

Yarning Time

Issue 17: March 2023



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Welcome to the seventeenth issue of *Yarning Time* for the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

Yarning is a term used by Aboriginal people meaning talking and sharing stories.

We are pleased to bring you news and information that showcases the important work that has been undertaken by DBCA and Traditional Owners. *Yarning Time* informs the community, our partners and staff of developments in Aboriginal engagement across the State.

Aboriginal engagement involves almost every aspect of the department's work including reserve creation, science, recreation, tourism operations, conservation land management, fire management, wildlife management and heritage protection, much of which is being enabled through formal and informal joint management and partnership initiatives.

Please have a read and enjoy.

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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions respectfully acknowledges all Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters it manages, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community.

DBCA commitment to cultural tourism

DBCA conserves Western Australia’s biodiversity, cultural and natural values and provides world-recognised nature-based tourism and recreation experiences for the community.

Cultural tourism presents DBCA with an opportunity to enrich visitors’ experiences of Western Australia’s parks and provides opportunities for visitors to see and understand parks through a cultural lens and to increase awareness of and appreciation for Aboriginal culture and heritage.

DBCA acknowledges the unique role and expertise Aboriginal people have as Traditional Owners of the lands and waters and recognises the valuable contribution they make to the conservation of biodiversity. Through effective leadership and advocacy, and increased Aboriginal collaboration, DBCA aims to promote reconciliation and foster strong working partnerships and community relationships with Aboriginal people. In support of this, the department is welcoming Aboriginal people to celebrate their culture and to educate the community about their values through cultural tourism. Aboriginal cultures are unique and are not found anywhere else in the world. Tourism not only provides economic benefits for Aboriginal people who can work on their traditional Country, but it also allows them to transfer knowledge, and to maintain and protect culture. We are proud to work with Aboriginal people to protect Western Australia’s most significant places.

Article by: Peter Sharp, Executive Director Parks and Visitor Services



Aboriginal Tourism Operator Troy Bennell (Ngalang Wongi Aboriginal Cultural Tours) teaching children traditional dance at the Mookaroo Festival in Bunbury.

Cultural tourism

Australia is living with a long history of Aboriginal people, culture, and presence. The footprints of an ancient people are in all the lands and waters of this country. Many people travel to Australia seeking authentic cultural experiences.

Through cultural tourism the wider community can:

- ✦ be educated and informed on Aboriginal cultural heritage values
- ✦ gain a greater respect and understanding of the ancient rich cultures of this country
- ✦ have a unique and memorable experience.

Many Cultures, Many Stories



Aboriginal tour operators delivering knowledge on DBCA-managed land and sea Country.

The Western Australian Government also supports cultural tourism through the recently launched Tjina: Western Australian Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2021-2025. Backed by the \$20 million Aboriginal tourism fund, the plan aims at growing a diversified and sustainable Aboriginal tourism sector for WA.

Article by Aboriginal Engagement and Heritage Unit (AEHU)

Together caring for Country

There is tremendous potential to deliver positive outcomes through culture-based tourism and Aboriginal contributions to the tourism industry. Western Australia's national parks and other conservation reserves offer natural settings for visitors to experience the richness and diversity of Aboriginal culture.

DBCA values Aboriginal tourism because it helps protect and preserve culture and contributes towards positive social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people and the broader community. It is important that Aboriginal people are delivering cultural tourism on their Country – who better to learn about a place than the very people who have an ancient connection to it? DBCA supports cultural tourism in many ways including:

- ✦ strategies and programs
- ✦ providing support to Aboriginal tour operators who operate on DBCA's managed lands
- ✦ supporting tourism festivals, conferences and workshops, and
- ✦ partnering with tourism stakeholders.



Darren Capewell - Tour Operator at Wula Gura
Nyinda Eco Adventures (Shark Bay,
Midwest region)



Preston National Park (South West region)



Jandamarra Festival (Windjana Gorge,
Kimberley region)

Article by AEHU

Strategies and programs that support cultural tourism

Aboriginal cultural tourism is a way that Aboriginal people can work on Country on DBCA-managed lands and waters to share information about their culture to the wider community.

DBCA supports Aboriginal people to establish tourism businesses in parks through the following strategies and programs:

- ✦ Culture in the Parks
- ✦ Aboriginal Ranger Program
- ✦ Yanchep National Park
- ✦ Rottnest Island Authority programs
- ✦ Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority programs
- ✦ infrastructure
- ✦ interpretation
- ✦ festivals
- ✦ conferences.

Tourism and Concession branch

The Tourism and Concession branch in DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service promotes nature and culture-based tourism opportunities on Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Act land. This is done by issuing and helping to manage a range of leases and licences including commercial operations licences, commercial leases, apiary permits, and commercial filming and events licences. The Tourism and Concession branch also provides advice to departmental staff and the tourism industry to facilitate tourism so that people can experience and value parks.

Aboriginal people can be involved in tourism on the conservation estate through:

- ✦ leases, for example the development of ecotourism accommodation – the Gumala Aboriginal Corporation have a lease to operate eco-tourism accommodation on Karijini National Park (Pilbara region)
- ✦ commercial operator licenses – DBCA currently supports approximately 30 operators through the Culture in the Parks program.
- ✦ partnerships with other businesses that have leases or licenses. For example, an Aboriginal person can provide a cultural component to another tour or business.

Why licence?

Western Australia's national parks and conservation reserves are amongst the State's most significant places. They contain globally significant biodiversity, help to protect unique plants and animals, and conserve places of cultural and heritage importance. For these reasons, there is a higher level of management required for tourism businesses to operate.

By issuing licences, DBCA can assess and authorise tourism businesses, and monitor the environmental impact of tourism to make sure natural and cultural values are conserved.

Tourism and Concession branch

Aboriginal cultural tours

To conduct Aboriginal cultural tours that have cultural content or visit culturally-sensitive sites, any tourism operator must have written approval from the relevant native title party, unless the operator is on-Country for which he or she has a recognised native title right or interest.



Karijini Eco Retreat (Photo: Australia's Northwest)

If you would like to develop a tourism business in one of WA's national parks or other conservation reserves, or hold an event that celebrates Aboriginal culture, please contact DBCA by emailing licensing@dbca.wa.gov.au or phoning (08) 9219 9978.

Bungle Bungle Guided Tours

DBCA monitors licence conditions that require companies to offer training, employment and equity opportunities for local Aboriginal people. Bungle Bungle Guided Tours, in partnership with HeliSpirit, create employment, training and equity opportunities for local Aboriginal people.

Bungle Bungle Guided Tours is 'Respecting our Culture' accredited and ensures that correct permissions are obtained when presenting cultural information to visitors. Bungle Bungle Guided Tours offer a unique experience, providing guided walking tours with an Aboriginal perspective of the World Heritage-listed Purnululu National Park. Locally owned, with experienced guides, they showcase the cultural significance and history of the Bungle Bungle.

For the 2022 dry season Bungle Bungle Guided Tours employed six Aboriginal staff. Four were tour guides and two worked at the Bungle Bungle Savannah Lodge. In April 2023 they plan to employ eight Aboriginal staff; three of whom are returning from the 2022 season.

HeliSpirit is a helicopter tour operator who for years has been operating scenic flights from the Bellburn airstrip in Purnululu and at other sites across the Kimberley.

For more information:

[Bungle Bungle Guided Tours | Welcome to Bungle Bungle Guided Tours](#)

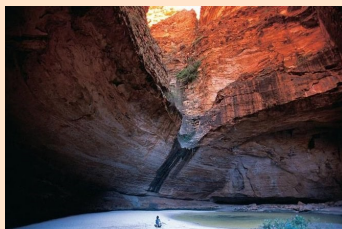


Photo: Viator



Photo: Bungle Bungle Guided Tours (Facebook)

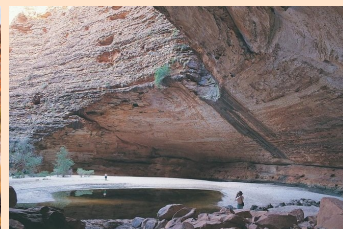


Photo: Viator

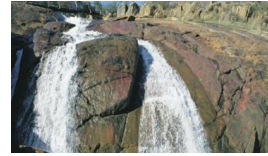


Photo: Kimberley Experiences

Article by Ellen Angel, Licencing Officer

Culture in the Parks - caring for Country through tourism

The department's Culture in the Parks program aims to promote and support Aboriginal cultural experiences in parks to enrich the experiences of park visitors. It provides a diversity of Aboriginal cultural experiences through commercial tours, events or visitor activities.



John Forrest National Park



Fitzgerald River National Park

Culture in the Parks contributes to the management of Western Australia's protected areas, the statutory responsibilities and obligations of the department and helps to give effect to DBCA's Reconciliation Action Plan.



Kalbarri National Park



Karijini National Park

The program complements the State Government initiatives Plan for Our Parks and Aboriginal Ranger Program, which are key commitments for DBCA.

The program also supports:

- ✦ a pilot program called 'Discover the Dreaming' which supports emerging operators to deliver short cultural talks in parks, and,
- ✦ an artists in residence program. Planning is in place with DBCA and Tourism WA to develop this program.

Culture in the Parks contributes to the aims and actions of the State Government's *Jina: Western Australian Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2021-2025*.

Article by: AEHU

Discover the Dreaming

Colleen Drage is the owner of Kurlaji Wangga. Colleen is working in partnership with DBCA to undertake the first pilot project of Discover the Dreaming in Kalbarri National Park.

Colleen is a proud Nanda women, growing up in Ajana and Kalbarri on the Murchison River which runs through Kalbarri National Park. She currently lives in Northampton with her family.

Colleen's Aunties and Uncles taught her to look after and take notice of Country. She is passionate about her Country – and as an artist, often weaves Country into her artwork, helping set up the Kuarlamuggu Art Centre in Northampton.

Colleen was invited to provide her artwork for the skywalk development at Kalbarri National Park alongside her daughter Mauretta. Visitors to Kalbarri National Park are invited to learn about the ancient culture of the Nanda people with stories from Nanda traditional lands inspiring the interpretive and artistic elements that are such an important feature of the skywalk.

Along with being a talented artist, Colleen ventured into tourism as she is passionate about sharing her Country and culture.

"I am passionate about sharing knowledge about my Country and culture. My aspiration is for the young people to be involved in cultural tourism with me" (Colleen Drage, Kurlaji Wangga).



Colleen Drage (Kurlaji Wangga).

Article by Colleen Drage

Aboriginal Ranger Program

The State Government's Aboriginal Ranger Program is delivering jobs, training and community development opportunities for Aboriginal people across a range of tenures in regional and remote communities across Western Australia.

Led by the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal organisations with support from the DBCA and across government, the program is helping Aboriginal organisations manage Country and protect the environment across WA in partnership with the public and private sectors.

In June 2022, up to \$22 million from a new expansion fund was made available for on-Country ranger positions. More than 600 ranger jobs have been created on-Country since start of program. This is part of a \$50 million investment over the next four years.

Since its commencement in 2017-18, the program has continued to train and employ Aboriginal people as rangers to undertake land and sea management. It also supports activities related to cultural tourism:

- traditional knowledge transfer
- cultural site management
- cultural awareness and immersion experiences for visitors
- guided welcome to Country tours and/or talks for visitors
- management of visitors or tourists and tourism assets education programs and mentoring.

The Birriliburu Ranger team from the Central Desert was a successful recipient of this grant which will contribute towards career progression and leadership for 10 rangers to carry out monthly ranger patrols of the Canning Stock Route and to develop tourism opportunities.



The Birriliburu Ranger team (Goldfields region)

Cultural tourism at Yanchep National Park

Derek Nannup, Eco Education Officer at Yanchep National Park

Derek Nannup is a Noongar man from the South West of WA from the Wadandi and Binjarrab people. He is the Eco Education Officer for Yanchep National Park.

Derek has many jobs in his role from gate house keeper to shop assistant and cave guide. However, his primary role is as a cultural guide at the Wangi Mia and in schools.

Yanchep National Park run Aboriginal experience tours including:

- ✦ sharing knowledge on traditional hunting weapons, tools and art
- ✦ didjeridu playing
- ✦ dance workshops
- ✦ meerin (spear) and boomerang throwing
- ✦ a Dreamtime program where Derek talks about the Dreamtime or *nyitting* (cold-time stories) which are important to educate the young ones
- ✦ Aboriginal science programs that talk about aerodynamics of boomerangs, Aboriginal huts, the six seasons and the science of traditional glue.

“One school I ran 45-minute workshops all day for three days straight and one school I spent the week doing 45 min programs and teaching Aboriginal kids traditional dance to perform at four separate assemblies. I’ve also had the opportunity to work with many corporate groups educating them about conservation and the cultural importance of Yanchep National Park. I’ve been fortunate to work with many amazing organisations like Nature Play whose sole purpose is to get our young generation to connect with nature” Derek said.

Yanchep also runs two programs for Nature Play WA, one being in Cabaret cave, which is wheelchair accessible. The second being the Dreamtime program on the creation story for Yanchep National Park for the kids and then provided the Dreamtime story for them to attach to an app for the participants.

Derek also coordinates and runs Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week events at Yanchep National Park.



Rottnest Island Authority (RIA)

RIA supports cultural tourism through their management strategies and Reconciliation Action Plan as shown below:

Rottnest Island Management Plan 2020-24 is:

- ✦ promoting Aboriginal cultural tourism offerings
- ✦ developing a site which will potentially include provision for tents and other amenities to be supplied to visitors, and with supporting services including campground hosting, guiding and Aboriginal cultural experiences
- ✦ pursuing economic participation opportunities for the Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal peoples. Opportunities exist for visitor offerings based on the sharing of traditional and contemporary Aboriginal culture through a range of formats including talks, demonstrations and guided experience of the island's land and sea scapes.

The Reconciliation Action Plan aims to continue to develop and expand Aboriginal tourism opportunities and partnerships for the Island.

The RIA puts out an annual expression of interest (EOI) for new recreational and Aboriginal cultural tourism businesses on the island.

The EOI is to increase and diversify the range of business on Rottnest Island to enhance the experience for visitors.

RIA invites experienced operators to bring innovative and exciting recreational offerings to complement existing businesses to Wadjemup.

Read more about the [call for new tourism businesses on Rottnest](#).



Article by AEHU

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA)

BGPA facilitates a range of cultural tourism opportunities for visitors to Kings Park (Kaarta Koomba).

Visitors can be immersed in the world's oldest living culture with an authentic, personal experience of [Aboriginal culture at Kings Park](#).

Tours and other cultural experiences are run by local Noongar people who have a strong family connection to this Country and a deep understanding of their culture and knowledge of the land:

- ✦ independent Aboriginal operators regularly run tours through Kings Park
- ✦ The Kings Park Education and Learning team deliver Aboriginal cultural programs
- ✦ Boodja Gnarning self-guided walks allow anyone to follow interpretive signage highlighting and informing about Noongar land and tree usage, foods, tools, shelter and medicines
- ✦ for schools, Kings Park Education run their very popular Noongar Boodja six season festivals
- ✦ the work of 17 Aboriginal artists is represented in the Aspects of Kings Park Gallery shop.

BGPA also supports cultural tourism through their strategic priorities and management plans.

Strategic priorities 2020-25:

- ✦ actively promoting, respecting and understanding Whadjuk Noongar culture and knowledge of these lands
- ✦ gathering and sharing stories of Kings Park and Bold Park
- ✦ meeting demand for Aboriginal cultural experiences and knowledge
- ✦ support for Aboriginal businesses to run tours and cultural experiences in the park
- ✦ expanding Kings Park Education's Aboriginal programs including an annual Aboriginal cultural festival.

Management plans for Kings Park and Bold Park will:

- ✦ continue to provide and explore opportunities for innovative and world-class experiences that attract visitors, create a sense of adventure and celebrate and respect our natural and cultural environment
- ✦ manage cultural heritage places and landscapes as locations with opportunities for cultural tourism, biodiversity conservation, recreation, education, and community involvement
- ✦ enhance recognition of Noongar and other Aboriginal culture, heritage and connection through increased engagement of Aboriginal people in the management and delivery of services; creating Aboriginal heritage focus point in a prominent location and continuing Noongar naming of Kings Park and Bold Park features.



Mia mia structure marking the entry of the bushland nature trail, with a mosaic depicting the Menzies banksia, *Banksia menziesii*.

Article by BGPA and AEHU

Infrastructure

DBCA supports cultural tourism by providing infrastructure to protect biodiversity, cultural and heritage values.

The infrastructure also ensures safety to visitors and businesses that are operating on DBCA-managed land.

Traditional Owners are involved in infrastructure development.

Danggu Geikie Gorge National Park redevelopment - West Kimberley district

The Danggu Geikie Gorge National Park project located in the Kimberley was redeveloped in consultation with Bunuba Traditional Owners.

The Recreation Planning and Design unit provided areas along the pathway for areas to display cultural interpretation signs.

These were to fit within a walkway to provide two seating areas; one within a semicircular space with seating under some trees and the other with a view down to the river and the gangway.

Given that the site is on the bank of the Fitzroy River, the whole area goes under water during seasonal flooding and the signs get put back out every dry season.

They are very important to tell the story of the site for the Bunuba people.



Danggu Geikie Gorge National Park (Photo: DBCA)

Article by Sam Fitzpatrick, Landscape Architect

Infrastructure

Dwaarlindjirraap suspension bridge project - Swan region

Lauren Mazzucato, Communication Designer from Parks and Wildlife Service (Visitor Communications and Marketing branch) shares her story of working on country with Bindjareb Traditional Owners, developing infrastructure on DBCA-managed land.

In early 2022, Lorna Charlton, a Senior Communication Designer, invited me to my first Elder consultation. We met with George Walley and Frank Nannup, two Elders of the Pinjarup language group to discuss the construction of the Dwaarlindjirraap suspension bridge and accompanying interpretive signage at Lane Poole Reserve.



Lane Poole Reserve canoe launch (Photo: DBCA)

This bridge will link the north side of the Murray River with the Murray Valley mountain bike trails on the south side. With no current interpretive panels, the construction of the bridge and new signage provides an opportunity to share Noongar peoples' culture, stories and significance of Lane Poole Reserve and the Murray River with visitors.

During the consultation George and Frank shared with us the tradition of throwing sand into the river. I took a handful of sand, walked down the steps of the canoe launch, and following George I said "Hello. I am happy I am here looking at you and talking to you. My name is Lauren, I am asking for safe passage during my visit. Thank you." Then I threw my handful of sand into the river.

The health of the water directly relates to the wellbeing of the Waugal and failing to throw the sand can lead to harm. By following this tradition, the Waugal and river are taken care of and in return the Waugal takes care of us. It was a privilege to be shown this tradition and have a yarn with George and Frank. My hope is that these traditions and stories can be taken in by visitors when reading our interpretive signage showing them the importance of caring for the land, especially as Lane Poole Reserve becomes more popular once the bridge is constructed.

Article by Lauren Mazzucato, Communication Designer

Interpretation

DBCA works with Aboriginal partners to develop cultural interpretation which is used to enhance visitor understanding of a site, sometimes using outdoor graphic displays to highlight significant sites and sharing cultural information.

Looking out on Country

Communications Designer Tamara Beers works in the visitor communication team of DBCA's Parks and Visitor Services division. Tamara has worked in close consultation with Traditional Owners on many interpretation projects across the state. Here is what she has to say about her involvement of protecting biodiversity, cultural and heritage values.

When I was asked to contribute to an article about interpretation and Aboriginal engagement, my initial reaction was "how can I possibly express 'JOY' in words"?

Any new interpretation project is exciting; the research for one, discovering new facts about the flora and fauna of the area, the history and how the site was used. Many snippets of information found along the way (sometimes completely irrelevant but hugely entertaining), make up the feeling of the place, and from here we begin to understand what the area is all about. The site visit allows us to 'place' this information. It's where things begin to make sense.

Nothing enables us to gain a better understanding of an area than when we have an opportunity to yarn with Elders. But you can't just 'rock on up' and expect a story to be shared when you first meet and greet. This is a privilege to be handled with care, understanding and time. Gaining trust in any relationship is paramount to a successful one. I know I am not prepared to share my stories with someone who I feel uneasy with - it's human nature.

The Elders I have worked with on projects in Porongurup and Torndirrup national parks are no exception. Wise, astute, knowledgeable and passionate, the Elders do not suffer fools easily. So why joy? It is because you must reveal your personality, be open and honest, and lose the mask we have to wear when dealing with all other aspects of our job? When this happens, connections happen, trust develops and the beauty of culture can be shared. There are stories of tragedy in this as well, sickening ones that cut to the core, but somehow the story turns into something positive and we laugh, that wonderful, deep belly laugh you would never do in the office. The day ends and the feeling of enrichment and gratitude is distilled yet again into one word. Joy.

Encapsulating a beautiful story or message into a distilled version constrained by word count is not easy. If we do our job right, we will do it justice and the visitor will have the opportunity to appreciate the area they have come to enjoy and leave with a better understanding of Aboriginal culture and connection to the land - hopefully, they too leave with that wonderful feeling; joy.



Yarning - Misery Beach, Torndirrup National Park

Article by Tamara Beers, Communication Designer

Interpretation

The magic of consulting on Country



Lorna Charlton, Interpretation Officer for Parks and Wildlife Service, shares her extensive knowledge on developing interpretation signs in collaboration with Traditional Owners.

Over the last 22 years working with DBCA as a communication designer I have consulted with Elders on a wide variety of interpretive projects across Noongar Country. At times we have met indoors to view PowerPoint presentations and workshop values, issues and ideas. At other times we've gathered outdoors on Country and of course it has been those experiences that have been the most enjoyable and insightful.



The Kalgulup Regional Park motif is the mungite (*Banksia grandis*)

When we meet on Country, I can see and appreciate that Elders are able to fully express how they feel and show me why culture is so important and what it means to be connected to Country. In return, I feel both a sense of privilege and responsibility because they are entrusting me with the cultural knowledge and stories that I will then share with visitors to DBCA parks and reserves.

Recently I've been very fortunate to have been working with a group of Elders in the creation of a new regional park in Bunbury, which sits within the lands of the Pinjarup, Wardandi, Kaneang and Wiilman people. With their guidance and advice, the park was named *Kalgulup*, a Noongar word meaning 'place of fire' or 'place of burning camp'.

The inspiration for the name and the park's firestick motif came from the campfires that were common around the Leschenault inlet when Noongar people camped there in large numbers and practiced seasonal customary activities in their Country as they have for thousands of years and continue to do today. We ran several workshops exploring and reviewing maps, plans and historic documents and having lengthy discussions to create a vision for the park, but it was out on Country that the magic really happened.

We would be walking along in beautiful places beside the Collie River or the inlet, and the wind would begin to blow making that unmistakable and timeless sound amongst the sheoaks, and Elder Joe Northover would start to sing in Noongar, speaking to the ancestors who were making their presence felt.

It's moments like these that I feel blessed to be doing the work that I do, and I am reminded that even after 22 years, there is so much more to learn about culture and experience on Country with generous and knowledgeable Elders like Joe.

Article by Lorna Charlton, Interpretation Officer

Interpretation

Ngajarli Art Viewing Trail in Murujuga National Park wins heritage award

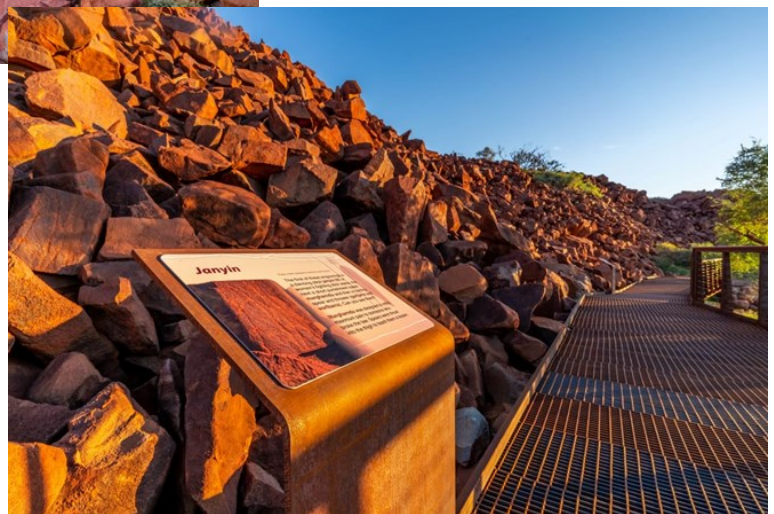
The Ngajarli Art Viewing Trail in Murujuga National Park was a collaboration between the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, as joint managers of the Murujuga National Park. The art trail has been carefully designed to achieve cultural safety and caring for Country in a very sacred place. With minimal infrastructure and intervention, a series of walkways, interpretive signage and gathering spaces have been created to better manage visitation, provide cultural education and culturally safe viewing of the petroglyphs.

Officially opened in August 2020, the 700-metre trail allows people to visit Murujuga National Park and view the ancient rock art from a safe distance and divert foot traffic away from some of the extremely sacred rock art and culturally sensitive locations. Visitation to the site has more than doubled since the project was completed and MAC now run highly popular tours of the site. Visit [Experience Murujuga Rock Art & Cultural Tours](#) for more information.

Since the construction of the trail, the project has been awarded the State's Heritage Tourism Product award at the 2021 WA State Heritage Awards. The WA Heritage Awards, now in its 29th year, recognise outstanding contributions to heritage conservation, promotion, tourism and interpretation.



Murujuga National Park Ngajarli art viewing trail



Article by Bel Foster, Senior Landscape Architect

Interpretation

Rottneest Island Authority

Naming/renaming project

In August 2022, Rottneest Island Authority (RIA) successfully renamed and created new road names for several sites around Wadjemup.

Amended road names:

- ✦ Vincent Way renamed to **Nyi Nyi Bidi** – this means ‘the crying road’ in Noongar
- ✦ a portion of Katemeraire Road renamed to **Emerald Road** – named after a ferry that serviced the island in the 1920s and 1930s.

New road names:

- ✦ **Pinjar Bidi** – this means ‘the path to the swamp/lake’ in Noongar
- ✦ **Marr Bidi** – this means ‘the path to the wind’ in Noongar
- ✦ **Djidar Bidi** – this means ‘the path to the noise of the birds at sunrise/morning’ in Noongar
- ✦ **Kura Bidi** – this means ‘a long time ago road’ in Noongar
- ✦ **Wandoo Bidi** – named after a ferry that serviced the island in the 1950’s and 1960’s
- ✦ **Janet Road** – named after a ship. Janet was shipwrecked on Transit Reef in 1887
- ✦ **Mira Flores Road** – names after a ship. Mira Flores was shipwrecked on Horseshoe Reef in 1886.

The process was conducted in close consultation with the Wadjemup Aboriginal Reference Group (WARG) and received geographic naming approval through Landgate.

Article by Helen Priestley, Reconciliation Project Officer

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority

Naming updates in Kings Park

Renaming projects:

- ✦ Lotterywest family area to Poolgarla family area
- ✦ Hale Oval to the Poolgarla Parkland
- ✦ Stickybeaks café to Biara Café, and later Biara Café to Koorak Café, due to change in lessee
- ✦ Community Shelter to Mangatj Pavilion.

Newly named:

- ✦ Ngoolaark Pavilion – recently completed in the exhibition grounds
- ✦ Koolangka bridge and walk – recently completed bridge to the children’s hospital and related walk through the bushland to Zamia Café. Part way lined with interpretive signage aimed at children.



New signage created for the newly renamed ‘Poolgarla family area’ (formerly called ‘Lotterywest family area’).

BGPA continues on its journey to name and highlight Noongar culture and history throughout Kaarta Koomba Kings Park.

Article by Scott Heffernan, Manager Partnerships, Communications and Marketing

Festivals

DBCA partners with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal organisations to support Aboriginal festivals held on DBCA-managed land, encouraging the Traditional Owners to reconnect to Country, enriching visitor experiences and sharing culture. Regional staff provide assistance working in partnership with Traditional Owners and festival organisers.

The Yajilara Festival

The Yajilarra (Let Us Dream) Festival is held at Danggu Gorge (Geikie Gorge), near Fitzroy Crossing.

The festival includes art and cultural markets and a musical celebration of the BandaraIngarrri (Fitzroy River).

The project is driven by Bunuba cultural custodians and Traditional Owners who provide input into the development and refinement of cultural stories for the theatre productions.

This year the Yajilarra festival will be held over 14-15 July.

In Bunuba, Yajilarra means 'let us dream'. The Traditional Owners' dream is to revitalise Bunuba language and culture and activate an enhanced sense of identity and connection within their community. Traditional Owners will prepare cultural stories for theatrical production and share these with school children.

By engaging children alongside Elders and theatre professionals we will improve their young people's understanding of and confidence in speaking and performing Bunuba language and cultural stories. Children will participate in confidence-building performance and choreography and be part of a proud performance of Bunuba stories.



Yajilarra Festival, Danggu Geikie Gorge (Photo courtesy of Wesfarmers and Rift Photography).



The Yajilarra festival is an important biennial celebration of language and culture by and for the Bunuba community. This project will set the foundations for a professionally-produced theatre production; performed on Country in July 2023, immersing the broader WA community in the beauty and resilience of Bunuba language and culture.

Yajilarra Festival, Danggu Geikie Gorge (Photo courtesy of Wesfarmers and Rift Photography).

Article by AEHU

Festivals

The Karijini Experience - Pilbara region

The Karijini Experience is held annually on the traditional lands of the Banjima people. It is a five-day celebration of culture, food, music and art on Country in the breathtaking Karijini National Park.

From exclusive fine dining under the stars, to live music, yoga in the gorge and free community and family-friendly events, there is truly something for everyone.

A diverse and inclusive program of authentic, high-quality arts, culture, music and food experiences designed to connect people to the magnificent landscape of Karijini National Park.

For more information visit the [Karijini Experience](#) website.



Photos: Eco Retreat Karijini

Conferences

World Indigenous Tourism Summit

The World Indigenous Tourism Summit will be held from 16-23 March 2023 in Perth. It is a forum to advance opportunities for Indigenous people in tourism.

Indigenous communities, industry tourism operators, destination marketers, governments, learning institutions and civil society organisations from all corners of the world come together for the biennial World Indigenous Tourism Summit.

The World Indigenous Tourism Alliance (WINTA) and Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC) have joined to offer this unique gathering in the Country of the Whadjuk Noongar Traditional Owners.

Speakers and delegates will discuss the role Indigenous values and wisdom can play in building a kind of tourism better equipped to survive in the future, asserting Indigenous rights in our home countries, and nurturing a growing awareness of the need to unite and engage in the equitable development of Indigenous economies.

The summit carries a promise of fellowship and the sharing of strong commitment to improving the wellbeing of Indigenous societies and sacred Mother Earth through tourism.

DBCA will be presenting at the conference on cultural tourism and joint management

Read more about the [World Indigenous Tourism Summit](#).



Articles by AEHU

Tour operators

Aboriginal businesses operate throughout the state, working across the lands and waters DBCA manages. With the diversity of Aboriginal culture, there is something new to learn everywhere visitors go.

“Tourism empowers our people, revitalises our culture and keeps Country healthy for our future generations” Joe Ross, Bunuba Traditional Owner.

Nyungar Tours

Nyungar Tours, owned and operated by Kerry Ann Winmar, has created an opportunity to share authentic Aboriginal cultural tours, experiences, products and services in and around Perth with people from all over the world. Their services include:

- ✦ tours and experiences
- ✦ Aboriginal displays and products
- ✦ cultural awareness
- ✦ presentations
- ✦ Nyungar language translations
- ✦ consultancy services
- ✦ women’s business
- ✦ cultural immersions.



Kerry Ann Winmar - Nyungar Tours
(Photo: BGPA)

Kings Park Yorgas Walk

Kerry takes visitors on cultural walks through Kings Park, sharing her stories, knowledge about bush foods and medicines and offers hands-on seasonal activities. [Book with Kerry here.](#)

Article by AEHU

Djurandi Dreaming

Djurandi Dreaming is owned and operated by Whadjuk man Justin Martin, a qualified tour guide. Justin’s traditional lands stretch over the Perth metropolitan area making him a part of the traditional Noongar nations.



Djurandi Dreaming tours are based around history, facts and creation stories that are hundreds of years old. The stories are passed down from generation to generation.

Djurandi Dreaming's goal is to positively educate and showcase Aboriginal culture in Western Australia while conserving culture, language and Country. The benefits of cultural tourism is to gain knowledge, get out on Country and create memorable experiences that can last a lifetime.



Justin Martin (Djurandi Dreaming)

Read more about [Djurandi Dreaming.](#)

Article by Justin Martin, Djurandi Dreaming

Go Cultural Aboriginal Tours and Experiences

Go Cultural Aboriginal Tours and Experiences is run and operated by Whadjuk Traditional Owner Walter McGuire. Walter currently operates in partnership with RIA and BGPA to provide walking tours.

Wadjemup

Join this walking tour and explore the island’s pre-eminent significance to Noongar People prior to it’s notorious recent past life. Beginning with a traditional Aboriginal sand ceremony at the first settlement, your walk also includes a Dreamtime story, traditional song and Noongar language. It is a one hour tour and [bookings](#) are essential.



Walter McGuire, Go Cultural Aboriginal Tours and Experiences. (Photos: RIA)

Kings Park

Learn about Kaarta Gar-up, the local Noongar term for the Mt Eliza escarpment in Kings Park, and about Mt Eliza’s intriguing past and its spiritual significance to Noongar people. The tour begins with a traditional Noongar welcome and ochre ceremony, followed by dreamtime stories and songs featuring Indigenous language. [Book online](#).



Walter McGuire, Go Cultural Aboriginal Tours and Experiences. (Photos: BGPA)

Wula Guru Nyinda Eco Adventures

Darren Capewell from Wula Guru Nyinda Eco Adventures offers a range of cultural tours in the Shark Bay World Heritage area. His range of tours include bushwalks, kayak and snorkelling adventures, 4wd tours or sitting around the campfire under the stars listening to the ancient sounds of the didgeridoo.

Key experiences include learning about:

- ✦ Aboriginal history and culture
- ✦ traditional Aboriginal hunting/gathering
- ✦ Aboriginal Dreamtime (the Dreamtime are Aboriginal stories and legends of how the land was created).

“Our job is to look after Country and cultural tourism allows us to be on Country to do this” shared Darren Capewell, Wula Gura Nyinda Eco Cultural Adventures.

More information on the [Wula Guru Nyinda](#) website.



Photos: Wala Guru Nyinda Eco Adventures.

Articles by AEHU

Baiyungu Dreaming

Hazel Walgar is a Baiyungu woman whose connection to Country stems from her grandmother Yungagurru, who belonged to the Nyingalara clan which is now known as Ningaloo.

Hazel is the proud owner of Baiyungu Dreaming, offering tourists the opportunity to see Country through her eyes, sharing traditional values and culture, with a mission to protect the ancient culture.

Hazel is proud of her language, one of only a few people who speak the Baiyungu language of the Pilbara. She has worked as a language worker and studied in linguistics, authoring various Baiyungu publications. Hazel also works as a cultural advisor with DBCA, delivering cultural education to the community, interpretation programs, Aboriginal cultural awareness, and assisting with two-way transfer knowledge between Traditional Owners and DBCA.

Hazel's vision for the future is that Traditional Owners, the Baiyungu people, are recognised, and to develop and inspire leadership and the younger generation to be taught their cultural heritage.

More information on the [Baiyungu Dreaming](#) website.



Article by Hazel Walgar, Cultural Advisor

Ngurrangga Tours

Clinton Walker is a descendant of the Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi people, who are the Traditional Owners of the coastal and inland areas of the West Pilbara region encompassing areas such as the City of Karratha, Dampier Archipelago, Murujuga National Park and Millstream-Chichester National Park.

Clinton started Ngurrangga Tours to educate and immerse people in the ways of his culture and history so that they could understand more about Pilbara Aboriginal culture and Country. Ngurrangga Tours mostly operates from Karratha and offers visitors a unique experience of the Pilbara through the eyes of a Traditional Owner.

Guests are given the opportunity to learn about bush foods and medicines, explore stunning locations, view and understand ancient rock art in the world's largest outdoor rock art gallery, hear traditional stories and listen to traditional songs sung using the wirra (boomerang).

Clinton is passionate about raising the profile of the Burrup Peninsula located in Murujuga National Park. It is one of Australia's most significant heritage sites and an important cultural place for Aboriginal people. The Burrup Peninsula is on the National Heritage register and is home to up to a million Aboriginal rock carvings, some dating back 40,000 years. Despite this, it is relatively unknown worldwide and even in Australia.

More information on the [Ngurrangga Tours](#) website.



Clinton Walker

Article by AEHU

Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC)

WAITOC is the peak representative for Aboriginal tours and experiences in Western Australia. Its the premier Aboriginal advocacy body educating and informing government and industry on the needs of Aboriginal tourism businesses and their market.



They promote authentic cultural experiences at a state, national and international level.

DBCA works in partnership with WAITOC to:

- ✦ support the Culture in the Parks Aboriginal tour operators
- ✦ help facilitate cultural tourism festivals
- ✦ provide community forums on cultural tourism.

WAITOC is a place where people with an interest in Aboriginal tourism can come together to share, learn and benefit from each other. This provides the basis for WAITOC's business development, education, advocacy, marketing and networking role.

For more information on cultural events and tours, access the [WAITOC website](#).



Robert Taylor, CEO WAITOC

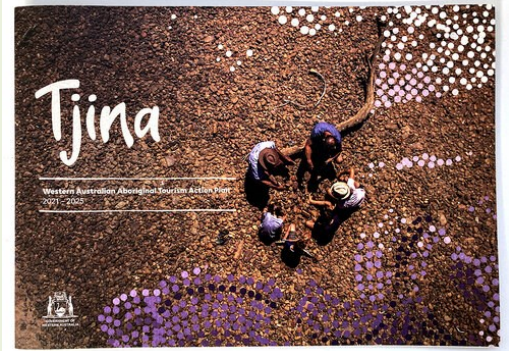


WAITOC website

Tjina: WA Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan

The Tjina: WA Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan (Tjina plan) was developed by Tourism WA in partnership with WAITOC and other government agencies to:

- ✦ position Western Australia as the premier Aboriginal tourism destination
- ✦ build the capacity for Aboriginal people to enter the tourism sector
- ✦ facilitate the development of Aboriginal cultural experiences.



The Tjina plan provides government with an agreed approach to align, collaborate and communicate cross-agency activities aimed at growing a diversified and sustainable Aboriginal tourism sector for Western Australia.

The four-year plan, backed by the \$20 million Aboriginal Tourism Fund will support a range of initiatives including:

- ✦ the development of new Aboriginal tourism experiences
- ✦ encouraging more Aboriginal people to work in the tourism industry
- ✦ the development of administration and booking systems to support Aboriginal tourism businesses
- ✦ up to three new Camping with Custodians campgrounds
- ✦ an increase in tourism experiences on the Dampier Peninsula, after the Cape Leveque Road was sealed last year.

DBCA is committed to the actions of the Tjina plan and also has representation on the Tjina: WA Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan Committee.

[Tjina: WA Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2021-2025](#)

Article by AEHU

We hope you have enjoyed reading *Yarning Time*.

