

Gandangara

Local Aboriginal Land Council



Volume 4

Connect. Belong. Thrive.

December 2020

Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council (GLALC) acknowledges the families within the Cabrogal Clan of the Darug Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land we span. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present, and emerging and to all First Peoples within our community.



GLALC Wins of 2020! RAS results (p.7)

INSIDE

- Message from the Chairperson
- Message from the Chief Executive Officer
- Calendar of Events 2021

**Festive Season's
Greetings** from the
GLALC
team





Uncle Tony Scholes
Chairperson

Message from our Chairperson

It gives me great pleasure to say none of Our Members have tested positive for COVID-19, which is a testament to the resilience and responsibility of our Members in this community. Together we have been responsible in ensuring that we all stay safe and well through rigorous adherence to the

COVID-19 safety guidelines set out by governments this year. Our Land Council has been on the front foot in community outreach, delivering COVID-19 Care Packages to our Members who were most in need and who were experiencing social isolation like never before.

Board of Directors

Top left to bottom right: Tanya Ellis, Wendy Morgan, Anthony Scholes (Chairperson), Steve Ingram, Diane Van Aken (Deputy Chairperson), Bernie Compton, Norma Burrows, Barry Brooker, Gail Smith, Matthew Fellingham.





Melissa Williams
CEO

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

WE HAVE GROWN STRONGER

This year we have endured a worldwide pandemic, the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression in the 1920s, and the severest restrictions ever imposed on our civilian population outside of wartime. Yet, against all these odds, Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council has achieved remarkable growth and success at every level of our organisation – Management, Gandangara Health Services, Marumali Health Brokerage and Gandangara Transport Services. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic we maintained a steady business to be responsive to the pandemic and to adapt and change our business model where we could.

WE HAVE INCREASED OUR LAND HOLDINGS

In the past twelve months we have had two land claims decided in our favour. These are big wins for Gandangara LALC for many reasons. The pace of Aboriginal land claims determination is very slow. The process is highly politicised, claims are constantly contested and often refused, and very few parcels are successfully determined. So for us to have three successes in just twelve months is a huge achievement, with many benefits for Gandangara LALC.

These successful land claims, with a combined value of over \$9,213,000, are located in the Sutherland Shire, extending our land holdings at Heathcote Ridge, Menai and potentially giving us a higher level of assets at our disposal.

STOP WORK ORDER OVER HEATHCOTE RIDGE LIFTED!

The other outstanding result has been at Heathcote Ridge where we own over 860 hectares of local, pristine bushland. For as long as we can remember, it has been used as a dumping ground for illegal rubbish

and debris. This abuse of our land had been getting worse in recent years because the main offenders were making a profit from dumping other people's rubbish on it, as well as their own.

Since October 2016, Sutherland Shire Council had issued a Cease Works Order (No. 19) issued pursuant to s 121B of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) ("the Act") over Lot 607 DP 1138731 at 12201 Heathcote Road Menai, due to issues with the way in which previous management (in 2015) had undertaken works onsite, importing large amounts of sandstone fill and storing the fill inappropriately. This work was done as part of a grant funded project from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to clean up the rubbish at Heathcote Ridge. The funding grant was also suspended in December 2016.

As of November 2020, Sutherland Shire Council officially lifted the Cease Works Order on the property following months of productive meetings and renewed relationship-building between the Council and GLALC. Shortly afterwards, the EPA resumed the funding grant for the clean-up project and released the remaining funding so that GLALC can continue with the clean-up and bushland rehabilitation! This is an amazing achievement since everything stalled four years ago.

We are now working in collaboration with Sutherland Shire Council, our ecologists and partners to remediate the land and to block off illegal access. Together we have produced an implementation plan, prepared by an ecologist, for how best to manage access to our land, as well as its restoration. In 2021, Members will be able to rejoice in the changes we are making to protect our most valuable land from the illegal dumping that has plagued it for so long. Keep your eyes peeled in the new year for communications regarding clean-up ventures and how you can be involved as we finally move forward into this new chapter.

WE HAVE ACHIEVED A PERFECT RATING SCORE

At a time when many organisations and enterprises are suffering from enormous negative pressure on their processes and ratings, we have achieved a remarkable improvement in our Risk Assessment System rating. It has gone from 67% in 2017 to 94% in 2018, then to 100% in 2019 and again, 100% in 2020. That means we have been able to complete our governance, equipment, administration, financial and cost processes in a timely manner. Land Councils with low ratings are required to do more frequent reporting with more stringent controls that are, ultimately accountable to the Minister. Our 100% rating has allowed us to report annually, rather than quarterly, which is a reflection of the high standards to which GLALC now performs, and the subsequent trust we have built up with NSWALC.

To ensure we maintain this high standard of management responsibility and accountability, we are keeping our Board Governance Training up to date and completed. We have also implemented an Internal Risk Register, and developed a Business Continuity Plan to cope with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our business units.

WE ARE EXPANDING OUR TRANSPORT SERVICE

We have been able to secure a service contract extension with Transport NSW providing an additional two years of funding for Gandangara Transport Services. We have also been able to expand our transport services into patient transport, by partnering with South Western Sydney Local Health District for Aboriginal Patient chronic care. This enables us to provide an even stronger support system for our community.



WE HAVE GROWN FUNDING FOR MORE SERVICES

Having stronger governance, business practices and strategies in place, we've become a stronger and a healthier business. These attributes have made us a far more attractive investment in a competitive funding environment.

We have attracted a further investment of nearly \$900,000 from the Commonwealth Government, for Marumali Ltd to continue running our health brokerage. This funding has never been guaranteed and was in jeopardy in the past, but now we feel much more secure.

We secured a Mental Health grant of \$230,000 from South Western Sydney Local Area Health to enable us to run mental health services for the first time, and we can also now recruit clinicians. This in turn helps us to expand our social wellbeing services in the Gandangara Health Services Clinic.

We also won a \$150,000 workforce capacity building tender from Primary Health Network, that will allow us to develop our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce. We are delighted to announce that two traineeships have begun at GLALC and GHS under this funding, and we welcome on board the young and talented trainees: Letia Anu and Susan Faleafaga. We are also proud to announce that in 2021 we will have two more trainees starting with us under this program.

All of these are significant gains in much needed income and allow Gandangara Land Council to continue to improve and increase essential services for its' Members and community. It also makes it easier for us to attract and afford more of the right people needed to deliver our improved services for our Members. For example, the Gandangara Health Service has been able to hire more doctors and nurses, and have recently employed another two trainees.

WE ARE GROWING OUR REPUTATION AND OUR PARTNERSHIPS

A measure of how well regarded our services are becoming, in the wider community, the Gandangara Health Services have been given approved status as

an Aboriginal Training Facility by GP Synergy. Our cultural influence is also growing, with bookings for Welcome To Country we provide having doubled in the past year.

GP SYNERGY
advancing medical training



Deed of Agreement Signed with Liverpool City Council

In December 2020, GLALC and Liverpool City Council (LCC) formally signed a Deed of Agreement relating to the infrastructure upgrades on Apex Park (Liverpool) and Phillips Park (Lurnea) at a ceremony in Bigge Park. Present at the formal ceremony were: GLALC Chairperson Tony Scholes, GLALC CEO Melissa Williams, Mayor Wendy Waller, LCC CEO Dr Eddie Jackson, Liverpool City Councillors, GLALC staff and LCC staff. Uncle Ivan Wellington performed a moving smoking ceremony to open the event, together with a didgeridoo performance from the talented Jetsyn Nand.



GLALC has had active land claims over both parklands since 2002, whereas in 2017, LCC received funding under the Cities Deal to upgrade the infrastructure on both parks. The negotiations between LCC and GLALC since that time have been challenging, but we have finally been able to come to a place of cooperative partnership where we advance forward together. This Deed of Agreement took years to come to fruition, and it speaks to a new era for GLALC and LCC. GLALC was able to retain its land claims on both parks, while negotiating conditions of co-creation and cooperation on the upgrade works with LCC to foster Aboriginal employment and the celebration of Aboriginal art, culture and heritage.

WE HAVE GROWN & STRENGTHENED OUR FINANCES

To ensure that we protect, manage and grow our financial assets effectively, over the past year we developed and implemented an Investment Strategy, Policy and Portfolio. Central to the successful implementation of that Investment Strategy was the hiring of leading fund manager JB Were, to oversee GLALC's funds under management. It has proven to be an astute decision. In March 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic put the brakes on our economy, we had invested \$26,000,000 through JB Were. In the 9 months since, the value of our Portfolio has grown by over \$900,000. This is a remarkable achievement in an environment that has seen many businesses suffering huge losses in their shares portfolios. That while GLALC has also suffered losses in the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been responsive and adaptive to changes to keep our business open and to flourish in the circumstances.

JBWere

Through the combination of well-managed investments and hard-won funding, Gandangara has been able to deliver on its ambitions and targets presented in both the 2019-2020 Annual Report and the Community Land & Business Plan (2020-2024).

The new Community Land and Business Plan -- 2020-2024 (CLBP) was officially accepted by our Members by unanimous vote on 23 November 2020! This document is the most important strategic planning document for GLALC and sets out its vision, goals and objectives to service our Members and wider community for the coming four years.

At a time when COVID-19 restrictions had greatly constrained most Land Councils in their ability to consult with Members over the development of their CLBP's, we were fortunate to have a head start through early planning, with our Members consultation sessions winding up in April 2020. This gave us time to develop and produce the CLBP, and finally, to present it to our Members for approval at the Extraordinary Members Meeting held in November 2020. We are thrilled that you have taken this Plan on board and we will work hard to deliver the results of it to you in the coming years!



A BAD YEAR HAS BROUGHT OUT THE BEST IN ALL OF US

This troublesome year has created more problems, stress and confusion than any of us have ever experienced. It has created uncertainty and fear for many people. Nobody has been untouched in these worst of times. However, it has also brought out the very best in us. Our love and care for our fellow beings, our passion and dedication to helping them, especially the most vulnerable among us has been evident. Our resilience has shone through all of the darkest moments. We have kept our Members, our people and our staff safe through it all. We look forward to continuing our journey with all our Members through 2021.

GLALC WINS OF 2020!



- Aboriginal Land Claims won FY 2019-2020 = ALC 6431 ALC 6614
- Valuation \$9,213,000 FOR THE YEAR
- Renewal of all land leases
- RAS: risk assessment system rating has increased significantly, taking it from a low 67% in 2018 to now having an exemplary rating of 100% in 2020.
- Board governance training up-to-date and complete
- Risk management – internal risk register developed and BCP in COVID-19 pandemic
- 2019-2020 audited financial statements passed
- We have attracted a further investment of nearly \$900,000 from for Marumali Limited to continue running our health brokerage
- We have been able to get \$700,000 of

- refunding from Transport for NSW to continue running Gandangara Transport Services. We have also expanded into patient transport by partnering with South Western Sydney Local Health District
- We secured a Social, Emotional & Wellbeing grant of \$230,000 from South Western Sydney Local Area Health to enable us to run early intervention support services for the first time and we can also now recruit clinicians to our medical practice
- We were successful in obtaining \$150,000 for the workforce capacity grant from the Primary Health Network. This will enable us to develop our early career health workforce starting with four traineeships in the financial year 2020-2021

- Investments strategy, policy and portfolio adopted and implemented
- Hiring JB Were for GLALC's funds under management
- As of 30 November 2020, the GLALC Long Term fund had a valuation of \$26,903,111.00
- Stop Work Order over Heathcote Ridge lifted by Sutherland Shire Council
- Environment & Planning Grant approved to start the clean-up process at Heathcote
- Community Land & Business Plan
- Staff & Board Conference 2020 Booklet
- GHS Status approved as an Aboriginal Training Facility by GP Synergy
- Liverpool City Council date for signing
- Health Trainees hired at GHS
- Welcome to Country doubled in bookings

- GTS has been granted funding from TFNSW until 2022
- Positive feedback from community members through care packs and constant wellbeing checks on a regular basis.
- ACCP (Aboriginal Chronic Care Program) has partnered with GTS regarding Transporting regular clients to and from medical appointment's clients have mentioned its added a personal touch having the same faces picking them up
- GTS has still found days to take the clients out on a regular basis for social and emotional well being etc day trips, shopping and to visit loved ones.



● Deed signed
Liverpool
City Council

**GLALC
WINS
OF 2020!**

GLALC WINS OF 2020!



● 103 Moore St, Liverpool Refurbishment Plans approved by Liverpool City Council

GLALC WINS OF 2020!

● Heathcote Ridge clean-up ready to begin!



GLALC WINS OF 2020!



Calendar of Events 2021

January	February	March	April	May	June
	13 The anniversary of the National Apology	19 National Close the Gap Day		26 National Sorry Day	03 Mabo Day
		21 Harmony Day		27 National Reconciliation Week Begins	
				The anniversary of the 1967 Referendum	

July	August	September	October	November	December
04 NAIDOC Week	04 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day	04 Indigenous Literacy Day	02 NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Begins		10 Human Rights Day
	09 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	13 Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People			16 Human Rights Day

Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council

Head Quarters:	103 Moore Street, Liverpool NSW 2170
Current Office:	Level 1, 64 Macquarie Street, Liverpool NSW 2170
Business address:	P.O. Box 1038 Liverpool Business Centre, 1871
Phone number:	(02) 9602 5280
Email:	Reception@glalc.org.au
Business hours:	9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday

Gandangara Health Services Limited

Office:	Ground Floor, 64 Macquarie Street, Liverpool NSW 2170
Business address:	2170
Phone number:	P.O. Box 1038 Liverpool Business Centre, 1871
Email:	(02) 9601 0700
Business hours:	health@glalc.org.au 8:30 am to 6.30 pm Monday to Friday

Gandangara Transport Services Limited

Office:	14 Weld Street, Prestons NSW 2170
Business address:	P.O. Box 1038 Liverpool Business Centre, 1871
Phone number:	(02) 9608 0968
Email:	bookings@glalc.org.au
Facsimile number:	F: (02) 8783 5053
Business hours:	8:30 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday

Marumali Limited

Office:	Level 1, 64 Macquarie Street, Liverpool NSW 2170
Business address:	P.O. Box 1038 Liverpool Business Centre, 1871
Phone number:	(02) 9602 9677/ 0434 692 287
Email:	marumaliadmin@glalc.org.au
Facsimile number:	(02) 8712 0561
Business hours:	8:00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday

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