November 2026

NEWSLETTER





The passing of a legend
Aunty Patsy Cameron AO

The outpouring of love following Aunty Patsy's passing speaks to the extraordinary place she held in so many people's hearts. Again and again, people spoke of the absolute privilege of having spent time with her, learned from her, and been guided by her. They remember her generous spirit, and the stories, knowledge and history she shared so freely.

A vision carried forward
MTWAC's past and future

In 2008, Aunty Patsy Cameron and MTWAC's founding Elders shared a vision for a strong Aboriginal-led organisation, grounded in Country, culture and community. Today, that vision continues to shape MTWAC's work - and the next chapter of its story.

News, updates, and stories

New website and online shop, 12th Mannalargenna Day, AGM. Stories of success, advocacy, people & programs.

Reflections by **Aunty Patsy**

In this edition we are privileged to include reflections shared earlier this year by Aunty Patsy - first, on what it meant to her to be an Elder in the community and at the helm of MTWAC; and second, on her Flinders Island childhood, steeped in culture and community.

Enjoy this unique legacy piece by Aunty Patsy, whose wisdom continues to guide MTWAC, the community, and the many who were inspired by her.

Letter from Nick Cameron, CEO



A time of change and growth

Dear members, friends and supporters,

Welcome to our October newsletter.

It's been a big year for MTWAC, with plenty happening across our programs and some exciting developments taking shape. But it has also been an incredibly sad time for our family and community, with the passing of my mother, Aunty Patsy Cameron.

Aunty Patsy was the driving force behind so much of what MTWAC has become. She dedicated much of her life to protecting and sharing our culture, history and knowledge, and to making sure future generations would remain connected to Country and to who they are. She was enormously proud of MTWAC and the people who have helped build it over the past 18 years. We miss her terribly, but I know she would be pleased to see the organisation continuing to grow and carry forward the vision she shared with our founding Elders.

In this newsletter, we dedicate several pages to Aunty Patsy, including some wonderful reflections she wrote earlier this year about her childhood on Flinders Island and the importance of our Circle of Elders. I'm very glad we can share these in her own words, alongside a look at MTWAC's journey and the work ahead.

Since taking on the CEO role in April, I've been focused on strengthening MTWAC so we can keep delivering for our community. We now have 19 staff, a Ranger Base on Country, and growing programs and partnerships. Our new Strategic Plan for 2026–2030 sets out where we're heading next.

There's plenty to be excited about. The Tebrakunna Rangers go from strength to strength, while Menuggana Junior Rangers, our work with schools and the emerging Youth Hub are creating opportunities for young people. We're also taking early steps towards a community-led Aboriginal health service in the north-east, and exploring ways to create more meaningful work and income on Country.

You'll find stories about these developments and more in this newsletter, including our Rangers' work with wildlife, the new native nursery, our efforts to protect Country at Boobyalla, and our new website and online store.

And of course, Mannalargenna Day is just around the corner! I hope to see many of you at Tebrakunna on 5 December for another wonderful day on Country.

Finally, thank you to our Board, Circle of Elders, staff, members, volunteers and supporters. We have plenty to be proud of, and plenty more to work towards.

Nick

Reflections and Memories

Aunty Patsy Cameron AO (1947-2026)

Aunty Patsy is remembered as a cultural champion, teacher, storyteller and guardian of history - deeply dedicated to sharing culture and knowledge with others. She was also the founding Elder and guiding cultural heart of MTWAC.

Hearts are broken at her loss, but her legacy lives on in the stories she told, the knowledge she shared, and the many many people right across community who she guided, taught and inspired.

Here, we share proudly some reflections and memories she wrote especially for this newletter, in the months before her passing.



THE CIRCLE OF ELDERS - ITS MEANING AND PURPOSE

Being a member of the Circle of Elders requires commitment and energy. It's not just about age, it's about knowledge and wisdom, and passing on our experiences to the next generation.

An important part of the Circle of Elders is to provide wise counsel to our MTWAC Board, and to contribute to community workshops and government reviews, provide advice on our very important ceremonial activities, provide confirmation of Aboriginality for new applicants, and historical reflections about our past.

Our rewards come in wonderful care and respect that we receive from the younger generation.

We appreciate MTWAC for its deep appreciation for the Circle of Elders and we are very honoured to be loved and cared for and respected by our membership.

> ***It's about knowledge and wisdom, and passing on our experiences to the next generation.***
>
> *Aunty Patsy Cameron*

MUTTON BIRDING ON BABEL ISLAND - AGE 5-7 YEARS

I remember going mutton birding on Babel Island, when I first started school some 70+ years ago at the Flinders Island District Area School, it closed for the mutton bird season.

Many island families packed up the kids, the family cat, dog and chickens and went to Big Dog, Chapel and Babel Island for mutton birding season for 5-6 weeks at a time.

My fondest memory at Babel Island was with Grandfather Silas and Grandmother Kate on the southeast side of the island. We stayed in the old hospital with Miss Jackson and had to walk a long distance each day for my mum and dad to help in the shed.

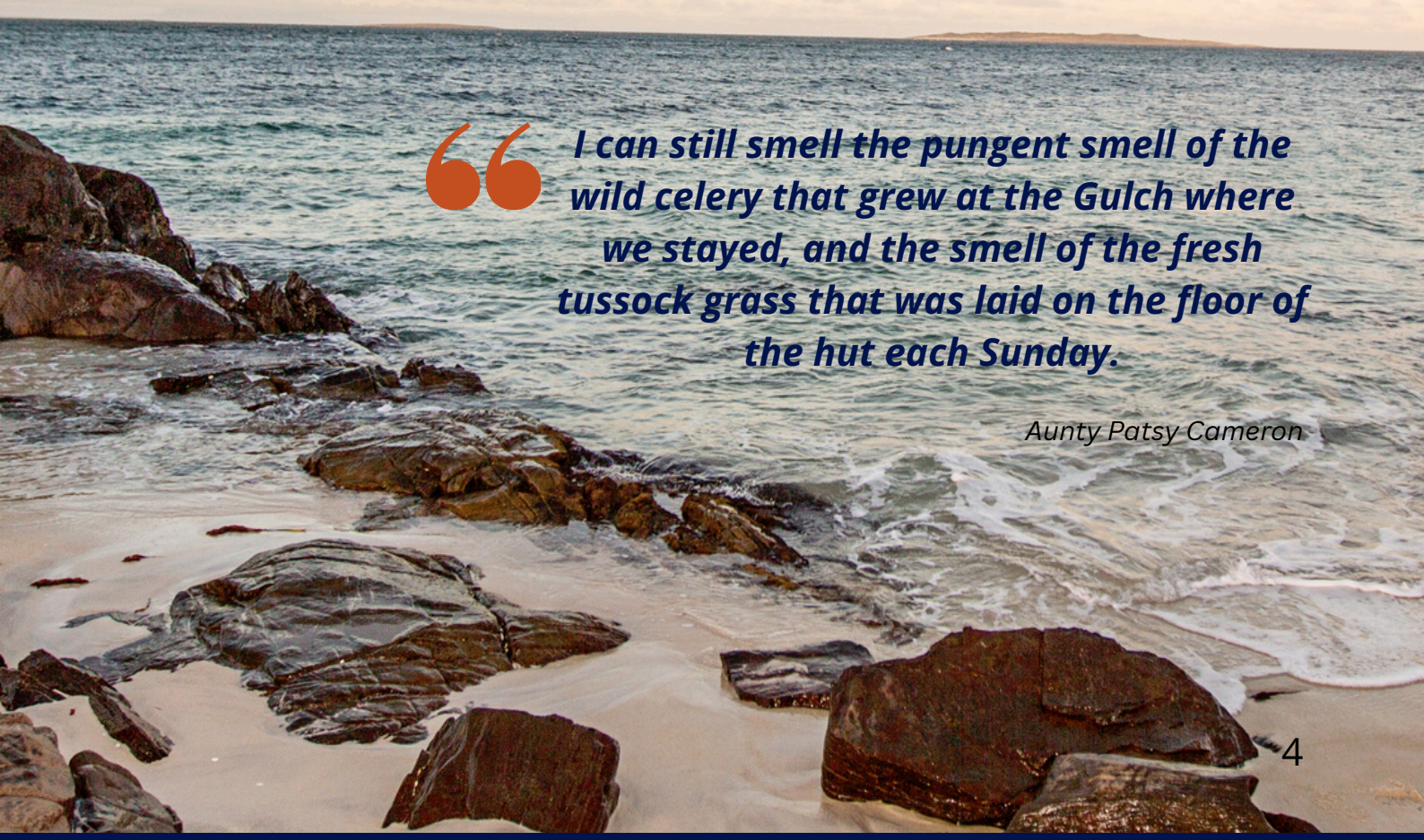
I can still smell the pungent smell of the wild celery that grew at the Gulch where we stayed and the smell of the fresh tussock grass that was laid on the floor of the hut each Sunday.

Sunday was the day of rest and the day for everyone to do their washing, and the kids would play. Every Sunday there was a concert where music was played, with singing and tap dancing.

Mum would walk to the west beach to collect penguin shells that would gather around the flesh of the mutton birds. Who would have thought that those little critters were carnivores.

Dad brought a shed on Babel Island when I was eight years old. He worked two seasons before pulling out a large tiger snake from a burrow, then he put the shed up for sale... That's the last time I remember going to Babel Island and the memories from there.

Remembered by Aunty Patsy Cameron, February 2026



> ***I can still smell the pungent smell of the wild celery that grew at the Gulch where we stayed, and the smell of the fresh tussock grass that was laid on the floor of the hut each Sunday.***
>
> *Aunty Patsy Cameron*



Caring for Country

The *Tebrakunna Rangers* are one of the clearest expressions of MTWAC's vision.

There are now 12 full-time Aboriginal Ranger positions, supported by long-term Commonwealth funding and enabled by TasTAFE Certificate III qualifications in Conservation and Ecosystem Management.

As well as meaningful employment, this gives MTWAC skilled capacity to care for land and sea Country.

Rangers carry out cultural burning and vegetation regeneration, native species monitoring, weed and feral animal control, cultural site surveys, coastline clean-ups and community engagement.

Partnerships with organisations including IMAS and the University of Tasmania are also creating opportunities in sea Country research and monitoring.

This is the work that MTWAC's founders envisaged: Aboriginal people employed to care for their own Country, drawing on cultural knowledge while building real skills, qualifications and opportunities for the generations coming behind them.

> ***Being a ranger is a fantastic experience. It's encouraging to see Country change as we care for it like our ancestors did.***
>
> *Braden Brown*
> *Tebrakunna Ranger*

Stronger Futures for the Next Generation

The next chapter sees a growing focus on Aboriginal children and young people.

The emerging MTWAC *Aboriginal Youth Hub* is being developed as a culturally safe, community-led place where young Aboriginal people can connect with culture, Elders, family and community while accessing practical support, mentoring, learning and pathways to services.

Funded by the Department for Education, Children and Young People, the Hub has been shaped through consultation with young people, Elders, families and community. Work is underway to establish operations, build partnerships with schools and services, and develop culturally safe programs shaped by the voices of young Aboriginal people themselves.

The Youth Hub's philosophy is of walking alongside young people - strengthening identity, relationships and connection.

Alongside *Menuggana Junior Rangers* and MTWAC's increasing work with schools and young people, the Youth Hub represents another part of the original vision taking shape. MTWAC is building a network of opportunities and support for the next generation - connecting young Aboriginal people with Country, culture and community, while creating opportunities for learning, mentoring, training, employment and leadership. Together, the different initiatives have one ambition: to give young Aboriginal people strong foundations from which to grow, thrive and shape their own futures.

> ***Everything we do is for our younger people.***
>
> *Nick Cameron*
> *MTWAC CEO*





Looking Ahead

Eighteen years after MTWAC was established, much has changed. A grassroots organisation has become a nationally recognised Aboriginal corporation with strong governance, an expanding workforce, long-term programs and partnerships, and growing capacity to turn community aspirations into action.

MTWAC is entering a period of growth, focused on doing what its founders intended: listening to community, protecting Country and culture, creating opportunities, sharing knowledge, and ensuring future generations are strongly connected to who they are and where they come from.

Looking further ahead, MTWAC is exploring opportunities for Aboriginal-led enterprise to create meaningful work, generate income and build economic independence on Country. Equally important is the longstanding community aspiration for accessible, culturally safe health services closer to where people live.

Aunty Patsy's legacy lives on in the history she safeguarded, the stories she shared, and the people she taught and guided. It also lives on in an organisation increasingly able to carry that knowledge, purpose and vision forward.

> ***It makes my heart sing. It brings me great hope.***
>
> *Aunty Patsy Cameron*

NEW WEBSITE & ONLINE STORE

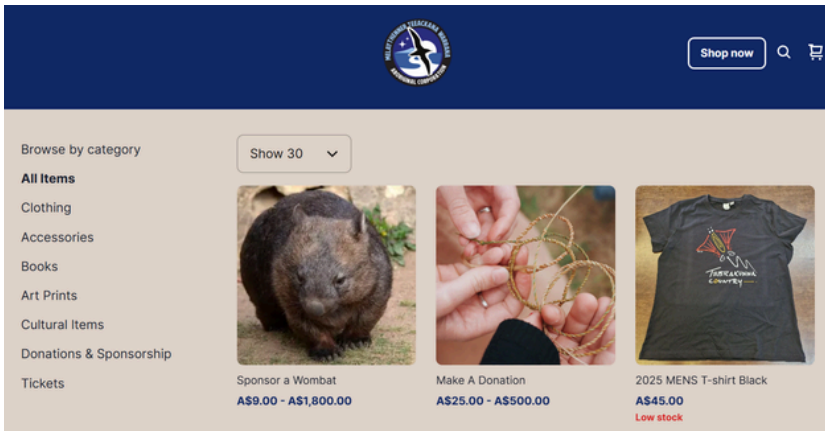


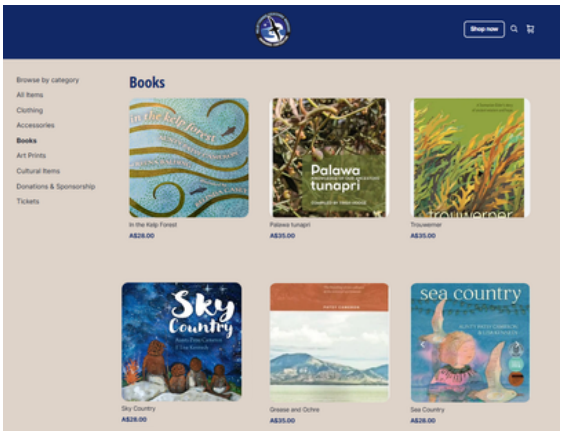
MTWAC is proud to announce the launch of its *new website*.

This has much more information than before. It's a go-to source for learning about our history, people and programs, seeing news and events, and finding out how to get involved. It also gives potential partners and supporters a much better picture of what MTWAC does, where it's heading, and the many ways they can be part of it.

The *online store* is an exciting new way to support MTWAC!

You can buy artwork and clothing, pick up one of Aunty Patsy's wonderful books or publications, or make a donation towards anything from Mannalargenna Day to feral animal traps and wombat mange treatment. Have a look — you might even find some fantastic Christmas gifts!





www.mtwac.org.au

MANNALARGENNA DAY 2026



Our biggest community celebration of the year is almost here!

On Saturday 5 December, we will gather on Tebrakunna Country at Cape Portland for the 12th Mannalargenna Day Festival, honouring our revered Ancestor, warrior and leader Mannalargenna, and the continuing strength of our culture.

This year's theme is **Celebrating Saltwater Country - tides of knowledge and kinship.**

It will be an exciting day of music, dance, storytelling, cultural activities, art and connection on Country. With an outstanding lineup of live music, hands-on activities for all ages, and opportunities to walk and learn on Country, there's something for everyone.

We hope to see you there!

Find out more about Mannalargenna Day









We allow people to wear our ochre. It's about tangibly having part of Country on you and understanding that. They see our dance, they see our smoking ceremony. People get so much out of it each year that they want to come back and connect again.

Jo Cameron, MTWAC Director

MTWAC AGM 2026

MTWAC's Annual General Meeting was held on **Saturday 31 October 2026,** bringing members together for one of the most important dates in our annual calendar.

The AGM was **an opportunity to reflect on the year behind us**, to celebrate achievements and demonstrate accountability to our members, Directors and Elders. Attendees heard reports from our Chair, CEO and Circle of Elders, alongside an overview of MTWAC's financial performance, including independently audited accounts. We also shared updates on our people, programs and membership.

Looking ahead, we presented an overview of **MTWAC's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan**, including **current priorities and deliverables**, and the **opportunities ahead** for our Corporation and community.

The meeting also considered five strong **Director nominees**, each offering valuable experience and commitment to MTWAC's future.

We would be glad to share with you an update on this important gathering - or to share our full Strategic Plan 2026-30, see below.



Interested in our Strategic Plan? Members and community are welcome to contact us at admin@mtwac.org.au to request a copy of the 2026–2030 Strategic Plan.

CARING FOR COUNTRY - AND BRINGING PEOPLE WITH THEM

The *Tebrakunna Rangers* are a young team with a big job: caring for Country across north-east Tasmania. And they are finding increasingly effective ways to do it - building practical skills, working with others, sharing what they learn and inviting the wider community to support their work.

Rangers' work on Country is diverse. They are controlling invasive and feral species, restoring and regenerating habitat, monitoring wildlife and cultural sites, and building skills in cultural burning. Recent activities have included working alongside Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service on cultural burning at Trevallyn, and sharing knowledge and experience with other Aboriginal Ranger teams through the Tasmanian Aboriginal Ranger Network gathering at Oatlands.

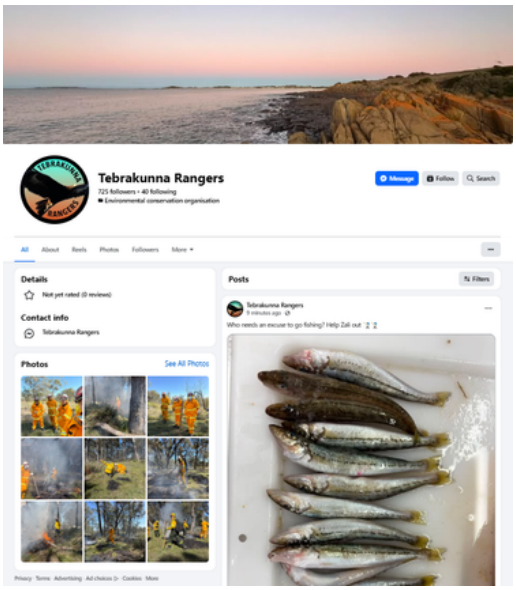
SKILLS AND SUPPORT TO HELP NATIVE WILDLIFE

A current focus for the Rangers is helping wombats affected by mange, a painful disease that can be fatal if untreated, yet is easily dealt with by medication applied to the skin.

Before beginning treatment, Rangers completed specialised training and obtained the necessary permits to safely treat wombats using the pole-and-scoop method. They are now putting those skills to work on Country.

The story doesn't end with the treatment. The Rangers have become adept at showing people what Caring for Country looks like - sharing their work through social media, and building a community of people who follow and value what they do.





'Pole and scoop' wombat mange treatment on Country; Tebrakunna Rangers social media

TURNING SUPPORT INTO PRACTICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

MTWAC's new website and online store are taking that connection a step further, giving supporters a way to contribute directly to the Rangers' practical work.

The response to the wombat program has been amazing. Rangers post regularly online about their efforts, and in August were able to post about MTWAC's new online store - which, as well as selling merchandise like clothing and books, gives supporters the chance to donate to specific projects. Supporters can donate $9 for a single wombat mange treatment, $90 for 10 doses, or $1,800 for 200. Already, almost $4,000 has been donated to wombat mange treatment! Making it the second-highest grossing support item through the online store this year, behind donations to Mannalargenna Day made in honour of Aunty Patsy.

Similar opportunities for supporters to enable Ranger work are planned. For example, supporters will soon be able to contribute to equipment for the Rangers' feral animal control work.

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

In this, a powerful cycle is developing: Rangers build the skills and partnerships to care for Country → they share their work with their growing network of supporters → people see the value and have practical ways to support the Rangers' work.

As Ranger Coordinator Camillla Wheatley sees it,

"Our Ranger team heals and advocates for Sky, Land and Sea Country every day. It's more than just a job - it's a lifestyle, a responsibility, and a deep connection to Country.

We draw knowledge from our Elders and we share it with our younguns, helping them to build connection, strength, confidence and leadership. We teach them to care for Country, respect our culture, and understand the importance of protecting it for generations to come.

Our passion for Country will never fade. We will continue to pass on our knowledge, culture and tradition, nurturing the passion within our children so it can grow stronger with every generation."





'Sponsor a wombat' post; Rangers at a TARN (Tasmania Aboriginal Ranger Network) meeting in Oatlands

GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION

Caring for Country is inter-generational work. For MTWAC, it means investing not only in Country today, but in the young people who will inherit responsibility for it tomorrow.

Through Menuggana Junior Rangers, school partnerships, and a growing number of cultural learning experiences on Country, MTWAC is helping Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young people develop deeper relationships with Country and a greater understanding of Aboriginal culture, knowledge and custodianship.

JUNIOR RANGERS - STRONG IN CULTURE, CONNECTED TO COUNTRY

Menuggana Junior Rangers creates opportunities for Aboriginal students to learn on and through Country - building cultural knowledge, practical skills, confidence and connection.

Around 60 young Aboriginal people across four schools (Scottsdale District High, Riverside High, Prospect High and Port Dalrymple High) are engaging with the program, supported by MTWAC's Rangers, Elders and cultural knowledge holders.

The investment is about more than individual activities. It is about helping young Aboriginal people understand their history and culture, build relationships with Country and community, and see pathways for themselves as the future custodians, Rangers and leaders of Country.



Menuggana Junior Rangers on Country

BROADER SCHOOL EDUCATION

MTWAC shares cultural education with broader school communities, creating opportunities for non-Aboriginal students to learn too. Recently, 114 Grade 3 and 4 students from Riverside Primary School joined Youth Hub Project Lead Cecillia Wheatley and Tebrakunna Rangers for cultural learning at the Cataract Gorge.

Through hands-on activities, students learned about culture and Country while observing, communicating and working together. As their teacher explained, something very valuable occurred:

> *"The students were highly engaged throughout the day… It was great to see students who engage differently in the classroom having opportunities to demonstrate their strengths in an outdoor learning environment."*

The relationship will continue, with future sessions planned at the school incorporating cultural understanding and activities such as cooking damper.

Other school groups, including those visiting from mainland Australia, are spending time with the Tebrakunna Rangers on Country at Cape Portland - camping, learning about culture and experiencing the landscape through the knowledge of its Aboriginal custodians. This is direct learning, from Aboriginal people, on Country, and through real relationships rather than books and presentations.

INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION - AND THE FUTURE

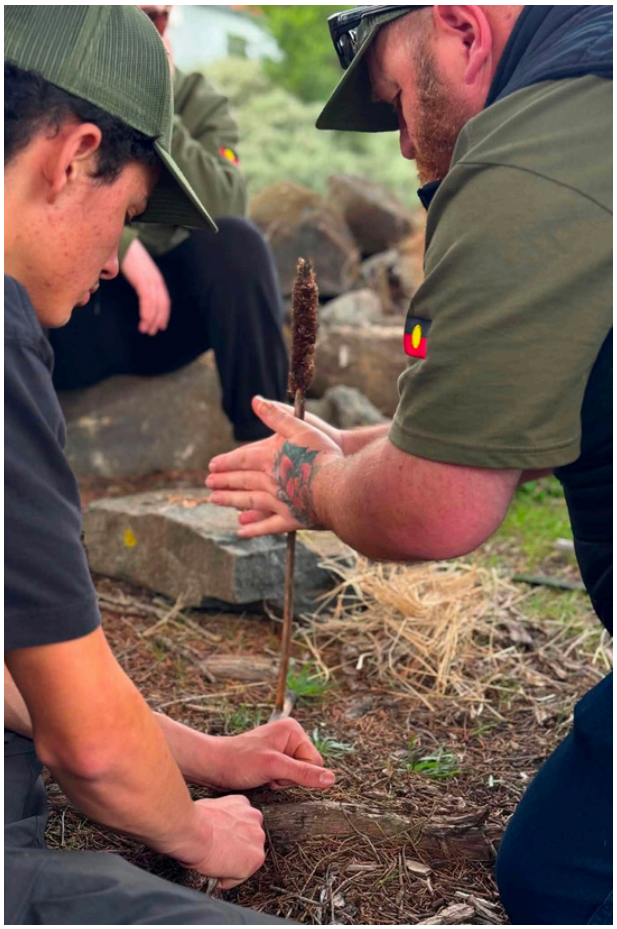
Alongside the Menuggana program, MTWAC's sharing of cultural education with broader school communities is an investment in a different future: one where Aboriginal young people are strong in culture and equipped to care for Country, and non-Aboriginal young people grow up with greater knowledge, respect and understanding of the Country they share.

As Cecillia Wheatley explains,

"With hands-on learning, and knowledge sharing, and the chance to experience Aboriginal connections to Country and culture, all children gain an enhanced sense of identity, pride and connection.

Children are excited when they arrive - and by the end of a session, they don't want it to end.

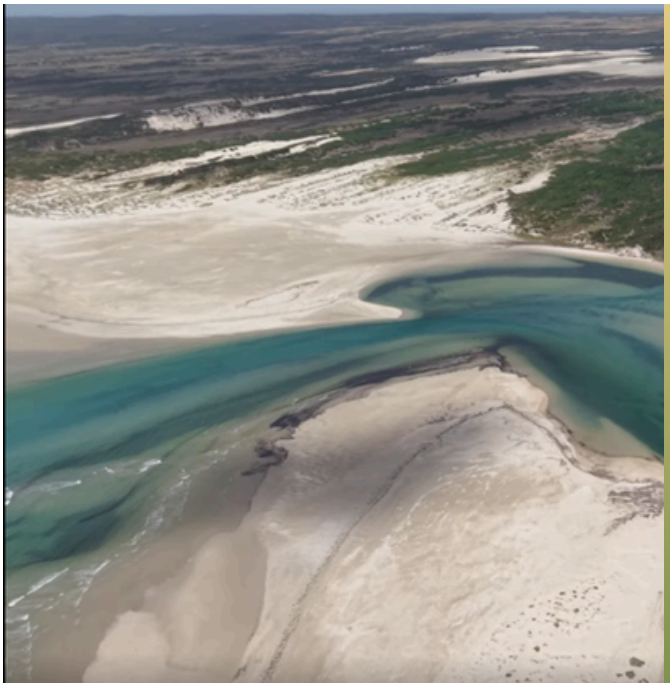
Through education, we feel we are creating strong future custodians of Trouwerner. Deeper understanding among all children supports a respectful future grounded in truth telling."



Menuggana Junior Rangers creating fire

BOOBYALLA: COUNTRY, NOT EMPTY SAND

You may have seen our recent posts about Boobyalla. The campaign to protect this Country is now underway - and support is growing. Because the scale of what is proposed is enormous. And once this Country is excavated, we cannot put it back.



- 713 hectares planned project area
- 70–100 million tonnes sand to be extracted
- 35–40 years of proposed mining
- 700-metre jetty extending into Ringarooma Bay

"ABORIGINAL HERITAGE IS NOT RENEWABLE."
- UNCLE VERNON GRAHAM

In recent weeks, MTWAC has begun speaking out about the proposed industrial sand mine at Boobyalla. We've launched a petition, begun reaching out to community and supporters, and we plan to take the campaign onto Country with a short film.

SIGN & SHARE THE PETITION

Help call for a halt to the Boobyalla Sand Extraction while its impacts are understood and Aboriginal rights are respected.

WATCH THIS SPACE

Stay tuned for our future advocacy including a short film.

Boobyalla is a living cultural landscape carrying thousands of years of Aboriginal connection, knowledge, and history including burial places. Despite years of exploration and planning, Aboriginal communities have not been meaningfully involved in deciding whether this Country should be mined at all. The time to ask is now - before destruction begins. Once this country is gone, we cannot put it back.

Stories of People and Programs

Meet the new staff driving exciting change

Youth Hub Project Lead Cecillia Wheatley

My name is Cecillia Wheatley, and earlier this year I joined MTWAC as Youth Hub Project Lead.



My role involves working with community, Elders and stakeholders to plan and develop a culturally safe, supportive Youth Hub with children and young people at its heart.

It's been a busy year and things are definitely progressing - we're on the verge of signing a lease agreement for the Youth Hub, and employing our first dedicated Youth Worker. Stay tuned - I look forward to sharing more as the Youth Hub takes shape!

I previously spent 11 years working in Aboriginal Education, supporting children and young people from birth to Grade 10 and their families. I'm passionate about making a meaningful difference, sharing knowledge and continuing to learn alongside others.

Business Development Manager Meagan Bennett

I am thrilled to have joined MTWAC as Business Development Manager and look forward to the opportunities ahead. My career spans community development, communications, marketing, business development and event management across local government, industry, not-for-profit and private enterprise.

One of the most special experiences was my time as Manager of Liveable and Connected Communities at George Town Council, where I had the opportunity to work alongside the late Aunty Patsy Cameron on the design of the Regent Square Aboriginal Gathering Space. What a wonderful journey that was. Together, we explored the possibilities of creating a welcoming place where the design was inspired by Aunty Patsy's ideas, where Tasmanian Aboriginal people could come together, share culture, celebrate community and connect with others.

Seeing the space go on to host NAIDOC Week gatherings, community events and other Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural activities has been incredibly rewarding. It is a reminder of what can be achieved when people come together with a shared vision and a genuine commitment to creating something meaningful.

I am excited to explore new business opportunities, build partnerships and support lasting benefits for Tasmanian Aboriginal people and our community.

My door is always open - come and have a yarn!



Stories of People and Programs

Learn how our programs are going, and growing

NESP and Tebrakunna Native Nursery

It's been a productive and exciting year for the NESP project. In partnership with the community, we completed the draft Healthy Country Plan and co-designed a Wellbeing Framework, reflecting community perspectives and values of wellness on Country through a meaningful artistic representation. We have also developed a draft Cultural Seasonal Calendar, providing a valuable representation of community knowledge, seasonal indicators, and ongoing connections to Country.

In addition, the Rangers have been working closely with IMAS under the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) and Saving Native Species (SNS) Program, focusing on Indigenous-led marine monitoring and capacity building through ecological research focused on giant myerlee (kelp) forests, an important step toward strengthening the health and resilience of Sea Country.

We're excited to launch the Tebrakunna Native Nursery Project, for revegetation and restoration work on Country. This will help protect native species, support biodiversity and improve the health of Country for generations to come.



Health Service Feasibility Study

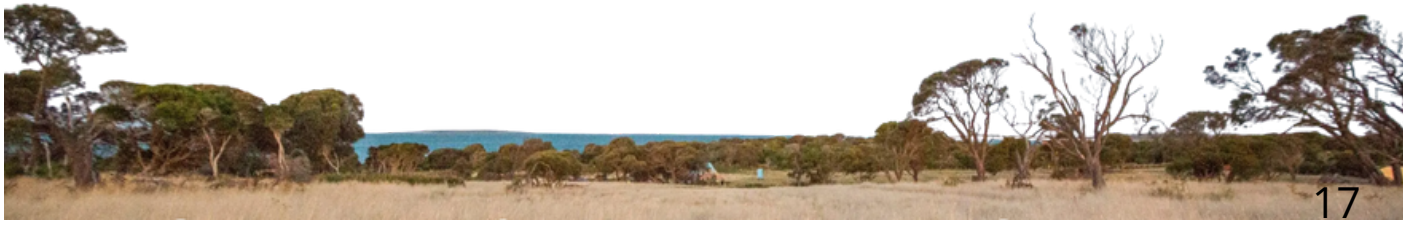
For many years, our community has wanted culturally safe, accessible Aboriginal health care in north-east Tasmania, closer to home and without the need to travel to Launceston.

We're excited to be taking a step towards this long-held vision, with a community consultation and feasibility study exploring what a future Aboriginal community-led health service could look like.

Working with Steph Brake and Martina Wyss from Gather & Ground Consulting, we'll be listening to community members, families, Elders and health providers about their needs and ideas. No decisions have been made — community voices will shape what comes next.

We want to hear from you! Have your say at Mannalargenna Day, through community yarns or online as the project continues into 2027.

To find out more or get involved, contact admin@gatherandground.au or MTWAC Project Officer Jodi Moore at jodi.moore@mtwac.org.au.



Circle of Elders

Annual report

The Circle of Elders comprises the following members of MTWAC – Aunty Dyan Summers, Aunty Betty Grace, Aunty Netty Shaw, Aunty Vicki Laine-Green, Aunty Fay Ralph, Aunty Carol O'Neill, Uncle Sammy Howard, Uncle Malcolm Wells and Auntie Brenda Hodge.

In the lead up to Mannalargenna Day last year, our much-loved, now late Matriarch, **Aunty Patsy**, worked tirelessly for the Timme Memorial, and for the Commemoration of his passing in January, which was held on Country.

Aunty Patsy was the advocate in the Dorset area, including meetings with Councilors.

Aunty Patsy was also on the Mannalargenna Day sub-committee, and consulted on the Cultural Seasonal Calendar. She also was the mentoring support person for the Junior Ranger Program.

Aunty Patsy attended 'In Conversation', the launch of 'In the Kelp Forest' on 27 April in Launceston and on 7 May in Hobart.

Aunty Patsy also attended Board meetings and facilitated with Jo the Cultural Awareness Training sessions on Country and at Noonameena.

Aunty Patsy also attended online TRACA meetings throughout the year.

Aunty Patsy, along with Graham, attended the NAIDOC Day at Noonameena and visited Seahorse World with other Elders, enjoying a lovely lunch beforehand.

Aunty Betty

Aunty sold ice-creams and drinks on Mannalargenna Day and was kept very busy, but it was very rewarding she said.
Her beautiful, donated Rice Shell necklace is in the Silent Auction this year.
Returned to live on Flinders Island in June and is unavailable to attend Mannalargenna Day this year due to other commitments.

Aunty Dyan - Since the 2025 AGM I have done the following -

I negotiated with the Bunurong Land Council Women Elders to allow their Possum Skin Cloak to be loaned to MTWAC to display and show the process of how to make one for Mannalargenna Day. I also negotiated with the Bunurong Land Council to donate; I think it was 15 or 20 possum skins to add to the cloak as a goodwill gesture with mob. I believe this was a wonderful gift to share with those here at home on Tebrakunna Country.

The display was very well received by literally hundreds of communities and visitors on the day. Feedback to myself was extremely encouraging and positive. There were photos taken of the 2 previous Governor's, and many community and visitors on the day.I have seen but I cannot remember who took these beautiful photos.

I shared with women the blessing of the "walert" (possum) skin, how the clan women each stitched small "rugs" of usually around 12 to 15 skins, then they were stitched together to make the large cloak. I then shared the stitching process of making the cloak; this was very time consuming and slowed the making of it considerably. It was very encouraging from everyone who came and sat with me, I explained the history of why these cloaks were made, the process of making and the celebration ceremony when they were completed. I also told the story of the cloak on display. Each woman who participated with the stitching, also had their stories told through a small piece of artwork that each participant put on the reverse side of the cloak. I only shared the stories of three Trawlwoolway women, with their permission of course, one of these being my own. I absolutely loved the day and went back to Aunty Fay's house completely exhausted but felt satisfied and proud.

What a beautiful Cultural Exchange it was. Hopefully we can have more in the future, between the two groups.

The following several months I was in Victoria with my daughter who was battling a very rare form of Lymphoma. Sadly, she lost her battle at the end of February this year. I stayed in Vic with her children, my grandchildren, during our Sorry Business.

I am so sorry that so many strong hearts were broken, with the passing of our Dearest Aunty P.I know that we all think of her so very much, and possibly more so as it is approaching Mannalargenna Day, and our beautiful memories still roll silently down our cheeks, we wipe them away so gently and with love and respect, then we tuck them away safely deep in our soul until another memory pops up.

In all honesty, 2026 has been one of the worst years I have had in my nearly 75 years of living. So many of our family members and community have gone to the ancestors. I know they are resting with their loved ones somewhere behind the stars.

Aunty Netty

I was honoured to be the Elder who walked with Governor Barbara and her wonderful husband at last year's Mannalargenna Day as it was her last Mannalargenna Day as Governor of Tasmania.

I have given numerous Welcomes to Country i.e.: Gastronomy Launceston, TEER Project where Camilla attended as a representative of the Female Ranger, HACSU, Care Business Excellence Awards for the Chamber of Commerce and I have promoted Mannalargenna Day at all of them.

I also gave Dominic White (a member) two amulets and a Water Carrier for his PHD Exhibition.

I also spent a day with our beautiful Rangers teaching them how to make our Water Carriers, and their work is fantastic plus they also want to learn more and it will be great to show them what I know and some will be donating their Water Carriers for this year's Mannalargenna Day Raffle, so thank you Girls.

I also contacted Members for Artwork to be part of our exhibition with QVMAG and all were honoured to be asked and they have put work forward.

There is probably more but for the life of me I can't remember, life got busy!!

Uncle Sammy

This has been a very busy year and heart breaking.

Individually I've done two or three welcomes for people and organisations.

I'm still working on the board of Six Rivers attending board meetings with them and meetings with MTWAC and Elders

I've attended functions and days at Tebrakunna and Noonameena,

as well as participating in online discussions relating to Mannalargenna day,

performing delegated tasks in relation to Mannalargenna Day and organising events such as the freshwater lobster display, the yurts and getting the fire pot rings made up.

I also travelled up and helped our Rangers make hamburgers for Mannalargenna Day.

I donated a couple of freezers for the house and for the shed as well as a major prize for our raffle on 5 December.

Also, might make note that I/we have lost so many people, Elders and personal friends this year and I know a lot of us are still hurting, but we will push forward and keep in mind the vision set out by the founding members of MTWAC.

Aunty Fay

It was great seeing the backlog of Membership Applications accepted, understanding that Elders have an important responsibility of scrutinizing application forms to make sure they are correct and true to the best of their ability. When we are 'on top of things', there should be no backlogs! Then smaller numbers can meet online or in person at our General Meetings to introduce themselves.

My daughter Barbara and I were honoured to be asked to do 'Welcome to Country' at the Scallop Fiesta again in August this year, which is now the fifth year. It has always been a pleasure to be invited to such a popular event that is growing every year in my hometown of Bridport.

I found NAIDOC week an eventful time—it certainly uplifts one's spirits! The Six Rivers community are always welcoming, making me feel very much a part of them.

With our own celebration of NAIDOC week at Noonameena to top the week off—as always, the event was well presented and something I am very proud of.

It was great being able to meet and talk with new family members at Mannalargenna Day 2025 and I hope to do the same this December. My 'thanks' goes out to Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker and husband Don for their commitment and support on Mannalargenna Days while in office.

It was a pleasure to be at Cape Portland for the opening of The Shed after NAIDOC week --organised by our fine team of Rangers. What a great job they did to have it all ready in such quick time!

It was an honour being able to meet our new Governor (Her Excellency the Honourable Caroline Wells) and her husband Dr Rob Walters RFD –a connection I'm looking forward to as I found them to be very approachable and easy to talk to.

And lastly, our dear Aunt Patsy—the one who nominated me as Elder nearly 10 years ago –has sadly left us to join our ancestors—she will be greatly missed by all.

Aunty Fay celebrated her 95th birthday with family on 6 April - you are amazing Aunty Fay!

Aunty Carol sends her apologies, having hip replacement surgery on Monday, returning home on Thursday!

Uncle Malcolm has been unwell throughout the year, including several hospital stays and looks forward to a better year next year.

Auntie Brenda

My involvement during this past year has been mainly verifying family trees that are received as part of Membership applications. Aunty Fay and Aunty Dy also assist with this important role.

A record number of 52 memberships were approved on 23 July in 2 hours!

Thanks to Jo and Emma Lee for keeping us on track!

I attended the flag raising at Tiagarra on 6 July and also attended their 50th celebrations on 16 October.

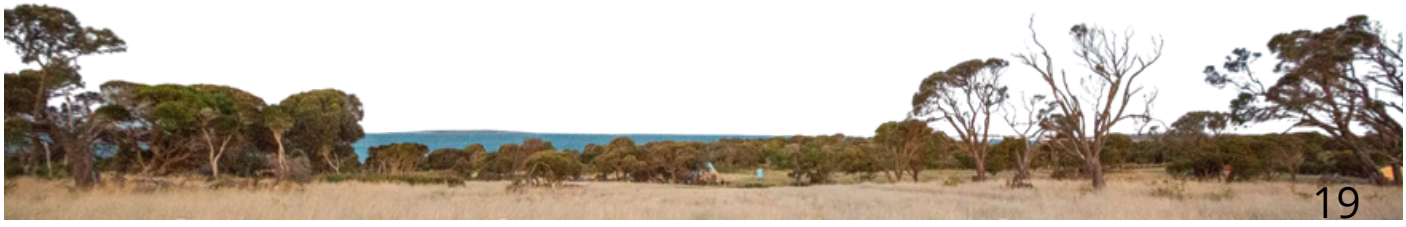
As well as attending another well organised NAIDOC Day at Noonameena on 9 July, Elders were invited on day trips visiting Trowernner Wildlife Sanctuary and Seahorse World, being well looked after with lunch near each attraction.

Mannalargenna Day 2025 – Aunty Fay, Barb and I met with many of our family members throughout the day, and we will be doing the same this year for those who are interested. We love sharing our family history!

I had hip replacement surgery in April and am looking forward to the other side being replaced in the new year!

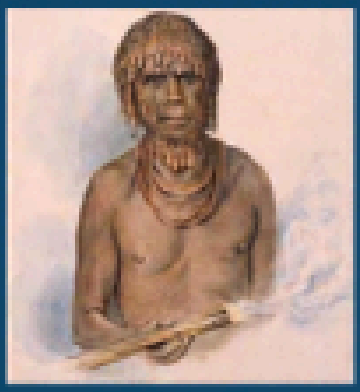
In the near future, the Circle of Elders will be nominating several of our Community to join our team, and this will be in consultation with the Board who will be reviewing the criteria for new Elders in consultation with us.

We look forward to having more Elders on board!



MTWAC proudly presents

MANNALARGENNA DAY FESTIVAL 2026



TEBRAKUNNA RANGERS
WALKING TOURS
TREENONER DANCE MOB
YARNING CIRCLE
EDUCATIONAL FORUM

CULTURAL DEMONSTRATIONS
ART EXHIBITION & SALES
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
CULTURAL FOOD
SILENT AUCTION

Celebrating Saltwater Country

Saltwater people - tides of knowledge and kinship

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5, 2026

9AM-5PM

LIVE MUSIC

DENNI • Kiz & Hermit Kovacic & friends • Shane Howard
Neil Murray • Kaytlyn Johnson

Little Musselroe Bay Rd, Cape Portland

Gold coin donation is appreciated

You're welcome to bring a picnic lunch, there will be a coffee van onsite
This is a family friendly,alcohol and drug free event

LSACT LAND AND SEA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION TASMANIA
WOOLNORTH RENEWABLES
dorset COUNCIL
Tasmanian Government
BARLEYS TRAFFIC
Break O'Day COUNCIL