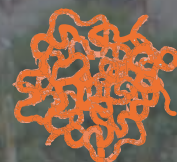


The Gija Impact Report

2009, 2017-2020



SHARING STORIES
FOUNDATION



Project Background



In 2009, SharingStories Founder Liz Thompson began a relationship with the Gija community, working with Senior Gija Custodian, Shirley Drill and students at Purnululu Aboriginal Independent Community School in the transmission and interpretation of the 'Jirraginy joo Goor-rardal: Frog and Brolga' story into a print book.

In 2017, SharingStories commenced a Digital Storytelling Program with Purnululu School with the support of Wyemando Harper Sisters Aboriginal Bequest and the Australian Government's Indigenous Languages and Arts Program. Over three years, the Digital Storytelling Program also brought together the Gija Rangers and Warmun Art Centre in an exciting exchange, where students learnt on Country and continued to develop their understanding of the story in the classroom.

Utilising student's artwork from the 2009 Indigenous Language Series 'Sharing Our Stories', current Purnululu School students reinterpreted and transformed the story into beautiful bilingual animations which included artwork, projection, performance and sound design. The content was created by students and community participants with SharingStories' facilitators.

'Ngarranggarni (the story of the Dreamtime spirit) comes from the old people. We pass it on to the younger generation, so they can give culture life in the future.'

**- Betty Carrington,
Senior Gija Cultural Custodian**

Project Overview

The 'Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: Frog and Brolga' project brought the Gija community together.

83

Gija people dedicated a collective total of

4138

hours to the teaching, learning and creative interpretation of the story of 'Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: Frog and Brolga'.

SharingStories supported the project through

312

hours of artist and technical facilitation, training up young people and mentees in the Gija community.

61

young people, nearly the entire Purnululu School participated. Seven Elders, one Language Mentee, 12 Teachers and Aboriginal Education Liaison Officers and two community members were involved.





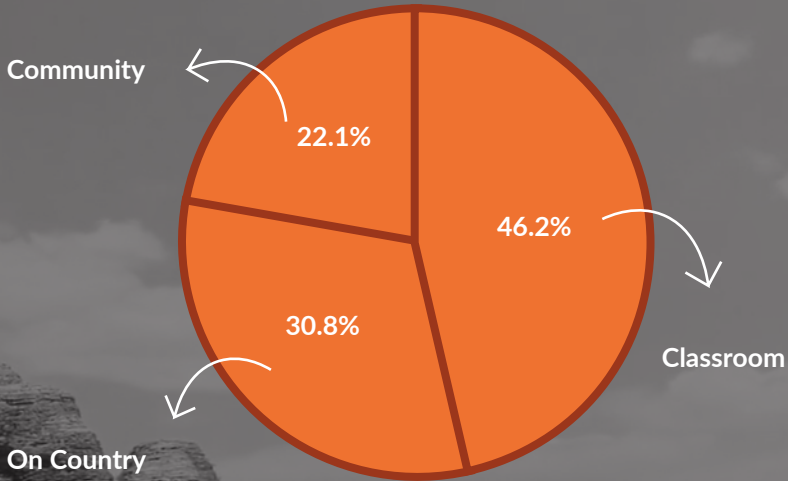
Program Hours and where the work took place

- | | | | |
|-----|---|----|---|
| 155 | Other arts skills development | 32 | Elders/Custodians leading cultural work |
| 120 | Language speaking and learning | 17 | Co-curating , Approvals and Evaluation |
| 116 | Media Skills Development | 15 | Young Person (YP) /Mentee cultural production |
| 112 | Elders transferring knowledge to young people | 10 | Story Production |
| 52 | Consultation, Pre and Post-production | 2 | Community and public presentation |

Artistic skill development accounted for nearly 50% of hours dedicated to the project with language speaking and learning also a high priority with 120 hours of engagement.

Purnululu Aboriginal Independent Community School hosted the project 46% of the time, demonstrating strong integration of the project within the school planning and Elder engagement through the school language programs.

The 30% on Country component is also significant, demonstrating the importance of delivering place-based programs that returned classrooms to Country.



Program Participants: Elders

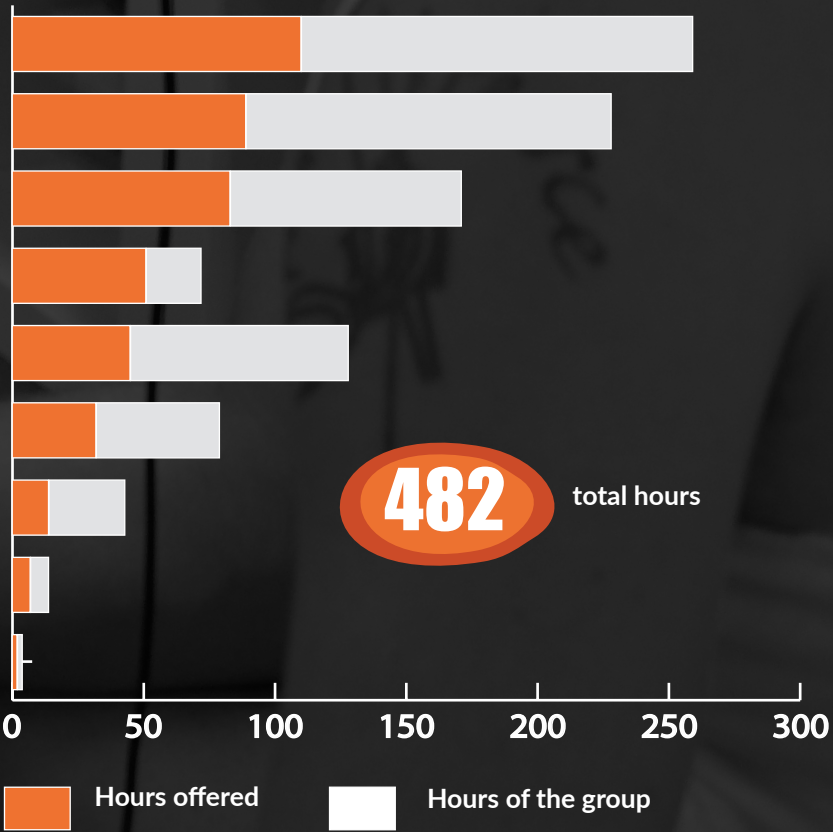
Elders led the project and were present for over 70% of the full project planning and implementation.

'We have made a really good book here. Now the kids know that story and they know that Country, who it belongs to and who made it. This is for all those kids. Now they need more of this, so they can really keep learning about the Country and how to talk to it.'

- Senior Custodian, Shirley Drill

Transferring knowledge was the activity Elders were most involved with.

- Elders transferring knowledge to young people
- Language speaking and learning
- Other arts skills development
- Media Skills Development
- Pre/Post Production
- Elders / Custodians leading cultural work
- Co-curating / Approvals
- Young Person / Mentee cultural experience
- Community and public presentation



A portrait of Patrick Mung, a man with dark skin and short, dark hair, wearing a blue and red plaid shirt. He is looking slightly to the side with a thoughtful expression.

'I've got to hold the story's song for my grandkids. I can sing it for them and they can dance my grandfather's corroboree song. This story tells the meaning of that Country, of Purnululu. I've walked all over that Country with my mum and dad when I was just a little boy and they taught me. I know all that Country. We would meet together and I would see them singing and dancing about Country. Those old people gave that story to us, and when I'm there on Country, I can feel that story. If we didn't have that I don't think we'd be here.'

- Senior Custodian, Patrick Mung

A portrait of Eileen Bray, an elderly woman with grey hair, wearing a white t-shirt with a blue bird pattern and a red skirt with a blue and black pattern. She is standing outdoors in front of trees and smiling.

'We want the kids to learn Gija because when we're gone, they'll be able to just keep going. The old people used to do their painting at the school and would tell the kids the stories in the paintings of the Country. I used to sit down and the old people would tell me "Ngarranggarni (Dreaming Story), you got to keep this up, you got to keep the language going when we're gone."'

- Senior Custodian, Eileen Bray

Program Participants: Community Members

Through the SharingStories Digital Storytelling Program, community members participated in 42 hours of art skill activities.

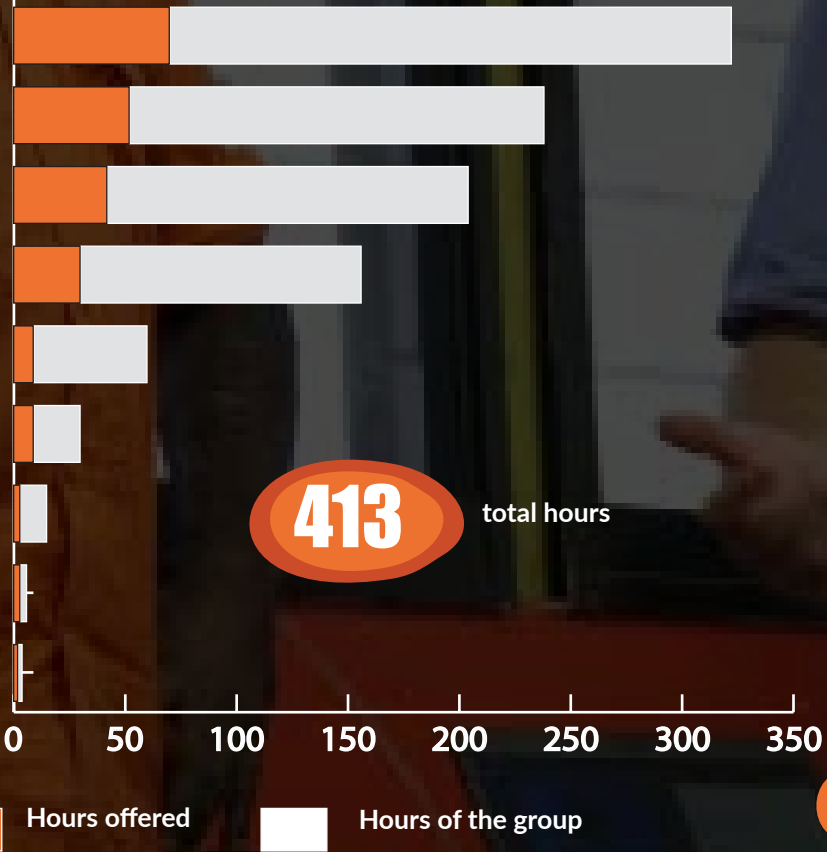
Gija community members collectively undertook 162 hours of arts practice for the Frog and Brolga project.

The project worked across many sectors of the community including Purnululu School, the Gija Rangers and Warmun Art Centre, enabling the wider community to have multiple touch points with the project.

'I am a media worker recording stories, Dreamtime stories, with the people here in Warmun. The job is so interesting, and it helps me to learn more about our stories, culture and Country. There should be more learning, more stories being taught from all over Gija Country and other Aboriginal mobs too.'

- Community Facilitator, Dolorosa Carrington

- Elders transferring knowledge to young people
- Language speaking and learning
- Other arts skills development
- Media Skills Development
- Pre/Post Production
- Elders / Custodians leading cultural work.
- Co-curating / Approvals
- Young Person / Mentee cultural experience
- Community and public presentation



Program Participants: Young People

The interest, enthusiasm and commitment of the students was evident, with young people dedicating a combined 2719 hours to the project. For students, the project encompassed learning from Elders, and considerable amounts of arts, media and language exposure and training.

'I want to learn stories from my old people. Those stories teach me about my Country. The brolga dropped that coolamon and later came down and ate the frog and flew away. I saw that story in the Country when I went there with my nanna, Shirley.'

- Purnululu Student, Mitchell Drill

'Making the Frog and the Brolga was too much fun. Stories like that one are important for us - Gija stories, you know. That's what we gotta do to keep them stories. It feels good to be Gija. We have our culture and were learning the language at school, but the old people teach us too. They've got a lot of knowledge.'

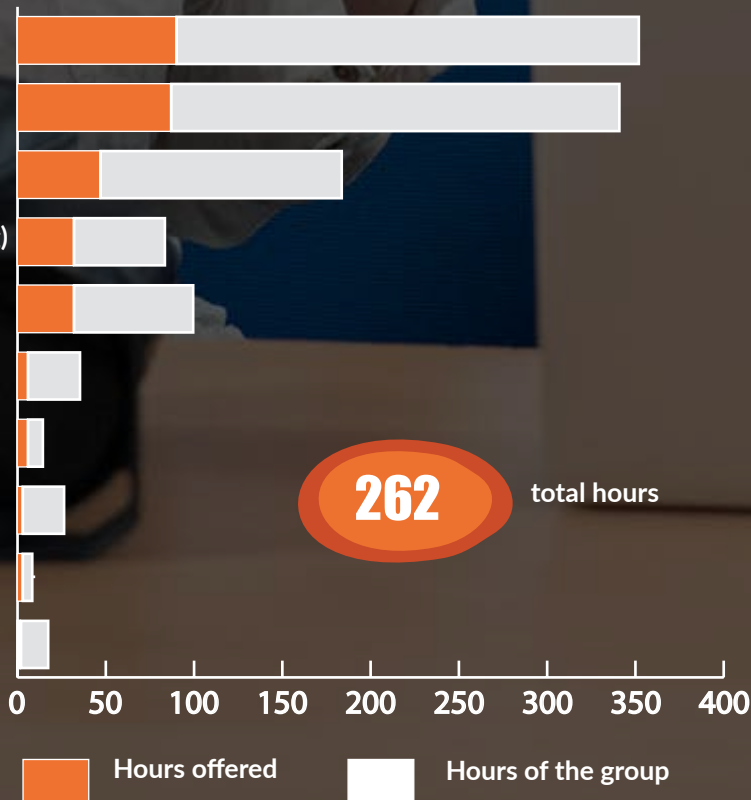
- Purnululu Student, Patrick Nungatcha



Program Participants: Teachers

Teachers played a significant role in the project, often very involved in the program, engaging the Gija Elders in the school and driving the integration of the project within the school planning. They were present for a total of 262 hours with 90 hours dedicated to artistic activities and skill development.

Arts Skills Development
Media Skills
Elders transferring knowledge to young people
Language (learning and speaking)
Pre/Post Production
Elders / Custodians leading cultural work
Co-curating / Approvals
Story Production
Cultural experience
Community and public

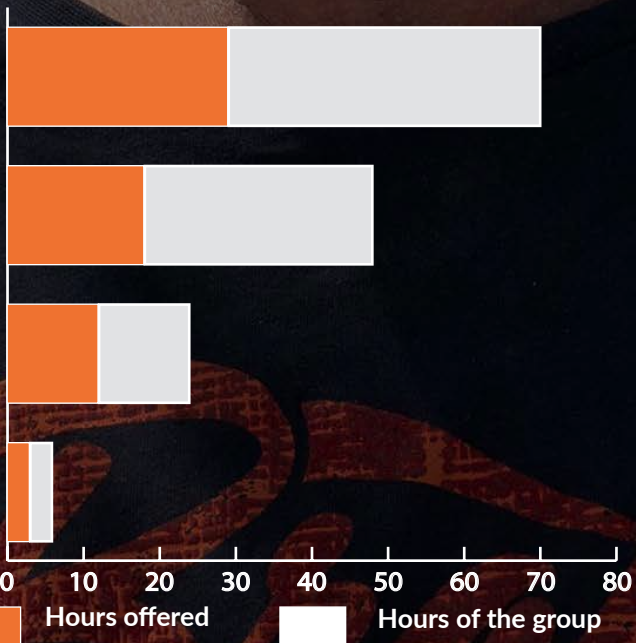


Program Participants: Mentees

Transmission of cultural knowledge from Elders, as well as the opportunity to speak and learn language, were the most significant outcomes for language mentees.

With less than 100 fluent Gija speakers, this data shows that mentees were willing to step up, contributing a combined 30 hours to the language process of the Frog and Bolga outcomes.

Arts Skills Development
Media Skills Development
Elders transferring knowledge to young people
Language (learning and speaking)



Partner's Support

'In 2017, PAICS worked collaboratively with SharingStories to create a digital story book about a Gija Dreamtime story of 'The Frog and the Brolga'. This project was a great success, with a very high level of involvement from community members in Wurreranging and surrounding communities. The SharingStories team worked respectfully with Elders, students and community members to document the story accurately using innovative and engaging technologies to plan and produce a rich learning resource that will be accessed for many years going forward by the school and wider community. The multi-touch digital story book of the 'Frog and the Brolga' is a highly effective and relevant resource for language learners of this generation.'*

*-Corrie Baxter
Principal, Purnululu Aboriginal Independent Community School*

'We welcome the opportunity to work within intergenerational projects and programs that bring Elders and youth together to record stories and words in Gija language in new ways. We believe that SharingStories Foundation proposal is compatible with our community's preferences for learning in an interactive, hands-on and visual way. We also know our young people are technologically savvy, while our old people have a lot of knowledge to share, and that there is not much time left to share some of their important messages and stories.'

*- Gabriel Nodea,
Chairman Warmun Art Centre*

'Developing enduring partnerships is particularly important to the Gija community and the Warmun Arts social enterprise because it is through partnerships that our organisation can gain alignment and support in achieving common goals, and to effectuate wider social change. Our partnership with Sharing Stories Foundation has been a strong example of shared values and achieving common goals; to preserve and maintain Gija culture and foster intergenerational cultural learning with positive social outcomes.'

*- Stephanie Rajalingam,
Executive Administration, Warmun Art Centre*

Project Outcomes : Multi-touch book

'Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: Frog and Brolga' is a story shared by the Gija community. The Frog and Brolga are Creation Ancestors, who through an event at Gawarre (Bungle Bungles), brought into being plants, animals and the Gija people. The interactive multi-touch book follows cultural protocols, with all viewers, who are first welcomed to Country, before knowledge is shared by the storyteller and the community. The spoken and written, bilingual story includes stunning artwork, design and animations developed by Gija young people from Purnululu School. To complete the experience, the multi-touch book also includes an interactive map of Gawarre (Bungle Bungles), with several short films describing the Country and its cultural significance, as well as many voices of the community, each sharing personal feelings about culture and the 'Frog and Brolga' story.

This book is available on iOS and macOS operating systems and devices.



Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: Frog and Brolga multi-touch book.

Release December 2020

162

downloads
(December 2020-
March 2021)

Animation



Best Middle School Animation.

The 'Jirraginy joo Goorrandal: Frog and Brolga' animation won the Australia Teacher of Media Awards for Best Middle School Animation in 2019. It was screened in Australian classrooms in 2020.

Due for public release in 2021.



Facebook comments

'Love those books, so amazing what those kids in community have made and everything the old people have taught them.'

'Absolutely goosebumpy, heartmelting.'

'This is really helpful and inspiring.'

A great resource.'



Project Outcomes : WA Museum permanent installation and Gija online experience

339,337

total visitors
November 2020 - March 2021

Launched on 21 November 2020, more than 300,000 people have visited the brand new Boola Bardip WA Museum, where the Gija community's interactive panel is exhibited in the Origins Gallery. Set amongst the model of Gawarre, (the Bungle Bungles) and the stunning artwork by Phyllis Thomas, the panel shares significant cultural stories of the Gija people.

In 2019, the WA Museum approached the Gija

community and SharingStories about the possibility of creating the panel to share the creation story, 'Jirraginy joo Goorranrdal: The Frog and the Brolga'. The work is on display in the Origins Gallery, one of eight permanent exhibitions in the new museum.

'Jirraginy joo Goorranrdal: The Frog and the Brolga' is a creation story about Gawarre as told by storyteller Shirley Drill. Since 2017, Gija Elders and young people from Frog Hollow and Warmun

communities in the Kimberley have adapted this important cultural story through SharingStories Foundation's Digital Storytelling program. Artwork for the panel was created by students at Purnululu Aboriginal Independent Community School in Frog Hollow and Senior Custodians from Warmun Arts Centre with support by SharingStories creative facilitators.

With the transformation of the work into an interactive panel, many animations and video

interpretations of cultural knowledge, songs and language can now be held within a state collection, and Gija culture can be shared and appreciated by wider audiences, locally and internationally.

Voices from the
Gija community



COUNTRY



COMMUNITY



STORY



MAKING OF

Jirraginy joo Goorranrdal: Frog
and Brolga Online experience

Due for release 2021.



**SHARING STORIES
FOUNDATION**