



**SHARINGSTORIES**  
FOUNDATION  
2018







We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

# CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Since 2012, SharingStories has been conducting programs on country and in classrooms in communities across Australia. The last year has been pivotal for us as an organisation. 2018 has been a true turning point in the life of the organisation as we have thought deeply and strategically about our future and about how best we can work with and for Indigenous communities to hold and share their cultural knowledge. In February 2018, we conducted a Theory of Change exercise, led by Indigenous consultant Jason Eades of Social Ventures Australia. As a result, we have clarified our target impact as well as the activities, outputs and outcomes that will be measured through ongoing evaluation.

A key activity for us and the communities with whom we work is to 'share' culturally rich media that partner communities have produced in collaboration with SharingStories Foundation, often housed in dynamic, interactive multi-touch books. As a result, Deloitte Digital recently helped us develop a plan for the marketing and distribution of products. Our priority is the multi-touch book outcomes in schools. There is a pressing need for authentic,

high quality teaching resources that will enable teachers to meet the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures cross-curriculum priority. SharingStories, partner communities and delivery partners are very excited that two of these books together with comprehensive teacher resources are being trialed in Victorian schools in early 2019.

We are proud co-chairs of SharingStories. Our board is equally comprised of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians which enables us to listen and learn from one another as our work traverses both worlds. Our staff are highly accomplished and committed to our strategic plan. Given the resources, we can build on what has already been an extraordinary contribution in this space. Our work is community led, innovative and highly effective. At the heart of the foundation are the Indigenous communities that give so much to the work – its lifeblood, its passion, its timelessness, its continuity. To them we owe so much and thank them for walking with us on our journey and always knowing the way.

**Tim Goodwin and Amanda Milledge**  
Co-Chairs SharingStories Foundation

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our vision for improving the lives and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is our key priority. Over the past six years we have built strong relationships with our partner communities, focusing on upholding cultural protocols, building capacity and providing support for Indigenous communities across Australia. We have recorded and shared cultural stories and language in new ways to help protect, maintain and grow cultural knowledge and languages.

This year SharingStories Foundation has worked with 11 communities using a range of mediums to support the development of vibrant, engaging interpretations of living cultural heritage across multiple language groups.

We are excited to announce the planned release of four interactive multi-touch books in mid-2019, in partnership with communities across Australia. This project is the culmination of many years' work involving multiple community members and delivery partners. These books bring cultural stories to life through community produced animations, soundscapes, artwork and interactive maps.

Community language workers, linguists and senior language speakers have worked closely with SharingStories Foundation to ensure that wherever possible stories are published in Language and English.

Interactive icons on the pages of the multi-touch books allow users the choice of reading or listening to the stories in English or the language of its custodians.

Senior cultural custodians involved in our programs are working with our curriculum consultant to map these beautiful books to the Australian Curriculum cross-curriculum priority Area - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures. The outcome, a series of innovative Education Packages designed to support teachers, will be trialled in schools across Australia in Term 1 of 2019 and released mid-year.

These comprehensive, authentic resources will help teachers deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures effectively, helping to build culturally-safe schools for Indigenous young people.

We look forward to commencing our partnership with The Song Room in 2019. Through their existing ARTS:LIVE platform we will share some of these exciting resources with teachers in 8000 classrooms across the country.

We would like to thank the communities in which we work, the wonderful facilitators who implement our programs, all the delivery partners and funders who have been a part of our journey this year. We will continue to support Indigenous people to maintain and transfer cultural knowledge and languages through vibrant storytelling, innovative platforms and tools. We are excited to begin working with partner communities to share selected outcomes with all Australians.

# SHARING STORIES FOUNDATION SNAPSHOT

11

communities

were involved in programs involving skills transfer, production of vibrant interpretations of important cultural stories and language work.

10

people

across 8 communities were engaged in a long term mentoring process, training as language workers and media producers with a focus on community engagement.

231

young people

were involved in cultural learning lesson plans averaging 32 hours each.

66

Elders /  
senior community  
Members

were involved in our programs.

We have delivered

158

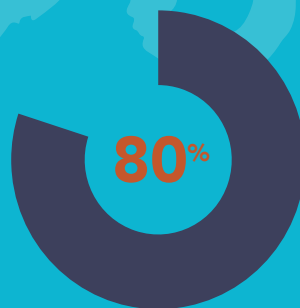
hours of Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander  
perspective lesson  
plans in the classroom.

Over the past 12 months, Sharing Stories has worked with 35 delivery partners in addition to contractors. These 35 partners have supported our programs by providing local knowledge, in-kind support and volunteering and enabled us to extend our programs well beyond the funded capacity.

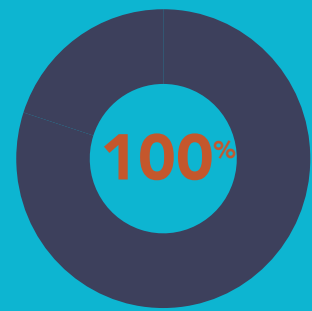
## OUR FINDINGS



of teachers believe there is a stronger connection to culture and country for students following our programs.



of Indigenous students said their connection with Elders was strengthened after involvement in our programs.



of students said their involvement in our programs increased their knowledge of culture.

# OUR PEOPLE



Daen Sansbury Smith is an audio engineer/ producer/ artist of the Nharangga (SA) and Trawoolaway (Tas) nations. He began work with us in October 2017 and has become a key member of the executive team.

Working as the Victorian Production Manager, Daen has focused on production with our partner communities in Victoria, collaborating with key cultural custodians in the recording, collating and interpreting of cultural knowledge and language. He has worked closely with communities to record stories in language, engage local community groups in programs, assist teachers with delivery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives lesson plans, and support the curation and production of a series of Koorie multi-touch books housing important cultural stories.

In addition to his Victorian role, Daen has worked as an audio facilitator on remote programs on Gija and Ngaanaytjarra country.

“This work has come at a perfect time for me. My passion has always been in telling stories from my community. In my role at Sharing Stories Foundation I’ve travelled, had individuals and communities open up to me, built on my family’s connections/relationships throughout Victoria, connected with other communities hundreds, sometimes thousands of kilometres away and have been able to learn about these communities parallel to my own.

I love the fact we are giving young people tools and skills to interpret oral histories told by community leaders and story keepers, that we are creating lesson plans and resources for schools who are starving for information and truth, guided by local communities and working respectfully within the environment - all this by sharing stories with modern technologies.”

- Daen Sansbury Smith

"We work with Indigenous communities and provide them with tools to create vibrant interpretations of cultural stories for current and future generations."



### Ngaanyatjarra Country

We recently completed work with the Ngaanyatjarra community in the Gibson Desert, WA. This program involved students at Warburton Ranges Campus, Ngaanyatjarra Lands School learning the story of the Wati Kutjarra and Tjintjintji at Nyirnyirrpungu (The Two Men and the Bat People at Nyirnyirrpungu).

The story was explored on-country with senior custodians Betty, Philip and Debra

West and then interpreted in the classroom by students using green screen, animation and sound recording/design.

This was the first time we had worked with community to animate traditional paintings, the wonderful art work of Betty West at the Tjulyuru Regional Arts Gallery and her five-panel mural at the school campus created the foundation of this program.



## Adnyamathanha Country Same Like Yesterday

We collaborated with women of the Adnyamathanha community to create the Same Like Yesterday story. This story is about six senior Adnyamathanha women and two teenage girls travelling through the Flinders Ranges in the footsteps of two women from the Dreamtime.

Our artists and facilitators spent two months on country working with cultural custodians along with teenagers and school groups to record and interpret 'Virikuthatlyia and Other Stories from Our Country' through a range of new media. Combining stories, drawings, animations and audio recordings these stories are woven together in a magical and immersive audio-visual world.

The final work will open in May at Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute as part of the 2019 DreamBIG Children's Festival.



## Adnyamathanha Country Yulu the Kingfisher Man

We had previously worked with community members to record and interpret the story of *Yulu the Kingfisher Man* and transferred digital literacy skills to support the recreation of the story of Yulu in a multi-touch book.

Building on existing work, a deep cultural mapping process was led this year by senior Adnyamathanha cultural custodian Cliff Coulthard and young Adnyamathanha leader Arthur Brady.

Travelling along the ancestral dreaming track of Yulu, custodians mapped important sites and transferred and recorded cultural knowledge, showing where story lives on country. The cultural mapping outcomes will be housed in a fully interactive map accessible through the existing bilingual multi-touch book.

"My son Arthur was involved in the Yulu's Coal Story Project. It has benefited him a lot, he's much more happy and confident and he is much more culturally aware now. I'm forty, my generation lost most of our culture and stories. For some reason it just jumped us, so now, because of this, I'm learning from my son who's only eighteen."

Teresa Brady  
REPORT 2018

## iBOOKS, INTERACTIVE PANELS & TRAVEL APPS

“One of our key projects is iBook development, working with communities to create vibrant, dynamic interpretations of living cultural heritage, versions of which can be shared with all Australians.”

### Gija Country

We continued to work with the Gija community on the multi-touch book interpretation of *The Frog and Brolga*, a major Gija creation story. Following the delivery of a Digital Storytelling Program for young people in 2017, *SharingStories* and the Gija community focused on recording teachings at eight important sites on Gija country in 2018. Upper primary students at Purnululu School were involved in a project that examined the many ways they feel connected to culture. Students chose to express this cultural connection through various mediums, including video, painting, music and photography. This

year also saw extensive language work undertaken with Gija language workers and linguists. In 2020, a partnership between *SharingStories*, the Gija Community and the Western Australian museum will result in an interactive panel to be displayed in the Origins Gallery at the Western Australian Museum.

The panel will showcase Gija stories, cultural knowledge, important sites, language, artwork, animations and soundscapes through an exciting interactive experience.

“They might fight for this country if they know the stories of this place.” – Senior Gija Cultural Custodian Shirley Drill

### Nyikina Country

We finalised *The Woonyoomboo* multi-touch book on Nyikina country telling the important Nyikina creation story of *Woonyoomboo*, the Night Heron. This book initiated and overseen by senior cultural custodians Annie Nayina Milgin and Darragah Watson will be one of two books trialled in 2019. We reviewed the completed work with key stakeholders who were unanimously delighted with the outcomes. Annie particularly was congratulated for her commitment to leading this extraordinary project over the past six years. The *Woonyoomboo*

project began in 2013. It has enabled 182 hours of intergenerational transmission of knowledge from Elders to young people, 248 hours of language learning, 131 hours of mentee training and 76 hours of skill development for community participants. The resulting multi-touch book, available with Nyikina and English audio narration and text, is over 80 pages long and contains over 20 animations. In an interactive map, readers can explore 24 important cultural sites from the air through drone videography while listening to the songs *Woonyoomboo* left at each of these places.

### Lake Mungo and Willandra Lakes region

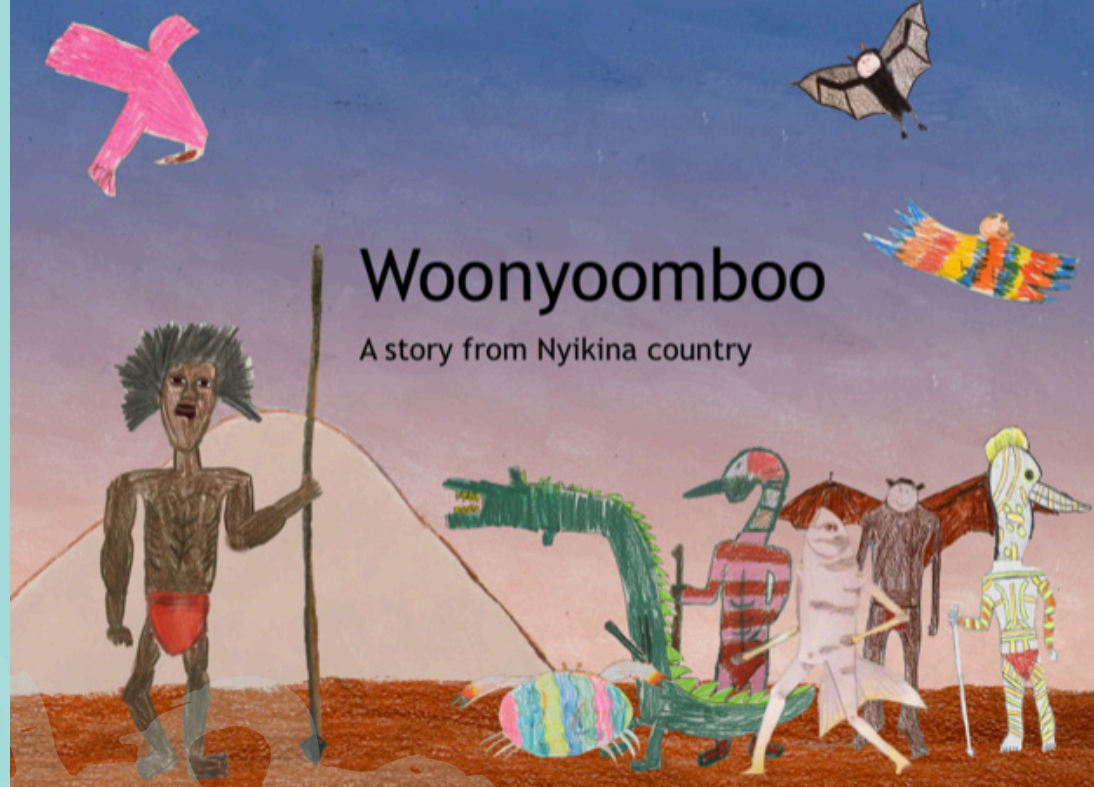
With funding from the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area, we continue to work with the three tribal groups, Paakantji, Mutthi Mutthi and Ngilyampaa. We have been working through their archived media to help create a systematic catalogue. This process builds capacity for community to access archives and ensures media identified by communities can be included in projects planned in collaboration with *SharingStories* over the next three years. These future projects include multi-touch book publication, as well as development of a travel app and an

interactive panel to be housed at the Lake Mungo Visitors Centre.

After securing funding from the Screenrights Cultural Fund this year, we have commenced work on the long-planned travel app in partnership with the three tribal groups. When completed, it will deliver geo-locatable content on country and three virtual reality stories relating to the Lake Mungo region. This app's architecture will serve as a prototype that can be repurposed with other community partners across Australia.

“This travel app's architecture will serve as a prototype that can be repurposed with other community partners across Australia.”





# Woonyoomboo

A story from Nyikina country

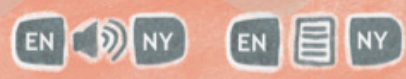
## OUR iBOOK IN PICTURES



All the multi touch books being created with SharingStories partner communities open with a Welcome to Country by senior cultural custodians, welcoming readers to country on which the story lives.

An instruction page explains how to move between Nyikina and English audio and text versions of the story, how to utilise phonetic guides, access songs and animations and locate the story on country.

Use the EN and NK buttons to change the language and the text and to hear the story read in both English and Nyikina.



*Ngoowiy yin-diny banookoo yin-diny jirra  
kinyjin-nanil-ji walalakoo. "Jajoo  
Warrngara"*

Press coloured words to hear their pronunciation.

If you see a map icon in the bottom left, press it to see a photo of the location in the story.

Try it now!

Explore the songs of Nyikina-Mangala country as they relate to Woonyoomboo language by clicking on this icon





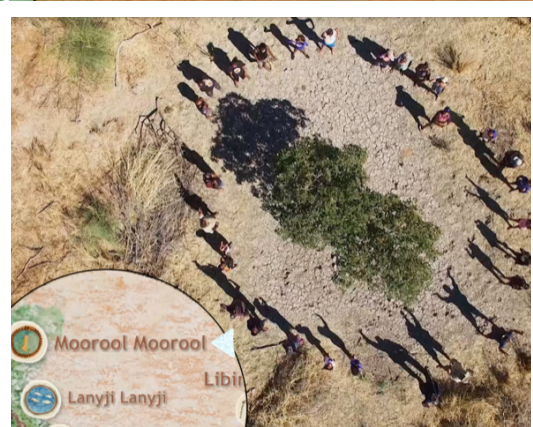
Click on the map icon featured throughout the books 77 pages to see the country that relates to that particular part of the story.

A comprehensive interactive map houses songs, drone, video, photographs and drawings relating to important sites on the Woonyoomboo ancestral dreaming track. The maps production involved multiple trips to Country with, on occasion more than fifty community members, many visiting sites for the first time.

Readers meet and hear from community members and the books creators by clicking on their photographs.



**Nykina Country**  
Interact with places on the map to explore the places in Woonyoomboo's travels.



Ngoowiy yindiny banookoo yindiny jirra kinyjin nanilji walalakoo. 'Jajoo Warrngara, ngana joolka koorra. Ngamboolany jina kajan wila manjabarri warli'.

The Woonyoomboo book contains over 20 animations created by young Nykina program participants using a wide range of techniques including stop animation, green screen and projection, as well as soundscapes recorded and designed by young people.



And a production slide show shares something of the creative process and practice that has taken place over the last five years to bring the book into being.

## VICTORIAN COMMUNITIES

“Over the past three months we have worked with cultural custodians and partner communities to record and collate content for multi-touch books and interactive maps.”

### Gunditjmarra and Heywood

The Gunditjmarra multi-touch book, *The First Waterholes* is now completed. We worked closely with twenty students from Heywood secondary school and Gunditjmarra man and language expert Joel Wright to create both the written and spoken word language version of the story for the book. A five-minute animated film of

*The First Waterholes* in Gunditjmarra with English subtitles has also been completed. SharingStories also worked with Gunditjmarra filmmakers and dancers who produced the Welcome to Country video for the book's opening. The entire production crew for this process were members of the Gunditjmarra community.



### Wurundjeri and Thornbury

Daen worked closely with the Wurundjeri community to finalise the *Birrarrung* multi-touch book which tells the story of the creation of the Yarra River. In a recording session with Mandy Nicholson, who has played a crucial part in Woiwurrung language revival, a Woiwurrung language version of the story was produced which means the book now offers bilingual

functionality. A five-minute animated film in Woiwurrung was also created.

Work with the Wurundjeri community this year also involved mapping and recording at eight important cultural sites on Wurundjeri country. These outcomes will be housed in an interactive map and are already being used in the classroom at Thornbury Primary School.



## Wamba Wamba and Swan Hill

This collaboration explored the story of *Muyi-Mir*, a second story with Wamba Wamba communities that teaches of the creation of the landscape around the Lake Boga area. This Swan Hill project received outstanding feedback, in which teachers articulated how moved they were when witnessing how the work both engaged students and increased their comprehension. They also noted how significantly it boosted support for, and interest in, local cultural stories among the wider student population.

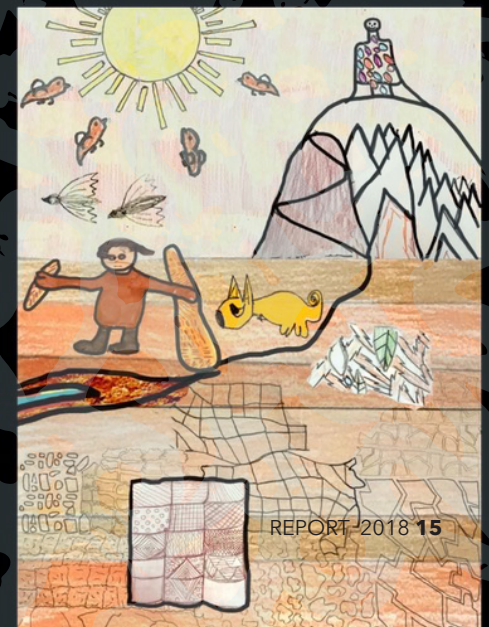
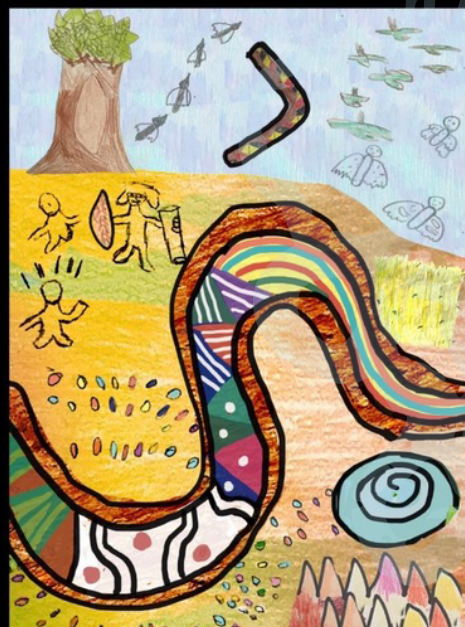
An interactive multi-touch book filled with artwork, animations and drawings that recounts the story has been produced to support teaching and learning in schools on Wamba Wamba Country. Multiple important cultural sites were also mapped and recorded, as was a Welcome to Country, with senior cultural custodian Uncle Ron Murray.



## Bangerang and Shepparton

In Shepparton we created a multi-touch book with St Georges Primary School students to tell the story of Dunggula, which details the creation of the Murray River. Upon completion of the resource, key cultural custodians determined it would be beneficial to use the children's drawings to create a mural, a visual map, of the story. Our artist-facilitator Isobel Knowles oversaw this process, discussing with students how they would like to interpret the story using their own artwork across three panels.

She worked with students and the school's art teacher to design the mural and make sure as many contributions as possible were included. The mosaic has now been completed. Everyone involved in the project learned many new techniques, working with a wide range of materials and creative approaches previously unknown to them. The outcome is stunning and something all Victorian partner communities have expressed a keen interest in incorporating into their work with us in coming programs.



# LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

“We support the preservation of language through our language program and Language Lightbox app for communities.”



## Language Lightbox Paakantji Language Program

We will play a significant role connecting community and students to language, through the SharingStories Language Lightbox app. The app was designed and built in collaboration with the Paakantji community.

Populated over time on Country and in the classroom, the app serves as a free, community owned and controlled software that enables production of constantly evolving audio-visual dictionaries. The app houses spoken and written words, images and video links.

Working closely with the Paakantji Language Circle we recently met with a number of partner organisations, Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups and NSW Education representatives to discuss the ongoing implementation of the Paakantji Language program across communities, language nests and schools on Paakantji country.

We delivered training in use of the language app for fifteen key Paakantji language workers and developed app functionality to support key learning areas from kindergarten to Year 12. Cultural protocols for engagement were also prepared for community use.



“We’ve been working over the last five years with SharingStories who have the technological skills to help us bring our language back from the brink, so we can proudly walk around as the Paakantji people of the Darling River.”

*Murray Butcher — Regional Language and Culture Officer and language speaker.*

Paakantji is on UNESCO’s Critically Endangered Language List, defined as less than five living speakers.



## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspective Curriculum Resources

This year we consolidated a range of resources to support effective implementation of the Australian Curriculum cross-curriculum priority Area - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures. These resources help map the multi-touch books created with partner communities to the cross-curriculum priority Area. Cultural custodians worked with SharingStories' curriculum consultants to develop the resources across a number of stories.

The resulting Education Packages will form the basis of education trials we will conduct with schools across the country in the first term of 2019.

Participating schools are very excited about the possibilities offered by the trial and see it as a way of strengthening connections between teachers, students and local Aboriginal communities as they learn about Aboriginal histories and cultures.

*"Cultural custodians worked with curriculum consultants to develop the teacher resources for a range of stories."*

# ARNHEM LAND

## Mukarr

We also continued our work with the Liya Dhälinymirr Djambarrpuynu clan in North East Arnhem Land and commenced work on a major new project. Over the next two years we will work closely with senior Songmen and women as well as young program participants to create short film interpretations of 21 language-rich song stories of the Mukarr Djambatj (Giant Green Sea-Turtle Hunters). Incorporating traditional cross hatch paintings depicting each of the 21 songs, the short films will be housed in a multi touch book.



## Wägilak Country - Entering the world of Wukidi

SharingStories worked for over four years with community members, guided by senior Wägilak cultural custodian & legendary Songman Mr Roy Wanapuynu. We are very excited to have started work on a new project with the Wägilak community & Djunkay (Guardians) of Wägilak knowledge 'Entering the World of Wukidi'. During this time an animated language film and comprehensive multi touch book exploring the story of Gandjalala the Sugar Bag Hunter was created. Last year SharingStories and the Wagilak community held a large exhibition at the Manly Art Gallery & Museum in honour of Mr Wanapuynu who sadly passed away. Jeremy and Miko Cameron,

travelled from Arnhem Land to open the event. Set deep in the mouth of Blue Mud Bay, Arnhem Land, Wukidi is the final resting place for spirits of the Wägilak clan and deeply connected to the story of Gandjalala.

This project engages project participants in intergenerational learning and traditional ways of connecting to Wukidi through song, dance, sand, body designs and stories and explores new ways of invoking and evoking place through a range of new art practices. Outcomes from both the Gandjalala and Wukidi projects will be curated with senior custodians as part of a proposed public installation.

"If I pass away early and young people got no song, Wägilak spirits will be all scattered everywhere. They won't come back to Wukidi, they will be lost. We have to take the spirit back, the only way to open the main gate for them is with the song, so they can go in there".

Senior Wägilak Cultural Custodian and legendary Songman Mr Roy Wanapuynu



THANK YOU

# SHARING STORIES FOUNDATION proudly supported by

## Our Funding Partners



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Some of Our Delivery Partners



Additional Partners

- Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Aboriginal Corporation
- The Meeting Place (Nalderun Upper Loddon)
- Language and Culture Nests NSW
- Bangerang Cultural Centre
- Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre (KALACC)
- Paakantji Language Circle
- Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Corporation
- Pilibara and Kimberley Aboriginal Media (PAKAM)
- Gapuwiyak Culture and Arts Aboriginal Corporation

School Partners

- St Georges Road Primary School
- Thornbury Primary School
- Nykina Mangala Community School
- Swan Hill North Primary School
- Warburton Ranges Campus, Ngaanyatjarra Lands School
- Purnululu School
- Heywood and District Secondary College
- Leigh Creek Area School

Further thanks to:

- Kaplan Dascalu Fund, a sub-fund of Australian Communities Foundation
- Drapac Capital Partners
- Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary
- David Cook Communications
- FUJIFILM Australia
- Bell Charitable Fund

## Support Our Work

We rarely send our friends and supporters calls for assistance. We don't have a dedicated fundraiser and our limited resources are largely devoted to our programs on the ground, on country, working with communities.

Proud of what we have achieved over the last 12 months, we hope you can help us maintain the momentum. We need untied donations, simple gifts, large and small, to enable us to run our organization for greatest impact; our core funding. We keep things tight at the core, using technology to communicate in place of a central office, but we need funds for essentials that our program funding cannot cover.

Things like strategic planning, staff development, research and development, brokering and managing partnerships and running effective board meetings.

Our directors are located far and wide; some live in remote communities. It is essential to our philosophy of 'both-way learning' that our directors meet face to face at least once a year, on country.

Our work is intense. Our staff give it their all, and more, to achieve great results. Every donation is a show of confidence in their work and an inspiration to them.

### **DONATE NOW**

see our give now donate button here at <https://sharingstoriesfoundation.org>

For information email: [info@sharingstories.com.au](mailto:info@sharingstories.com.au)



