



Gunggari Aboriginal Property Association Inc
Annual Report for 2012-2013

The Association and other entities

The Gunggari Aboriginal Property Association Inc was formed to accept and manage property granted to the Gunggari Aboriginal peoples by the State of Queensland in 2008. The land at Dunkeld in western Queensland was granted under the *Land Act 1994* and the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991*. The Association was incorporated under the *Queensland Associations Incorporation Act 1981* in June 2010.

The objectives of the Association are to:

1. Further Native Title and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage aspirations for the Members of Gunggari Aboriginal People;
2. Hold property and manage property on behalf and for the benefit of the Members of Gunggari Aboriginal People;
3. Conduct commercial activities on behalf and for the benefit of the Members of Gunggari Aboriginal People;
4. Promote the culture and traditions of the Traditional Gunggari Aboriginal People;
5. Further the advancement of the Members of Gunggari Aboriginal People.

The Association offers two classes of membership:

1. Primary members are members of the Gunggari peoples. Primary members only can vote at general meetings.
2. Associate members are relatives and spouses by marriage of the members of the Gunggari Aboriginal peoples. Associate members cannot vote at general meetings.

The Association owns and manages land at Dunkeld:

- Lot 1 on D4801
- Lots 4 to 8 on D4801
- Lots 16 to 20 on D4801

Gunggari Land Trust

The Gunggari Land Trust was formed to accept Aboriginal freehold land granted to the Gunggari Aboriginal peoples by the State of Queensland in 2008. The Land Trust was established under the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991*.

The objective of the Gunggari Land Trust is to hold the land granted to the Gunggari Aboriginal peoples for the benefit of Aboriginals and their ancestors and descendants in accordance with the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991* and the *Aboriginal Land Regulation 1991*.

The sole trustee of the Gunggari Land Trust is the Gunggari Aboriginal Property Association Inc. The trustee must follow the provisions within the constitution of the Land Trust.

The Gunggari Land Trust holds Aboriginal freehold title for land at Dunkeld at Lot 46 on SP220278.

Cultural Heritage Body

The Cultural Heritage Body is the Aboriginal Party under the Cultural Heritage Act 2003 for the area of the Gunggari Native Title. The Gunggari Aboriginal Property Association Inc was registered as the Cultural Heritage Body for the Gunggari #2 native title area in August 2010.

The function of the Cultural Heritage Body is to identify the Gunggari peoples as the Aboriginal party for the area of Gunggari #2 native title area and to collect information about cultural heritage and maintain it for the exclusive benefit of the Gunggari peoples.



2012-2013

I am pleased to provide the annual report for the 2012-2013 operating year for the Gunggari Aboriginal Property Association Inc.

Whilst the operating year commenced on 1 July 2012, the committee composition was not finalised until September 2012. The committee met for the first time in October 2012 to undertake an induction program and to take up their shared responsibilities

The committee for this operating year comprised:

Bradley Saunders – President

Aunty Betty McGrady – Secretary

Aunty Peggy Tigyman – Treasurer

Ray Stanley – Coordinator Land Trust

Uncle Wayne Saunders – Coordinator Cultural Heritage Body

Aunty Ethel Munn – Committee Member

Membership

Members' requests to improve communication and to improve the membership processes have been listened to. Considerable action has been implemented by the committee. Firstly the membership renewal process has been simplified, making it much easier for continuing members to renew and to pay fees. The new and easy to use renewal forms have streamlined membership renewals and the payment of fees by bank transfer has become a regular way for members to engage. The new process had enabled the Association's membership levels to remain high for a third year in a row. Membership for 2013-2014 looks like exceeding the level of 62 set in our first year.

Communication with members has also been strengthened as a result of marketing about the Association's email address - gunggariapa@yahoo.com.au . Email is now the most used method for members and stakeholders to contact and communicate with the Association. Over the next few months, communication will be greatly improved with the launching of a new website. The website is being developed by a Gunggari member and web designer, Ms Carly Willats from www.allthingsweb.net.au . The new website will provide members and stakeholders with clear messages about the Association, The Gunggari Land Trust and the Cultural Heritage Body. Plans are also underway for facilities to improve the way membership renewals and for cultural heritage records to be filed and secured.

The committee has also taken steps to ensure that members are kept informed about their membership. This year each financial member has received a membership card that displays their membership details. The membership card is the first in a range of new membership benefits being considered.

Property Holdings

The Gunggari Aboriginal Property Association is the holder of freehold land granted to the Gunggari peoples through an Indigenous Land Use Agreement signed in 2008.

The Association owns and manages land at Dunkeld:

- Lot 1 on D4801
- Lots 4 to 8 on D4801
- Lots 16 to 20 on D4801

The Gunggari Land Trust is the holder of Aboriginal freehold land at Dunkeld which was granted to the Gunggari peoples under an additional Indigenous Land Use Agreement by the State of Queensland.

The Gunggari Land Trust holds Aboriginal freehold title for land at Dunkeld at Lot 46 on SP220278.

The Maranoa Regional Council has charged the Association and Land Trust rates on all property blocks since 2008. The committee took steps in March 2013 to seek an exemption to pay rates under Section 120 of the Local Government Regulations. In April 2013, the Maranoa Regional Council granted the Association and Land Trust an exemption to pay rates and wrote down the remaining debt to council. The debt write-off will appear in the financial statement for financial year 2013-2014.

Financial

The Association has prepared a financial statement and balance sheet for members. The financial statement has been prepared in accordance with the Associations Incorporations Act, Division 2, Sections 58 and 59.

The income and expenditure statement indicates that the Association incurred an operating debt of \$2,025.10 for the financial year. This debt is due entirely to the payment of an accumulated rates debt from 2008 to 2012. Some of this debt will be recovered with debt write-down provided by the rates exemption. This debt will not appear again in the future with this expenditure being removed by Council's decision.

In accordance with good governance processes and risk mitigation practice the Association maintains public liability insurance for \$10 Million.



Closing Remarks

In closing this year has been exciting and challenging. The focus of the committee this year has been on strengthening governance and providing members with transparency and accountability. In the next operating year the focus will be on strategic planning and income generation.

I commend this annual report to the membership and wholeheartedly thank you for your ongoing support.

Bradley Saunders
President
2012-2013