



# Karri Karrak News

Boodja • Moort • Kaatadjin

February 2024

## Kaya Moort

With the beginning of the new year, Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation (KKAC) would like to recap on the exciting progress made in 2023 and what we have coming up in 2024.

### Annual General Meeting

Our 2023 AGM was held at the Busselton Community Resource center on the 25 November 2023.

Fifty members were in attendance discussing, among other topics, the progress of the Corporation, its 2023-2028 Strategic Plan and the Noongar Land estate.

The AGM was well received by the membership and great discussions were had about the Corporation's plans for 2024.

Thank you to all members who attended, and a special thank you to Mandy Gadston (facilitator), our Board of Directors, Cultural Advice Committee and staff for organising and running the meeting.



### Cultural Advice Committee appointments

KKAC would like to congratulate our newly appointed members of the Cultural Advice Committee (CAC). David Corbett, Eric Hayward and Kumanjii (Tim) Hill will commence their appointments in 2024.

The three new appointees, bring extensive cultural knowledge to the CAC and we look forward to working with each member.

- Suzanne Kelly
- Gail Airey
- Jack Hill
- Kumanjii (Tim) Hill
- Sandra Lesley Hill
- Shirley Williams
- William Thompson
- David Corbett
- Wayne George Webb
- Eric Hayward

The CAC works in tandem with the Board of Directors and Corporation staff as the cultural authority for the Karri Karrak Agreement group area.

It provides for the Corporation's ability to make cultural decisions as well as providing culturally appropriate advice to Local, State and Federal governments, community organisations and private businesses.

We acknowledge the Traditional People of the Wardandi, Pibulmun and Kanyeang nations that Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation represents, and the extensive work Elders, past and present, have undertaken over the years to establish the Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation.

## New KKAC office

KKAC has outgrown our office space on Duchess St and recently secured a new tenancy in Vasse.

The office space will be home to Karri Karrak office staff and its ranger team who will be working on joint management arrangements with DBCA in the surrounding national parks.

Having all staff under the same roof will ensure collaboration and synergy between all parts of the organisation. KKAC aims to build a brand that the region recognises, and we believe this is another step towards that goal.

We look forward to the fit out of the office and moving in between March - April 2024.



## Meet the mob

We are excited that KKAC is growing, and we now have five wonderful staff that bring unique experience, attributes, and a wealth of knowledge in Aboriginal affairs, and the landcare and management space.

### Abby Phillis, Chief Executive Officer



Abby grew up on Wiilman Booja (Williams) and Wardandi Booja (Busselton). She has a Double Major in Politics and Indigenous Australian Cultural Studies from Curtin University; a Graduate Diploma in Legal Studies from the University of Canberra; and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

With 18 years' experience working for Aboriginal people and corporations, including six years as a senior executive, Abby most recently worked in Roebourne establishing Foundation Food, an Australian-first pilot addressing food security in the remote North West.

Abby is passionate about social enterprise and developing and delivering community focused businesses that have a positive social impact.

### Ben Tannock Lands Manager



Ben Tannock commenced his career with the Department of Conservation and Land Management in Margaret River in 1994 and has since worked in various regions of Western Australia, including nine years in the Kimberley Region working in Wildlife Protection and managing terrestrial and marine conservation reserves.

Ben moved back to Margaret River in 2012 to raise his young family and since that time he managed the Parks and Visitor Services portfolio in the Blackwood District, a role which saw Ben have oversight over the day-to-day management of the Leeuwin – Naturaliste National Park, among others.

Ben is passionate about Aboriginal advancement and ensuring Traditional Owners have every opportunity to be co and joint managers of the State's conservation reserve system. In that respect he has forged strong alliances with Traditional Custodians in the Kimberley and the South West.



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## **Gwen Gray** **Heritage Coordinator**

Gwen is a Noongar woman from Wardandi Boodjar (Busselton) where she has lived most of her life. Gwen has connections to Wadandi Boodjar on her mother's side and connections to Keneang Boodjar, Minang Boodjar and Koreng Boodjar in the Great Southern on her father's side.



Gwen has a long and deep connection to Busselton as her fourth Great Grandfather, Joseph Hill, who was born in 1837 in Nottingham England, married her fourth Great Grandmother Elizabeth (Betsy) Dawson, an Aboriginal woman who was born in Busselton in 1880 and is the daughter of George Dawson a farmer of Busselton.

Prior to starting with KKAC, Gwen worked at the Department of Education for 10 years. During her time at Busselton Senior High School, Gwen achieved successful outcomes as the Senior Aboriginal Islander Education Officer, coordinating and managing the setup of programs. Gwen managed the Aboriginal Islander Education Portfolio overseeing the budget and finances, managing relationships with key stakeholders, made decisions regarding culturally driven outcomes, Aboriginal education and monitored the cultural responsibility of the Busselton Senior High School.

## **Luke Yates** **Community Relations Lead**

Luke is a proud Kanyeang/Koreng, Badimia man from the Yates/Ingram and Hayward/Underwood family groups and is based in Busselton. Luke has a strong background in the construction industry working for 10 years as a bricklayer/form worker then progressing into Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) with Perkins builders.



More recently Luke downed the tools and transitioned into Aboriginal affairs, Joining SWALSC as a Regional officer for the South West Boojarah claimant group in 2021.

Luke Transitioned across to the Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation in early 2023.

## **Tahn Donovan** **Manager Community, Corporate and Policy**



Tahn has returned home to Country to join our team. Most recently as the Director of Aboriginal Tourism at Tourism WA, and having worked as SWALSC's Heritage Officer, Tahn brings a wealth of skill and experience from her background in tourism, state government, heritage, conservation, and education.

Tahn's previous roles and responsibilities include job trainer for Aboriginal people with disabilities, delivery of a Prescribed Body Corporate Directors training program, Prescribed Body Corporate National Survey, Young Women's leadership, and the Noongar leadership program. Tahn has also worked in community board positions for Aboriginal Tourism, Women's issues, Equity Trust, the delivery of Langford Aboriginal Corporation Fashion Shows, Slow Foods - Australian bush foods, women's issues, and cultural heritage.

Tahn is inspired by the skills, knowledge, and commitment to country of our community and members, and she looks forward to contributing to ensure Karri Karrak is positioned to maximise the opportunities and empowerment of our community.



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# General news

## GWABA Carnival

In October 2023 KKAC proudly sponsored the annual GWABA football carnival.

The day was full of excitement, with impressive football skills on show and an abundance of community spirit between the two ovals. KKAC manned an information stall, speaking to community members about the establishment of the Corporation, Noongar Land Estate matters and signing up new members.

KKAC promotional hats were handed out to players and community members with the majority of players and spectators donning the white and blue headwear. We also held a free raffle of an official AFL game ball as a major prize and smaller synthetic footballs as minor prizes.

A big congratulations to the Wardongs who took out the 2023 GWABA carnival.



## Quanup Site Visit - DBCA

In January 2024, KKAC CEO Abby Phillis and Land Manager Ben Tannock, as well as our Chair, Professor Stephen van Leeuwen participated in a field trip in and around the D'Entrecasteaux National Park with Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) staff from the Warren Region.

The purpose of the trip was to look at land management opportunities for KKAC within the reserve system as well as prospective parcels of the Noongar Land Estate in this area.

CEO Abby Phillis said "It was a great opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the area's cultural connections and the opportunities in land management in the southeast corner of the Karri Karrak region.

"It was also important to meet DBCA officers in the field and develop positive and productive working relationships. After the time on Country with the team I feel very confident in all we have the opportunity to achieve together."



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## Promotional gear

We have designed and produced promotional items that include feather signs and goodie bags to spread the awareness of the Corporation. Hats, lanyards, water bottles, car stickers, magnets and calico bags were distributed to membership at our recent AGM.

If you missed out, please head to our office for a cuppa and we can give you yours. We will also be distributing more goodie bags at upcoming events.



## Expression of Interest (EOI)

### forms

We have developed EOI forms for Heritage, bereavement, and are developing a KKAC Business Register. These forms are easy to complete online, and are all available on our website, under the 'Member services' tab.

The Heritage and Monitoring EOI form is for members who want to nominate for survey and monitoring in the Karri Karrak Agreement group area. Nominated members will be added to a register, and participants will be rotated for upcoming surveys and monitoring jobs.

The bereavement form is for requesting assistance with the printing of eulogies for funerals.

## We'll promote your business

You can register your business on the Karri Karrak Members Business Register. We will use the register to promote your business and advise you when opportunities relevant to you become available.

## Let's work together

We are keen to hear from organisations who want to partner with Karri Karrak for funding and other opportunities within the government and private sectors. If you have a program or project that you would like to deliver in partnership with Karri Karrak, please email us at [admin@karrikarrak.org.au](mailto:admin@karrikarrak.org.au).

## Save the date

We are hosting Noongar season afternoon sundowner events for Karri Karrak members over the coming months, so you can meet us and have a yarn.

We've locked in the following dates, and the details will be sent to members when confirmed. If you need to update your member contact details, please complete the form on our website:

[karrikarrak.org.au/update-details](http://karrikarrak.org.au/update-details).

Karri Karrak sundowners:

- Bunuru (Perth): 5:30pm - 7:00pm Friday, 15 March 2024
- Djeran (Busselton): 5:30pm - 7:00pm Friday, 3 May 2024

## Update your details

A priority for us is keeping our members informed and updated. To do this, we may occasionally send you information by post, email, or SMS.

If your contact information has changed, please complete the form on our website to provide us with your details: [karrikarrak.org.au/update-details](http://karrikarrak.org.au/update-details).

## Membership applications

If you have a family member or friend who wants to join the Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation, please invite them to complete the membership form on our website at [karrikarrak.org.au/join](http://karrikarrak.org.au/join).

To follow up on a submitted membership application, please contact Luke Yates by phone on 0484 758 159 or email at [luke.yates@karrikarrak.org.au](mailto:luke.yates@karrikarrak.org.au). Alternatively, call our office on 0484 351 164.



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