

Mungalla Aboriginal Business Corporation

Mission Statement

"Mungalla is a resource owned by the Nywaigi Traditional Owners for the purpose of fostering Aboriginal culture values by building economic and cultural opportunities through the careful use of our country as a legacy for our children."

Nywaigi Traditional Owners 2004.

Mungalla Tourism Awards:

2007 Reconciliation Awards for Business Finalist, Employment and Training Category.

2008 Tourism Awards, Indigenous Tourism, Townsville Enterprise.

2009 North Qld Tourism Awards, Runners Up Indigenous Tourism.

2010 Reconciliation Awards for Business, Finalist Small Business Category.

2011 North Qld Tourism Awards

2011 Qld Tourism Awards

2011 Runner Up Australian Tourism Awards

2012 Winner of Premiers Reconciliation Awards



History:

Mungalla was established in 1882 by Irish Immigrant James Cassady. The property was the breeding site for the world famous Droughtmaster Cattle.

James Cassady built an elaborate homestead which remains on the property today and is admired for its ancestry and historical qualities.

When Cassady first arrived in North Queensland Aboriginal people were mass slaughtered. The Nywaigi tribe who traditionally lived on the land were severely decimated.

Cassady demonstrated integrity by allowing the remaining Nywaigi people to stay on his property to avoid further conflict. His noble actions are attributed to the survival of the Nywaigi ancestors today.

The property changed hands a couple of times after Cassady passed away, but it wasn't until the 1990's, plans surfaced about turning the 2000 acre site into sugar cane fields.

The Nywaigi people became aware of the intention and were concerned about the future of the land so they fought to get it back. They were successfully awarded the land in 1999 through the Indigenous Land Corporation.



James Cassady

Mungalla Governance:

Mungalla Aboriginal Business Corporation for Business (ICN 3977) (MABC) is an incorporated body set up by the traditional owners to run sustainable enterprises.

Enterprise includes Training and Education, Land Management and the management of the 2000 acre cattle station. The Nywaigi Land Aboriginal Corporation (ICN 367) (NLAC) currently hold title to the property.

Both M.A.B.C. and N.L.A.C. are registered indigenous Corporations and are non profit organisations. Memberships for both incorporations are made up of seven original Nywaigi clans which is approximately 600 recognised traditional owners.

Tourism:

These days the station's rich history and scenic beauty have seen Mungalla transform into a place where travellers and locals come to relax and admire wildlife; take a guided tour of the site and learn about its historical and cultural significance.

Tourists can enjoy a rare traditional Aboriginal Islander feast known as a "Kupp Murri" which is cooked in smouldering underground fire pits. Those interested in the history of the property can tour the site of the original homestead and listen to the captive lives' story which reveals how Mungalla residents were taken and paraded to overseas audiences as "cannibal savages" at the Barnham and Bailey Circus.



Tours allow you to experience interaction with Aboriginal Traditional Owners in an informal personalised setting. You:

- Experience a working Aboriginal-owned cattle station.
- Learn about the rich European, Islander and Aboriginal history associated with the property and the unique story of reconciliation.
- Participate in traditional cultural activities – artefact display, boomerang and spear throwing.
- Purchase authentic local Aboriginal Arts and Crafts, view birdlife, wetlands, and large saltwater crocodiles.
- Learn about the exploitation of the people from the "National Tambo Exhibition" now located in the Homestead Museum.

Cattle Enterprise:

Mungalla Station is a blue ribbon property and is renowned for its cattle fattening pastures. Cattle Agistment provides a viable and sustainable income for the corporations. This enables us to operate independently.

We have a vision to eventually minimise Agistment, and fatten a home grown herd for meat market and export, independent of government grants. Today we proudly own a foundation herd consisting of quality Red Brahm and Droughtmaster cattle.



However, Mungalla's cattle industry does not have the capacity to sustain growing and future employment. We are seeking to create employment by diversifying and developing enterprise opportunities. We proudly have our own established breeder herd of quality Brahman and Droughtmaster cattle.

Land & Natural Resource Management:

The Mungalla Aboriginal Business Corporation has inherited a number of land management problems including introduced Weeds of National Significance (WONS). The property has extensive wetlands which are essential to tourism and the immediate region and surrounding reefs and sea country.

Extensive training and work projects have been initiated. They have been successful in terms of capacity building and creating awareness within the traditional owner group and the wider community. We proudly have developed a "Wetlands Management Strategy" and formed great partnerships with CSIRO, Hinchinbrook Shire Council, Herbert River Catchment Group, Terrain and the North Queensland Dry Topics. We have a vision to develop enterprise employment opportunities out of Land Management by capacity building within people the skills to work on country with ACDC tickets/licences to treat weeds, revegetation projects, wetlands restoration, fencing, forestry work, etc.

Training and Education:

The vision for Mungalla is to provide meaningful long term paid employment and building self esteem within indigenous families in our local community through the entrepreneurial utilization of Mungalla Station.

Mungalla has assisted with traineeships for the following industries: Business Administration, Tourism, Hospitality, Agriculture, Conservation Land Management, Horsemanship, Trades and Soft Skills. We are active partners with RTO such as One Step Further Training and Northern Skills Alliance.



Mungalla Business Development:

Through the skills development of trainees, Mungalla hopes to create and generate further Business activities. We can do this by:

- Identifying commercially viable activities which will create jobs for the economic development of Mungalla
- Using Mungalla's resources to support the development of these income generating activities
- Developing business skills for trainees and providing them with support and mentoring
- Moving trainees into sustainable long term employment with Mungalla; and
- Linking trainees to outside employment if work opportunities are not existent on the property.