



SHARINGSTORIES FOUNDATION ANNUAL REVIEW 2014



Annual Review

An exciting year of growth, collaboration and opportunity



Members of the Liya-dhālinymirr Djambarrpuyŋu clan nation dancing the Hermit Crab dance. The Hermit Crab is responsible for cleaning up and changing the area; the fire burning from eating the turtle meat is covered up.

Report by the Chief Executive Officer

SharingStories Foundation (SSF) has had a very exciting year! 2014 brought an inspiring year of growth and opportunity for the Foundation. The year has shown a major increase in support for programs and tools to assist Indigenous communities in the holding and sharing of Indigenous language and culture.

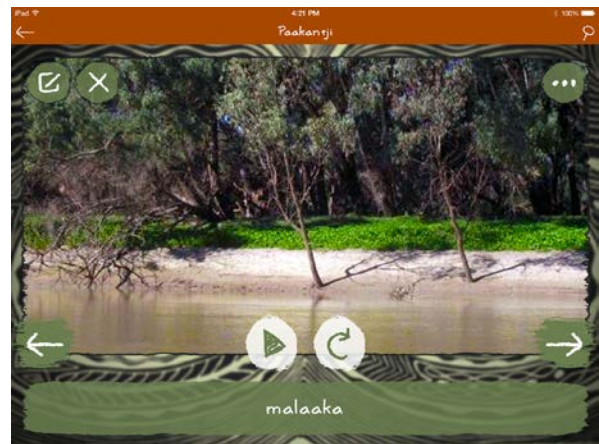
Inaugural Statewide Digital Storytelling Program in Victoria

At the end of 2013, SharingStories Foundation was awarded a Pro-Active Grant from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation to develop a proposal to deliver SSF's Digital Storytelling Program in communities across Victoria. In consultation with the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc (VAEAI), SharingStories developed a successful proposal and received a Major Innovation Grant to deliver the Digital Storytelling Program in five Language and Culture Nests in Victoria: Shepparton, Mildura, Swan Hill, Heywood and Thornbury. The two-year program will enable delivery of workshops in each of these communities; each of the Language and Culture Nests shares resources with communities in their region, providing access to locally, culturally-relevant materials by thousands of students and teachers. Select material will be made available nationally by Education Services Australia, which has a long-standing relationship with Sharing Stories, reaching 250,000 teachers and 3.5 million students nationally.

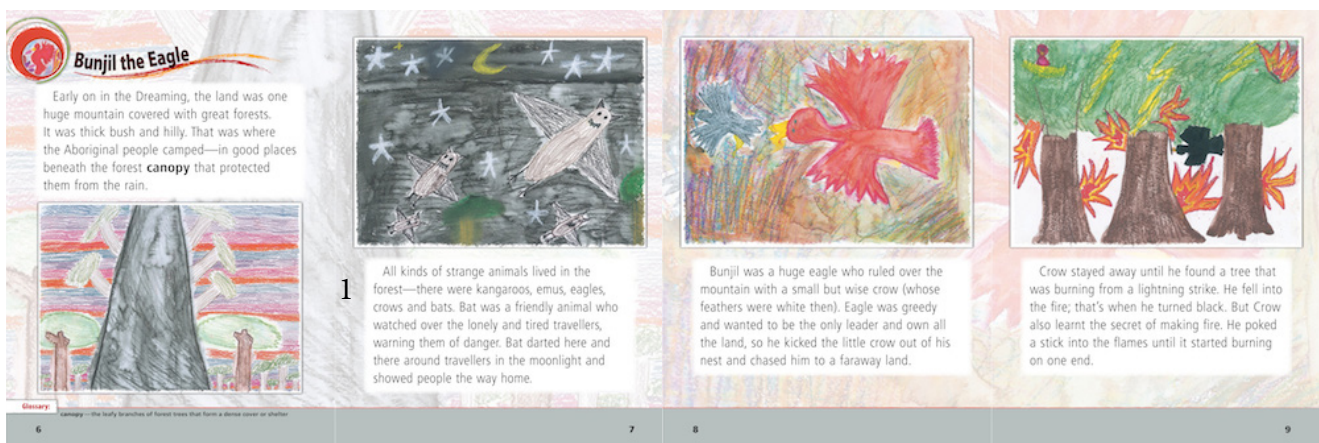
SharingStories secures funding to develop tools for a 'Digital Dillybag'.

SSF will be extending the resources in its digital storytelling program to include tools from its rapidly growing 'digital dillybag.' These tools are designed to support SSF's integrated approach to cultural maintenance and include;

- The Language Lightbox, funded by the Commonwealth Indigenous Language Service with support from the McLean Foundation. The tool is being developed with the Paakantji Community and the Project Factory, with the support of Save the Children Australia, Wilcannia Central School and The Paakantji Language Circle.



- An interactive, digital book template, funded by Gandel Philanthropy. The first interactive digital book, also funded by Gandel Philanthropy, will be created in collaboration with the Jaara community, transforming 'Bunjil The Eagle', part of the award-winning Sharing Our Stories books series, into an engaging digital book. The template will then be used by other communities to develop community interactive, digital books that hold and share their stories.



- Integrating initial Cultural Mapping of Ancestral Dreaming Track stories, the Digital Storytelling Workshops, Language Lightbox and interactive, digital books into programs to be held with the Paakantji, (Wilcannia, NSW), Adnyamathanha (Flinders) and Nyikina Managala (West Kimberley) communities, funded by the Australia Council for the Arts and Genographic Legacy Fund (USA).

Ancestral Dreaming Tracks underway

With the support of the Eldon and Anne Foote Trust, administered by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, SharingStories will document in FY2015 the Ancestral Dreaming Tracks of 'Gandjalala - The Sugar Bag Hunter' with Roy Wunyumbi Ashley, Nākarrma (Mark) Guyula, and the Wagilak clan of North East Arnhem Land. The Wales Family Foundation provided support to begin recording another Ancestral Dreaming Track in North East Arnhem Land, 'Mukarr - Green Turtle Hunters', with Liya-dhālinymirr Elder, Senior Cultural Custodian and translator (SharingStories Board Member) Nākarrma (Mark) Guyula, along with a number of important Senior Cultural Custodians, Song Men and Women and extended community members.



'When we sing the songs and perform the ceremonials passed down by the Mukarr Hunters, we become the hunters, we become the turtle and the Creation Ancestors and we are strong, and vital, because of the knowledge of who we are.' Narkarrma Mark Guyula

International Collaboration

SSF connected with respected galleries in India regarding the hosting of a touring exhibition, incorporating media produced by SSF in collaboration with ATSI communities in Australia. This resulted in the Australia-India Council granting SSF funding to develop an exhibit of material created by communities participating in SharingStories programs, alongside a body of photographic work produced across a number of years with partner communities by SSF Founder and CEO Liz Thompson. This body of work will be designed and curated for public installation, featuring an innovative multimedia digital display, and will travel to a number of galleries throughout India. It will also form part of the installation for a metropolitan and regional Australian gallery tour commencing in 2017. It is intended that aspects of this exhibition will find a home in permanent installations across the country.

SharingStories Donors' Circle

SharingStories launched the SharingStories Donor Circle for people contributing \$5000 or more in each of 3 consecutive years, to support the work of the Foundation. Members of the Donors Circle will be invited to join SharingStories and Indigenous Elders on Country to learn more about culture, country and SharingStories' work.

Staff and new website

Brynnie Goodwill, a former lawyer who has worked in senior executive and Board roles with social ventures, building their capacity, came on board this year. This generated a dramatic increase in our funding and funding partnerships during FY 2014, enabling SSF to do more work, with more communities, particularly in relation to the Ancestral Mapping and the Digital Storytelling Programs.

Taz Miller, with a degree in audio engineering and extensive business management experience, began working as a volunteer, assisting with web management and sound expertise on Country. Taz provided wonderful support over the year and has now commenced full-time work with the organisation, significantly increasing SSF's capacity.

SSF upgraded the Digital Story telling portal and launched the Foundation's new website:
www.sharingstoriesfoundation.org

Special thanks to our Chair Kristi Mansfield who, after three fantastic years at the helm of SSF, has stepped down from the Board. Kristi guided SharingStories Foundation from its inception three years ago to today and provided wonderful inspiration, support and passion for our work.

Liz Thompson, CEO

From the Chair

SSF has moved from its establishment phase to diversification and expansion of its programs in communities across Australia. This year's exponential growth has been made possible by the considerable support offered by our donors.

Thanks to the generosity of Gandel Philanthropy and the Commonwealth Indigenous Language Service, SSF is creating and implementing an interactive, digital book template and Language Maintenance Tool. Both will form part of SSF's 'digital dilly bag' and support a comprehensive, integrated approach to cultural maintenance. Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has supported the planning of a Victorian statewide initiative to support the development of self-representational media by Koorie youth in the school context. SSF has also received wonderful support from the Eldon and Anne Foote Trust administered by Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and the Wales Trust which enables the documentation of two important Ancestral Dreaming Tracks, 'Gandjalala – The Sugar Bag Hunter' and 'Mukarr– The Green Turtle Hunters', both in North East Arnhem Land.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Liz for her extraordinary leadership of the Foundation and its programs. Her guidance has allowed the Foundation to flourish and will see that communities are continued to be supported in the cultural holding process.

Many thanks to the communities who inspire us and to our colleagues, for the time and effort devoted by our volunteers and friends, the gracious assistance from our supporters, all of whom have made this work possible.

Kristi Mansfield, Chair