

## The Undalup Association Inc, Annual report from March 2012 till June 2017

The Undalup Association was formed in 2012, by a board of passionate people, turning ideas into projects and events, aimed at planning for a future to benefit the local and regional community in many ways.

The not-for-profit organisation supports growth and diversity of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community by building awareness of the traditional culture and heritage of Busselton and the south west, through events, workshops, and projects aimed at strengthening community relationships by working together through collaborative partnerships, community support, effective communication and providing many opportunities to benefit the social and economic benefit for all.



*Undalup is the Noongar word for Busselton and the logo depicts waves against the sand in the Geographe Bay - a meeting place between ocean and earth.*

*The circle of dots represents the campfire where all people, family, and friends gather around the fire to share stories, dance, and celebrate this sacred space - where the land meets the sea.*

*The four figures symbolise everyone, including family, friends, and neighbours walking and working together - side by side - as one.*

To Aboriginal people, fire, family and people working in harmony are closely linked, so this symbolism is important and is what the Undalup Association Inc. is about

*“Undalup is also honouring a place for healing and connection to Noongar Boodjar (Country), embracing the elements given to us from Boodjar Ngarnk (Earth Mother), celebrating the “meeting place” and bringing harmony on the land we all walk together”. Chairman, Iszaac Webb*

Undalup Members believe that *“From little things, big things grow”*.

### HISTORY

Many of Undalup’s current members were previously involved in the local annual event in Busselton formally known as “Tribal Mix” and “Big Mix” a week-long event held in January on the Busselton foreshore during the Summer of Busselton. The Former Artatac Association gave Busselton a weeklong festival to enjoy, bringing many international, interstate, and intrastate visitors and locals together to enjoy a great range of entertainment. After all Busselton is known as the “Events Capital!”



Both Rachele Cousins and member Wendy Slee achieved a 1<sup>st</sup> with Aboriginal people on the main street banners to promote the event and also created a Tribal mix slide show to give the Cultural event international and national recognition of the local Cultural event in the South West.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=V11hAU6vqtY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V11hAU6vqtY)

The Undalup Association was created together with Rachele Cousins and Marilyn Rulyancich; both co-founders commenced the foundation work for the association. Members joined and the board of directors was formed, with 50% of members being Aboriginal keen to commence Cultural events and projects in the South West. The

Undalup Association commenced working on new projects, collecting research, books, information and history.

**2012: NAIDOC WEEK: 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> JULY**, Undalup member Rachelle Cousins was sought to coordinate the Bunbury NAIDOC week event, a weeklong event for the Aboriginal community of Bunbury. Together with Undalup member Wendy Slee, they created the 1<sup>st</sup> Noongar TV commercial for the event. Rachelle also had the event featured for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in the annual Western Australian NAIDOC week magazine, a display of the NAIDOC event in the Bunbury Forum Shopping Centre, interviews on the local ABC radio, An Aboriginal Art exhibition for those who never have the opportunity to be included in the local Noongar Exhibition at the BRAG centre. The event held daily events with a family fun day on the Saturday and a gala NAIDOC ball that Night, serving bush tucker foods on the menu. During Rachelle's time working with the Bunbury Aboriginal people committee members, gave tips and guidance of how to achieve successful funding and event success for future NAIDOC events. It is about bringing everyone together for the most important event for the Australian Aboriginal people, communication equals success.



**Sponsors:** GWN, Water Corporation, BHP, Needac, Goomburrup Aboriginal Corporation, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Mike O'Neil Building, Iluka, Family Relationships WA, SWLSC, Bunbury Forum, Landcorp, Colin Holt, ECU, City of Bunbury, Simico Resources, SWDC, Nola Marino.

**1:01 BODDINGTON HEALING: Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2012**, As Rachelle has had many years' experience of working with the Aboriginal families of the South West, Undalup was sought to co-ordinate the Boddington Healing, Gathering Back to Community weekend, an event that is held each year in November at the Boddington School Oval, beside the river, with many Aboriginal people returning to their home grounds of their stolen generation. Many Family members gather each year to pay respect to the past family members, the elders and the many others who spent many years in the nearby Wandering Mission. Many of the Wandering children were bussed into Boddington for school and to compete in local sports carnivals, Football and Basketball teams each year during their time at Wandering. The parents of these children eventually moved to Boddington in the hope to have some connection to their stolen children. The Gathering event is a healing event for those who attend, a basketball carnival is held on the Saturday and a trophy presentation at the end of the carnival for the best team and players of the weekend. The event holds much Cultural significance to the Thorne Family in particular, as Traditional Elder Aunty Joyce Thorne sought a partnership with Undalup Association to help with the barriers within the Boddington community towards their event. Many Boddington shire members, workers and community members could not understand why a whole mob of Aboriginal people would gather on the oval the same weekend as the annual Boddington Rodeo. Both weekends happen to be significant to both groups. Event Director Rachelle Cousins held several meetings of Consultation to learn and understand the Gathering event, then held several meetings with the Boddington shire and community members to help break down the barriers that existed towards the event. A program of the Gatherings event was presented to the community on the Friday afternoon's Community fair, with a stall of Aboriginal Arts and crafts, some history and photos of the Wandering Mission as a display, this received a great welcoming from the local Mayor, shire members and community members.



**Sponsors:** Boddington Gold Mine, South West sports centre, Mike O'Neil Building, Goomburrup Aboriginal Corporation, Local Drug action group, Boddington Shire, Yorgum Aboriginal link up Corporation, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Water Corporation and Flame Events.

The weekend was a great success with many great new outcomes.

**2012:** 1 Event

**2012 /2013 : Board of Directors:**

Chairperson; Iszac Webb  
Vice Chairperson; Rachelle Cousins  
Treasurer / Secretary: Marilyn Rulyancich  
Wayne Webb  
Toni Webb  
Vivien Webb  
Mitchella Hutchinson  
8 Committee meetings  
3 AGM's  
32 Consultation meetings

18 Members

**2013: 1:02 BUNURU EVENT: Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Sun 31<sup>st</sup> March,** The Undalup Association co-ordinated the Bunuru Culture and Corroboree Festival, at the Wardan Cultural Centre and also produced the second Noongar TV commercial for an event in the South West. Wendy Slee contributed her photographic expertise for both of the Noongar TV Commercials. A full weekend of Cultural activities, The Wardan centre provided us with the use of the kitchen as we set up a restaurant serving a Cultural Buffet both evenings, dining under the stars during a Cultural event. The weekend was full of activities, workshops and Cultural Dancing with many participants on all tours, workshops and children's activity workshops.



**Sponsors:** Lotterywest, Events Corp, Flame events, GWN, Royalties for Regions, Department of Regional Development and Lands, Undalup Association.

**1:03 BODDINGTON HEALING: Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2013,** The Boddington Gathering event was once again coordinated by Rachelle Cousins and the Undalup Association, once again a program was produced to tell the story of the Cultural significance of the event: The Thorne Families would like to acknowledge our ancestors the Elders, Men and Women, past and present who allow us to gather as Traditional Owners on Noongar country, the people of the "Gnaala Karla Booja" region, in Boddington.

Aboriginal people have always returned to their place of healing throughout the generations. Connection to our country and returning back to where we came from it is still the greatest healing powers we have now and forever. The spirits of our ancestors are calling us home to gather and provide healing with one another, our children and grandchildren. We gather to share our stories our culture and language, to pass our traditions on to the younger generation.

Boddington is a significant place for us as we endured the policies and politics of governments when they placed our children in the Wandering Mission. We have stayed in the region to be with the children, who went to the Boddington School in which we now camp. This is our meeting place next to the Billy Goat Hill, Hoffman River and traditional camping grounds.

Each year we return to find another of our family missing, their spirits are with us, they follow us throughout the Healing Gathering, they provide us with warmth and the feeling of being welcomed in Bringing us Back home where we will continue to come now and in the future with our younger ones leading the way. Elder Aunty Joyce Dimer.

This 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in November holds a lot of Cultural significance to many of the Noongar People of the "Gnaala Karla Booja" Region. Gnaala Karla Booja meaning Our Home Land. By providing a form of traditional and spiritual healing at this



event, creates a link with all family members, as the spiritual connection is our inner spirit. The inner spirit is the centre of our being and emotions. When the spirit is strong, the mind is strong, which keeps the people healthy and connected together, keeping family and the community strong and the culture alive. We all benefit from the powerful sense of belonging that is offered by the Cultural sounds, rhythm, spirit, art and the people. This empowers us all to continue the ancient tradition of Reciprocity. (Reproducing a positive action with another positive action).

Many Families have been returning to Boddington for the past 30 years, to enjoy the celebration of being united with family, reconnecting people with their Culture, back at community. It is important for us all to understand the essential features of the Noongar Culture, the special spiritual connection to the land, commitment to family and culture, so we can all walk on this land together as friends and equals. Rachele Cousins.

This year we had the Cultural Custodian participate by building a Mia Mia for the community fair as a display, which received many positive comments and David Thorne received many opportunities for further displays at community events for Boddington.

**Sponsors:** Coates Hire, Flame events, Mike O'Neil Building, Undalup Association, Boddington Shire, South West Sports centre, Yorgum Link Up services, Tony Waldron MP, Water Corporation, Local Drug action group.

**2013:** 2 Events

**New Partnerships:** Yoka Kaaradjiny" Women Caring group

**2013 /2014 : Board of Directors:**

Chairperson; Iszac Webb

Vice Chairperson; Rachele Cousins

Treasurer / Secretary: Marilyn Rulyancich

Wayne Webb

Toni Webb

Vivien Webb

Mitchella Hutchinson

2 AGM's

4 Committee meetings

6 Consultation Meetings

20 Members

**2014 - 2015:** The Undalup Association, in partnership with the Woolkabunning Kiaka Inc. from the Roelands Mission (under the direction of Dr Robert Isaac's, Traditional Owner), completed and submitted an Expression of Interest to the City of Busselton for the old Bardimia Campsite at Locke Estate. The Undalup Association spent 18 months negotiating with the City of Busselton, however, were ultimately unsuccessful. The Bardimia Holiday village held so many years of Cultural significance to the stolen generation children, as the Roelands Mission children use to have their holidays here as a good behaviour reward, an opportunity to visit the ocean and reconnect them all where the land meets the sea. All the original buildings were built by the children of Roelands Mission and the campsite was the 3<sup>rd</sup> site for the Mission to use for a holiday facility. The original site was owned by the Church group of Roelands, located on the shores of Dunsborough and due to the City of Busselton redevelopment of the Dunsborough foreshore, land was given to the Aboriginal people as compensation for the land they had lost and the Holiday campsite was relocated to Quindalup, but not for too long, as once again due to the City of Busselton redevelopment of



Quindalup, the Aboriginal campsite was relocated again to the Locke Estate Campsite as compensation for the land they had lost. Starting all over again by building Nissan huts for accommodation, some chalets and dormitories, the Holiday village was called Bardimia, an accommodation site for the Aboriginal people of WA. Finally a place they could holiday without racism, reconnect with their families and enjoy a holiday on the shores of Geographe Bay where the many Cultural stories and traditions were shared amongst the many family members when holidaying together away from the hustle and bustle of the modern world.

The AGM saw a change of board members as Mitchella Hutchins and Vivien Brockman departed from the board and Nadine Webb and Fiona Thompson replaced them. All board members voted to keep the 3 key members in the same positions.

**New Partnerships:** Woolkabunning Kiaka Inc

**2014 / 2015 Board of Directors**

Chairperson; Iszac Webb  
Vice Chairperson; Rachelle Cousins  
Treasurer / Secretary: Marilyn Rulyancich  
Wayne Webb  
Toni Webb  
Nadine Webb  
Fiona Thompson

4 AGM's  
3 Committee meetings  
8 Consultation Meetings

26 Members  
1 Undalup Presentation to the City of Busselton

1 Stall for Undalup at Kambarang Food Festival Margaret River

**2016:** The Undalup Association formed partnerships with **Act-Belong-Commit** in April. The goal of the Act-Belong-Commit campaign is to encourage people to become more proactive about their mental health.



A further partnership agreement was also signed with **Mentally Healthy WA** whose mission is to enhance people's mental health and wellbeing by strengthening individual resilience and building community cohesion.

The Undalup Association will proactively support positive mental health promotion in individuals and the community through strategies that:

- ② provide opportunities for individuals to be mentally, physically and socially active (ACT);
- ② encourage individuals to join and actively participate in the organisation's activities and those of partner organisations (BELONG);
- ② encourage individuals to become a volunteer for the organisation, to set personal goals for achievement in the activities of the organisation and to be more broadly involved in other community events and environments (COMMIT);
- ② reduce or remove economic or social barriers to participation in the organisation's activities;
- ② encourage staff, volunteers, and participants to treat all groups in the organisation and the community with respect, equality and openness;
- ② encourage role modelling of positive values, behaviour and interests, encourage support for building capacity in mental health promotion through proactively supporting training and



developmental workshops and programs.

The Undalup Association commenced the process of forming partnerships with other organisations within the community and on a wider scale. This will increase and strengthen the connections and complementary goals.

Volunteering has so many great rewards, being a part of something great, does make change. It can bring joy and excitement together with confidence, while having fun, and forming new positive friendships.

The Undalup Association commenced seeking for new members, partners and sponsors; In kind letters of support from our local government, local businesses, and members of parliament and community groups were also welcomed. The Association has been actively putting together projects and forming subcommittees for each of the nine groups - four currently active and five still in the formative stage.

A General Meeting was held early in the year, and the Board of Directors unveiled the many projects they have been working on. We believe now is the time to pull together to make it all happen. In order to be successful, it takes teamwork, and especially communication to make things work.

By creating new partnerships with many other community groups and individuals, government agencies and businesses, we can deliver better results using teamwork.

There are many community members and members of the Undalup Association with ideas for new projects and we firmly believe it takes communication and team work to make anything happen.

*Teamwork: "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success." Henry Ford.*

*Team Work and Communication = Success*



The Undalup Board members released the subcommittees of the Undalup Association in mid-2016, and the 9 sub committees were formed are as follows:

Undalup Association has four active sub-committees:

- **1: Events,**
- **2: Youth,**
- **3: Community**
- **4: Natural Resource Management**

The following sub-committees are still in construction:

- **5: Ranger Program,**
- **6: Bus Program,**
- **7: Aboriginal Community**
- **8: Tourism,**
- **9: Film Production**

**1:04 MENTAL HEALTH WEEK EVENT: Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2016**, this year's theme "Prevention of Suicide", The Undalup Association Act Belong Commit Mental health event was held at St Mary's family centre, Busselton. The event was well attended as to such a sensitive subject; a welcome to country was given by Undalup Elder and traditional Custodian of the Pibulman / Wadandi people of the south west, Wayne Webb. Undalup Association vice chairperson Rachelle Cousins opened the meeting talking how suicide affects us all in some way, and today it is great to be able to talk about it, with one another, listen and learn and ensure we are actually hearing what is being said.



In 2014 Busselton had the highest suicide rate for a regional town in WA and in 2015 we were up in the high range again, and just in the past months we have lost another 3 people to suicide. Losing a loved one takes time to heal; we have to look after ourselves and our family, trying to be strong and most importantly looking after our state of mental health and well-being. That is not easy at all. With Love there is hope, faith and compassion, understanding and that built in care we have for one another, that is love.

A new report just been released, research collaboration between Suicide prevention Australia and the university of New England: "The Ripple Effect", Understanding the exposure and impact of Suicide in Australia. By being a part of the positive ripple effect we can all practice the 3 C's; Connect, Communicate and Care. The Undalup Association understands the importance of fostering connections with those who have lost a loved one to suicide or have been suicidal themselves, as it is crucial in furthering suicide prevention efforts. All the connecting and communicating in the world will have no effect without care and compassion. We need to make sure that policy makers and planners care enough about suicide prevention to make it a priority. We need to make sure that communities care enough about it to be able to identify and support those who may be at heightened risk. Most of all, we need to ensure that we are caring for ourselves and those around us, keeping our selves mentally healthy.



Our community is calling out for help, our state of mental health is at crisis levels, we need to try and make change. The Hon Minister for mental health Andrea Mitchell, recently said it is about working together to be stronger, effective solutions are in the community itself. Local services and community groups know the community. The meetings guest speakers talked on experiences and as service providers to the community, issues that need to be addressed when dealing with the prevention of suicide. The last speaker was from a young man who spoke of his own personal experience of attempting to take his own life on 2 occasions. Luke spoke of his journey and a recovery program he has put together on a 4 week detox from drugs and alcohol that he used for his own recovery and aims to have this published as a recovery tool for the many others suffering in silence out there in our community's.

There is so many of us doing the good work in the community, now it is time to all work together to help our people with this issue we are here for today. To look at ways we can work on prevention of suicide.

The lovely photo I have attached of a painting (which I have her permission) is from a Busselton young girl, 15 year old Ne'ala, the title is Beautiful tears, she painted this as how she felt when she was in hospital, just from an illness, feeling like she would not get better until she found hope, this is where the colours came in, it shows that even through bad times there is always a bit of colour and abit of hope.

The Undalup Association wants to help make change, and we are in the process of seeking a building in order to have a base for community projects to operate from. To have a place to hold meetings for local service providers in the mental health department, workshops, activities and appointments, to gain life skills and tools to be able to cope with the many challenges life presents to us all. To provide a simple brochure with all the local op shops locations and opening times, community kitchens with where and when you can go to get a feed in the community, all the local service providers and the activities they provide, and where they are all located. To have a back pack for the homeless with all the basic personal care items, fresh towel and wallet for all ones identification information. Busselton has many homeless youth, during winter many couch surf between their friends parents homes and sleep where ever they can. And during summer it's usually on the beach, under the jetty or in the bush for shelter. Our homeless are alone, feeling unloved and ostracized from our community. This afternoon we have heard from several guest speakers talking on this important sensitive issue that does affect us all. It is our community that will make the biggest impact on anyone's recovery and that will be with love and support for one another, It is our hope that will mend us, it is our hope that helps us survive another day, another challenge and together we are stronger. The Undalup Association would thank

William Barrett funeral directors for the donation towards today's event.

I was told after the meeting it was the best one and the most informative mental health event they had been to all week, it was intimate and very engaging with all the speakers. Rachelle Cousins, Undalup Association Inc. It is our community that will make the biggest impact on anyone's recovery, with support. 42 attendees.

**Sponsors:** Maniki Café and William Barrett and Sons funeral Directors.

**1:05 BARDIMIA GATHERING: Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2016,** The Undalup Association held a gathering as an event for the Bardimia Campsite, as new lease's Fresh Start where soon to take over the site. Fresh Start CEO Jeff Claughton agreed to host the event allowing many Aboriginal Families to return to the site for one last time. Funding was successful from the Department of Local Government and communities, as it was family week and the celebration of Family is important to the Aboriginal people and the event was called "Children's week Bardimia Gathering. This was held at the old Bardimia campsite, Locke estate, Caves road, Busselton in South West WA. The event was a huge success, considering it was a sad celebration of a farewell to the campsite that the Aboriginal people of WA had many years of connections with, a meeting place between the land and the sea. A very important place for many of the children from the stolen generation, coming from the missions for holidays as a reward, an opportunity to have family members and friends come visit them once a year to reconnect with their families.

The Undalup Association is in partnership with the Corrective Services Department, Reply WA program, the morning of the event we had the children from the Replay WA program attend the site and help with the preparation of the Coroboree site, dig the hole for the fire pit, clear the area for the sand and level the sand for the Coroboree Area for dancing. The children also collected and stacked the firewood for the fire, under the direction of the Event Coordinator and the Supervisor of Reply WA Team.

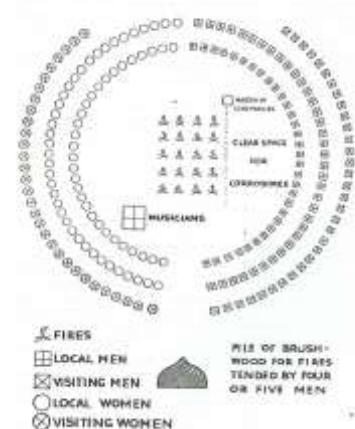
The Undalup Children's week Corroboree, "Corroboree, Numbi-wah, Boorunga" our dance becomes more than just dancing but a teaching aid to show the movement and habits of the animals and birds, reptiles and mammals which showed our people before and our people present and our people Koolunga's (children) for the future. By continuing to perform our dances, we learn our songlines, our Lore & special places where we continue our cultural connection to country, Teach people about flora and fauna, Keep our local dialect/language strong, Keep our Mental Health Strong, Keep us physically fit, healthy & Strong.

"Corroboree" is not just an enjoyable event to watch but is beneficial to community. The dancing keeps our mind strong by thinking, remembering the stories and dance; it activates your good feelings by knowing who you are, where you come from and your contribution to society. Traditional Elder: Wayne Webb.

Welcome to Country was given by Uncle Wayne Webb and Uncle Harry Nannup and a Welcome from Fresh Start, CEO Jeff Claughton. The Traditional dancers were the "Bindjareb Middar Troupe", led by Theo Kearing, all participants attended the workshops to be a part of the traditional Corroboree, painted and dressed up, and Cultural activities were available during the day. The bush café supplied a feed from the cook up area led by the "Yoka Kaaradjiny" Women Caring group from Goomburrup Aboriginal Corporation in Bunbury. A History gathering with Tracie Pushman was available to share the stories and photos of the stolen generation for the documenting of the Bardimia history. The SWAMs stall provided the latest information from the team at SWAMs.

**Sponsors:** Department of Local government and Communities, Meerilinga Association, Yorgum Aboriginal Association, Needac, Fresh Start, South West Events, Uscap, Trade Hire, Mike O'Neil Building, ECU, Colin Holt MP, SWAMS, Water Corporation, 230 attendees.

#### AN INVITATION CORROBOREE





The Undalup Association promoted the Association on social media; the Facebook page was built in 2012 and has remained active. A partnership prospectus was put together as a presentation of the Undalup Association for potential Partners and new members for the association. The Undalup Webpage went live as the commencements of new events were taking place and being planned for the coming New Year. Meetings were held each month, with several AGM's being held more regular, as the Board of Directors were keen to bring more Cultural events to the South west region. In November the return of Chairperson Iszac Webb to the area, as Iszac had been working in the Pilbara with the Murujuga Rangers as Ranger Co-ordinator for a 2 year period in order to return with accreditation for the Undalup Ranger program. The Undalup Association formed new memberships with the following: with Rachelle giving Undalup presentations at JSW every 3 months for the participants in Community Relations Certificates.

**New Partnerships:** Jobs South West, Trade Hire

**New Memberships:** Our Community and the WAITOC Association

**2016:** 2 Events, 1 Cultural Activities Workshop

**2015 / 2016 Board of Directors**

Chairperson; Iszac Webb

Vice Chairperson; Rachelle Cousins

Treasurer / Secretary: Marilyn Rulyancich

Wayne Webb

Toni Webb

Nadine Webb

Fiona Thompson

3 AGM's

8 Committee Meetings

6 Consultation Meetings

2 Stalls for Undalup, Kambarang Food festival, AITC, Australian Indigenous Tourism Conference in Bunbury.

2 Undalup Presentations to JSW and 1 Undalup Presentation to the Busselton Lions Club

26 Members

**Webpage:** [www.undalup.com](http://www.undalup.com)

**2017: 1:06 Birak Festival 14<sup>th</sup> January,** The Undalup Association saw the return of the former Tribal Mix event on the shores of Geographe Bay, The event was called the Act-Belong-Commit Undalup Birak Festival, as we were successful with Healthway funding and being partners with Act-Belong-Commit was given naming rights to the event. The Birak Festival for 2017 commenced on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January with the Cultural Dance workshops at the courtyard in the Art Geo Cultural complex, Queen Street Busselton. The workshop commenced at 11am till 1pm, on both Thursday and Friday as a preparation for the Birak Festival on the Saturday. The workshops were a free event to all of the children in the Busselton Community. The workshop was well attended with 12 children participating in the workshops, both male and female participants, learning from the Cultural Custodians and Dance Instructor the Cultural movements and technics for their traditional Cultural Dances. On the Friday, the children were painted up and dressed in traditional costumes, braided materials to make their decorations for the Dances they were to perform at the festival. The Act-Belong-Commit Marquee was used for some pamphlets and the Undalup volunteers promoting the Act-Belong-Commit message. Many visitors attended the workshops and watched the children learn and dance, as the sound of the didgeridoo certainly drew interested people to the courtyard. Flying the Aboriginal flags also gave interest to the many people walking around to come see what was going on. Many Volunteers



gave out the program to spectators and also walked the streets of Busselton CBD handing out programs. The Undalup Birak Festival also held a film festival, showcasing Australian Aboriginal Movies on the Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January. This was a free event open to all community members to attend. This worked well for all the parents of the children attending the workshops to be able to leave the children with the Cultural custodians and walk across the road to watch popular Aboriginal movies. This was also well attended, as there was 2 sessions each day.

Act-Belong-Commit Undalup Birak Festival, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 10am till 10pm, Held on the Busselton Foreshore area, next to the City of Busselton Visitors centre. The day was a hot summer's day, the foreshore area full of people with the Cruise ship pulling into the bay and many visitors from the ship stopped into the Festival area to their surprise, witness a taste of Local Culture. The Undalup volunteers wearing the Act-Belong-Commit blue shirts looking very professional in their uniforms had been at the event site since morning setting up event with all sponsors banners out for display, adding lots of colour, with the Act-Belong-Commit Marquee being used as the Undalup headquarters with a table was setup to display the Act-Belong-Commit pamphlets, bookmarks, cards and magnets for all spectators to access. We had a shade sail for the event which was a bonus as there is no shade in the event area. Many of the spectators sat under the shade sail throughout the day, moving slowly as the sun moved. The Undalup Association had a free hat box, which was a collection of old 'Be Active hats from previous festival and some donated hats, as during the day those not wearing a hat and wanting to participate in the workshops were encouraged to grab a hat.



The workshops included, Tool making, which was grinding up charcoal, kangaroo poo and balga resin, and placed onto a stick and heated to make a glue, which then a piece of shell was inserted into the glue to make a cultural tool. Other workshops included contemporary dance with Michael Smith, decorating wooden boomerangs and clapping sticks, language pictures to colour, a earth dance which was the connection to Mother earth through the 4 directions of the planet. All the workshops included participants of all ages and several of the Active Foundation and many other community members with disabilities participated in the many workshops available throughout the day.

Workshops: Thursday and Friday;  
Cultural Dance

Participants: 12 children, (8 Boys and 4 Girls) Ages from 6 till 19 years.



Spectators at workshops:	Thursday	Friday
Children	12	16
Adults	16	29
Total 146 pax		

Workshops: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>:

Craft Activities and Tool Making @ 250 people participated

Cultural & Earth Dance @170 people participated



Spectators

@2800 overall

The Festival entertainment included many famous Noongar people from WA with a special guest appearance from Leeanna Shoveler from Broome. All the Cultural Dancing workshop participants performed on the festival day, very proud and excited to be apart of a major festival showcasing the local Noongar Culture, even appearing on the front page of the local newspaper. The event was a success and all the Undalup Association volunteers enjoyed the event and activities they were all involved in. At a follow-up meeting about the festival we discussed many items addressing the festival and felt that the numbers we had was lower than estimated, but a positive sign that the festival will continue to grow in numbers with all those attending sharing the experience with others and many who missed the event will ensure they will be there next year. If we take into account all those coming off the cruise ship and walking off the jetty into our event, having a look around, watching several of the dances and workshops whilst they were ashore, this would increase the numbers as they did attend but did not stay for long, as they had limited time ashore, before having to return for transport back to the ship.



The Act-Belong-Commit message was promoted throughout the day by our MC / Chairperson of the Undalup Association, Cultural Custodian Iszaac Webb, as each time there was a change over on stage it was his key to plug the sponsors and



encourage all spectators to come to the Act-Belong-Commit marquee for copies of the program, feedback forms, Act-Belong-Commit promotional material and Undalup membership forms, “ With thanks to our partner Healthway, promoting the Act-Belong-Commit message, together with the Undalup Birak Festival we are promoting a healthy community, and without unity you don’t have community” this was Iszaac’s favourite saying all day at the festival, and so many people commented on the feedback forms about how good we promoted the Act-Belong-Commit message at the event, in our program, the poster and flyer and at our workshops.

**Sponsors:** Healthway, Lotterywest, Mike O’Neil Building, Southern Ports Authority, Totally Sound, Keep Australia Beautiful WA, City of Busselton, Colin Holt MP, Trade Hire, South West Development Commission.

**4:01 NRM: Waljin Cave (Rainbow Cave)** The Undalup Association Chairperson, Iszaac Webb and Board members Wayne and Toni Webb, lead the NRM team and working party. The Noongar people have a long association with the environment of the South West and its natural resources.

The Noongar people utilise the natural resources according to their lore, to look after Noongar Boodja (Country). NRM is based on a great deal of research; it is the sustainable management of natural resources, our land, water, marine and biological systems and helping protect our Environment’s wellbeing.



The NRM sub-committee are working on some local areas needing our help to preserve and protect Mother Earth. It takes planning and funding to be able to give recognition to such places having Aboriginal history. Spiritual, totemic, and economic relationships with many plants and animals (biodiversity) exist and acknowledgement that Aboriginal people have rights and responsibilities for these places. Our lands natural resources have spiritual meaning; they provide healing and are valued for the educational and employment opportunities they create. The Aboriginal people’s environmental knowledge associated with our

natural resources is of high value to us all and their culture. The management of the environment, both now and into the future, has to be appropriately acknowledged and respected. The ownership of this knowledge



often lies with the Aboriginal Elders and is the key to understanding Country, the protocols associated with such knowledge must also be properly maintained, protected and respected by us all.

Waljin Mia ('rainbow cave') is a sacred cultural place for the Wadandi People of south western Australia. The cave is part of a complex cultural landscape. The Wadandi Elders look after their cultural places as part of their custodial obligations, which include the variety of plants and animals that inhabit these coastal limestone cliffs. Unfortunately, these places have been desecrated by visitors, campers and tourists, unaware that their actions are causing direct damage to the cultural and ecological values of these caves. With a small grant from the Western Australian Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the Undalup Association and Wadandi Custodians are working with community archaeologists from Applied Archaeology International to restore the area, and develop a site management plan to bring awareness for the respectful use of cultural heritage places – that includes protecting the habitat of the many birds, animals and plants linked to this ecosystem.

A short video was produced to capture some of the on-ground work undertaken by the team to restore the desecrated cave. In protecting this place, they are upholding their cultural protocols while discussing aspects of the cultural significance of this sacred site:

**1:07 Djeran Youth Event: Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Sat 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017, Cultural Dance Workshop: Friday 7<sup>th</sup>**

April, 3.30pm till 5.30pm, Art Geo Courtyard, Busselton, Youth Event: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April

2017, Noon till 5pm, Where: City of Busselton Youth prescient / Skatepark, Youth Event

Organisers: Baron Kelly and Sharnee Watson. The Undalup Youth group provided an

opportunity for many of the Aboriginal youth of the Busselton and surrounding regions

to participate in the Cultural dance workshops that were held at the City of Busselton

Art Geo cultural complex courtyard. This was held on the Friday afternoon, after school

hours, the day prior to the event, dancing with the Manjar Maamun Nymbi Theatre

Group, as they have been invited to attend and share the skills of traditional dance to

the youth, with the opportunity to perform at the Undalup Djeran Youth Event the

following day. The Undalup Djeran youth event in partnership with the City of

Busselton Youth group was held the following day, Saturday 8th April, Noon till 5pm,

with the Undalup Cultural Activities marquee providing Cultural activities for all the youth to participate in. The

Manjar Maamun Nymbi Theatre Group a group of traditional dancers performing several dances with

participation from the workshop dancers who attended the workshop under the direction of the group's team

leaders. All of the activity workshop participants had the opportunity to use their boomerangs and clapping

sticks during the performances as traditional music items for the dancing performances. As the sponsors were

Drug Aware, the message the Undalup Association promoted was the Strong Spirit, Strong Mind message as

the Strong Spirit Strong Mind promotes the uniqueness of Aboriginal culture as a central strength in guiding

efforts to manage and reduce alcohol and other drug related harm in Aboriginal communities.



### Inner Spirit

Our Inner Spirit is the centre of our being and emotions.

When our spirit feels strong our mind feels strong.

When our spirit feels tangled our mind feels tangled.

Strong Inner Spirit is what keeps people healthy and keeps them connected together.

Strong Inner Spirit keeps our family strong, our community strong and our country alive.



[www.drugaware.com.au](http://www.drugaware.com.au)

The Undalup Djeran youth event included:

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017, 3.30pm till 5.30pm.**

- Cultural dance workshops involving our local Aboriginal youth, after school at the Art Geo Courtyard, led by Cultural Youth Custodians and the "Manjar Maamun Nymbi" (Mandurah Men Dance) Theatre Group. We had 11 community youth members ranging from 7yrs to 13yrs old participate at the workshop, with 1 Adult being a Frenchman who wanted to learn Cultural Dance, as he is on a contract

at present to work in Busselton from France. We also had 1 youth participant who travelled from the City to participate in the weekends activities, reconnecting with his Cultural in a community environment. Total workshop Participants, 13.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017, Noon till 5pm.**

- Youth Cultural Dance performances at the Youth event with the participants of the workshops performing with the “Manjar Maamun Nymbi” Theatre Group. They had 2 performances during the event. 15 Dancers performed, 7 being the Youth Dance Group members, with 8 being local youth community members, including 5 being Undalup youth members.
- Cultural Activities Marquee at the event, with workshops decorating boomerangs, animal shapes, clapping sticks and Sand Art projects for all to participate in the Activity Marquee. We had @ 650 participants at the Activity Marquee during the 4 hrs of the event. 580 of them being Aboriginal youth. We also had 7 people with physical disabilities participate at the Activities, with @ 35 Adults and @ 32 Non Aboriginal youth participating alongside our Aboriginal youth mentors of the Association.

The important part of the Undalup Djeran Youth event it was planned by youth, for youth and encouraged younger members of the community to participate in the event planning, learning their capabilities in event management, youth leadership and self-esteem. The Undalup Association co-ordinated the youth activities and entertainment for the youth, to encourage the **Drug Aware** message that was delivered and understood by our youth at the Undalup Djeran Youth Event. Uncle Wayne Webb did the Welcome to Country at the opening of the event, promoting the drug aware message in his speech.

The Undalup Association promoted the Drug Aware message at the event with all promotional items for the event, displayed on the table in the Undalup Marquee headquarters, alongside all Undalup Association information. . The youth members were keen to promote the “Strong Spirit Strong Mind” message with the drug aware message, and encouraged the Aboriginal youth of the community to participate in Cultural events and workshops as the Undalup Association is leading the way in promoting and keeping the Culture alive in our community. This outcome gave the Association 18 new memberships on the day, with much more interest shown about the Association on the day. Chairperson Iszaac Webb promoted his favourite message, ‘without unity we don’t get community’.

As the Association has a great webpage, promotion of the event was on the webpage and Facebook page with all sponsors logos and the Drug aware message displayed for the event. This will now be moved to past events with a gallery of the photos from the day on the event page of the site.

**Sponsors:** Healthway Drug Aware, City of Busselton, Department of Local Government and Communities,

**1:08 National Reconciliation Week Event: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2017:** The Undalup Association in Partnership with the Augusta Margaret River Shire together held the National Reconciliation Week event on the grounds of the Margaret River Library on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2017 from 11am till 3pm. The NRW event included:

- Cultural Activities Marquee at the event, with workshops decorating boomerangs, animal shapes, clapping sticks and Sand Art projects for all to participate in the Activity Marquee. We had @ 60 participants at the Activity Marquee during the 4 hrs of the event.
- Cultural Bushfoods for tastings and as a feed for lunch, this included Bunya Bunya Nuts, Quandong, Wild and Native limes, Illawara plums, Munthari berries, Kangaroo rissoles with Illawara plum chutney, kangaroo stew, kangaroo and Riberry and beef sausages with damper, and kangaroo tail cooked in the fire.
- Free bottled water and juice boxes,

Uncle Wayne Webb did the Welcome to Country at the opening of the event, promoting the importance of us all in working together for the reconciliation message in his speech.

The Undalup Association promoted the program and feedback forms at the event which was on the table in the Undalup Marquee, alongside all Undalup Association information. . The Undalup team members encouraged the







members of the community to participate in the Cultural activities workshop, taste the Bush foods and tucker being served on the day, as the Undalup Association is leading the way in promoting and keeping the Culture alive in our communities. This outcome gave the Association some interest for new members, with much more interest shown about the Association and what we do in the South West. Many enquiries were given some available information about the association and the webpage details and information that was on the program. Many people took the program and completed the feedback forms, which the remaining can be

used for next year as no date or year was printed on them. . Chairperson Iszaac Webb promoted his favourite message, 'without unity we don't get community'.

Chairperson Iszaac Webb gave the presentation on the Waljin Mia (Rainbow Cave) in the Library for all those who attended where treated to a great presentation of knowledge from Iszaac and the local area of Margaret River where most of the Undalup NRM (Natural Resource Management) team completes the works in the area.

As the Association has a great webpage, promotion of the event was on the webpage and Facebook page with the AMR logo and both flags displayed for the event and at the event. This will now be moved to past events with a gallery of the photos from the day will be loaded on the event page of the site.

**Sponsors:** Augusta Margaret River Shire and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

**2017:** The Undalup Association took off in leaps and bounds early 2017, as with the return of some great events for the community, this gave much interest to many new members and new partnerships were formed. The interest in the Cultural Dance workshops from the local Aboriginal children has grown with more people participating and performing in the Cultural Dances at the events. The new partnership that has been established with the Augusta Margaret River Shire will see 3 new events a year with in the Margaret River Region for the Undalup Association, with keen interest in the Cultural Dancing and Activities.

#### **Tone River Project:**

In late January the Undalup Association board members meet on site at Tone River with Fred Stacey and committee member Mike O'Neil from Mike O'Neil Building, where a consultation meeting was held in regards to the Undalup being in partnership with a newly formed association 'Wongie Bodjarra' being for a Cultural Arts and Community Centre being built on the Tone river Holiday campsite. Several meetings were held after this with a EOI being submitted to the Department of Lands. This project will see a place for Aboriginal people to participate in many Cultural programs, workshops, projects and events, with the renovating of the current cottages on site to be available for accommodation and residence for caretakers. It will provide a form of healing for all those who attend.



**Cultural Centre Project:** In May this year a consultation meeting was held with the Undalup board members, committee member Mike O'Neil from Mike O'Neil Building, Melissa and Corey Khan from Boodja Group, both having expertise in business services, design and construction work, consultation and many other services in innovation and collaboration. The meeting discussed the idea of the Cultural Centre being located in Bunbury on the land the BPA have designated for a Cultural Centre in regards to the new extension to the Bunbury Port. In the 2015 / 2016 financial year Bunbury hosted 23 cruise ships, much research has been done by Undalup member Rachelle Cousins in relation to the area, providing maps and documentation at the meeting. Mike O'Neil has drawn the plans for the Cultural centre being in the shape of a Mia Mia. The Cultural centre package has been put together by Mike and Rachelle for several years and this has been sent to the board members of the GKB (Gnaarl Karla Boodja) Working party, as the centre will fall within their area. Traditional Elder Wayne Webb is keen to see this project eventuate as it also falls in Wadandi area. Both Corey and Melissa were given the contact details of the BPA HSE Manager and will commence work on a feasibility study as we all look forward to a great future outcome for the Aboriginal people of the South west.

**New Partnerships:** Totally Sounds, SWDC, Healthway, Lotterywest, City of Busselton, City of Busselton Youth Advisory Group, Augusta Margaret River Shire, Keep Australia Beautiful WA, Quinns Bakery, ECU, Busselton Mail,

Double M Photography, Esplanade Hotel, Strong Angels Gelorup, MR Mahogany, MRBTA, Boodja group,  
Department of Aboriginal Affairs,

3 Events,

3 Cultural Activities Workshops,

3 Cultural Dance Workshops,

1 Cultural Awareness program conducted

1 Video presentation on Waljin Mia Project.

3 Stalls to promote Undalup Association

2 video records of Cultural dance

1 Undalup Presentation for JSW

Undalup Facebook receiving many followings with some event promotions having 3,160 people being reached,  
Undalup Webpage continues to grow with updates for each event and projects being added on a regular basis with  
a new section added on Undalup services which has attracted many enquiries.

#### **2016 / 2017 Board of Directors,**

Marilyn Rulyancich resigned from the board in January, new member Sandra Hill took her place.

A new committee was formed being **10: Aboriginal Art.**

**AGM:** was held in February and votes were taken for positions for the board, with new member Sandra Hill  
being voted in as a Director of the board with the new committee formed as Sandra being the Board member  
of the new subcommittee.

Chairperson: Isaac Webb

Vice Chairperson: Wayne Webb

Treasurer / Secretary: Rachelle Cousins

Wayne Webb

Toni Webb

Sandra Hill

Nadine Webb

Fiona Thompson

4 AGM's

12 Committee meetings

12 Consultation Meetings

81 members

Upcoming events for 2017:

Undalup Essence of Country Aboriginal Art Exhibition, 1<sup>st</sup> till 16<sup>th</sup> July,

Undalup Makuru NAIDOC week Festival 3<sup>rd</sup> till 8<sup>th</sup> July,

Kambarang Cultural Festival Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Nov.