

GAYINI

Project Update

THE OVERARCHING PRIORITIES FOR THE GAYINI PROJECT IN FY2021 ARE TO:

- PROTECT, MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES OF THE GAYINI

- PROTECT, MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES OF THE GAYINI,

AND

- CREATE ECONOMIC VALUE FROM THE GAYINI WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE OUTCOMES.

LANDMARK MILESTONE

Nari Nari Tribal Council (NNTC) is part of a consortium consisting of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group (MWWG) and the Centre for Ecosystem Science, University of NSW. In 2017 the consortium was granted lease over the Nimmie-Caira lands, located in the Low Bidgee region of NSW.

On December 18, 2019 after many years of lobbying, the members of NNTC celebrated a once-in-a-generation achievement, when Gayini was purchased. Ownership of the vast lands was made possible thanks to funding from the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation and the Wyss Campaign for Nature.

Under the terms of ownership, NNTC, with the support of consortium partners, are required to manage the property in accordance with the Land and Water Management Plan (LWMP).

The objective of the LWMP as required through the Heads of Agreement between the Australian and New South Wales Governments is -

“to protect and maintain the environmental and indigenous cultural assets of the Gayini area and to integrate where possible with long-term objectives for environmental watering in Yanga National Park”.



2021 GAYINI PROJECT PRIORITIES

- **Delivery of Environmental Water to Gayini** in partnership with OEH and CEWO
- **Control of Pest Plants and Animals**, specifically feral pigs, deer, cats and foxes. Weed control will target noogoora burr and Bathurst burr.
- The consortium will continue to monitor vegetation condition and undertake any grazing in accordance with the Vegetation and Grazing Management Plan.
- Wetlands Working Group will continue to implement focussed surveys and monitoring for Australian Painted Snipe and Australasian Bittern through a Saving our Species Grant. An additional focus will be to follow-up on recent records of Plains Wanderer on the property. Charles Sturt University and the Saving our Species Program run by DPIE will continue to monitor endangered Southern Bell Frog populations across Gayini.
- Development and initial implementation of a cultural burning and ongoing fire prevention activities.
 - Progress discussions to secure the protection of the conservation values including a covenant through the Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

- **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management**
- **Healthy Country Planning – Implementation and ongoing Review**
- Develop and deliver two on-site camps as part of the health and social well-being programs at Gayini.
- Training staff and build capacity in managing the infrastructure, as well as routine maintenance of roads and channels.
- Adaptive management of the project
- Current Governance arrangements for Gayini will continue in FY 21.

NB - some activities may be delayed due to Covid-19

In addition the Consortium intends to pursue the following Economic Development Opportunities as a priority for supporting management of Gayini and implementation of the LWMP:

Grazing

Biodiversity Stewardship Payments

Two-Way Learning

The Consortium partners intend to continue to seek alternative sources of funding including donations, grants and service agreements to support the works being done at Gayini and unlock future potential for additional programs.

STAFF UPDATES

Krista Schade - Gayini Project Manager

Krista has worked with Nari Nari Tribal Council previously, on the Toogimbie Indigenous Area (IPA). She has returned to our organisation and since late June has been working with consortium partners on reporting and implementation of the LWMP.

Krista is a Hay local, and has experience in journalism, community service and project management. She has previously worked for Intereach's Community Links program and for The Riverine Grazier.



narinari@bigpond.net.au
02 6993 2243 (Monday to Thursday)

GAYINI LAND MANAGER APPOINTED YANGA FIRE CAPTAIN

Mark Brettschneider - Western Gayini Land Manager

Mark Brettschneider, Land Manager at Nari Nari Tribal Council's Gayini conservation area, has been appointed Captain of the Rural Fire Service (RFS) Yanga Brigade.

Mr Brettschneider is believed to be the first Aboriginal person to be appointed to the role, according to Zone Manager Tony Whitehorn. As Captain Mr Brettschneider is responsible for brigade safety, permit issue, inspections, co-ordination of team training and equipment needs, as well as fire line management during bushfire events. The Yanga Brigade responds to a range of emergencies including structure fires, motor vehicle accidents and storms.

Mr Brettschneider will call on his 17 years of experience with NSW National Parks and Wildlife, where he acted as Divisional Commander of the Remote Area Fire Fighting team.

During this time, he flew into fire zones, winching in and out of inaccessible areas via helicopter, most recently during the NSW fire storms last summer. Mr Brettschneider spent a total of 20 days battling bushfires in the Grafton, Nowra and Tumbarumba regions.

The NSW RFS is widely acknowledged as the largest volunteer fire service in the world. Members are trained to very high levels of competence to ensure they know what to do in an emergency.

The Service aims to reduce the likelihood and consequence of fires occurring. This involves comprehensive risk management programs to reduce bush fire hazards, reduce fire ignitions and the development of regulations for bush fire prone areas. In his role as Yanga Brigade Captain, Mr Brettschneider can encompass the RFS programs into the land management practises on Gayini.



AUGUST E-WATER EVENT



This image, snapped by Jamie Woods, Eastern Gayini Land Manager, shows Pollen Creek from the air. Staff are managing approximately 230 megalitres daily into Telephone Bank and onto Monkem Creek further downstream. Staff hope the e-water will trigger a major bird breeding event.

NARI NARI CONNECTION PROGRAM RECEIVES NSW FUNDING

Tara Dixon - Toogimbie IPA Project Co-ordinator

Nari Nari Tribal Council (NNTC) has successfully applied for \$94,300 funding to host a series of cultural camps at Toogimbie Indigenous Protected Area and Gayini, west of Hay.

The funding was recently announced as part of the Stronger Country Communities program.

NNTC staff developed the program, titled "Triple C – Cultural Connection to Country", with Damien Kennedy, who grew up in Hay and Ivanhoe and now works in Wagga Wagga.

The ongoing program evolved from several On Country camps that were held in 2019, which resulted in very positive outcomes for attendees.

"The principal of Mt Austin school in Wagga told us that school attendance rates for participants from the camps increased up to 90% as soon as the boys returned, as did student involvement in school activities," said Toogimbie IPA Project Co-ordinator Tara Dixon.

"This funding is a massive step into a much larger scale of cultural camps On Country," Ms Dixon said.

"Being able to reconnect to Country is a benefit in each individual's healing process and it plays a huge role in steering young men in the right path.

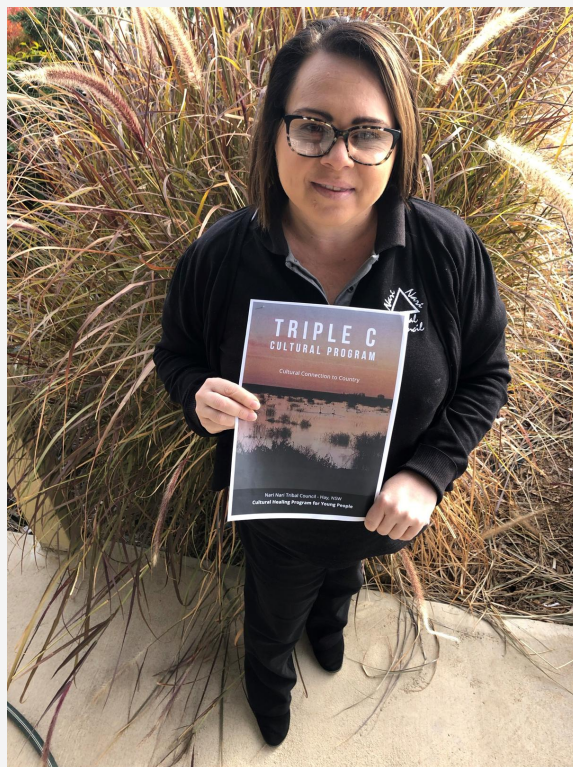
"The program consists of a number of themes, including reconnection, self-improvement and healthy living.

"I look forward to what can be achieved from this pilot program, and one day also providing women's camps," Ms Dixon said.

"This is wonderful news," said Helen Dalton Member for Murray.

"It's so great to see Nari Nari Tribal Council getting much needed funding to continue its excellent work."

"These programs are vital for Indigenous youth, and I will continue to advocate for funding in the area."



The Triple C Program is a Cultural healing initiative for Aboriginal males aged 14 - 24. The program objective is to connect disassociated youth to Country by hosting small groups of 8-10 participants on country owned and managed by the Nari Nari Tribal Council.

Six, five-day camps will be delivered between late 2020 and May 2022. These programs will be led by an experienced Community support worker with an extensive background in counselling, drug and alcohol, youth family intervention and mental health and working alongside special mentors and elders experienced in culture, heritage and traditional practises.

Interested school and community groups should contact Ms Dixon.

taranntc.ipa@gmail.com
