Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation

Members Update November 2026

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A Message from the CEO

As I move into my seventh week as CEO of Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on my first six weeks in the role and share some of the work that has been taking place across the organisation.

Firstly, I would like to thank our Board, Gnerricks, Elders, members, staff and community for the warm welcome and support I have received since commencing. It has been a busy and productive start, and I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside so many passionate people who care deeply about Wamba Wemba people, culture and Country.

Over the past six weeks, my focus has been on listening, learning and building strong relationships across the organisation and community. I've spent time meeting with staff, Directors, Gnerricks, members, government representatives, funding bodies and key partners to better understand our priorities, opportunities and challenges.

One of the most significant moments during this period was the recent repatriation of Wamba Wemba Ancestors back to Country. This was an incredibly important and emotional occasion for our community and a powerful reminder of the responsibility we all share in honouring and caring for our Ancestors. I would like to acknowledge the leadership, guidance and cultural authority of our Elders and Gnerricks throughout this work, and thank everyone who contributed to making this deeply meaningful event possible.

Alongside this important cultural work, we have also been focused on strengthening the Corporation itself. This has included reviewing organisational systems, finance and governance arrangements, progressing key funding opportunities, supporting our staff and planning for future community engagement activities.

Over the coming months, my focus will continue to be on building a strong and sustainable organisation that delivers positive outcomes for members while ensuring culture, community and Country remain at the centre of everything we do.

I am particularly looking forward to connecting with members through community events, our upcoming AGM and future "Meet the CEO" gatherings. These will provide valuable opportunities to share ideas, discuss priorities and hear directly from members about what matters most to them.

The strength of Wamba Wemba has always come from our people. By working together, respecting the knowledge of our Elders and supporting future generations, we can continue to build a strong future for our community.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to meeting many more members in the months ahead and working together to create positive outcomes for our people, culture and Country.

Narlinga Morgan
Chief Executive Officer

Bringing Our Ancestors Home

For many years, Wamba Wemba people, Elders, families and community members have held a shared aspiration to honour our Ancestors and return them home to Country where they belong. What was recently achieved did not happen overnight. It reflects the efforts, advocacy and commitment of many people over many years, months and weeks of planning, discussion and cultural responsibility.

In recent weeks, that long-held aspiration became a reality as Wamba Wemba Ancestors were respectfully returned to Country. This was a significant and deeply moving moment for our community and an important step in fulfilling our cultural responsibilities to those who came before us.

WWAC acknowledges the leadership and guidance of our Gnerricks and Elders, whose cultural authority helped guide this important work. We also thank the many community members, families and partner organisations who have supported the repatriation journey over many years.

The return of our Ancestors is about more than bringing them home. It is about respect, healing, connection to Country and ensuring our Ancestors are finally laid to rest with the dignity they deserve. It is also a reminder of the enduring strength, resilience and determination of Wamba Wemba people to care for culture, Country and community.

While this marks an important milestone, it is also part of a much broader journey of healing, truth-telling and cultural restoration. WWAC remains committed to supporting future repatriation efforts and ensuring our cultural responsibilities continue to be honoured for generations to come.

We thank everyone who has walked alongside us on this journey and acknowledge all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the return of our Ancestors possible.

Together, we honour our Ancestors, strengthen our connection to Country and ensure their legacy lives on through future generations of Wamba Wemba people.



Swan Hill NAIDOC Ball - Celebrating 50 years of Deadly

Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation was a very proud to sponsor the Swan Hill NAIDOC Ball held earlier this month.

The event was a wonderful celebration of Aboriginal culture, leadership, achievement and community, bringing people together from across the region to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of Aboriginal people and organisations.

We would like to congratulate all award recipients and extend our sincere thanks to the Swan Hill NAIDOC Committee for the enormous amount of work involved in planning, organising and delivering such an outstanding event for our community.

WWAC would also like to congratulate Joseph (Joe) Kelly on receiving the WWAC Care for Country Award. Joe's commitment to caring for Country, culture and community reflects the values that sit at the heart of Wamba Wemba people, and we thank him for the work he continues to do.

Introducing Samantha Burns

WWAC is pleased to welcome Samantha Burns to the team.

Sam joined the organisation in November in the Reception and Administration Support role and has quickly become a friendly and welcoming face for members, visitors and community members contacting the office.

Reception is often the first point of contact people have with WWAC, and Sam has already stepped into the role with professionalism, enthusiasm and a willingness to assist wherever she can.

We are excited to have Sam join the WWAC team and look forward to her ongoing contribution to the organisation and community.

"I have already had the privilege of meeting many First Nations community members here on the beautiful Wamba Wamba Country and have come to appreciate the strength, knowledge, and connection within the community. I recognise that my role is a meaningful one, and I am committed to supporting our people in ways that are respectful, genuine, and community-focused.

"I am originally from Brisbane, and my family are the Durouxs from the Bundjalung, Dunghutti and Gumbaynggirr Nations of northern and north-eastern New South Wales. I am proud of my cultural connections and value the opportunity to learn from and alongside others."
Samantha Burns.



Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Planning is currently underway for the upcoming Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation Annual General Meeting.

Members are advised to keep an eye out for formal AGM notices, which will be issued in accordance with the WWAC Rule Book.

Information regarding:

- AGM date and location
- Nominations
- Voting arrangements
- Proxy forms
- Eligibility requirements
- Meeting agenda

will be provided to members once confirmed.

The AGM is an important opportunity for members to hear about the work of the Corporation, participate in decision-making and help shape the future direction of WWAC.

We encourage all members to watch for upcoming communications and participate wherever possible.

Membership

Are you a Wamba Wemba person who hasn't yet become a member of WWAC?

Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation currently has more than 440 members living across Victoria, New South Wales and interstate. Membership is one of the most important ways our people can stay connected, have a voice in the future of the Corporation and participate in key decisions that affect our community.

As a member, you can:

- Attend and vote at General Meetings and Annual General Meetings.
- Receive regular updates about WWAC programs, projects and opportunities.
- Help shape the future direction of the Corporation.
- Stay informed about cultural, community and Country-based initiatives.
- Participate in member events, consultations and engagement activities.

Who Can Apply?

Applications for membership are welcomed from Wamba Wemba people who meet the membership requirements set out in the WWAC Rule Book.

Membership applications are considered by the Board in accordance with the Corporation's rules and governance requirements.

Have Your Details Changed?

If you have recently changed your:

- Address
- Email address
- Phone number
- Family details

Please let us know so we can ensure you continue to receive important notices, newsletters, event invitations and AGM information.

Visit the Members Section of Our Website

For information about:

- Membership eligibility
- How to apply
- Membership forms
- Important member information
- News and updates

Visit the Members section of the WWAC website: Members - Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation (https://wambawemba.com/members/)

If you know family members who may be eligible to join WWAC, please encourage them to visit the website or contact the office to learn more about becoming a member.

Strong membership helps build a strong Corporation. Together, we can continue to protect culture, care for Country and create opportunities for current and future generations of Wamba Wemba people.

Kurrek Yukal Team Update

The Kurrek Yukal team continues to build skills, strengthen partnerships and care for Country through a range of activities across the region.

In December, team members will attend the Traditional Owner General Fire Fighting Camp in St Arnaud. This training provides valuable experience in fire management and helps strengthen Traditional Owner involvement in caring for Country and responding to environmental challenges.

The team will also visit the Regional Incident Control Centre (ICC) in Mildura as part of emergency management training. This is an important opportunity to build relationships and ensure that, during future emergency events such as bushfires, Wamba Wemba cultural values, heritage places and areas of cultural significance can be appropriately represented and considered in emergency response planning.

The Kurrek Yukal team continues to work closely with the North Central Catchment Management Authority and Parks Victoria on a range of Caring for Country activities. This includes water and fish monitoring programs, native fish releases, and visiting Wirra-Lo Wetlands to learn about wetland restoration and management practices that support healthy populations of native plants, animals, birds and aquatic species.

Through this work, the Kurrek Yukal team is helping to strengthen cultural knowledge, protect Country and create positive environmental outcomes for future generations of Wamba Wemba people

Renewable Energy and Industry on Country

There is increasing interest from companies looking to develop renewable energy and other major projects across parts of Wamba Wemba Country. These projects may include wind farms, solar farms, battery storage facilities, transmission lines and, in some areas, exploration for minerals used in renewable energy technology.

As governments and industry invest in new energy projects, activity across our region is expected to grow over the coming years. This presents both opportunities and responsibilities for our community.

Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation is actively monitoring these developments and working to ensure that Wamba Wemba people's rights, interests, cultural heritage and connection to Country are respected and protected throughout any planning and development processes.

Our focus is on ensuring that:

- Cultural heritage is identified, protected and respected.
- The voices of Wamba Wemba people are heard in decision-making.
- Country, waterways, plants and animals are safeguarded.
- Opportunities and benefits for Wamba Wemba people are explored where appropriate.
- Future generations continue to maintain a strong connection to culture and Country.

As this work progresses, WWAC will continue to keep members informed and provide opportunities for community input on matters that may affect Wamba Wemba Country.

Protecting Country, respecting culture and ensuring our people have a voice will remain at the centre of our approach.

Christmas Closure Dates

"We are getting in early to advise our members of the upcoming WWAC Christmas closure period and office arrangements over the Christmas and New Year period."

Christmas Closure and Season's Greetings

As another year comes to a close, the Board of Directors, Gnerricks and staff of Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation would like to thank all members for their continued support, involvement and contribution throughout 2026.

Please note that the WWAC office will be closed from Monday 21 December 2026 and will reopen on Monday 4 January 2027.

This has been a significant year for our Corporation, with important progress made across Caring for Country, member engagement, governance, community partnerships, repatriation planning and organisational growth. None of this would be possible without the support of our members, families, Elders, Gnerricks, Directors, staff and wider community.

We encourage everyone to take this opportunity to spend time with family, connect with community, reflect on the year that has been and enjoy a well-deserved break.

From all of us at WWAC, we wish our members and their families a safe, happy and joyful Christmas and New Year. We look forward to continuing to walk alongside our community and building a strong future for Wamba Wemba people, culture and Country in 2027.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the WWAC Board of Directors, Gnerricks and Staff.

Exciting News – WWAC Purchases Its First Property

We are excited to share some significant news with our members.

WWAC has purchased our first property, located in Woorinen South, just 10 minutes from the Swan Hill town centre. Thanks to DEECA, this is a major milestone in the growth and development of the Corporation and an important investment in our future. The property purchase follows the recent execution of the contract of sale and settlement process currently underway.

This achievement is about much more than purchasing a building. It represents a long-term investment in creating a permanent space for our members, staff, Rangers, Board of Directors, Gnerricks and future generations of Wamba Wemba people.

Over recent years, WWAC has continued to grow. With more than 440 members across Victoria, New South Wales and interstate, along with an expanding workforce and increasing program delivery, we have outgrown our current office facilities on Campbell Street. Most importantly, we have also been operating without a dedicated depot to store our equipment and resources, or a suitable base for our Rangers to prepare for their work caring for Wamba Wemba Country. This property is an absolute bonus for WWAC. It meets the practical needs of our Ranger team while also providing space for training, meetings, community programs and other activities. It will give us the room and flexibility to do so much more for our members, our community and Country.

Importantly, this property gives WWAC a physical asset that belongs to the Corporation and its members, strengthening our long-term sustainability and capacity to deliver services and opportunities for our community.

There is still plenty of work ahead to bring the property to life. Our first priority will be upgrading the garage into a fit-for-purpose Ranger depot, providing our Rangers with a proper base to store equipment, prepare for their work and support the care of Wamba Wemba Country. This was the primary purpose for which the funding was secured. We will then work towards transforming the former general store into a welcoming and flexible space for training, meetings, programs and additional office space.

This is an important milestone in WWAC's journey and something all members can be proud of. Together, we are building a stronger future for Wamba Wemba people, culture and Country





Coming Home to Country: Supporting Stolen Generations Survivors Through Reconnection

In October, Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation was honoured to partner with Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) through its Link-Up Program to welcome Stolen Generations Survivors back to Wamba Wemba Country. For many Survivors, returning to Country is far more than a visit. It is an opportunity for healing, reconnection, truth-telling and the strengthening of cultural identity. Being on Country, visiting places of significance, connecting with community and spending time with Elders can be a powerful and emotional experience.

During the visit, participants were welcomed to Country and engaged in activities designed to support cultural reconnection, including visits to significant places, opportunities to meet community members, family engagement and time spent with Elders sharing stories, knowledge and experiences. The visit highlighted the importance of programs such as Link-Up, which continue to support Stolen Generations Survivors and their families to reconnect with the people, places and culture from which they were separated.

A special moment during the visit was the presentation of a commemorative artwork print, Reconnection, to each Survivor on their final evening on Country. WWAC extends its sincere thanks to Wamba Wemba member and artist Troi-Saraih Ilsley for designing this beautiful artwork and print, which enabled our Ngerricks to present a meaningful gift to Survivors as they concluded their journey on Wamba Wemba Country.

In Troi's words:

"This artwork represents reconnecting to Country, Culture, and Community."

"The Wamba-Wemba inspired shield sits in the centre. Symbolising strength, resilience and protection."

"The intertwined journey lines represent the paths we have walked, the experiences that have shaped us, and the paths yet to be lived. Every journey is unique."

"Each meeting place features a weaved basket pattern. Like the strands, we are stronger when we come together. The people symbol honours those who were here before us, and those who have supported us along the way."

"The water riples in the background are inspired by the Murray River."

The artwork beautifully captured the spirit of the visit, providing a lasting reminder of connection to Country, culture, community and belonging. It reflected the strength and resilience of Stolen Generations Survivors and the importance of creating opportunities for people to reconnect with the Country that has always been theirs.

WWAC is proud to have contributed to this important initiative and thanks VACCA, the Link-Up team, participating Survivors, Elders, Ngerricks and community members who helped make the visit such a meaningful experience. We look forward to continuing our partnership with VACCA and the Link-Up Program throughout 2027, supporting Wamba Wemba people to return to Country, strengthen cultural connections, and continue their healing journeys alongside family, community and culture.

Ngerricks presenting Reconnection, a commemorative artwork designed by Wamba Wemba artist Troi-Saraih Ilsley, to Stolen Generations Survivors during their final evening on Wamba Wemba Country.



Member Engagement, Surveys and Workshops: Your Knowledge Guides the Way

At WWAC, we believe that caring for Country starts with listening to our people. Our members carry the stories, knowledge, lived experience and cultural connections that help guide how we care for Country, protect our cultural heritage, strengthen our waterways and plan for future generations.

As we continue developing projects and priorities, including work relating to Country, water and community wellbeing, it is important that Wamba Wemba voices remain at the centre of decision-making. Our members don't just have a role in shaping these conversations, they hold the knowledge that helps show the way forward.

WWAC is committed to creating more opportunities for members to share their views, ideas and aspirations. Throughout the year, you will see a range of engagement activities, including community workshops, member surveys, yarning opportunities, gatherings on Country and other activities designed to bring people together and hear directly from community.

We also recognise that meaningful engagement is an ongoing journey. WWAC remains committed to strengthening the way we connect with members, ensuring people can participate in ways that are culturally safe, welcoming and accessible.

Whether you attend a workshop, complete a survey, join a gathering or simply share your thoughts with us, your contribution matters. Every conversation helps build a stronger future for Wamba Wemba people, community and Country.

Keep an eye on our website, social media channels and member communications for upcoming opportunities to have your say. We encourage all members to get involved and help shape the future of Wamba Wemba Country.

Our Voice. Our Rights. Our Future.

As Victoria prepares to head to the polls on **Saturday 28 November 2026**, WWAC encourages all members to make their vote count.

As Traditional Owners, our voices matter. While WWAC does not tell members how to vote, we do encourage everyone to take the time to understand where candidates and political parties stand on the issues that impact our people, our Country and our future.

When considering your vote, think about the policies and commitments being made in areas such as **Treaty, self-determination, protection of cultural heritage, water management, caring for Country, the environment, housing, education, health and economic opportunities for First Nations peoples.**

Each of us has an individual voice, but together we also hold a powerful collective voice as Wamba Wemba people and as Traditional Owners. The decisions made by government directly influence how Country is cared for, how First Nations rights are recognised and respected, and how Aboriginal communities are supported into the future.

As a Registered Aboriginal Party, WWAC encourages members to learn about the positions of major and minor parties, ask questions, and make an informed decision based on what matters most to you, your family and your vision for Country.

Key Election Dates

- **Low-sensory voting:** Tuesday 17 November 2026
- **Early voting:** 18 November to 27 November 2026
- **Postal vote applications close:** Wednesday 25 November 2026
- **Election Day:** Saturday 28 November 2026

Whether you vote early or on Election Day, remember that our Elders fought hard for the rights many of us exercise today. Voting is an opportunity to stand up for Country, culture, community and the generations that will follow.

Our ancestors cared for Country for thousands of generations. Today, we have an opportunity to help shape the decisions that affect Country into the future. Make your voice heard.

Job Opportunities Coming Soon: Working for Country, Community and Culture

Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation continues to grow its work across community, culture, education, language revitalisation and renewable energy.

We are excited to announce that two positions will soon be advertised:

- Education, Language and School Partnerships Coordinator
- Renewable Energy Project Officer

These roles offer an opportunity to contribute directly to projects that support culture, community, self-determination and positive outcomes for Wamba Wemba people and Country.

Keep an eye on the Vacancies page on our website, our social media channels and upcoming advertisements for further information and application details. We encourage WWAC members and people passionate about working for Country, Community and Culture to watch this space and consider applying.

Member Artwork and Cultural Display — Expression of Interest

Are you a talented Wamba Wemba artist, craftsperson, author or creator?

WWAC is seeking Expressions of Interest from members who would like to showcase and sell their artwork, cultural products and creative works through displays at the WWAC office and future community events.

This is an opportunity for members to:

- Showcase artwork and creative talent.
- Promote cultural products and handmade crafts.
- Display jewellery, books and publications.
- Share culture and stories through art.
- Connect with community and visitors to WWAC.

As WWAC continues to grow and establish new community spaces, we are committed to creating opportunities to celebrate and promote the talents of our members.

Whether you are an experienced artist or just starting your creative journey, we would love to hear from you.

Members Only Opportunity

This opportunity is currently available to WWAC members only.

Interested?

For further information or to submit an Expression of Interest, please contact:

admin@wambawemba.com.au

We look forward to showcasing the creativity, culture and talent of Wamba Wemba people.

We Want to Hear From You

At WWAC, we are here to support our members, keep you informed and ensure your voices help shape the future of our Corporation.

With more than 440 members living across Victoria, New South Wales and interstate, it is important that we continue to improve the way we communicate, engage and deliver services to our community.

We welcome your feedback on:

- Community priorities and opportunities
- Concerns or issues affecting members
- Suggestions for improvement
- Better ways for WWAC to communicate and engage
- Ideas for programs, events and activities
- Feedback on our services and operations

Your feedback helps us strengthen WWAC and ensures we remain accountable to our members and community.

Get in Touch

Email: admin@wambawemba.com.au

Website: www.wambawemba.com.au

Phone: 0428 462 378

You can also visit the Members Section of our website for membership information, news, updates, forms and upcoming opportunities to get involved.

WWAC belongs to its members. We encourage you to stay connected, share your ideas and reach out whenever you need support or have something you'd like us to consider. Together, we can continue to build a strong future for Wamba Wemba people, culture and Country.


Wamba Wemba
Aboriginal Corporation