WARNING: This newsletter may contain images and names of people who are deceased.

MIDDEENGAN 2026

Dambimangari Newsletter



CELEBRATION ON COCKATOO ISLAND - SHONTAE CHARLES, KENNISHA WAINA AND BRONWYN LIDDELL

CEO Report

It's been a busy few months for DAC, with plenty happening across Dambeemangaddee Country. We've had a successful tourism season, our AGM and General Meeting, and some important developments that will create more opportunities for Dambi people.

One of the biggest developments was the approval of the new Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) with Crestlink for Gulanoo (Koolan Island) at our General Meeting on 23 October.

Building on our existing agreement for **Ambagaramba / Balanyoo** (Cockatoo Island), we are now working towards a shared **Yampi Sound Logistics Hub** across both islands. These build on our existing agreement for Cockatoo Island, creating a dual-island supply base model across both islands. This is an important step forward for Dambi people, bringing more opportunities for jobs, training, business development and returning to Country, while ensuring we have a strong say in how Country is managed.

We also held a well-supported Yampi Sound workshop, where Traditional Owners came together and agreed on the best way forward for the **return of Yampi Sound to DAC management.** DAC is working closely with Native Title Holders to make sure this process is done the right way. A meeting will be held in March 2027, with Native Title Holders invited to come together, hear more and discuss the next steps.

Our Rangers, Tour Guides and community programs have also been busy. We've had a great season at Garaan-ngaddim (Horizontal Falls), with our Dambi Tour Guides learning and sharing stories and knowledge with visitors. Our Junior Ranger and Wandjina School programs are helping young people learn from their families, while our Dambimangari Aboriginal Navigation (D.A.N.) team continues supporting young people and families through camps and community activities. Our Rangers have also been doing some great work looking after Land and Sea Country, including improvements and clean-up work at Yaloon.

I would like to thank our Directors, Traditional Owners, staff and families for their hard work, guidance and continued support. My focus as CEO is to support the aspirations of Dambi people while ensuring DAC is a strong, well-managed and financially sustainable Corporation for the long term. The Yampi Sound and Crestlink agreements are important opportunities, and I am committed to working closely with the Board, Traditional Owners and our team to make sure these agreements deliver lasting benefits for Dambi people, their families and future generations.

Paul Morgan

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Kicking goals on and off the field: Ashleah Umbagai , Gunenge

From the Kimberley to the football fields of Perth, young Dambeemangaddee woman Ashleah Umbagai is making her mark in footy, backed by a family determined to give her every opportunity to succeed.

Currently attending school at Clontarf in Perth, Ashleah is balancing her education with a busy football schedule, including involvement with the Fremantle Dockers Next Generation Academy and Claremont Football Club.
Playing in the forward line, Ashleah enjoys the chance to kick goals and be part of a team. Footy is a great way for her to bond with other young people and build strong friendships, both on and off the field.
With her involvement at Claremont and the Dockers, Ashleah is getting a taste of what it takes to play at a higher level, while keeping her options open about whether professional football is something she wants to pursue.
But juggling school, football training and life away from home isn't always easy.
"It's hard to manage all of it. You've got to have support," Ashleah says.
Ashleah feels supported at Clontarf, where she has settled into school life, made friends and continued to develop her football skills.



Her parents, Gary Umbagai and Sirita Lightning, along with her siblings who also attend school in Perth, provide the encouragement and support she needs to balance life between the Kimberley and Perth.
Having her family behind her is an important part of her journey, helping her make the most of opportunities while staying connected to home and Country.



And while football is opening doors for her in Perth, home is never far from her mind.

Spending time with her brothers and sisters on Country is something Ashleah treasures, but her father, Gary, encourages her to keep going with school and footy in Perth and make the most of the opportunities she has.
"Country is not going to go. You can't take the cultural knowledge," Gary says.
Gary, who is Chair of Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation, is incredibly proud of what his daughter is achieving, both at school and on the footy field.
He knows how important it is for young people to have opportunities and strong family support, particularly with some of the challenges and distractions they face back home.
Gary played football himself when he was younger, but his journey was cut short when his mum passed away and he returned home to the Kimberley.
"I really encourage the footy," Gary says.
Having experienced how quickly life can change, Gary is determined to give Ashleah every chance to follow her own path. For him, it's about keeping young people engaged in school, sport and positive opportunities, with their families behind them all the way.
"I would recommend this to other young people in Derby because you've got more opportunities down there," Ashleah says.



With her family behind her and a strong connection to Country, Ashleah is making the most of her education and football opportunities in Perth, showing other young people that they can build a positive future while staying connected to home, family and culture.

Dambeemangaddee families return to Ambagaramba / Balanyoo



Dambeemangaddee families returned to Ambagaramba/Balanyoo (Cockatoo Island) on 30 September 2026 for a special day celebrating Country, culture and the growing partnership between Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation (DAC) and Crestlink.

Creating opportunities for families to return to Country is an important part of the Corporation's work.

"For us, getting back on Country is what is important. Our old people were connected to these islands and looked after Country, and we want our younger ones and our families to have that same opportunity," said DAC Chair Gary Umbagai.



The day also marked an important milestone in the relationship between DAC and Crestlink, which executed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) in 2024. The partnership was further strengthened in 2026 through Crestlink's involvement in the future of Koolan Island, creating opportunities for Dambeemangaddee people across both islands, including employment, training and business opportunities.

We've a big future ahead of us with Crestlink across the 2 islands Koolan and Cockatoo. We've set a strong foundation of what we want to build and this day was a celebration of the journey this far. Continuing our open communication with Crestlink and all our partners will help our vision to sustainably return to our country, share and teach our culture and keep it healthy for our young ones into the future.

"Through partnerships like this, we can show our people the opportunities that are here on Country – to work, look after, build businesses and create opportunities for our young people and future generations," Gary said. **"That is what we want to build from here: a strong future for our people on our Dambi Country."**





Wandjina School - Passing Knowledge to our young ones

Intergenerational knowledge transfer is important for us, especially for our young ones to learn from Traditional Owners who speak language and know the stories of our Country. This is why we have set up the Wandjina School, to provide on Country learning experiences where our stories and knowledge can be passed down to the next generation on Dambeemangaddee Country.



In August this year, DAC hosted a trip with some of our Dambi families and children. This was a big effort as we were responsible for several young kids. Those who went on the trip really enjoyed themselves because we were out on Country, learning and teaching.
DAC received funding, with thanks to Mariana Sampaio for coordinating, through the First Nations Heritage Grants program to help support this knowledge transfer.
A big thanks to Senior Traditional Owners Robyn Mungulu and Kallum Mungulu, as well as DAC Cultural Programs Coordinator Mariana Sampaio who all made the trip so special.



We are doing this all the time. Our Rangers, Tour Guides, Elders and Directors are always teaching and learning. Through the Wandjina School, young Dambeemangaddee Traditional Owners are learning about their cultural identity, including their family connections, tribe, clan, skin groups and connections to Country.







Junior Ranger Pilot Program - 3 camps this year

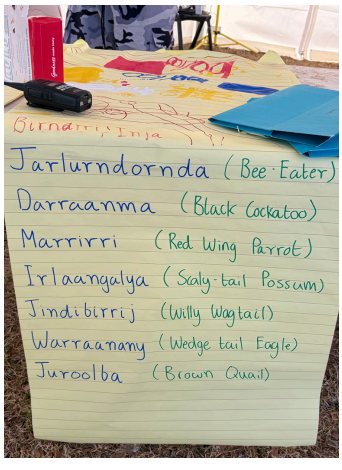
This year DAC have hosted 3 Junior Ranger Camps. We are piloting the program and it has gone really well. We spent our first camp out at Old Mowanjum. We learnt about the history of the place and watched footage of community life in the 1970s which helped our young people understand more about the experiences of those who came before them.
Our Junior Rangers also got hands-on with drones. They got through a unit on operating remotely piloted systems for conservation work. Bringing cultural knowledge and Western skills together is an important part of the Junior Ranger program, helping our young people build on their connection to Country and learn practical ways to look after it.





"Kimbolton camp was my favourite. I love the freshwater there. Setting up camera traps for the animals with Amelia was really good."
Ely Hunter, Junior Ranger participant.

On the second camp, we went to Kimbolton. Rowena Mouda welcomed us all to Kimbolton, reminding us of our connection to place. We did language with Kallum Mungulu learning the scientific names of the flora and fauna species around the Yampi Sound Training Area and our Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) partners taught us about invasive species. Mildred and Sandra Mungulu attended this camp to share important stories about Country. We all enjoyed listening and learning from them.
On our third camp in October, we learnt important maritime skills, weather can change everything! Knowing when its safe to head out on the water is an important part of our job as Rangers.
We all got to enjoy a fun celebration, sharing a meal, our learnings and stories from the camps. Big thanks to Rowena Mouda, Amelia Hurrell, Brad, Nic and the families and staff who supported our young people and helped bring the camp together. It was good to see our Junior Rangers learning together and having a go.



"We started our own Ranger program almost 20 years ago. We self-funded it. Then we started the women's program and now the juniors. This is such a big achievement for Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation and for the board to support it. I can only see this continuing. One day these young ones will be our senior rangers and will be teaching their young ones!"
Rowena Mouda, DAC Director



Busy season for our Dambimangari Tour Guides

It's been a big tourism season for our Dambimangari Tour Guides at Garaan-ngaddim (Horizontal Falls), welcoming visitors onto Country, sharing stories and knowledge, and building their skills and confidence working in tourism.

Working alongside Journey Beyond's Horizontal Falls team, our guides have been putting their training into practice as part of DAC's tourism pilot program. The program is helping our people gain experience in tourism, learn from each other and share with visitors what makes Dambeemangaddee Country so special.

For Dambi Tour Guides Sasha Ngerdu and Kennisha Waina, being out on Country and sharing these experiences with visitors has been one of the best parts of their job.

"We like the talking, sharing our stories. We like the afternoon ride looking at the sunset, the morning ride, we like listening to the water on the boat, seeing the beautiful creatures swimming, and coming up to the surface – seeing the dolphins and turtles, we like seeing Buddmudda (sea eagle) flying around and who can spot the crocodiles at the creek first. We like it when the wildlife comes close to us," they shared.

Sasha said it was especially meaningful to return to Country.

"It was very special for us and good to go back out on country. To share our stories and be close to country."



Kennisha has also enjoyed learning new skills and working with the visitors and Journey Beyond crew.

"We learned to engage with tourists, and the Journey Beyond staff. I learnt to cook up a feed of fish for the guests – that was all really fun."

For Cheylene Ngerdu, who has been a Tour Guide for two years, the opportunity to learn from older generations and share the stories of her ancestors is what makes the job so special.

"I love learning the knowledge of my old people, and telling the stories of our ancestors, how they lived and survived along the coast. To be in saltwater country."



Learning from our families, Senior Tour Guide Robyn Mungulu has played an important role throughout the season, working alongside the younger guides, helping them learn stories and build their confidence.

"It is very important for us to be able to welcome people on to country and to share our stories," Robyn said.

For Robyn, one of the most important outcomes of the program has been creating opportunities for younger Dambeemangaddee people to return to Country and learn from older generations.

"This was the main target from the start, to get young people back out on country and speaking stories and culture again which helps to keep everything alive and going," she said.

Visitors love hearing from our guides

The feedback from visitors and the Horizontal Falls team has been really positive. DAC also carried out a visitor survey during the season, with guests telling us how much they valued hearing directly from our Dambi Tour Guides.

One visitor shared:

"We were lucky to have Aaron, Kenisha and Sasha give an Indigenous perspective, this was so lovely and definitely added to our experience."

Another visitor reflected on their time with Robyn:

"We felt honoured that Robyn would share her people's stories and culture with us as we spent such a short time there. Please pass on our thanks to the elders for allowing us to visit such a beautiful and special place. We loved our visit. It has been the highlight of our Kimberley trip."

Building a Future for Dambi Tourism

This season has been another important step towards DAC's longer-term tourism plans, which aim to create more jobs and training opportunities for Dambeemangaddee people, support families to return to Country and ensure our people have a leading role in tourism on Dambi Country.
In April, the State Government committed $5 million to support Traditional Owner-led tourism at Garaan-ngaddim, providing further opportunities to build on on our tourism plans.



As DAC Vice Chair Leah Umbagai explains, there is much more to Garaan-ngaddim than what visitors see.

"Garaan-ngaddim holds a lot of stories. The formation of that particular area is designed by the Woongudd (serpent), how it travelled through the country, making marks, creating a particular creek or area.

"To understand the beauty comes not just of the land and sea but from the stories and how it is maintained. There is so much more than you can see. It is from within – the story becomes the landscape."

Leah also reminds us of our responsibility to look after Country and ensure visitors understand the importance of respecting these places.

"Our ancestors, we believe, are still out there – they make judgement and are watching and listening. We have to respect that. We can't see them, but we know they are there. We are obligated and it is our responsibility to look after that country and make sure people enter safely and visit the area respectfully."

A big congratulations to all our Dambi Tour Guides on a fantastic season and the important work they are doing to share our stories, knowledge and Country with visitors.

Growing our Tourism Offering & Spending Time on Country





Our Dambimangari Tour Guides and DAC staff recently visited Koolan and Cockatoo Islands to spend time on Country and explore opportunities for future tourism experiences.
The team joined guests aboard Kimberley Quest to share Dambi stories and knowledge, followed by a Wooloowa (smoking ceremony) at Nares Point. The guides also welcomed Odyssey Expeditions guests to Iron Island with a Wooloowa.
It was a special trip for our young guides, sharing stories and knowledge with visitors on Dambeemangaddee Country, the right way.





Youth camps bring young people together on Country





Our D.A.N. (Dambimangari Aboriginal Navigation) team recently brought young people together for two camps at Kimbolton on Dambeemangaddee Country. The boys' camp welcomed 16 young men, including five Dambeemangaddee boys, while the girls' camp brought together 11 young women from Years 11 and 12. Both camps gave our young people a chance to spend time on Country, connect with each other, build confidence and talk openly about things affecting their lives.

The boys spent time learning about identity, positive role models, respectful relationships and making good choices. The girls focused on healthy relationships, wellbeing and knowing where to go for support. D.A.N. Assistant Coordinator Grace Matos said, "***We want young people to know they have people around them who care about them and want to see them do well."*** The camps were also a chance to have a laugh, make new connections and build trust with people who can support them into the future.
A big thank you to our **D.A.N. team, Steve Martin, Grace Matos and Anthony Edgar**, along with **Aaron Cooper,** and all the local organisations who helped make these camps happen, including World Vision's Impact Club, Derby District High School, Clontarf, Shooting Stars and local health and wellbeing services.
Through D.A.N., we want to keep creating opportunities for our young people to stay connected to Country, build strong relationships and find their own pathways forward.
The camps are just one part of the broader D.A.N. program at Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation, which supports young people, adults and families to build confidence and skills and connect with education, training, employment and other opportunities.
Get in touch with D.A.N. - danaa@dambi.org.au or call us at the office, 08) 91152000









Mowanjum Kids hit the Basketball Courts at Looma!

Seven young fellas from Mowanjum headed to Looma in September for the **Booroob 3x3 Basketball Competition.** The boys had a great time competing, with Kiane Bear winning the dunk competition and Engene Brown and Treyvaghn Martin receiving good behaviour awards. They also enjoyed a swim at Marooda Crossing on the way home!
A big thanks to Anthony Edgar from our Dambimangari Aboriginal Navigation (DAN) team for organising the trip. We'd love to see more young people getting involved!
Contact Anthony Edgar: P: 0474 377 041 or E: Navigator1@dambi.org.au

Yaloon Update - Keeping Country Healthy



There's been some great work happening out at Yaloon! In July, the track from Kimbolton to Yaloon was graded, making it easier for our Dambi families and Rangers to access Country.
Our Dambi Rangers, with a helping hand from our neighbours, the Wilinggin Rangers, have also been busy cleaning up Yaloon, collecting around five tonnes of rubbish from the community and moving it to the beach for removal. A new water tank has also been delivered to replace the old one.
This is all part of our ongoing work to make it easier for our mob to access, work and live on Country. A big well done to everyone involved!





Looking after Lalang-gaddam Marine Park







Our Dambi Rangers and Traditional Owners have been busy out on Sea Country with our Joint Management partners, DBCA, looking after Lalang-gaddam Marine Park. We've had several trips including:

- Coxswain training and building skills on the water
- Joint Management Board and family trips on Country
- DAC Visitor Pass site inspections
- Joint fisheries work
- Monitoring dugongs, turtles and dolphins
- Marine debris clean-ups



AWC DAC Celebrate 10 years

This year marks 10 years of Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation working with Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) at Yampi Sound Training Area. Since 2016, this partnership has brought together Dambeemangaddee Traditional Owners, Dambi Rangers and AWC to look after Country through fire management, feral animal control, wildlife monitoring and other Healthy Country work.

But most importantly, this partnership has helped Dambeemangaddee people return to and reconnect with Country.

Yampi cuts through several of our Dambeema (places), making it especially important for our people to be able to return and care for this Country. For many families, the partnership has provided the first opportunity to visit Yampi since the land came under the Department of Defence.

Over the past 10 years, we have strengthened our connection to Yampi, built a stronger presence on Country and continued our responsibility to look after it our way, guided by the knowledge and teachings passed down from our old people.

As we look ahead, DAC will continue working towards our long-held goal of Dambi people returning to Country, having a strong presence there and taking an active role in looking after it, just as our old people did.



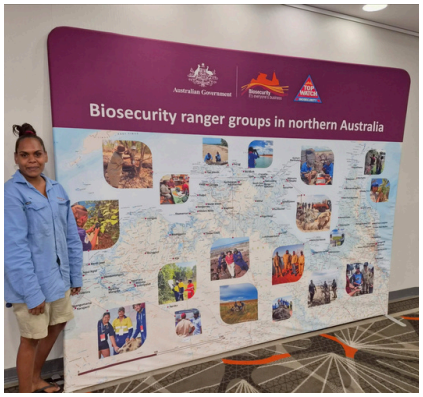
Tiny Wallaby Rediscovered on Dambi Country After 50 Years!

A tiny rock-wallaby, the Nabarlek has been found at two locations on mainland Dambeemangaddee Country for the first time in more than 50 years! Working together, our Dambi Rangers and Traditional Owners and AWC used motion-sensor cameras and DNA testing to confirm the sightings, including at Yampi Sound Training Area. The Nabarlek is an endangered wallaby weighing just 1.2kg, so finding it again on our Country is great news. As Dambi Traditional Owner Inga Pedersen said, ***"Every animal has its own song and story, they might be small, they might be big, but they all play their part in keeping Country healthy."*** We'll keep working with AWC to learn more about these little wallabies and how we can protect them for future generations.



Thinking about setting up a new business? What are your next steps? What are the opportunties with DAC and partners?
Join us Thursday 26 November in Broome for a Business Workshop.
Register your interest with Jodi Humphries:
0447661402
kiadmin@dambi.org.au

Getting out there!! Sharing & Learning...



Dambimangari Ranger Chayleen Ngerdu and **DAC Ranger Coordinator Elsa O'Brien,** attended the **Biosecurity Round Table Conference** hosted by Dept. of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and Top Watch.
Ranger groups from Western Australia to Queensland attended in Darwin, Larrakia Country to talk all things Biosecurity.



DAC and DBCA presented joint work on **Waddaroo (coral reefs)** in Dambeemangaddee Sea Country at the **Australian Marine Sciences Association (AMSA) Conference.**
DAC's Edmund (Amon) Jungine, Geoff Neville and Patrick Clune, together with Claire Ross from DBCA, presented a poster highlighting the importance of protecting our Sea Country and the results of long-term coral monitoring in Lalang-gaddam Marine Park.



Dambi at the FACET Conference

A proud moment for DAC at the FACET Conference in Perth, where members, **Dena Winton and Geoff Neville** presented alongside DBCA and DAC staff, **Kim Cream** about the journey towards a culturally appropriate future visitor experience at **Garaan-ngaddim (Horizontal Falls).**
Our team spoke about why Traditional Owners need to be at the centre of decisions about Country, culture and tourism, with our knowledge, stories and voices respected and heard.
The presentation received wonderful feedback, with FACET and DBCA recognising the importance of hearing directly from Dambeemangaddee Traditional Owners.
Congratulations Dena and Geoff for representing DAC and sharing our story, knowledge and vision on such an important platform. And a huge congratulations to the Garaan-ngaddim Family Group for the incredible support, guidance and knowledge behind this journey.



Geoff Neville and Warren Barunga presenting with DBCA's Craig Oljenik at the Statewide Joint Mangement Forum in Perth.





We had a special visitor to our DAC offices earlier in the year, **Peter Garrett.** He was in the Kimberley to chat about **World Heritage** for parts of the Kimberley and what that means. The Kimberley Land Council are managing the World Heritage Listing project. If you would like to know more, get in touch with KLC on 08) 9194 0100



Dambi and Wilinggin Rangers set up for the Mowanjum Festival earlier this year!



DAC Staff - Kim, Jodi & Josh at our Broome office.

2/1 Short Street, Broome, WA 6725 (main entrance on corner of Short Street & Dampier Terrace.

Ph: 08) 6188 6565



Mildred Mungulu with her artwork, Black-headed Python, Flood, 4 womens and queen Wandjina bees, 2023

Mildred Mungulu's Artwork for Our Broome Office

We are proud to have a beautiful painting by Woddordda artist Mildred Mungulu, from Mowanjum, displayed in our Dambi Broome office.
The artwork shares important stories of the Black-headed Python, the Flood, Four Women and Queen Wandjina Bees. These stories have been passed down through generations, teaching us about Country, family, skin groups, traditional laws and the Wandjina. Mildred's painting is a special addition to our office, helping keep these stories and knowledge strong and sharing them with everyone who visits.

Dambi Designer creates ISWAG logo

Twanya Nulgit, won a competition to design the Indigenous Salwater Advisory Group's logo. Her design is inspired by the work sea country rangers do along the Kimberley Coast.



Twanya descibes her inspiration behind the logo;
"....the lines and dots down the middle are the coastline from Broome to Kalumburu. They represent the areas the Rangers work across.... The eggs around the edge of the design, along with the turtles represent turtle nesting and the monitoring work carried out to help understand and protect turtle populations. The dugong symbolises another important part of the marine life the rangers monitor and care for. The inclusion of coral and seagrass reflects the broader range of marine ecosystems they work to protect and maintain."

Thank you Twanya for your beautiful thoughtful design.

DAC and Crestlink: Creating Opportunities on Country

Following the earlier agreement for Umbagaramba / Balanyoo (Cockatoo Island), Dambi members confirmed the new ILUA for Gulanoo (Koolan Island) at the General Meeting on 23 October. DAC and Crestlink are now working together on a shared approach across both islands, creating more jobs, training and business opportunities for Dambi mob. As mining winds down at Koolan Island, plans are underway for a new logistics hub, with opportunities being explored in Ranger work, island operations, road maintenance, training and traineeships. It's all about getting our Dambi people back on Country, working on Country and building businesses on Country. We'll keep members updated as these opportunities develop.
Interested in work, training or business opportunities?

Contact DAC: kiadmin@dambi.org.au | 08) 9115 2000

dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation Crestlink

Aardbulaardoo (Welcome) & Congratulations



Curtis Barunga, Ranger



Elsa O'Brien Women's Ranger Coordinator



Russell Mouda, Ranger



Juan Nyandi, Ranger





Stella Thomas, Healthy Country Manager



Cameron Hugh, Sea Country Manager



Jerilee Jeffery, Tourism Project Officer



Leanne Dixon, Finance & Payroll Officer







Kelly Pan, Finance & Payroll Officer



Bradley Liddell, Cockatoo Island Administrator



Lyndell Bradshaw, DAC Director

"My name is Lyndi Bradshaw, and I am a descendant of Janningal Mouda. I am a mother to three beautiful girls, and we love being out on Country and appreciate every opportunity to connect with Country, culture and community. Dambi has played a significant role in my life and has supported me through many important stages of my journey. From the commencement of my schooling in Perth in 2011 through to 2016, to providing me with an employment opportunity with Mt Gibson Iron at Koolan Island after graduating, Dambi has continued to open doors and provide opportunities that have helped shape who I am today.

I am currently employed in an administration role and am also undertaking HR training, allowing me to further develop my skills, knowledge and professional experience.

I am incredibly grateful for the support I have received over the years and sincerely appreciate the Board's consideration and acceptance in welcoming me into this role as I embark on another journey with Dambi.

I am looking forward to this new chapter, to listening and learning from those around me, building new relationships and sharing experiences. I hope to gain a deeper understanding of Dambi Country, and I am looking forward to working alongside people who share the same love, passion and appreciation for Country."

Employees of the Month







A big congratulations to our DAC Employees of the Month for August, September and October! **Aaron Cooper,** one of our Dambimangari Tour Guides, was recognised in August for his dedication and the great work he does sharing Dambeemangaddee Country and knowledge with visitors. **Kirk Woolagoodjah** received the September award for his leadership and hard work across several projects, including the Family on Country Trip, Kimminco Track Inspection, Youth Boys Camp at Kimbolton and Homelands field work. **Mega Elizabeth**, our Admin Officer, was recognised in October for the fantastic work she does keeping the office running. Well done to Aaron, Kirk and Mega, and thank you for all your hard work!

Dates for the Diary

NOV 26
BUSINESS WORKSHOP
9am - 3pm
Broome Chamber of Commerce, Unit 4, 30 Clementson Street Broome

NOV 16
JMB MEETING
9am
DAC Derby Office

DEC 1-3
DAC DIRECTORS MEETINGS
DAC Derby Office
15 Guildford Street, Derby

DEC - JAN 21-3
OFFICE CLOSURE
DAC Office will be closed 21 Dec - 3 Jan

JAN 5 & 27
RPF BUCKETS DUE

FEB 23-25
DAC DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Christmas & New Year Office Closure

The DAC offices will be closed from Monday 21 December 2026 and will reopen on Monday 4 January 2027.
We wish all our Dambi families and community a safe and happy Christmas and New Year!

Upcoming DAC Board Directors Meetings

The next DAC Board Directors meetings will be held on 2, 3 and 4 December 2026.



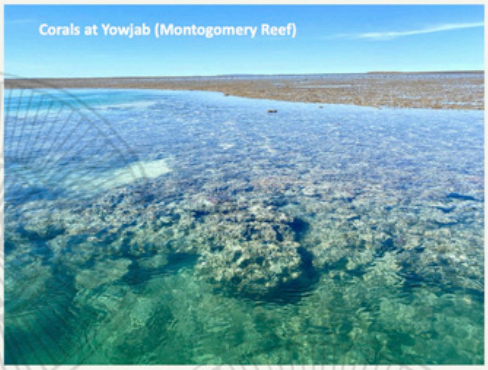


Board endorsed Indigenous Ranger Program Strategic Plan

AMSA Poster created in partnership DAC and DBCA

Monitoring & Protecting Dambeemangaddee Sea Country

Caring for Country • Protecting Waddaroo (Coral reefs) • Understanding reef change



DAMBEEMANGADDEE SALTWATER COUNTRY

Dambeemangadee people are Saltwater People. Dambeemangaddee Sea Country is rich in Waddaroo (coral reefs), julum (seagrass) and jindirm (mangrove). These are important habitats for migratory marine animals like waarlee (green turtles), flatback turtles , waliny (dugong), ngunubany (whales) and jigeedany (dolphins) who come to breed and feed in these waters.

MONITORING & PROTECTING WADDAROO

Wadaroo are important ecological systems and are culturally significant to Dambeemangaddee people. **We are concerned about increasing pressure from visitors and other activities in Lalang-Gaddam Marine Park.** Native Title, Dambimangari Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) and the jointly managed Marine Park give TOs greater control and resources to care for Country. Zoning, regular ranger patrols and the Dambimangari Visitor Pass also help DAC manage increasing visitor pressure along the remote coastline. The 2024/25 marine heatwave brought severe thermal stress and coral bleaching across the reefs we monitor. **Significant coral loss may affect the health and resilience of these ecosystems.**

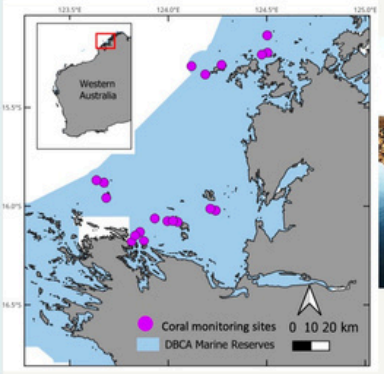
Joint Management

Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation (DAC) works with Dept. of Biodiversity Conservation & Attractions (DBCA) to jointly manage the Lalang-gaddam Marine Park. **Joint management** combines Traditional Owner knowledge with western techniques and gives DAC a seat at the decision-making table.

Waddaroo decline in Dambeemangaddee Sea Country

WHAT WE DID: Long-term monitoring + aerial bleaching surveys

Monitoring developed with Traditional Owners. Below: Cherylyn Ozies, Dambimangari Ranger using drop cameras to monitor sea country with DBCA.



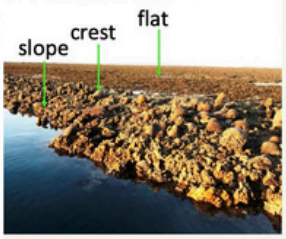




Photo-transects using drop camera (pre-2021) and remotely operated vehicle (post-2021) along 6 x 50m transects

Aerial assessments at 30 sites using helicopter surveys



WHAT WE FOUND:

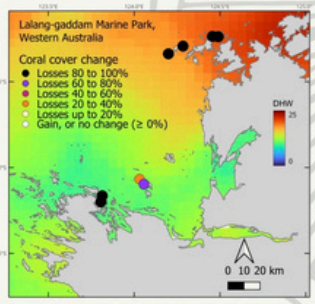
Thermal stress, coral bleaching and coral declines

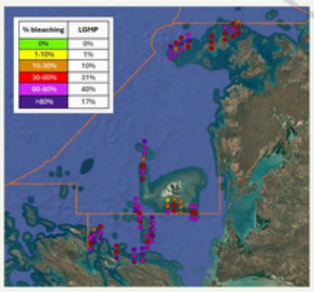
84%

decline in coral cover

32% coral cover in 2022 → 5% in 2025

Heat-sensitive branching corals experienced the greatest mortality.

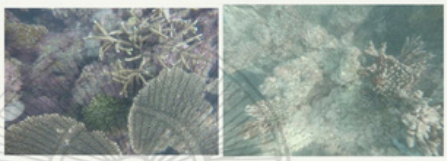




Maps of coral cover change and accumulated thermal stress (top) and coral bleaching (bottom).

VISIBLE CHANGE IN CORAL COMMUNITIES

Before After



Key findings

- Peak thermal stress reached 15–20 degree heating weeks (DHW) — well above the 8 DHW mortality threshold.
- > half of surveyed reefs had estimated bleaching above 60%.
- No surveyed site remained unbleached.
- Bleaching observed on the reef flat for the 1st time.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR COUNTRY

- **Ongoing monitoring is critical for tracking recovery and informing future management actions.**
- Joint management provides a powerful model for monitoring large and remote reef systems.
- Traditional knowledge and western science work together to support the cultural, ecological and social objectives of the Marine Park Management Plan.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE GUIDES THE WORK

The ongoing monitoring and management of Dambeemangaddee Sea Country builds upon thousands of years of Dambeemangaddee knowledge. The Dambeemangaddee people are the Traditional Owners of this Sea Country and the original marine scientists whose observations, knowledge and understanding of the marine environment continue to inform its care today.

dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation

Lalang-gaddam Marine Park

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Biodiversity and Conservation Science