

New Beginnings

Djabugay Presentation
Native Title Conference
Melbourne, 3 June 2009

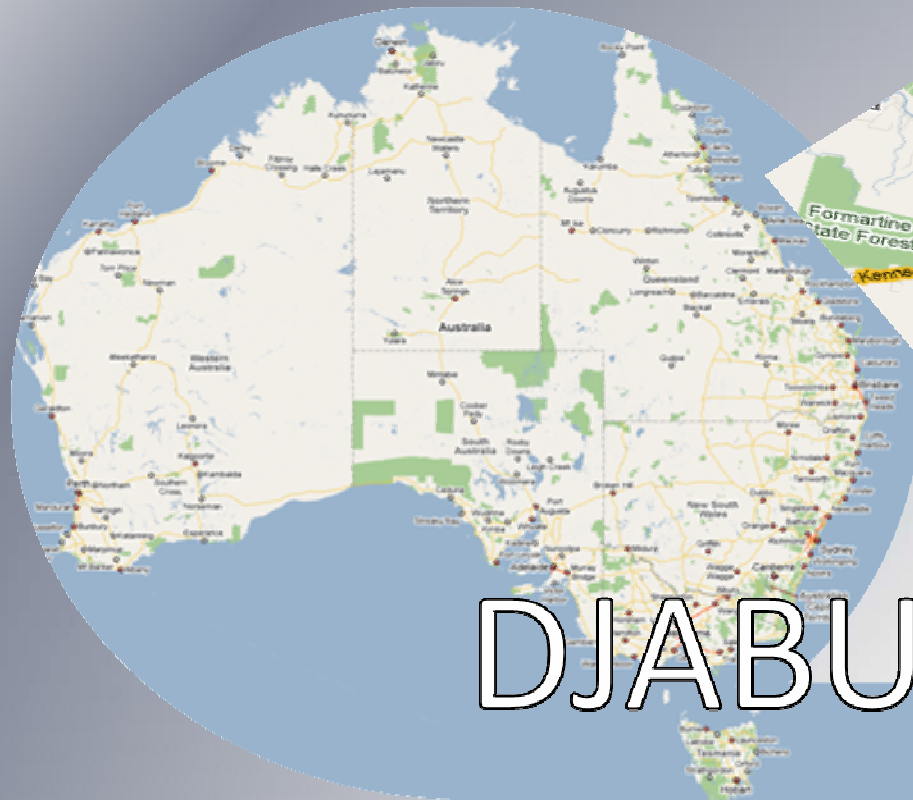
Presenters:

Barry Hunter (v/chair)

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DJABUGAY



Most Djabugay live in rainforest country in and around Kuranda in north Queensland.

Djabugay is the NT holder of the Barron Gorge National Park



Djabugay Incorporated

- Djabugay incorporated its 1st corporation in 1992: the Djabugay Tribal Aboriginal Corporation (DTAC).
- DTAC's primary goal was to get Djabugay country back for Djabugay People



RECOGNITION

The main achievements during its 1st years of incorporation were:

- People started to take notice that there was a Djabugay incorporated organisation that they could contact;
- A growing sense of Djabugay identity amongst Djabugay People
- Recognition was fully achieved when Djabugay lodged their Native Title Claim



COMPETITION

When CDEP arrived in Kuranda in 1998, a battle for access to (CDEP) resources began:

- The Community (Justice group, Women's group, Djabugay Rangers, Health Action Group etc)
- The Government started drawing on CDEP for their consultations and 'support' services (WTMA, Qld Health, DNR, EPA, QPWS etc)



COMPETITION (cont.)

The growing number of community groups disagreeing with each other for resources created an atmosphere of competition and groups began to oppose one another rather than working together.



NATIVE TITLE

Djabugay lodged an application for Native Title in 1994 and in 2004 the Federal Court handed down a determination of native title. Native title had the following effect on relationships:

- Strengthened Djabugay's recognition as a peak Indigenous organisation for Governments and the Corporate world to talk to;
- Due to misconceptions within the wider Indigenous community in Kuranda, it soured relationships with sections of the community who are connected to Djabugay country but are not of Djabugay descent and
- Clan groups of Djabugay wanted to break away and claim Native title over areas once used by the Clan groups



FAILED RELATIONSHIPS / PROJECTS

The competition and factions in the community (failed relationships) caused major projects to fail:

- Mona Mona
- Djabugay Rangers
- Djabugay Country Tours



PRESENT

Today, resources (CDEP, ATSIC) have been taken away from the community with the consequence that:

- Diminishing sense of community & Djabugay identity
- Community organisations will collapse
- Harder to have meetings with Government
- Growing individualism



WORKSHOP SEPT 2008

Assisted by AIATSIS, Djabugay held a community workshop in Sept 08 with the aim to define Djabugay's future. Outcomes included:

- to put behind any past issues surrounding programs and projects which are no longer operating;
- to take every opportunity to promote a positive image of Djabugay, including in dealing with government private enterprise and the public.



NEW BEGINNINGS

In this changing world, Djabugay is determined to keep its organisations, including the PBC, up and running.

To be successful at this, Djabugay realises that it will need to work hard to improve their relationships both externally and internally.



EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Building effective relationships with organisations must be based on the consideration of how that organisation can contribute to Djabugay's goals.
- Not all organisations or individuals working for them, can do what you want them to because of organisational policy and practice. Developing positive relationships means accepting this.
- Provide clear direction to external organisations about which services Djabugay can provide for free and which services need to be paid for (fee for service).



EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

Djabugay will need to build and strengthen relationships with:

- Neighbouring PBCs
- Community Groups
- Land Council
- Shire Councils
- Government Departments



EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS (cont)

Build a positive image of Djabugay through:

- Website (up and running)
- Brochures (under development)
- Contributions to local newspapers
- One point of contact for all Djabugay issues
- Effective administration



INTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

Djabugay can strengthen the Djabugay community through provision of information and organising social events for the community.

- Regular news letters
- Regular gatherings such as BBQs
- Organise camping events on country



FURTHER READING

For more information, visit our website:

www.djabugay.org.au

Or visit our wiki:

www.djabugay.org.au/wiki

