



Lake Victoria

Barkindji Maraura Country

By Tamika Jacobs nee Smith

Introduction

- Acknowledgments
- Family and community
- Early days of the first AHIP 1994- 2008.
- Highlights of overcoming difficult times.
- Passing down Knowledge to the next Generations.
- Special Achievement for community and government.
- Moving forward and working together.
- Update on the process of the AHIP for the big lake areas.
- Question time.

I want to acknowledge that this presentation may display videos and photos of an Aboriginal person who has passed and acknowledge that the permission to display has been given.



Barkindji Maraura Elders Committee (BMEC)

28years and counting of service on advising Government on
Cultural Heritage Management at Lake Victoria.



The BMEC first formed 1994, photo taken at Lake Victoria at the LVAC meeting in 1995.



BMEC meeting held at Gerard Mission in SA.

OFFICIAL

Mitchell Family ties to Lake Victoria



The Mitchell Family story

Harry Mitchell and his family moved to Lake Victoria about the turn of the century. He had been with his parents and his brother, William, in the bush, and worked as a long time of Lake Victoria. He was married to Alice McGregor in 1901 and they had four children. Harry and Alice were both from the same area, and they had a long history of working on the Lake Victoria. Harry Mitchell was born in 1871 and he was the eldest of four children. He was born in the same area as his parents, and he was a long time of Lake Victoria. He was married to Alice McGregor in 1901 and they had four children. Harry and Alice were both from the same area, and they had a long history of working on the Lake Victoria.

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THE SAND GANNA IS THE BARKINDJI TOTEM FOR THE FAMILY IN THIS LOCAL AREA.



THOMAS 'TOOGLEY' MITCHELL
LAKE VICTORIA



ROBERT CASTLERS 1871-1901	DANIEL McGREGOR 1871-1901
HARRY MITCHELL Born 1871, died 1901, married 1901	ALICE McGREGER Born 1871, died 1901, married 1901
GORDON MITCHELL	MILLIE HALL
EUNEE MITCHELL	1st MATTIA SINGH 2nd JOHNSON
ERNEY MITCHELL	RENEE MITCHELL
ETHAL MITCHELL 1894	BILLY JOHNSON
GLADYS MITCHELL 1901 - 1902	JOE SMITH
HARRY MITCHELL JNR 1912 - 1913	MYRTLE JOHNSON
ALEC MITCHELL	REBECCA JOHNSON



GLADYS MITCHELL, EUNEE MITCHELL, AND THEIR
FATHER HARRY MITCHELL SR AND HIS WIFE ALICE McGREGER

Acknowledgment to
My Grandmothers
country

Barkindji- Eastern
side of the big lake
area of Lake Victoria





Acknowledgment to Our Nabours the Maraura People who follow the red dirt on the western side of the big lake area of Lake Victoria.



Early Days

- The Discovery process of the remains and the passing down of the stories through family and generations.
- Community consultations and fields trips at on the lake after it was lowered.
- Discussion on around the cultural heritage management and cultural protocols with governments involved.
- Protection works and completion of the establishing BMEC Committee and Lake Victoria Advisory committee.



A photograph of two men sitting outdoors. The man on the left is wearing a blue jacket, a white shirt, and a wide-brimmed hat with a red band. He has a beard and is looking towards the right. The man on the right is wearing a white jacket, a white shirt, and a wide-brimmed hat. He is smiling and looking towards the left. They are sitting on a wooden bench or structure. The background is a bright, colorful wall with red and yellow sections.

Overcoming difficult times

- Government and community found away to agree on cultural and scientific methods around the impacts of the cultural Heritage.
- It took a lot of government to sit listen and build a trustworthy relationship with the Aboriginal community
- Solutions were reach as they developed a cultural heritage officer role to be located at the lake Victoria to report on the issues that impact Cultural heritage. Then later employed two traineeships and a Lake Victoria Project officer.

Generations of Cultural Heritage knowledge being passed on was one of many of most important part of the Barkindji and Maraura Elders focus.



Roland Roddy Smith & his son Nicholas Smith (16years old)

Rufus River Memorial Day 2003







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Achievement for community governments

- The BMEC was awarded the best cultural Heritage practice in the 2018.
- Community are spending more time on country after the strengthening relationships with MDBA, SA Water and NSW Water in the big Lake Area.
- The next generations of young people are getting the opportunity to work and practice cultural on their own country but also get an understanding of the government position within the landscape.
- Lake Victoria has Keeping Place – Storage for Cultural Heritage that gets returned to Country.
- Elders Camping Ground was opened for community to continue to have access to the lake for staying connected and to continue to teach the next Generations out on country.
- BMEC held Recognition Day for all involved stakeholders at Lake Victoria in 2016.



Lake Victoria Keeping Place

New AHIP Processes

The changes of the next AHIP has had its challenges within the wider community as the BMEC will no longer be functioning under the new AHIP and has change the way we communicate our voice as a grassroutes level council due to other Raps registering as interest in the Lake Victoria area, but BMEC continue to live on the legacy of the Elders in our community to guide us through to the processes.

Even through there are challenges at time and difficult conversations as soon as the meetings are over, we can still come down to a level of agreements and further consult on good terms with all government, stakeholders and landholders involved at lake Victoria.

A photograph of a group of people gathered outdoors at dusk. In the foreground, a campfire is burning brightly. Several people are seated on white folding chairs around the fire. One person stands on the left, facing away from the camera. In the background, there are several white vans parked in a lot, and trees are visible under a dim sky. The word "Questions" is overlaid in white text on the center of the image.

Questions