



Annual Report

The Gunggari Aboriginal Property Association Inc (GAPA) was founded in 2008 to take charge of freehold land parcels in Dunkeld. These lands were allocated to the Gunggari Peoples by the State of Queensland through an Indigenous Land Use Agreement. Although the land parcels were handed over to GAPA, they were not surveyed. The Maranoa Regional Council assesses the land for rates but has provided a rates payment exemption.

The goals for GAPA are to:

- Advance native title and Aboriginal cultural heritage objectives for the Gunggari Aboriginal Peoples' members,
- Hold and manage property for the benefit of the Gunggari Aboriginal Peoples' members,
- Engage in commercial activities that benefit the Gunggari Aboriginal Peoples' members,
- Promote the culture and traditions of the Traditional Gunggari Aboriginal Peoples, and
- Support the development of the Gunggari Aboriginal Peoples' members.

In 2023-24, efforts were made to find ways to remain relevant to its members, each of whom contributes a small annual membership fee. The committee decided in 2024 to keep the membership fee unchanged. Currently, membership fees represent GAPA's sole income source; however, with declining membership, the operational budget has significantly decreased. There have been extensive discussions outside of GAPA about potentially dissolving the association and transferring its assets to the Gunggari Native Title Aboriginal Corporation NTBC. Nonetheless, the committee believes GAPA continues to have an essential role in managing its land assets and promoting culture and traditions. Therefore, they have diligently worked to enhance governance and pursue funding opportunities. Efforts are currently being made to submit a funding application for the State Government's Caring for Country Grants. Alongside seeking funding, the committee has identified two additional focus areas: aiding the Native Title Corporation in its efforts to recognize and name significant sites after Elders, and supporting members engaged in cultural research on the Gunggari estate.

Communication with members and others is exclusively conducted through the website at <http://www.gunggari.org.au> . Information regarding GAPA's land holdings and a sketch map can be found in the About section - <https://www.gunggari.org.au/about> . Upcoming events,

including the Annual General Meeting, are also shared on the site in the News section - <https://www.gunggari.org.au/news> , along with access to a detailed membership page. New and renewing members can register and pay membership fees online - <https://www.gunggari.org.au/membership> .

Unfortunately, due to the aftermath of the COVID lockdowns, momentum has diminished, resulting in infrequent website updates. This is an area the committee intends to address closely in the upcoming operating year.

The committee convenes at least once every three months via Google Meets, which enables committee members to meet face-to-face through video conferencing. General meetings with the Association's members are also conducted via Google Meets, allowing access through computers and telephones.

GAPA depends significantly on the kindness of its volunteer committee, who generously contribute their time and insights during and after meetings to finalize additional actions. A heartfelt thank you goes to Carly Wilats, who has served as the Association's Treasurer for many years and is the mastermind behind the website and online membership system. Carly will be stepping down at the next AGM, and her enthusiasm and professionalism will be greatly missed.

Members and the general public can access the Gunggari Aboriginal Property Association by email at admin@gunggari.org.au



Chairperson

Yiluna dandhigu Gunggari. Yunji dandhigu nagaya yindagu.

This is the land of the Gunggari. The spirits of the land will watch over you