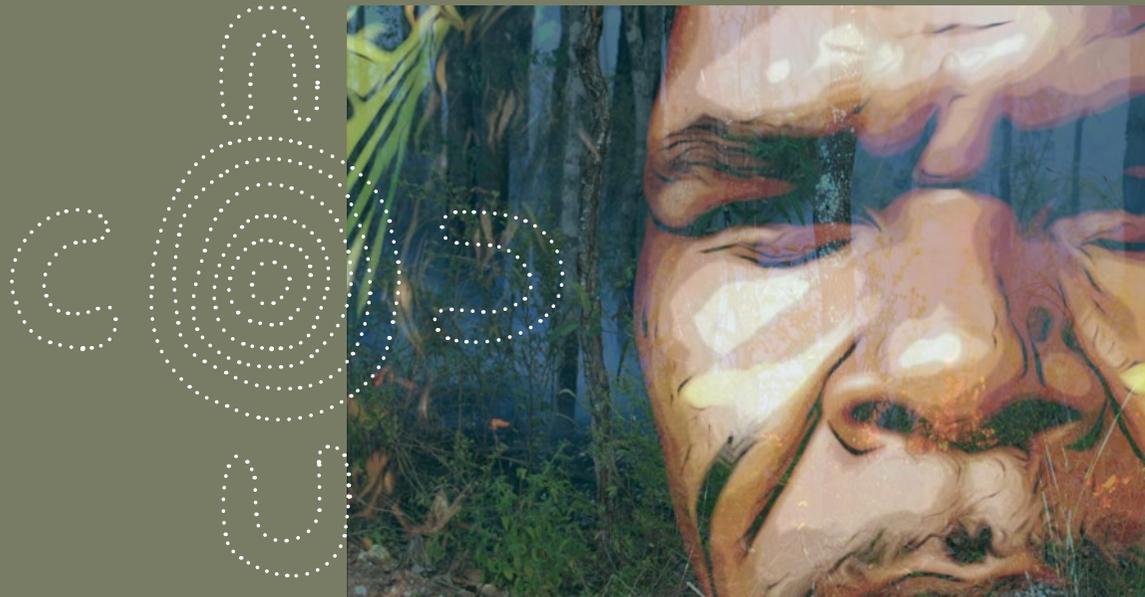


BIRI BULMBA BUDANG

National Custodians of Country Gathering 2023

PROGRAM



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BIRI BULMBA BUDANG NATIONAL CUSTODIANS OF COUNTRY GATHERING 2023

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Welcome to *Biri Bulmba Budang National Custodians of Country Gathering*, hosted by Wet Tropics Bama with Firesticks Alliance and proudly supported by Landcare Australia and the First Nations Landcare Working Group. We would like to pay our respects to the many Elders past, present and emerging across this continent.

The *National Custodians of Country Gathering* has evolved from the *National Indigenous Fire Workshop* that grew from the Fire Research Project of respected Kuku Thaypan Elders in Cape York. These on-Country Workshops have been held annually since 2008 and have been developed over the years to strengthen Culture and share the importance of recognising and reviving Cultural Fire regimes to care for Country. This work is greatly respected and has gone on to inspire communities all over Australia and brought people together to learn about Indigenous Cultural Fire and land management practices.

What started as a small Indigenous Fire Workshop in Cape York 15 years ago, has grown into a national network now supported by Firesticks Alliance, an Indigenous-led body who supports Indigenous communities around Australia to strengthen knowledge and practice of Culture on Country.

This gathering of Traditional Custodians from across Australia engaged in Cultural Fire and land management practices aims to share knowledge and experience with each other, plus partners and stakeholders involved in fire management and looking after Country.

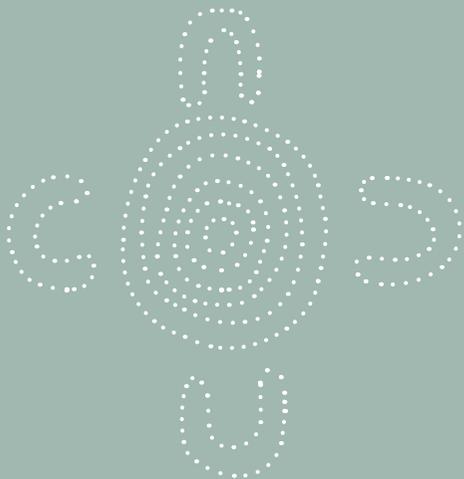
The Gathering will demonstrate practical innovation to contemporary land and sea management, biodiversity, threatened species management and agriculture with practical sessions on Country, Cultural workshops and conference symposia during the event.

Participants will gain an insight into the interconnected components of Cultural land and sea management practices and the responsibility of looking after Country. Participants will be immersed in Indigenous culture and practice. Masterclasses will be delivered in Cultural Fire, Indigenous ethno-botany, weaving, tool making, dance, cooking, music, reading Country and monitoring. Symposium panels will discuss Indigenous knowledge and agriculture, economies, engagement, education and Indigenous social enterprise.

This event starts on **Monday (21 Aug)**, with registration opening and Indigenous Markets stalls starting at 9:00am. Final registrations are from 4:00-5:00 pm, followed by welcome drinks, canapes and an official welcome ceremony.

The following two days (**Tues 22-Wed 23 Aug**) will feature presentations, workshops, yarning circles and an opportunity to immerse yourself in Cultural land management and fire practice.

On **Thursday (24 Aug)** will be the Cultural Field Trips featuring local Indigenous enterprises, the evening's entertainment and official closing ceremony. The final day is **Friday (25 Aug)**, with breakfast served and safe travels home.



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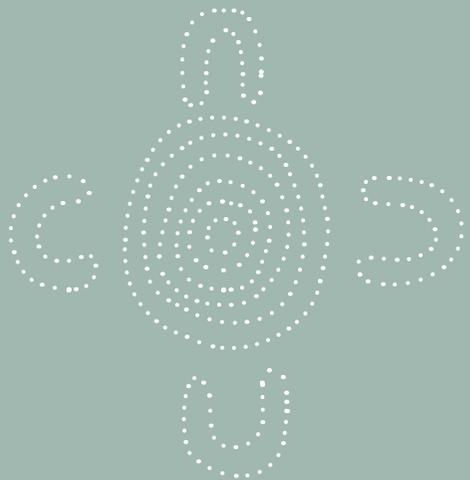
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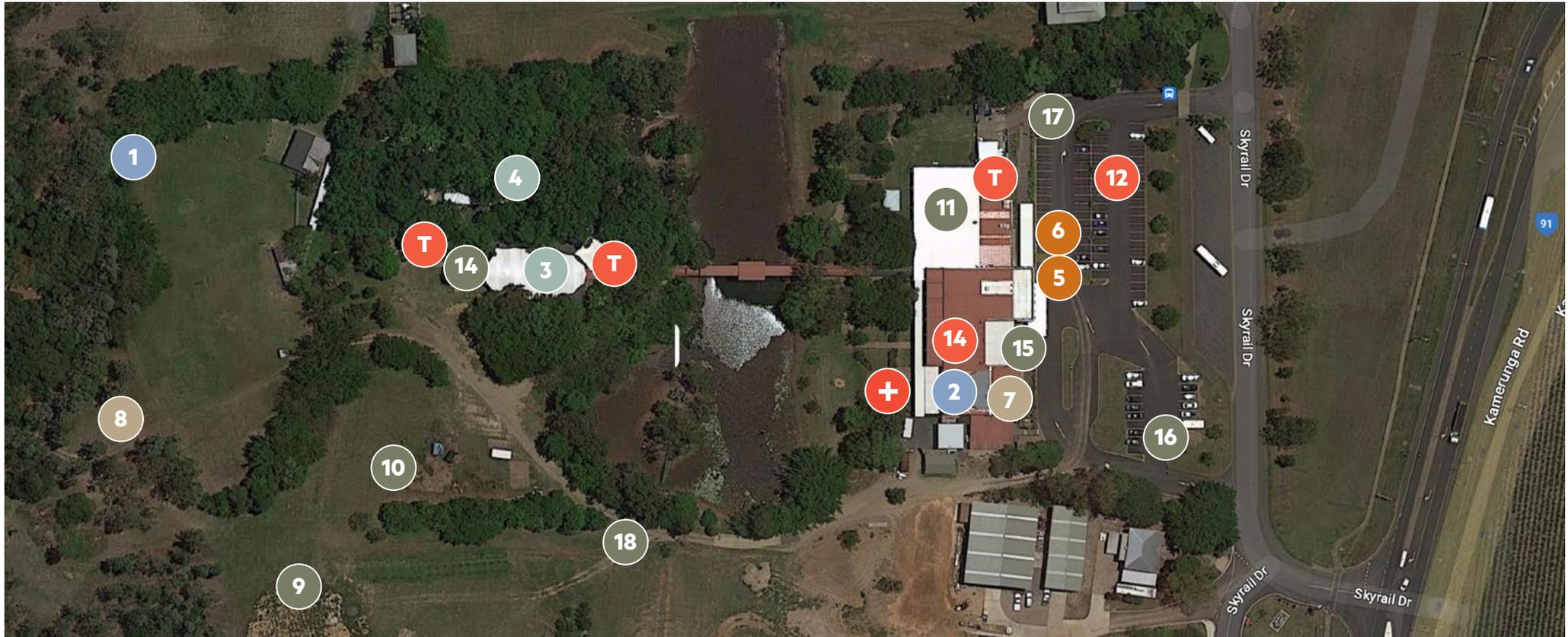
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SITEMAP



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- 7 Workshop: Agriculture, Water and Economies

- 8 Workshop: Connection, Resonance, Plant and Plant Knowledge
- 9 Camping
- 10 Main Stage
- 11 Dining Area
- 12 Evacuation Area
- + First Aid
- T Toilets

- 14 Showers
- 15 Registration and Information Hub
- 16 Traffic Marshall Station
- 17 Waste Collection Point

MON 21 AUG

8:30am - 4:30pm Registrations open. Arrive, register at the main foyer entrance and set up camp if camping.

9:00am - 4:00pm Indigenous Community Market stalls. Support local Indigenous artists and take home something unique.

4:00pm - 5:00pm Final registrations. Welcome drinks and canapes

5:00pm - 6:00pm Welcome Ceremony at main stage

6:00pm - 8:00pm Dinner: buffet

.....

TUES 22 - WED 23 AUG

WORKSHOP CLAN GROUPS

You will be assigned to a workshop group when you register on arrival. There are 8 groups with 8 different coloured wristbands.



Red Clan



Light Blue Clan



Green Clan



Orange Clan



Dark Blue Clan



Yellow Clan



Purple Clan



Grey Clan

You will receive a personal agenda on your app for the event. It is ESSENTIAL that you stay with your allocated clan the entire two days rotating through the timetable with your allocated group over the Tuesday and Wednesday. This will ensure that you will have the opportunity to see all workshops and symposia available. When your group has its allocated time for the Cultural practices activities you will have been assigned an activity for this session and it is important that you stay with this session. If you have registered for the alternate **Kup Murri workshop** on Wednesday you will be directed to go to that area.

Each group will have a Firesticks Alliance Staff member nominated to be your group chaperone, so if you have any questions, we are nearby to support and guide you to your group's next event. We also have a registration and information hub, where you can pop in with any questions.

TUES 22 AUG

TIMETABLE

6:00am - 8:30am Breakfast

8:30am - 8:45am Daily briefing at main stage

Workshops								
	Monitoring Plants and Animals	Economies, Engagement and Education	Indigenous Social Enterprise	Cultural Connections	On Country Fire	Blue Carbon	Agriculture, Water and Economies	Connection, Resonance and Plant Knowledge
Session 1 9:00am to 10:30am								
Session 2 10:45am to 12:15pm								

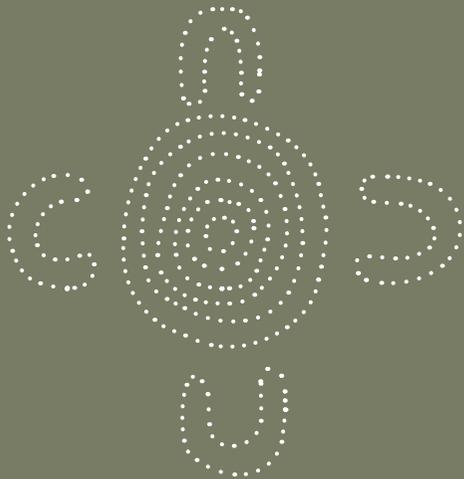
12:30 - 1:30pm Lunch

Session 3 1:45pm to 3:15pm								
Session 4 3:30pm to 5:00pm								

5:30pm - 6:00pm Fire stick race

6:30pm - 8:00pm Dinner

8:00pm - 9:30pm Local musicians and Sponsor speakers on main stage



WED 23 AUG

TIMETABLE

6:00am - 8:30am Breakfast

8:30am - 8:45am Daily briefing at main stage

9:00am - 7:00pm Traditional cooking workshop (Alternate workshop registered at registration)

Workshops								
	Monitoring Plants and Animals	Economies, Engagement and Education	Indigenous Social Enterprise	Weaving, Tools, Art	On Country Fire	Blue Carbon	Agriculture, Water and Economies	Connection, Resonance and Plant Knowledge
Session 1 9:00am to 10:30am								
Session 2 10:45am to 12:15pm								

12:30 - 1:30pm Lunch

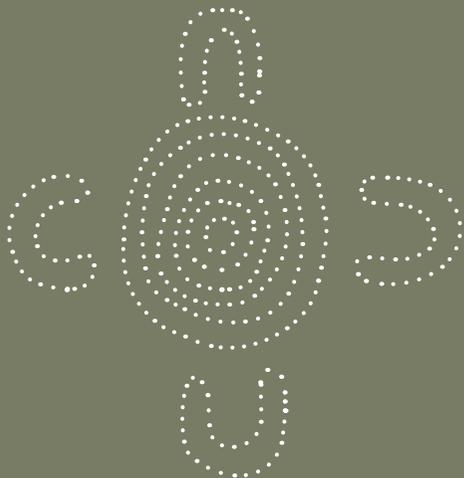
Session 3 1:45pm to 3:15pm								
Session 4 3:30pm to 5:00pm								

5:30pm - 6:00pm Spear throwing competition

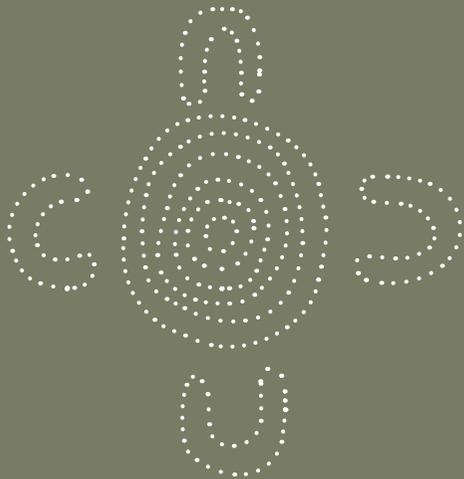
6:00pm - 7:30pm Dinner

7:10pm Speaker: Victor Steffensen

7:30pm - 10:30pm Main entertainment



TUES 22 - WED 23 AUG WORKSHOP THEMES



Workshop 1: Reading and Assessing Country - Monitoring Plants and Animals

Format: Workshop group will split in two: each group has 45 minutes then swap.

Summary: The monitoring workshop will touch on the data collection work on Country and will be demonstrated by Djabugay people and Firesticks fire practitioners with practical examples of the monitoring process. It will speak on updated and future initiatives and improvements and the importance of collecting data to support Indigenous led programs and research. Djabugay Traditional Custodians will be speaking about the animal programs in the North and how improving endangered animal issues are based on the restoration of Country and bringing back its identity through Indigenous land management sources.

Southern Yuin Elders and practitioners will also deliver this workshop to discuss the Indigenous endangered animals program which will lead from the example of their Koala program involving Cultural burning techniques. This workshop will also showcase how Firesticks is creating campaigns to support getting these initiatives happening for all animal species and into more regions around the country.

Workshop 2: Economies, Engagement and Education

Format: Yarning Circle. 10-minute presentation from each panel members and then 40-minute Q&A from audience to panel.

Summary: This will be a facilitated session on healthy lifestyles engaging with panel members from the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation (AbcF) who will be discussing the Cultural Fire Credit, how it works and the reason for such an initiative. The talk will include how we aim to campaign the fire credits and also what it takes for a community to be eligible. The presentation will talk on the future of offsets and credits and how Indigenous owned and designed models are so important to ensure benefits are maximised for community and Country.

Presentations will include information on the verification framework being presented by AbcF and North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance.

Gambir Yidinji will present on Indigenous Enterprise - mob to mob training.

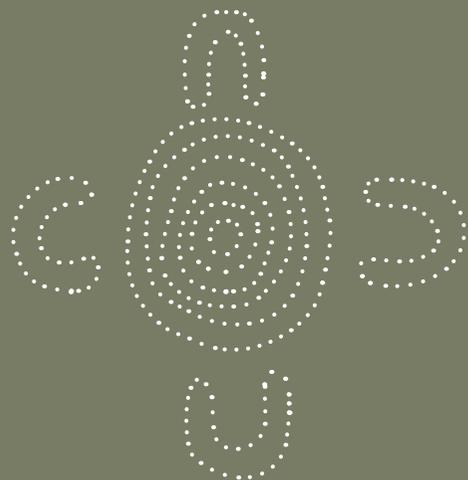
The Living Knowledge Place will be demonstrating how these case studies are created into learning and teaching resources for schools. The Firesticks Education Coordinator will be presenting the role of the Living Knowledge Place and how it will play its role of incorporating Indigenous programs, knowledge and research into the education system.

Dewayne Mundraby from Mandingalby Yindjinji will present on Indigenous tourism enterprises.

Vincent Backhaus, Marie Shipton and Josie Olbar will talk about Embedding Indigenous Expertise in Marine Governance - 'A Co-Design Approach to Invasive Species Research and Control on the Great Barrier Reef, Australia.'

TUES 22 -
WED 23 AUG

WORKSHOP
THEMES



Workshop 3: Indigenous Social Enterprise

Format: Yarning Circle. 10-minute presentation from each panel members and then 40-minute Q&A from audience to panel.

Facilitator: Nova Peris

Summary: This Yarning Circle will touch on the importance of aligning our health and wellbeing alongside the health and wellbeing of our landscapes – how healthy landscapes are vital to generating multiple benefits around community and Cultural wellbeing. Nova Peris will be speaking on social enterprise and the market around our bush foods and resources for small business. Nova will be presenting products for the attendees to experience and launch inspiration towards social enterprise initiatives around healing and caring for Country.

Indigenous ethnobotanist Gerry Turpin will highlight an Indigenous led research project exploring how bush foods can provide economic empowerment. Kaurna Traditional Custodians will discuss plant uses for food and fibre, and Suzanne Thompson will showcase examples of Indigenous knowledge and agriculture.

Greg Ingham will yarn about Innovations in practical Cultural Land and Sea Management - Elder lead wellbeing - and the Importance of Scar trees

Workshop 4: Cultural Connections

Format: Your group will split for this session into the preference you have been assigned when you registered. This is important as it means that you will have time to immerse yourself in the practice and numbers are kept small, making it easier for masterclass facilitators to provide you with their expert guidance.

Summary: The weaving and womens Yarning Circle will involve the art of teaching weaving techniques with Master weavers from Djabugay people while talking on women's wellbeing around the activity. This will present the opportunity to understand the use of resources from Country and how that relates to the wellbeing of people and Culture.

The toolmaking and artifact workshops are designed to teach people how we connect to using the resources on Country and how important a healthy landscape is to support these benefits. The workshop will be led by Traditional Custodians from Djabugay and will be hands-on for the participants to be involved in the making of tools, firesticks, spears, art, and making Bayu which are Traditional houses. A language section will also be presented in this workshop to discuss the importance of connecting language to Country. Djabugay people will talk on how the revival of language has enhanced the understanding of Country and the connection for people.

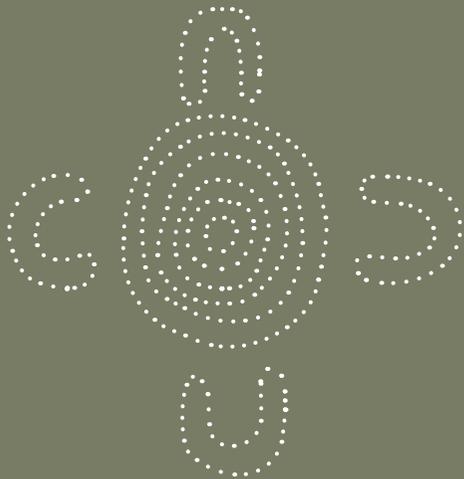
The Traditional dance workshop will involve the teaching of Aboriginal dance and getting all of the participants involved. It is important to give people the experience to see how dance and the arts connect to the responsibility of caring for Country and each other. The dance will be led by the famous Djabugay dancers and will be a good way to loosen up and have fun while transferring a deeper understanding of caring for Country through Culture and the arts.

Workshop 5: On Country Fire

Format: Travel offsite, meet at front bus muster point.

Summary: The Traditional burning workshop will be offsite with travel to Dungarra - Redden Island to visit where the Dawul Wuru Rangers have been conducting a Traditional burn and have implemented monitoring sites. The workshop will involve a walk through the Country to talk about the different ecosystems and how they have responded to a prior burn the rangers did earlier in the year. It will discuss no fire ecosystems and how the right timing for burning is crucial to support these systems. The workshop will also discuss the process of preparing for Cultural burns in built up areas, the importance of partnerships and why it is beneficial to the local community in the area.

TUES 22 - WED 23 AUG WORKSHOP THEMES



Workshop 6: Blue Carbon

Format: Travel offsite, meet at front bus muster point.

Summary: This workshop will be taking people offsite and into the local mangroves to learn about the Blue Carbon programs of the Dawul Wuru Rangers. This will include a walk through the mangroves to experience what Blue Carbon is and how it works to benefit Aboriginal land management.

Workshop 7: Agriculture, Water and Economies

Format: Yarning Circle. 10-minute presentation from each panel members and then 40-minute Q&A from audience to panel.

Facilitator: Oral McGuire

Summary: This Yarning Circle will discuss how traditional fire and water knowledge is supporting better practices for agriculture in regions around Australia and showcase supporting videos.

Oral McGuire is a Oral McGuire, Whadjuk/Ballardong Nyungar man from Western Australia and Principle Consultant of Gundi Consulting who is strongly skilled at cross-cultural mentoring and education. He has decades of experience in land management and the application of Cultural fire.

This Yarning Circle will discuss how Traditional Fire knowledge is supporting better practices for agriculture in regions around Queensland. Elliot and Ash Smith (Jervoise station) Richard Hoolihan (Gugu Bahden), Trinity Georgetown and Karen Vidler (NQ Dry Tropics) will showcase a collaborative partnership working with Firesticks Alliance and highlight innovation in agriculture. This project is supporting Traditional Owners on their journey in applying Cultural Fire to an operating chemical-free grazing property working with the owners, providing benefits to all. They will discuss the outcomes of previous work and will be screening a video to showcase the benefits that have come from the work and partnership.

Aunty Kay Blades, Mandandanji Traditional Owner from South West Queensland, will be presenting on Indigenous water modeling and projects around the importance of launching stronger Indigenous programs on water. She will then show a video of a lagoon in her Country that has been used as an example for water modeling nationally.

Sylvia Leighton Australian Government Landcare Farming Award winner 2022 will present on the importance of 'Listening, Patience and Vision; while Transitioning a Commercial Agricultural Property Through to Traditional Custodial Management' in Western Australia.

The first Yarning Circle session on Tuesday 22 August will be recorded for a National Custodians of Country 2023 online event.

Workshop 8: Connection, Resonance and Plant Knowledge

Format: On Country connection

Summary: The resonance workshop will be led by Merindi Schiber and Natalia Mann with tree workshops around connecting with trees through language and resonance of sound. This workshop is to further articulate the importance of connecting with Country and understanding the language coming from Country to guide our custodianship and connection. This workshop will also involve a botanical cultural walk with Uncle Russell Butler and Georgina Hobbler on the knowledge of plants and Country and how that is incorporated into better understanding the land and its values.

THURS 24 AUG

TIMETABLE

5:00am - 6:30am Breakfast

6:30am - 5:30pm Cultural Field Trips (purchased at time of registration - see following pages for details)

6:30am - 5:30pm Free time (if not registered for a Cultural Field Trip)

6:30pm - 8:00pm Dinner

8:00pm - 9:30pm Local musicians at main stage

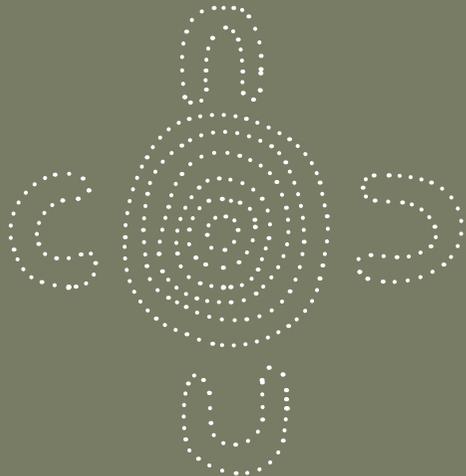
6:30am - 8:30am Breakfast

9:00am Final goodbyes

9:30am Pack down and depart

FRI 25 AUG

TIMETABLE



Awabakal Country at the Biraban Burn Workshop. Image credit: Alex Burnton.

CULTURAL FIELD TRIP ITINERARIES

1. Hands On Country Eco Tour Mandingalby Yidinji Authentic Indigenous Tours

Group 1A

- 8:00am** Pick up from front of Tjapukai
- 12:00pm** Shared lunch with Group 1B
- 1:30pm** Bus departs for return to Tjapukai

Group 1B

- 11:00am** Pick up from front of Tjapukai
- 12:00pm** Shared lunch with Group 1A
- 4:15pm** Bus departs for return to Tjapukai

This is a guided river cruise from Cairns Marina to East Trinity Reserve and introduction to the Cultural landscape and to the Yidinji Nation.

- Travel down Hill Creek to view the ancient mangrove forests, with exclusive access to the Mandingalby Indigenous Protected Area.
- Mandingalby Yidinji welcome and Traditional smoking ceremony.
- Walk the Mayi Bagan Trail learning about Traditional native foods and medicines with our Ranger/Guides.
- Traditional weapons, implements and Mandingalby Yidinji Cultural presentation.
- Learn about a three decades-long soil remediation program to bring a priceless wetlands environment back to health.
- Learn about our new tourism and events program, and our sustainable infrastructure project to support our vision to develop a visitor economy for our community.

What to bring: Water bottles, sturdy walking shoes, hat, sunscreen and personal insect repellent.

2. Dreamtime Guided Tours Mossman Gorge

- 8:00am** Pick up from front of Tjapukai
- 12:30pm** Shared lunch with Group 1B
- 2:00pm** Bus departs for return to Tjapukai

Dreamtime Gorge walks run for an hour-and-a-half along the spectacular Mossman Gorge led by local Indigenous tour guides, talking about stories of the local Kuku Yalanji Culture and traditions. This includes a Traditional Welcome to Country smoking ceremony and tea and damper.

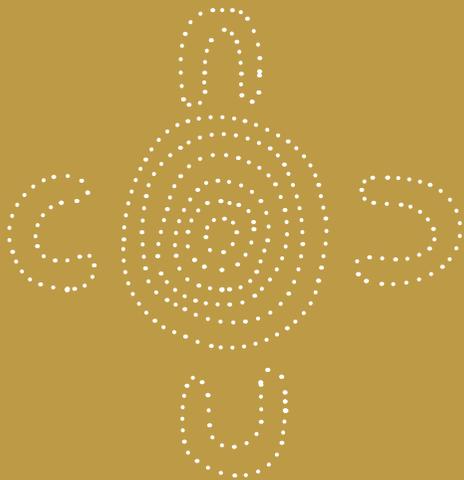
What to bring: Water bottles, sturdy walking shoes, hat, sunscreen personal and insect repellent.

3. Kuku Yalanji Cultural Habitat Tour

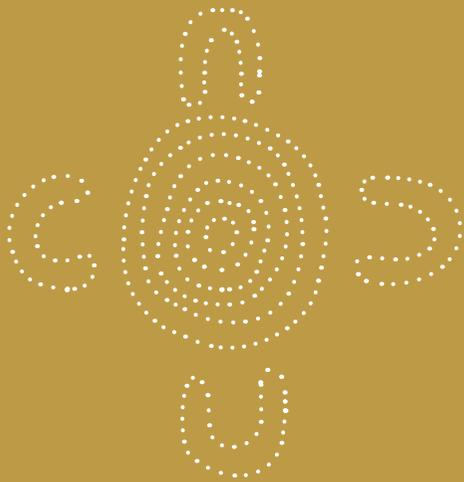
Depart either 9:30am or 1:30pm to be advised, dependent on tides. Information on timing will be advised on your arrival at registration.

First Nations Custodians will welcome visitors to their Traditional homeland on Cooya beach where they continue to practise their Cultural activities and maintain their Cultural heritage. After explaining the Cultural importance of this Country, guides will introduce guests to their Traditional fishing activity of spear throwing and handling as it is still practised here today. Visitors will then follow their First Nations guide with spear in hand along Cooya beach observing Cultural medicine and food plants. The guides will then take guests along with them as they demonstrate their daily spear fishing and gathering for their families into the mangroves and onto the mudflats. After about 1.5 hrs of Cultural activities and coastal walking, guests will return with the guides to see Kuku Yalanji artifacts and share rare stories from their Traditional lands and continue daily Cultural management and education activities.

What to bring: Water bottles, sturdy walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, personal insect repellent, swimmers and towel.



CULTURAL FIELD TRIP ITINERARIES



4. Bunda Bibandji (Bare Hill) Rock Art and Fire Tour

7:30am Depart from Tjapukai

Lunch at Davies Creek

2:30pm Depart Skyrail Kuranda to return to Tjapukai

The Bunda Bibandji (Bare Hill) Art and Fire Tour will involve a trip to Buluwai Country to rock art sites managed by the Buluwai people with fire. Bunda Bibandji contains the largest rock art complex in the Cairns hinterland. Astro Brim will be leading this field trip as he takes you up to see the rock art and demonstrate burning around the sites on the day. After the rock art tour, the group will then travel to Davies Creek Gorge for lunch and an unforgettable swim in this special place. You will return via the Skyrail departing from Kuranda Skyrail to return to Tjapukai Cultural Park. Enjoy your breathtaking ride down travelling above the canopy

What to bring: Water bottles, sturdy walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, personal insect repellent, swimmers and towel.

5. Yirrganydji and Gungandji Reef Trip

7:00am Bus departs from Tjapukai

8:30am Boarding at marina

5:00pm Vessel returns to land, then bus transfer back to Tjapukai

- Private charter to Reef Magic Pontoon
- Up to 5 hours on the outer reef, with flexible start/end times
- Talk with local Traditional Custodians
- Marine Biology presentation
- All meals, morning and afternoon tea, as well as buffet lunch
- Glass bottom boat tours
- Semi-submersible tours
- All snorkel equipment with instruction
- Snorkel tours
- Fish feed demonstration and identification session

What to bring: Water bottles, sturdy walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, personal insect repellent, swimmers and towel.



6. Mona Mona Traditional Burning

8:00am Meet at front of Tjapukai and walk to Skyrail

8:30am Depart Skyrail Cairns

10:00am Arrive at Skyrail Kuranda and depart to Mona Mona

Mona Mona Fire Workshop will involve a trip to Mona Mona Mission which is located near Kuranda. The day will be hosted by the Djabugay Rangers and accompanied by Victor Steffensen for a full day out on Country, burning and talking on reading landscapes. The day will also reflect on the fire work the rangers have been doing and will include lunch as we burn and talk on Country.

What to bring: Water bottles, sturdy walking shoes, hat, sunscreen and personal insect repellent.

7. Murri Kitchen Rules

Location: Onsite at Tjapukai

10:00am - 4:00pm Subject to change

In this practical learn to cook class with Bush Tucker Woman Samantha Martin, you will use native bush foods and participate in Murri Kitchen Rules competition. This workshop will explore healthy landscapes are vital to generating multiple benefits around community and cultural wellbeing. Samantha Martin will also be talking on the Traditional foods we need in our diets that align with our DNA and Country.

What to bring: All materials supplied.