



OUR GUNYAH

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STAFF PROFILE

Shannon Rootes

Tenant Liaison Officer

What is your role at Gunida Gunyah Aboriginal Corporation?

I started working for Gunida Gunyah at the start of 2020 but was previously employed with them for about 8 years from 2012 to 2017.

My role at Gunida Gunyah is a Tenancy Liaison Officer. In my role I liaise with tenants and deal with matters concerning their tenancies, carry out routine inspections as well as lease signings with new tenants and also do daily office duties as required.

Where are you from?

I am from Gunnedah and have been here my whole life.

Describe yourself in three words.

Dependent & easy going.

What is your favourite indoor/outdoor activity?

I am a huge sports fan of cricket and rugby league.

If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would it be?

Ricky Ponting

TENANT TALK UP

Kenneth Allan
Quirindi, NSW 2343



Where are you from?

Originally from Walhallow and moved to Quirindi around 1994.

Tell us a bit about yourself; hobbies, family, friends, growing up etc.

I have 2 sisters and 2 brothers; a son and 3 daughters; 14 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. I used to play rugby league back in the 60's and I don't mind a bet on the horses every now and then.

How would people describe you?

As a good bloke, so just take me as I am.

What/who motivates you?

Getting out and talking to people & mates, keeps me sane.

How do you define 'family' & 'culture'?

A link to the past, having respect for elders, respect for who you are and respecting each other and getting the respect in return.

How would you describe your experience with Gunida Gunyah Aboriginal Corporation?

All good, no problems.

How have you been coping during Covid-19?

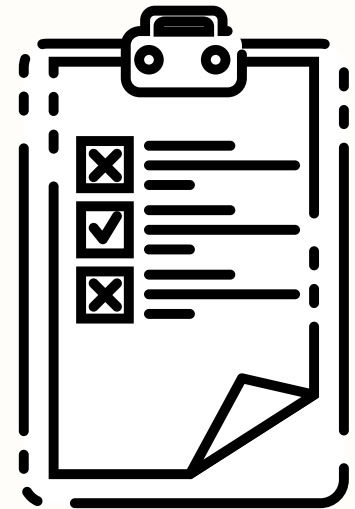
Good no worries.

Is there a quote, work, sentence or any tips you could share with everyone during this pandemic, what would it be?

Just to be careful what you do and don't get complacent.

Notice For Tenants

There has been some concerns regarding the recent rent review letter issued to tenants. In accordance with AHO Policy this review is conducted on a regular basis to ensure that the correct rent is being paid. All that is required is that tenants complete the form & provide the documentation to ensure that we have the correct details. If you have any further concerns please call the office (02) 6742 7038.



Care Packages Delivered to Mungindi After Devastating Fire

On Friday 11th September 2020 GGAC staff travelled to Mungindi to deliver hampers that included essential items to tenants and community members after the devastating fire that occurred on Tuesday 1st September 2020 around 8pm that destroyed the small town's only supermarket, butcher shop and clothing store.



R U OK Morning Tea

R U OK Day was held on Thursday 10th September 2020, Gunida Gunyah held a lunch for staff to reflect upon the Covid-19 situation and to check in to see that everyone was doing okay.



Moving from Pub to Hub

As published by the Namoi Valley Independent on Friday September 18, 2020

It's certainly something you have to think twice about: a pub on Conadily Street turning into a community hub for a local Indigenous organisation. But that's exactly what will be happening, with the Grand Elixxa Hotel snapped up by Gunida Gunyah Aboriginal Corporation.

It's hard to imagine the pub being anything else, but it's set to undergo a full renovation from top to bottom, with the first stage having started this week.

Gunida Gunyah's chief executive officer Jane Bender says stage one will involve the fit-out of the ground floor, and the ideal finishing date for this is early 2021. "The main bar areas will be turned into offices, private interview rooms, disabled toilets, conference room", she told NVI. "There'll also be new bathrooms, an upgrade commercial kitchen, and a ramp out the front to the entry."

Ms Bender said the relocation from the Farrar Road facility was for more inclusiveness and accessibility "to better support the local Aboriginal community and build our capacity to service the wider community". "The move will improve our physical presence in the community and we hope that this will enable our corporation to strengthen relationships with existing services," she said.

"We will be operating as a community services and housing hub delivering a numbers of valuable services and meaningful programs, including social, transitional, and crisis accommodation and supported living programs. We will continue our current services including Warranggal Dhiyan Justice Support and Advocacy, client case management, client transport, information, referrals and links to other services, supported playgroup, elder's social groups and programs targeted at youth at risk." There will be new services too, such as disability support and advocacy, domestic and family violence support, youth social enterprise and arts, language and cultural programs.

Stage two of the project will see the upstairs rooms - which are currently in a state of disrepair - redone for the organisation's new transitional housing program. This will be further down the track once everything on the bottom floor is complete and ready to go.

Ms Bender said local contractors were being engaged through the whole process, with local building, carpeting and flooring, electrical and air conditioning companies all on board. "For stage two ... we work with a couple of builders in town and we've got one sort of major building contractor that we use", she said. "We're hoping we can use him for upstairs if he has the capacity for that."



Welcome back Kath!

"Hi my name is Kath Jones and I previously worked for Gunida Gunyah where I was a part of the hugely important Warranggal Dhiyan Program. While working as a family support worker I had the pleasure of working with the Gunida Gunyah staff all of who are the most amazing group of people, completely dedicated to their work and one hundred percent supportive of their colleagues."

"I was also fortunate enough to build relationships within the community when providing support to people who were in contact with the justice system. I met many people along the way who despite their challenges were mostly positive and committed to making their lives better, I felt privileged to be a part of their journey. After a brief hiatus, (*where I missed you all*) I have moved back to the Gunnedah arear and will be working in the new Transitional Housing Program, the program will support vulnerable people in the community to help resolve their immediate housing needs. We want individuals and families to become comfortable accessing the social and wellbeing support services that they need through our new *Community Service Hub* and to have access to transitional housing there they will be supported to build their skills and capabilities to sustain and maintain housing independently into the future."



Rotary Youth Leadership Program 2020

Our very own Stephanie Cameron recently attended a youth leadership camp at Lake Keepit. The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive leadership experience organised by Rotary clubs and districts where participants develop leadership skills while having fun and making connections. Steph was nominated to attend the camp, to enhance her skills and further support her role as a community programs staff member and the youngest Director on the board of Gunida Gunyah Aboriginal Corporation.

Over the course of a week Steph participated in a number of activities that focused on building communication and problem-solving skills, discovering strategies for becoming a dynamic leader in the local community and learning from community leaders, inspirational speakers, and peer mentors.

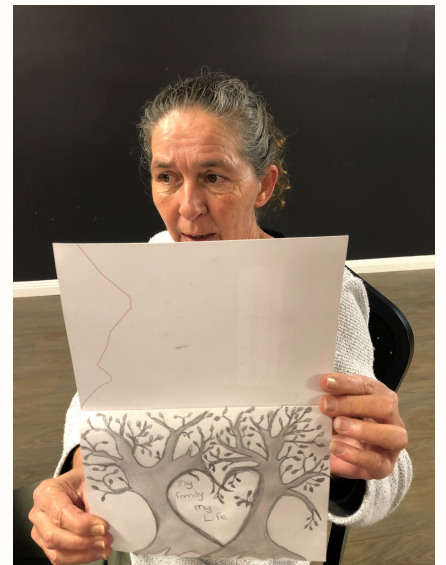
Steph said it was the most amazing experience she has ever had and one she will not forget. Steph would like to send a huge thankyou to the Gunnedah Rotary 2380 & Gunida Gunyah for providing sponsorship and giving her the opportunity to be a part of RYLA 2020.

On behalf of Gunida Gunyah, we congratulate you Steph!



GGAC's Women's Group Participates in Arts North West Panorama Project

Recently GGAC's Women's Group participated in the Arts North West Panorama Project, the project gave the women the opportunity to be creative by drawing, painting, collaging and using imagery in a sketchbook. These sketchbooks will now travel around the New England North West Region to the local libraries for several months for others to see their artwork! Each of the women did an incredible job and made the book a piece of themselves being able to tell their own stories, using photographs and being creative.



Youth Program

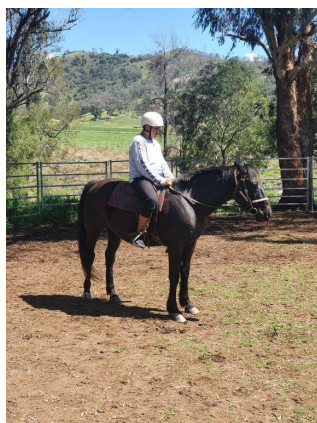


Warranggal Dhiyan staff have engaged with 10 young males from 12-15 years who are disengaged from school. The Youth Service has included the youth attending the office once a week during school time; they participate in range of positive activities.

On the 26th August the Youth and their support workers attended Lake Keepit Sport and Recreational centre where they participated in a range of team building exercises. The young males enjoyed exploring the natural environment and took part in a variety of activities including raft building, mountain bike riding and kayaking. In the next upcoming week the youth will attend Kootingal and go horse riding for the day.



The 23rd September the Youth and Warranggal Dhiyan travelled to Kootingal and visited Tamworth Kootingal Horse Riding Adventures, they were guided with a tour around the 'Swamp Oak' Station being able to participate in some activities to know what it's like running a station and feeding some of the cattle. They also had the opportunity to brush and groom some of the horses and experience a trail ride on the horse.





Centacare Traditional Basket Weaving Group

When: Thursday 8th of October (every Thursday)

Who: Women of all ages are welcome to attend.

Time: 10am to 12pm

Where: Gunida Gunyah - 34-36 Farrar Road Gunnedah.

Light refreshments will be provided

For more information, please call Telisha (02) 6792 9300 or

Warranggal Dhiyan staff on (02) 6742 7038

Please email all enrolment forms to admin@warranggaldhiyan.com.au