



The next Budj Bim Sustainable Development Partnership Leadership Group meeting will be held on Thursday 25th June 2015 at the Lake Condah Mission, Condah Estate Road, Condah commencing at 10.30am until 2.30pm with a light lunch and refreshments.

The BBSDP Leadership Group is an open forum for people, organisations and community groups that have an interest in the sustainable development of the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape.

BUDJ BIM WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION UPDATE

The new Premier, Daniel Andrews, has recently forwarded a letter to the Commonwealth Minister for Environment, Greg Hunt, requesting that the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape be nominated onto the Commonwealth government's World Heritage Tentative List.

Also forwarded to the Minister was a revised Tentative List nomination, copies of the three peer reviews that were undertaken at the Commonwealth's request, and summary of the peer reviews. All reviews were very positive and the three major points from the reviews are;

1. that the Budj Bim Comparative Analysis was exemplary
2. that the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape is a site of international significance
3. the site is suitable for World Heritage nomination as a continuing landscape in the evolved cultural landscape category.

We are now waiting on a decision from the Commonwealth as to whether they will accept the nomination and place the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape on its World Heritage Tentative List.

You may have noticed recently that we have been running a comprehensive Media campaign to support the Tentative List nomination and we have had good coverage over the last month or so. We are highlighting Budj Bim on the new social media, particularly Facebook and Twitter. We do require ongoing support for our campaign to have the nomination accepted by the Commonwealth.

Budj Bim Sustainable Development Partnership Leadership Group & Community update June 2015

Damein Bell gave a presentation to members of the International Council on Monuments and Structures [ICOMOS] at their Symposium in Port Fairy in June 2015



(Damein Bell at the ICOMOS meeting in Port Fairy in June 2015)

A quote by Steve Brown who is the President, ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes who attended the ICOMOS Symposium

'By any measure Budj Bim Cultural Landscape is a spectacular landscape with an incredible deep-time and present-day history. Damien Bell, CEO of the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, explained to me and other Australia ICOMOS members at a symposium held in Port Fairy and during a field trip to Lake Condah, the 'living heritage' of the Budj Bim landscape. He described the considerable community and scientific research undertaken to demonstrate the outstanding values of Budj Bim and described the landscape's spiritual and economic role in the Gunditmara and wider local community. The survival of this heritage landscape and its ongoing management is testament to the hard work and perseverance of the many Aboriginal owners and non-indigenous people who share a deep connection to and great love for Budj Bim Cultural Landscape.'



The New Budj Bim IPA Plan Of Management is finalised

In June 2015 the Gunditj Mirring Full Group approved the new Budj Bim Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) Plan of Management 2015-19, which includes the three recently declared IPA properties (Bryants, Peters and Lake Gorrie). Consultant Louise Thomas has worked closely with GMTOAC staff and the Budj Bim Rangers through the development of this Plan.

The development of the Budj Bim IPA Plan of Management has allowed us to revisit the land management aspirations for the properties, incorporate new areas of work and align the plan with other regional strategies. The process has enabled a new generation of Budj Bim Rangers and GMTOAC staff to have input to the plan alongside Elders and partnership/leadership group members.

The plan is designed to support the following principles:

- The protection of the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape is paramount
- The Budj Bim Cultural Landscape is a dynamic living place
- The Budj Bim Cultural Landscape is a place of learning
- Connections with the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape are strengthened
- All uses and users of the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape respect its significance.

Plan activities will be evaluated on the basis of how they have contributed to these principles. We are proposing, as part of the Plan evaluation, to prepare (in-house) an audio-visual presentation to the December full group meeting each year. This would run for about 10-15 minutes and be a summary of activities and monitoring on the properties that would become a good annual record for community and the IPA project.

You can view and download the Budj Bim IPA Plan of Management from the GMTOAC Cultural Management Information System (CIMS). The CIMS can be accessed via the Internet by following these steps;

Go to <http://dev.essolutions.com.au/Gunditj>

click on "Knowledge" tab

click on "Documents" tab

go to "Budj Bim IPA Plan of Management "

Gunditj Mirring Partnership Project

'Yarns on Farms'

The Yarns on Farms project has continued building relationships with farmers, land managers and others throughout the district. The program has recently visited properties in Balmoral, Dunkeld, Peshurst and surrounding areas of Condah.



Yarns on Farms visit at Dunkeld. (Tyson Lovett-Murray and Craig Oliver).

Participating farmers and landholders are identified through existing regional networks including producer groups, landcare groups and field naturalists through word of mouth and personal contact. This deliberate contact method ensures that those who are interested are engaged and that the activity takes place in a mutual environment of respect.

The project aims are

- Shared learning opportunities between farmers, landholders, Indigenous extension officers, communities, agencies, academics and others working in natural resource management
- Increased ecological and land management knowledge
- Building and strengthening local and regional partnerships
- Collecting and documenting historical and contemporary data
- Breaking barriers between different groups of land managers



Yarns on Farm visit to Balmoral. (Ron Elliot, Tyson Lovett-Murray and Ryan Jones).

Some of the feedback we have gained from the participants,

"I really appreciated the visit and the information provided about the project (it felt like reconciliation in action). Thank you"

"this is an excellent engagement step for the Native Title holders to take and is commendable"

A group of 12 participants attended a reciprocal visit to Winda Mara, Lake Condah and the Lake Condah Mission in June conducted by the project team.



The discussions with landholders have explored common ground and the potential for implementation of indigenous ecological knowledge as identified through the project and by the Gunditj Mirring team sharing experiences gained in the management of ten properties. Equally the team has learnt a great deal from the participating farmers, landholders and others.

'Learning About Gunditjmarra Country program'

Gunditj Mirring and Glenelg Hopkins CMA have started to deliver a curriculum based junior ranger program with local schools. The program aims to build awareness and interest amongst Indigenous and non-Indigenous students about Gunditjmarra people and culture, Indigenous Ecological Knowledge (IEK) and past and contemporary land management interests in south west Victoria.

The program was launched in term 2 of this year at Baimbridge College in Hamilton with a 'Welcome to Country' conducted at the school assembly by local Gunditjmarra Elder Aunty Phemie Day.



(Keicha Day presenting at Baimbridge College)

The program is running in both year 7 and year 8 classes focusing on history, geography, and society and the environment.

The program includes excursions to Indigenous Protected Areas managed by Gunditj Mirring and guest speakers to cover different topics. The program has already run a Stone Tool workshop attended by Brendan Kennedy of Landcare alongside Jane Walker of the CMA and Traditional Owners Tyson Lovett-Murray and Keicha Day.



(Brendan Kennedy running the stone tool workshop at Baimbridge College)

'Traditional Fire Management Workshop'

The CMA and Gunditj Mirring arranged for Rod Mason and Brendon Kennedy (pictured below) to come down to Heywood for two days to talk about the traditional fire knowledge project they have worked on with North East CMA.



Rod and Brendon talked with Traditional Owners and the Budj Bim Rangers about incorporating traditional knowledge back into cultural burning and management of country. They also travelled around IPA's and demonstrated different methods of burning.



The program has instilled confidence in the Budj Bim Rangers to begin small scale burning of native vegetation to encourage regrowth.

The Budj Bim Sustainable Development Partnership is proudly sponsored by



For further information please contact Denis Rose denis@gunditjmirring.com or Tyson Lovett-Murray tyson@gunditjmirring.com or phone 03 5527 1427

