



# NEWSLETTER

NHARANGGA ABORIGINAL PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC

... *taking care of people, language, culture and Country* · January 2022

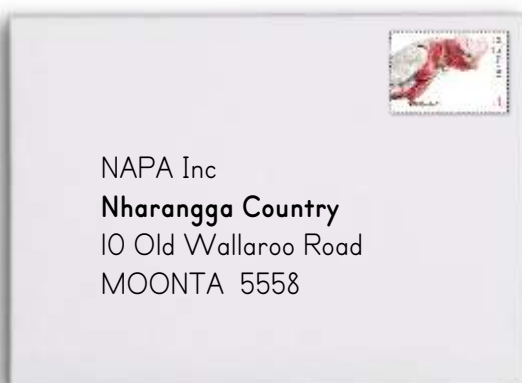
*buggilu, garri, dhargarri  
ngadlu yarda*

#alwayswasalwayswillbeourland

spectacular photograph of West Cape by Benjamin Goode



From [www.naidoc.org.au](http://www.naidoc.org.au) ... We have a proud history of getting up, standing up, and showing up. From the frontier wars and our earliest resistance fighters to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities fighting for change today — we continue to show up. Now is our time. We cannot afford to lose momentum for change. We all must continue to ***Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!*** for systemic change and keep rallying around our mob, our Elders, our communities. Whether it's seeking proper environmental, cultural and heritage protections, Constitutional change, a comprehensive process of truth-telling, working towards treaties, or calling out racism — we must do it together.



For those who haven't yet heard, Australia Post is Acknowledging Traditional Custodians of Country by supporting use of their names in addressing mail. They are also adding Acknowledgement of Country and a dedicated space for inclusion of traditional place names in the address panel of a number of their satchels. Nharangga Banggara (Country) extends from Broughton River in the north, across to the Hummocks and Wakefield River and all the way down to Dhilba Guuranda — Innes National Park. So next time you're using 'snail mail' remember to include the appropriate Country - <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia>

# LOTS of language

Have you headed on over to [www.napainc.com.au](http://www.napainc.com.au) to have a listen to our language podcasts? One of the reasons people love them is their convenience; you can listen to them anywhere, whatever you're doing. You can learn at your own pace, stop, start and repeat for reinforcement, and listen to them on your own, or learn as a group. To support your learning, we have a range of language resources including adults' and beginners' dictionaries, grammar, beginners' readers, CDs and games.



for Nharangga language lessons,  
clarification, Welcome to Country and  
more, contact expert consultant

**Tania Wanganeen**  
cherese10@outlook.com



NAPA are continuing work to secure language for the community into the future. This includes the development of a database that will not only record words and their meanings, but sentence structure, grammar and pictures. It will have the content to create all kinds of resources quickly and easily and will be added to as new words are developed.

Tania and Lesley Wanganeen were guest speakers at a recent meeting of ACEOs (Aboriginal Community Education Officers) at Kadina recently. They spoke about the importance of language and culture in education and have been invited to be regular contributors, sharing their considerable knowledge.

We were recently asked by a new landowner to assist them with naming their 250 acre piece of land. It was decided to call it *Marawardi Bush Block*, 'marawardi' being the Nharangga word for the sleepy lizard (*Tiliqua rugosa*) since there are so many of them in the vicinity. Their son has a passionate interest these fascinating reptiles and impressively, has already begun keeping records on the ones they've located so far.

Very commonly found on *Guuranda* (Yorke Peninsula), *marawardi* have a home range of around ten acres (four hectares) and move about 500 metres per day. They are

a species of skink that are monogamous and have been known to return to the same partner for up to twenty years. One or two considerable sized babies are born live and stay with their parents for several months.

For Nharangga dhura (people) they were a traditional, and favourite food, the tail being the best bit. High in protein, easy to catch and abundant, we knew that they would be about when the *gargalla* (pig face) was flowering. Thank you to Lochie Cameron for the fabulous photo.



Ngayi ngargudji dhura • My family are eating dinner



Congratulations to our Chairperson, Michael Wanganeen, on his two year appointment to the South Australian State Library and State Records Aboriginal Reference Group. The group will play an important and active role in guiding the development and implementation of programs, activities and services that relate to Aboriginal people and cultures.

Both Lesley and Michael Wanganeen have again sat with the Magistrate at Nunga Court in Maitland, providing cultural advice. Their role is to participate in a culturally appropriate sentencing conference to influence best possible outcomes for Nharangga people.

These initiatives are further examples of how NAPA is committed to the Nharangga community and we are proud of the dedicated Elders who participate.



NAPA recently worked with SYP Community Hub of Yorketown to deliver a Cultural Awareness session at Maitland as part of their Resilient YP Communities project. Lesley Wanganeen shared her extensive knowledge and understanding of Nharangga culture, language, Country and wellbeing, while Project Officer, Cathy Glazbrook spoke about the detrimental effects of colonisation on both *Guuranda* (Yorke Peninsula) and its people. They were provided a brief to first tell the Nharangga story, and early next year will come back for further discussions and insights. We thank Kate and Katie for inviting us and to participants for their positive engagement and feedback. You can read about it here on a participant's blog: <https://bit.ly/nharangga>

Recently NAPA have also been involved with the Department for Education in developing a curriculum for middle school children around Aboriginal Science. What society today gives any number of letters after one's name and intimidating titles, Nharangga people simply knew as caring for Country.

Aboriginal expertise is tens of thousands of years old and evolved to meet their Country's specific needs: the world's first sharpened stone tools, the first resin, the first bread, and what we now call aerodynamics, chemistry, medicine, physics, astronomy, earth and ocean sciences, land management, hydrology, aquaculture, navigation, meteorology, geology, biology, botany, engineering ... just fancy names for ancient skill!



We've also been exploring the expertise and incredible skill of Nharangga people prior to colonisation to celebrate their many abilities ...

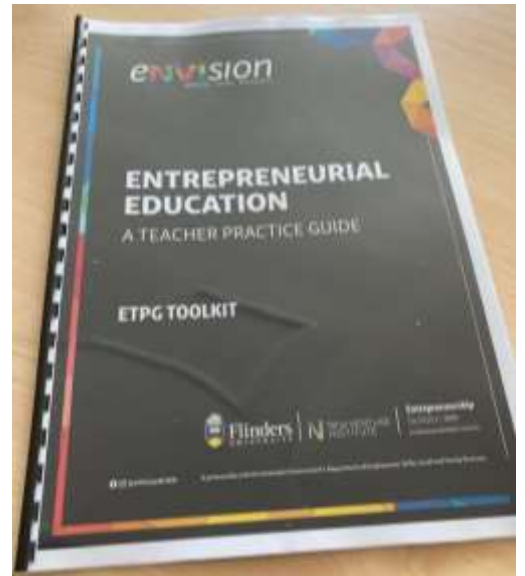


The angled shape and asymmetrical curves of *wadna* (boomerangs / throwing sticks) utilises one of the most complicated principles of aerodynamics: asymmetrical lift. With the technology perfected over thousands of years, it was an effective tool that inspired the shape of modern aircraft wings. The *wiyaru* (woomera), also utilises complex principles in its success.

We recently participated in a workshop on 'Entrepreneurial Education' seeking better outcomes for Nharangga students. It was a fascinating day as we worked alongside a number of local schools to discuss the methodology and how it might be implemented.

Entrepreneurial education teaches essential life skills such as innovative approaches to solve real world problems, collaboration and working together. It helps students, and teachers, to think outside the box and nurtures unconventional talents and skills. Students are empowered to think creatively, to seek and solve problems, to empathise with others, to take risks and accept failure as part of the learning process. It's an innovative methodology and we're excited to pursue opportunity to provide more effective training.

NAPA are proud to enter partnerships with **MADEC**, the **Local Jobs Program** and the **Australian Army** to develop training and pre-employment programs. Our big shed, next to the office, will undergo some renovations next year to house some exciting programs, not only in training, but also for community, Elders and well-being. **Legatus** have also embarked on a partnership which we anticipate will lead to further opportunities.



Enormous thanks to **SA Water** and to volunteers Wendy, Rick and Lil for their amazing support of the re-establishment of our bush tucker garden. Works are currently focusing on preparation for planting next autumn.

We look forward to the garden again flourishing and welcome any offers of volunteer assistance with horticulture, fencing and all things gardening. So if you've got some time up your sleeve, we'd love you to give us a hand.

Our volunteer gardeners are also on the hunt for railway sleepers, or other suitable timber from which to build raised garden beds. If you have any that you'd be willing to donate, please let us know.

**GUURANDA  
DHIDNAMUGA  
MANDIGUMUGA  
NHIBU MUGA**

Yorke Peninsula Football League have announced that all clubs are interested in participating in the 2022 Indigenous Round to be held during round 15 on 30<sup>th</sup> July. NAPA have again committed to supporting this important round acknowledging that all YPFL games are played on Nharangga Banggara (Country). Nharangga players have made a massive contribution to local football and netball, as well as the AFL. We have our fingers crossed to be able to bring a full programme next season, Covid restriction free!

Sincere thanks to the South Australian Government Department of Human Services for supporting the compilation of Nharangga cultural information to be published into a book early next year. We are an accomplished and proud people with many expertise, and we look forward to sharing this new work with you.



**ngayi wardlinu bammadja**  
I'm going home



**marni bammani**  
goodbye (or travel safely)



NAPA have been pleased to work with a number of other Progress Associations across Country over the past year. Currently we're working with Ardrossan Progress Association with a project to protect some stunning grasslands and rare plants. The area is scattered with an incredible diversity of small native grasses and wildflowers (such as this 'billy button' mini version), and close by is the rare leek orchid. We'll be supporting them by providing Nharangga language and information for their interpretive signage.



nhinni anni nhagudja  
what do you see



Elders recently represented NAPA during discussions at Dhilba Guuranda – Innes National Park where we'll help with the use of language in co-naming and interpretive signage. Nharangga Elders have been working together with Landscapes SA and National Parks and Wildlife to properly acknowledge and honour this ancient land of our Ancestors that has provided for our people for millennia. We are proud to be part of this project on Country.

## WE THANK OUR FUNDERS ...



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\*generally open Monday to Wednesday from 10am to 3pm

