



The next Budj Bim Sustainable Development Partnership Leadership Group meeting will be held on Thursday 14th of August 2014 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 Lake Condah, Mt Eccles and Tyrendarra area.

BUDJ BIM WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION UPDATE

On Friday 11 July at Lake Condah the Premier, Dr Denis Napthine announced that he has 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.



(The Premier, Dr Napthine at Lake Condah)

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.

Budj Bim Sustainable Development Partnership Leadership Group & Community update August 2014

If the Commonwealth place Budj Bim on the Tentative List prior to 31 January 2015 then this will be the expected timeline in our pursuit of inscription on the World Heritage List

September 2014 – September 2015 - continue the development of a comprehensive World Heritage nomination

30 September 2015 –submit draft nomination to World Heritage Centre for comment on completeness of the application.

30 January 2016 – final nomination submitted.

2016

Once our nomination received by the World Heritage Centre it then will be assessed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The assessment process will also include an on-site inspection to verify our claims. The assessment process can take up to 12 months.

June 2017 – The World Heritage Committee will meet to decide and announce which properties will be inscribed on the World Heritage List.



Aunty Laura Bell, Dr Denis Napthine, Uncle Ken Saunders and Aunty Eileen Alberts at the Lake following the Premier's announcement.

The process to complete a comprehensive World Heritage is very time consuming and requires a large body of research and scientific and cultural evidence.



In June 2014 the World Heritage Committee inscribed 26 new properties on the World Heritage List and the size of their nomination documents ranged from 750 pages up to 2,800 pages. Details of the 26 new inscriptions can be found at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/newproperties/>.

Planning Underway For New Budj Bim IPA Plan Of Management

Gunditj Mirring currently has two Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) – Lake Condah, (incorporating the Lake Condah, Allambie, Muldoons and Vaughans properties) and Kurtonitj. Plans of management for these IPAs were developed between 2008 and 2010.

We have now received funding to develop a broader Budj Bim IPA Plan of Management that also includes Lake Gorrie, Peters and the recently acquired Bryants properties. Louise Thomas, who developed the Lake Condah IPA plan with us, is currently working on this project with the Gunditj Mirring team.

This process presents an opportunity to align all the Budj Bim IPA Plan of Management with the Ngootyoong Gunditj Ngootyoong Mara (South West Plan) and World Heritage requirements, and to incorporate new and emerging issues.

The new plan will also develop a works plan and resourcing plan, to help ensure proposed works can be funded. The plan will also have a focus on community storytelling as part of an evaluation of the progress of the plan, using the MERI approach. Community relationships and communication will also be a strong feature of the plan.

At the upcoming Budj Bim Sustainable Development Partnership Leadership Group meeting Louise will facilitate a session seeking input towards the development of the plan.

A Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation community workshop will also be held in early September to work through the guiding principles for planning, the issues to include in the plan, aligning the plans with other requirements, resourcing and evaluating the plan.

Issues likely to be incorporated into the plan include cultural heritage protection and management, fire management and cultural burning, regional planning issues, wild take, management of pest plants and animals, Gunditjmarra community access, communication and community relationships, visitor management and tourism, women's management issues, infrastructure, flora and wildlife management, water management, agricultural enterprises, public access, capacity building.

If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to comment on any issues relating to the new Plan, please contact Denis Rose on 0409 502 645 or email denis@gunditjmirring.com

BIRDS of LAKE CONDAH

Rob Farnes – Birds Australia

In the past year waterbird numbers have continued to increase with many species now been recorded in their thousands. New species are still being added to the already

impressive list and others once considered scarce are now becoming regular.

Waterbirds are very nomadic and move as their habitats dry out and rains fall in other parts of the state or country however this season good numbers have remained throughout the year to breed at the lake. This is partly due to the water levels remaining fairly high throughout the late summer and the now well established reed-beds which offer cover and nest material for the birds.

A few notable recent sightings are:-
Australasian Bittern (Bunyip) has recently been heard booming from the reed-beds. Listed as endangered in Victoria by DSE (2007).



Australian Darter

Australasian Darter - (snake bird) several recent records.
Glossy Ibis - Listed as near threatened in Victoria by DSE (2007).

Intermediate Egret - Listed critically endangered in Victoria by DSE (2007).

White-breasted Sea Eagle - a pair of adults have been regularly recorded and hopefully they will start nesting at the lake. Listed as vulnerable in Victoria by DSE (2007).

BUDJ BIM RANGERS UPDATE

At present there are 9 Budj Bim Rangers who work on a variety of jobs including weed and feral animal control, fencing, working with heavy equipment, maintenance of visitor facilities, fire protection, slashing, vehicle maintenance, vegetation and site monitoring using photo points, checking electrical equipment and livestock management.

The Rangers also do a number of training courses including OH&S, First Aid, Tractor Training, Chainsaw safety, Chemical handling, ATV Motorbikes and Public Speaking.

All Rangers are doing Certificate IV in Land Management & Conservation Course, with Bruce Partland from RMIT University.





(Budj Bim Rangers fencing at Lake Condah)

In April 2014, the Rangers travelled to Tasmania to see how Traditional Owners look after their country. While in Tasmania they visited Preminghana IPA, Risdon Cove and Putalia (Oyster Cove) and Cradle Mountain.

Preminghana IPA, which was declared in 1999, covers more than 500 hectares of land in north-west Tasmania bordering the Southern Ocean and is managed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council. Preminghana is of environmental, heritage and cultural significance to Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

Rich in cultural and heritage values, the land is an important cultural and recreational asset to Tasmania's Aboriginal people, and its beautiful wetlands, coastal grasslands, heathlands and woodlands attract tourists and surfers. Similar to the Budj Bim Rangers, erosion control, weed eradication and feral animal removal are the primary IPA land management activities carried out to protect the land and its cultural sites. IPA land managers use traditional burning and weed control to preserve the landscape and Aboriginal rehabilitation techniques to protect cultural engravings.

Lying on either side of Hobart on the eastern coast of Tasmania, Risdon Cove and Putalina (Oyster Cove) Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) were declared in July 1999.

Both IPAs are managed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, and are important cultural and spiritual sites for the local community. They are among 11 areas returned to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community under the *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995*.

The IPAs protect richly diverse estuarine and riparian ecosystems, as well as areas of remnant bush, open paddocks and artefact sites.

The Budj Bim Rangers gained immense knowledge from the traditional owners during the trip and have offered a reciprocal visit to Gunditjmara country in the near future.



(Budj Bim Rangers at Cradle Mountain Tas)



Gunditj Mirring Partnership Project

'Yarns on Farms'

Over the past few months the Gunditj Mirring Partnership Project team has increased engagement activities with farmers, land managers and others through an extension program known as Yarns on Farms. The focus of the extension has been around farm visits where the team and farmer undertake farm walks, discuss the landscape, share information on conservation and production activities, and talk about the Gunditj Mirring Partnership Project.

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.



(Mary Johnson, Philip Doherty, Ben Church, Lenny Cooper, Micko Bell on a farm visit at Minhamite)

The project team have engaged with landholders across Gunditjmara Country. 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.





(reciprocated visit to Lake Condah)

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club

As well as visits to individual landholders, the project team has undertaken presentations and information nights to present the project to groups of interested people. Groups include the Potter Rural Community Research Network, Friends of Yatmerone, Portland Field Naturalists and local Government. The most recent was a presentation to the Hamilton Field Naturalists Club where Ben Church and Mary Johnson presented the project and the Yarns on Farms extension program to a group of 25 members. The presentation was very well received.



(Ben Church & Micko Bell presenting to the Friends of Yatmerone)

Cultural Awareness Programs

Gunitj Mirring has delivered cultural awareness training and conducted tours of the Budj Bim landscape to various organisations and groups over the past few months. Groups have included The University of Melbourne, the National Native Title Tribunal and the Glenelg Shire Council. Included in the program was an introduction to Gunitjmirring traditional way of life and the lifestyle lived with interpretations of the construction of traditional stone houses and fish traps/channels and the aquaculture. The visiting groups were taken out on country and shown some of the properties owned by Gunitj Mirring and managed by the Budj Bim Rangers team, including the Lake Condah IPA, the Kurtonitj IPA and the Tyrendarra IPA.

RMIT and Monash University are scheduled for a two day tour of the Budj Bim landscape in the coming month of September.



(staff from the National Native Title Tribunal at the Kurtonitj IPA)

Partnership is proudly sponsored by



For further information please contact
Denis Rose on 03 5527 1427 or
denis@gunitjmirring.com

The Budj Bim Sustainable Development

