

YARNUPINGS

AAABORIGINAL HERITAGE OFFICE NEWSLETTER ISSUE #2 JULY 2023



northern
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council

STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL





YARNUPINGS

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE OFFICE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #2 JULY 2023

Welcome to the second issue of Yarnupings for 2023

It is NAIDOC Week and plenty of exciting things are happening!

In this second issue of 2023 we start a new regular article called **Leaving Our Mark**. We also have a recap of Susans skills refreshers she ran during **National Volunteer Week** and an article from Phil about how we should**Imagine From a Different Perspective**.

Leaving Our Mark will get the insights from Harrison Goddard on what it is like to be a professional rugby player and how he represents his culture on the big stage.

The Language Corner is back again and we have information from one of our volunteers Jim Boyce on all things EELS.

Please enjoy the second edition of Yarnupings for 2023.

The AHO Team— Dave, Phil, Karen, Susan, Kyle.

In this issue...

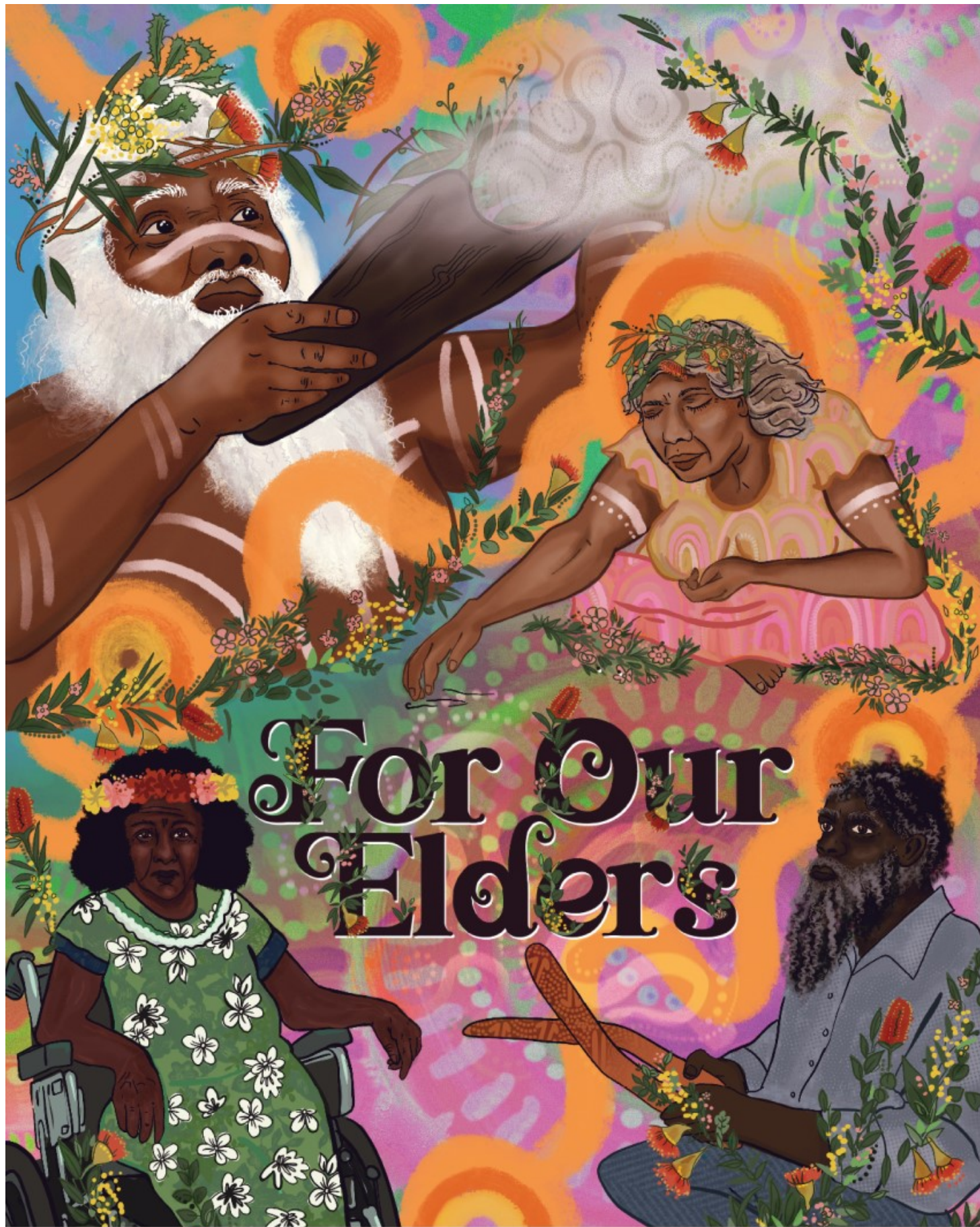
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On the next page

Picture of serenity provided by Susan Whitby after her recent trip to Australia's centre





NAIDOC Week

2-9 JULY 2023

#NAIDOC2023 #ForOurElders

@naldocweek @naldocweek facebook.com/NAIDOC

For Our Elders, Bobbi Lockyer

Where there is knowledge there are our Elders. Our Elders paved the pathways for us, taught us our knowledge, our history, they passed down their art, stories and wisdom. Our Elders are the foundation of our communities and role models for our children. With this poster I wanted to showcase how important our Elders are in passing down traditions and culture to our children and future.

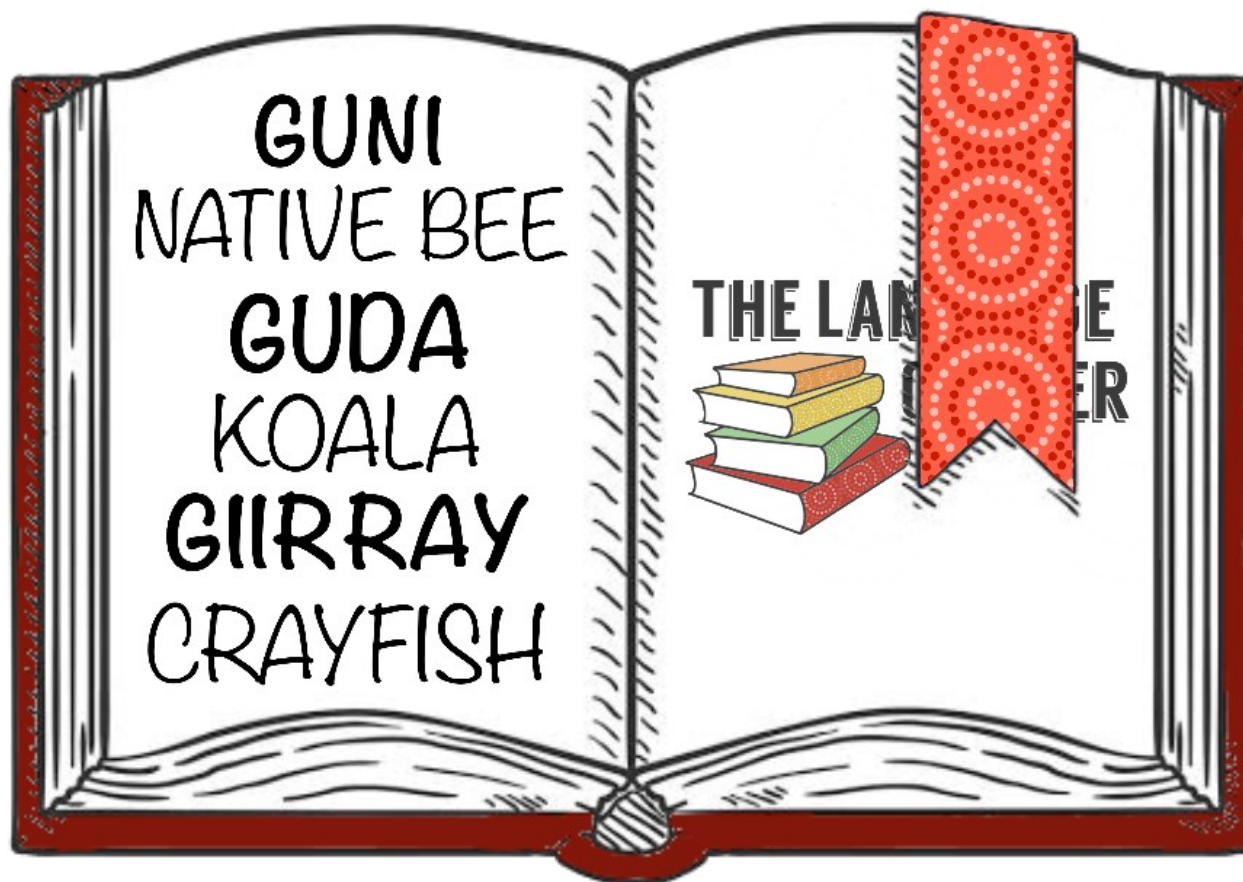
Aboriginal Flag designed by Mr Harold Thomas. Torres Strait Islander Flag reproduced by kind permission of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, designed by the late Mr Bernard Namok.



naldoc.org.au



GAMILAROI



For this issue of The Language Corner, we are bringing you three words from the Gomerioi / Gamilaroi / Gamilaraay Language. This Language is still strong, with some schools within the country offering it to students. This country covers a large area of North Western NSW with strong Aboriginal communities like Tamworth, Moree and Collarenebri being apart of it.

Guni — Native Bee

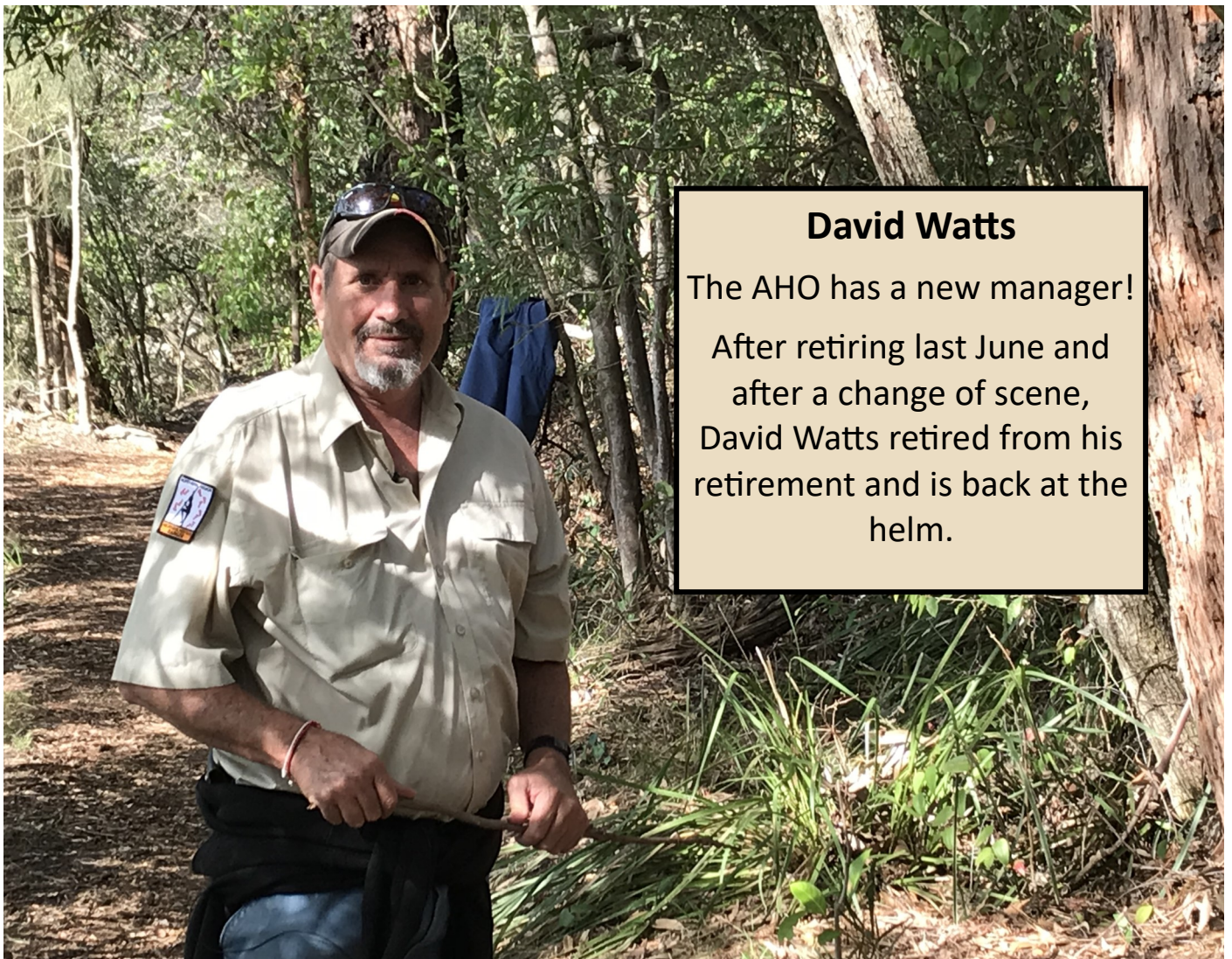
Guda — Koala

Girraay — Crayfish

- NSW AECG LANGUAGES APP

- <https://www.dnathan.com/language/gamilaraay/dictionary/GAMDICTF.HTM>

- <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/indigenous-students-work-to-keep-traditional-languages-alive-in-the-classroom/hxnmd5a6w>

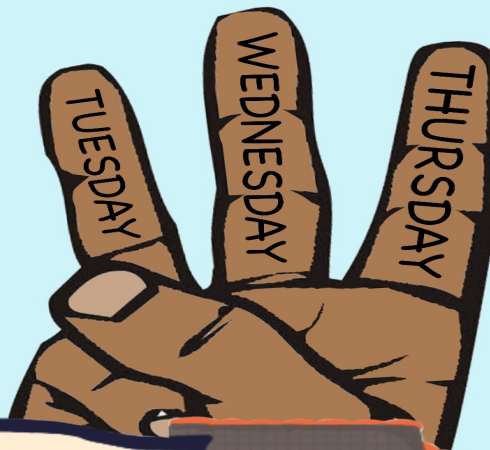


David Watts

The AHO has a new manager!

After retiring last June and after a change of scene, David Watts retired from his retirement and is back at the helm.

**AHO
Museum
is OPEN**



**9am – 3pm
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday**





LEAVING OUR MARK WITH HARRISON GODDARD

**Harrison Goddard is a proud Darug and Murawari Man and professional rugby union player.
He currently plays for the NSW Waratahs in the Super Rugby Pacific Competition**

Who is your Mob and where are you from ?

I grew up in North West Sydney in Rouse Hill. I am a Darug custodian and Murawari man.

What is the best part about playing professional rugby union ?

Definitely the people who you meet along the journey, I've made life long friends. The connections with people in Australia and overseas where I have been. Travelling and seeing the world also is special.

Where did rugby start for you and where has it taken you so far ?

Started playing rugby when I was 4, Dad threw me in to play with the U6's and even though I was the smallest one, I loved every bit of it. Rugby has taken me to some amazing places and met life long friends. I've been fortunate enough to play Super Rugby for 3 years in Melbourne and currently playing for the NSW Waratahs. In between both teams I took an opportunity to play in Los Angeles, which was an awesome life experience to travel around the US and play footy with some ex Wallabies. I've travelled to South Africa, Japan, Fiji, Samoa, Georgia, NZ, Los Angeles all through the love of rugby.



Any advice for young Aboriginal kids who might look up to you ?

Be proud of you are and to keep learning more about yourself and your interests. If you desire something you have to be disciplined.

Without commitment you'll never start but more importantly without consistency you'll never finish.



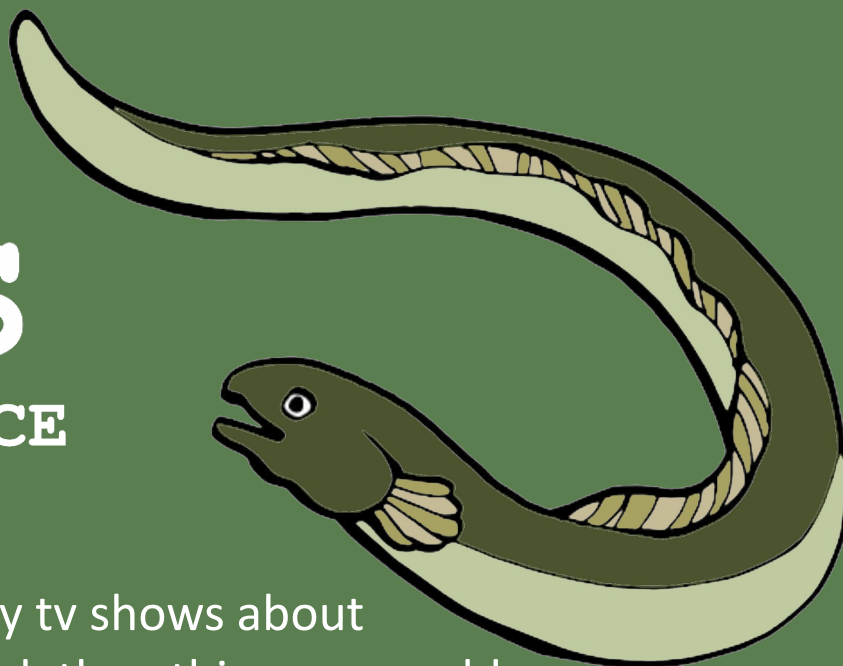
What makes you proud about being Aboriginal ?

I'm proud to represent my bloodlines and represent where my family have come from and that has made me who I am. I'm proud to share our beautiful culture, and continue to learn.



EELS

BY JIM BOYCE



If you're into reality tv shows about surviving in the wild, then this year would have seen you develop a fascination with eels, catching them, eating them, smoking them, skinning them.

I really want to know how slippery they are and what they really taste like!

In a serendipitous moment one of our most delightful and curious volunteers, Jim Boyce, joined us for a cup of tea at the AHO Museum and was having a yarn about the latest book he'd been reading – a book about eels.

Well, this piqued our interest and we asked Jim to write an article for Yarnupings about the book he was reading and share his knowledge of eels in general. It's so good we've made it a stand alone publication. Click the link on the Newsletter page and download your copy today!

**SPECIAL
EDITION**

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

15-21 MAY 2023

THE CHANGE MAKERS WEEK

Volunteer Week 2023 was AWESOME!

By Susan Whitby

I was absolutely delighted to see so many faces at our skills refresher courses. We had volunteers that I've never met in person before, volunteers who have been site monitoring for 23 years and everyone in between. It was wonderful!

We held a midday session and an evening session.

My favourite part was the lunch or supper afterwards. Seeing our volunteer community together. Chatting with old friends, making new friends. Hanging out with other like-minded people. It made me really proud of the AHO Site Monitoring Program and our delightful and dedicated volunteers.



We were able to give all our volunteers an AHO t-shirt and the updated rock art photo scale card, from Griffith University, which they will be able to use out on site. Everyone also received a certificate in appreciation of their volunteering.

Volunteer Week was also special for me as I finally completed my Certificate IV in Volunteer Program Coordination. I received my certificate at State Parliament House, which was quite special!

I'm looking forward to strengthening our volunteer community again after the Covid years.

See you at the next event!



Thank You

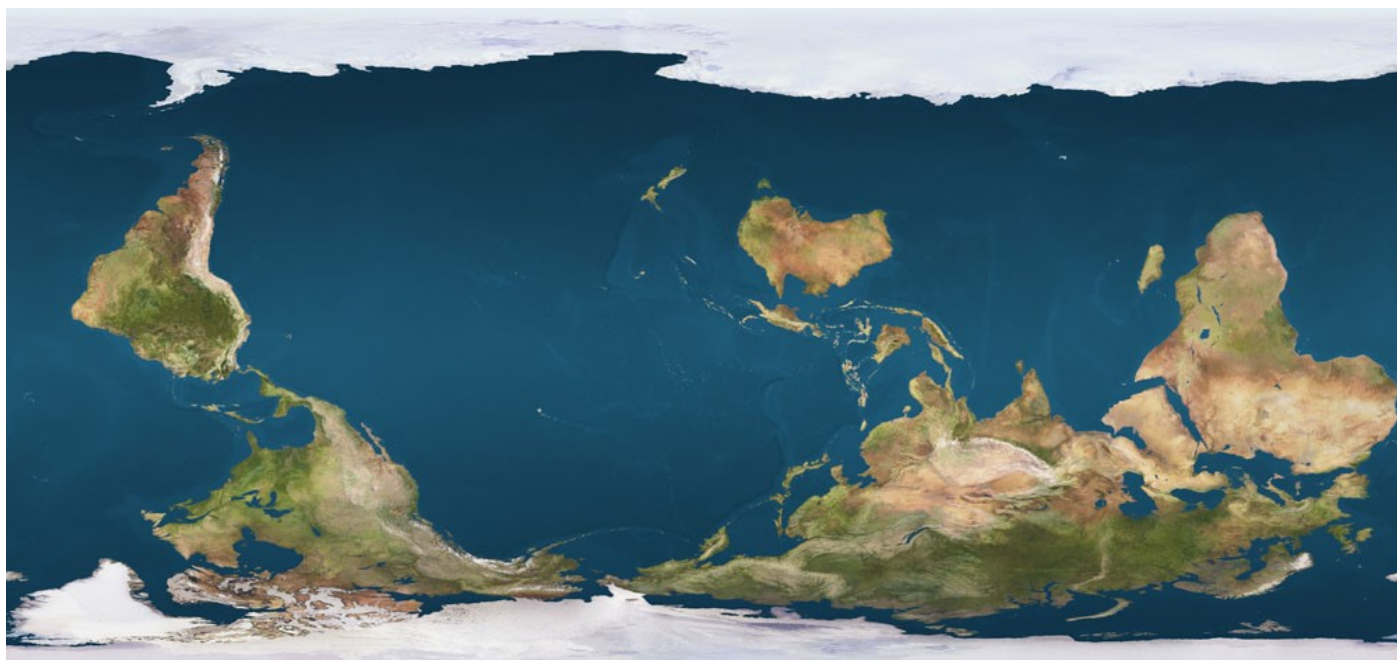
FOR BEING A CHANGE MAKER



Day time training session



Night time training session



IMAGINE

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

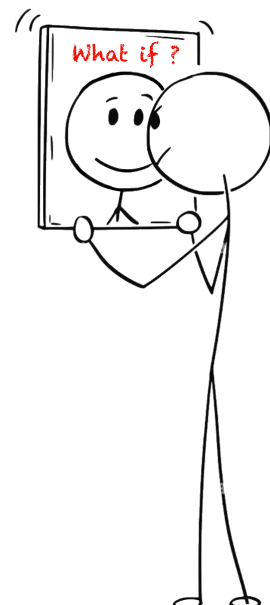
By Phil Hunt

Things can look quite unusual when viewed from a different perspective. Cultures the world over encourage individuals to 'walk a mile in the moccasins' of another person to better understand their experience. We are familiar with our own physical and mental suffering and happiness. We have ways to connect to those closest to us. Extending this to strangers and people more distant from our affections takes effort. It takes a type of logical inference. A type of imagination. We are being asked to imagine literally being in someone else's shoes. In their skin. Sitting looking back at us from their perspective.

Mercy, empathy, compassion. Why do we care if someone says they are in pain, unless we can imagine what that might be like? We have to ask the question repeatedly: *how would I feel if this were to happen to me, or my family? Or: was this action logical and fair looking from the other side of the fence?* If a burn from a spilt cup is painful, what must it be like to be caught by flames?

If being caught out in bad weather is uncomfortable, what must it be like to be homeless? If the pace of change in one's neighbourhood is unsettling, what must it be like to be dispossessed and excluded from your own land? If war is horrific today, what were the repercussions for those who experienced it in the past, that now we can only read about in history?

The Voice is one of those issues that requires us to use our imagination to really understand why there is a need for change. At the AHO we are not lawyers, we are not familiar with the Constitution. These finer points are for others to make a case. What we are more familiar with is the historical imbalance of Indigenous input into local issues. Let's just take local history as an example.



Imagine a Different Perspective

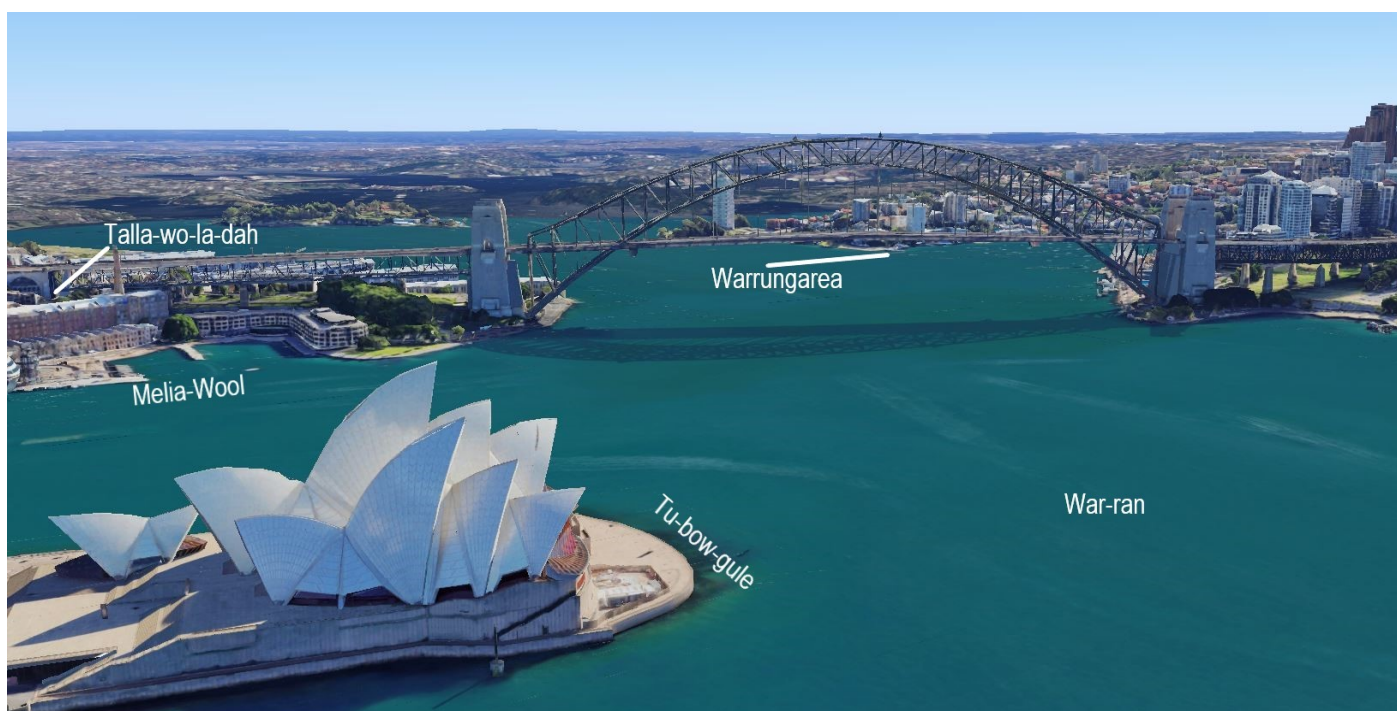
There are many websites, books, scholars, researchers, university posts, library rooms and amateur enthusiasts, dedicated to revealing and celebrating Australia's history. There are still far fewer resources dedicated to the Aboriginal story. Far too many histories still frame Aboriginal history from a discoverer's viewpoint because most of us are of that culture and are still discovering things. In our excitement of discovery, we forget that not everyone needed discovering, or that their discovery was quite a different story.

We could say that Sydney's early historical record is dominated by the patchy accounts of the First Fleet and layers of academic and amateur research, sleuthing, guess work and interpretation. Up until quite recently the established Aboriginal history and story of the region could be summarised as a white perspective of a white narrative assembled from white research pitched to a white audience in a largely white community.

It has been extremely difficult for Indigenous people to find the opportunity to voice their perspective and to explain why it differs. It has been extremely difficult for the non-Indigenous community to accept that there is a difference and to accommodate the sharing of it.

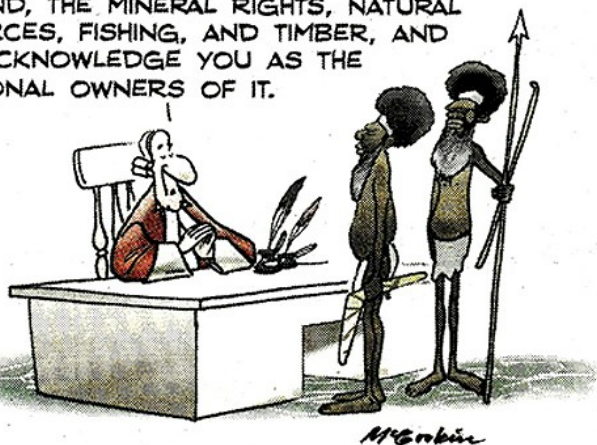


SPEND A DAY IN MY BARE FEET



Imagine a Different Perspective

HOW ABOUT A COMPROMISE? WE KEEP THE LAND, THE MINERAL RIGHTS, NATURAL RESOURCES, FISHING, AND TIMBER, AND WE'LL ACKNOWLEDGE YOU AS THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF IT.



This is changing. Changing fast. Yet much of it could be said to be still superficial. Shallow roots easily shaken loose. This is why people from all backgrounds agree that there need to be formal mechanisms for First Nations peoples to put their experience directly to decision makers because established systems still largely fail to deliver improved outcomes. If Indigenous Australians make up only 3% of the population in their own lands, it means they will always be a minority. If the rest of us are an unimaginative lot, then that perspective will be poorly considered.

In the one united harmonious nation that people fear losing (as if it ever existed), there is plenty of room for narrow mindedness.

The authors of the constitution can be criticised in various ways from our perch in the present. They can also be praised. For their vision of making something better than what was there in the late 1890s. For their courage to push against what would have been easier - leaving things the same. Creating something new takes so much work. Doing nothing, well, that works until it is no longer viable.

At the AHO we have been witness to a rare initiative where Aboriginal people have been given a voice directly into Aboriginal heritage management at the local government level. It has succeeded even though there was no pre-existing structure or template, and even when not everyone agreed. But key individuals and Councils had the courage to give it a go. It hasn't always been smooth, but it has lasted. I think that is largely due to the right voice getting to the right decision makers. That can be a fragile bond.

We often deride those who are imaginative as not being realistic. Too emotional, not grounded. However, imagining a different perspective may be the only way to see something in a more complete way. It is not looking in a mirror and seeing the familiar. It is looking from someone else's eyes in a manner that may not feel entirely comfortable. Upside down is only a matter of perspective.

Being young is a great advantage, since we see the world from a new perspective and we are not afraid to make radical changes.

Greta Thunberg

Hey, you people Out there
How come
You ain't fair
To the people
Of the land
Try my, try my, sunset dreaming

Yothu Yindi, Sunset Dreaming

By Poulpy, from a work by jimht at shaw dot ca, modified by Rodrigocd - self-made, from Image:Earthmap1000x500compac.jpg, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3692020>

kooriweb.org

Eel Broth

Method

Wash, clean and skin the eel. Then cut it into small pieces and put them in a slow pan.

Add the Water, onions, parsley, bay leaf, cloves and a little salt and pepper, and simmer gently for 90 minutes.

Let it stand until cold and remove every particle of fat.

Reheat in small quantities as required.

Ingredients

225g of eel

1.4l of cold water

Half a small onion

2 Sprigs of parsley

1 Bay leaf

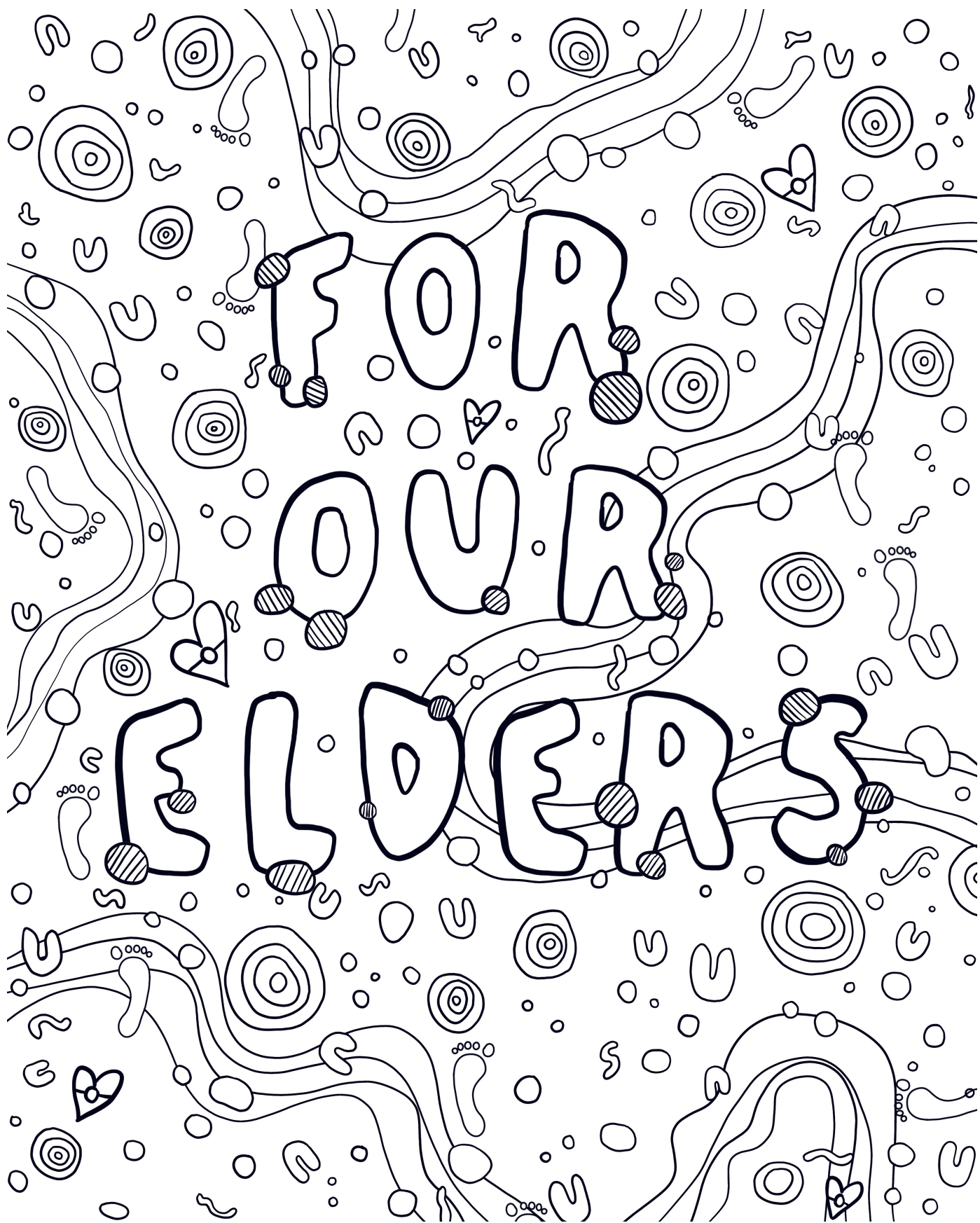
Salt and Pepper

<https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/eeling-in-warriewoods-creeks-history.php>

The Gundagai Times and Tumut, Adelong and Murrumbidgee District Advertiser (NSW : 1868 - 1931),

p. 3. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article129670230>

NAIDOC Week 2023 Colour in



Emma Hollingsworth—Mulganai Indigenous

<https://mulganai.com/collections/kids-free-colour-in>