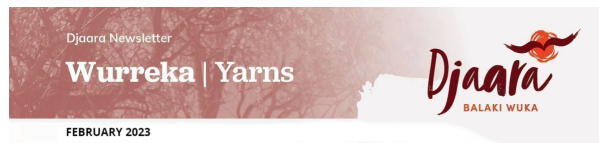


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FEBRUARY 2023

Practising Culture on Country

New Land Management Board appointed

DJAARA is pleased to announce the Dheikunya Dja Land Management Board (DDLMB) appointments for 2023-2026: Uncle Graham Atkinson (Chairperson), Nikita Charles (Deputy Chair), Rodney Carter (Secretary's Nominee), Aunty Marilynne Nicholls, Ron Kerr, and Anthony Judd (Regional Director Loddon Mallee Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action). Board member Daniel McLaughlin (Parks Victoria) stepped down in January. A process to fill the Board vacancy is underway.

The DDLMB, established by the Minister in 2014 to develop a Joint Management Plan (JMP), is now responsible for overseeing and supporting implementation of the JMP, which was completed in 2018. Significant work is underway, delivering the 96 **Galkangu** (Joint Management) projects in the plan. Members of the **Djaara**-led DDLMB are nominated by DJAARA.



L-R: Ron Kerr, Marg Allan PSM (outgoing Board member), Uncle Graham Atkinson, Nikita Charles, Rodney Carter. (Not in Photo: Aunty Marilynne Nicholls, Anthony Judd).

The goal of **Galkangu** is to enable Dja Dja Wurrung knowledge and connection to Country to be expressed in the planning and management of the six Dja Dja Wurrung Parks, which were transferred to DJAARA for Joint Management with Parks Victoria as part of the 2013 Recognition and Settlement Agreement between the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (now trading as DJAARA) and the State of Victoria.

Galkangu recognises Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples' significant connection to **Djandak** (Dja Dja Wurrung Country), and with that, certain inherited rights and responsibilities to care for Country. **Galkangu** Partners share their knowledge so the parks can be managed to create greater opportunities for Dja Dja Wurrung People to access and carry out their responsibilities to Country.

Galkangu projects will shape the visitor experience in the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks with improved camping and facilities, and DJAARA-designed signage and interpretive installations. Innovative JMP projects bring Traditional Owner knowledge together with western science to support environmental health and improve the management of Country.

[Learn more about the DDLMB](#)

Djandak Wi 2023 autumn season: Returning Cultural fire to Djandak on a new scale

Dja Dja Wurrung Group (DDWG) has conducted more than 10 Cultural burns on **Djandak** (Country) over the past two years. That number is set to more than double this autumn in what will be the group's largest fire season.

Djandak Wi (Country fire) is a Dja Dja Wurrung-focused and led Cultural burn practice, putting cool, patchy burns into the landscape. **Djandak Wi** is an opportunity for **Djaara** to practice Culture while reviving and rejuvenating natural foods and fibres, and creating healthy mosaic patterns in ecosystems across **Djandak**.



Whipstick-Brights Rd burn, Greater Bendigo National Park. Cultural burn training, December 2022.

We have recently welcomed a new forestry and fire crew at DJANDAK. The focus now is ensuring we can lead delivery of all scheduled burns safely and effectively.

Department of Environment Energy and Climate Action (DEECA; formerly DELWP) Forest Fire Management Victoria partners with the DDWG, so fire can be used in a way that supports the Cultural and land management aspirations of Dja Dja Wurrung people.

We continue to work with government to bring about greater self-determination for **Djaara** fire practices as our capacity to deliver the program independently builds over time.

Staff profile: Caleb Dunolly-Lee



Project Support Officer Cultural Heritage

Caleb Dunolly-Lee is a **Djaara** man who is a descendant of Thomas Dunolly. He currently lives on **Djandak** in Bendigo.

Employed in DJAARA's Cultural Heritage team, Caleb is working on implementing DJAARA's Forest Gardening Strategy to return Dja Dja Wurrung Culture to **Djandak**.

Bringing Culture back onto Country includes bringing **Djandak Wi**, Cultural thinning, history, revegetation and **Gatjin** (water) back, while protecting **Djaaras'** rights on Country.

"Forest Gardening is a big breakthrough in managing Country. You meet a lot of people and you're just constantly learning in this role. Sometimes you get overwhelmed.

"It's bringing back old Culture to create new methodologies for our Culture today and working out how we utilise our Culture through Forest Gardening in a way to bring back our forests for generations."

"We'll be restoring the forest as best we can to what it used to be, reintroducing and creating a new Culture in the forest"

Belinda awarded for significant service



Congratulations to Deputy Chair of the DDWCAC Board, Belinda Duarte, who was recognised in 2023 as a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the Indigenous community, and to sports administration.

Belinda said she was blessed to be honoured but felt she needed to separate the recognition from her feelings about January 26.

"I can't celebrate an individual acknowledgement on a day that for me is anchored much more deeply in my family and First Nations people across this country."

Djaara Lights app has been updated



an issue.

If your phone is configured to 'auto-update' you should be good to go. Otherwise you'll need to download the updated app to scan the Djaara Lights markers.

[Learn more about Djaara Lights](#)

SHARING WURRUNG I speaking/ lip/ tongue

*Our language connects us to water, land, animals, and People.
It calls us to ceremony and strengthens our identity.*

We are making sure our language, Dja Dja Wurrung language, is increasingly spoken; we share it in song and ensure it is placed lovingly back to Djandak, where it belongs, by us. Those that live and visit here in Central Victoria more and more want to support Dja Dja Wurrung reclamation of our rights and support our continued presence here. We hope that those who travel across, visit and reside on Djandak recognise our unique language and distinct culture.

Djaara I People, Dja Dja Wurrung People
Djandak I Country, Dja Dja Wurrung Country
Djandak Wi I Country fire
Dhelkunya Dja I Healing Country
Galkangu I We build, make; also used to refer to Joint Management
Galk-galk Dhelkunya I To care for/to heal, many trees
Gatjin I Water
Wi I Fire

Let us know what you think!

Do you like this newsletter?
What would you like to see more of?

We'd love to hear your feedback.

[Get in touch](#)



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