

OUR

A Compact to Celebrate

STORY

All Western Australians.

OUR

Presented by Celebrate WA

VOICE



THE COMPACT

**Our Story Our Voice:
A Compact to Celebrate All Western Australians**

Celebrate WA invites:

- Aboriginal communities across the State
- The State Government of Western Australia
- The Opposition and other political parties
- WA's nine Regional Development Commissions
- Local Government Authorities
- Corporate and philanthropic sectors

to commit to support and work through this Compact to acknowledge and celebrate the histories and cultures of all Western Australians.

The focus of this Compact is to work together and agree on how to acknowledge the histories, the diverse cultures and the contributions made by Aboriginal people to the state of Western Australia. It presents a process to be undertaken, to consult with the Aboriginal community across the State through a set of recommendations and themes that position the way forward to make meaningful a state-wide change.

The Compact aligns with Celebrate WA's strategic pillar in 'Celebrating Cultural Collaboration in WA' and the goal to foster and promote cultural inclusiveness in the Western Australian community.

6 December 2013

Acknowledgements

The facilitators and project coordination team acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar people on whose land this conversation took place; those who have gone before us, those who are here today, and those who will come in the future.

We wish to thank the Board and staff of Celebrate WA for their leadership and vision and continuing support of this conversation.

We would also sincerely like to thank all of those who participated in the day for their commitment to a respectful conversation informed by considered thoughts, personal perspectives and experiences.

We would also like to thank Community Partner Lotterywest and the State Government of Western Australia through the Department of Premier and Cabinet for providing the funds to make this important event possible.

CONTENTS

Forewords 4

| | |
|---|---|
| John Poynton AM, Chairman of Celebrate WA | 4 |
| Professor Colleen Hayward AM, Aboriginal Board Member of Celebrate WA | 5 |

Introduction 6

| | |
|---------|---|
| Context | 6 |
| Process | 7 |
| Purpose | 7 |

Summary of Findings 8

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Five Key Recommendations | 9 |
| Tangible Outcomes for 2014 | 10 |

Next Steps 12

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Design Thinking Process | 12 |
|-------------------------|----|

Invitations to join The Compact 14

Themes to Emerge 20

The Report 34

FOREWORDS



John Poynton ^{AM}
Chair of Celebrate WA

The Aboriginal people of Western Australia have a long and deep connection with the vast landscape of our State. When we mark WA Day each year it is vital that this relationship is recognised, acknowledged and celebrated.

In 2012, when State Parliament established an annual WA Day holiday, one of the bipartisan goals was to create a point in time when a wider range of voices and cultures could be heard in the celebration of our history and future aspirations.

WA Day was particularly seen as providing a high profile public opportunity for greater expression of our Aboriginal heritage and the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal people to our community.

As the custodian of WA Day, Celebrate WA has been given the unique role of making sure that all the cultures that comprise and contribute to our State are engaged and included in our public holiday.

In 2013, in the lead up to our second WA Day, the Board of Celebrate WA decided it was important to have a direct conversation with the Aboriginal communities of Western Australia about how they would like their past, present and future stories to be included in the event.

This discussion paper records their initial response. It is the result of an intimate conversation between

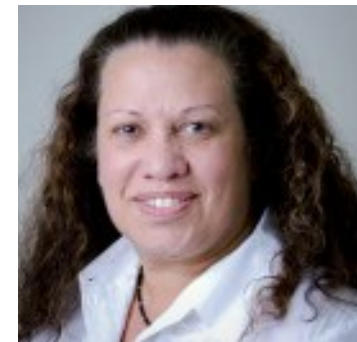
Aboriginal representatives from across the State. Celebrate WA facilitated and listened to the conversation, but was not a direct participant. Our role was to capture the viewpoints, ideas and goals of the Aboriginal representatives who attended.

The process of bringing together existing and aspiring Aboriginal leaders was unique. The Board of Celebrate WA is deeply appreciative of the Lotterywest funding that ensured the meeting could take place. I personally appreciate the effort and commitment of all the Aboriginal representatives who took the time to participate on behalf of their far-flung communities.

For Celebrate WA, this document is a road map, with signposts that direct us along the best routes to ensuring greater Aboriginal “ownership” of all future celebrations of Western Australia.

Celebrate WA’s intention in 2014 and beyond is to act on the themes that emerge in this document. Our Board intends to help turn talk into action by ensuring greater Aboriginal representation, engagement and input into WA Day events.

In 2014 we will be aiming to increase the recognition of Aboriginal contributions to Western Australia through specific event activities; in the way we tell the stories of Western Australia in the media and online; and in a greater visible Aboriginal presence in our celebrations.



Professor Colleen Hayward ^{AM}
Aboriginal Board Member
of Celebrate WA

As a Board member of Celebrate WA it has been particularly pleasing for me to facilitate this initiative with the support of our valued Community Partner, Lotterywest. I believe it is the first time that Aboriginal representatives have held a detailed discussion about what role to play in WA Day – our State’s major celebration.

The bipartisan goal behind renaming WA Day was to ensure greater inclusion of the Aboriginal community in celebrating the achievements of our community and our aspirations for the future. In holding this discussion and creating this Compact, we are providing real evidence in the lead up to 2014 WA Day that the first steps have been taken on the road to greater inclusion.

The result of this initiative will be a greater emphasis on Western Australia’s Aboriginal history and traditions in future WA Day activities. I am pleased

that Celebrate WA has committed to increase Aboriginal representation on its Board as this will enable the organisation to stay focused on ensuring the inclusion of Aboriginal communities and individuals across our vast State.

I would like to personally thank Barry McGuire and Dr Richard Walley OAM for their combined Welcome to Country on the Premier’s arrival; facilitators Dr Jackie Huggins AM and Anne Dunne AM for planning and guiding the day’s discussions; and the Celebrate WA project team in their dedication to the consultation process and the development of the Compact and Scoping Study.

Finally, my thanks to all the delegates for their insights on the day. I believe this report shows that their contribution has been heard and their time has been valued.

INTRODUCTION

Context

Celebrate WA is positioned as the State's premier leadership organisation, championing everything positive about Western Australia and its people. It is a not-for-profit organisation supported by the Government of Western Australia, Lotterywest and leading businesses.

Celebrate WA is managed by a highly skilled and strategically focussed Board of Directors led by Chairman, John Poynton AM, that help drive the organisations vision and diverse program of events.

Until 2012, Celebrate WA coordinated WA Week and associated festivities in October each year.

In 2008 the Premier, The Hon Colin Barnett first suggested the idea of a name change of the Foundation Day public holiday 'to more effectively celebrate the state's origins and achievements'. Foundation Day was designed in 1972 to commemorate a single moment in time and as such did not account for the way WA had been shaped by history.

In April 2012 the Government of Western Australia passed legislation changing the name of Foundation Day to WA Day with the Western Australia Day (Renaming) Bill 2011 being passed by both Houses of Parliament. While the new bill acknowledges European arrival in 1829, the 2012 legislation now formally recognises the true and valued place of Aboriginal people in the State. The bill change had bi-partisan support with then Labor spokesman on Indigenous Affairs, Hon Ben Wyatt stating it 'allows a more inclusive day of celebration that involves Aboriginal people, and the many thousands of migrants who have come to WA since 1829'.

2012 welcomed in a new era for the State with WA Day being a universal celebration inclusive of all Western Australians, recognising Aboriginal history, early European settlers and the many people from all over the world who have made, and continue to make, Western Australia their home.

“For the first time in legislation, Aboriginal people are recognised as the original inhabitants and traditional custodians of Western Australia.”

Hon Colin Barnett MLA, Premier of Western Australia
Source: WA Today, 10 April 2012

Process

Early in 2013 led by the Aboriginal Board Member of Celebrate WA, Professor Colleen Hayward AM, the Board and management at Celebrate WA activated a unique project inviting 24 Aboriginal established and emerging leaders from across the length and breadth of the State to discuss Aboriginal involvement in WA Day activities. At the conclusion of the day of conversation, leaders would be invited to present their findings to the Honourable Colin Barnett MLA, Premier of Western Australia.

This Aboriginal consultation meeting was held on Whadjuk Noongar Boodja (Clan Whadjuk, Noongar land), at the State Reception Centre on Fraser Avenue on Kaata Gurrup, Kings Park on Thursday, 21 November 2013.

The rich diversity of living Aboriginal cultures in Western Australia makes it extremely difficult to

develop a road map for Aboriginal participation in WA Day celebrations within the confines of a one-day meeting and within a small and select group of leaders. Celebrate WA acknowledges that this process was neither exhaustive nor complete in its representation of all Aboriginal peoples from across Western Australia. Delegates in the consultation were not formal representatives of their communities – rather they provided invaluable advice about WA Day and how to potentially involve communities in the discussion.

This meeting is seen as the first step in an ongoing conversation with the Aboriginal peoples of WA to understand and establish how Aboriginal people might choose to participate in WA Day celebrations and to determine the next steps in enabling that to happen.

Purpose

The central questions that the delegates were asked to discuss were:

- are people interested in engaging in WA Day celebrations, and
- if so how might Aboriginal people participate meaningfully, and
- how could Aboriginal communities from across WA be best consulted?

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

There was agreement amongst delegates that participation in WA Day celebrations represented an opportunity for future generations of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Western Australian children to hear the stories of Aboriginal people told in their own voices. The highest priority identified was the education of all Western Australians about Aboriginal history and living cultures, in both traditional and contemporary contexts.

The delegates made the following statement to the Premier of WA, Hon Colin Barnett MLA and to John Poynton AM, Chair of the Board of Celebrate WA. It is an invitation to support a Compact that declares a commitment by the Aboriginal Community of WA, Celebrate WA and the State Government of Western Australia, the Development Commissions, Local Government authorities, the corporate and philanthropic sectors to walk together to celebrate Aboriginal history, living cultures and the major contributions Aboriginal people have made to this State.

Delegates statement of commitment and invitation to sign the Compact:

“We say yes. We as the traditional custodians of this State should be there as part of the WA Day celebrations. We want to be there in a genuine and respectful way. For all of us to walk successfully together it will require a commitment from the Government and the Board of Celebrate WA.

We as a group of Aboriginal leaders who have come in good faith from across the State today, invite the commitment of the Premier and his Government to collaborate with the Aboriginal people of WA. We also invite the commitment of the Chair and Board of Celebrate WA, to collaborate with the community and allow us to tell our stories our way and celebrate the significant contributions we as a people have made to this State.”

It was acknowledged by all that this major symbolic shift in the community’s perception would take time. It needs to be developed strategically and

methodically in a very pragmatic and enabling manner through all levels of civic and corporate society.

Five key recommendations

Five key recommendations emerged from the conversations and were presented to the Premier as a five-point plan for priority consideration and action.

1. High profile public recognition of Aboriginal contribution to the development of the State as Traditional Owners and First Peoples

- Branding
- Events at Celebrate WA and awards
- Media saturation
- Public lectures and debates – change the public perception
- Cultural recognition of important sites
- Recognise and promote role models past and present
- Symbolic acts – one big event
- Recognition in and by all state government departments
- Aboriginal naming and cultural awareness
- Advertisement recognition
- Change perception, conversation; and,
- Tell local history, lore, culture and language.

2. Key channels through which a commitment to embed change can be made

- Public education about Aboriginal contribution to the development of the State is a top priority
- Proper telling of local stories and histories from Aboriginal perspectives
- Engagement of Traditional Owner Elders to tell their stories
- Contribution to the Australian curriculum; and
- Ongoing support for all schools being inclusive of all students, with a clear focus on Aboriginal history and the importance of contemporary Aboriginal culture. Aboriginal culture is not a historical artefact but an important foundation of today’s society.

3. Appointment of an Aboriginal Project Team to develop a state wide scoping study

One male and one female consultant with administrative and logistical support. Terms of reference to be determined by a steering group to explore the following three topics:

- Who are we?
- What have we achieved?
- How can WA celebrate this?

The scoping study will involve undertaking a series of regional meetings to ensure inclusivity and grass-roots participation (to inform WA Day and the school curriculum.)

Consultations to include, (but not limited to) the following:

- Not only talking to young people but also ensuring their active involvement in the consultation process
- Remote Regions including desert communities; and
- Include an online component for the broadest possible consultation input

4. State and Local Government to come together with Aboriginal leaders to plan beyond 2015.

Consider a practical demonstration of commitment such as:

- Developing a Statement of Commitment or Accord in each Local Government area.
- Monuments to Aboriginal returned service people.
- Welcome to Country ceremonies

5. Provide Opportunities for Aboriginal people from across the State to come together to work better together to achieve healing and spiritual renewal.

Tangible outcomes for 2014

It is symbolically important to Celebrate WA for there to be a small but elegant suite of tangible highly visible outcomes during 2014 WA Day celebrations. These outcomes will be a demonstration of goodwill that will dovetail neatly alongside the scoping study. There will inevitably be a tension between listening to what the community wants in the scoping study and getting started with some symbolic 'high visibility' projects. Activities in 2014 should be designed so that communities can see a tangible shift in thinking from all parties who commit to this Compact. There is a range of options within the Recommendations, in particular sections 1, 2 and 4.

This may include but not be limited to:

- An event with the Premier and a select group of Aboriginal delegates to celebrate all parties who have agreed to support this Compact
- Celebrate WA Aboriginal Ambassadors. (For example, Troy Cook and Narelda Jacobs).
- Media partners would be invited to run a series of advertorials and community advertisements with Aboriginal faces fronting WA Day celebrations
- An Aboriginal focused and named award; and,
- A visible Aboriginal online social media presence generated with the guidance of Celebrate WA Aboriginal Board members.

NEXT STEPS

1. Delegates to receive a copy of the first draft of the report on Friday, 6 December 2013.

2. Review and redraft the final report in response feedback from the delegates about the first draft of the report. Refer to diagram 1 below. Feedback finalised by close of business Friday, 13 December 2013.

3. Complete the final report and present it to the Celebrate WA staff by close of business Friday, 20 December 2013.

4. The report will be developed into a prospectus with a proposed budget that can be used to seek further support for the development of a scoping study/working group for activities to be carried out in 2014 and beyond.

5. In February 2014 the completed report will be presented to the Premier of Western Australia, Lotterywest, and all delegates.
6. Start the process of brokering partnerships to support Aboriginal participation in WA Day celebrations in 2014 with a series of meeting to be held with:

• Development Commission CEOs and the WA Department for Regional Development;

• Directors General of WA Government Departments;

• WALGA and delegation of Local Government Authorities; and

• Hold a corporate and philanthropic event where the Premier of Western Australia invites organisations to support the initiatives in the Compact, sponsoring the Scoping Study in 2014 and programs to emerge in 2015 onwards.

Design thinking process

Prototype > Review > Refine



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INVITATIONS TO JOIN THE COMPACT

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Celebrate WA invitation to join the Compact to celebrate all Western Australians 16

An invitation to Aboriginal communities of Western Australia..... 17

An invitation to the State Government of Western Australia..... 18

An initiation to the State Opposition and other political parties 18

An invitation to the corporate and philanthropic sectors 19

An invitation to regional development commissions..... 19

An invitation to local government authorities 19



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Western Australia floral display at the meeting courtesy of Kings Park and Botanic Garden. Photo: Toni Wilkinson

Celebrate WA invitation to join the Compact to celebrate all Western Australians

Celebrate WA invites the Aboriginal communities of the State, the State Government of Western Australia, the State's nine Regional Development Commissions, Local Government Authorities, and the corporate and philanthropic sectors to commit to work through this Compact to celebrate the history and living cultures of all Western Australians. The focus of this Compact is to work together to:

- Acknowledge the diversity of Aboriginal cultures across the state of Western Australia, in traditional and contemporary contexts and to make Aboriginal cultures highly visible.
- Provide an opportunity for Aboriginal people throughout the State to tell their stories and histories in their own voices to educate the general public and future generations of Western Australians.
- Acknowledge the role and contributions of Aboriginal people in the development of the State of Western Australia, both past and present.
- Provide an opportunity for Aboriginal people to come together from across the State to participate and to discuss how people can work together for healing and renewal.
- Engage in a cross-cultural conversation about the important contributions of Aboriginal Western Australians to the State.
- To seek a commitment for strong leadership from the State Government, Regional

Development Commissions, Local Government and the corporate and philanthropic sectors to develop tangible partnership agreements with local communities to achieve the objectives of this Compact.

In response to hearing what delegates said during the meeting and to set the scene for future Aboriginal participation in WA Day, the Celebrate WA Board has agreed to implement the following actions:

- Strengthen Aboriginal representation on the Board with the appointment of an additional Aboriginal person.
- Introduce an Aboriginal Cultural Induction for all Board and staff members.
- Commit to contract Aboriginal professionals in capacities that could further support Aboriginal engagement opportunities within the organisation and its programs.
- Begin integrating some highly visible symbolic elements into the 2014 program above current levels (i.e. in addition to the Welcomes to Country).
- Work towards securing funding to support the engagement of Aboriginal Consultants and support staff to enable the completion of the 'Our Story Our Voice' Scoping Study by 2014 year end. This timeframe will allow enough time to secure the resources to support the findings of the Scoping Study for inclusion in the 2015 program.



Delegates Harley Coyne (foreground left), Kia Dowell (centre) and Dennis Eggington (right).
Photo: Toni Wilkinson

An invitation to Aboriginal communities of Western Australia

Celebrate WA invites the Aboriginal communities of Western Australia as the traditional custodians and first peoples of the State to commit to work together through this Compact to celebrate the history and living cultures of all Western Australians. The focus of this Compact is to work together to:

- Make highly visible the acknowledgement of the diversity of Aboriginal cultures across the state of Western Australia, in traditional and contemporary contexts.
- Provide opportunities for Aboriginal people throughout the State to tell their stories and histories in their own voices in order to educate the general public and future generations of all Western Australians.

- Acknowledge the role and contributions of Aboriginal people in the development of the state of Western Australia, past and present.
- Provide an opportunity for Aboriginal people to come together from across the state to participate in, and to discuss how people can work together for healing and renewal.
- Engage in a cross-cultural conversation about the importance of Aboriginal Western Australia to the rest of the State.
- To seek a commitment for strong leadership from State Government, Regional Development Commissions, Local Government, and the corporate and philanthropic sectors to develop tangible partnership agreements with local communities to achieve the objectives of this Compact.

An Invitation to the State Government of Western Australia

Leadership

Celebrate WA invites the Premier of Western Australia to demonstrate his personal commitment and strong leadership to embed the participation of Aboriginal people from across the State in WA Day celebrations and requests that all levels of Government Departments and statutory authorities, Regional Development commissions, Local Government Authorities, and the corporate and philanthropic sectors be encouraged to actively engage in the initiatives within the Compact.

A cross Government approach

The power and symbolism of strong leadership from the Premier of Western Australia will support cross Government coordination of activities within the WA Day celebrations enabling Aboriginal participation, recognition and celebration to be instigated.

- A series of meetings with Directors General from all Government Departments and the Chief Executives of statutory authorities to embed programs that support the participation, recognition and celebration of Aboriginal people in WA Day.

- One illustration discussed by delegates within the education sector was to seek agreement with the reform to the school curriculum to include;
 - Aboriginal history told by Elders representing Traditional Owners in each region.
 - Teaching Aboriginal history and language relevant to each region as part of the curriculum so that future generations of Western Australians understand the importance of Aboriginal cultures and histories.
 - Schools acknowledge the contribution of Aboriginal people in each region to the development of Western Australia.

Encouraging civic, corporate and philanthropic support

The Premier is encouraged to introduce and outline the Compact to the State’s corporate, philanthropic and civic leaders and the importance of support and investment in the process.

An Invitation to the State Opposition and other political parties

The Aboriginal delegates and Celebrate WA invite the State Opposition and all other political parties and independent politicians to demonstrate leadership and provide bipartisan support for the Compact.

Bi-partisan support for the Compact together with support from all levels of Government departments and statutory authorities, will secure the participation, recognition and celebration of Aboriginal people in WA Day activities.

An invitation to the corporate and philanthropic sectors

The Aboriginal delegates and Celebrate WA invite the corporate and philanthropic sectors to support the Compact by sponsoring a series of events and awards during WA Day activities that encourage Aboriginal participation, recognition and celebration.

In 2014 Celebrate WA will publicly announce the Compact and seek support from the corporate and philanthropic sectors.

The Scoping Study brief will ask consultants to consider a discrete suite of events and awards that can be supported by philanthropic foundations and corporate sponsors. Sponsorship packages will provide for a sliding scale of entry levels for sponsorship. Offering a range of commitment opportunities will provide opportunities for major companies through to small philanthropic foundations to support Aboriginal Programs outlined in the Scoping Study findings. It must be made clear to all sponsors that programs will be delivered by a majority of Aboriginal people and providers.

An invitation to regional development commissions

The Aboriginal delegates invite Board Chairs and Chief Executive Officers of all nine Regional Development Commissions within Western Australia to support the Compact. This can be achieved by a meeting with a delegation of Aboriginal leaders

and Aboriginal Board Members of Celebrate WA to formalise an agreement detailing how they might support the participation, recognition and celebration of Aboriginal people in WA Day.

An invitation to local Government authorities

The Aboriginal delegates invite the Western Australian Local Government Authority and all Local Government Authorities to support the Compact by meeting with a delegation of Aboriginal Leaders and Aboriginal Board Members of Celebrate WA in 2014 to formalise an agreement detailing how they might support the participation, recognition and celebration of Aboriginal people in WA Day.

Each Local Government Authority agrees to approach the Aboriginal Communities within their region to establish an accord that outlines the commitment of the Local Government Authority to support Aboriginal participation, recognition and celebration.

THEMES TO EMERGE

History told by Aboriginal voices

The recounting of Western Australia's Aboriginal histories by Aboriginal people to educate the general public and in particular the next generations of children, was a key theme to emerge from the day.

This was supported by an overwhelming call for Aboriginal people to be given the opportunity to tell their own stories in their own voices.

“Traditionally Foundation Day was a day of hurt, as it was not seen as inclusive. There will have to be a genuine engagement with and inclusiveness of Aboriginal people. It can't be seen to be tokenistic.”

It was acknowledged that there is also strong and increasing desire by the general public to understand more about Aboriginal culture in a contemporary and

traditional context. The importance of placing equal weight on contemporary evolving culture as well as traditional culture was also emphasised.

“Ngullar moort warkiny or ‘our peoples/families stories’ are of equal importance of any other person or group, that has created the culturally diverse and great state of WA. The time has come to create a narrative and celebration that reflects all of our stories of kura yeye boorda or of the past, the now and the future to come.”

“My grandkids and my children want a better part of history. I will make sure that they can take their rightful place in this State.”

Recognising the contribution of Aboriginal people to the development of the State.

WA Day presents opportunities through a number of initiatives to acknowledge and recognise the rich contribution of Aboriginal individuals, communities and cultures in the development of the State of Western Australia.

This may include and not be limited to;

- Awards that are inclusive of regional, remote and metropolitan Aboriginal people and their

contributions to the State in the past and present

- Education programs within schools about Aboriginal contributions, past and present
- Encouraging schools to invite Aboriginal Ambassadors into the schools to teach all children about Aboriginal contributions to the State.

“We built this State. It was my grannies who cleared the land. It is our contribution about why we demand we be part of WA Day. It is important that everybody leaves an education in primary school knowing our contribution, from the Kija cattlemen in the Kimberley, the Yandi Yarra miners in the Pilbara, Noongars in the Wheatbelt, tell the true story.”



Facilitators Anne Dunn AM (background left), Dr Jackie Huggins AM (centre) and Prof Colleen Hayward AM (right). Photo: Toni Wilkinson.

Marketing, Brand and Public Relations

- There is a lack of marketing and public relations around the name change from Foundation Day to WA Day. This presents an opportunity to link to WA Day very strongly with the telling of Aboriginal histories and cultures in all their diversity.
- There is a need for media saturation of Aboriginal involvement in WA Day. There needs to be an immersion of Aboriginal people and/ or culture across all agencies participating during WA Day celebrations. This needs to be reflected in advertising and print, electronic, online and social media campaigns.
- Aboriginal culture may be part of the branding of Celebrate WA.
- There is an absence or very little representation of Aboriginal faces within WA tourism media campaigns. It is critically important to increase the visibility of Aboriginal people as valuable contributors to the state of Western Australia. The absence of Aboriginal faces on State agency electronic media campaigns was a strongly repeating theme throughout the conversation.
- The naming of places, performance spaces and events with Aboriginal names as a means to shift thinking has a powerful effect as people get used to using, speaking and hearing language. An Aboriginal theme can run through the celebration of WA Day.

Scoping Study and grass roots community consultation

A state-wide Scoping Study is to be conducted by Aboriginal consultants in 2014 with terms of reference devised by an Aboriginal reference group appointed to support Professor Colleen Hayward AM as a Celebrate WA Board member.

The Scoping Study will consult with Aboriginal Communities of Western Australia to ask how they may want to participate in WA Day in a meaningful way by asking the following three questions:

- Who are we?
- What have we achieved?
- How can Western Australia celebrate this?

The consultation will be designed with an online survey component and seek input from community members via social media platforms such as Facebook and twitter with an emphasis on mobile accessibility.

“If you are going to ask the broader Aboriginal community how they want to participate in WA Day, be sure to use a survey. A lot of community members have access to and use Facebook. Make any online survey mobile friendly as that is how many community members access the Internet.”

In addition, the Scoping Study will include young people in the consultation process to ensure that contemporary Aboriginal voices and culture are recognised and celebrated.

The Scoping Study will provide the Aboriginal Steering Group and the Celebrate WA Board with a clear road map of strategic projects for the next five years.

Education

A major priority is education, not in the traditional sense but in devising a series of strategies to educate the general public and in particular, the next

generation, about the important place and contribution of Aboriginal people to this State.

“It needs to be sewn through the whole curriculum for all kids, not just non-Aboriginal people.”

Conversations

The importance of critical debate in order to educate and shift the public consciousness has the potential to be a powerful opportunity.

“It is a funny type of question. How do we feel about being a citizen of the State and how can we celebrate us and our culture.

We all believe that we are from where we are from, not from WA.

We, as Aboriginal people, all feel alienated from the State. But when it comes to things like footy or cricket we are often the biggest and loudest supporters so there is strange thing going on. On one hand we are alienated and on the other we are the biggest supporters of the State.

Could WA Day be used as a place where a conversation happens to change the public psyche?”

“The anchor has changed. It was about colonising. It has changed – it is about celebrating who we are. What does being West Australian mean? We have the opportunity to discuss what it is about. For me it is about coming together and celebrating who we are. Who knows more about the State than Aboriginal people? We are no longer just welcome to the table. It is what we know that we can share.”

“It could be an opportunity to not just have events but also get hard information and hard debate about Aboriginal people that opens people’s minds. WA Day is an opportunity where we can be really proud of where we come from.”

The power of role models

There is an opportunity to:

- Include Aboriginal role models as part of the face of Celebrate WA
- Invite local Aboriginal Ambassadors into schools during WA Day celebrations to tell their stories and promote Aboriginal culture.

Inclusion of contemporary Aboriginal culture

Very often people view Aboriginal cultures in a traditional context, something from the past.

There was strong desire for a greater appreciation and recognition of contemporary urban and regional Aboriginal cultures as well.

“It is not just our dance and our song it is our modern views, models in fashion and the important place that contemporary Aboriginal culture has in our society as well.”

Young people’s participation

The younger generation within the Aboriginal community have a very different “lived” experience from older generations.

They are the majority of the population so it is important to hear how they want to be involved.

“Engage a whole of community in the school. By engaging all students in WA Day celebrations and events the non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal children will get to understand what Aboriginal culture is.”

Regional and remote involvement

To get real community engagement it will be vitally important to listen to and involve regional and remote Aboriginal communities across the state.

Delegates in the day’s meeting noted the importance of ensuring the involvement of remote desert communities in the process.

“The conversation is great so we also need to speak about the regional and remote communities. We need to have the conversation at a grass-roots level. Communities need to be engaged.”



Delegate Edith Wright (left) and Facilitator Anne Dunn AM (centre). Project Co-ordinator Lockie McDonald (background) and Logistics Coordinator Liza McGuire. Photo: Toni Wilkinson.

“We have an opportunity here. There are a lot of achievements. Look at our regions. Most of the WA Day awards are from the metropolitan areas – how do we share that with the remote and regional communities?”

Partnership and collaboration

The importance of diversity within Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Western Australia will strengthen WA Day celebrations.

A number of people spoke about the importance of working together across sectors with the community,

Government, corporate and non-government sector to support the involvement of Aboriginal people in the WA Day program. It was clear that collaboration and partnership will be essential elements of ensuring Aboriginal people have access to participate more meaningfully in WA Day.

“It is about partnership and we need to be leading the way. I don’t believe it is about kicking the doors down. We need to be on a level playing field.”

“99 per cent of people I speak to are non-Aboriginal. It is about us starting to sit down and understand each other.”

“Going forward there is a need for investment in fiscal and human resources. Often we are the lone ranger on the board or the staff within organisations.”

There was a request in the meeting to:

- Increase Aboriginal membership on the Celebrate WA Board to support the work being undertaken by Colleen;
- Establish a small reference group who could support the Celebrate WA Aboriginal Board Members.



Delegates Glen Kelly (left), Barry McGuire (centre) and David MacLean (right). Photo: Toni Wilkinson

Accountability and leadership

“Who is going to be accountable for this? We really need the scoping paper and our own mob’s voices need to be heard. We need to ensure we are not going back to our communities empty handed.”

All delegates articulated their commitment to working towards ensuring that Aboriginal people can more meaningfully participate in WA Day celebrations.

The successful engagement and participation of the Aboriginal community will only be successful with the

support of strong leadership from the Government of Western Australia, Celebrate WA and the Aboriginal communities across the State. This will require individuals to be accountable for the tasks they commit to undertake to make the celebrations about who we are, and where we live, more meaningful.



Delegates Carol Innes (left) and Dr Kim Isaacs (right). Photo: Toni Wilkinson.

THE REPORT

Background

In late 2012 Celebrate WA approached Lotterywest for funding to consult with a broad cross section of the Aboriginal community of Western Australia to ascertain how people might participate meaningfully in WA Day celebrations.

The consultation process was developed in early 2013 in partnership with the Aboriginal Board Member of Celebrate WA, Professor Colleen Hayward AM; staff at Celebrate WA including CEO - Patria Jafferries; Partnerships Manager - Maria Sioulas; and Fullsky Principal - Lockie McDonald.

Process

Board and staff at Celebrate WA, led by Professor Colleen Hayward AM, scoped a project where 24 Aboriginal leaders and emerging leaders from across the length and breadth of the State were invited to discuss Aboriginal involvement in WA Day celebrations. At the end of a day of conversation the leaders would be invited to present their findings to the Premier of Western Australia, the Honourable Colin Barnett MLA.

An Aboriginal consultation meeting was subsequently held on Whadjuk Noongar Boodja (Clan Whadjuk, Noongar land), at the State Reception Centre on Fraser Avenue on Kaata Gurrup, Kings Park on Thursday, 21 November 2013.

Funding

A grant from Lotterywest made this consultation process possible.

Who attended the Aboriginal consultation meeting?

The Premier of Western Australia, the Honourable Colin Barnett MLA attended the meeting to

receive the findings from the delegates and to respond.

ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION PLAN

The meeting

The meeting with Aboriginal delegates from across WA was held at the State Reception Centre in

Kaata Gurrup (Kings Park) on Thursday, 21 November 2013.



From left to right:

Seated: Dr Noel Nannup, Sandy Davies, Gail Reynolds Adamson, Prof Colleen Hayward AM (Celebrate WA), Hon Colin Barnett MLA (Premier of Western Australia), John Poynton AM (Celebrate WA), Edith Wright, Cecilia Gore-Birch Gault, Patria Jafferries (Celebrate WA). Standing: Jacquie Thomson (Lotterywest), Troy Cook, Barry McGuire, Rose Murray, Dr Richard Walley OAM, Ingrid Cumming, Dr Mark Bin Bakar OAM, Carol Innes, Glen Kelly, Adele Cox, Paul Bridge, Assoc Prof Juli Coffin, Dr Kim Isaacs, Rishelle Hume, Harley Coyne, Krista McMeeken, David MacLean, Kia Dowell, Cliff Weeks (Department of Aboriginal Affairs). Photo: Toni Wilkinson.

The Delegates



DR MARK BIN BAKAR ^{OAM}

Mark Bin Bakar is a Kija man who has been a major contributor to the Kimberley, Western Australia and Australia through the Arts and Media. He has a national profile through his theatrical character Mary G. He has a national satellite radio program as Mary G and is an experienced stage and television presenter.

Mark has been the Chair of the Australia Council for the Arts, Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Board. He has been actively involved in seeking justice for members of the “Stolen Generations”; part of this involvement has been through chairing the Kimberley Stolen Generations Corporation. He has also produced two albums of songs about the Stolen Generations.

Mark was also an inaugural deputy convener of the ‘Stolen Generations Alliance’ formed in 2006.



PAUL BRIDGE

Paul Bridge is a Kija man from Halls Creek in WA. He has been in education for the last 25 years as a teacher and Principal. He has previously held Principal positions at La Grange RCS, Bayulu RCS and One Arm Point RCS before taking up a position as Area Director in the Ngaanyatjarra Education Area. He moved back to the Kimberley to take up his current position and be back close to home.

Paul is currently Principal at Derby District High School, a K-12 school in the Kimberley Region of WA. He has been at Derby DHS for five years and has been privileged to work as part of a dynamic and outstanding group of staff and committed community that have made transformational change in improving the educational opportunities of students at Derby DHS.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JULI COFFIN

Juli Coffin is an Aboriginal woman from the Pilbara region of Western Australia; she has a background in education, health and preservation of Aboriginal languages. She is an Associate Professor in Aboriginal health and has completed her PhD adding to an education degree and a Master’s in Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

Juli has worked at CUCRH in Geraldton (Yamaji country) for twelve years, running many research projects and building research capacity among her own people and others around her. She has previous work published in the area of sexual health, stroke and nutrition as well as cultural security and racism issues.

Her body of work over the last four years has been around contextualizing what bullying looks like and feels like for Aboriginal children, youth, parents and community. Recognition of the importance around this issue and community engagement has been the key outcomes from this work and practical based resources for schools and communities.

Extract from the Telethon Institute of Child Health Research website.



TROY COOK

Originally from WA Football League (WAFL) club Perth, an outstanding 1996 season saw Troy finish second in the Sandover Medal. He was then drafted by the Sydney Swans and made his AFL debut in round 3 in 1997 against Melbourne at the SCG. Troy received a Rising Star nomination in 1997. Troy played 43 games for Sydney before returning to WA at the end of the 1999 season to join Fremantle Football Club.

Troy began full time employment with the David Wirrpanda Foundation in February 2008, working as a project officer and role model. He continues to make a significant contribution to the WA community through assisting schools, Indigenous and charity organisations. Troy still plays football and is the current captain of WAFL club Perth Football Club.

Extract from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs website.



ADELE COX

Adele Cox is a Bunuba and Kija woman from the Kimberley region of Western Australia. She has spent the majority of her working life in the Kimberley region in media and in suicide prevention. Adele’s work has taken her into Indigenous Health Research, having worked previously at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, and previously as an academic at the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health and Rural Clinical School of WA at the University of Western Australia.

At present Adele is a full-time Indigenous Consultant working on a number of projects and initiatives. She is, and has been, an active member of several committees at both the State and National levels, including; the WA State Forensic Mental Health Council, the WA Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention, the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children Steering Committee and Design Sub-Committee for the Department of Family and Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, former Chairperson of the National Indigenous Youth Movement of Australia and is currently a member of both the Australian Suicide Prevention Advisory Council and the National Advisory Council for Mental Health.

Extract from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs website.



HARLEY COYNE

Harley Coyne is a Noongar man from the Great Southern Region of Western Australia and works as a project Officer for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Harley has been dedicated to increasing the recognition of Noongar culture and language for many years. He was instrumental in the establishment of the City of Albany Aboriginal Accord, an agreement between the Noongar people and a number of Government agencies in the region.

Harley was a member of the Ngallak Koort Boodja group who collaborated with the Perth International Arts Festival to create the Ngallak Koort Boodja, *Our Heartland Canvas* for the 2006 Festival.



INGRID CUMMING

Ingrid Cumming is a custodian and traditional owner of Whadjuk Noongar country. Ingrid has worked in national and local Indigenous Australian media (including film, radio and print), marketing and communications, state health, the arts, anthropological research, higher education and is now CEO and Principle Consultant of Kart Koort Wiern. This year Kart Koort Wiern has been nominated for the Telstra Women in Business Awards and a finalist for the Belmont Business Awards for its work in training, mentoring and research.

As a graduate of a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Australian Indigenous Studies at Murdoch University, Ingrid has also graduated from Management and Academic Leadership Programs and the MURRA Aboriginal Business Program at Melbourne Business School.

Ingrid has many aspirations which include being the first Aboriginal Woman Prime Minister in Australian history (see Facebook page), to inspire, mentor and lead youth into positions of leadership, to promote reconciliation and to promote and encourage the idea that positive minds and actions create positive futures.



SANDY DAVIES

Sandy Davies is a Nhanda man of the Yamatji region of Western Australia.

He is currently a Board member of National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, the national peak body. He is also the Chair of the Geraldton Aboriginal Health Service and the Deputy Chair of the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia. Sandy has also been the Chair of the West Australian Aboriginal Legal Service and the ATSIC Yatji Regional Council.



KIA DOWELL

Kia Dowell is a Kija woman from Warmun Community (Turkey Creek) in the East Kimberley of Western Australia. Her traditional Aboriginal name is Wadjbarreyal and her skin name is Nangala. She has a BS Management, an MBA International Business and is the Co-Founder of the Cultural Connection Code Pty Ltd – a consulting and coaching company that utilises cultural connection as the foundation for innovative business and leadership development.

She believes a model of economic development that equally values social development is key to strengthening Aboriginal communities. As a Business Consultant, Kia taps into her extensive cultural and community experience to deliver practical results in business development and leadership and is incredibly passionate about building sustainable Aboriginal organisations and businesses.

Kia spent 8 years living in Texas (USA) as an elite athlete and pursuing her university studies. She combines her knowledge of Aboriginal society, with her experiences in business and sport, to cultivate organisations that positively contribute to their Communities, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.



PROFESSOR DENNIS EGGINGTON

Professor Dennis Eggington is a member of the Noongar community. Starting his career as a school teacher, Dennis has been a lecturer at Curtin University's Centre for Aboriginal Studies, Chair of the State Aboriginal Education Consultative Group and the Assistant Regional Manager of Aboriginal Hostels Limited. He can also be credited with creating the Western Australian Aboriginal Media Association.

Since 1996 he has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia. In his current role, Dennis ensures there is a strong voice for Indigenous people within the Western Australian justice system. He advocates that people and cases are dealt with in a culturally-sensitive manner and that cultural protocols are followed. His ongoing work has seen him awarded a John Curtin Medal in 2007 and the National NAIDOC Person of the Year in 2010.

Last year he was invited to participate in the United Nations Permanent Forum on the Rights of Indigenous People in New York, and Dennis was named as one of The West Australian's 100 Most Influential People in 2011.



CECILIA GORE-BIRCH GAULT

Cissy Gore-Birch Gault is a Jaru, Kija woman from the Kimberley. She is also connected to Nyikina and Balangarra in WA. Cissy is the Chairperson of Balangarra Aboriginal Corporation, Wyndham WA, a role she has held since 2011. She is also a member of a number of committees within the East Kimberley Region. She was a Councillor on the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley.

Cissy has worked in the community development sector for the past 20 years, with a number of organisations, departments and NGOs 'with an outlook of fairness, justice and equality for our people as a whole'. She is also a Board Member of the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAISMA) that takes a whole of north, connected and strategic approach to the management of lands and seas in northern Australia.

Extract from the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance website.



RISHELLE HUME

Rishelle Hume is a Noongar woman with traditional ties to the Whadjuk, peoples. She was born in Subiaco, Western Australia and has lived most of her life in Perth, and is a dedicated wife and mother of three children.

Rishelle has completed her Bachelor of Commence with a Double Major in Human Resource Management and is currently the Senior HR Aboriginal Employment Consultant with Chevron. She has over 20 years' experience in Aboriginal engagement ranging from employment, education, justice and to health, and is actively involved in the Aboriginal community within the Perth region as a member in various organisations, as well as being an Aboriginal role model to future Aboriginal sports stars.



CAROL INNES

Carol is Noongar woman, she is a grandmother and a very strong advocate for raising the profile of Noongar people in WA.

She is currently employed as Manager Policy & Projects at the South West Aboriginal Land & Sea Council. This role assists in developing projects and programs for Noongar people. Previous to this Carol has spent 11 years working in the Arts Industry particularly in the area of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts.

Carol’s experience has been in government both state and federal sector and in the community arts sector.

Extract from the Western Australian Council of Social Services Inc website.



DR KIM ISAACS

Kim Isaacs is of Yaruwu, Karajarri and Noongar descent and graduated from the University of Western Australia medical school in 2007. She is passionate about improving rural and remote health with particular interest in Aboriginal health, child health and general practice.

Kim has done numerous Aboriginal community medical placements throughout the Kimberley region and has been involved with health and social justice boards. She also holds a Bachelor of Commerce and currently lives and works in Broome.



NARELDA JACOBS

Narelda Jacobs has been a television presenter for Eyewitness Ten News since 2007 and is the first female Indigenous Anchor for a commercial network in Australia. Four years ago, she was selected to represent Network TEN at a professional development program held at CNN in Atlanta Georgia (USA).

Away from the television cameras, Narelda is an ambassador for Breast Cancer Care WA, the David Wirrpanda Foundation and the Disability Services Commission “Count me in” program.

She is also a patron of the Motor Neurone Disease Association WA, a patron of a specialised program for indigenous students at Balga Senior High School and a mentor through the Smith Family and regularly visits girls in juvenile detention as a role model.

Extract from the Ten Play website.



GLEN KELLY

Glen Kelly is a Wardandi Noongar whose family’s country is the lower south west of WA. Glen comes from a farming background, given that his Grandfather was one of the very few Noongar people to secure a war settlement property near Pemberton after his service in WWII.

He holds a Bachelor of Environmental Science and first worked in the Noongar community in 1994 in National Park management and has since worked in a number of land management and rights based capacities. Glen has gained much local, national and international experience in these fields.

Glen has held the position of Chief Executive Officer of the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council since 2006. Since this time, he has successfully guided the organisation and native title claimants through a series of Federal Court trials and subsequently into a negotiation with the Government of Western Australia aimed at resolving all native title claims in the south west of WA, a settlement that has the potential to make significant changes for both the Noongar people and the community at large.



DAVID MACLEAN

David MacLean practiced as a lawyer for 20 years and is a director with Gumala Aboriginal Corporation and is employed with a large public company as their Indigenous Engagement Manager.

He has significant experience in legal matters with the Pilbara arising from his involvement in native title matters and providing advice to Aboriginal organisations and entities in corporate governance matters.

David has strong family connections to the Pilbara and his Grandmother, Edwards’s older sister, was also born and worked on Mulga Downs station.

Extract from Binbirri Contracting website.



BARRY MCGUIRE

Barry McGuire is a Ballardong, Whadjuk, Noongar who is highly regarded as a public speaker, facilitator and for his negotiation skills. He has the ability to facilitate extremely complex situations where decisions need to be made to get things done. Barry has worked as a consultant and cultural advisor for Local, State and Federal Government, Mining Industry and Corporate Sector.

Barry cherishes his place within the living culture of the Noongar people. He is regarded as a leader with a deep belief in the importance of connecting many cultures of Australia’s Aboriginal people. He is a mentor to the young Noongar people.

Barry has family and spiritual connections across Australia, stretching from the East and West Kimberley to the Ngaanyatjarra people of the Western Desert to the Pitjantjarra people in the Southern Spinifex Country and to all Aboriginal nations of the East and West Pilbara. He is highly respected within the Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal community for his cultural integrity.



KRISTA MCMEEKEN

Krista McMeeken is a 22 year old Noongar woman from Esperance, Western Australia; a passionate advocate for the promotion and recognition of human rights and reconciliation in Australia. Having completed her Bachelor of Laws at the University of Western Australia she is now a Lawyer at Corrs Chambers Westgarth. Krista is the Convener of the Law Society of Western Australia’s Aboriginal Lawyer’s Committee; a member of the Law Council of Australia’s Indigenous Legal Issues Committee and a member of the NAIDOC Perth Committee.

Krista has represented Western Australia in a number of countries including the United States, Switzerland, Thailand, France, Belgium and Turkey. In recognition of her commitment to community issues such as human rights and equal opportunities, Krista was inducted into the WA Women’s Hall of Fame and crowned Miss NAIDOC Perth in 2011; awarded the Human Rights Awards Young People’s Medal 2012 and the Pride of Australia Medal for Young Leader 2013.



ROSE MURRAY

Rose Murray is a Nyangumarta woman with Kartujarra heritage too. Her mother was a Stolen Generation survivor and Rose returned her to family, through working with Fred Hollows in the National Trachoma and Eye Health Program. Rose was a member of the first Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation and has been a founding member of many Aboriginal non-government agencies in the Pilbara.

She likes to gather stories, create paintings and work towards social justice. One of her strongest beliefs is that Aboriginal people have in the past and do currently contribute to WA in many many ways. Currently she is a Health Promotions Officer.



DR NOEL NANNUP

Noel Nannup is a Noongar, Injibarndi man who has worked to promote public awareness of the importance of caring for the environment. His career has been dedicated to educating young Western Australians about the rich cultural heritage of Aboriginal people and their lands; and, throughout that process, Noel has played an active and leading role in reconciliation. His father Charles William Nannup lived and worked around Mundaring Weir and he belonged to the Bibbulman people. Noel's mother was Alice Isobel Bassett and was from the Pilbara.

Twenty years ago Noel became one of Australia's first Aboriginal park rangers. He is employed as a senior Aboriginal Heritage Officer for the Aboriginal Tourism, Education and Training Unit in the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM).

Extract from the AustLit website.



GAIL REYNOLDS-ADAMSON

Gail Reynolds-Adamson is an owner and director of Kepa Kurl Enterprises Pty Ltd, a locally owned Aboriginal tourism company based in Esperance, Western Australia.

Kepa Kurl operates two tour companies and an Indigenous art gallery and gift shop. Gail also manages and operates a successful consultancy business, providing services to mining companies and numerous government departments.

Gail is a board member for Indigenous Community Volunteers and the Iconic Task Force, and Chair of South East Aboriginal Health Service. Gail is also a Director of Indigenous Business Australia.

Extract from the Indigenous Business Australia website.



DR RICHARD WALLEY OAM

Dr Richard Walley OAM is a Noongar man, one of Australia's leading Aboriginal Performers, Writers, Musicians, Facilitators. In 1978, he founded the Middar Aboriginal Theatre with three friends, including Ernie Dingo, who he had met playing basketball. Richard had realised early the powerful potential of theatre to raise issues and bring messages to the broader community, black and white.

He has acted, written, designed, danced and worked as a musician in numerous stage and television productions. He has performed and worked in over 32 countries throughout the world.

In 2000 Richard was appointed Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Fund of the Australia Council and a Member of Council.



EDITH WRIGHT

Edie Wright has a background in education and currently based in the Kimberley Education Regional Office in Broome. She is Bardi, which is the language group from the Dampier Peninsula north of Broome.

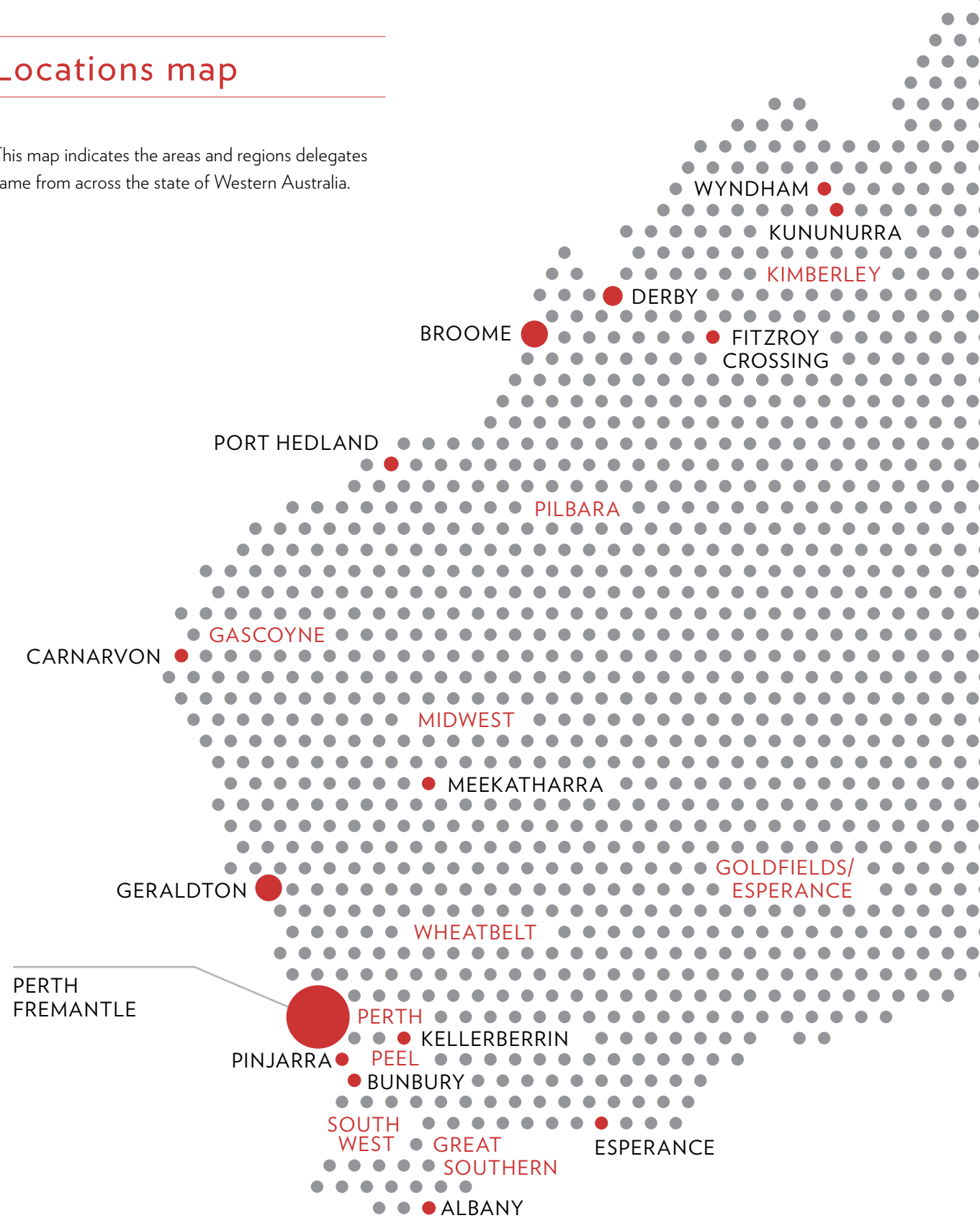
As Manager Aboriginal Education at the Department of Education WA her role includes providing support and advice to regional office, schools, community and service providers on improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Of particular interest is her involvement in recent international research with the George Institute and Marninwarntikuru, the Women's Resource Centre in Fitzroy Crossing. The research is the first population-based study into the prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in remote Australian Aboriginal communities.

Edie is also a writer having published her first biography "Full Circle," through Fremantle Arts Centre Press in 2001. She is currently working on her second book.

Locations map

This map indicates the areas and regions delegates came from across the state of Western Australia.



The questions asked

Delegates were asked to contemplate the following list a questions, which were sent to them several weeks prior to the meeting.

- What do you think about WA Day as a way to celebrate being Western Australian?
- How do you think Aboriginal people can be 'actively' included?
- How can we interest Aboriginal communities in celebrating WA Day?
- There will need to be different forms of communication separately to Elders/ young people – and how is it best to communicate these ideas to them?
- What are the issues that could get in the way of this working – i.e. key challenges or concerns?
- What are the opportunities?
- Share stories, what are some of things that may have worked in the past?
- Are there themes that could be state-wide, or does the activity need to be local? Encourage discussions on 'themes'.
- What is the best we could hope for from these discussions? Define expectations.
- What are the realistic expectations for year 1 and how could we grow the level of engagement over time.
- What reasonable support will communities need to achieve that involvement?

Facilitators

- **Professor Colleen Hayward AM**
- **Dr Jackie Huggins AM**
- **Anne Dunn AM**
- **Lockie McDonald** Project Coordinator



From left to right. Seated: Professor Colleen Hayward AM, John Poynton AM, Dr Jackie Huggins AM, Patria Jafferries. Standing: Maria Sioulas, Anne Dunn AM, Liza McGuire, Lockie McDonald. Photo: Toni Wilkinson.

About the Facilitators

PROFESSOR COLLEEN HAYWARD AM

Professor Colleen Hayward is a senior Noongar woman with extensive family links throughout the south-west of WA. She comes from a teaching family with both her parents and two siblings having been teachers. Her father was the first Aboriginal teacher and Principal in Western Australia. She is currently the Head of Kurongkurl Katitjin, Edith Cowan University’s Centre for Indigenous Education and Research, a position she holds concurrently with that of Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Equity and Indigenous across the University.

For more than 30 years, Colleen has provided significant input to policies and programs on a wide range of issues, reflecting the needs of minority groups at community, state and national levels. She has an extensive background in a range of areas including health, education, training, employment, housing, child protection and law & justice as well as significant experience in policy and management. In much of this work, she draws on her qualifications including Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Applied Science in Aboriginal Community Management and Development and a Post Graduate Certificate in Cross Sector Partnerships from Cambridge University.

Among her many achievements, she has been recognised for her long-standing work for and on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia by being named a finalist in the national Deadlys Awards in the category of Outstanding Achievement in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health (2008) and by winning the 2008 National NAIDOC Aboriginal Person of the Year Award. Colleen is also a recipient (2006) of the Premier of WA’s prestigious Multicultural Ambassador’s Award for advancing human rights and anti-racism in the community and is the 2009 inductee into the WA Department of Education’s Hall of Fame for Achievement in Aboriginal Education.

In 2011, she completed her term as a foundation member of the inaugural Board of the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples. In 2012, Colleen was inducted into the Western Australian Women’s Hall of Fame, was recognised as a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia and made a Western Australian Ambassador for Children and Young People.

ANNE DUNN ^{AM} AND DR JACKIE HUGGINS ^{AM}

Ms Dunn is an experienced mediator, facilitator and organisational developer in the corporate, government and community sectors. Dr Huggins is of the Bidjara (central Queensland) and Birri-Gubba Juru (north Queensland) peoples.

Anne and Jackie have extensive experience in cross cultural facilitation, community and social planning and leadership development. They have undertaken significant projects together over the last 7 years including;

- Development and delivery of the National Indigenous Leadership Program
- Feasibility Study for the development of a National Indigenous Knowledge Centre based on the creation of Community Knowledge Centres across Australia, building to a national centre, including extensive consultation with communities and mainstream collecting institutions
- Creation of a partnership agreement between the Quandamooka people of North Stradbroke Island and the Redland City Council to support the Quandamooka Native Title claim and to provide a basis for future development of the island
- Cultural Action Planning in the Torres Strait Islands
- Cultural training for AusAid delegations
- National consultations on the role of Indigenous women in leadership and decision-making
- Leadership development program for South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Corporation

LOCKIE MCDONALD

Lockie McDonald works with clients across a range of sectors to manage change. His three main streams of activity are;

- Leadership and organisational development;
- Stakeholder engagement and management; and,
- Tailored project design and fund raising.

He has extensive leadership experience and a reputation for initiating transformational projects that result in legacy. Originally trained as a registered nurse Lockie founded what is now Australia’s largest contemporary circus company, Rock N Roll Circus now Circa. After working in senior management and consulting roles for non-Government organisations, local and state Governments, he completed a BA English majoring in Journalism at Curtin University. Lockie has worked in a variety of complex environments; Christmas Island, South African Townships, Maximum Security Prisons, and remote Australian Aboriginal communities. In 2007 he founded consulting group Fullsky.

Lockie is currently a Board member for the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation and has been a Board member at the Australia Council of the Arts in the past.

Lockie played an instrumental leadership role in the design and successful fund raising for the Western Desert Kidney Health Project (WDKHP). The WDKHP is a research and arts in health education initiative that services ten remote Aboriginal communities. As a result he was invited by Professor Fiona Stanley AC at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research to facilitate the development of the West Australian Aboriginal Health Research Network. At the Perth International Arts Festival he worked with the “Ngallak Koort Boodja Group”, translated to mean “Our Heartland Group”, Noongar Elders, representing families from across the South West of Australia. This project was heralded as a historic cross-cultural milestone in Western Australia.



Western Australia floral display courtesy of Kings Park and Botanic Garden. Photo: Toni Wilkinson

Observers

- **John Poynton AM** Chairman, Celebrate WA
- **Jacquie Thomson** General Manager Grants & Community Development, Lotterywest
- **Cliff Weeks** Director General, Department of Aboriginal Affairs
- **Patria Jafferries** CEO, Celebrate WA

JOHN POYNTON^{AM}



John is a Co-Founder and Executive Chairman of Azure Capital. He is Deputy Chairman of Austal Limited and is a Non-Executive Director of Crown Perth. In the not-for-profit arena, he chairs Giving West and the

Board of Celebrate WA. John is a member of Social Ventures Australia.

Previously, John was a Chairman of ASX Perth, Fleetwood, Alinta and the West Australian Museum Foundation – Director of Multiplex; Member of the Higher Education Endowment Fund Advisory Board,

Payments System Board of the Reserve Bank of Australia, EFIC and of the Business School at the University of Western Australia.

John is a Life Member and Senior Fellow of the Financial Services Institute of Australasia (FINSIA), a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and of the Australian Institute of Management (AIM).

John is a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia and is a past recipient of a WA Citizen of the Year award in the industry and commerce category. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce and an honorary Doctor of Commerce from the University of Western Australia.

CLIFF WEEKS



Cliff Weeks is the Director General of the Department for Aboriginal Affairs, and has held the role since June 2011. He is also the Chairman of the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee

and the Western Australian Coordinator General for Remote Service Delivery.

He has previously held a range of senior positions within the public service, including Deputy Director

General Corporate Strategy, Department of Indigenous Affairs, A/Executive Director Aboriginal Housing & Infrastructure, Department of Housing and a Constable in the West Australian Police Service.

Cliff sees the Department as having a key role to play in ensuring the investment in Aboriginal people is effective and is supportive of programs that expand capacity, develop leadership, encourage reconciliation and develop strong, sustainable partnerships. He is committed to making decisions that will help foster long-term change.

JACQUIE THOMSON



Jacquie Thomson has been working in community development for more than 25 years. Prior to joining Lotterywest in 1994, Jacquie worked in the not for profit sector in the areas of domestic violence, youth accommodation, mental

health and as a community development practitioner.

After undertaking a variety of grants assessment, management, policy development and strategic planning roles for Lotterywest, her current role

is General Manager, Grants and Community Development. Her grant- making philosophy is all about making it easier for people to access vital funds for the community. As a result, Lotterywest can proudly lay claim to having a 'real-word focus' on grant-making, rejecting bureaucratic programming in favour of simple frameworks that encourage lasting relationships with grant customers.

Jacquie has a Bachelor of Social Sciences and post graduate qualifications in Management. Outside of Lotterywest, Jacquie is kept busy with family life, and is a member of the Board of Directors of Workpower, a major disability employment organisation.

PATRIA JAFFERIES



With a strong background in business, the arts and events sector, Patria is an outstanding contributor to the Western Australian community. In 2000,

Patria was awarded the National Telstra Business Woman of the Year, as the co-founder of Dome Coffees Australia. Patria engineered Dome Coffees' growth from a single store to more than 100 stores in Australia and Asia in less than a decade.

Patria is currently the Chairperson of Barking Gecko Theatre Company, and a Board member of Hope for Children. She is also a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and an Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.

Patria has previously served on various Boards including the Reserve Bank of Australia sub-committee, Matilda Bay Brewing Company, Cullen Wines, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Creative Partnerships Australia, Perth Fashion Festival, SolarisCare and the Land Valuers Licensing Board. She also chaired the Small Business Development Corporation for 5 years.

Event Coordinators

- **Maria Sioulas** Partnerships Manager, Celebrate WA
- **Liza McGuire** Logistics Coordinator/Director, Red Spear
- **Toni Wilkinson** Photographer

MARIA SIOULAS

Maria Sioulas has 15 years professional experience working in the not-for profit sector in particular in the areas of marketing, public relations and sponsorship. With a strong background in the arts industry in developing and maintaining strategic partnerships, she is known to operate with a high degree of integrity and passion to deliver outcomes on projects and events with innovation and flair.

Maria is disciplined with a strong focus on providing excellence in research, reporting and communication strategies to support organisational goals.

She has a proven record in managing a broad range of stakeholder relations and a commitment to deliver elevated standards of performance.

LIZA MCGUIRE

Liza McGuire is a Bidjara woman, originally from Rockhampton in Central Queensland, who is highly regarded for organising events, liaising with a diverse range of corporate and Government stakeholders while maintaining strong relationships throughout the Aboriginal community.

Liza has the ability to work in complex cross-cultural environments where decisions need to be made to get things done and has lived and worked across Western Australia for over ten years.

TONI WILKINSON

Toni is a Perth based photographer who has exhibited widely throughout Australia. She has exhibited at Johnston Gallery, The Australian Centre of Photography, Lawrence Wilson Gallery and the Pingyao International Photography Festival in China.

Her works are held in several major art institution collections such as the National Portrait Gallery Canberra and the Art Gallery of Western Australia.

Toni is currently a lecturer in the School of Design and Art at Curtin University.



Western Australia floral display courtesy of Kings Park and Botanic Garden. Photo: Toni Wilkinson

APPENDIX: SCOPING STUDY

Project description

Our Story Our Voice Scoping Study (the Scoping Study) will be a consultation with the Aboriginal communities of WA conducted by Aboriginal consultants with the support of Celebrate WA. The consultants will seek direction from communities about how Aboriginal people can celebrate WA Day in a more meaningful way.

This will be done through a series of regional meetings across the state to ensure inclusivity and grass roots participation.

The projects Terms of Reference will be devised by the Aboriginal Reference Group, which will be appointed by Celebrate WA to support the Board of Celebrate WA.

Context

Early in 2013, led by the Aboriginal Board Member of Celebrate WA, Professor Colleen Hayward AM, the Board and staff at Celebrate WA activated a unique project inviting 24 Aboriginal leaders and emerging leaders from across the length and breadth of the State to discuss Aboriginal involvement in WA Day celebrations. At the end of a day of conversation the 24 leaders were invited to present their findings to the Honourable Colin Barnett MLA, Premier of Western Australia.

This Aboriginal consultation meeting was held on Whadjuk Noongar Boodja (Clan Whadjuk, Noongar land) at the State Reception Centre on Fraser Avenue on Kaata Gurrup, Kings Park on Thursday, 21 of November 2013.

The rich diversity of living Aboriginal Cultures in Western Australia makes it extremely difficult to develop a road map for Aboriginal participation in WA Day celebrations within the confines of a one-day meeting and within a small and select group of leaders. Celebrate WA acknowledges that this process was not exhaustive or complete in its representation of all Aboriginal peoples from across Western Australia. Participants in the consultation were not formal representatives of their communities – rather they gave invaluable advice about WA Day and how to involve communities in the discussion.

What emerged from the meeting was a recommendation to hold a state-wide grass roots consultation through a series of meetings to be held across all regions of WA.

Purpose

The Scoping Study will enable deeper consultation with the Aboriginal Communities of Western Australia to ask how people want to participate in and celebrate WA Day in a meaningful way around the following:

- Who we are?
- What have we achieved?
- How can WA celebrate this?

The consultation will include an online survey component and seek input from community members via social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter with an emphasis on mobile accessibility.

In addition the Scoping Study will include young people in the consultation process to ensure that contemporary Aboriginal voices and culture are recognised and celebrated.

The Scoping Study will provide the Aboriginal Reference Group and the Celebrate WA Board with a clear five-year road map, which will include within each strategic project within the roadmap;

- A project description
- Rationale for how the project fits into the state Scoping Study
- Human resources
- In-kind resources
- A detailed budget
- Timelines with key milestones for each project.
- A list of funding options for each project

It will also provide funding agencies and sponsors with a clear pathway to support these projects.

Human resources

There are three essential human resource components to ensure the success of the Scoping Study;

1. Aboriginal Reference Group comprising two male and two female established leaders to provide cultural and strategic advice to the Scoping Study consulting team outlined below:
2. Three Aboriginal Consultants
 - One female field consultant
 - One male field consultant
 - One administrative and logistics coordinator
3. Project Manager – a designated Celebrate WA staff member to provide logistical, administrative, marketing and public relations support.

Other resources

The budget includes airfares, accommodation, fees, car hire, venue hire, catering, technical and estimated costs for the delivery of the Scoping Study project.

Timeframe

It is proposed that the Scoping Study be complete by the end of 2014 to ensure Celebrate WA have sufficient time to garner the funding required to support the activities in time for inclusion in the 2015 Program.

Schedule of activities

Phase One

Establish the Aboriginal Reference Group and develop Scoping Study ‘Terms of Reference’.

Phase Two

Advertise and secure the services of the three consultants.

Phase Three

Commissioning Meeting with the Aboriginal Reference Group and Celebrate WA Staff and Board.

Phase Four

Six months of consultation meetings.

Phase Five

Drafting the report and obtaining feedback from stakeholders.

Phase Six

Completing the final report for presentation.

A detailed timeline of activities will be developed pending confirmation of investment into the Scoping Study.

Budget

Budget to deliver on the project is estimated at \$300,000. A detailed budget will be made available to investors upon request to Celebrate WA.

Artwork inside front and back cover:

CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY

Design by Deborah Bonar
In collaboration with Celebrate WA
and Nomad Two Worlds

Western Australia is a fantastic place to live. This painting celebrates the diversity of the landscape, from the rich red pindan of the North, to the cool green forests of the South West and in Perth, the beautiful Swan River, which winds through the city.

This artwork also celebrates the diversity of the people of WA, who enrich our vibrant cosmopolitan culture.



