

Undalup News

Birak issue

December 2019 to January 2020

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.

*"We must acknowledge the past in order to move forward into the future with True validity.
Lest we forget".*

Wadandi/Pibulum Cultural Custodian, Iszaac Webb

Sharing Cultural Knowledge

The Undalup Association believes that the local Wadandi people should be consulted and involved in all decisions affecting the cultural heritage and, in particular, the ways in which the Wadandi history, communities, stories and interviews, lives and families and the cultural and intellectual property are represented and used. It is vital that the Wadandi people and the traditional knowledge they have to offer are considered in the development of strategies to manage the natural resources of the South West of Western Australia.





Feature Story

Annual Cape York Clean-Up Tour 2019

The Undalup Association provided an opportunity for Undalup Aboriginal member, Jody Young to join partners Tangaroa Blue Foundation at the annual Cape York ReefClean event. ReefClean is a project started in early 2019 that focuses on removing and preventing marine debris along the Great Barrier Reef region which is planned to take place over the next five years.

The ReefClean event takes place on the coastline at Chilli Beach, a 7km stretch of white tropical beach that unfortunately is another hotspot for marine debris in the remote Cape York region. Chilli Beach is approximately 700km north of Cairns (a good three quarters of the way up Cape York) and situated between Portland Roads and Lockhart River. It is part of the Kutini Payamu (Iron Range) National Park. Lockhart River is the traditional land of the Kuuku Ya'u People. The Kuuku Ya'u people share an understanding of their sea country and are the Traditional Owners of this country.

"I could not believe there was so much rubbish on our beautiful coastline in Busselton. I was soon to learn MRBTA (Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association) had given me the opportunity to go to help Tangaroa at Chilli Beach Clean-Up in Cape York, Queensland! I had never been on a plane before. I also have never been out of my state, so on 9 August 2019 I swallowed my fear and boarded my first plane heading to Sydney, one of many flights ahead and I loved it.

This rich marine and coastal environment provides food and resources to the local people. Today, as in the past, children continue to learn from their parents and grandparents about their relationship with the sea country and the creation of all things, as well how to spear fish and stingray and where to collect mussels and find other food.

Chilli Beach is the site of the turtle (Paanti) story and stingray (Paalki) story from the dreamtime. This area is full of diverse wildlife, amazing landscapes and gorgeous sunrises, and Jody was lucky enough to have the opportunity to experience the magic of the Cape during the Chilli Beach Clean-Up.

The ReefClean crew participate in the rehabilitation of this stretch of coastline over five days by removing, sorting and recording rubbish items from this picture-perfect paradise. Jody was the lucky participant at this year's event and reported back to Undalup with the her story:

"After the five days of picking up and sorting all the rubbish, the top items removed and counted were:

Hard remnant plastic	24,554
Bottle tops	4,916
Foam/ins	953
Bottles	912
Thongs	755
Toothbrushes	498
Pegs	394

"There was also some unusual stuff you would not expect to find here. A total of 337 bags were filled over the 4 days. There wasn't enough time to count it all so it was averaged out to get a total weight which totalled 2.1 tonnes.

"Back in society and looking back on the last 9 days felt like I had been living in a dream. Spending time in the remote location of Chilli Beach made me realise how much we take things for granted. Such things as showers and even the water we drink are not available there. We had to take all we needed with us. It was like being in the land of the lost.

"When leaving Chilli Beach, I can't help but feel I was leaving a close friend behind. A world torn between civilisation and the consequences of it. Society will go on and it will be back to business as usual. Chilli Beach and all who call it home will continue to suffer without the valuable help of foundations such as Tangoroa Blue and the many especially valuable volunteers that donate their time to care. That is all it takes.

"Just take the time to care for our country for she will then take care of you."

"I would like to thank MRBTA for helping me to see so many special sights. I have met new friends who have inspired me. I admire their passion and I learned so much about the way we humans treat our earth. Together we can fight! Together we can help stop the pollution that is ravaging our planet. Thanks to Tangoroa Blue Foundation for taking me to places I have never been".

The ReefClean events are funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust. Jody's trip was sponsored by the MRBTA. Thanks to Jody for putting her experiences into words to share with us all and for giving back to Nala Boodja (Our Country).

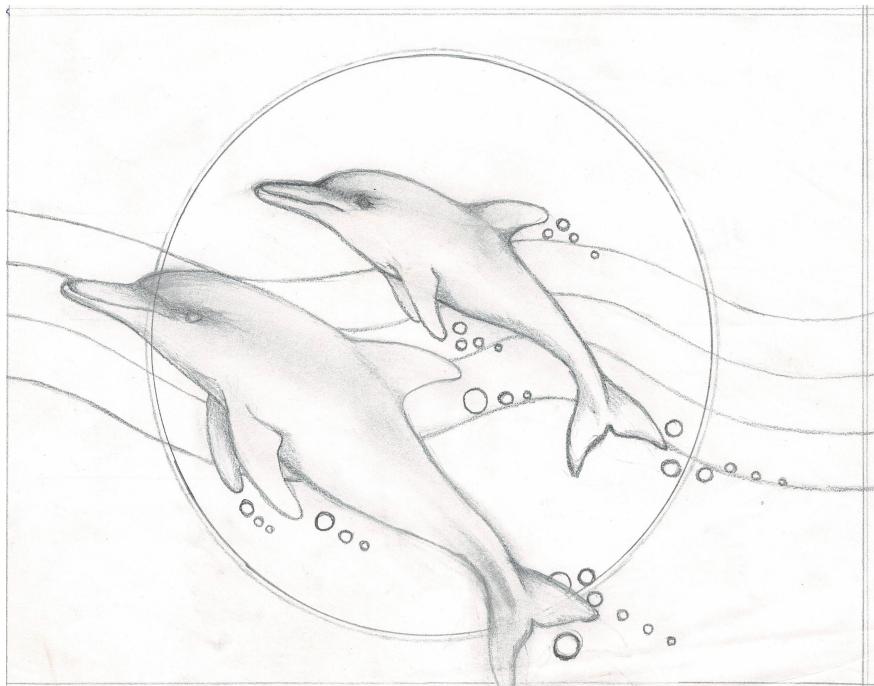


Out on Boodja

Wadandi Surf Academy 2019

Special thanks to the following Margaret River businesses:
Sessions Surf Shop, Beach Life Surf Shop, Volte, Rip Curl and
Margaret River Gourmet Butchers. Proudly supported by
MRBTA - Margaret River Busselton Tourist Association.

In honour of the late George' Goolbarjet' and Vilma Webb, the Undalup Association together with Surfing WA and Josh Palmateer's Surf Academy, proudly presented the Wadandi Surf Academy events in November and December 2019 - supporting the Act-Belong-Commit message. The event is a six week workshop for the local Aboriginal Youth from the region's high schools. Students participate in surfing workshops with the ultimate goal of competing in the 2020 Australian Indigenous Surfing Titles at Bells Beach, Victoria in May 2020. Each day students were greeted by Iszaac Webb, Wadandi Cultural Custodian, followed by a surf lesson and then a much needed lunch. After lunch they experienced a cultural outing and activity, learning from Iszaac's knowledge of the land.



Artwork by the late Vilma Webb, Wadandi Cultural Elder.

"The spiritual bond we have with the land and everything on it is one that is symbiotic. The Kaartdjin (knowledge) and understanding of Wadandi Boodja reflects the deep spiritual and physical connection to country and to places of significance".

Wadandi Traditional Elder and Cultural Custodian, Wayne Webb

What is the Wadandi Surf Academy?

The aim of the Wadandi Surf Academy is to set up a sustainable Aboriginal Surfing Academy which will hold events, deliver dedicated surf coaching programs for Aboriginal people and train Aboriginal surf judges and officials.

Together we will create and develop a pathway program for Indigenous surfers in Western Australia, starting with a 'Learn to Surf' introduction with a Cultural induction program, led by Wadandi Cultural Custodian Iszaac Webb. The ultimate aim is to up skill our young Koolungas (Children) in the sport of surfing, bring them into the Surfing WA Talent squad and assist them in entering state rounds with focus on eventually having an Indigenous surfer competing at the Australian Indigenous Surfing Titles.

Josh Palmateer is a professional surfer who was on the World Surfing Tour from 1988 – 1994 achieving a ranking of 45 in the world. After leaving the tour in 1994, he returned to Margaret River where he and an associate introduced surf coaching to the area, starting up the first private surf school in Western Australia. In 1995 Josh launched his own Surf Academy under the banner "Josh Palmateer's Surf Academy".

Following the vision of Wadandi Elders, the late George Webb and Vilma Webb - who believed that Aboriginal communities should gather strength through sharing Culture between themselves and the wider non-Indigenous community - Undalup came together to bring back the Wadandi Surf event to the heart of Wadandi Boodja (Salt Water People's Country) - where the river meets the sea - to promote the healthy lifestyle and enjoyment of surfing amongst the First Nation's people.

With the Wadandi people, their identity of connection to family, sand and sea is very strong, and Wooditchup (Margaret River) is the heart of Wadandi Boodja.

Our Community

Global Strike for Change

Undalup's Wadandi Traditional Elder, Wayne Webb was sent a lovely invite letter by Maia, a year 11 student at Margaret River Senior High School. Maia helped organise the Margaret River local Global Strike 4 Climate event in September 2019. This community event was led completely by students. The event occurred alongside 2000 other strikes around the world as a means for both students and adults alike to make their voices heard and demand action from our governments.

Undalup believes that it is of utmost importance that the message conveyed is in line with the voices of Australia's First Peoples. There can never be an Australia where true climate justice is achieved without reconciliation and where a collaborative approach to climate change action is taken ensuring all voices are heard and respected. This was an important opportunity for young people to be engaged in this conversation.

Well done, Maia. We are all so proud of you and all the students and participants who attended this global event.

Photo (below): Students and supporters at the Margaret River Global Strike 4 Climate event.

This is a global climate action movement led by students to draw the attention of leaders to act on climate issues in Australia and around the world. This student-led event is supported by Friends of the Earth and the Australian Youth Climate Coalition. Augusta-Margaret River Councillors also publicly declared their support for local community participation in the Global Strike 4 Climate on 20 September 2019, encouraging local workplaces, schools and neighbouring councils to allow their employees and pupils to participate.





Our Culture

Nation Dance

On Sunday 1 December 2019, an online movement had become one of the largest coordinated expressions of culture as the nation danced as one. The 'Nation Dance' movement called on all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations to all dance at the same time around the world as one. Coordinated by Gooreng Gooreng and Wakka Wakka man Alwyn Doolan – who walked from Cape York in Queensland to Parliament House in Canberra with the intention of delivering a message to the federal government on reconciliation – the event was all about "uplifting community".

*"We flew our flags upside down, an upside down is a signal of distress,
We shook the land and waked the mother up to bring healing and justice ...
We all needed to give back to our mother and share our gifts as Indigenous people of the land just as
our ancestors have done for thousands and thousands of years before us!"*

The ceremony held at Boranup Forest, Wadandi Cultural Elder and Custodians Wayne and Iszaac Webb opened the ceremony with the Nations Dance Statement, with a minutes silence and for the first time in History, the nation danced as one. In the words of Alwyn Doolan, the movement was about uplifting our songlines, our rivers, our creations, our creators, our trauma, especially with the tragedy that is happening with all the bushfires in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

*"We danced for our people, danced for our land, danced for our trauma, danced for our justice,
danced for our children, danced for our creator, as hundreds of Indigenous people across the nation
danced on their Countries as one in a sign of solidarity. Let's all dance at one time on this great
continent we call our land".*



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)

Colours: ● green, ● blue, ● yellow and ● orange

Climate: Dry and hot.

Known as: First summer (season of the young)



Birak is characterised by arid easterly or north easterly winds in the mornings and a coastal sea breeze in the afternoon. Yorla (paper barks) and moodja (Christmas trees) are flowering, the wanajet (peppy flowers) have fallen letting us know the Gabbi (rains) are easing up. The Nala Ngankga (Our Sun) shines hotter and biritj (days) are longer. Djinda (stars) look like Kala djedal (Fire Coals) in the morroo (Dark Skies).

The moisture keeps the morning leaves dripping and grasses damp. The kerbein (coastal sword sedge flowers) are drying ready to process and the reeds are easily removed to make fishing belts as we spend more time near Waatu (Cape Leeuwin) and Wattern (Geographe Bay). With calmer, warmer waters, the larger djiljil (fish) species come closer, making them easier to gidji (spear). The flowering balga (grass tree) tells us the caabun (gropers) are fat and ready to eat. The low tides allow us to collect kaang-ing (abalone) along with koriel (crab) which are plentiful. Wadan (Sea Spirit) has provided us many djil (crayfish) and bedi (squid) for Nala Maat (Our Family).

The ulbernuda (butterflies) are everywhere and the milky berries on the coast are sweet, juicy and ready to eat. The mugitj boonur (banksia tree) flowers are gathered for sweet drinks, tasting like honey, which are fermented and used for gatherings and ceremonies. Birak is an excellent time for djilyara (bees) as the nectar and gum are being produced by many plants.

The koomal (brushtail possum) babies are spending time on their own and wetj (emu) babies are almost as big as their Dads now. Bain (a salty sweet native costal fruit) is eaten, and the djilyara (bees) are out pollinating nala (our) native plants. The kaarak (red tail cockatoo) and maanitj (white tail cockatoo) are chewing away, dropping marri maada (honkey nuts) from the boonur (trees).

With longer dry periods and less cold fronts, the beela (rivers) near waaturu (ocean) are plentiful with booyee (tortoise) and gilgi (marron). The gnwirri beela (beautiful rivers) are slowing their flows while the djiljil (fish) spawn grow big and strong, ready for the rainy seasons again.

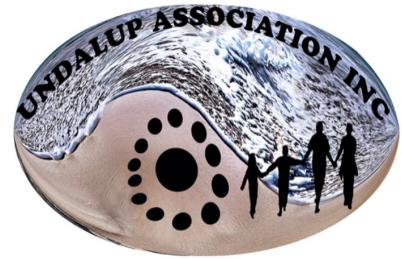
This is the time the Ngaanga Boodja wongi (Mother Country Talks) and Wadandi Yoongan-jarli Dwonka ni (Saltwater People Listen) to her and put the lids on ggamma (waterholes) to slow the evaporation process so that when the beela (the rivers) stop flowing, the pools sustain the people. A stick or boyo (rock) was often placed into the ggamma with a small yalling (hole) left as an opening so that the fauna could have a drink without drowning, and in turn would not poison the fresh water sources for everyone and everything.

As the cicadas sing in the heat of the day, we know very soon Bunuru season is approaching and the families gather in large groups travelling along the coastline, a meeting place for many, where the land meets the sea.

Noongar Goodbye

"Jinnung Noonduk Boorda Yen" – See you in the future

We hope you enjoyed the fifth issue 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 body of the email. Please also feel free to post a comment on social media. We thank you for your support!

Getting involved

Undalup Committee meetings are open to the public and are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 4:00pm at the Undalup Office (High Street Hall – 47 Bussell Hwy, Busselton). Membership forms are available on our webpage to download and complete. Visit undalup.com.au.

Show your support

If you like what we are about, or want to find out more, you can like or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube – don't forget to hit "Subscribe" and switch on notifications. Like, follow and share to show your support. You can also check out our website for the full story on who we are and what we do.

*"We would like to thank everyone who has supported our Culture Journey.
We are excited to have you along for the ride".*

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The knowledge contained in this document is to be protected and respected as the specialist knowledge of the Traditional Elders and Custodians and collaboration with the local Aboriginal people is necessary.

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.

Compiled by Carley O'Neil of Assurance Admin Solutions

Seasonal artwork by Wadandi Artist, Sandra Hill

Supported by Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association

