

FERNBANK - RD
GLENALADALE
4 km SPORTS GROUND

FERNBANK 9

COONAWARRA
FARM RESORT

MITCHELL RIVER
NATIONAL PARK 14



Community

- Gunaikurnai. Agreement in place.
- Good relations with many land-owners in the area to be mined.
- The biggest business in the area, the Mitchell River Irrigators, are interested in the potential benefits: water security, improved power infrastructure, potential trucking hub, potential rail siding etc..
- The broader community is largely unaware of the project, project will be positive:
 - East Gippsland unemployment rate 0.3% higher than other rural Victorian areas.
 - Average age is 47 compared to average for rural areas of 41.
 - 11.1% of young people are disengaged, compared to average 10.3%.
 - Native forest timber industry likely to shut, employs 100 people.
- We have some opposition in the local community. There is an association with anti-coal, and anti-csg groups.
- We believe the greater communication post-granting will dispel some concerns these groups have generated. It is nothing like a coal mine, no fracking, will be environmentally positive
- Good project design will eliminate many issues. Management and mitigation of environmental and social issues will be addressed during approval process.



Residents at a meeting in Lindenow regarding the proposed Kalbar mineral sands mine.

GIPPSLAND residents are demanding more details on the environmental effects of a proposed mineral sands mining project in Lindenow, after a recent information session fuelled community concern on the investigative processes.

About 80 people attended the consultation session last Tuesday for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands project in Lindenow, on the doorstep of one of Australia's largest food growing regions, to provide feedback on technical studies being prepared for the project's environment effects statement.

Attendees heard from technical consultants and shared their views on issues related to air quality, biodiversity, socioeconomic and agriculture studies being undertaken to assess the potential impacts of the mineral sands mining project.

Community members from the Glenaladale area and further afield were asked to provide initial feedback on the three studies, with community input contributing to the finalisation of the studies and EES report.

But Bairnsdale resident **Lex Hammond** said he came away from the Kalbar information session "reeling in disappointment", after the only information presented was "targeted towards ensuring the approval of the project and whitewashing resident, neighbour, community and public's valid opinions, question and concerns".

"This is disturbing. We need truly independent reports created, with raw data publicly

THE FINGER BOARDS



Case study – Glenaladale Mineral Sands Project

- Establishing effective stakeholder engagement
- Foundation for establishing a social licence to operate





About Kalbar Resources



Kalbar was established in 2011 to develop the Landak Bauxite Project in Kalimantan, Indonesia.

After successfully discovering significant bauxite resources and on-selling the project, Kalbar embarked on an extensive search to find another project in line with its strategy to develop high grade, low capital mining projects that can service China's growing demand for "new bulk" ores.

It commenced its greenfields Northern Australian Bauxite project, and in 2013 acquired Rio Tinto's Gippsland Mineral Sands Project.

NT Bauxite Project

- Held in 100% Kalbar owned subsidiary Robian Resources.
- Targeting laterites with potential for bauxitization that are in areas suitable for direct export to seaborne market.
- Following the shut down of Indonesian exports, Northern Australia is the next best bauxite mining area to supply China.
- Reconnaissance exploration this year. If successful, Robian will be spun off.





10
OPEN CUT
MINING
GLENALADALE



Mine-free Glenaladale took its plight to Parliament House on Wednesday as it continues its #StopKalbar campaign, which aims to put a halt to the proposed mineral sands mine at Glenaladale. (S)

Campaign taken to parliament

Mine-free Glenaladale took its #StopKalbar fight to Melbourne's Parliament House on Wednesday, more than 100 people opposed to the mine putting forward their case to the State Government and Minister for Planning, Richard Wynne, as to why the Fingerboards project should not see the light of day.

Parliament steps were covered in bright orange as a petition with 4500 signatures was tabled by Greens MP for Brunswick, Tim Read.

"I was greeted by dozens of people

in orange and three wheelbarrows of broccoli and carrots," Mr Read said.

"I was very impressed that they had gathered 4500 signatures and organised this very effective event. I hope the planning minister pays close attention and this mine doesn't go ahead."

Mine proponent, Kalbar Resources, is in the final stages of preparing an Environment Effects Statement (EES) for submission to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and last night discussed some of findings at a community

information evening in Lindenow. (Details to follow in Monday's Advertiser.)

Kalbar chief executive officer, Dr Victor Hugo, is concerned Mine-free Glenaladale has been delivering "misleading" statements, including the number of jobs that could be at risk due to radioactive and highly toxic substances and the percentage of directly impacted landholders.

"The technical studies conducted as part of the EES have determined that the ore, tailings and overburden are not considered radioactive under Victorian or International radiation

regulations. We have also not found levels of metals or other chemicals, which could be considered as "highly toxic substances", Dr Hugo said.

"Whilst Kalbar Resources encourages public discussion and respects the right of community members and groups to voice their opinions about the project, we believe that factual evidence presented through the EES process is a more reliable basis for decision-making than the unsubstantiated claims that are being made by anti-mining interests."



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- The pit will have an average depth of 23m
- Mining is planned to start in 2019

Emu Downs community.

We anticipate that there will be 60 jobs at the mine with further employment by contractors for transport and other services. The Minerals Council of Australia estimates that for every job on a mine, a further two jobs will be created in the local community in the provision of goods and services.

However a comparison with these Western Australian sites against Kalbar's proposal exposes some interesting facts.

MINE	LIFE Years	DEPTH Meters	PROJECT AREA Ha	VEGETATION LOSS Ha	WATER REQUIREMENTS GI/Yr
Fingerboards	20	40	1440	242.7	Up to 5
<u>Yalyalup</u>	4.5-5.5		894		
<u>Wonnerup</u>	4				
<u>Wonnerup Nth</u>	5				
<u>Wonnerup Sth</u>	1.5		165		
<u>Tutenup</u>	5-6	15	232		2.5
<u>Waroona</u>	4		184	21	2
<u>Keysbrook</u>	6.5-8	2-5	1366	182	1.8
<u>Yarloop</u>	1.5		19.7	2.7	
<u>Dardanup</u>	3.5-5	14	301	36.5	1.09







Kalbar Moder...

CROFTON





**Anton family at The Fingerboards, East Gippsland, Vic
1916**

This photo was taken at the intersection of the Dargo-Lindenow and Fernbank-Glenaladale Roads, East Gippsland, Victoria, Australia. David Anton, farmer, stands next to his horses. His wife Flora and possibly their four daughters Bella, Mary, Maud and Dora are seated in the wagon. Grand daughter May sits on Topsy. Grandson Hugh Morrison is seated facing the horses.

Shirley McKenna is heart and soul Glenaladale

Shirley McKenna (nee Wilson) turns 86 this July and for all but her first four months has lived at the same place – her beloved farm next to Moilun Creek at Glenaladale.

Shirley's father moved his family to the property in November 1932. At the time almost all the landholders at Glenaladale ran mixed farms with sheep, cattle, the occasional pig, some cropping and always a milking cow or two. Shirley recalls there were 500 dairy farms between Glenaladale and Maffra in the early days with a van picking up cream once or twice a week (three times in summer) with the skim milk left behind fed to paddy calves.

Despite the lack of irrigation, most small farmers planted a variety of crops, particularly maize, beans and sugar beet.

She remembers during the World War II 'navy beans' being one of the most important crops. These were a type of haricot bean that doesn't lose its value during processing. The crops were purchased by the American Army.

Shirley has always enjoyed the challenges of farm life. A shrewd and resourceful woman, she grew up knowing the satisfaction and reward of hard work.

Her father was a shearer and worked away for six months of the year leaving Shirley, her mother and her sister, Marjorie, to run the farm.

Like so many other youngsters of the time, the farm income was supplemented by money the girls made from trapping and selling rabbits – money Shirley always banked. These skills and determination served her well when her father died unexpectedly of a stroke at the young age of 54, leaving 21-year-old Shirley to manage the farm with her mother (Marjorie had left some years before to work in Melbourne) – a task they performed admirably and independently, only getting outside help in during shearing times.

At the age of 17, Shirley met her husband to be, John McKenna, at the old Glenaladale Post Office (now owned by artist, Tony Power).

John was several years older and had been away to war from the ages of 19 to 23, including serving in New Guinea for four years.

John's family owned a well-known local property on Beverleys Road – 'Larapinta'.

John's own mother had died when he was only 18, and his father, a horse trader who travelled overseas a lot, had bought Larapinta to give his three sons a more stable future.

John and Shirley married when she was 24 and went on to have seven children in 15 years.

A mutual love of farming, hard work and sensible investments saw them increase their holding from the small mixed farm of 175 acres with next to no dairy to a highly productive 850-acre dairy farm, now being managed by their youngest son, Tim.

Shirley observes it took a long time to build up the farm because land at the Glen rarely comes up for sale – once people are there they very seldom want to leave.

The McKennas' first purchase of extra land in 1959 helped them start the transition to dairy farming. They were still milking by hand until 1961 and it was only in 1977 that they sent their first 'milk' away and could consider themselves dairy farmers.

Farm life was satisfying, but seldom easy, and Tim recalls the impact of several extended droughts on his parents and their gratitude to a neighbour, Gordon Hill, who used to let them bring their stock through his paddocks to the creek twice a day for water when theirs had dried out.

The experiences of drought made John McKenna passionate about conserving water, but it wasn't until 1990 that the family was able to put its first big dam on the farm.

This was followed by another four large dams and a good pivot irrigation system that has made dairying so much easier and more efficient than in the earlier days.

John died 15 years ago of liver cancer, leaving a massive gap in the family's lives, but Shirley and Tim continued to farm the property, with Shirley playing an active part in feeding calves, cleaning out the dairy and all sorts of odd jobs until persistent poor health made her slow down last year.

She has the time now to share some of her stories and recollections and spend time with her children and grandchildren. Stories of changing times, of childhood on the farm, school days at Glenaladale, social occasions, droughts and bushfires and transport in the old days.

Though not a keen reader, Shirley is an avid observer of people and can recall almost everyone who has lived in Glenaladale over the past 85 years. Her schooling took place at the Glenaladale School – a tiny, one room weatherboard schoolhouse, set amid the bush further up the Dargo Road and always at risk during fire season.

Most of the children walked to school, although the occasional one was lucky enough to ride a horse.

The school had a history of opening and closing depending on the number of children in the area. The lack of a school bus at the time meant when the school was closed the children had to be taught by correspondence or miss out altogether.

Shirley admits she was never much of a scholar so was not overly upset when the school closed only a few years after she started, when three families left the district, taking their nine children with them.

She was always far happier helping on the farm that stuck in a classroom.

Social life at the Top Glen revolved around tennis and excursions to the caves (Den of Nargun).

Shirley recalls there being three tennis courts in the area, at the Higgins property (Meri Meri), at Waller's Post Office and another at the Glenaladale School. She recalls young



Shirley McKenna's father, William Wilson, and legendary bull, 'Willy'. (RS)

people such as Mary Banks (Schumann) and Jessie Schrader travelling for miles on horseback from Iguana Creek to Meri.

After the day's tennis, Mrs Higgins would give them all tea and they'd set off home again in the dark.

Tennis at the Glen school would often see upwards of 80 people playing and spectating, sharing afternoon tea, a game of cards or the occasional 'hop' afterwards with music provided by Jack Davidson on his piano accordion.

The caves were popular outside Glenaladale and many tourists stopped at Shirley's parents' farm for directions – especially during the war years when fear of invasion led to road signs being removed.

Many of the local families had husbands or sons at war who were recognised in an honour book that was proudly displayed in a glass cabinet beside the chimney place of the old school.

The book disappeared when the school closed, much to the dismay of many of the locals.

Shirley says it was nowhere near as hard to make a living in those days because there wasn't much to spend money on – no power, no phones.

The rates were a pittance and most families grew their own vegetables, milked a cow, made their own butter, killed their own meat and baked their own bread.

For those that weren't so self-sufficient there were regular deliveries of bread and meat to the Glenaladale Post Office.

She recalls old Mr Walker at the post office calling a customer who had commented about his not having a vehicle: "If they all paid like you Mrs xxx, I wouldn't even have a horse and cart!"

Never one for much travel, but none-the-less very independent, Shirley did not get into Bairnsdale often. The family did very well on homegrown meat and vegetables, dairy produce and of course the delicious bread that Shirley continued to make until she was 65.

Very occasionally the family took advantage of the twice weekly deliveries to Waller's Post Office by the Lindenow butcher and baker.

Those who didn't drive the trip to



Shirley McKenna's childhood home, more or less where her current house stands today. (RS)

Bairnsdale depended on getting a ride in a friend's car, or if that wasn't possible, catching Harry Schumann's secondary school bus to Walpa, waiting there while Harry picked up the local children and took them to Bairnsdale, before coming back and collecting the Glenaladale passengers.

It was a short day in town with the process reversed for the afternoon pick up. However, it did give people the chance to catch up on all the latest news while they waited for the bus at Walpa.

The driver of the cream wagon doubled as a local 'shopper' and would often do grocery runs for the Glen people, and according to Shirley, would even be relied on to do such things as buy children's school shoes.

Fire was a constant threat throughout the summer months and Shirley has vivid memories of the 1965 bushfires that started over towards Valencia Creek and tore across East Gippsland before finally being stopped at Bruthen by a change of weather.

Shirley recalls the weeks of anxious waiting after the first fire took off, and then the final holocaust that some say was caused by fire spotting out from a backburn that had been done up towards Cobbanah to try to protect the community.

Fire tankers came from everywhere to help the local community out with most meeting at the Fingerboards to work out a strategy for attack.

According to Shirley, one of the wags got a great laugh from the other volunteers when he roundly stated, "To burn or not to burn, that is the question".

The McKennas lost all their fences and pastures but the house was saved by a dozer line, the tracks of which can still be seen today.

Although impacted by the ash and debris of the 2006 Alpine fires (the house was covered with ash and all the tanks had to be cleaned out) and some earlier fires, it wasn't until the 2014 Glenaladale-Mount Ray fires that the McKennas' property was burnt again, along with so many other properties at Glenaladale, including Larapinta and Meri Meri.

Shirley has kept rainfall records every day for over 65 years and noted the similarity between conditions

leading up to the 2014 and those of 1965 – lush spring growth followed by no rain to speak of for a couple of months in summer.

Like the '65 fires, the threat of the earlier Mr Ray fire loomed large for a couple of weeks, with locals' anxiety and fear about it not having been put out, being realised when it finally broke loose on February 9.

Fortunately for the McKennas, their irrigated paddocks meant the damage was nowhere near as bad as the 1965 fires. Others were nowhere near so lucky with many of Shirley's friends and neighbours losing houses, sheds, yards, machinery, fences, pasture and stock.

Shirley finds it hard to believe that no one died during the fire – there were certainly a few close calls, including three cars of tourists returning from Dargo, who were fortunate enough to be able to get refuge at the McKenna's dairy while the fire raged all around them.

Shirley has seen a lot of changes in her time at the Glen. The power was connected in 1965, and the Dargo road was sealed 35 years ago. The farm is well watered and a picture of productivity.

The school has gone, there's no butcher in Fernbank or Glenaladale and no store at Walpa. You won't find children riding their horses to school or playing hopscotch on the road.

The lower Glen (Iguana Creek) is now the hub of the social life. The old timers still wish the likes of Tom Morrison was around to throw a match around to reduce fuel, and it's still very hard to buy land at the Glen.

When people get there they just done want to leave.

One thing that hasn't changed over the years is Shirley's keen interest in local issues. She has been keeping abreast of the proposed mineral sands mine and cannot understand how anyone could think it is a good idea.

Water, traffic, dust, damage to pastures, loss of community and many other issues concern her.

"I just can't see how it will be any good at all for the people of this area," she said.

"What's the point of a handful of short-term jobs when so much else is likely to be destroyed forever?"



It is no exaggeration to suggest there are major benefits to the local community from this project. The Latrobe Valley has been a significant employer of mining-trained locals for decades through its brown coal mines, however because of their impact on climate change and a government-led clean energy strategy they are being forced to shut down.

With a small population (around 40,000) job losses such as the 1,100 that came after the Hazelwood Brown Coal mine closed in April this year have a big impact. Bishop sees Gippsland as a region that has capacity for

new mining projects and could significantly benefit from new business.

"Kalbar's new project could be a 'partial solution to these issues'. In some ways it is fitting that the Hazelwood Brown Coal mine, could be somewhat replaced by our mine which will produce minerals essential to fighting climate change," explains Bishop.

Kalbar anticipates it could receive a decision from the relevant ministers on the approvals process by the end of 2018, in the meantime the company will be proving up the technical

side of the project and building a test pit to study mineability, and continue providing marketing samples to potential customers.

Instead of processing the ore into finished mineral sands products such as zircon, rutile and ilmenite on site, Kalbar will export heavy mineral concentrate to customers.

There is strong growth in concentrate processing in Asia and the marketing samples from the test pit are part of the off-take/ partnership negotiations.

So as long as Kalbar can ensure the project is given the greenlight from the approvals side, a matter of diligence on its impact and ongoing dialogue with local stakeholders, the project should be in full production by the beginning of 2020.

The next two years will be critical as Kalbar secures the approvals, raises the required capital and reaches production at this globally significant mineral sands deposit.

DAY AT THE FINGERBOARDS

1ST SEPTEMBER 2018

COME BE INSPIRED

- LOCAL PRODUCE
- FLORA TALKS
- EXPLORING HISTORY
- KIDS ACTIVITIES
- KIDS ART 8X10 'INSPIRED BY GLENALADALE' EXHIBITION
(KIDS BRING YOUR WORK ALONG OR CREATE IT ON THE DAY)
- ART WORKSHOPS
 - NATURE SKETCHING (JUST BRING BOOK AND PENCILS)
 - PHOTOGRAPHY (BRING CAMERA OR SMARTPHONE)
 - WATERCOLOUR

FREE ENTRY

10-3PM @ THE FARM NEAR THE FINGERBOARD SIGN (FOLLOW THE ARROWS)



A band of Glenaladale Landcare Group volunteers planted 300 shrubs at the Fingerboards on the Dargo Road yesterday morning. The Fingerboards are well known as a stopping off point for travellers, and in 2016 the Glenaladale Emergency Management Group constructed a shelter complete with information board to inform the public of attractions and events happening within the area. The next event planned for the district will be held on Sunday, August 20, at 2pm when a local history event will be held at Fernbank and the Landcarers invite the community along to the informal get-together in the Fernbank Hall to listen to local members of the Fernbank and district area and tell the gathering how it was in years gone by. PICTURED: Julie Webb, Tony Power, Sue Mills and Steve Mills. K962-2



Eva Banks and Astrid Rose busy planting. K962-9

Cultural Heritage findings in Mitchell River National Park



A rock shelter located on Gunaikurnai country has been revealed to contain highly significant cultural heritage deposits dating back many thousands of years, before the height of the last Ice Age.

The shelter is situated in the Mitchell River National Park and has not previously been recognised to hold any archaeological evidence.

The discovery was made as part of a long-term study by Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) in partnership with the Monash University Indigenous Studies Centre at Monash University, and the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage (CABAH), with findings recently published in Australia's leading archaeology journal – *Australian Archaeology*.

"Identifying evidence of animal and plant remnants can tell us about who was around over a long period of time; it helps to tell the broader story of the changing environmental landscape over many thousands of years," RAP manager at GLaWAC, Russell Mullett, said.

"Our aim is to map and investigate cultural places using archaeology and palaeoecology to fill in details of the cultural story of the Mitchell River National

"This information will help tell the story, and the significance, of Gunaikurnai country both for GLaWAC and the broader community."

"These results contribute to a better understanding of the Park as a cultural landscape and demonstrate the success of respectful partnership-based research with Traditional Owners," RAP assessment technical specialist at GLaWAC, Joanna Freslov, said.

"Archaeological research can be a fundamental tool in understanding relationships in past landscapes and managing places within Country."

Mitchell River National Park in East Gippsland is one of 10 parks and reserves jointly managed by GLaWAC, representing the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners, and Parks Victoria.

While it is widely recognised that members of the Gunaikurnai community have deep ancestral, spiritual and broader cultural connections with the Mitchell River landscape, less than one per cent of the national park has been surveyed for cultural sites.

This study reveals that cultural deposits ranging from before the last Ice Age to very recent times are present in rock shelters within the park.

Excavated remnants provide an insight into what the landscape used to look like with evidence of an array of

locally extinct mammals found, including the Tasmanian pademelon and the long-tailed mouse, which are both now confined to Tasmania.

The bones of Australian bass fished 850 years ago together with stone artefacts that likely originated from the Mt Hotham/Dargo area help to draw a picture of the traditional practices that the Gunaikurnai used to sustain the land for thousands of years.

The study provides clear evidence of a long period of cultural occupation and indicates the significance of the Mitchell River National Park to the Gunaikurnai community.

"Archaeology in the 21st Century has changed from one directed by outsiders wanting to find out about deep-time Aboriginal history, to community-driven and coordinated partnership research. It is an absolute privilege to be invited to help research the stories of Gunaikurnai Country," Professor Bruno David, archaeologist, Monash University and CABAH, said.

"When done at its best, archaeology works for, and with, the communities whose (hi)stories are being researched. And we all learn from each other."

Many more such deposits of past cultural activities in Gunaikurnai country are likely to exist, even if today nothing can be seen on the shelter floors.

... within the Mitchell River



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