

# Cultural hub a place of learning for CMA

East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority staff visited the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) new cultural hub at Forestec in Kalimna last week.

The day was an opportunity for authority staff to learn about the culture of the Gunaikurnai people.

The tour was led by GLaWAC Cultural Hub manager, Grattan Mullett Snr, who spoke about the many functions and operations of the GLaWAC.

Of particular interest was the native title settlement agreement, establishing GLaWAC as joint manager of 10 national parks in eastern Victoria with Parks Victoria and DELWP. This

arrangement is a Victorian first and recognises the Gunaikurnai's strong connection and understanding of the land and waterways of the region gained over thousands of years.

The tour visited the Lake Tyers State Park, one of the joint managed parks with GLaWAC JM Ranger Grattan Mullett Jnr. Grattan highlighted the importance of connection to country including passing on local stories, knowledge of bush food and the historic patterns of the opening of Bung Yarnda, the Lake Tyers estuary.

CMA chief executive officer, Graeme Dear, said the day was a great opportunity for staff to understand the depth of knowledge the Gunaikurnai hold with the land and to strengthen relationships with an important partner organisation.

"Recognising and managing for aboriginal values is a key priority of the Victorian Government's Water for Victoria plan and Our Catchments, Our Communities plan," he said.

The final stop on the tour was to the Glasshouse on the shores of Lake Tyers where Grattan spoke passionately about the history of the site and the ongoing management of the park.



Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation cultural ranger, Grattan Mullett Jnr, spoke to East Gippsland CMA staff about the cultural significance of the Lake Tyers State Park last week. (PS)



East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority staff were hosted by GLaWAC to share knowledge and gain insights into the Gunaikurnai connection to country last week. (PS)