



PRESS RELEASE
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CHAC PURCHASE LAND AT NUNGU/WEST POINT

**WITH THE HELP OF INDIGENOUS LAND AND SEA CORPORATION
- MAKING WAY FOR IMPORTANT CULTURAL RECONNECTION**

The Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation (CHAC) is excited to share the news of their recent purchase of land in Peerapper Country, located at the significant West Point on the state's Northwest Coast. This purchase has been made possible through the support of the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC). "I would like to personally thank the ILSC for their involvement and ongoing support. I would also like to thank the CHAC Board of Directors for their foresight and tenacity in moving forward with this purchase for our community. Additionally, I'd like to express my gratitude to Many Rivers and their support and guidance throughout the entire process. It truly was a collective effort and success," says Peter Benson, CHAC General Manager

"I would like to personally thank the ILSC for their involvement and ongoing support.
- Peter Benson

The purchased land spans approximately 262 acres and is bordered entirely by the West Point State Reserve. "This purchase was a rare opportunity for CHAC, being one of the few freehold lands in or around the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area," says Peter. The land lies adjacent to the Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape, a culturally rich area of deep significance. It encompasses the histories, stories, and evidence of the 12 Tribes that held their ancestral homes in this space. Of particular significance is the proximity of the land to Nungu/West Point. "This is such an important and highly culturally significant area for the Aboriginal people in the Northwest," says Selina Maguire-Colgrave, Chairperson of CHAC. This area was the ancestral home of the Peerapper Tribe, and within a few kilometres of the land lies a village site with identifiable large hut depressions and cultural living sites, including stone tools.

CHAC frequently visits the West Point public areas with school groups and cultural tours due to the density of cultural sites and the deep cultural significance this Country holds.

CHAC has long desired a deeper connection to Country through the ability to care for and manage it. This land purchase will facilitate that reconnection. The community will be able to engage in caring practices, and the Youth will be empowered through continuous opportunities to connect. "As a Board, we are simply the caretakers of the organisation at a point in time. Every decision we make keeps our future generations at the forefront of our minds, and that's exactly what we are doing with this purchase," says Selina.

"This is such an important and highly culturally significant area for the Aboriginal people in the Northwest,
- Selina Maguire-Colgrave

In the future, CHAC envisions hosting cultural camps for the community, youth, justice prevention, mental health support, and much more. "The purchase of this land will enable CHAC's programs to be enhanced and expanded. This will ultimately become an invaluable asset for the entire community. We envision the space remaining wild and untouched, yet with the necessary facilities to host groups," says Peter. The land could also potentially facilitate ranger programs or provide a space for upskilling staff and community members in land management. "CHAC wanted and needed a place on Country that ALL local Aboriginal people could use to practice culture," says Selina. With the inception of our new business arm, Tarkiner, this land presents a multi-beneficial opportunity. It could serve as a location for the next logical step in Tarkiner's progression, potentially hosting the bottling plant for its First Nations kelp fertiliser product (which is harvested at Nungu/West Point and processed in a local site across from this land).

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Ultimately, following from the recent success of tarkiner, by acquiring this privately-owned land facilitates the next phase for true self-determination in our community. Enabling us to manage our land, participate in the country of our ancestors, and harness this site to create wealth and empower new growth is an opportunity that is insurmountable.

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- Selina Maguire-Colgrave

We also believe that by collaborating with the ILSC to purchase this land, we are making a powerful statement about empowerment. It signals to our community that we are being heard, understood, and, most importantly, that we matter. Our culture matters, and our ability to connect to Country matters. The ILSC has provided a meaningful avenue for custodianship, which represents real opportunity for prosperity and connection within our community. Furthermore, we hope that this success will empower all Aboriginal communities across Australia. We are all one, and we want all communities to know that they matter, and their culture is powerful.



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