



Aboriginal Languages
Trust



Aboriginal Languages Trust Languages Gathering 2022



Share, Learn, Grow

Conference Program







About

The 2022 Languages Gathering is a Languages conference hosted by the Aboriginal Languages Trust for Aboriginal Language practitioners, teachers and knowledge holders from across NSW. The two-and-a-half day conference will explore the reclamation of Language knowledges, how communities are revitalising Languages, and the growth and nurturing of our Languages into the future. The Gathering is a space to share, learn and grow together in our Language journeys.

Day One

Tuesday 29th November

Reclamation

Morning

7:00AM	Breakfast from 7:00AM to 9:00AM	Sea Salt Restaurant
	Conference Registration from 7:00AM to 9:15AM	Hawkesbury Lobby
9:30AM	Welcome to Country	Grand Ballroom
	Introductory Session	Grand Ballroom
10:30AM	Morning Tea & Market Stalls	Hawkesbury Lobby
11:00AM	Keynote Sitting with my teacher: When Language Shows the Way Nardi Simpson	Grand Ballroom
	Yarning Session Who's Your Mob, Where Are You From?	Grand Ballroom

Afternoon

12:30PM	Lunch & Market Stalls	Hawkesbury Lobby
1:30PM	Breakout Session One	
	'The Art of Listening' Dr. Raymond Kelly, Wollotuka Institute	Henry Kendall Ballroom
	'Linguicide, Decolonisation & Sovereignty' Kaleesha Morris	Wamberal
	'Language link-up: how Warlpiri can help to revitalise' Liam Price	Avoca/Terrigal
	'Looking for Language' Melissa Jackson, The NSW State Library Language Collection	Macmasters Room
	'Women in Language' (Women only session) Rhonda Ashby & Diane McNaboe	Forresters
	Darkinjung Cultural Tour 1:30 - 4:00 (30 people only, sign up via registration, afternoon tea provided)	Bus Trip
2:15PM	Afternoon Tea & Market Stalls	Hawkesbury Lobby

Reclamation

3:00PM Breakout Session Two

'Gadhungal Murring and Gulaga Dance Workshop'
Uncle Warren Foster, Joel Deaves, Jacob Morris & Drew Longbottom Henry Kendall Ballroom

'Guthi Mali - To Make a Song'
Jesse Hodgetts, Wollotuka Institute Wamberal

'Teaching Language Through Total Physical Response'
Micklo Jarrett Avoca/Terrigal

'Weaving'
Ngumpie Weaving Macmasters Room

'Interlinear Glossing?! What is it and why would I use it?!'
Sharon Edgar-Jones, Muurrbay Language Centre Forresters

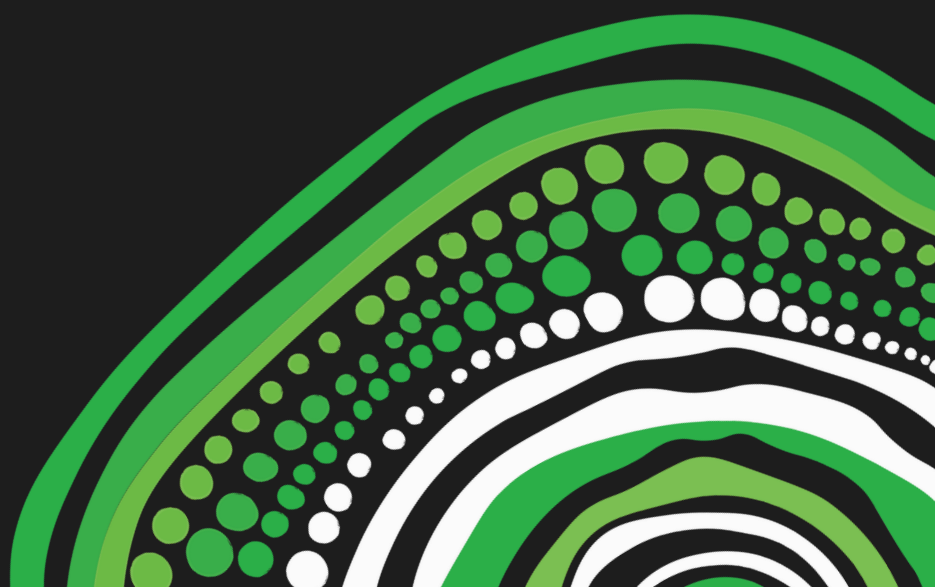
3:45PM

Free Time

Evening

6:30PM -
9:30PM Poolside Network Dinner

Pool Deck



Day Two

Wednesday 30th November

Revitalisation

Morning

7:00AM Breakfast from 7:00AM to 9:00AM Sea Salt Restaurant

9:00AM Day Two Commences
Please sit in your own Language Groups Grand Ballroom

Plenary Panel
The Language Revitalisation Journey Grand Ballroom

Panellists
Callum Clayton-Dixon
Priscilla Strasek
Sharon Edgar-Jones
and Nathan Brennan

Facilitated by Sarah Kelly

Yarning Session
What does Language governance look like? Grand Ballroom

11:30AM Morning Tea & Market Stalls Hawkesbury Lobby

Afternoon

12:00PM Keynote
Yolŋu Perspective - How our Different Languages Connect Us Grand Ballroom

Gawura Wanambi
Joy Bulkanhawuy
Lynette Guyula
Emma Murphy



Yarning Session
How do we connect with our neighbouring Language Groups Grand Ballroom

1:30PM Lunch & Market Stalls Hawkesbury Lobby

Revitalisation

2:30PM Breakout Session Three

'Singing With Language' Nardi Simpson	Henry Kendall Ballroom
'Teaching Language through hand gestures' Rhonda Radley	Wamberal
'ICIP & Gujaga's journey to economic sustainability' Ray Ingrey, Gujaga Foundation	Avoca/Terrigal
Using Aboriginal Pedagogy and Immersion to Teach Language' Donna McLaren	Foresters
'Sharing Ideas on Creating Resources For Community' Prisicilla Strasek and Elizabeth Smith	McMasters

3:15PM Afternoon Tea. Hawkesbury Lobby

3:45PM Language Tasters

Anaiwan Newara Aboriginal Corporation	Henry Kendall Ballroom
Paakantji Warlpa Thompson	Wamberal
Speaking Murruwarri Tom Barker	Avoca/Terrigal
Gammēya Dharawal Joel Deaves, Drew Longbottom & Jacob Morris	Forresters Room
Bundjalung Kris Cook	Macmasters Room

4:15PM Free Time





Revitalisation

Evening

6:30PM
11:30PM

Gala Dinner

With Performances from
Miiesha
Thikkabilla Vibrations & Rob Waters

**Grand
Ballroom**



Miiesha

From the small Aboriginal community of Woorabinda, Australia, Miiesha arrived on the RnB landscape with a sound and a story that instantly demanded attention. A strong, proud Anangu/Torres Strait Islander woman, Miiesha (Pronounced My-ee-sha) released her debut collection of songs entitled Nyaaringu in 2020. Meaning 'what happened' in Pitjantjatjara language, Nyaaringu explores the stories and the strength Miiesha inherited from her late Grandmother. With a voice that showcases vulnerability and strength, often in the one breath, Miiesha sings of her people, her community and her story with the raw emotion of lived experience.



Rob Waters

Rob is a Gomeroi man with deep cultural connections to North West NSW. He is a poet, storyteller, cultural educator and spoken word artist who has been sharing Story for many years. Rob is a multi-time NSW State Poetry Slam finalist and National finalist in the Australian Poetry Slam. Rob's works have been described as powerful, moving and unsettling and are deeply rooted in culture, education and activism.



Thikkabilla Vibrations

Thikkabilla Vibrations teaches cultural awareness through traditional dance to all platforms around the Central Western region of NSW, encourages positive change for our future leaders. By infusing Indigenous knowledge, culture and traditional practice they help bring peace and understanding of our shared Australian history to a new generation of learners. The group have performed at many important Indigenous events such as the Dreamtime Awards, Yabun, Dance Rites and have danced overseas in many countries including China. Through dance they provide entertainment, they are also sharing cultural stories and expressing the voice of their ancestors. These stories teach us about our songlines and obligation to Mother Earth, responsibilities to caring for the land and our interconnection among all living and nonliving things. Without these stories, we don't know who we are, and the way they transmit these stories is through dance, through movement and through song.

Day Three

Thursday 1st December

Nurture & Grow

7:00AM Breakfast from 7:00AM to 9:00AM

Sea Salt Restaurant

9:30AM

Keynote
*Journey to the Opening of the
Gumbaynggirr Giingana Freedom School*
Clark Webb
Troy Robinson
Ellie Buchanan

Grand Ballroom

10:30AM Morning Tea & Market Stalls

Hawkesbury Lobby

Yuwinbarra - Performance by Neville Boney

Grand Ballroom

Plenary Panel
The connection between Language and Country

Grand Ballroom

Panelists
Warren Foster
Kaleesha Morris
Rhonda Ashby
& Warlpa Thompson

11:00AM

Facilitated by Rob Waters

Closing Session

Grand Ballroom

12:45PM Lunch

Sea Salt Restaurant

2:00PM Conclusion of Event

Speakers & Panelists

Share, Learn, Grow



Nardi Simpson

Sitting with my teacher: When Language Shows the Way

Nardi Simpson is a Yuwaalaraay storyteller and performer living in Bidjigal, Sydney. A member of Indigenous folk duo Stiff Gins, Nardi has been a touring musician and songwriter for twenty-three years. Her debut novel, *Song of the Crocodile* was a 2018 winner of a black&write! writing fellowship and winner of the 2021 ALS Gold Medal for Literature.

In 2022 Nardi co-wrote two stories in Yuwaalaraay language with language practitioners Tracey Cameron and Priscilla Strasek Barker. These stories appear in *Another Australia*, published by Affirm Press. Nardi continues to be heavily involved in the making and sharing of culture in both her Sydney and Yuwaalaraay communities

Day One: Keynote - 11:20AM, Tuesday 29th November

Breakout Session 3: Singing With Language - 2:30PM, Wednesday 30th November



Dr Raymond Kelly

The Art of Listening

Raymond Kelly Snr was born and raised in Armidale NSW and is affiliated with several 'First Peoples Groups' including the Thangatti and Gumbayngirr peoples. He has lived in Newcastle for the past 40 years and has been actively involved in a broad array of community development programs and has served as consultant at Regional, State and National levels.

Ray is a scholar, practitioner and teacher of 'First Peoples' language and culture. A driving passion for Ray is the development of research agendas that lead to community determination across all aspect of our cultural revitalisation – 'For the People, by the People'

Breakout Session 1: The Art of Listening - 1:30PM, Tuesday 29th November

Kaleesha Morris

Linguicide, Decolonisation & Sovereignty

Kaleesha Morris is a Gumbaynggirr, Dunghutti and Kulkalgal woman. Kaleesha grew up in Bangiigan (South Grafton), and works in language ecology, policy and revitalisation practice. She is a strong Gumbaynggirr speaker and instructor and is a Board Director of Ngiyambandigay Wajaarr Aboriginal Corporation, Grafton Ngerrie Local Aboriginal Land Council and Cangai Creek Aboriginal Corporation.



Kaleesha has worked extensively across Aboriginal communities in the areas of social justice policy, strategy & governance, environmental management and cultural education. She previously worked with the NSW Government in Aboriginal place naming policy and recently joined First Languages Australia as their Senior Policy Advisor.

Breakout Session 1: Linguicide, Decolonisation & Sovereignty - 1:30PM, Tuesday 29th November
Day Three Panel: The connection between Language and Country - 11:30AM, Thursday 1st December

Ellie Buchanan

*Journey to the opening of the
Gumbaynggirr Giingana Freedom School*

Giinagay, I am a Gumbaynggirr woman, living and raising my son on Gumbaynggirr Country, with another little Gumbaynggirr buwaarr (baby) on the way. I have a background in Early Childhood Education and Care and am working towards my Primary Education degree at the University of New England.



I have been learning and speaking my language for the past 4 years alongside a dedicated community of learners and currently, I am proudly working in the role of Gumbaynggirr Language Teacher at the Gumbaynggirr Giingana Freedom school.

Day Three Keynote: Journey to the opening of the Gumbaynggirr Giingana Freedom School - 9:40AM, Thursday 1st December



Diane McNaboe

Women in Language

Diane McNaboe is a Wiradjuri and Gamilaroi Woman from Dubbo Community. She has been teaching Language and culture for over 30 years. Diane has been instrumental in creating teaching programs and resources on Aboriginal language for the community, schools, TAFE's and Universities. She aims to enhance the wellbeing of Aboriginal People through reawakening and reconnecting them with their language and culture.

Diane has worked closely the women in her local Community to revitalise Language in their weaving, fire, bush medicine, artefact making and birthing practices.

Breakout Session 1: Women in Language - 1:30PM, Tuesday 29th November



Rhonda Ashby

Women in Language

Rhonda Ashby is a freshwater, grasslands Gamilaroi wirringaa of Walgett and currently lives in Lightning Ridge North West NSW, with connections to Ullaroi, Wailwan and Narigo/ Monaro(South Coast)Country nations. She has a BA in Aboriginal Education and has worked in NSW education for over 20 years in various roles. She was the community language teacher, secondary educator and the Gy, Yr and Yy Aboriginal Language and Culture Nest Teacher and worked with numerous communities, and schools implementing and supporting programs and resources.

Rhonda was a member of the NSW Aboriginal Language Advisory Board responsible for the Legislation of NSW Aboriginal languages in 2017. She is an active community member and works on numerous committees including the Cultural Oversight Group for Agrifutures working with Native Grain, and Narran Lake Co-management, in partnership with NSW Parks and Wildlife to ensure cultural values and integrity are included in park management. Rhonda has also coordinated on-country cultural camps for women, schools, and community organisations. She has extensive ecological knowledge of bush foods, medicines and the landscapes of Country and is an author and consultant of the Garragal Project that contributes to the CSIRO Indigenous Ecological Knowledge Program of the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA).

Breakout Session 1: Women in Language - 1:30PM, Tuesday 29th November

Day Three Panel: The connection between Language and Country - 11:30AM, Thursday 1st December

Donna McLaren

Using Aboriginal Pedagogy and Immersion to Teach Language

Donna McLaren is a Gamilaraay woman from the Wirrindjarung people in the Warrumbungle region of North Western New South Wales. She is the daughter of Lynne (McLaren) and Don Gayford and granddaughter of Jack McLaren (Cain) and Edith McLaren (nee Leslie) from Burra Bee Dee Aboriginal Reserve, Coonabarabran. Donna is a teacher, linguist and author and has published extensively across many different forms of writing.



She is passionately committed to language reclamation and wishes to strengthen her skills at writing for theatre to utilise the oral and visual communicative modes it can lend in supporting culturally centred language immersion experiences.

Breakout Session 3: Using Aboriginal Pedagogy and Immersion to Teach Language - 2:30PM, Wednesday November 30th

Rhonda Radley

Teaching Language through hand gestures

Anjilkurri Rhonda Radley (Moran-Davis) is a Birrbay/Dhanggati woman, and is in her final stage of her PhD studies (Western Sydney University), researching 'The Usefulness of Gesture to Learn the Gathang Language' and is an active Aboriginal Community Elder supporting the revival of culture through language and practices. She has taught the Certificate I & II Aboriginal Language (Gathang language) at TAFE and delivered community language programs.



Over many years, Anjilkurri has worked on numerous community projects to empower Aboriginal women and girls. She is the program manager for the Djiyagan Dhanbaan 'Strong Sister' group and a member of the Ngarrgan Mirriyn 'Morning Star' choir, these groups support language revitalisation through song and dance. Anjilkurri has lectured in Indigenous Studies at Charles Sturt University and is contracted by University of Newcastle (Rural Health) to deliver Indigenous History and Culture information sessions.

She holds a Bachelor of Teaching, Graduate Diploma in Adult Community Education (Australian Catholic University) and a Master in Indigenous Language Education (University of Sydney). Anjilkurri is a Gathang language teacher/learner and advocates for Aboriginal languages to be spoken, learnt and taught.

Breakout Session 3: Teaching Language through hand gestures - 2:30PM, Wednesday November 30th



Warren Foster

Gadhungal Murring and Gulaga Dance Workshop

Warren Foster is a multi-faceted Artist - a talented Musician, Actor, Singer, Songwriter and hip hop Performer. Performing on both the national and international stage, Warren has supported Mark Atkins, William Barton, David Leha, and Neil Murray. Warren founded the Gulaga Dancers - a traditional men's dance group who have performed nationally and internationally for over twenty years.

The Gulaga Dancers have continued the strong Djiringanj tradition of honouring the land and nature through dance and artistic connection, celebrating and sustaining the practice of traditional dance across generations. He has worked as a Cultural Teacher and Tour Guide in South East New South Wales for many years. He has written fifteen traditional dreamtime stories about Yuin Country. Warren Ngarrae Foster is a valued Yuin Community Leader, Knowledge Keeper and Sharer. His extensive study, practice and exploration of Djiringanj culture has seen him engaged as a Cultural Advisor by the National Museum of Australia, Bangarra Dance Theatre and the National Library.

Breakout Session 2: Gadhungal Murring and Gulaga Dance Workshop - 3:00PM, Tuesday 29th November
Day Three Panel: The connection between Language and Country - 11:30AM, Thursday 1st December



Joel Deaves

Gadhungal Murring and Gulaga Dance Workshop

Joel along with his cousins Drew Longbottom and Jacob are continuing keeping the language alive. Joel is actively teaching at home to his family, reigniting past memories with his Mother Lauren Chapman who has also remembered words to help restore the dialect. Joel is in the local area he grew up in continuing Dances he was taught as a young boy by local Dance troupe (Doonooch Dancers) and teaching language through various programs and as a language facilitator at Gadhungal Murring a Cultural Education company.

Joel and Jacob are also both Members of the Gulaga dance troupe which was founded by Warren Foster Senior who has also been an important teacher in their life as a teacher and a Cultural mentor who has continued to guide them along the path.

Breakout Session 2: Gadhungal Murring and Gulaga Dance Workshop - 3:00PM, Tuesday 29th November

Language Tasters: Gammēya Dharawal - 3:45PM, Wednesday 30th November

Drew Longbottom

Gadhungal Murring and Gulaga Dance Workshop

Drew Longbottom A proud Gammēya Dharrawal, Gadhungal Man, Born and raised at the Jerrinja Aboriginal Community for the first 17 years of his Life, Drew was influenced and taken under the wing of a few Elders of the Jerrinja community around the age of 4, who introduced him to his first understanding of culture. As a child he grew up hearing Dharrawal and Dhurga words, at the age of 10 was given a book and tape recording his great grandmother. Who pointed out the Dharrawal language specifically, and along with helping Drew with pronunciation, which encouraged him to continue learning the language of His family in particular.

Around 2013, He linked up with his cousins Joel Deaves and Jacob Morris, who'd been learning the same dialect of Dharrawal through mutual kinship ties of their Great Grandmother's. From there they continued the revival of the Dharrawal language, and currently run language classes at several preschools and primary schools in the Shoalhaven, as well as a weekly advanced language class in partnership with Waminda, in Nowra.

*Breakout Session 2: Gadhungal Murring and Gulaga Dance Workshop - 3:00PM, Tuesday 29th November
Language Tasters: Gammēya Dharawal - 3:45PM, Wednesday 30th November*



Jacob Morris

Gadhungal Murring and Gulaga Dance Workshop

Jacob Morris is now the Co Director at Gadhungal Murring and has continued to grow his uncle's language program from one preschool, into three preschools, five primary schools, consultations around language, published Poems and has created traditional song and dance and taught them to hundreds of Indigenous children in the Shoalhaven area; all as a result of being taught Gammēya-Dharrawal from infancy.



*Breakout Session 2: Gadhungal Murring and Gulaga Dance Workshop - 3:00PM, Tuesday 29th November
Language Tasters: Gammēya Dharawal - 3:45PM, Wednesday 30th November*



Jesse Hodgetts

Guthi Mali - To Make a Song

Jesse Hodgetts is a Wangaaypuwan and Wiradjuri man of Western NSW and was born and on Darkinyung country on the Central Coast of NSW. Jesse is a singer and teacher and is a member of the academic team at the Wollotuka Institute of the University of Newcastle, teaching and researching Aboriginal education, language and song.

Jesse is currently completing a PhD in songs and language of Wangaaypuwan and Wiradjuri speakers. He is exploring historic cultural songs and how they can inform Aboriginal song, language and cultural revitalisation in NSW today.

Breakout Session 2: Guthi Mali - To Make a Song- 3:00PM, Tuesday 29th November



Micklo Jarrett

Teaching Language Through Total Physical Response

Has been a Gumbaygnirr Language Teacher for over 20+ years, In that time Gawa Micklo has been delivering community languages classes for 15 over years, all across Gumbaygnirr Country and abroad to a variety of people from preschools, to school to community. Gawa Micklo currently is engaged in regular community work through DEP.

Gawa Micklo was involved in the summer school program through Muurbay from 2007-2009 through Muurbay and has been the Chairperson for Muurbay board since 2019. Gawa Micklo calls Bellwood Nambucca Mission home and comes from a long line of strong goori people, with his mother a Marshall and his F\father a Jarrett, some of Gawa Micklo's earliest fondest memories are remembering Gawa Benji Buchanan and his brothers visiting Stewart island and hearing the old people.

Breakout Session 2: Teaching Language Through Total Physical Response - 3:00PM, Tuesday 29th November

Tegan Murdock

Ngumpie Weaving

Tegan Murdock, born on the 11th of October 1987 and raised in the small country town of Coomealla (25kms north west of Mildura on the NSW and Victorian border of Australia) on the Namatjira Mission. Tegan is a proud member of the Barkindtji tribe originating from Coomealla, Lake Victoria and the Mungo regions from her mothers ancestors.



While also belonging to the Yorta Yorta and Dhudaroah tribes originating from the Shepparton area from her father's ancestors. Tegan uses weaving as healing and medicine, to connect to culture and to share this special craft with the world. She wants to grow her business to showcase our culture and to make sure this beautiful craft is kept alive

Breakout Session 2: Weaving - 3:30PM, Tuesday 29th November

Sharon Edgar-Jones

Interlinear Glossing Workshop

Belonging to Wonnarua, Gringai & Worimi people, Sharon Edgar-Jones has been working towards reclamation and revival of language on Country since 2009. Sharon is a Wonnarua community linguist, recognized and supported by Wonnarua community as well as community organisations (Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Wonnarua Elders Council, Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council, Kiray Putjung Aboriginal Corporation, Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council).



This work extends into Language training through Living Languages as well as a Language consultant/researcher for Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co operative An established author, editor, researcher and teacher, Sharon brings her dedication to Language practice by empowering Language ownership in Community and putting them in the driver's seat on this journey.

Breakout Session 2: Interlinear Glossing Workshop - 3:30PM, Tuesday 29th November



Callum Clayton-Dixon

Callum Clayton-Dixon is an Anaiwan linguist and historian working to develop a dictionary and grammar of the Anaiwan language based on archival records. He is a PhD candidate and Research Fellow with the University of Technology Sydney, and the author of 'Surviving New England: A History of Aboriginal Resistance & Resilience Through the First Forty Years of the Colonial Apocalypse'.

Callum has been involved with Nēwara Aboriginal Corporation (formerly the Anaiwan Language Revival Program) since its inception in 2016.

Day Two Panel: The Revitalisation Journey - 9:30AM, Wednesday 30th November



Priscilla Strasek

Priscilla Strasek is a proud descendant of the Yuwaalaraay, Gamilaraay and Wailwan people. She grew up on country in Lightning Ridge, a small but very diverse town in North West New South Wales. Hearing language growing up and using these words in isolation or in small phrases sparked a curiosity and passion to connect with and understand more about her languages.

In the mid 1990's she had an opportunity to be part of the Yuwaalaraay Language Program and has continued on the language and culture journey ever since, working with Elders and community to reawaken and strengthen language and culture for our future generations. Priscilla has contributed to the development of numerous Gamilaraay/Yuwaalaraay/Yuwaalayaay language resources and implemented GYY language and culture programs within community and educational settings. Her commitment and sense of social justice extends not only to her languages but to all First Nation Languages.

Day Two Panel: The Revitalisation Journey - 9:30AM, Wednesday 30th November

Nathan Brennan

Nathan Brennan is a Gumbaynggirr, Bundjalung and Gamilaraay man residing in Sandy Beach NSW. Nathan's career includes roles with TAFE NSW, Newcastle City Council, CEO of Coffs Harbour and District Local Aboriginal Land Council, Bularri Muurlay Nyanggan Aboriginal Corporation where he is currently their Chief Operations Officer.



He has been involved with the revival of Gumbaynggirr language, teaching classes across Coffs Harbour and Grafton. He is particularly interested in language and its place in traditional cultural land management and practices.

Day Two Panel: The Revitalisation Journey - 9:30AM, Wednesday 30th November

Sarah Kelly

Sarah Kelly is a Worimi, Dunghutti woman from Newcastle and an active member of the local Aboriginal community in which she was born and raised. Prior to joining the Aboriginal Languages Trust, Sarah's work has been within the education system working with students and staff to learn language and culture from K-6. Sarah has also held positions as a Case Manager and Cultural Support Planner for Aboriginal children in care.



Story, song and dance has been an important part of Sarah's life from an early age and she believes this has ignited her passion to work in areas that support the protection of Cultural Heritage, with a focus on the revival and reawakening of Aboriginal Languages of NSW.

Day Two Panel: The Revitalisation Journey - 9:30AM, Wednesday 30th November



Raymond Ingrey

ICIP & Gujaga's journey to economic sustainability

Mr Ray Ingrey is a Dharawal man from the La Perouse Aboriginal community, where he is Deputy Chair of La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, Chair of the La Perouse Aboriginal Community Alliance and Chair of the Gujaga Foundation leading language, culture and research activities in the La Perouse Aboriginal community. Ray has been involved in leading language reclamation activities for nearly 20 years.

Breakout Session 3: ICIP & Gujaga's journey to economic sustainability - 2:30PM, Wednesday 30th November



Liam Price

Language link-up: how Warlpiri can help to revitalise

Liam Price was born in the Warlpiri community of Yuendumu in the Northern Territory. His mother is Warlpiri and his father is from Newcastle, where Liam was raised with his family and the Filipino community. He is a polyglot that was raised speaking 3 languages; English, Warlpiri and Visaya, who also studied French and German extensively in school.

With a background in design, Liam approaches languages constructively, finding ways to facilitate easier learning and communication methods for people. He has worked in the Aboriginal language field since 2019, where he is pushing for more representation of traditional language speakers to lead the Aboriginal language space.

Breakout Session 1: Language link-up: how Warlpiri can help to revitalise - 1:30PM, Tuesday 29th November

Elizabeth Smith & Priscilla Strasek

Sharing Ideas on Creating Resources For Community

Priscilla Strasek and Elizabeth Smith are proud descendants of the Yuwaalaraay people from North-West New South Wales. They were both part of the Yuwaalaraay Language Program that began back in the mid 1990's, and with support from community implemented the first Yuwaalaraay Language Program at Lightning Ridge Central School in 1998.

They have continued on the language and culture journey ever since, working with Elders and community to reawaken and strengthen their language and culture for future generations. Throughout their experiences they have explored, shared, and taken the advice of others on the various ways to support and reinforce language learning, whilst also creating their own resources and programs.

Breakout Session 3: Sharing Ideas on Creating Resources For Community - 2:30PM, Wednesday 30th November



Warlpa Thompson

Paakantji

Warlpa Thompson is a Wiimpitya from Wilcannia with tertiary qualifications in Archaeology and extensive experience working in Cultural Heritage Management. Warlpa previously worked as a Language teacher and continues to guide Language teachers in Western NSW. He has developed a unique skillset and insight into complex socioecological issues.

Warlpa has a passion for Country, language and for finding solutions and creating positive outcomes, and has done so in his career for over 20 years.

Language Tasters: Paakantji - 3:45PM, Wednesday 30th November
Day Three Panel: The connection between Language and Country - 11:15AM, Thursday 1st December





Tom Barker

Speaking Murruwarri

Tom Barker is a proud descendant of the Murruwarri, Yorta Yorta and Wiradjuri people. Tom grew up in Brewarrina and Lightning Ridge in far North West New South Wales, where he was fortunate to learn culture and become an Aboriginal craftsman like his father, Roy Barker Senior. Tom's grandfather, Jimmie Barker has also had a huge influence on his life through his recordings of Murruwarri language and culture. He is passionate about continuing the legacy passed down from his grandfather and father.

His motivation is to see Murruwarri language and culture grow strong and has been teaching language and culture on country. In his spare time, he carries on the tradition of Aboriginal Artefact making whilst also ensuring community has access to the Goondee Keeping Place. Tom is currently employed as the GYY Language and Culture Nest Project Officer.

Language Tasters: Speaking Murruwarri - 3:45PM, Wednesday 30th November



Kris Cook

Bundjalung

Yidabal Galii Maa's aim is to break down cultural barriers and generate a deeper understanding of Aboriginal peoples, histories, and customs within the Far North Coast region of NSW. Operating out of Ballina, our facilitators are descendants of the Nyangbal clan from the broader Bundjalung nation. We are a coastal people who seek to provide our community with opportunities to advance themselves in a culturally safe environment.

We are dedicated to educating the broader community as a means of pushing for reconciliation and awareness whilst sharing our understanding of the land and its importance to all of us. We have a particular passion for educating children as we understand that future generations hold the key to reconciliation. We have an ability to engage with children on a deeper level, providing them with an experience that they will never forget.

Language Tasters: Bundjalung- 3:45PM, Wednesday 30th November

Troy Robinson

Journey to the opening of the Gumbaynggirr Giingana Freedom School

Troy Robinson is a Gumbaynggirr, Dhungutti and Bundjalung person who grew up in and around culture. Troy demonstrates deep respect for Elders, country and community on a continual basis and is central to the normalisation of cultural revitalisation. As a committed language learner for almost a decade Troy is a proficient Gumbaynggirr speaker, which is central to his role as Cultural Director with Bularri Muurlay Nyanggan Aboriginal Corporation.



Day Three Keynote: Journey to the opening of the Gumbaynggirr Giingana Freedom School - 9:40AM, Thursday December 1st

Clark Webb

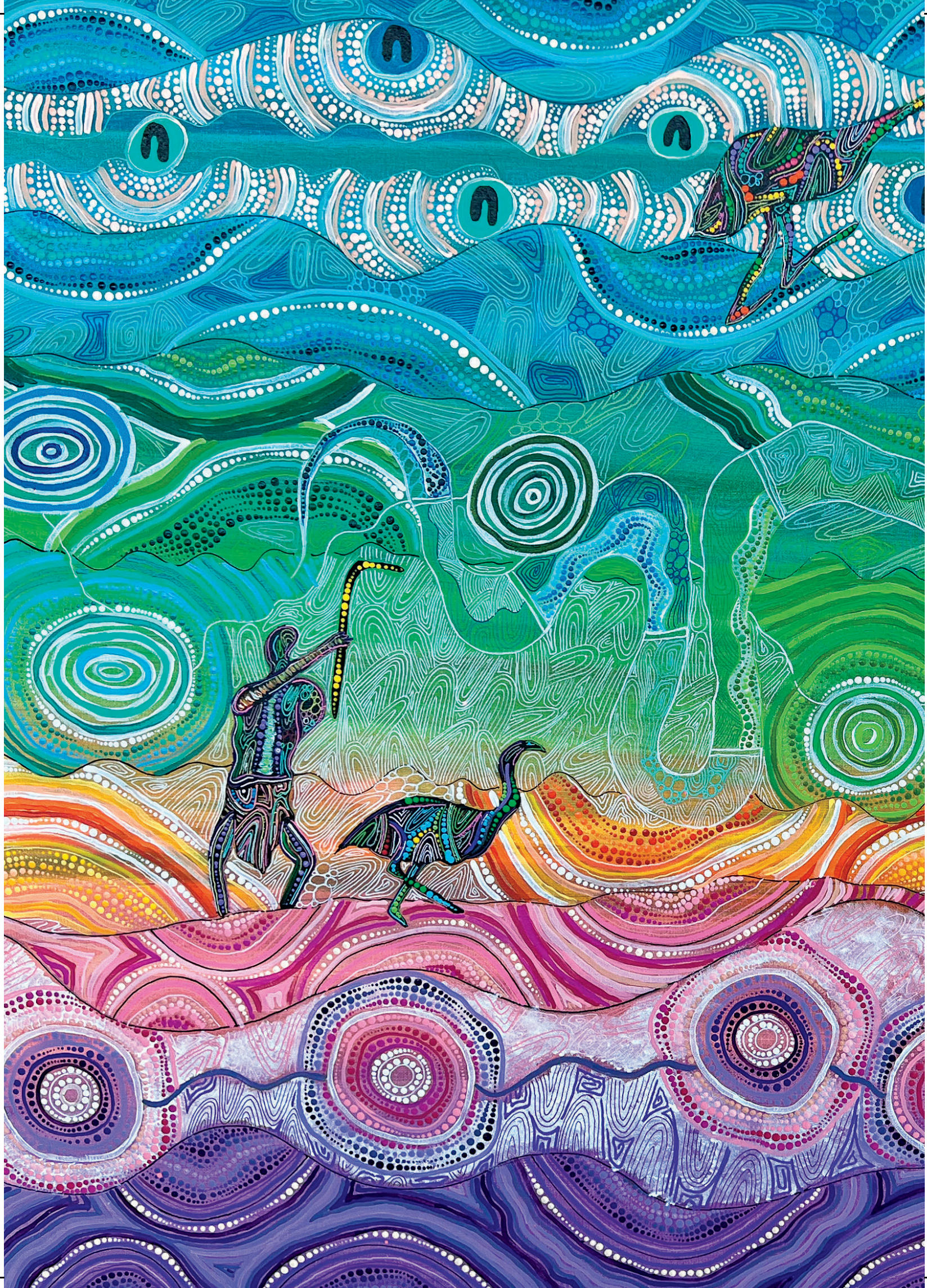
Journey to the opening of the Gumbaynggirr Giingana Freedom School

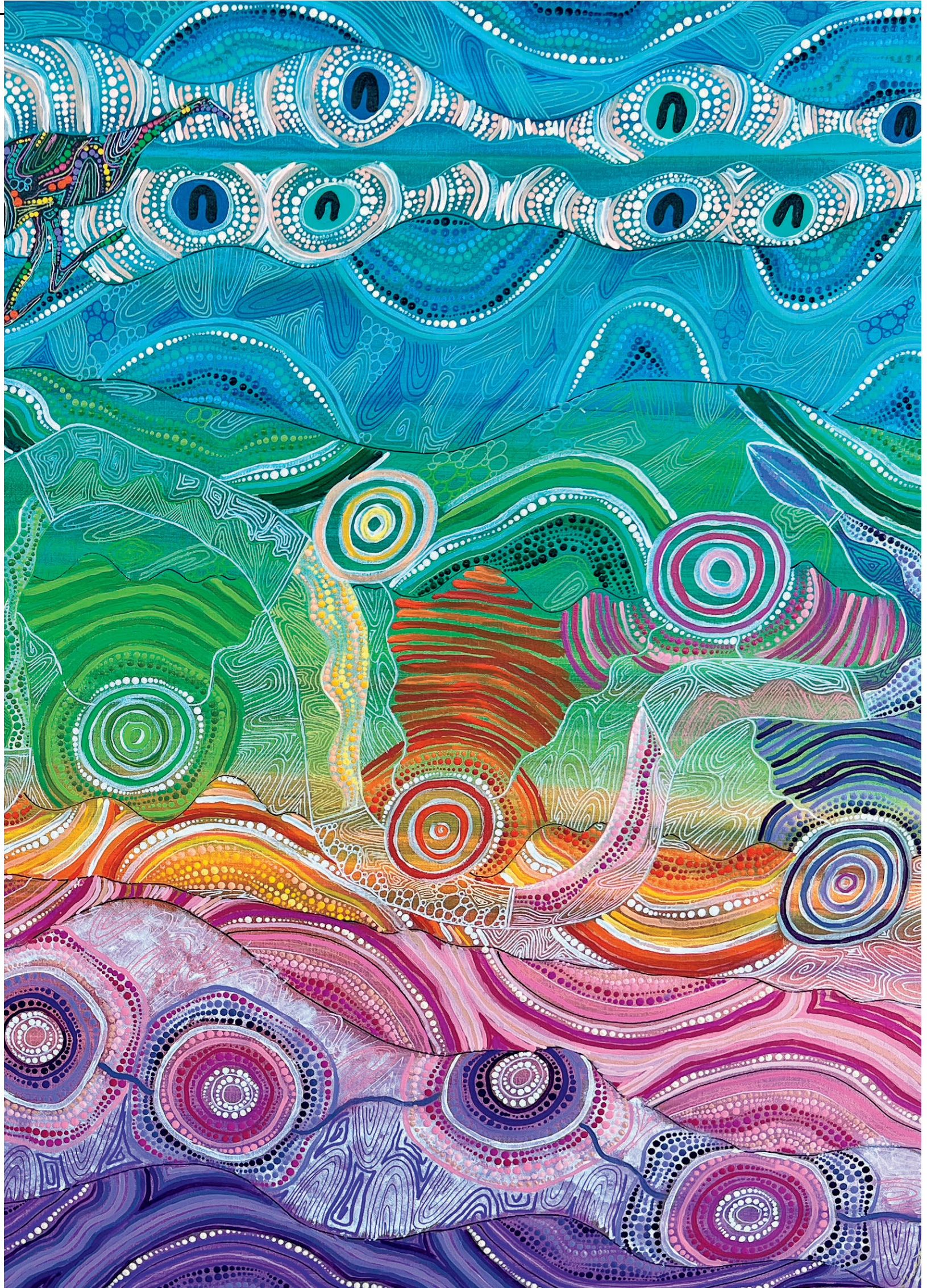
Clark Webb is a Gumbaynggirr and Bundjalung person who lives in Garlambirla (Coffs Harbour) in the heart of Gumbaynggirr country. Clark has been a committed learner and active teacher of Gumbaynggirr language for 16 years and he is the founder and CEO of Bularri Muurlay Nyanggan Aboriginal Corporation (BMNAC) which commenced its programs in 2010.



BMNAC is the proprietor of Gumbaynggirr Giingana Freedom School (GGFS) having built it from goal in 2015 to opening its doors to 14 students in 2022, growing to 47 students in 2023.

Day Three Keynote: Journey to the opening of the Gumbaynggirr Giingana Freedom School - 9:40AM, Thursday December 1st





Dhinawan'gu Garay (Emu's Words)

Our lands and mountains are continuously growing and connecting with each other (purple and pink dot and wave lines), and our People are connected through the identity we have in Country (purple and pink circles connected). I pay respect to my own Country, Gomerioi Country, our waterholes and rivers (in green). I pay respect to the Sun (orange) and to Waaway the Rainbow Serpent, who connect all People, Animals and Countries. I pay respect to our shared Dreaming (in blue), the stars of Mooki (Mugaay) the Milky Way (white dots) and our Ancestors (circles within circles). Our Languages hold all of this and connect us all (many different coloured lines, many Languages). I pay respect to the old Dhinawan Aunt, teaching the nephew Language of his Country and the Dreaming of his Ancestors in the Mooki (Mugaay).

Kyle Waters-Sampson

Kyle is a 20-year-old Gomerioi man, originally from a small community named Walhallow/Caroona mission, outside of Tamworth. Kyle's family moved to the Central Coast when he was 16 years old. Selling his first painting during high school, Kyle's art is now featured around the Central Coast, with his largest piece showcased at Gosford Hospital. Kyle paints his Dreaming and connections with Country using bright colours and images that reflect his own journey.

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