



SHARING STORIES
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REVIEW 2021 - 2022



CONTENTS

1	Chair Report
3	CEO Report
5	Co-CEO Reports 10 year Impact
7	Wukidi - Singing the Spirit Home
9	Mukarr Djämbatj - Giant Green Sea Turtle Hunters
11	Mungo Connecting to Country App
13	Boorp Boorp Boondyil- Passing Knowledge to our Children
15	Gija Language Platform Gija online platform
17	Virlkuthatlypila and Other Stories From Our Country
19	Connecting Schools and Community on Nyikina Country
21	Multi-touch Books
23	Collaborations and Awards
25	Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom
27	Funders and Partners



CHAIR REPORT

Despite all the challenges faced in 2021/22, SharingStories Foundation continued to progress its important work in facilitating the holding and sharing of important stories of Country, held since time immemorial by First Nations communities.

With the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the team had to pivot and adjust to working remotely. Where community visits were limited, the team continued production and development of community-led content virtually. This allowed for more experimentation and creativity in our work, ensuring wider audiences both nationally and internationally. We continue to support immersive cultural experiences that promote active listening and learning about First Nations culture and people. The Board is proud of how effectively the team worked through challenging times.

We are delighted by the recognition of SharingStories Foundation and the Jaara community, who won an Australian Teachers

of Media award for Best Educational Ebook, a testament to the vibrant, engaging content being made by communities with our organisation. With this recognition, we continue to build meaningful relationships and partnerships across the education sector, opening up more opportunities for partner communities in language revitalisation, community arts and education.

We couldn't do the work we do without the deep connections we have with First Nations communities. Leading the way in sharing and storytelling is a way of life for these communities across the nation. We are privileged to work with many communities, who generously share their culture, language and stories and put their trust in SharingStories Foundation to create public work that is accessible for many.

As our reach grows and we seek to support further communities, we continue to be led by community aspirations as we walk together –both-ways – to create and build an organisation that listens to communities' visions for a shared future.

SharingStories Foundation is excited to embrace two new Co-CEOs; both proud and capable people from within the organisation, one of whom is Indigenous, the other non-Indigenous. We developed these roles in keeping with our philosophy of 'Both-Ways' learning, showcasing

a model for how Indigenous and non-Indigenous people can lead together. By learning from each other, we can better the experiences of First Nations peoples, and as a result, the nation.

Our Co-CEOs, Taz Miller and Sharon Williams, have demonstrated 'Both-Ways' leadership in the way they work together. Both of them are collaborative, supportive, and have deep integrity in this work. As an organisation, we feel extremely comfortable with Taz and Sharon stepping into these roles. The relationship they have developed with each other is one of mutual respect, learning, and growth. They are committed to being led by and empowering the communities with whom we work, drawing on new and innovative ways to help share their ancient stories.

I want to pay a special tribute to our Founder and former CEO, Liz Thompson, for her unwavering efforts to support First Nations communities. Her commitment to the work, her deep listening and ways of working with community are a legacy to the Foundation. I am thrilled that she will continue to lead the organisation in her new role as Creative Director. Liz received a Pro Bono Impact 25 Award in 2021, a much-deserved recognition of her leadership and dedication.

I have also been proud to watch our First Nations staffing profile grow throughout the year. This is in large part due to Liz's commitment to 'Both-Ways'

learning, not only in the work we do, but in who we are.

On behalf of the Board, many thanks to all our partners, including the Australian Government and various philanthropic partners. You are all instrumental to our success. Please consider supporting SharingStories Foundation with a donation if you want to see us grow and continue this important work.

Tim Goodwin,
SSF Chairperson

'We couldn't do the work we do without the deep connections we have with First Nations communities. Leading the way in sharing and storytelling is a way of life for these communities across the nation.'



CEO REPORT

This year at SharingStories we are celebrating our 10th Anniversary. The foundation was set up a decade ago in response to suggestions from two Senior Cultural Custodians we've had the privilege of working with for many years.

On Nyikina Country in the Kimberley, Senior Cultural Custodian, Annie Nayina Milgin, wanted to make sure her young people had the digital media skills needed to work with Elders to record important cultural knowledge and produce celebratory, vital stories about vibrant living culture.

In Arnhem Land, legendary Wägilak Songman, Roy Ashley Wanapuyngu, wanted to record songs and knowledge left behind by Wägilak Creation Ancestor Gandjalala the Sugarbag Hunter. Roy hoped the knowledge he was responsible for passing on, would be documented and available

for future generations of Wägilak. 'That song is the only way to take the spirit back, the only way to open the main gate' Roy said, 'so they can go in there. Young fellas have to keep that song strong.'

Both Roy and Annie were also clear they wanted to share some of that knowledge with non-Indigenous people in Australia, to build greater capacity for everybody to care for Country together – 'right way'. 'We would like to share that song, our map, share it out to you,' said Roy, 'so you can understand blackfella way, Aboriginal way. We want you, white man, to know. You need to learn too, so that you can understand that's our Law, respect our Law.'

Ten years on, SharingStories Foundation has worked with the Nyikina and Wägilak communities to realise the intentions of these two great teachers and cultural leaders. We have collaborated with the Nyikina community to record and creatively interpret the story of Nyikina Creation Ancestor, Woonyoomboo, the Night Heron. Digital Storytelling Programs returned young Nyikina people to Country with Elders to listen to and learn the stories that live there and how to record and creatively interpret the knowledge shared.

Programs were led by senior knowledge holders and involved over 100 community members in production of a beautifully curated bilingual Multi-touch Book experience that includes 21 animations, 52 songs, and an interactive map exploring 22 important cultural sites. We also worked with the Wägilak community, travelling along the Gandjalala songline with over 30 community members listening to, learning from, recording and creatively interpreting knowledge shared by Roy Wanapuyngu.

As an organisation, we have partnered with 26 communities and language groups over the last ten years co-designing programs and distribution platforms. We have continuously grown and evolved our practices, in response to community objectives, to include 360° video, augmented reality, large-scale immersive exhibition spaces, a Connecting to Country App, and Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom.

Jajoo Warrngara is a social enterprise initiative delivering authentic community-produced content and co-designed teacher resources to classrooms across Australia. The name Jajoo Warrngara was gifted by Annie Nayina Milgin, and refers to an important song Woonyoomboo sang to call his walalakoo (clan) together. 'Jajoo Warrngara' Annie explained, 'it means to gather around and learn from the Elders. That's what it means, it's passing the knowledge.'

I am so grateful for the work we have undertaken and ways we have been able to serve the communities and Custodians for whom we work. I'm excited to be moving into a Creative Director role and handing over to our two new incoming Co-CEOs: Pitta Pitta woman and education expert Sharon Williams and Taz Miller, who has worked as both SharingStories' National Program Manager and Operations Manager for nine years. These two wonderful leaders bring their respective skills, shared wisdom and passion to a collaborative 'Both-Ways' leadership model that we're excited to have guide us moving forward.

I'd like to thank all our funders, partners and contributors, whose support makes the work possible, and to acknowledge our Board of Directors and Chair Tim Goodwin for all the time, energy and ideas they so generously share. A huge thank you to the dedicated team at SharingStories, the communities at the heart of the work and the Advisory Council and Cultural Custodians who work tirelessly – 'passing the knowledge'.

Liz Thompson, Outgoing CEO

"A huge thank you to the dedicated team at SharingStories, the communities at the heart of the work and the Advisory Council and Cultural Custodians who work tirelessly – 'passing the knowledge'."



CO-CEO REPORT

I was incredibly lucky to find SharingStories so early on in my life. I found an organisation that shared values such as self-representation – everyone's right to have a voice, and Australia's combined responsibility to respect culture and Country. Over 9 years with SharingStories, I have had the privilege of a non-stop learning journey, learning from Elders and community, learning from Founder Liz Thompson, learning from all of our talented artist facilitators and team that work so hard behind the scenes to ensure community impacts are achieved. I am most excited for this learning journey to continue, now sitting beside the incredible Sharon Williams in the Co-CEO position, who offers an endless wealth of knowledge and support to the team and to me.

We are taking big next steps as an organisation, with the launch of our first social enterprise that will return revenue back to partner communities as well as SharingStories. We are also looking forward to the continued development and expansion of our digital strategy, to ensure that we are able to provide accessible and innovative programs and outcomes, along with robust internal systems which support the ongoing work with communities. Thank you to the Indigenous Languages and Arts program and Australia Council for the Arts, who have generously supported these projects and the growth of SharingStories.

Taz Miller, Incoming Co-CEO



CO-CEO REPORT

It was with excitement and a real sense of purpose that I moved to SharingStories Foundation over 18 months ago to head up the then-new Head of Education role. As we get ready to launch Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom in 2022, what an amazing privilege it is to be stepping into the role of Co-CEO with Taz Miller alongside me. This unique and exceptional platform has been built on the strength of SharingStories 'Both-Ways' philosophy, one true to my heart, collaborating with partner communities to develop a suite of educational resources that support the culturally rich multimedia co-developed over the last decade.

As I start my journey, I'd like to acknowledge the years of dedication by SharingStories' Founder and outgoing CEO Liz Thompson, and our new Co-CEO Taz Miller. Without them, I would not be in the position to align my passion for improving educational outcomes for First Nations students through such authentic practice, where community voices will be amplified in classrooms throughout Australia.

Sharon Williams, Incoming Co-CEO

OUR 10 YEAR IMPACT 2012-2022

Then

2012

Our founder, Liz Thompson began work with Nyikina Elder, Annie Nayina Milgin, on the foundation's first Digital Storytelling Program on Nyikina Country.

Since then, 701 people across 26 First Nations communities led and participated in 45197 hours of production and presentation of important cultural knowledge building capacity for cultural continuity.

700+
People

26
Communities

45 197
hours of
cultural
production

11 585
hours of
language learning
& teaching

198
Elders

198 custodians and Elders have led programs and passed on vital cultural knowledge to 480 young people so they grow up strong in culture and connected to community.

480
young
people

Programs have included 11585 hours of language teaching and learning, strengthening cultural identity and building respect for Elders and Ancestors and knowledge they carry.

4 partner communities have co-designed and developed, a suite of 5 reusable distribution platforms for the arts, education and tourism sectors, providing affordable, accessible and culturally appropriate platforms, now utilised by 17 partner communities to share cultural creations.

5
digital
platforms

500 000
views

Since the 2020 launch of Sharing Initiatives, including permanent installations, online exhibitions, festivals and Multi-touch Books (style guide), community creations have engaged over 500,000 unique visitors - inspiring all Australians to care for culture and Country.

2022

Now

We are now led by a majority First Nations board, First Nations Advisory Council and 5 First Nations team members.

CUSTODIANS / COMMUNITY

COUNTRY / CULTURE

SHARING CULTURE

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

WUKIDI - SINGING THE SPIRIT HOME

Wukidi – Singing the Spirit Home. We are excited to be working towards a large-scale immersive exhibition experience with the Wägilak community. *Singing the Spirit Home* builds on the work of the last decade and the recordings and creative interpretations of the stories and songs of Gandjalala the Sugarbag Hunter. The work was initiated and led by the Late Roy Wapapuyngu. The exhibition and related publication are a tribute to him. The exhibition will include traditional and contemporary art works and sculpture,

photography, linear video and drone footage, alongside immersive 360° experiences of bungul (dance), manikay (song), and large projected paintings that come to life through animation. Surround-sound installations, building a rich soundscape of Country, will incorporate spoken word, and poetic translations of the epic song cycle shared. *Singing the Spirit Home* is at the Concept Design stage.

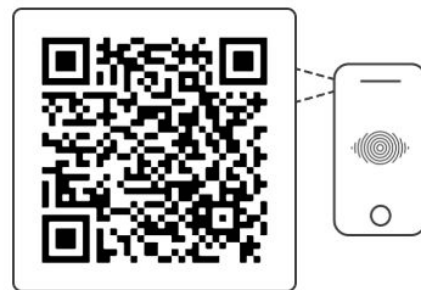


Image: Scan the QR code to download the Eyejack app then use Eyejack to scan the image of the Totemic Stringybark Tree and watch it come to life with rich animation.



Image: Wägilak young people working with SharingStories to create drone footage at Dhupuwamirri for 'Singing the Spirit Home'.



Image: Tracey Wapapuyngu drying freshly dyed pandanus at Dhupuwamirri.



MUKARR DJÄMBATJ

GIANT GREEN SEA TURTLE HUNTERS

Liya Dhälimymirr Custodians and kin have been working with SharingStories since 2014 on the development and interpretation of the 'Mukarr Djämbatj: Giant Green Sea Turtle Hunters' songline. In 2021, SharingStories returned to both Gapuwiyak and Mäpuru communities for extensive consultation with 10 Elders and emerging leaders to review and update the co-curated *Mukarr Djämbatj* Multi-touch Book, including the housed films, animations, interviews, designs, maps and language. Drawing on all parties' skills and knowledge, each time we return to the community

to work on this project, we grow our collective understanding of how to create and curate an outcome together.

The animations are refined to be in exact timing with the language and meaning of the song, and the design and interactivity is updated to incorporate more Liya Dhälinymirr ways of being, knowing, and doing. The cultural accuracy and representation of this project has been of the highest importance to Custodians, who hope this outcome can become a 'digital ancestor', a useful

resource for the community to help teach the younger generations. It is an incredible privilege to work with this community who so generously share their knowledge and creative ideas, and to be part of such a unique outcome.

The project also sees the first distribution contract of its type being developed by the Foundation. As this story has three main family groups belonging to it, a thorough system for signatories was put forward by project lead Peter Mulkiltja Guyula, which allows all parties to share the approval process as well as the licensing revenue.

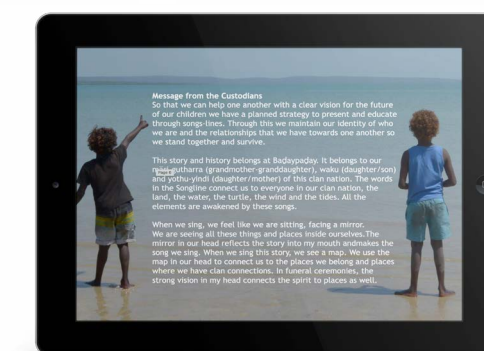


Image: Mukarr Djämbatj Multi-touch Book

Image: Liya Dhälinymirr clan nation Custodians, Yudukarri Wurruwiwi, Nathan Birkili, Kayleb Wunungmurra and Andrew Wunugmurra performing the Wukudku - Driftwood dance as part of the Mukarr Djämbatj Bunggul.



MUNGO STORIES: WALK TOGETHER APP

After many setbacks and delays due to COVID, The Mungo Stories: Walk Together App was brought to life in 2021. The work was led by the Aboriginal Advisory Group for the Three Traditional Tribal Groups of the Willandra Lake Region: Barkandji, Mutthi Mutthi and Ngiyampaa, in partnership with Griffith University. The app is a ground breaking experience, bringing together 3D-scanned environmental data, cultural stories, augmented reality, and a unique GPS navigation system.

This project has attracted a record 5244 hours of pro bono partnership support and 3146 hours of community engagement. Thanks to the endless support of local delivery partners, Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area and Parks NSW, despite consistent lockdowns, we were able to complete story and app development, 3D scanning, motion capturing, and record in language for each of the Three Traditional Tribal Groups.

The initiative supports:

- Respectful tourism and in turn preservation of cultural heritage sites
- Communities' reclamation of stories which have been altered by scientists
- Promotion of tours leading to increased engagement with local community knowledge holders.

The Mungo Stories : Walk Together App will be launched in 2023.

5244 hours of probono partnership
3146 hours of community engagement

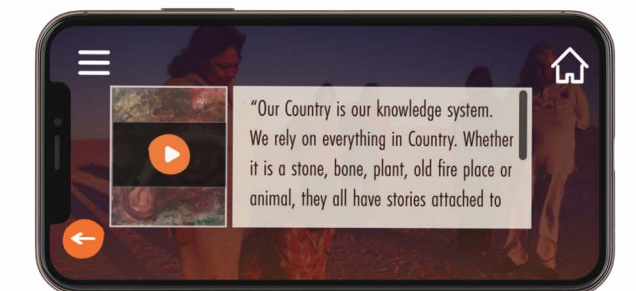


Image: Mungo Stories Walk Together App interface



'The app is a ground breaking experience, bringing together 3D-scanned environmental data, cultural stories, augmented reality, and a unique GPS navigation system.'



BOORP BOORP BOONDYIL

PASSING KNOWLEDGE TO OUR CHILDREN

Boorp Boorp Boondyil – Passing Knowledge to our Children, is a collaborative exhibition with the Jaara Community and Mount Alexander Shire Council. Over the last ten years, the exhibition has been co-designed with the community and built around content produced with young people from Nalderun Aboriginal Education Corp in Castlemaine and St Peters Primary School in Bendigo.

Initially led by Senior Jaara Cultural Custodian Uncle Brien Nelson, our work with the Jaara

community has been guided for the last decade by his son, Uncle Rick Nelson. The rich cultural content in *Boorp Boorp Boondyil* will create an important cultural hub for the local community, and provide a vibrant place of learning for visitors. The exhibition offers a lived experience of Jaara culture, community and connection to Country. Built around the Tanderrum or Welcome to Country ceremony, *Boorp Boorp Boondyil* includes an immersive surround sound experience, videos, art work, photography, touch-panels housing

interactive maps, community stories, and animated interpretations of important knowledge.

An interactive digital world is curated alongside sculptures, giant puppets, and a large eagle's nest woven by master weaver Aunty Marilyne Nicholls. Twenty-five timber poles represent a forest, in which First Nations artist Alvin Briggs has etched local birds and animals, using pyrography techniques. Designed with ample space at its centre, the exhibition provides a meeting point for

community, classroom and education initiatives. Uncle Rick plans to use it as a starting point for cultural tours booked through the Visitor Centre at the Market Building, where *Boorp Boorp Boondyil* is to be permanently housed. Much of the knowledge in the exhibition was shared by the Nelson family, passed down from Uncle Brien Nelson. '*Boorp Boorp Boondyil* is a tribute to my father. He was a pioneer of cultural education, who dedicated his life to Passing Knowledge to the Children.' (Uncle Rick Nelson)

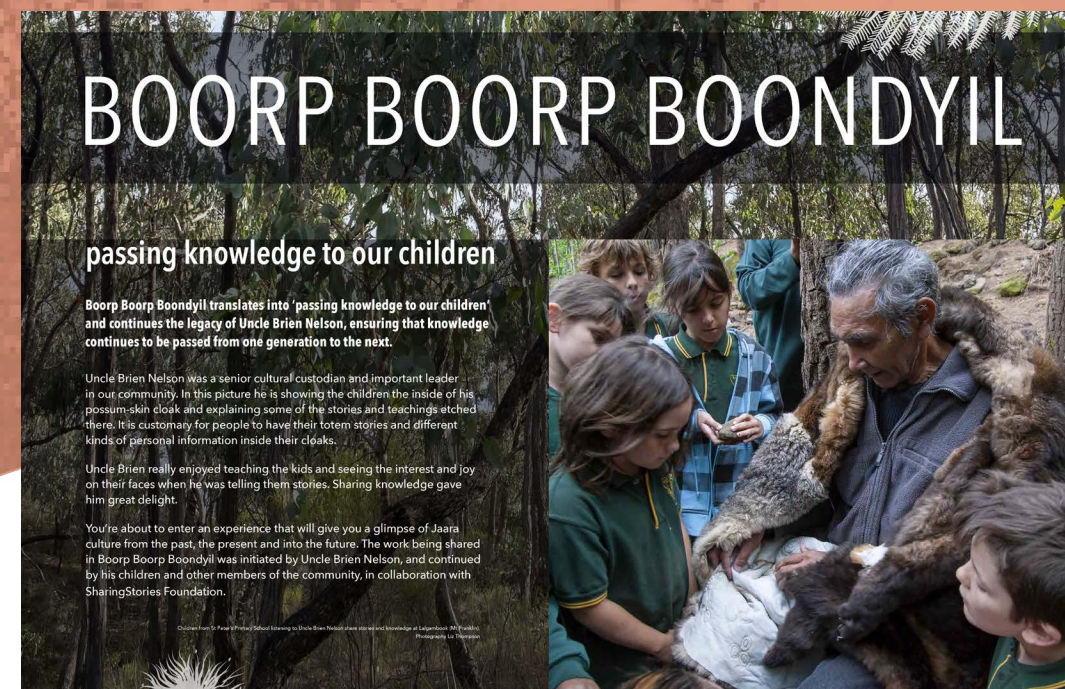


Image: Children from St Peters Primary School listening to Uncle Brien share stories and knowledge etched in the lining of his possum fur cloak at Lalgambook (Mount Franklin).



Image left: Bush food wall - Aunty Julie McHale and Aunty Bambi Lees took a group of children through the beautiful forest known as 'Harcourt Common', showing and teaching them about some of the Jaara bush food and medicine that grows there. These drawings were created by young people to show visitors to Boorp Boorp Boondyil what happens above and below the ground.



GIJA LANGUAGE PLATFORM

The Gija language platform supports Gija Custodians to record, protect, and revive Gija language. SharingStories evolved the Gija language app into an online web platform in 2021. Integrated into the Gija community's Jarragirrem's website <https://jarragirrem.sharingstoriesfoundation.org/>, the new platform will enable language educators and linguists to produce the Gija dictionary in a digital format, and support learning in the classroom.

Supporting multiple learning styles, the new online experience connects text with language recordings, photos and videos, and enables users to perform searches in Gija or English using audio and visual formats. The community's aim is to continue populating the site with words and phrases relevant to Purnululu School's Gija Language Curriculum.

This same language platform template will also be taken up by the Bangerang community in 2022/23.

GIJA WA MUSEUM ONLINE EXPERIENCE

SharingStories, the WA Museum Boola Bardip, and Senior Gija Custodian Shirley Drill launched the *Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: Frog and Brolga* online exhibition experience at Boola Bardip in October 2021.

Shirley Drill and students from the Purnululu Aboriginal Independent Community School in Frog Hollow travelled to Perth from the Kimberley to attend the launch and share the Creation Story with students from North Balga Primary School, Clontarf Aboriginal College, St Stephens School, and Wongutha Christian Aboriginal School.

In a hybrid launch model that included 57 students in person and 40 students online, participants were welcomed onto Whadjuk Noongar Country before the event was officially opened by Boola Bardip CEO, Alec Coles. The students learned how the project was created by Elders and Purnululu School students. They were then invited to explore the

Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: Frog and Brolga Multi-touch Book, an interactive touch panel in the Origins Gallery.

A reflection activity held at the end of the event showed that reading the *Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: Frog and Brolga* story together, and experiencing the story in multiple audio/visual formats, led to good comprehension of complex concepts related to the formation of Gija Country. Students were able to reflect upon how the characters transformed into their spirit beings, why the water holes were 'living', how the behaviour of characters connected to the moral of the story, as well as considering their own feelings and values about the story. Students were also curious about how the characters were animated and the design of the panel.

With more than 2.7 million visitors to the museum's website in 2021, the online adaptation of the *Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: Frog and Brolga* interactive touch panel will enable the Gija community to share important cultural knowledge with a wider audience, offering travellers to the Kimberley region the opportunity to visit the places with an understanding of the story, and a deeper respect for Gija Country.

Alec Coles said the *Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: Frog and Brolga* online exhibition experience was an opportunity to share a special story in Gija and English: 'As a gateway to Western Australia, Boola Bardip gives visitors the opportunities to experience these First Nations stories before they actually head out into the state to experience them first-hand'.

Image: Shirley Drill with great granddaughters Bethany Drill and Brianna Drill, and granddaughter Kelly Ann Drill at the Gawarre display at the WA Museum Boola Bardip.



VIRLKUTHATLYPILA AND OTHER STORIES FROM OUR COUNTRY

Virlkuthatlypila and Other Stories From Our Country might be best described as a giant paper pop-up book that comes to life with animated artworks and storytelling. *Virlkuthatlypila* first opened in the Radford Auditorium at the Art Gallery of South Australia. The work was created by Senior Adnyamathanha women and Cultural Custodians who followed the journey of the Virlkuthatlypila (two women), sharing and learning many more stories along the way.

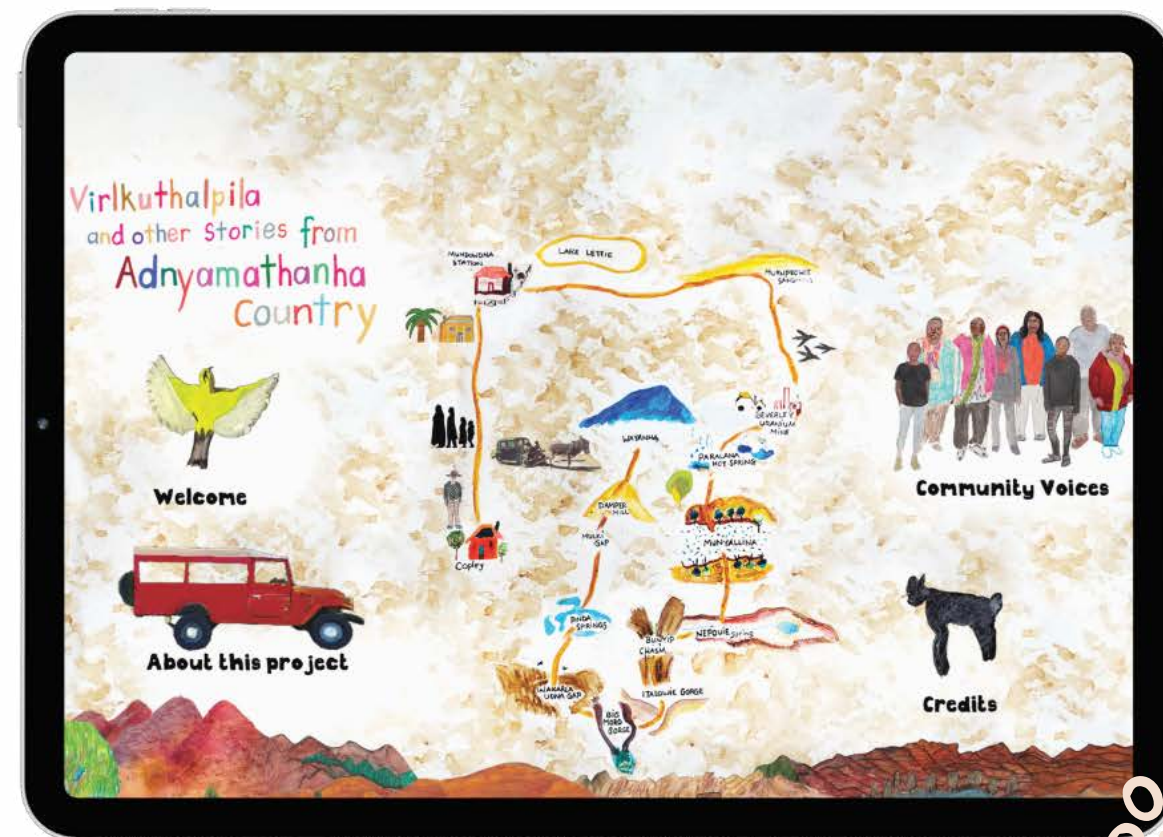
'These stories teach young ones to stay safe, and respect sacred sites,' Yvonne Brady, Adnyamathanha Senior Custodian says. 'and help us all gain a greater appreciation of Adnyamathanha history and culture.' For this reason the Senior Adnyamathanha women and Cultural Custodians who led the project wanted

access to the content and knowledge, beyond the original intention of installation, so that the knowledge held and creatively interpreted could be utilised as an engaging teaching tool.

Early this year on Adnyamathanha Country we co-curated the content into an online interactive map through which the stunning animated films can be accessed along with related drone footage and photography.

During this time, we also worked with the Senior Adnyamathanha Custodians who have been responsible for guiding and leading the Yurlu the Kingfisher project and Multi-touch Book production. All outcomes were approved and the book will be released as part of the second 'Stories From Country' series.

Image: Sophie Wilton, Shaunaya and Sahara Brady, Judy Patterson, Linda Coulthard, Gladys Wilton, Liz Thompson, Lesley Coulthard, Yvonne Brady and Fleur Elise Noble working on Adnyamathanha Country to create *Same Like Yesterday: Virlkuthatlypila and Other stories from Our Country*.



"These stories teach young ones to stay safe and respect sacred sites and help us all gain a greater appreciation of Adnyamathanha history and culture."



CONNECTING COMMUNITY AND SCHOOLS ON NYIKINA COUNTRY

Learning about Woonyoomboo the Night Heron

Nyikina Custodians and the broader Jarlmadangah Community in the West Kimberley region have worked with SharingStories Foundation for many years to record and creatively interpret the story and knowledge of Woonyoomboo: The Night Heron.

Alongside Nyikina Elder, Annie Nayina Milgin, SharingStories co-developed an educational package designed to support culturally safe learning environments for Nyikina students through a deep study of the *Woonyoomboo: The Night Heron* Multi-touch Book. This package includes: a ten-week Teacher Curriculum Resource, localised for Nyikina schools, an Assessment

Guide and comprehensive Nyikina Classroom Cultural Protocols written in the First Person by the Custodian sharing their stories and cultural knowledge. Together these resources are designed to support teacher confidence to embed cultural knowledge on the Country from which it belongs.

The Connecting Community and School Program enabled schools on Nyikina Country to be supported by Nyikina Custodians and SharingStories, while embedding these community-produced, culturally relevant learning materials and resources. The resources were embedded into the Derby District High School and Nyikina Mangala School curriculum throughout

Terms 2 and 3, 2021. The successful delivery of the learning materials has helped to inform SharingStories' future community and school engagement practice.

'It was the first time the Woonyoomboo story had been taught in the curriculum and it worked really well. The success of the project was the combination of being in the classroom and out on Country. The two worked hand-in-hand. This was something special for the school to do; to

take classroom learning on Country. We had been looking at On Country Learning but we didn't know how to implement it before this project.'

– Wiki Bacon, Principal at Nyikina Mangala School



'The success of the project was the combination of being in the classroom and out on Country. The two worked hand-in-hand. This was something special for the school to do; to take classroom learning on Country. We had been looking at On Country Learning but we didn't know how to implement it before this project.'

Image: Nyikina Mangala School students and teachers learning the knowledge of Woonyoomboo through the Connecting Community program.



MULTI - TOUCH BOOK LAUNCH

Our Multi-touch Books have been published online via our new subdomain, books.sharingstoriesfoundation.org, making the books accessible across all web platforms and devices. This significantly extends the reach of partner communities' Multi-touch Books, which were previously only accessible through iBooks, limiting access to people with Macs, iPads or iPhones. The early part of 2021 was spent researching alternatives to the iBook format, to ensure that Multi-touch Books were accessible to viewers with PCs, Android phones and tablets.

PubCoder was identified as the best software option for creating and publishing our Multi-touch Books in future. PubCoder has the ability to publish Multi-touch Books as websites that

can be viewed on any device that has a web browser. Next year, we are aiming to publish them as downloadable apps. PubCoder also has the ability to set a default language, allowing us to prioritise community language as the default while giving readers the opportunity to read and listen in English, if they prefer.

We created books.sharingstoriesfoundation.org to provide ease of access to all our community partners' online books. Every new community comes with fresh ideas and interesting ways of organising information, so we will continue to adapt and evolve the Multi-touch Book design and experience to make it as user-friendly and grounded in cultural protocols as possible.

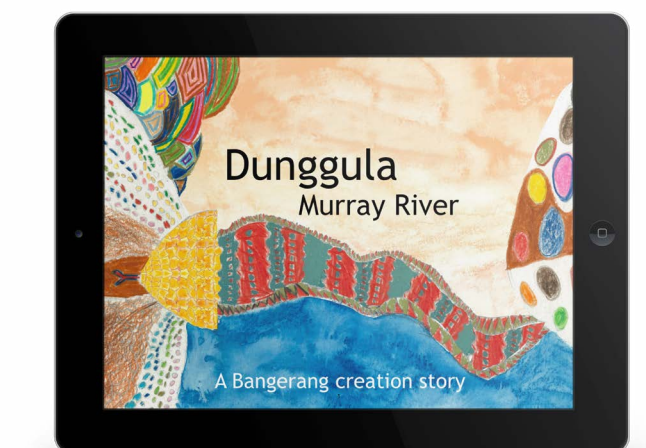
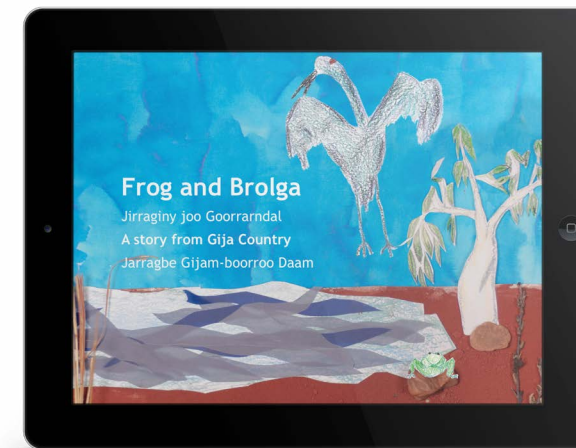
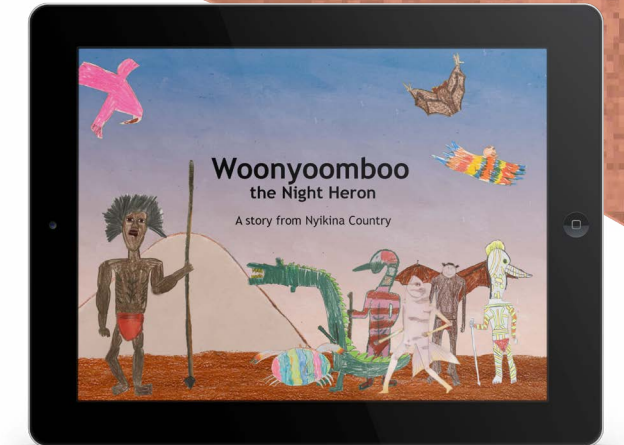
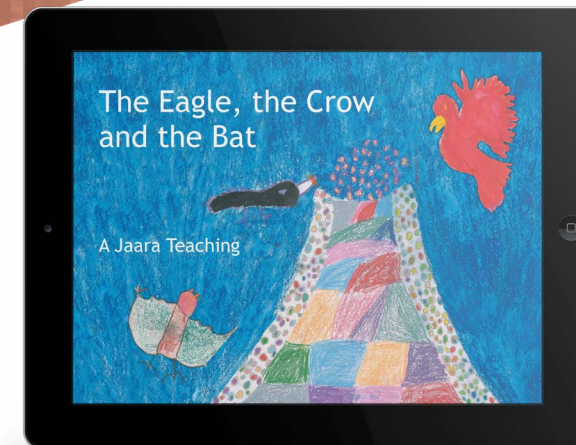


Image: Multi-touch Books from the *Stories from Country* series.



COLLABORATIONS

Sydney Film Festival

Three of our partner community films featured in this year's Sydney Film Festival. *Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: Frog and Brolga*, proudly shared by Shirley Drill and the Gija Community, and *Dunggula: The Murray River*, proudly shared by the Bangerang Community, were on show along the Pitt Street Mall.

The Eagle, the Crow and the Bat, proudly shared by the Jaara Community, featured at the Ritz cinemas at Randwick for the first week of the festival.

This involvement with the festival allowed SharingStories to reach new audiences, and as an organisation we will continue to seek domestic and international opportunities to share our partner communities' stories.

Indigenous Literacy Day

For Indigenous Literacy Day in 2021, we collaborated with the Indigenous Literacy Foundation to present the *Frog and Brolga: Jirraginy joo Goorrandal* animation.

With over five thousand views, it was the most-viewed creative work on the platform. With changes to accessibility over the past two years, the Indigenous Literacy Foundation launched the new digital platform on Indigenous Literacy Day, allowing audiences worldwide access to an array of First Nations content. The successful partnership has brought new audiences to the overall work and provided ideas for collaboration in the future.

AWARDS

Pro Bono Impact 25 Awards

After decades supporting First Nations communities in the recording and sharing of cultural knowledge and stories, Liz Thompson, SharingStories CEO, was chosen for Pro Bono's 2021 Impact 25 Award. The Impact 25 Award recognises changemakers who are achieving and striving towards positive change in Australia's social sector. In addition, Liz was further awarded the Judges' Choice Award for Innovation. This award was a testament to Liz's leadership and long history of recording cultural knowledge with new technologies, in collaboration with First Nations communities.

Since inception, the Foundation has worked towards closing the digital divide, and building creative skills in young people for a better future. Overall, these awards recognise the leadership and dedication that have enabled us to become one of the country's leading community arts organisations working with First Nations communities.

Australian Teacher of Media Awards

The Jaara, Gija and Bangerang communities each entered Multi-touch Books in the Australian Teacher of Media Awards and all 3 were finalists in the Best Educational Ebook category. *The Eagle, the Crow and the Bat* from the Jaara community, was awarded the Best Educational Ebook of 2021. This is the second ATOM award in the Best Ebook category that the Foundation has received. It is the result of dedication from the team and partner communities who continue to produce content that is vibrant and engaging for families and students.

We would like to acknowledge Jaara Senior Cultural Custodian Uncle Rick Nelson, who continued the work of his father Uncle Brien Nelson, to share and facilitate the creation of this beautiful work. Huge congratulations to St. Peter's Primary School and the Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation, who partnered with the Jaara community and SharingStories to produce the final work.

Image: Uncle Rick Nelson with the Jaara communities' ATOM Award for *The Eagle, the Crow and the Bat* Multi-touch Book.



JAJOO WARRNGARA : THE CULTURE CLASSROOM

First Nations Led Education Bringing together a Nation

SharingStories' Cultural Education Portal has been renamed Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom.

Jajoo Warrngara comes from the Nyikina language. The traditional lands of the Nyikina people are in the West Kimberley region of Western Australia. We pay our respects and thank Nyikina Senior Cultural Custodian Annie Nayina Milgin for giving us permission to use the words Jajoo Warrngara. 'Jajoo Warrngara – it means to gather around and learn from the Elders. That's what it means, it's passing the knowledge,' Annie shared.

Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom hosts educational resources and media co-created with SharingStories' community partners. All resources

align to the Australian Curriculum and support the embedding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives. It celebrates the culturally rich bilingual films and animated stories co-developed with partner communities over 10 years, and provides culturally safe ways for teachers in Australian classrooms to share them with students through community-driven and approved educational resources.

Over the 2021/2022 period, SharingStories was abuzz with all members of the team working towards the launch of the Jajoo Warrngara platform. Our dedicated team:

- Co-developed 40 units of work with 11 of our partner communities.
- Conducted significant teacher and impact partner trials to ensure effectiveness of resources and the site.
- Worked with pro bono partner Deloitte Digital in the development of the pricing structure

"Jajoo Warrngarra – it means 'gather around and learn from the Elders', that's what it means, it's passing the knowledge."

11 communities
40 units of work
80+ lessons



and validation of key messages and goals for the social enterprise which returns revenue to partner communities.

- Completed the design and build of the revolutionary place-based online platform www.jajoowarrngara.org.

SNEAK PEEK – We couldn't wait till next year to share the news! In September 2022, SharingStories Foundation and partner communities officially launched Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom. 25 Custodians gathered from across Australia spending two days together on Jaara Country, hosted by Uncle Rick Nelson and attended a Gala event on Wurundjeri Country. The time together was an opportunity to talk, share, exchange and to celebrate the realisation of this exciting and important vision.

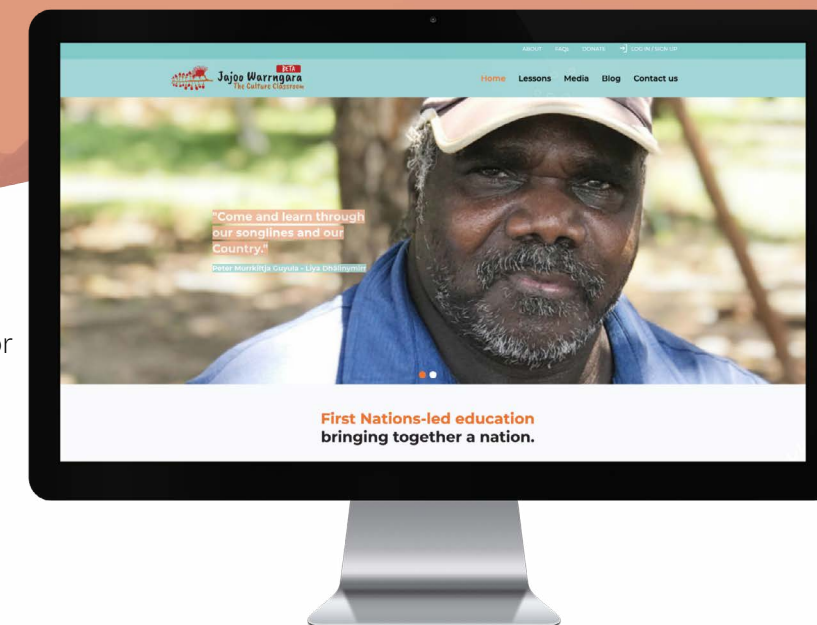


Image: Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom platform. www.jajoowarrngara.org

SharingStories encourages all educators to visit www.jajoowarrngara.org, and access a 7-day free trial.

To learn more about this incredibly exciting educational resource, follow us on socials.



Image: Custodians launching Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom on Wurundjeri Country



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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



Willandra Lakes Region
inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981

Additional Partners

- Indigenous Literacy Foundation
- Sydney Film Festival
- Bangerang Aboriginal Corporation
- Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation
- Griffith University
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service - West Branch

School Partners

- Greater Shepparton Secondary College
- Swan Hill North Primary School
- Purnululu Aboriginal Independent Community School
- St Georges Road Primary
- Nyikina Mangala School
- St Peters Primary School
- Derby District High School

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