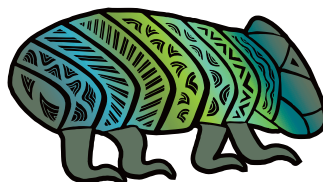


# BUSINESS CAPABILITY STATEMENT

Ngarga Warendj, sharing Kulin  
First Nations stories and culture.



MICK HARDING

**ngarga  
warendj**  
DANCING WOMBAT



**Ngarga Warendj** – (Dancing Wombat) produces high quality contemporary Indigenous Art, using designs based on traditional symbols from South-East Australia.

# Ngarga Warendj

Ngarga Warendj – (Dancing Wombat) produces high quality contemporary Indigenous Art, using designs based on traditional symbols from South-East Australia.

The highly experienced team in Mick and Nicole Harding create and supply a range of products including gift lines and fine art, which can be suitable for the home, office or as unique corporate gifts. The business creates bespoke pieces suitable for a wide range of projects, some of which typically include the application of Logos, Reconciliation Action Plans, Strategic Plans and Public Art installations.

The business was launched in 2005 and has transitioned to the formation of a company early in 2020. The aim for founders Mick and Nicole was to leave a legacy for their children and community by providing quality, culturally accurate products and services.

*'It is important for us to build relationships with our clients based on cultural understanding, trust and reliability, Our symbols. Our stories. Our country.'*

Aboriginal art in Victoria is unique in its symbolism. It links with stories and songlines like fingers reaching out to other areas of Australia. When Mick creates something, he expresses his cultural integrity, being respectful of interpretation of culture and shares his story as a Taungwurrung Gulinj (Aboriginal man from my traditional country).

*"We are the first peoples of this land and have an ongoing responsibility to keep our culture alive and relevant in our current society. We belong to this land"*

# Our Team

## Mick Harding

Mick is a proud Taungurung man, dedicated to protecting and reinvigorating culture within his community. He is actively involved in coordinating workshops to promote Aboriginal culture through his art and storytelling. He has a Masters of Fine Art.



Mick has over 30 years experience in cultural heritage management and has served on a wide amount of Boards, Committees and Councils.

### Current Positions:

- Current board member of Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TL&WC),
- Member of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council
- Member of the Parks Victoria Aboriginal Engagement Committee,
- Member of Indigenous Architecture + Design Victoria [IADV].
- Member of Right People for Country Committee (RP4C)

### Previous Positions:

- Previous Chairperson & Deputy Chairperson of the Taungurung Land and Waters Council & Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (TCAC),
- First TL&WC representative on the Board of the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations,
- Member of the Koorie Heritage Trust Board
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Board
- Native Title Services Victoria/Miriambiak Board
- Mt Buller/Mt Stirling Alpine Resorts Management Board
- Chair of the Right People for Country Steering Committee
- Co-Chair of the Victorian Aboriginal Treaty Working Group

## Nicole Harding

Nicole is the other half of the Ngarga Warendj business that manages the production and distribution of Mick's artwork through clients and retailers Australia wide.



Nicole's role as Business Manager includes the facilitation of digital maintenance and promotion, marketing and communications through various touch points and the processing of accounts and finance, which ensure the team is well positioned to deliver on client requests.

Over thirty years in the retail/wholesale sectors have provided Nicole with a highly sought after skill set to manage the business operations and facilitate a range of requests. In addition to this, Nicole has worked in the University sector for over twenty years and brings a wealth of administration knowledge to Ngarga Warendj's strong value proposition.

# Services

## Giftware

Ngarga Warendj produces high quality art, with all designs based on traditional symbols from South-East Australia. Corporate gifts are one of our specialities.

Among our products are wooden artefacts made from raw timber to the final individually designed product. All items come with an individual card that provides an insight into the artist, the design and the story behind the artwork. We also have a wide range of giftware available.

The Ngarga Warendj product range is sold through retail and wholesale channels. Retail partners include; Koorie Heritage Trust, National Museum, Phillip Island Nature Park and many other retailers throughout Australia.

## Artwork

Ngarga Warendj works with clients to create artwork suitable for specific projects, which includes;

- Reconciliation Action Plans,
- Strategic Plans and
- Public Art installations,
- Logos & Branding,
- Wood carving from small to large projects,
- Drawing/painting original artworks and Trophies.



Ngarga Warendj Gum Leaves Range of Products with Alperstein Designs.



Ngarga Warendj Gum Leaves Artwork After Shave Balm Soap & Body Wash.



Ngarga Warendj Gum Leaves Artwork on Leather Computer Satchel.



Some of the Ngarga Warendj Lapel Pins in our ever expanding range.

## Bespoke Installations

The Ngarga Warendj team have worked with numerous corporate clients before providing artwork and products for their specific requirements. Examples of this include; BP Australia to create art for their reconciliation action plan and a redgum table with the same artwork on it for their head office.

Other artwork creations include work for government and non-government entities, for example - Artwork for the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll. Ngarga Warendj has been creating gifts since the honour roll's inception, for the annual awards ceremony.

In 2019, the team created a 5.5m long wood artwork using their laser machine that has been incorporated into the walls of the new building at the Sunshine Skills Hub at Victoria University Polytechnic. This architectural aspect of using art is something that we wish to expand upon further.

Ngarga Warendj have a long-standing relationship and licencing agreement with a company called Alperstein Designs, as their only Victorian Aboriginal artist.

They use our designs for a range of items including ceramics, home wares and men's body care items. These items are sold around Australia in retail outlets and have helped to provide Ngarga Warendj brand awareness within this market.





Laser Etched Artwork on Spotted Gum at Victoria University Polytechnic Sunshine Skills Hub.



Skylight and surrounds artwork at Victoria University College of Health & Biomedicine at Sunshine Hospital.



Series of Benches with Bunjil creation story Artwork Made from redgum timber, reclaimed from the Goulburn River wetlands in Mitchelton Aboriginal Art Gallery at Mitchelton Winery.



**Above:** Service Stream Indigenous Inclusion logo.

**Left:** ISTH (International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis) 2019 Conference Logo.

**Below Left:** Bunjil Malgarr (Shield) in Australian Red Cedar.

**Below:** Camphor Laurel Board with Ancestors Gum Leaf Design.



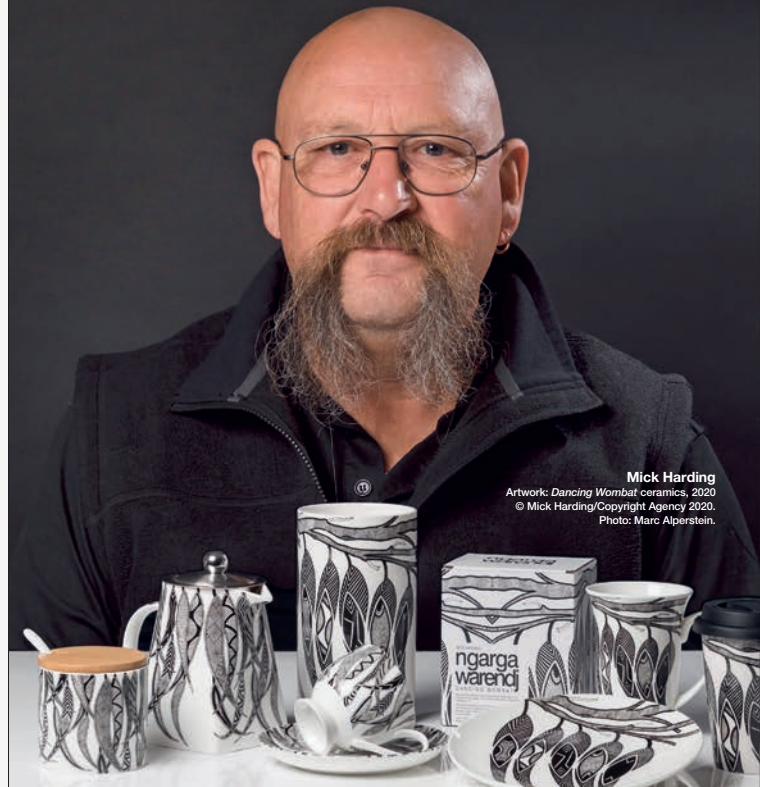
**Right:** Our Art is Our Lifeline Indigenous Art Code Campaign August 2020

**Below:** Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll Artwork

**Below Bottom:** Adding artwork to Redgum Coffee Table for BP using Reconciliation Action Plan we created.



# OUR ART IS OUR LIFELINE



**Mick Harding**  
Artwork: *Dancing Wombat* ceramics, 2020  
© Mick Harding/Copyright Agency 2020.  
Photo: Marc Alperstein.

**Buying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art ethically will help artists, communities and the world's oldest living culture through a crisis that's far from over.**

To ensure artists and communities are paid fairly and transparently, look for art centres, galleries and licensed product retailers who are members of the Indigenous Art Code. Find out more at [indigenousartcode.org](http://indigenousartcode.org)



#ourartisourlifeline



Artwork: Ngarga Warendj Dancing Wombat ceramics, 2020  
© Mick Harding/Copyright Agency 2020. Photo: Alperstein Designs.

# Our Process

## Initial Consultation

1

The Ngarga Warendj Team will organise a time to meet with the client to discuss job needs and ascertain the best method of approach. This session is also designed to provide Mick our primary artist, the details he needs to formulate a concept.

## Artwork Creation

3

Depending on the chosen art form, Mick will then develop the artwork map in stages with updates provided to the client to show how the piece is taking form and to also mitigate any risks that might be present so changes can be made.

## Package

5

The team will then package the artwork up ready for shipping and installation. Ngarga Warendj is familiar with different packaging needs and will typically consult with the client to meet requirements.

## Accreditation

7

The artworks produced by Ngarga Warendj are original pieces that Mick has created for licencing and he seeks to be sufficiently accredited where possible but to also communicate his story and that of his people where possible near or associated to the artwork.

## Concept Development

2

From the initial consultation, Mick will typically create a visual outline of what he interprets from the brief for consideration. Once approved the concept is then put into production. This is also used to identify any limitations or possibilities and manage expectations.

## Refinement

4

Once the shell of the artwork has been developed and the client is happy with the direction and construction process, refinements are applied to enhance through the use of applicable materials to fit the environment it is destined to occupy.

## Application

6

Ngarga Warandj will typically work with third parties should the piece require professional installation. Otherwise it will provide the piece with instructions on safe installation.

# Clients



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# Memberships & Affiliations



# Testimonials

## Western Water RAP Committee

*"Mick Harding, owner of Ngarga Warendj supplied excellent artwork which became the basis of our Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan. This striking artwork was not only the centrepiece of our launch event, it has now become a symbol of Western Water's commitment to reconciliation. With Mick's approval, we now use his artwork on our email signatures and it features on all collateral related to our Reconciliation Action Plan. The artwork itself is framed proudly in our Head Office, a reminder to all visitors of Western Water's commitment to reconciliation and our fruitful collaboration with Aboriginal suppliers."*

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## Sue Anderson

Management Consultant | Design Sprint Facilitation

*"Mick Harding provides a clear inspiration to his industry through the passion that he demonstrates in getting Indigenous Arts and business elevated in awareness and quality. Not only is Mick a very talented individual his personable ways make doing business easy. Mick shows strong commercial accumen supported by clear values and principles."*

## Sharon David

Office Manager | Active Weighing Solutions

*"Mick's creations are second to none. His workmanship, creativity integrity, experience and reliability all stem from his deep connections to his culture, his work and his family."*

*"At Koorie Night Market Mick was one of the artists I could count on to be on-time with consistently high quality art. He was always ready to lend a hand or some well timed advice. He is a pleasure to work with and has become, over time, a good friend."*

*"I highly recommend Mick for anyone looking for exceptional quality individual art or gifts."*

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## Anthony Rodaughan

College Principal | Kurnai College

*"Mick is a creative Koorie man whose art work and whose advocacy of Koorie people have won him respect across Victoria."*

## Tom Mosby

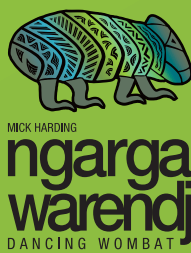
Chief Executive Officer | Koorie Heritage Trust



*"shopKOORIE at the Koorie Heritage Trust, is the retail arm of our organisation. At shopKOORIE, we provide an authentic and unique retail experience. At shopKOORIE, The majority of our stock are designed and/or crafted in South East Australia by our Koorie artists and craftspeople as well as our broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities who call the South East of Australia home. Our shop is an integrated part of our educational experience. It is another opportunity enabling our visitors to learn of the uniqueness of South East Australian Aboriginal peoples, cultures and communities through art, craft and design. We make a significant contribution to improving the outcomes for South East Australian Aboriginal communities by developing and improving the knowledge, understanding, appreciation and practice of Indigenous arts."*

*"Our product range and display reflects Koorie peoples and communities as diverse, contemporary and strong moving forward into the 21st century with confidence and ambition but at the same time grounded in a 60,000 year old lived history."*

*"Through their business Ngarga Warendj, Mick and Nicole Harding have been suppliers to shopKOORIE for many years. Their business model which expresses cultural integrity in place and respect for culture, very much reflects how we represent shopKOORIE and our organisation more broadly. The range and quality of their product is also reflected in the popularity with our visitors who are looking for a truly unique and authentic Victorian Aboriginal gift as part of their visit to the Koorie Heritage Trust."*



It is the hope of the Ngarga Warendj team to share some of the Taungurung stories and culture through art and our various forms of expression.

**Ngarga Warendj**

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