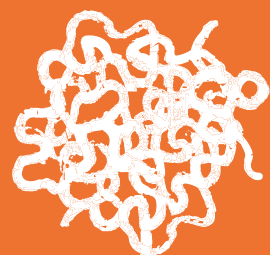




ANNUAL
REVIEW
2022-2023



SHARING | STORIES
FOUNDATION



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Cover Image: Purnululu Aboriginal Independent Community School student Image Credit: Michael Torres

Image: Senior Gija Custodian, Patrick Mung Mung Image Credit: Michael Torres

OUR MISSION

SharingStories Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation led by a passionate board with majority First Nations representation. We collaborate with First Nations communities to protect and grow language, stories, and cultural heritage.

Our goal is to develop culturally safe ways of collaborating with First Nations communities to ensure strong, connected First Nations young people lead a future where all Australians care for Culture and Country.



CHAIR REPORT

First Nations cultural practices are not only deeply central to Australia's history, they are also a vibrant part of this nation's present and future. Initiatives that strengthen First Nations' voices – supporting transmission, recording and creative interpretation of knowledge – are imperative to protecting and growing culture and languages. These practices ensure that knowledge is held and can be shared by communities, offering everyone the opportunity to engage with the shared history and living cultural landscape of First Nations people.

SharingStories Foundation neither tells the ancient stories of Country nor creates them. We are an organisation committed to providing the tools necessary to ensure these stories remain eternal for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, who have been narrating these stories since time immemorial across all parts of Australia. Additionally, SharingStories Foundation recognises the importance and value of the diverse and unique cultures of Australia's First Peoples, as the oldest continuous cultures on earth.

Since our creation in 2012, we have collaborated with 26 partner communities, innovating methods to safeguard and share cultural knowledges and languages. All of our endeavours are underpinned by our unique approach – a two-way learning process led by the community, with creativity

serving as the vehicle for sharing and education central to all aspects of the work.

Over the past year, our work has sparked renewed enthusiasm. We developed and launched new platforms for sharing cultural content and knowledges, notably through Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom. This work has taken place alongside development of films, permanent installations, exhibitions, phone apps and multi-touch books. These platforms not only offer opportunities to protect and celebrate First Nations cultural heritage, but also impact the next generation through education. Our projects reached 8 million people this year.

Thank you to all our supporters for allowing us to continue to grow this important work. I want to personally thank our amazing Board, that provides such strong leadership to the organisation, and our wonderful team at SharingStories Foundation, inspirationally led by our Co-CEOs Taz Miller and Sharon Williams. All of our staff make the Board so proud to be part of the organisation.

Tim Goodwin
Chairperson



CO-CEO REPORT

This has been an incredible year of growth for SharingStories, increasing revenue by 77 per cent, which was matched by a growing range of wonderful programs and outputs created with partner communities. Similarly, in-kind support from 18 significant delivery partners was valued at over \$870,000.

As a growing organisation that delivers outcomes locally as well as across the education, tourism, corporate and arts sectors nationally, in-kind support from delivery partners is vital to continuous community programming, increased reach and impact of outcomes.

Creative, community-led practice is at the heart of SharingStories Foundation's work, and exciting new projects are in development with Gija, Wägilak, Yuin, Liya Dhälinymirr and Nyikina communities. The Gija community's exemplary program was a source of particular celebration in the ways it incorporated multiple art forms, such

as costume making, songwriting, sound design, acting, ochre painting, watercolour painting, and animation. The program was completely integrated with the school curriculum across the year with a deeper embedding of Gija protocols across all areas of program delivery, from planning through to creative interpretation and narrative structure. 2022 also saw the culmination of 10 years' work with the Jaara community and the launch of the Boorp Boorp Boondyil permanent exhibition at the Castlemaine Market Building. The immersive exhibition celebrates Jaara language, culture and community life and is an enriching, connecting experience for all visitors.

Across all programs, SharingStories is committed to meaningful evaluation that can better inform the decision-making process. To improve evaluation practices, we are excited to take part in the Indigenous Languages Australia TASKO outcome planning pilot for work with the Gija and Quandamooka communities, which commenced in 2022 and will be completed by 2024.

Taz Miller
Co-CEO



CO-CEO REPORT

As a key strategy for SharingStories, our team's First Nations representation has increased by over 50 per cent this year, with the employment of an Administration Officer, a Strategy and Partnerships Manager, and an Education and Community Engagement Manager. This ensures that the same First Nations-led concept in communities is now embedded in our team structure, with First Nations self-determination prevalent across all aspects of the organisation.

In September 2022, SharingStories launched the education platform Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom, a revolutionary online platform created to support the cultural safety and confidence of educators to authentically embed the Australian Curriculum's Cross Curriculum Priority - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures in classrooms across the country.

We have been enthralled by the enthusiasm and response to Jajoo Warrngara from both funding bodies and educational sectors. All our funders are highly valued, and this year it was a great bonus to have Jajoo Warrngara recognised as an important education content contributor by the Australian Government Department of Education. This significant funding support has allowed SharingStories to engage and collaborate with nine new communities across Australia, and opened doors for important conversations about how we can support key initiatives in education at national, state and local levels.

We know Jajoo Warrngara is a unique platform that guides educators to embed the Australian Cross Curriculum Priority, of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures with cultural knowledges direct from Traditional Custodians on their own Country.

This year, in collaboration with The University of Queensland, we've started our first-ever major research project to prove just that. This important research project is designed to identify the impacts of teaching and learning through a focus on embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures, using Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom community-led resources. We're really excited to share the outcomes of this research in early 2024.

Sharon Williams
Co-CEO

2022-2023 AT A GLANCE


201 participants across **17 communities** contributed **2889 hours** to the teaching, creation, co-curation and public presentation of cultural knowledge.

8 million people engaged with **community media** over the year.





OUR PROGRAMS:

CREATE programs build creative and digital media skills, stories and culture in community participants. Returning to Country lies at the heart of all programs.


 **Digital/Creative Storytelling** reclaims and builds language and story in community participants through intergenerational transmission of knowledge on Country and interpretation of knowledge shared through a variety of creative practices.


 **Language Reclamation and Revitalisation** is part of all programs and involves documentation and development of engaging, accessible resources. Programs build skills in local language workers.

 **Cultural Short Film** programs co-create short films. This offers new partner communities the opportunity to create and share important cultural stories/language and knowledge.


 **Connecting Community** focuses on the connection between schools and local Custodians, providing valuable opportunities for schools to partner with the community in the development of authentic First Nations educational resources and classroom cultural protocols linked to community-produced media.

SHARE Initiatives ensure local community access to Creative Program outcomes and provide pathways for communities to share outcomes across The Arts, Tourism, Education and Corporate Workplace sectors. All distribution platforms are developed as templates for scale.










 **Exhibition/Permanent Installation** – Co-curates content for local and digital keeping places, galleries; bringing audiences into relationship with creative interpretations of cultural knowledge, stories and language.

 **Publication** – Co-curates interactive, bilingual Multi-touch Books, and print books. These publications are distributed across the public domain and education sectors, delivering knowledge and stories in exciting formats.

 **Broadcast** – Co-produces and distributes audio arts features, podcasts and films.

 **Jajoo Warrngara – The Culture Classroom** – An online platform providing place-based cultural educational resources and creative outcomes, co-created and approved by the Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander partner communities sharing their Knowledges.

 **Connecting to Country Mobile App** – initially designed with the Lake Mungo Aboriginal Advisory Group, this location-sensitive technology delivers cultural knowledge through arts media and augmented reality experiences at important sites.

| | Create | | | | Share | | | | |
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| Liya-Dhalinyirr | | | | | | | | • | |
| Wägilak | • | | | | • | • | | • | |
| WA | | | | | | | | | |
| Nyikina | | | | | • | | | • | |
| Gija | • | • | | • | • | | | | |
| Noongar/ Wardandi | | | • | | | | | | |
| SA | | | | | | | | | |
| Adnymathanha | | | | | | • | | • | |
| NSW | | | | | | | | | |
| Bundjalung | | | • | | | | | | |
| Yuin | | | • | | | | | | |
| Mungo | | | | | | • | | • | • |
| QLD | | | | | | | | | |
| Quandamooka | | | • | | | | | • | |
| Ghungulu | | | • | | | • | | • | |
| Pitta Pitta | | | • | | | | | | |
| VIC | | | | | | | | | |
| Bangerang | | • | | • | | | | • | |
| Wamba Wamba | | | | • | | | | • | |
| Wurundjeri | | | | • | | | | | |
| Jaara | | | | • | • | | | • | |
| Gunaikurnai | | | • | | | | | | |

GIJA COMMUNITY

In 2022, SharingStories Foundation partnered with Purnululu Aboriginal Independent Community School and Traditional Custodians in the remote town of Wurrenranginy (Frog Hollow) in the East Kimberley, Western Australia, on the first edition of the 'Recording and Sharing Living Stories Through Cultural Media Mentoring' Project.

Co-designed with Purnululu School, the program is a new model for SharingStories Foundation, one of deep cultural learning and skill building embedded in the school's planning across the year. The focus of this year's edition was Thirringgenji doo Joowijgarneny: The Owlet Nightjar and The Bowerbird, a Gija Ngarranggarnim (Dreaming) story from the Jarlaloan area in Gija Country.

Shared by Jarlaloan Custodian, Patrick Mung Mung, Thirringgenji doo Joowijgarneny: The Owlet Nightjar and The Bowerbird. The story teaches us about ecosystems, habitats, and co-existence. The Thirringgenji rock is at an undisclosed site on Jarlaloan Country and a customary Gija ritual is to put leaves into the hole when visiting the rock to honour the Ancestors.

The Ngarranggarnim story was originally recorded in Gija by Senior Custodians George (Magany) Mung Mung and Jack Britten in the 1980s. In 2010, it was retold by Rusty Peters Dirrji Wandarrany. The story was recorded in Gija and also translated into English as part of this project.

Guided by Gija Elders, Thirringgenji doo Joowijgarneny has been creatively interpreted by students at Purnululu School. As part of this special project, both Elders and students narrated and performed the story, animated artworks, recorded songs, and developed the sound design. Elders also directed students' performances.

The Thirringgenji doo Joowijgarneny: The Owlet Nightjar and The Bowerbird Digital Storytelling Program culminated in an impressive amount of creative outputs including:

- A film of Patrick Mung Mung sharing the story at the site in July 2022
- A story written and narrated in Gija and English
- A 20 minute bilingual animated film
- A bilingual multi-touch book
- Six short film interviews with Patrick Mung Mung, Shirley Drill, Eileen Bray, Paul Butters and Sophia Mung about the importance and significance of the story, and associated cultural knowledge



Watch the behind the scenes video [here](#).

Image: Patrick Mung Mung, Senior Gija Custodian **Image Credit:** Michael Torres

- A 30 minute educational film - An Academic Kim Akerman demonstrating how to make Kimberley spearheads
- Two original songs created by Purnululu School and produced into animated film clips by SharingStories Foundation.

In November 2023, the creative outcomes of the Thirringgenji doo Joowijgarneny: The Owlet Nightjar and The Bowerbird Digital Storytelling Program and multiple additional outcomes will be celebrated in a community launch before being launched nationally in 2024.



‘All over Australia, white people, teachers, they gotta understand what we’re doing for our kids, for their future, like everything that we learnt ourselves when we were kids. The teachers, they have to be the same, not be frightened of reading Joowijgarneny and Thirringgenji story. They gotta be proud, you know happy. It’s real good for the kids to learn. And if the teachers come here (to Purnululu School) they gotta learn about them things with the kids. The kids might learn to speak with Gija, you know, both ways.’

- Gija Elder and Gawarre Traditional Owner, Shirley Drill

Image Credit: Michael Torres

NYIKINA COMMUNITY

This (Interactive Display) is an example of the importance of relationships and how others can help us achieve our goals. This is the vision of our people – what they’ve done. They’ve developed partnerships, they’ve developed agreements, and they’ve committed themselves to come up with a product that’s empowering, educational, and ultimately, keeping language and culture alive. This is our old people’s contribution to the nation building of the Nyikina people.

-Robert Watson Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation Chairperson

In April 2022, SharingStories Foundation’s Creative Director Liz Thompson and Program Manager Brooke Small met with the Milgin and Watson families in the west Kimberley to review the first draft of Woonyoomboo: The Night Heron Interactive Display Panel, recording changes needed, and progressing contractual arrangements. This new display panel houses all the community content produced in collaboration with SSF over many years, including animations, language, songs, artwork, drone footage and community interviews sharing the story of Woonyoomboo.

The story and songs of Woonyoomboo have been handed down to Annie Nayina Milgin by her father Darby Jayi-Kali Narngarin. The creation of the new display panel has been a decade-long journey that has mapped 26 locations, 52 songs and involved over 100 community members.

As a result of this work, under the guidance of senior knowledge authorities, Nyikina young people have been given the opportunity to explore Nyikina Country as part of Digital Storytelling Programs, learning the stories and songs of Woonyoomboo: the Night Heron from the site of their creation.

Guided by Nyikina Custodians and Co-Curators Annie Nayina Milgin and John Darraga Watson, the SharingStories production team designed and built the display panel, for installation at Jarlmadangah Burru community Cultural Centre.

In April 2023, the Nyikina Community in partnership with SharingStories Foundation, and Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation (WAC) held a community celebration to launch the panel. Brooke Small, SSF’s WA Program Manager and Co-CEO Taz Miller attended the launch along with approximately 60 people from Jarlmadangah and surrounding communities. The launch provided an opportunity to set up the cultural centre as an effective and engaging community space housing the display panel and showcasing local paintings and artefacts. The display panel is for all Nyikina young people to learn from and share with the wider Kimberley communities, so everyone visiting Jarlmadangah Burru can connect to Country.

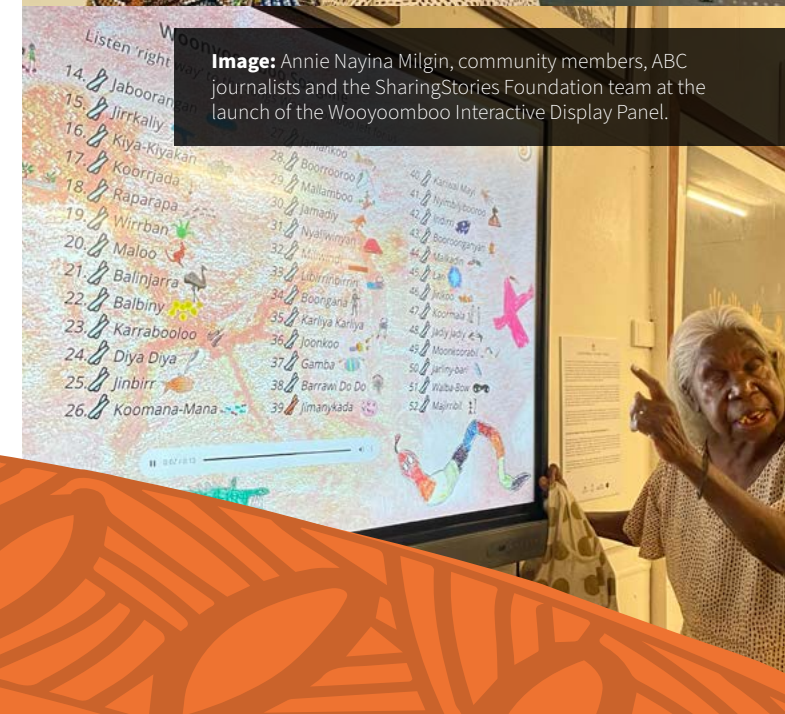
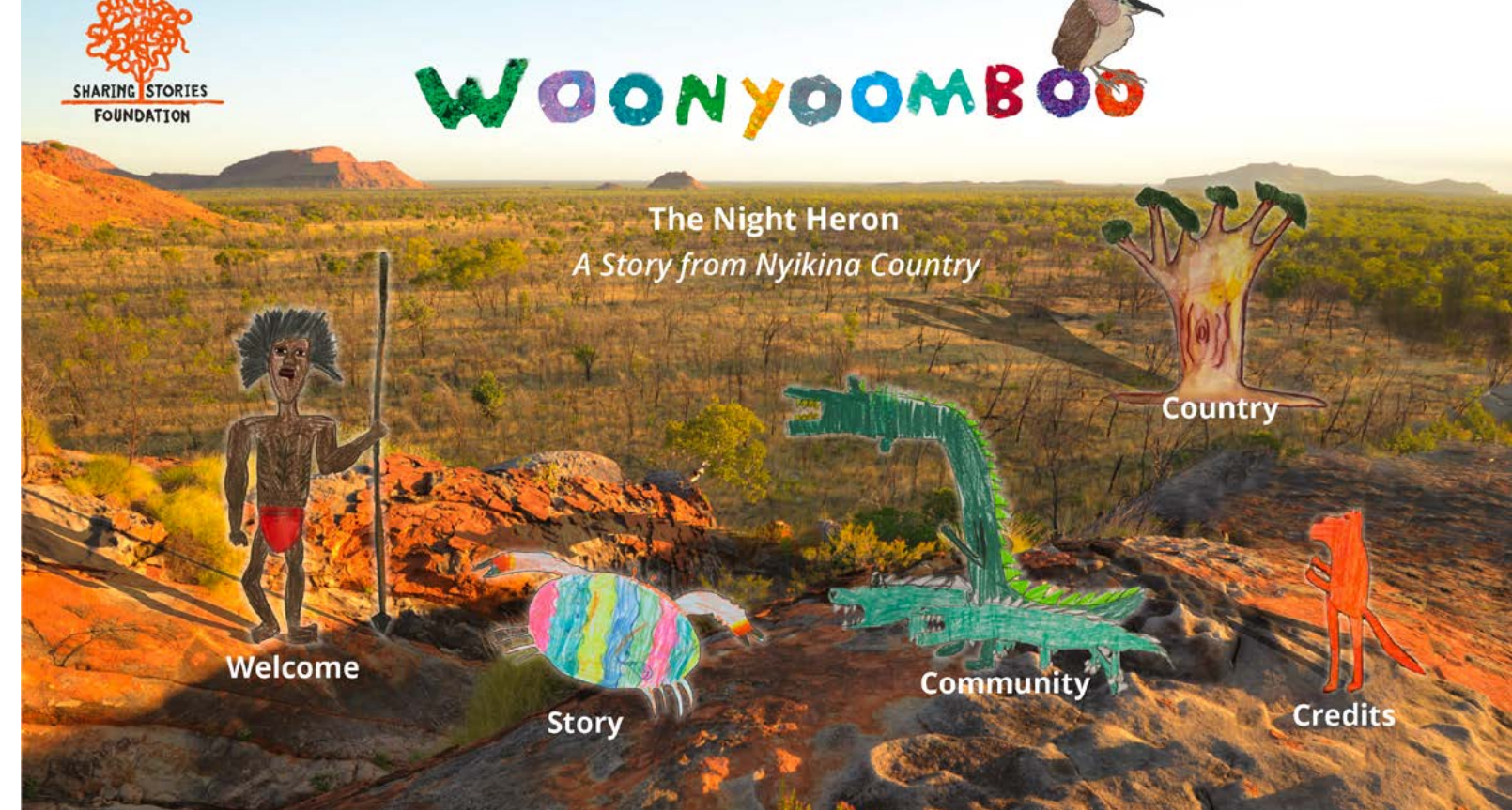



Image: Annie Nayina Milgin, community members, ABC journalists and the SharingStories Foundation team at the launch of the Woonyoomboo Interactive Display Panel.

A photograph of an elderly Indigenous Australian woman, Annie Nayina Milgin, standing on a rocky riverbank. She is wearing a light-colored t-shirt and dark shorts, and has a white cloth draped over her shoulder. She is looking towards the left. The background shows a river with reddish-brown banks and sparse vegetation under a clear blue sky.

‘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 stories so we can keep practising our culture.’

- Annie Nayina Milgin, Nyikina Senior Custodian

Image Credit: Liz Thompson

JAARA COMMUNITY

In October 2022 the Jaara community launched Boorp Boorp Boondyil – Passing Knowledge to Our Children in the Market Building in Castlemaine, Victoria. Boorp Boorp Boondyil is an immersive and celebratory permanent exhibition of living Jaara language, culture and community life. It is the result of a collaboration between the Jaara community, led by Senior Jaara Cultural Custodians Uncle Brien Nelson and his son Uncle Rick Nelson, Mount Alexander Shire Council and SharingStories Foundation.

During the Digital Storytelling Programs stage of this project, First Nations young people from The Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corp and St Peters Primary School created original artworks, animations and soundscapes in response to cultural knowledge shared. Their work and the leadership of the Nelson family laid the foundation for Boorp Boorp Boondyil.

‘Creating all the work in the exhibition together with the children has helped teach them about their Culture. To keep those stories alive and ongoing, and passing them to the kids is very important. That message of children learning, and particularly learning about culture, is what Boorp Boorp Boondyil is all about’, said Uncle Rick Nelson.

Local artists were also commissioned to create unique pieces that responded to the knowledge shared. Aunty Marilyn Nicholls, who is a multi-clans, Dja Dja Wurrung, Yorta Yorta, Baraba Baraba, Wadi Wadi and Jupagulk master weaver, wove Werpils larnuk (Eagle’s nest) at the invitation of Uncle Rick Nelson. Taungarung and Yorta Yorta man, Alvin Darcy Briggs, drew on artistic practice and the knowledge continued from his father and ancestors, using pyrography – ‘writing with fire’ - on reclaimed timber poles to celebrate Dja Dja Wurrung language as well as the native animals and plants found on Country.

Boorp Boorp Boondyil is a multi-award-winning exhibition experience. It forms a vibrant cultural hub and dynamic teaching space for community and visitors. It strengthens and supports learning about Jaara cultural heritage, language and stories through a weave of ancient and contemporary technologies. Uncle Rick Nelson often starts and finishes his cultural tours from the site. Since opening it has welcomed over 128 166 visitors.



Watch the behind the scenes video [here](#).



Image: Uncle Rick Nelson, Jaara Senior Custodian with his family celebrating the opening of Boorp Boorp Boondyil.
Other images: Opening of Boorp Boorp Boondyil.



‘One of the best exhibits I have seen of local Aboriginal culture in any regional area in Australia! Extremely well done. Congrats.’

- Boorp Boorp Boondyil Visitors Book





‘Boorp Boorp Boondyil was inspired by my father, Uncle Brien Nelson,’ said Uncle Rick Nelson. ‘He was a leader of his people, and spent his life sharing cultural knowledge to Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Boorp Boorp Boondyil is continuing his important work – ensuring that knowledge continues to be passed from one generation to the next.’

- Uncle Rick Nelson, Senior Jaara Custodian

Image: Uncle Rick Nelson, Jaara Senior Custodian. **Credit:** Penny Ryan

WÄGILAK COMMUNITY

The late Roy Ashley Waṇapuyṇu was a legendary funeral singer and important cultural leader amongst the Dhuwa Dhurili Clans of North East Arnhem Land. He led our programs on Country for over ten years and the extraordinary cultural repository created during this time is now being curated into a large-scale immersive exhibition, Gaṇḍjaḷa Marangalwidipyan: Gaṇḍjaḷa One Mind Exhibition. ‘We are sharing with you how we walk in One Mind with our Creation Ancestor Gaṇḍjaḷa the Sugar Bag Hunter’ explains Russell Waṇapuyṇu, Roy’s eldest living brother. Russell, along with younger brothers Derek and Colin Waṇapuyṇu, are curating the Wägilak content with SharingStories and consultant designers Mosster Studios to offer visitors a deep insight into Country and Culture of the Wägilak Clan.

In Gaṇḍjaḷa Marangalwidipyan: Gaṇḍjaḷa One Mind Exhibition the visitor will travel through a virtual experience of Country, along songlines and into Ceremony. The story and knowledge of Gaṇḍjaḷa is interpreted through language, dance, painting and sculpture, 360 degree and video projections, surround sound, animation, text, photography and contemporary artworks.

Roy’s focus was ensuring cultural continuity and transmission of the knowledge he held to current and future generations of Wägilak, however he also wanted Balanda (non-Indigenous) to understand the law of Gaṇḍjaḷa.

‘Your map is bitumen, your map is road, but our map not the paper, we don’t carry around the rolls and rolls of paper like you do... that’s your way. Our map is our song that will guide us wherever we go. We like to share out that song, share it out to you, to understand black fella way, Aboriginal way.’

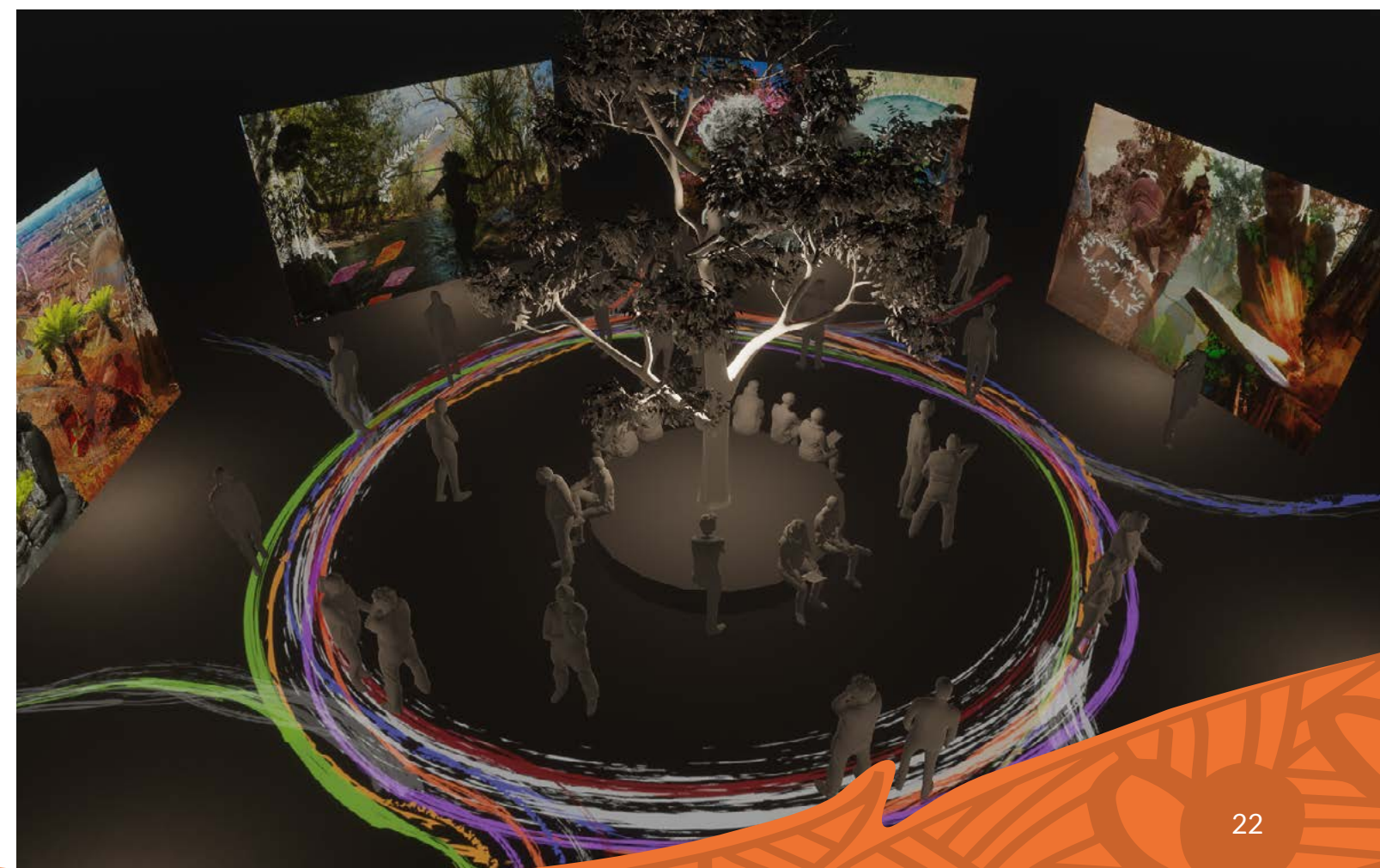
Singing the Spirit Home, a film largely in Wägilak language, of which there are currently fewer than twenty speakers, gives insight into the project’s creative practice, trips on Country, and honours the life and teachings of Roy Waṇapuyṇu.

On a recent trip to Gapuwiyak in North East Arnhem Land, the concept and design documents for Gaṇḍjaḷa Marangalwidipyan: Gaṇḍjaḷa One Mind were completed, as well as a video walk-through of the proposed exhibition experience: a modular design that can be adapted to a wide range of venues.

In 2024 we hope to complete the detailed design document and develop delivery partnerships that will help bring this incredible project to life.



Images: Design concepts for the upcoming Gaṇḍjaḷa Marangalwidipyan: Gaṇḍjaḷa One Mind Exhibition.



LIYA-DHÄLINYMIRR COMMUNITY

Mukarr Djambatj: The Giant Green Sea Turtle Hunters, a Liya-Dhälinymirr songline.

In 2024 a new digital interactive book, Mukarr Djambatj: The Giant Green Sea Turtle Hunters from the Liya -Dhälinymirr community will be released.

This project originated through a two-week excursion in 2014 that was organised by Mäpuru Christian School and Mäpuru Community. On the excursion, Senior Knowledge Authorities guided Mäpuru students along the journeys of their ancestors, the Mukarr Hunters, when they hunted Wol, the Giant Green Sea Turtle. The students journeyed from Baḍaypaḍay near the Mitchell Ranges to Bamaka island in the Arafura Sea.

On the excursion, deep philosophical, cultural, and literacy skills learnt through stories and songs in the classroom were embedded through the experience of being on the precise Country, with the specific Senior Knowledge Authorities who hold the knowledge for each ancestral site visited. The experience strengthened students' knowledge of who they are and where they are from, within a history going back tens of thousands of years. This educational approach focuses on respect for all people and the environment, wholesome community values, ethical living and wisdom; all notable strengths of Yolŋu society.

The 55-page bilingual digital interactive book, produced through the related SharingStories

Digital Storytelling programs, explores the Mukarr Djambatj manikay (songline) that belongs to the Liya-Dhälinymirr clan and the extended clan nation, the Liya-Wolmamirr and Maraḇaturrmirr Djambarrpuyŋu clan nation.

Facilitated by Elders Peter Murrkitlja Guyula, Mark Guyula, Davis Mawurra Murrawungu, and Dorothy Dhulparrarrawuy Murrawungu, with artwork designed and animated by David Murrawungu, Mukarr Djambatj: The Giant Green Sea Turtle Hunters includes text in Djämarrpuyŋu and English, along with short videos, images, interactive maps and community voices. It becomes a digital ancestor for their next generation to grow up strong in the knowledge of who they are.

'So that we can help one another with a clear vision for the future of our children, we have a planned strategy to present and educate through songlines. Through this, we maintain our identity of who we are and the relationships that we have towards one another, so we stand together and survive. The words in the songline are a map that connect us to everyone in our clan nation; the land, the water, the turtle, the wind and the tides. All the elements are awakened by these songs. We are choosing to share this with you, to help bridge the gap in understanding between our cultures.'

- Senior Liya-Dhälinymirr Project Leads



Image: Liya-Dhälinymirr led consultations in preparation for filming the Cleansing Ceremony.

The book offers extraordinary insight and exploration of complex concepts and systems of governance, cultural protocols and cosmology. Elders who have driven and guided this project are hopeful that it will also serve to increase Balanda (non-Indigenous) respect for the deep knowledge systems they carry, and support the community in the fight for the right to teach their children on Country.

In preparation for the release, SharingStories engaged a group of academics, educators and professionals to help review the content and better understand user experience, with potential to expand audiences.

Surveys and interviews were conducted with a user testing group that included First Nations and non-First Nations teachers, academics, anthropologists, a principal, a community health worker, and a museum curator. The result was overwhelmingly positive, with all participants acknowledging the generosity and incredible gift shared by Liya-Dhälinymirr Cultural Custodians in offering such deep insight into the structure, complexity and deep teaching inherent in a songline. Those assisting in the research commented on how clearly the resource speaks to the need to reclaim language and the power of reconnecting to culture. They loved the

mixed-media approach and the way it combines storytelling, science, and education. Overall the experience was that the resource brilliantly articulates the history and magnificence of an education system that is tens of thousands of years old, and why Learning on Country is so critically important for First Nations young people. One of the participants, a First Nations Community Health worker, suggested the book could be used as an inspiring and healing resource in the Cultural Safety and Strength courses she runs for First Nations women.

The community is excited at the potential the work has for making an impact. To date, many of the education resources shared via the Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom (launched late last year), have been aimed at primary-aged children, but there is no doubt the rich cultural outcomes can engage adult audiences across tertiary education, the arts, and health sectors. This shift will broaden and deepen impact and ensure authentic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island perspectives can be effectively embedded across the broader education space and beyond.

JAJOO WARRNGARA

Development and Launch



Image: Custodians launching Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom on Wurundjeri Country **Image Credit:** D Hannah

September 2022 saw the launch of Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom, with the inclusion of eleven community partners and over 100 key stakeholders, funders and ongoing supporters at a hugely successful gala event in Naarm (Melbourne) on Wurundjeri Country.

Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom has demonstrated itself to be a one-of-a-kind education platform, where all content is developed in the true SharingStories way of working in collaboration with and on the Country of Traditional Custodians and First Nations community members. This new way of sharing authentic cultural knowledges has provided an exciting environment through which the culturally rich outcomes, often years in the making, can be

celebrated with the specific purpose of educating the next generations of young people and providing a valuable cultural learning experience for educators in schools across the nation.

Since the launch, SharingStories has continued to collaborate with existing community partners to co-design and identify new exciting ways to develop education resources. We've also been absolutely thrilled and privileged to develop partnerships with community partners and broaden our geographical scope to include Queensland, collaborating with Traditional Custodians from Pitta Pitta, Ghungalu and Quandamooka Country.

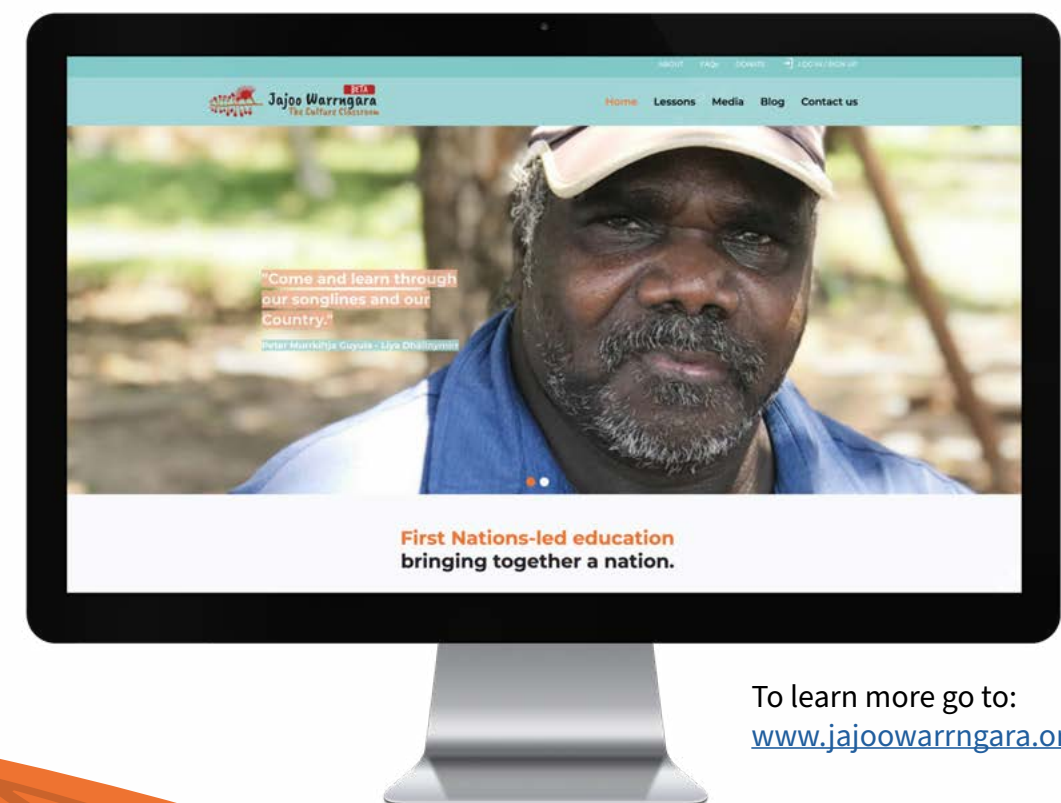
In October of 2022 we were delighted to welcome Taribelang Bunda woman Harmony Domaille to our team in the full-time position of Education and Community Partnership Manager. This dedicated role has supported the development of over 200 hours of education resources and media production in collaboration with new and existing community partners. As part of this role, Harmony has travelled extensively across Nations to ensure strong and ongoing connections to community partners that has allowed for self-determination in the deliverables of education outcomes.

Jajoo Warrngara is a social enterprise, with 50 percent of revenue raised through subscriptions returned to communities who have so generously shared their cultural knowledges, languages and stories. The remaining 50 percent of revenue is returned to SharingStories as a financially sustainable way of continuing collaborations with partner communities. This year we have been able

to return more than \$13,000 to communities as a direct result of subscriptions revenue.

In the first year of operation, Jajoo Warrngara community-led media resources, including Multi-touch Books, films, media and animations have had over 2940 views by educators, providing an avenue for sharing authentic cultural knowledges and community-approved resources to thousands of students nationwide.

Over the past few months we have completed an in-depth user analysis to identify ways to improve the user journey, increase subscriptions and ensure we continue to offer educators the most comprehensive and culturally safe education resources in the market.



To learn more go to:
www.jajoowarrngara.org



JAJOO WARRNGARA

New Ways of Working

Research has shown that there are a number of ways schools can effectively engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in their children's education. One of these is in the development of education resources that reflect the First Nations culture and Country on which the school is built.

Over this year, SharingStories, with the support of the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI) expanded the collaborative community-driven approach to developing Education Resources that are inclusive of the local cultural knowledges as shared by Traditional Custodians.

Through this process we have been able to facilitate culturally safe ways for both Traditional Custodians and schools to co-create education resources for Jajoo Warrngara. These resources are designed to support engagement with Multi-Touch Books already created with those communities on Bangerang, Wamba Wamba, Gunditjmara and Wurundjeri Countries.

This deeply collaborative work has involved identifying curriculum gaps and supporting the development of resources that include place-based lessons and the Cultural Protocol Guide. The Cultural Protocol Guide provides instructions on how teachers can safely share the cultural content. In addition to the engagement of community in schools, the protocols also provide guidance for connecting with cultural custodians on Country in the future.

Research

The SharingStories Foundation and University of Queensland Jajoo Warrngara Research Project investigates the impact of sharing First Nations-authored Education Resources with classroom teachers.

The research aims to demonstrate that by providing educators with a curriculum grounded in the lived experiences, perspectives, and histories of different First Nations communities, teachers have a culturally safe means for engaging students in Indigenous content.

This work is well underway, with pre and post-tests already conducted with three schools from different sectors across Queensland and South Australia. This sample size is small enough to allow for the collection of rich qualitative data while still ensuring sufficient breadth in data sources. The data from the survey and interviews will be triangulated to provide a rich, comprehensive picture of how Jajoo Warrngara can support educators to deliver authentic First Nations perspectives in classrooms.

PD Birdwood

In May 2023, the Jajoo Warrngara team were excited to host the first Professional Development workshop, 'First Nations Perspectives and Pedagogies', at Birdwood Primary School on Peramangk Country in South Australia.

Despite a limited First Nations student population, Birdwood Primary School acknowledges the importance of teaching First Nations histories and cultures as part of the curriculum. As a result, they subscribed to the Jajoo Warrngara platform after attending the World Indigenous People's Conference on Education (WIPCE) and requested that we offer Professional Development.

Led by our Co-CEO Sharon Williams and Education and Community Partnership Manager Harmony Domaille, the workshop aimed to help educators embed First Nations perspectives into their curriculum through the Jajoo Warrngara Education Resources and inclusive pedagogies.

The face-to-face, interactive workshop featured an exploration of key pedagogies, including how to use 'Yarning Circles', 'Uncle Ernie's Holistic Framework', and '8-Ways Learning'. These practices enabled participants to deepen their understanding of First Nations histories and cultures and supported them to localise resources, thus improving their delivery of authentic, place-based First Nations education.

Participant surveys and feedback highlighted a positive learning experience and we are really excited about building on these types of opportunities for more schools in 2024 both virtually and face to face.

Image: SharingStories Education Team with Birdwood Primary School Educators.



Go 1

In another new initiative to support cultural safety in education, SharingStories, in partnership with Go1, has developed an online Cultural Responsiveness Scan for schools. The scan provides a guide for schools to identify their level of cultural responsiveness based on key focus areas, essential for creating culturally safe spaces for students, families and community members.

The key focus areas of the Five Pillar Framework are:

1. Building Real Relationships
2. Both-way Sharing
3. Strategic Inclusion
4. Leadership Accountability
5. Be Grounded in Your Own Integrity

The scan incorporates a series of reflection questions for school leadership teams to evaluate cultural responsiveness based on the Five Pillars. Leadership Teams have the opportunity to reflect on current practices that impact on First Nations students' level of engagement, community participation, as well as the employment and retention of First Nations staff.

The Learning Outcomes of the course are:

- Using the Cultural Scan and Five Pillars Framework, identify and analyse current school practices and policies that influence educational outcomes for First Nations students, engagement of First Nations community and the employment/retention of First Nations staff.
- Reflect on approaches to enhance the engagement and academic achievement of First Nations students.



Image: GO1 platform

- Formulate a comprehensive whole-of-school action plan to foster staff cultural responsiveness, create culturally safe learning environments for First Nations students, build meaningful community partnerships and promote cultural awareness and respect within the school community.

Over its first month of operation the course had 63 enrolments and an accumulated 105 hours of learning.

A second course, currently in development and due for release in January 2024, will align with the SharingStories Moment of Truth Campaign, with a focus on the impacts of colonisation. It includes a small task for team members to complete to demonstrate understanding and identify impacts in their workplaces.

Next year in Education

Understanding the importance of representing the true diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures across the nation, it's particularly important that not only do we continue to strengthen our work with existing community partners, but with new communities as well. Over the next 3 months we will be planning a strategic approach to broadening our scope and demographics to include introductions to new communities.

We have continued our successful partnership with Keep Left Creative + PR Agency and are in the midst of planning our new Moment of Truth campaign for early release in 2024. Keep Left have become trusted and long-term pro-bono partners in promoting the work of SharingStories and the important Cultural knowledges generously shared with us by Custodians and community members.

Image: Starting front row left to right. Uncle Kevin Major, Uncle Brian Nathan, Uncle Leslie Major, Marion Major, Joanna Carlson, Roland Major, Maureen Major and Sharon Williams.

As with the 2023 Moment of Truth campaign, this campaign will focus on hard-hitting topics that influence the life choices of First Nations peoples, including Stolen Generations, Stolen Wages and systematic racism.

Early in 2024 we will release the results of the SharingStories/University of Queensland research findings on how Education Resources, co-developed with First Nations peoples, can create culturally safer spaces for both students and educators. We will also be starting a new research project to identify and record best practices for effective and sustainable approaches for community/school engagement through a targeted localised approach in Victorian schools.



Moment of Truth Campaign

January 26 is a day of mourning for many First Nations peoples and is often referred to as Invasion Day. On the eve of Invasion Day, a nationwide Moment of Truth campaign was launched. Jaara Traditional Custodian Uncle Rick Nelson and Bangerang Cultural Custodian, Roland Atkinson were major contributors to this campaign, collaborating on the development of media resources, reflecting on their experiences of this day. The campaign was designed to encourage all Australians to educate, contemplate and circulate the true history of this country in a way that acknowledges the profound and ongoing impacts of colonisation through the voices of First Nations Custodians.

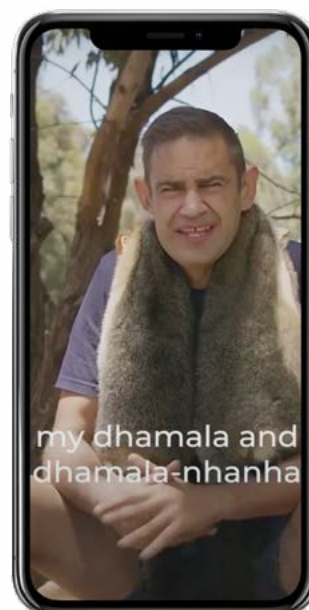
The Moment of Truth was the first campaign to grow from the strategic partnership between Keep Left and SharingStories, with the relationship also marking an important step in Keep Left's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). In collaboration with pro bono partners, Keep Left PR and Made in Katana (MiK) marketing agency, our reach and impact increased significantly over all our social media channels. The campaign reached 7.1 million viewers including:

Increases of:
588% on Instagram
236% on LinkedIn

There was also a notable 79.4 percent increase in subscriptions to Jajoo Warrngara over the January/February campaign period. In close collaboration with Jaara Elder Uncle Rick Nelson, Bangerang Custodian Roland Atkinson and First Nations educators, free education resources featuring online videos and 10 hours of digital lessons were created for Jajoo Warrngara. These were designed to support educators teaching students on this topic across years 6, 9 and 10. Produced to national curriculum standards, these First Nations-led resources were offered free to all Australians for the duration of the campaign.

SharingStories Co-CEO and Pitta Pitta woman Sharon Williams said, 'Truth-telling has the power to heal – however education has the power to create generational change. That's why we're encouraging all Australians to take a moment to step back from the debate and take a step toward unity – through education'.

Image: Roland Atkinson, Bangerang Custodian.



Conferences

Purrumpa

'Purrumpa' is a Kurna language word, meaning 'to flourish or blossom', and was generously gifted to the Australia Council for the Arts by Kurna Elder Uncle Lewis O'Brien – reflecting the intention of the gathering that took place on Kurna Yerta in late 2022.

First Nations artists and arts organisations gathered over five days at Purrumpa to speak to five themes: Respectful Engagement; Deep listening; Legacy; Here and now; Defining the future; Forward thinking.

A central aspect of the gathering was the '[Bringing it Forward](#)' Report. The Report was about the journey towards a national body for First Nations arts and culture. 'It's about Bringing it Forward: holding and caring for our cultural inheritance and the journey of those who came before us. It's about our self-determination in securing the future of our arts and culture as a sovereign First Nations peoples.'

- Australia Council for the Arts – First Nations Strategy Panel.

Uncle Moogy, Kurna Elder and Cultural Custodian, welcomed delegates to the conference and Kurna Country.

Purrumpa was the largest national gathering of First Nations arts and culture, convened by the Australia Council, in 50 years. Across the event, an extraordinary collection of artist talks, project presentations, keynotes, panels and Q & A sessions were offered, celebrating the incredible work of the First Nations arts and culture sector across the last five decades. It was humbling to be in the presence of so many inspirational First Nations speakers and practitioners and part of such a powerful, vibrant and flourishing arts community. Thank you to all the participants and particularly to Franchesca Cubillo and Creative Australia's First Nations Arts and Culture Strategy Panel, for the huge amount of work and heart involved in making it possible.

Image: Uncle Moogy, Kurna Elder and Cultural Custodian with his sister Polly Sumner, her son Damien Shen and granddaughter Kalani Shen 'Ladybird' at the Purrumpa conference.



World Literacy Summit

In April, our Co-CEO, Sharon Williams, and Education and Community Partnerships Manager, Harmony Domaille, represented SharingStories at the World Literacy Summit at Oxford University in the UK.

We were honoured to be invited as speakers. Our presentation was centred on the summit's theme 'Reading Changes Lives' and emphasised the significance of including First Nations languages and stories in various media, books, films, and classrooms. Showcasing the SharingStories way of working to develop community-led media and Jajoo Warrngara's co-designed Educational Resources, the summit provided an opportunity to emphasise the vital role that First Nations Peoples play in improving literacy outcomes for First Nations young people.

The summit convened international experts from over 85 countries to address global literacy challenges. A recurring theme was the importance of representation and inclusivity in literature, including a diversity in race, cultures, abilities and socio-economic status. The core message was that individuals need to see themselves reflected in literature to enhance their interest and ability in reading, all of which closely aligns with our mission.

Our interactions with educators and leaders from around the world fostered a shared commitment to literacy and cultural inclusivity. The summit's diverse sessions included topics such as Closing the Education Divide, Critical Thinking, Neurobiology, and Reading to Empower Disadvantaged Communities, all of which resonated with our work, underlining the global relevance of our mission in the field of First Nations arts and culture, convened by the Australia Council, in 50 years. Across the event,

an extraordinary collection of artist talks, project presentations, keynotes, panels and Q & A sessions were offered, celebrating the incredible work of the First Nations arts and culture sector across the last five decades. It was humbling to be in the presence of so many inspirational First Nations speakers and practitioners and part of such a powerful, vibrant and flourishing arts community. Thank you to all.

Conference WIPCE

SharingStories had the privilege of sharing the stage at the 2022 World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education (WIPCE). Held every 3 years, WIPCE is the largest and most diverse Indigenous education forum in the world.

Over 5,000 representatives from across the globe met in Tarndanya (Adelaide), the home of the Kurna Nation of South Australia, to share insights and programs to demonstrate successful outcomes.

Co-CEOs Sharon Williams and Taz Miller gave a presentation on how SharingStories' collaborative approach to creating resources with First Nations community partners can help to sustain languages and cultures through education.

AIATSIS

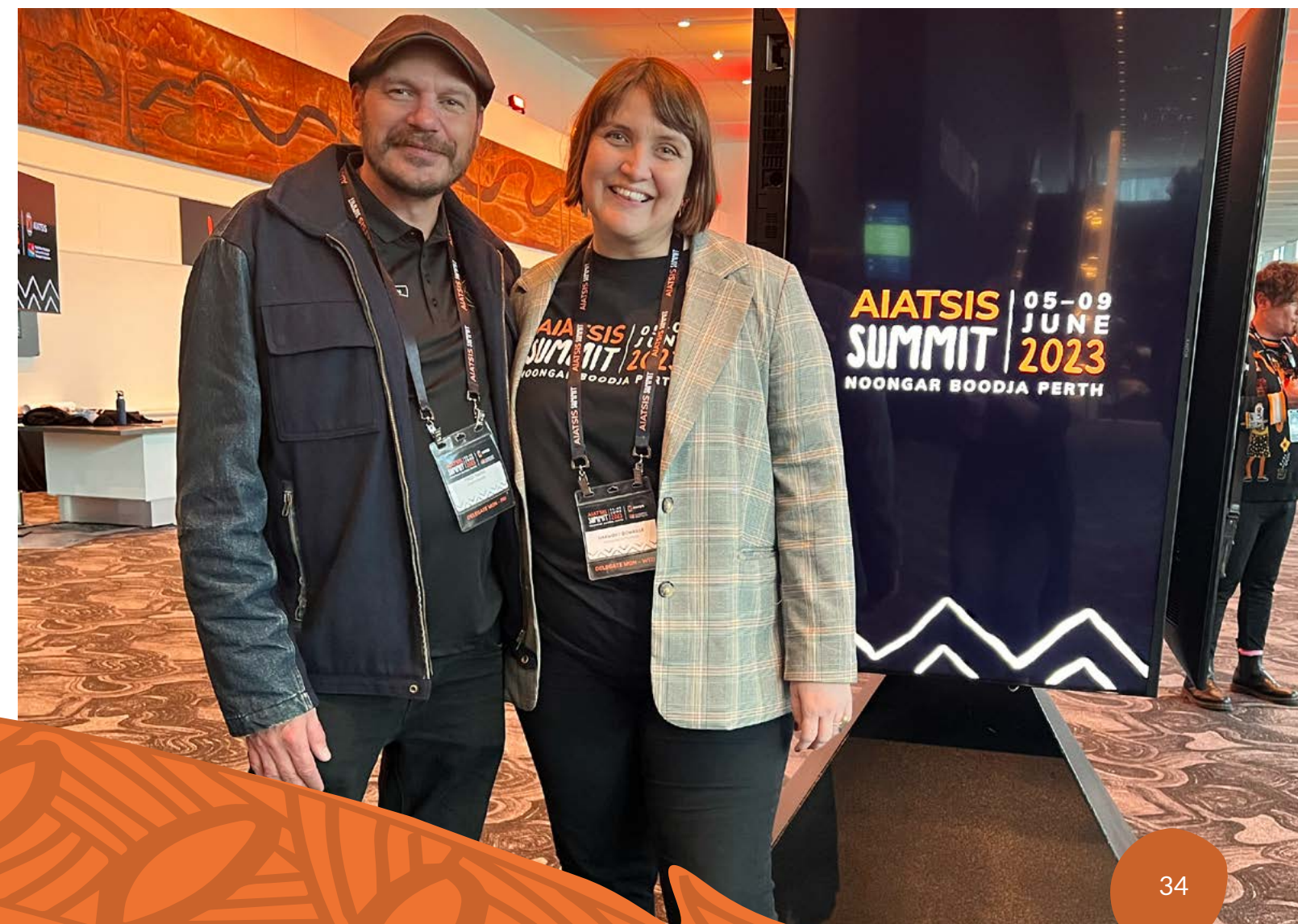
In June of this year, our Education and Community Partnerships Manager, Harmony Domaille presented at the annual, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Conference on Noongar Boodja in Perth, Western Australia.

This year's theme, 'Navigating the Spaces Between', emphasised the importance of honouring and amplifying First Nations voices and recognised that in these 'in-between spaces' there is innovation, risk, and complexity. Harmony's presentation focused on the vital role of First Nations voices in education and children's literature, with a walk-through of the Jajoo Warrngara platform. Harmony also attended a

number of valuable keynote presentations and workshops as part of her ongoing professional development. The conference encouraged deep reflection and the exploration of radical creativity to reimagine First Nations futures.

It served as an excellent platform for networking and collaboration, allowing SharingStories to engage with numerous First Nations professionals and establish strong partnerships with other organisations. These interactions enriched the exchange of innovative ideas and strategies aimed at strengthening First Nations voices in education and literature.

Image: Harmony Domaille and William Hayward at the AIATSIS Summit on Noongar Boodja.



Awards

We are thrilled to share that SharingStories won the 2023 Connecting Up's First Nations Best Technology Award, for Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom. The Australian Not-for-Profit Technology Awards recognises the best in technology and innovation by the Australian non-profit sector.

The awards recognise the achievements of organisations and how their work supports the wider community through innovation, and SharingStories was a finalist in two categories: The Best Technology Achievement by a First Nations Group and Not-For-Profit Technology Innovator of the Year.

We are proud that Jajoo Warrngara: The Culture Classroom was recognised in this way as an education platform pivotal in supporting young people, culturally safe learning environments, and fostering cultural and historical learning experiences for the broader community.

The Gija Community with SharingStories Foundation were also recipients of the Australian Teacher of Media Awards, 'Best Indigenous Website' housed on the West Australia's museum's platform. The website shared an important creation

story Jirraginny joo Goorrandal: the Frog and Brolga. The work was recognised for its educational value in engaging students through an interactive map experience.

In addition, Boorp Boorp Boondyil: Passing Knowledge to Our Children recently won two prestigious awards.

Winner of the Indigenous Recognition category for the National Awards for Local Government, the award highlights how emerging initiatives can positively impact local communities, display excellence, and provide exciting models or templates for other communities nationally. In addition, Boorp Boorp Boondyil was the inaugural winner of the 2023 Maggolee Awards, an initiative of Reconciliation Victoria.

'Boorp Boorp Boondyil has been a highlight of my later years. In my role as the eldest son taking on Dad's project after he passed, to finish it and get it to such high acclaim and feedback from the community and read the comments book – Dad will be sitting up there with the biggest smile on his face!'

-Senior Jaara Cultural Custodian Uncle Rick Nelson

Image: SharingStories Board Director Carly Jia and SharingStories' Branding and Communications Specialist Sheree Jacobs at the Connecting Up Awards.



New Team Members



Image: Harmony Domaille

Harmony Domaille is a proud Taribelang Bunda woman, living and working on Yaggera/Jagera and Turrbal Country. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education (Secondary) and Creative Industries (Drama) and is due to complete her Masters of Educational Leadership in Indigenous Leadership this November.

With a career spanning over 15 years in education, Harmony has garnered extensive experience in diverse educational settings. Her journey has taken her from Montessori schools to state schools in regional Queensland, flexible learning centres, and various arts programs for students across primary and secondary levels.

Harmony's expertise encompasses a wide array of skills in curriculum development and pedagogical approaches. She is passionate about trauma-informed practice, project-based learning and storytelling.

'It is a privilege to work in a First Nations-led organisation. I find strength and inspiration from the generosity of our communities, who remind me of the wisdom, creativity, and resilience of our people.'

We were very blessed to have Gunaikurnai man Shane Boseley join us for 2023 as Head of Partnership and Strategy.

Shane has over 10 years of experience providing leadership within first-class, fast-paced corporate environments. Shane is passionate about business strategy, business operations, modern technology and building strong strategic partnerships to help businesses and communities work smarter and grow together.

'I have a strong passion for amplifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and culture and find myself thriving in this role where I can mix this with my business skills to drive better outcomes for our people into the future.'

Image: Shane Boseley



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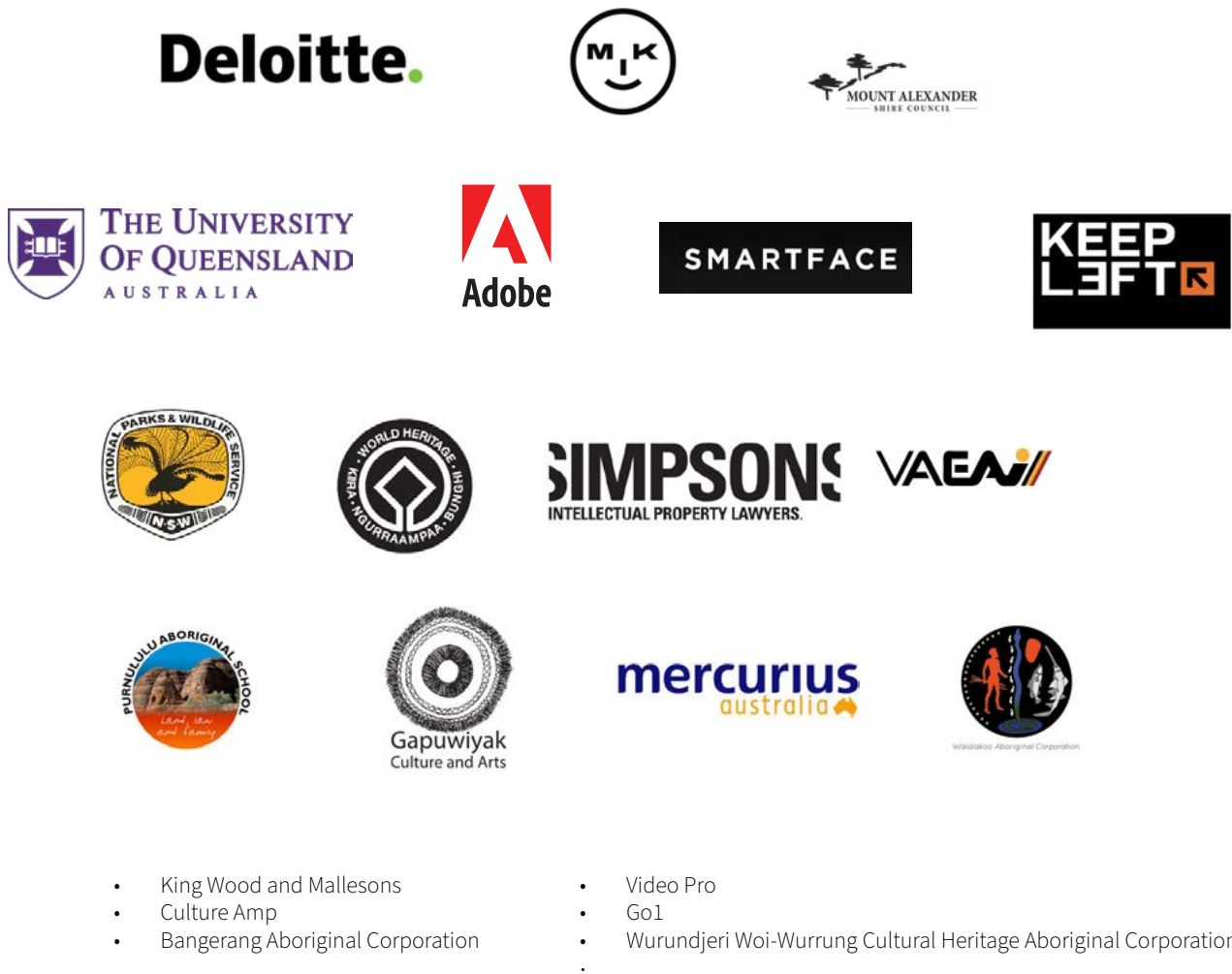
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