SUBMISSION BY CALITA MURRAY (SNR)

8 November 2024

My personal story and family history

My name is Calita Murray and I am currently retired. Details concerning my education, study and employment are listed in the attachment.

I want to share my personal story and family history with Yoorrook. I was born in Orbost, Far East Gippsland, Victoria, in 1947, not far from the Brodribb River/Milly Creek massacre site. I was raised by my mother's older sister, Mum Vera and Dad Billy Stewart. He was a Yuin man.

My brother Albert gave me my first name. He was in the Second World War and had a girlfriend named Calita. My first name is Calita after her. My second name is Elizabeth after my grandmother. They called her Betsy for short. She was the daughter of Charles and Annabella Hammond (nee McLeod).

My people are Gunai from the Gunaikurnai people on my great grandparents' side, Wotjobaluk on my great grandfather's side, and my great, great grandmother was Dja Dja Wurrung. Dad Bill was raised on his Yuin country. He practiced his culture. Both my mothers practiced their culture handed down to them by their Old People (Elders) and Grandfather Muns.

In the 1800s, my family, the Krauatungalung/Croajingolong people, experienced injustice both when, and after, they were attacked in the Brodribb River/Milly Creek massacre in 1851. I think people just think it happened back in the 1800s and that's where it finished. But that's not true.

There is a plaque for the cook, Dan Dempsey, who died on Orbost Station. He caused the massacre. And then there's a writeup on storyboards next to the plaque, and it just says how the Aboriginal people killed him. But the way they tell the story, the Aboriginal people were the bad ones, and they killed this cook and that's why the people (who committed the massacre) kind of formed a posse to go after them and killed most of my people in retaliation.

The plaque was done for the cook, and it's been there for a few years. But they did nothing for the Aboriginal people. Our family is telling the Aboriginal side of how the massacre happened. The Far East Gippsland Shire has given us a building in Forest Park in Orbost to tell the Aboriginal side of the story. What the Aboriginals said happened. And Uncle Phillip Pepper wrote a bit in his book. And our old people who we knew, they've probably all died by now. They tell that my family was camping and the cook from Orbost Station went and took a young girl, and he took her back to his hut and he held her for three days. And when her people, who are my people, went to get her, he, the cook, he must have planned this, because he had logs and coals around his hut, burning. And because they were barefoot, being tribal people, they couldn't get into the hut because of all the hot coals and fire, so they sat and waited for him to come out, and after three days he came out and they speared him, and he died. And that's how the massacre happened. My people, they got the girl and took her back to the camp, and that's told by the Gunai Elders, our family history and Uncle Phillip Pepper in his book. So, we're putting that on the written start of the history wall in Orbost. And I guess there'll be a lot of graffiti sprayed on it, but the truth has got to be told.

The effect it had on my great grandfather, Charles Hammond, he would have seen most of his family massacred. A few escaped and he was captured and taken by white men with two other

boys by the very people who massacred his family and was raised by them. One of those men was named Charles Hammond and my great grandfather came to be known by that name. I suspect he was used as slave labour because I learned that Charles Hammond, who took my great grandfather, didn't have a wife living with him. I just can't imagine what was going through my great grandfather's mind – that he was living with these people who wiped out his family, who murdered his family.

That would have had a big effect on him and then to be raised with non-Aboriginal people and not his tribal people. Just to think about what that little boy went through... it's heartbreaking. When my great grandfather grew up, he found his way back to his Krauatungalung people at Bung Yarnda, now known as Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station. Reverend Bulmer had set that up by that time. So, my great grandfather would have known that they were his people before the massacre, because he went back to them. He didn't go in the other direction.

He married Annabella Hammond (nee McLeod), who was a 'half caste'. My research has been unable to identify her white father, but she was conceived in times that were dangerous for Aboriginal people in Far East Gippsland.

My great grandparents moved to the Omeo district.

Great grandfather Charles Hammond had six children:

- 1. unnamed baby boy
- 2. Eliza Hammond
- 3. Elizabeth (Betsy) Hammond, my grandmother
- 4. Catherine (Kate) Hammond
- 5. James Hammond (Grandfather Muns)
- 6. Margaret May Mary Hammond

My great grandmother Annabella Hammond (nee McLeod) had eight children.

My great grandfather worked hard to support his family on Bindi Station and Tongio Station. He worked as a bullock driver. He sent his two oldest children to school at Swifts Creek.

I have read the transcript of a court case which was published in a Bairnsdale newspaper, where a cook, Andrew Williams, was convicted of attempted murder of my great grandfather. The cook had given my great grandfather cakes to take home to his children. Before going home, my great grandfather ate one of the cakes and immediately became sick. He was treated by a local woman. The authorities sent a sample of the cake eaten by my great grandfather to a Melbourne laboratory and the sample was found to contain strychnine. The cook received ten years in prison.

My great grandfather applied for land twice because he had seen that the early settlers were all getting land, and they refused him, twice, in his own Country.

My great grandmother became very ill, and my great grandfather went to Omeo to find a doctor. The doctor gave him some medicine to take back to her, but the doctor refused to go because he didn't have payment from the government. So, then, my great grandmother died. This was about eight months after giving birth to the last of her eight children. And my great grandfather couldn't manage with all the children. Some were grown up, some were teenagers. But the baby was, I think, 18 months old. So, a letter was sent to Reverend Bulmer at Lake Tyers to send a horse and buggy to pick up the family and take them back to Lake Tyers, which did happen. The baby died

about six months after that and then the 'half caste' legislation was implemented, and because my great grandmother was a 'half caste' Aboriginal, her children were asked to leave the station. My great grandfather was told that he and his youngest son, James (who we call Grandfather Muns), could stay, but his other children had to leave. So, he took all his children back to the Bruthen area. But he was older then, so he found it hard to find work. One of his older daughters found work, but they were all still living in poor conditions.

When welfare came and took the girls away to do domestic service work, my grandmother Elizabeth Hammond and her sisters, except one sister, were later sent to Coranderrk Aboriginal Station where they were told to find a husband to marry and support them (rather than the authorities supporting them). The girls got married and lived in different places.

Great Grandfather and his youngest son James, Grandfather Muns, went back to Lake Tyers. He became ill and he was dying, and he wanted his children to come and visit, but the authorities wouldn't allow it. The Aboriginal people on Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station sent a letter to the authorities asking that the children visit their dying father, but it didn't happen, and he died. He never saw his daughters again.

He's buried at Lake Tyers Aboriginal Station. So that's what the massacre did to him and his family. His children didn't have an easy life. And the Aboriginals, they had to write and ask permission to leave the station, to go and visit a relative. They could not move until they had put it in writing and got an answer back. It divided the family. It was very cruel what the white society did to him and his family.

My grandmother married a man from Wotjbauik, went to live with him and they had children. But she kept asking for a pass to go back and visit her sisters at Lake Tyers, but the authorities would never grant her that. She died at a young age never to see her siblings again.

My birth mother, Agnes Harrison (nee Marks) was two years old when her mother, my grandmother, died. And my mum who raised me, my mother's older sister Mum Vera, was four. So, they also had a hard life. They were with their father's family but couldn't see their mother's family. And that wasn't easy on them. It certainly wasn't easy on Grandfather Muns, her youngest brother. And so, he had a hard life when his dad, my great grandfather, died and his sisters were out doing domestic work. So, he just depended on other Aboriginal Community people to help him. Then, over the years, the family always knew where they were from. They always knew their Country and when we lived in New South Wales we went back.

My mother had 16 children. Some died as babies. During my childhood, my family feared welfare getting too close and we moved to New South Wales. They moved for work, but mainly because they feared welfare nosying around. And then when welfare would come around in New South Wales, they'd move back to Victoria. We did that a lot growing up. My family did that before I was born, and then it still happened after I was born.

My family did seasonal work. Dad and my brothers worked in the timber mills. I have good and bad memories of my childhood. I was happy playing with the other children, swimming in the river, going to the beach, helping to get seafood, playing rounders. But it was a hard time for the grown-ups to keep the children safe from welfare and they found it hard to get good jobs that paid good money. And I suffered racism when getting served in the shop. I was made to sit in the front row seat in the movie theatre ("the pictures") and not allowed to sit near white people.

We were living culture. Mum Vera would get 'basket grass', dry it and teach the children to make baskets. We were also shown how to gather bush tucker and told to leave some for other people.

This was teaching us to share and take care of the land. We were shown bush medicine and how to use it.

As children, there were things we were not allowed to know, like spiritual things. It was difficult to practice our culture back in those days – the manager wouldn't allow it. Now, I visit some sacred places that we are allowed to go to.

I am sharing this for the family. I have two sisters left. One has Alzheimer's and she's in a nursing home in Bairnsdale. Both sisters are older than me. One's in Sydney. And she's not well at all. I'm the youngest child in my family. I'm left fight for the family and for my Great Grandfather's tribal Country Krauatungalung on the Orbost side of the Snowy River...

And I think of the younger generation. It's not just my grandchildren. I've got four children, nine grandchildren and four great, great grandchildren. And there's others. My brothers' and sisters' children and grandchildren, and great grandchildren, and great grandchildren. So, I'm really just doing this for myself and for the family, but also for the younger generation.

Most of the people my age and older, they're not around anymore, so something like this needs to be done for the younger generation.

Attachment

I started school at Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Reserve (on the far south coast, NSW).

When my family moved for work to Bombala on the Monaro, NSW, I went to Bombala Central Primary and Secondary School.

After I married and my family moved to Canberra, I studied at -

- Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT), Conflict Resolution Service
- Women's Legal Centre
- Tranby Aboriginal College, Sydney
- Diploma of Community Services (Welfare studies) at CIT
- Certificate IV in Community Services (CIT)
- Certificate of Registration under Mediation Act 1997 (ACT)
- Australian Federal Police Interview Training (CIT)

My working life has included -

- Seasonal and domestic work
- Australian Public Service, Canberra
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC)
- Conflict Resolution Service (CRS) as a mediator
- Royal College of Nursing Australia
- Consultancy work
- Narrabundah Primary School
- Aboriginal Justice Centre

I also performed the following voluntary work -

- Support for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people when interviewed by Australian Federal Police (AFP)
- Provided advice to the ACT Government on Law and Justice Issues affecting Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT
- Provided Court support for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people when attending Court
- Member of Project Management Group for Women ACT Domestic Violence Prevention
- A Board member for Job Solve Employment Service for People with a Disability
- Law Support at Women's Legal Centre Canberra
- Interview support for Aboriginal friends when taken into custody by AFP Officers



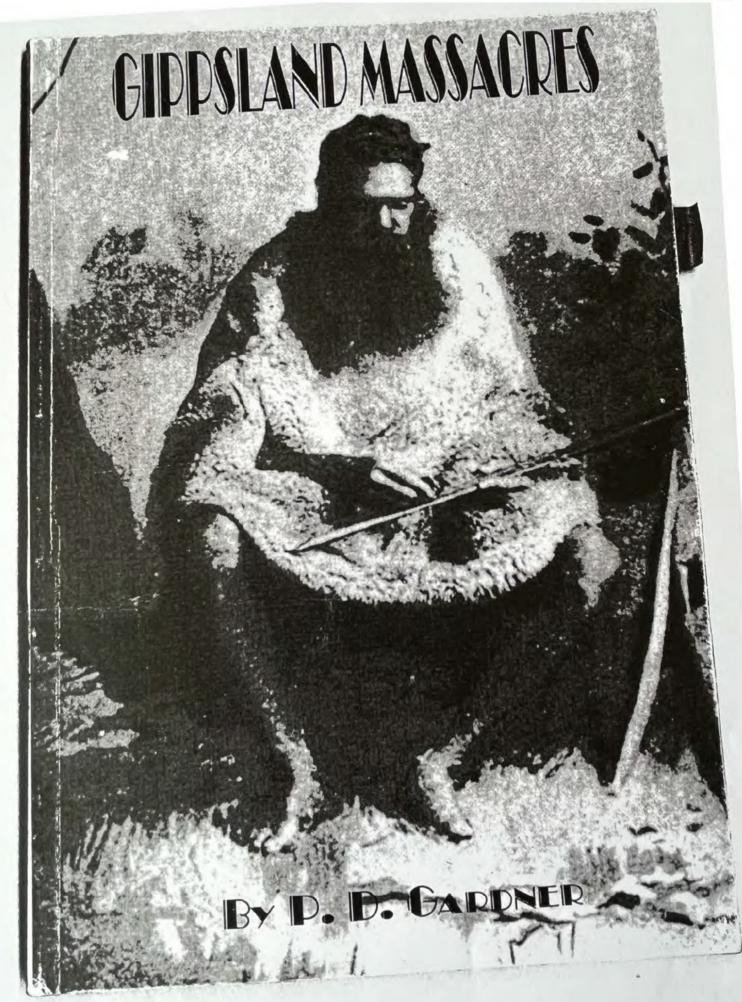
THROUGH FOREIGN EYES

EUROPEAN PERCEPTIONS OF THE KURNAI TRIBE OF GIPPSLAND

BY P.D. GARDNER



CENTRE FOR GIPPSLAND STUDIES
GIPPSLAND INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION



* 4

The Brodribb Massacre

(a) Location: C.H. Grove stated that the Brodribb Massacre occurred at the junction of the Brodribb River and Cabbage Tree Creek, but he did not specify on which side of the river. Another account by J. Cameron has the massacre where the Milly Creek enters the Brodribb. The sites are only a few miles apart, the Milly entering the Brodribb a few miles closer to the junction with the Snowy and from the opposite bank. The country is flat and swampy with tall reed beds. Whereas other massacres were dependent on the fleeing Aborigines being rounded up and trapped, it would appear that the Brodribb was more in the nature of a hunt, relying solely on surprise and mobility.

(b) New Sources: In Chapter 4 I did not quote C.H. Grove to any length. He continued:

"Here the offending tribe was so badly defeated that its power was definitely broken, and never after did any of its members molest the whites. Amongst the whites that took part in this fight were the three Simpson brothers, Tom, Billy and Jack, Tom Johnston from Numbla-Munjie, Jack

In the reminiscences of old identities of the Orbost Shire there is an account of the Brodribb by Mr. J. Cameron an early settler in the district:

"However in a small community a murder was a serious matter and the whites soon organized a punitive party ... Jack Wilson (who had taken service under the McLeods) and Dick Simpson were only lads, and although they were permitted to follow the party they were not allowed in the firing line. The blacks were discovered at the mouth of the Milly Creek where it empties into the Brodribb. The blacks were not expecting an attack, for the first thing they knew was when muskets rang out and a number of them fell.

How many of them were killed was never known, probably more were wounded. Strict orders were given not to shoot females but one at least one was shot accidentally. Joe Banks and Harry Derrimunjie were in camp when the firing began. They escaped with 'Old Diamond' through the Milly reed bed toward Lake Watt Watt." [Gilbert 1972]

The records of the Rev. J. Bulmer further corroborate J. Cameron's story and J. Armstrong's more recent version. He refers to 'Hopping Kitty', the 'picaninny' on the back of the female who was shot. He writes:

"A man had been killed on the Orbost Station. The blacks finding him alone took possession of the station and looted it killing Dan the hut keeper. For this a raid was organised to take vengeance and Kitty was shot while her mother was carrying her on her back." [Bulmer nd]

"The history of the wife of Paddy was a very eventful one. When a baby on her mothers back she was shot through the thigh by the Black Police, the tribe at the Snowy had been engaged in some affair which brought them into contact with these officials, and in trying to escape the mother and child were shot, though not fatally injured."

Bulmer's evidence is the first related to a primary source, although it is obvious that the story of 'Kitty' must have come from another Aboriginal, possibly one of the others who escaped. As Cameron indicated, the terrain was suitable for a relatively easy escape once the cover of the reed beds had been gained. The list of possible survivors had been enlarged from that of Harry Derramungie and Lambie to include Charlie Hammond, 'Joe Banks' and 'Old Diamond'. On close examination it would seem that only the most brutal and enraged Europeans would wish to kill women and children too, thus creating a steady flow of survivors with a variety of names.

The Case of Charlie Hammond

The tragic story of Charlie Hammond and his family illustrates some of the more cruel aspects of the Aboriginal Protection Act. Born a Krauatungalung in the Orbost district before the arrival of Europeans, Charlie was a child survivor of the Brodribb River massacre. He was taken by the whites and brought up in a white household. He could read and write and was an excellent stockman.

Hammond's misfortune was to marry a girl of mixed parentage. He worked on the Tongio station for many years and together they established a large family. In 1878 the Board refused Hammond a grant of five acres in the Tongio area. In 1883 Hammond's wife was ill and the doctor in Omeo refused to attend her, presumably because of prejudice. Two days later Anne Hammond died and a confused and bewildered Charlie was forced to attend a coroner's inquest into his wife's death.

After a life hitherto independent of the mission system and government handouts, Charlie and his family moved to Lake Tyers mission. There they remained until the Act forced him and his family of 'white' children to leave the station. Four years later, with Charlie and

being on such friendly terms; but h forgotten all about the row, we had. ... Pr soner had been living at the station thre or four months. My Fife has two chil drent she is a half-caste, and my children are a little lighter than-myself-, I bare Derer been jealous of, my wife, or susot pected her of being too familiar with

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John U Condor proved sas errass doctor and gave i Mr Patten, in defence addressing the When witness as giren, llammond juzy, said; this case had erisen out of a Arst." Bam a "c a quarrel between ; hunhand and, wife. which bore the ap She asks you to believe that without having had any quarrel at all on that occasion, her husband not up at 4 in the morning and deliberately assaulted her in the murderous manner, attempted to be shown by the wife. The prisoner will make his statement to you, and he will put a very different complexion upon the whole story. with high principal and a main The prisoner, addressing the jury said. much of this was spite. He explained that the tomahawk he used was near the head of the bed; but it was only with the handle of the tomahawk. ' His statement was of a long rambling character, and ecutained nothing of importance. The judge very shortly left the case to the jury as one of common assault. " Andrew Williams was, charged with feloniously administering poison which intent to kill an aboriginal named Charles Hammond. Mr Bushe desended the prisoner. Charles Hammond I Was living at Tongio on 23rd January last. My house is about 200 yards from the station of that name. I went over to prisoner's but on the morning of 23rd January, had gone over taking over a pick and shovel. CI saw cry from Ham prisoner, bade him good morning, and and went over went in loget a drink of water. THe from. There stopped me, and poured out some tea for of at the home me, rand mer mer an cake. The rakes which H latter taited, bilter, and I thought ing of the it was poison, and I drank some more ii Constable A tea to force it down. I put the remainder last I went to

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of the cake in my bosom. . He gave me also some cakes for my wife and children, and I thought to myself " your's very kind. I then set out for home, taking with me the cases prisoner had given me for my wife and children ? When I reached the door of the kitchen I felt very queer and faint, and when I reached the river directly I touched the water I felt spreelt erumped upt and him ened home. When I reached the garden of my liouse I took a plum, and afterwards a drink of water from the creek, which caused me to vomit. I felt all of a shake. I then went into my place; told my wife I was poisoned, and sent for assistance, to the station. Before she went I sang out for help. Two men came up to my place then. I saw no one from the time the cook gave me the cakes to the time of my reaching home. I told one of the men who came to my assistance that I had been poisoned. Previous to this I had not been on good terms with prisoner, with whom I had had a tussle four months before at Tongio station, on socount of his interfering with my wife; he knows her well. I did object to their being on such friendly terms; but had forgotten all about the row, we had in Prisoner had been living at the station three or four months. My wife has two children ; she is a half-caste, and my children are a little lighter than myself. I have never been jealous of, my wife, or suspected her of being too familiar withwhite meny The cake which prisoner gare me tasted just like copperngilt war very soon after I took the eaks that I first experienced pains to I felt very queer, and walked very light. Could not hear myself walking. On reaching the Cross-examined by Mr Busine's, I bare when prisoner came I first sam prisoner there when I came down to my camp on The ereck, along two or three months before I got the pulson. I was then living in a mia-mia, about two hundred tards from Courts at Crooked, the river, Had a row with prisoner, be.

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remarking upon the evide witness Stephen Williams he upon the statement of Hammond the blackfellow, laying stress upon bis extraordinary admission that he ate the cake to the jury, who then ratires even under the suspicion that it contained twenty minutes they returne with a verdict of guilty, acc poison. He pointed out that the motive which the learned Crown Prosecutor proa strong recommendation to mised to make clear against the prisoner Remanded for sentence: for the commission of the crime, had completely broken down. All suspicion of John Reginald Wilkins criminal intercourse between the prisoner and the half caste wife of the blackfellow was pure surmise. There was not cone tittle of proof offered; and the persistent efforts of the learned Crown Prosecutor to force out this evidence had entuely failed. He contended that the symptoms to which the various witnesses hore testimony as those under which the blackfellow was unffering pointed to strych. nis and no other poison." But that the eridence of Mr Johnson, the Government analytical chemist, pointed as positirely to mercury-corrosive sublimate. Dwelling upon this apparent discrepancy The Crown Presecutor in the evidence he asked the jury on to the jury, illustrating which horn of these two dilemmas they means of a map of the preferred to be thrown. He conexhibited to the court. tended there was a lack of proof that the blackfellow was poisoned at all so far as his client was concerned. After an effective speech be left the case to the jury with the His Honor in summing up the case remarked that the prisoner was charged upon six counts, but the jury need only confine their attention to two, without confusing their minds by any inquiry as to what the poison was er which were the distinguishing symptoms be-The two points to which he wished especially to direct their attention upon the eridence were-was the black ellow that you. Richard? Hammond poisoned? and if so hy whom was that poison administered? After carefully reviewing the evidence at considerable, length the learned judge left the case to the jury on the two principal The jury after more than four hours' was there told we were hat. That we had £6 deliberation returned a verdict on the second count of administering poison,

and doing grievous bodily harm.

GALLING A KEO.

the bar .charged with .this. prisoner made his appearan chalant sir, assumed, but e ease, and laden with volv ments and a formidable. evidently prepared to entr to his own abilities. The following jury, after challenges, were then swo Frank Bayliss, W. Bol R. Glen. J. Woodhouse Cahill, J. M'C. Wilson, Taylor, F. Schroder, W. Wilson foreman.

Arthur Fred. Walk examined by Crown Pr the map now produced from a survey taken or William Opie, duly miner employed at V ber 19th February la

right hand branch of remember an occurre the night of that date I came out of Long. We came to the hua A knock come to the

I saw a man holding s my head. He said. up your money." He holding the pistol. He we had been paid £6 es he had stuck up a sha

Tunnel, and he wan said only two mates w had left. : He then sai on the table, and loo

Melbourne, 10,001 21 duly, 1879. 19/68 I beg to inform you that Charles Hammond, of Ones, fun Orboreginal / has applied under Section 6, of the Land act 1869, for reservation of 10 acres, in the Farish of Longio = Mungie, Stating that he desires tomake a home for his wife and family. Will you be good enough to obtain and forward anexpression of the opinion of the Gentral Board for the protection of Aborigines, on the request? I have the honor to be, Your most obedient servant, AM Page leg J.P. Secretary for Landy. 69 Timple Court, Melbourne:

LEATHS in the District of Lake Gyers in the Colony DESCRIPTION. (3) Duration of last Illness, (Medical Attendant by whom certi-If known, with Rank or Profession. Name and Surname, Rank or and Age. 1 General Debility 2 moultes Male James Dancae 50 Barres dale 16165 Unknown Law him last 20 November 1891 16166 SCHEDULE B. The Balm of Victoria, Registered by IF DECEASED WAS MARRIED a) Signature of Deputy Signature, Description, and Residence Registrar, (1) Where Registered.

GLaWAC APICAL ANCESTORS



A	oical Ancestor Set	Elder / s Nominated
	Charles Boldin / Bolden and Emily Clarke	
2.	Jemmy Bull and Mary	
3.	Tommy Bumberrah	Gwen Atkinson
4.	Bungil Narran	Noretta Knight
5.	Bungill Wrekallak	
6.	Bungil Tay-a-bung	
7.	Jack Chase and Kitty	
8.	Dan Bun-gyl Tambo and Kitty Wangung	Maria Harrison Glenys Watts
9. god	Old Darby Tar-loomba and Mary Tur-un- ok	Fay Voss Lena Morris
10.	Charles Rivers and Kitty	V
11.	Charles Hammond and Annabella/ Hannah McLeod	Shirley Foster Deanna Campbell
12.	Jimmy	

GLaWAC APICAL ANCESTORS



Apical Ancestor Set	Elder / s Nominated	
13. Billy Login / Logan and Mary		
14. King Tom Kee-lum-bedine and Mary War-gyle		
15. Old Ngary and Mary Woon-grook		
16. James Scott		
17. George Thomas	Olive Stevens Diann Hurren	
18. Timothy Bungil Barlijan and Patty Tu-duk		
19. Charlotte Mercawan	Gwendoline McGregor Beryl Booth	
20. Yallung / Tharnaberrang Kitty and Wookalnom / Dukalunern	Charmaine Singleton	
21. Wood-a-turn	Margaret Donnelly	
22. Merriguin Lucy Goold	Lee-Anne Eddington Julie Mongta	
23. William McDougall		
24. Edward 'Neddy' O'Rourke		
25. John Wilson and Polly		

