



BLAZING A TRAIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2022





OUR VISION

PEOPLE, COUNTRY AND CULTURE ARE THE FOCUS OF OUR VISION, INCLUDING:

People on their country with families, living on outstations and working to take care of country. Rangers supporting and working with outstation people and other landowners. Strong community relationships where we have good access to country, jobs and the right services and facilities.

Country is clean and safe, springs and creeks flow strong and clean, and there is plenty of bush tucker. In the right season, we find plants and animals that have always been there.

We have strong ceremony, language, dance and song connecting families, country and culture. Our families are happy again and people are sharing knowledge with younger generations who have two-way education about culture and country. Our rock art and cultural places are protected and we're looking after the resting places of our ancestors.

Businesses on country are successful, sustainable, and providing jobs for our people. Visitors and business partners respect traditional owners and our rules protecting culture and country.



10 OUR JOURNEY

14 CHAIR'S REPORT
– John Dalywater

23 OUR BOARD

27 GOVERNANCE

30 CEO'S REPORT
– Dominic Nicholls

41 FIRE MANAGEMENT
– Rob Bakes

50 THREATS
– Alex Batman

57 LIVING CULTURE
– Natalie Carey

67 SEASONAL CALENDARS

73 LEARNING ON COUNTRY
– Emma Lupin

84 FINANCE REPORT

89 THANK YOU





CHAIR'S REPORT

JOHN DALYWATER

"MY NIECE REMINDED ME RECENTLY THAT WHEN CERTAIN FLOWERS START COMING UP, IT MEANS THAT THE KANGAROOS ARE FAT. IT MAKES ME PROUD THAT THE CALENDAR THAT WE HAVE GOT IN OUR HEAD IS NOW A MODEL BEING USED ON COUNTRY BY EVERYONE."



2022 was a big year for Mimal Land Management, which reached a peak with the submission of our IPA application. The whole thing was a great process to be a part of. We went out and spoke to a lot of people about their country and explained what an IPA is and what it would mean for us all. For a lot of people Mimal was the first organisation that actually came and spoke to them about their country and explained what an IPA is. We had some great feedback and it gave a lot of people a sense of belonging and empowerment.

It was another well organised fire season and I feel proud of the work our fire management team does. They work really hard, going out in the early hours of the morning and not coming back until late at night. This work ethic and their knowledge of the area meant we were able to manage fires effectively.

Our Learning on Country program continues to grow with amazing support from KKT. Because of this independent funding support it has become a beacon for the whole community and we are true industry leaders in the space. For our young people the program is a must. It has to happen, otherwise we would be lost. And I know our elders get a lot out of passing on their knowledge too. I get out to other communities and they are seeing the success of our program and are wanting to replicate it where they are.


Alongside our Learning on Country program, we have been developing our seasonal calendars. They are a great visual tool that feeds into so many

elements of our life. That's what it was all about from the very, very beginning, before the non-indigenous actually stepped on Australia. We follow it like a Bible for everything from seasonal indicators of the plants and the animals to good fire management practice. My niece reminded me recently that when certain flowers start coming up, it means that the kangaroos are fat. It makes me proud that the calendar that we have got in our head is now a model being used on country by everyone.

Mimal's board continued to provide ongoing support for the Strong Women for Healthy Country forums. This network does so much to open conversations and support the women living and working in the Mimal IPA. We will continue to support our women and our women's ranger program 100% to ensure its continued success.

"I hope everyone working at Mimal Land Management gets up in the morning and feels proud. Proud that they are working for Mimal. And for me, seeing my mob working, I feel proud that it's their country, that they work on and own Mimal. Looking ahead, I want to see Mimal keep going on its current trajectory. If we all work together, we will keep growing and achieving more great things."





**FOR OUR
YOUNG PEOPLE
THE PROGRAM IS
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OTHERWISE WE
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AND I KNOW
OUR ELDERS
GET A LOT OUT OF
PASSING ON THEIR
KNOWLEDGE TOO.**

JOHN DALYWATER, CHAIR





WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS **LYDIA LAWRENCE, WONDRICK REDFORD** AND **KENNETH MURRAY** FOR THEIR SERVICE.

OUR BOARD

KOIYEK CLANS

ALFRED RICKSON
ANNETTE MILLER
JILL CURTIS

BULDJJDJARN CLANS

JOHN DALYWATER
ANITA PAINTER
KENDRICK BUSH

KARRI CLANS

ABRAHAM WESAN
DELMA MCCARTNEY
JOSEPH BROWN

Mimal elects new board members every two years via mobile polling. An independent overseer visits each community where members reside to collect votes, which are then counted at the following AGM.

We have nine directors on our board with three directors from each of the three 'classes'. These three 'classes' represent clan groups from three different regions within our management area – Bininj Koiyek (clans from the East), Bininj Buldjdjan (clans from the middle) and Bininj Karri (clans from the West).

Anyone who has a connection to one or more of the approved clans and estates can become a member. Connection is recognised as those with patrilineal descent (through fathers country) as well as affiliations

through mothers, mother's mothers, mother's mother's mothers and father's mothers country. The board of directors may also choose to accept other kinds of affiliation.

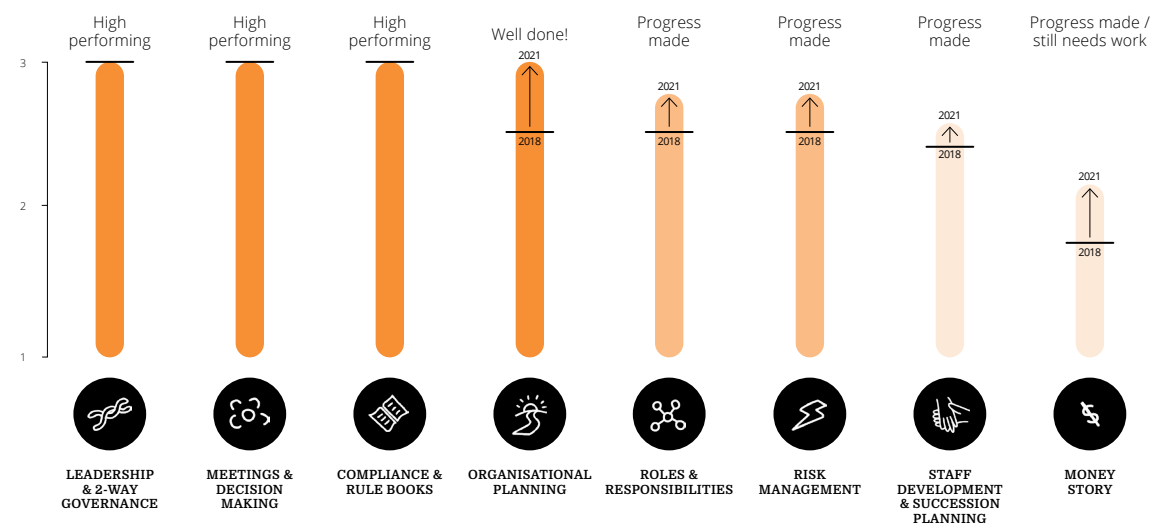
We held a ballot over several months at the end of 2021. There were four candidates for the Bininj Karri class, seven for the Bininj Buldjdjan class and six for the Bininj Koiyek class. Our AGM was delayed until January 2022 and so the ballot box was not opened until that time. The board as above was elected and will remain until the results of the 2023 ballot.

We would like to thank outgoing board members Lydia Lawrence, Wondrick Redford and Kenneth Murray for their service.





GOVERNANCE



Mimal is committed to transparency, accountability and the ongoing strengthening of our organisation. Our second governance review was concluded in 2021 with Aboriginal Governance and Management program (AGMP) engaged for the task. Overall the results were positive.

In four of the eight healthy governance categories, AGMP assessed we received a 'great' or 'well done'

result, with three categories demonstrating 'progress made', and one category indicating more work is needed. The review conducted by AGMP shows that over a few short years we have made significant progress in strengthening our organisation and governance. It also highlights some areas that we can continue to improve on and we will seek to implement the recommendations AGMP outlined.



"OVERALL, MLMAC HAVE MADE A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT
TOWARDS STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE AREAS IDENTIFIED
BY AGMP IN THE 2018 GOVERNANCE HEALTH CHECK."
ABORIGINAL GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM,
GOVERNANCE HEALTH CHECK REPORT 2022

CEO'S REPORT

DOMINIC NICHOLLS

"WE HAD IT ALL – POWERFUL ON COUNTRY CULTURAL EXPERIENCES, A HUGELY SUCCESSFUL FIRE SEASON AND SOLID GROWTH AS AN ORGANISATION."



Sitting down to write this report, I feel so proud reflecting on all the amazing work the Mimal team, community and partners undertook in 2022. We had it all – powerful on country cultural experiences, a hugely successful fire season and solid growth as an organisation.

We burnt stuff, built stuff, had hundreds of important conversations and even collected rockets with NASA! It's pretty hard to believe that Mimal rangers recovered the first commercial

launch of a NASA rocket in Australia. Certainly a highlight.

We also submitted our Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) application to the federal minister last year. The application is the result of three years of work, talking to over 1000 people across Arnhem land (many multiple times) and updating our Healthy Country plan to an IPA Plan of Management. It felt momentous, particularly as we had a pandemic in the midst of it all.

Elsewhere, the revival of the Bongalinj Bongalinj song and dance, and subsequent documentation, was one of those incredible projects that goes to the heart of the people, the country and why Mimal does all we do.

From our early days, the Mimal board has been focused on opportunities for young people and a strong Women's Ranger program. Our Learning on Country program is one key pillar towards supporting young people and the Strong Women's Healthy Country Network hosted by Mimal is a key part of supporting our current amazing women ranger team and helping Mimal as an organisation better support women in the organisation.

Every year has its challenges and ours are very much wrapped up in our threats to healthy country, empty country, the extreme pressures on language and spaces for knowledge to be passed on. It cannot be understated how little time we have, and we risk losing irreplaceable knowledge and the generations of people that follow.

We continued to work on our ever-present feral animal population which if left will decimate the landscape for generations to come.

There is still a group of young people who are disconnected and disenfranchised, their paths are often well trodden and solutions few. Programs designed and delivered around land management, by organisations in place are a real solution to this challenge.





We have plenty of positive things to keep us energised as we look ahead to 2023. There's a training project in the pipeline that will fill the gap for rangers to advance in their roles. Developed in partnership with our legendary neighbours Warddeken, the bespoke project is exciting and industry changing.

In tackling feral animal threats, Mimal has been developing innovative solutions, including highly successful research and demonstration sites where

we have been trialling the latest tech and tools to understand their impact on the environment.

In 2023, we will add three sites focused on the impact on savannah woodlands from feral threats and fire. We will utilise both the latest cutting edge technology and the oldest knowledge to inform our adaptive management. The space cows project will shore up our population modelling and contribute to an innovative and game changing solution to the feral challenge.



Our Learning on Country program is another shining light that has gone from strength to strength every year. 2023 should be no different as we look to develop complementary projects for young people not in school/work or not engaged in the community.

"There is lots more and this report only scrapes the surface of what has been a fantastic year, with many things to celebrate. Furthermore, for all our partners and everyone who has been a part of our successes, you deserve all the accolades and thanks.

We look forward to working with you all in 2023 across our many endeavours and, who knows, we may even be chasing some more space rockets across Arnhem Land!"



**WE BURNT STUFF,
BUILT STUFF,
HAD HUNDREDS
OF IMPORTANT
CONVERSATIONS
AND EVEN COLLECTED
ROCKETS WITH NASA!
IT'S PRETTY HARD
TO BELIEVE THAT MIMAL
RANGERS RECOVERED
THE FIRST COMMERCIAL
LAUNCH OF A NASA
ROCKET IN AUSTRALIA.
CERTAINLY A HIGHLIGHT.**

DOMINIC NICHOLLS, CEO





FIRE MANAGEMENT

ROB BAKES

In 2022, we saw an increase in ranger engagement with the more technical aspects of the fire program. Training and skills development saw rangers embracing the use of technology such as the Raindance machine, mapping software and GPS's. We also utilised tablets to plan, implement and record prescribed burning.

We are also proud to have more women engaged in the fire program over the past year. Our women rangers were again pivotal during our consultations period. They did a large amount of our on ground burning and responded to a number of late season fires.

The quality of response to late season fires was impressive this year. Rangers had focused training from ALFA in responding to late season fires, which was evident in the depth of talent to draw on when fire fighting. This year Mimal fire crews were able to effectively and independently respond to late season fires.

“Moving forward we want to ensure that even with our rapid growth we are providing enough office space accommodation for staff and will make this a priority in 2023. Furthermore, we will ensure that our rangers are able to access training to further develop their knowledge & skills. In particular, focusing on more advanced training around technology and developing the skills required to lead projects.”







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ROB BAKES



THREATS

ALEX BATMAN

2022 was my first full year as a coordinator with Mimal and it has been great working with the rangers again on the ground. One specific highlight has been bringing in new partnerships with Mimal, such as the CSIRO NESP project and feral animal projects, which included the feral pig research plan and the Spacecows project. Seeing the rangers and community members engaged in these projects has been great and will ensure good outcomes all round.



The NASA rocket recovery work out of Bawarbarnda was another highlight of the year. Working with the NASA team from America with the Mimal rangers conducting the rocket recovery operations was not something that I thought would be on the cards, but was a great experience.

Looking ahead, I am excited to train up and sign off the rangers in 3 of the Certificate II CLM units under Trainsafe NT. It will be a great reward for dedicated, hard work.

Also, two words... Space Cows!! The CSIRO Space cows project is such a massive undertaking but am looking forward to the work being done and the future data it will produce to support Mimal's future feral buffalo works.



"ALSO, TWO WORDS... SPACE COWS!!"



COMING IN TO LAND: MIMAL ROCKET RECOVERY

Throughout June & July, NASA launched three research rockets just outside Nhulunbuy in East Arnhem Land. The rockets shot up to approximately 350km above the earth looking to conduct a range of research of surrounding planets and star systems. The missions were a great success in regards to their scientific findings, however what goes up must come down. When the rockets returned from space they landed on Mimal country, with the biggest section - the 600kg payload - gently returning to earth thanks to a sophisticated parachute system.

For a number of cultural, environmental and commercial reasons, it is imperative that all materials are collected from these missions. As such, NASA worked closely with Mimal rangers to find and safely remove the rocket pieces.

The team tracked down the payload about 45km from Bawurrbanda Outstation. Once located and assessed they prepared to remove it, by utilising a helicopter to sling it back to Bawurrbanda Outstation. NASA staff were very happy with all elements of the project, which could not have been completed without the work of the Mimal Rangers.



**LIVING
CULTURE**

NATALIE CAREY

2022 provided us with the opportunity to run the dry season filming project, which was not only the highlight of my year, but was a career highlight for me.

In response to the Mimal Board asking for support and capacity around cultural activity, this project aimed to help learn and understand how Mimal can be of service in this area. During a series of consultations, the project proudly offered media recording and archiving to the Mimal membership and families.

Intentionally steering away from the historic film making processes people have become accustomed to in Arnhem Land, we asked the community to sit strongly at the helm of the project's creative decision-making to conceptualise, lead and direct the entire film and content process according to what they themselves deemed as cultural priorities.

This resulted in the safeguarding of some incredibly important and at risk aspects of the living culture of the Mimal region.

A particular favourite of mine was walking across country for three days, camping under the stars and sharing in the beautiful experience of a Wulken. This was the biggest undertaking of the project where we brought in extra crew to capture the journey as intimately and profoundly as possible.

The final night was the reemergence of the region's beloved Bunggul Bongalinj Bongalinj where the rightful custodian of the songline, Mimal board member Abraham Wesan, performed this song – his father's song – for the very first time. Surrounded by his family of singers and dancers under the stars, it was truly a monumental event.

The potential of the 2022 dry season filming project grew as time went by and more people began to realise that they could 'dream big' and aim to design larger scale projects that would contribute to significant long-term cultural outcomes. As a result, ideas were discussed that were simply not possible within the 2022 time frame.


As such, we have circled back to one of the key takeaways from last year and recently began the process of consulting senior custodians of that story around next steps.

This project, currently dubbed the 'Mibbarr Songline Project' will be a historical recording project that I believe the people of Mimal will be extremely proud of. This aims to be a landmark project in land care management with cultural heritage outcomes that will reverberate intergenerationally for many years.



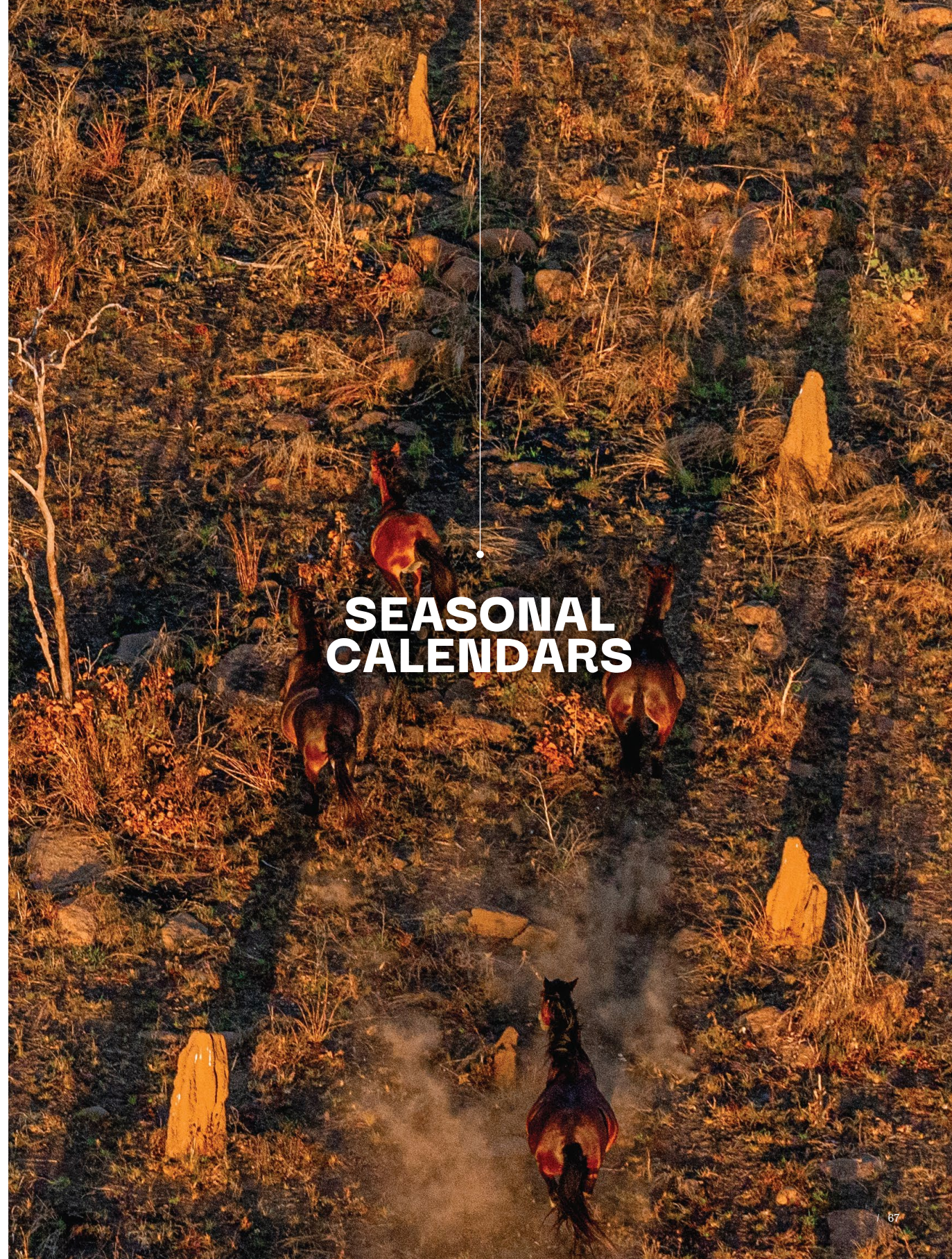






**THE FINAL NIGHT WAS
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OF THE SONGLINE,
MIMAL BOARD MEMBER
ABRAHAM WESAN,
PERFORMED THIS SONG
- HIS FATHER'S SONG -
FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.
SURROUNDED BY HIS
FAMILY OF SINGERS
AND DANCERS UNDER
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NATALIE CAREY

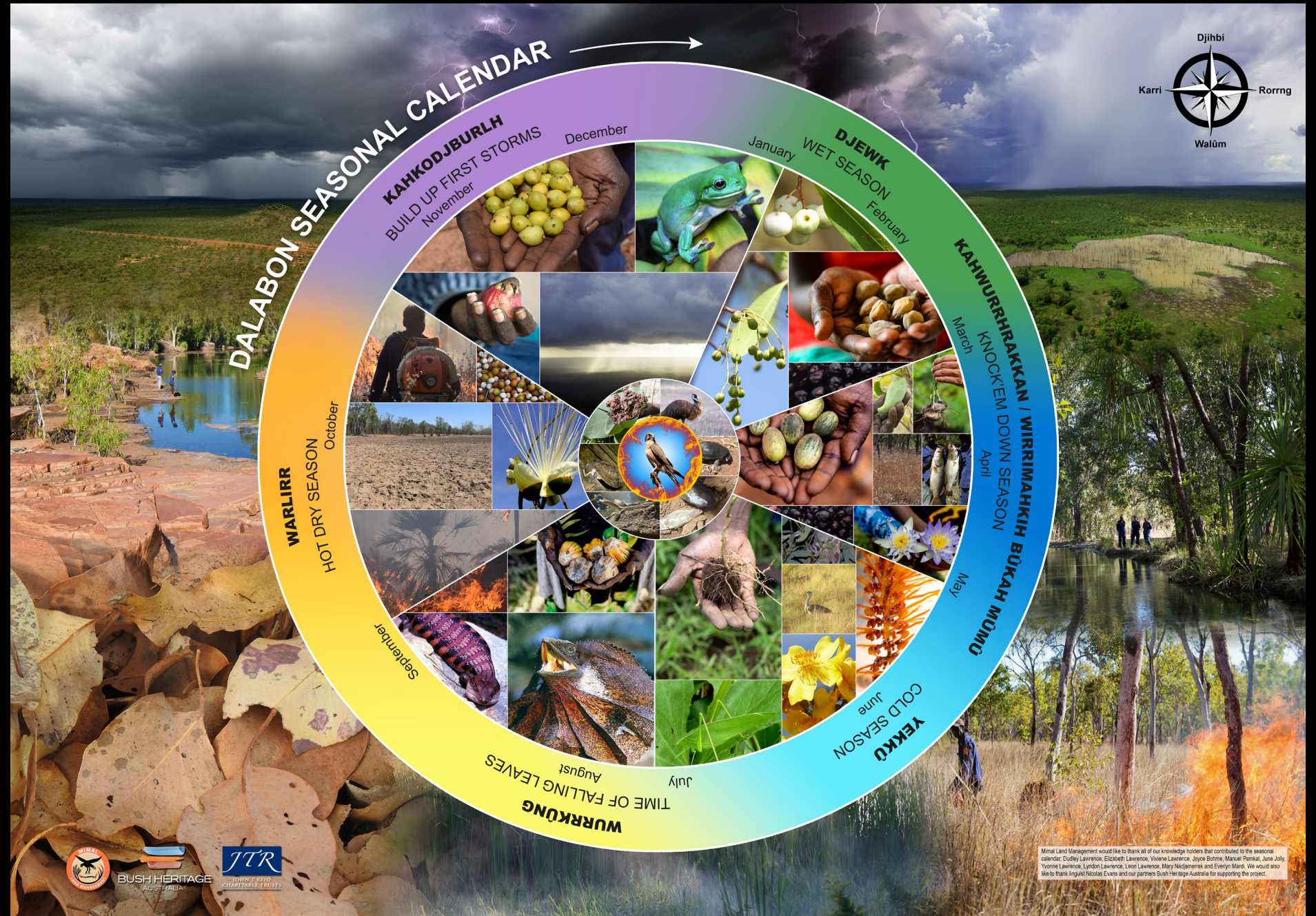


SEASONAL CALENDARS

REMBARRNGA
SEASONAL
CALENDAR



DALABON SEASONAL CALENDAR



Mimal Land Management would like to thank all of our knowledge holders that contributed to the seasonal calendar: Dudley Lawrence, Elizabeth Lawrence, Vivienne Lawrence, Joyce Bohme, Manuel Pamkai, June Joly, Yvonne Lawrence, Lyndon Lawrence, Leon Lawrence, Mary Nadjemene and Evelyn Mard. We would also like to thank Ingaah Nicolas Evans and our partners Bush Heritage Australia for supporting the project.



**LEARNING ON
COUNTRY**

EMMA LUPIN

In 2023, the Learning on Country program grew in strength and frequency, with continued enthusiasm from elders, school students and the wider community:

A total of 68 days of Learning on Country sessions were delivered to school students over the year, with all classes at the school taking place in the LOC program. At least once a fortnight, every class took part and every session included at least two elders, two rangers and school staff plus the students.

We were incredibly lucky to have a core group of four regular elders involved in the planning and implementation of the program, with 14 different elders being actively engaged as teachers across the course of the program. We continued to support elders and rangers to deliver a program of rich content with broad community engagement, while also assisting with planning and logistics and developing.

The basis of the curriculum was carried on from the work of Annette and Shantelle, using the 4 themes of Water, Fire, Earth and Sky over the 4 terms to mirror the season and shape content. Further cultural knowledge mapping took place and other subject areas of medicinal plants, ground cooking, traditional fire sticks and burning and growing bush tucker plants from seed were added to the already rich program. The nursery took on new life and over 200 culturally relevant plants were grown from seed as part of the LOC and ranger program.








For much of the year two all day sessions were delivered on country every week as well as three camps. A focus on delivering on country was made and sessions spread over different outstations and special places amongst family groups and Traditional Owners. These included Biggeddi, Mount Catt, Banajauco, Barrapunta, Willawarra and Bambdibu, Kroppulyul and Klikklikmarra (check spellings to be consistent).

A LOC logo was developed by the committee using designs from students and the final logo was voted on by the community, including school staff, rangers and students of all ages. The logo was used on new t-shirts for all students and on patches on work shirts for “junior” ranger shirts (in work experience) and for elders in the program.

Furthermore, the program had previously not had its own vehicle and a troop carrier was acquired and adorned with the student designs and logo. It was well used and mechanically maintained, hugely useful and admired by many!

The LOC camps, particularly the exchange, received so much positive feedback that a high priority for our programming in 2023 will be going to new areas in collaboration with other organisations and traditional owners. Requests have also been made to take young females to areas on a weaving camp.



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PREVIOUSLY NOT
HAD ITS OWN VEHICLE
AND A TROOP CARRIER
WAS ACQUIRED AND
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MECHANICALLY
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HUGELY USEFUL
AND ADMIRERD
BY MANY!**

EMMA LUPIN



FINANCE REPORT

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 30 June 2022

| | Note | 2022 \$ | 2021 \$ |
|--|------|----------------|----------------|
| Revenue and other income | 3 | 4,156,557 | 3,988,625 |
| Employee expenses | 4 | (1,710,365) | (1,495,540) |
| Other expenses | 4 | (479,639) | (402,519) |
| Consulting and professional fees | | (436,741) | (396,077) |
| Repairs and maintenance | | (329,747) | (279,406) |
| Consumables | | (153,654) | (210,408) |
| Depreciation expense | 4 | (144,111) | (190,598) |
| Rotary hire | | (309,039) | (155,360) |
| Insurance | | (114,837) | (108,001) |
| Donations | | (60,000) | (60,000) |
| Accounting and audit fees | | (40,375) | (49,670) |
| Profit/(Loss) before income tax | | 378,049 | 641,046 |
| Income tax expense | 1(b) | - | - |
| Profit for the year | | 378,049 | 641,046 |

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2022

| | Note | 2022 \$ | 2021 \$ |
|----------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Cash and equivalents | 5 | 1,175,166 | 1,107,481 |
| Trade and other receivables | 6 | 1,808,778 | 1,653,223 |
| Total Current Assets | | 2,983,944 | 2,760,704 |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | 7 | 881,663 | 678,653 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | 881,663 | 678,653 |
| Total Assets | | 3,865,607 | 3,439,357 |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 8 | 565,189 | 503,843 |
| Employee Benefits | 9 | 62,920 | 76,065 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 628,109 | 579,908 |
| Total Liabilities | | 628,109 | 579,908 |
| Net Assets | | 3,237,498 | 2,859,449 |
| EQUITY | | | |
| Retained earnings | | 3,237,498 | 2,859,449 |
| Total Equity | | 3,237,498 | 2,859,449 |





THANK YOU

Mimal would like to thank all the partners, funders and friends of Mimal with whom all the great work we do would not be possible;

Australian Federal Government
– NIAA, DAF, Dept Environment

Northern Territory Government
– Flora and Fauna, Tourism, Education, Weeds

Territory Natural Resource Management
(TNRM)

NT Buffalo industry council

Roper Gulf Shire

AAPA

ALFA NT

Karrkad Kanjdji Trust

Bush Heritage

TNC

AWC – Wongalara

PEW

Pollinate

ELP

CSIRO

NAILSMA

Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation

APONT

WWF

Warddeken Land Management

Arafura Swamp Rangers

Djelk IPA – Bawinanga

Jawyon

Adjumarllal

Dhimurru

Thamarrurr

Flinders University

Charles Darwin University

St Johns

Train Safe

Mainoru Station

Northern Land Council (NLC)



