facilities. I'm also looking forward to continuing to work with the community to improve our services and facilities. I'm also looking forward to continuing to work with the community to improve our services and facilities."

**ALL VACANCIES AND HOW TO APPLY ON WEBSITE:**  
<https://www.dambimangari.com.au/about/work-with-us/>



**WORK WITH US**

### Broome Advertiser & Kimberley Echo article on Kimberley Leaders – profiling Amelia Hurrell

**'It was like a dream': How Australia's rarest bird of prey was found in WA's north**



The hunt for Australia's rarest bird of prey, the red goshawk, has delivered an early Christmas gift. Just when it was feared that these superbly patterned raptors were disappearing from Australian landscapes, they've been spotted thriving in the remotest parts of the Kimberley, in WA's north-west. Finding the red goshawk nest has been a feat in itself. A few weeks ago, bird ecologists and Kimberley Indigenous rangers took turns to peer down from a tiny hovering helicopter, necks craned as they scanned the treetops below.

### Article in WA Today on Red Goshawks in partnership with AWC.

**STOP SMOKING**

## Quit Smoking Workshop – Expressions of Interest

Looking to quit smoking or cut down?

- Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation is collecting **Expressions of Interest** for an upcoming **Quit Smoking Training Program**.
- Sessions will be organised once we know how many people would like to join and will be scheduled to suit participants' timeframes.
- All EOIs can be sent **confidentially** to our Acting Team Leader for the Dambi Aboriginal Navigators program:

**Grace Matos**  
 0417 912 921

Email your EOI to: [AAKI@dambi.org.au](mailto:AAKI@dambi.org.au)

Take a step towards a healthier future – get in touch today.

