



WALKING THE

2016 RRARRANDHARR “DRY S

MATA MATA TO ELIZABET

WITH BATUMBIL BURARRWA

17 SEPT – 2

PRELIMINARY

APPLICATIONS/EXPRESSIONS OF

YOLNGU ROAD

SEASON" 60 KILOMETRE WALK

H BAY/CAPE WILBERFORCE

YOLNGA AND FAMILY MEMBERS

4 SEPT 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION

INTEREST CLOSE 1 AUGUST 2016













RRARRANDHARR

In North East Arnhem land August-September-October is known as Rrarrandharr : This is the true 'dry' season. Days are warm and sunny, nights are cool and clear.

No rain.

Winds are from the ESE, SE & SSE.

Larger bushfires are started by the Yolngu, again for hunting purposes but also to clear and clean the buildup of undergrowth associated with the previous wet season.

Most fish species are fat and hungry and the barramundi move from the freshwater areas into the saltwater – the best time to throw in a line.

The Mango trees are fruiting.

When the mangoes are nearly finished, the weather changes and the thunder begins – the next season of Dhuludur' is about to begin and the cycle starts over again.



Our host Mata Mata and Gumatj elder Batumbil Burarrwanga

Purpose of the Trip

- * Batumbil Burarrwanga is walking to visit her fathers grave site at Elizabeth Bay in September. She will be surveying her lands and teaching young people about the “yolngu road” she treked with her family when she was young.
- * Dogs are a central part of Mata Mata life. The path to Elizabeth Bay follows the footsteps of one of the sacred ancestral dogs of the region to the place that he still sits today guarding the land and sea at Cape Wilberforce.
- * The walk is to teach young Yolngu people about their country as well as invited non-Yolngu guests.
- * The walk partly follows the trail of the legendary lost children Ian and James Gurruwiwi who will also be accompanying us on the walk. As very young children Ian and James survived on their own in the region for a week or more - this is still the stuff of legend. Living off the land will be the order of the day for all walkers.
- * The walk has never been done before by non-Yolngu people.



Schedule

Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th Arrivals at Gove & Mata Mata

Monday 19th Mata Mata to Gikal 6-10 kms

Tuesday 20th Gikal to Gallarawuy 10-12 kms

Wednesday 21st Gallarawuy to Wulkmi 15-20 kms

Thursday 22 Wulkmi to Richala

Friday 23 Richala to Elizabeth Bay/Cape Wilberforce

Saturday 24 Cape Wilberforce to Gove (boat)

Sunday 25 Monday 26 Gove to Darwin or Cairns and onward destinations



Other Information

Clothing & Footwear

Recommended light weight hiking clothing full body cover, reef shoes, old sand shoes

Camping Equipment

Two man tent, torch/head lamp, protective sheet, sleeping mat (optional)

Very Important

Tropical Strength Insect Repellent (www.mosiguard.com.au) recommended) , also mix a bottle of Dettol and baby oil for midge and insect bites.

Dangers

Buffalo, crocodiles, snakes, spiders, marine stingers including cone shells and stone fish

Facilities

There are showers, lights, rudimentary pit toilets, washing machine and fresh water, power at Mata Mata. From Day 2 all camping sites for the walk will have no power or facilities and will be on beaches overlooking the English Company Islands. The protocol will be to leave no trace of our visit.



Proceeds of the Trip

The purpose of the Rrarrandharr walk is to empower the local traditional owners to support themselves and their lands. The immediate financial goal of the walk is to raise \$30,000 for the community. Each walker is expected to contribute to this goal and the minimal cost of the walk is \$3,500 plus a share of the cost of boat charter Cape Wilberforce to Gove. Contributions will be required by August 1, 2016. A small amount will cover the costs of organisers and the ISX's role in organising the walk.

Gikal/Mata Mata and the areas we are visiting are spiritual places of Yolgnu education, culture and knowledge. Rarely is this experience shared with outsiders. Because of long standing friendships and a willingness to contribute to world thinking about the sustainability of land and sea Batumbil is opening up her land and culture to visitors by invitation only. In return it is expected that all visitors will come with an open mind, a generous spirit and also be prepared to make a monetary contribution to the future well being of the yolngu people and their land.

The September non-Yolngu walkers will be privileged guests. Cultural tourism can provide income and support for the Mata Mata and Gikal communities. The idea of walking across the land following ancient trails is being tried in other Aboriginal communities and could become a regular occurrence. However this trip is a special one-off experience and is something of special personal importance to Bätumbil and her family. Respecting the hosts, the land and the people is essential. Travel permits are necessary to travel in North East Arnhem land and these may be obtained after an invitation is issued by the family to join the walk



Logistics

Walkers will be required to get themselves to Mata Mata on Sunday 4th September ready to begin the walk on Monday 5th September. There are a series of alternative ways to get to Mata Mata. Qantas to Darwin or Cairns then Air North to Gove. Charters to Mata Mata are available through Marthakal, Lahunupuy, NAF, Air Arnhem from Gove and it is possible to drive to Mata Mata however this is not advisable unless through a return driver. Mannys Car Rentals may be able to perform this service for a group.

Once the final group is established a charter vessel will be organised to take people from Elizabeth Bay to Gove at the end of the walk. This will take approximately 3 hours. From Gove Air North flies to Darwin and Cairns each day and Qantas flies to other capital cities.

There will be a limited number of walkers accepted for the Rrarrandharr walk depending on the advice of hosts, charter costs and other logistical considerations so applications are encouraged in June, July, August to avoid disappointment.



Expressions of Interest

Participation by invitation only.

For more information or send your application to join the walk here:

Peter Botsman 0414-218-469 peter@peterbotsman.com

Michael Hayes 0404-678-082 rugbyno7@gmail.com

Batumbil Burarrwanga, Mata Mata Homelands C/o Marthakal, PMB 62, Winnelie, NT, 0820

Proudly supported by www.isx.org.au and (WET) Wilderness Experience Training



Suggested Written Application Format

Name:

Address & Contact Details

Why I want to participate in the walk: (50 words)

Contribution I can make to Mata Mata Homelands:

Financial:

Non - Financial:

Bush walking/Wilderness Experience: (20 words)

I require insurance for the walk/ I will take out my own health, public liability and walking cover. Yes/No

Please note and make the following declaration: “I understand that I will be eating bush tucker for the five days of the walk and will have to *carry* any additional food stuffs with me on the walk.”

Please record any medical condition or requirements or any special needs.

Please send your application to “Rrarrandharr Walk”, PO Box 6081, Kangaroo Valley, NSW, 2577 by 1 August, 2016 You can include any other information you think is relevant.





















