



*Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation,
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Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation Newsletter Dec 2020

Pic: YYNAC Staff (pic taken by Vanessa Charles)

2020 Has been a challenging year for all but also a year of significant progress for YYNAC.

Whilst Covid has brought with it many challenges such as community isolation and reduced access to country, we have managed to continue to work towards our aspirations of our key Strategic Plan across caring for country and water across Yorta Yorta Country. This has included ongoing projects driven by the Yorta Yorta staff across areas such as NRM

with **Woka Walla**, the **Cultural Heritage Unit**, the **Aboriginal Water Policy Officer**, **Forest and Fire** , and the **Living Murray Program** .

We have also seen the expansion of development including securing support for the redevelopment of Dharnya Centre, the Signing of the Joint Management Plan for Barmah National Park and partnership developments such as our recent MOU with City of Greater Shepparton.



Council of Elders Chairpersons Report by Lance James

Both Ruben Baksh and myself represent the Council of Elders on the YYNAC Board of Directors and we have been in this role in various capacities since 2017. With Aunty Josie also being a representative of the Council.

We saw it at its lowest point and now we are happy to say we are seeing it at its highest point. Much has happened of which we should all be proud. This includes;

1. New Barmah Office

This new office is complete and staff will be moving in next week. An invitation has been extended to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Ms Gabrielle Williams to officially open the Barmah YYNAC Administration office. YYNAC Board awaits the Minister's reply but we are hoping for late January 2021 to coincide around our AGM.

2. Barmah Nation Park Joint Management Plan

This was announced by the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Energy - Ms Lillian Ambrosia on the 4th February 2020. Yorta Yorta nation are hoping the Minister will be able to celebrate this important milestone on the

1st Anniversary on 5th February 2021.

3. Creation of the Yorta Yorta Nation Barmah Nation Park Traditional Owner Land Management Board TOLMB.

We have 7 Yorta Yorta People now sitting on this Management Board for the next 3 years, Jade Miller, Cory Walker, Kalina Morgan-Whyman, Des Morgan, Alana Briggs and myself. With Damian Morgan- Bulled is the YYNA TOLMB Executive officer.

We are hoping for Joint Management for the Lower Goulburn National Park and Warby Owens National Park.

3. Ghow Swamp which comes under our Yorta Yorta Co management Agreement and we are working to provide permanent declaration over this site. YYNAC are currently working with DELWP and AV to complete as a protected Victorian Cultural Heritage Site and to develop Management Plan for the whole site in 2021. Then we are also looking listing Ghow Swamp as a world heritage listed site, which could take up to 10 years.

YYNAC Strategic Plan was developed in 2019 and passed by our members at our last AGM. Following this plan we have been able to secure funding to start many Projects and Business Ventures. All

have been developed over the last 6 months of this past year

COE Current Representatives

Aaron Atkinson- Barbara Day
Edgar Atkinson- Kay Bussell
Elizabeth Atkinson- Ross Morgan
Ada Cooper- Lance James
Anabella Howard- Josie Briggs
Tommy McRae - Norm Stewart
Alf Morgan- Robert Russell
Baggot Morgan- Greta Morgan
Fred Walker - Colin Walker
William Cooper - Alf Turner
Vacant: Maggie Toodles ,
Maggie Stone, Jenny Charles,
John Atkinson, Jack Cooper,
Ada Cooper .

Current Board of Directors

Bryan Andy - Chair Person
Kalina Whyman - Secretary
Des Morgan - Vice Chairperson
Ruben Baksh - COE
Chairperson
Lance James - Treasurer
Joe Day- Director

Barmah National Park Joint Management Plan

The Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board has released the Joint Management Plan for the Barmah National Park. The plan sets out the proposed management directions for the Barmah National Park over the next 10 years. This was released on April 2020

Associated projects include the Barmah Masterplan which includes the Dharnya Centre redevelopment, Barmah Lakes Precinct, and the Parks Victoria Ranger program.

Dharnya Centre Redevelopment Project

Over the next 3 years the Dharnya Centre redevelopment project is being undertaken. It is an exciting development for YYNAC and our community after many years of negotiation to get to this stage of project progress. The development will be complete as estimated in July 2022 and includes the following three stages;

Stage One: Dharnya Interpretive Centre, Care

Taker's House, Infrastructure and Landscaping

Stage Two: Visitor Accommodation (Bunk House)

Stage Three: Conference Centre & Meeting Room's, Amphitheatre

The YYTOLMB The role of the YYTOLMB is to enable the knowledge and culture of the Yorta Yorta People to be recognized and incorporated into the Joint Management Plan of the Barmah National Park.

The YYTOLMB is comprised of an entirely Yorta Yorta board. The TOLMB program is delivered by Executive Officer Damian Morgan Buller who will work closely with the TOLM alongside YYNAC Implementation Co-Ordinator Vanessa Charles.

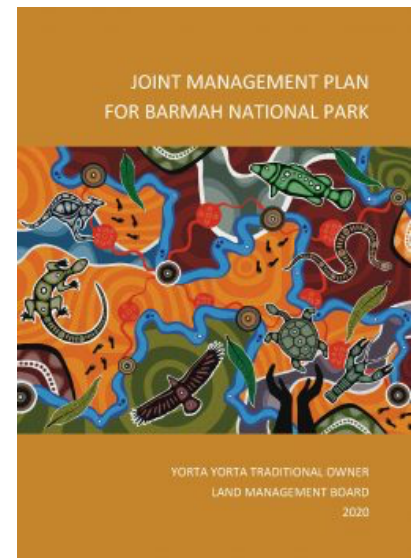


YYTOLMB will perform a high-level role in developing an Implementation Plan for reporting on the JMP.

- Report to the Minister on the Implementation of the objectives and strategies within the JMP.
- Advocate the aspirations of Yorta Yorta

TO find out more about the YYTOLMB visit

<https://yytolmb.com.au/>



Woka Walla & Cultural Heritage Unit

Woka Walla & the YYNAC Cultural Heritage Unit have continued to work towards project in 2020 relating to protection and mangement of Cultural Heritage. Some key projects have included :

Woka Walla Projects

- Parks Vic - Barmah NLP2 Woody weeds
- and fox control
- Lower Goulburn Woody weeds
- Goulburn Broken CMA -Grey box
- woodland Project weed control.



Cultural Heritage Unit

Key Achievement

- Ghow Swamp Conservation Plan Complete

Images ; Top right , Kanyapella Burning, Right Middle , Woka Walla , Fencing, Right Bottom , Ghow Swamp



Wala - Water



Living Murray Barmah-Millewa Icon Site

The living Murray Icon Site Project continues to look at developing management of the natural environment of Barmah National Park in a manner which will lead to Empowered outcomes for Yorta Yorta Nation, incorporating our methodologies and knowledge

systems into the Barmah National Park and its relationship to Dhungala. This includes crucial projects relating to the hydrological impacts in the Barmah- Millewa and the crucial Long Neck Turtle Monitoring and Tracking programs .

The Aboriginal Water Policy officer

The Aboriginal Water Policy Officer works collaboratively to review and inform water planning and proposals across a number of Agencies

- Key Projects this year for the Water Policy officer included Pygmy Perch



Release Project at Richardsons Lagoon in the Gunbower forest (Picture bottom Left)

Images ; Top Left , Turtle Tracking, Barmah National Park, Top Right Kaiela, Middle Right, Richardsons Lagoon Pre Watering , Bottom Right, Richardsons Lagoon During Watering.



The Bitja-Fire Plan

The *Bitja Fire plan* has been developed as part of working towards fulfilling our cultural duties to use Fire to care for and heal country. This plan is apart of aspirations for Yorta

Yorta to develop further opportunities for our staff through Woka Walla, and increasing amounts of Yorta Yorta people to participate in the highly important processes of cultural fire practices.

Kanyapella Basin Burns

In 2020 the Woka Walla delivered a Cultural Burn at Kanyapella Basin.



PV Ranger Program

Four new Yorta Yorta designated Park Ranger positions are now working in Barmah National Park with Parks Victoria.

The rangers will focus on delivering the strategies and objectives of the Joint Management Plan for Barmah National Park,



Moving into 2021

Moving into 2021 Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation looks forward to continuing to build on the positive outcomes of 2020, working towards our aspirations of Caring for our lands, Cultural Heritage and Sovereign rights as Custodians of Yorta Yorta Woka .

We will be continuing to work towards key projects listed throughout this newsletter as well as working towards our very important position on Sovereignty and continued progress towards our strategic directives as guided by our governance structures of the Council of Elders, Board of Directors and the 16 Yorta Yorta Family groups .

We also honor our ancestors that came before us, and fought for all we have to this day including their aspirations which continue to underpin our work . We honor them always and carry on their fight and work as Yorta Yorta .

We wish you all a very safe Wanala/Summer.



Links:

Website :
<https://yynac.com.au/>

Facebook :
<https://www.facebook.com/YYNAC>

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