



Brambuk News

Ist Edition

Nga Keenatt (Welcome) to the first edition of Brambuk News. We aim put out this newsletter quarterly to keep people up to date on what's happening here at Brambuk.

And over the last year there's been a lot happening!

In September Brambuk celebrated the one year anniversary since the launch of the Brambuk the National Park & Cultural Centre precinct. The new development, in partnership with Parks Victoria and funded by both State and Federal governments, saw a new building constructed in 2006 which now houses the Bushtucker café, our retail shop, and the National Park Information desk, as well, the new six season display was built along with extensive landscaping works undertaken to link the two buildings. The moving of the Shop and Café out of the original building freed up a lot of space and enabled us to add more displays focusing on aboriginal identity, community and contemporary issues. Brambuk manages and staffs both centres, now known collectively as Brambuk: the National Park & Cultural Centre

This development, 9 years in the making, was seen as crucial to Brambuk's future growth and success, and has enabled Brambuk to provide more work opportunities for aboriginal people. It has also meant much change to how we operate and provided many challenges for us to overcome.

Brambuk remains committed to the employment and training of our people, and currently out of our 24 staff, 16 are Indigenous making us one of the largest private employers of indigenous people in the state

We also proudly remain 100% Aboriginal owned and operated, and continue to be one of the leading Aboriginal tourism experiences in the country, with over 150,000 people visiting and learning about the local Aboriginal culture of the region, in the past 12 months.

Please read through the rest of the newsletter to find out what else is happening.

Cheers
Jeremy Clark
CEO



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What's coming up;

- Winter Holiday Activity Program: June-July
- Reconciliation Week: May 27-June 3rd

Brambuk, a finalist in the Victorian Tourism Awards.

This year Brambuk entered the 2007 Victorian Tourism Awards in the Indigenous Tourism category.

It was held on the 19th November at Crown Casino, with over 1000 people were in attendance from the Tourism Industry from around the state.

This is the first time Brambuk has entered the awards in over 6 six years after winning the award twice in the 90's.

While this time round Brambuk didn't win the award it was recognised finalist which means we were close to winning!

But congratulations must go to the winner; The Koori Heritage Trust in Melbourne which won the award for the third time in a row giving them Hall of Fame status.

New Brambuk building wins National Builders Award



In November 2007 in another coup for Brambuk, the new visitor information centre opened in September 2006 won the national, Master Builders Australia commercial-industrial construction award in the under \$5-million category.

Constructed by Horsham company Locks Constructions The building cost just under \$2 million, meaning Locks were up against buildings costing more than twice that amount in the \$5-million category.

The new building houses the Brambuk Bushtucker café and Shop, the National Park Information desk, Park displays and the new six seasons display.

With the Café and shop out of the Original Brambuk building it allowed an increase in display space.

With the original Brambuk building winning the National Architecture award in 1992, having two award winning buildings on the site is a significant achievement.



Ying Elang music and Sporting Festival



On Easter Sunday, 23rd March the 4th Annual Ying Elang Music & Sporting Festival was held.

It was well attended by both Community members and the general public who enjoyed a day of free activities, including a jumping castle and Easter egg hunt.

A major highlight was the 'backward races' run over 50m, a traditional sport of the area which had 100 participants from across a broad range of age groups. U/ 5 yrs Mixed, U/ 10yrs Mixed, U/ 15 Boys, U/ 15 Girls and Open

Men and Women; with a \$500 prize on offer for the winner of the overall final, which this year was won by Hayden Kickett.

People enjoyed music throughout the day from renowned artists including our own 'Australia's Got Talent' Herb Patten playing the gum leaf, Peter Rotumah, deadly young Hip Hop group Jimba and the Young Warriors, Uncle Johnny Lovett and Alan Brown Jr on the didge.

With the festival coinciding with the Stawell Easter Gift Brambuk was lucky to have

two special guests on the day; Olympic hurdler Kyle Vander-Kuyp and Otis Gowa the current Australian 100m title holder. Otis went on come 4th in the final of the Gift off scratch on the Monday.

It was a great day had by all only dampened by a huge downpour late in the afternoon, but fortunately it was after the last race was run!

Brambuk thanks OXFAM & VAYSAR for their support of the day.



Six Seasons of Gariwerd

As part of the new Brambuk development in 2006, a new display was built to tell the story of the Six Seasons of Gariwerd.

The names for the seasons come from the languages of the Djab Wurrung and Jard-widjarli.

Unlike the European context there were not specific names or dates for the seasons such as Autumn or Winter; instead seasons were described by what was happening at the time ie: "The wattles are now flowering so we know that the eels are on the

move". Using traditional knowledge we have tried to capture the fluidity of the seasons and separated them into a more relevant timeline for the area, although the actual length or timing of the season depends on the environment and climate.

The Display focuses on traditional Koori activity throughout the year as well as how the environment changes.

It talks about reading the landscape through knowledge that has been passed down through the generations which provides the skills to

read the landscape, to know when to burn, when it might rain, and to know where and when bush tucker is available.

The six seasons helps explain the movement and activities of the animals, and teaches us to read the annual cycle of plants. Each season shows a unique side to Gariwerd.

The Display has been quite popular and helps educate visitors about the Koori connection to land.



Late summer- *Late Jan to mid-March*

Season of **KOORYANG** (Eels)

Autumn- *Late March to June*

Season of **GWANGAL MORONN** (Honey Bees)

Winter- *June to late July*

Season of **CHINNUP** (Cockatoos)

Early-spring- *Late July and August*

Season of **LARNEUK** (Nesting Birds)

Spring- *Sept to mid-November*

Season of **PETYAN** (Wildflowers)



Brambuk Backpackers

We welcome on board Stephanie and Alan Burns as the new managers of the Brambuk Backpackers.

Stephanie & Alan are from Horsham and have a lot of traveling experience and know what travelers expectations are when it comes to accommodation.

They've been very busy taking bookings, cleaning, and generally taking care of visitors from all around the world. With many good reports from visitors

All rooms have En-suites and linen supplied. And you can access a range of facilities including internet, large kitchen, public telephone,

lounge area with TV, full laundry and BBQ with a panoramic view of Gariwerd.

So if you need accommodation in Halls Gap, whether it's for yourself or having a camp give Brambuk Backpackers a try!



Prices are ;

7-12 people Dormitory [\$19 pp/night]

4 people Dormitory [\$23 pp/night]

Double Room [\$55 per night]

Twin [\$55 per night]

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Brambuk: the National Park & Cultural Centre



We're on the web;
www.brambuk.com.au

Brambuk Staff Profiles;

Name: Raymond "Razz" Marks

Where are you from/what mob?: Horsham ~ Wotjobaluk

When did you start at Brambuk?: 2008 but have worked here previously and had a long involvement.

Position: Senior Activities Team member

What do you do?: Currently manage the activities team but also work as a cultural officer, Tour guide, and run activities.

What do you like about your job? Teaching my Culture to school groups, the general public, bus groups and helping training up many young workers when they've worked at Brambuk over the years.

Hobbies/interests: Football, Soccer, Cricket, tennis, golf & horse racing

Name: Jeremy Joiner

Where are you from/what mob?: Stawell ~ Biripi NSW

When did you start at Brambuk?: December 2005

Position: Cultural Officer

What do you do?: I work with school groups and teach them things like boomerang throwing and didgeridoo, and talk to them about the Koori history of the area.

What do you like about your job?: all the good looking people I see from all corners of the globe!!

Hobbies/interests: Footy, Basketball, cricket and socialising

Brambuk scholarships

The Brambuk Scholarship Program is a Brambuk Board initiative that promotes the pursuit of education, cultural and sporting endeavours by local Aboriginal people.

Scholarships will be offered to Aboriginal people for Education assistance, Cultural projects and sporting pursuits. A limited number of Scholarships will be offered in 2008.

The aim of the Brambuk Scholarship Program is to empower Aboriginal people through supporting education, cultural and sporting endeavours.

The Brambuk Scholarship program is aimed to provide support to Aboriginal people who are or seeking to make a difference for themselves, their family or their community. Brambuk Scholarships will be awarded to enable the encouragement and empowerment of local Aboriginal people, through support for:

Education: Assistance with boarding school costs ~ University study ~ Representative endeavours

Cultural projects, studies or research: Documenting cultural information ~ Language/ Oral History ~ Cultural reclamation

Sporting endeavours: Representative level support for individuals or teams

To be eligible for a scholarship you must be:

- Of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent; and,
- Accepted into a course of study in 2008, or
- Chosen for representative level sporting pursuit, or
- Able to show how your Cultural project will benefit yourself, family and community.

The primary criteria used to assess all applications will be **merit** and **financial need**. The Selection Committee will, however, also consider the extent to which it feels you will fulfil the aims of the program and the future contribution you will make to the community.

For Further information please contact Jeremy Clark on 53614000 or email: jclark@brambuk.com