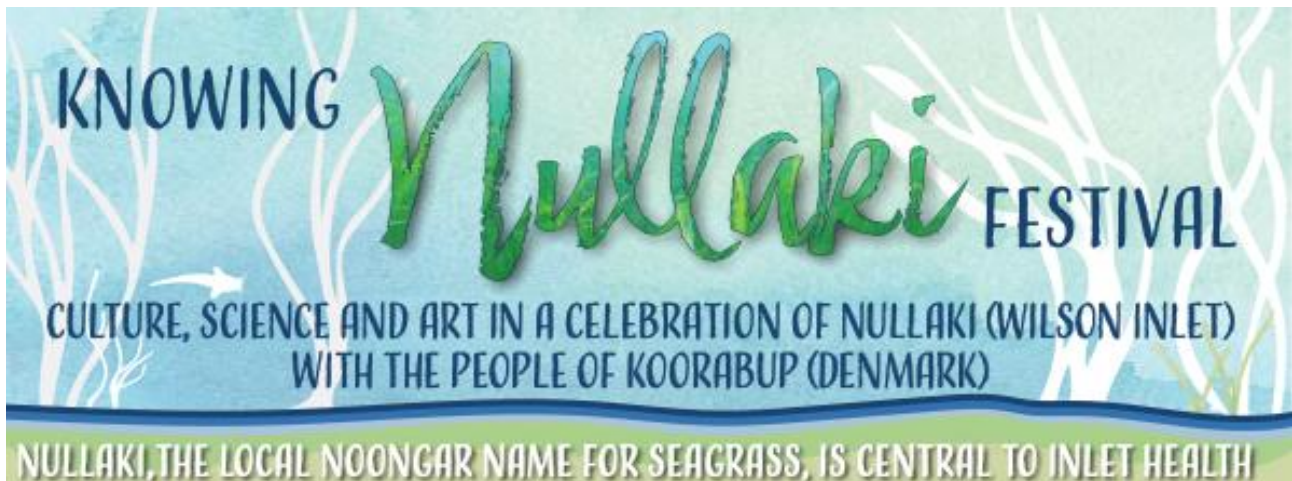




Final Report

Growing Community Connections through Arts to Nullaki (Wilson Inlet Denmark) Biodiversity Festival



Aerial photography Simon Neville

To: Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES COVID-19 RECOVERY 2021 TO 2022

File No: 21/5482

September 2022

Major sponsors The State Government and Lotterywest



Contents

Project inception.....	4
Project objective and goals	4
Project Feedback and Summary	5
Feedback from the community.....	5
Feedback from the schools	6
Target audiences.....	9
Partnerships	9
Key Messages and Communication	10
Event Posters	11
Media and Online Coverage	11
The Program Summary	11
Engagement Strategies and Activity Plan	11
Local First Nation Educators and Artists	12
Local Artists.....	13
Project Timeline	15
Program of Events.....	17
Collation of select Workshop and Exhibition Photos	18
APPENDIX 1: Knowing Nullaki Event Posters	21
APPENDIX 2: Media Releases	22
APPENDIX 3: Media and Online Coverage	30
APPENDIX 4: Feedback.....	37
Cultural Tour Feedback	37
Artists and Climate Change Workshops Feedback	39
Community Biodiversity Survey Feedback.....	40
Community Bird Walk Feedback	41
Discover Your Soils Feedback	42
Eco-dyeing Workshop Feedback	43
Painting Nature Studies Feedback.....	44
Culture Arts and Country Panel Feedback.....	45

Report prepared by:

Louise Duxbury

Green Skills Senior Project Manager

E: lduxbury@greenskills.org.au

T: 0429 409 231

Special thanks to Angela Rossen and Vern Gillies.

Thanks to all co-funders, community partners, volunteers and all those involved.

Acknowledgements

Thank-you to the following:

Funding bodies:

- ❖ WA State Government Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
- ❖ LotteryWest
- ❖ Shire of Denmark
- ❖ WA State Government Department of Water and Environmental Regulations

Community Collaborators:

- ❖ Denmark Arts
- ❖ Karrah Mia Culturally Noongar
- ❖ Butter Factory Studios
- ❖ Denmark Senior High School
- ❖ Golden Hill Steiner School
- ❖ Kwoorabup Nature School
- ❖ Denmark Community Resource Centre
- ❖ Denmark Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ Gondwana Link Ltd.
- ❖ Denmark Environment Centre
- ❖ Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee
- ❖ Denmark Bird Group
- ❖ Denmark Probus Club
- ❖ Probus Denmark River Club

Artists and Educators:

Angela Rossen
Vern Gillies
Larry Blight
Lynette Knapp
Shandell Cummings
Dion Cummings
Briana Williams
Janine McCrum
Shaun Ossinger

Videographers:

Mike Hemmings + Karyn Boyd

Volunteers

Andrew Dickinson	Julie Pepper	Rhian Thomas
Angela Dickinson	Julie Robbins	Sandy Hope
Barb Wilson	Louise Lissiman	Sarah Pozzi
Brad Kneebone	Matthew Bracknell	Sheila Ayling
Brenda Conochie	May Carter	Simon Neville
Caroline Blumer	Myla Rose Leighton	Sue Job
Christine Kershaw	Nelson Gilmore	Theda Mansholt
Helena Zlatnic	Nicole Hodgson	...and anyone who has been missed, as
Jen Frazer	Nikki Green	there were more- Thank-you all!
Judy Linnett	Pam Rumble	

Project inception

Green Skills was approached by artist and biodiversity educator Angela Rossen with a proposition to run a joint project. The idea took flight, and the Knowing Nullaki Festival was born.

Project objective and goals

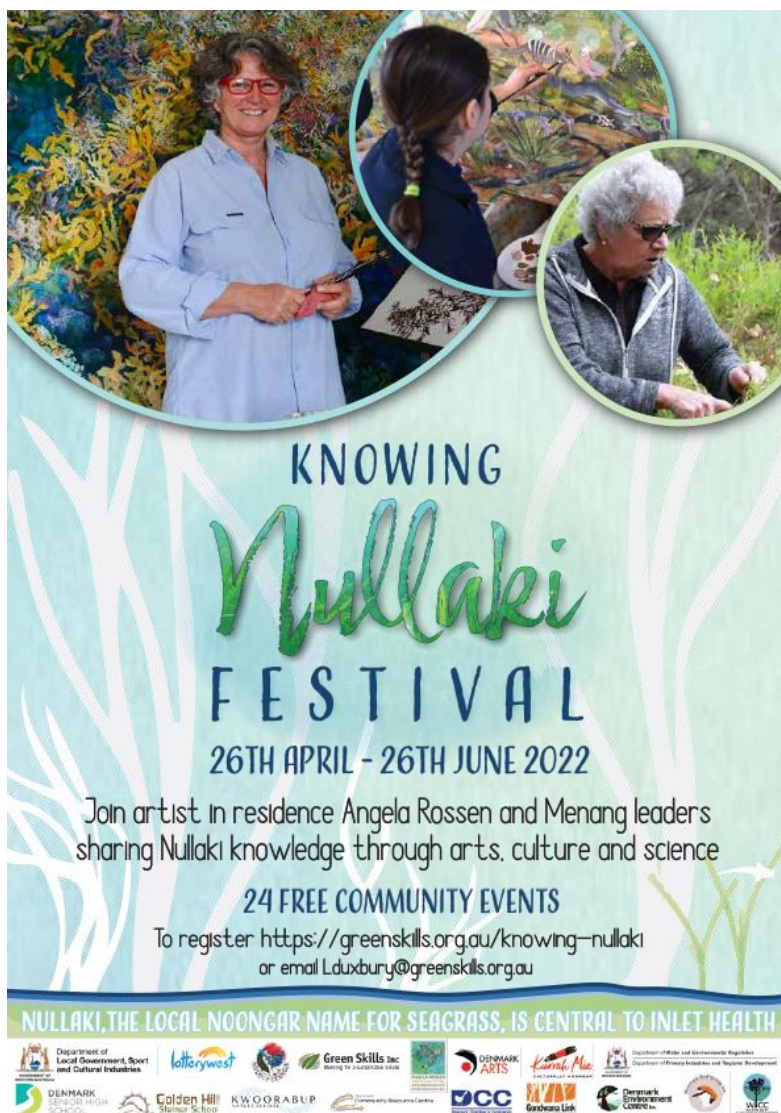
A five-week project engaging the Denmark community to strengthen connection with each other and to their place was planned. The program of events was run over a five-week period followed by a month-long exhibition of artworks created during the project. The following goals underpinned the project:

1. Bringing the community together to celebrate the shared environment by observing and recording the environment of the Nullaki (Wilson Inlet) through two-way perspectives - First Nation and Western science and art.
2. First nation educators, artists, students and the whole community taking part and contributing to the program of 25 events.
3. Running an exhibition of collected and collaborative artworks of the students and community to celebrate and deepen connection to place and community over an additional 4 weeks.

The objective and goals were more than met with a total of 25 well attended events taking place over the five-week period from the last week in April 2022 to the end of May. The Exhibition was officially opened on 26 May 2022 and ran through to the 26 June 2022.

Artist in Residence – Angela Rossen

Angela Rossen is an outstanding artist and educator. She introduced an innovative approach to working with the schools and community to connect children and community members more deeply to the Nullaki and its ecosystem, through science in the field and classroom, and through arts expressions. The concept and quality of the festival would not have been possible without Angela Rossen's expertise, creativity, enthusiasm and dedication.



Engagement in the program by local elders and cultural artists and educators provided a cultural lens of knowledge and insights into the expression of culture through art. Local groups, especially Denmark Arts and local artists, other community groups, the Denmark Shire and Department of Water and Environmental Regulations and local media outlets all provided the support needed to reach out to different parts of the community. The feedback from participants gives insights into the best aspects of events for community members engaged. The deepened connection and knowledge about the Nullaki and the connection with others in the community was a recurrent theme.



SHORT VIDEOS

made by Angela Rossen (Artist in Residence)

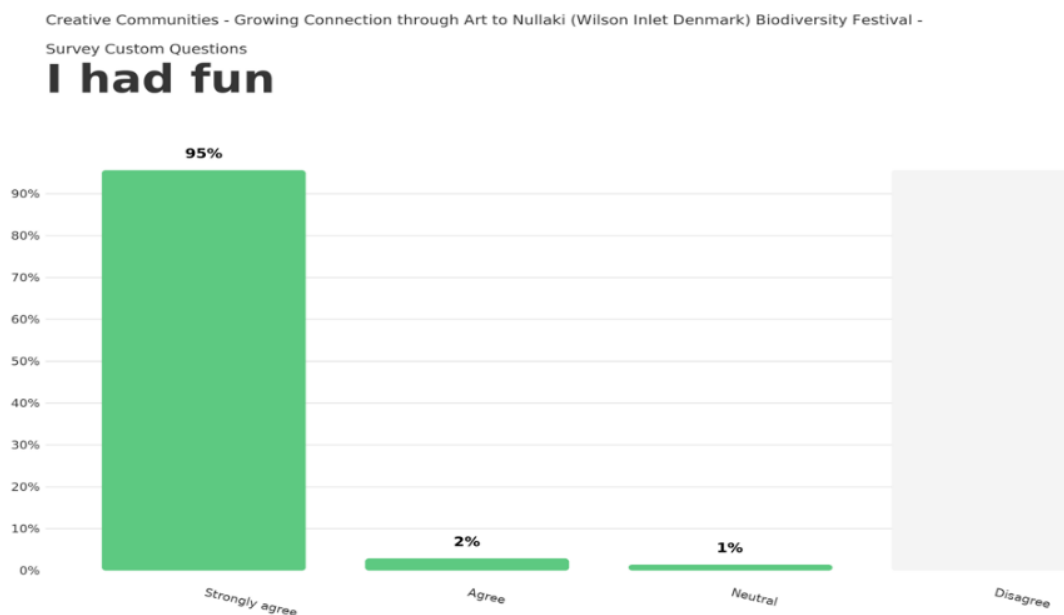
- ❖ The Knowing Nullaki Festival has begun!
<https://vimeo.com/702834945> (stream)
- ❖ Discover and Document Your Soils
<https://vimeo.com/angelarossen/download/705054877/cc8f9fce28> (download)
- ❖ The Community Biodiversity Survey event:
<https://vimeo.com/angelarossen/download/710039498/7de9b11598> (download)
- ❖ The Knowing Nullaki Festival Exhibition
<https://vimeo.com/717424995> (stream)
- ❖ Knowing Nullaki Exhibition- Jane Kelsbie (Member for Warren Blackwood)
<https://vimeo.com/722051749> (stream)

Project Feedback and Summary

Feedback from the community

The community participated in the festival in a number of ways: 152 people participation in workshops, tours and discussion panels; 160 students were engaged through the school's program; 90 people came to the Exhibition opening event and an estimated 543 visited the exhibition; many community members also read about the festival through social media and stories in the Denmark Bulletin and Albany Advertiser newspapers, as well as via the local FM radio station interviews.

More than half of the 152 community members who attended workshops and tours provided feedback on their experiences, see Appendix 4 for the full Feedback Summary. Of those who provided feedback the overwhelming majority really enjoyed being part of events.



When asked what the best aspects of each event was there were some key common themes:

- ❖ The appreciate of the **community connection** provided through the events (33 specific mentions)
- ❖ The opportunity to **learn skills** and share and strengthen **scientific knowledge** about the Inlet and its catchment (31 specific mentions)
- ❖ The opportunity to strengthen connection to **Aboriginal culture** and to place (28 specific mentions)

Several participants specifically mentioned how good it was to be *'reconnecting with community post Covid'*.

During the cultural tour with Larry Blight Menang cultural educator some of the comments about the three best aspects were: *"feeling Larry's enthusiasm and positivity, coming together as a community, learning about different species"* and *"greater insights and respect of local culture and knowledge, appreciation of Larry as an amazing advocate for two-way business, coming together as a community"*.

The feedback indicated that the objective to bring the community together through First Nation and western science and art was achieved and appreciated. Sharing experiences on and about the natural environment for many resulted in *"deepening in intimacy with the local environment"* and knowing *'information about the inlet health and how to protect it'* and with *'so many insights into how to look closely at nature'*.

"Reconnecting with community post Covid"

"greater insights and respect of local culture and knowledge..."

"Deepening in intimacy with the local environment"

Participants felt inspired variously to go to similar activities, to spend more time at the Inlet and in nature, do more painting and Eco dyeing, join a drawing/painting group, learn more about Aboriginal culture and language, take care of the environment more, reach out and create more with community, learn about Inlet birds across all seasons, and participate in future events of this kind.

Feedback from the schools

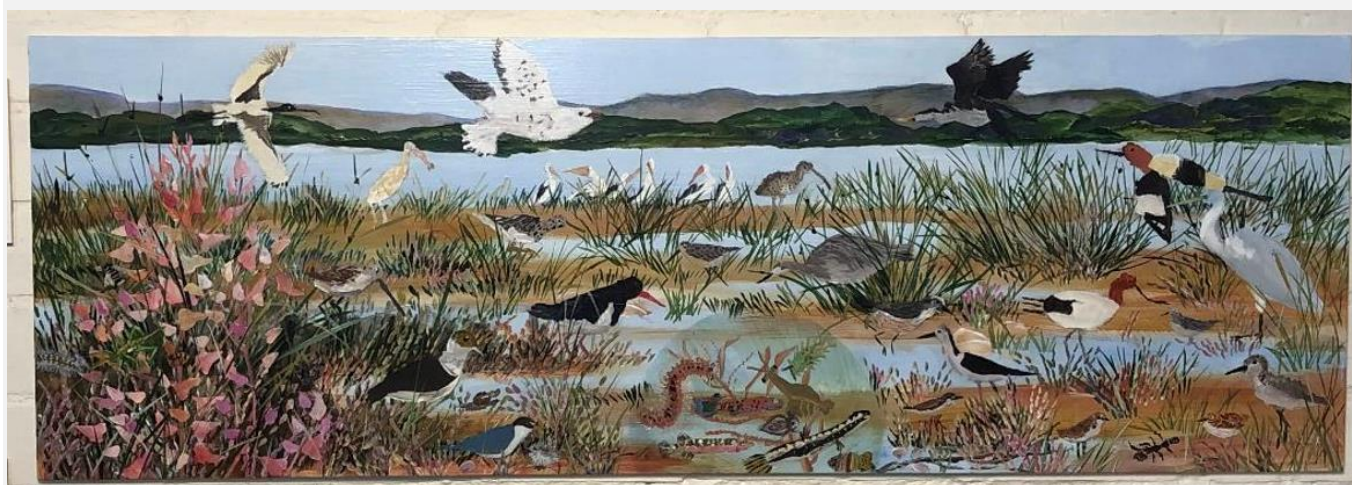
Joanna Griffith, Principal Kwoorabup Nature School

Thank-you Angela. This was an incredible example of the broad and deep learning that happens through engaging children in their natural environment. The integration of art and science was brilliant to experience.

Our school community was so grateful to be given the opportunity to work with Angela Rossen, and the skills she demonstrated and taught opened up a fabulous window for so many people (students and staff) who believed they couldn't draw or paint and yet ended up creating the most amazing artwork.

We are fortunate to have our campus located on the banks on the Nullaki inlet, and the detailed focus on the wildlife and flora of our surroundings opened up a range of possibilities to deepen our student's understandings of the ecological systems and processes that they observe each week while out and about in the environment.

We also very much appreciated the integration of the Noongar people's traditional knowledges with the western scientific approach, as this type of 'two-way learning' is a key element of how we aim to deliver the curriculum at this school and the value of this collaboration is so important for children to understand as they grow into the leaders of the next generation.



Artwork above by Kwoorabup Nature School. 'Discovering and Documenting Together' the flora and fauna of Masons Beach.

Kath Ward, Principal Denmark Senior High School

Dear Angela, I write to thank you for the opportunity for Year 8 students to engage in the 2022 Knowing Nullaki Festival. The combination of the field trip to the Mokare Trail coupled with the several days of small group workshops in which students worked in concert with you to create an impressive artists impression of the local biome proved highly successful.

Our students actively engaged in the opportunity to work alongside you, learn about their local flora and fauna and to contribute positively to the artwork that will be displayed with pride in our school. Some students were so enthralled that they returned to your sessions more than once and this speaks volumes of the level of engagement you fostered.

We also availed ourselves of the opportunity to access the Aboriginal elders for a walking tour of our own school site. This was exceedingly well received and added value to our journey towards improved cultural responsiveness.

As you are aware, I personally took the opportunity to attend one of the adult evening art sessions with you. To see you in action, sharing your passion and knowledge of our local area, made me further appreciate the excellent opportunity that had been extended to our students. I also enjoyed the session very much. We are very grateful that you had the vision and the desire to bring this event to fruition. It was a pleasure to work with you.



Artwork above by Denmark Senior High School. 'Discovering and Documenting Together' the flora and fauna of the Nullaki Inlet.

Jacqui Hollingworth, Principal Golden Hill Steiner School

Dear Angela, It is with pleasure that I sit to write this email to you reflecting on the wonderful learning experiences the staff at students at Golden Hill Steiner School were a part of during the Knowing Nullaki Festival.

It was a great way to start off our term with the children participating in an excursion to the inlet to observe the flora and fauna of their local area up close and in person. In spite of the rain, the experience was a memorable one and was talked about by the students in the weeks that followed as they participated in the creation of the artwork, participated in the cultural workshop and then took the learning from the event to their classes where dovetailed nicely with Steiner curriculum units such as Man and Animal and Spirituality of the Dreaming in Class 4 and Botany in Class 5.

The workshops you led in having the children observe and paint the animals of the habitat they explored was so very rewarding for the students as they were able to create artworks of standard that really surprised many of them - unaware that they were capable of such work. But the true reward for me was seeing so many of those children at the Gallery opening, with parents and loved ones in tow, proudly showing off their works and listening so intently to the speeches – ever so proud of being in their very first exhibition. Now that is an experience that money can't buy that will live with those children and their families forever.

In addition to all that, to have the mural itself hanging pride of place in the school hall for the children to see and families to visit for years to come is such a precious gift to ensure a lasting memory of the depth of learning and sense of community this project engendered.

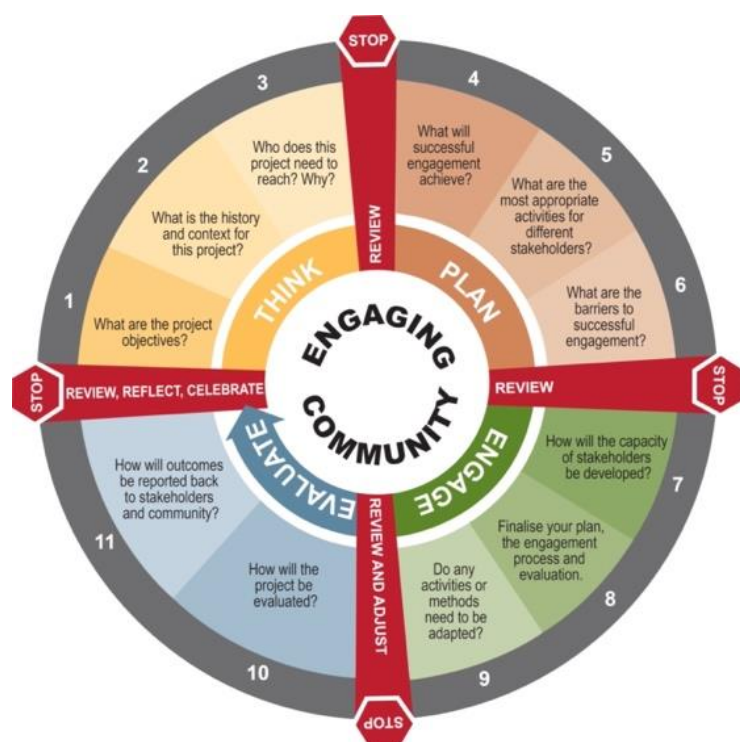
Thank you to all involved in bringing to fruition this valuable experience to the school and wider community. On behalf of the school community I express the utmost gratitude to the work effort and funding that brought the community together in such a way. A worthy project, deserving of replication other areas to bring to the attention of the community the riches their natural environment abounds in and the need for us all to work at be aware of and protect it for future generations to come.



Artwork above by Golden Hill Steiner School. 'Discovering and Documenting Together' the flora and fauna of the Nullaki Inlet.

Target audiences

Clear guidelines were used to steer our engagement steer shown in Figure 1 (below) Wheel of engagement (Green Skills Inc).



The specific target audiences for this project were:

- Young people in Denmark region, both through the programs run in schools and also through the community program.
- The retired and semi-retired.
- The disadvantaged; and,
- The community as a whole.

Members of all of these groups participated in the program.

Denmark is a small community with limited access to resources especially at times of stress such as the impacts from the Covid 19 pandemic. The community was already experiencing housing shortages, high rental rates and homelessness. These difficulties were compounded by a lack of public transport and access to the regional centre. Denmark found itself with higher-than-average levels of mental health issues for young people and the challenges of meeting the needs of the burgeoning number of retirees and semi-retirees moving to Denmark. Covid 19 amplified all this with the additional stresses of uncertainty, fluctuations in tourism, lack of staff and accommodation for tourism staff, almost no housing availability for locals, difficulties in accessing health services, isolation and anxiety. Many local arts, environment and social activities were cancelled during the past 2 years. Local activities are the lifeblood of small communities with people relying on them for connection especially in times of uncertainty. This project provided opportunities for people to come together deepening connections to each other and their own local place.

Partnerships

The anticipated support for funding from state departments and the local government and in-kind support from the local schools and community organisations was successfully secured.

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key funder with Lotterywest 	✓
Department Water and Environment Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support with promotions; provision of researchers at Biodiversity Survey Field trip and financial support for Green Skills for the Festival and First Nations Artist Panel 	✓
Shire of Denmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support with promotions; provision of staff; provision of venue for two painting workshops; funding to produce a short video 	✓
Denmark Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of artist in residence accommodation and project workroom; support with promotions; advice; assistance with Exhibition opening 	✓
Karrah Mia Culturally Noongar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support with promotions; provision of cultural tour guide community Field Trip; provision of cultural session with each of the three participating schools; assist with identifying Noongar artists to engage in the project 	✓

Community Resource Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support with promotions; provision of venue for two community workshops 	✓
Gondwana Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support with promotions; advice on program elements; possible use of art materials for Heartland Journeys 	✓
Denmark Probus Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support with promotions; some participants to community workshops 	✓
Probus Denmark River Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support with promotions; some participants to community workshops 	✓
Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support with promotions; staff at one Discover Your Soils workshop and Community Survey field trip; provided updates on state of Nullaki (Wilson Inlet) health; support with equipment 	✓
Denmark Environment Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support with promotions, equipment and signage 	✓
Chamber of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support with promotions 	✓
Denmark Senior High School; Golden Hill Steiner School; Koorabup Nature School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support with promotions; provision of staff at school-based workshops; provision of venue and equipment for school-based workshops 	✓

Image below: Flags drawn by community members during the exhibition capturing 'what does the Nullaki mean to me?'



Key Messages and Communication

A set of key messages set out in the Community Engagement Plan helped to frame the communications throughout the festival:

- Nullaki (Wilson Inlet) is a special part of Koorabup (Denmark) and the wider region, to visitors and to all who live here
- Nullaki is the Noongar word for seagrass – seagrass is critical to the health of the inlet and associated local and migratory shore birds.
- Nullaki is culturally important to First Nation people, in particular the Menang and Pibbulmun/Wardandi tribes, and as custodians they hold responsibilities and knowledge of its health and wellbeing
- Nullaki is in good condition and is resilient but needs ongoing action to keep it this way
- The community cares about the Inlet
- Discovering more about what is in our backyard is exciting and can help us know how to look after it better
- Everyone can be a citizen scientist, and everyone can create artworks that tell the stories of our Inlet
- Cultural Science and western Science are important ways to understand the environment
- A Plan to put the spotlight on actions that reduce nutrients and protect cultural, community and environmental values is being prepared.
- Community input to the Nullaki (Wilson Inlet) Water Quality Improvement Plan through this project is highly valued
- Nutrients from the Nullaki's catchment are the biggest concern for the ongoing health of the Inlet

- The Nullaki (Wilson Inlet) Plan is the next step building on previous efforts to make a positive difference to water quality in the Inlet. It will take all of us learning and taking action together.

All of these messages were used at different points in the festival communications. One of the communication successes has been the increased use of the Noongar name for the Inlet – Nullaki and the better understanding of cultural and western science knowledge about the Inlet.

Event Posters

The messages are evident in the media coverage, online posting, short videos posted and, in the posters, distributed online and in hard copy across the town of Denmark. See Appendix 1 (and throughout report).

Media and Online Coverage

The Denmark Bulletin and Denmark Community Radio were very supportive of the festival and provided multiple opportunities for copy and for interviews. Local Radio interviews were played and replayed through the 9-week Festival period.

The Albany Advertiser ran a number of articles and were also very supportive.

Partner organisations included communications about the festival in regular e-newsletters and across social media platforms.

See Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.

The Program Summary

Engagement Strategies and Activity Plan

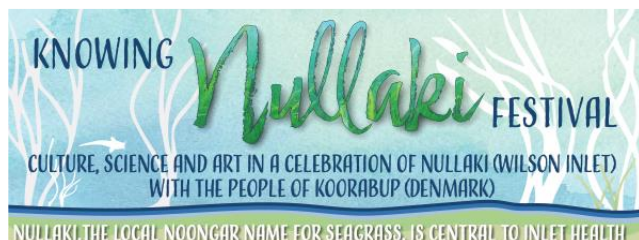


The engagement strategies include a range of engagement including consultation with key partners during the preparation of the application, involving students and the community in activities, collaborating with key partners to deliver the program to engage and empower young people and the community to discover cultural and biodiversity science, engage in artworks and share their art and knowledge with the wider community.

Local First Nation Educators and Artists

The Knowing Nullaki Festival extended the number of people in the Denmark region accessing cultural science, knowledge and values through:

- Local elder Vernice Gillies conducted the Welcome to Country at the exhibition opening
- Vernice Gillies and Larry Blight ran culture science sessions with each of the three schools involved in the Knowing Nullaki Festival
- An oversubscribed half day cultural tour with Larry Blight for the general community
- Larry being a cultural resource person at the half day Community Biodiversity Survey event
- An Aboriginal artist's panel discussion with four artists shared their insights about cultural values and knowledge through their art, elder Lynette Knapp was one of those artists (refer Event Poster to the right)
- Three art pieces commissioned by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulations shared as part of the Knowing Nullaki Exhibition.



Cultural Tour of Poison Point with Larry Blight

Saturday 7 May from 9.30am to 12:30pm

Meet at Poison Point
walking shoes, hat, raincoat, snack, drink

Bookings essential – register and full program of events at

<https://greenskills.org.au/knowning-nullaki>

Join this free event and more:

Free thanks to major sponsors The State Government and Lotterywest



Kurrah Mia Culturally Noongar run the Kurrah Mia Gallery in Albany and tours in the region. Kurrah Mia and Green Skills have collaborated over many years on a range of projects.

Kurrah Mia are key partners in the preparations of the 'Nullaki (Wilson Inlet) Water Quality Improvement Plan' (Department of Water and Environmental Regulations). Dr Louise Duxbury from Green Skills is the community engagement officer for the project and Vernice Gillies (Kurrah Mia- <https://www.kurrahmia.com.au/about-us/>) is a local elder and member of the Reference Group.

Kurrah Mia consulted with the Noongar and wider community, and Vernice (with support from Louise), consulted widely with local elders to collate First Nation cultural values of Nullaki and what action should be taken to protect it. Three Menang artists were selected and commissioned to create artworks that depicted values about Nullaki. The artworks produced were on public display for the first time during the Knowing Nullaki Festival Exhibition.

Larry Blight (Kurrah Mia- <https://www.kurrahmia.com.au/about-us/>) has been involved in many Green Skills and other community group and local school cultural knowledge education activities. He was the key cultural educator in sessions at the three schools involved in the Knowing Nullaki Festival, ran the Festival Cultural Tour and was the cultural resource person at the Community Biodiversity Survey half day on the Nullaki.

The Aboriginal artists panel included elder Lynette Knapp, Dion Cummings, Shandell Cummings and Brianna Williams. Refer Image below.



Image above: Aboriginal artists panel at Butter Factory Exhibition. Photo Credit: Cassie Paxman

Local Artists

This project provided a good opportunity for collaboration between the Artist in Residence Angela Rossen, and local artists.

Angela Rossen ran two workshops entitled 'Artist and Climate Change' which participants found very supportive and stimulating.

Janine McCrum delivered the oversubscribed Eco- dying day workshop using natural materials from the local area. Janine is one of the ten members of the Denmark artist run cooperative Butter Factory Studios Gallery. Janine is a visual artist and has been an exhibiting member of the Butter Factory Studios since 2013. Her arts practice combines textiles, printmaking, photography and installation. Janine held her eco-dying workshop at the Butter Factory Studios. Artist in Residence, Angela Rossen, took part in the workshop.

Green Skills has had many collaborations with members of the cooperative as well as holding exhibitions and events in their excellent Gallery space. The members of the cooperative at the Butter Factory Studios provided the support for the Knowing Nullaki Exhibition to be presented in their Gallery space and significantly reduced rates for the Exhibition.



Knowing Nullaki Exhibition



Painting created in a festival workshop by students Denmark Senior High School

Butter Factory Studio Denmark WA from Friday 27 May till 26 June 2022

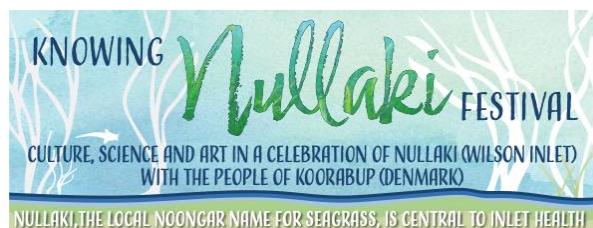
This Festival brought together the people of Denmark from all walks of life to discover and document the living things of the Nullaki, Wilson Inlet.

Their discoveries have been expressed in paintings, drawings and photographs.

These artworks form a survey exhibition of astonishing vitality documenting the Nullaki from the tiny invertebrates and fish of the waterways to the insects, reptiles, marsupials, birds and all that live within the shelter of the forest and leafy canopy.

The Knowing Nullaki Festival was designed and presented by

Louise Duxbury Green Skills
Angela Rossen Artist and Biodiversity Educator



Thanks to our major Supporters the State Government of Western Australia and Lotterywest

Inviting Artists of the Denmark area
to a discussion to share ideas about

Artists and Climate Change

Facilitated by visiting Artist and Biodiversity Educator

Angela Rossen

at Denmark Arts

7pm Monday 2 May

Free but please RSVP

<https://events.humanitix.com/artists-and-climate-change>

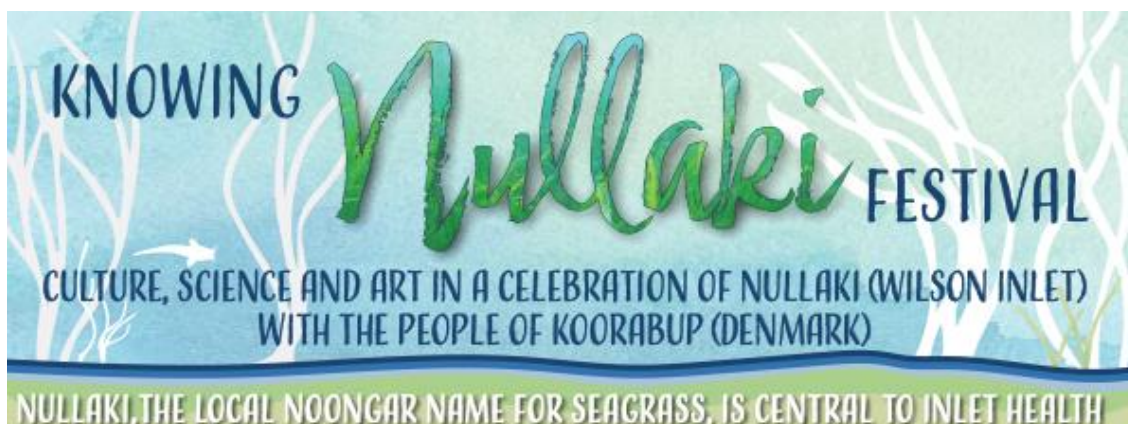


Project Timeline

Timeline	Activity/tool	Target audience	Who is responsible	Notes/progress	Actual Activity Report
Establish Strong Partnerships in lead up to Application Submission					
Mid Nov – Mid Dec 2021	Identify key partner groups and local government. Provide them with a two-page summary of the idea and seek feedback and project ideas. If feedback is positive secure letters of support from key partners.	Key schools, Shire of Denmark, key community organisations, First Nation educators	Louise Duxbury Green Skills, Angela Rossen Artist in Residence	Key partners identified and approached November 2021 with meetings and follow up calls. Green Skills & A. Rossen LoS received from majority of partners identified by Green Skills	Completed
Mid Dec 2021	Involve key partners in the application process and secure committed resources/staff to the project from them in Letters of Support.	Key schools, Shire of Denmark, key community organisations, First Nation educators	Louise Duxbury Green Skills	LoS from Denmark Arts, Denmark Community Resource Centre, Shire of Denmark and Schools indicate staff time, venue provision or other assistance to Green Skills for the project.	Completed
Communicate success of application and confirm commitment from key stakeholders					
Jan 2022	Forward success letter to all partners as soon as received. Provide early notice of success so partners can put specific dates and commitments into their calendars and budgets	Key schools, Shire of Denmark, key community organisations, First Nation educators	Green Skills	Individualise letters to key partners to confirm their project commitments	Notification of funding received in February. Circulated by March. All partners on board
Comms to all media outlets, online, through partner communication channels					
Jan 2022	Placemaker MR on the project funding, timing, proposed activities, call to put in diary, be part of it, volunteer. Focus on Covid 19 and importance of coming together as a community to support each other and to value where we live.	All outlets identified in media and comms contacts in above table. All partner e news, and online platforms	Green Skills with input from Angela Rossen	Include photo of Angela and example of her artwork. Look for radio interview opps. Quote from CRC on Covid 19 impacts on Denmark re homelessness, mental health, also from Probus Club on impacts of retired	Completed – circulated in March
Feb 2022	Distribute promotional materials for the project – the full program and individual posters for specific events.	All outlets identified in media and comms contacts in above table. All partner e news, and online platforms. Paper posters to post around town	Angela Rossen to prepare materials Green Skills to distribute and follow up	Look for radio interview opps.	Completed – multiple interview
Mid Feb 2022	Distribute program promotions with focus on school activities and outputs. Through school newsletters, school notice boards, by teachers in class, notes to parents.	Teachers, students, parents	Angela Rossen to prepare materials Green Skills to distribute and follow up		Program circulated at regular intervals along with overall poster in March
March	Set up online Bookings for community events and roster for volunteers	Key partners	Green Skills with input from Angela Rossen		Humanitix bookings set up. A webpage on Green Skills

	throughout the program and circulate details.				website created as a portal for bookings
March	MR with focus on Angela Rossen, her methodology and outcomes. Also, Bookings for community events and call for volunteers.	Students, teachers, parents, whole community	Green Skills with input from Angela Rossen	Look for radio interview opps for Angela.	Feature on Angela in Bulletin and Albany Advertiser. Local radio interview.
April	MR focus on two-way science. Bookings for community events.	Students, teachers, parents, whole community	Green Skills with input from Angela Rossen	Photo of Cultural educators/scientists and western scientists doing work on Nullaki (Wilson Inlet)	Feature articles in Denmark Bulletin
Festival Program Begins					
Early May	MR Festival Program full page spread in the Bulletin, specific posters for events circulated again. Bookings for community events.	Students, teachers, parents, whole community	Green Skills with input from Angela Rossen	Book full page early in the year	Large Add in Bulletin along with editorial.
May	Meet with all key partners – confirm program details and logistics.	Key partners	Green Skills and Angela Rossen		Program with specific event posters circulated
May	Speak at teacher gathering and school assemblies	Teachers, students, parents	Angela Rossen		Completed (not Assemblies due to Covid restrictions)
May	MR on Cultural tours, early bird walk and workshops at CRC and bookings	Whole community	Green Skills	CRC to do focused promo on the workshops in the CRC	Completed in CRC e newsletters
Festival Program Underway					
Later May	MR update on school program, report on Cultural tours, promote next Community events	Whole community	Green Skills with input from Angela Rossen	Photos from schools and community events essential. Look for radio interview opps. From students and individuals who participated.	Bulletin articles with schools' photos and cultural tour completed. Radio interview
Late May	Promotion of Exhibition opening date and run details	Whole community	Green Skills with input from Angela Rossen	Feature some of the individual arts works produced to date and quotes from children and community members who participated	Invitation to exhibition sent through all partner organisations including schools and posters around town.
June	Promotion of Exhibition, report on opening	Whole community	Green Skills with input from Angela Rossen	Feature quotes from students, community who participated, visitors to the exhibition, partners	Media on Opening in Bulletin and Albany Advertiser.
June	MR on impact of the project on the community – summary of evaluation from the participants re impacts	Whole community	Green Skills with input from Angela Rossen		MR on final event – covered in Bulletin. Thanks to all partners and schools sent.
Festival Program Completed					
June	Complete report to Department	DLGSC	Green Skills with input from Angela Rossen		Not appropriate to report in June as the Exhibition did not close until end of June. Report submitted September 2022 by due date.

Program of Events



EXCITING PROGRAM OF 24 FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thanks to major sponsors: the State Government and Lotterywest

April-May SCHOOLS PROGRAM	Biodiversity, Culture & Arts workshops students & staff Golden Hill Steiner School, Kwoorabup Nature School, Denmark Senior High School Angela Rossen – Artist in Residence & Vernice Gillies & Larry Blight - Culturally Noongar
------------------------------	---

COMMUNITY PROGRAM Book your place now <https://greenskills.org.au/knowning-nullaki/>

18 May Wed 12 – 3pm	WORKSHOP	Discover & Document Living Soil Angela Rossen & Friends	CRC Garden Room. <i>DONE</i>
2 May Mon 7pm	DISCUSSION	Artists and Climate Change Artists discussion facilitated by Angela Rossen	DenmarkArts <i>DONE</i>
7 May Sat 9.30am–12.30pm	FIELD TRIP	Cultural Field Trip Larry Blight & Friends	Poison Point, Inlet Drive P <i>DONE</i>
8 May Sun 7.30 – 9.30am	FIELD TRIP	Community Morning Bird Walk - Brad Kneebone & Andrew Dickinson	At Inlet end of Springdale subdivision <i>DONE</i>
14 May Saturday 9.00 – 12.00	FIELD TRIP	Community Biodiversity Survey of the Inlet with Angela Rossen & Friends	Rivermouth Caravan Park foreshore
16 May Mon 7pm	DISCUSSION	Artists and Climate Change - Artists discussion facilitated by Angela Rossen	DenmarkArts
17 May Tuesday 7.00 – 9.00pm	WORKSHOP	Painting Nature Studies with Angela Rossen	Civic Centre
18 May Wed 12 – 3pm	WORKSHOP	Discover & Document Living Soil Angela Rossen & Friends	CRC Garden Room. Lunch Soup & roll provided.
19 May Thursday 7.00 – 9.00pm	WORKSHOP	Painting Nature Studies with Angela Rossen	Civic Centre
22 May Sunday 10am - 4pm	WORKSHOP	Paper Eco-Dyeing with Local Plants with Janine McCrum	Marquees behind Butter Factory Studio
26 May Thursday 5.30 – 7.30pm	EXHIBITION OPENING	Beautiful artworks by the children & Community of Denmark	Butter Factory Studio
12 June Sunday 10am – 12.30 pm	PANEL DISCUSSION	Culture, Arts and Country for a First Nations Artist	Butter Factory Studio
26 May – 26 June	EXHIBITION	Schools And Community Interactive Activities	Butter Factory Studio



Collation of select Workshop and Exhibition Photos



Image 1: Children proudly sharing their paintings at the Exhibition Opening Photo Michael Hemmings



Image 2: Three generations visiting the Exhibition on its first day. Clare Gillett, Isabelle Gillett and Sue Boland. Mother, daughter proudly sharing her work with her grandmother visiting from the UK



Image 3: The Exhibition Opening. Photo Credit Angela Rossen



Image 4: Children from Golden Hill Steiner School collecting samples from the Inlet



Image 5: Participants of the Discover and Document Living Soils Workshop



Image 6: Kwoorabup Nature School discovering and documenting species



Image 7: Denmark Steiner School painting mural workshop



Image 8: Eco-Dying Workshop. Eco dyed Acacia paper



Image 9: Bird Spotting. Photo credit: May Carter



Image 10: Walk on Country with Larry Blight



Image 11: Green Skills Festival Coordinator Louise Duxbury (left) presenting gifts to elder Vernice Gillies and Artist in Residence Angela Rossen. Photo credit: Michael Hemmings



Image 12: Story Booth in action- Myla Rose Leighton recording a personal story of the Nullaki.



Image 13 +14: Flags drawn by community members during the exhibition capturing 'what does the Nullaki mean to me?'

APPENDIX 1: Knowing Nullaki Event Posters

Specific Event Posters

KNOWING Nullaki FESTIVAL

CULTURE, SCIENCE AND ART IN A CELEBRATION OF NULLAKI (WILSON INLET) WITH THE PEOPLE OF KOORABUP (DENMARK)

NULLAKI, THE LOCAL NOONGAR NAME FOR SEAGRASS, IS CENTRAL TO INLET HEALTH

Join these free events and more:

Discover & Document Your Living Soils

with Angela Rossen* & friends

*Angela Rossen artist in residence & biodiversity educator

Saturday 30 April from 2pm to 5pm

Community Garden behind CRC

Soup & roll provided post workshop, BYO compost sample

Wednesday 18 May from 12 to 3pm

Garden Room at CRC

Soup & roll provided prior to workshop, BYO compost sample

Full program of events and bookings

<https://greenskills.org.au/knowning-nullaki>

Free thanks to major sponsors The State Government and Lotterywest

KNOWING Nullaki FESTIVAL

CULTURE, SCIENCE AND ART IN A CELEBRATION OF NULLAKI (WILSON INLET) WITH THE PEOPLE OF KOORABUP (DENMARK)

NULLAKI, THE LOCAL NOONGAR NAME FOR SEAGRASS, IS CENTRAL TO INLET HEALTH

Join this free event and more:

Community Morning Bird Walk

with Brad and Andrew - Denmark Bird Group

Sunday 8 May from 7:30am to 9:30am

Meet at Springdale Subdivision carpark to access Springdale Beach

BYO binoculars, walking shoes, hat, raincoat, snack, drink & bird book

Full program of events and bookings

<https://greenskills.org.au/knowning-nullaki>

Free thanks to major sponsors The State Government and Lotterywest

KNOWING Nullaki FESTIVAL

CULTURE, SCIENCE AND ART IN A CELEBRATION OF NULLAKI (WILSON INLET) WITH THE PEOPLE OF KOORABUP (DENMARK)

NULLAKI, THE LOCAL NOONGAR NAME FOR SEAGRASS, IS CENTRAL TO INLET HEALTH

Join this Free Family Event and more

Nullaki Biodiversity Survey

Saturday 14 May

9.00am-12.00

Rivermouth

Caravan Park

Foreshore

- Collect and discover for biodiversity survey
- Vernice Gillies and Larry Blight Culturally Noongar Shaun Ossinger WICC play with the catchment model
- Elke Reichwaldt DWER showing gear used to monitor Inlet water health

Bring your hat, raincoat, water, snacks, sunscreen, phone, binoculars

Free but bookings essential. **Full program of events and registrations at:**

<https://greenskills.org.au/knowning-nullaki>

thanks to major sponsors The State Government and Lotterywest

KNOWING Nullaki FESTIVAL

CULTURE, SCIENCE AND ART IN A CELEBRATION OF NULLAKI (WILSON INLET) WITH THE PEOPLE OF KOORABUP (DENMARK)

NULLAKI, THE LOCAL NOONGAR NAME FOR SEAGRASS, IS CENTRAL TO INLET HEALTH

Join this free event and more

Paper Eco-Dyeing with Local Plants

with Janine McCrum

Sunday 22nd May from 10am to 4pm

Marquees behind Butter Factory Studio

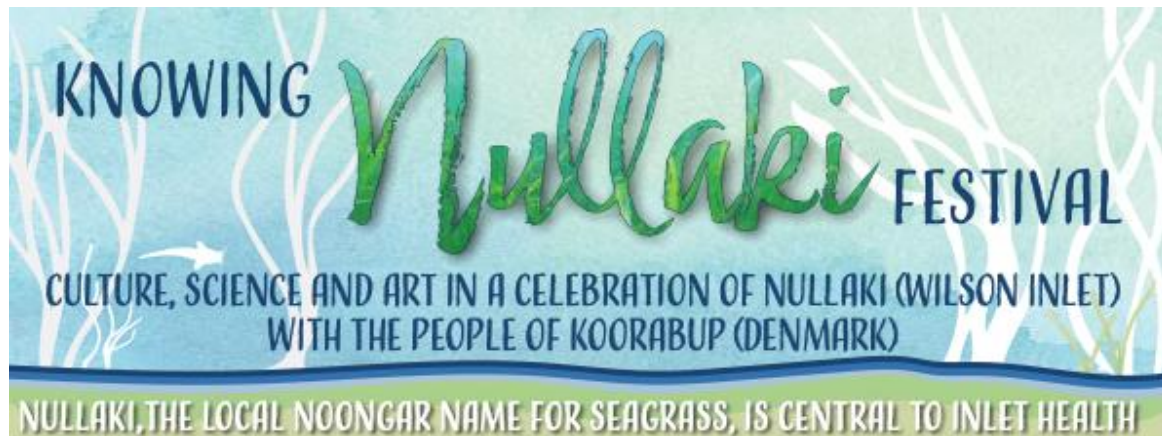
Bring plants from your own garden, a list of equipment will be sent

Free but limited spots- bookings essential

Full program of events and bookings

<https://greenskills.org.au/knowning-nullaki>

thanks to major sponsors The State Government and Lotterywest



Media Release 24 March 2022

The Knowing Nullaki Festival is a whole community celebration of the wonder and beauty of the Nullaki (Wilson Inlet) a place close to the heart of everyone in the Denmark community.

The festival will kick off with a series of school biodiversity workshops and continue with over twenty four free fun family and community events in the landscape and in the painting studio, the Arts House and the CRC and the Butter Factory Gallery. The community cultural and nature discoveries will culminate in a sparkling exhibition of artworks by the people of Denmark that celebrates the amazing diversity of plants and animals of the inlet and surrounding catchment area.

Everyone is invited to join in the multi-faceted events discovering and celebrating the Nullaki aquatic and land plants and animals. Painting, drawing, recording, photographing, listening, looking sharing knowledge and being together is at the heart of this Festival.

"When the well recognised artist and biodiversity educator, Angela Rossen, approached Green Skills with a proposal for an artist in residence project connecting people and place we immediately agreed that the Inlet would be a fabulous focus and we leapt into application writing together." Said Dr Louise Duxbury senior projects manager at Green Skills.

"The Inlet is at the heart of our town and as a consequence support for the project flooded in from the Denmark Shire, Denmark Arts, Kurrah Mia Culturally Noongar, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulations, three local schools and a further eight community groups."

Funding from the State Government and Lotterywest has given the green light for the *Knowing Nullaki Festival* to go full steam ahead. The exciting program of free events at local schools and with the whole community will bring culture, science and arts to discover more about Nullaki (Wilson Inlet).

The Festival will run from the last week of April to the end of June with a schools program, workshops, field trips, and discussions in May coming to a grande finale with a month long Exhibition at the Butter Factory Studio of beautiful artworks by the children and community of Denmark in June.

Summary Program Attached. For further information contact:
Dr Louise Duxbury lduxbury@greenskills.org.au 0429 409 231

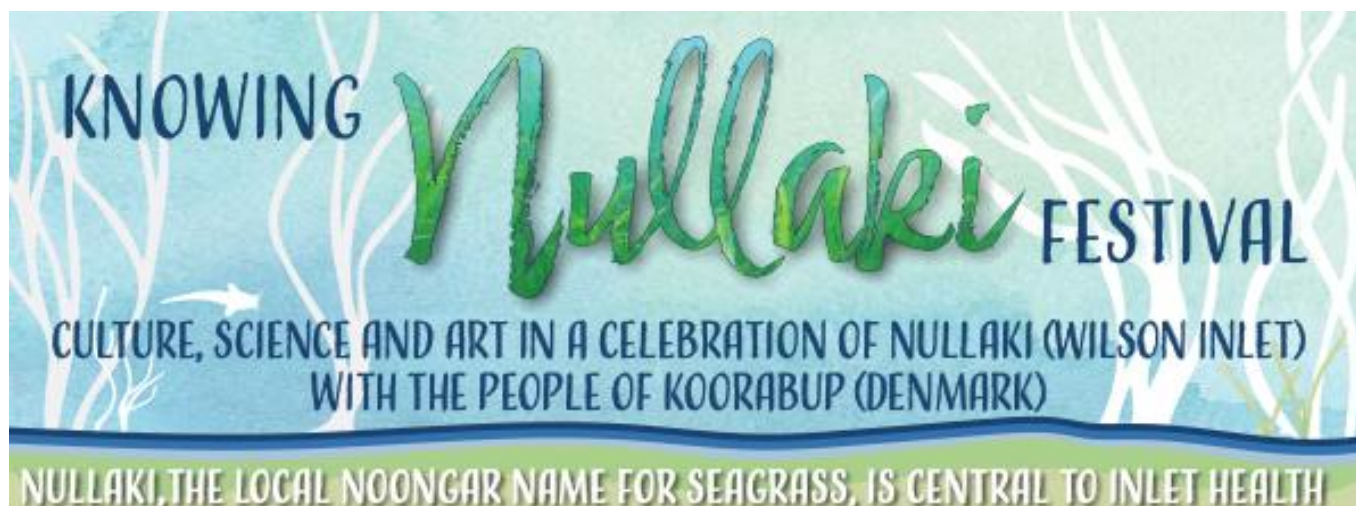
Angela Rossen info@angelarossen.com

See <http://www.angelarossen.com/artist.html> for more information about the Artist.

Media release also included image (used in body of Report above):

Image (Cover Page): Aerial photography Simon Neville

And Sponsor banner (refer Cover Page)



Media Release 26 April 2022

Book your free place for the Knowing Nullaki Festival of over twenty four fun family and community events in the field and in the painting studio, the Arts House, the CRC and the Butter Factory Gallery. The community cultural and nature discoveries will come together in a glittering exhibition of artworks by the people of Koorabup (Denmark).

Angela Rossen, Artist in residence for the Festival, began the program of nature discovery with three local schools from the first day of the new term. Elder Vernice Gillies and educator Larry Blight will offer the students a view of the Inlet, its rivers and catchments and special plants and animals from a cultural context. The whole community can be part of this experience through the Nullaki Cultural Tour led by Larry Blight on Saturday morning 7th May.

"First Nation custodians do not separate parts of the environment like westerners tend to do. Said Dr Louise Duxbury from Green Skills who is hosting the Festival. As Pibbulmun elder Uncle Wayne Webb says 'That whole Inlet and the surrounds is the cultural landscape'. Larry Blight is a terrific educator who will take us on a discovery tour of Nullaki, our fabulous inlet, on 7th May. Events are free but people will need to book in quickly as places are limited.

It is important for all of us who live here know to know the deep cultural connection and history to this place we call home. Said Louise. "As Auntie Lynette Knapp has said 'The Nullaki was a very busy place for the Noongar people who travelled through it on the way to other places.'"

If you miss out on the cultural tour you can catch up with Vernice and Larry at the big family friendly Community Biodiversity Survey of the Inlet led by Angela Rossen on the morning of Saturday 14 May down at the Rivermouth foreshore.

Other special guests at the Community Biodiversity Survey will be Shaun Ossinger from Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee with an active model of how catchments work and Elke Reichwaldt with some of the equipment the Department of Environment and Water Regulation uses to monitor the water quality in the Inlet on a regular basis.

See the full program of events including Discover Your Living Soils workshops, the early morning Bird Walk, Painting Nature workshops, and a Paper Eco-dyeing workshop. Events have limited spaces so book early at <https://greenskills.org.au/knowning-nullaki/>. Thanks to major sponsors, the State Government and Lotterywest, the *Knowing Nullaki Festival* activities are all FREE.

The Festival activities will run for five weeks from the last week of April culminating in a sparkling biodiversity exhibition of artworks by the children and community of Denmark which will be on display for the month of June at the Butter Factory Studio.

For further information contact:

Dr Louise Duxbury lduxbury@greenskills.org.au 0429 409 231

Angela Rossen info@angelarossen.com

See <http://www.angelarossen.com/artist.html> for more information about the Artist.

See <http://www.angelarossen.com/artist.html> for more information about the Artist.

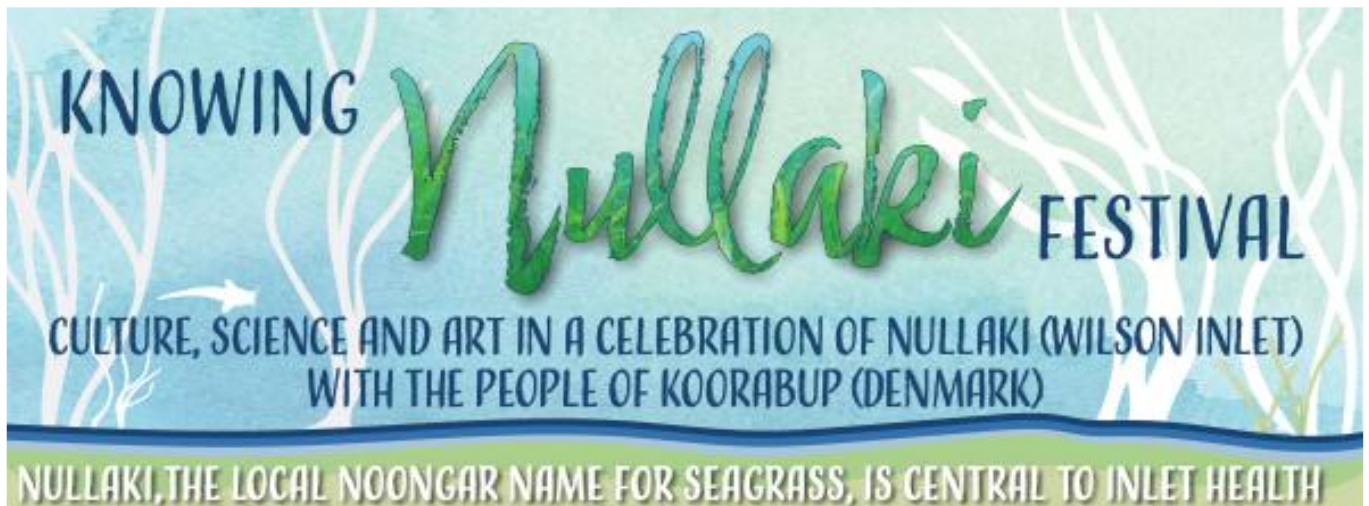


Menang elder Vernice Gillies



Cultural and biodiversity educator Larry Blight





Media Release 6 May 2022

The Knowing Nullaki Festival events to date have been a huge success with photos telling the story. "It has been such a buzz to see children and adults alike really amazed by what they are seeing and hearing about the Nullaki, Wilson Inlet, often for the first time." said Festival organizer Louise Duxbury from Green Skills.

Excursions to the Inlet by over a hundred students from two local schools to survey and document plants and animals has already resulted in hundreds of drawings and investigation of local species. These activities have led to the creation of two large collaborative artworks that will be displayed as part of the Knowing Nullaki Exhibition late May. A third school will be participating in the coming weeks.

"The first community workshops have also been a journey of discovery and we have more in store for the whole community". said Louise

The Community Biodiversity Survey on the 14 May will be a family fiesta not to be missed. Angela Rossen, the artist in residence for the project, will be continuing her wonderful work documenting the plant and animals of the Nullaki. Elder Vern Gillies and cultural education Larry Blight will be there to provide the cultural knowledge of landscapes and species."

"A working catchment model will bring to life the way water runs from upstream to end up in the Inlet connecting all of us regardless of where we live in the catchment. Shaun Ossinger catchment officer with Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee will be there to share what is being done in the catchment to keep the Nullaki in good shape.

Dr Elke Reichwaldt, Senior Environment Officer with the Department of Water Quality and Environmental Regulations, will demonstrate several pieces of equipment she uses on a fortnightly basis to monitor water quality in the Inlet."

The Community Biodiversity Survey will be held at the Rivermouth Caravan Park foreshore from 9.00am – 12.00noon on the Saturday 14 May.

For those keen to try their hand at documenting some of the local species two Painting Nature Studies with Angela Rosen are scheduled for the evenings of the 17 and 19 May, no experience needed.

For registrations and to see the full program for the Festival go to

<https://greenskills.org.au/knowning-nullaki/>

Thanks to major sponsors, the State Government and Lotterywest, the *Knowing Nullaki Festival* activities are all FREE.

The festival will culminate in a sparkling biodiversity exhibition of artworks by the children and community of Denmark which will be on display for the month of June at the Butter Factory Studio.

For further information contact:

Dr Louise Duxbury lduxbury@greenskills.org.au 0429 409 231

Angela Rossen info@angelarossen.com

See <http://www.angelarossen.com/artist.html> for more information about the Artist.

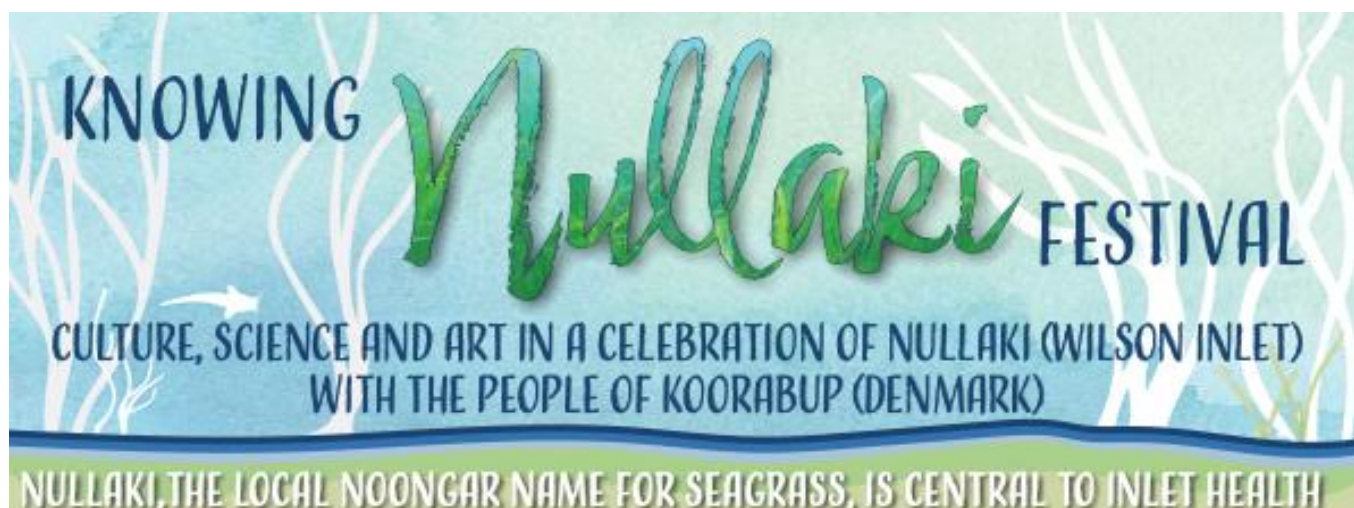
Media release also included images used in body of Report above. Refer Collation of select Workshop and Exhibition Photos On page 12 and 13:

Image: Children from Golden Hill Steiner School collecting samples from the Inlet

Image: Participants of the Discover and Document Living Soils Workshop

Image: Kwoorabup Nature School discovering and documenting species





Media Release 27 May 2022

More than 90 people shared in the joyful celebration of the Knowing Nullaki Exhibition opening at the Butter Factory Studio.

Community members of all ages shared their newfound knowledge and their beautiful artworks of the myriad animals and plants of the Nullaki, Wilson Inlet. The large canvasses created by the three schools looked fantastically vibrant populated with more species than most had ever seen or known prior to the project.

Elder Vern Gillies, who has been centrally involved in the festival, called for the whole community to be custodians together. She spoke warmly of the Denmark community's work to care for the Inlet, its waterways and catchment and the growing understanding of the importance of cultural history and knowledge.

"I take great pleasure in seeing all of the children involved and the pride they have in their part in the Exhibition. These are the next generation and are therefore the most important people here" she said.

Vern Gillies and cultural educator Larry Blight visited each of the participating schools once each of the collaborative paintings were completed. This engagement provided insights into the cultural landscape, the history of First Nations interaction with the Nullaki, and the proper names for species drawn by the children.

Artist in Residence, Angela Rossen, made special mention of the quality of the artworks produced by the students and the whole community. She spent the week leading up to the Exhibition opening selecting, labelling and hanging the more than 200 art pieces. She thanked the students, the schools and all the community groups and individuals who had contributed.

Painting Nature Studies community workshops run by Angela Rossen were hugely enjoyed and produced fabulous paintings featured in the Exhibition.

Three major collaborative artworks frame the exhibition. The shorebird painting was created by Angela Rossen with the Koorabup Nature School students, the Inlet ecosystem painting with the Golden Hill Steiner School and the River ecosystem painting with the year eight students at the Denmark Senior High School.

Angela Rossen painted the background landscapes to the major works with the children from each of the three schools separately participated in excursions in the field to observe nature with the aid of iScopes and to make drawings of what they discovered. The iScope lens mounted in stands were used in combination with a digital camera's capability in a smartphone and tablet technology to provide magnification to capture still and moving images by up to 25 times. Back in the classroom Angela worked with small groups to paint species studied and then paint them into the large collaborative paintings.

"It was very difficult to select which individual pieces to display as they were all worth exhibiting, we just didn't have space for everything. The community and students were engaged from the moment we started the project. The

school principals and staff were outstanding, providing the leadership projects like this need to be successful.” Said Angela.

The large paintings will be hung in and remain the property of each of the schools involved.

The community are invited to visit the Exhibition which will be open every day except Wednesdays until the 26 June. Visitors can marvel at the artworks and share discoveries about the Nullaki. Visitors are welcome to contribute their own input small or larger by writing what they love most about the Inlet to add to the string of flags starting to adorn the Exhibition or contribute a poem, photo or written piece about their connection to the Inlet for the sketch book.

Don't miss the last major event of the Festival on **Sunday 12 June 10am – 12.30pm Culture, Arts and Country for a first Nations Artist. Butter Factory Studio.** Morning tea followed by Panel Discussion facilitated by First Nation artist Shandell Cummings with three First Nations artists: elder Lynette Knapp, elder Aden Aedes, and emerging artist Brianna Williams.

Bookings via

<https://greenskills.org.au/knowning-nullaki/>

For further information contact:

Dr Louise Duxbury lduxbury@greenskills.org.au 0429 409 231

Angela Rossen info@angelarossen.com

See <http://www.angelarossen.com/artist.html> for more information about the Artist.

Media release also included images used in body of Report above. Refer Collation of select Workshop and Exhibition Photos On page 12 and 13:

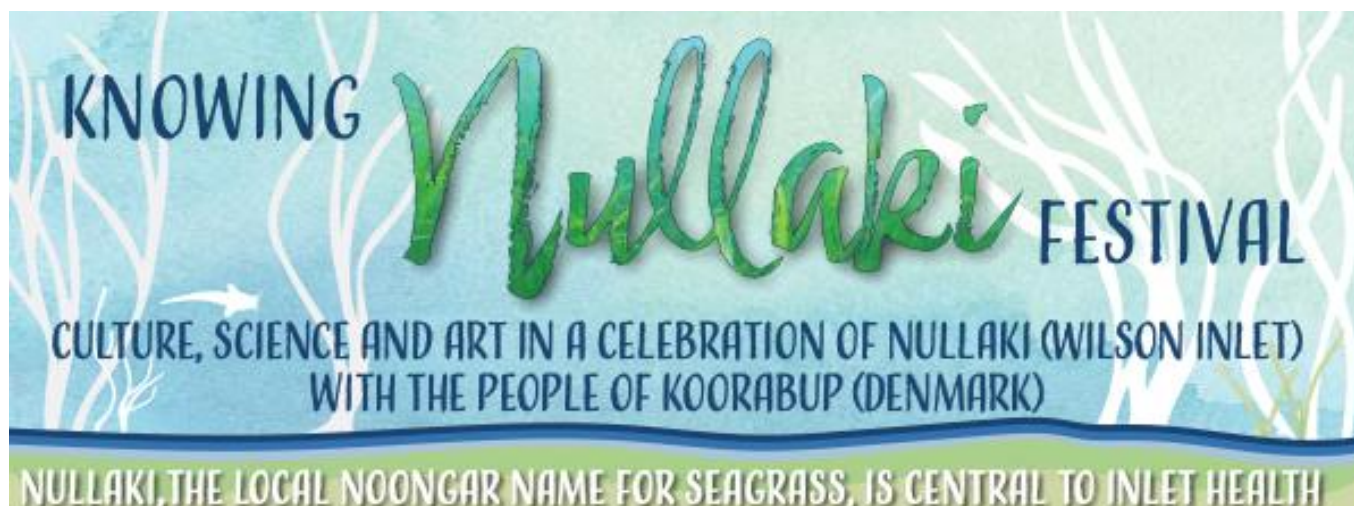
Image: The Exhibition Opening. Photo Credit Angela Rossen

Image: Green Skills Festival Coordinator Louise Duxbury (left) presenting gifts to elder Vernice Gillies and Artist in Residence Angela Rossen. Photo Michael Hemmings

Image: Children proudly sharing their paintings at the Exhibition Opening Photo Michael Hemmings

Image: Three generations visiting the Exhibition on its first day. Clare Gillett, Isabelle Gillett and Sue Boland. Mother, daughter proudly sharing her work with her grandmother visiting from the UK





Media Release 8 June 2022

This weekend is the final major event of the Knowing Nullaki Festival, the **Culture, Arts and Country for First Nations Artists Panel on Sunday 12 June 10am-12:30pm at the Butter Factory Studio**. Wrapping up over a month of exciting community events centred around Wilson Inlet, this event will be a unique opportunity to gain insight into the cultural (Noongar) perspective on the deep links between culture, artistic expression and connection to the environment.

The community is invited to morning tea followed by a fascinating panel discussion facilitated by Albany First Nation artist Shandell Cummings with prominent First Nations artists: elder Lynette Knapp, elder Aden Aedes, and emerging artist Brianna Williams.

Facilitator for the event Shandell Cummings is herself an artist who expresses her family's stories with a contemporary style specialising in acrylics on canvas and transferred designs to textiles. Her consultancy Awesome Aboriginal, is a regular in the Albany market scene and her most recent public art projects include the Alison Hartman Garden rejuvenation and the Boola Bardip screen project 2021/22.

Lynette Knapp is a renowned First Nations artist specialising in monochrome work. Lynette has been heavily involved long term in cultural heritage issues, delivery of Merningar language research and courses. Lynette recently completed a family exhibition at the Vancouver Art Centre and has artwork at the Denmark hospital and part of the Bunnings tanks project.

Local Elder Aden Eades has spent many years involved in visual art and music and has passed his talents on to his children. Committed to long term to cultural heritage advocacy and sharing knowledge about Aboriginal culture, he participates in many educational activities with schools and community groups.

Emerging First Nations artist, Brianna Williams has strong connections to Albany and is known for her beautiful art works and coordination of an annual First Nations art exhibition. Supported by her family, she delivers cultural and art installations at events including the Maritime Festival NAIDOC Week 2021. She is a strong supporter and coordinator of the local Aboriginal youth dancers.

Come to the Culture, Arts and Country for First Nations Artists and view the Knowing Nullaki Exhibition at the same time. The Exhibition is open until the 26th of June at the Butter Factory Studios. The exhibition has been described as 'outstanding' and 'exceptional'.

Bookings for the Culture, Arts and Country Panel via

<https://greenskills.org.au/knowning-nullaki/>

For further information contact: Dr Louise Duxbury lduxbury@greenskills.org.au 0429 409 231

Media release also contained sponsor banner (refer Cover Page)

APPENDIX 3: Media and Online Coverage

The Albany Advertiser 7th April 2022

<https://www.albanyadvertiser.com.au/news/albany-advertiser/denmark-knowing-nullaki-festival-celebrating-the-wilson-inlet-coming-to-town-in-may-and-june-c-6338304>

Albany Advertiser

Thursday, 28 April 2022

Denmark Knowing Nullaki Festival celebrating the Wilson Inlet coming to town in May and June



[Kasey Gratton](#) Albany Advertiser

Thu, 7 April 2022 2:00AM

[Kasey Gratton](#)



The Knowing Nullaki Festival would celebrate the Wilson Inlet and highlight the importance of seagrass to the waterways in Denmark.

Albany Advertiser Feature Article on Angela Rossen 12 May 2022

Results for *Art and science collide in Angela Rossen's collaborative, biodiverse artworks*



✦ Angela Rossen combines art and science

There are more similarities between artists and scientists than it may initially seem, according to Rossen.

Kasey Gratton Thu, 12 May 2022 2:00AM

Albany Advertiser

ESTABLISHED 1888

Albany Advertiser Great Southern Regional WA

Knowing Nullaki Festival wraps up this weekend with First Nations panel

Kasey Gratton Albany Advertiser
Thu, 9 June 2022 2:00AM


Kasey Gratton



Isabelle Gillett proudly sharing her work with mother Sue Boland and her grandmother Clare Gillett visiting from the UK. Credit: Knowing Nullaki Festival



Artworks created during Denmark’s Knowing Nullaki festival are on display as the festival comes to a close with a final event on this weekend.




SUBSCRIBE >


The West Australian

Albany Advertiser | Great Southern | Regional WA


Denmark Knowing Nullaki Festival celebrating the Wilson Inlet coming to town in May and June








Kasey Gratton | Albany Advertiser
Thu, 7 April 2022 2:00AM



Kasey Gratton



 The Knowing Nullaki Festival would celebrate the Wilson Inlet and highlight the importance of seagrass to the waterways in Denmark.
Credit: Ash Ramsay/RegionalHUB



The Knowing Nullaki Festival is coming to Denmark in May and June with art- and science-based events for local schools and the community.

The festival, run by Green Skills, will start on April 30 with free events scheduled during May and culminating in an art exhibition ending in June.

Green Skills senior projects manager Dr Louise Duxbury said the festival would celebrate the Wilson Inlet and highlight the importance of seagrass to the waterways in Denmark.

“The whole purpose is to see Nullaki, which is the Noongar word for seagrass,” Dr Duxbury said.

“The Wilson Inlet is a water body that relies on the quality and the health of the seagrass.”

Larry's Nullaki magical mystery tour

So, anyone who misses out on the cultural tour can catch up with elder Vernice Gillies and Larry at the big family-friendly Community Biodiversity Survey of the inlet. Festival artist in residence Angela Rossen will lead the survey on Saturday, May 14 at the Rivermouth foreshore.

Other special guests at that event will be Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee officer Shaun Ossinger showing how an active model of catchments work.

Environmental officer Elke Reichwaldt will show some of the equipment the Department of Environment and Water Regulation uses to monitor the water quality in the Inlet on a regular basis.

Overall, the festival comprises more than 24 family and community events in the field and at the Arts House, the Community Resource Centre and the Butter Factory Gallery.

Cultural and nature discoveries

NOONGAR cultural and biodiversity educator Larry Blight will lead a discovery tour of Nullaki (Wilson Inlet) for the whole community on May 7 as part of the Knowing Nullaki Festival.

Louise Duxbury from festival host, Green Skills, says First Nations custodians, like Larry, do not separate parts of the environment like westerners tend to.

Rather, as Pibbulmun elder Wayne Webb says, the whole Inlet and the surrounds is the cultural landscape.

Louise says festival events are free but people will need to book in quickly as places are limited. She believes it is important for all who live in the area to know the cultural connection and history of the place they call home.

Menang elder Lynette Knapp describes Nullaki as a busy place for the Noongar people who travelled through it on the way to other places.

will come together in an exhibition of artworks by the people of Koorup (Denmark).

Angela Rossen will begin a program of nature discovery with three local schools from the first week of the new term.

Vernice and Larry will offer the students a view of the Inlet, its rivers and catchments and special plants and animals from a cultural context.

See the full program of events including Discover Your Living Soils workshops, the early morning Bird Walk, Painting Nature workshops, and a Paper Eco-dy-ing workshop.


Events have limited spaces so book early at <https://greenskills.org.au/knowning-nullaki/>

Festival activities culminate in a biodiversity exhibition of artworks by the children and community of Denmark which will be on display throughout June at the Butter Factory Studio.





Top: Cultural and biodiversity educator Larry Blight
Above: Menang elder Vernice Gillies.



DENMARK RURAL and HARDWARE

www.denmark-coop.com.au

For a better gate



V-braced 2.4m to 4.8m

Festival a chance to get to know the Nullaki

By SERENA KIRBY

THIS month's 'Knowing Nullaki Festival' is an opportunity to learn and explore, create and celebrate what makes the Wilson Inlet special.

The month-long festival, organised in partnership with Denmark's Greenskills and artist and biodiversity educator, Angela Rossen (pictured), will feature 26 free community events.

Each event will explore the Nullaki through the lenses of cultural knowledge, art and science.

"Nullaki is the local Noongar name for seagrass which is central to the inlet's health," Angela said.

"Denmark really is a paradise and it's easy to take this magnificent natural environment for granted."

Angela, who is an Honorary Research Associate with the School of Biological Sciences at UWA, has designed and presented conservation and sustainability projects with schools and community groups WA since 2009. Her biodiversity workshops and community projects are an integral part of what she does and influence the art she creates in the field and in her studio.

"If we understand and see the biodiversity of what is living in our waterways and in our soil we're likely to be more thoughtful about our impact on natural systems," Angela said.

"Discovering nature's tiny details is a great way to start a journey of discovery that makes us better appreciate whole environmental systems."



any disregard for it is simply not tolerated."

Several field trips and workshops feature in the festival's extensive program including a community biodiversity survey of the Inlet on Saturday, May 14.

This event will include guests from the numerous organisations that monitor and maintain the health of the Inlet and surrounding catchment area.

Noongar elders Vernice Gillies and Larry Blight will share their knowledge at some of the festival's events.

Angela will also hold two evening nature studies painting workshops on Tuesday, May 17 and Thursday, May 19 from 7-9pm at the Civic Centre. Throughout the five weeks of events, participants will observe and document the plants and animals of the Nullaki through the biodiversity surveys, painting, drawing and photography.

These artworks will form a survey exhibition at the Butter Factory Gallery opening with a grand celebration on May 26.

The exhibition will be on display for a month with interactive activities at the gallery.

For more information and to view the full event program go to <https://greenskills.org.au/knowing-nullaki> or contact Greenskills on 9848 3310.

Angela said this was especially true for children and as part of the festival she would conduct art and science workshops, as well as field trips, with three local schools.

"I love the joy children find in nature when they learn ways of seeing both with magnification but also through exploration and perseverance.

"When we foster that attention to detail, that attention to nature, we grow a greater sense of ownership and stewardship of the environment.

"We need to talk loudly about protecting the environment and get to the point where

After school program explores the theatre

Story and pictures: SERENA KIRBY

YOUNG performers now have with youth in regional arts



Denmark Arts

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 12:06:48 Australian Western Standard Time

Subject: WHAT'S NEW MAY 2022

Date: Tuesday, 10 May 2022 at 12:48:38 pm Australian Western Standard Time

From: Denmark Environment Centre Inc.

To: louiseduxbury@westnet.com.au

MAY 2022 News

[View this email in your browser](#)

33 Strickland Street • 9848 1644 • info@denviron.org.au
www.denmarkenvironmentcentre.org.au



**Denmark
Environment
Centre Inc**



DEC SHOP

Page 1 of 15

[illegible]

WICC News Djeran Edition 2022 <https://static-promote.weebly.com/share/5dz34a3-c2e9-4d1c-b0d1-09c...>



WICC News
Djeran
Autumn April - May
Season of adulthood - Cooler weather begins.



In memory of Rob Underwood

Inlet Update

We are at the end of Bunuru (February-March) and Wilson Inlet is still connected to the ocean. However, the channel is slowly silting up as sand is transported in by waves and tides. The water between Prawn

1 of 1 28/4/22, 5:40 PM

Green Skills April News 2022 <https://mailchi.mp/31a03ddc6e/green-skills-apr2022-8252025?e=1963...>

Subscribe Past Issues Translate

[View this email in your browser](#)



Green Skills Inc

April Newsletter 2022



Wildflowers on the South Coast Photo credit: Penni Hewett

Green Skills 2022 Annual General Meeting

1 of 22 28/4/22, 5:39 PM

Denmark Arts [Contact Us](#) [Like](#) [Message](#) [Search](#) [More](#)


Write a comment...

Other posts

Denmark Arts is at Denmark Arts.
Fri - Denmark, WA - [View](#)

How gorgeous are these chalk drawings by our Artist in Residence, Angela Rossen, created for the Knowing Nulaki Festival. Keep your eyes peeled for more of her creations and better yet join in on some of the free workshops, discussions and walks that are happening for the Festival!

Next Monday night at the ArtsHouse we will be hosting an Artist Discussion lead by Angela from 7pm - 9pm. It's free! Come sit around the fire and enjoy some nibbles and wine. Email admin@denmarkarts.com.au. [See more](#)




You and 4 others

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

Write a comment...

Louise Duxbury
Angela is an awesome artist and educator - lucky to have her in town!
Biodiversity Survey event this Saturday Denmark Rivermouth foreshore - amazing isopods to magnify little water critters, fungi and plants not to be missed!
[Like](#) [Reply](#) [1m](#)

Denmark Arts is at Denmark Arts



Denmark Arts
@denmarkartsCouncil • 3.3 (7 reviews) • Arts & entertainment
denmarkarts.com.au

[Home](#) [About](#) [Events](#) [Reviews](#) [More](#) [Like](#) [Message](#) [Search](#) [More](#)


Denmark Arts
April 30 at 7:47 AM · [View](#)

Knowing Nulaki Festival has begun! 🎉 Have you booked into some of these amazing free events? They are booking up fast so be sure to secure your spot.

The festival is being lead by well-recognised artist and biodiversity educator, Angela Rossen. The focus is to connect people and place through painting, drawing, recording, photography, listening, looking, sharing knowledge and being together. The Knowing Nulaki Festival is an exciting program of 24 free community events and a whole community celebration of the culture, wonder and beauty of the Nulaki (Wilson Inlet) a place close to the heart of everyone in the Denmark community 🌿

Book Here:
<https://greenskills.org.au/knowning-nulaki/>

[#denmarkarts](#) [#biodiversity](#) [#greatsouthernart](#) [#artistsinresidence](#) [#nulaki](#) [#knowingnulaki](#)



Denmark FM Radio – multiple interviews. Example of one

Hi Louise,

Ken Smith here.

I'm sitting in for Sue Howard on the Breakfast show tomorrow morning and she had Angela down as her (my) studio guest for that session - to talk about the progress of the festival. Are you able to come in around 7.15am and take her place, please? (I'd also like to repeat the interview on my regular lunch time show three hours later, if you agree.)

Hope you can make it. Long time, no catch up!

Kind regards,

Ken

APPENDIX 4: Feedback

Cultural Tour Feedback

23 Participants 17 Respondents	Not at All	A little	Neutral	Moderately	Very
How enjoyable did you find the event?					17
How useful was the event in understanding the cultural significance of the Inlet?				1	16
How useful was the event in understanding the cultural connection to and activities at Poison Point?				1	16
How satisfactory was the event coordination and communication?				1	16
How likely are you to participate in similar events in the future?				2	15

Persons What were the best aspects of the event for you?

1	Visiting new places around home- eye opening well described by Larry, animated and interesting good pace	9	beautiful location sharing cultural and scientific knowledge connecting with others in nature beautiful location
2	Larry sharing cultural knowledge- granite outcrops being onsite to look and learn interesting discussions with participants and locals	10	beautiful location coming together as a community Larry sharing cultural knowledge
3	reconnecting with community post covid understanding of local culture new view on agriculture	11	seeing landscape from a new angle coming together as a community enjoying event post covid
4	sharing of cultural knowledge deepening in intimacy with local environment listening	12	sharing of cultural knowledge enjoying beauty and unique flora of the area coming together as a community
5	feeling Larry's enthusiasm and positivity coming together as a community learning about different species	13	sharing of cultural knowledge seeing landscape from a new angle coming together as a community
6	greater insights and respect of local culture and knowledge appreciation of Larry as an amazing advocate for two-way business coming together as a community	14	sharing of cultural knowledge finding flora with other participants explanation of rock formation
7	so much knowledge shared exploring new information exploring my backyard	15	coming together as a community sharing of cultural knowledge observing the subtleties
8	loved getting together with likeminded people depth of knowledge Larry has and ability to share	16	sharing of cultural knowledge coming together as a community the rocks
		17	sharing of cultural knowledge information about bush medicines

What action might you take as a result of the workshop?

- ⇒ go to similar activities
- ⇒ look out for granite outcrops more often
- ⇒ adopt a totem
- ⇒ adopting a totem
- ⇒ spend more time walking on Inlet
- ⇒ attend future events, share knowledge, initiate arts events, visit sites, live with appreciation and respect
- ⇒ sharing knowledge
- ⇒ coming back and exploring
- ⇒ sharing knowledge- school children
- ⇒ adopting a totem
- ⇒ look at my backyard with a new lens
- ⇒ re-visit site to get photos, adopting a totem
- ⇒ take care of environment better
- ⇒ re-visit site with new appreciation
- ⇒ go to others and use medicine that was shared
- ⇒ take more interest in home area
- ⇒ know what is edible and what isn't

What changes can you suggest to improve the event?

- ⇒ better advertising
- ⇒ more regularly
- ⇒ Information on poster for registration
- ⇒ put Larry's videos on web
- ⇒ sand talks and learning things that are basic to aboriginal culture
- ⇒ flow on to deeper connections with group- ie. meet for a coffee?
- ⇒ tell older people to bring small camp stools
- ⇒ some games and more bushfood to eat

Artists and Climate Change Workshops Feedback

Participants 11 – 7 Respondents Workshop 1 - 4 and Workshop 2 - 7	Not at All	A little	Neutral	Moderately	Very
How enjoyable did you find the event?					7
How useful was the event in connecting with other practitioners?				1	6
How useful was the event in forming an understanding of your relationship with climate change?				2	5
Would you want to be involved in scheduling other such events?				1	6
How satisfactory was the event coordination and communication?			1		6
How likely are you to participate in similar events in the future?					7

Person	What were the best aspects of the event for you?
1	Hearing the creative stories of other artists the motivating force of others' listening and interest community connection
2	community connection venue setup + ambience
3	conversation outdoors
4	links, references, shared knowledge sharing values and ideas on climate change networking and discussing our creative outlets community connection
5	community connection introducing new ideas and synergies fostering a sense of community
6	inspiring people, ideas and projects conversation stories
7	building up of one another candid, informal but structured exploring other practices venue setup + ambience

What action might you take as a result of the workshop?

- ⇒ taking my creative practice further
- ⇒ reframe my ideas about climate + my creative practice
- ⇒ reach out and create more within community
- ⇒ stay in touch with the participants
- ⇒ create more events
- ⇒ deep questions

Community Biodiversity Survey Feedback

Participants 20 – 3 Respondents (due to being washed out by the weather)	Not at All	A little	Neutral	Moderately	Very
How enjoyable did you find the event?					3
How useful was the event in understanding the cultural significance of the Inlet?					3
How useful was the event in understanding the Inlet water quality?					3
How useful was the event in understanding the seagrass and small critters living in the Inlet?					3
How useful was the event in understanding the importance of the catchment to Inlet health?					3
How satisfactory was the event coordination and communication?				1	2

Person	What were the best aspects of the event for you?
1	the presenter's knowledge the weather (initially!) community connection
2	perfect information all sorts
3	very knowledgeable local community members, water testing, noongar stories, water creatures hands on science, using the phone camera as a microscope! sharing this inlet experience with my daughter and granddaughter visiting from Germany appreciated how accessible and clear the information was for someone without a science background

What action might you take as a result of the workshop?

⇒ keep cultivating awareness of Inlet health

Community Bird Walk Feedback

Participants 19 Respondents 10	Not at All	A little	Neutral	Moderately	Very
How enjoyable did you find the event?			1		9
How useful was the event in understanding the significance of the Inlet to migratory birds?			3	3	4
How useful was the event in understanding how Wilson health and management impacts on birds?			1	2	7
How satisfactory was the event coordination and communication?				1	9
How likely are you to participate in similar events in the future?				1	9
How enjoyable did you find the event?			1		9

Persons	What were the best aspects of the event for you?			
1	Brad and Andrew sharing knowledge access to new places community connection	6 7	information about inlet health and how to protect it add knowledge to inlet's health and its system respect for environment	
2	brad and Andrew sharing knowledge environment community connection	8	brad and Andrew sharing knowledge knowledge of birds early morning	
3	seeing new birds identifying the birds voyage and discovery	9	community connection dried pears being outdoors and listening purposefully	
4	silence and serenity stillness quiet camaraderie	10	brad and Andrew sharing knowledge community connection brad and Andrew sharing knowledge	
5	observe and understand birdlife of Nullaki community connection		being outdoors and listening purposefully community connection	

What changes can you suggest to improve the event?

- ⇒ smaller group
- ⇒ posting info live to birdlife Australia for others
- ⇒ handouts about birds
- ⇒ connect to a learning network
- ⇒ more structured

What action might you take as a result of the event?

- ⇒ attend future events
- ⇒ revisit with greater awareness
- ⇒ adopt a totem
- ⇒ attend future events
- ⇒ we will see
- ⇒ learning about how to identify bird calls
- ⇒ observing bird colonies and numbers as they seem to be reducing
- ⇒ spend more time observing inlet, its birds and vegetation in all seasons
- ⇒ more aware of local environment
- ⇒ participate in more events

⇒ think about totems- too many to choose

Discover Your Soils Feedback

Participants Workshop 1 – 13 Workshop 2 - 4 Respondents 5 (<i>First workshop tried online survey post the workshop – people did not complete</i>)	Not at All	A little	Neutral	Moderately	Very
How enjoyable did you find the event?				1	4
How useful was the event in understanding the importance of soil management to the Inlet?				2	3
How useful was the event in understanding soil biology?			1	1	3
How satisfactory was the event coordination and communication?				1	4
How likely are you to participate in similar events in the future?				1	4

30-Apr	What were the best aspects of the event for you?
1	looking at soil invertebrates magnified conversations with others Angela's knowledge and tips about exploring nature
2	excitement shared looking through an earthworm's body Shaun's presentation hearing about relationships to soil from different participants
18-May	
1	eye opener, amazed by life underground Angela's passion Angela's presentation of soils
2	discovering bugs using iScope Angela's presentation of soils
3	info and observation both good

What changes can you suggest to improve the event?

- ⇒ a longer explanation of WICC soil study
- ⇒ could have been shorter
- ⇒ more background info about soil biology
- ⇒ workshop in bush setting
- ⇒ was expecting more info on the soil composition
- ⇒ non-colour feedback forms!

What action might you take as a result of the workshop?

- ⇒ more reading about Wilson Inlet
- ⇒ more action to support Inlet health
- ⇒ study more to truly understand this topic
- ⇒ explore macro-photo more deeply

Eco-dyeing Workshop Feedback

Participants 13 Respondents 11	Not at All	A little	Neutral	Moderat- ely	Very
How enjoyable did you find the event?				1	10
How useful was the event in understanding the use of native species for eco dyeing?			1	4	6
How useful was the event in deepening your understanding of the Inlet and its environment?			3	4	4
How satisfactory was the event coordination and communication?			1	1	9
How likely are you to participate in similar events in the future?				1	10

Person	What were the best aspects of the event for you?		
1	free event for anyone to participate	6	everything
	process	7	seeing the results
	learning a new skill		buddying up and helping each other
2	dyeing		the event space
	unravelling	8	learning a new skill
	seeing the results		presenter delivery and skill
3	learning a new skill	9	seeing the results
	seeing the results		the process
	community connection		using native plant species
4	the event space	10	seeing the results
	the finished product		learning a new skill
5	new respect and appreciation for the joy of native flora		community connection
	presenter delivery and skill	11	learning a new skill
	community connection		community connection
			presenter delivery and skill

What changes can you suggest to improve the event?

- ⇒ a little more kids
- ⇒ printed details of process/ substances
- ⇒ lunch- some food maybe
- ⇒ more dye options

What action might you take as a result of the workshop?

- ⇒ more experimenting
- ⇒ more eco dyeing
- ⇒ do more art/ environment workshops
- ⇒ trying the process at home
- ⇒ continued practice of new skills and development of technique
- ⇒ do more art/ environment workshops
- ⇒ dye with plants at home
- ⇒ experiment with paper and textile dyeing
- ⇒ do more transfer prints
- ⇒ participate in future events
- ⇒ dye with plants at home
- ⇒ do with grandchildren

Painting Nature Studies Feedback

Participants 17 (<i>another workshop was held but feedback was not gained</i>). Respondents 12	Not at All	A little	Neutral	Moderately	Very
How enjoyable did you find the event?					12
How useful was the event in understanding painting nature studies?				2	10
How useful was the event in deepening your understanding of the Inlet and its environment?			2	7	3
How satisfactory was the event coordination and communication?				1	11
How likely are you to participate in similar events in the future?				1	11

Person	What were the best aspects of the event for you?	
1	community connection presenter knowledge and skill humour and insight being shared so simply generous workshop sharing love of the inlet and nature	feeling safe to try playing with colour 7 excellent demonstration beautiful photographs co-ordination and organisation
2	well explained light-hearted experience community connection	8 I did a painting I feel positive playing with colour
3	learning about mixing paints learning about painting techniques being encouraged by teacher and others	9 upbeat nature of Angela detailed demonstration and narration
4	the in-depth explorations of painting style getting to paint something myself community connection	10 painting the animals food
5	so many insights into how to look closely at nature tips and tricks for using paint to depict nature producing my own artwork	11 excellent demonstration mentoring and feedback pictures of local wildlife
6	learning new techniques	12 excellent demonstration hands on free

What changes can you suggest to improve the event?

- ⇒ more painting sessions regularly
- ⇒ longer
- ⇒ lighting
- ⇒ lighting
- ⇒ reminders about event
- ⇒ longer time, daytime?
- ⇒ lighting

What action might you take as a result of the workshop?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| ⇒ painting more, finding more opportunities/
classes | ⇒ painting more |
| ⇒ join nature painting/ drawing group | ⇒ painting more |
| ⇒ buy paints and start painting natures | ⇒ painting more |
| ⇒ painting more | ⇒ come to the exhibition |
| ⇒ more art | ⇒ painting more |
| ⇒ painting more | ⇒ painting more |

Culture Arts and Country Panel Feedback

Participants 20 Respondents 13	Not at All	A little	Neutral	Moderately	Very
How enjoyable did you find the event?					13
How satisfactory was the event coordination and communication?			1	2	10
How likely are you to participate in similar events in the future?				1	12

Persons What were the best aspects of the event for you?

- 1 sharing aspects of First Nations culture
community connection
inspirational
understanding interconnection of place, nature and people
- 2 opportunity to paint and feel connected to Nullaki
sharing aspects of First Nations culture
- 3 sharing aspects of First Nations culture
greater understanding of traditional culture
connection to country and sense of belonging
- 4 sharing aspects of First Nations culture
personal stories of the panel members
humility, humour, interconnectivity with family and knowledge shared
sharing of different approaches to art/
- 5 knowledge/ family
friendliness of presenters
- 6 knowledge sharing
conversations with passion
personal stories of the panel members
- 7 personal stories of the panel members
fusion of art and country
Shandell's wonderful facilitation
- 8 rich content
well presented
time to go deep
- 9 knowledge sharing
fun
- 10 genuine, generous people and presenters
walking together with First Nations people
- 11 meeting our beautiful Aboriginal neighbours
sharing aspects of First Nations culture
meeting an elder, being in her presence
learning why First Nations people will not cross the river
- 12 the river
- 13 sharing aspects of First Nations culture
genuine, generous people and presenters

What will you take away from this event?

- ⇒ an interest
- ⇒ more understanding and curiosity, realisation that to create is important and healing
- ⇒ community connection
- ⇒ interconnection- with family, mother earth, father sky, and all living things on this planet and the heavens
- ⇒ better understanding of people and place
- ⇒ keen to learn more about language and stories
- ⇒ to assist in my formal job too
- ⇒ everything is connected
- ⇒ interconnection, richness of cultural knowledge
- ⇒ deeper understanding
- ⇒ reflection time, love of nature
- ⇒ knowledge

Changes to improve the event?

- ⇒ heating in the venue
- ⇒ to see some of the artwork being discussed or info where to find it