22nd International RIVER SYMPOSIUM

EXCELLENCE – COLLABORATION – INTEGRATION

20–24 OCT 2019, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

RESILIENT RIVERS

MANAGED BY INTERNATIONAL RIVER FOUNDATION
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

I wish to acknowledge we are standing on Aboriginal land, with sovereignty that has never been relinquished.
I pay my respects to Countrymen of this land, and also pay my respects to those who came before, whose wisdom is a beacon for our futures.

Wongamar, mentor and senior Elder of the Wiradjuri Nation

Look after the land the bush and the rivers and the land the bush and the rivers will look after you.

Our most treasured blessings are our people.
This paper discusses how the theme of connection to the river has a particular significance for Indigenous people. The research discusses communities in the Murray Darling Basin, both on the Murray River, and also the Northern Basin. The paper describes the complex relationship of traditional knowledge regarding ecosystems and how this is shared through community art projects which support community values regarding protecting cultural heritage and aspirations to celebrate this heritage and river connection.
Discussing connection through creative practice

Two Rivers:
- Murray River
- Warrego River

- Twin Themes
- Environment
- People
- Spirit

THE WAGIRRA TRAIL: INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGES: A WIRADJURI EXPERIENCE.

DAWN of TIME

ICE-AGE

TRADITION

Contemporary Times

THE WAGIRRA TRAIL
A Wiradjuri Narrative of the River, Land and Sky:
incorporating Natural History & maayin (human) history of Millawa Billa

MEMORY

ANECDOTES

CEREMONY & STORY

CONNECTION IDENTITY

Archives Libraries Books

White tales

LAW

SHARING

Stories handed down

MURRAY RIVER PROJECT

A Wiradjuri Narrative of the River: Millawa Billa.

An Indigenous way of Doing
Reconciliation Shield

• Artists Statement: from Tamara Murray. I am a Barkindji woman on my mums side and Yorta Yorta on my Dad’s side. I love living on Wiradjuri Country- it keeps me strong in culture and connected with both the land and the people. I believe that the River is the Giver to everyone who lives in or visits our community.
Children, Totems and the River celebrated through River Red Gum Sculptures
< JAIDYN
The figure on the left demonstrates the process of constructing a river red-gum sculpture from a design. The photo is of two Goanna climbing a tree out near Tibooburra, North West NSW. The visuals here demonstrate the knowledge base of the artist, Malyangaba student Jaidyn, starting from a drawing which mimics life: showing the climbing disposition of Goanna.

Yindyamarra Sculptural Walk,
Wagirra Trail. Murray River, Albury

Murray River Work of the children; nature and other influences

LIAM >
Figure on Right: One of the interesting aspects of critiquing Aboriginal art work are the exciting cross-overs and coincidences that take on metaphysical dimensions. The Goanna design and sculpture by Liam provides such an inexplicable phenomenon.
His Goannas are reminiscent of an ancient beast which is part of the stories of the Murray Darling Basin as told by Badger Bates’ linocut and is a powerful Dreaming story for the River people of the Darling
Exploring concepts of Caring for Country

The events which led to the fledging of the Baby Parrots created a situation for the Yindyamarra Sculpture Walk projects team that was unanticipated, but made us all realise about the relevance of nature within the paradigm of our expectation, and more importantly, our ethics and protocols regarding ecological issues.

Recommendation 1:5 from The Wagirra Trail Project Report (2013) says “that respect is shown to the Country and the ecology of the river and its environs through appropriate behaviour.”
WARREGO RIVER

Community art and cultural practices within an Outback River community’s curriculum.
Celebration of River community of Cunnamulla: Opening of art Show, Cunnamulla Museum and Art Gallery, October 2019.
Strong Culture, Strong Community.

Connection to mission days and the Yumba
Curriculum in community contexts that supports transformation through innovation and creativity.

Exploring stories of fish species through visual depiction
Thank you!