



CAREERS IN CARING FOR COUNTRY



Earn While You Learn Participants: L-R, Wayne Hood, Dylan Davies-Hood, Jia Nelson, Bronson Ritchie, Shay Terrick.

'Pilot program a great success for GunaiKurnai community'

The GunaiKurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) have partnered with Latrobe City Council and Federation Training to offer community members the opportunity to gain qualifications whilst earning an income. Upon successful completion of the program participants will have the skills and confidence to apply for vacant positions with GLaWAC's On Country team and various partnering agencies, such as Parks Victoria.

Acting CEO for GLaWAC, Ms Joanne Brunt said "The Whole of Country Plan states the importance of continuing our connection to country. The GunaiKurnai people are recognised as the Traditional Owners over 1.33 million hectares in Gippsland. We wanted to offer our community the opportunity to learn more about their culture and to stay connected in a meaningful way whilst providing the training and real life work experience in Natural Resource Management."

The Earn While You Learn recruits participated in a 10 week training program, consisting of 2 days accredited training and 3 days of work experience. During this time, the participants were introduced to natural and cultural resource management.

Parks Victoria's Acting Regional Director for Eastern Victoria, Roger Fenwick said

Mr Fenwick said Parks Victoria is keen to see the number of employment opportunities increase and will continue to support Traditional Owners in achieving "Whole of Country" aspirations.

The program has been a great success and a few of the participants tell us why.

Jia Nelson: "I applied for this program when I heard about it through word-of-mouth. I had been working for the Green Army beforehand. Through this program we will end up getting qualifications in Horticulture and Land Management. I love working with my mob and learning the cultural aspects of working on country. I have been to parts of country that I hadn't seen before, like Tarra Bulga. The rainforest is beautiful, untouched. Before I came to GLaWAC I knew that they looked after country, it is great to be part of that".

Dylan Davies-Hood: "I was always really keen to start working but I just had trouble finding my way. I needed an entry point for a career, an opportunity. I heard about this program and was really keen to apply. We will all gain qualifications in skills that can help for other jobs like; Chain-sawing, 4 Wheel Driving, plant identification and weed spraying. I wanted to learn about my culture. Being able to work on country, you become more emotionally involved. This program is giving me the confidence to step-out and try new things and to apply for other jobs. My kids were the main reason why I wanted to try and make a difference in my life".

Shay Terrick: "I wanted to do the Earn While You Learn program for two reasons. One was I wanted to learn more about my culture. Since I have started the program I know a lot more about the landscape and what it was used for and sites of significance. The second reason was to work outdoors. I knew I wanted to do something that involved being outside but I wasn't sure how to go about it. I have now learned how to use a chainsaw safely and the safety surrounding chemicals. The first few days were a challenge getting up early but now I'm in a routine and I am really loving it. I hope to get full-time work when I finish."

"Parks Victoria is committed to supporting Aboriginal and Traditional Owner employment. Parks Victoria has currently 44 Aboriginal people employed across the state. We strongly value our Traditional Owner partnerships and employees. All of the community benefit by our Traditional Owner partnerships. It's about strengthening relationships, sharing knowledge, preserving Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Caring for Country together".

Nyarmin Aboriginal Corporation Scholarship Trust

The Nyarmin Aboriginal Corporation Scholarship Program provides the opportunity for young Aboriginal Australians to receive quality education throughout their primary, secondary and tertiary years, increase their cultural skills and receive quality sporting assistance through providing academic, cultural and sporting scholarships for Aboriginal people and Aboriginal people with special needs.

The Nyarmin Scholarship is open to those people who are affiliated with the following

clans, and/or, to those Aboriginal people who reside within the 10km corridor of the Pipeline region:

Bidawal clan. Gurnai/Kurnai clan. Monaro/Ngarigo clan. Ngunnawal clan. Jerrinja clan, and Wadi Wadi/Dharawal clan.

The Following Grants are available per Calendar Year.

Applications Close November 15, 2016.

Primary School – 4 people

Secondary School – 4 people

Tertiary Education – 2 people

For Scholarship Guidelines & Application Forms contact.

Barbara Sutton - Mobile: 0428 158 833 Email: cksutton77@gmail.com

Charmaine Singleton - Mobile: 0404 614 207 Email: char.singleton@hotmail.com

GLaWAC - A great choice for work placement!

Hi my name is Kealey Ratzmann and I am a proud Aboriginal man.

I am currently studying Year 11 at Nagle College and completing VCAL as part of my studies. I decided to do work placement at the GunaiKurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) for a few reasons. I wanted to keep connected to my Aboriginal culture and working out on country with the team is a lot of fun. I have learned so much about Natural Resource Management since I started my work placement here. My father was Manfred Ratzmann and he worked for Parks Victoria for many years as a ranger. I think that is

where I was introduced to the idea of land management and caring for country as a career option. I have seen so many different parts of the country since I started and I have a real appreciation for the work that GLaWAC, Parks VIC and DELWP are doing, trying to restore and revegetate. I honestly really enjoy going to work, learning how to use the different tools and the traditional uses for the plants. I'm looking forward to continuing work placement next year with the VET course, and hopefully getting a job in the future! I would like to say thanks to the whole crew at GLaWAC for helping me out with the placement.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

If you are studying Year 11 or 12 in 2017 and are interested in a school based traineeship in Natural Resource or Land Management, please contact Mardi Edwards, Human Resource Manager GLaWAC on 51 525100 to find out more.

