



PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18
AGM 15 DECEMBER 2018

In some ways it has been a busy year for the Association. There was always the Yumba Reunion and 50 year commemoration in Late September for which GAPA was the host organising body. Dovetailed into that event was the Reconciliation Week which formed phase 1 of the funding applications to DATSIP, Queensland Smart Grants, and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Reconciliation Week was focussed on the window display outlining the history of the Gunggari artefacts that were being returned home after some 120 plus years. The poster display was set up in the Mitchell Library during Reconciliation Week and received favourable mention from many in the district. Negotiations with John Tinney and his daughter Annie in Victoria have been taking place over an 18-month period and it was decided that the presentation should take place during the Yumba Commemorations. It would be remiss of me to not again thank the Tinney Family for their generosity and interest in bring their whole family to Mitchell for the event at their expense. Thanks also to Bruce and Annie Roberts of Foyleview for hosting the Tinney family at their property where the original ancestors of the Tinney family presided from 1870-1890.

The Commemorative event could not possibly have happened without the guidance of Saraeva Mitchell, Sue Saunders and Vicki-Lee Saunders. A healthy profit was made as a result of their governance and this was forwarded to GNTAC to go towards upkeep and maintenance at the Yumba.

This year GAPA and the Gunggari Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (GNTAC) were finally able to negotiate a MOU that led to the Cultural Heritage Body being shifted from GAPA to the GNTAC. This has been a positive step in the governance of matters relating to the Gunggari and basically leaves GAPA with the responsibility of the Land Trust which is the reason the Association was set up in the first place. Alice Beilby had come on board the committee as Cultural Heritage Coordinator which basically replicated her position with GNTAC. This was done so that the setting up of a single Cultural Heritage Body as a separate entity under the GNTAC would be a seamless transition. Thanks to Alice this has become a reality.

Warren Ganter Saunders was the only applicant when expressions of interest closed for the vacant position of Land Trust Coordinator and as part of his role and responsibilities, he has travelled extensively through the Gunggari 2 Native Title area. There still remains the need to develop proposals that will enable us to fully take advantage of the land and housing blocks in Dunkeld. We were successful in appealing to the State Government for exemption from the Fire and Emergency Levies and received refunds for the payments we had made over time.

No Association can function without the diligent work by its Secretary and Treasurer. Sue Saunders has been exemplary in her duties over the past two years and we are thankful for her contribution. Sue is standing down from these positions to pursue further University studies.

Sonya Martin will also be sorely missed, and we are grateful for her contribution and input over the years on the Committee.

It is unfortunate that we have experienced a decline in the number of members who have not renewed financial memberships this past year. As an Association that is reliant on the membership fees and some administration fees resulting from the cultural heritage inspections and cultural heritage certificates, this decline in membership money will impact on our ability to function in the future. There will be more discussions with the GNTAC and legal entities towards the development of a model that will be of benefit to all Gunggari people.

Thank you all for any contribution that you have made this past year and we look forward to the future.

Best wishes for the coming year

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Stanley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.