

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ISSUE 31:

- Fire and COVID-19 response
- Fire recovery
- Healing Country
- Treaty update
- Welcome to the new Board chair



Left to right: Kobi Cook, Mick Farnham, Grattan Mullet (Jnr), Patrick Mullett, Mitch Skuta, Shay Terrick, Reggie Baxter.

# This Issue

## WHO'S WHO AT GLAWAC?

GLaWAC Board of Directors .....	3
---------------------------------	---

## UPDATE FROM THE GLAWAC CEO .....

Cultural Festival team photo .....	4
------------------------------------	---

## UPDATE FROM THE GLAWAC CHAIR .....

COVID-19 update .....	5
-----------------------	---

## GLAWAC ELDERS COUNCIL .....

## A MESSAGE FROM THE GKTOLMB CHAIR .....

## POLICIES TO PROTECT COUNTRY .....

## OUR COUNTRY

How the fires rolled out across Country .....	8
---	---

### From fire response to fire recovery

Fire impacts on community .....	9
Fire impacts on Country .....	9
Fire impacts on Cultural heritage .....	9

### On the firefront .....

### RAP teams go in first in fire zone .....

### Fire Stories

Shay Terrick .....	11
Grattan Mullett Jnr .....	11

### Buchan Caves Reserve Recovery .....

### Paddling at Dowd Morass .....

### Protecting our Park - campsite makeover underway .....

### Fish tagging at Sale Common and the Macalister .....

## OUR COMMUNITY ..... 15-16

## OUR CULTURE

Saving sites at Round Head .....	17
----------------------------------	----

Sharing culture .....	18
-----------------------	----

Cert IV Cultural Heritage Management .....	18
--	----

Tell us your version of Gunaikurnai Dreaming Stories .....	19
--	----

## TREATY UPDATE .....

Transition Update .....	20
-------------------------	----

Settlement Agreements and Government Review .....	20
---	----

## OUR ECONOMY

Sharing ideas on youth employment .....	21
---	----

When in the high country.... ..	21
---------------------------------	----

Working toward more jobs in the Valley .....	21
--	----

## OUR ORGANISATION

We've got you covered .....	22
-----------------------------	----

Healing vibes .....	22
---------------------	----

Paula Harrison joins GLAWAC .....	22
-----------------------------------	----

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS .....



# Who's who at GLaWAC?

## GLaWAC BOARD

Welcome to our new and returning directors to the GLaWAC Board.

The Board was elected at the GLaWAC Annual General Meeting in November which was held at the beginning of the Cultural Festival at Knob Reserve.

GLaWAC members voted in Troy McDonald, and new board member, Lisa Giblin.

Troy joined the GLaWAC Board in 2017. Professionally he has lived and worked in Gippsland and Melbourne for many years, including for the health and human services, planning and water public service sectors. He has worked in Emergency Management Planning within the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, as well as on projects such as the Gippsland Flood Recovery Fund in 2007.

Lisa is a Gunaikurnai woman who lives at Lake Bunga. She has grassroots experience and knowledge across joint management, conservation land management, cultural heritage and interpretation skills.

As well as having board experience with the Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association, Lisa is a cultural heritage advisor for the Lakes Entrance Football/Netball Club.

The GLaWAC board includes Troy McDonald – Chair, Glenys Watts, Paula Morgan, Lisa Giblin, Libby Dummett (Independent Director) and Ewan Waller (Independent Director).

The Annual General Meeting also confirmed the GLaWAC Elders Council. A big welcome to Aunty Diann Hurren, and our big thanks to retiring Aunty Madge Siely.



*Retiring board members welcome the new board and Chair. LTR: CEO Roger Fenwick, Paula Morgan, Brian Stevens – outgoing Chair, Lisa Giblin, Glenys Watts, Troy McDonald (elected Chair 2020), Doris Patton – outgoing, Ewan Waller.*



# Update from the GLaWAC CEO

Dear all,

I'm pleased to be able to have this edition sent to you all. This magazine along with our Facebook page and website will continue to be a focus for us to keep you, our Elders and members informed and involved in your corporation. When possible, we will also organise yarnning sessions face to face to ensure we understand your views in helping us make decisions for all for the future.

I welcome our new board and Troy as our new chair and pass on my thanks to Brian and Doris for their service to GLaWAC. We all need to understand how important this leadership is for our board and the work that they, along with Joanne and Russell previously, have helped us grow to where we are today.

We look forward to their continued support in different ways.

It has been a tough start to our year, with the fires, the COVID-19 virus and the passing of one of our staff members in a vehicle accident.

Our teams have all rallied around Kevin, our café staff and each other as we mourn the loss of Bradley. He will be missed by all and I offer our sincere condolences to his

family and all who have lost loved ones in sorry business.

During these tough times I congratulate our teams for their commitment and hard work in supporting community, getting on country work done and building our profile and financial strength.

I would also like to thank GEGAC for their support for us while our Office and depot were evacuated during the fires.

Our focus with the COVID-19 virus is to follow the key directions of Government and our highest priorities are;

1. Safety and health of our Elders and Staff
2. Keeping our business and employment as stable as possible.

As Troy states below, we are also focused on influencing high level negotiations on our settlement package and improved outcomes for Land and Water that will meet the aspirations set out by our Elders and community.

This magazine has many images and articles of the work that all have been doing and I particularly wanted to thank the support that Joanne Brunt, Latrobe City and our agency and corporate partners are giving us in assisting us in improving employment outcomes for our community.

We continue to support our partner Aboriginal Health organisations in Gippsland to try and continue to improve our collaboration across important matters for all.

We look forward to your input and ideas and feel free to contact us through our front office if you have ideas or are interested in getting involved in GLaWAC through, Elders Council, Board, Board Subcommittees or supporting our Cultural learning.

Kind Regards  
**ROGER FENWICK, CEO**

## Well done to GLaWAC staff for supporting our Cultural Festival



*GLaWAC staff at the Cultural Festival, November 2020.*



# Update from the GLaWAC Chair

I welcome all our members to 2020 and this edition of the newsletter.

I am deeply honoured to be nominated and elected as Chairperson of our organisation.

I would like to personally thank Brian Stevens and Doris Paton for their collaboration, leadership and friendship over the previous three years on the Gunaikurnai board.

2020 has had a sad start on country and now with the virus, but all working together we will get through it.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the sustained and dedicated work of GLaWAC staff in supporting the recent bush fire events across East Gippsland, those efforts have not gone un-noticed at the state-wide, regional and local level and are a result of collective and individual leadership across all elements of the organisation. I'm am very proud to hear positive accolades directed at our people who worked tirelessly to support

our community, cultural estate and the broader community through trying and difficult times.

Our board and CEO are also monitoring and taking actions to manage our organisation through the COVID-19 crisis and with a focus on safety for our Elders and staff.

Throughout 2020 GLaWAC will continue on a broad consultation with our members as to the Settlement Review, the review will present significant opportunities for members to assist in shaping our future agreements possible new negotiations with State about changes to RSA package – I encourage all members to proactively and constructively provide their contributions and input into this important piece of work

2020 also will be a year to consolidate our thinking as to how we assert our aspirations with Government regarding participation in the borderer Victorian water management and entitlement framework: in particular pursuing opportunities from unallocated water

through the Victorian Water Licencing Regimes – the long term view is to support our cultural, economic and social values through access of water for these purposes. This also includes how we posture ourselves in the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation conversations, in particular how we can influence activities intended to stabilise those mines into the future.

Throughout 2019 our focus areas in the annual plan included:

- Community and members
- Delivering contracted works
- Growing in the Latrobe Valley
- Joint Management implementation
- Renegotiate our Recognition and Settlement Package

These elements will remain cornerstone activities, however there will be reviews against all the above points to either strengthen, adjust or add to our 2020 planning activity.

**TROY MC DONALD – Chairperson**

## COVID-19

As this magazine goes to print, the Virus is spreading and along with State and Federal Government messages we reinforce how we all have a responsibility to reduce the spread of this virus and do our best to help each other through this tough time.

I pass on the following latest information as per March 26.

GLaWAC is working closely with our partner Aboriginal Health organisations across Gippsland to ensure we are all supporting

each other and helping as we can. We will collectively keep you posted re what we can do to help community. We did this through the fires and are doing it again. Everyone is doing what they can and working hard for community.

We have suspended any activities, gatherings, meetings and Welcome to countries to ensure our Elders, community and staff are not at risk through work activities. We are trying to keep our field crews working in the bush and have very strict protocols in place as per Government directions. If we can't continue this work, employment support is being planned.

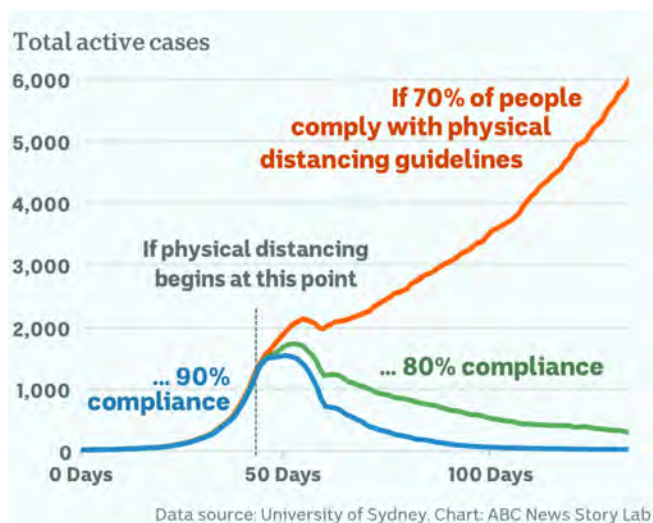
Our priority re employment is our current employees so for this reason some recruitment has been delayed.

We will use our Facebook page to provide any further organisation updates and I'm not sure when our next Magazine will go to print.

Our Café is currently closed but we may work up a plan to provide food support for our Aboriginal communities in partnership with other East Gippsland Aboriginal Health organisations.

Please stay safe and well and be kind to each other.

**TROY MCDONALD**



How every single Australian's actions affect the spread of coronavirus.

# GLaWAC Elders Council

## 2020 ELDERS COUNCIL

Aunty Beryl Booth

Aunty Charmaine Singleton

Aunty Deanna Campbell

Aunty Diann Hurren

Aunty Fay Voss

Aunty Glenys Watts

Aunty Gwen Atkinson

Aunty Gwendoline McGregor

Aunty Julie Mongta

Aunty Lee-Anne Eddington

Aunty Lena Morris (Chair)

Aunty Margaret Donnelly

Aunty Maria Harrison

Aunty Noretta Knight

Aunty Olive Stevens

Aunty Shirley Foster



Aunty Julie Mongta, Aunty Lena Morris, Aunty Charmaine Singleton, Lisa Giblin, Marianne Atkinson, Aunty Gwen Atkinson, Aunty Marg Donnelly, Aunty Fay Voss, Aunty Lee-Anne Eddington, Aunty Beryl Booth, Aunty Olive Stevens, Aunty Noretta Knight, Aunty Gwendoline McGregor, Aunty Diann Hurren

## A message from the GKTOLMB Chair

Starting in 2020 the Board has had some change in its membership with the previous Board's term ending at the end of 2019.

Board members to finish in 2019 were Doris Paton, Marianne Atkinson, John Mitchell and David Willington and we welcomed new Board members Russell Mullett, Lisa Giblin and Melissa Harrison. There are still two positions being filled from the general community however the selection process is still underway. Another key change to the Board has been the change of Chairperson. Grattan chose not to renominate as Chair and I have now filled that role with Janine Haddow as the Deputy Chair.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those departing members for their dedication, commitment and effort they have put in to ensure that the Gunaikurnai and State Government Joint Management arrangement continues to pave the way and set the standard for joint management in Victoria.

I would also like to welcome our new Board members and look forward to their valuable input as we continue to implement the joint management plan going forward.

The Board is continuing to provide strategic advice in relation to joint management as well as overseeing a number of exciting projects which are being delivered by GLaWAC and Parks Victoria.



While the recent bushfires have had a devastating effect on the natural and cultural values of Gunaikurnai Country we also recognise with this comes new opportunity. In particular we are looking forward to the development of a new site plan for Buchan Caves Reserve that will better showcase Gunaikurnai cultural connection and opportunity.

**GLENYS WATTS**



# Policies to protect Country

GLaWAC works to get the Gunaikurnai voice heard and included in government decisions, including where we can at the grassroots when policy is being developed.

The big ticket items for 2020 so far include **coasts, waterways, forests, fire recovery and mine rehab.**

## Whole of Country Plan

## GLaWAC Corporate Plan

OUR COASTS	OUR WATERWAYS	OUR FORESTS	FIRE RECOVERY	MINE REHAB
				
The Victorian Government <b>Marine and Coastal Policy</b> was released in March – now the Government is working on the Strategy to create an action plan.	The Sustainable Water Strategy will guide how water resources south of the divide – including on Gunaikurnai Country – is being developed by Government, together with Traditional Owners	The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and Parks Victoria are preparing strategies to outline how forests will be managed in the next 10- 20 years.	The Government has set up a new, permanent, dedicated Victorian Government agency – Bushfire Recovery Victoria – to work directly with communities to listen, help and deliver. There is also a \$17.5 million Biodiversity project.	The Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy and the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Water Study went out publicly on proposals for what happens when the coal mines close.  The draft Latrobe Valley RRS is expected to be released around June.
<b>OUR ROLE:</b> Sitting at the table with Government to develop the actions.	<b>OUR ROLE:</b> Represented at every level have a voice and contribute to the Strategy	<b>OUR ROLE:</b> Creating a Cultural Landscape Strategy to feed into the Government documents. Working with DELWP on regional forest plans with key themes of: 1. Natural environment 2. Cultural identify and history 3. Experience and recreation 4. Resources livelihood 5. Human life and safety	<b>OUR ROLE:</b> GLaWAC is involved in, leading or encouraging several bushfire recovery projects within Government and with other Traditional Owners.	<b>OUR ROLE:</b> GLaWAC has made submissions to express our views, see the most recent submission on our website. Our chair Troy McDonald is on the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, which reports directly to the Minister for Resources.

We welcome your views on how you think Country should be looked after. If you would like to be a member of one of GLaWAC's subcommittees, or you want to have a say, give us a call on (03) 5152 5100 or email [ea@glawac.com.au](mailto:ea@glawac.com.au).

# Our Country

## How the fires rolled out across Country



*Forestec was as protected as possible from the threat of fire, through the creation of fire breaks, cleaning up fuel, and running the roof sprinklers.*



*Kobi Cook, Grattan Mullett Jnr, Mick Farnham, Noojee fire fighter.*

It started on Thursday November 21, 2019, when lightning strikes sparked 21 fires across Gippsland and the North East, including near Bruthen, Buchan and the Snowy River.

The landscape was tinder dry, suffering from years of below average rainfall leading to high fuel loads, very low moisture levels, and little water in the environment.

There was already a fire out of control in the Mitchell River National Park. Our GLaWAC fire crew – Grattan Mullett Jnr, Shay Terrick, Patrick Mullett, Mick Farnham and Kobi Cook - were part of the first response teams in the Park.

Firies were very worried – so many fires so early in the season, and heavy fuel loads even into our wet forests and gullies because of the drought.

A massive effort managed to put out 19 of the 21 fires.... but then extreme weather was forecast and thousands of people were advised to evacuate.

Then on New Year's Eve there was a massive expansion of the two remaining fires and the focus had to move to saving rather than suppression – to protecting our communities.

Gippsland moved from 2019 to 2020 under siege from fire, burning from Bairnsdale all the way to the east and into New South Wales.

All the Aboriginal organisations were very active in directly supporting and informing community during this period. We have all also heard many stories that we have lobbied hard to get addressed.

Our GLaWAC staff helped out where they could to deliver water, food, even hay, to affected community.

Township protection works occurred in many locations, some impacting on cultural heritage. GLaWAC's RAP team has instigated remediation works and investigations with the fire authorities regarding these matters.

As a precaution, Forestec, GLaWAC's, head office was evacuated, and all precious materials and Art were moved offsite to a safe place.

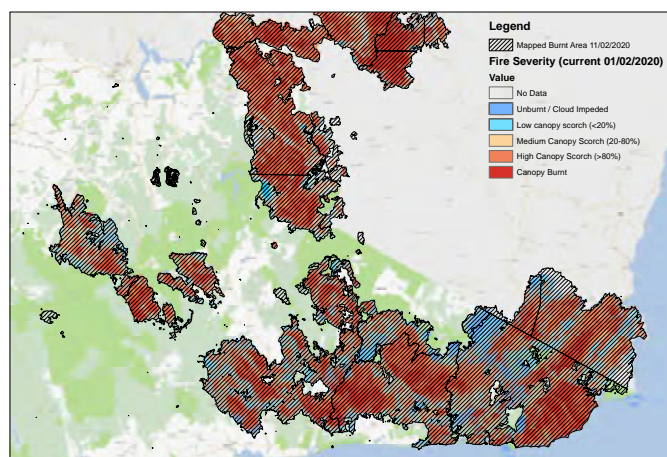
With warnings for Kalimna and Metung, GLaWAC started back in the New Year from GEGAC - a state of emergency was still in place and the Forestec workplace was not safe.

Our big thanks to our staff who made Forestec as safe as possible from fire, creating fire breaks and cleaning up anything that could act as fuel if a fire came.

As of the end of summer February 2020, one fire was still burning in East Gippsland, then finally, on February 28, all fires in East Gippsland were announced by DELWP as being fully contained.

From when the fires sparked, to the end of summer, more than 1.5 million hectares have been burnt across Gippsland and North East Victoria. Most of the areas burnt have been in the bush, but not all. Many of our communities were impacted through loss of housing, evacuating and having to live in heavy smoke and heat conditions, and being isolated through road closures. This put much pressure on many people.

Our thoughts are also with communities in NSW and Queensland, where fires have also been such an ugly feature of summer, hurting families, property and ravaging Traditional lands.



*Fire severity map showing area burnt and how severe the fires were.*



# Our Country

## From fire response to fire recovery

After several anxious months on fire response GLaWAC, communities and Government are now in fire recovery.

To decide what this means for Country, GLaWAC is involved in strategic discussions around bushfire recovery projects with State Government and agencies in East Gippsland. There are several projects GLaWAC is involved in, leading or encouraging.

"GLaWAC is playing a key role in supporting the reference group, pulling together the Traditional Owner biodiversity project and caring for Country, and communicating what needs to occur to look after cultural heritage," GLaWAC CEO Roger Fenwick said.

### FIRE IMPACTS ON COMMUNITY

To help collaborate with and coordinate actions for Aboriginal communities affected by fire, the Aboriginal organisations of Gippsland and North of the Alps have come together in one Traditional Owner-led reference group. This group will provide advice to the newly formed Government authority Bushfire Recovery Victoria.

This group is made up of Aboriginal community controlled organisations only, not Government. This was deliberate to ensure the community voice was represented. This group has worked hard to ensure Government are hearing the required recovery needs and actions from the Aboriginal voice.

GLaWAC's General Manager Culture Grattan Mullett is our voice into the group.

"A Traditional Owner lead group is a very important step in the new Bushfire Recovery Victoria structure," Grattan said.

This group has a big focus on community support. Advice will focus on:

- Culturally informed and holistic healing
- Healing Country
- Caring for Elders and Carers
- Cultural heritage restoration
- Rebuilding Aboriginal community infrastructure
- Resourcing support for the ACCO sector
- Financial relief funding for Aboriginal individuals and families
- Housing stress
- Residential Aboriginal communities.

*Right: Patrick Mullett*

*Far right: Mick Farnham*



### FIRE IMPACTS ON COUNTRY

GLaWAC is supporting a \$1.75 million Traditional Owner biodiversity bushfire recovery State Government project to support the Gunaikurnai and other Traditional Owner groups in fire affected areas. We are also lobbying for further funding for Country healing projects and Cultural Heritage

The project is looking at how fire has affected plants, animals and cultural landscapes, from the eyes of the Traditional Owners of the land.

The project is part of a Victorian Government \$17.5 million initial rescue package for bushfire impacted wildlife and biodiversity.

### FIRE IMPACTS ON CULTURAL HERITAGE

GLaWAC is working hard to get financial support for assessing the impact of fire on cultural heritage.

We are looking for Government support to send our RAP crews into the fire affected areas, to assess the impacts of fire, and to record sites that are more accessible after fire.

"As well as talking to Community on the ground, there must be cultural heritage assessments across the fire impacted areas,"

GLaWAC RAP Manager Russell Mullett said.

"Nothing can replace on the ground assessment and research. We think that this is a positive thing that can come out of the devastating fires.

"It needs to be coordinated, it needs to happen now, and it needs to be funded."



# Our Country



*Our sincere thanks to our GLaWAC fire crew, and all the fires protecting Country and people.*

## On the firefront

Right at the front line of the Gippsland fires were GLaWAC's fire crew, who put in a massive effort alongside DELWP, Parks Victoria crews and CFA volunteers.

Members of the GLaWAC Joint Management rangers and Natural Resource Managers crew, the five GLaWAC staff members put in a massive effort as a part of the effort

to control the fires and protect people, property and Country.

Our firefighting team of Grattan Mullett Jnr, Shay Terrick, Patrick Mullett, Mick Farnham and Kobi Cook put in a total of 2316.5 hours of firefighting duties, exhaustingly long days with little break but enormous appreciation from Community and GLaWAC.

## RAP teams go in first in fire zone

Cultural heritage sites across hundreds of kilometres of fire break have been protected thanks to a groundbreaking opportunity for GLaWAC's RAP crew to move ahead of the bulldozers during the summer fires.

Collaboration between DELWP and GLaWAC saw approval for the RAP team to do on the ground assessments in front of the contractors that were creating a strategic fire break to protect Bairnsdale, Sale and surrounding communities from the threat of fire.

GLaWAC RAP Manager Russell Mullett said by allowing the RAP crew to go in ahead of the contractors, more than 100 cultural heritage sites were protected.

"We had the opportunity to move in front of the machines to flag sites that we found with a focus on big sites," Russell said.

"The identified sites were then flagged off to protect them from the machines."

The decision to allow the on the ground cultural assessment is a first: in bushfires the Emergency Management Act 2013 overrides the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, the Act that provides protection for Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria.

Russell has been advocating for RAP teams to go ahead of fire suppression since the Alpine fires in 2003, and the Rosedale fires saw fire suppression damage 91 out of 95 cultural heritage sites.

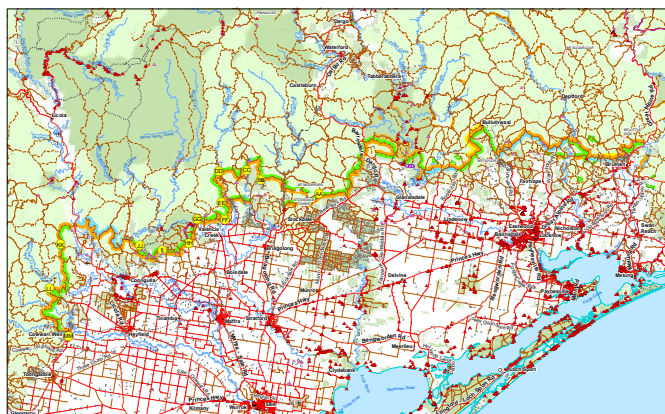
The RAP team members had to do bushfire awareness training and

hazardous tree identification, and were partnered with a DELWP representative that was firefighter trained.

And throughout the entire 250 kilometre fire break, the RAP team never slowed down the contractors.

"We managed to stay ahead of the bulldozers about two to three days at all times, so we definitely did not slow down those teams," Russell said.

"We generally don't have that opportunity, at some stage when we debrief on all the fire activity we will look for support to make this standard practice, whenever it is safe to do so."



*GLaWAC's RAP team surveyed 250 kilometres of fire break for sites of significance.*



# Our Country

## Fire Stories

### SHAY TERRICK

First fire season and one week out of training, I didn't know what to expect. Others had shared their experiences with me, but they didn't prepare me for what was to come. This year's fires were completely different to any other year; the dry conditions, the heat, the wind and being so close to home...

Second day in and I was thrown in the deep end; I was surrounded by fires at Mount Baldhead we almost got choppered out. It was a real eye opener, the pride I felt knowing I was helping my community was overwhelming. It then settled for a few weeks and we were working on fire control, doing what we could to minimise more flare ups and contain the fire.

Monday, 30 December was like any other day, we knew we'd be dealing with a stinking hot day and spot fires. We were stationed at the Italian Club from about 9am. At 2:30pm we received a call to head to Sarsfield. We travelled up a dirt road, houses on both sides, clear visibility of fires heading in our direction. We pulled up alongside a family; the lady was crying, the Parks crew member with me advised we all need to leave to keep safe. Reluctantly,

scared for their home, their livelihood all that they knew, they realised they had no choice but to leave.

The day wore on, we continued with asset management; putting out spot fires, the roar of fire trucks was muffled by the fire moving towards us, flames creeping up the walls of houses. We worked tirelessly trying to save homes.

Around 6pm the fire jumped the highway and headed towards Bruthen. A slight wind change and it headed towards Tambo Upper – it was like the fire was racing to touch as much of the land as it could. We saw fire engulf homes, jumping from one house to another, gas bottles blowing up... Its nothing you can imagine or believe, even after the experience I find myself in disbelief, like it was a dream. "Shit was falling down around us."

I got home around 12am, the longest 17 hours of my life. I felt guilty coming home; privileged to have a home to go to and devastated that I couldn't do more. My partner was waiting for me; she was my rock and my sounding board. It was hard being away from my girls, it was Christmas time, a time to be with your family. I explained to them, 'Daddy needs to work to help our community' I

don't know that they understood what I was doing but it was them and my community that kept me going.

The following week was spent trying to clean up; clear roads, create access for other services to enter. We met a family; parents with two young kids, running low on supplies, couldn't get in or out – this hit hard, it hit home.

Now, after the fires, it's an unusual feeling; I enjoyed the work - giving back to my community but the reality of why I was doing it is surreal. It's awesome hanging out with my girls; to pick them up and cuddle them, not having to wait until I take my fire pants off and get cleaned up. The things you love in life but don't realise just how precious they are.

Did the training prepare me? Yes and no; I was taught to always be aware, always on the look out for hazards. It does prepare you but doesn't prepare you for people dying, the visuals of what you might see, the impacts to your community. The stress and the worry felt by my partner, my children, reading stories, seeing images... The fear and worry was intense.

Would I do it again? In a heartbeat

### GRATTAN MULLETT JNR

Friday, 22 November 2019 I took a phone call telling me I was being deployed on fire duties. Saturday, 23 November 2019 my deployment commenced at Mitchell River National Park where I was based for one week. I was then transferred to the Bruthen sector where I spent two weeks. My last day of the roster was Christmas day, I worked 15.5hrs straight and the thought of getting home, seeing and being with my family was overwhelming.

While working away at fire I found myself with a new family; my brothers and sisters from GLaWAC, DELWP, CFA, volunteers, all those involved in the management of fires - everyone comes together. Personal safety first and foremost and then those working around you and the community you're working tirelessly to protect and save. Everyone has the same objective and drive.

"I saw things no one should ever have to see; a blow up - extreme

conditions - heat, wind, fire all at extreme levels, this is when the shit hits the fan. Houses burnt, livestock, native animals, land, Gunaikurnai bush land, my country; it was heartbreaking and there was nothing I could do."

Calling a mate to say you're going to lose your house, seeing the devils den (what I call fire lava at the top of trees) throw fire balls in different directions knowing the devastation they would cause.

I was working with Harry (DELWP) when we came across an elderly couple, cowering for safety in the centre of a dam on their property. Surrounded by fire; the heat, the roar of the fire - the volume is deafening, less than a metre apart and they still couldn't hear each other. The shock of finding them, hearing their story, the calls to their families sharing the news they were safe, it's something I will never forget.

Days and weeks became a blur, time was measured by the fire and how it travelled on any given day. You think about a lot of stuff; my wife, my kids, watching them sleep because that's all the time you have.

"A planned burn we did last year (GLaWAC & DELWP) between Bruthen and Buchan turn off, I believe this saved Nowa Nowa, Lake Tyers Trust, Lake Tyers Beach and the Colquhoun Forest". "The thoughts just don't stop".

I finished my fire deployment on Thursday, 2 January 2020. I worked 586 hours over six weeks with 12 days off. I'm happy, proud and privileged to have been able to help and support my community but I'm sure happy my time is done; being back at GLaWAC, being home during daylight, seeing my family, playing with my kids... Would I do it again – without a doubt.

# Our Country

## Buchan Caves Reserve Recovery

Just weeks after being ravaged by the Christmas fires across East Gippsland, the Buchan Caves Reserve on Krauatungalung Country emerged from the devastation with a new purpose.

The Park suffered some pretty severe fire damage but GLaWAC staff worked closely with Parks Vic and DELWP to establish a recovery program that will bring it back to what it was – only better.

Included in the plans for the Reserve, which is jointly managed by the State (via Parks Victoria) and the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners, is to create a new Master Plan, starting from scratch and getting an outcome that protects the tangible and intangible cultural heritage and provides for a better and safer visitor experience.

The fires burnt all the way down the sides of the Valley, but the Valley floor and the cultural interpretation centre escaped the flames. The camping tents, two cabins and the old staff room were not so lucky.

The area to some of the cave entrances was burnt out, which in the short term

will mean the resident wallabies and kangaroos will have to fight with the deer for new grass brought on by the rains.

Assessments at the Park have suggested to date the caves are unharmed by the fires.

Following the fires, the State Government announced a \$2 million funding boost to Buchan Caves Reserve, to go to rebuilding the camping ground and developing a master plan to upgrade the site.

The development of a new Master Plan for the Buchan Caves Reserve will be steered by a committee with representation from Government agencies and include support from the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board.

For the Gunaikurnai, the steering committee will make sure the new plan looks to our joint management plan for

guidance. Buchan Munji was a place for the Gunaikurnai to camp enroute to and from the high country, and there are a number of cultural heritage sites recorded there including one very large artefact scatter that was located on the ridge behind Moon Hill which extends along the entire boundary track. The site is considered to be highly significant as it has both dating and research potential. Open sites of this size are not known in the Buchan area. It also has a very great diversity of raw materials, some of which are known to occur in outcrops in the Tara Range.

The 2016 Gunaikurnai and Victorian Government Joint Management Plan has already identified the need for a host of improvements in how the Reserve is managed, including a Cave and Karst Plan, control of invasive plants and animals, and impacts of visitors on cultural heritage and other places in the Reserve.



Our General Manager of Culture Grattan Mullett, and Acting CEO, Daniel Miller, were on hand to welcome the Premier, Daniel Andrews, the Minister for Emergency Services Lisa Neville, and Member for Eastern Victoria Jane Garrett. Also in the pic are Parks Vic District Manager East Gippsland Will McCutcheon, and Taungurung Land and Waters Council General Manager Operations Sherryn Antonopoulos.



Crews moved into Buchan Caves to assess the extent of the fire damage.



# Paddling at Dowd Morass

One of the best ways to see Dowd Morass is from a canoe or kayak.

This summer, the GLaWAC cultural water team and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority went for a paddle on Dowd Morass to check out how it looks away from the banks.

The wetland is a significant place for the Gunaikurnai with many registered cultural sites, and is home to many rare and endangered species, and species of significance to the Gunaikurnai including the Pelican and the Musk Duck.

The Ramsar listed wetland is at the coal face of climate change. Sea level rise, increased salinisation of Lake Wellington and reduced freshwater flows in the Latrobe are all major threats to the current condition of the wetland.



## Protecting our Park - campsite makeover underway

A project to redesign the Angusvale Camping area in the jointly managed Mitchell River National Park aims to look after Guanikurnai cultural values and the Park's natural features, Parks Victoria Regional Project Coordinator Matt Holland said.

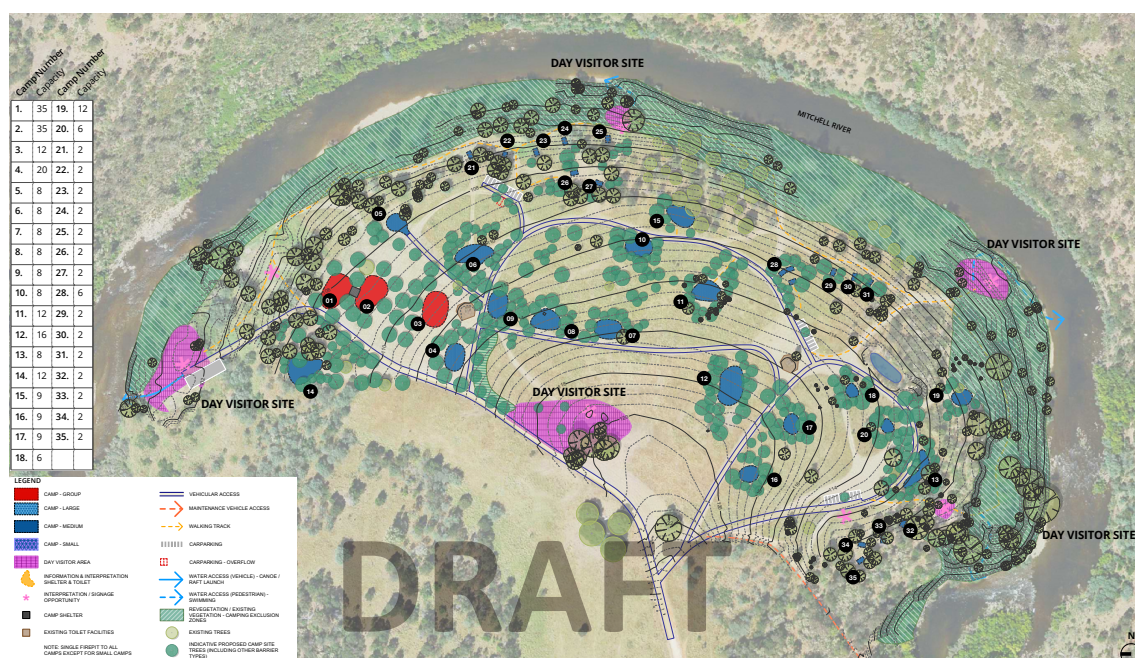
Currently the park allows campers to camp and move wherever they would like, including close to the Mitchell River which is impacting plants with cultural values and uses, and causing erosion.

The project aims to develop a landscape design plan for the site that highlights the cultural significance of the Mitchell River

National Park, makes functional use of the available open space, protects the banks of the heritage Mitchell River, provides designated campsites and provides areas for canoe launching, swimming and day visitors.

Mitchell River National Park is managed by Parks Victoria and the Gunaikurnai under the Joint Management Plan. It features impressive river scenery, serene rainforest gullies, rugged landscapes and some of Victoria's more unusual vegetation communities, and has enormous cultural significance.

The Angusvale Camping area is about 45 minutes drive from Bairnsdale. For more information please contact Matt Holland, Regional Project Coordinator (Gunaikurnai) on (03) 84272503 / 0427 363 015 or at [matt.holland@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:matt.holland@parks.vic.gov.au)



*Angusvale campgorund plan.*



# Our Country

## Fish tagging at Sale Common and the Macalister

GLaWAC's Cultural Water Team headed out to Sale Common and the Macalister River before Christmas for some field work.

Their mission? To catch a glimpse of what's hidden under the water – using electrofishing and two types of nets.

Electrofishing uses special equipment, either from a boat or attached to a backpack, to pass an electrical current through the water. This stuns any nearby fish temporarily so that they can be netted. The fish recover quickly, and they get released back into their environment. It's a handy sampling tool that helps you to catch species that might otherwise be missed if using nets.

Learning about electrofishing on the boat

Netting the Macalister river with John Ingram and Dion from Austral

It was a nice sunny and warm day, and a group of 12 GLaWAC team came out along with scientist and electrofishing enthusiast Dr Dion Levarsi from Austral Research and Adrian Clements from the West Gippsland

Catchment Management Authority for some hands-on training and monitoring.

At Sale Common the GLaWAC guys pulled the waders on and got busy checking and emptying nets.

The group chatted to John Ingram, a local commercial carp fisherman who spends a lot of time on the Latrobe river and wetlands.

He explained about carp and how they are "habitat modifiers" – changing from wetlands from clear water to muddy, turbid water. He also talked about eels and bass.

The crew netted two eels – which were slippery little suckers and tricky to hold on to! – as well as a couple of carp.

Heading over to Bellbird Corner on the Macalister River, the crew did some backpack electrofishing, but didn't catch much other than a Pygmy Perch.

Environmental flows were just about to start in the Macalister, so if the visit had happened a week later, there might have been some grayling to catch. The group also

heard from local and nature-lover Duncan Fraser, who has looked after the river and the creatures in it for many years.

Pygmy Perch caught at Bellbird Corner

Uncle?, John Ingram and Dion Levarsi with an eel caught in Sale Common at the billabong

Despite not catching a lot this time around, everyone learned a lot about the electrofishing technique to survey fish populations

GLaWAC is also working with the West Gippsland CMA on other projects, including a carp exclusion research project at Sale Common.

*"It was a good day - excellent feedback from GLaWAC,"*

Austral Research's Dion Levarsi said.

*"There's good opportunities to work together on monitoring projects together."*

*Learning about electrofishing on the boat with John Ingram and Dion from Austral, on the Macalister river.*





# Our Community

Well done to all the aunties, uncles, nieces and nephews for playing in the Bushfire Charity For Youth Basketball event!

Community supporting community, too deadly!

#deadlygippsland @ Bairnsdale Aquatic & Recreation Centre



Douglas Harrison caught this 85cm Flathead @ Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust (Bung Yarda)  
Pic: Douglas Harrison

## Friends?

Head over to our Facebook page to see what's up

[www.facebook.com/glawac](http://www.facebook.com/glawac)



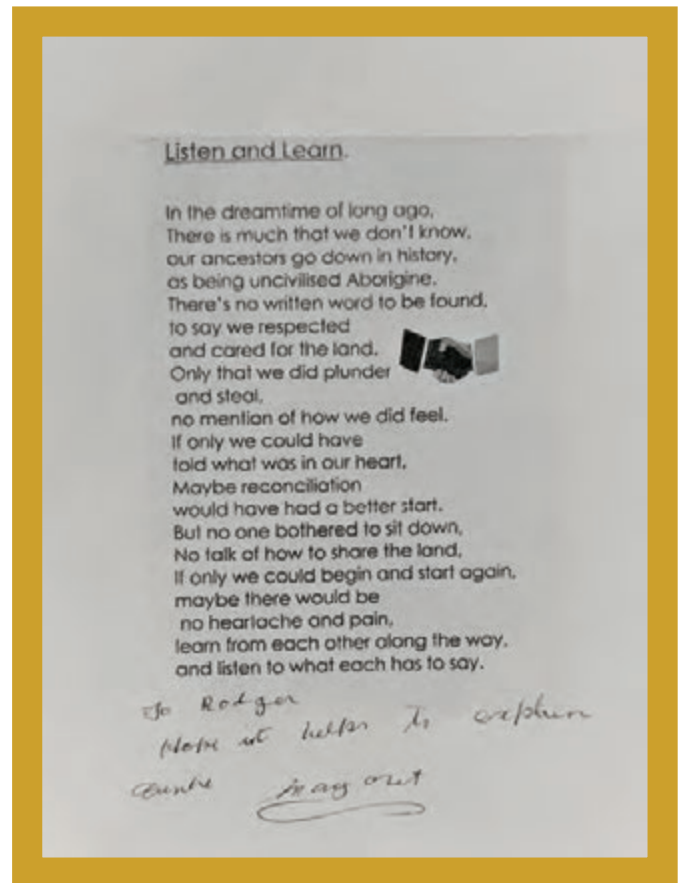


# Our Community



Above: Roger and Auntie Marg reading the poem.

Right: Auntie Marg Donnelley's poem.



Left: Robert Thatcher (Aust. Army, Roger Fenwick, Paula Morrison - Thank you Paula for coordinating this special visit to GLaWAC.

Below: Grattan Mullet sharing culture with Fijian and Aust. Army troops.



Bianca and Kate delivering the essentials.



# Our Culture

## Saving sites at Round Head

Sand bags, sand dredging and ongoing maintenance have been approved to protect sites of cultural significance to the Gunaikurnai at Round Head from coastal erosion.

Sand bagging at Round Head has already started, after it was identified by GLaWAC as being at risk.

The site came up as most at threat after GLaWAC completed a prioritisation process to identify assets of cultural and environmental significance across the Gippsland Lakes region to identify sites where cultural and environmental values are at risk of degradation from coastal processes and climate change.

Cultural values include middens in dune areas, artefact scatters, scarred trees and burial sites. Burial sites are often located in dunes along the lakes shoreline and are vulnerable to wind and coastal erosion.

Active erosion of the shoreline is impacting on the sites and on the ability of Gunaikurnai people to visit the site.

The Round Head site was gifted to GEGAC (Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-Operative) in the early 2000s by the then Indigenous Land Corporation – now known as the ILSC-Indigenous land and Sea corporation.

Several attempts have been made over the past 20 years to try to protect the site but rising sea levels and increasing maintenance requirements lead to its current condition.

The Round Head Shoreline Erosion Management and Site Restoration Plan provides a summary of background information and site context, the coastal hazards impacting on the site and the history of coastal management.

It provided an options assessment of the coastal management measures available and developed a preferred coastal management option for implementation.

The development of the Plan included site visits by GLaWAC, GEGAC and a technical team of coastal engineers from consultancy firm Alluvium to observe and discuss the issues at the study site.

GLAWAC, GEGAC, Gunaikurnai community members and nominated stakeholders were involved in developing options for stabilisation of the identified priority areas and functional design of the preferred option including design drawings, costs, material sources and plans.

One of the conditions of undertaking works on the site was to maximise employment opportunities for the Gunaikurnai community.

"With this as a driver we have had GEGAC maintenance and GLAWAC NRM, JM and RAP teams cleaning up the site and building sand bag walls that will protect the dunes and remains in the short term until a required 17,000 m<sup>2</sup> of sand can be dredged onto the dune and profiled,"

Gippsland lakes Coordinating Committee project coordinator for GLaWAC, Andy Booth said.

"These events will precede revegetation works where 10,000 native plants to the site will be planted, in conjunction with sand trap fencing to protect the site.

"The dynamic nature of sand dunes means they have a tendency to shift and erode due to wind and wave action.

"This has been evident by the destruction of past restoration attempts."

It has been calculated that 8 m<sup>2</sup> of sand was being lost from the site per day - more than 3000m<sup>2</sup> per year.

"The amount of sand moving each day sends a strong and clear message that we need to maintain this site on a regular basis or history will repeat itself and we will be back in this position in the near future," Andy said

"This project is funded by the Victorian State Government for the Gippsland Lakes."



Rob Hudson GEGAC (left) and Max Solomon GLAWAC filling sandbags for the wall that will give the dunes instant short term protection until the sand is dredged.



Ivan Hood from GEGAC (left) and Max Solomon from GLAWAC placing sandbags to form the sand bag barrier.

# Our Culture

## Sharing culture

GLaWAC team members Cathy Thomas and Paula Martin gave a talk recently to Federation University students on Country and Culture.

Paula said the talk, which was held at the Forestec Auditorium, outlined their work, and what it meant to work on Country.

"Cath and I shared the RAP video with the students so they had an insight into what it means to us to do Cultural works on Country,"

Paula said.

"We discussed various topics including dating of Cultural heritage, bushfire recovery and what impact it has on our sites.

"We also had discussions around water and the importance of our waterways to us as Aboriginal people.

"We talked about how both fresh and saltwater have and continue to sustain us as a food source, and the significance of water as the supporter of all life on our plant."

Paula said there were lots of questions with the students, and they were really keen to know more.

After the talk, Federation University Australia Senior Lecturer Dr Jess Reeves sent through a message from a student on how she responded to the talk:

"When they were talking, my whole mind and body was immersed in what they were saying, and I felt as if I was connected to their story. It would be a privilege for anyone who is able to work alongside, or as part of GLaWAC and share knowledge and time unveiling more of their, and our history, together and apart."

Federation Uni student, March 2020

The genuine response and interest from the students was sincere and heartfelt and demonstrated Paula and Cath's passion for the roles they have at GLaWAC.

## Cert IV Cultural Heritage Management

My name is Cath Thomas I am the Cultural Education Engagement Officer/ and casual RAP staff here at GLaWAC, I have been in this role now for almost 8 months and really enjoying this role.

I had to get approval by my Manager Uncle Grattan to apply to do a three day workshop in mid August last year 2019, I had to complete the 3 day workshop to be accepted in the Cert IV Cultural Heritage Management course with Latrobe University in Bundoora for the following year 2020, in which I completed

with 3 other GLaWAC staff members, the workshop was held in beautiful San Remo.

After completing the workshop, I then had to take a literacy and numeracy interview over the phone to be in the next group of people to be accepted into the course which will only take around 25 of us in the course for 2020.

I then received a letter via email that my application and interview was successful, I was very excited to have the opportunity

to enrol to see where this training will take me into the future with work in and around Cultural heritage.

I have completed the first week of Uni at Latrobe in Bundoora, we're we had intro's and orientation of the university and worked through our first units and assessments.

I had the opportunity to meet other passionate Aboriginal people from around Victoria, that have the same interests in as me and this will give me the opportunity to learn more about cultural heritage.

I also have the support from my amazing little family my Husband Simon and my son William are very excited for me to take up this amazing journey (as Will calls it Mummy is going back to School), I would like to also acknowledge My lovely parents and family in NSW who are very proud of me as to my amazing Mother in law Terrilea thank you all for giving me the courage and for supporting me in this amazing new journey.





# Our Culture

## Tell us your version of Gunaikurnai Dreaming Stories

**GLaWAC is looking for your family Elder or representative member who can tell their version of the five selected Dreaming Stories of the Gunaikurnai culture.**

**We are also looking for young family members to learn skills to record their Elder/s.**

*GLaWAC is leading a research project, capturing the Gunaikurnai cultural stories and knowledge.*

*In consultation with the Gunaikurnai Elders and community members, this project will support the development of cultural knowledge for future Gunaikurnai generations and interpretive signage and other resources for the Gunaikurnai and broader community in Gippsland.*

### *Stories*

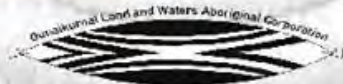
<b>Tidaluk</b>	<i>The Frog drank the water, and released it</i>
<b>Boorun n Tuk</b>	<i>Father and Mother totems</i>
<b>Legend Rock</b>	<i>Located at Metung</i>
<b>Den of Nargun</b>	<i>On the Mitchell River</i>
<b>Buchan Caves</b>	<i>Tell what you know about these caves</i>

Please contact the GLaWAC Cultural Project Officer

Wayne Thorpe – (9.00 am – 4.00 pm)

Phone: **(03) 5152 5100**

Email: [wthorpe@glawac.com.au](mailto:wthorpe@glawac.com.au)



# Treaty update

There has been lots of activity occurring on the First Peoples' Assembly. I was nominated by my peers as one of the nine people of the First Peoples' Assembly Executive Board, and as a result have been very busy working with others to ensure that key aspects of our structures are established so that we can work toward agreed outcomes that support the establishment of the Authority and a number of important associated tasks.

The principle body of work to date which is the role of the Assembly to progress - is to introduce four structures that the Assembly is required to design and negotiate, these are:

1. Dispute Resolution process
2. Treaty Authority
3. Treaty Negotiation Framework
4. Self Determination Fund

Work is also underway to activate an Elders Voice within the newly established planning processes.

The Assembly Board held a Strategic Planning Session to identify initial priorities and to develop a work plan for the next three years (to 2022). The outcomes of the strategic planning day contributed to a three year work plan, a more detailed work program for 2020 and work streams for each of the four Assembly committees mentioned above.

Under the Treaty Act the Assembly and the State must work together to establish a Self Determination Fund, as such I have undertaken the role of Chairperson for this sub-committee which will formally meet in April 2020. The purpose of this committee is to support the activation of the fund by developing approaches that recommend options as to:

- Who should hold the fund?
- How should the fund be resourced?
- What should the fund be spent on?

The purpose of the fund will provide two functions

- Ensuring the we have equal standing in treaty negotiations
- Building capacity, wealth and prosperity

I presented the scope of work required to progress the self-determination fund on 28 February 2020, an extract of this conversation can be found at: [www.firstpeoplesvic.org/news/assembly-communique-march-2020/](http://www.firstpeoplesvic.org/news/assembly-communique-march-2020/)

## TRANSITION UPDATE

The First Peoples' Assembly is currently in a transitional phase and has engaged Pricewaterhouse Coopers Indigenous Consulting (PIC) to deliver Transition Management Services. The transition services are being delivered by Jodie Sizer and Jason Mifsud from PIC. The transitional management services will remain in place until 22 April 2020. The recruitment of an Assembly CEO has been given a high priority and has commenced; we are hopeful that this position will be ratified by 22 April 2020.

For full access to activities associated with your treaty representation and the work being undertaken please go to: [www.firstpeoplesvic.org/news/assembly-communique-march-2020/](http://www.firstpeoplesvic.org/news/assembly-communique-march-2020/)

**TROY MCDONALD –**

**GLaWAC, Chairperson and First Peoples Assembly Director**

## Settlement Agreements and Government Review

The Victorian Government has established a review of the Victorian Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 to investigate possible compensation for the loss of cultural and spiritual rights, and Traditional Owner rights over Crown Land and natural resources.

The review will report to Attorney-General Jill Hennessy, who says a review of the state's Traditional Owner Settlement Act could open the way for decisions such as the Timber Creek case, where the High Court awarded \$2.5 million last year to a group of traditional owners in the Northern Territory in part for the loss of spiritual connection their land.

The two parts of the Review are the First Principles Review Committee, made up of Traditional Owners and their representatives from around the State, and a second body made up of senior Government department officials.

GLaWAC CEO Roger Fenwick is a representative on the First Principles Review Committee.

"The Review has wide terms of reference and can examine almost any element of the Settlement Act, including making recommendations to amend policies and legislation," Roger said.

As well as looking to increase rights, opportunities and compensation, the review is looking at how to remove bureaucratic obstacles that prevent Traditional Owners from realising the full benefit of Traditional Owner Settlement Agreements.

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of when the Gunaikurnai were granted the first agreement under the Settlement Act, in October 2010. As you would be aware our Elders and Board along with our CEO and Executive team are reviewing our current agreement and we hope to be entering into renegotiation later this from our learnings of the original settlement in the State.

The Settlement Act was developed in response to the limitations of the Native Title Act for heavily settled areas of the country, including large parts of Victoria, and was designed to deliver land justice for traditional owners in Victoria through out-of-court agreement making.

All understand that we need to continually improve the outcomes from these settlements and GLaWAC is working hard to maximise our next version for community.

Attorney-General Jill Hennessy said: "We are the only state to have worked with Traditional Owners on a comprehensive alternative to the Native Title Act - and this review will continue that strong collaboration."

"This review will make sure Victorian law is up to date - to ensure we continue to lead the country on self-determination and as a demonstration of our commitment to the Treaty process."



# Our Economy

## Sharing ideas on youth employment

Giving pathways to young Aboriginal people in Gippsland was a message GLaWAC's Manager of NRM Nigel Pearce gave to the 2020 National Indigenous Youth Empowerment Summit in Cairns in February.

Nigel and GEGAC's Casey Ritchie travelled to Cairns for the four day summit, which focused on youth justice, social and emotional wellbeing and child protection.

The summit brings together industry leaders, front line workers and innovators to build strategies to empower Aboriginal young people and improve services and outcomes for Aboriginal children and their families.

Nigel and Casey had to together present a 45 minute talk about what GLaWAC and GEGAC do for youth and employment.

"I spoke about the Earn while you Learn program, where we take eight young people for eight weeks, giving them four days' work and one day of paid training in land management," Nigel said.

"We've been doing it for two years, it gives them a taste of what we do, and they get a head start on the Certificate III Land Management course, basically they are half way through by the time they finish the eight weeks."

Nigel said the National Indigenous Youth Empowerment Summit was the first time he'd done public speaking outside of GLaWAC events.

"When we first walked in there was one big room, with 40 odd tables, it was a really big group!" Nigel said.

"It was my first time public speaking ever - it was good, getting experience with that sort of thing, and telling people what we do."

Nigel said the four days' spent networking gave lots of good ideas, and at the end of the summit there was time for a quick trip out onto the Great Barrier Reef for some snorkelling!



## When in the high country....

A meet and greet with the new CEO of Mount Hotham Alpine Resort, Amber Gardner, was also an opportunity to follow the path of the Bogong Moth for GLaWAC's General Manager of Culture Grattan Mullett and General Manager of Operations Marc Higgins.

Marc and Grattan had a bit of a look for the moths which were an annual delicacy.

More than 4.4 billion Bogong Moths migrate thousands of kilometres each year to rest over the summer months in the Alps, but their numbers have been right down in recent years.

For the February 2020 investigation, Marc said, "the only moths to be found were those in my wallet!"

For GLaWAC, the southern slopes of the alpine ranges, including Mt Hotham, are of huge interest for the

future, with objectives to protect the cultural values across the area, and provide employment and economic opportunities for the Gunaikurnai.



GLaWAC's Marc Higgins and Grattan Mullett on top of Mt Hotham.

## Working toward more jobs in the Valley

GLaWAC has been working with the Latrobe City Council to build new career opportunities for Gunaikurnai and Aboriginal people in Gippsland.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with the Latrobe City Council, which will support GLaWAC People Strategy to improve work opportunities in land management, cultural heritage work, cultural heritage training, education, business support services and business development.

Working with Joanne Brunt from Business Development in the Latrobe City Council, the MOU will support the GLaWAC lead employment initiatives supported by the Gippsland Environmental Agencies agreement, which GLaWAC is a member of.

# Our Organization

## We've got you covered

GLaWAC has successfully received a \$638,000 grant to build an all weather outdoor space and exhibition centre at the Forestec building.

The Wangin amphitheatre will be a cultural hub for the Gunaikurnai people and broader Aboriginal community in Gippsland.

GLaWAC General Manager of Culture, Grattan Mullett, said the centre would provide a place for people to gather.

"Community need to have a culturally appropriate place where we can gather, heal, yarn, celebrate, practice, teach and share cultural knowledge and stories," Grattan said.

"These practices support and strengthen the cultural identity and spirituality of the Gunaikurnai Community and need to be delivered outdoors for example, dance, fire and smoke."

Wangin is Gunaikurnai for boomerang, the proposed shape of the outdoor space.

The grant is part of the Victorian Government Aboriginal Community Infrastructure \$3 million program.

This is the third year of the program which invests in Aboriginal organisations to create culturally safe spaces, and to strengthen services.

The GLaWAC outdoor space and exhibition centre will be developed with GLaWAC members and friends.

Watch out on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/glawac](http://www.facebook.com/glawac)) which will announce when yarns will be held about the design and purpose of the space.

Congratulations too to Moogji Aboriginal Council which received a \$830,464 grant to refurbish its facilities under the same program.

## Healing vibes

More than 20 GLaWAC and other Aboriginal organisation employees did their First Aid Certificate II and CPR updates in February, taking over the Forestec offices with bandages, slings and resuscitation dummies.

GLaWAC opened the training up to the Bairnsdale Regional Health Service, Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust and the Yoowinna Wurnalung Aboriginal Healing Service in Lakes, as well as GLaWAC employees.

First Aid training is mandatory for GLaWAC On Country employees, and this time 'round, it was extended to the café staff, too.

A total of 12 people did their full First Aid Certificates, and nine did the CPR update, which has to be done yearly to be current.

The day after there was Occupational Health and Safety training specifically designed for people working in forestry, which another 11 people attended. The OHS training was delivered by Aboriginal-owned ECB Training Services, which is based out of Melbourne and the Northern Territory.

Training over summer also included a Grant Writing Workshop.



*GLaWAC's Malcolm Morgan being a demo model*



### PAULA HARRISON JOINS GLAWAC

Welcome to Paula Harrison who has joined GLaWAC as an administration assistant, helping out General Manager of Culture Grattan Mullett and the Cultural Hub.

Paula joined GLaWAC in January 2020, originally as a front of house member of the Bush Café.

But when she helped out for a few weeks as front of house for GLaWAC – at the reception – new skills in administration were unearthed, and she moved into Grattan's team.

"I was going for a job in the kitchen, and got that job, then got asked to fill in at reception," Paula said.

"I'm now doing all the cultural administration work, including organising Welcome to Country's, Smoking Ceremonies, finding presenters and doing bookings for GLaWAC for cultural presentations meetings, and training."

Paula is a Gunaikurnai woman, who has returned to work following having three children.

As well as helping out at the Cultural Hub, Paula likes painting, and she's pretty good at it – recently she sold two boomerangs she painted to America!



# Calendar of Events

EVENT	LOCATION – FURTHER INFO	DATE
Full Group Meeting	Currently investigating how we can conduct business and seek feedback using other methods ie social media while COVID-19 response and public gathering restrictions in place	19 April 2020
GLaWAC Board Meeting		21 April 2020
GLaWAC Elders Council		21-23 April 2020
Art Show		1 – 31 May 2020
National Reconciliation Week		26 May – 3 June 2020
GLaWAC Board meeting		16 June 2020
NAIDOC Week		5 – 12 July 2020
GLaWAC Board meeting		18 August 2020
GLaWAC Elders Council		18-20 August 2020
GLaWAC Board meeting	TBC	20 October 2020
10 Yr Anniversary Gunaikurnai Native Title Agreement	TBC	22 October 2020
GLaWAC Elder Council	TBC	25-26 November 2020
GLaWAC AGM	TBC	27 November 2020



## 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

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Corporation. We do not guarantee the accuracy or accept any responsibility for the statements or comments made by the contributors in articles submitted. GLaWAC reserves the right to amend, alter or delete any items, statements or articles that it feels is not in the best interest of the Corporation or its members.

## Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation

Forestec, 27 Scriveners Road  
Kalimna West, Victoria, 3909  
Phone: 03 5152 5100  
Fax: 03 5152 1666  
reception@glawac.com.au  
www.gunaikurnai.org



This newsletter has been printed sustainably, using recycled paper, non-toxic inks and 100% solar power.



*Protecting cultural heritage*



# GLaWAC News