

Indigenous Knowledge and biodiversity in India and Australia Forum

UTS Faculty of Law, Sydney

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Partnership engagement towards commercialisation of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge

Anthony Watson
& Paul Marshall



Partnership engagement towards commercialisation of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge

The Griffith University & Jarlmadangah Burru partnership to research and develop the traditional analgesic plant *Mudjala* into a commercial product commenced in 1987



Prof Ron Quinn



Mr John Watson



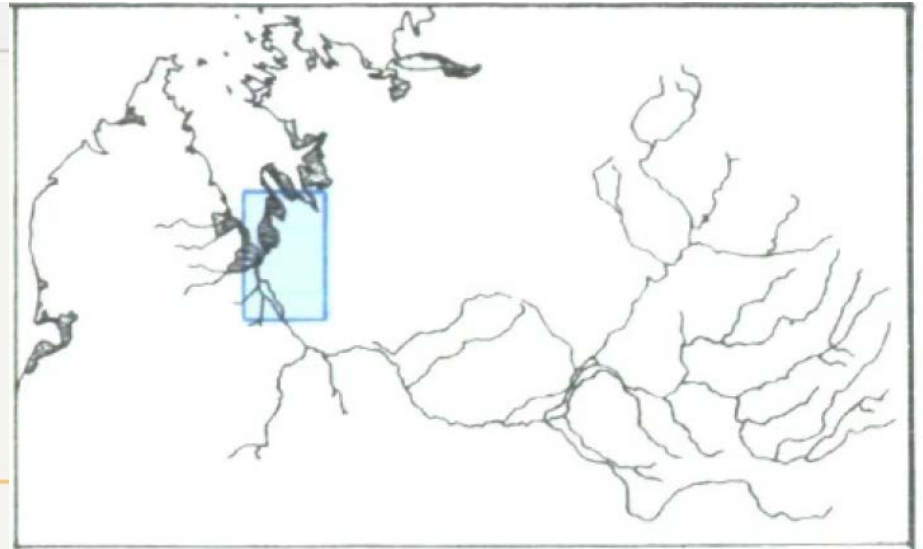
Partnership engagement towards commercialisation of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge

Building the relationship through a visit to the community

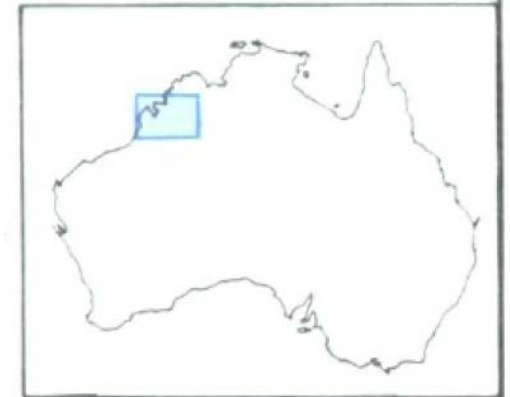


Anthony Watson, Darby Narngarin, Prof Ron Quinn, John Watson at Jarlmadangah Burru 1997

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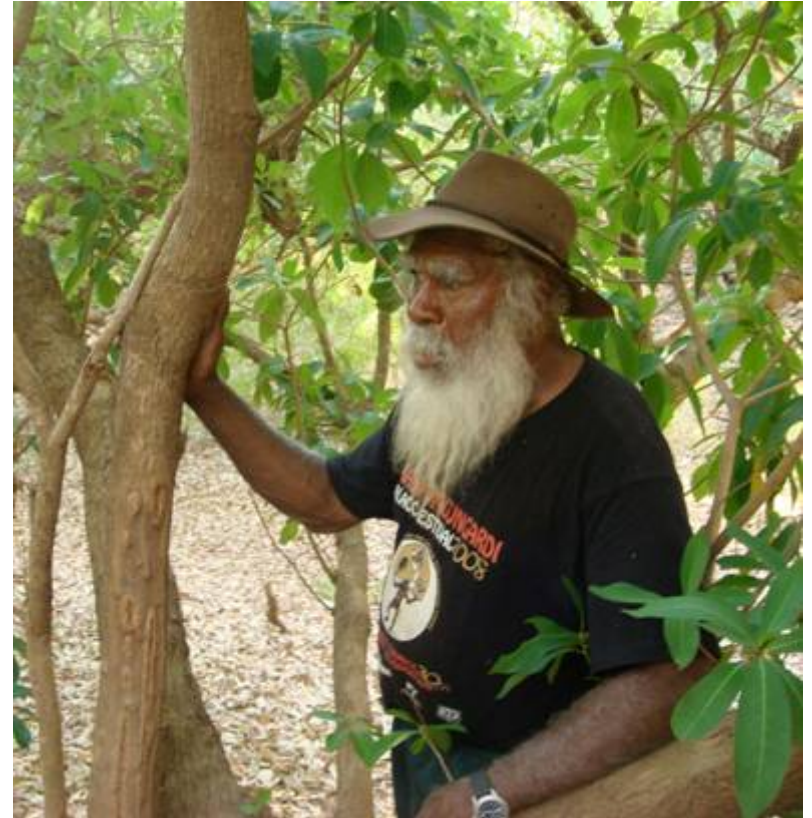
Jarlmadangah Burru Aboriginal Community is located on Mt Anderson Station in the Kimberley region in the remote north west part of Western Australia



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“The story about Mudjala is a long story. They used this many, many years ago. Woonyoomboo is our creator and used Mudjala. Now if we’re out fishing and we get spiked by a catfish we use Mudjala to numb the injury after they pull the fish prongs out. We chew it and spit it on the injury. We also boil it and use it with other sores as well. The day that I got my finger bitten by the crocodile we all rushed for Mudjala. It numbed my finger. Anyway, the bone was still sticking out the end of my finger and my finger was still numb from the Mudjala.”

*Related by John Watson,
Senior Nyikina Mangala Elder*



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Fitzroy River is a highly variable river, which can run 10 km wide when in flood and becoming a chain of pools in the dry season.



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Dec 1987	Griffith University and JBAC sign PNS Agreement, under which GU would undertake R&D of Mudjala and the two parties would own equal shares in any Intellectual Property developed.
1993-1999	Chemistry PhD candidate at Griffith University undertakes work on extracting and purifying compounds from Mudjala and identify the structure of the active compounds. International searches to confirm they are novel compounds.
2004-2005	Griffith University uses a \$174,000 grant from the NHMRC to undertake analgesic evaluation of novel plant extracts from the Mudjala plant.
April 2006	Griffith University and JBAC agree to share the costs of prosecuting the patents equally.
Oct 2008	Griffith University and JBAC enter into License Agreement to commercialise technology. Global Financial Crisis dries up biotech funding and License Agreement terminated in September 2009.

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Signing ceremony for License Agreement Oct 2008 at Jarlmadangah Burru

JBAC (William Watson, Anthony Watson, John Watson), Avexis (Andrew Loch) and Griffith University (Prof Ron Quinn & Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Ned Pankhurst)

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Patent Name: Novel Analgesic Compounds, Extracts containing same and methods of preparation.

Country	Application number	Status
India	1851/CHEN/2006	Under Examination
Japan	2006-540096	Granted
New Zealand	547377	Granted
USA	10/580805	Granted
Australia	2004293125	Granted
Australia	PCT/AU2004/001660	Filed

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