

GMTOAC bi-monthly newsletter

This newsletter is a brief snapshot of works undertaken by GMTOAC on behalf of Gunditjmarra. This is the 3rd edition. If you have any comments or suggestions of what you would like to see in this newsletter, please let us know on reception@gunditjmirring.com

Award Winners:

We are thrilled to announce that GMTOAC and Cooper Scaife Architects have received the 2023 Victorian Premier's Design Award for the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape Tourism Infrastructure.

The award celebrates innovative and creative designs and is considered the State's highest design accolade. The design of our tourism infrastructure reflects the rich history of Gunditjmarra and Country, and supports us to care for Country and share our stories with the growing number of visitors to Budj Bim.



Nyamat Mirring Plan release

Gunditj Mirring TOAC has recently released the Nyamat Mirring (Sea Country) Plan. This plan was developed after consultation with mob and has culminated in an exciting document that provides direction for Gunditjmarra-led priorities for Nyamat Mirring.

The Gunditjmarra vision for Nyamat Mirring is:

"Gunditjmarra carry out our enduring responsibility to care for Nyamat Mirring so our children thrive, see their Country heal and know their stories."

The plan can be accessed on the Gunditj Mirring TOAC website (www.gunditjmirring.com).

To coincide with the release of the Nyamat Mirring Plan, the Nyamat Mirring - Protecting our Sea Country video has also been released. This 20 minute video is worth a look as it promotes the Gunditjmarra connections and responsibilities to Nyamat Mirring.

The video is available on YouTube and can be accessed via: <https://youtu.be/chBnF2VD2-U>



Gunditjmara On-Country Camp

In January, GMTOAC hosted a week-long On Country Camp at the Lake Condah Mission. The camp was an opportunity to get together, share a yarn and connect to Country, especially for those that now live further away.

During the week we spent time collecting puunyaart and weaving, learning about weeyn and wetland burning, fishing and learning about water quality, paddling on Tae Rak and swimming at the mouth of the Fitzroy river.

The camp finished with a community BBQ and dance performance celebrating Gunditjmara culture and connection.



Environmental Protection on Country

Earlier this year Tyson Lovett-Murray started in a new role at GMTOAC as the Environmental Protection on Country Program Officer working between GMTOAC and the Environment Protection Authority.

The Environment Protection on Country (EPOC) program is intended to ensure that the new protections, powers and opportunities of the EPA Act support the priorities that Traditional Owners have for Country.

It offers an opportunity for each of the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) / Traditional Owner corporations to participate in a 2-year pilot in which the EPA resources a full-time or part-time role to train and upskill participants in environment protection.

The objective of this pilot is to co-design a long-term partnership model with each Traditional Owner corporation that supports both the new EP Act outcomes and the priorities of Traditional Owners and their Country Plans.

Tyson is looking forward to planning this work further and implementing some project across Gunditjmarra Country.

Kooyang and Fish Monitoring on Gunditjmarra Country

In February, GMTOAC staff, together with the Budj Bim Rangers, undertook Kooyang and fish monitoring at Tae Rak, Killara and the Fitzroy estuary.

This is the first monitoring as part of our new Kooyand and Fish Monitoring Plan, which was developed with the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research in 2023.

A range of native species were detected, however, we also found invasive Red-fin and Tench. Some Eastern Long-neck Turtles were also detected during the surveys.





Managing deer across Budj Bim Cultural Landscape

Deer are an emerging problem across the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape, and GMTOAC are working in partnership with Parks Victoria, DEECA and Windamara to reduce deer numbers on both Budj Bim National Park and our IPAs.

Deer are known to browse and kill young trees and shrubs and by that impact the ability of woodlands to regenerate. This is particularly a problem in areas that have been impacted by fire, where trees are re-growing from seed. This is the case for the National Park as well as Allambie and the woodlands around Tae Rak.

In February, we removed 120 deer from our properties with more control activities planned throughout the year.

Iluka project consent deed

Since December 2020, Gunditjmara Native Title Holders have been involved in discussions and negotiations with Iluka (and its subsidiary company, Basin Minerals Holdings) in relation to Exploration Licence EL007138, to explore for mineral sands.

At the 10 February 2024 Gunditjmara, Native Title Holders Meeting, a resolution was passed, consenting to Gunditj Mirring TOAC entering into a project consent deed and section 31 agreement. The project consent deed confirms the rights of the native title holders and their consent to the grant of the licence, cultural heritage and environmental protection processes, and community benefits.

The Gunditjmara secured strong protections for native vegetation and community benefit payments.

As part of the above negotiations, funding was provided for the Grassdale Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment (CVA) within the licence area. This was completed in December 2022 and went on to inform the negotiation process. This CVA is still available and accessible on GMTOAC Cultural Information Management System. Please contact Micko Bell at GMTOAC if you need access.

Grassdale Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment

Prepared in collaboration with
Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
August 2022

GNL
HERITAGE

You're invited...



**GUNDITJ MIRING
TRADITIONAL OWNERS
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**

**GUNDITJMARA NATIVE
TITLE DETERMINATION
17TH YEAR**

BBQ

**BUDJ BIM NATIONAL PARK
STARTING AT 11AM
UNTIL 2PM**

**SATURDAY
30TH
MARCH
2024**

**GUNDITJMARA TRADITIONAL OWNERS GMTOAC ARE
HOSTING A BBQ LUNCH TO COME TOGETHER RECOGNISING
17 YEARS SINCE OUR NATIVE TITLE DETERMINATION**



GMTOAC IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BUDJ BIM COUNCIL ARE HOSTING A BBQ LUNCH

**WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US, CONTACT OUR OFFICE ON 03 5527 1427 FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION.**

**PLEASE REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE VIA OUR WEBPAGE YOU WILL FIND THE LINK UNDER THE
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TAB**

REGISTRATIONS WILL CLOSE ON 27 MARCH 2024 FOR CATERING AND PLANNING PURPOSES.