



NGALDURRONG YANA | WALK TOGETHER

Annual Report

2021 – 2022

Dja Dja Wurrung Language

Dja Dja Wurrung language is essential to the Cultural foundation of Dja Dja Wurrung People and DJAARA. It is currently reawakening. This document continues the process of returning Dja Dja Wurrung language to its People and its Country.

The following words hold Cultural significance and importance to Dja Dja Wurrung and First Nations Peoples. The importance of **Aboriginal, Ancestor, Country, Culture, People, Cultural Heritage, Caring for Country, First Nations, and Traditional Owners** are capitalised throughout this document to signify their importance.

Aunty/Uncle is used as a sign of respect regarding the person that is mentioned.

Djaara-fy/fyd/fying is an action. It is the action of painting things with a Dja Dja Wurrung brush through perspective, knowledge, language, and presence, doing things the Djaara way.

Djaara frequently appears throughout this document and is interchangeable with Dja Dja Wurrung People/Person

Dja Dja Wurrung language is used with the English interpretation after it the first time the word appears.

Corporation frequently appears throughout this document and is interchangeable with DJAARA (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation)

Enterprise frequently appears throughout this document and is interchangeable with Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises Pty Ltd, trading as DJANDAK.

Our, us, we throughout this document is an inclusive term reflecting Dja Dja Wurrung People, DJAARA and DJANDAK.

Front Cover Image: Dja Dja Wurrung women Nikita Charles, Kayla Baksh and Cassandra Lewis perform the digging stick dance at the Dja Dja Wurrung Handover Ceremony.

Word consistency throughout this document.

WORD	REFERS TO
DJAARA	Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation trading as
Djaara	Dja Dja Wurrung People
DJANDAK	Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises Pty Ltd trading as
Djandak	Dja Dja Wurrung Country
DUMAWUL	Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises Pty Ltd trading as DUMAWUL
Dja Dja Wurrung Group	DJAARA and its subsidiary companies Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises trading as DJANDAK & DUMAWUL,

Balaki Wuka	Giving to community
Balaki Wurrekang	Mob talking to mob. DJAARA also use it to refer to our Community Engagement.
Dhelkunya Dja	Healing/make good, land/ Country
Dja Dja Wurrung	Yes, Yes speaking/lip
Dja or djaa	Country
Djaara	The People of Dja Dja Wurrung Country
Djandak	Country, Dja Dja Wurrung Country
Djandak Dja Kuditja	Djandak - our Country Dja - Country Kuditja - belonging to DJAARA also use it to refer to our Kangaroo Grass project.
Djandak Wi or Wii	Country Fire
Djuwima Djandaki	To show and to share our Country

Galkangu	Build together, we make together, make things happen together, more connected to Country. DJAARA also uses it to refer to Joint Management.
Malamiya	Long ago, Dreamtime, before this time. DJAARA also use it to refer to Dja Dja Wurrung Cultural Heritage.
Murrup	Spirit
Ngaldurrong yana	Walk together (together walk)
Nyauwi	Sun
Nyerna	To hear, to listen, to understand, to know
Wala-wala	Wala is rain, wala-wala is flood
Wanyarrum Dhelk	Healthy Water
Wartaka	Come together with purpose. DJAARA also uses it to refer to Djaara Members' focus groups.
Wurreka	to yarn, to talk.
Wurrung	lip, mouth or speech or language

Contents

2	Dja Dja Wurrung Language	
4	Table of Contents	
6	Our Determination	
8	Our Motivation	
10	Our Leadership	
	A message from the Chair	
12	The Board of Directors	
16	A message from the Dja Dja Wurrung Group CEO	
17	A message from the DJAARA General Manager	
18	Dja Dja Wurrung Recognition & Settlement Agreement Map	
20	Dja Dja Wurrung Corporate and Community Centre	
26	Balaki Wurrekang I Community Engagement	
28	Bayikina Dja Dja Wurrung Language	
33	Wirama Shield	
34	Malamiya I Cultural Heritage	
41	Recognition & Settlement Agreement Implementation	
44	Partnerships & Policy	
46	Dhelkunya Dja Policy	

48 **Forest Gardening Strategy**

50 **Climate Change Strategy**

52 **Galkangu**

| Joint Management

60 **Dhelkunya Dja Land
Management Board**

62 **Wurreka**

| to yarn, to talk

66 **Giyakiki**

| story, yarn

70 **Financial Report Extract**

72 **Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises
Pty Ltd trading as
DJANDAK**

73 A message from the
General Manager Economic
Development.

74 **DJANDAK Executive Summary**

76 **DJANDAK Ecology**

78 **DJANDAK Water Team**

80 **DJANDAK Wi**
| Country Fire

83 **Introducing DUMAWUL**

Our Determination

The Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation is a representative body for Dja Dja Wurrung People.

Established in 2004, the Corporation has the following principal objectives and responsibilities:

- To promote the health and wellbeing of the Dja Dja Wurrung People.
- To protect and promote the laws, culture, property rights and human rights of the Dja Dja Wurrung People.

In 2008, through the Corporation, Dja Dja Wurrung People gained Registered Aboriginal Party status to further the fight to be recognised as the Traditional Owners of Djandak.

After 15 years of intensive negotiations, the Corporation, on behalf of the Dja Dja Wurrung People, and the Victorian Government signed the Recognition and Settlement Agreement on 28 March 2013.

The Agreement is a means by which Dja Dja Wurrung tradition and the unique relationship of Dja Dja Wurrung People to Djandak are recognised, strengthened, protected, and promoted, for the benefit of all Victorians, now and into the future.

In 2021, we paid respect to our People and began trading as 'DJAARA – Balaki Wuka (Giving to community)'. Dja Dja Wurrung People will always be the foundation of the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises (DDWE) Pty Ltd, trading as DJANDAK, operates as a commercial company of DJAARA.

Emerging alongside DJANDAK is a new sister company, DUMAWUL, which is slowly developing into a new Creative Industries Enterprise.

DJAARA, DJANDAK and DUMAWUL make up the Dja Dja Wurrung Group.



Organisational Structure (simplified)



Our Motivation

“ Our Dhelkunya Dja (Healing Country) Plan reaffirms our aspirations to Care for Country and determines the future of our People as the Traditional Owners of Djandak.

It is a 20-year plan setting out the community vision for our People to be strong, underpinned by our living Culture, our lands, and waters to be in good condition and actively managed to protect our values, and the laws, Culture, and rights of all Dja Dja Wurrung People to be promoted.

These goals give purpose to our work and are developed to guide all land management on Dja Dja Wurrung Country. DJAARA delivers a range of programs to meet these aspirations.



The Dja Dja Wurrung Community Goals for our Country are framed around the following themes:



Goal 1 Djaara

Every Dja Dja Wurrung person is happy, healthy and secure in their identity, livelihood, and lifestyle



Goal 2 Cultural Practice & Customs

Dja Dja Wurrung customs and practices are alive and respected - keeping us connected to our past, our present and our future



Goal 3 Malamiya | Cultural Heritage

Our Malamiya is recognised and promoted as a celebration of our identity and community



Goal 4 Bush Tucker & Medicine

Our Country continues to nourish us by providing bush tucker & medicine



Goal 5 Wanyarram - Rivers & Waterways

Our rivers and waterways are healthy and meet the needs of our People and land



Goal 6 Land

Our upside-down Country is healthy again



Goal 7 Self - determination

As our Country's first People, Djaara have an established place in society and are empowered to manage our own affairs



Goal 8 Traditional Owner Economy

We have a strong and diverse economic base to provide for our health and wellbeing and strengthen our living Culture



Goal 9 Galkangu - Joint Management

All Crown Land on Dja Dja Wurrung Country is Aboriginal Title, and we are the sole managers

Our Leadership

A message from the Chair
Trent Nelson



Wawa (hello), I am honoured to bring to you my seventh report as Chairperson of Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation trading as DJAARA.

Firstly, I would like to thank my Dja Dja Wurrung community for their strength and resilience in being able to still participate, share knowledge and respect each other in another partial year of juggling the COVID 19 pandemic and its restrictions. It is our duty to keep our mob safe and healthy.

Once again, we as the Board and corporate entity have had an enormous year in delivering outcomes for Djaara and the wider community under the conditions of lockdown restrictions on a monthly basis. The uncertainty of not knowing what the next month would bring in delivering operational outcomes, was not an easy task.

It was a significant moment in our Dja Dja Wurrung history to have another parcel of land handed back to us, for our new Corporate and Community Centre. Receiving this from the Attorney – General Jaclyn Symes, with our Elders and community present was a proud moment. That moment showcased the hard work done to achieve this outcome and provided examples of Dja Dja Wurrung leadership and the vibrancy of our Culture.

Our Dja Dja Wurrung artists have featured immensely with their artworks that now surround the CBD of Bendigo. The increased interest in Dja Dja Wurrung art and in the rise of the calibre of artists has led to the creation of our new sister Enterprise to DJANDAK called DUMAWUL.

DUMAWUL meaning thank you between two people, the giver and receiver of culture, in good murrup (spirit) in Dja Dja Wurrung language, will be our first creative business enterprise. Highlighting Dja Dja Wurrung businesses and cultural tourism.

I would like to say dumarr (thank you) to DJAARA's Board of Directors for their dedication and commitment to represent their families.

This year we implemented an action from our 2020-2021 Board review, to adopt a deputy chair. I would like to congratulate Belinda Duarte on this new role. I say dumarr, for the hard work she has done this year, in supporting me in the role of Chairperson.

We also had a new director for a family not currently represented and it's amazing to have them on the board sharing knowledge, skills and contributing to ground-breaking decisions.

The Board participated in two development workshops that focused on building more skills and expansion in governance including financial management, conflict of interest management, risk management and better engagement between directors and alternate directors.

This also supports director roles and responsibilities, as well as implementing actions from the 2021 board review.

- Board members increased their knowledge and skills during Board Induction and Development Sessions held in February, and March 2022, including online training and an in-person workshop.
- The 2021-2022 Board review was conducted during June 2022 and outcomes of the review were workshopped at the September board workshop.

This year the board completed our annual review and are working on implementing these actions from the review into the coming year.

Our family directors play an integral role in supporting and driving our high-quality governance of decision-making and creating policies and procedures that support the daily functions of the Group's operations. This keeps our ability to withhold our agreements in statutory functions under our Recognition Settlement Agreement.

As we know, the directors devote their time voluntarily when attending monthly board meetings and representing DJAARA; I take my hat off to them in the strong leadership they possess for our Djaara families and mirror the strengths of our Martinga Kuli.

Dumarr, to the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board and their staff in their hard work this year in governing and guiding our Galkangu (Joint Management) Plan into implementation for its second year.

Dumarr, to all our sub committees to the board and the many Wartaka groups, your work contributes to the further engagement of Djaara in new ideas and visions across Djandak and the way it is managed. This work places Djaara front and centre in our own landscape.

Dumarr, to our CEO Rodney Carter, DJAARA General Manager Cassie Lewis and DJANDAK General Manager Steve Jackson, and all our staff across the Dja Dja Wurrung Group. Their hard work and commitment are delivered daily through all the projects they work within, as well as creating new ideas on how we can make better opportunities for our families for the future in economic development and self-determination.

A special mention to our Governance Officer and Board support, Dominika Balwin, for your dedication and commitment to your role and the support you give our Boards and executive teams.

The significant work achieved for our Dja Dja Wurrung Community continues to Djaara-fy (painting it with a Dja Dja Wurrung brush; doing things the Djaara way) all that we do. It is something that benefits us all and our future generations.



Batak (Take care),
Trent Nelson
DDWCAC Chairperson



The Board of Directors


The Board of Directors of DDWCAC is the governing body of the Corporation. Its role is to set the direction for the Dja Dja Wurrung Group, and duties include oversight, strategic planning, decision-making and financial planning.

The Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (CATSI Act) sets out the duties and responsibilities of Directors, which are consistent with the duties under common law and in the Corporations Act 2001.

The Constitution specifies 18 Family Groups, descendants of our Martinga kuli (Ancestors) and each Family Group may elect a Director and an Alternate Director on the Board. Each Board member nominee must be a member of the Corporation and of the Family Group which nominated them. While members may choose to be recognised as having affiliation with any number of the Martinga kuli, they can identify with only one ancestral Family Group for directorship and voting purposes.

The Board is responsible for the Group's overall performance and compliance, and Directors are entrusted with establishing an appropriate system of corporate governance in a complex and rapidly changing environment. Directors also carry out significant additional responsibilities on sub-committees and in representing Dja Dja Wurrung in external organisations and forums.

The valuable contribution and commitment of Directors, on behalf of their Family Groups and all Djaara through their work on the Board, is acknowledged and appreciated as important and vital in achieving the aspirations set out in the Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan.



- DJAARA Board meetings were held on the following dates:

24 July 2021	10 February 2022
20 August 2021	19 February 2022
30 August 2021	26 March 2022
18 September 2021	29 April 2022
23 October 2021	21 May 2022
19 November 2021	24 June 2022
11 December 2021	

- The 2020-2021 AGM was held on 27 November 2021.
- Standing items on the Board Meeting Agenda include Sorry Business, Declarations of Conflict of Interest, Membership Applications, Language Requests and Financial Management reports.
- Matters for Decision brought to the Board include Land Use Activity Agreement matters and Board Briefing Papers prepared by relevant Program Managers from DJAARA and Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises (DDWE).
- The Board receives updates on activities across the Dja Dja Wurrung Group: Recognition and Settlement Agreement Implementation, Malamiya (Cultural Heritage), Member Engagement, Communications and Relationships, Galkangu (Joint Management), Partnerships and Policy, Business Services and DDWE. All activities can be placed against achieving outcomes of the Dhelkunya Dja Plan 2014-2034.
- Updates are provided on the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board, and other committees and groups on which there are Dja Dja Wurrung representatives.
- The Minutes of DDWE Board, Investment Advisory Committee and Finance Audit and Risk Committee meetings, as well as communiques from organisations such as the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations and the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations (VTOFL), are provided to the Board for noting.
- The Board continued to utilise online platforms to meet virtually and access meeting papers.
- Board members increased their knowledge and skills during Board Induction and Development Sessions held in July and September 2021, and February and March 2022, including online training and an in-person workshop on Risk Management.
- The Dja Dja Wurrung Group Corporate Governance Charter was revised to incorporate Dumawul Fixed Trust and Investment Advisory Committee (approved by the Board on 19 February 2022).
- The 2021-2022 Board review was conducted during June 2022.

FAMILY GROUP

John Charles



Aunty Sue Charles, Director

My aspirations are to see DJAARA grow bigger and stronger and to excel in Culture & Heritage, a healthy and thriving DJAARA Corporation for the next generation and so on to be a part of.



Natasha Charles, Alternate Director

I am very passionate about helping our People achieve their life and health goals. I'm learning a lot about my Culture, and I have a lot more to learn, and hope to have a voice for our People and upcoming generations.

I aspire to one day be a leader, teach our Culture to younger ones, be a role model for our Dja Dja Wurrung People, and get them more involved in projects and having their say.

Thomas Dunolly



Deb Dunolly, Director

Being on the board gives me great responsibility for representing my family group. It also gives me opportunities to learn more and expand my Cultural knowledge.



Kayla Baksh, Alternate Director

Culture and Country are important to me, and my aspiration is to continue learning and doing what I can to Heal Country and pass that knowledge on to my family.

David Harrison



Uncle Walter Harrison, Director

By giving our Djaara People a proper equal voice in the governance of this great nation; By genuinely being who we are, First Nations People who are humbled by the fact that we are achieving the most positive outcomes towards self-determination by promoting social justice, equality, and equity in a way that embraces ourselves and others to Reconciliation that comes from our Spiritual connections to our sacred lands.

Leonard Kerr



Sharnie Hamilton, Director

The importance of being a Board member of a Traditional Owner Corporation is that you are the voice for your Family Group and Djaara to move forward and reach the dreams and aspirations of First Nations People. It's deadly to see good governance to make the achievements and aspirations of Djaara.



John B Kerr, Alternate Director

Forest work keeps alive an old tradition, connecting me directly to the time when my great, great, great, great grandfathers worked in the forest, and the bush provided for them – a living, food, and shelter.

I'm proud that this cultural connection continues in my family now. For us, all of the forest is culturally significant, and we continue to follow the path of protecting our Cultural Heritage and continuing this living Culture.

FAMILY GROUP

**King Girribong,
Lerimburneen,
Walpanumin**



Andrew Travis, Director

I hold high values in myself and uphold them with strength from my Ancestors. I am happy to say I do this on my traditional Dja Dja Wurrung Country. This would never be possible without my respected Elders, those who are with us now and those who have passed, and I thank them for this.

**Caroline
Malcolm**



Uncle Graham Atkinson, Director

I think my Ancestors would be proud today of what we have achieved and the legacy we've laid down not only for our current Membership and community but also for our younger and future generations to come.

Kerri Douglas, Alternate Director



I am very proud to represent Djaara when conducting Ceremonies on Djandak, sharing my knowledge, and educating people to change their perceptions of Aboriginal stereotypes.

I want to extend my cultural practices to include educational programs to assist teachers in embedding Aboriginal perspectives.

As a practising artist, I aspire to establish my own art shop to showcase the work of Djaara and all Aboriginal artists in my community. I want to extend my cultural practices to include educational programs to assist teachers in embedding Aboriginal perspectives and increasing Aboriginal curriculum content, educating teachers and students alike on the connection with Country that goes back for generations.

**Henry
Harmony
Nelson**



Trent Nelson, Chairperson/ Director

My aspiration for the future is for my People to have opportunities with education, employment, health, mind, and spirit in their culture, and to be able to have a choice in creating their future wellbeing for them and their families across Djandak.

**Catherine
Robinson**



Belinda Duarte Deputy Chairperson/ Director

As a Djaara person on the DJAARA Board, I feel significant cultural responsibility as a descendant of Catherine Robinson and the old People who have come before me. Being part of the Traditional Owner Corporation allows each of us the opportunity to continue to support our People and build upon foundations that will create change for generations to come.

The united commitment to this aspiration is evident throughout the organisation and the community. This period has been an inspiring experience, and I look forward to supporting the rights and wellbeing of Djaara into the future.

The Family groups of Tommy Avoca, Tommy Farmer, Samuel Kinnear, William Parker, Martin Simpson, Charlotte Williams, and Alfred Davis do not have members who have formally given the Corporation notice that they wish to identify with them to nominate for or elect the Family Group Director and Alternate Director.



A message from the Dja Dja Wurrung Group CEO **Rodney Carter**

We continue to succeed as a Group from the hard work we do together as the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporate Family and its Members.

It has always been in our nature to build upon our Ancestors' survival as we create our own legacies for our youth so that they can create their own future fit for them.

We have begun the initial steps of creating a Dja Dja Wurrung Renewable Energy Strategy. It will allow our youth to lead and determine what they need to be able to define their future and for us now to ensure we have a greater awareness for them. We hope through this work, the Strategy amplifies the young Djaara voices that contribute to it.

Our organisation has grown significantly over the last year, with a few staff leaving for other opportunities. Still, our own ranks have increased. We are fortunate others think so highly of the Dja Dja Wurrung and what we want to achieve, at our homelands, for healing Country and healing People and want to work alongside us.

One matter that has constantly challenged me was to lead the creation of our corporate footprint on Djandak, a home for us to launch our operations across Djandak; a Corporate and Community Centre to act as our 'Cultural Hub'. I am so very proud to say the dream is a reality.

A site in Golden Square has been chosen and handed back to Djaara as the location for our 'Cultural hub'. The Attorney General Jaclyn Symes officially handed DJAARA the land title in a memorable ceremony attended by many government heads, Elders and many who have been with us on our Recognition and Settlement Agreement journey.

A Wartaka filled with our Dja Dja Wurrung community has been providing input into the designs and cultural elements of the Centre. They have also done an incredible job supporting Gary Richards, Senior Project Manager and Matthew Dwyer Architects Y2 in the process. Once we can occupy our Centre, we will be well placed to extend our presence further across Country.

There have been many major projects that we have contributed to, and the greater Bendigo area has had so much involvement by us in its designs it is hard not to see the contributions of our People and Culture.

This year, we saw a potential Climate Change effect in the catastrophic storm damage in the Greater Wombat Forest area of Country. We put ourselves front and centre to be the decision maker and beneficiaries of wanting to heal Country and to bring the Forest Gardening Strategy to life. We have achieved an initial outcome and, from this Strategy, will have a long journey ahead of Gardening the Environment our way for centuries to come.

Thank you to our Corporation Board and Chairperson Trent Nelson for the support they have given me, and the confidence shown to me as a Dja Dja Wurrung man.

Just over seven years ago for me as your CEO, and from signing the Recognition and Settlement Agreement nearly 10 years ago, we all felt extremely proud but never completely knew what was in store for us in reclaiming our rightful place as Central Victoria's First People. Still, today we have a place of respect by others to be proud of who we all are.

To our staff, I am consistently impressed at what we achieve together for our People. As I said last year and will continue to do so in future years, I feel less can be said by me in these reports; as you will have seen by reading it, our Dja Dja Wurrung Corporate Family has grown so much. The many people as staff and members through Wartaka's have diversified beyond my imagination and stepped up to tell you who and what we are from their voices.

Dhelkup Murrupuk

A message from the DJAARA General Manager
Cassandra Lewis



As I reflect on the last 12 months, the Dja Dja Wurrung People and corporate family have much to be proud of.

Dja Dja Wurrung's culture and history are now etched into the city's skyline through our contribution to the city's major projects.

Central Bendigo is transforming, or as we call it Djaara-fying; the effect of bringing people together surrounded by language, presence, and stories of the Dja Dja Wurrung People, the Dja Dja Wurrung way.

It places language history and culture on a public platform that will invite conversations and awareness of deeper reconciliation for generations to come.

Another significant milestone this year was the return of land in Golden Square, land that will transform into the new Dja Dja Wurrung Corporate and Community Centre.

It was a very proud and humbling moment and an achievement that will be passed down to our future generations as a home for our People to continue the work of our Ancestors in taking care of Country and People.

I want to thank the Wartaka members I was fortunate to work closely with as they developed the stories to be told throughout the building through artistic expression.

I look forward to this long-awaited aspiration coming to life.

There are many people to thank and so much to be grateful for. First, I sincerely thank all members and staff who have supported me in my role and for your tireless efforts, contributions, and generosity to the Dja Dja Wurrung collective visions and aspirations.

It has been wonderful to see so many young Djaara People taking up traineeships across the Group and others moving into management roles and providing outstanding leadership in their fields.

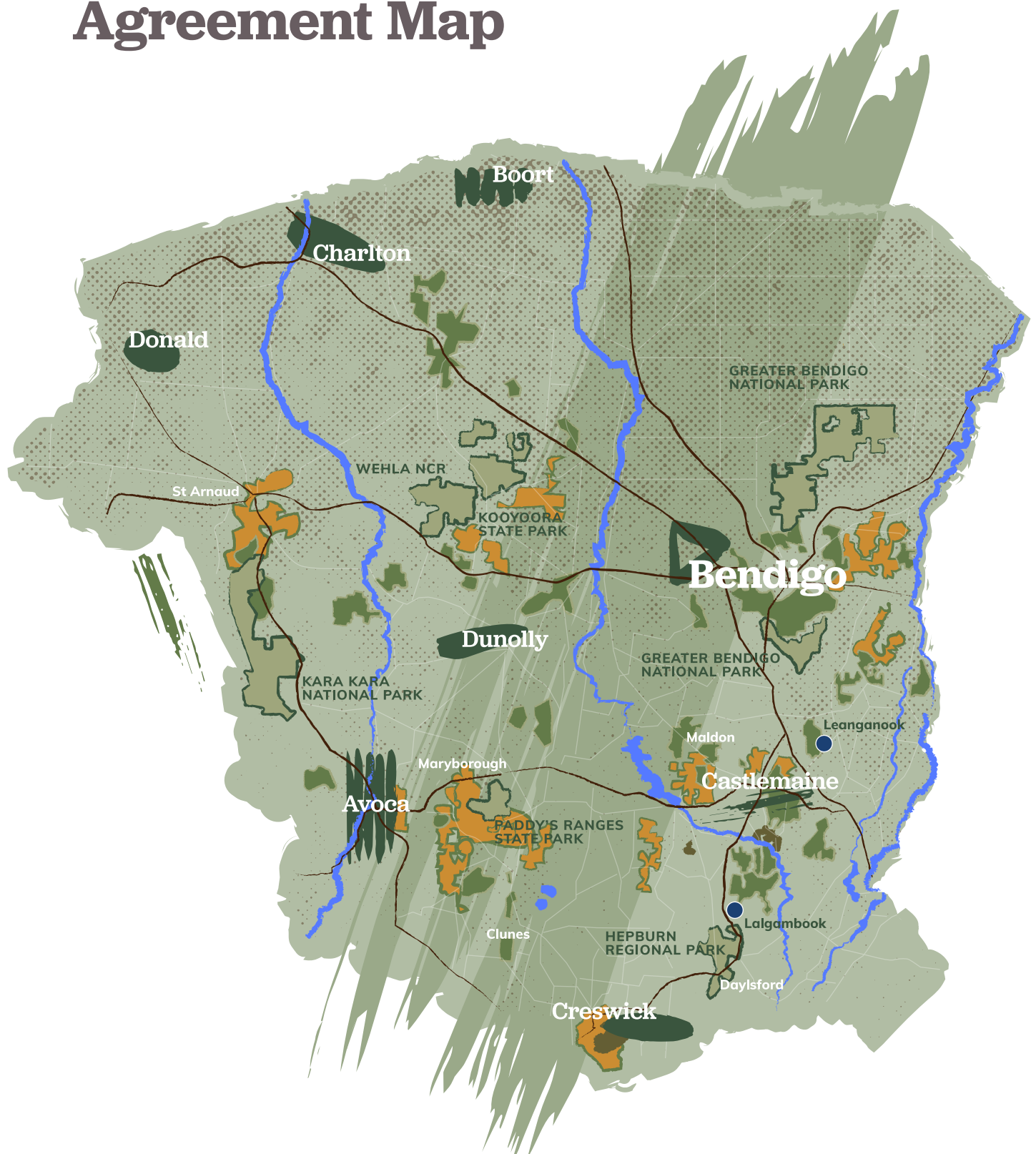
We are building capabilities in many areas of land management and are proud to have officially launched or have them in development. DJAARA's policy positions on matters critical to healing Country, such as renewable energy, forest gardening, climate change, and Djandak Wi contributes to vital change.

While we continue to advocate for the recognition of our rights, which is still a work in progress, I am proud of our relationships and partnerships with those who share our values and aspirations of healthy Country and communities.

We can always do more together, and we all have a responsibility to Country and each other.

Cass

Dja Dja Wurrung Recognition & Settlement Agreement Map





Dja Dja Wurrung Corporate and Community Centre

“Homes can take so many forms. The Dja Dja Wurrung are contributing positively to healing Country and its People. This Centre will be a place for us to work together to create a future for Central Victorians that would make all of our Dja Dja Wurrung Ancestors proud.

Dja Dja Wurrung Group, CEO Rodney Carter

This year has been very productive in regards to creating our Corporate and Community Centre (The Home of Dja Dja Wurrung). DJAARA started the year with some dreams, some ideas, and a lot of enthusiasm.

The first step was to create the team that would put the “dreams, ideas, and enthusiasm” into a plan that meets the needs of the Corporation and community (Clan) to provide a culturally safe and supportive environment required for our organisation to grow and thrive into the future.

Architecture firm Y2, who have contributed previously on projects for Dja Dja Wurrung, was contracted to design the Centre. With their support, we gathered a team of consultants motivated by our dreams and concept ideas. They are putting together a master plan to take the project through to completion, gaining the regulatory approvals as needed.

WARTAKA

A Wartaka was formed and has met on a number of occasions to create the culturally safe and supportive environment within our centre. This has been an enormous success and has enhanced the Centre as a work environment and also as a place of gathering and learning for the community.

TITLE HANDOVER

DJAARA searched eight years for an appropriate location to house our ‘Cultural hub’. In 2020, a site was secured in Golden Square.

We received the official title to the parcel of land planned for our Corporate and Community Centre in February 2022.





Our Dja Dja Wurrung community gather to celebrate the handover milestone.



L-R: Uncle Graham Atkinson, Dja Dja Wurrung Elder and Chair of the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board, Dja Dja Wurrung Group CEO Rodney Carter, Trent Nelson DJAARA Chair and Cassandra Lewis General Manager at DJAARA all stand proud with the land title handed back to Djaara at the official Handover Ceremony.



L-R: Dja Dja Wurrung Elders Aunty Linda Ford, Uncle Graham Atkinson, Aunty Fay Carter, Uncle Walter Harrison and Aunty Wendy Berick



L-R: Attorney-General Jaclyn Symes officially hands the land title for the Golden Square site to DJAARA Chair Trent Nelson.

The handover ceremony took place to mark the significance of the title being returned by the Attorney-General, Jaclyn Symes. Many of our community, State government officials, and our Dja Dja Wurrung Group staff members attended this historic event.

Our anticipated Dja Dja Wurrung Corporate and Community Centre will be a permanent base for the Dja Dja Wurrung Group's operational activities. It aims to be a place of learning and interaction, and honour the survival, growth, and Culture of our Dja Dja Wurrung People.

“ It's an honour and the right thing to do to return this land to the Traditional Owners, the Dja Dja Wurrung People, recognising their tireless fight for land justice. We are working with Traditional Owners across the state to support self-determination and create a strong future for their communities..

Attorney-General Jaclyn Symes

The Centre will also create a destination for arts and cultural events and provide multi-purpose uses for other businesses and the wider public. The site's development will be divided into several stages before completion in 2024.

The State of Victoria committed \$11.288 million to develop and construct our new Centre.

Our People historically received our Recognition and Settlement Agreement in 2013, recognising us as the Traditional Owners for Central Victoria. The return of this parcel of land enables us to have a permanent and centralised location for land management operations and sustainable building models regarding Djandak.

KEY PROJECT STAGES (2022-2024)

- Dja Dja Wurrung Design development Wartaka
- Community Engagement
- Design completion
- Implementation of Dja Dja Wurrung Artwork
- Digging Stick ceremony
- Construction commencement
- Opening Ceremony





Artist impression of the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporate and Community Centre.



Balaki Wurrekang | Community Engagement

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

We currently have 428 Djaara on our membership database. The database is made up of the following Family Groups.

Family Group	Members
Charles	82
Curr	19
Davis	12
Dunolly	20
Harrison	42
Jackson	4
Kerr	47
King Girribong Lerimburneen Walpanumin	34
Malcolm	32
Nelson	90
Robinson	22
Terrick	21
No Family groups	3

The DJAARA membership base is made up of direct descendants of the Dja Dja Wurrung apical Ancestors, they are a pivotal part of DJAARA. Their role is to help guide and provide input on important decisions about how DJAARA is run, who its run by and how we manage the services we provide. The principal objectives of DJAARA are to promote Dja Dja Wurrung People's health and well-being and protect and promote the laws, Culture, property rights, and human rights of Dja Dja Wurrung People.

DJAARA depends on our members to ensure we reach these objectives and achieve our Dhelkunya Dja (Healing Country) Plan aspirations. The Program Manager – Member Engagement, manages the Community Support Program, membership base, member enquires, events, and activities.

The role also manages and prioritises internal and external opportunities for members.

Within the member engagement team, as our events calendar is expanding, we will be considering engaging an Events Coordinator to handle all formal and social events for our members.

In 2021/22 the following events were held:

- Wirama Shield
- Charlton Cup
- Welcome Baby to Country
- Family Day
- Dja Dja Wurrung Corporate and Community Centre – Handover Ceremony
- NAIDOC Flag Raising Ceremony

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

DJAARA has developed and manages the Community Support Program and guidelines, which includes an array of funding streams that aim to support our members by removing financial barriers.

All the programs are assessed on a needs basis and the guidelines limit allocations per year.

Below is a list of the programs and corresponding amounts that were assessed and delivered by DJAARA in the 2021/2022 financial year.

Community Support Program	Amount
Primary Education	\$7952.10
Secondary Education	\$1,500.00
Tertiary Education	\$4,247.00
Elite Sports	\$2000.00
Healthy Living Subsidy	\$397.40
Micro Business	\$0
Sorry Business	\$18,000.00
Driver's License Program	\$650.00
Elders Celebration	\$6000.00
Moving back to country	\$2400.00
Family Group Meeting	\$0
Total	\$43146.50

The objectives of the programs are to:

- Relieve the financial stress of education and gaining employment by increasing opportunities for Djaara to access training and educational costs.
- Increase the health and wellbeing of Djaara and actively support participation in sporting activities.
- Relieve the financial burden of Sorry Business
- Support Djaara in the development of their own businesses.
- Celebrating our Elders' milestone birthdays.
- Supporting Djaara to move back onto Djandak.
- Supporting annual Family Group Meetings so that Family Groups can discuss matters important to them.

Member engagement also focused on delivering an employment survey to identify the needs and wants of the membership base when it comes to employment, skills, and training.

The member engagement team will deliver programs based on the results of the Employment survey.

Bayikina Dja Dja Wurrung Language

The bayikina (reawakening) of Dja Dja Wurrung language is essential to the cultural foundation of Dja Dja Wurrung People and the Dja Dja Wurrung Group. This document provides a continuation of this practice.

For many generations, Dja Dja Wurrung Ancestors have communicated and shared their languages with clans and other language groups who travel long distances for ceremony, trade, hunting, fishing, and gathering.

Stories from the mission period recount our old People being punished for using Dja Dja Wurrung language and customs in their everyday life. Through the years, Dja Dja Wurrung language, words, and traditions have survived through Dja Dja Wurrung People's dynamic and determined connection to Culture and Country.

Over the years, our language reawakening has become an extension and continuation of our oral history practices and traditional practice of sharing knowledge with our People and those that reside in Central Victoria. We share our language to ensure it remains in the landscape where it belongs.

Today, Dja Dja Wurrung language is present and used daily. There are a few People who know Dja Dja Wurrung a lot, and there are those who are still learning. It does not matter whether someone is proficient or many People who are just learning, as long as it is spoken it is still an oral language.

Djali Balak (tongue/language, mob/People/group), our Language Subcommittee of the DJAARA Board, meets quarterly and provides advice on language and pronunciation. They continue to work with DJAARA's Language Repatriation Officer to develop our Dja Dja Wurrung dictionary and to help with the many language requests.

Across 2021-2022, DJAARA received many language requests totalling 143 in a 12-month period. The DJAARA Board approved 75 words in the same 12-month period.

DJA DJA WURRUNG DICTIONARY ON THE HORIZON

The dictionary is an ongoing commitment to gather Dja Dja Wurrung language, reinstate it and empower our People to learn, speak and teach it. There are currently two volunteers helping the Language Repatriation Officer on the dictionary project who offer different expertise. They both have assisted in adding the finalised words to the dictionary. We are excited as the majority of Dja Dja Wurrung words have been added to the dictionary. The next stage that is still in progress is adding words that Dja Dja Wurrung share with our neighbours.

In the language meeting in 2019, members of the Dja Dja Wurrung community agreed to have related words from neighbouring languages in the dictionary to demonstrate the kinds of communication, kinship relationships, trade, and dreaming we share. The words that have been added to the dictionary from other languages are mainly from community dictionaries and resources. Therefore, it is important that the words from these communities stay in their choice of spelling. This means that a related word from our neighbours may be spelt differently.

This shows the different pronunciations and spellings that makes that language different from its neighbours.

For instance, the following table is an example from the Dja Dja Wurrung community dictionary:

Dja Dja Wurrung words	Related words
canoe yungguwip alternative yukuwip	yungguwip [Djap wurrung, Djartwatjaji], yungwitj [Wemba Wemba], yungui [Wergaia], lyungwi [Letyi Letyi], yungguwi, yunggopi [Wadi Wadi], yungwip [Mathi Mathi], yugoip [Watha Wurrung]
canoe, paddle/oar warrik [see spade]	warrek 'paddle of canoe' [Wergaia], warraki [Mathi Mathi], warri [Wati – Swan Hill]
carry duta alternative dutaka	dula [Watha Wurrung]
catch garka	karrka [Wemba Wemba], karrka [Wati Wati – Swan Hill], kakatha [Mathi Mathi], garrk- [Wergaia]
catch fish bakuna	bakunirri 'catch' [Watha Wurrung]
cheek, jaw wanggum [see tooth, front]	wang, wanggim 'jaw' [Watha Wurrung]
chest djang alternative djung	thanggi [Mathi Mathi], thangi, thanggi [Wati Wati – Swan Hill], dyang [Wergaia], tyang [Wemba Wemba]

club, toy throwing wuyiwutj	ust-wuth 'waddy for throwing, leaping kangaroo' [Mathi Mathi], witj-witj, wiyawitj, wuyiwayit 'toy throwing stick' [Woi Wurrung], wut-wut 'waddy, club with knob' [Wergaia]
club, throwing munhup	munopi 'club, waddy' [Wati Wati – Piangal], munhapi 'waddy, club with long handle' [Mathi Mathi], munyup 'thick round headed club' [Wergaia], munhup [Wemba Wemba]
coals, hot wirng alternative wiring [see charcoal; tinder]	winggi [Mathi Mathi], wirriny [Wergaia]
cockatoo, black, yellow tailed (moiety name) gamatj	gapaty [Wergaia], kapaty [Wemba Wemba]
cockatoo, black, yellow tail wiran alternative werayn	wiran [Djap Wurrung], wirani [Wadi Wadi], wirran [Watha Wurrung]
cockatoo, pink crested galalak	galalak [Wergaia], kalalk [Wemba Wemba], kelela [Wati Wati – Swan Hill]
cockatoo, yellow crested ngayuk	ngayuk [Taungurung]
cockatoo, yellow crested djinyap alternatives djirnap	tyinap [Wemba Wemba], dyinap, dyinyap [Wergaia], thinawi [Mathi Mathi], djirnap [Watha Wurrung]

As you can see, Dja Dja Wurrung share many words with languages from the east, west, south, and north. Some of these words are identical or slightly different in pronunciation.

Dja Dja Wurrung language is slowly emerging into the mainstream. There have been many language requests to utilise our language.

Many words have been dispersed into the public domain. Language is on signs, buildings, place names, road names, names for buildings and the next generation are naming their babies in Dja Dja Wurrung.



The Dja Dja Wurrung community has in the past made the decision that Dja Dja Wurrung language should only be learnt by Dja Dja Wurrung People as a language for speaking. But the community have agreed that only basic words can be included into the public domain such as words for animals, places, plants, and parts of Country such as water, sky, and mountains.

For instance, the following words for the plants on Country have been distributed out to the public domain:

wararak 'silver wattle'

banap 'manna gum'

balatj, balotj 'cherry ballart'

gitjawil matom 'chocolate lily', 'vanilla lily'

bam, barm 'bulbine lily'

bunayi-lunayi, bunayi-bunayi 'leopard orchid', 'young girl (before initiation)'

gitjawil dhurung 'nardoo'
= this word translates to 'many seeds'

dumitj malak 'tall sundew'
= this word translates to 'dewy plant'

dirrak 'old man weed'

girmil wawitj 'common appleberry' = this word translates to 'climber with yellow fruits'

witji 'spiny headed matt rush', 'tall sedge'

girrkitj 'ruby saltbush'

dhurunguk gurrka 'kangaroo apple' = this word translates to 'women's fruit'

buwatj 'kangaroo grass', 'Common tussock-grass'

wurrak 'silver banksia'

bakap 'Grass tree', 'butt of a spear'

murna 'yam daisy'

ngarri 'drooping sheoak', 'bullock'

wayi galk 'golden wattle' = galk means 'wood' or 'tree'

djaa wawitj 'Inland Pigface'
= this word translates to 'earth climber'

mutjang 'blackwood', 'lightwood'

wararak 'silver Wattle', 'black wattle'

biyal 'River Red Gum'

bungurt 'pale rush'

dhurung wurkuk 'black-anther flax-lily'
= this word translates to 'purple fruit'

wawitj gurrkuk 'running postman' = this word translates to 'climber with red flowers'

gari dhurung 'muntries' = this word translates to 'summer fruits because this plant can start fruiting as early as December'.

LARNI BARRAMAL YALUK

Other language requests have not always related to different plants. Since 2021, the Hepburn and Mount Alexander Shire have endorsed the name change to a creek that flows through Franklinford, near Daylesford. Franklinford was the region where Dja Dja Wurrung Apical Ancestors Thomas Dunolly, John Charles and Henry Nelson were taken as children to be "protected". The place where they were held was known as the Loddon Aboriginal Protectorate.

Later, the protectorate was abolished, and it became Larni Barramal Aboriginal school. However, this colonial scheme ended up separating the children from their families in exchange for food, shelter, and medical care. This is because the older generation needed a place to be safe but also keep the younger children safer from colonial violence. The younger generation were then Christianised and forced to learn English at a young age.

The creek that flowed through Franklinfoord was called “Black Protectors Creek” or “Jim Crow Creek”. The nearby range and goldfields north of Daylesford were also called “Jim Crow”. The name ‘Jim Crow’ is derogatory as it relates to the famous song ‘Jump Jim Crow’. This song was performed and sung in ‘blackface’ by American, Thomas Dartmouth Rice, which became famous between the 1830s and early 1850s. Jim Crow was given to ranges around the region of Franklinfoord by squatter named Captain John Hepburn.

Over time, “Jim Crow” was transferred as a name to refer to the Aboriginal People who were at the Protectorate station. The settlers would refer to them as the “Jim Crow Blacks” or “Jim Crow Natives”. The name of this creek has been reinstated and changed to Larni Barramal Creek. This word gives a specific meaning that is not fully translated in the words as “the creek that flows through the home or dreaming place of the emu”. However, this creek is also known as Barramal Yaluk ‘Emu Creek’.

DJA DJA WURRUNG PHD UNDERWAY

The Language Project Officer has also been undergoing a PhD study on the loss and reawakening of Dja Dja Wurrung language. The main scope of the PhD thesis will look at the language ecology of Dja Dja Wurrung language, both past and present. Part of this study is to demonstrate, from 19th-century texts and community oral knowledge, the relationship that language had with Country and the People. This thesis will then talk about the kinds of disruptions to a language ecology, such as settler colonialism and government policies. It will draw from oral knowledge of Aunty Ivy Sampson, nee Dunolly (1899-1984), who was the youngest daughter of Dja Dja Wurrung Apical Ancestor, Thomas Dunolly (1854-1923). Aunty Ivy represents a

generation of Aboriginal People who experienced the implementation of the government policies that prevented them from learning their languages as a first language from their parents.

This thesis will then talk about the generations of Dja Dja Wurrung People after Aunty Ivy who represent a generation of being off the missions and returning to Dja Dja Wurrung Country. This topic will also talk about when Dja Dja Wurrung language begun to be reawakened from its forced slumber. Part of this journey is drawing from the oral history of the Dja Dja Wurrung community today who have participated in the yarning interviews.

Part of the yarning is also about the current Dja Dja Wurrung language ecology and where it is spoken today. This includes the different kinds of language outputs such as paintings, signs, language resources, names, and placenames. Other important topics relating to the language ecology are questions relating to who can speak Dja Dja Wurrung, who is a speaker and who can teach Dja Dja Wurrung. These questions tie into the importance of language authority and why it is important for those who wish to work with Aboriginal communities of the south-east to have an understanding. These interviews around authority also talk about key topics relating to the relevance of linguistics and research in the Dja Dja Wurrung language reawakening and the authenticity of the Dja Dja Wurrung language such as pronunciation, spelling, and grammar.

If any Dja Dja Wurrung person wishes to be part of this project and interviewed or would like more information, please contact Harley Dunolly-Lee at harley.dunolly-lee@monash.edu



Dja Dja Wurrung language embedded in Bendigo's major projects

“ We continue to see amazing work that embeds Dja Dja Wurrung culture and identity into its foundations. The new Galkangu building will be shared, now and into the future, for generations to come.

Cassandra Lewis, DJAARA General Manager

The reacknowledgement of language in Dja Dja Wurrung Country will help to strengthen culture and the wellbeing of its People. To this end, the Project Control Group for the Bendigo GovHub, endorsed Dja Dja Wurrung to complete a Cultural Heritage Assessment of the project area and make recommendations to influence architectural and landscape design. Included in this was the recommendation to consider a language piece which is an opportunity to apply a cultural lens more broadly across the precinct.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND GOALS:

This project led by DJAARA aims to integrate Dja Dja Wurrung language into the Bendigo township and encourage further recognition of the land it is founded on and its Indigenous history. DJAARA were involved in providing recommendations for appropriate naming of the Bendigo GovHub, and language throughout the Bendigo Law Courts. These buildings are located on areas which are culturally significant to Dja Dja Wurrung People.

THE PROJECT PROVIDED

- an overview of Culturally significant language and stories within the precinct and the links to other parts of the Bendigo region
- an understanding of how language could be used to identify the projects and assist with way finding
- options considered for naming of the buildings, meeting rooms and other spaces.

A striking new design addition and building name has been revealed for the much-anticipated Bendigo GovHub, celebrating the region's rich Dja Dja Wurrung Culture.

Galkangu means 'making things happen together and being more connected to Country' was chosen after extensive consultation with DJAARA's Language Wartaka and Subcommittee.

The façade, which has been designed by Dja Dja Wurrung, Yorta Yorta and Jaru artist Natasha Carter, will feature motifs from Dja Dja Wurrung shields and will transform the city skyline.

When we make things happen together, when we build great things together, when we remain connected to Country, we create Galkangu.

The site will transform into a spectacular building, with a meaning that also generates action. An action of bringing People together, surrounded by the language, presence and stories of Dja Dja Wurrung People and Culture.

It is important to us, as Traditional Owners, to build visibility across our Country. With culture applied in a contemporary context it creates such pride for our People.

It places our language, Culture and history on a public platform that will invite conversations and awareness for deep reconciliation for generations to come.

DJAARA is determined to place Dja Dja Wurrung back in the landscape by showcasing living statements of Dja Dja Wurrung Cultural practices and language is a vital part of that.

Wirama Shield - 28 May 2022

The Wirama Shield game was held on Saturday 28th May between Golden Square and Castlemaine at Wade Street. Golden Square was victorious in the Seniors football and Castlemaine was victorious in the Seniors Netball.

The shields were presented by Auntie Linda Ford and Uncle Ricky Baxter and Medals presented by Djaara children. It was a great day and wonderful to see the kids involved.



Malamiya | Cultural Heritage

CULTURAL HERITAGE – REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY FUNCTIONS

As in previous years, the work of the Cultural Heritage (CH) team remains focused on fulfilling our statutory requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, including our involvement in the Cultural Heritage Management Plan processes, Cultural Heritage permits and compliance.

The team also, as part of its function, provides advice on Cultural Heritage matters to government agencies, industry, and the general public. This includes representation on standing committees such as the City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Advisory Committee, and project committees such as the Boort Conservation Management Plan steering group, and the technical reference group for the Western Renewables Link project.

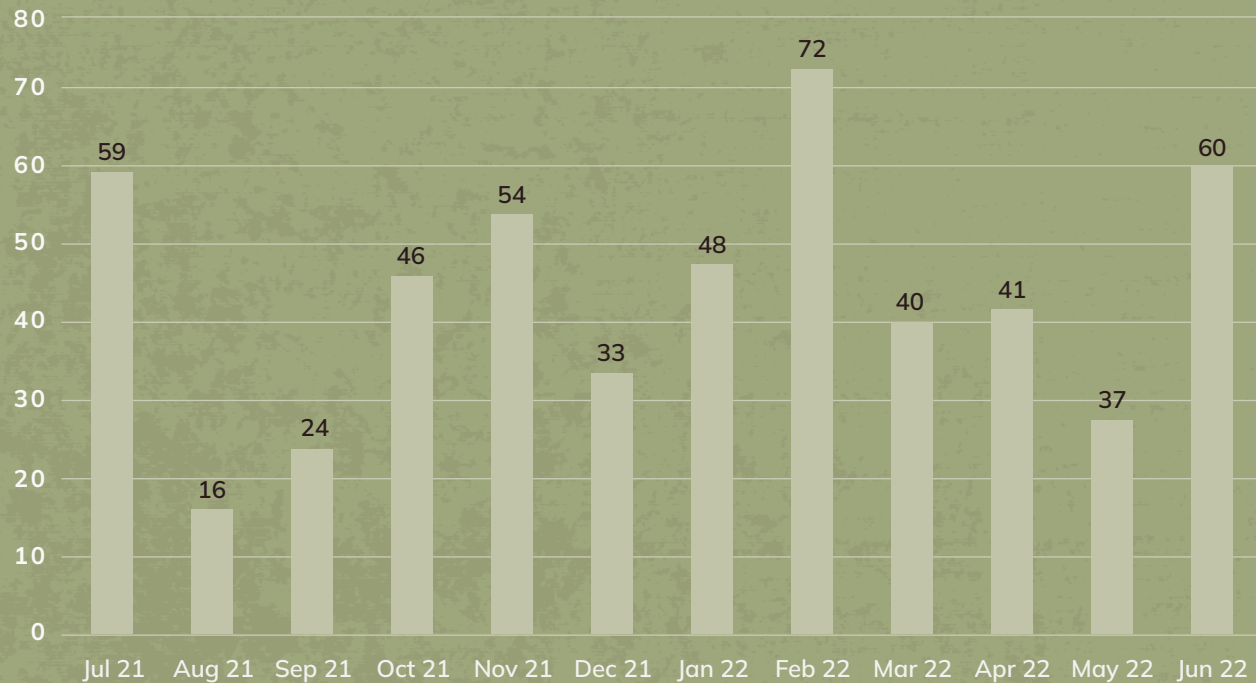
The work that we do supports many of the goals set out in Dhelkunya Dja.

While our main focus is on Malamiya, we contribute to work around Cultural Practices, Rivers and Waterways, and Land; and, through work on government committees, are promoting the course to self-determination.

FIELDWORK

The 2021-22 period saw a total of 530 days of work carried out by the casual employees engaged through the Cultural Heritage process, compared with 856.5 days for the previous period. The major contributor to the 2020-21 figure was the fieldwork undertaken for the Western Victorian Transmission Network Project (WVTNP), which saw multiple teams deployed both on-Country and in adjacent non-allocated lands. The WVTNP project has continued throughout the past 12 months, though not at the same level as previously.

CULTURAL HERITAGE FIELDWORK JULY 2021 TO JUNE 2022

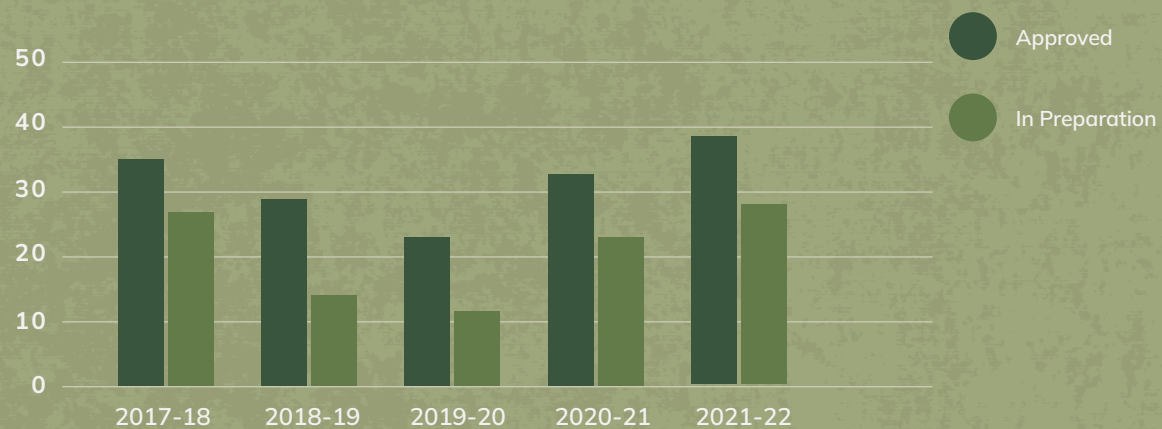


Field work for the financial year July 2021 to June 2022

CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLANS

The past twelve months has seen an increase in the number of Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) being evaluated by the RAP.

CHMP ACTIVITY- FIVE YEAR COMPARISON



Cultural Heritage Management Plan Activity, comparison last 5 years

CHMPs approved in 2021/2022 Financial Year	
14305	Investigation & Design of Flood Mitigation Treatments – Castlemaine, Campbells Creek, and Newton.
14117	Miniature Railway Development 3643 Harmony Way Harcourt – Amendment 2
15816	Amendment – Subdivision 4 Skene Street Kennington
16951	Mitiamo Pipeline Water Storage Area Amendment – 2
17162	Amendment – Bendigo Botanic Gardens Extension: Central Hub Site
17228	Proposed subdivision, 11-13 Monsants Road, Maiden Gully
17287	Epsom-Goorong Track Upgrade Works. Bendigo to Echuca
17299	59 Dukes Lane, Strathfieldsaye
17537	Woodend to Bendigo GCP Replacement
17652	Works in Melville Caves Recreation, Cultural Practice and Customs Area
17668	Proposed Residential Village – 7 Station Street Epsom
17773	98 Kennewal Street Subdivision
17817	Storage Facilities – 338 Station Street Epsom
17998	Residential Subdivision at 110 Simpsons Road, Eaglehawk
18015	Subdivision 23-25 Chapel Street Kangaroo Flat subdivision
18016	Regional (Animal Strike) Fencing – Elphinstone
18017	Regional (Animal Strike) Fencing – Ravenswood to Kangaroo Flat
18017	Amendment – Regional (Animal Strike) Fencing – Ravenswood to Kangaroo Flat
18021	Proposed Accommodation at 153 Charlies Road, Elevated Plains
18023	47 Fryers Street, Campbells Creek Proposed Residential Subdivision
18125	Reservoir Road Track and Carpark Upgrades
18181	38 Blucher Street Strathfieldsaye

18202	Buckleys Lane Huntly rising main
18234	Residential subdivision 67-69 Jobs Gully Road, Eaglehawk
18263	New Grain Bunkers, Elmore-Mitiamo Road, Elmore
18288	Proposed Residential Subdivision at 60 Sawmill Road, Huntly
18329	Proposed Subdivision at Lowther Street Maldon
18397	Residential subdivision 28 Egans Road Huntly
18399	8 Allans Road, Maldon Victoria, 3463
18408	391 Daylesford Trentham Road, Daylesford Proposed Residential Hotel, Function Centre, Dwelling and Day Spa
18420	Proposed Dwellings at 10 Caledonia Street, North Bendigo
18424	Subdivision of 994 Wellington Street Strathfieldsaye
18426	59 and 61 Weeroona Avenue White Hills
18427	Residential subdivision 222 Maiden Gully Road, Maiden Gully
18437	2 Apsley Street, Strathfieldsaye
18448	715-723 Calder Highway, Maiden Gully
18502	Construction of a toilet at Bullarto Reservoir
18533	19A Camp Street, Daylesford Construction of Dwellings and Accommodation
18543	Calder Rail Bridge Replacement, Kurting, Victoria
18619	Bendigo Foodshare Project Warehouse 1 Belle Vue Road Golden Square

Still in progress at 30/6/2022	
16366	Amendment – Residential Subdivision, Lot 1, Wittingslow Lane, Kyneton
17727	Djandak – Melville Caves Picnic Area Reimagining
17968	Proposed Residential Development at 53 Dukes Lane, Strathfieldsaye
18028	Proposed Residential Development of 90 Dukes Lane & 410 Somerset Park Road, Strathfieldsaye
18101	Western Victoria Transmission Network Project, Lexton to Mollonghip
18240	Optus Optic Fibre Cable at Mt Alexander
18261	Maryborough signalling, Tourello passing loop and Emu passing loop
18298	28 Howard Street, Epsom
18317	Goornong-Rochester Track Upgrade Works, Bendigo to Echuca Rail Corridor, Central Victoria: Cultural Heritage Management Plan
18337	Proposed residential subdivision at 269 Howard Street, Jackass Flat
18498	Djandak – Wildflower Drive
18551	Huntly Common Gold Project Processing Facility
18605	Residential Development: 62 Howard Street, Ascot
18614	213-221 Jobs Gully Road, Eaglehawk
18624	Proposed Subdivision at 3-9 Coakes Street, Sailors Gully, VIC 3556
18652	Kalimna Park
18685	Subdivision: 1 Mitchell Street, Axedale
18703	54 Bretts Road Kurraca Victoria 3518 Proposed Eucalyptus Distillation Plant
18728	Kyneton Station Carpark Extension
18733	Proposed subdivision at 29 Edwards Road, Jackass Flat
18768	Residential subdivision and development, Cooper Court, Campbells Creek
18778	Shared Trails Project, Stages 1a and 1b
18785	280 Maiden Gully Road, Maiden Gully 3551

18786	272 High Street, Kangaroo Flat
18796	350 Station Street, Huntly
18527	Upgrade to facilities and proposed utility installation: Wooroonook Lake Camping Ground
18841	Proposed Dwellings at 853 Strathfieldsaye Road, Strathfieldsaye
18847	Proposed Residential Subdivision at 13 Nash Lane, Daylesford
18868	Bendigo Creek In-stream works, Bendigo
18908	4-9 Tullaroop Road, Maryborough

Cultural Heritage Permits (CHPs) issue in 2021-2022

Under the Aboriginal Heritage Act, the RAP has the authority to approve permits in relation to Cultural Heritage on Dja Dja Wurrung Country. Permits can be issued for: research, to harm Cultural Heritage, to sell Heritage, to remove Heritage from Victoria, rehabilitate an Aboriginal place, or to reinter Aboriginal remains.

One CHP was issued in the last financial year. This was to the North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) to allow for the release of water into Lake Boort in the form of an environmental flow.

The permit conditions require that NCCMA engage the RAP to monitor the flows to ensure that there is no damage to sensitive cultural sites within the Lake Boort precinct.

COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Eleven worksites were subject to compliance inspections as part of Cultural Heritage Management Plan conditions. Ten sites were compliant; one site was referred to First People – State Relations (FP-SR), and the matter was resolved at this level.

Three other issues regarding harm to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage were investigated during the past 12 months, all of which were referred to the compliance branch of First Peoples – State Relations:

- 9 August 2021 – CH team members attended the Birthing Tree at Talbot, that had been set on fire overnight. Further investigation by VicPol identified the person responsible and reported that she had placed candles at the site while praying. Significant damage was caused to the tree, but the CFA were able to extinguish the blaze without the need to remove any portion of the tree.

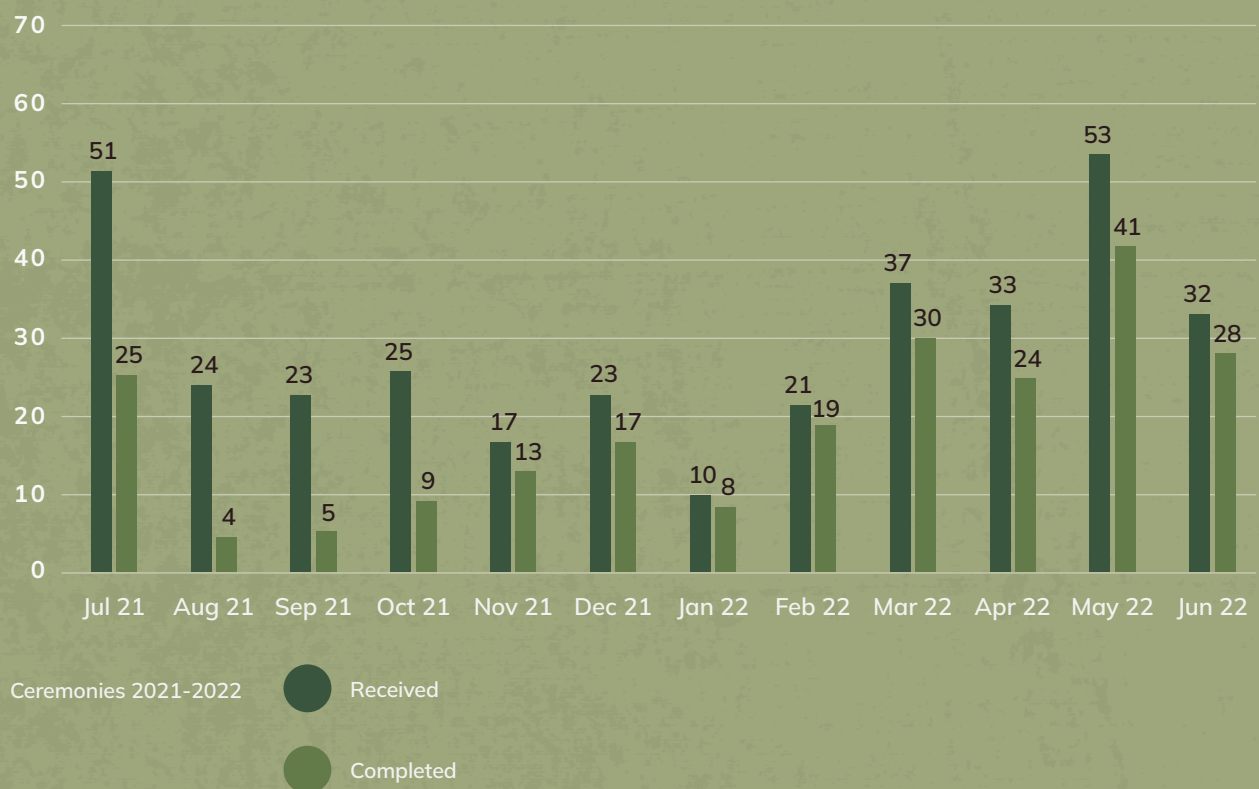
The CH team acknowledge that there was a lack of inclusion of women in the attendance at the place, for which we apologise. We have taken steps to ensure that correct lines of communication, and Cultural practice will be followed in future investigations.

First People – State Relations have been examining possible prosecution of the responsible party.

- 8 November 2021 – Members of the Cultural Heritage team attended Walker's Lake after being notified that a scarred tree had been felled. All evidence was forwarded to FP-SR. Unfortunately, this is not a one-off incident. We attended Walker's Lake approximately 12 months previous to this as a result of a report of a scarred tree being damaged by a chainsaw. In that case the portion of the tree with the scarring was still intact and was removed to a place of safekeeping.
- 7 April 2022 – CH staff attended a site on Vaughan Spring Roads where a landholder had commenced construction of a roadway and disturbed a number of stone artefacts. This matter is still ongoing with the Corporation and FP-SR. The landowner involved is happy to rectify the situation and protect the place, not that it has been identified.

CEREMONY AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Over the 2021/22 financial year we received 349 booking requests for smoking and Welcome to Country ceremonies. Of these only 223 were completed, largely due to cancellations because of COVID-19 restrictions.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

- As a result of the Victorian Government's decision to open up leased Crown land along river frontages for recreational purposes, we have been involved in carrying out inspections for Cultural Heritage along a number of waterways.

Members of the Cultural Heritage team have carried out over 60 inspections since September along the Loddon, Avoca, and Richardson Rivers, as well as portions of the Serpentine and Bendigo Creeks. We currently have at least another 20 inspections lined up.

- DJAARA has been involved in the Western Renewables Link project (previously the Western Victorian Transmission Network Project) since its commencement in 2020. The Program Manager – Cultural Heritage currently represents DJAARA on the Technical Reference Group for the project, while field representatives have been involved in the Cultural values assessment and fieldwork for the Cultural Heritage Management Plans.
- This project is the largest engagement of Dja Dja Wurrung field staff since the South West Loddon Pipeline Project. Unlike the previous project there have been ongoing problems with rostering and security caused by the resistance of landholders and protestors to the project. The project sponsors have been rigorous in addressing the security issues and the safety of all field staff engaged in the project.
- Since mid-2020 DJAARA has been involved in negotiations with the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Resources (DJPR) over conditions to be included in the Northern Victorian Goldfields Ground Release. This involves the granting of new mining licences over a large part of central Victoria, primarily on Dja Dja Wurrung Country, but also encroaching on Taungurung and Yorta Yorta lands.

We have been able to negotiate requirements for the successful exploration companies to carry out archaeological assessments over areas that fall outside of the statutory requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act. This means that, rather than just assessing “culturally sensitive areas” as defined in the Act, the license holders will need to survey all proposed access tracks and drilling pads associated with their exploration works.

Initial engagement with the successful tenderers for the exploration licences in conjunction with DJPR took place during the first part of 2022.

- In the latter part of 2019, the Corporation formally requested that the Minister grant an Ongoing Protection Declaration (OPD) on Lake Boort and its surrounds to enhance the protection of the significant Cultural Heritage of the Lake Boort Landscape. As part of the declaration assessment the Minister requested a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) be developed to assist in his deliberations.

The Program manager – Cultural Heritage has represented the Corporation on the steering group responsible for managing the development of the CMP along with members of First Peoples and the consultants engaged to develop the plan. After nearly two years, the group accepted the draft of the plan in February 2022. The finalised plan will be forwarded for ministerial consideration.

- The Program Manager has worked with representatives from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on the development of the Hanging Rock Master Plan.
- The CH team have been active in providing advice to government agencies involved in the storm damage recovery currently being carried out in the forests in the southern part of Djandak. This has included assistance in identifying areas of Cultural sensitivity and providing Cultural Heritage inductions for contractors involved in the recovery process.

Recognition & Settlement Agreement Implementation

“It’s true that as Dja Dja Wurrung People, we have always known that we are the Traditional Owners of this land, and it has sometimes been a painful process having to prove this to others. To prove that we belong to the land and that this land belongs to us.

Uncle Graham Atkinson, Dja Dja Wurrung Elder

The Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA) between the Dja Dja Wurrung People and the State of Victoria was celebrated at Yapenya on 15 November 2013. The Agreement is a means by which Dja Dja Wurrung culture, traditional practices, and the unique relationship of Dja Dja Wurrung People to Djandak are recognised, strengthened, protected, and promoted, for the benefit of all Victorians, now and into the future.

SCHEDULE 4 LICENCES

Since early 2020, the RSA Implementation team has been working to set up a joint process with the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) and their Earth Resources Regulation Team (ERR) to invoice for fees owed to DJAARA under Schedule 4 (Sch 4) Dja Dja Wurrung Land Use Activity Agreement (LUAA). These fees encompass activities for exploration and prospecting for mineral resources from operators on Dja Dja Wurrung Country – within the Recognition and Settlement Agreement area. A foundation for engagement with operators, recovering amounts owed to DJAARA under Sch 4 LUAA was built in 2021. We have completed a process of discovery of fees owed, undertaken rigorous legal analysis of Sch 4 to ensure LUAA compliance, and are continuing recovery of historic and current fees owed up to October 2022.

Throughout this process, we have been developing stronger relationships with operators on Dja Dja Wurrung Country with the aim of deepening operators’ understandings of Djaara ways of thinking and being with the landscape and DJAARA’s strategic goals. To this end, a key relationship has brought forward the potential for a DJAARA staff member’s secondment at an operator’s company.

RECOGNITION AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION TRAINING PROGRAM

An important part of the RSA Implementation team’s work is teaching others about the RSA. In response to the findings of the Land Use Activity Agreement Audit, released to government in December 2021, the RSA Implementation team launched a new training program for partners such as state and local government authorities in 2022. While training in the past was delivered to large and diverse groups and broadly covered the clauses in the Land Use Activity Agreement, the new program tailors the training to smaller groups with a strong focus on implementation. Through this more targeted approach, the program is also helping to build and maintain key relationships between DJAARA and our partners in government.

RSA IMPLEMENTATION TEAM 2021 – 2022



Caleb Dunolly Lee



Madeleine Toohey



Jim Brooks



Dylan Brown



Davina Wijesinghe



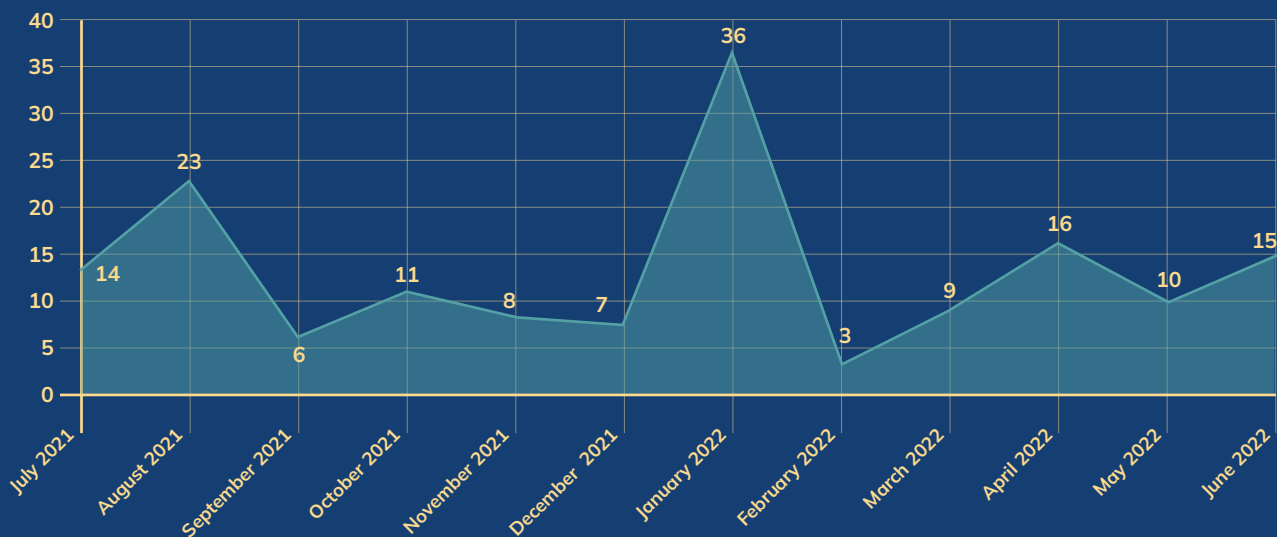
Hannah Webster

Caleb Dunolly – Lee transitioned into a new role with the Cultural Heritage Team and continues to contribute to this team via conducting Cultural Heritage site inspections for LUAA matters. Madeleine Toohey and Dylan Brown came to DJAARA in February as the new Project Officers – LUAA. Hannah Webster, our Agreement Maker, became a part of the RSA team in March, and now we have a full team of individuals that excel in many areas and support one another.

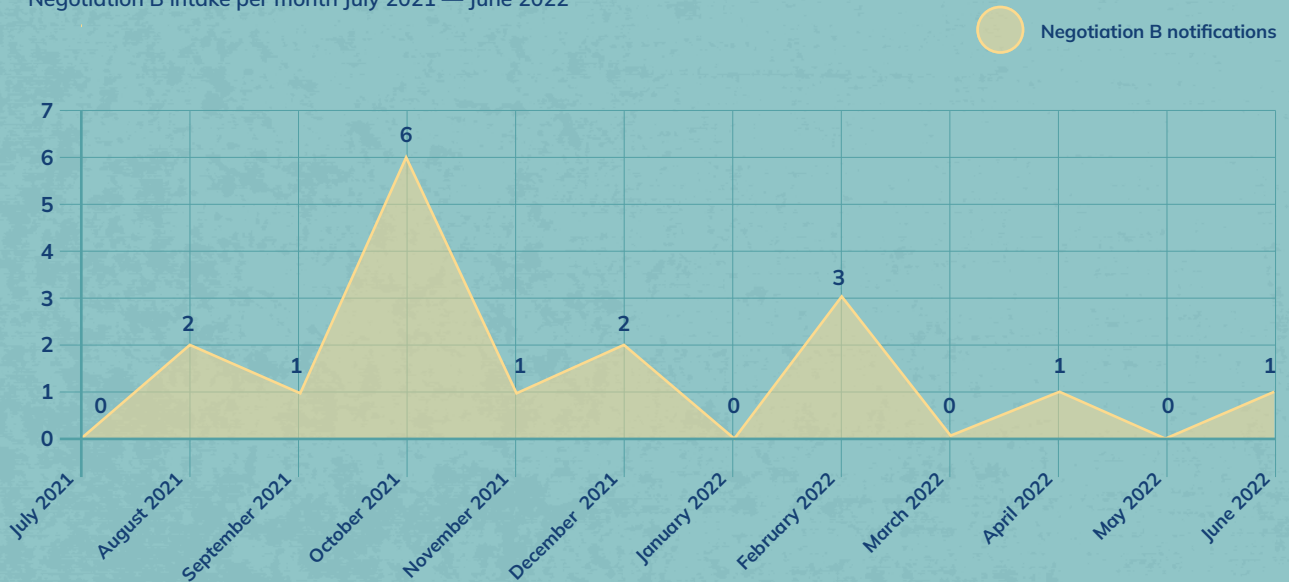
STATISTICS

Advisory intake per month July 2021 — June 2022

 Advisory Notifications



Negotiation B intake per month July 2021 — June 2022



APPLYING THE TIMBER CREEK DECISION

In 2019, the High Court of Australia handed down their decision in *Northern Territory v Mr A. Griffiths (deceased) and Lorraine Jones on behalf of the Ngaliwurru and Nungali Peoples* [2019] HCA 7 ('Timber Creek').

The Timber Creek case looked at how to calculate compensation for the extinguishment of native title rights, including economic loss and Cultural loss. In 2021-2022, the RSA Implementation Team continued to develop the application of these principles to the DJAARA Land Use Activity Agreement.

We have worked with state and local government authorities, private developers, community groups and resource companies to advance processes for calculating economic loss and cultural loss for negotiation activities on Dja Dja Wurrung public land. We also worked with the University of Queensland Pro-Bono Centre to look at how to calculate cultural loss in the Dja Dja Wurrung context.

This work saw the team achieve a range of Land Use Activity Agreement outcomes consistent with the Timber Creek principles, providing support to the Community Benefit fund and exciting opportunities for Dja Dja Wurrung.



Partnerships and Policy

The Partnerships and Policy Unit contains two teams, Galkangu (Joint Management) and Dhelkunya Dja Policy. The unit leads the partnership and policy development to achievement Dja Dja Wurrung aspirations, as articulated in the Dhelkunya Dja (Healing Country) Country Plan and the Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA).

Staff work closely with Parks Victoria, DELWP, other state government agencies, Local Government Authorities, stakeholders, and communities, driving business and cultural change to enable Dja Dja Wurrung rights. The work of the Galkangu and Dhelkunya Dja Policy teams are detailed below. In addition to the work delivered through these teams, the Partnerships and Policy Unit leads the delivery of Nation Building activities.

PARTNERSHIPS AND POLICY TEAM 2021 – 2022



Harley Douglas



Mike Hayes



Tony O'Loughlin



Oli Moraes



Jacinta Douglas



Mark Costello

NATION BUILDING – BALAKI WURREKANG

DJAARA received funding from the State of Victoria in 2018-2019 and implemented the Treaty Engagement project Balaki Wurrekang – Mob talking to Mob. The purpose of the project was to explore what Treaty, or other formal agreement-making could look like with local governments within their defined area (as per the Recognition and Settlement Agreement 2013).

In the 2021/22 year, DJAARA sought funding through the first round of Nation Building Resource Pool funding coordinated through the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations, with the purpose to continue with the next phase of the Balaki Wurrekang, to progress agreements.

This project is vital for DJAARA and the Dja Dja Wurrung community to build on and create mutual relationships with the LGAs within

our Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA) area. This will enable DJAARA and LGAs to jointly make decisions regarding our landscape, employment opportunities and self-determination.

The project will strengthen both Djaara and DJAARAs position to negotiate and support specific outcomes including improving governance arrangements, member engagement and nation building, all in the context of establishing treaties and other formal agreements with State and local government.

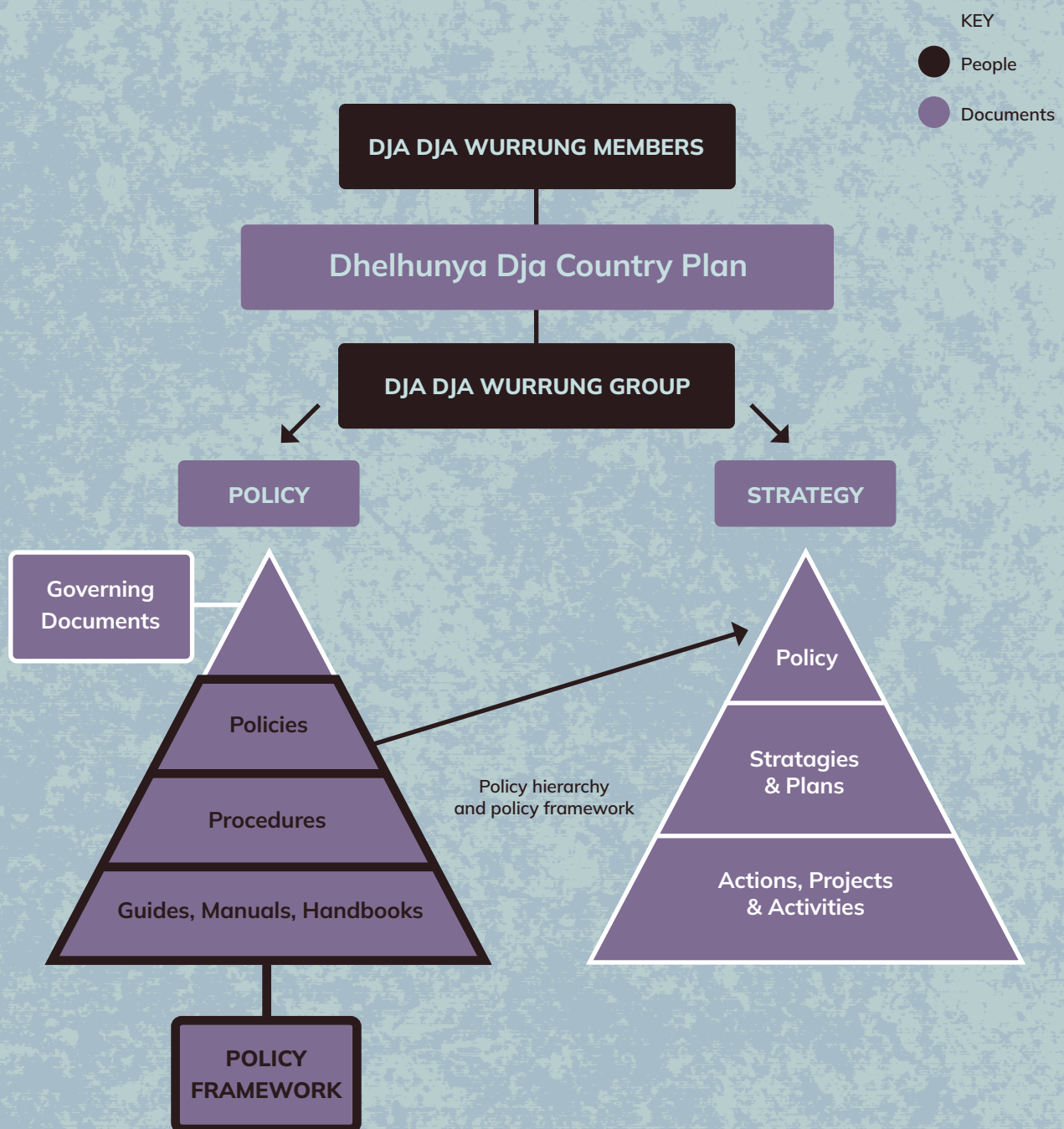
Through member-led formal agreements, it is expected that the project will deliver lasting economic and cultural benefits for Djaara and all who share Dja Dja Wurrung Country.

Project delivery will continue throughout 2022/23.

DJA DJA WURRUNG GROUP POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Partnerships and Policy Unit led the development of the Dja Dja Wurrung Group Policy Framework. The purpose of the Policy Framework is to define how policies are identified, organised, developed, approved, and managed across the Dja Dja Wurrung Group.

The Policy Framework applies to the identification, development, implementation, management and review of all policies, procedures, guides, manuals, or handbooks (Framework documents) within Dja Dja Wurrung Group (the Group). The Group consists of Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DJAARA) and Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises (DDWE).



Dhelkunya Dja Policy

The Dhelkunya Dja Policy team's purpose is to strengthen Dja Dja Wurrung self-determination by implementing the Dhelkunya Dja (Healing Country) Plan goals and providing strategic clarity to Dja Dja Wurrung Group decision-making. The team supports meaningful engagement between DJAARA, Government and other stakeholders to implement the goals of the Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF DJAARA

The Dhelkunya Dja Policy team recruited a Djaara trainee who was provided with the opportunity to learn about the Dja Dja Wurrung Group, develop skills while on the job and complete a Certificate III in Business Services.

The trainee was exposed to most aspects of the team's work and as time went by developed highly competent levels of understanding of the Group's aspirations. Due to the high capability of the trainee, they led the development of DJAARA's Forest Gardening Strategy, instilling their passion and inherent knowledge in a strategy that will see Djaara back on Djandak, caring for Djandak. DJAARA will recruit the next Dhelkunya Dja Policy trainee soon, continuing on the opportunity for capacity building of Djaara.

WORKING WITH THE ENERGY SECTOR

In the past 12 months, we have increased our understanding of the energy sector by participating in several events and initiatives and developing our relationships with government and other stakeholders. We have participated in the City of Greater Bendigo's Climate Collaboration, which includes corporate partners, local government representatives, community organisations and individuals, and aims to foster relationships for collaborative action like constructing a solar farm or putting solar on homes.

We welcomed new relationships with Hepburn Energy, Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) and RACV Solar (formerly Cola Solar) and look forward to exploring partnership opportunities that will benefit Djaara.

CONTRIBUTION TO GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES, PROJECTS, AND LEGISLATION

The Dhelkunya Dja Policy Team has reviewed and contributed to a number of state and local government legislation, policies, strategies, and projects.

DJAARA provided submissions towards the Major Event Review of the 2019-2020 bushfires, Green Wedges and Agricultural Lands project, and Victorian Mineral Springs Masterplan review, advocating for the return to cultural land management practices.

Local government contributions included input into the City of Greater Bendigo Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026, and Hepburn Shire Council's Sustainable Hepburn 2022-2026. We contributed to Central Goldfields Shire's Climate Action Plan, and we hope that climate action in partnership between Dja Dja Wurrung and Council will heal Country, heal People, and heal the climate for the Central Goldfields and beyond.

Dhelkunya Dja Policy also made contributions to the following Victorian Government policy, strategy, and legislation:

- Traditional Owner Cultural Landscapes Strategy
- Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy
- Submission to Proposed Crown Land (Reserves) (Metropolitan and Regional Parks) Regulations
- Participation in comprehensive review of the Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014.





Galk-galk Dhelkunya – Forest Gardening Strategy



“What we are doing is empowering everybody to be able to heal Country. While Djaara should be leading the way in terms of our ancient and contemporary relevant knowledge systems, everybody on Djandak has a role to care for Country and work with Djaara to do this.

Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan 2014-2034

Galk-galk Dhelkunya, - Forest Gardening Strategy, sets out Dja Dja Wurrung aspirations to return culturally safe land management practices to Djandak through Forest Gardening. It outlines our rights and obligations in a contemporary setting, to allow present day Djaara and our future generations to care for Djandak as our Ancestors have done before us.

Galk-galk Dhelkunya (to care, to heal trees, forests), is Djaara's contemporary philosophy and practice of managing Djandak's cultural landscapes. The term “Forest Gardening” is used to communicate the way Djaara interact with the environment.

Language is an important tool to connect worldviews. It connects us, as humans, to our different cultures and provides us meaning and understanding of the world around us, and, as Dja Dja Wurrung People, allows us to give voice to Bunjil's creations who cannot speak for themselves. This Strategy, and Forest Gardening as a concept, seeks to bridge worldviews and present an approach to managing Country within a contemporary context.



“ How do we talk about the flow of the landscape... the wind, the energy, to land. [We need] to demonstrate how Apical Ancestors are connected to certain areas. That captures the real essence of listening to Country – utilising tools, such as Gatjin and Wi, but also respecting them as entities in their own right.

To represent that we sit with and listen to Country – the right time, the seasons, right plant, right way, right time, right season, right Country, right practice – all these things rely on sitting with and listening to Country. Listening to our Ancestors that are present in this landscape and what they are telling us Country needs. Country presents opportunities to us – it is the connection of listening to Country that makes us good managers; it is about reading and our relationship with the land, and the flow.

This quote is a contribution from one of the Galk-galk Dhelkunya Wartaka members. It is eloquent and elegant in describing the essence of Forest Gardening. This is described in Dja Dja Wurrung language as Nyerna, to hear, to listen, to understand, to know.

Galk-galk Dhelkunya is the leading strategic document for Forest Gardening across Djandak.

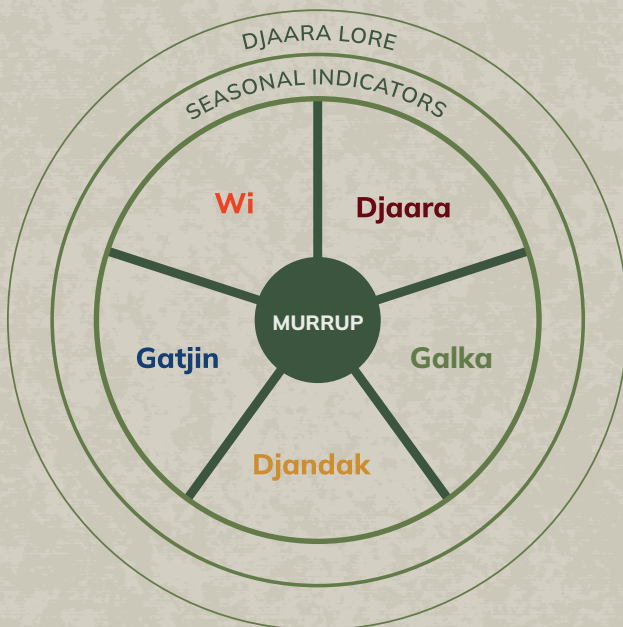
Detailed application will be applied through the Galk-galk Dhelkunya Implementation Plan which will be developed in collaboration with partners and stakeholders and updated regularly to incorporate new knowledge, information, and opportunities. In the next 12 months, we will recruit a Galk-galk Dhelkunya Project Manager to lead the development of the Implementation plan.



Climate Change Strategy

DJAARA appointed a Climate Change Officer to develop a Climate Change strategy that brings together the Dja Dja Wurrung's expertise and knowledge on the relationship between People, Country, and the climate. The role was funded through DELWP's regional climate change adaptation program, ADAPT Loddon-Mallee.

The policy addresses climate change through five interconnected and interdependent areas that form the Dja Dja Wurrung Climate Policy Framework aligned with actions that heal Country. Each component of the framework is impacted by a changing climate yet provides avenues and opportunities to implement holistic mitigation and adaptation solutions. Wi (fire), Gatjin (water), Djandak (Country), Galka (trees) and Djaara (People) are each integral aspects in our vision for Dhelkunya Dja and a future that is sustainable, resilient, and just for Dja Dja Wurrung People and our cultural landscapes.



Dhelkunya Dja depends on healthy Djaara and a healthy climate, and healthy Djaara and a healthy climate depend on Dhelkunya Dja. By sitting with and listening to Country assisted by the Dja Dja Wurrung seasonal calendar, Dja Dja Wurrung can heal People, Country, and climate through Djaara-led climate action.

In the next 12 months:

- the Climate Change Officer will participate in a climate change adaptation research project with Monash University's Behaviour Works. The project was co-designed with experts from federal, state and local governments, academia and community. The project aims to improve awareness in local governments of Traditional Owner cultural knowledge and practices around climate change adaptation and gather support for Traditional Owner-led climate change action.
- the Climate Change Officer is contributing to the design and development of the Dja Dja Wurrung Group's new Corporate and Community Centre with plans for the new centre to have solar panels on the roof and electric vehicle charging stations for the Group's fleet and the community.



Galkangu | Joint Management

Galkangu (Joint Management) is the term used to describe the formal partnership arrangement between DJAARA and the Victorian Government, where both share their knowledge to jointly manage the six Dja Dja Wurrung Parks. Greater Bendigo National Park; Hepburn Regional Park; Paddys Ranges State Park; Kara Kara (Garra Garra) National Park; Kooyoora (Guyura) State Park; and Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve.

Joint Management is recognising that the Traditional Owners of Central Victoria, the Dja Dja Wurrung People, have a significant connection to Country, and with that, have inherited rights and responsibilities to care for Country. The goal of Joint Management is to enable the Traditional Owner knowledge and connection to Country to be expressed in the planning and management of the six Dja Dja Wurrung Parks.

The 2021-22 year has provided opportunities to continue the progress of implementation of the Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks. Whilst there were delays in receiving funding and issues with delivery (due to COVID, under resourcing, and planning pathways taking a little longer than originally anticipated), the Dja Dja Wurrung Group feels well positioned to roll out the delivery of Joint Management in the six Parks in the 2022/23 financial year.

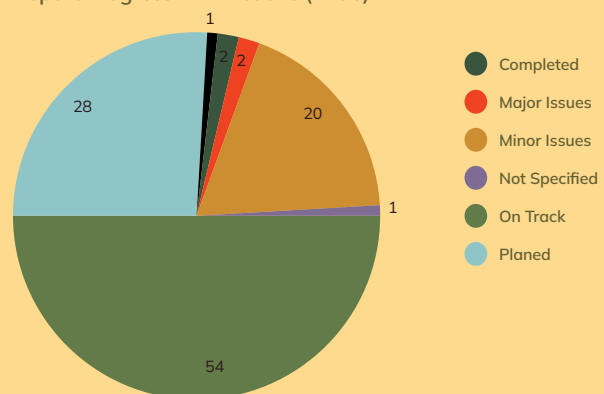
With an emphasis on using Dja Dja Wurrung language wherever possible, the DJAARA Joint Management Team was given the name Galkangu, meaning 'build together, we make together, make things happen together, more connected to Country'. The Wartaka (Dja Dja Wurrung member focus group) supporting joint management implementation projects adopted the name Djuwima Djandaki, meaning 'to show

and to share our Country'. Djuwima Djandaki was also adopted as the name of the DJAARA Joint Management Annual Workplan.

The 2021-22 year also saw the departure of Galkangu Program Manager, Tim Hoogwerf, who has moved with his family to England. DJAARA would like to thank Tim for all the work that he achieved in Joint Management since stepping into the role in 2019, wish Tim and his family all the best in their future.

HOW ARE WE GOING DELIVERING THE JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN?

Report Progress - All Actions (n=96)



Good progress was made implementing the Joint Management Plan with 54 of the 96 priority Strategic Actions on-track. Twenty Strategic Actions experienced minor issues, and two experienced major issues. We expected the list of issues to grow as we ramp up delivery of Joint Management; Issues are continually workshopped at appropriate governance levels until a meaningful solution or workaround has been reached. The Plan includes 28 Strategic Actions that have not commenced but are planned for delivery over the next 3-5 years.

GOVERNANCE

As in previous years, there continues to be a strong focus on setting up sound governance frameworks that enable trust in the partnership between Parks Victoria and the Dja Dja Wurrung Group. The project delivery framework is a living document and serves as a guide whilst evolving to fit the needs of the Dja Dja Wurrung Group and Parks Victoria.

The Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board (DDLMB) continued to oversee Joint Management delivery throughout the 21/22 financial year. The DDLMB were kept informed through quarterly progress reporting (Gapa Giya) using our project management system, Miradi.



Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board & Dja Dja Wurrung Ranger Team at Kara Kara National Park

The Galkangu Team and Dja Dja Wurrung Ranger Team (DDW RT) hosted several DDLMB meetings on Country in the Joint Managed Parks, as well as hosting the Parks Victoria Aboriginal

Partnerships Committee. The team showcased the importance of having Djaara present in the landscape through our involvement in leading land management implementation.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Partnership Agreement with Parks Victoria has further progressed. Parks Victoria and the Dja Dja Wurrung Group collaborate on an Annual Worksplan to set priorities for deliverables across the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks and the broader Recognition and Settlement Agreement area. There is a strong overlap between the priorities in this plan and the strategic initiatives and actions in the Joint Management Plan.

Regular Partnership Agreement meetings are facilitated by DJAARA, through monthly operational, monthly strategic, and bimonthly Project Control Group meetings. This enables there to be a focus on communication, collaboration, issue resolution and agreed direction at the multiple levels through which we engage with Parks Victoria through Joint Management.

The Joint Management Plan Implementation Team (JMPIT) continued monthly meetings with the creation and completion of a series of action-based project logic; that is referred to as Results Chains. The Results Chains have been created through a collaborative process with DJAARA, DJANDAK, Parks Victoria, and DELWP, to provide clear direction on the actions needed to achieve successful implementation of Joint Management.

DJUWIMA DJANDAKI

The Djuwima Djandaki Annual Workplan 21/22 was developed and delivered on strategic initiatives and actions as listed in the JMP. A strong focus of the Worksplan was to have 'Djaara in the landscape' through high impact actions such as creation of visitor nodes – otherwise known as Recreation, Cultural Practice & Customs (RCPC) areas – in the Joint Managed Parks.

Carrying on from previous years, DJAARA continued to develop, review, and improve our project delivery systems to ensure the process was robust and inclusive moving into the future. This involved the introduction of project inception meetings with our partners, and developing project briefs, and communications and engagement plans, before stepping into project delivery led by DJANDAK.

The Djuwima Djandaki Wartaka met several times over the 21/22 financial year, with input into several projects that empower Djaara cultural outcomes to be implemented. The projects were Larni Yirrip, Dja Dja Wurrung Signage Style Guide, and Guyura (Kooyoora State Park) RCPC area.

RECREATIONAL, CULTURAL PRACTICES, AND CUSTOMS AREA PROJECTS

DJAARA investment in the Joint Management Plan implementation aims to strengthen Dja Dja Wurrung cultural practices, customs, and heritage. RCPC area projects, being managed by DJAARA and DJANDAK, empowers Dja Dja Wurrung to look after Country our way. These projects invest in the renewal and improvement of infrastructure in the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks, embedding Dja Dja Wurrung values into the landscape using traditional knowledge to inform contemporary design, whilst providing spaces for all community and stakeholders to enjoy.

Guyura RCPC area project is moving through planning approval processes with detailed designs being finalised to redevelop the Picnic Area, Campground, and Lookout Areas of the Melville Caves precinct of Guyura.

Site assessments for bushfire risk and ecology were undertaken, while the DJANDAK designed infrastructure is under review from engineers. The project is on track to commence construction in the 22/23 financial year.



Guyura concept design

The Galkangu Team delivered a presentation at the Friends of Kooyoora Annual General Meeting to ensure the design aligned with community expectations. This was well received by the community and even appeared on the front page of a local newspaper.

A project brief for Kara Kara National Park RCPC area at the Upper Teddington Reservoir has also been developed and is planned to be delivered in the 22/23 financial year.

OTHER PROJECTS

The Galkangu Team worked closely with Parks Victoria's Dja Dja Wurrung Ranger Team, with input into the Ranger Team's works planning to ensure alignment with strategic initiatives and actions as listed in the JMP. DJAARA also assisted the Ranger Team with delivery of Junior Ranger Programs during the school holidays, a passion project led by the Dja Dja Wurrung Ranger Team.



Dja Dja Wurrung Ranger Team Leader Andrew Travis taking bark from a tree ahead of the Scar Tree Cultural engagement project

The Dja Dja Wurrung Signage Style Guide (SSG) for Joint Managed Parks has been progressed throughout the 21/22 financial year, led by DJANDAK with DJAARA facilitating Member engagement processes to ensure the SSG is representative of Djaara and a product that Members are proud of and have ownership of. Along with the SSG, implementation processes were created with Joint Management partners

Parks Victoria, to enable efficiency in agreement and installation of signage in Joint Managed Parks.

An entrance signage trial was initiated with a focus on trialling the new Dja Dja Wurrung SSG prior to official approval, targeting the entrances to Guyura, Lalgambuk, and One Tree Hill and Wildflower Drive which are both in the Greater Bendigo National Park.

Womindjeka Lalgambuk

Welcome to Mount Franklin

Hepburn Regional Park



Park information 13 1963 www.parks.vic.gov.au

DJA DJA WURRUNG CLANS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION TRADING AS DJAARA
www.djadjawurrung.com.au



Welcome sign for Lalgambuk



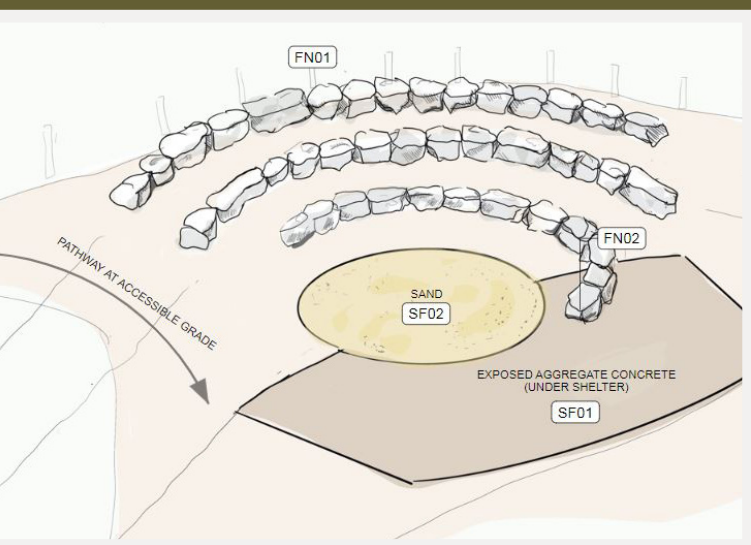
Staff Day at Lalgambuk

The Galkangu Team hosted one of the monthly DJAARA staff meetings in the Hepburn Regional Park at Lalgambuk (Mt Franklin).

Staff participated in a smoking and welcome ceremony performed by Jackson Dunolly-Lee, who was accompanied by Jason Kerr on the yidaki.

The morning provided an opportunity for staff to reflect on how their roles support the delivery of on ground actions and the connection each staff member has to progressing Dja Dja Wurrung rights and aspirations relating to Joint Management.

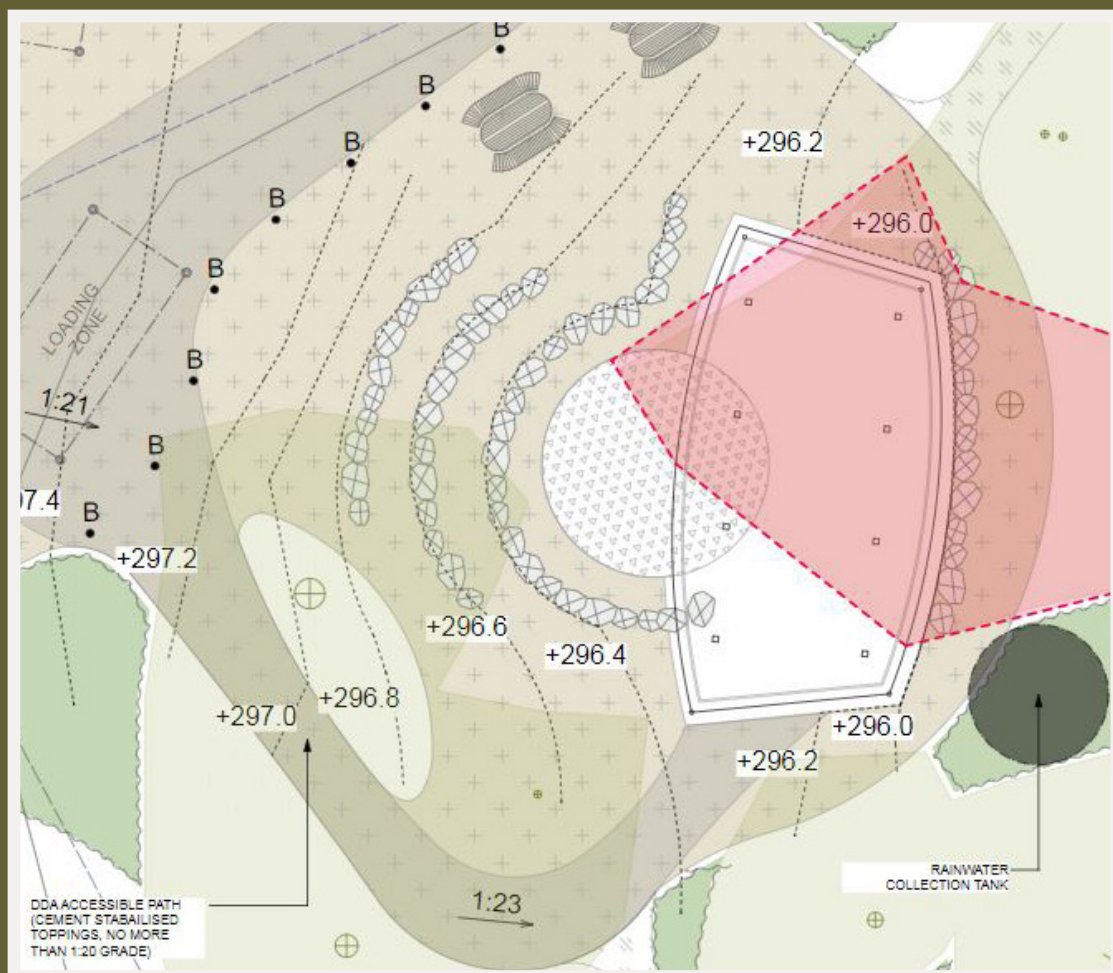
The Galkangu Team also gave an overview of the site and the upcoming projects; this included the new visitor site upgrade and planned signage project.



The Galkangu Team, in partnership with Coliban Water, are leading delivery of a Dja Dja Wurrung Camping Village which is now known as Larni Yirrip (Home/place of Ironbark), which is planned for the Bendigo Regional Park adjacent to the No. 7 Park in Kangaroo Flat.

Once constructed, the campground will showcase a strong Dja Dja Wurrung presence in the landscape while providing a camping experience like nowhere else in the state.

Following concept design development in early 2021, Larni Yirrip has delivered detailed designs for construction and has entered into planning approvals processes.



Design drawings for Larni Yirrip camping village



Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board



The Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board (DDLMB) was established in 2014, one year after the Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA) was signed, to oversee the development of a Joint Management Plan (JMP) for the six Dja Dja Wurrung Parks. These Parks were returned to Djaara in 2013, on Aboriginal title for the purposes of Joint Management.

The JMP was delivered by the Board in 2018 and aligns with the Dja Dja Wurrung Community's Country Plan 2014, which expresses the aspirations of Dja Dja Wurrung People for their Country.

Since the adoption of the JMP in 2018, the Joint Management of the Parks between DJAARA and Parks Victoria has matured into a sustainable, innovative, and empowering arrangement for Land Management, which is accepted and demonstrably workable. Our shared approach to Joint Management continues to evolve and is buoyed by tremendous goodwill between all JMP Partners, and exceptional commitment by operational staff charged with rolling out JMP Projects on Country.

The Board takes its name 'Dhelkunya Dja', meaning Healing Country, from the Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan 2014, which is the touchstone for developing a Joint Management Plan that will deliver on the aspirations of the Djaara People.

DJAARA recommends the appointment of Board members to the Minister, and the Board is appointed under the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987 (Vic)*. DJAARA's Country Plan covers the entire RSA Agreement Area, whereas the Joint Management Plan (JMP) covers the six Joint Managed Parks under the Board's legislated responsibilities. The current Board Members were appointed from 2 January 2020 for three years,

with increased Dja Dja Wurrung representation to strengthen the Traditional Owner leadership. In April 2022, the Board welcomed Ron (Thunda) Kerr appointed to fill a Board vacancy.

In 2021-2022, with a full complement of members, the Board united as a team and demonstrated that we have a suitable format and a wealth of expertise to oversee the implementation of the JMP.

The Board's role is to support and oversee the implementation of the JMP, working closely with the Joint Management Partners - DJAARA, DJANDAK, Parks Victoria, and DELWP.

The DDLMB provides an important means for Djaara to participate in the management of Djandak (Country) and is a launching pad for emerging leaders to acquire governance experience. In June 2020, Nikita Charles was appointed as the DDLMB Deputy Chairperson. In 2022 with DJAARA's support, the Board created an official role for the Project Manager-Joint Management (JMPM) Harley Douglas at DDLMB Board meetings aimed to enhance communication and engagement between the DDLMB and DJAARA. When possible, the DDLMB invites the Dja Dja Wurrung Ranger Team, and DJAARA, DJANDAK and Parks Victoria staff engaged in Joint Management to participate in the Board's on-Country gatherings, which are rewarding opportunities for everyone.



DDLMB Members Bendigo August 2022



Board Day at Larni Yirrip

Manyangu ngulumbara dhelkunya Djandak murrup

We meet together to return good health to Country and Spirit

In 2021-2022, despite the continuing challenges of the COVID19 Pandemic, the DDLMB continued 'Business as Usual' from the Board's Secretariat base on Country in Bendigo. With staff working mainly from home, and meetings conducted on-line, the Board's governance commitments and mission-critical work supporting the implementation of the first Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks (JMP) continued with few setbacks.

The Board convenes the JMP Implementation Team (JMPIT) and continues to engage Stuart Cowell Managing Director, Conservation Management, to facilitate the JMPIT and support the collaboration between JMP Partners. 'Gapa Giya' is derived from the Dja Dja Wurrung language, and means, 'to know, to think / to ask, to tell'.

The successive reports give the board confidence that implementation is proceeding at an acceptable pace, and when any issues arise, provide an avenue for the DDLMB to assist.

In 2022, the Board received three Gapa Giya implementation progress reports from the JMPIT, supplementing the first three reports delivered last year. Last year, the JMP IT and the Board worked through developing and refining the Miradi tools that support the DDLMB's pivotal role in Monitoring, Evaluating, Reporting, and Improving (MERI). It is envisioned that any milestone achievements, or any issues identified in the reporting can be reported to the DJAARA Board, DELWP, JMP Partners and the Community.

Wurreka | To Yarn, To Talk

COMMUNICATIONS

The role of communications within the Dja Dja Wurrung Group is expanding. It continues to highlight our targeted groups for communication, while refining how we share that information, and define how we promote the work we are doing.

The brand refresh in May 2021 has provided a vibrant change in colour and design. It is evident across the pages of our website, our logo and new colour palette.

Through our website and direct email marketing, we are effectively distributing information across many digital platforms to our members, Indigenous Organisations and communities, the public and government bodies.

Our website features a designated Members' Area and highlights our latest news, gunga (jobs) and opportunities, monthly newsletter, our current media releases, and statements.

It also houses a resource page that offers DJAARA project fact sheets, booking forms, links to Dja Dja Wurrung knowledge and videos.

Through our communications, branding, and media we continue to strive to achieve the six communication principles across the Dja Dja Wurrung Group. These have been developed in line with the Dhelkunya Dja (Healing Country) Country Plan aspirations.



Cultural Flower created by Troy Firebrace as part of Djaara Lights.

- **Culture** – To strive to uphold Djaara cultural obligations to look after Country for future generations.
- **Partnerships** – To commit to working with our members, Elders, young people, neighbours, agencies, and the broader community in the effort to Care for Country.
- **Looking after Country** – To manage Djaara Country in a contemporary context as Dja Dja Wurrung people and Culture are not frozen in time.
- **Traditional Knowledge** - To strive to maintain, control, protect and develop Djaara traditional knowledge and cultural expressions.
- **Self - determination** - To place Dja Dja Wurrung language, culture, knowledge, and practices back in the landscape.
- **Economics** - To increase the recognition of Djaara as the Traditional Owners of this Country with ongoing rights and obligations.

DJAARA LIGHTS

Djaara Lights is a project created in partnership between DJAARA, and the City of Greater Bendigo.

Its aim is to celebrate and recognise the importance of Dja Dja Wurrung Cultural Heritage; the significant places and landscapes, stories and language, customs and practices that come with the responsibilities for looking after Djandak.



'I am Djaara' created by Dja Dja Wurrung and Yorta Yorta Artist Drew Berick.

A series of new contemporary public works were created as part of the project. The artworks include a 9.6 metre illuminated mural, six shadow projections and augmented reality artworks across 11 markers.

They were creatively placed along Oscars walk to share the stories of the Dja Dja Wurrung six Seasons.

The Dja Dja Wurrung six seasons focus on the seasonal indicators that guide how Dja Dja Wurrung interact with Country at specific times throughout the year.

Dja Dja Wurrung and Yorta Yorta artists, Drew Berick and Troy Firebrace were the artistic leads on the project and worked closely through this process to create their own style of art while learning about each other's practices.



Light mural created as part of Djaara Lights.

To assist with the Augmented reality, 20 young First Nations students participated in workshops by Indigenous tech company Indigital to create many of the artworks that feature in Djaara Lights. Drew and Troy worked closely to support the young art students to achieve their vision for this complex and ambitious project that is currently on display from 2021-2024 in Bendigo's city centre.

Seeing Dja Dja Wurrung art in what is now Upside-Down Country, reaffirms the embedding of Dja Dja Wurrung artistic and cultural practices to Djandak. Djaara Lights aims to protect, pass on and help others understand Dja Dja Wurrung culture and respect its traditions.

Funded by Creative Victoria, the project officially launched in the 6, November 2021.



Light mural created as part of Djaara Lights.



Djaara Lights artists Troy Firebrace and Drew Berick in front of 'I am Djaara' 9.6 metre light installation.



Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards, Djaara Lights co-lead artist Drew Berick, Djaara Lights co-lead artist Troy Firebrace, City of Greater Bendigo (CoGB) Mayor Jennifer Alden, CoGB Acting CEO Andrew Cooney, CoGB Creative Communities Coordinator and joint project manager Maree Tonkin, Dja Dja Wurrung Group CEO Rodney Carter, and DJAARA Communications Relationship Manager and joint project manager Mariaa Randall



The Djaara Lights Augmented reality experience.



Giyakiki | Story, Yarn

The Dja Dja Wurrung Group has actively shared our many achievements across our projects and activities on Djandak. DJAARA's voice is present more than ever when discussing best practices and approaches when caring for and healing Country.



Dja Dja Wurrung Group CEO Rodney Carter at Wombat State Forest.

JUNE 23, 2022,

DJAARA Right of Reply – letter from Trent Nelson in response to “Loggers accused of Wombat Forest ‘smash-up’ operation” in The Saturday Paper 18 June 2022.

<https://djadjawurrung.com.au/djaara-right-of-reply/>

JUNE 18, 2022,

Our work healing the Wombat State Forest – Media statement

<https://djadjawurrung.com.au/our-work-healing-wombat-state-forest/>

JUNE 15, 2022,

Caring for Country is self-determination enacted – Media statement

<https://djadjawurrung.com.au/media-statement-3/>

JUNE 9, 2022,

We are Dja Dja Wurrung and we heal Country – Media statement

<https://djadjawurrung.com.au/media-statement-we-are-dja-dja-wurrung/>

JUNE 3, 2022,

We are grieving for Country – Media statement

<https://djadjawurrung.com.au/media-statement-2/>

APRIL 21, 2022,

Dja Dja Wurrung continue to care for Country – Media statement

<https://djadjawurrung.com.au/media-statementwombat-forest/>



'I am Djaara' illuminated artwork by Drew Berick a part of Djaara Lights.



An artist impression of Galkangu GovHub Bendigo featuring Natasha Carter's artwork.

FEBRUARY 21, 2022,

LAND RETURNED TO DJAARA

Milestone land handover to traditional Dja Dja Wurrung owners – Bendigo Advertiser

In a landmark move on Friday, the state government handed over previous Department of Education land to Dja Dja Wurrung traditional owners to build a cultural and community centre.

<https://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/7626737/milestone-land-handover-to-traditional-dja-dja-wurrung-owners/>

FEBRUARY 24, 2022,

**LAND RETURNED FOR DJAARA HUB
– BENDIGO TIMES**

TRADITIONAL Owners have officially reclaimed a piece of land in Golden Square, earmarked for a new cultural hub.

<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/bendigotimes/news/land-returned-for-djaara-hub/>

KOORI MAIL

<https://koorimail.com/dja-dja-wurrung-proudly-celebrate-milestone-win/>



APRIL 15, 2022,

WOMBAT STATE FOREST

Dja Dja Wurrung to work with VicForests to restore Wombat State Forest – Bendigo Advertiser

VICFORESTS have partnered with the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DJAARA) in an effort to restore the Wombat State Forest north-west of Melbourne.

<https://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/7701019/dja-dja-wurrung-to-work-with-vicforests-to-restore-wombat-state-forest/>

JUNE 25, 2022,

**WOMBAT STATE FOREST CARE
– THE SATURDAY PAPER**

Trent Nelson, Chairperson, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation letter:

There has always been pushback when traditional owners exercise their rights to Country and Culture but, after so many generations of this experience, it should no longer be such a point of conflict (Kath Wilson, “Wombat Forest fight”, June 18-24).

<https://www.pressreader.com/australia/the-saturday-paper/20220625/281685438525291>

JANUARY 26, 2022,

January 26 a time to reflect and respect, Dja Dja Wurrung leader says – Bendigo Advertiser

A central Victorian Aboriginal leader has called for respect and understanding on January 26.

<https://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/7099391/january-26-a-time-to-reflect-and-respect-dja-dja-wurrung-leader/>

JUNE 16, 2022,

GALKANGU
- BENDIGO GOVHUB

Galkangu, Bendigo GovHub, construction reaches its final height with staff expected by early 2023 – Bendigo Advertiser

VICTORIA'S Regional Development Minister Mary-Anne Thomas spent a chilly morning in Bendigo on Wednesday to mark the official 'topping out' of the city's new GovHub, Galkangu.

<https://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/7781230/galkangu-tops-out-with-less-than-a-year-until-completion/>



An artist impression of Galkangu GovHub Bendigo featuring Natasha Carter's artwork.

Financial Report Extract

The surplus of the group for the financial year ended 30 June 2022 after provision for income tax expense was \$5,294,725.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

This included the addition of Land at directors' valuation during the year of \$780,000

At 30 June 2022, the group recorded a strong financial position, with current assets exceeding current liabilities by \$17,101,496, providing the directors with sufficient working capital to ensure the group can pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The group also recorded retained earnings at 30 June 2022 of \$19,437,219. Of such retained earnings, \$12,717,317 is committed at balance date and has therefore been disclosed as a reserve.

The group's external auditors appreciate the effectiveness of the group's internal process, procedures, and records, noting no instances of non-compliance with the requirements of ORIC, the ACNC and ATO.

The audited financial statements submitted to ORIC will cover the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. Based on the information provided in the reports the group is solvent as at 30 June 2022 and has sufficient resources to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Dja Dja Wurrung Economic Development Funds

Due to the downturn in the economy during 2021-22 the investment market saw a decline in the market value of investments that has had a flow on effect to Dja Dja Wurrung investment holdings.

There is an anticipated recovery in the 2022-23 financial year as interest rates begin to rise.

For the year ended 30 June 2022

Investments CURRENT	2022 \$	2021 \$	
Term deposit	0	913,658	This term deposit matured in April 2022 of which \$917,171 has been set aside for investment in a future project.
Indigenous Real Estate Development Funds	1,475,881	1,475,566	IBA I-REIT High growth, commercial real-estate as per Investment Strategy recommendation
Indigenous Prosperity Fund – Growth Fund	1,161,096	1,258,219	IBA – Indigenous Prosperity Fund – Growth High growth
Indigenous Prosperity Fund – Income Fund	1,330,051	1,362,971	IBA – Indigenous Prosperity Fund – Income Modest growth, less risk
Total Investments	3,967,028	5,010,414	This represents a reduction since last financial year due to the low interest rates during that period.





Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises Pty Ltd, Trading As DJANDAK

The Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises (DDWE) Board is structured and has responsibilities as described in the Dja Dja Wurrung Group Governance Charter. The DDWE board sit six times during the year to direct the development and implementation the DDWE Business Plan and Budget.

Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises Board – Directors as at 30 June 2022		
		Appointment
Rodney Carter	Chairperson	13/12/2010
Graham Atkinson	DJAARA Director delegate	13/12/2010
Trent Nelson	DJAARA Director delegate	17/04/2018
Robert Rendell	Independent Director	13/02/2018
Trevor Budge	Independent Director	23/03/2020
Notes		
Elizabeth Allen	Resigned during the year. A long standing Dja Dja Wurrung Director and we thank Liz for her leadership and support through the formative years of DJANDAK.	



A message from the General Manager Economic Development **Steve Jackson**



It is quite remarkable to reflect on the significance of achievements aligned to the Dhelkunya Dja (Healing Country) Country Plan and the continued growth of Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises in what has been trying times for many industries.

This growth allows DDWE to achieve its mission of generating employment and economy. In the short term, income to DJAARA from profits generated by DDWE through DJANDAK is offset by increasing the commercial assets of DJAARA with the establishment of two new trading entities.

DJANDAK has developed advanced capabilities in co-design and successfully applied this to better enable the access of Dja Dja Wurrung Rights expected through the Recognition and Settlement Agreement. We are now able to more effectively lead our government partners to reflect Dja Dja Wurrung values, consistent with the recently developed Cultural Integrity Guidelines, to both service project requirements and promote Respect, Recognition and Reconciliation for Dja Dja Wurrung People. Examples of this include Civic construction projects such as GovHub, Law Courts and TAFE Natural Resource Management including Biodiversity Strategy and the Water for Victoria Roadmap.

In response to the DJAARA Board through the 2018-19 Business Plan, DJANDAK developed a Cultural Tourism Strategy that continued to evolve each year. With funding by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, this has now culminated in the establishment of DUMAWUL. A new trading entity of DDWE, DUMAWUL provides Tourism, Arts and Education services. It operates on a different model to DJANDAK.

The DUMAWUL entity will develop market and project opportunities and encourage the development of independent Dja Dja Wurrung enterprises to deliver services to customers.

During the year, DJANDAK has also been successful in securing \$3.5M of funding from the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) for DJAARA to develop a third trading entity, currently referred to as DJAKITJ.

This business will research, grow, and market food and fibre products. DJAARA has set aside \$2M to purchase land from its Economic Development Funds to host a yabby farm which will utilise the ILSC funding for capital improvements to the land and the purchase of the water entitlement required for the operation of the yabby farm. Other bush foods will be considered for future commercial opportunity.

Over the next few years, I am confident that Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises will grow to meet the vision of DJAARA and become the Dja Dja Wurrung family business intended.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Jackson'.

DJANDAK Executive Summary



In context of the COVID-19 pandemic, government health and economic responses that continued throughout Financial Year of 2021-22 and subsequent marketplace, employment and operational impacts, the original budget of \$6.3M was revised to \$5.7M in January 2022.

The result of \$5.3M reflects challenges of resource availability to support growth and the ability of in-house systems to forecast operational impacts from market constraints, such as planning and approvals process delays.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021/22:

Foundation for future expansion of Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises (DDWE):

- Approval of Dumawul as a separate trading entity of DDWE
- Secured \$3.5M funding for the asset development of Djakitj (yabby farm)
- Delivered a significant body of works: on-ground, projects and advisory
- Developed the Cultural Integrity Guidelines for DJAARA
- New branding strategy and logos for DDWE aligned with DJAARA branding

Consolidated the principles of Djaara Centred Design (co-design process)

- Extended integration of Djaara values at Bendigo TAFE, Bendigo Law Courts, and Gov Hub
- Secured \$1.8M major project for user-experience upgrade of Goldfields Track

- Provided natural resource management (NRM) policy leadership including the Water for Victoria Roadmap
- Developed Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan monitoring, evaluation, and reporting processes.

Enhanced business capability

- Completion of Frontline Management training for People leaders
- Increased focus on Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and created an OH&S committee
- Collaborated with DJAARA to implement Risk Management Framework
- Developed the Business Case on behalf of Dja Dja Wurrung Group for a replacement Finance System
- Recruited 18 new staff members, of which 10 are Traditional Owners and 5 are Djaara
- Recruited 6 Traditional Owner Trainees of which 4 are Djaara.



Our crew worked on more than 120 contracts in this financial year.

Around 10 of these were major projects valued between \$100K and over \$1M *note these are multi- year major projects so not yet complete. These jobs were a combination of landscaping and minor construction works.

51% were NRM landscaping works aimed at healing country (weed and pest control and grounds maintenance) at a value of more than \$500K

As at June 30, 2022, Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises comprised 27 regular employees. Of these, 10 were Djaara and an additional four identified as First Nations.

Focusing on the NRM on-ground works crew, five of the 12 crew members were Djaara, and an additional four identified as First Nations.

The numbers above exclude Dja Dja Wurrung members participating in DJANDAK Wartaka engagements.



DJANDAK Ecology

This last year saw the initial funding of Spirit Officers, which is the culmination of a series of workshops and policy support over the previous years with Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Biodiversity Division.

These roles have begun the yarns to better help understand what it means to return important animals to Country and how they might be returned in a way that not only meets the needs of their ecology but also their spirit. This project is looking to continue to build on seasonal calendar yarns to better understand what management of landscapes looks like for important species.

These officers have also supported the ongoing conversation with DELWP around species and, over the last year, have added Barramul (Emu) to the animals included in the program so that it now includes Gal Gal (Dingo), Yung (Quoll) and Barramul (Emu). These yarns will continue over the coming year with funding for this program continuing, and other animals will be added as time allows.

This work has also supported and enabled DELWP to provide significant funding for DJANDAK to work in partnership with Bush Heritage Australia to begin the massive task of removing wheel cactus from Mount Buckrabanyule. With Mount Buckrabanyule secured in May 2021 by Bush Heritage Australia, the task of healing and removing the damage of recent years has begun.

We have invested over 1000 hours injecting cactus to begin with, and trialling mulching, as well as other approaches. We have also begun to apply foliar spray to control this pest. The result of the last 12 months' effort is that we now have a good understanding of how to control wheel cactus and a good understanding of the effectiveness of different approaches.

We understand that the best approach is to use pad injection around trees and foliar spray in other locations.

Whilst the task of cleaning up over 500 hectares of dense wheel cactus may seem impossible, the results and strategies we have learnt give us confidence and we expect to have removed all mature wheel cactus from Buckrabanyule in the next 5 years (of which the next 3 years are already funded). We will also combine this with Djandak Wi and follow up spraying to ensure we have all new wheel cactus plants under control.

Whilst this has been happening, we have also been busy planting surplus Kangaroo grass and other grasses, establishing over 60,000 plants in areas around Buckrabanyule that have been previously cultivated, returning the right plants to the right places.



Wheel cactus at Mt Buckrabanyule

DJANDAK Water Team

The Water team has continued to progress the delivery of Dhelkunya Dja (Country Plan) through a wide range of projects.

This has included a number of key projects, including those supported through the Water for Country's program and DELWP's ongoing support for our Water Policy Officer.

Throughout this year, the team has grown to include a new Djaara trainee and support the progression of current roles. These projects, along with the existing partnerships with water agencies, have resulted in a large number of Aboriginal Waterway Assessments being delivered across DJANDAK.

Our major achievements have been the successful funding of the Water for Country's project, which is looking to establish a Djandak-wide strategy for Gatjin (waterways).

This is to support our ongoing efforts to establish DJAARA as a manager of Water and the transfer of large volumes of water rights to DJAARA.

Whilst this strategy is in development, there has been significant work on the State's Water for Life policy, within which the Water team has presented and established a clear pathway to achieve the outcomes of the Rivers and Waterways goal of Dhelkunya Dja.

Over the coming years this State-owned policy will be put into action and result in transition of ownership and management of water from the State and its agencies to DJAARA.

A demonstration of the early stages of this transition is the successful negotiation with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder to secure water to meet DJAARA's requirements for Lake Boort.

This negotiation has resulted in the securing of over four gigalitres to ensure that culturally important plants receive water in the timeframes they would have before the system was heavily modified, ensuring that they not only survive in the right places, but that they flourish and prosper.



Andrew Travis shares a smoking ceremony in Boort.



Djandak Wi Country Fire

Djandak Wi is Djaara's traditional fire practice. To practice Djandak Wi is viewed by Dja Dja Wurrung as an obligation, an act of protecting Country, cultivating the environment, healing ecosystems and healing community.

Building the team and resources

The program has secured core funding for the next four years from the state government's cultural fire grants, with increases to funding and opportunities projected to significantly increase in the next financial year. A Djandak Wi Project Manager and Fire Trainee role have been recruited to support the program, with more positions being created in the next 12 months.

Strategic Planning and governance

The Djandak Wi Team have been engaging in strategic planning, taking the first steps to develop a Djaara specific Cultural Fire Strategy and engaging in governance development processes across the Dja Dja Wurrung Group to ensure accountability and oversight for funding and delivery of burns.

Partnerships and policy change

DJAARA has been engaging the state in building the enabling environment for cultural burns, this has been through DJAARA's partnership with DELWP, regular partnership meetings have been held to address pressing matters and challenges and to create opportunities.

While DJAARA has been delivering burns in the Loddon-Mallee for over 5 years now, significant developments have occurred in DJAARA's partnership with the Grampians with increasing burn plans being processed for cultural burns in the area.

Burn delivery

In 2021/2022 two burns were delivered by DJAARA through DJANDAK, including Tandarra - Thunder Swamp and Hunter. With many more planned and expected to progress to delivery in 2022/2023.

Image on right — (L-R) Dja Dja Wurrung women Kayla Baksh and Jess Donaczy participate in Djandak Wi at Tang Tang Swamp, 2021





Introducing DUMAWUL

DUMAWUL is a new sister enterprise to DJANDAK. Dumawul means thank you between two people, the giver and receiver of culture, in good murrup (spirit) in Dja Dja Wurrung language.

DUMAWUL plays a unique role within the Dja Dja Wurrung Group running programs that build capacity for Dja Dja Wurrung People who wish to run their own culture-centred businesses across the creative arts industry.

DUMAWUL co-designs programs with Djaara, such as the Accelerator Program.

This program supports Djaara independent businesses and artists by linking them with a raft of opportunities such as cultural tourism, business development, networking, and marketing events and an ever-growing pipeline of work in the creative arts industry.



The Dumawul team (L-R): Tyson Tuala Program Manager, Leanne Rose– Munro Business Manager and Sarah Lowe Events Coordinator

ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

2021 Dumawul Accelerator program delivered mentoring, marketing and business development supporting four Djaara culture-centred business who are now trading with support from Liz Allen, Ngaramilli and Many Rivers.

The 2022 program expanded to include eight Djaara creatives in various stages of their business start-up.

Products and services range from Art, jewellery making, cultural tourism, cultural consultancy, cultural competency programs and children's culture-based education early childhood resources.

The businesses are completing a 12-week personal program with our partners Many Rivers and Killara Foundation. We look forward to many more Djaara joining the program.



(L-R) Amos Atkinson, Melissa Taylor and Aunty Millie Taylor learn together about business opportunities with the Killara Foundation



Leanne Rose-Munro with Melissa Taylor and Aunty Millie Taylor at the Accelerator Business Development Program in Bendigo



Caitlin Dunolly – Lee and Ruby Norman attend the Cultural Tourism Boot camp.

ART COMMISSIONING

Over 14 independent Djaara artists have been commissioned by DUMAWUL to deliver artworks including 13 permanent art installations along the Avoca River Charlton, and a high-profile mural outside Middleton and Loddon Prison Castlemaine.

CULTURAL CONSULTANCY

DUMAWUL has sought actively create a fee-for-service model and ensure Djaara voices at the table in a raft of projects across Djandak.

This includes Dja Dja Wurrung voices in the development of Reconciliation Action Plans of key partners and industries, the Good Shed redevelopment Castlemaine, and the NCCMA Learning Development Framework. Over eight Djaara cultural consultants will continue to deliver this work, with many opportunities for growth and employment in this space.

DJAARA CULTURAL COMPETENCY PROGRAM

The Djaara Cultural Competency Program (DCCP) has been delivered to more than 15 key clients by 14 diverse and professional Djaara Cultural Facilitators. Over 120 participants have completed the half day in-class, half-day on-country cultural immersion experience with outstanding feedback.

Our valued clients include Coliban Water, Court Services Victoria, City of Greater Bendigo, DELWP, Parks Victoria to name a few. The second half of 2022 is already booked out and we will branch out into the education sector including Bendigo Senior Secondary College students and teachers.




Coliban Water's Cultural immersion Tour delivered as part of the Djaara Cultural Competency Program.

DUMAWUL START UP PHASE ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2022

- 23 Djaara Cultural Competency Programs (DCCP), 450+ participants, delivered by 14 Djaara Cultural Facilitators representing a diversity of family groups. Key clients-
 - o Bendigo Senior Secondary College
 - o Coliban Water
 - o City of Greater Bendigo
 - o Court Services Victoria
 - o Monash Rural Health
 - o EPA
- 15 Dja Dja Wurrung artists commissioned for significant projects-e.g.: Middleton & Loddon Prison, Charlton Avoca River Art Trail, Bendigo Law Courts, Water bubblers on Djandak
- Cultural consultancies: The Good Shed Castlemaine, NCCMA
- Djaara Training and Business Development Events
 - o The Big Day Out Bendigo & Melbourne meeting Killara Foundation business mentors and manufacturers
 - o Cultural Tourism 2-day Bootcamp Daylesford, with Cultural Ambassadors Aunty Marlene Burchill & Aunty Fay Carter
 - o Accelerator DCCP facilitator training and development program delivered by Bec Phillips

The great work DUMAWUL is achieving will continue as they officially launch in November 2022. To find out more or become involved in DUMAWUL email dumawul@djadjawurrung.com.au





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