Our Land—Our People—Our Future

We respect the land and sea that defines our community and enriches our quality of life.

We value our families, our people and our community, we respect our Elders. We are strong families with pride and confidence in who we are. We are proud of our culture and our traditions. We stand together on country as one.

We are dedicated to promoting empowerment of people, protection of the environment and respect of cultural diversity.

We provide opportunities for community involvement and provide protection of our cultural sites so that younger generations can benefit from the conservation of the area and maintenance of our culture for many more years to come.

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Welcome to the seventh edition of the Yuku-Baja-Muliku News.

We wish everybody the very best and look forward to sharing our stories and achievements with you.

Please contact our office if you would like to contribute to the next edition.
Yuku Baja Muliku Landowner & Reserves Ltd has opened a new Indigenous Art Gallery based in Cooktown, North Queensland, at 142 Charlotte Street. It is about a 4 hour drive north from Cairns. Our artist’s inspiration comes from the land and sea country that surrounds them. Many of the paintings come from stories that the artists were taught as children or of local bush food and animals in our region. By painting these pieces, they are sharing their stories with you.

All of our artworks are handcrafted and painted by local artists, and we invite other local indigenous artists to contact us at the gallery if they would like to display and sell their art through the gallery. We have art and crafts such as paintings, clap sticks, dilly bags, jewellery, kullops, but are always looking for new pieces and artists' for the gallery.

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June already. It feels like we just started the new year and are still trying to catch up from last year.

Cyclone Ita never helped the situation by paying a visit on the 11th April 2014, damaging homes, knocking down a lot of trees and causing general havoc throughout our beautiful community. We were very fortunate that the Girringun Rangers contacted our office offering assistance to try and get some normality back within our community. So for 8 weeks our teams worked hard everyday with debris clean up and removal, concentrating on the older community members making sure they were ok.

As hard as the work was and the days long, our teams found the work rewarding, giving them an opportunity to introduce themselves to the local community and to help out while everyone needed a hand.

We would like to thank the Cook Shire Council, plus all of the other community members and volunteers that simply knuckled down and got the work done, it helped us all get some normality back to our lives and for our community to show the rest of Australia how tough we really are up here, and we can work together to keep our community strong.

Other than Cyclone Clean up our team have been working non stop getting through their current work and training plans as well as trying to set up the new rangers base at Archer Point for the opening and our TUMRA (Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement) celebrations.

We continue to work together on all aspects of land and sea management, including the turtle rescue and turtle hospital, with one animal currently in our care, waiting for a tracker so that we can track the movements of the animal after released.

YBM has started a new project on the 2nd June 2014, we opened an Indigenous Art Gallery at 142 Charlotte Street. All work is from local indigenous artists, so please if you have visitors or are looking for a new original piece of art, pop in and say hi and have a look at the beautiful artwork there on display.
Cyclone Ita Came to visit Cooktown on the 11th April 2014. This was the first significant cyclone to impact Cooktown since 1949.

The Yuku-Baja-Muliku Rangers Snapped to Attention on the Monday before to ensure our base and equipment where all packed up to avoid costly replacement of gear. After our base and camps where secure we all set about getting ourselves and our neighbors' houses and belongings in order. By Thursday afternoon there were still some residences of Cooktown that were not listening to advice from the Department of Meteorology and our Ranger team where quick to help them out and understand the importance of being ready for such an event.

By Friday the 11th every one was set and ready with all dry stock food stored windows taped backyards stripped clear of debris like pot plants, kids swing sets and trampolines. All we had to do was sit and wait. We didn't wait very long and by 3:00 pm we started to notice a big increase of wind speeds. By 4:30 pm we knew we were in for a storm. So Ita was here and she stayed for just under 15 hours. No body on my team had much energy from the effort put in to securing base camp and houses in the community as well as being kept up all night by a huge storm. So I asked every one to look after there own house and neighbors and not venture out on the streets as there were a lot of power lines down. Ergon and the S.E.S. did their rounds and took notes and then acted on jobs they could or would do and we noticed a big gap in the system where if you were not in immediate danger then S.E.S could not help. YBM rangers stepped up to the challenge and offered there services to help get peoples yards back in order and safe for kids. We drove around to the worst hit areas and just approached strangers doors introduced ourselves and with their permission started cutting up trees and removing waste on the road for the Cook Shire Council to remove it. By the end of week one we knew that we had a massive job ahead to get the community back into normal operations. The call went out for extra help and we were blessed by the Ranger gods and were sent the Girringun Rangers. The Girringun Rangers led by Daniel Leo Came for 4 weeks of solid work. And even they said that they could tell we had a big storm as they had similar impacts from Cyclone Larry and Cyclone Yasi.

Yuku-Baja-Muliku and The Girringun Ranger groups have a special relationship that was founded during similar clean up activities while Cardwell was struggling to return to normal life after Cyclone Yasi. The Yuku-Baja-Muliku Ranger group sent 3 rangers for 2 weeks to offer assistance to the Cardwell Community and from there the Indigenous Rangers Disaster relief comity was formed and now is willing to deploy to any community to assist with natural and man made disasters. To see the faces of people you don't know change from despair and shock to admiration and appreciation just made our jobs so much more than just doing some volunteer work in the community it gave us a sense of belonging to the community as community Rangers and someone that the community had trust in. A real feel good moment.
Turtle Rescue & Rehabilitation
We currently have a Baby Hawksbill in the turtle hospital. The turtles health is good and is gaining weight steadily. The new turtle rescue vessel is now completed. The rangers have taken it out on its maiden voyage and have done some turtle monitoring with the vessel. The Rangers have nominated for the vessel to be named KB-1 in memory of our Aunty and previous ranger Karen Baird. Thanx you DEHP for funding YBM for the vessel, it will assist us in a major part of our sea country work. Plus we would like to thank John Hooker and team at Hooker boats in Cairns, it is a fantastic vessel and we enjoyed working with you to get the best outcome for what we require.
The Cooktown Annual Beach Clean up was fantastic this year. With a lot of people coming out on Sunday 25th May to assist with cleaning up our beautiful beaches. There was not a lot of rubbish found this year at Archer Point, only half filling a skip bin with mostly marine debris and not so much left by campers this time.

South Cape York Catchments and the Lure Shop had organized prizes for most unusual find with the winner at Archer Point being Gauai Wallace Junior.

Thankyou to Kama Miller from South Cape York Catchments for organizing it this year and for all the volunteers that came out on their Sunday to help us clean up the beaches. Look forward to seeing you all again next year.
ABOVE: YBM Ranger Mick Hale and Endeavour Christian College Principal Jannie Basson—testing out a boat they found during the beach clean up.

ABOVE: YBM Chairperson & Elder Irene Bowyer with Granddaughters / Junior Rangers Mariska Hale & Leilani Hale beach clean up 2014, Archer Point

Below: Leilani Hale, Karli & Otto Basson assisting with beach clean up 2014
Right: Leilani Hale hard at work making sure she gets into all the little spots where rubbish sometimes gets stuck.
After a long wait the builders started the construction of the Yuku-Baja-Muliku Rangers Office on the 11th November 2013. The development of the building has moved forward very quickly and efficiently, thanks to builder Lew Collier and his team of trades people, and volunteers from the Geelong Tafe Students and the Geelong Rotary Club.

After a very scary episode with Cyclone Ita in April, and then the rush to get out to the base to make sure it was ok after the Cyclone, we took ownership of the building in May.

Unfortunately we have been very busy with post Cyclone clean up and trying get back to the general run of our work program and have not been able to set a date for the official opening. However we have now finally moved in and works are under way to
Yuku Baja Muliku Rangers & Hopevale Rangers got together to participate and complete the Eyes & Ears Training with GBRMPA compliance officers. This was a great opportunity for these two groups to work together and make connections for future projects. The training assists rangers in having a better understanding of their rights and how they should approach people in a compliance situation. They finished the week of training with a helicopter ride with a marine parks officer during patrols of the coast.
On Wednesday 22nd April 1970 at 9.45am Her Majesty the Queen, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Anne arrived in Cooktown.
I was chosen to present the Queen with a beautiful Bouquet of Orchids and Yvonne Palmer presented Princess Anne with the same.
In the weeks leading up to the visit we had to complete etiquette classes, where we were taught to walk properly and to speak clearly when we were spoken to. We were also taught to curtsy.
We attended rehearsal after rehearsal and many dress fittings, as our dresses were made here in Cooktown. I thought the dresses were beautiful; they were a pretty pale aqua colour with white lace on the front of the bodice.
That was a big day for Cooktown; children were lined up in rows waving their little Australia flags. I don’t remember too much about the day because it all was a bit of a blur for me, I found it all very overwhelming! ME meeting the Queen!!!!!
My Grandparents, George and Annie Doughboy, were given a special invitation to meet the Queen. My Grandad wore his breast plate proudly that day all polished and shiny.
I remember the Queen looked very nice in her outfit which was navy and white with bright canary yellow accents and Princess Anne’s was a pale green with pink, I thought they both looked very pretty. That was 44 years ago, how times have changed Cooktown is a lot bigger now than when I was a child growing up here.
Above:
Irene Doughboy (Bowyer) & Yvonne Palmer presenting Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth with flowers.

Left: (R-L)
Irene Doughboy (Bowyer) & Yvonne Palmer) in their pretty dresses ready to meet the Royal Party.
The Yuku Baja Muliku Junior Rangers team has grown a lot this year with numbers capping at 50 Junior Rangers. The program has been very busy with weekly activities ranging from weed identification, turtle identification and activities. Excursions to the beach and planning for the June Discovery Festival Parade.

We were lucky enough to have the Girringun Rangers from Cardwell volunteer with Yuku Baja Muliku for the Cyclone Clean Up and while they were in Cooktown they came along to the Junior Rangers Excursions.

This year the Junior Rangers Float won the Most Creative Float Award for June Discovery Weekend 2014. The YBM Rangers then took the kids to the Italian Restaurant as a treat for all their hard work they put into the float and for their participation in the weekend.

The Junior Rangers are looking forward to the first Junior Rangers camp at Archer Point from the 30th June to 2nd July with visiting Junior Rangers from Lama Lama attending.
Investigating Bird Sounds

Birds can laugh, crack a whip, whistle, mimic, grumble, chirp, drum, honk and screech. These are just some of the wonderful sounds birds can make.

**Match the bird to the sound**

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Yuku Baja Muliku Newsletter

Announcements

- Yuku Baja Muliku New Ranger Base Office Completed — opening to be advised
- Yuku Baja Muliku Town Office Open 142 Charlotte Street
- Kuku Bulkaway Gallery Open 142 Charlotte Street
- Yuku-Baja-Muliku Junior Ranger Camp - 30th June to 2nd July 2014
- Yuku Baja Muliku Rangers Vessel Completed
- Yuku Baja Muliku Traditional Custodians Camp September 2014 dates to be confirmed.