



Undalup News

Bunuru issue

February to March 2020

“Kaya” Welcome

The Undalup Association Inc. would like to acknowledge the past, present and future Traditional Owners and Elders, whose cultures and customs have and will continue to nurture the land on which we walk and live – Boodja.



Connection to Country

Aboriginal Culture and Heritage involves Protecting & Conserving Boodja (Country) with and by Aboriginal people and communities, and ensuring that Connections to Country are recognised, respected and maintained.

Aboriginal Culture is a living culture and is based on holistic understanding of people sustained by, and people sustaining Country - a cycle of continuous existence. Aboriginal knowledge is part of Aboriginal Culture and Heritage and includes:

Specific knowledge about places and objects

Knowledge about natural resources and processes, food sources, medicine, biodiversity, land management and landscape functions

Knowledge of language, cultural traditions and social processes





Feature Story

Kakadu and Arnhem Land – A Yarn with by Lea Taylor

For as long as I can remember I have wanted to go to Kakadu and Arnhem Land. I would tell my mum constantly that “one day I will go to Kakadu”. It took me a long time to get there but I did it. In August 2019 I packed my bag and jumped on a plane to Darwin then a bus out to Hawk Dreaming in Kakadu. As the bus drove through the beautiful Northern Territory landscape the strangest feeling came over me. It was really hard to explain why, but it felt like I was coming home. The purpose of this journey was not only to fulfill a childhood dream but to weave with the women of this country, those seen as masters of their art.

I was going to be in Kakadu and Arnhem Land for 6 days, collecting pandanus, plant materials for making natural dye, visiting the many sacred and ancient places and weaving with the ladies from Gunbalanya in East Arnhem Land. Our lead weaver was Anita Nayinggu from the Manilikarr clan, a highly respected Elder and Master Weaver. Anita also brought along her two daughters Raphealia and Delane and her niece, Rachel. We were guided through the process of collecting pandanus, digging and pounding roots to make dye and weaving the beautiful materials of country.

During the six days I visited ancient and sacred parts of Kakadu and Arnhem Land, some areas not accessible to the everyday tourist. I saw rock art painted thousands of years ago, some of which has been dated to 65,000 years. I touched grinding holes where ochre was ground to make the beautiful rock art, I heard stories of ancient times and ritual that are only rarely practiced today due to colonization. I visited burial sites and places of celebration. I was touched deeply by the spirit of this ancient land. I couldn't say which part was my favorite because the whole trip was special. I especially liked being accepted by the ladies as a sister from another country. Anita, much to my surprise given she is a Master Weaver, told me, in her words “bloody hell sister, you a master too, look at your work. Your ancestors are with you on your journey, working with you and guiding you”. I will return.

I was living a dream in a part of this amazing country I had always wanted to see so I was not surprised that I was also feeling the country too. At one point I was hit by a sense of déjà vu so strong it rattled me. We were out collecting pandanus and as we walked through the bush to get our hook stick I was overwhelmed by the sense of being there before. It felt so familiar to me yet I had not ever been there. It unnerved me a bit. Later that same day when we were digging for Bloodroot the same thing happened. Had I in fact been here before, in another time?





Connection to Country

Non Indigenous people seem to consider land as something they own, a commodity to be bought and sold, an asset to make profit from, but also a means to make a living off, or just something they call 'home'. They 'develop' land, as if it was unfinished or raw.

Land sustains Aboriginal people's lives in every aspect, spiritually, physically, socially and culturally. The notion of landscape as a second skin is central to every Aboriginal art form, whether it be theatre, dance, music or painting.

Without their connection to land, Aboriginal artists cannot create. Living and working or creating in the land of their birth is vital for an artist's Connection to Country. The connection to land gives Aboriginal people their identity and a sense of belonging.

The land owns us all, and every aspect of our lives are connected to it

When walking on country, as Aboriginal people, we see another dimension beyond the obvious. We see the world that non Indigenous people see, but we are also seeing a mythic landscape at the same time, and an historic landscape. Non Indigenous people see rotary parks and headlands; we see sacred sites, song lines and we are looking and listening at our bush foods, medicines, animals and nature along with the changes happening to Boodja with the seasons.

Canker Dieback Remedy Project

By including everyone we can all work together to ensure we stop the disease in its tracks.

On behalf of Wadandi Boodja and the Undalup Association we would like to acknowledge a very 'Public Problem' which is affecting the future of our adult tree nation and our shared responsibilities for 'Caring for Country'.

Canker and Dieback are a wide spread tree disease in the South West. If we ignore this problem, within 10 - 15 years we will lose many of our trees species. In response to this threat, the Undalup Association has commenced a 5 year proposed project aimed at sharing with the public about tree decline.

The project will be aimed at sharing the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) with the public, future stakeholders and others, on how to identify Canker and Dieback in Wadandi Boodja. By sharing the traditional knowledge of the importance of our connection to country and our tree nation, we can all help in the efforts of prevention and look at possible solutions to help with this important problem.

It is up to us all to share the responsibility to resolve, No research to date includes any Traditional Aboriginal Cultural knowledge. People need to learn and understand the correct way to manage country. Once we learn how to read and understand nature, everyone will understand how to better look after Boodja.

The Undalup Association will be hosting a public meeting soon to discuss the project, where everyone will be welcome to attend, as TOGETHER we all can support the International Year of Plant Health 2020.

This year is a once in a lifetime opportunity to raise global awareness about the importance of cooperation to keep plants healthy and free of pests and diseases. Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer, Dr Kim Ritman, said protecting our plant health is vital for food security, trade, the economy and environment.





A message from DFES

Is your property easy to access in an emergency?

Have you cleared your driveway for us to access? We need these widths to access driveways in the event of a bushfire. It takes valuable time to access your property and to roll out long lengths of hoses to reach your house or sheds.

What you need to look for:

- Are overhead branches and protruding limbs removed?
- Can the fire truck navigate tight corners?
- Are there any deep drains or culverts?
- Have you removed any rubbish that will restrict access?
- Can the truck access through gates or are they too narrow?
- Is there room for the fire truck to turn around?

Please check your property to ensure the safety of DFES volunteers.



Event Recap

Act-Belong-Commit Undalup Bunuru Festival 2020

The Undalup Association stages many events, workshops and projects throughout the year celebrating and encouraging cultural awareness, cultural heritage, dance and music, art, education, mental health and harmony. We are proud to be an active and passionate membership-based organisation at the forefront of reconciliation in our community.



The Act-Belong-Commit Undalup Bunuru Festival was held on Saturday 14 March 2020 at Riflebutts Reserve in Margaret River. The Bunuru Festival is designed particularly with children and families in mind. It is a smoke and alcohol-free event, offering a packed program of workshops and entertainment and a variety of healthy food experiences.

The Undalup Association Inc. partnered with Act-Belong-Commit and the Mentally Healthy WA organisations and programs which are aimed at providing support for a positive state of health and wellbeing. The Mentally Healthy WA's mission is to enhance people's mental health and wellbeing by strengthening individual resilience and building community cohesion. The Undalup Association promotes this message at this event with the goal of encouraging people to become more proactive about their mental health. The event was held at Riflebutts Reserve in Prevelly, a meeting place between the land and the sea, bringing everyone together for a connection to culture.

Undalup is very inclusive and was glad to see all members of the public joining us at this event! This event is about sharing and participating, experiencing and learning, and creating connections through rhythm, dance and music. Events like these help people to feel a sense of belonging in their community.

Everyone is welcome at our events so please show your support and call in for a yarn with friends and some tucker!

Supporting our Mob

Meet Talented Noongar Musician, Billy Woodley

“So me and my big brother Benny Woodley Jnr usually do gigs together as we both sing and play. Our band consists of session musicians that have their own bands - basically we try to use the same guys as we’ve known them for quite a while now. Our bass player is our sound engineer and producer who we record with also, so we mostly use him.

I’m Noongar on my Dad’s side (Woodley, Indich, Jackamarra, Yappo) whose family belongs to the Yuat and Whadjuk areas. Mum’s side is from the Pilbara region (Derschow, Brockman, Lockyer, Swan) whose ties belong in with the groups Palyku and Banjima and many more depending on a how deep into history you go.

I grew up in Port Hedland – fishing, hunting, camping around the rivers and the oceans and with love for footy!

I started writing music as soon as I learnt to sing while playing guitar at about 13 or 14 and haven’t stopped since. I’m self-taught but I guess it comes naturally having a father who toured, recorded, played guitar and sang country music. Music has always surrounded me.

I listen to all genres but the most influential band to me would be the Red Hot Chilli Peppers and you can hear them and many other influences in my original songs.

I attended the Academy of Country Music in Tamworth where I graduated and sang at the Festival in 2019.

I’m now living in Perth doing FIFO as a 4th year apprentice mechanic to fund my recording and hoping to bring an album out before mid-year 2020!”

Billy Woodley and his band played at the Undalup Bunuru Festival – their first time performing at a Cultural festival!



Do you know the Six Seasons?

The Six Seasons of our Wadandi people, traditions and culture are relied on to this day to keep Nala Boodja (Our Country) strong and healthy.

The six seasons are governed by what is happening and changing around us rather than by dates on a calendar. It helps to understand and respect plant and animal fertility cycles and preservation of the land.

Each of the six seasons coincides with a seasonal abundance of a variety of food resources which informs which foods and medicines should be consumed at that time of the year.

Birak December to January

Bunuru February to March

Djeran April to May

Makuru June to July

Djilba August to September

Kambarang October to November

Bunuru (February to March)

Colours: ● yellow ● orange ● red



Climate: Hottest part of the year, fruiting season

Known as: Second summer (season of the adolescence)

Bunuru is the hottest time of the year with little to no rain. Hot easterly winds continue with a cooling sea breeze most afternoons, if you are close to the coast. Therefore, traditionally this was, and still is, a great time for living and fishing by the coast, rivers and estuaries. Freshwater foods and seafood made up major parts of the diet during this time of year.

Bunuru is also a time of the white flowers with lots of white flowering gums in full bloom, including Jarrah, Marri and Ghost Gums.

Another striking flower that is hard to go past is the female zamia (*macrozamia riedlei*). Being much larger than its male counterpart, the huge cones emerge from the centre of the plant with masses of a cotton wool like substance. As the hot, dry weather continues, the seed upon the cones change from green to bright red, indicating that they are ripening and becoming more attractive to animals, particularly the emu, that will eat the toxic fleshy outer.



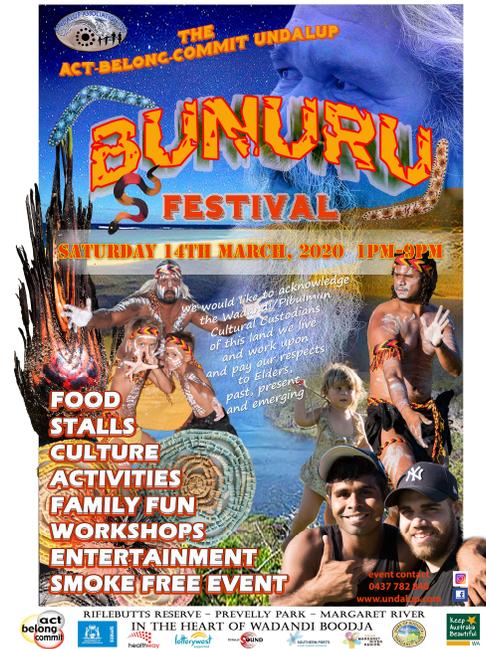
Important Dates

Thurs	13 th	February	National Apology Day
Mon	17 th	February	Random Act of Kindness Day
Sat	7 th	March	World Book Day
Sat	14 th	March	Undalup Bunuru Festival
Sun	15 th	March	National Close the Gap Day
Sun	15 th	March	National Day of Action against Bullying
Fri	20 th	March	International Day of Happiness
Sat	21 st	March	National Harmony Day
Sun	22 nd	March	World Water Day

Noongar Goodbye

“Jinnung Noonduk Boorda Yen”

See you in the future



This is the 6th edition of *Undalup News*. Each issue comes out with the change of the Wadandi Seasons. *Undalup News* brings you the latest in Wadandi culture, events, arts and community.

If you enjoyed this edition, please subscribe by emailing undalup@outlook.com with the subject “Subscribe” and your first name, surname, email address and phone number in the email. Thank you for supporting our Culture Journey.

If you wish to use or quote any information in this newsletter you must ASK FIRST before reproducing.

Please ensure all references include acknowledgement to the Wadandi Cultural Custodians.

Getting involved

If you want to become a member, Membership Forms are available on our webpage to download and complete.

Compiled by Carley O’Neil of Assurance Admin Solutions

Seasonal artwork by Wadandi Artist, Sandra Hill

Supported by Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association

Show your support

We share a lot of information on social media. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and have a look at our YouTube channel – press “Subscribe” and turn on notifications

You can Like and Share our posts and videos with your Mob.

Our website also contains a lot more information about our services, projects and programs, events and partnerships.

Visit our website at undalup.com.au.

