

HIGHLIGHTS OF ISSUE 32

- Constructed Wetlands
- Treaty Update
- Gunaikurnai Water for Country
- Cooking Through Covid
- Mitchell Rock Shelters





This Issue

JOINT UPDATE FROM THE GLAWAC BOARD CHAIR AND CEO	4
GKTOLMB UPDATE	4
WHAT WORK ARE WE FOCUSING ON?	5
OUR COMMUNITY	
RSA Negotiations Update	7
Vale Dylan Davies Hood	8
Bush Tucker recipe	8
Community Benefit Fund	8
Gippsland Leaders Partnership	9
Show us your masks	9
Find Us On Facebook	9
Native Title Update	10
Calendar of Events	10
Growing Back East Gippsland	11
Salish Nation Unit Crew	11
GLaWAC membership	11
TREATY UPDATE	
Historic first meeting between First Peoples Assembly and Victorian government	12
Treaty, Treaties, or both?	12
Traditional Owner Nation-building	13
Interim Dispute Resolution Process	13
OUR CULTURE	
Journey Wall	14
Artists in demand	14
Cultural Connections	14
Mitchell River Rock Shelter	15
Cultural Therapy	16
Round Head Update	17
Keeping Connected	17

OUR COUNTRY	
Buchan Bushfire Recovery	18
Healing Country	18
Cultural Fire	19
The Constructed Wetlands	20-21
NRM Crew Growing	21
Water for the environment to help heal country	22
Gunaikurnai water for Country	23
Talking with government	23
OUR ORGANISATION	
Fingerboards Mine proposal update for members	24
Who's New at GLaWAC	25
Alice Pepper, Community Engagement	
Jess Shapiro, Media & Communications Manager	
Amelia Ratzmann, Business Administration Assistant	
OUR ECONOMY	
Bush Cafe cooking through Covid	26
MOU with Kinaway	26
Aboriginal Business Development Manager	26

Joint update from the GLaWAC Board Chair and CEO

Dear Members and friends,

We pay our respects to all families who have had to deal with sorry business and thank Robbie Farnham who has written a moving tribute to Dylan Hood for this issue with permission of Dylan's family.

Please note that due to illness, Lisa Giblin recently resigned from the GLaWAC board.

Following our rule book our board has replaced Lisa, through the casual vacancy process, with Mr Nick Johnson. Nick will have his casual position tested at our next AGM as do all directors. We welcome Nick to our board.

The growth in our teams has provided employment opportunities, from which we have secured five (5) On Country crew members, a Community Engagement Coordinator, Comms and Media Manager and an Admin team. There will more opportunities coming up in the future, so please let us know if you are interested in working with us to continue this journey.

We are also seeking support from our community leaders and culturally strong

members who can provide strong advice to our board and help us continue our journey towards greater collaboration across our Mob.

Troy and I would like to thank all of the GLaWAC team, Elders and Directors for the tremendous work all are doing, and the support all are showing in their compliance to COVID 19 restrictions. Sincerely – thank you!

We are finalising our negotiating team for the RSA renegotiations with the State over the next 12 months. See this magazine for an update.

As always, please contact us with your ideas and input to support GLaWAC as we work for you, the Community, in its leadership, growth and development.

Kind regards,
TROY AND ROGER



A LITTLE ABOUT NICK

I'm one of the many grandsons of the late Uncle Albert Mullett and Aunty Rachel Mullett. I'm the second eldest son to Christine Johnson, whose parents are Aunty Rachel Mullett and the late Uncle Albert Mullett; and, John Johnson. I work as the Aboriginal Education Liaison Officer at Federation University Churchill Campus, supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students undertaking higher education degrees at Federation University.

GKTOLMB Update

Joint management has entered into implementation over the last 12 months. State Government and GLaWAC managing Gunaikurnai land, waters and sea country together across the 10 parks and reserves. Our Joint Management is leading the way and sometimes changing the way State Government does business.

The new GKTOLMB Chair is Glenys Watts. Glenys takes over the Chair role from Grattan Mullett Snr who served as Chair from the start of the Board in October 2012. Glenys was appointed by The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP, the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change in January this year. At the same time the Minister appointed new members Lisa Giblin, Melissa Harrison and Russell Mullett to the Board, and reappointed past members Lena Morris, Grattan Mullett Snr, Angela Hutson, Katherine Mullett, and Janine Haddow.

Recently, the Minister appointed a further 2 members to the Board, Liz Clay and Allan Bawden, which brings the Board to its full complement of 11 members.

The GKTOLMB meets on a bi-monthly schedule, with the last three meetings, held in April, June and August, conducted successfully by videoconference.

Earlier in the year GKTOLMB staff worked with the GLaWAC CEO to prepare a combined GLaWAC and GKTOLMB joint management budget proposal for 20/21 to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, which has culminated in a successful result for GLaWAC and we expect a positive response to the GKTOLMB bid too.

Two of the GKTOLMB Executive Committee members, Glenys and Vice Chair Janine Vice, participated in the high-level joint management Implementation Partner Coordination Group (IPCG) meeting held in May, along with representatives from GLaWAC, DELWP, PV, DJCS and The Knob Reserve Committee of Management. Those present agreed it was the most productive IPCG meeting held to date. According to the IPCG terms of reference, the IPCG is chaired by the Chair of the GKTOLMB, so Glenys Watts was in the (virtual) chair seat for the first time.

The GKTOLMB is pleased to note that in conjunction with all the JM partners, work is underway to prepare a communications product(s) that reports on the progress we are collectively making towards achievement of the outcomes in the Joint Management Plan.

GLENYS WATTS

What work are we focusing on?

2020-21 Business Plan and Focus Areas

Conclude RSA Negotiations

Rights and Aspirations

Whole of Country Plan

GLaWAC Corporate Plan



OUR COMMUNITY

Connect the community to GLaWAC, Country and each other through improved communications and truth and reconciliation yarning.

Progress Treaty conversations.



OUR COUNTRY

Manage country through continual learning and strong cultural leadership.

Deliver recovery works to heal country.



OUR CULTURE

Protect, learn, teach, share and practice Gunaikurnai culture and language in a spirit of respect and collaboration within the Mob.



OUR ORGANISATION

Great place of work

Work in Partnerships based on respecting Core Business

Enable and support a COVID Safe workplace with resources to do our jobs and teams willing to contribute.



OUR ECONOMY

Support and enable strength based and sustainable business development and community participation.



CARING FOR COUNTRY AND CULTURE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC), on behalf of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities across Gippsland, are proud to be delivering projects that help our community to connect to, care for and heal Country. This is our core business.

Our Country is the land, the rivers and the ocean, the people and the stories, the past and the future. All of it is connected. All of it is important to us.

Our staff and crews are actively working to strengthen cultural connections for the benefit of our community and we are committed to collaborating with our partner health organisations for the benefit of community and our Country.

Come yarn with us, we want to hear your voice.

It's your input, your knowledge and your vision that helps to guide our focus to deliver deadly outcomes for the community. Your voice is important.

Please contact us on (03) 4101 2008.

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation
Forestec, 27 Scriveners Road, Kalimna West, Victoria 3909
Ph: 5152 5100 | reception@glawac.com.au | www.gunaikurnai.org

Our Community

RSA Negotiations Update

We have finished our report to help guide us in our RSA renegotiation; it's available to read now at Gunaikurnai.org.au. The RSA Renegotiation gives Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners an opportunity to build on the agreement put in place in 2010 after many years of hard work by our Elders. It's not about starting out again— it's about adding to what we have, making it better and getting improved outcomes as we build our own capacity and capability to manage.

We will be convening meetings both face to face and online, based on Covid-19 restrictions.

If you want to be involved to support the RSA Renegotiating Team – let us know, contact Kyla Di Fiore (03) 5152 5100 or email ea@glawac.com.au

PHASE 1 - COMPLETED

- Briefings and Consultation with Members, Elders, Directors, staff and agencies (Parks Vic and DELWP)
- Independent Reviewer selected – KPMG
- Further consultation with Members, Elders, Directors and staff
- Final Report produced by KPMG



PHASE 2 – IN PROGRESS

- RSA Negotiating Team established – Aunty Lena Morris, Aunty Glenys Watts, Aunty Julie Mongta, Troy McDonald (Board Chair), Roger Fenwick (GLaWAC CEO)
- Project Manager appointed – Carlo Carli and team (Galbraith Innovation)
- Update community and seek input from Community members
- Final negotiation plan produced and authorised by Community



PHASE 3 – STILL TO COME

- RSA Negotiating Team ready to negotiate with Government
- Formal negotiating meetings takes place
- RSA Negotiating Team report to Full Group
- Final - formal negotiating meeting takes place
- Formal Agreement in place



Our Community

Vale Dylan Davies Hood

It saddens me to write this about Dylan who is no longer with us.

Dylan came to GLaWAC through the Earn While You Learn program and straight away was keen and eager to do well. He quickly landed a role in the Joint Management Ranger team and always had a smile on his face. The passion that Dylan brought to the job and his willingness to learn and share his knowledge was a credit to him and his family. Dylan played a big part in the JM Team. He was always first to stand up out the front of a group and share with stakeholders and school groups. He would share his cultural knowledge with anyone he could. He was a hard worker and always did his job to the best of his abilities. Dylan you will be missed. You're someone we will never forget.

ROBBIE FARNHAM



Bush Tucker recipe

Wattle Seed Damper

Kevin Murrays way

What you'll need:

- 2 x cups wholemeal self-raising flour
- 1 x cup of plain flour
- 1 x tablespoon ground wattle seed (use a little or more if you wish, this will give it a nice nutty flavour)
- 1 x good pinch of sea salt (up to you as to how much, but don't over salt it)
- ¾ cup of water (perhaps a little more if needed)

How to do it:

1. Mix all the dry ingredients together in a bowl
2. Add in the water
3. Turn it out onto a lightly floured board/bench
4. Knead lightly and shape it into a nice round shape

Now It's Time to Cook it:

1. Pre-heat your oven to hot or have your Camp oven heated up ready to put back over hot coals (if cooking outside)
2. Sprinkle a little bit of flour on the base of your cooking tray or camp oven
3. Put your dough onto the tray or into camp oven (place the lid on camp oven)
4. Cook till it's a nice golden-brown colour but not burnt

Once cooked, turn it out to cool slightly before slicing or pulling apart then spread with butter/margarine and top with vegemite, honey or your favourite spread. Damper is also great served hot with a bowl of soup too.

And remember, practice makes perfect....

Community Benefit Fund

GLaWAC manages a COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND that provides financial support to a wide range of organisations, members and individuals in the form of sponsorship, donations and one-off payments. In particular we encourage education support for our young people who wish to strive for their future. There are strict assessment criteria for requests and depending on the amount sought, require approval of the CEO or Board. All requests must be made in writing by completing a Community Benefit Fund Request Form that can be obtained by contacting Kyla Di Fiore on (03) 5152 5100 or by emailing admin@glawac.com.au.

Our Community

Gippsland Leaders Partnership

Developing leaders for vibrant and sustainable communities across Gippsland is a shared vision of GLaWAC and the Gippsland Community Leadership Program (GCLP).

Recently this was strengthened through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two organisations. The aim of the MOU is to encourage the participation of Gippsland's emerging Aboriginal leaders in the GCLP program, to ensure the program delivers meaningful Aboriginal cultural education to all participants, and supports initiatives that build trust and partnerships between the two organisations, their staff and Gippsland communities.

GLaWAC CEO Roger Fenwick has announced that GLaWAC will provide an Indigenous Scholarship to enable an emerging leader from the local Gunaikurnai Community to participate in the leadership program each year as part of the MOU.

"GLaWAC is committed to supporting Aboriginal Leaders on their journey. Programs such as this one are vital in supporting the networks, personal awareness and skills required to be a strong leader and to also help our mob achieve the outcomes they deserve."



Find Us On Facebook

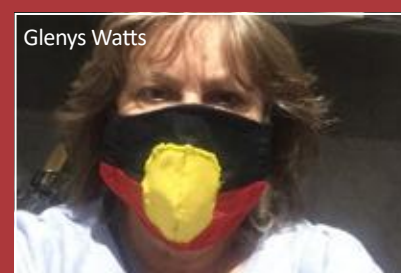
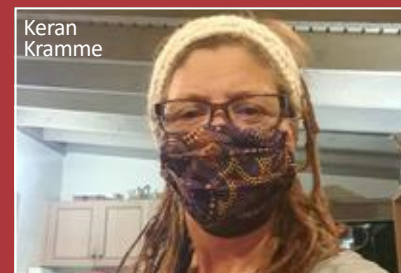
Have you followed us on Facebook yet? Yep, the **@GLaWAC** Facebook page is up and running with lots of useful information, pictures and video's celebrating Country, culture and Community. It's also an excellent place to stay up to date on what's happening within the organisation and how you can have your voice heard about a whole range of important issues- especially important during these Covid times when face to face yarning is tough.

Thanks to everyone who's already given us a like and those that have commented and posted photographs. Keep going, we love the interaction and want to see more of your pictures and hear more of your yarns.

We're also excited to let you know that we're in the middle of updating the GLaWAC website too. The new site celebrates all things Gunaikurnai and will make finding information much easier and quicker with a fresh new look. We'll be sure to let you know when it's up and running.

Show us your masks

Wearing a mask is a must at the moment but that doesn't mean you can't look deadly doing it! We know a lot of you mob have been sewing like mad so we wanted to show off some of your creations.



Our Community

Native Title Update

Under the Native Title Act 1993, GLaWAC receives notification of exploration licence applications on Gunaikurnai country. The grant of these licences does not extinguish native title. An exploration licence allows a company to look for mineral resources within the licence area. It permits some ground disturbance such as drilling but does not allow any mining for commercial purposes. Below is an update on those exploration licence applications.

EL 6816 – JACQUIAN PTY LTD

In our last update, we wrote that GLaWAC was notified of exploration application EL 6816 by Jacquian Pty Ltd. The application area is located near Stirling and Tambo Crossing and the explorer is looking for gold. As part of GLaWAC's consultation and consent process, native title holders were consulted about this process and an agreement was reached with Jacquian Pty Ltd. As part of this agreement, Jacquian Pty Ltd must pay drilling and annual access fees and undertake cultural awareness training with GLaWAC at their own expense.

EL 6975, 6976, 6977 – VICTORIAN GOLDFIELDS PTY LTD

GLaWAC has been notified of exploration applications EL6975, 6976, 6977 located near Swifts Creek and Dargo. The explorer is looking for gold and the application will be referred to the Native Title and Cultural Heritage Sub-Committee. Further information about this application will be provided to native title holders as part of GLaWAC's consultation and consent process.

Want to learn more about native title?

For more information about GLaWAC's role and responsibilities in making native title decisions, please visit GLaWAC's website at <https://gunaikurnai.org/gunaikurnai-native-title-agreement/>

Calendar of Events

GLaWAC is organising and/or supporting events during the year. Note these dates in your diary and keep checking out the website – www.gunaikurnai.org – and join our new Facebook page for all the latest details.

EVENT	LOCATION – FURTHER INFO	DATE
Audit, Risk & Finance Subcommittee	Teams Meet	20 October
10 year anniversary of Native Title Recognition	TBC	22 October
GLaWAC Board Meeting	Teams Meet	TBC October
NAIDOC Week		8 November – 15 November
GLaWAC AGM	TBC	27 November
Native Title Cultural heritage Subcommittee	Teams Meet	29 October
GKTOLM Board Meeting	TBC	3 December
GLaWAC Board Meeting	TBC	TBC December
Elders Council	TBC	TBC
Our Country Subcommittee	GLaWAC is currently exploring the best way to conduct business and seek feedback while keeping our community safe during Covid-19 restrictions.	
Economic Development Subcommittee		

Our Community

Growing Back East Gippsland

Roll up, roll up, come one, come all. Grow Back East Gippsland is needs the youth of East Gippsland to take part in our 2021 Student Calendar Competition for creative arts.

We'd love you to share your thoughts and feelings following the bushfires, and let us know through a piece of art how the recovery is going for you. We want to use your artwork to produce a calendar to share with Australia, to let them know just how special the youth of East Gippsland are.

Using your creativity, we ask that you produce an artwork using any medium that could be a drawing, painting, or a photo. Or come up with another creative

way to share with us the small things that you've noticed during or since the bushfires in your area.

Cash prizes are on offer for the 12 winning entrants. PLUS your artwork will be published in a 2021 calendar. Just in time for Christmas!!!!

Gippsland Community Leadership program (GCLP) is proud to be a part of launching the 'Growing Back East Gippsland' initiative. Our other supporters of this project include The View From Here design studio, Gippslandia magazine, Pazzaz Printing, Gippsland Primary Health Network and the Hugh Williamson Foundation.

Entry is now open and artwork can be submitted up to Monday 28 September 2020.
For further information, visit www.gippslandia.com.au.



Salish Nation Unit Crew

A big hello from the Salish Nation Unit Crew over in British Columbia (BC), Canada. Back in January, GLaWAC staff were lucky enough to meet three members of the crew when they were sent to fight fires in East Gippsland. The Salish Nation consists of 2000 people that live on a Reserve - what we would call a mission - on the west coast of Canada and the 20 man fire crew is the last remaining First Nations crew left in BC.

Meeting the firefighters was a great motivator to inspire the GLaWAC fire crew to achieve the same for Gunaikurnai Country. And it's clear that we inspired them too. Ryan Pascal, Crew Supervisor, tries to visit the local first nations community whenever he travels and has fond memories of his brief time with GLaWAC. "I told my crew to all get their passports, I would love to take them all down under if the chance came up again. I hope we can come as a whole crew, we would love to visit again."



GLaWAC membership

As a member, you are eligible to nominate for a Board or Subcommittee role and provide direction and guidance to the Management Team. To become a member of GLaWAC you need to complete a Membership Form and provide details of your Apical Ancestry. There are 25 Gunaikurnai Apical Ancestors registered in the Native Title Consent Determination. You can also apply for a Gunaikurnai Identity Card that you should carry with you on Country. Under the Indigenous Land Use Agreement, Gunaikurnai people are not required to obtain a permit or licence or pay a fee for fishing, taking game or fauna, gathering firewood or camping on land and waters where the Gunaikurnai hold native title. It's important to remember that non-Gunaikurnai spouses and partners are still required to have a permit or licence and pay the relevant fees. For further information contact GLaWAC's Reception on (03) 5152 5100.

Treaty update



HISTORIC FIRST MEETING BETWEEN FIRST PEOPLES ASSEMBLY AND VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

After seven months of meetings and consultation, the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria has today begun negotiations on the process for future treaty making in Victoria.

Assembly Co-Chair Marcus Stewart, a Nira illim bulluk man of the Taungurung Nation, says this is tangible progress in finally delivering treaties for Victorian Aboriginal communities.

"This really is an historic day. By formally gathering to establish the process for treaty discussions, this day marks the start of a new relationship between Aboriginal people and the Victorian Government as equal parties," Marcus Stewart said.

"The Assembly feels the gravity and history which comes with this first meeting, and we're looking forward to building a stronger future for our communities".

South East First Peoples Assembly Members



Peter Hood



Kaylene Williamson



Alice Pepper

Reserved Seat Holder



Troy McDonald

Treaty, Treaties, or both?

The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria is working on a Treaty Negotiation Framework, which will set the rules for Treaty negotiations?

Engaging and sharing information with community members throughout this process is critical. So, led by its elected Members, the Assembly is seeking Aboriginal communities' views on this framework.

One of the first decisions for the Assembly is the type of Treaty model that will bring about the best benefits for Victorian Aboriginal communities. This includes the number of Treaties

that there should be. Should there be a single statewide Treaty, multiple Treaties between the state and different groups, or a combination of the two?

The Assembly asks that you consider this question, and that you discuss it with your family, friends and Aboriginal and Traditional owner groups. Any Aboriginal person in Victoria can get in touch with their local Assembly Member, to offer their views on this question.

Find your local Member and their email address at www.firstpeoplesvic.org

Treaty update

Traditional Owner Nation-building

TRADITIONAL OWNER NATION-BUILDING SUPPORT PACKAGE

The Traditional Owner Nation-building Support Package aims to enable Traditional Owners across Victoria to engage in nation-building activities and prepare for future treaty negotiations. The Package has been developed through a partnership between three nation-building service providers: the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations, First Nations Legal and Research Services and Aboriginal Victoria.

The \$4.335 million Nation-building Resource Pool will be available to Traditional Owner groups to resource nation-building and treaty readiness activities across Victoria. The funding will be available on an equitable basis to Traditional Owner groups with formal recognition (for example, a Registered Aboriginal Party or those with native title or Traditional Owner Settlement Act agreements) and to Traditional Owner groups without formal recognition of the Mid North-West, Central North, North-East and Far East Gippsland regions.

WHAT DOES 'NATION-BUILDING' MEAN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PACKAGE

Traditional Owners themselves will ultimately define what nation-building means to them. However, for the purposes of delivering the Package, and to ensure that resources can flow to Traditional Owner groups or nations as soon as possible, the Partnership has adopted a working definition of nation-building. This will be refined further as Traditional Owners continue to engage in nation-building activities and define what it means for themselves.

Nation-building enables the development of strong Traditional Owner groups, who work together to activate self-determination and build the futures they want.

This includes enabling Traditional Owners to be in the strongest possible position to enter into treaty negotiations with the State of Victoria, should they choose to do so.

Interim Dispute Resolution Process



**First Peoples'
Assembly of
Victoria**

What is it?

A way to settle disputes between the Assembly and state that might happen as part of the Treaty process.



Why an 'interim' process?

The dispute resolution process is temporary because once the Treaty Authority is established it is intended it will be responsible for resolving disputes in this process. See our Treaty Authority Factsheet.

Why is this being established first?

Negotiations on the Treaty Negotiation Framework, Treaty Authority and Self-Determination Fund can't progress without a process for resolving disputes in place.

What disputes will it apply to?



Disputes between the Assembly and the state of Victoria in the treaty process.

Disputes relating to the negotiation of the Treaty Negotiation Framework, Treaty Authority and Self-Determination Fund.

What disputes will it not apply to?



Disputes between individuals or communities.

Disputes between the Assembly and any organisation that is not the state of Victoria.

Disputes that do not relate to the Treaty Negotiation Framework, Treaty Authority and Self-Determination Fund.

Our Culture

Journey Wall

Imagine walking through our Forestec HQ and being able to take a walk back in time.

The Cultural Hub have been busy planning the installation of a Journey Wall to celebrate a timeline of significant milestones and achievements of Gunaikurnai People through stories, photographs and artwork. It's a journey that represents us all, so we want to invite you to help by contributing any history, stories or photographs you feel comfortable to share.

If you're interested, give Grattan Mullett a call on 5152 5100 or send him an email at grattan.a.mullett@glawac.com.au.



Artists in demand

GLaWAC are partnering with Wellington Shire Council to promote Gunaikurnai culture and knowledge in a new environmental centre located at Lake Guyatt in Sale. This includes the engagement of local Gunaikurnai artists to deliver a mural at the Seed Garden adjacent to the environmental and education centre.

We've also been invited to develop signage and artwork for the new GovHub building currently under construction in Morwell. This is a great opportunity to engage five Gunaikurnai artists to create canvases which will be featured throughout the building.



Cultural Connections

Our Culture is embedded in our Country and our songlines link us to our ancestors which is why it's important that we keep telling our stories; sharing them with our young people so the knowledge isn't lost with the passing of our Elders.

The Cultural Hub have been gathering different versions of five selected Dreaming Stories – Tidaluk, Boorun and Tuk, Legend Rock, Den of Nargun and Buchan Caves – from Community to be used as reference material for our publications, artwork, storytelling and educational material. We want to hear from our Elders and anyone with knowledge of these stories so that you can tell your version.

We're also excited about talks we're having with Indigital, an Aboriginal digital media company, about a project to engage the younger generation to record stories of their Elders. Working with well-known Aboriginal photographer Wayne Quillam, young Gunaikurnai from right across the region would learn the skills to gather stories and create short films using language, artwork and music to bring their families history to life.

If you would like to contribute to either of these projects, or think you might know someone who would, give Wayne Thorpe a call on 5152 5100 and have a yarn.

Our Culture



Mitchell River Rock Shelter

The GLaWAC RAP, GK Rangers and NRM teams has been working hard to fill in details of the cultural story of the Mitchell River National Park with findings recently published in Australia's leading archaeology journal- Australian Archaeology

The long term study, in partnership with the Monash University Indigenous Centre Studies and the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage (CABAH), reveals that cultural deposits ranging from before the last Ice Age to very recent times are present in rock shelters within the Park.

Excavated remnants provide an insight into what the landscape used to look like

when the Old People were around, with evidence of an array of locally extinct mammals found, including the Tasmanian pademelon and the Long-tailed mouse, which are both now confined to Tasmania.

With at least 28,350 years of history for this part of Gunaikurnai Country being preserved in this small site the chance of finding other such cultural deposits in the area is enormous.

Main image: The Raymond Creek 2 rock shelter, Mitchell River National Park.

Inset top: The RAP team digging in a square aged between 850 and 1300 years old at Raymond Creek.

Inset bottom: Raymond Creek 2 after completion of excavation. The excavation pit was filled in, all equipment removed and a branch, which was in the site prior to the dig, returned.

Our Culture



The carving is a Durrung (snake) wrapping itself around the post.



Cultural Therapy

In these difficult times it is important to maintain a balance between the mental and physical state of being within oneself. For Ray Thomas, his arts practice has allowed him to keep this balance. Ray reckons that switching off the computer to do culturally based activities such as wood carving and burning gives him time out from working the left side of the brain.

"It opens up the brains right side to be creative, not only mentally but physically as well," he says. "Therapeutically, it is calming and creates a sense of achievement as you make progress on the piece you are working on."

Ray has started working on a piece of timber he's had since about 1999.

"It was originally a discarded weathered post; now it's a truly matured piece of red gum and I thought the time is right to do something with it... only 20 years later".

As the pictures show, it is a Durrung (snake) wrapping itself around the post. The Durrung will be burnt with my cultural markings while the post will incorporate both burning and painting using an earth colour pallet. We're looking forward to showing you how this piece evolves as Ray continues his creative practise in stage 4 restrictions.

Our Culture

Round Head Update

Work to protect sites of cultural significance at Round Head is progressing with over 5,000 sandbags laid in the past three months.

This project has been coordinated with GEGAC and led through the strong cultural knowledge of Uncle Russell Mullett and Rob Hudson.

The area, known to include middens, artefact scatters and burial sites, is vulnerable to floods, wind damage and rising sea levels and has seen a number of attempts made to protect it over the years.

With the Round Head Shoreline Erosion Management and Site Restoration Plan now in place, the GLaWAC NRM, JM and RAP teams have been focussing their efforts on a 40m long erosion face of the dune.

Filling and laying sandbags to form stepped walls will protect the cultural values within the dunes and create terraces where 10,000 native seedlings will be planted to further help stabilise the site.

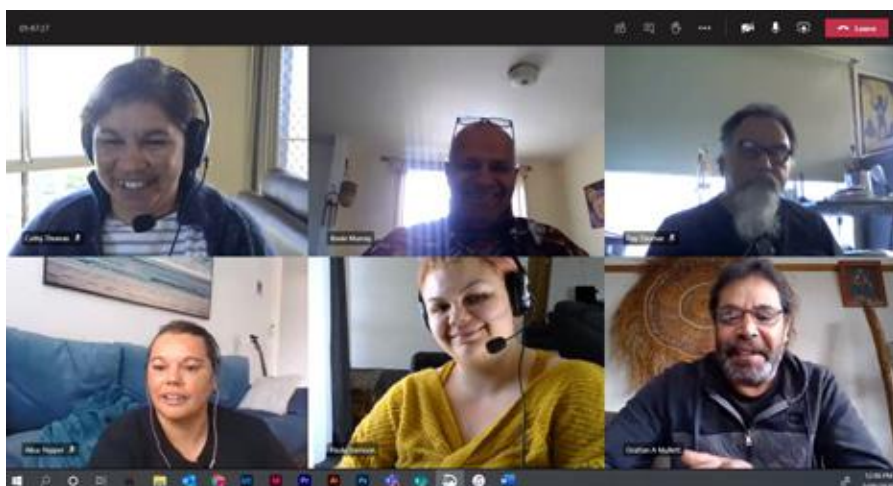
The project has been funded by the Victorian Government for the Gippsland Lakes.



Keeping Connected

We can't be yarning face to face but that doesn't stop us from yarning together. The Cultural Hub team are keeping busy, talking projects and planning upcoming events.

Stay tuned via GLaWAC News and our Facebook page, we're always looking for ways for community to connect with culture and there's a lot coming up.



Our Country



Buchan Bushfire Recovery

GLAWAC and Parks Victoria are working together on rebuilding visitor facilities at Buchan Caves Reserve. Our GK ranger team have been working alongside the PV Rangers to get the park back up and running after the black summer bushfires. If fire wasn't enough, the Reserve has been hit by several floods over the last few months slowing down progress to fix the place up.

While the caves remain closed due to Covid-19 restrictions, the recovery work will allow visitors to enjoy the area again by restoring the walking tracks, providing improved camping and accommodation facilities and repairing the bridges.

Main above: The fire burnt hot on the upper slopes of the reserve with a big effort put in by FFM and CFA to protect the valley floor as best they could.

Inset top right: Accommodation and the Guide Hut will be replaced.

Inset top below: Both bridges passed the Info Centre were damaged and need to be rebuilt.

Above: Heavy rainfall events of the last few months has slowed down repair work.

Healing Country

Our traditional practises have sustained the land for thousands of years and now we're working with DELWP to bring that knowledge to bushfire recovery efforts around the region in a project to help heal Country.

Over the next six months, we'll be monitoring totem plants and animals across the fire footprint to see what's returning and what might threaten their recovery.

It's also an opportunity to work together with DELWP and Parks Victoria as we continue to shape land management practises that will benefit Country as a whole.

The surveys will be done around known sites of cultural significance within the fire affected area, kicking off in the Tarra Ranges area south of Buchan in early September.

The project is being led by Cathy Thomas who has just put on a small team of Gunaikurnai community members to work out in the field. Each team member brings their own skills and knowledge to the project and will receive further training, such as hazardous tree id and GPS mapping techniques, to do the required monitoring work.

The crew will have lots of support and guidance from our Support Officer, Geoff McHugh as well as partner agency staff from DELWP and Parks Victoria.



Cathy Thomas, checking out the impacts of the bushfire at Buchan Caves Reserve.

Our Country

Cultural Fire

Back in June, our JM crew took the opportunity to connect with Culture - Traditional Owners burning on traditional land.

It was a proud day for the crew, doing a cultural burn out at Knob Reserve with some of the mob from the DELWP First Custodians fire crew, connecting, respecting, listening and learning.

Since then our fire work has slowed due to winter weather and other projects, however we are excited to say that GLaWAC expects to undertake a Cultural burn around Forestec before summer. Depending on COVID 19 restrictions, community members will be invited to attend.

In other news, our GLaWAC fire crews are again preparing for the upcoming fire season where they will work alongside DELWP First Custodian Fire crew members. We are also working with DELWP and Parks Vic to identify and deliver more Cultural burns in the future. The locations of these burns will be determined by GLaWAC and Gunaikurnai people.

If you have Cultural Fire knowledge you would like to share, we invite you to contact Daniel Miller from our On Country team on 5152 5100 or Daniel.Miller@glawac.com.au



Our Country

The Constructed Wetlands

The NRM team has been busy planting more than 80,000 native seedlings at a constructed wetland near Broadlands, giving the site a much-needed facelift and providing food and habitat for local wildlife.

The wetlands will be filled with water from nearby roads as part of a project by the East Gippsland Shire to lessen the impact of storm water on the Gippsland Lakes.

GLaWAC won the tender to prepare, plant and manage the site over the coming year.

It's taken just two months for the NRM crew to turn the site from a dusty paddock to a blanket of seedlings. Two large holding ponds will help to slow the spread of stormwater while the mass planting will help to improve the water quality. The project has been funded by the Victorian Government for the Gippsland Lakes.



Our Country

NRM Crew Growing

With so many plants to go into the constructed wetlands and plenty more projects on the go, the NRM Crew are growing with five new members joining the team. Aaron Hanuera, Alex Saunders, Leroy Hayes, Sione Tuiono and Robert Cooper are enjoying getting their hands dirty; the lads have fitted right in and are clearly enjoy being part of the crew.



Our Country

Water for the environment to help heal country

GLaWAC has partnered with the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA) to look at where and how water for the environment can also help look after Gunaikurnai cultural values.

The newly released Victorian Environmental Water Holder 2020 – 2021 Seasonal Watering Plan describes how environmental water held across Victoria will be used to benefit the environment in the next 12 months – and it can deliver cultural outcomes, too.

By taking a whole of Country approach, water for the environment can look after plants, fish, birds and animals important to the Gunaikurnai.

GLaWAC has been working closely with the CMA to talk about how water is vital – and how healthy Country means better outcomes for western science measures, too.

GLaWAC water officers Uncle Lloyd Hood and Tim Paton have spent a lot of time yarning with Gunaikurnai Community about the importance of Sale Common and Dowd Morass wetlands and the rivers that connect to them, and the plants, birds and animals dependent on healthy Country.

While Covid restrictions have made it tough to get out on Country with Community, we're pleased that the project has been extended for another 12 months so that once restrictions ease, Uncle Lloyd and Tim will be able to continue their great work.

GIPPSLAND REGION

How water for the environment is helping Gippsland's waterways in 2020-21

Many of Victoria's rivers and wetlands have been modified by providing water vital for farms, homes and industry. Water for the environment is used to improve the health of rivers and wetlands and support the plants, fish and other animals that live, feed and breed in them.

Water for the environment also benefits communities by improving conditions for fishing, camping and canoeing. Improved water quality can have economic benefits for irrigation and urban water supply.

This map shows key environmental objectives that water for the environment helps improve and protect in the Gippsland region. A complete list of objectives is found in the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2020-21*.

We recognise Aboriginal people as Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water in Victoria and acknowledge their cultural relationships with the waterways. Water for the environment helps to sustain healthy Country for Aboriginal people.

Where will water for the environment go and why?



Our Country

Gunaikurnai water for Country

The GLaWAC Whole of Country Plan sets out Gunaikurnai goals for water and the main one is access to water to restore customary practices, protect cultural values and uses, and ownership for self-determination. To pave the way to self-determination, how water is shared and managed by Government needs to change.

Every 10 years the Victorian Government has to deliver a Sustainable Water Strategy for each region and it's happening now for Gunaikurnai Country. The strategy decides how much water goes where and how much is used for the environment, for economic and recreational uses and most importantly, for cultural values.

GLaWAC is part of the Sustainable Water Strategy working group set up by Government which is a big opportunity to move forward with Gunaikurnai objectives for water by changing Government water rules.

To give GLaWAC the authority to make decisions about water on Country on behalf of our members we want the Sustainable Water Strategy to achieve the following:

- Create Traditional Owner Water Entitlements
- Protect Traditional Owner Water Entitlements
- Water justice in fully allocated systems



- Water Rules on how water flows from one user to the next changed to make sure Country can be looked after
- Water Policy and management that embeds Traditional Owners
- Shared benefits at a cultural landscape level – stop measuring access by single species, or bits and bobs of rivers or waterways.

If you want to have a say, or hear more, you're welcome to join in on the On Country subcommittee, or talk directly to Daniel Miller, Uncle Lloyd Hood, Tim Paton or Lisa Hocking. The Sustainable Water Strategy is being developed over the next two years, and is due to be completed in 2022, so we'll be yarnning about it a fair bit in the months to come.

Talking with government

Here's a bit of a preview of how mobs around Victoria, including GLaWAC, are telling Government they want forests managed in the future.

Both Parks Victoria and the Department of Land, Environment, Water and Planning (DELWP) are working on draft plans for how they want to manage forests and parks for the next 15 to 30 years.

We've been talking directly to Parks and DELWP, and they both plan to come and hear what the Gunaikurnai Community have to say about forests and parks on Country. How those yarns happen will depend on how safe it is with COVID-19.

If you are keen to be involved, have a say, or hear what's happening with parks and forest management, please contact either Alice Pepper or Lisa Hocking at GLaWAC and we'll make sure you know what's going on.

We regularly update our website so head to gunaikurnai.org to keep up to date.

There's also a Cultural Landscape Strategy that the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations has developed, which we've had input on.

The Cultural Landscape Strategy has included the following objectives and outcomes:

Objective 1:	Objective 2:	Objective 3:	Objective 4:	Objective 5:
To restore the Traditional Owner knowledge system.	To strengthen Traditional Owner Corporation resilience to enable delivery on our contemporary role.	To enable Traditional Owner cultural landscapes planning.	To embed Traditional Owner knowledge and practice into policy, planning and the management of Country.	To enable the application of Traditional Owner cultural objectives, knowledge and practice in the management of public land
Outcome:	Outcome:	Outcome:	Outcome:	Outcome:
Traditional Owner led practices are rekindled and knowledge applied to meet cultural objectives that include social, ecological & economic co-benefits	Traditional Owner Corporations lead the process to heal and manage Country on behalf of Traditional Owner communities	Cultural landscapes are a basis for land management planning	Victorian Government policy, legislation and procedures enable and embed Traditional Owner knowledge and practice systems	Traditional Owners have decision making authority over the management of Traditional territories

Our Organisation

Fingerboards Mine proposal update for members

Kalbar Operations propose to conduct Sand mining to the West of Bairnsdale.

The proposed site is on private land so GLaWAC has limited power regarding final decisions which will be made by the Victorian Planning Minister.

GLaWAC, as the RAP, has ensured that Cultural Heritage matters and protections are documented and submitted into the planning process.

While GLaWAC has no role in the Governments final decision-making we are ensuring we provide Government and the Mining Company with our Mobs views.

By the time you read this GLaWAC will have held a web-based yarn and have made a submission into the Environmental Effects Statement (EES).

You can go to the Kalbar web page - www.fingerboardsproject.com.au - to see all their information. All material we have can be found on our website here: gunaikurnai.org.au/services/policy-and-program-priorities-2020

OFFICIAL NAME

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project

You may know it as the Fingerboards Mine, the Kalbar mine or the Glenaladale mine. But it is a mine, not a project.

WHERE IS IT?

Right near the Mitchell River, 4 km away from the Mitchell River National Park, on private land.

HOW BIG IS IT?

1675 hectares - *about 3,130 footy fields*

HOW WILL OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE BE PROTECTED?

Our legal recourse is under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. GLaWAC has ensured that Cultural Heritage matters and protections were documented and submitted into the planning process.

As the site is on private property, Native Title does not apply.

WHAT'S IT MINING?

12 million tonnes of mineral sands - Zircon, rutile, ilmenite, monazite and xenotime – per year will be shipped to China.

HOW LONG WILL IT BE MINED?

Construction would start around 2021, with an expected lifespan of around 15 years.

HOW MUCH WATER WILL IT USE?

We believe that about 3 gigalitres of water a year will be taken from the Mitchell River, the same as 1,200 olympic sized swimming pools, plus groundwater, and water from the Perry River.

WILL ANY TREES BE CUT DOWN?

Up to 188 hectares of native vegetation will be cleared and approx. 780 mature trees cut down.

HOW CAN I HAVE A SAY?

Put in a submission by 5pm October 29, see here: www.engage.vic.gov.au/fingerboards-IAC



Our Organisation

Who's New at GLaWAC

ALICE PEPPER, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

I am a proud Gonnai woman with family bloodline connections to the, Yorta Yorta, Mutti Mutti, Gunditjmarra and Arrunte peoples. I grew up in the Latrobe Valley area of Moe & Morwell and for the past 10 years have moved around to Raymond Island, Bairnsdale & now Lakes Entrance. A Proud mum, wife and active community member across Gippsland I have knowledge and experience working in Health, Justice, Education, Drug & Alcohol, Employment and Training, Social and Emotional Wellbeing, Youth mentoring and Lateral Violence.

I'm passionate about the arts and cultural expression through local stories, songs, language and dance that connects me to country. I like experimenting with different mediums and practicing the skills and knowledge that has been passed on by my elders and cultural specialists over the years and sharing that knowledge with our youth.

I have been working in the area of Aboriginal Community Development for the past 4 years as the Community engagement broker for East Gippsland Local Aboriginal Networks, working towards strengthening my Community and creating opportunities for our voices to be heard and actioned at the local and State level, especially our young Koorie people in all areas including the arts & healthy lifestyles through sport.

Last year I was elected onto the First peoples Assembly of Victoria as a member for the South East Region of Victoria which covers Gippsland where I continue to advocate for my people and



include their voices and knowledge into the development of a framework that will enable Traditional Owners of Victoria towards negotiating Treaties with the State Government.

Now my journey I believe has led me here to GLaWAC - our Traditional Owner Corporation - bringing my experience and skills to work with Community in the new role of Community Engagement Co-ordinator which I started back in May this year.

It's been a strange and weird experience starting an engagement role during these Covid-19 restrictions but I see it also as an opportunity to be doing some planning and having a yarn with everybody and to listen to what your visions are and how you would like to contribute and strengthen our footprints on Country. So hopefully soon we will be able share knowledge, attend some cultural gatherings, healing events & other deadly opportunities that we can work together on to strengthen our Gunaikurnai People & Country for our future.



JESS SHAPIRO, MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Hi everyone, I'm Jess and I stepped into the media and comms job back in July. Before then I was doing comms at the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and would often be out talking to the GLaWAC NRM and JM crews. Now I count myself lucky that I get to do that as my job every day. Some of you may have seen me with cameras in hand, as I am also a professional photographer. I was fortunate enough to take photos at the JM launch in 2018 and the Cultural Festival last year amongst other things.

It's been nearly ten years since my husband and I relocated our young family from Melbourne. Our two boys are growing too quickly but love living on our bush block alongside the Nicholson River. As a family we search for good fishing spots and rainforest walks whenever we can.

My main job at GLaWAC is to make sure that you know what's going on at the organisation and how you can get involved. There is so much work happening for Community so I'll be posting to Facebook, taking lots of pictures and making lots of video's, and of course continuing to share stories through the GLaWAC News.



AMELIA RATZMANN, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

My name is Amelia Ratzmann, I'm a proud Minang Noongar & Wotjobaluk women.

In 2019 I completed a Certificate 3 in Business Administration during my time working at Victoria Police in Bairnsdale. I enjoyed the business and the task-based work that came with the administration field.

I knew I wanted to use my skills in my Community and was thrilled when I was offered a job at GLaWAC. I was always

encouraged by my Dad to use my skills for the benefit of my people, so this is an exciting start. I'm looking forward to furthering my studies and beginning an exciting career with GLaWAC.

I have had my role with GLaWAC for a few months now and I enjoy it so much!

I hope to encourage any young Aboriginal people to find what you love to do and follow your dreams.

Our Economy



Kevin is happy to be back in the Bush Café preparing meals for the mob.

Bush Cafe cooking through Covid

The Bush Café has been closed for several months due to Covid-19 restrictions but that hasn't stopped Kevin Murray from cooking up an idea to keep doing what he does best. Together with GLaWAC COO Marc Higgins, Kev is finalising a plan to open the Bush Café to feed vulnerable community members who are self-isolating due to COVID-19. Re-opening is also a great opportunity for our café staff to get back to work again.

Kevin explains,

"The Feeding the Mob project came about out of concern for those elders who can't get out and about on their own to get much needed food. We know that since the COVID-19 pandemic reared its ugly head it's made it harder for everyone, especially our Elderly."

Working together with our ACCHO partners we will be will cooking and delivering over 300 meals a week to Bairnsdale, Cann River, Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust, Lakes Entrance and Orbost.

All meals will be snap frozen before being delivered to one contactless drop off point in each of the community organisations so their workers can then deliver them out to their respective elderly clients.

"The project will help alleviate some stress for our elders and will hopefully help them feel better about staying at home and out of harm's way knowing they'll still be fed. We all have to play our part to help protect the most vulnerable in our Community and keep them safe."

MOU with Kinaway

GLaWAC recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Kinaway, the Victorian Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce. Kinaway provides policy, advocacy and representation services for Aboriginal businesses and entrepreneurs. This MOU gives community members easy access to Kinaway services and aims to develop a support mechanism for Aboriginal people on Gunaikurnai Country to explore or further their business ideas.

Aboriginal Business Development Manager

GLaWAC has received significant funding from the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) to hire an Aboriginal Business Development Manager and to engage Aboriginal consultants to develop a Gippsland Aboriginal Economic Strategy. This 12-month project will further assist GLaWAC to deliver its Economic Development Strategy.



Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)

Under the guidance of the Board of Directors and Elders Council, GLaWAC is the Registered Aboriginal Party that represents the Gunaikurnai people and their aspirations for Native Title, cultural heritage, land, water and natural resource management.

GLaWAC News content disclaimer

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