

# SHARINGSTORIES FOUNDATION

2019 ANNUAL REVIEW



SHARING STORIES  
FOUNDATION





SharingStories acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional custodians of this land, and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We would also like to acknowledge that the spelling/phonetics of Indigenous languages belonging to the communities with whom we partner can be approached in different ways across dialects and language groups. The spellings in this report are determined by senior language authorities and community language workers with whom we collaborate.

**Warning:**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this publication may contain images and names of people who are now deceased.

# CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

2019 was another big year for SharingStories Foundation.

We continued to work with Aboriginal communities across Australia to facilitate the holding of ancient stories and to translate these stories, with children and young people, to new media – ensuring the continued survival and revival of stories that have lived in the land for centuries.

SharingStories also worked with partner communities to develop platforms for sharing these stories more broadly, creating educational resources that promote a deeper understanding of Aboriginal culture in schools across Australia. We additionally prepared and presented installations that showcase the amazing art and creativity at the heart of much of our work.

We are excited about the opportunities in 2020 to continue to work with our partners, and strengthen community relationships to further hold and share their ancient stories. We know this work has a lasting impact on the well-being of all Australians. It not only protects and maintains this important cultural knowledge, but it allows all Australians, particularly our young, to experience the cultural richness that inhabits the land we all share.

The Board welcomed Daniel Browning (ABC journalist) and Caroline Aebersold (Director, KPMG) in 2019. We are so glad to have their experience and knowledge on the Board. Our board members and senior executives had a strategy meeting on Yuin Country during the year – a valuable opportunity to be together in person – to consolidate our sense of purpose and most importantly to grow our own knowledge of Aboriginal culture, in all its diversity.

We want to thank all our supporters, both government and philanthropic, for enabling our urgent and important work. We particularly want to thank all the Aboriginal communities we work with, especially the elders who so generously allow us to journey with them into the sacred.

We hope you enjoy our Annual Review.

Tim Goodwin with Mandy Milledge,  
Co-Chairs



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SharingStories works across Australia on the traditional lands of our partner communities. We would like to express our immense gratitude to all those communities, who so generously inform, guide and direct the work we do together. We would also like to acknowledge and pay our deep respects to the Elders past, present and emerging of those lands.

We would additionally like to thank all our partners and funders. We are particularly grateful for the multi-year support provided by the Indigenous Languages and Arts Program and honoured to be an Australia Council of the Arts multi-year funding recipient across 2020-24.

It is our funding and community partners, as well as our dedicated board, executive team, artists and facilitators together, that have enabled the work we have been able to undertake across the 2019 period. We have worked closely with thirteen partner communities, delivering 5346 hours of community arts programs and 1353 hours of mentoring to 9 language and cultural mentees across 7 partner communities.

A highlight last year was our first major public installation Same Like Yesterday – Virikuthalypila and Other Stories from Our Country. Adnyamathanha country is woven together by an endless thread of stories and this project involved six senior Adnyamathanha women and two teenage girls travelling through the Flinders Ranges in the footsteps of Virikuthalypila, two women from the Yuramuda (Dreamtime). The resulting 20 meter 3D animated installation premiered at the Art Gallery of South Australia as part of the DreamBIG Festival. Eight of the senior artists and one of the young participants were able to travel to Adelaide to open the event which welcomed 2078 visitors.

We continued our work with the Ngaanyatjarra community in the Gibson Desert of Western Australia, working closely with community language worker Tjawintjil Renata West who recorded the story of the Wati Kutjarra and Tjintjintji at Nyirnyirrpungu (Two Men and the Bat People Nyirnyirrpungu) so that the existing multi touch book can now be made available as a bilingual resource in schools on Ngaanyatjarra Lands.

Last year saw the beginning of a collaborative project to design, build and populate a Connecting to Country Mobile App. The App supports respectful tourism, delivering content on Country at important sites. We received support from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and Screenrights Cultural Fund, enabling us to work with the Three Tribal Groups at Lake Mungo, Willandra World Heritage Area and Griffith University on this incredibly exciting initiative.

2019 also saw a formalisation of the partnership between SharingStories, the Jaara community and Mount Alexander Shire Council evolve. SharingStories has worked for many years with members of the Jaara community, led initially by Senior Cultural Custodian Uncle Brien Nelson and now his son Uncle Rick Nelson. Content and creative media resulting from years of programs will be made available in a co-curated, permanent public installation to be housed at The Market Building in the heart of Castlemaine. The initiative will also serve as a starting point for cultural tours with custodians on Jaara lands.

With the support of the AESOP Foundation, we ran Education Trials across the country with teachers in primary schools utilising and testing multi-touch books created with the Nyikina and Jaara communities. Accompanying Teacher Resources mapping these incredible books to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives Priority Area were also trialled. The results were extremely encouraging and we look forward to sharing some of these resources via a new Culture & Education online portal we are currently designing and building.

As SharingStories has evolved, our work with our partner communities has deepened. Most of the programs are designed in response to 3-5 year plans created with our partners. This means program outcomes have often been many years in the making. As such, it was only last year that the first major works were completed. We are super proud to celebrate the fact that the story of Woonyoomboo the Night Heron won the Australian Teachers of Media (ATOM) Best Educational App/ebook Award.

In this time of COVID 19 we have suspended work in community. We had planned to send this report out much sooner but have been focused on setting up new ways of working with partner communities who we continue to support and connect with virtually and by phone. We look forward to returning to Country and programming when safe for community. Until then we hope you enjoy hearing about what we've been up to, meeting some of our team members, directors and the custodians we feel so privileged to collaborate with.

Liz Thompson  
Executive Officer

## OUR PARTNER COMMUNITIES

AT THE HEART OF OUR FOUNDATION, ARE THE FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES THAT LEAD OUR WORK AND PROGRAMS ON COUNTRY.



## 2019 PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

# 271 CULTURAL CUSTODIANS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ACROSS 13 COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATED IN PROGRAMS.

1353

*hours of mentoring with community language workers and cultural leaders, with a focus on long term community engagement and employment.*

5346

*hours of skills transfer, language work and production of vibrant interpretations of important cultural stories*

*9 mentees across 7 communities were engaged in a long-term mentoring process, training as language workers and media producers with a focus on community engagement.*



*4 communities have established cultural protocols and implemented the Language App with support from Sharing Stories.*

4566

*new audience members interacted with SharingStories and partner communities content significantly increasing understanding and awareness of First Nations culture.*

## GIJA COMMUNITY

In March, the Gija Community determined they would utilise the SharingStories Language App as a tool to record, maintain and teach language. Cultural protocols to support the use of the app were defined and local language workers were trained and employed to support this program implementation. Our partnership with Purnululu School has created opportunities for new language words to be added to the app regularly in a practice that supports local language classes.

The *Frog and Brolga – Jirraginy joo Goorrandal* iBook has continued to evolve, as interactive elements were finalised mid-year. Traditional Owner Shirley Drill has approved the book and is looking forward to the upcoming public release. To support the release of the iBook, the Gija Community are currently working with SharingStories Foundation and Purnululu School to develop curriculum resources so students locally and nationally can learn about the Gija Nation.

A big congratulations to Shirley Drill and Purnululu School students who alongside SharingStories produced the *Frog and Brolga – Jirraginy joo Goorrandal* film which won the Australian Teachers of Media (ATOM) award, for the best 'Best Middle School Animation.' This award is a testament to the incredible work of everyone involved.

In collaboration with the SharingStories Foundation, the Gija Community has approved the design of the installation for The Western Australian Museum, and construction of the installation has begun. The 2 x 4 metre installation will include an interactive display that tells language stories from seven locations around Gawarre (the Bungle Bungles). The installation will also include 'Our Community Voices' and songs from the late Old Lady Thomas, Traditional Owner of the Gawarre area. This creative work will open late in 2020.



Image: Gija Language Authorities and Cultural Custodians taking part in a SharingStories Language App Program

A big congratulations to Shirley Drill and Purnululu School students who alongside SharingStories produced the 'Frog and Brolga' film which won Australian Teachers of Media (ATOM) Best Middle School Animation Award.



Best Middle School Animation  
ATOM Awards,  
Winner



# NYIKINA COMMUNITY



Image: Annie Nayina Milgin and Darraga Watson, Senior Nyikina Custodians guiding the Woonyoomboo Project over many years.

In 2019, the Nyikina Community continued their journey in developing their language program. Jennifer Milgin joined the team as a new language mentee and began recording and learning the language from her grandmother, and senior language authority, Annie Nayina Milgin. As part of the training, Jennifer also built skills in populating the SharingStories Nyikina Language App, as well as translation and subtitling.

Jennifer has made three-hundred new entries into the Language App, developing valuable content for the interactive, audio-visual Nyikina dictionary. She has also helped to translate several short films and songs and will continue to work with SharingStories across 2020 to complete the subtitles for the animated film trilogy *Woonyoomboo – the Night Heron*. In 2019 the 'Woonyoomboo' iBook was

a finalist in the World Digital Book Awards Best Non-Fiction Category and Winner of the Australian Teachers of Media Best Educational App/eBook Award.

*Winning the Australian Teachers of Media award for the Best Educational App/eBook is a reflection of the amazing community effort over a decade. This beautiful production will provide an opportunity for all Australians to learn about the Nyikina Nation.*



**Best Educational**  
App/eBook, ATOM Awards.  
*Winner*



**Best Non-Fiction**  
Digital World Book Award  
*Finalist*



**Best Language/Cultural Production**  
First Nations Media Awards  
*Finalist*

## NGAANYATJARRA COMMUNITY

In August 2019, SharingStories was invited by the Warburton Arts Project to take part in and assist in documenting a journey on country with members of the Ngaanyatjarra Community in the Gibson Desert. The journey took place over three weeks and followed the story of the *Kungkarrangkalpa - Seven Sisters*. The Warburton Arts Project will continue their work with the community to create a richly immersive experience of this important story for the community.

Additionally, during this time on country, members of the Ngaanyatjarra Community reviewed the ongoing progress of their iBook created in collaboration with SharingStories and exploring the story of *The Wati Kutjarra and Tjintjintji (The Two Men and the Bat People)* at Nyirrnnyirrpungu. The Telstra Foundation funded the initial work undertaken in 2018 and outcomes included five beautiful animations made by young community members based on the traditional artwork of Senior Cultural Custodians Mrs Kayala Betty West and Mr Philip West. With support from the Indigenous Languages and Arts program, we were able to continue the work in 2019, engaging with community language worker Tjawintjil Renata West supported by Warkari Debra West as well as linguist Dorothy Hackett, so that the story is available in a bilingual format. Work last year also included the production of additional iBook content including a community voices section and introductions from the storytellers as well as the community.

*The Wati Kutjarra and Tjintjintji (The Two Men and the Bat People)* at Nyirrnnyirrpungu iBook will be released in the Ngaanyatjarra Community and across schools on Ngaanyatjarra Lands.

*'I was born in the bush near a cave, a long one with a water creek underneath and a yilli tree (small fig tree) there next to the rock hole. When you go out from Snake Well you see a sharp corner and it's right there. I was born between two rock holes in a wiltja (windbreak), under the tree, next to the fire.*

*My father and my aunties bin telling me this story of the Wati Kutjarra and Tjintjintji at Nyirrnnyirrpungu (The Two Men and the Bat People at Nyirrnnyirrpungu) and they said when you get older you tell the story to the kids and the white people.*

*It's my work to pass the story on now. I made a big painting, I got to let them kids know about the story, the story culture from the old people telling the story to us when I was a little girl. There's a lot of story everywhere.'*

-Mrs Kayala Betty West,  
Senior Ngaanyatjarra Cultural  
Custodian



Image: Angelica McClean, Kiesa and Kianna West review animations from the Wati Kutjarra project in Warburton.



Image: Mrs Kayala Betty West and her daughter Warkari Debra West

# ADNYAMATHANHA COMMUNITY



*'This is not only for our kids but we want other children to know about our connection to culture and the stories of this land.'*

- Yvonne Brady,  
Senior Adnyamathanha  
Cultural Custodian

## SAME LIKE YESTERDAY

In 2014 the Adnyamathanha Community sought support from SharingStories Foundation to record and creatively interpret a traditional story relating to female ancestors and the creation of Adnyamathanha Country. Over twelve months, community members guided by Senior Adnyamathanha cultural custodians worked together with SharingStories on the project.

In May 2019 the resulting work *Same Like Yesterday - Virlkuthalypila and Other Stories from Our Country* was showcased as part of the DreamBIG Festival a biennial and iconic children's festival held in Adelaide. The resulting animated 3D installation was presented in the Radford Auditorium at the Art Gallery of South Australia from the 22nd of May to the 2nd of June 2019.

**Over eleven days, 2078 people attended Same Like Yesterday. 1484 students from twenty-nine schools enjoyed the installation.**

**154 teachers attended the production, with every teacher gaining an understanding of Adnyamathanha culture.**

The experience was enjoyed by all. In early 2021, the final work will be installed on Adnyamathanha Country. The positive feedback from audiences of all ages has seen a strong interest develop in touring the work nationally and internationally.

## YULU THE KINGFISHER MAN

We continued our collaboration with the Mobile Language Team to complete the language work for the Adnyamathanha iBook interpretation of an important men's story, *Yulu the Kingfisher Man*. This collaboration has strengthened our capabilities, and our partnership will continue in 2020 as we work with the Adnyamathanha Community to create the *Same Like Yesterday - Virlkuthalypila and Other Stories from Our Country* iBook.



*'We just did a Dreamtime story. We brought it back into reality and then it is in your heart.'*

'This animation thing is the best thing I ever done. I learnt a lot about how to use all the equipment. I learnt a lot from the elders too, it's like... 'wow! you fellows go back a long way. I'm a proud Blackfella, a proud Australian blackfella with a background. Yeah. That's how I feel now and I have got a storyline. I couldn't get over last night's opening, I was crying and with tears in my eyes and I'm thinking, 'wow, we done that'. And the claps just wouldn't stop. And I felt... Oh good on you girls.'

Lesley Coulthard, Adnyamathanha Cultural Custodian and program participant on Same Like Yesterday: Virlkuthalypila and Other Stories from Our Country.

# WÄGILAK COMMUNITY

In 2019 the Wägilak and Djapu clans continued work on the Wukidi project alongside Djurjkay - guardians of Wägilak songs and stories.

Additionally, meetings were held in community and with the Gapuwiyak Arts and Cultural Centre to determine how SharingStories might best support

upcoming mentee training for Yolŋu people across a range of disciplines that might support employment and engagement through arts in the future.

In 2020 the community will release the *Gandjalala - The Sugar Bag Hunter* iBook within the community, with public release planned for 2021.

## Translation of the Wata (Wind) Song, by Senior Liya Dhalinymirr Cultural Custodian and Dungkay (Guardian of Wagilak songs and stories), Yingiya Mark Guyula

Yirralka buruwunŋal	Blowing along the land
Gundaw gudirriŋy buṯṯhunmaraŋal	Blowing around the netjurra gudirriŋy rock
Gunda warrtjunmaraŋal netjurra aa-a wukiḍiŋur yalaŋarra	Blowing onto the totemic rocks around the wukidi yalaŋarra lands
Manuŋgurrtha wata dharrnhan buruwunŋal	The manuŋgurrtha wind blows and cleanses landscapes
Gapuḷuthunha buṯṯhunmaraŋal	Creates and cleanses spirits of the gapuḷuthun ancestors
Murrunyiny buruwunŋal	Cleansing the spirits of Murrunyina people
Warrtjunmaraŋal guḍamanwarray	Cleansing and regenerating the spiritual landscaping
Wata dharrnhan ḡubuḡubu	Blowing over the ḡubuḡubu bushes
Gumurr bumar wakurra dhaḍuṯjmada	Blowing far inland as far as wakurra rocky escarpment
Gumurr-ḡäminmirr guṯuwuṯu	Guṯuguṯu wind swirls as it dances and paints the flood plains
Binmaḷa guḍirri makamunu	Binmaḷa makamuna winds cleanse the guḍirri gum trees
netjurra yalaŋarra buruwunum	netjurra winds are blowing over the yalaŋarra flood plains
Waḡa-ḡakunmin dharrmindi buruwunŋal	Winds swing in waves across the plains
djalamar murrunyina buṯṯhunmaraŋal	reconnecting with the spirits of murrunyina people
gumbuwaḡa	
Gumurr-watany buṯṯhunmaraŋal	Blowing and creating lands of the gumurr-wata people

## LIYA DHÄLINYMIRR COMMUNITY



Image: Davis Muwarra Marrawungu singing the Mukarr Djämbatj Songline during a SharingStories program with the Liya Dhalinymirr Clan

The Liya Dhälinymirr clan continued work with SharingStories, sharing, recording and creatively interpreting more of the Mukarr Djämbatj (Giant Green Sea Turtle Hunters) song cycle and stories. This involved extensive language work on the manikay (song cycle). Senior songmen first transcribed and developed direct translations of the words then provided a secondary layer which described the visions held in the mind's eye while singing the words. These visions also informed the transformation of traditional paintings into beautiful animations seamlessly edited together with teachings and film from Country.

As work progresses with community, so does the depth of sharing. Senior custodians made an important decision this year to expand the iBook outcomes and include, not two but four journeys of the Mukarr Djämbatj song cycle. Liya Dhälinymirr custodians, young people and supportive clan nations came together for Bunḡul (Ceremony), so these journeys could be recorded for generations to come. This program was supported by the Yirrikala Rangers, who provided transport for dancers to the Bunḡul ground and were involved during the program.

*'When we sing this story of Mukarr Djämbatj (Giant Green Sea Turtle Hunters), we see a map. We use the map in our head to connect us to the places we belong and places where we have clan connections. In funeral ceremonies, the strong vision in my head connects the spirit to places as well.'*

*The stories are still existing. If you pay attention and live by the law of the Mukarr and all of our spiritual ancestors, you can see the story retelling every day. The clouds still form in the same way, the tides still change, the connections and responsibilities to other clan nations exist. I want my children and their children to learn how to find that knowledge and see that story.*

*My people and many other clan groups work with SharingStories because they work over the long-term to help hold these things with us. With this, the young ones can practice, feel proud and know the stories are true. We also want to share this out with balanda (white people) so that they know about our stories and our culture and our connection to Country.'*

- Davis Muwarra Marrawungu -Senior Liya Dhälinymirr Cultural Custodian and Songman

## BANGERANG COMMUNITY



Image: Bangerang students on Country learning the story of Pondi (Murray Cod) the River Creator from Aunty Merle and Aunty Anne Atkinson.

*'This story is our history. It's important to document it to pass on to future generations, and also to promote our language. When European settlers came they destroyed our language. Now we've got opportunities to revive it, and programs like this will make the language a lot easier to pick up for younger generations.'*

Roland Atkinson,  
Bangerang Cultural Custodian and member of the Bangerang Language Circle.

In 2019, our work with the Bangerang Community continued and supported the evolution of the iBook *Dunggula*, a story of the creation of the Murray River.

Our work with the Bangerang Language Circle has continued to evolve since 2018 when we collaborated to create a language version of the *Dunggula* story. The Bangerang community, in partnership with the Bangerang Language Circle and SharingStories, has made massive strides in the

transformation, growth and utilisation of language in developing digital language rich resources.

In 2019 while creating *Dunggula* we worked with the community to re-record the story in language because of the Language Circle's ongoing exploration of spelling patterns, grammar, pronunciation and phonetics.

The sound and design elements for the iBook have been completed and its release is planned for late 2020.

## BIDWELL COMMUNITY

The Bidwell Community approached SharingStories in 2019 to discuss the need for programs to support their community's capacity to pass on traditional knowledge for future generations.

In preparation for the planned Digital Storytelling Program, the Bidwell Community will determine community engagement processes and the story to be shared and we much look forward to its commencement.

*'We need more programs that pass on and regenerate our cultural knowledge, language, values and responsibility to the next generation.'*

-Michelle Smith - Bidwell Community



# JAARA COMMUNITY



Image: Uncle Rick Nelson, Senior Cultural Custodian on Jaara Country

In 2019 the Mount Alexander Shire Council committed to a permanent Jaara exhibition space within the Castlemaine Historic Market Building.

This exhibition has been many years in the planning. It was wonderful to secure such a central and impressive location for it to live in the long term. The exhibition will provide community and visitors access to a suite of videos, animations, photographs and art works all created by community, as well as a 360-degree video Welcome to Country experience by Senior Cultural Custodian Uncle Rick Nelson. Uncle Rick has led SharingStories' work with the Jaara community, taking over from his father Uncle Brien Nelson. The exhibition will include a multi-touch display panel populated with creative interpretations of *The Eagle, The Bat and The Crow*, a story shared by the Nelson family. The panel also houses a comprehensive interactive map through which community and visitors can experience and learn about important cultural sites on Jaara Country.

The permanent exhibition will be opened in honour of Uncle Brien who sadly passed away last year. The exhibition will also support local artists wanting to showcase artworks, create a meeting and sharing space for Jaara people, and support the development of guided bush tucker walks and tours to culturally significant sites in and around Castlemaine.

*‘We have curated a large scale permanent exhibition of all the work created with SharingStories over the last ten years This includes an immersive 360 degree Welcome to Country experience for all visitors to Jaara country, sculpture, bush tucker knowledge, photographs, artworks, animations and a large interactive display panel which houses the multi-touch book we are all very proud of.’*

- Uncle Rick Nelson, Senior Jaara Cultural Custodian

## WAMBA WAMBA COMMUNITY

In 2019 we facilitated the second week of the Digital Storytelling Program for the Mui-Mir (Lake Boga) creation story for the Wamba Wamba digital multi-touch iBook. This program was the first I designed, ran and evaluated in its entirety. The program at times felt overwhelming and I took the responsibility of organising a safe environment and recording and production of appropriate cultural content very seriously. I was proud to be given this opportunity and I feel the confidence that SharingStories staff and team have in my ability as the Victorian Production Manager.

As part of this process I researched within my personal library and found eleven books which shared information on cultural practises and accounts of Wamba Wamba culture. With community consultation we were able to evolve the original book and story to include four additional special place/ map videos which share cultural content promoting the diversity of Wamba Wamba culture as well as neighbouring communities.

The students of Swan Hill North Primary School supported the evolution of the iBook acting in front of a green screen, giving life to characters of the story, forming production plans and recording all the sound effects and audio. They also designed as well as animated their own artworks for the scenes of the story.

In October 2019 we organised key Wamba Wamba community members to participate in a translation workshop. This workshop allowed for two traditional stories to begin the journey back into their language of origin. The return of stories into Wamba Wamba language has been of great importance to the community.


- Daen Sansbury-Smith, Victorian Production Manager

*'I would like to see language spoken in schools, at home; and people in our community having conversations.'*

Sandra Kropinyeri,  
Wamba Wamba Cultural  
Custodian.

Image: Senior Wamba Wamba Cultural Custodian Uncle Ron Murray showing program participants the ancient practice of making shields and canoes from bark removed from red gum trees.





*'I am Wamba Wamba Elder from Swan Hill, and work as a cultural educator across many different areas. For twenty years I have been working in juvenile justice centres in Victoria, running programs to help rehabilitate young Koorie people back into the community through building a sense of pride in their identity... I have seen first hand the hardships faced by young Koorie people, especially in Swan Hill, which suffers from a lot of division in the community.*

*Over the past year I have been working with SharingStories facilitating a program at Swan Hill North to break this cycle because I know from my work that if we don't get the kids early, we can lose them. The program has built a story inside these kids that they can be proud of, proud of their culture, their local community and proud of the skills they have learnt. For Aboriginal people in a town like Swan Hill, the impact of that is massive.*

*As a Wamba Wamba Elder and senior member of the community I am very keen to share the outcomes and stories made during these programs with the broader community in ways that build understanding and respect for Koorie culture. When young Koorie people and communities see their stories and culture appreciated by others it builds confidence and self-esteem. We are able to participate in the cultural fabric of Victorian life.*

*Building respect and understanding for those stories and our culture is critical to reconciliation and I consider it to be very important. Our stories need to be told, heard and experienced so that Koorie culture is a vital, living part of Victorian life and SharingStories is helping us make that happen.'*

Uncle Ron Murray - Wamba Wamba, Senior Custodian.

## GUNDITJMARA COMMUNITY

*'Filming the (First Waterholes) project on my home country, seeing that our young ones are practising culture in the way of language, dance and story telling was a proud experience for me. Visiting cultural sites to create the interactive map and engaging with community and family who shared their knowledge about stories, country and cultural sites was really positive. We were reviving stories that have not been heard by most of our community - this work means a great deal to me.'*

-Timmy Church, Gunditjmara videographer



Image: Timmy Church has worked with the SharingStories team on programs across Australia.

Throughout 2019 our work with the Gunditjmara Community has continued, supporting the evolution of the iBook interpretation of the important creation story, *The First Waterholes- Kayap Kiling*.

'Gunditjmara storytelling is important because it helps us understand the land, the water, the air, our whole universe and our place in it and how it is all connected. Some of our stories and Dhawurd Wurrung language has been dormant in the landscape due to colonization, but our mob and young people breathe life back into these stories whenever they connect to, or speak of, Country or Mirring.' - Tyson Lovett-Murray, Gunditjmara Cultural Custodian.

In June 2019, Gunditjmara videographer, Timmy Church produced the final videos for the iBook's interactive map. These videos share the stories and history of the four diverse landscapes within Gunditjmara tribal boundaries and share the creation story of Budj Bim, the UNESCO World Heritage Listed site.

Throughout the year *The First Waterholes* iBook and all the multimedia components have been in post-production guided by community consultation. The sound and design elements have now been completed, with the iBook release planned for late 2020.

## YUIN COMMUNITY

SharingStories will work with the Yuin Community in the future to support the recording of important Yuin stories.

In the context of a Digital Storytelling Program, SharingStories will work with the Yuin community to creatively explore and interpret the story of *Gulaga*, a major Yuin Creation Ancestor.

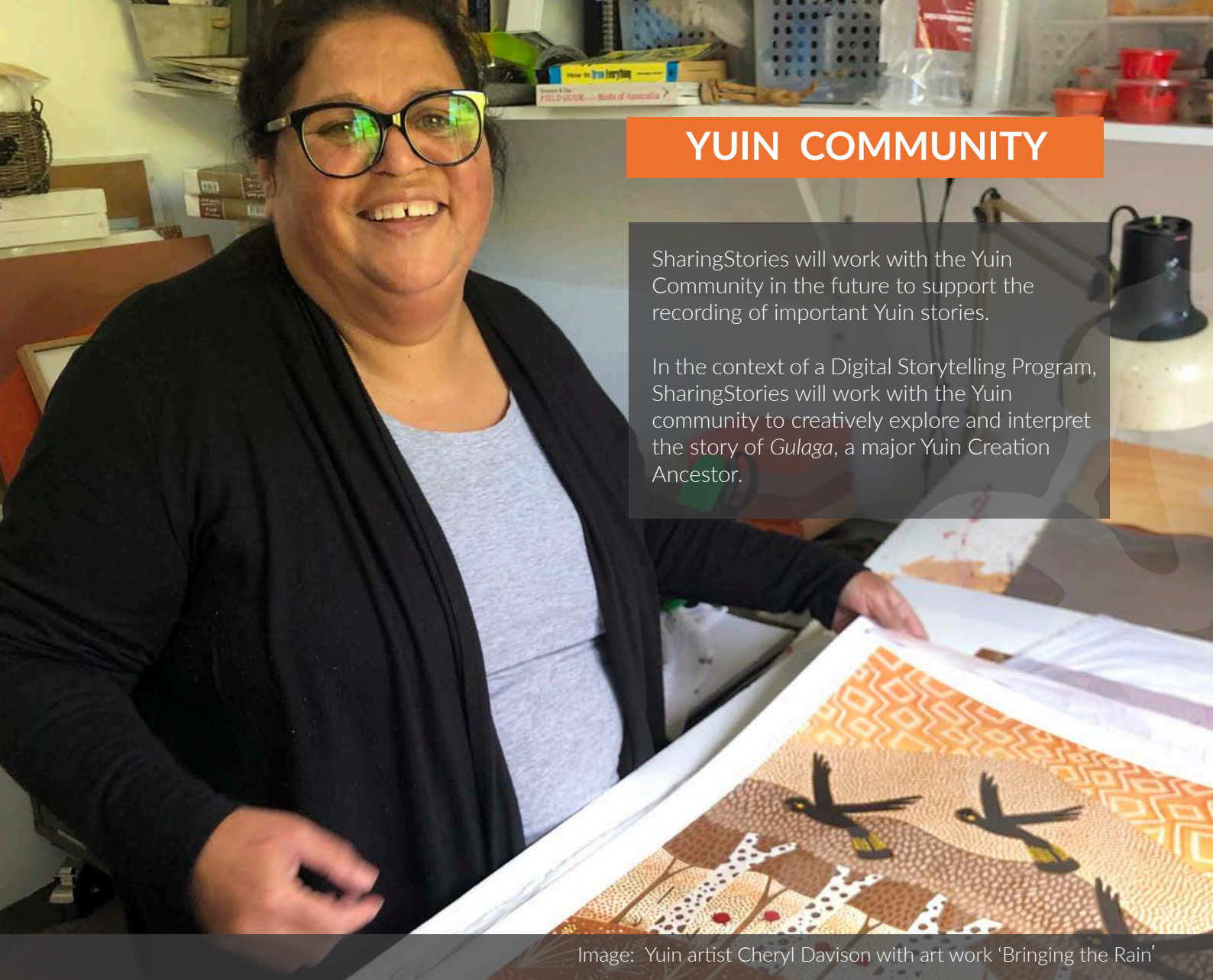


Image: Yuin artist Cheryl Davison with art work 'Bringing the Rain'

*'We need to share stories in a traditional way, using art and oral transmission. Teach the public Yuin history, Yuin Country, Yuin stories, so people take care of Country and each other.'*

- Cheryl Davison, Yuin Cultural Custodian

## PAAKANTJI COMMUNITY

In 2019 the Paakantji community progressed in populating their *SharingStories Paakantji Language App*, to include over 150 entries. Significant work was completed by Paakantji speaker and language worker, Warlpa Thompson in regards to language dialects to ensure that there would be appropriate representation of four different dialects by

custodians from different regions. This required developing new word and phrase lists for schools in those regions. The Language App template was developed with the Paakantji Community and is now being implemented and utilised by four communities across Australia with three new communities set to start creating their own versions in 2020.

## 3TTG's: THREE TRADITIONAL TRIBAL GROUPS OF LAKE MUNGO - MUTTHI MUTTHI, NGIYAMPAA AND PAAKANTJI COMMUNITIES

This year the Mutthi Mutthi, Ngiyampaa and Paakantji communities continued to work across several projects in partnership with SharingStories, Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area and Griffith University. In addition to the nearly completed iBook *Leave it There for the Next Little Fellas*, the community is creating an augmented reality Connecting to Country app that will support respectful tourism and share in-depth stories of the Mungo Region on country.

Our 2019 workshops focussed on reclaiming story, taken and misrepresented by early archeologists. This involved deciding on the cultural perspectives, narratives and visual images that community wanted to share via the Connecting to Country app.

In May 2019, The Mungo Youth Project, an incredible educational event, was hosted by the communities. The event was supported by the Willandra Lakes Region, World Heritage Area and Parks NSW. Three hundred participants attended the event from schools across NSW and Victoria. Students were involved in an exciting array of activities encompassing respectful archaeological digs, printmaking, toolmaking, historical tours and the SharingStories' language program.

Students learnt about the importance of deep listening and the importance of language in culture. They were guided by Mutthi Mutthi, Ngiyampaa and Paakantji Custodians Tanya Charles, Aunty Beryl Philp Charmichael, Warren Clark and Junette Mitchell as they compiled words in an offline version of the SharingStories language app.

The SharingStories language bus was buzzing with elders, and wonderful new connections were made with language speakers from all age groups, many of whom will be coming on board as language mentees over the next two years during SharingStories' programs in the region.

Image: Aunty Beryl Philp Charmichael with students from the Mungo Youth Project 2019.

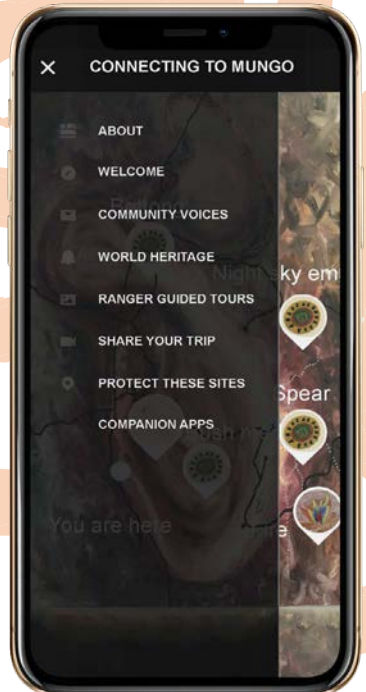
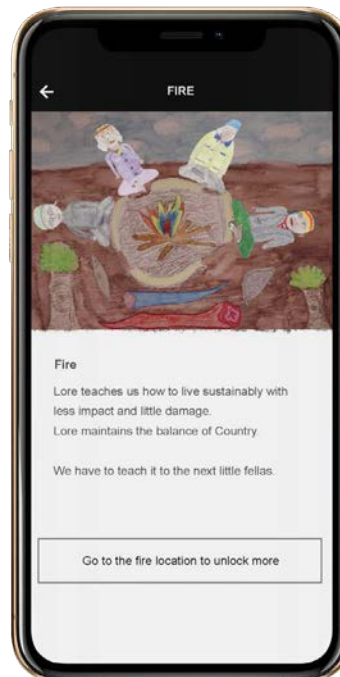
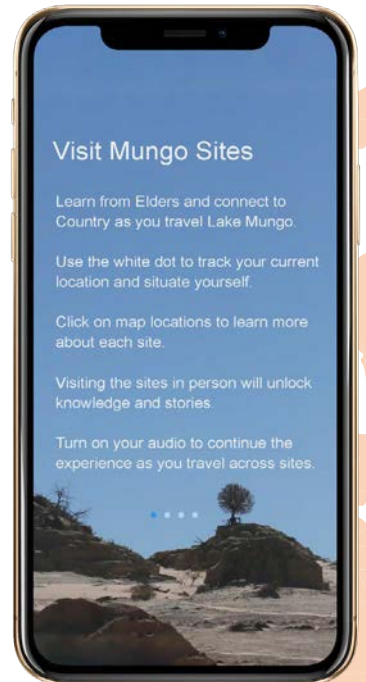


*'My Grandmother and Mutthi Mutthi elder was one of the founding elders of Mungo and Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area. In 1988, Alice Kelly was awarded National Aboriginal of the year for being "a strong advocate for the preservation of Aboriginal culture and heritage."*

*This Willandra Lakes Connecting to Country App is a critical tool in ensuring we continue to honour and uphold the legacy of her vision and ensures we are keeping our language alive; as well as being a key tool in our steps towards reconciliation by allowing others to be immersed in our culture.'*

Jason Kelly, Mutthi Mutthi Cultural Custodian.

# CONNECTING TO COUNTRY APP



*'The augmented reality based outcomes will have capacity to reach, and interactivity to engage, a whole new audience in Australia and the world (from school children to tourists and scientists) and bring Australia's rich cultural history to digital life.'*

*'We believe the proposed interactive display, housing language-rich content from communities across Victoria, is of immense value. This innovative platform supports transmission of a diverse range of languages and cultural heritage in exciting new ways. It has the potential to inspire local Koorie children, families, and people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with Koorie languages and cultural knowledge.'*

-Charlotte Christie, Koorie Heritage Trust.

## OTHER PROGRAM AREAS

### SONGROOM

This year we partnered with The Songroom to repurpose some of the beautiful media elements from the Nyikina iBook *Woonyoomboo, the Night Heron* and the Jaara iBook *The Eagle, The Crow and The Bat* to be hosted on the ARTS:LIVE platform.

**Offering hundreds of hours of learning through the Arts, the platform is a vibrant and exciting place for teachers and students.**

We are thrilled to be growing this great partnership, ensuring the stories, voices and perspectives of First Nations communities are easily accessible to teachers and students. Authentic community-driven resources help build culturally safe schools for First Nations young people.

### KOORIE HERITAGE TRUST

In 2019 we designed an interactive panel prototype. When the panel is built it will be housed by the Koorie Heritage Trust in Federation Square, Melbourne. Containing artwork, interactive map videos and animated stories from each of SharingStories' Victorian partner communities' iBooks. The panel will provide hours of diverse Aboriginal content in an engaging interface for public access.

Across 2020 we will work with the Koorie Heritage Trust and partner communities in Victoria to curate content for the panel and build an associated online environment accessible through both Koorie Heritage Trust and SharingStories websites.

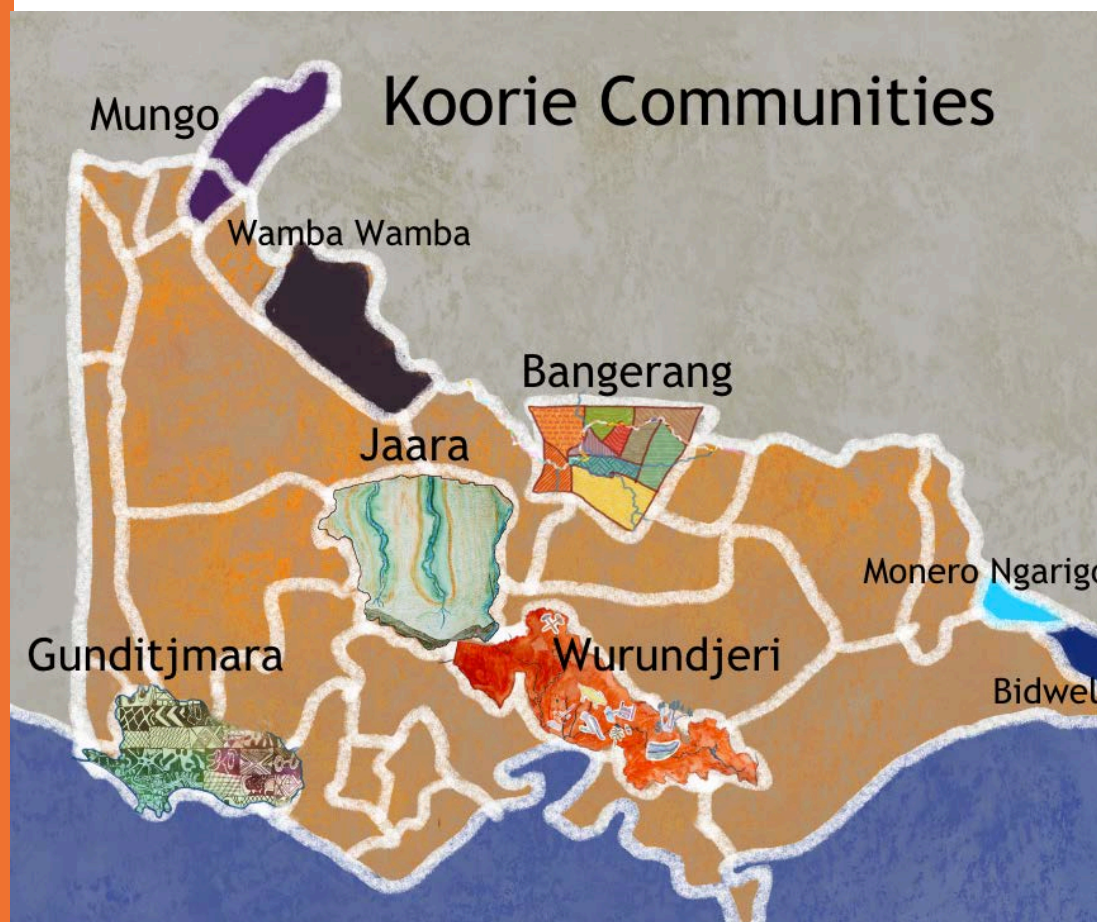


Image: Early design elements for panel interface.



## EDUCATION TRIALS

SharingStories has a history of supporting the development of curriculum resources to support the teaching of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in the classroom. In 2019, we trialled the effectiveness of our interactive eBooks and accompanying teacher resources in classrooms across New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. The eBooks included in the trial were produced by our two partner communities, the Jaara and Nyikina Community.



*5 schools participated in the trial across 3 states.*

### PRINCIPAL FEEDBACK

*All completed principal surveys identified positive outcomes in teaching staff after the program, including -*

*'Motivated to implement the program due to its supportive materials ready to use immediately in the classroom.'*

*'Motivated to try new things - especially with Indigenous studies.'*

*'Really positive and upbeat about the program and the engagement of their students.'*

### TEACHERS BELIEVED THE RESOURCES

engaged students

developed their own understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures

enabled the delivery of a wide range of curriculum content

developed student knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal history and cultures

100%

of teachers surveyed deepened their own sense of connection to the country on which they teach and live.

100%

of teachers surveyed agreed that the use of the interactive multi-touch books helped them engage students in learning.

*'It made me understand the culture better and respect the culture. I have taught in the APY lands and now in Leigh Creek. So I am able to understand different Aboriginal cultures along with WA now.'*

- Sarada, Leigh Creek Area School

*'It was amazing to see the work that has gone into the resource. I would love to see one developed for the Darkinjung people.'*

- Jamie, Darkinjung Barker College

*'This is the best Indigenous education I have taught in my life.'*

- Verity, Avalon Primary School

## FROM THE SURVEYS STUDENTS

had a growth in knowledge of and respect for Aboriginal history and cultures

learned a range of other things beyond the actual story

enjoyed and felt engaged by the interactive nature of the books

87%

of students involved expressed that they enjoyed the learning experience.

## STUDENT FEEDBACK

*'Thank you for helping me in understanding the importance of Aboriginal culture and stories told by custodians and elders.'*

*'I really enjoyed this program because I could interact with the videos and drawings.'*

*'I have really enjoyed learning about Woonyoomboo. I love how you included the kids' artworks to make the traditional stories.'*

11 x

Schools that implemented SharingStories Integrated Unit, displayed an increase of 11 times the national average time spent teaching First Nations perspectives. \*

\*Research indicates that classroom teachers devote less than 5 minutes per week to teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander curriculum, languages, literature and cultures, with many not engaged in these activities at all (Luke et al. 2013).



Image: Deb Palmer who helped SharingStories implement the Education trials at Avalon school with program participants.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Image: Victorian Program Manager Daen Sansbury-Smith leading professional development for the Centre for Strategic Education in Victoria

35

educators were involved in SharingsStories professional development

100%

of educators involved felt more confident in teaching First Nations perspectives after the professional development session.

*'I absolutely loved the PD that you presented! I took away so much from the session about deep listening, stories that are learnt in the heart, respectful practice and the story authentication protocols. I showed the Sharing Stories digital book to my Indigenous Australian girls at school the following day... and they were amazed!'*

Emma, English and Humanities Teacher and Year 7 Wellbeing Mentor at Kingswood College

We were approached by the Centre for Strategic Education to facilitate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives in the English Curriculum workshop. Teachers across independent Victorian schools sought skills in cultural protocols, identification of authentic First Nations Media and respectful development of curriculum and engagement with local Custodians.

The feedback from teachers was encouraging with 100% feeling more confident to include First Nations authentic perspectives in the classroom. Those who have already commenced the inclusion of SharingStories resources into the classroom have reported improved engagement and supported First Nations boarding students to connect to their families at home.

We gained further insight from teachers regarding the need for a place-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives interface to guide teaching into the future. SharingStories has commenced the planning and development of the Cultural Education Portal, due for release in late 2020.

## TEACHER EXPERIENCE - VERITY DAVIS RAISS



Image: Teacher Verity Davis Raiss pictured with Senior Nykiina Cultural Custodian, Annie Nayina Milgin, and her niece Jennifer Milgin with school students from Avalon Public School

Avalon Public School (NSW) trialled *Woonyoomboo the Night Heron*, an iBook produced by the Nykina community in collaboration with SharingStories. During the first term of the teaching year (2019), Verity Davis Raiss worked every week with her students from years 4 and 5 through each step of the *Woonyoomboo* Educational Pack and Integrated Unit.

*The iBook engaged every single child in my room, no matter their ability...they were able to go to it, read it, come back to it, talk about it, discuss it in depth. It was just beautiful to watch them all get so involved and so excited that every Wednesday afternoon it was going to be "Woonyoomboo" day. We used it every week as it was a very powerful resource.*

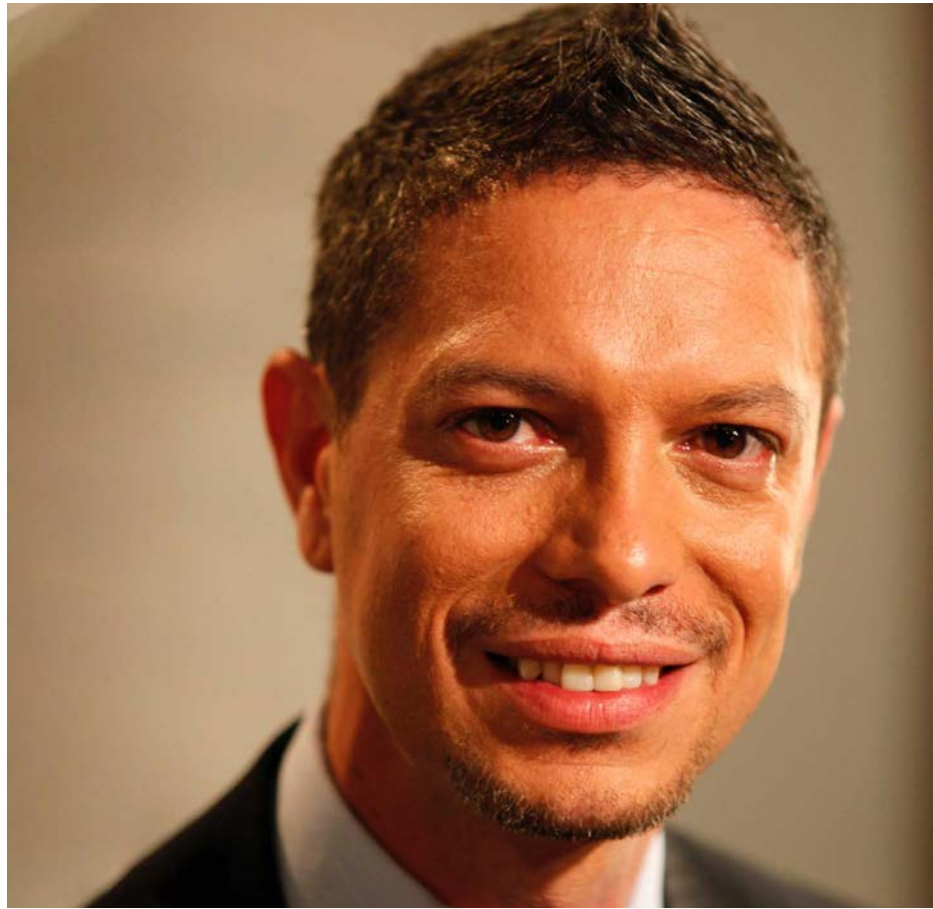
*It allowed me to combine my other Key Learning Areas into an incredibly rich unit of work. It became an integral part of my program in all subjects and created very mature discussions within our class. It was beautifully supported by teaching documents with all the New South Wales syllabus outcomes allowing us the opportunity to integrate into other areas.'*

- Verity Davis Raiss, Teacher, Avalon Primary School

## OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Daniel Browning is an Aboriginal journalist, radio broadcaster, documentary maker, sound artist and writer. Currently, he produces and presents *Away!*, the Indigenous art and culture program on ABC RN, a specialist radio network of Australia's national broadcaster. *Away!* surveys contemporary Indigenous cultural practice across the arts spectrum.

A visual arts graduate, Daniel is also a widely published freelance arts writer. He is a former guest editor of *Artlink Indigenous*, an occasional series of the quarterly Australian contemporary arts journal. He is the curator of *Blak Box*, an immersive sound installation in the newly -redeveloped Barangaroo precinct on the western foreshore of Sydney Harbour. He studied English and Art History at the University of Queensland before graduating with a degree in visual arts from the Queensland University of Technology. Daniel is a descendant of the Bundjalung and Kullilli peoples of far northern New South Wales and south-western Queensland.



Dr Caroline Aebersold has worked in leadership positions in the not-for-profit sector for over 20 years. She was the CEO of The Song Room, successfully leading the organisation for 12 years, providing face-to-face education programs to over 10,000 children weekly in high need communities, including new arrival refugees, Indigenous children, those with special needs and other young people at risk, in addition to digital education programs to over 1 million children nationally. Prior to this, Caroline worked as a Psychologist, specialising in suicide prevention in a range of roles including managing mental health services, teaching and consulting to Government, Community and Corporate clients. Caroline is passionate about addressing social disadvantage, particularly with a focus on evidence-based programs and systemic reform to transform marginalised communities.

She holds degree and postgraduate qualifications in Sociology and Psychology, as well as a Doctor of Human Rights Law from Monash University, focused on human rights and foreign investment law. Aside from her executive experience, Caroline has deep expertise in corporate governance and strategy.



## OUR NEW PEOPLE

We were delighted to welcome Sheree Jacobs to the SharingStories team in March 2019. Sheree is a Torres Strait Islander woman, born in Cairns Far North Queensland with family and ancestral links to Erub Island in the Torres Straits. She has supported our work by providing wonderful creative solutions for print and digital communications.

*'I love my work. This role has allowed me to support essential work in Indigenous communities, through non-profit work, a passionate journey that began in grantmaking in 2008. Respect and innovation underpin the vital work of the foundation, and it is a pleasure to work with the foundation's passionate team and communities. Working for an organisation, that continually breaks new ground with Indigenous communities is an inspiration. It provides opportunities for me to thrive, grow with a strong sense of purpose in my work that resonates both personally and professionally. In the future, I would like to mentor Indigenous people with an interest in communications so many have the same opportunities as me.'*

Brooke Small was born in Sydney NSW and lives in Dunsborough on Wadandi Boodja(country) in the southwest of Western Australia. She is currently exploring her Indigenous family connection to Brewarrina in NSW. In her role as SharingStories'WA State Program Manager, Brooke will oversee development of creative projects with partner communities in and was recently welcomed to Nyikina Country by Senior Cultural Custodian Annie Nayina Milgin.

*'It's a privilege to join Sharing Stories Foundation as the WA State Program Manager. This role will enable me to work long term out on country with community; supporting custodians to develop projects and invite new audiences to connect with the work. I was fortunate to live in Fitzroy Crossing for six years, working with Bununba, Walmajarri and Gooniyandi custodians firstly at Mangkaja Arts and later at Marnin Studio (Marninwarntikura Women Resource Centre) and look forward to reconnecting with those families as I travel through the Kimberley. Throughout the past two years, in my role as Creative Producer with Community Arts Network in Perth, I've also been fortunate to produce the 'Lullabies' and 'Place Names' projects with Noongar communities and look forward to watching those projects continue to grow. It's an exciting time to be joining Sharing Stories Foundation as they move into developing new platforms to showcase exciting and innovative work that has been developed across many years. I am inspired by Founder and CEO Liz Thompson and look forward to working alongside her and a highly skilled and passionate team.'*



Paula Delage Faria is a social scientist from São Paulo, Brazil. She joined the SharingStories team on a permanent basis in July 2019. Paula supports the development and implementation of the organisation's monitoring and evaluation strategies.

*"What an honour it has been to be part of the SharingStories team. I am passionate about impact research and, as the Evaluation Coordinator, I help bring factual evidence of the impact of the Foundation's work with communities and partners. This role also provides a chance to think about evaluation creatively, as technology and arts are central to SharingStories practice. I find inspirational the fact that the programs are community centred, led by a participatory approach. The same principle guides the evaluation activities. Learning about the history and depth of knowledge of First Nations communities from such a dedicated team makes me eager to discover more. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with SharingStories on this gratifying journey."*

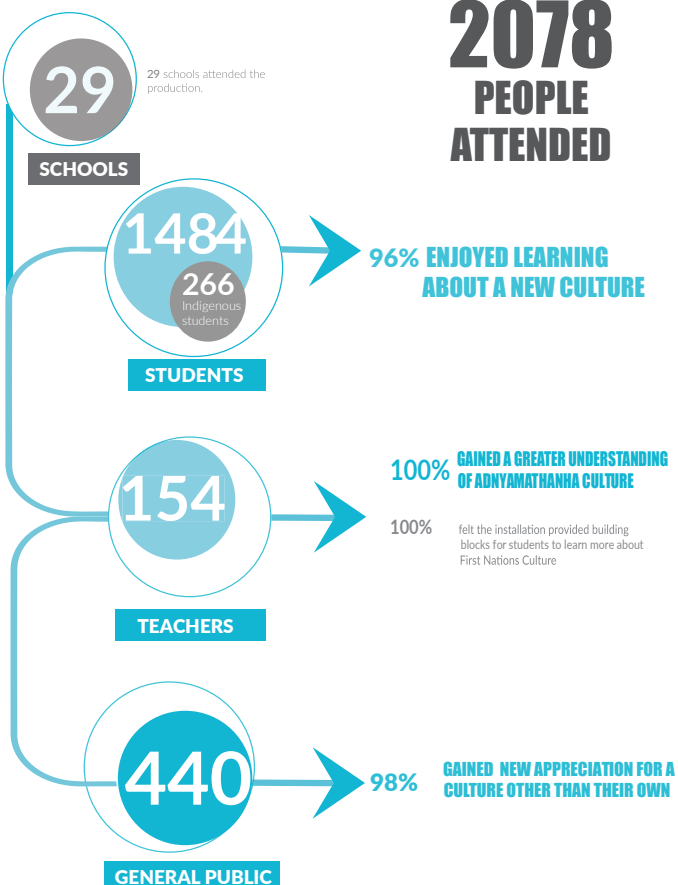


## OUR EVALUATION WORK

### Dream Big Festival 2019

Adelaide's iconic biennial children's festival. **OVER 11 DAYS**

**2078  
PEOPLE  
ATTENDED**



### Quandong Message Tree

#### STUDENT FEEDBACK

**271**  
red cardboard Quandong fruits filled the tree with messages during the life of the installation

**249**  
messages offered praise, thanks, gratitude, delight, connection, curiosity and encouragement and many spoke of a desire to learn more.



"I LOVED LEARNING ABOUT YOUR CULTURE"  
 "A HEART CAPTURING FILM"  
 "I LEARN ABOUT YOUR AMAZING COUNTRY"  
 "WONDERFUL"  
 "THANKYOU FOR SOMETHING SO VERY INVENTIVE TO INSPIRE THOUGHT"  
 "UPLIFTING"  
 "IT WAS INSPIRING, I WOULD WATCH IT AGAIN"  
 "IT WAS AMAZING"  
 "I LOVE THE STORY AND THE CULTURE."  
 "I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR MORE"  
 "THE COLOURS, MUSIC, SINGING - EVERYTHING, SO COOL."

# SHARING STORIES FOUNDATION proudly supported by

## Our Funding Partners



**Australian Government**  
**Indigenous Languages and Arts**



**Australian Government**



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Industry,  
Innovation and Science**

*the* **Aēsop Foundation**



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## In-Kind Supporters



**Deloitte.**  
Digital

SAATCHI & SAATCHI



**Arnold Bloch Leibler**  
Lawyers and Advisers





## 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:

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- Vanessa Elliot
- Marnie O'Bryan
- Bell Charitable Fund
- Andrew Ivanic



## OUR WORK IN 2020

**The health and wellbeing of our partner communities are our priority. Because of the risk COVID-19 poses to Indigenous communities and vulnerable people, we have adapted our practice to work online with our delivery partners and communities.**

**Our mentoring continues.** New media online training programs are being developed and equipment is being sent to mentees to improve capacity to record language and cultural knowledge at this time.

We are working virtually with custodians to co-curate a range of community produced culturally rich media for online platforms so the new audiences are able to enjoy and learn from the incredible work of SharingStories' partner communities.



*'This is the best Indigenous education I have taught in my life.'*

-Verity, Avalon Primary School teacher participating in the trials.

We are in the process of creating a Cultural Education Portal. The platform offers an engaging environment for communities to share rich cultural content accompanied by comprehensive teacher resources. It will provide a go-to portal for teachers delivering First Nations perspectives in the classroom and members of the public seeking to learn about First Nations Culture from First Nations communities. Content and resources have been trialed in schools across Australia with outstanding results showing significant increases in teacher confidence and capacity to deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Perspectives in the classroom.

*"The interactive story, Woonyoomboo, gave me a better understanding of Aboriginal culture and community. Our discussions in class not only increased my knowledge it made me feel more connected to Aboriginal culture and our environment."*

- Yr 5 Student participating in SharingStories Education Trials.

**If you are able to assist us in this important initiative - helping partner communities record, interpret and share, important cultural knowledge and stories, please make a tax deductible donation through this link. Your donations will help us build culturally safe schools for over 12,000 First Nations Students and deliver authentic, community produced cultural content to over 180,000 students, over the next three years.**

