

**GUNGGARI ABORIGINAL PROPERTY ASSOCIATION
(GAPA)**

**LAND COORDINATOR'S REPORT
2017-2018**

Background

In 2012, a number of freehold blocks at Dunkeld were granted to the Gunggari People to be administered by the Gunggari Aboriginal Property Association.



Old Dunkeld Sawmill site 2018

Land Coordinator's Duties

Visit sites at least twice a year

Take photographic records

Inspect site for changes, damage, rubbish or vandalism

Record plant and animal species

Note archaeological and historic artefacts

Report findings to GAPA

Site Visits by Land Coordinator

28th September 2018 whilst attending the Yumba 50th and Saunders Family reunions at Mitchell (with Eric Gulson)

8th July 2018 whilst attending the artist's retreat held at Womalilla Crossing and NAIDOC weekend in Mitchell (with Jeanine Fagerlund)

3rd and 4th of March 2018 camped at house blocks overnight on route to GNTAC and GAPA meetings in Mitchell (with Jeanine Fagerlund)



Red-neck Wallabies on house blocks March 2018

1st and 4th July 2017 whilst attending GNTAC and GAPA meetings in Mitchell (with Matt Ford)

Observations

House blocks

There has been no damage or changes to these sites. Red-neck Wallabies, Swamp Wallabies and finches has been observed. There are several scar trees on the sites and epiphytic orchids in some trees.

The Old Sawmill site has a lot of old steel, treated timber and glass lying around. Areas of ground are contaminated with thick ash deposits. I suspect there have been poisons and asbestos dumped on the site over the years. The fences are in disrepair and neighbouring livestock have gotten in on occasion. Obviously unknown people are visiting this site because there is a large, disused fish trap abandoned there.

Recommendations

- Inform more Gunggari that they can camp there
- Put up an interpretive sign telling of site's history
- Remove contaminated rubbish from site
- Get soils at old mill site tested for asbestos, arsenic, lead, mercury and DDT
- Revegetate degraded areas with endemic plants
- Repair fences
- Improve the site so that it is a better campsite



Scar tree at house blocks 2018

Annex 1: Plant species on sites

- Eucalyptus populnea
- Eucalyptus tessellaris
- Eucalyptus crebra
- Callitris columellaris
- Acacia sp
- Geijera parviflora
- Galvanised Burr

Annex 2: Animal species seen on sites

- Footprints and scats from Sand Goannas
- Kangaroos and Wallabies
- Emus
- Finches
- Jabiru
- Bush Turkeys

Annex 3: Cultural and heritage items on sites

Scar trees for making shields, boats and coolamons

- Scarred trees hollowed out by fire for possum and goanna hunting
- Stone cores and flints
- Hand dug pond containing Nardoo (Marsilea sp) and Old Man Weed (Centipeda sp) near mill
- Old tools, materials and equipment from sawmilling days

A memory stick with all photos taken on site will also be sent separately as part of the report. There are annexes which list flora, fauna and heritage values. These are not exhaustive, and more species and information will be added over time.