

Ngadjuri Basket Sculpture

Due to previous successful funding I spent three days with Ngadjuri artist Sonya Rankine researching materials to finalise the concept for the Ngadjuri Basket Sculpture. We had private time with top Indigenous archivists at both the State Library and SA Museum viewing artefacts, photographs and written material in relation to Ngadjuri history. In consultation with Aunty Pat Waria-Read we visited public art sites in the Adelaide Hills including Laratinga wetlands. Keith Jackson at Redhill donated ample bull wire to the project and Sonya and I spent one day trialing how to replicate the traditional Ngadjuri weaving. I am thrilled that further funding (\$12,800) has been successful from the Dept. of Premier & Cabinet for the Arts SA category for Public Art & Design. This grant will cover costs associated with the actual construction of the sculpture, including artist fees, materials and the stone plinth.



Arts Strategy Goyder

The second draft has been reedited. I am awaiting feedback from Country Arts SA before logging the strategy to Council for review. Currently seeking quotes for design and printing. A suggested date for the launch could coincide with the unveiling of the Ngadjuri Basket Sculpture, perhaps a NAIDOC event in July 2022.

Mosaic Trail Eudunda

Consultation has continued with The Hub members and staff in particular Ruth Colben who has written the text for a pamphlet showcasing a mosaic trail through the town. I will complete a second draft with selected photographs for our next meeting on February 15th 2022 at The Hub. This pamphlet will be displayed at the Eudunda Visitor Info site in the main street.



SALA Eudunda

A combined interest for SALA (SA Living Artists) in Eudunda has created an energetic 10-person steering committee, to assist the planning of a SALA Goyder Trail in August 2022. Both artists and business people have twice met with me. At this stage the theme is Birds. I am designing packs for local schools to be involved. We imagine multiple cut-outs of various birds to be decorated by students and community people, as displayed as flocks in open areas. I will be talking to the CMC in Farrell Flat, Robertstown, Booborowie and Hallett to join the trail. We are drafting an invitation to local photographers and professional artists to gauge interest for an exhibition to be held in the Eudunda Hall.

Ngadjuri NAIDOC

Over the past months I have been a committee member for the Ngadjuri NAIDOC event hosted by Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council. The event on Saturday 29th January 2022 was another success. It is the first time Torres Strait Islander dancing was performed. I helped to judge an inaugural Children's Diarama and Poetry completion. The kangaroo tail stew cooked in the camp ovens was delicious!



Survival Day

This event was funded through the Australia Day GRANT and in partnership with Country Arts SA and is a first for the region. Survival Day events occur across Australia to profile Aboriginal conversations and performers. The morning began with a small breakfast (covid restricted) for Ngadjuri families and invited key persons. It was meaningful that Deputy Mayor John Neal and Country Arts SA CEO Anthony Peluso came to mingle and chat. The support from Elders from Point Pearce on the Yorke Peninsula confirmed the impact for Ngadjuri to be hosted on their traditional country.

Aunty Pat Waria-Read opened the free public concert reminding the audience of the importance of acknowledging our shared history and the positive changes that can occur through genuine conversation and friendship. Four generations of her family joined her on the day.

The Aboriginal performers were Robbie Edwards, Kahl Wallis, Sonya Rankine and Warren Milera and the MC was internationally acclaimed comedian Kevin Kropinyeri. Held on the lawns of Paxton Bible Chapel it was a beautiful and intimate afternoon. A poignant comment from Karmen Teakle from Bower reflected the success of the day “by the way these messages for change were conveyed, not by protest, by heartfelt talks, comedy, poetry and music”.





Both NAIDOC Day and Survival Day were dedicated to Uncle Vince Copley RIP who passed away on January 10th 2022.

Country Arts SA continue to host forums and meetings for its First Nations staff, now 5 employees.

I shall be spending some days in Adelaide to attend these, covid permitting.