

HIGHLIGHTS OF ISSUE 36

- NAIDOC Week celebrations
- Nakunbalook opens in Sale
- Healing Country with Gunaikurnai Rangers
- Wulgunggo Ngalu all set to grow



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Joint Update from the GLaWAC Board Chair and CEO

Dear Members and Friends,

I'm pleased to report we have filled recent Executive vacancies and our new team is settling in well. We are working together to build capability and capacity as leaders to ensure we have solid foundations to support emerging, future leaders within the organisation and community.

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The RSA re-negotiations continue. The State have briefed the Attorney-General on the content of a proposed 'early outcomes' package for the Gunaikurnai and await on her decision on taking this package to ERC for approval – see further details on page 5.

Our teams continue to deliver great work and as a result there is growth and opportunity within the organisation.

GLaWAC's Eco Dev team are commencing an EOI process regarding engagement and planning for the Nanjet property. This project will go over several years and we will be asking for your feedback – what would you like to see at Nanjet. If you are interested in providing input into this major piece of work please let us know.

GLaWAC are involved in the planning for the 2026 Commonwealth Games. We trust you saw Auntie Lena Morris and Alfie Hudson on TV as they represented

Gunaikurnai at the closing ceremony in Birmingham. We were extremely honoured and proud to have them represent us, and we congratulate them for their wonderful efforts to represent themselves, their families and the Gunaikurnai people at the closing ceremony – thank you!

Alice Pepper also represented GLaWAC on a trip to Canada, where she participated in a conference to develop a Sport Declaration for Truth and Reconciliation and Partnership with Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration). The proposed declaration commenced in 2016 CGF General Assembly, where Chief Ava Hill of Canada delivered a keynote speech on Indigenous protocols and sports in a Commonwealth context. Subsequently at the 2018 games held on the Gold Coast, a ground-breaking Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was implemented. This was the first of it's kind at a global multi-sports event. If endorsed by the General Assembly in 2023, the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games will be the first in which the Declaration comes in to play.

TROY MCDONALD and DANIEL MILLER



GKTOLMB Update

The GKTOLM Board continue to work closely with GLaWAC, Government and community as we work towards the vision of *Gunaikurnai people leading the care of their Country every day*. Below are some ways in which we do this.

INCREASE COUNTRY UNDER JOINT MANAGEMENT

The Board has supported a government process looking at what to do with land that used to be commercial forest. The Board made a submission supporting the return of land to Gunaikurnai care and we are hopeful an announcement will be made soon.

FUND PROJECTS

The Board has also continued to fund the cultural interpretations projects that are happening on Country, with over half a million dollars committed to projects like cultural mapping, cultural interpretation and works on Joint Management Parks.

BUILD NETWORKS

Some Board members went to the annual Native Title Conference, held on Gabi Gabi Country in Queensland. This was a week-long conference where Board members heard from different mobs experience with Joint Management, Native Title, Sea Country Rangers and many other things that relate to what GLaWAC is working on. The most

exciting part was that Lisa Giblin from the Board joined Daniel Miller to do a presentation to the conference. They yarned about Gunaikurnai Interpretation within the Joint Managed parks in Gunaikurnai Country, the process and more importantly the way it has improved Country and health. After the presentation there was lots of interest from other Mob on things they could learn for JM in their own Country.

Board members also attended the official signing of the Gippsland Environmental Agencies Partnership Agreement. This is an important agreement where government agencies say how they will work with GLaWAC when they are working on Country.

Finally, the Board and staff have done a lot of work with GLaWAC and partners around the Buchan Munji reserve. This has ensured that fire recovery funding includes cultural interpretation and restoration projects that are led by GLaWAC rangers and crew. Some Board members also attended a workshop to provide guidance on how the cultural interpretations work should be done and what it should look like. Community will see some real changes in the park as these projects roll out.

The TOLMB currently has a vacancy for a Gunaikurnai person. We meet between 6 and 8 times a year which includes trips on Country. The Board monitors and provides advice on the implementation of the Joint Management Plan as well finding ways to increase Country under the care of Gunaikurnai. If anyone is interested in joining the TOLMB please contact Daniel Miller.

GLENYS WATTS, Chair of Gunaikurnai TOLMB



Our Community

RSA Re-negotiation Update

Your Gunaikurnai RSA Team have met with the State on nine occasions and are currently working towards 'Early Outcomes' (see below table) as one part of the revised Gunaikurnai Settlement package.

These meetings will pause when the Government goes into caretaker mode on 1 November 2022 for the state election, with the remaining content to be negotiated in 2023.

EARLY OUTCOME	WHAT	VALUE
Freehold Title (no conditions)	Kalimna West, Kurnai Park, Traralgon site	\$7.33m
Aboriginal Title – 4 parks	Alpine National Park (within RSA), Nooramunga Marine, Coastal Park, Baw Baw National Park, Avon Wilderness Areas	Nil value
New Joint Mgmt Areas Funding (for 2018 JM Plan)	approx. 302,678 hectares	\$4.2m (first 4 years), then \$1.2m (per year) \$100k (per year for GKTOLMB)
Funding – New JM Plan	Develop new joint management plans	\$1.2m (first 4 years), then \$100k (ongoing)
Funding - GKTOLMB	To support project delivery	\$700k (first 4 years), then \$200k (ongoing)
Funding – 8 new positions	Joint management land and sea rangers	\$4.15m (first 4 years), then \$1.2m (ongoing)
Funding – 1 new position	Parks Vic position coordinate and implement JM activities	\$136,386 (ongoing)
Funding - capital	GLaWAC Traralgon site	\$17.2m (approx.)
Funding - refurbishment	GLaWAC Kalimna West office and Kurnai Park	To be costed
Commitment to negotiate revised settlement package	Content of the revised Settlement Package remains to be negotiated by agreement and will continue in 2023	

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

If you would like to be a member of one of GLaWAC's subcommittees or reference groups, please visit the Elders & Members section of gunaikurnai.org or contact Kyla Di Fiore by emailing admin@glawac.com.au or phoning (03) 5152 5100.

NATIVE TITLE CULTURAL HERITAGE (NTCHSC)

Support the Board in a timely manner with recommendations and/or resolutions for Native Title and Cultural Heritage matters.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (EDSC)

Support the Board and management in the development and planning of economic opportunities.

AUDIT RISK & FINANCE (ARFSC)

Support the Board and management in the development, planning and implementation of financial and risk audits, policies and procedures.

OUR COUNTRY (OCSC)

Advise the board for on Country/ environmental policy development. (Note the GKTOLM Board deals with Joint Management matters.)

FIRE REFERENCE GROUP & WATER REFERENCE GROUP

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

There's plenty of ways to get involved at GLaWAC and plenty of events coming up. Note these dates in your diary and keep an eye on our Facebook page and the events page of gunaikurnai.org for all of the latest details.

*While we always prefer to yarn together in person, we may need to hold some events online pending COVID restrictions.

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
OCTOBER		
Elders Council	6 & 7 October	GLaWAC, Kalimna West
Full Group Meeting	Saturday, 8 October	GLaWAC, Kalimna West
NOVEMBER		
Elders Council	23 & 24 November	GLaWAC, Kalimna West
GLaWAC AGM	To Be Confirmed	GLaWAC, Kalimna West

Our Community

Wayapa Wuurk Scholarship Opportunity



Jamie Thomas is a proud Gunaikurnai man and the Co-Creator of Wayapa Wuurk, an earth connection wellness practice based on Indigenous wisdom that focuses on taking care of Country as the starting point for true wellbeing.

Wayapa Wuurk combines earth mindfulness, storytelling, a physical movement practice and taking action to look after Country making it a great tool for earth mind body spirit healing and wellbeing.

Over 250 people around Australia have been trained to become certified Wayapa Wuurk Practitioners to help share the Wayapa Way in the Aboriginal Community, child care centres, schools, the prison system, corporations, government departments, community organisations, the health care system and with NDIS clients.

Jamie is very excited to be able to offer a deadly opportunity to the mob living in East Gippsland to be trained to become certified Wayapa Wuurk Practitioners through funding provided by Bushfire Recovery Victoria.

This project, called "Wayapa Wuurk: Healing, Recovery & Renewal through Earth Connection" aims to create a deeper connection to Country, cultural strengthening and purpose to reconnect others - activating emotional, physical and economic recovery through the sharing of Wayapa in the East Gippsland Aboriginal and wider Community.

The project will also include additional Wayapa Education Master Class training for the 30 x new Wayapa Practitioners to heal children, creating intergenerational wellbeing for families and Community.

The Wayapa Wuurk practitioner training is profound in its simplicity, completely decolonised learning with small groups over 7 days from 10am to 5pm, all experiential, no workbooks, knowledge is passed on in traditional ways including deep listening, storytelling and conversations. The training will be delivered online via Zoom.

Wayapa Wuurk Practitioners receiving ongoing support & mentoring including access to a Practitioner Hub full of resources and a private Facebook group.

If you're interested in receiving one of the 30 x Wayapa Wuurk Practitioner Scholarships, please email wayapawuurk@gmail.com to express your interest in receiving more information about this exciting opportunity.

Wayapa Wuurk will host an information session at GLaWAC in the next few weeks so please watch out for details about this on the GLaWAC Facebook page.

More information about Wayapa Wuurk can also be found at www.wayapa.com.



Our Community

Sharing Knowledge

On a beautiful still Sunday morning, 23 of us gathered together at the Yinnar Community Garden to be welcomed onto Country by Aunty Doris Paton, long time respected linguist, teacher and mentor who told us the story of how the Gunaikurnai people were created when their ancestor Boorun the Pelican, came to Gippsland carrying a bark canoe on his head with Tuk the Musk duck inside. Aunty Doris explained the traditional role of fire in cleansing body, mind and spirit and we were invited to draw the puffing white smoke from the Eucalyptus and Cherry Balart leaves to us, and to lift our feet to circulate the smoke.

Inside Aunty Doris discussed how the Gunaikurnai people didn't have a name for every plant (as Latin nomenclature tends to do) as things were named according to their uses: this plant is good food; this plant is good medicine for... She showed us plants that were often ground into pastes for eating or poultices, plants that were dug for their tubers, and women's tools: grinding stones, shaped timber bowls, called Tarnooks, her beautifully decorated digging stick and intricately woven string bags (that didn't take long to make!).

Pauline Dent demonstrated how to start weaving using fresh *Lomandra longifolia* leaves (the spiny headed mat rush). These useful baskets dry into a golden hue. Other grasses were gathered for different colours. Tim Paton talked about some of the men's tools: boomerangs and parrying weapons handcrafted from blackwood and other local timbers. He spoke of his grandfather Uncle Albert and how they had crafted a

canoe by taking the bark and heating it to a high temperature to shape it. This canoe is now held in the Museum of Victoria and a short film called 'Boorun's Canoe' tells the story.

Outside in the warming sun, in the newly emerging Bush Garden on Gunaikurnai land, we enjoyed a morning tea of Johnny cakes and Bushells & Lemon myrtle tea cooked by Tim. When I asked Tim the secret to the very soft dough with a crunchy outside, he said it was the salt. Then for lunch, thanks again to Tim we had a taster of kangaroo and duck marinated in saltbush or mountain pepper and very tender – the secret here, the 2-day marination. Both traditional foods were served with more Billy Bush Tea this time with a sprig of native mint bush added – simply delicious!

CATHERYN THOMPSON,
President of the Yinnar Community Garden



Our Community

NAIDOC Celebrations

With events right across Country, you mob really took on this year's theme to Get Up, Stand Up and Show Up! Huge thank you to the ACCHO's, artists and organisations who lent support to make it a fantastic week. Here's a look at just some of the celebrations.





Our Community

NAIDOC Celebrations



Our Community




Our Culture

Cultural Hub Update

The Cultural Hub team have been kept busy over the past months through a range of activities and projects that align with our Whole of Country Plan and Annual Engagement plan.

Staff have been undertaking tasks across all levels of GLaWAC and the community with the planning and delivery of our NAIDOC Family Day held at the Knob Reserve and supporting a number of community engagements and associated events.

Work is progressing on the development of service provision and booking processes within the Aboriginal Art Gallery at Forestec. These new guidelines and processes will support our efforts to provide an avenue for local artists to exhibit and sell their works through GLaWAC.

Similarly, we're currently developing policies and procedures to ensure our collections research and donated historical information are appropriately dealt with. We thank the State Library of Victoria, the Public Records Office and the Bunjilaka Cultural Centre at Melbourne Museum for their ongoing advice and collaboration.

The Nation Building program continues to work towards developing specific community-based information workshops and field trips to places of importance to community. We are looking forward to offering community more opportunities to learn, explore and discover.

The Cultural Competency training program has been successfully delivered to all partner agencies, key stakeholder and community groups. We are fully booked through the remainder of 2022 and remind all in community interested in delivering cultural services to join our growing database.

GRATTAN MULLETT,
General Manager Culture

Nation building from the ground up

In August, Angela Solomon, GLaWAC's Nation Building Support Officer, led a community visit to the Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) to copy an historic map from the Stratford Historical Society, and to experience the behind-the-scenes workings of PROV.

It was fantastic opportunity to experience a behind the scenes look at the way PROV works with staff from the Koorie Records Unit showing us how to copy, handle and store delicate and damaged maps without further harm.

As far as we know, this is the only existing version of this 1869 map which includes many Aboriginal place names for

the Gippsland Lakes area. This is important for Gunaikurnai people because it adds to the knowledge of these traditional place names.

GLaWAC will be displaying a copy of the map at Forestec so that people can come in and look at it. The feedback from participants was all positive; people loved everything about the day and really enjoyed seeing how the map was copied and what the archives consist of.

Keep an ear out on gunaikurnai.org and our Facebook page so that you don't miss the next opportunity to get involved in nation building activities.



Our Culture

Introducing Nakunbalook Environmental & Cultural Centre

GLaWAC and the Wellington Shire Council are thrilled to announce the naming of the new environmental and cultural centre in Sale – Nakunbalook Environmental and Cultural Education Centre.

Opened in August, the Centre is a joint project between GLaWAC and Council, supported by the John Leslie Foundation, providing a new space for events and learning programs with a focus on the natural environment, sustainability, and culture.

GLaWAC General Manager of Culture Grattan Mullett said it's important to provide a place of cultural awareness for the community.

"Nakunbalook" is a Gunaikurnai name meaning Grandfather Gumtree which represents "Knowledge & place" as the site contains many families of red gums and has high cultural and biodiversity values."

GLaWAC is excited to work partnership with Wellington Shire Council to provide a place of learning and understanding of how our people used and interacted in our natural environment and waterways.

Wellington Shire Council Manager Natural Environment and Parks Tim Rowe said Council's partnership with GLaWAC was an exciting part of the overall project.

"I'm also looking forward to having GLaWAC as an ongoing partner in the centre's operation. Developing a strong relationship and partnership with the Gunaikurnai is vital to achieving our common environmental, cultural, social, and economic objectives. We never stop learning or improving our awareness."

The building will play host to events and learning programs with a focus on sustainability and culture, such as Wellington Shire Council's Sustainable Living Education Program, community group meetings, workshops, citizen science pop-up labs and Aboriginal cultural experiences.

Bug Blitz, TAFE Gippsland, Federation University and Parks Victoria will run regular programs from the facility. Community Groups such as SEED Community Garden and Friends of the Sale Botanic Gardens will also use the facility regularly. In the future Nakunbalook will also host events such as NAIDOC Week celebrations, Parks Week activities and art classes from Gippsland Art Gallery staff.

GLaWAC would like to thank Dr Doris Paton for her support in the naming of the Centre, and Jenny Mullett for providing the deadly artwork for the centre's new logo.



Cultural Service Expression of Interest

The Cultural Hub team at GLaWAC are looking for Gunaikurnai community members to join our register to provide Cultural Services across Country.

This is an opportunity to practice culture, including Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremonies.

We highly encourage you to make it your own, but we are here to support you to develop the skills and knowledge to deliver the services as you please.

This is a paid service and fuel reimbursements are provided if you need to travel in excess of 50km.

To register your interest or find out more, scan the QR code or call the Cultural Hub on 5152 5100.



Our Country

Working on the water's edge

In June, the NRM crews spent a couple of days learning about the importance of saltmarshes down at Corner inlet in South Gippsland and further east in the Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park.

Saltmarshes are communities of plants that grow on the foreshores of coastal lakes and estuaries. These plants are adapted to salty conditions which most other vegetation cannot tolerate.

The saltmarshes on Gunaikurnai Country provide habitat for a range of species and support migratory shorebirds, including the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot and Fairy Tern.

Walking and talking with partners from the West Gippsland CMA and Trust for Nature, the crews learnt about the important role that saltmarshes play in the environment, how to identify local plants, and why it's important for these areas to be protected.

It's not often that the NRM crews get a chance to all come together for a project and Valley Team Leader, Annie Carter was thankful for the opportunity. "We loved coming together with all the different groups and walking through some of the saltmarsh sites."

"It was interesting learning about the areas, and we were all happy to jump in and have conversations about as much as we could. We're very grateful to be put on with this project and it definitely gave us a lot more to think about in terms of how we are caring for Country into the future."



JM Update

The Joint Management Rangers have been very busy over the last few months working with a lot different organisations to help tidy up our parks and work together on projects and new ideas for each.

It was frustrating to see the Knob Reserve damaged ahead of NAIDOC Week but our Rangers worked hard alongside the NRM crew to get it up to scratch in time for our Family Day.

We are working with the Moogji NRM crew tidying up camping grounds and recording and mapping the invasive weeds

within Corringale Foreshore Reserve. This will be an ongoing relationship between both Gunaikurnai Rangers and the Moogji team giving them the opportunity to work together on Country and share knowledge.

ROBBIE FARNHAM, JM Manager

Our Country

Eel trapping with ARI

Back in 2021, GLaWAC began working with the Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI) to study the migrations of Long-finned Eels and bring together cultural knowledge and scientific findings. The project is about strengthening the partnership between the two organisations, and providing valuable training opportunities for both ARI staff (in traditional practices) and GLaWAC (in current survey and surgery methods).

Eels are an important part of Victoria's biodiversity, and have an amazing lifecycle, spending decades in freshwater habitats like rivers and wetlands, feeding and growing before migrating downstream into oceans to spawn. During these migrations, adult eels may travel several thousand kilometres to warm tropical waters.

The relationship between Traditional Owners and eels can be traced back thousands of years but globally, freshwater eels have declined dramatically over the last 50 years because of threats like habitat loss and barriers to migration.

The ARI team has been in Gippsland (including Corner Inlet and Lakes Entrance) in the last few months searching for adult eels. Along with Gunaikurnai Rangers Harley Finn, Shay Terrick, Mary Harrison and Jordan from GLaWAC, they were able to collect and tag 18 Long-finned Eels and 16 Short-finned Eels using acoustic transmitters in the Franklin River and Deep Creek, and Agnes River.

An array of listening stations was also set up in the rivers to track the eels' movement, to find out when and where they move, and during what environmental conditions. A quick look at the data so far shows that some eels have already left the rivers and entered the ocean to start their breeding migrations. Over the next few months, the team will head out again to collect data from the listening stations and start bringing the results together.

Bringing together cultural knowledge of eels and new scientific findings can help improve the management of our waterways to benefit eels whilst they are in Victoria.

The information collected will help increase our understanding of the life history of eels, especially their migrations to spawn and the importance of environmental factors such as river flows. Filling gaps in knowledge helps us understand the ecological needs of eels and their significant threats. This in turn, helps to inform the management of Country, water and climate change.



Our Country

Long-nosed potoroos excite at Red Bluff Reserve

In August, Gunaikurnai Rangers were back out on Country with DELWP's biodiversity team, embarking on another potoroo mission! This time the target was Long-nosed potoroo, the smaller cousin of the Long-footed potoroo.

In recent years, Long-nosed potoroo numbers have dwindled in strongholds such as Cape Conran. This was not the case at Red Bluff Reserve, next to Lake Tyers Beach. Over the 10-day trapping period, 48 potoroos were captured, and tissue samples collected. Other species caught included long-nosed bandicoot, bush rat and common ringtail possum.

Genetic testing will show how this population is faring beyond initial health assessments, giving a greater insight into how best to manage the long-term persistence of this endangered species into the future.



Farewell Nigel

A few months ago, GLaWAC said goodbye to NRM Manager, Nigel Pearce who had worked with us for nearly 10 years. While it was sad for us all to say goodbye to one of our longest and committed team members, we are grateful for all that Nigel has given the organisation over the years.

From all at GLaWAC, we truly wish Nige all the best on his newest life adventure.



Cultural Mapping with Monash Uni

Earlier this year, GLaWAC began cultural mapping surveys at Tarra-Bulga and Mitchell River National Parks in conjunction with Monash University's Indigenous Studies Centre.

The survey team, led by Jeremy Ash with assistance from Gunaikurnai Rangers, has spent time revisiting excavation works at the Wangangarra 1 rock shelter, in the Mitchell River NP, and more recently have focussed on regular surveys of marked walking tracks, as well as several disused tracks, in both parks, looking for cultural places.

No clear signs of cultural places or activities of the Old People have been found at Tarra-Bulga so far. What this means is unclear at this stage. The Park is thickly vegetated and there is very poor visibility on the walking paths, so there is a good chance we are not seeing the evidence simply because it is hidden below the undergrowth and leaf litter.

The team have come across some subtle clues about possible past activities of the Old People, such as the remains of an old fire on the higher ground amongst the Mountain Ash forest, though more work needs to be done to understand what these might mean.

More immediate success has been had in the Mitchell River NP where the team have recorded 12 sites; 11 rock shelters and a scarred tree. Two of the rock shelters have stones that have been stacked up or wedged in low-hanging parts of the shelters. These were clearly made by someone in the past.

The other recorded rock shelters occur mainly along the Mitchell River valley, close to Wangangarra 1. There are no signs of camping by the Old People on the ground at these sites (such as stone tools, campfires, shellfish, etc.), but given their proximity to and similarity with Wangangarra 1, it is very likely that these places were also used by the Old People.

Surveys will continue over summer, with plans to reach some of the more difficult to access parts of the Tarra Valley where there are some steep cliffs to see if there are rock shelters, stone arrangements, and rock art.

Our Country

Water

Part of the Water Officers role at GLaWAC is taking Community on Country to complete AWA's – Aboriginal Water Assessments. This involves looking at the river, taking eDNA and water quality samples, observing what birds and animals are around, what the riverbank looks like, what plants are around, what impacts farming or industry is having on the river, and finally, a yarn about the river – how do we want it to look, what do we want to be there, what do we want to see changed, what is good and what is bad, what stories do we have or have been told?

These stories and assessments will then be used to create records of the rivers on Gunaikurnai land so we can tell stakeholders and partners what we want our rivers to look like. It's about creating a cultural record of our waterways across all the seasons so that we can develop cultural water plan.

We are always eager to hear from community members who would like to go out on Country with our water team. If you are keen, get in contact with Uncle Lloyd, Nicky or Tim on 5152 5100.



UNCLE LLOYD HOOD leads the water team, taking Community on Country on the Latrobe, Thomson, and Macalister Rivers'. He was part of the Native Title claim and has been involved with GLaWAC since it was established in 2007.

"The importance of taking Community out on the river is to learn the stories that they may have. It doesn't necessarily mean the rivers we visit, but the rivers where they grew up. The rivers and water are the very core of our existence, so it is important that we continue to look after them and pass down the stories that were passed down to us - that must continue. If stories are passed down, it gives us a better understanding of who we are".

NICKY MOFFATT joined the water team in 2021, having previously worked in the RAP team. He undertakes AWA's on the Avon, Mitchell, Nicolson, Tambo and Snowy Rivers'.



Best part of being a Water Officer:

"Getting out on Country with Community members, hearing the cultural stories and knowledge that they share, and getting that voice from Community members for our waterway management."

TIM PATON joined the RAP team in 2014, becoming part of the water team in 2019. His role stretches across all Gunaikurnai land, taking Community out with Uncle Lloyd in the west and Nicky in the east.



"My experience with waterways has been on-going from an early age much like the rest of the community and reflecting that community input into policy and management of cultural waterways is priority for the team."

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. Country heals us and connects us to our ancestors, our culture and our history. We are sustained by our Country – through the water, food, medicines and materials that it provides us. As they have in the past, the resources of our Country will be the basis for our success in the modern economy.

Gunaikurnai Whole Of Country Plan

Our Country

Seedlings for success

The NRM crews have been busy protecting our waterways right across Country.

On the banks of the Tambo River, north of Bruthen, the crew helped students from Swifts Creek Primary plant seedlings to improve platypus habitat.

Kobi and Liam were able to show the kids how to properly plant trees, while the Arthur Rylah Institute conducted water bug surveys to support work the East Gippsland CMA has done by placing woody structures in the river to provide food and shelter for the local platypus population.

Working on private property along the Rainbow Creek in Cowwarr, the NRM crew prepped and planted a mix of over 40 species of local seedlings including Grey, Southern Blue, Swamp, Strzelecki, River Red and Yellow Box gums, together with a mix of shrubs and ground covers.

The planting follows works undertaken by partners at the West Gippsland CMA to remove introduced willow trees and fence livestock out of the waterway.

Once the revegetation is established it will help to stabilise the riverbanks, attracts native birds and critters, provides shade (which helps control the temperature of the water) and ultimately helps to improve water quality and the overall health of the river.





Our Organisation

Meet the GM's

KATHERINE MULLETT, ON COUNTRY GM

Katherine is a proud Gunaikurnai, Ngarigo Monero woman, Katherine comes to us from Parks Victoria where she has developed a strong background in Cultural Heritage Management and Land Management. She worked as the Parks Victoria Aboriginal Heritage Coordinator East Region for the past 6 years, she has had roles as a Ranger at both Buchan and Bairnsdale and has an active Fireline role. She was previously a member of the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board (6 years) and Subcommittee Member to the Gunaikurnai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporations, Audit and Risk Committee.

Katherine is excited to work for GLaWAC and support the future of our Country.



TANYA TAYLOR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GM

With a career spanning business administration, finance and commercial operations, Tanya is excited to be joining GLaWAC as the General Manager of Economic Development.

Tanya comes to us from Parks Victoria; most recently as the Eastern Commercial Operations Manager, providing strategic direction and management of the commercial areas within eastern Victoria including Buchan Caves Reserve and Cape Conran Coastal Park.

Growing up in Cann River, Tanya values her strong ties to Gippsland having also lived and worked in the Latrobe Valley, Orbost and Bairnsdale throughout her life.

Tanya has worked closely with GLaWAC as Joint Managers of Buchan Caves Reserve and values her connection with the Gunaikurnai community and the opportunity to support mob to be economically independent.

Building strong relationships, caring for family, our natural and cultural values, and providing a healthy place for future generations are key values that Tanya aims to demonstrate with genuine purpose and integrity.



Our Economy

Bush Foods Nursery Update

The GLaWAC/Wulgunggo Ngalu Learning Place (WNLP) Bush Foods Nursery is all set to grow a great variety of traditional bush foods for the Bush Café this Spring.

Bush foods on the list include: Mountain Pepper, Grey Saltbush, Roundleaf Mint Bush, River Mint, Murnong and Chocolate Lily.

Essential on-ground works for a total upgrade to the existing nursery site at WNLP are complete after multiple delays caused by extended COVID-19 lockdowns, particularly in the horticultural supply chain across Victoria. This included major delays with contractors unable to travel or access the project site for over 6 months.

During the last 12 months, crews from GLaWAC and WNLP have worked together to upgrade the nursery to commercial industry standard. On-ground works involved a complete rebuild of the structure of two tunnel houses, reskinning the growing igloos, new sliding doors and weedmat flooring. Four large outdoor garden beds have also been built for growing a variety of local plants.

With electrical works, the installation of a new irrigation system connected to a 20,000 litre water tank, new nursery benches, soil bay and an upgraded potting area all we need now is time for the plants to grow.



"It's fantastic working in the bush foods nursery. Many of the Wulgunggo Ngalu participants have helped rebuild the nursery including the internal watering system, weed mat and green house coverings. We've also managed to restore an old picnic table which will be ideal for the new garden area and certainly make it a more enjoyable place to have some tucker.

It's all about Brothers and staff working together to achieve self determination and provide valuable food for our people and the wider community."

Hayden Kelleher

Our Economy

Wangun Amphitheatre

You mob probably remember us talking up the Wangun Amphitheatre project in previous newsletters, and hopefully some of you got to see the plans up at the Family Day in July. We're pleased to report that the project is progressing well and we reckon ground works will commence before the end of November.

With the main building design complete, and the planning permit approved (a major milestone!), we are working to design a lighting and audio-visual set-up to host a variety of productions into the future. All going to plan without any major interruptions, the work should be complete mid next year - 2023.



Oyster Trial

There's plenty of interest in the Oyster trial site since it was first announced and we're pleased to let you know it's progressing well. Posts and signage were installed in the Lakes in August with the assistance of Gippsland Ports, and the cages installed in October with a little help from Minister for Fisheries, Sonya Kilkeny MP and our partners at the Victorian Fisheries Authority.





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.

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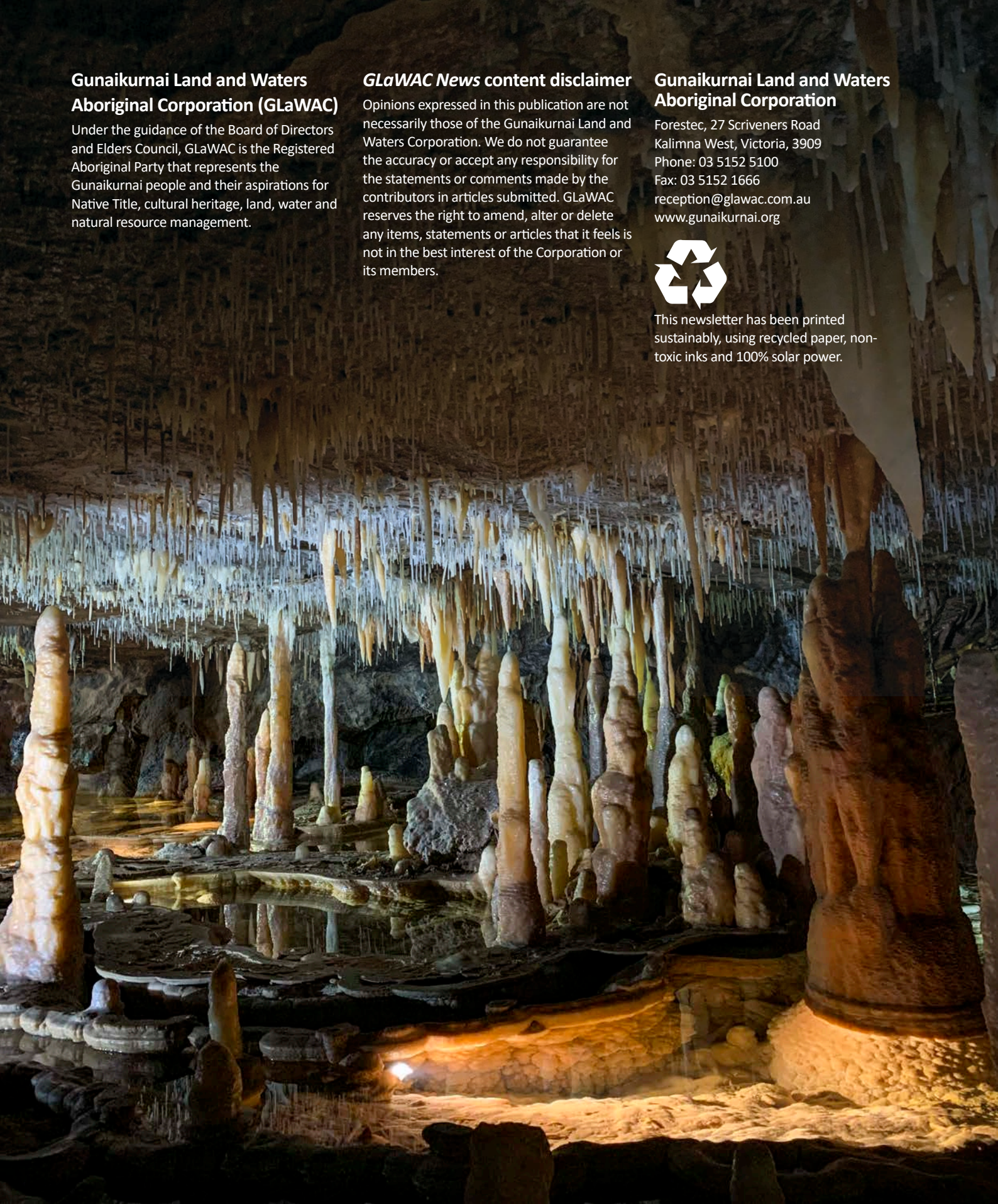
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