



Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board

Annual Report 2021/22



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About this report

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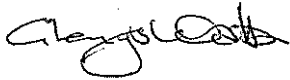
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Responsible Body Declaration

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* (Vic) and the DELWP Portfolio Financial Management Compliance Framework I am pleased to present the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board's Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2022.



Glenys Watts
Chairperson
Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board
8 December 2022



One



Year in Review

Vision, Role and Values

Vision

Our vision is for the Gunaikurnai people to be leading the care of their Country every day.

Role

Our role is to work together to advance pathways that return Country to Gunaikurnai leadership.

The Gunaikurnai people's interests are represented by the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC). The Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board (TOLMB) supports GLaWAC in partnering with government to transform land back into Country. They do this, together, on behalf of the Gunaikurnai people.

Values

We:

- Encourage and value leadership by example, creativity and new ideas.
- Serve the good of all Gunaikurnai.
- Are persistent in supporting the journey for Gunaikurnai towards self-determination and social justice.
- Listen to understand all views before judgement and decision making.
- Demonstrate courage and integrity in all we do.
- Encourage and value teamwork.
- Are empowered to respectfully challenge and speak with candour and be committed to resolving conflict.
- Value strong and enduring partnerships.
- Recognise that engaging and consultative processes are integral to the way we work.

Goals and Objectives from the Board's 2021-26 Strategic Plan



Chairperson's Report

I would like to take this opportunity to pay my respect and acknowledge our Gunaikurnai ancestor's families past and present as We celebrate the law and lore of our land and waters which gives us all responsibility to nurture wurruk (Country).

Traditional Owners, the Gunaikurnai Community, are represented by the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) who have led the way in the promotion and elevation of self-determination. This provides an important opportunity for Government and the Traditional Owners to undertake collaborative learning, planning and delivery activities to help manage Wurruk.

I am pleased to provide this annual report for the year ended 30 June 2022 to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Action, the Hon Lily D 'Ambrosio MP.

Like our partner organisations, the Board's operations during 2021-22 were adjusted to the reality of interruptions caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19). Most Board and committee meetings, and Board development sessions continued to be conducted online. In the second half of the financial year the Board was able to increase face to face meetings and visits on Country. Despite the difficulties, the Board met its operational and governance goals and took several leadership opportunities.

I am very pleased that this year's report includes the Board's new strategic vision, purpose and goals. The Board finalised these in early 2022 following completion of the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan which will guide the implementation of Joint Management for the next five years. The Board has taken a strategic role in implementing the Gunaikurnai and Victorian Government Joint Managed Plan which has seen our role being more of an instigator and driver of best practice and cultural innovation.

In preparing the Strategic Plan the Board consulted extensively with its partners to explore their aspirations for Joint Management (JM) and what contribution from the Board will make the biggest impact. The resulting plan places a very strong emphasis on Wurruk being under

Gunaikurnai management. The term Wurruk has a far greater meaning for us as Gunaikurnai people than simply a reference to land. Country encompasses land, water, sea, sky and all life and geologic forms therein, which are intimately linked. Our strategic intent is that Wurruk will be cared for by Gunaikurnai in a self-determined way.

The role of the Board is to provide strategic direction in Joint Management as well as monitor, evaluate and report on the progress being made under the Joint Management Plan (JMP). The Board has done several things in the reporting year to build the capacity of the Gunaikurnai Community and of individuals to participate in Joint Management. I am most particularly proud of the design of our new Strategic Plan. The Board engaged a Gunaikurnai artist and employed a young Gunaikurnai person educated in language to incorporate both art and language into the strategic story of reconnecting Wurruk. This is important not only symbolically but is also a demonstration of how as Traditional Owners we can reclaim our heritage and culture.

As part of our commitment to sharing knowledge, Board member Lisa Giblin gave a presentation with GLaWAC CEO Daniel Miller to the AIATSIS annual conference, held this year on Gabi Gabi Country. The presentation showcased the successes and learnings of Joint Management in Gunaikurnai Country and was very well received by attendees from all over the nation. As part of capacity building, the Board also invited a young

person to attend meetings as an observer to learn about governance and operations of a Board. We expect this will ensure ongoing interest and capability for future board members.

In other examples where the board has taken a leadership role, we hosted a day on Country on the Mitchell River where knowledge holders and water managers yarned about the cultural significance of the river for Gunaikurnai people and what opportunities exist for recognition of this in the current management of the river. The Board also supported and guided Gunaikurnai input into the work of the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement for the Future Use of Immediate Protection Areas (IPA). Likewise, the Board supported and guided the successful grant bid for a Sea Country IPA program. These are all examples of the Board strategy in action, and of the principles of Joint Management guiding a holistic Country approach.

The Board facilitated a Joint Management annual review which included representatives from GLaWAC, Parks Victoria and Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning, at both operational and management levels. We were especially delighted that the Secretary of DELWP attended for a part of the workshop and participated in the discussion about the successes and challenges of Joint Management. The workshop celebrated the successes of Joint Management over the past couple of years, noting that there has been significant increase in cultural markers at many of the JM Parks, including the “5 poles projects” and that the number and capacity of Gunaikurnai Rangers continues to grow. We identified challenges over the next few years, including growing visitor numbers and the continuing path to self-determination. A priority for the Gunaikurnai community is having Joint Management Rangers working across important

landscapes and waterways to protect the cultural, social, and ecological components associated with wurruk, and a critical component of the JM Rangers role is to help improve the interpretation and information available to visitors.

Along with its partners, the Board again supported the collation and progress reporting of the Joint Management Annual Works Program (AWP), which draws together all the projects planned for delivery by partner organisations that contribute to implementation of the Joint Management Plan. The Board funded initiatives described in this Annual Report were included in the AWP, reflecting the Board’s contribution to achieving the objectives of the Joint Management Plan.

We will continue to find ways to support and work closer with GLaWAC in both operational and policy matters with self-determination as the ultimate goal. This includes being a strong partner in implementing the outcomes of the current Gunaikurnai Recognition and Settlement Agreement re-negotiations, creating economic development opportunities for Traditional Owners, and working with DELWP on policy that supports and enhances Joint Management.

My appreciation goes to all Board members, the independent chair of our Audit and Risk Committee Thelma Hutchinson, our Executive Officer Craig Parker, and Project Officer Rob Willersdorf. Their excellent work ensures the continued success of Joint Management and the realisation of the Board’s vision that Gunaikurnai will be leading the care of their Country every day.

Glenys Watts

Chairperson

Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board

Manner of establishment and responsible Minister

The Board is a public entity established on 2 August 2012 under of the *Conservation Forests and Lands Act* 1987 (Vic). August 2012.

The responsible Minister for the period from 1 July 2021 to 27 June 2022 was the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

The responsible Minister for the period from 27 June 2022 to 30 June 2022 was the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Action.

Nature and range of services provided

The Board was established to prepare a Joint Management Plan (JMP) for the ten parks and reserves granted under the *Recognition and Settlement Agreement* (RSA) between the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) and the Victorian Government dated 22 October 2010.

The JMP was approved by the Minister in September 2018. Since then, the Board has worked with partners to the JMP on implementation of the plan, and to establish systems for the compliance, monitoring and evaluation of the plan.

The plan acknowledges that the Traditional Owners of Country have for generations been alienated from their Country including management decisions about the appropriate management of Country. The Board provides strategic direction for the joint management of the Appointed Land to enable the knowledge and culture of the Gunaikurnai people to be recognised in the management of Country and to foster employment and economic development opportunities for Gunaikurnai.

The plan will lead to better outcomes for Gunaikurnai people through protection of Culture and healing of Country. In turn this provides enhanced visitor experiences for all people.

The Appointed Land

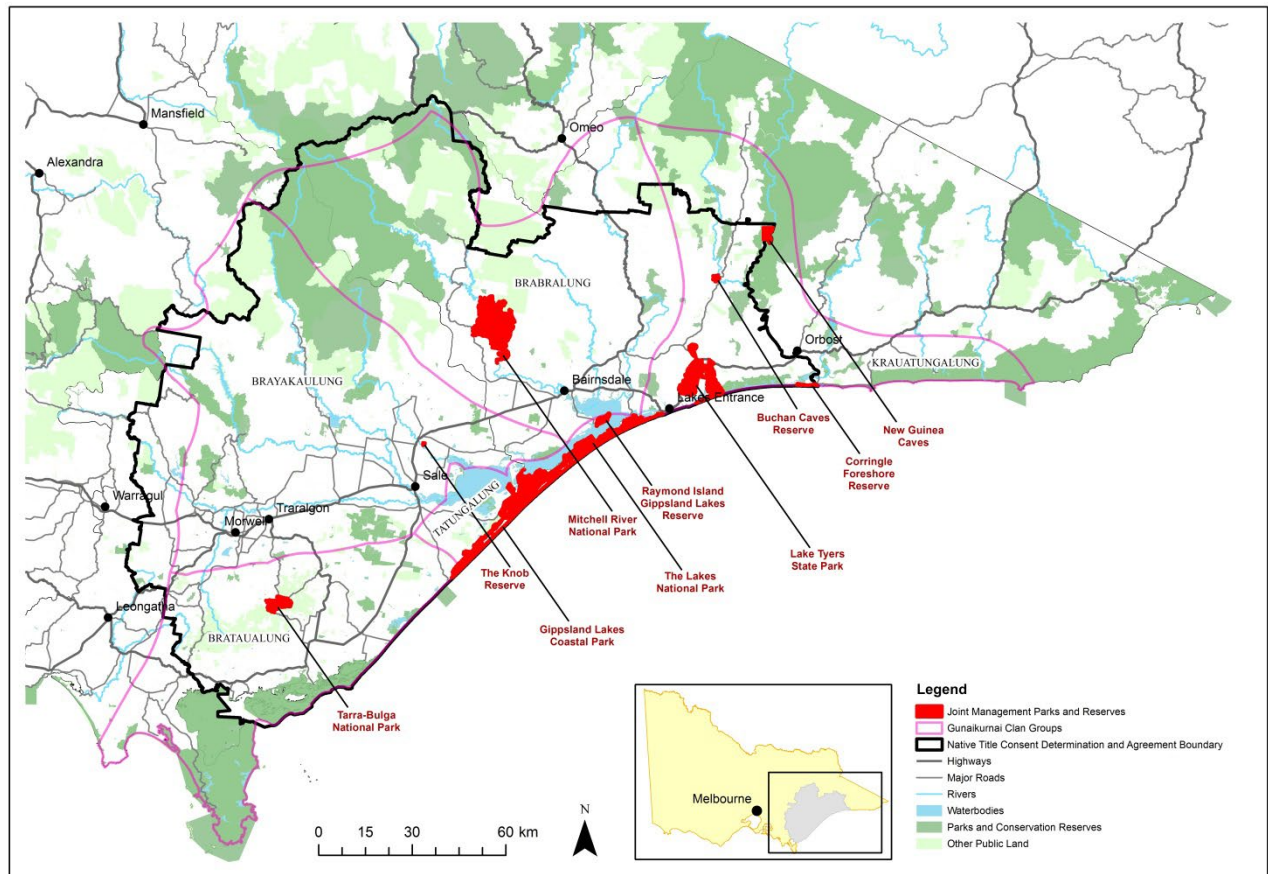
The Appointed Land of the Board comprises ten parks and reserves that are in the JMP, with a combined area of over 45,000 ha.

Under the terms of the Gunaikurnai RSA, Aboriginal Title is to be granted over all ten areas of the Appointed Land. As of 30 June 2022, nine of the ten Appointed Land Park / Reserve areas have been granted as Aboriginal Title. The remaining park (Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park) is due for transfer following resolution of technical issues within the park.

Despite many challenges, the Gunaikurnai People have maintained a strong connection to their Country across generations and have continued to practise their lore and culture, providing a unique and irreplaceable contribution to the identity and wellbeing of the Gippsland region and of the State.

Recognition of the strong Gunaikurnai connection to Country underpins Joint Management and its intention in seeking an equitable partnership between the Gunaikurnai People and the Victorian Government in the management of the Appointed Land on Gunaikurnai Country. The traditional way to

manage wurruk is to know that all living things, and all parts of the environment are one, which cannot be separated if Country is to be healthy and sustainable.



Park / reserve name	Size (ha)	Delegated land manager (as of June 2022)	Act under which the park / reserve is managed
Buchan Caves Reserve	295	Parks Victoria	<i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i>
Corringale Foreshore Reserve	163	Parks Victoria	<i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i>
Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park	17,690	Parks Victoria	<i>National Parks Act 1975</i>
Gippsland Lakes Reserve at Raymond Island	216	Parks Victoria	<i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i>
Lake Tyers State Park	8,687	Parks Victoria	<i>National Parks Act 1975</i>
The Lakes National Park	2,390	Parks Victoria	<i>National Parks Act 1975</i>
Mitchell River National Park	14,394	Parks Victoria	<i>National Parks Act 1975</i>
New Guinea Caves within the Snowy River National Park	1,153	Parks Victoria	<i>National Parks Act 1975</i>
Tarra Bulga National Park	2,023	Parks Victoria	<i>National Parks Act 1975</i>
The Knob Reserve	59	<i>Committee of Management (GLaWAC, DELWP, the Board)</i>	<i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i>

Information about the appointed land

Buchan Munji

Buchan Munji, the Buchan Caves area, was used by the Gunaikurnai as a place to camp and meet during seasonal migrations to and from the high country. Although the Gunaikurnai people did not venture far beyond the cave entrances (caves were places thought to be inhabited by wicked creatures such as the Nargun and the Nylons) the caves are of high spiritual significance, which has been maintained through traditional stories. Archaeological evidence of Gunaikurnai use of the area remains in and around cave entrances, along the Spring Creek valley and in artefact scatters throughout the reserve. Four quarry sites and three artefact scatter sites have been recorded. Evidence in the broader Buchan region indicates the important role of caves to Gunaikurnai going back thousands of years, including burials inside caves and ceremonial rings.

Gunaikurnai oral history holds that Frank Moon's party, which made the first documented exploration of the caves, was guided by local Gunaikurnai people, who were not acknowledged.

Today the caves remain important to Gunaikurnai as a meeting place with spiritual significance that holds important stories to be shared with young people.

Corringle Foreshore Reserve

Corringle Foreshore reserve is significant to Gunaikurnai people as a place for fishing and camping and a plentiful source of food. It was a place of connection, joining the ocean to the rivers, connecting along the coastline to Lake Tyers.

It was an important on-country meeting place for Gunaikurnai families. It was a place Aboriginal people came to when they were displaced from

the Lake Tyers mission, and a place where people who lived away from country would come to reconnect to their traditional land, as it was considered a safe place.

Today many Gunaikurnai continue to use the reserve for the same reasons, enjoying camping, fishing, and gathering of natural resources.

The Gunaikurnai cultural values of the reserve have not been systematically surveyed and mapped, but key values are known to include large middens.

Members of the Gunaikurnai community currently conduct educational programs for local school groups in the reserve.

Lake Tyers State Park

Lake Tyers State Park is on the country of the Krauatungalung clan. The landforms, features and sites of spiritual significance, and features in the Lake Tyers landscape represent stories fundamental to Gunaikurnai culture.

According to the Gunaikurnai creation story for the area, Nark Abundhu, the Sea, was tired from playing with fish, rushing over rocks, and rolling backwards and forwards on the sand. She searched the coast until she found a quiet place with tall, shady gum trees and soft earth. Here she wriggled about and made herself comfortable before going to sleep. Lake Tyers, known as Bung Yarnda or 'Big Water,' represents the resting place of Nark Abundhu.

The land and water of the park and its surrounds remain important to Gunaikurnai for fishing, collecting mussels, catching eels, hunting animals, collecting swan eggs, and gathering of various plants for food and medicine. The foreshore and forest are rich with materials for basket weaving,

grinding stones, ochre for ceremony, and bark for canoes.

The Europeans renamed Lake Tyers after Charles Tyers, the Commissioner of Crown Land for Gippsland in the 1840s. The Lake Tyers Mission was first set up in 1861 as a reserve for the accommodation of Aboriginal people who had been forcibly removed from their families and homelands.

It was part of the colonial government's policy of the 'protection of Aborigines' and became home to Indigenous people from all over Victoria. Unlike many other Aboriginal reserves, Lake Tyers Mission provided some freedom and independence for its Indigenous residents. The Aborigines Protection Board took over the management of Lake Tyers in 1908, and from the 1930s began to force people off the reserve. This process continued in the 1950s under the government's assimilation policy.

The Bung Yarnda people fought to retain management of the land and control was handed over to the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust in 1971 under the newly established Aboriginal Lands Act. This was one of the first successful Aboriginal land rights claims in Australia's history. Today the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Reserve is the private property of the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust.

Lake Tyers State Park and the Lake Tyers Trust lands form one of the most significant cultural and historic places in Victoria for Aboriginal people. The Mission site was chosen in part because it was known as a traditional Gunaikurnai gathering place, and it remains one of only two mission locations where Aboriginal people continue to live in the present. An information shelter on the western edge of the park, adjacent to the Princes Highway, is one of the waypoints on the Bataluk Cultural Trail, a regional cultural touring route through Gippsland that extends from South Gippsland to Cape Conran.

Mitchell River National Park

The area in and around the Mitchell River Gorge was a major stopping-off point for Gunaikurnai travelling between the high country and the lowlands. The rocky terrain, steep drop-offs and lookout points provided excellent vantage points for safety and defence. It was, at one time, proposed as the site of a mission but it was found to be too cold in winter, so Lake Tyers was chosen instead.

Caves and shelters used by Gunaikurnai, and a known burial, occur within the park. The Den of Nargun on Woolshed Creek, a small tributary of the Mitchell River, is of great cultural significance and is known as a women's place. According to Gunaikurnai lore the Nargun is a large female creature who lives in a cave behind the waterfall. Stories were told around campfires about how the Nargun would abduct children who wandered off on their own. The Nargun could not be harmed with boomerangs or spears. These stories served the dual purpose of keeping children close to the campsite and ensuring that people stayed away from the sacred cave. It is a place of women's initiation and learning ceremonies, and traditionally Gunaikurnai men are not allowed to enter the area of the Den of Nargun and the Woolshed Creek valley.

The Den of Nargun is part of the Bataluk Cultural Trail, which follows significant traditional routes used by the Gunaikurnai for over 30 000 years. Deadcock Den, also on Woolshed Creek, is also culturally important as a place frequented only by Gunaikurnai women.

New Guinea Caves

Six caves have been identified on the New Guinea Ridge. Three of these caves are substantial, and New Guinea Cave 2 has extensive evidence of cultural heritage and artefacts.

Archaeological investigations of Cave 2 between 1980 and 1985 by several Victorian

archaeological institutions identified and recorded several stone artefacts and cultural material, as well as rock art in the cave (Ossa et al. 1995). These investigations established a date of occupation extending back almost 21 000 years to the Pleistocene epoch. Significantly, the investigation found bone artefacts including skeletal remains of Tasmanian Tigers, Tasmanian Devils, quolls, and other species.

Large pits dug during the 1980s excavations in New Guinea Cave 2 created major impacts in the cave and were not re-instated. Some cultural material was removed for archaeological analysis of the assemblage.

Steel barriers and gates installed at the entry points to Cave 2 have been only partially successful in securing the caves from unauthorised entry and have a negative impact on the sense of place and cultural integrity of the site.

The cultural importance of the New Guinea Caves area for the Gunaikurnai is not limited to the physical cave structures and artefacts; it also resides in the significance of the surrounding land as a place of resort and shelter during travels and movements along the Snowy River Valley.

Gippsland Lakes Reserve at Raymond Island

Gunaikurnai have lived and camped on Gragin (meaning 'quartz') for thousands of years. The island is part of Tatungalung Country and is also known as Bunjil Baul or 'Mister Island,' referring to its use as a men's initiation place.

The island is in a strategic position in the lagoon system and provided an important line of sight to many other important places on the water. The waters of the island remain important to Gunaikurnai for fishing, collecting mussels, catching eels, hunting animals, collecting swan eggs, and gathering various plants for food and medicine. Raymond Island offers an important

opportunity within the joint managed parks to interpret Gunaikurnai cultural interactions with the marine and coastal landscape.

The foreshore and forests are rich with materials for activities such as weaving baskets and making canoes, and the island contains several archaeological sites.

Protecting burial sites is particularly important to the Gunaikurnai. These sites, and the human remains they contain, are vulnerable to exposure by wind and coastal erosion and damage by works and visitor activities in the reserve. They need to be inventoried and mapped. Where necessary, rapid rehabilitation of burial sites is needed when they are exposed.

Tarra Bulga National Park

Tarra Bulga National Park is a central part of the Gunaikurnai creation storyline where Borun the pelican travelled, carrying his canoe, from the mountains in the north to the place called Tarra Warackel on the coast south of the park, now called Port Albert, where he married Tuk the musk duck and together they founded the five Gunaikurnai clans (Gunaikurnai Whole-of-Country plan).

The extent of Gunaikurnai occupation and use of the park has not been mapped, partly due to the priorities of earlier management as well as the difficulties of surveying the steep and heavily forested terrain.

Experience from surveys of other forested parks in the Victorian Alps and Gippsland, conducted after large-scale bushfires, suggests that evidence of Gunaikurnai occupation may prove to be more extensive than the paucity of existing records indicates (DSE and Parks Victoria, 2005), especially on ridges and streamlines that provided preferred travel routes.

Plants were important both for their practical uses and for cultural identity. For example,

moeyang was traditionally an important species for making spear throwers, bathing rheumatic joints with the soaked bark, and making fishing lines from the inner fibres, and it was also prized for shields which were important for clan identity.

Cultural values and practices in the present, as well as the past, are fundamental to Gunaikurnai people. The park provides opportunities for the Gunaikurnai to increase and strengthen their connection to Country in an inspiring landscape, characteristic of wurruk in its original and traditional condition.

The Knob Reserve

The Knob is culturally significant to the Gunaikurnai and as part of the whole of country story (TOLMB 2014). The bluff above the Dooyeedang was an important camp site and meeting this area was an important meeting point. Gunaikurnai people would walk the 15 km from Ramahyuck Mission, at the mouth of the Avon River, to meet with their relatives. The reserve also has significance in contemporary times as the site where the Federal Court of Australia issued its Native Title Determination for the Gunaikurnai people and where the Recognition and Settlement Agreement with the State of Victoria was signed. It contains eight known cultural heritage sites, including scarred trees, grinding grooves and an artefact scatter, which are recorded on the Aboriginal Heritage Register (Aboriginal Victoria 2018). There are six registered scarred trees at The Knob Reserve; these are the most recorded cultural heritage values within the Reserve. Axe-grinding groove sites are associated with sandstone outcrops, usually located close to water, and hence are rare occurrences in the landscape.

There is one recorded surface (artefact) scatter site, near the axe-grinding grooves on The Bluff. Surface scatters are signs of past occupation by

Gunaikurnai people, and includes materials such as stone, charcoal, bone, and shell.

The Lakes National Park and Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park

The Gunaikurnai have a deep, longstanding connection with both parks and the adjacent waters. The lake waters were abundant in food sources and in resources. Fishing, camping, hunting, and gathering were daily activities of the Gunaikurnai. Bark canoes were used on the lakes system. People travelled to the open ocean from this area harvesting food and materials and moving up and down the coast.

The towns of Lakes Entrance, Metung, Swan Reach and Paynesville were developed on the camping grounds of the Gunaikurnai ancestors (GLaWAC 2015). Talking Dog Rock (now known as Legend Rock) in Bancroft Bay adjacent to the Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park is an important part of Gunaikurnai mythology. The story of the three fishermen turned to stone by the women as punishment for not sharing their fish, serves as a reminder of the laws of the land, and gathering and sharing.

Gunaikurnai people travelled between sites that are within The Lakes National Park. Evidence of use and occupation is visible in many locations throughout both parks. Several currently used place names for this general area originate or are derived from traditional Gunaikurnai place names, such as Boole Poole, Bunga Arm and Nyerimilang.

The Gippsland Lakes were once part of a larger bay open to the sea. Sperm Whale Head, Little Rotamah Island, the Ninety Mile Beach, Boole Poole Peninsula and Rotamah Island were formed by sands deposited by the seas over thousands of years. These landforms now enclose the waters, some of the barriers being up to thirty-eight metres high.

The Gunaikurnai cultural values of the parks have not been systematically surveyed and mapped but key values are well known. These include:

- many middens in dune areas, containing the remains of shellfish and other food and resource material artefact scatters containing remains of weapons and tool-making activity
- fish and eel traps
- scarred trees where bark was removed for use in the manufacture of canoes and shields
- burial sites
- battle and massacre sites, a tragic but important element of Gunaikurnai history.

Protection of burial sites is particularly important to the Gunaikurnai. These sites, and the human remains they contain, are vulnerable to exposure

by wind and coastal erosion and damage by works and visitor activities in the parks. They need to be inventoried and mapped. Where necessary, rapid rehabilitation of burial sites is needed when they become exposed. Redesign and relocation of visitor facilities may be required to pro-actively avoid damage.

Several scarred trees in The Lakes National Park appear to be dying prematurely due to rises in the saline water table.

The area of Lake Reeve between The Lakes National Park and Bunga Arm (in the waters of the Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park) is very shallow and periodically dries out. The Gunaikurnai believe this area was traditionally used and occupied especially during drier climatic periods



Yarning circle – Tarra-Bulga National Park

Objectives, functions, powers and duties

The **objective** of the Board is to enable the knowledge and culture of the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners of the Appointed Land to be recognised in the management of the land.

The **functions** of the Board are:

- to comment or make submissions on matters affecting or concerning the use or management of the Appointed Land;
- to prepare policies about the Board and its operation and engagement with external parties;
- those management functions that are conferred on the Board by agreement under any Act under which the Appointed Land is managed;
- those management functions that are delegated to the Board by a person or body who has those management functions in relation to the Appointed Land; and
- to carry out such other functions as are conferred on the Board by the Act or the Minister by notice published in the *Victoria Government Gazette*.

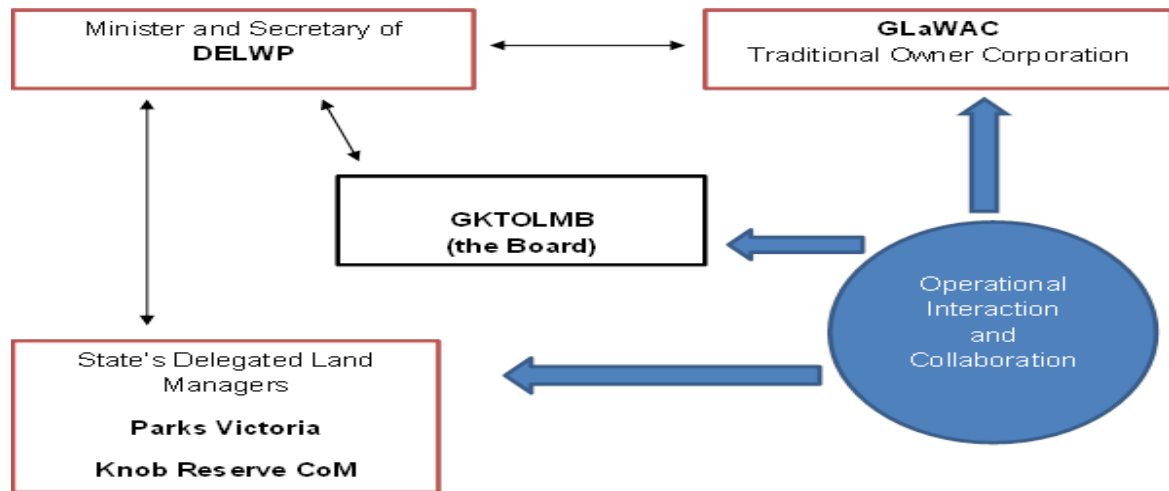
The **powers** of the Board include:

- to employ staff, including an Executive Officer, to be responsible to the Board for implementing its decisions and carrying out its functions and duties;
- to enter into arrangements or agreements with any other person or body for the carrying out of the Board's functions and duties;
- to carry out works on the Appointed Land;
- to delegate any of the Board's functions, powers or duties to a member of the Board or an employee of the Board; and
- to act as delegate or agent of a person or body who has management functions, powers or duties in relation to the Appointed Land when so appointed by that person or body.

The **duties** of the Board are:

- to prepare Joint Management Plans in relation to the Appointed Land;
- to prepare subsequent plans at the time and in the manner specified in the Joint Management Plan;
- to monitor and encourage compliance with and performance of the Joint Management Plan;
- to take all reasonable steps to give effect to the Traditional Owner Land Management Agreement between the Gunaikurnai Land & Waters Aboriginal Corporation and the State of Victoria;
- those duties conferred on the Board, by agreement or by or under the Act or any other Act, or are delegated to the Board; and
- to keep proper and full records of its proceedings.

Organisational Relationships



The Board has a Hosting Agreement with the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA). Through the Hosting Agreement, EGCMA provides a range of services and facilities associated with staff employment, office accommodation, equipment provision, and administration.

Achievements

The Board's 2021-2022 operations reflect the vital role that Joint Management plays in Gunaikurnai reclaiming **Culture** and **Healing Country**. The Joint Management Plan (JMP) focuses this through four themes - **People, Culture, Country, and Working Together**. As well as monitoring and evaluation of the plan, the Board has actions that directly bring the themes to life. These actions are in partnership with GLaWAC to support their own implementation of Joint Management.

Highlights for 2021/22 include:

People

The focus this year related to **Establishing JM Parks as cultural awareness products, Leveraging JM Ranger skills and learnings and Support the development and monitoring of the JM Annual Works program.**

Whilst the Board works closely with GLaWAC on cultural awareness programs in the parks, additional funding by the Board was not required in the reporting period.

The work the Board does includes meeting Gunaikurnai Rangers, both on Country and at board meetings and events. Through this interaction, the Board learns firsthand of the experience of Rangers as they work in the JM Parks. These engagements directly inform other initiatives that the Board approves.

In 2022/23 the Board will undertake a more formal piece of work to capture the learnings of Rangers who are implementing JM, which will then feed into the five-year review of the plan.

Culture

The focus this year was to **Establish a Joint Managed Parks cultural heritage interpretation strategy, Conduct Cultural mapping in the Mitchell River National Park, Prepare a Buchan Caves Reserve interpretation plan and Conduct Cultural mapping in the Tarra-Bulga National Park.**

Reclaiming Culture includes the re-discovery and protection of significant sites and a self-

determined strategy in to how Gunaikurnai cultural values can be interpreted, presented, and celebrated in a meaningful, culturally appropriate and practical way within the ten joint managed parks and reserves.

The Board funds various programs for delivery by GLaWAC and Parks Victoria at both a strategic and operational level. In 2021/22 the Cultural Interpretations strategy was adopted by both GLaWAC and Parks Vic. This now ensures cultural authority is retained within GLaWAC and guides how cultural interpretation occurs in the parks.

With Board funding, Parks Victoria is now writing the first Cultural Interpretations Plan for the Buchan Munji Reserve. The outcome includes the cultural markers and materials that will be presented at the park and will determine the cultural experience for visitors at the park.

In other site-specific projects, the Board has funded GLaWAC to determine the location and significance of Gunaikurnai places within Mitchell River and Tarra Bulga National Parks based on both tangible and intangible evidence including oral history. This work is ongoing and is funded to 2023.

Country

This year the Board set aside funds for the **Site Concept Planning for the Buchan Caves Reserve and On Country JM projects.**

Following the damage caused to infrastructure and facilities at the Buchan Munji Reserve by the

2019/20 bushfires, the joint managers, GLaWAC and Parks Victoria agreed that a site concept plan was required to ensure the best long-term value was achieved with the Victorian Government's Bushfire recovery funding. The Board and staff provided significant "in kind" support for this work, including attendance on both the project working group and governance committee. The Board hosted and attended events onsite to provide cultural input to the Concept Plan.

The Board's budget provision for this initiative was initially a contingency to allow additional work to be commissioned, if necessary, to support and complete the site concept plan for the main visitor precinct. This was not required under the concept plan and the Board has agreed to fund parts of the implementation of the Cultural Interpretation Plan.

The Board and staff also provide "in kind" support for other JM related work, such as projects to get drinking water to Knob Reserve and initiating Sea Country funding in JM parks.

Working Together

This year the focus has been **JM external communications, the JM Operational Group and JMP monitoring and evaluation.**

The Board and staff work very closely with partner organisations, particularly GLaWAC, to ensure that activities and their outcomes in JM Parks are consistent with the aspirations of the JMP. This includes letting community know that their parks are becoming culturally appropriate places where they can go and enjoy at any time.

The Board and GLaWAC are each funding an additional communications resource, employed by GLaWAC, to highlight happenings in JM parks for the benefit of Community. This will both complement the Cultural Interpretation Plans as well as create discrete campaigns to inform and encourage Gunaikurnai community members to visit their parks.

Board and staff also take an active role in the governance aspects of the JMP. Board staff participate on the JM working group, a monthly meeting of regionally based JM partners that coordinates the delivery of JMP projects and initiatives. The Group's role includes the development and subsequent progress review of the JM Annual Works Program.

At a higher level, the Board is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the JMP. In the reporting period the Board held a reflection and evaluation workshop which was attended by all the partners at an operational and senior management level. This will now be an annual event and result in the publication of an annual report card.

Finally, the Board has a small amount of funding available to support GLaWAC to explore management arrangements in Parks that further lead to self-determination. This year that resulted in Board in kind support to GLaWAC relating to work on the Mirboo North Immediate Protection Area and on the review into public land legislation.

Five-year financial summary

	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Operating revenue					
State government	700,000	700,000	481,000	690,000	948,000
Other revenue	1,476	1,472	3,022	8,633	10,501
Total Operating Revenue	701,476	701,472	484,022	698,633	958,501
Operating expenses					
Governance and Corporate	434,278	370,164	331,258	362,573	386,517
Project implementation	285,695	136,229	297,613	522,413	505,492
Total Operating Expenses	719,973	506,393	628,871	884,986	892,009
Net Operating Result	(18,497)	195,079	(144,849)	(186,353)	66,492
Total Assets	518,516	533,982	315,512	476,205	684,678
Total Liabilities	41,275	38,244	14,853	30,697	52,817
Net Assets	477,241	495,738	300,659	445,508	631,861

Current year financial review

The table below shows actual compared to budgeted expenditure for the Board's major expenditure categories for the reporting period.

Many projects scheduled for this reporting period were impacted by coronavirus restrictions applying to staff and joint management partner staff or consultants during the reporting period. Where this has occurred, many of the projects have been extended into the 2022/23 financial

year, with corresponding budget provisions. These projects have been referred to above.

The Corporate and Governance category includes administration, internal and external audit, Board expenses including sitting fees, outsourced CFO and financial services, external ARC member sitting fees and employment of the Board's Executive Officer. The additional expenditure in this category was largely due to development of the Board's 2021 to 2026 Strategic Plan, workshops associated with the Board's external

annual performance assessment, and attendance by a number of Board members at the 2022 AIATSIS Conference.

Category	Actual expenditure	Budgeted expenditure	% of budget
Governance and Corporate	\$434,278	\$371,340	117%
Projects	\$285,695	\$737,600	39%
Total	\$719,973	\$1,108,940	65%

Significant changes

There were no other significant matters which changed our financial position or performance during the reporting period.

Capital Projects

The Board does not manage any capital projects.

Disclosure of grants and transfer payments

In accordance with the Board's annual business plans and budgets, the Board provides grants to certain organisations to further the Board's and its partner's shared joint management objectives. In such instances, these grants are administered via a funding agreement that specifies the purpose, outputs and reporting requirements for each grant.

In 2021/22 the following grants (excl. GST) were provided by the Board.

Organisation	Description	Amount granted in 2021/22
Gunaikurnai Land & Waters Aboriginal Corporation	Undertake cultural mapping in the Mitchell River National Park	\$50,000
Gunaikurnai Land & Waters Aboriginal Corporation	Undertake cultural mapping in the Tarra Bulga National Park	\$70,000

Subsequent events

There were no events occurring after balance date, which may significantly affect the Board's operations in subsequent reporting periods.

Two

Governance and Organisational Structure

Role of the Board

As stated in the Board's Establishment Determination, the Board's role is to:

- set and guide strategic direction for the joint management of the Appointed Land of the Board; and
- collaborate with the State of Victoria (the State) and relevant State land managers in the management of the Appointed Land and enable the knowledge and culture of the Gunaikurnai people to be recognised in the management of the Appointed Land; and
- foster employment and economic development opportunities for Gunaikurnai in relation to management of the Appointed Land.

Membership of the Board

- The Minister appoints the Chairperson based on a nomination made by GLaWAC.
- Similarly, the Minister appoints non-executive directors. At least six must be appointed from a panel of names submitted by GLaWAC.
- A maximum of eleven members may be appointed.
- The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson is nominated by GLaWAC and appointed by the Minister.
- The Gunaikurnai members of the Board have a strong connection to the Appointed Land and lifelong experience and knowledge of their cultural heritage.

Our Directors

Glenys Watts

Glenys Watts is a proud Gunai woman living on the traditional land of her ancestors in Lucknow. She has a background in community development and business governance, having run her own successful business for 11 years and being appointed to Minister-approved boards as well as Aboriginal community-controlled boards. She is currently employed by DHHS in Bairnsdale as the Regional Coordinator for Indigenous Family Violence.

Prior to this role, Glenys worked for 15 years in local government managing staff, budgets, developing policies, writing reports, submissions, work plans, monitoring and evaluating programs, coordinating events, camps, planning activities for Elders as well as caring for Aboriginal cultural heritage and developing an Aboriginal Gathering Place.

Lena Morris

Lena was formally appointed to the GKTOLMB on the 6th May 2015 as the Gunaikurnai replacement for Uncle Albert Mullett.

Lena has a long and distinguished career in regional and state indigenous aged care and disability services.

Her previous work history has included being a board member for Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative and Executive Manager roles in health, Home and Community Care as well as local, regional, state and national committee positions with peak bodies representing Aboriginal issues.

Russell Mullett

Russell is the RAP Manager at the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation.

Lisa Giblin

Lisa Giblin is a proud Gunai, Yuin, Monaro woman, who lives on Country. Her experience includes Parks Vic. Ranger, DELWP, and Aboriginal Affairs. Lisa brings a wealth of knowledge across Culture and Country: Joint Management, Conservation Land Management, Cultural Heritage, Integration skills, Cultural Mapping, identification, and protection and several years as a project firefighter. Airbase Manager and Aircraft Officer.

Her strength is cross-cultural education, sharing stories, spiritual and cultural connection to land and country that guide the value and beliefs of First Nations people. Lisa delivers Cultural Education and Awareness sessions, sharing Gunaikurnai history and knowledge and her own story. She is also a lover of horses, riding, competing, and integrated learning with equine therapy, guiding therapy sessions for children with special needs.

Marianne Atkinson

Marianne has a background in Human Services, Education & Training, Family Violence Policy, Systems & Reform, Aboriginal Affairs, and community organisations.

She has experience in strategic policy development and regional partnerships and works to co-design and develop effective processes for the evaluation and validation of programs, systems, and structures.

Her fields of study include Business, Business Analytics, Education, and Data Analysis.

Marianne is currently the Co-Chairperson of the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group, Australian War Memorial and an appointed member of the Victorian Marine & Coastal Council.

Janine Haddow

Janine is the current Deputy Chair of the Board, and has been a member since its inception.

Janine's background is in education and environmental management including for over 16 years as an Executive Director within DELWP, leading service delivery and policy development for natural resource management including parks, forestry and public land, catchment and sustainable land management.

Janine has a Bachelor of Arts and Master's Degree in Environmental Planning from Melbourne University and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Janine's board memberships and community involvement include past Director of the Mt Buller Alpine Resort Board, North Central Catchment Management Authority and Victorian Catchment Management Council and a member of Leadership Victoria Alumni.

Since 2011 Janine has operated her own consulting business.

Liz Clay

Liz Clay is a proud Gippslander and organic vegetable and fruit farmer of more than 38 years with a background in sustainable agriculture, industry development, education and natural resource management. She has a Masters in Agriculture and Rural Development from the University of Western Sydney and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Education experience included serving with the NT Education Department in a remote Aboriginal community of Pidgeon Hole.

Liz has served on numerous industry, community and statutory authority boards including eight years as Chair of West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and seven years on the World Board of International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements. Current involvement in other Gippsland regional

committees include Southern Rural Water Groundwater and Rivers Forum, Federation University Animal Ethics Committee, Gippsland Climate Change Network Committee, Regional Centre for Expertise in Educating for Sustainable Development, Baw Baw Environment Voice. She is a current member of the WGCMA Board.

Allan Bawden

Allan Bawden PSM is an experienced CEO and non-executive director who has worked across the Victorian local government sector for many years. He has held senior executive appointments in inner metropolitan Melbourne, regional cities and rural shires. He is experienced in the conservation and management of public land and is currently Chair of the Southern Alpine Resort Management Board which governs the Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort on Gunaikurnai country. He holds a Master of Business Administration (Melb Uni) and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Angela Hutson

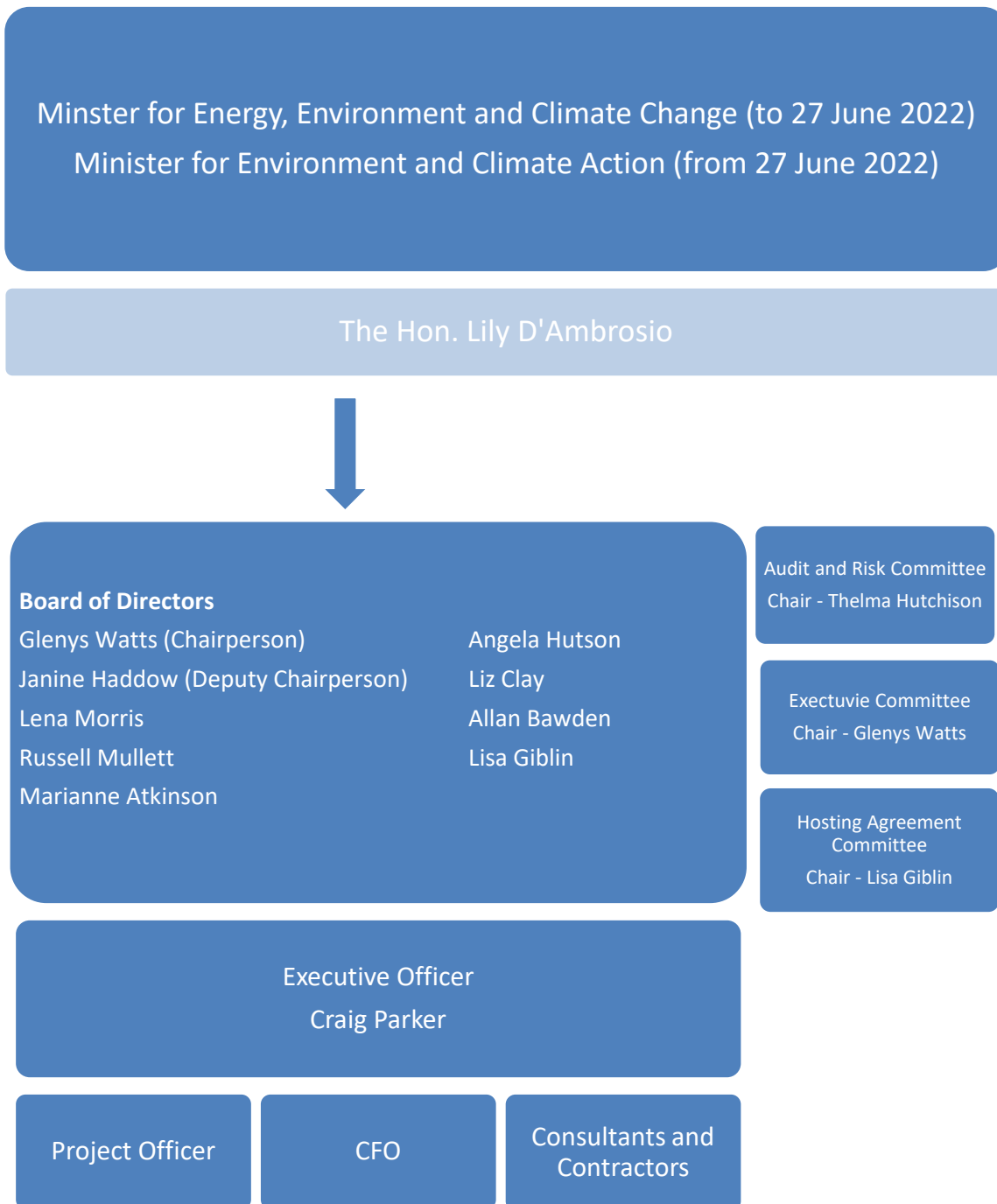
Angela was Chief Executive Officer of East Gippsland Institute of TAFE for seven years. She has a strong background in leadership and management within the vocational education and training sector, with experience in strategic planning, leading organisational change and workforce development.

Angela has a Masters in Organisational Leadership and is also:

- a member of the Regional Development Australia Gippsland Committee
- Deputy Chair of East Gippsland Water
- Deputy Chair of Workways Australia
- Deputy Chair of TAFE Gippsland

Angela is a Graduate and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Organisational structure



The table above indicates the governance structure during the reporting period.

Note that Katherine Mullett was a board member from 1 July 2021 to 1 January 2022.

Board Committees

The Board has three committees to assist in the detailed examination of matters and make recommendations to the board.

Committee and Membership	Responsibilities
Audit and Risk Committee Thelma Hutchison (Chairperson)* Katherine Mullett (1 July 2021 to 1 January 2022) Allan Bawden Liz Clay (from 3 February 2022) Michelle Dowsett* * External members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist the Board in delivering on its responsibilities for annual financial reporting and ensuring the Board has appropriate risk management and governance frameworks in place consistent with the “<i>Victorian Government Risk Management Framework</i> (August 2020)” Risks are identified and monitored effectively, and systems are in place to manage those risks. Maintain a reliable system of internal controls, to ensure effective governance including compliance with laws and regulations. Ensure annual accounts provide an accurate representation of the Board’s financial position.
Executive Committee Glenys Watts (Chairperson) Janine Haddow Lena Morris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist the Board in delivering on its responsibilities for strategic stakeholder communication and engagement. Organisational performance (including annual work plans and performance review of the Executive Officer). Crisis/emergency response.
Hosting Agreement Committee Katherine Mullett (Chairperson) – 1 July 2021 to 1 January 2022 Lisa Giblin (Chairperson) – from 3 February 2022 Janine Haddow Allan Bawden Mark Binks (EGCMA nominated member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor performance of the hosting agreement. Ensure the agreement is providing value for money and that each of the parties is meeting their obligations.

Each of the committees achieved their responsibilities in the reporting period.

Board and Committee Attendance 2021/22

Member	Board		Audit and Risk Committee		Executive Committee		Hosting Committee	
	Eligible	Attended	Eligible	Attended	Eligible	Attended	Eligible	Attended
Glenys Watts (Chairperson)	6	6			6	6		
Janine Haddow (Deputy Chairperson)	6	4			6	6	3	3
Marianne Atkinson	6	6						
Lisa Giblin	6	5					3	3
Lena Morris	6	6			6	6		
Katherine Mullett	3	2	2	2			1	1
Russell Mullett	6	4						
Allan Bawden	6	6	4	4			3	3
Liz Clay	6	6	2	2				
Angela Hutson	6	4						

Notes to the Board and Committee Attendance 2021/22 table:

- The Chairperson has a standing invitation to all committee meetings.
- All Board members can attend any committee meeting
- The Executive Officer attends all committee meetings.



Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board (left to right) – Russell Mullett, Lisa Giblin, Katherine Mullett, Lena Morris, Craig Parker (Executive Officer), Marianne Atkinson, Allan Bawden, Angela Hutson, Liz Clay, Glenys Watts (Chairperson), Janine Haddow (Deputy Chairperson), Rob Willersdorf (Project Officer)

Note – All COVID protocols that were relevant at the time of this photo were observed.

Three

Workforce data

Public Sector Values and Employment Principles

The Board has developed and follows its own values, policies, and principles, which encompass the principles in the Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees. The Board is committed to applying merit and equity principles when appointing staff. The selection processes ensure that applicants are assessed and evaluated fairly and equitably based on the key selection criteria and other accountabilities without discrimination.

In 2021/22 the Board did not directly employ any staff. The Board's staff employed by EGCMA are engaged in alignment with Victorian government's commitment to merit and equity principles.

Occupational Health and Safety

The Board is committed to the pursuit of the highest possible health and safety standards in all its workplace activities.

Given its hosting arrangement with the EGCMA, the Board has adopted, and works within, the EGCMA's systematic approach to integrating Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) into our management and operational environments.

The Board's OH&S policy requires the staff who support the Board to adhere to the EGCMA's Work Health and Safety manual, safe work procedures, and training regime.

Whilst the Board's OH&S performance is included within the EGCMA's annual OH&S performance reporting, there were no reported hazards/incidents, lost time claims or fatalities, or associated WorkCover claims or related incidents attributable to the Board or its activities during the 2021/22 financial year.

Financial Year	Incidents
2020/21	0
2021/22	0

Workforce Data, Workforce Inclusion Policy and Executive Officer disclosures

No Workforce Data, Workforce Inclusion Policy or Executive Officer disclosures are required to be made by the Board for this reporting period.

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Other Disclosures

Local Jobs First

The *Local Jobs First Act 2003* introduced in August 2018 brings together the Victorian Industry Participation Policy (VIPP) and Major Project Skills Guarantee (MPSG) policy which were previously administered separately.

The Board is required to apply the Local Job First policy in all projects valued at \$3 million or more in Metropolitan Melbourne or for state-wide projects, or \$1 million or more for projects in regional Victoria. MPSG applies to all construction projects valued at \$20 million or more. The MPSG guidelines and VIPP guidelines will continue to apply to MPSG applicable and VIPP applicable projects respectively where contracts have been entered prior to 15 August 2018.

The Board did not have any tenders valued at over \$1 million during the reporting period.

Government advertising expenditure

The Board's expenditure in the 2021/22 reporting period on government campaign expenditure did not exceed \$100,000.

Consultancy expenditure

Details of consultancies (valued at \$10,000 or greater)

In 2021/22, there were four consultancies where the total fees payable were \$10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2021/22 in relation to these consultancies was \$80,021 (excl. GST).

Details of individual consultancies where total fees payable were greater than \$10,000 (excl. GST) is provided in the table below:

Consultant	Summary of project	Total project fees approved	Total fees incurred in 2021/22	Future commitments
DMG Audit and Advisory	Provision of outsourced CFO, financial and compliance services	\$15,900	\$15,900	\$49,600
HLB Mann Judd	Provision of internal audit services	\$22,410	\$22,410	\$36,000
Social Ventures Australia	Facilitate 2021 JMP annual reflection workshop and report	\$11,711	\$11,711	-
Midnightsky P/L	Provision of support with renewal of the Board's Corporate Plan	\$60,000	\$30,000	-

Details of consultancies (valued at less than \$10,000)

In 2021/22, there were two consultancies engaged during the year where the total fees payable to the consultants was less than \$10,000 (excl. GST). The total expenditure incurred during 2021/22 in relation to these consultancies was \$9,877 (excl. GST).

Information and Communication Technology expenditure

ICT expenditure refers to the Board's costs in providing business enabling ICT services.

For the 2021/22 reporting period, the Board had a total ICT expenditure of \$0.

Disclosure of Major Contracts

A 'major contract' is a contract entered into during the reporting period valued at \$10 million or more.

The Board did not enter into any major contracts during 2021/22.

Freedom of Information

The *Freedom of Information Act* 1982 (the Act) allows the public a right of access to documents held by the Board. The purpose of the Act is to extend as far as possible the right of the community to access information held by government departments, local councils, Ministers and other bodies subject to the Act.

An applicant has a right to apply for access to documents held by the Board. This comprises documents both created by the Board or supplied to the Board by an external organisation or individual, and may also include maps, films, microfiche, photographs, computer printouts, computer discs, tape recordings and videotapes.

The Act allows the Board to refuse access, either fully or partially, to certain documents or information. Examples of documents that may not be accessed include: cabinet documents; some internal working documents; law enforcement documents; documents covered by legal professional privilege, such as legal advice; personal information about other people; and information provided to the Board in-confidence.

The Act was amended on 1 September 2017 to reduce the Freedom of Information (FoI) processing time for requests received from 45 to 30 days. However, when external consultation is required under ss29, 29A, 31, 31A, 33, 34 or 35, the processing time automatically reverts to 45 days. Processing time may also be extended by periods of 30 days, in consultation with the applicant. With the applicant's agreement this may occur any number of times. However, obtaining an applicant's agreement for an extension cannot occur after the expiry of the timeframe for deciding a request.

If an applicant is not satisfied by a decision made by the Board, under section 49A of the Act, they have the right to seek a review by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC) within 28 days of receiving a decision letter.

Making an FoI request

FoI requests can be lodged online at <https://ovic.vic.gov.au>. An application fee of \$30.60 applies. Access charges may also be payable if the document pool is large, and the search for material, time consuming.

Access to documents can also be obtained through a written request to the Board's Freedom of Information Manager, as detailed in s17 of the Act.

When making an FoI request, applicants should ensure requests are in writing, and clearly

identify what types of material/documents are being sought.

Requests for documents in the possession of the Board should be addressed to:

Executive Officer
Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land
Management Board
574 Main St
Bairnsdale VIC 3875

The Board's Executive Officer serves as the Board's Freedom of Information Manager.

FOI statistics/timeliness

During 2021/22, the Board received no FOI requests.

Further information

Further information regarding the operation and scope of FOI can be obtained from the Act; regulations made under the Act; and www.foi.vic.gov.au.

Compliance with *Building Act 1993*

The Board does not own or control any government buildings and consequently is exempt from notifying its compliance with the building and maintenance provisions of the *Building Act 1993*.

Competitive Neutrality Policy

Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure where services compete, or potentially compete with the private sector, any advantage arising solely from their government ownership be removed if it is not in the public interest. Government businesses are required to cost and price these services as if they were privately owned. Competitive neutrality policy supports fair competition between public and

private businesses and provides government businesses with a tool to enhance decisions on resource allocation. This policy does not override other policy objectives of government and focuses on efficiency in the provision of service.

The Board continues to comply with the requirements of the Competitive Neutrality Policy.

Compliance with the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (PID Act) enables people to make a disclosure about corrupt or improper conduct by a public officer or a public body.

The Board is a public body for the purposes of the PID Act.

What is a public interest disclosure?

A public interest disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct or detrimental action by a public officer or a public body.

'Improper or corrupt conduct' involves substantial mismanagement of public resources, risk to public health or safety or the environment, or corruption.

'Detrimental action' is action taken against a person in reprisal for making a public interest disclosure.

How do I make a public interest disclosure?

You can make a public interest disclosure about the Board or its board members, officers or employees by contacting IBAC (details below).

The Board is not able to receive public interest disclosures.

The Board has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a public interest disclosure

about its Board members, officers or employees. You can access the Board's procedures by contacting the Executive Officer.

Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) Victoria

Address: Level 1, North Tower,
459 Collins Street,
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Mail : IBAC, GPO Box 24234,
Melbourne Victoria 3001

Internet : www.ibac.vic.gov.au

Phone: 1300 735 135

Email: see the website above for the secure email disclosure process, which also provides for anonymous disclosures.

Office-based environmental impacts

The EGCMA (being the Board's host for office-based facilities) addresses environmental impacts arising from office-based energy, waste, paper, water, transport, greenhouse gas emissions, and procurement through its Sustainability Policy and Resource Smart Strategy. The Board's staff offices are within the EGCMA office facilities and staff adhere to these policies and strategies.

Statement of availability of other information

Additional information available on request

In compliance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act, DELWP's PFMCF, applicable Australian Accounting Standards and Financial Reporting Directions, details in respect of the items listed below have been retained by the Board and are available (in full) on request, subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*;

- a) a statement that declarations of pecuniary interests have been duly completed by all relevant officers.
- b) details of publications produced by the Board about itself, and how these can be obtained.
- c) details of any major external reviews carried out on the Board.
- d) details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the Board to develop community awareness of the entity and its services.
- e) details of assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees.
- f) a general statement on industrial relations within the agency, and details of time lost through industrial accidents and disputes.
- g) details of all consultancies and contractors, including consultants/contractors engaged, services provided, and expenditure committed for each engagement.

The information is available on request from:

Executive Officer

Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board

Phone: 03 5150 3573

Email: eo@gktolmb.org.au

Additional information included in annual report

Details in respect of the following items are have been included in the annual report:

- h) a list of the Board's major committees; the purposes of each committee; and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved. (section two)

Information that is not applicable to the Board

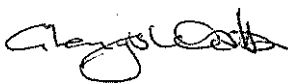
The following information is not relevant to the Board for the reasons set out below:

- i) a declaration of shares held by senior officers (no shares have ever been issued in the Board).
- j) details of overseas visits undertaken (no Board members or senior executives took overseas work-related trips).
- k) details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged (the Board does not charge prices, fees, rates, levies or other charges).
- l) details of major research and development activities (the Board does not undertake research and development activities).

Portfolio Financial Management compliance attestation statement

The Board's Audit and Risk Committee has reviewed the Chairperson's Portfolio Financial Management compliance attestation, which takes into account the advice of the Committee.

I, Glenys Watts, on behalf of the Responsible Body, certify that the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board has been granted an exemption from the Standing Directions 2018 under the *Financial Management Act 1994*. This exemption has been granted by the Assistant Treasurer on the basis the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board complies with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's Portfolio Financial Management Compliance Framework.



Glenys Watts
Chairperson
Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board

8 December 2022

