



# Bunuru Festival

Caring for our World

Program

# Celebrating Culture

Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Poolgarla Parklands, Kings Park

MAJOR SUPPORTER



# Kaya | Hello



## Danjoo Koorliny Social Impact Summit 2024

“ *My sister once said to me... All we need to do is to have a piece of the path to the future. And that's ours, and we polish that and we hone that, and we place that in the pathway that we are building... As we build that pathway, it changes us as the builders of the path, and it also shapes the destination that we are going to.* ”

*Dr Noel Nannup OAM*

“ *Everything is based on codes.* ”

*Dr Richard Walley OAM*

### Caring for our World

This year our theme is focused on culture. We celebrate the Survival, Resilience and Strength of Aboriginal people in Western Australia. We acknowledge the ancestors, the warriors, the leaders and our families that rose up in adversity.

As diverse Aboriginal peoples from various regions, our culture encompasses a rich tapestry of customs, traditions, and languages, each unique yet interconnected. While we host this event on Whadjuk Noongar Boodja in Boorloo (Perth) we celebrate our shared experiences and distinct customs. With over 500 language groups, our identity is multifaceted, rooted in the Dreaming that unites us. Across Western Australia, our communities, both urban and remote, thrive with a deep connection to land and tradition.

Our cultural practices, passed down through generations, reflect our resilience to demonstrate our continuing connection to country. From songlines mapping our ancestral journeys to communal sharing and seasonal living, our traditions embody our spiritual connection and environmental stewardship. Despite past attempts to erase our culture, we persist in reclaiming and celebrating our heritage, fostering pride and resilience.

Through events like NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week, we share our culture and history, promoting understanding and unity. As we strive for self-determination and economic empowerment, we invite all to join our journey, embracing diversity and inclusion. Through art, storytelling, and evolving mediums, we preserve our heritage and shape our future.

Together, we write the story of our past and future - a narrative of resilience, strength, and shared humanity. **Welcome to our story; it is yours too.**



# Survival

For millennia, our existence has been intertwined with the land, from its turquoise waters to its red dirt and bushland. We've thrived off its abundance, finding sustenance, medicine, and shelter. British colonisation marked the beginning of our struggle. Ignored and marginalised, we faced massacres and oppressive laws. Even as Western Australia matured into a state, our voices remained unheard. The 1905 Aborigines Act epitomised this, granting power to those who sought to erase us. The Stolen Generation furthered this agenda, forcibly assimilating our children into Eurocentric culture.

Despite these trials, we endured. Our resilience shines through generations of trauma and oppression. Today, as we confront our past, we seek healing and reconciliation. We refuse to let history repeat itself. Our survival is not just a tale of endurance; it's a call for unity and collaboration. It's time to move beyond mere survival and embrace a future where Indigenous voices are heard, respected, and empowered.



# Resilience

Resilience is enduring upheaval with steadfastness, embracing grit and rejecting stagnation. Despite historical segregation, where boundaries confined Aboriginal people in Perth, resilience prevailed. It symbolised control, asserting worthlessness, yet amid adversity, resilience emerged.

We, the First Australians, once denied citizenship, now strive for recognition and land rights. Eddie Mabo's tenacity in the land rights movement led to the landmark Mabo case, igniting the Native Title Act. Though proving our enduring connection to land remains arduous, successful determinations illustrate our resilience. Noongar Elders exemplify resilience, selflessly advocating without compensation. Allies joined our struggle, challenging injustice and shaping Western Australia's future.

Despite legislative injustices, our resilience endures, amplified by shared experiences and partnerships. Our journey isn't solitary; it's a collective endeavour where resilience thrives through collaboration. Elders, unwavering in their resilience, inspire us forward. Quitting isn't an option; innovation and collective action pave the way. As we confront challenges, resilience remains our beacon, guiding us toward a reconciled future.

This is our truth, our story - a testament to our strength and commitment to a better tomorrow.

# Strength

In the face of adversity, our resilience shines. Though the journey may seem endless, true strength lies in rejecting complacency and embracing positive change. As a people, we've honed our strength through diverse means, from ancestral survival tactics to navigating cultural shifts. Colonisation inflicted profound hardships, from disease to cultural erasure, yet we persevere, confronting intergenerational trauma and systemic racism.

Historic milestones, like the 1967 referendum, mark progress, but challenges persist just two centuries post-colonisation. Our Elders embody unyielding resilience, guiding us with wisdom and grace. Political activism and advocacy drive change, exemplified by the long struggle for recognition and repatriation.

Government acknowledgment and apologies, notably in 2008, signify steps toward reconciliation. The Uluru Statement from the Heart voices our collective aspirations for a treaty and truth-telling. Indigenous leaders, past and present, alongside allies, shape our journey. Recent milestones, like the South West Native Title Settlement, offer hope for equitable futures.

Our vision embraces accessible healthcare, education, and cultural preservation. Together, we defy stereotypes, inviting all to walk alongside us. Our unity fortifies us, propelling us toward a future of strength and solidarity.



Dr Noel Nannup OAM



Dr Richard Walley OAM



Emeritus Professor Colleen Hayward AM



Carol Innes AM



## Our Movement

Danjoo Koorliny is a large-scale, long-term, systems-change movement designed and led by Aboriginal people to help us walk together towards 2029 (200 years of colonisation in Perth), and beyond.

We are now halfway through our journey towards 2029 and acknowledge all those who have been walking with us so far.

Danjoo Koorliny believe that by elevating Aboriginal culture we will create a better future for everyone. Across our four recognised pillars of environmental, social, economic and culture, fundamental change is needed. The time is right to drive significant change for future generations of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal peoples.

“ *We have a vision set for the next 10 years, and that is to care for everything* ”

Dr Noel Nannup OAM

“ *Nothing like this has ever happened before. This is the thing that can hold Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people together* ”

Carol Innes AM

When we started on this journey, we did not know what we would still encounter. Five years into this initiative we have encountered barriers, obstacles challenges, discomfort, heartache, pain, grief, and loss.

We continued to look toward the big picture. How we can work to influence and work to change systems that are locked, how do we find opportunities and shift barriers that hinder progress for Aboriginal prosperity?

What we learnt from this is that many things will come our way. Obstacles will jump out from many different directions. For us, through this is how we hold together to move forward when many things change in the blink of an eye. How do you bounce back when you feel so much anger and hurt.

We need to look within ourselves and find the inner strength to keep moving forward, and that's what we hope to leave with all of you, that we all have a part to play to make a better life for all.

## Our Vision

# Caring for everything and everyone.

## Our Values

# Strong spirit, open mind, kind hearts.

## Our Principles

- We are an Aboriginal-led movement
- The power of the spirit is never underestimated
- We welcome everyone to join us on this journey
- Respect and trust are built through listening and acting with integrity
- We share and learn together through story, song, dance and art
- Our relationships are founded on friendship and grow with love
- By co-designing improvement across policy, systems, funding, programs and practice we will create sustainable change and achieve long-term social impact.

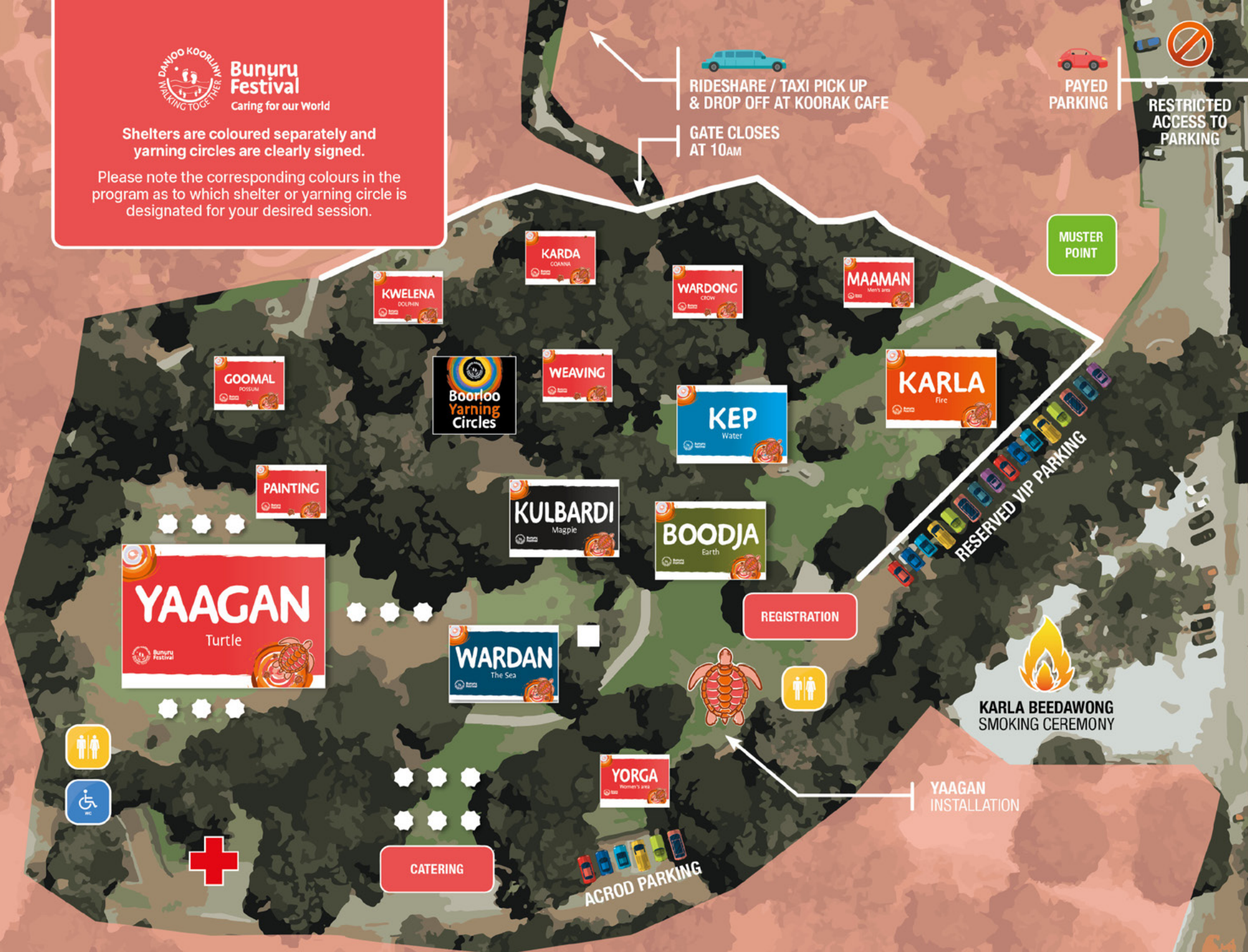


# Bunuru Festival

Caring for our World

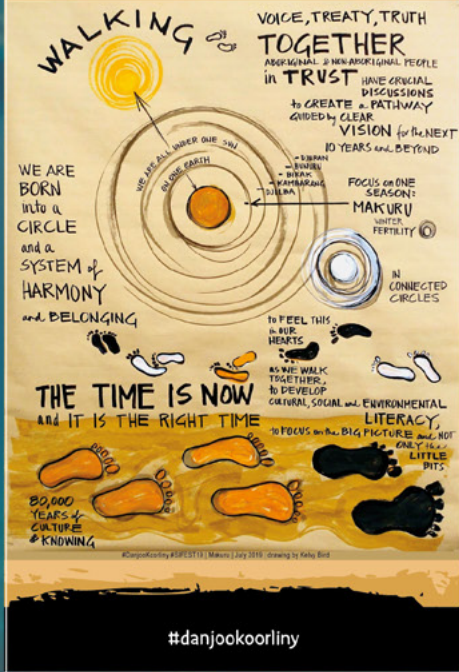
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Please note the corresponding colours in the program as to which shelter or yarning circle is designated for your desired session.





## Danjoo Koorliny



## Our Bunuru Festival 2024 and the festival theme of Culture: Survival, Resilience, Strength and Celebration lead us to honour Yaagan (turtle).

Yaagan is intrinsically linked with kep (water), reminding us of the importance of water to Danjoo Koorliny's journey towards 2029 and beyond. As we walk together towards the commemoration of WA's bicentenary, our journey is symbolised not as a straight line but as the Derbal Yerrigan (Swan River), heading towards Walyalup (Fremantle).

Yaagan resides in both salt water and fresh water, connecting all of us across WA and its many tributaries and estuaries.

Our Bunuru festival is celebrating Yaagan. We honour Yaagan as a food and medicine source for Aboriginal people, and for its other multiple purposes.

In a contemporary sense, we still honour Yaagan for everything it has been and always will be.



## Summit MC's



### Donna Oxenham

Donna is a Yamatji woman and a descendant of the Malgana people of Shark Bay in the Northwest of Western Australia. Donna is the Centre Manager for Danjoo Koorliny. Through her various roles, she has worked with Indigenous people, groups and organisations throughout Western Australia and the broader Australian Indigenous community, particularly within the field of arts, history, cultural heritage and native title. Donna is a board member of Screenwest, Venues West and Royal Life Saving WA.



### Emma Garlett

Emma is a regular First Nations legal and business social commentator. She writes weekly opinion columns in print and online for The West Australian. Emma also holds appointments at educational institutions across Australia. She is an Industry Fellow at the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining at the Sustainable Minerals Institute, The University of Queensland; an Adjunct Professor at Federation University where she sits on the Advisory Board of the National Centre for Reconciliation, Truth and Justice; and a sessional legal academic at Curtin Law School. She is a member of both the Law Society of Western Australia's Commercial Law Committee and Indigenous Legal Issues Committee. Emma has presented her legal research to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as at international and domestic conferences. Emma was the first Aboriginal person to graduate from both the Curtin Law School and the Curtin Business School with a double degree in law and commerce.





# BUNURU SOCIAL IMPACT FESTIVAL SUMMIT PROGRAM

## Wednesday 13 March 2024



**Bunuru Festival**  
Caring for our World

LOCATION / SHELTER	TIME	EVENT
'Gija Jumulu' Giant Boab, Kaarta Koomba, Forrest Car Park	6AM	Sunrise Smoking Ceremony
	6:30-8AM	Cultural Walking Tours
Poolgarla Parkland Willong Pavillion, Kulunga Grv, Kings Park	7:30AM	REGISTRATION OPEN
	8AM	Smoking Ceremony   Karla Beedawong
YAAGAN MAIN SHELTER	8:30AM	Welcome To Country
	8:45AM	Housekeeping
	9AM	Introduction to Summit
	9:15AM	Co-Directors Welcome
		<b>SURVIVAL   Honouring Our Elders</b>
	9:35AM	Elders Panel Carol Innes AM - Moderator Elder Ben Taylor AM Elder Liz Hayden Elder Millie Penny AM Yasmin (Jill) Abdullah
	10:15AM	Movement audience participation Rickeeta Walley & Derek Nannup Jr

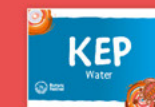
MAIN SHELTER



Shelters are coloured separately and yarning circles are clearly signed.

Please note the corresponding colours in the program as to which shelter or yarning circle is designated for your desired session.

BREAKOUT SHELTERS



YARNING CIRCLES



AREAS

LOCATION / SHELTER	TIME	EVENT
YAAGAN MAIN SHELTER	10:25AM	<b>RESILIENCE</b>   200 years
		<b>Associate Professor Stephen Kinanne - Moderator</b>
		<b>Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service 50 Years   Tracey Brand CEO &amp; Marian Kickett</b>
		<b>Aboriginal Legal Service WA 50 Years   Professor Dennis Egginton AM &amp; Wayne Nannup CEO</b>
		<b>Elders photo setup</b>
	11AM	<b>MORNING TEA</b>   Danjoo Koorliny 5 Year Anniversary Cake
		<b>STRENGTH</b>   Owning our story
	11:25AM	<b>MC introduce Strength upcoming program</b>
	11:30AM	<b>Dr Roma Yibiyung Winmar &amp; Kobi Morrison performance</b>
		<b>Book launch Carol Pettersen OAM</b>
11:45AM	<b>Dr Richard Walley OAM &amp; Emeritus Professor Colleen Hayward AM to introduce Dignitary</b>	
11:50AM	<b>Carol Pettersen OAM reading 'Following the Spirit of the Yirdah Bird'</b>	
	<b>MC to announce workshops, breakout &amp; yarning sessions</b>	
BOODJA	12NOON - 1PM	<b>Workshop</b> Dale Tilbrook   Bush Food



Following the Spirit of the Yirdah Bird



Carol's Story.  
A story of the courage and determination of one woman to combat the tyranny of the White Australia Policy and survive.



**Welcome to my story**  
 This book is part of my journey of personal reconciliation, a journey of healing in many aspects of my life. It has taken me through stages of anger at government policies, sadness of society, elation of the reality and actualisation of a dream and then the final acceptance of my place in society. For me, this story places our family where we belong in the pages of the history of our people and our Country, our place and our land.  
 Our sister Roni Gray Forrest has emerged as our family historian, and to her we owe much of the material that I have called upon to support the telling of the wider story of my family.

Carol Pettersen OAM

LOCATION / SHELTER	TIME	EVENT
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**12NOON START | STRENGTH | BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

30min	30min	30min	60min	30min
YAAGAN MAIN SHELTER	KEP	KARLA	KULBARDI	WARDAN
<b>STRENGTH</b>  Glen Kelly OA Moderator  George Walley, Kankawa Nagarra (Olive Knight)	<b>KEEPING LANGUAGE ALIVE</b>  Rosie Sitorus Moderator  Peter Salmon, Cynthia Garlett, Rachel Mogridge	<b>SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE</b>  Barry Winmar Deputy Mayor City Of Kwinana Moderator  Dr Noel Nannup OAM, Darryl Kickett	<b>MENTAL HEALTH</b>  Daniel Morrison Moderator  Devon Cuimara, Fred Penny	<b>WADJEMUP PROJECT</b>  Dr Richard Walley OAM

**12NOON START | YARNING CIRCLES**

WARDONG	KARDA	KWELENA
12NOON - 1PM	12NOON - 1PM	12NOON - 1PM
<b>Noongar Language Song</b> Wanju - Gina Williams AM & Guy Ghouse	<b>Healthy Country</b> Clifton Bieundurry & David Windsor	<b>Reconciliation Rising</b> Jade Thompson Reconciliation WA

**THESE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES RUN CONCURRENTLY | 9AM - 3PM**

Community Weaving <b>Sharyn Egan</b> and Community Painting <b>Julianne Wade</b>	<b>Yorga</b> Women's Space & <b>Maam</b> Men's Space	<b>Youth Space</b> Boorloo Yarning Circle
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LOCATION / SHELTER	TIME	EVENT
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**12:30PM START | BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

30min	30min	30min	30min
YAAGAN MAIN SHELTER	KEP	KARLA	WARDAN
<p><b>Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company</b> 30 Years</p> <p><b>Dr Richard Walley OAM</b> - Moderator</p> <p><b>Elder Lynette Narkle, David Milroy, Maitland Schnaars</b> Artistic Director</p>	<p><b>Truth and Justice</b></p> <p><b>Dr Hannah McGlade</b> Moderator</p> <p><b>Glenda Kickett</b></p>	<p><b>Sport Level Playing Field</b></p> <p><b>Carol Innes AM</b> Moderator</p> <p><b>Stephen Michael</b>   Football</p> <p><b>Margie Coyne Jones</b>   Basketball</p>	<p><b>Talking business</b></p> <p><b>Lyndsay Bridge</b> Moderator</p> <p><b>Gordon Cole, Johani Marmid, Neville Poelina, Emeritus Professor Colleen Hayward AM</b></p>

**1PM - 2PM LUNCH & REFLECTION TIME**

		MC Introduce afternoon program
YAAGAN TURTLE INSTALLATION	1:30PM - 2PM	<p><b>Lunchtime Music Performers</b></p> <p><b>Olive Knight</b>   Desert Blues</p> <p><b>Lois Olney</b>   Jazz Blues</p> <p><b>Fred Penny</b>   Folk, Country</p>
		MC to introduce Film program & Breakout session
WARDAN	2PM - 4PM	<b>Screen Culture</b>   <b>Dr Noel Nannup OAM</b> Intro Yarlingy Beelie, Mammung and Coolbaroo Club

**THESE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES RUN CONCURRENTLY | 9AM - 3PM**

<p>Community Weaving <b>Sharyn Egan</b> and Community Painting <b>Julianne Wade</b></p>	<p><b>Yorga</b> Women's Space &amp; <b>Maam</b> Men's Space</p>	<p><b>Youth Space</b> Boorloo Yarning Circle</p>
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LOCATION / SHELTER	TIME	EVENT	
<b>2PM START   BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b>			
2PM - 3PM	2PM - 3PM	2PM - 3PM	
KEP	KARLA	KULBARDI	
<b>Truth Telling from the Archives</b> Dr Elfie Shiosaki & Dr Charmaine Papertalk Green	<b>Yokai Healing Pathways</b> Jim Morrison	<b>Mapping Country</b> George Walley Bindjareb Djilba Kaadadjan Bidi yarning circle	
BOODJA	2PM - 3PM	<b>Workshop</b> Elder Vivienne Hansen   Bush Medicine	
<b>2PM START   YARNING CIRCLES</b>			
WARDONG	KARDA	KWELENA	GOOMAL
2PM - 3PM	2PM - 3PM	2PM - 3PM	2PM - 3PM
<b>Magabala Books Good Reads</b> Edith Wright & Associate Professor Stephen Kinanne	<b>Continuing Practice of Making</b> Glenn Iseger-Pilkington Moderator Ilona McGuire, Zali Morgan & Yabini Kickett	<b>Philosophy of Fishing</b> Barbara Hostalek	<b>Aboriginal Cultural Centre</b> Corelee Heesemans
<b>AFTERNOON TEA STARTS AT 3PM</b>			
YAAGAN	3PM - 6PM	<b>MUSIC CELEBRATION</b> David Milroy & Lucky Oceans   Blues, Jazz, Country Elaine Open   Performer Joile.D   Electronic Dance Beni Bjah   Hip Hop <b>Jam session</b> (inclusive of all musicians) <b>End of Day Summary</b>   Emma Garlett and Donna Oxenham <b>Reflection Time</b>   Co-Directors	



# Elders



## Elder Elizabeth Hayden

Elizabeth (Liz) is a Balladong Wilman woman of the Noongar Nation and an Elder who has been involved in the welfare of her people for many years as a State Advisory and a representative for Deaths in Custody and Police Aboriginal Relations. Liz has a Bachelor of Social Work, a Bachelor of Arts and a degree in Media Culture and Creative Arts with a postgrad in that area; all from Curtin University. She has worked in government and non-government services in the area of mental health for more than 25 years promoting and advocating the needs of Aboriginal mental health. Liz is an advocate for the promotion and use of the Noongar language and loves every opportunity to promote it.



## Elder Ben Taylor AM

Ben is a proud Noongar Yued Elder who has campaigned for years against Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, police brutality, homelessness, racism and of course, land rights and sovereignty. He was a leading national voice on the Deaths in Custody Watch Committee and Royal Commission into Deaths in Custody. Uncle Ben's activism took him to South Africa where he sat with Desmond Tutu and spoke about how Australia provided South Africa with the blueprint for Apartheid. He wants to be remembered as someone who fought for justice and his people.



## Elder Lynette Narkle

Lynette, a revered Noongar Nation woman born in 1946, is a highly regarded Indigenous actor, director, mentor, and cultural advisor in the performing arts. With over five decades of experience, she's celebrated nationally and internationally for her contributions to Aboriginal theatre, notably performing in works by playwright Jack Davis. Lynette is a vocal advocate for Indigenous representation, sharing their stories on global stages and mentoring aspiring Indigenous writers, directors, and actors. Serving on various Indigenous boards and as a cultural advisor for Ochre Dance, she's admired by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities for her dedication to fostering talent and preserving cultural heritage.



## Elder Fred Penny

Fred grew up at Wandering Mission and then the Pallotine Mission in the Perth suburb of Rossmoyne. As a singer and songwriter he has been concerned with issues such as injustice and intolerance, especially as they effect Australia's Indigenous people.

Fred has achieved scholastically by gaining his Bachelor of Social Work Degree and is now a social worker and focuses on working in the community and assisting people.





### Elder Olive Knight

Kankawa Nagarra (Olive Knight) is a Walmatjarri Elder, international blues and gospel singer-songwriter, teacher and mentor, human rights advocate, and political activist.

She helped develop the Walmatjarri dictionary in the 1960s, has supported research on understanding, preventing and treating FASD (fetal alcohol spectrum disorders) in the Indigenous community, and continues to raise awareness about alcohol abuse.

From the early days in mission gospel choirs to finding her true voice in country western music, the blues, and rock 'n' roll of the day, Olive's talent as a singer eventually led to collaborations with other artists and performers, many of whom sought her unique voice and ability to translate songs into her traditional language. In 2011, Olive Knight was invited to sing as part of Hugh Jackman's Back on Broadway production.



### Elder Millie Penny AM

Millie is a Noongar Yorga from Pinjarra. Her connection to country is Ballardong Binjurup, Whadjuk and Yamatji while her family connections are Walley, Winmar, Indich and Oweir extended families.

She is an Elder Co-Researcher at Telethon Kids Institute and a Founding Member and former Senior Counsellor with the Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation.

She also undertakes cultural advisor roles with organisations including the Western Australian Council of Social Service and, as a talented Indigenous artist, guides young women in the Noongar Middar Yorga dance group.



### Elder Peter Salmon

Peter was born in 1933 on Maroonah Station, Wurgaja, in the upper Gascoyne region of Western Australia. A Thiinma man, he was raised by a Warriyanga stepfather and a Jiwari grandfather, reflecting the multicultural life of Mantharta (Aboriginal people) before settlers displaced them from Country. A universally respected cattleman, he has lived through near a century of historically significant moments - World War II rationing, the Pilbara strikes, the bomb tests at Montebello Islands, the birth of the land rights movement and the advent of Native Title.

For much of his early life, Nyitagura's work as a stockman took precedence. The 'boss men' were always clear that 'blackfella business' came second, saying nothing of the pressure, both cultural and physical, to speak only English and forget 'blackfella nonsense' like culture and Law. Despite this, Peter kept his knowledge secure in his memory, and has worked since the late 1990s to retrieve it for the demands of the Native Title system, and more recently to preserve and share his Thiinma yirra (language) for his descendants. Now, he is making history himself, following in his beloved Pibi (mother's) footsteps to document, share and grow their yirra. Since 2017, he has been working with Rosie Sitorus, as well as the Bundiyarra - Irra Wangga language centre to record and share his expansive knowledge with his people and the wider world.

Their groundbreaking songwriting project and band, 'Warralgurniya', has been nominated for three WAM Song of the Year awards, winning in 2021 for 'Warri Yungu, Warri Baba', and their most recent collaboration, 'Piyalbajarri: The Boss the Show', funded by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, will bring his incredible story to life on stage.



### Dr Roma Winmar

Dr Roma 'Yibiyung' Winmar, known by many as Nan Roma, is a respected Noongar Elder, and a passionate advocate for Indigenous education, language and arts.

She has extensive language skills and is presently employed as a Noongar language teacher at Western Australia's Moorditj College, and as the Elder-in-Residence at Edith Cowan University. She is also currently on the Board of Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation (SKHKAC), and is a member of the Wirlomin Language and Stories Inc. Cultural Elders Reference Group. Roma was awarded the Barry Hayward Outstanding Achievement Aboriginal Individual Award, 2005. She has delivered sessions at conferences on language such as the Connecting with Aboriginal Languages Conference in 2007, in Hawaii; the World Indigenous Suicide Prevention conference in New Zealand in 2016; and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention conference/World Indigenous Suicide Prevention conference in Perth in 2018. She has a passion for passing on family histories to the next generation through research and storytelling.



### Elder Vivienne Hansen

Vivienne is a Ballardong Wadjuk yorga from the Bibbulmun Nation, or Noongar people, of the south-west of Western Australia. After a childhood of learning about traditional medicine, Vivienne undertook formal training at the Marr Mooditj Foundation and completed Certificate IV in Bush and Western Herbal Medicine. She was also the first Indigenous member of the National Herbalist Association of Australia, and presented at the 7th International Conference on Herbal Medicine in 2010. Vivienne is passionate about Noongar language & culture and engages in opportunities to share her knowledge.



# Speakers



## Bindjareb

The Bindjareb Djiilba Kaadadjan Bidi yarning circle has Noongar Elders and young leaders come together from the Mandurah, Serpentine, Pinjarra, Waroona and Harvey areas to lead in the implementation of the Bindjareb Gabi Wonga and the Bindjareb Djiilba Protection Plan.

“Bindjareb Djiilba Kaadadjan Bidi gatherings enable us to get together just like our old people who walked our country, we are resilient and stronger together for our Wirrin, Boodja and Baalap.

Together, with our partner Aboriginal organisations – Winjan Aboriginal Corporation, Murray Districts Aboriginal Association, Harvey Aboriginal Corporation and Waroona Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Corporation - we are achieving moorditj outcomes for our people and waterways.”



## Barry Winmar

Deputy Mayor | City of Kwinana

Barry is a Whadjuk Noongar man with ties to the Ballardong region, he currently serves as Deputy Mayor of Kwinana. He led the Institute of Indigenous Wellbeing and Sport and managed Winmar Enterprises. Barry contributes to the WA State Government's Aboriginal Cultural Centre Cultural Authority and chairs its steering committee. With 15 years in the WA Police Force, he also held senior policy roles spanning emergency services, corrective services, and Aboriginal advisory services. Additionally, he directed the Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation, holds a Master of Business Administration and Advanced Diploma of Business Management, and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



## Dr Charmaine Papertalk Green

Charmaine is a proud Wajarri, Badimaya and Wilunyu woman of the Yamaji Nation born who was born in Eradu.

A visual artist, author, poet, photographer, storyteller, social science researcher, and academic, she shares her cultural knowledge in many different spheres.

Charmaine has written five books, won several awards including the prestigious Australian Literary Society Gold Medal, and her poetry is studied as part of the primary school curriculum. Involved with the Yamaji Art Centre in Geraldton for over 22 years, she is currently their Chairperson.



## Barbara Hostalek

Barbara was born on Larrakia Country, Barbara is a proud saltwater woman Aboriginal playwright who lives with beautiful Noongar beeljar boodjar. With maternal connections to Yawuru and Gija family groups of Broome and the East Kimberleys as well as throughout Australia. Barb has been writing short plays as a member of Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company's Writer's Group since 2015 with titles such as *Cracked* (2015), *Banned* (2016), *Go Fish* (2017), *Turtle Pool* (2018), *Thirst* (2019), *Perpetuity* (2020), and *Prickly* (2021).





### Clifton Tjapanangka Payirntarri Bieundurry

Traditional and Cultural Fire Officer,  
Western Australia Bushfire Centre of Excellence

Clifton's cultural experience in Aboriginal Lore spans 49 years. An Aboriginal Lore and culture practitioner, Clifton speaks/understands 7 Aboriginal languages. His ability to code-switch allows him to communicate and understand Aboriginal culture at a deeper level.

Clifton has a solid desire to find mutually respectful communication tools, and enhance cultural understanding to achieve the best outcomes in all environments.

Clifton has been deployed on several DFES incidents through the north west of WA where he has used his skills as a kinship system cultural concierge and expert. He has assisted to inform, evacuate and resupply remote Aboriginal communities being impacted by emergencies. Now under the Bushfire Centre of Excellence, Clifton is helping to develop culturally appropriate strategies that build relationships within the Aboriginal and wider community.



### Daniel Morrison

CEO | Wungening Aboriginal Corporation

Daniel is a Noongar/Yamitji man from Perth, Western Australia. He's a family man with a partner and two children. Daniel is currently the Chief Executive Officer at Wungening Aboriginal Corporation based in Perth. He was the recipient of a 2016 NAIDOC Outstanding Achievement Award, and was named one of the '40 under 40' by WA Business News in 2018.



### Dale Tilbrook

Dale is a revered Wardandi Bibbulmun woman hailing from Margaret River and Busselton, boasts extensive expertise in Australian native bush tucker. Co-founder of Maalinup Gallery in Swan Valley since 1998, she passionately shares her ancestral knowledge, garnered from elders and diverse sources. Dale is a dedicated advocate for indigenous culinary traditions, representing the Swan Valley globally. Notably, she showcased Australian native edibles in Turin, Italy, and Singapore, and conducts engaging Bushtucker Masterclasses. Her commitment extends to education, where she collaborates with students of all ages, ensuring the preservation and dissemination of indigenous cultural heritage.



### Cynthia Garlett

Cynthia is a Whadjuk Noongar woman. she grew up on Balladong country,

Kellerberrin, and Northam. Cynthia is 1 of 11 children and completed her schooling in Northam. Cynthia went to work as a nursing assistant at Brookton hospital with the elderly patients.

Her hobbies were netball and basketball. Cynthia met her husband Lyall and married in 1976 where they moved to Kellerberrin where they lived for 10 years. Her husband Lyall worked in the District High School and Cynthia worked as a teacher's aide in the kindergarten.

Cynthia moved to Perth where her husband Lyall went to Mount Lawley teachers' college and completed a teaching degree. Cynthia worked as an ALO at Cyril Jackson Senior High School, then moved to Whickham for 6 months. Cynthia then moved to Narrogin for 4 years where she worked at TAFE with Noongar people.



### Corelee Heesemans

Corelee is a proud Whadjuk Noongar woman with 25 years' experience in the private and government sectors working to improve Aboriginal relationships and Aboriginal wellbeing.

She holds an advanced diploma in Leadership and is currently the Director of Governance and Aboriginal Relationship on the Aboriginal Cultural Centre project at the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

Through her visionary leadership, Corelee continues to drive positive change and contribute significantly to Aboriginal rights and cultural preservation efforts.



# Speakers

continued



**Professor Dennis Eggington AM**

Dennis is a Nyoongar man from the south-west region of Western Australia. He was CEO of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (ALSWA) from 1996 to 2023.

Dennis is an Adjunct Professor of Curtin University's School of Humanities, and the former Chair of Curtin University's Centre for Aboriginal Studies Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

A tireless human rights campaigner, Dennis' efforts have been recognised with numerous awards, including National NAIDOC Person of the Year and the John Curtin Medal. The Aboriginal Legal Service was also awarded a national human rights award under his leadership.



**Darryl Kickett**

Senior Research Fellow | Curtin University

Darryl is a Nyungar-Bibbulmen who grew up near Narrogin, Western Australia. Darryl has a BA degree in Social Science. From the 1970s Darryl worked with Government agencies and Aboriginal services including in the Australian Parliament and with Land Councils, Aboriginal Health and the Curtin Aboriginal Studies Centre. He was on the State Suicide Prevention Committee and the Telethon Kids Institute Aboriginal Research Committee. Darryl was awarded the National NAIDOC Person of the Year Award in 2013. His recent work at Curtin University WA includes the Ancestor Words Archives Project, returning letters written by ancestors to their descendants. As a Senior Research Fellow today in the School of Media, Culture, Arts, and Social Inquiry (MCASI) at Curtin University, Darryl is the project lead for the ARC *Healing Land, Healing People: Novel Nyungar Perspectives* research project.



**Derek Nannup**

Derek is a proud Whadjuk Noongar man who has dedicated his life to strengthening cultural connections for Aboriginal young people. With the permission of his Elders, Derek delivers Noongar workshops in language, dance and leadership. He has worked within schools running cultural programs, as Support Worker for children in care, and is currently employed at the Aboriginal Health Council of WA working in sexual health education. Derek also sits on the Mirrabooka Police District Youth Advisory Group and the Youth Educating Peers Reference group. Derek established the Boorloo Indigenous Youth Yarning Circles, a space where young people can meet monthly to practice traditional healing, discuss culture and community issues.



**David Windsory**

Cultural Fire and Partnership Coordinator, Western Australia Bushfire Centre of Excellence

David's cultural background stems from both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, being from the Kaurareg people of Kirirri island in the Torres Strait.

Having a strong belief that his role will provide many opportunities to engage, develop and be a platform to exchange Cultural knowledge and practices, David is eager to begin building Traditional Owner relationships and partnering with the bushfire sector.

He is especially interested in how future thinking to risk mitigation practices can help support ranger programs to empower a "back on country" approach to keep fuel loads down and maintain Western Australia's unique eco systems for generations to come.





### Edith Wright

Edith Wright (née D'Antoine) is very proud of her Bardi descent. She was born in Broome in 1954 and grew up in Derby, Western Australia. She is married with two sons and seven grandchildren. In 2018 Edith retired from a diverse career in education, which included Teacher's Assistant, classroom teacher, Principal (at Wankatjunka Remote Community School) and District Aboriginal Education Manager. All her roles have focussed on addressing disadvantage and improving education outcomes for Aboriginal children and their families. Edith has published (Full Circle), the story of her mother and maternal grandparents. Her energy has shifted from literacy to literature. She is excited by the growing number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors, illustrators and creators dedicating their talent and time to truth telling the history of race relations between First Nations people and Australia.



### Devon Cuimara

CEO & FOUNDER ABORIGINAL MALES HEALING CENTRE

Ngalak ngaank nitja budjar – This land, our mother. My mother's moort (Family) is the Wadjuk, Balardong moort. My matrilineal kin groups are the Manitjimat (white cockatoo) and the Wardongmat (crow). 'Mat' means 'stock, family, leg'. My people are the Nyungar pamuli, from the Southwest of Western Australia (WA).

My dad's-great-great grandmother is Nancy BANGALAN from the Kepa Kurl Wudjari language group, located at the southern edge of the Nyungar Nation. My dad's-great-great grandmother Mary GINGINA is the Amangu pamuli who are on the Nyungar border on the Southern Yamatji-Amangu, Bundi, and Widi Yamatji side.

He is the son of a father who is the son of a father (my grandfather). So, three generations have used violence. In his family, most men use violence. Most Aboriginal men I know are abusive. I have used violence. However, I was not born violent. I learned aggression. The abuse was normal growing up. Living with violent behaviour in my family was repetitive trauma. Three generations, one violent history.



### George Walley

Mandjoogoordap Dreaming

George is proud Noongar man with cultural connections to Bindjareb, Whadjuk, Wardandi and Wudjari. In George's professional life he has been a primary school teacher, and now works in the health field. George provides cultural tourism experiences through his business Mandjoogoordap Dreaming.

George has over many years been an educator in cultural education and cultural awareness; and is a community resource person in cultural knowledge for schools, government, and non-government organisations in the Mandurah area.

George is part of an Eldership yarning circle, the Bindjareb Djilba Kaadadjan Bidi, that gathers to lead the walking together partnership with water stakeholders to look after the important values of the Djilba, Bilya and Boodja.



### Glenda Kickett

Glenda is a Whadjuk and Ballardong woman from the Bibbulman Noongar Nation.

Glenda is the Program Manager, Aboriginal Children and Families and Therapeutic Services at the Australian Childhood Foundation. She was the Executive Manager at Djooraminda-Centrecare for thirteen years. Glenda has a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Western Australia, a Master of Arts in Indigenous Research and Development from Curtin University and a Doctor of Philosophy through the School of Social Work at the University of Western Australia.

Glenda has served as the Chairperson of NAIDOC Perth Inc. from 2008 until now, is a member of the Noongar Child Protection Council, serves as co-Chair for Social Reinvestment WA, and is a board member for Glass Jars, Shooting Stars Australia, Netball WA and Equus Bonding.



### Dr Elfie Shiosaki

Elfie is a Noongar and Yawuru academic and storyteller who educates communities on human rights through her acclaimed Indigenous storytelling. Since earning her PhD in nation-building in 2015, she focuses on Indigenous advocacy histories, rights understanding, and the role of storytelling in rights discourse. Her work, rooted in critical Indigenous research methodologies, advances decolonial theories, empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agencies in reshaping humanity narratives through cultural diplomacy. As a former Senior Lecturer at UWA and Indigenous Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Curtin University, Elfie's contributions extend to editing First Nations Writing at Westerly, fostering Indigenous storytelling and cultural resilience for First Nations' wellbeing.

# Speakers

continued



## Jade Thompson

Jade is a Wilman Noongar on a mission to help prepare young people for the world and the world for them. With demonstrable history working in reconciliation, education, community and business development, Jade partners with like minded people whom aim to empower through self-determination, and support a future state where the rights of First Nations people are activated to the fullest expression.

She shares knowledge to create culturally safe, accessible and responsive environment programs and practices, and sees education, connection and culture as drivers to the actualisation of potential. Jade is most energised when working with dedicated people, in roles that align her head and heart, to benefit our children, families and communities.



## Dr Hannah McGlade

Hannah is from the Kurin Minang people of Western Australia and her career has focused on justice for Aboriginal people, race discrimination law and practice, Aboriginal women and children, family violence and sexual assault. Her Ph.D book 'Our Greatest Challenge, Aboriginal children and human rights' received the Stanner Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Research. Hannah has been closely involved in advocating for Aboriginal self-determination in child protection and is a member of the Noongar Council for Family Safety and Wellbeing. Hannah is also appointed to the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues as an expert Indigenous peoples member of the Pacific region.



## Gordon Cole

Gordon is a prominent Noongar leader and business operator and is dedicated to empowering Noongar businesses. Former chairperson of the Perth Noongar Regional Council, he has a diverse career spanning business and government roles. Founder of G Cole Consulting and Cole Workwear, Gordon's contributions have been recognised with awards including Business of the Year at the 2013 BHP Billiton NAIDOC Perth Awards and the 2016 Supply Nation award. Passionate about Indigenous Affairs, politics, Noongar language and culture, gardening, health and fitness, women's football coaching, and supporting the West Coast Eagles, Gordon remains committed to fostering success and cultural pride within the Noongar community.



## Lindsay Bridge

Lindsay is from the Gija people of East Kimberley Region, Western Australia. He is Senior Manager, Indigenous Sector Practice (WA, SA & QLD) Infrastructure Advisory (WA) at EY and Graduate of the Australian Rural Leadership Program and Leadership Essentials Program from the WA Public Sector Commission.



## Glen Kelly OAM

Glen is an Aboriginal man of the Wardandi Nyungar people of the South West of Western Australia. Glen is an Environmental Scientist and has almost 30 years of experience in Aboriginal affairs, native title, Aboriginal land management and community development at local, national and international levels.

Glen served as the Chief Executive Officer of the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), the native title representative body for the South West of WA, for nearly a decade. Glen has also worked across Australia on native title agreement making and has assisted a variety of Traditional Owner groups and Government clients achieve strong and sustainable native title outcomes.

In 2019, Glen was awarded West Australian of the Year in the Indigenous category and was appointed as a Member of the National Native Title Tribunal in October 2020.



## Glenn Iseger-Pilkington

Glenn (Nhanda Yamatji and Noongar Peoples/ Dutch/ Scottish) is the manager of Creative Content for the Aboriginal Cultural Centre (Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries). Between 2021 and 2023 he was Curator of Visual Arts at Fremantle Art Centre in Walyalup (Fremantle), Western Australia. Glenn undertook formal art training at the School of Contemporary Art, Edith Cowan University, majoring in printmaking. Over the last 17 years, he has worked within the visual arts sector as an arts development officer, curator, advisor, and advocate for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander artists.



### Yasmin (Jill) Abdullah

Yasmin is a Wudjari woman who has dedicated 40 years to providing specialized support for Aboriginal individuals across various sectors including logistics, mining, academia, and the federal public sector. With roles in management, teaching, recruitment, and mentoring, she focuses on Aboriginal employee retention and cultural competence, delivering professional development training to executives. As a Management Committee Member and Manager for Langford Aboriginal Association (LAA), Jill empowers the Perth community. She honors her late father, George Abdullah, by contributing to projects and sharing historical and family research. Recognised as the 1996 WA NAIDOC and National NAIDOC Scholar of the Year, Jill holds Masters degrees in Social Science and Communication and Cultural Studies.



### Maitland Schnaars

Artistic Director | Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company

Maitland is one of Western Australia's premier Indigenous contemporary theatre artists and the Artistic Director of Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company. He co-founded the international theatre company Corazon de Vaca and has performed in and co-created a number of their productions, both in Spain and Perth. He has recently performed in productions for Black Swan and a co-production for Queensland Theatre and Griffin Theatre. He has worked with many independent theatre companies in Perth and continues to work with artists from various backgrounds such as dance, multimedia and music. In 2016 he won the Performing Arts WA Best Actor award. Most recently he has appeared in the sell-out productions of *Hecate* and *York*. He is also a member of Wadumbah Noongar Dance Group.



### Marian Kickett

Marian was one of the first staff members to join Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service (DYHS) in 1970. She has been actively involved in Aboriginal community work, including health, housing, and education, since the 1970s. Marian was a foundation member of Kulilla Association, Northern Aboriginal Progress Association and Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation. She has been a keynote speaker at conferences and recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of DYHS, where she spoke about the early struggles and history of services for Noongar people in Perth and fringe camps around Perth.



### Jim Morrison

Jim, a Minang-Goreng Noongar Elder and Traditional Custodian of WA's southern coast, who imparts strong Aboriginal values to future generations. For over five decades, he's championed pivotal roles in Aboriginal community advancement, advocating for Stolen Generations' rights, child protection, mental health, justice, and suicide issues. He pushes for equity in culturally safe services, elder care, prison reforms, and trauma-informed healing programs. Awarded the John Curtin Medal and involved in conservation efforts, he chairs the WA Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation, co-founded Reconciliation WA, and manages Yokai Healing Our Spirit. As host of Moorditj Mag on RTR FM92.1, he shares Aboriginal current affairs. Recognised as a Perth NAIDOC Elder 2023 and recipient of City of Perth's Invasion Day Senior Citizen Award.



### Johani Mamid

Johani is a proud Yawuru, Karrajari, Nyul Nyul, Bardi man, born and raised in Broome.

Besides leading tours for Mabu Buru Tours, he is also a Crocodile Wrangler and Tour Guide at the Malcolm Douglas Crocodile Park.

Prior to the development of Mabu Buru Tours, he was a Yawuru Country Manager Coordinator. The Yawuru Country Managers are the Indigenous ranger group that are employed by Nyamba Buru Yawuru to look after Yawuru country on behalf of the Yawuru Nation, conducting a variety of on-country work which includes flora and fauna surveying and monitoring and research in both land and sea.



### Mervyn Nick Abraham

Mervyn (Nick) is the owner and lead guide at Warrang-Bridil (meaning 'Enlighten to Acknowledge' in Nyoongar language). Mervyn provides cultural awareness sessions and presentations to suite a variety of audiences that can be customised to suit the theme or desire goals with an interesting and thought provoking presentation from an Aboriginal cultural perspective.

Nick is a family man with direct connection to the Whadjuk, Yued, Ballardong, Wilmen, Wardandi and Binjerup People and Country. Nick was born and grew-up in Perth and spent his teenage years in and around the Native reserves of the Great Southern region of Western Australia, before permanently returning to Perth in 1979. Using his personal and cultural networks Nick was a primary consultant who engaged extensively with Noongar communities regarding the South West Native Title Settlement and Indigenous Land Use Agreements toward a successful outcome.

# Speakers

continued



## Neville Poelina

Neville is a Nyikina man from the Kimberley. Neville was born in Derby WA and is the proud father of five children. He has lived in the Kimberley all his life and holds a wealth of knowledge of the region. He has traditional ties right throughout the Kimberley and Aboriginal culture and society is his life. Starting off selling bait and fishing trips to Broome's visitors at 6 years of age, Neville has been involved in tourism all of his life. He has been operating his own business Uptuyu Adventures since 2002.

Neville was called back to his traditional lands to establish the Oongkalkada Wilderness Camp and Indigenous Training Centre where he now bases his business operations. Neville is passionate about sharing cultural insights in the spectacular ever-changing Kimberley.

His diverse employment background is based around positions of responsibility in the areas of pearling, diving and training and more recently as a tourism and Indigenous culture consultant.



## Margaret Coyne

Margie is from Menang country with connection to Yamatji through her grandmother. She is a qualified level 1 referee, level 1 coach and Referee Coach and passionate about developing a referee academy through Binar. She strongly believes in giving back to the sport and community and giving everyone a place to belong where they can be included and have a chance to meet people, make friends, learn, grow and connect with others.



## Rachel Mogridge

Education Officer | Noongar Boodjar Language Cultural Aboriginal Corporation

Rachael is a Yoowat and Wilman Noongar woman from the southwest of Western Australia, living most of her life in Boorloo (Perth) with her four children.

Rachael has a long history in Education and worked for numerous Primary Schools as an Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer (AIEO), from 2006 to 2018.

Rachael's career in Education led her to become a Co-Founder and Director of the Noongar playgroup at Westminster Primary School in 2007 with Elder Oriel Green, when her youngest daughter was 6 months old. Since 2019 Rachael has been employed with the Noongar Boodjar Language Cultural Aboriginal Corporation where she started as a receptionist, learning new skills in Administration, however, always maintaining her natural ability for cultural teaching.



## Rickeeta Walley

Rickeeta is a proud Nyoongar woman, living and working on Whadjuk country. She is a Cultural Educator and Researcher within her family business, Aboriginal Productions & Promotions. Her client base includes early learning institutions, primary and secondary students, tertiary education institutions, and corporate and community bodies.

She also works with Kings Park Education as the Aboriginal Education Officer, delivering curriculum-based cultural education programs and Professional Development training for teaching staff. Rickeeta is very passionate about cultural knowledge and language preservation. She believes it is Aboriginal people's right to hold their knowledge, and everyone's responsibility to learn, engage with and understand the ancient culture and country on which they live.



## Rosie Sitorus

Rosie is a linguist and musician, has dedicated her career to language preservation, focusing on the Midwest, Gascoyne, and Pilbara regions since 2012. She recently relocated to Karratha to collaborate with the Puutu Kuntj Kurrama and Pinikura Peoples (PKKP), aiding in the establishment of their language program. With a passion for linguistic diversity and cultural heritage, Rosie's work embodies a commitment to indigenous language revitalisation, empowering communities to reclaim and preserve their linguistic identities. Through her efforts, she fosters a deeper connection to heritage and fosters linguistic resilience among indigenous peoples.



## Sharyn Egan

Sharyn is a Nyoongar woman, embarked on her artistic journey at 37, later earning a Diploma of Fine Arts from Claremont School of Art in 1998, followed by an Associate Degree in Contemporary Aboriginal Art from Curtin University in 2000, and a Bachelor of Arts in 2001. Awarded a Certificate VI in Training and Education in 2011, she draws inspiration from her Nyoongar heritage in her multidisciplinary works, spanning painting, sculpture, and woven forms. Exploring themes of personal and cultural connection to Nyoongar Boodja (Country), her art serves as a reminder of humanity's role as custodians of the natural world, incorporating natural materials like balga resin.

'In considering different points of view of the earth, the cosmos and the oceans, we need to recognise our obligation to nurture an awareness of our impact on the earth. In Aboriginal culture, everything is connected and equal – all life comes from the same atoms. Humans are not above nature. We live alongside simultaneous beauty and devastation'. Sharyn Egan, 2020.



## Stephen Michael

Stephen is widely considered to be one of the greatest ever players from Western Australia and arguably the greatest in the history of the South Fremantle Football Club.

Throughout his life, Stephen has demonstrated great values and integrity and the perfect role model to have a foundation honouring his name.

A proud Aboriginal man, Stephen was born in Wagin, WA and grew up in the southern Wheatbelt town of Kojonup before making his way to the South Fremantle Football Club where he became a legend.



## Stephen Kinnane

Steve has been an active researcher and writer for 35 years. He has worked on community-based cultural heritage and development projects and lectured in Indigenous Studies, Sustainability and Australian History. His outputs encompass creative non-fiction and academic analysis published as books, book chapters, journal articles and audiovisual documentaries. He has completed numerous evidence-based research reports for community-based non-government organisations, government and statutory authorities. Steve is a Marda Marda from Miriwoong Country in the East Kimberley, and retains strong personal, familial, and professional connections to the Kimberley Region, and Noongar country in the South West of WA.



## Tracey Brand

Chief Executive Officer | Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service

Tracey is a long-time advocate for Aboriginal health and social support in remote communities. A proud descendant of the Eastern Arrernte people, Tracey has over 20 years of executive management experience in the Aboriginal community controlled and public sectors. Prior to being appointed chief executive of Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service Aboriginal Corporation in April 2020, she was the general manager of the health services division at one of the largest Aboriginal Community Controlled health services, the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, where she has held the role since 2014. She has also worked in a range of senior executive positions including in local government and the Northern Territory Government Department of the Chief Minister.



## Wayne Nannup CEO

CEO | Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd (ALSWA)

Wayne has family connections to Western Australia's South West, Pilbara, Goldfields, Mid-West and Kimberley regions. Wayne brings a wealth of experience to his role and a strong commitment to the complex issues facing First Nations Peoples within the justice system.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Laws from Murdoch University in 2009 and admitted to practice law in 2010, Wayne's 2023 appointment as CEO saw his return to the organisation where he commenced his legal career within ALSWA's Criminal Law Unit over a decade ago.

The former CEO of the Aboriginal Housing Recovery Centre Limited and the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, Wayne is also a Director of Noongar Mia Mia and Company Director of IronMerge.

# Artists



## Beni Bjah

Noongar hip-hop artist Beni Bjah made history in 2016, becoming the first-ever Indigenous artist to win the West Australian Music (WAM) Song Of The Year Award. He collaborated with First Nations dance company Marrugeku to create 'This Is Australia', an Australian take on Childish Gambino's provocative 2018 hit 'This Is America' and a blistering tirade against First Nations incarceration, deaths in custody and Australia's treatment of asylum seekers. Beni Bjah is a member of the West Australian hip-hop group, Downsyste.



## Jolie.D

Jolie.D is a Perth-grown Noongar singer-songwriter and producer with a passion for electronic music. Over the past decade, she has been privately honing her skills in electronic production, and now she is ready to share her secrets with the world. With her unique blend of talents, Jolie.D is poised to make a significant impact on the music scene. Above all, she wants to emphasize that dance music will always remain vibrant and timeless.



## Olman Walley

Olman is a Wilman, Balardong, Binjareb, Wadjuk Nyoongar, and an Owner and Director of Boorloo Aboriginal Cultural Experiences.

He was raised in the Wilman (Wheatbelt) region and was taught Noongar culture by his family and elders. Olman's Nyoongar name is Chitty Chitty (Willy Wagtail) and he loves to share knowledge of this wonderful ancient culture through stories, history, music and dance.



## Elaine Open

Elaine Open, the drag alter ego of Noongar performer Levi Weston (Ballardong, Bibulman), reigns as a first nations Noongar Queen. From hosting drag bingo, trivia, and shows across WA's red dirt to co-producing stage plays and hosting Drag brunch at Mabu Mabu in Narm as part of the internationally acclaimed first nations YIRRAMBOI festival, Elaine captivates audiences with her vibrant presence.

Prepare to be dazzled as the First Nation's Drag Queen graces stages, pubs, festivals, and shows near you, leaving a trail of awe and admiration in her wake.



## David Milroy

David is a Palyku man whose country is in the Pilbara. David was the first Artistic Director of Yirra Yaakin Aboriginal Theatre and in 2002 received a Myer Award for his contribution to the development of indigenous theatre. David was a guest Director of the American Playwrights Conference in 2002 and has attended the Australian National Playwrights Conference on a number of occasions as a writer and Director. David received the 2004 Patrick White Award and the 2005 Equity Guild Award for his play *Windmill Baby* and a Deadly Award for his music in *Windmill Baby*. David was also a finalist in the Helpmann Awards and received two Equity Guild Awards in 2011 for his play *Waltzing the Wilarra*. David has had a number of works commissioned and presented at WAAPA. These include *Rodeo Moon* and *Crowbones and Carnivores*. *Swine River* and *Killer Kane*. David most recent work was *Panawathi Girl* in the 2022 Perth International Arts Festival.



## Ilona McGuire

Ilona is a Bibbulmun Noongar and Kungarakan conceptual artist. Historical truth-telling and cultural protocol informs her writing, performance, and visual work that encourage audience self-awareness of their place in our country's shared histories. Following the 2023 national referendum results, Ilona is redirecting the focus of her work to reclaim time and space through rest and joy as an act of resistance. Strengthening cultural identity and self-determination are essential to achieve our liberation. Through social practice, Ilona creates space for celebration, yarning, healing and progress for Mob.





### Yabini Kickett

Yabini is a descendant of the Kickett and Hayden families of the Bibulmun/Nyoongar Nation. Having grown up with an artist and poet mother, as well as a photographer and land conservationist father, her practice is heavily rooted in language, endemic plants, family, totemic relations and found objects from country. Currently Yabini is experimenting with textiles, and found objects. The resulting works are often about place and the solastalgia associated with the destruction of country.



### Gina Williams AM & Guy Ghouse

Six-time winners at the West Australian Music (WAM) awards, Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse use their music and performances to highlight one of the most beautiful and rare languages on the planet; the Noongar language of the southern corner of Western Australia.

Gina and Guy bring a fresh, modern take on ancient traditions; merging natural acoustic instruments and poignant stories with incredible vocals.



### Zali Morgan

Zali is a Whadjuk, Ballardong & Wilman Noongar woman currently based in Boorloo. Zali has a deep passion for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and artists, particularly Noongar art and artists. She has worked closely with private and institutional collections, with a keen interest in decolonising practices. Zali's practice spans Curating, Creative Writing, printmaking and sculpture. In her printmaking, Zali looks at iconic buildings and spaces within Boorloo and the Noongar region and attempts to expose the history and significance of the sites for Noongar people.



### Lois Olney

Lois is a talented Ngarluma artist, actress, and jazz singer from Roebourne. Lois' love for singing and music began at a young age, and she started performing when she was 13. She was introduced to Raymond Long, Shirley Bassey's musical director in the 1960s, who trained her in opera. However, Lois found her inspiration in Billie Holiday's music, which inspired her to pursue a career in jazz. Lois recorded a CD of jazz standards and originals, *Red Earth - Blue Sky*, and acted in the ABC Telemovie *The Coolbaroo Club*. Lois continues to sing jazz and blues, and paints.



### Kobi Morrison

Kobi is a Bibulmun Noongar man who was born and raised in Perth. He is the Artist in Residence at Bold Park Community School, the Community Liaison at Propel Youth Arts WA and the Coordinator of Madjtil Moorna, which brings Indigenous and non-Indigenous people together to sing in Noongar. He is also part of multiple Aboriginal advisory bodies.

Kobi spends his spare time playing music, and being involved in various music projects such as Koorlong, Koondarm, Madjtil Moorna and Endeavourous. These are projects that earned him the 2018 Perth NAIDOC Youth of the Year award.



### Julianne Wade

Whadjuk/Tainui Indigenous Artist

Julianne is a Whadjuk Perth born artist on her Mother's side, who grew up in New Zealand in Ngaruawahia Tainui with her Father's side. She is a visual artist and remains connected to her culture through painting and to family and community connections through the West Australian Aboriginal Leadership Institute. She has a passion for making a change through art for indigenous and non-indigenous people. Her purpose is to highlight that all land is a traditional country which our ancestors have practised culture on for thousands of years and share knowledge about the Dreamtime stories of the land. In her collective canvas workshops and public art are a contemporary continuation of traditional culture and knowledge.



## Caring for our World





“

This is the story of us,  
the First People of Western Australia.

”

It is our journey from many paths,  
and now we walk together with you,  
in unity for a better future.

*Emma Garlett*



We thank those who have supported our movement to date



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KEY SUPPORTERS



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