

BRINGING CULTURE, COMMUNITY
AND THE ENVIRONMENT TOGETHER.



KOOYAR
WONGI

CULTURE • COMMUNITY • ENVIRONMENT





WHO WE ARE

Kooyar Wongi is a 100% Aboriginal-owned business, established in 2018, and based in the heart of the South West of WA on Nyungar Country. The name "Kooyar Wongi" means 'Frog Talk/Talking' in Nyungar language.



OUR VISION

To be a leading Nyungar-owned business that serves as a source of inspiration and leadership within the Nyungar community, contributing to job creation and philanthropic efforts.

OUR VALUES

Integration of Nyungar Culture and Business: Merging traditional and contemporary Nyungar cultural values with business professionalism to deliver a unique brand and suite of services for various organisations, including community-based groups, government entities, and large private enterprises.

OUR OBJECTIVES

Mainstreaming Nyungar Heritage: Promoting Nyungar language, perspectives, culture, and heritage in organisational capacity, policy, and procedural development.



SACRED
PLACE



CORROBOREE
GROUND



TADPOLES



BOODJA

OUR SERVICES

We specialise in four key service areas:



SACRED PLACE

(Cultural Heritage Protection and Management)

We focus on the protection and management of Nyungar culture and heritage, offering:

- Cultural heritage management plans
- Facilitation of Aboriginal community consultation for culture and heritage management
- Cultural heritage protection and management solutions for businesses, government, and community sectors, particularly in mining, forestry, development, and construction.



CORROBOREE GROUND

(Community Engagement and Capacity Building)

We facilitate community engagement and capacity building through:

- Cross-cultural awareness training
- Organizational cultural competency development
- Cultural safety advice and assistance
- Event management and facilitation
- Engagement and communications strategy development
- Workshop facilitation, team building, and grant writing



BOODJA

(Environmental Conservation and Management)

Boodja means land/country in Nyungar language. Our services include:

- Rehabilitation plan development
- Environmental management plan development
- Grant, tender, and quotation development for environmental services
- Site assessment and environmental monitoring



TADPOLES

(Early Childhood-Youth Education, Development, and Mentoring)

We aim to develop confidence and pride in young people, embedding core values of environmental protection and respect for cultural diversity through:

- Incursions and excursions to teach Nyungar culture and the South-West environment
- Cultural development activities
- Art activities and youth mentoring



MEET OUR TEAM

MANAGEMENT



WILLIAM (BILLY) BENNELL

Principal Director

A proud Ballardong-Whadjuk Nyungar maarman with ancestral ties to Wilmen Boodja and the Bunbury area, he has nearly 30 years of experience in land management, cultural heritage protection, and Aboriginal community capacity development across Australia. Bill has extensive networks across the state and country, dedicated to bridging the gaps in cultural understanding and truth-telling between Aboriginal people and mainstream society.



NERILEE BOSHAMMER- BENNELL

General Manager

Nerilee has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management and is a Certified Environmental Practitioner with EIANZ. With 18 years of experience in environmental management and community engagement in the south-west of WA, specialising in Aboriginal community engagement, capacity building and enterprise development, Nerilee is committed to ensuring the sustainability of rural and regional areas.



At Kooyar Wongi, our team is our greatest strength. Each member brings a deep connection to culture, a wealth of experience, and a passion for sharing knowledge. Grounded in the values of respect, collaboration and truth-telling, we work together to deliver culturally responsive, community-focused outcomes. With backgrounds in cultural heritage, environmental management, education, and engagement, our team offers a diverse skill set grounded in lived experience and cultural integrity. Whether we are working on Country, in the classroom, or alongside partners on large-scale projects, we bring care, commitment and cultural depth to everything we do.

STAFF



SUMMER BENNELL-BRINKWORTH

Training Facilitator

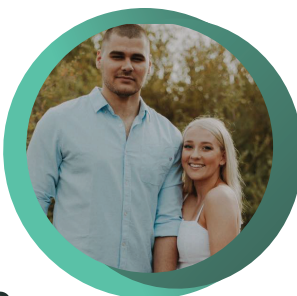
Summer is a Ballardong-Whadjuk Nyungar yorga who brings her unique flair to our training delivery, with her ability to share stories and cultural knowledge in a way that sets participants at ease. With a proficiency in graphic design and artistry, Summer also has extensive knowledge and experience in communication, administration and project management. Summer is a mother of 1 and achieved the NAIDOC Award for creative talent in 2024.



JAYD KENNEDY

Training Facilitator

A proud Indigenous woman with ancestral ties to Yamatji-Wajirri and Noongar-Yued Country, Jayd brings a wealth of experience to our training team. With a dynamic background spanning industries including heritage, mining, state government, childhood cultural education and tourism, Jayd's journey has evolved into a fervent commitment to collaborating with Indigenous communities. Her passion and remarkable dedication to making a meaningful impact harmonises seamlessly with our vision.



HANNAH BENNELL

Administration Assistant

Hannah has been working as Kooyar Wongi's administration assistant since February 2024. Hannah is a mother of two, an experienced early childhood educator, and is committed to ensuring that our cross-cultural awareness training sessions are organised, providing administrative and communications support to the business.





OUR EXPERIENCE

CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

We have provided a range of Nyungar cultural awareness-raising, training and educational activities – including workshops, on-Country walks, hands on connection with culture and artwork – to private companies, organisations, institutions, schools, not-for-profits and community groups since we started out in 2018.

Just to name a few, we've worked with Cahoots, Bridgetown-Greenbushes Landcare, Blackwood Basin Group, Manea College, Bunbury Grammar, schools across the Southern Forests region, Sandfire Resources, Frasers Property Development and the Bunbury Regional Hospital.

NATIONAL TRUST WA

In 2020, we were engaged by the National Trust WA to develop an Aboriginal Engagement Framework for Noongar Country, to guide how the organisation interacts with Aboriginal community and stakeholders and celebrates Noongar Country and culture at the heritage sites they manage. We also delivered cross-cultural awareness training to Trust personnel and volunteers, in collaboration with local Traditional Owners.

SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE

We have conducted a number of cross-cultural awareness training sessions for the Legal Centre staff and undertook Reconciliation Action Planning development advice and assistance.

KATANNING LANDCARE

We provided strategic community engagement, communications and cultural advisory services to update their promotional and communications materials for a range of community stakeholders.

CSIRO

We provided Aboriginal engagement advice and assistance to an environmental accounting project and developed an accompanying case study that has assisted in CSIRO's relationships with Aboriginal people and organisations in south coast WA.

FORTESCUE

We have been working with Fortescue in providing regular Cross-Cultural Awareness Training to Fortescue personnel and contractors since 2022, to increase their awareness and appreciation for Nyungar culture, heritage and Country. This ongoing training is an important part of Fortescue's commitment to preserving and promoting Aboriginal history and culture, creating opportunities for Aboriginal people, and their approach to operating sustainably and responsibly.

BUNBURY OUTER RING ROAD

We were engaged by the South West Gateway Alliance (SWGA) - the construction Alliance awarded the Bunbury Outer Ring Road (BORR) construction project – in 2019 and has been central to the SWGA's ongoing Aboriginal heritage, community engagement, participation and placemaking approach to implementing the project up until 2024.

This includes the development of a detailed Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP) and associated policy and procedures so that the project can protect and manage Aboriginal cultural heritage values within and associated with the project footprint. It has been very well received by the local Traditional Owners and the BORR project team. Bill Bennell is also providing ongoing advice, assistance and oversight to the implementation of the AHMP for the life of the project.

An important part of the approach recommended as part of the AHMP implementation, which contributes to its success, has been the establishment of an Aboriginal Heritage Advisory Group for the Project. This group meets regularly to provide advice and oversight to the SWGA and a two-way communication flow on an ongoing basis, to ensure appropriate local Aboriginal participation.

Additionally, we were engaged by the SWGA to provide strategic advice and input into the Aboriginal heritage, community engagement and cultural place-making elements of the BORR project, for the duration.

We also facilitated Nyungar community cultural placemaking and delivered cultural immersion, competence and awareness training sessions for SWGA personnel, to assist in the culturally responsible delivery of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road Project.

Bill was also on the Aboriginal Participation Advisory Group for the project for some time, including one year as Chair, providing advice and oversight to how the project is tracking in its Aboriginal participation targets.

SWALSC

Cultural Landscape Management Strategic Planning: We were engaged by SWALSC in 2019- 2020 to create a fully costed and time-lined Cultural Landscape Management Strategy to assist in the development of sea, land and heritage management plans for lands coming back to the Regional Corporations through the Southwest Native Title Settlement and Joint Management. This provided the initial guidance to SWALSC in the transition of planning for the management of Noongar Boodja and cultural heritage, in a culturally appropriate manner.

MAIN ROADS WA

Aboriginal Community & Nursery Capacity - Bunbury Outer Ring Road Project Feasibility Study:

A major requirement of project works for construction of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road (BORR) was the implementation of a revegetation and landscaping program, requiring significant native plant stock and a key focus of the BORR was to provide local employment and business development opportunities in the Greater Bunbury region and wider South West Region. Aboriginal participation was mandated as part of this, with targets put in place for both Aboriginal employment and engagement of Aboriginal businesses.

As such, Main Roads engaged majority Aboriginal owned business Gambara, in partnership with Kooyar Wongi, to undertake a feasibility study into the involvement of Aboriginal people and business in the expansion of nursery delivery and involvement in the implementation of the revegetation activities. This study involved engagement with local Aboriginal community, Aboriginal Corporations and local community nurseries to explore and report on the opportunities, to advise the implementation of the BORR revegetation program.



TESTIMONIALS

"Thanks for a great training day, really enjoyed the experience and would 100% recommend. Thanks guys!"

-Tahleisha Mustica, South West Community Legal Centre (November 2018)

"Nerilee and Bill delivered an outstanding level of professional services to Katanning Landcare. We are delighted to have worked with them and highly recommend them."

-Andrea Salmond, Executive Officer, Katanning Landcare (October 2019)

"Kooyar Wongi have developed a fantastic cultural awareness class focusing on local Aboriginal Culture that many of the participants so far have said is the best and most engaging cultural awareness session they have been to. Kooyar Wongi are a professional and engaging business who are always a pleasure to deal with."

-Shane Spaulding, FMG Supervisor Training, Standards and Delivery (2024)

"I have worked with Bill and Nerilee for over two years now. They have implemented a cultural immersions program for us on the Bunbury Outer Ring Road project. Bill has also been an extremely valuable strategic advisor to me on all things Aboriginal participation. He authored our Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan and helped to co-design the approach we took to develop the plan in collaboration with our Heritage Advisory Group made up of Wilman and Wandandi Elders."

-Nicole Walton, Principal, Engagement and Change Advisory, Aurecon (2024)

Fortescue CCAT Participant Feedback

"My knowledge was extremely limited, compared to what I have learned today! Such an interesting mix of history, stories, information and just a lot of points to reflect on and carry forward."

"Bill and his daughter were incredible in explaining their culture. The amount of knowledge was amazing and their passion for their culture is just lovely."

"I was aware of some of the information; however, this course was very thorough and presented in a way that was easy to understand and relate to. It has given me greater knowledge and understanding of the Noongar culture and behaviours".

"I've done quite a bit of work with Aboriginal people and organisations, but I still learnt new things today – it was a great session and a great reminder of the importance of truth telling".

"Being from up North, I didn't know much about Nyungar culture. Bill and Summer were great facilitators today, sharing their knowledge."

"I have done a lot of courses on aboriginal culture previously, but this course went into the most detail on many topics."

"I recommend that this course be taught to everyone in Perth."

"Keep doing all that you are!! Best CAT I've undertaken."

"I was surprised I enjoyed it as much as I did!"



OTHER CREDENTIALS

Kooyar Wongi is a member of the Nyungar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, certified with Supply Nation, Australia's leading database of verified Indigenous businesses, and the WA State Government's Aboriginal Business Directory.



ABORIGINAL BUSINESS
DIRECTORY WA

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For more information about Kooyar Wongi and links to our social media platforms, please visit www.kooyarwongi.com.au.



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