

ISSUE #2 FEBRUARY 2023



**FIRST PEOPLE**  
**OF THE MILLEWA-MALLEE**  
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION  
**Newsletter**



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OF THE MILLEWA-MALLEE  
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*The First people of the Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation represent the nations of the Latji Latji and Ngintait and as such we would like us all to acknowledge these nations as the traditional Custodians as we move around this district.*

*While doing so we ask that we acknowledge Aboriginal people as the first peoples and Traditional Owners and custodian of the land and waterways on which we live.*

*We honour and pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.*

## Welcome

Welcome to FPMMAC second issue Newsletter!

This communication newsletter will be produced every second month by our Community Engagement Officer (Ebony Lawson) to keep all involved parties up to date on what is happening in FPMMAC.

## First a bit of background

The First People of the Millewa-Mallee are a community of family groups.

Individuals within First People of Millewa Mallee identify as Ngintait and Latji Latji. The First Peoples of the Millewa Mallee group is not formed on the basis of language group identity. We are the custodians of our Country.

- First People of the Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation was registered 2015 and granted Registered Aboriginal Party status in December 2018.
- First People of Millewa Mallee are in the process of seeking Native Title determination and Traditional Owner Settlement.

We are the oldest living Indigenous culture within the Australian community.

## What FPMMAC do

To expand cultural activity we will:

- Develop employment & economic opportunity

On-Country.

- Develop & support cultural activities.
- Expand traditional languages knowledge and use.
- Expand our Aboriginal community.

The First Peoples of the Millewa-Mallee people have maintained continuous connection to our Traditional Country from the initial period of colonisation up to the present.



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## WHAT IS HAPPENING IN FPMMAC?

### Belar Nursery

Our Nursery crew have been very busy preparing for the next few projects for this year 2023 and the next year 2024. Since 2019 our plant order numbers for revegetations projects are growing each year and has continued to since then.



- Ned's Corner seed bank production project they're continuing to grow 51,000 local native plants for the revegetation project.
- 12,000 plants are going to Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DECCA) previously known as (DEWLP). 10,000 plants are going to Berrook State Forest South-West region of Murray sunset National Park and the remaining 2,000 plants are going to





**TOP PHOTOS: Dwayne, Victoria and Jordan tubing**





Visit to country at Winda-mara Aboriginal Corporation Budj Bim rangers, Gunditjmara Country.

On the 9th of January 2023 the river rangers visited the Gunditjmara Country with the tour of the Winda-mara Aboriginal Corporation Budj Bim Rangers, Portland, VIC. Derek Payne (AWO) and the River Rangers Dylan Lawson, Tyreece Kelly, Zeke Bowdon, Mikaela Dolan and Nick Harradine stayed at Portland for a week seeing the beautiful land of Gunditjmara Country. Visiting areas such as the Convincing Ground where a massacre took place along the beach in Portland.





And then taking a walk around Budj Bim national park, near lake Condah and looked at the volcano and their caves. The Budj Bim Rangers showed us through



Tyrendarra IPA, a wetland area where lava-built huts were made and a creek that was used for making fish nets and catching eels.





We were taken to a place on the edges of the Gunditjmarra country where they own a property next to the Glenelg River, the Budj Bim Rangers farm cattle that eat the grass on their paddocks, and they also grow wattle trees to harvest wattle seeds for cooking. We all enjoyed our stay in Portland and loved learning different cultures and their ways of looking after country, can't wait for the Budj Bim Rangers to visit our country.

Written by Derek Payne.













On Friday the 13th FPMMAC formally met with Senator Stewart. Senator Stewart had the opportunity to meet with our Seed Collecting team which Greg Laurie & Sheridan Stephens gave a presentation and talked to her about the process of the seed collection. She also viewed our seed bank that is stored in the cool room in a controlled atmosphere.

Senator Stewart is was very interested about the National Seed Collection.

Senior management led by Ken Knight acting CEO discussed a number of topics with Senator Stewart which were:

- Ranger Programs
- Victorian Murray Floodplain restoration project Lindsey & Wallpolla Island.
- Ongoing funding by Federal & State Government
- Ned's Corner handback to Traditional Owners









## Meeting with Victorian Environmental Water Holder at Ned's Corner

FPMMAC Staff Derek Payne (AWO), Aunty Florence, Uncle Norman Wilson (Spirit Guides), Baden Moore (Cultural Advisor) & Rodney Reid (River Ranger Co-ordinator) had the honour to take Victorian Environmental Water Holders Staff Beth Ashworth, Lisa Hocking, Nick Stewart & Alejandro out to Ned's Corner to show them the property and develop a partnership with them.

Here are some topics that were discussed:

- Inundation with Environmental Water
- FPMMAC future plans for Ned's corner
- Implementing the Environmental Water into the Flood Restoration Program
- Working with traditional owners towards self determination for cultural water

**Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap** provides an important framework to create and maintain a careful and considered balance between Traditional Owner self-determination in water access and management, and the rights and entitlements of a range of stakeholders.

Water is Life develops a pathway to genuine, meaningful outcomes for Traditional Owners. It represents actual and symbolic respect for the importance of Aboriginal connections to Country. Caring for Country and water can deliver thriving cultural economies and benefits for Traditional Owners, existing entitlement holders, and all Victorians.

(Taken from Victorian Water Holders Fact Sheet)





## VISIT FROM DECCA

On Thursday 19th and 20th of January FPMMAC had a 2 day visit from DECCA (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action) staff Anne Buchan (Manager of Biodiversity Knowledge), Tahliah Warren Brand, Roxy Marer—Marks, Curt Garwood, Georgia Rochester (Self-Determination Reform Strategy) & Mr Denis Rose (Chief Executive Officer with Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation).

On the 19th DECCA staff and Uncle Denis was accompanied by FPMMAC staff Heather Built Uncle Norman Wilson, Aunty

Florence Wilson, Arty Smith, Baden Moore, Ken Stewart and Ian Sluter to take out to Ned's Corner Property to discuss project planning for the hand over from Trust For Nature to FPMMAC. We then took them out to Lake Wallwalla.





On the 20th DECCA Staff Anne, Tahliah, Roxy, Curt and Georgia was accompanied by FPMMAC staff Ebony Lawson and Baden Moore went to FPMMAC seed processing shed to have a look at our seed collection. They also had an opportunity of meeting our new staff Zeke Bowden and Leslie Orcher they showed them the fish hotels they've been working on and explain the process of the fish hotels.

Then from there we went out to FPMMAC Belar Nursery and

introduced our new staff along with Kayla Bowden and showed them around the nursery and talked about future plans for there.







**TOP PHOTOS: Murray Darling Daisy**

**BOTTOM PHOTOS: Poached egg daisy**





## FPMMAC EMPLOYEE INTERVIEW



"My name is Victoria Dimitriadis I'm a Latje Latje Traditional Owner. My country is Mildura."

**What is your favourite part of working at FPMMAC?**

Just learning everything in general. About our culture, the plants the native side of it. Everything I'm loving it!

**What do you like most about the work we do here?**

I like how they involve all the Traditional Owners in stuff and they revegetating our country and I'm all for that.

**What piece of advice would you give to your younger self?**

"Don't stress out on what people think about you so much. Because I was always a negative thinker. But if you step up and show initiative then people will look at you differently and treat you differently and start respecting you."

**How long have you been with FPMMAC?**

From the 10th of November 2022.

**If you could have any superpower, what would it be?**

Go back in time. To go back and start again and keep our culture strong.

## What's one thing on your bucket list?

Just to be strong and independent within myself. I know that's not like a bucket list but for my body and my mind I think that's what I need. But I'd like to go on a holiday with my crew.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE!!**

Please note, members and staff, that you are all invited to Neds Corner on Tuesday 7 March!

This will be an on-country meeting for Ngintait and Latji-Latji members, including the Board, plus staff to hear about the possibilities of Tourism opportunities on Neds when FPMMAC take over ownership of the property in one year's time.

We can share the vision for Neds, opportunities and impacts of Tourism, and how much support there is from our members for this. We need to hear the community's views on tourism within this conservation area.

And it is an opportunity to visit Neds again.

We will organise buses and a feed and you just come along and check it out.

This is part of our FPMMAC feasibility study into introducing Bio-cultural tourism at Neds Corner under contract from ARUP who have a lot of experience with Indigenous tourism.

For more details and to put your name down you can ring Kayla on 40149780 or Shalailah or send us an email at [admin@fpmmac.com.au](mailto:admin@fpmmac.com.au) We will also be setting up a page on our FPMMAC website on Neds Corner including this bio-tourism project.

Don't forget to check out our new website at [fpmmac.com.au](http://fpmmac.com.au)





# FIRST PEOPLE OF THE MILLEWA-MALLEE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

## SEED COLLECTING TEAM

