



SHARING STORIES
FOUNDATION

A close-up photograph of a young Indigenous Australian child. The child has dark, curly hair and is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. They have white body paint applied to their face, specifically around the eyes and nose. They are holding a paintbrush in their right hand, with some white paint visible on their chest. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a natural outdoor setting. The image is framed by orange and teal curved borders in the top left and bottom right corners.

SHARINGSTORIES FOUNDATION **2020 ANNUAL REVIEW**

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Most of all, we couldn't have done it without the generosity of spirit and ancient wisdom of the Aboriginal communities and peoples we work with. They are why we are in being.



It is trite to say that 2020 was a difficult year for most of us. Bushfires ripped through my traditional Country, the Country of the Yuin on the south coast of New South Wales, at the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic threw the world into a tailspin. The impact on SharingStories Foundation was obvious.

At our heart is our work in and with Aboriginal communities. At our core is our desire to share the stories of those communities with children, with adults, with the entire Australian community. Those important aims were impeded by the pandemic.

However, I'm so proud that SharingStories Foundation remained committed to delivering excellent work product, particularly in sharing Aboriginal stories with the wider population throughout the country, from the launch of our new website, to the launch of the Gija community's interactive panel at the WA Museum, the release of the Stories from Country multi-touch book series, as well as the further development of our Cultural Education Portal.

We couldn't have done any of that without the amazing and flexible support of our funders, from both government and philanthropy. I send my

thanks to each of you for remaining committed to the journey of SharingStories Foundation.

Most of all, we couldn't have done it without the generosity of spirit and ancient wisdom of the Aboriginal communities and peoples we work with. They are why we are in being.

I am in awe of how much SharingStories Foundation accomplished in 2020, with all the challenges it and our staff faced. It is testament to the courage and fortitude and spirit of our staff that so much was done.

We should not be surprised though – if only a small fraction of the strength of Aboriginal peoples continues to support our organisation, which time and time again they do, there is nothing we can't accomplish – together.

I commend this Annual Report to you. I look forward to working with you into the future.

Timothy Goodwin

**Chair,
SharingStories Foundation**



Nyikina community celebration of the release of Woonyoomboo: The Night Heron. Photo credit: Chris Lean

CEO REPORT

As communities closed to keep people safe we continued to work with virtually with our partner communities. We continued to support partner communities with a strong focus as always on cultural continuity and recording of cultural knowledge.



Young Nyikina people at the community celebration of the release of Woonyoomboo: The Night Heron

As communities closed to keep people safe we continued to work virtually with our partner communities. We continued to support partner communities with a strong focus as always on cultural continuity and recording of cultural knowledge.

Shaped significantly by the COVID pandemic, 2020 was a big year for everyone. It particularly highlighted concerns for the vulnerable. First Nations Roundtable discussions threw a spotlight on the wellbeing of Elders, the holders of knowledge that shapes the cultural path and connection of the young ones. There was particular emphasis placed on the importance of recording cultural knowledge as held by cultural custodians, First Nations Living Libraries. As communities closed to keep people safe we continued to work with our partner communities, with a strong focus as always on cultural continuity and recording cultural knowledge. We worked and reached out virtually, continuing to support partner communities and cultural continuity practices on Country whilst unable to physically visit. We were additionally able to really bring some focus to the Share Initiatives of our activity streams. SharingStories operates across two identified streams: 'Create' and 'Share'. Create programs serve to build skills, stories and culture in community participants and include digital creative storytelling, mentoring and language programs. Share initiatives ensure

local community access to program outcomes and distribute content, where appropriate, that builds respect for culture and Country amongst all Australians. This initiative includes publishing and distributing community produced bilingual interactive books, short films, educational resources, exhibitions and installations; as well as the Connecting to Country App to be launched in October 2021 and the Cultural Education Portal to be launched in 2022.

2020 was a year with a strong focus on the Share initiatives and saw SharingStories work with partner communities to realise several significant public outcomes. We released the first series of the 'Stories from Country' bilingual multi-touch books. Many years in the making, these beautiful, unique books offer deep knowledge sharing through artwork, animations, interactive maps, songs and language. Created in collaboration with communities, led by senior cultural custodians, the first series included books from the Nyikina, Gija, Jaara and Bangarang communities. We were also extremely proud to have launched an interactive panel produced in collaboration with the Gija community at the Western Australian Museum Boola Bardip. All SharingStories architectures are built as templates that can be shared with partner communities across the country. The interactive panel architecture provides an opportunity to translate the content currently held in multi-

touch books into exciting public displays that can be housed and held, not only in galleries but, in regional and remote cultural centres, ensuring the experience is available to communities and travellers on Country. The Gija panel will be replicated and housed on Gija Country and we hope to explore this exciting possibility with partners across the country.

COVID also intensified people's engagement in the online space and highlighted the importance of ensuring that first Nations content and perspectives are well represented in that domain. 2020 saw the launch of the Koorie Culture Map in partnership with the Koorie Heritage trust and three partner Communities in Victoria. The interactive map provides access to community produced content, animated films, language, videos of important sites, and Welcome to Country experiences. We are super excited that these innovative platforms can be used by, and tailored to the needs of, partner communities to ensure ease of community access to cultural content, while also sharing as appropriate with Australian audiences.

In 2021, we have returned to community-based work with a strong focus on education. We have a wonderful new Education Director, and are working towards the build of the Cultural Education Portal to house community content with teacher resources that together support

effective delivery of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island perspectives priority area. We are putting a strong focus on providing culturally relevant learning materials that ensure First Nations students learn in culturally safe schools and that build respect and understanding for First Nations cultural heritage across the broader community and school cohort. A subscription model will enable profit share and revenue return to communities and SharingStories in ways that support ongoing community cultural production and population of the portal.

It's such an honour to be part of this work, so exciting to be able to collaborate and work alongside so many community partners, delivery, and funding partners in ways that ensure cultural knowledge is recorded for present and future generations and have the potential to affect systemic change, particularly in the context of First Nations education. I hope you enjoy this report, taking a deeper dive into the work and learning more about the communities with whom we collaborate.

Liz Thompson,

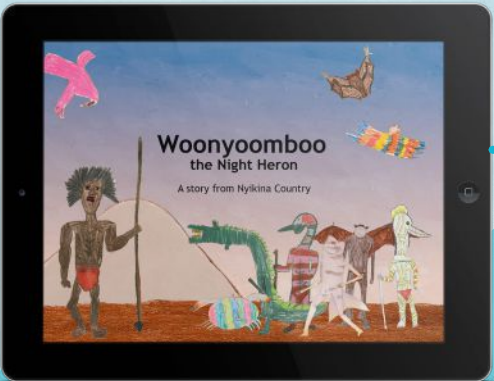
SharingStories Foundation CEO

2020 LAUNCH OVERVIEW

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES REACHED

25 000 new viewers
59 000 online plays of language and culture rich content

Woonyoomboo: The Night Heron
multi-touch book
Release date December 6



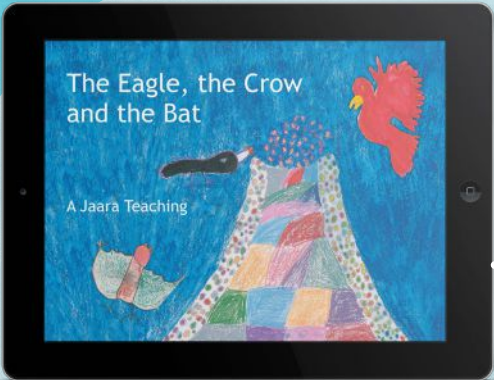
Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: Frog and Brolga
multi-touch book
Release date December 6



WA museum installation :
Gija Community
Release date: November 21



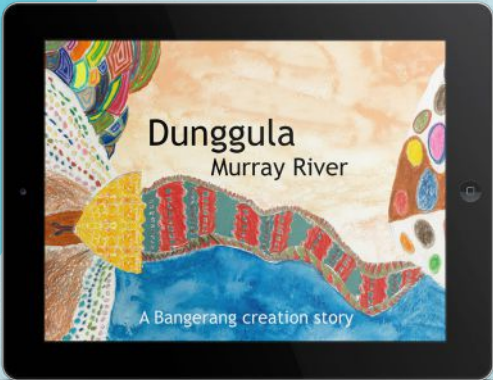
The Eagle, the Crow and the Bat
multi-touch book
Release date December 6



Koorie Culture Map
Release date : October 7



Dunggula: Murray River multi-touch book
Release date December 6



SHARING OUR STORIES

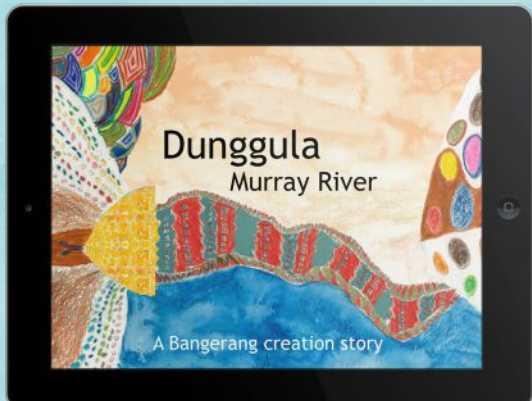
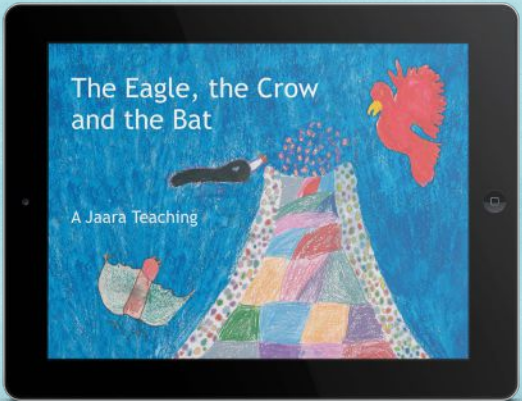
BOOK SERIES

On 6 December, the Foundation, in collaboration with the Nyikina, Gija, Bangerang and Jaara communities launched a suite of bilingual multi-touch books. The series, titled 'Stories from Country', shares Creation stories from four communities who have worked with SharingStories over many years to map, record and creatively interpret cultural knowledge so that communities can collectively reclaim language and culture and hold it in exciting new ways for present and future generations.

The publishing of these culturally rich resources is an invitation to all Australian families to experience authentic First Nation stories and learn about culture and the importance of language in a culturally appropriate format, carefully co-curated with our partner communities. The multi-touch books are grounded in the understanding that language and story are intrinsically intertwined with the Country and the First Nations people they belong to. The production of the 'Stories from Country' series was led by Senior Cultural Custodians

who shared the knowledge. The resulting books are filled with animations created entirely by local school children with SharingStories facilitators and production team. They support the intergenerational transmission of culture and knowledge on Country and build stories in young people. Working together, the whole community engages in creating these remarkable and authentic books housing colourful animations, original artwork, drone footage of important sites, soundscapes, songs, and language and English versions of the story. For children, it offers an exciting and intuitive exploration of place, language and story.

The books have been received positively with a strong demand for both language first and English first options. Some of these books will become available with accompanying teacher resources via our new Cultural Education Portal, due for release in 2022.



'This is the most exquisite book, so rich, so full of life and so fun to play with. Not just to be read once. LOVE!'

- ITUNES REVIEW.



Book Downloads Statistics

497 downloads
December 2020

'This needs to be mandatory reading for all students in Australia. We have so much to learn from our First Nations people, and this resource is such a gift. Thank you to the people from Nyikina Country for sharing your songs and stories with us.'



- ITUNES REVIEW.

KOORIE CULTURE MAP

ONLINE EXPERIENCE

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

'This is a really wonderful concept. Thank you for sharing these stories and knowledge about your ancestral lands. So much to learn.'

'I thank you for sharing your Welcome ceremony. I have not experienced this before and it was great.'

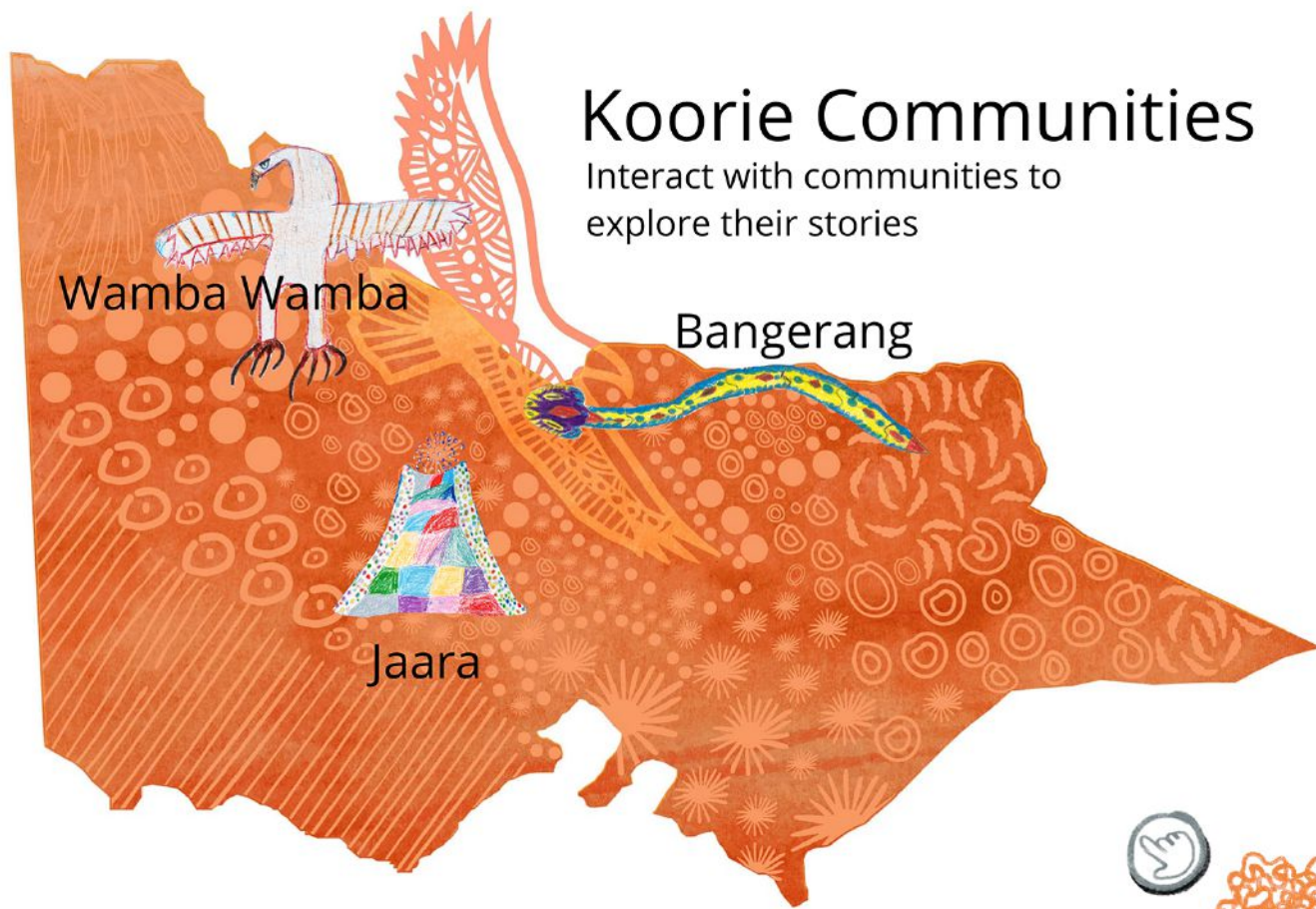
Launched in early October, the Koorie Culture Map significantly increased public engagement with Koorie stories and knowledge. The collaboration between SharingStories and the Koorie Heritage Trust resulted in an interactive online experience hosted on the Koorie Heritage Trust website. The work was guided by the Koorie Nation's shared cultural insights and stories from the Bangerang, Jaara and Wamba Wamba communities. Initially, the work was earmarked as an interactive panel for display within the gallery. However, due to COVID-19, the work was firstly made available in an online platform, so more people could access this beautiful media during the pandemic.

In delivering the project, Koorie communities worked in partnership with young people from local primary schools alongside SharingStories facilitators to create the cultural media. The map of each Koorie Nation invites you, through a Welcome to Country, to explore stories and local knowledge. Within the site, you can explore Koorie customs, stories and language and gain a diverse understanding of Koorie culture in Victoria. The final experience is an interactive journey through a collection of selected Creation

story animations and videos of culturally significant sites.

The online Koorie Culture Map has received strong engagement and feedback. The map increased engagement with SharingStories and partner communities content significantly. Thousands of users accessed the site and many more engaged with community stories and media across our Vimeo channel with 36 426 additional views of SharingStories' and partner communities content during the launch period.

VIMEO VIEWS
36 426 views
October 2020



Koorie Communities
Interact with communities to explore their stories

For more information go to www.sharingstoriesfoundation.org



Keep up to date with what's on at Koorie Heritage Trust

Subscribe

Levels 1 & 3, The Yarra Building
Federation Square
Cnr Swanston & Flinders Streets
Melbourne VIC 3000

Open daily 10am - 5pm
Free entry
(Closed all Victorian and National Public Holidays)

03 8662 6300
info@korieheritagetrust.com

f t i



WA MUSEUM LAUNCH

Launched on 21 November, the Gija community's interactive panel was made public in the Origins - Forming Ancient Landscapes Gallery of the brand new Boola Bardip WA Museum. Set amongst the model of Gawarre, (the Bungle Bungles) and a stunning artwork by Phyllis Thomas, the panel features a significant Gija Creation story.

In 2019, the Boola Bardip approached the Gija community and SharingStories to discuss the possibility of creating a panel about the Creation story, *Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: The Frog and the Brolga* to bring existing and new audiences into relationships with new creative interpretations of cultural knowledge and stories.

Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: The Frog and the Brolga is a creation story about Gawarre as told by storyteller and Senior Cultural Custodian, Shirley Drill. Since 2017, Gija Elders and young people from Frog Hollow and Warmun communities in the Kimberley have adapted this important cultural story through SharingStories Foundation's Digital Storytelling Program. Artwork for the panel was created by students at Purnululu Aboriginal Independent Community School in Frog Hollow and senior custodians from Warmun Arts Centre with support by SharingStories artist facilitators.

The interactive panel houses many animations and video interpretations of cultural knowledge, songs, language and more in an interactive map interface.

With hundreds of thousands of visitors attending the gallery since its opening last November, the permanent panel will provide an important opportunity for Gija culture to be shared in Perth, with the view to sharing it with the Gija community in Warmun through an online version. We are currently exploring opportunities to ensure that a version of the physical interactive panel is housed and accessible on Gija Country.



Gija Community's WA Museum Installation



Photo credit: Chris Lean

NYIKINA COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

'We grew up with what old people gave us, passing on that knowledge. Old people spoke to us in language, but our old people, they didn't know how to read and write, they usually used a message stick. That's how we learnt. But now everything has changed and it's a modern way, and the old people are happy, happy about the way our kids are using technology, and the way they are learning languages and the stories. Not only our kids can learn, but all kids.'

- Nyikina Senior Cultural Custodian Annie Nayina Milgin



Images: Nyikina Community's Celebration of the release of Woonyoomboo: The Night Heron multi-touch book.

The Nyikina Community, in partnership with SharingStories Foundation, Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation and the Australian Government's NESP National Environmental Resource Hub, staged a major community celebration on Sunday, 15 November 2020 to launch the *Woonyoomboo: The Night Heron* multi-touch book and animated film along with the Nyikina Seasonal Calendar.

Following months of careful planning and co-curation with the Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation event sub-committee, more than 200 Nyikina community members came together to acknowledge the work led by Elders Annie Nayina Milgin, John Darraga Watson, Hilda Grey and Linda Nardea and to honour and celebrate the Nyikina Mangala communities in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.



Photo credit: Chris Lean



Held at the Mary Island Fishing Club in Derby, the community watched the *Woonyoomboo* animated film, explored the *Woonyoomboo* multi-touch book and heard about the development of the Nyikina Seasonal Calendar. The night was a great success, featuring many local talents including a fashion parade by Shooting Stars, bush medicine products by Yiriman Women and a deadly local band from Jarlmadangah, who had the community dancing the night away. The launch was captured by local independent filmmakers and film mentees at 6dby Larrkardi Radio in Derby.

GIJA COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Gija Community celebration

The Gija community, in partnership with SharingStories Foundation, Warmun Art Centre and Purnululu Aboriginal Independent Community School, came together for an intimate launch of *Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: The Frog and Brolga* multi-touch book and animated film on Thursday 5 November 2020.

Held in the stunning gallery of the Warmun Art Centre, the community sat together to read the story on a large screen in the gallery and hear the recorded narration in both Gija and English. Together the group explored the rich components of the book including the animated story, maps, artworks, community interviews and videos.

The night was followed by a community dinner catered by the Warmun roadhouse, and a series of school workshops was held at the gallery on Friday, 6 November for students of Purnululu School in Frog Hollow and Ngalangangpum School in Warmun.

The local launch coincided with the opening of the new Boola Bardip WA Museum in Perth and the Gija interactive panel in the Origins - Forming Ancient Landscapes Gallery.

Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: The Frog and Brolga, handed down by Senior Custodian Shirley Drill, is a Creation story situated at Gawarre (Bungle Bungles) which brought into being the landscape plants, animals and the Gija people.

'It's very important to teach the kids their culture, they've got to know their stories. These kids will grow up to be big people and they can pass it on. They might still fight for this country if they know the stories of this place. People everywhere can read this book, I welcome your mob to read it.'

- Gija Senior Cultural Custodian, Shirley Drill

SHARINGSTORIES WEBSITE

In early December, the organisation launched its new website <https://sharingstoriesfoundation.org/>. Following many design iterations, we were able to launch a site that reflects the breadth of our programs and features our partner communities and their work since the Foundation's inception. The site shares the organisational strategy and articulates our program areas and what we hope to achieve through different outcomes. Kristina McKinlay, a Yuwaalaraay and Ngarabul Graphic Designer, created a beautiful map with artwork so users can explore and navigate the site through choosing different communities and understanding the diversity of culture and projects across the nation. Each community's journey is shared, particularly how they lead their unique programs, and connect with the next generation to reclaim language and culture. In addition, the media catalogue houses the community's current work and as a public platform shares First Nations culture and histories with a wider audience.

Senior Nyikina Mangala Cultural Custodian, Darraga Watson



We work with First Nations communities to protect, maintain and grow languages, stories and cultural heritage

SharingStories Foundation works with 17 language groups around Australia. Click on the circles on the map or choose from the menu below.

SELECT A COMMUNITY



2020 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

197 people across **10** communities participated in

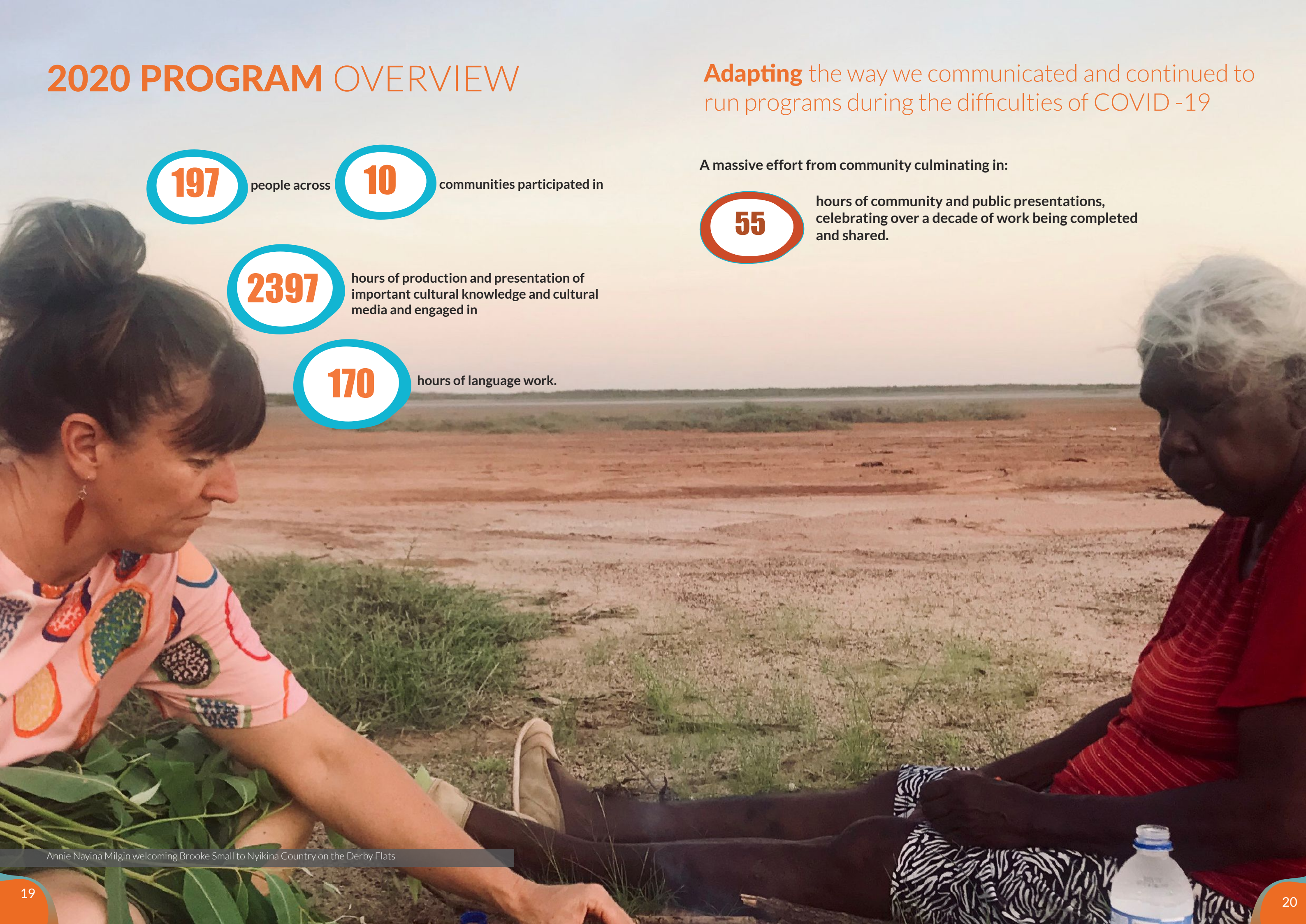
2397 hours of production and presentation of important cultural knowledge and cultural media and engaged in

170 hours of language work.

Adapting the way we communicated and continued to run programs during the difficulties of COVID -19

A massive effort from community culminating in:

55 hours of community and public presentations, celebrating over a decade of work being completed and shared.



Annie Nayina Milgin welcoming Brooke Small to Nyikina Country on the Derby Flats

BANGERANG COMMUNITY

The Bangerang community were engaged and consulted in the completion and release of the Dunggula multi-touch book, extensive progression of language work, and the development of teacher resources to support the safe exploration of the 'Dunggula' story in schools. These educational outcomes were driven by the motivations of the Bangerang community to ensure children as young as kindergarten through to high school have access to appropriate local cultural knowledge, creating safe spaces for Aboriginal students.

Language Work

Kobe Atkinson compiled Bangerang and English audio for hundreds of words in the Language App. The Language App is a tool established to record, maintain and teach language. The Bangerang Language Circle with the community developed the protocols regarding the use of cultural and language resources and Roland Atkinson created beautiful artwork as a visual representation of the words adaptable to digital environments.

Through testing and application, the Bangerang Community has determined to create an online interface for language to be housed within the Bangerang Cultural Centres website. This concept and outcome is to ensure Bangerang language

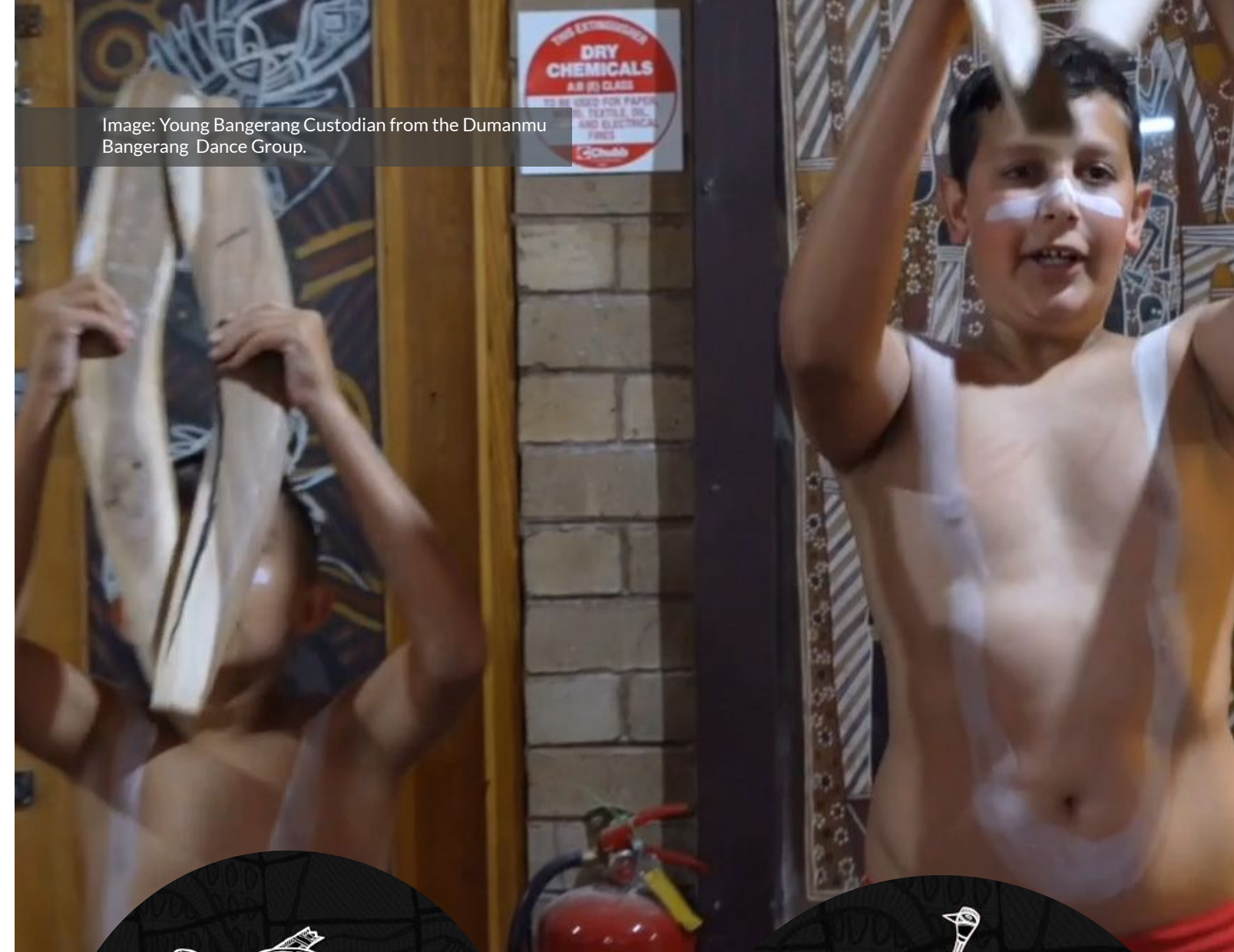
and cultural knowledge is managed and remains with the community, as well as the community maintaining a first point of contact when the broader community explores Bangerang cultural knowledge.

The design of the website and infrastructure will be determined by the community in 2021, and recordings housed in language will be migrated to this new and easily accessible environment.

Multi-touch book

The release of the Dunggula multi-touch book was exciting for the community, seeing many years of work and multiple generations of cultural custodians participation resulting in the beautiful book now released publicly. Despite Victorian lockdowns, the community was determined to release the book and though some community members were unable to visit Country they could still explore the story and the interactive map within the book. To mark the release, a small group of community members produced a special welcome video, including the Dumanmu Bangerang Dance Group and interviews with key community members speaking to the significance of the publication. The community is working towards an event on Country for late 2021 to celebrate the multi-touch book, teacher resources and online digital dictionary to be shared as a Bangerang resource package.

Image: Young Bangerang Custodian from the Dumanmu Bangerang Dance Group.



Bangerang artwork by Roland Atkinson.

'Working closely with the SharingStories crew that introduced different things to our students, to be able to look at different areas of what education can bring to them, what they can get with their future, you know, empowering them to want to do more. They're able to share the experience with non-Koorie kids, So having that experience for them too, to share their culture, within the school, within the community and the families. This experience really gave our kids an opportunity to look at different pathways as well bringing culture into education was one of, you know, one of the major factors with this project.'



GIJA COMMUNITY

Although the Warmun and Turkey Creek communities were closed and impacted by COVID-19 for most of the year, there were opportunities to deliver some significant outcomes.

Elder Eileen Bray worked with linguist Frances Kofod to record 50 new Gija words for the Gija Language App. Additionally, Gija words were entered into the App through our partnership with Purnululu Aboriginal Independent Community School, with assistance from linguist Anna Crane.

To support the release of the interactive book and film, the Gija Community worked with SharingStories Foundation and Purnululu School to develop mainstream and localised curriculum resources so students locally and nationally can learn about Gija culture. The *Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: The Frog and Brolga* teacher resources will be implemented as part of Purnululu School's curriculum in Term 2, 2021.

Young Gija people at the launch of Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: Frog and Brolga

And finally, we're excited to announce that in early 2021, Wyemando Harper Sisters Aboriginal Bequest confirmed funding support for SharingStories to develop a new creative project, inspired by Gija Country and community with Purnululu Aboriginal School throughout the next three years.

GUNDITJMARA COMMUNITY

In 2020, the Gunditjmara community continued to work on and review The First Waterholes multi-touch book. Community consultation continued to support the future community and public release of the work. The Gunditjmara community were also consulted and reviewed the possibility of their content being shared on other platforms. Their current focus is on releasing the multi-touch book in the near future, with ongoing community discussions around final approvals. In addition, members of the Gunditjmara community are determining further adaptations of media for different platforms, including an animated short film, the Koorie Culture Map and the forthcoming Interactive Panel.

WURUNDJERI COMMUNITY

The Wurundjeri Council connected with SharingStories mid-year to discuss ongoing creative work, including the appointment of a consultant to work with the Foundation to support the completion of creative outcomes. Due to COVID-19, the consultation and review process of the *Birrarung: Yarra River* multi-touch book was delayed. SharingStories is currently in consultation with the Wurundjeri community seeking approvals and instruction regarding the completion of the *Birrarung: Yarra River* multi-touch book.



Young people at the Nyikina community celebration of the release of Woonyoomboo: The Night Heron.
Photo credit: Chris Lean Photography

'I really like working with my grandmother because she teaches me a lot about language, stories and knowledge that the old people passed down. She really lifts me up and encourages me to continue learning about Nyikina culture.'

- Jennifer Milgin Young Nyikina program participant and SharingStories mentee

NYIKINA COMMUNITY

Although travel restrictions were in place for most of the first half of 2020 in the Kimberley, the Nyikina community were able to make significant progress in finalising more than 10 years of cultural work on the 'Woonyoomboo' project. Throughout that time, the project has supported intergenerational transmission of cultural knowledge and production of significant cultural media with 70 Nyikina Elders and young people.

In August and October 2020, SSF worked with Annie Milgin, Jennifer Milgin, Rosita Shaw, Darraga Watson, Anthony Watson and Leela Watson to finalise the translation and subtitling of the Woonyoomboo: The Night Heron interactive book and animated film. The film and epic 85 page book featuring bilingual text and audio and 52 short films, songs and interviews were launched in Derby on 15th November 2020.

In December 2020, planning commenced for the Nyikina Education Pilot project which will run in local and regional public and Independent schools in the West Kimberley in Term 2 & 3, 2021. Building on the 2019 National Education Pilot Project, the local edition includes customised teacher resources that support the integration

of the story into the curriculum on the lands on which the story is held, as well as lands situated nearby where families with connections to Nyikina communities reside.

Given extensive evaluation that demonstrates that teachers generally have low confidence in both knowing how to integrate First Nations perspectives into the curriculum and how to approach teaching it, the aim of the project is to address this need through the provision of specialised education resources and support to build skills and confidence in the classroom. These locally tailored resources and the Nyikina Education Pilot will contribute to knowledge building in relation to SSF's Cultural Education Portal currently in development, a social enterprise solution designed to systematically change the way schools and teachers access and implement authentic First Nations perspectives across the curriculum.

Additional translation and subtitling of Nyikina archival films was undertaken in 2020 with Annie Milgin.

Annie Nayina Milgin and Jennifer Milgin completing the translation for the Woonyoomboo film.



WAMBA WAMBA COMMUNITY

'We have sent the work we've done to linguists who will then translate and also show us the translation process to help in reviving the Wamba Wamba language through books.'

- Sandra Kropinyeri,
Wamba Wamba Cultural Custodian.

Koorie Culture Map

In 2020, the Wamba Wamba community released a collection of media for the online Koorie Culture Map. The creative work, an interactive map allows users to explore different communities and be first welcomed to Wamba Wamba Country by Elder, Uncle Ron Murray. The collection of videos featuring Uncle Ron Murray highlights and details cultural sites and stories

SharingStories worked closely with Uncle Ron Murray through a wealth of personal historical books as well as exploring Uncle Ron's library and knowledge held within when planning the production of special place videos for the Wamba Wamba interactive map. The thinking behind such extensive research was to ensure that the unique cultural characteristics of the Wamba Wamba people were highlighted through Uncle Ron's very favourable storytelling nature. As part of the experience, the viewers enter the digital interactive map space and are welcomed to view culturally significant sites and practises such as scar trees, hearths and bark canoes but also, as they engage with content shared by other partner communities, gain a greater understanding of the rich and diverse cultures that together make up the fabric of Koorie Culture in Victoria.

Multi-touch book

Despite being affected by COVID-19 restrictions, the Wamba Wamba community continued to do language work in 2020. During this time, Auntie Stephanie Charles and Sandra Kropinyeri worked on the Wamba Wamba translation of the two stories *Muyi Mir* and *Pondi*. The significance of this process is parallel to that of the Bangerang story. Uncle Ron Murray speaks of audio tapes of the last language speakers of Wamba Wamba in the mid-1930's. Through this language work, the evolution of language inspires and continually bridges the gap in the generations of language speakers.

In early 2021, the translations for the Wamba Wamba Storybook stories will continue. The community will meet in order to review and collectively approve the translated stories, then we will co curate a wealth of content created by students of Swan Hill and Swan Hill North Primary School including animations, sound designs and story pages in both Wamba Wamba and English for the *Pondi* and *Muyi-mir* stories. This multi-touch book will be a unique release as a part of the next series of SharingStories iBooks to be published as it will house two creation stories shared by Uncle Ron Murray and his direct family line of Wamba Wamba people.

There is significant excitement from the Wamba Wamba community regarding this creative work and positive feelings supporting the future release of the work in the community, followed by public release over the next 12 months.



"Were gonna go right back, and put it back into language. I can't emphasise how powerful and how its gonna make us feel as Elders and the children that work on it as well... the last time our speakers spoke our language was the 1930's, i think they'd be proud of us too that this is gonna be done. You never know this might start off a whole new learning of the language for the young ones."

- Uncle Ron Murray, Wamba Wamba Senior Cultural Custodian

JAARACOMMUNITY

Castlemaine Art Gallery

During 2020, the Foundation's Chief Executive Officer and Victorian Program Manager worked together with the Jaara community led by Senior Jaara Cultural Custodian, Uncle Rick Nelson, Sound Environment, Lookear, Mono Design, Wendy Osmond Design and the Mount Alexander Shire Council on a concept design for a permanent exhibition space within the heart of Castlemaine and Jaara Country. Multiple virtual meetings were held with the Jaara Community, exploring a large catalogue of media produced by Jaara community members with SharingStories, as well as the concept and themes of how to best interpret the community's voices within an exhibition environment. The Mount Alexander Shire Council has generously offered one third of the historic Market Building which also serves as the town's Information Centre.

Multi-touch book launch in December

Despite Victorian work and travel restrictions in late 2020, the Jaara community were still excited to launch The Eagle, the Crow and the Bat multi-touch book. A celebration was too difficult to organise during this time, so the community decided to come together to produce a short film promoting the huge announcement. In the film, community members discussed the value of cultural teachings in education spaces as well as personal accounts from Storyteller and Custodian, Uncle Rick Nelson who was taught the story by his father Uncle Brien Nelson and is now in the process of transferring cultural knowledge to his daughter.



Concept designs for the permanent installation in the Market Building, Castlemaine.

'That's finished now, we've recorded everything.'

- Davis Marrawanju, Senior Elder of the Guthara (Granddaughter) clan for Liya Dhälinymirr.



LIYA DHÄLINYMIRR COMMUNITY

In October 2020, after 2 weeks quarantine, SharingStories returned to Gapuwiyak and Mäpuru to work with Liya Dhälinymirr custodians, and those with responsibility to the clan, to continue work on the Mukarr Djämbatj: Giant Green Sea Turtle Hunters films and multi-touch book.

During this review process, several gaps in the knowledge were noted and recorded, including information of the different tools of the Mukarr, place names and women's role in crying songs. The exciting sessions surrounding place names gave rise to a new way of interactive mapping for the organisation. This Mukarr Djämbatj multi-touch book will now map connections to clans and places as well as the journey followed and sung by the Mukarr, the Liya Dhälinymirr ancestors.

Important co-curation sessions also took place, where decisions were made in regards to how Yolŋu and Balanda (non Yolŋu) audiences should interact with the material, what media needed to be included for each and how interactive technology can assist in storytelling process.

The project, which started in 2014, has grown to become a significant outcome for Liya Dhälinymirr, and all Yolŋu and Balanda alike. A multi-layered interactive book and films connect song, knowledge, story, place and belonging as well as providing evidence of the intricate education that can occur on Country and the importance of young people continuing this education. 'That's finished now, we've recorded everything,' Davis Marrawanju, Senior Elder of the Guthara (Granddaughter) clan for Liya Dhälinymirr. SharingStories have continued to work virtually with custodians on the edits of the short films and will return to community for final reviews and discussion surrounding distribution



Peter Murrkiltja Guyula,
Senior Cultural Custodian,
Liya Dhälinymirr Clan

THE THREE TRADITIONAL TRIBAL GROUPS MUTTHI MUTTHI, NGIYAMPAA AND PAAKANTJI

Connecting to Country App

Given the disruptions due to COVID-19, an extension of the project was gained, to support the completion of the Connecting to Country App in 2021.

In early 2021, we continued meetings and consultation with our partners, the Three Traditional Tribal Groups, Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area (WLRWHA) and Griffith University in order to progress the development of the app. The team at WLRWHA spent 4 weeks examining and plotting each foot print of the trackways site in order to create accurate virtual reality interpretations of the stories that unfolded on Country over ten thousand years ago. Since the easing of Victorian restrictions, we have been able to further develop story plans for virtual reality characters based on wisdom and stories shared by Muthi Muthi, Ngiyampaa and Paakantji custodians and the footprint plotting provided by WLRWHA. A sample virtual scene of the trackways site has been created, as well as photogrammetry character animation based on the scans of custodians from the Three Traditional Tribal Groups.

Everyone is getting excited for the launch of the app, set for late 2021 in line with the 40 year anniversary of World Heritage listing for the Willandra Lakes Region. The community is eager to show the world the cultural significance of the area, the connection to Country that still exists today and invite all people to learn from its deep history.

Multi-touch book and language

The community's Leave It There for the Next Little Fellas multi-touch book also progressed in 2020. Sound designs for three stop motion style animations that were created in 2019 have been completed, and the final Mungo animations were completed, ready for community review and approval. As part of this process, there was a recording session with Jason Kelly to capture play words for the book.

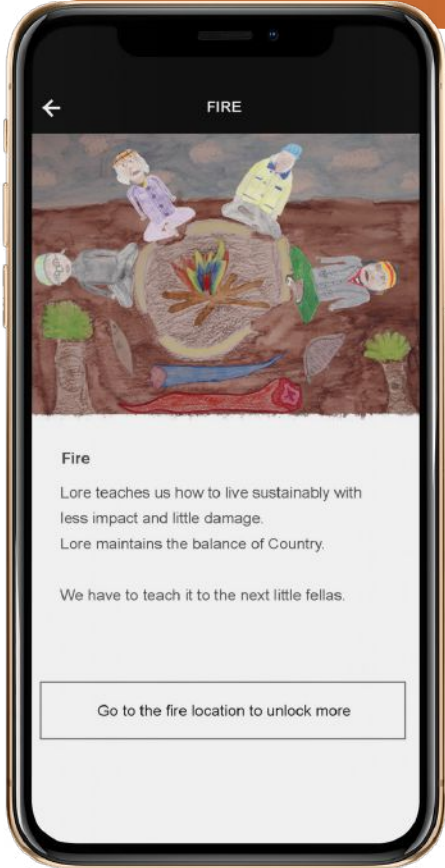
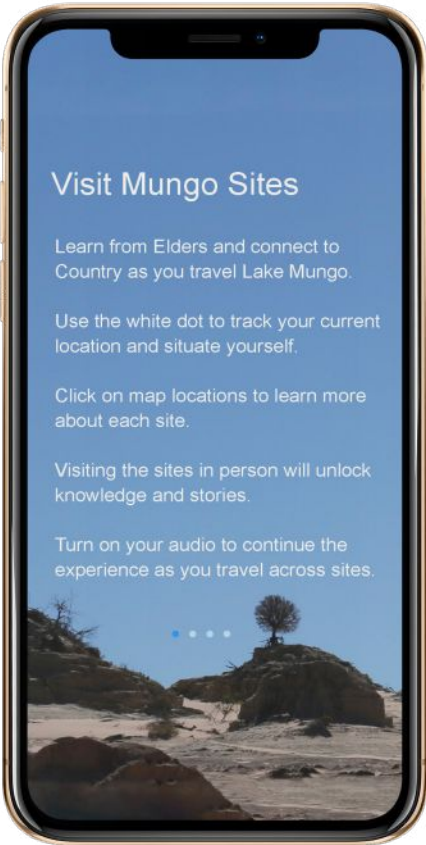
During 2020, a live document was developed with interactivity in order to allow multiple community

members to participate in the amendment of language and story structures. Community members have been assigned specific pages and sections to amend and/or approve, allowing as much feedback from the communities as possible. We are currently in the latter review stage to make final revisions and amendments to provide a final draft for user testing and final sign-off.



The Three Tribal Groups with SharingStories team members Daen Sansbury and Taz Miller

Connecting to Country Mobile App design



OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



GINA MILGATE

'It is an honour to be part of the SharingStories family through being a member of the Board. I joined Sharing Stories in 2020 and immediately felt a sense of community, authenticity, empowerment, and reflection; values that guide my journey as a Wiradjuri and Kamilaroi women. Sharing Stories is just that, wisdom and knowledge holders coming together to share stories that are grounded in over 65,000 years of listening and learning across this Australia. The work of the Foundation is led by the truth, experiences, and stories from each community it is supporting. This enables those stories to be promoted with authenticity through culturally safe and accessible ways to the broader community. The collective wisdom and experiences of the people contributing to the Foundation's purpose each day, ensures a rich and deep collaborative culture that contributes to strengthening the cultural fabric of Australia.'

**- Gina Milgate,
SharingStories
Board Member**

RHEA DHILLON

'It is a real privilege to be able to be a part of the Sharing Stories Board as it continues to engage meaningfully with First Nations communities around the country. The task of recording and sharing cultural stories has a deep impact - without cultural knowledge and language, individuals can feel incomplete. This speaks to my experience as a second generation Australian and witnessing the loss of language and tradition in the subconscious process of assimilation. Helping SSF continue to work to preserve stories is important to me as I believe it is key to improving individual well-being and pride in community.'



**- Rhea Dhillon,
SharingStories
Board Member**

OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS



SHARON WILLIAMS

We are delighted to introduce our team's new Education and Partnership Development Director, Sharon Williams. Sharon identifies as a Pitta Pitta woman. She was born and lives on Yaggers and Turrabul Country (Brisbane). Sharon has a Bachelor of Education with a major in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies.

She has worked for the Queensland Department of Education for 27 years and has developed and implemented a range of initiatives that have supported and improved educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

In her role as Director Education and Partnership Development Sharon is overseeing development and implementation of SharingStories' new Cultural Education Portal. She is also responsible for building funding, delivery and strategic partnerships across the Education sector.

'As a First Nations educator who has often heard non-Indigenous teachers concerns about embedding Indigenous knowledges, I'm excited to be working with First Nations Custodians to provide schools with authentic place-based resources that will support them to be more confident in delivering the Australian Curriculum's Cross-curriculum Priority - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures. I believe the high-quality community driven resources we develop at SharingStories will help teachers create culturally-sensitive classrooms which will enhance cultural pride and open up educational opportunities for First Nations young people.'

I feel privileged to be part of an organisation that creates such respectful, trusting partnerships, so grounded in First Nations ways of knowing, being and doing that Senior Custodians from across the nation feel culturally safe in sharing such important cultural knowledge.'

**- Sharon Williams
Education and Partnership
Development Director**



INTRODUCING

VAN SOWERWINE

Van Sowerwine is a media artist who work with stop-motion animation to create interactive installations and short films. Van also works with motion graphics, video editing and digital and interaction design and has extensive experience in education in the corporate, vocational and higher education sector.

'My work with SharingStories Foundation is so exciting and challenging and has really pushed my skills and knowledge. It's really fantastic to be able to work with communities to help share their stories in new ways that really make a difference, especially knowing how community driven all our work is. I'm looking forward to being able to deliver projects in an even more accessible way both to communities and the general public.'

-Van Sowerwine, SharingStories Interactivity Designer and Developer

ISOBEL KNOWLES

Isobel Knowles is an artist and animator. Her multidisciplinary practice spans short film, interactive installation, cross-platform performance, music, painting, photography and illustration.

'Working on these books that hold such precious knowledge is an amazing privilege. I remember years ago working with the story from the Wägilak community in Arnhem Land, then visiting one of the places from this journey. It was absolutely magical, I will never forget it. When you get to know a story about a place it really helps you connect to that place and understand how special it is. Knowing that these stories and knowledge have been passed down for thousands of years makes it an incredibly rich experience.'

-Isobel Knowles, SharingStories Lead Animator and Book Designer



Photo credit: Kristoffer Paulsen

LOOKING FORWARD - THE YEAR OF EDUCATION

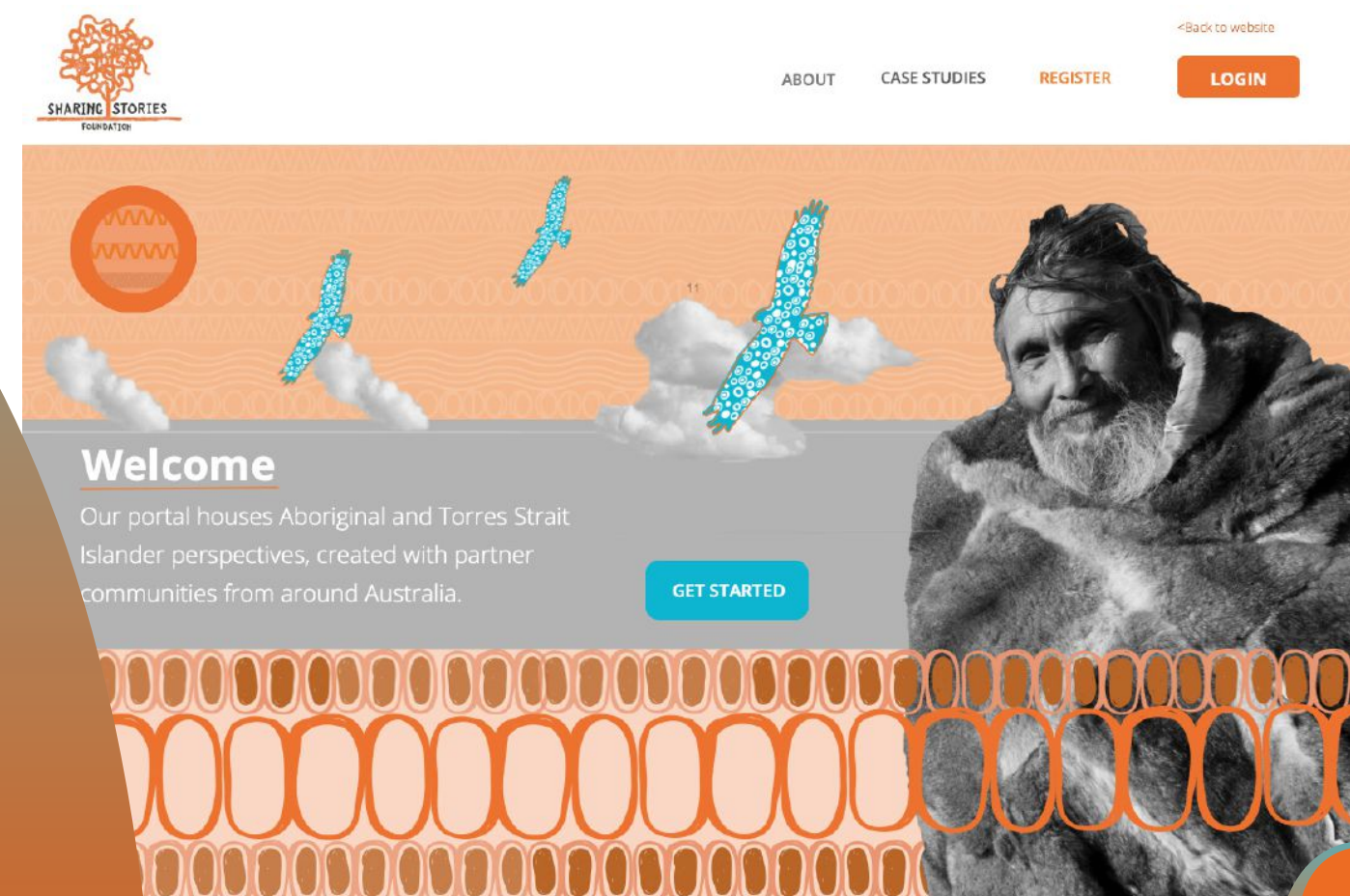
In 2021, we will continue our focus on Education and the development of the Cultural Education Portal. The online Portal design is unique, utilising a place-based interface which reflects the diversity of First Nations cultures across Australia.

Working with communities we aim to provide highly supportive and authentically place-based resources that align to the Australian Curriculum. The Portal resources will provide teachers with necessary teaching/learning tools to develop the confidence to embed Indigenous perspectives. It will provide a platform through which teachers and their students are able to gain a deep knowledge and understanding of the histories and cultures of First Nations peoples, developing culturally safe learning spaces for First Nations students.

The Portal will be accessible to all school sectors via subscription, with a profit share model that returns revenue to partner communities and SharingStories. This revenue will build community capacity for ongoing cultural continuity practices and strengthen SharingStories ability to continue working with existing and new partner communities to ensure ongoing population, maintenance and evolution of the Portal.

SharingStories is continuing to build the Cultural Education Portal and develop the culturally inclusive curriculum resources with our existing partner communities. The Cultural Education Portal will be released in 2022.

Below: Cultural Education Portal mock up



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Some of Our Delivery Partners



jarraggirrem



Additional Partners

- Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Aboriginal Corporation
- The Meeting Place (Nalderun Upper Loddon)
- Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre (KALACC)
- Paakantji Language Circle
- Nyikina Mangala Rangers
- Griffith University
- Warmun Art Centre
- Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Corporation
- Bangerang Keeping Place
- Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation
- Jarlmangah Burru
- National Environmental Science Programme

School Partners

- St Georges Road Primary School
- Thornbury Primary School
- Nykina Mangala Community School
- Swan Hill North Primary School
- Purnululu School
- Heywood and District Secondary College
- St Peters Primary School

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