



2024 SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS IN AN ANCIENT LAND



**Highways
and Byways**

HEALING THE LAND.
HEALING OURSELVES.
TOGETHER.

OUR 2024 PROGRAM

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS IN AN ANCIENT LAND



Each year Highways and Byways - Healing the Land, Healing Ourselves, Together provides small grants to community organisations for projects that address disadvantage and exclusion within towns and communities, especially in rural and regional Australia.

In 2024, our Small Grants Program theme is 'Community Connections in An Ancient Land'. This theme recognises that Australia is a vast and ancient land, home to the longest continuing culture on earth. It is a land that, in recent years, has been challenged by drought, floods and bushfires: natural disasters which have led to a loss of life, property, significant impacts on species and the destruction of vast tracts of land and habitat. The COVID-19 pandemic has also left its mark, with communities still healing from the effects of long periods of isolation and restrictions on movement, education and trade. Added to this, a cost-of-living crisis is creating additional pressures, leaving many communities across Australia struggling.

We were therefore keen to support projects that bring communities together to forge social bonds and to collaborate to address social issues, such as isolation and loneliness, which are often heightened during challenging times. We wanted to support people and groups to form new partnerships, where they could develop new skills and obtain new knowledge that would allow them to manage their land and environs sustainably into the future. We wanted to encourage and support the emergence of new leaders. We also

wanted to recognise the innate wisdom and unique cultural identity of our First Nation's peoples that have been an integral part of our land for 65,000 years.

In 2024, thirty-three projects will receive small grants from Highways and Byways. The competition for funding was intense, with applications far exceeding our available resources. Yet we are thrilled with the projects we have selected to fund. As you will discover in the following pages, these initiatives span the nation, and showcase a diversity of activities dedicated to protecting and celebrating Indigenous culture, while caring for our land, waters, and country, along with the communities that call them home.

Our grants would not be possible without the support of our donors – and we thank them for their continued generosity.

IMAGE FRONT PAGE: Kiwirrkurra Indigenous Rangers purchased a new drone to help with their management of the Kiwirrkurra Indigenous Protected Area in central Australia. The drone captured the Rangers monitoring burning (2022 small grant recipient)

IMAGE ABOVE: Indigenous students from Melville High School in Western Australia created a series of murals to depict the Noongar seasons. The artwork is on permanent display at Kulungah Myah Community Centre (2023 small grant recipient)

GRANTS BY LOCATION

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION ACROSS AUSTRALIA



GRANT RECIPIENTS & PROJECTS

NORTHERN TERRITORY

1. RDK ALL ROUNDER LAND CARE & RECYCLING PROGRAM

RDK All Rounder Program
Alice Springs, NT (Arrernte Country)
\$4,000

The RDK All Rounder Program is an immersive, on-Country experience designed for young Aboriginal men to deepen their cultural identity and connection to Country. The program offers tailored, culturally sensitive support aimed at fostering personal growth, expanding cultural understanding, and encouraging self-awareness and pride.

The Land Care and Recycling Program will be delivered through the RDK All Rounder Program. It will focus on environmental stewardship, equipping participants with the skills and confidence to manage the land and re-engage with education or employment. Young men will gain hands-on experience in various trades, including working with horses, fencing, mechanics, and welding. They will also participate in cultural activities such as cooking, painting, and Men Talk sessions, where they can share stories and experiences. The program places a strong emphasis on both physical and mental health, ensuring a holistic approach to their development.

2. TIWI SONGS & STORIES ALIVE & SHARED

Tarntipi Homelands Aboriginal Corporation
Bathurst Island, NT (Tiwi Islands)
\$3,800

Tarntipi Homelands Aboriginal Corporation will host two camps for Tiwi families to reconnect with their cultural heritage, the land, and each other. The camps will be led by Tiwi Elders and will create a supportive environment that nurtures meaningful inter-generational relationships, strengthens Indigenous identity, and empowers Aboriginal self-determination.

The two-day camps will provide an authentic cultural experience, including learning traditional songs, discovering bush tucker, engaging with Dreamtime stories, and participating in various cultural activities.

Many of these activities will take place around a fire as



a central learning space, honouring the enduring strength of Tiwi culture.

QUEENSLAND

3. NAIDOC - KEEP THE FIRE BURNING

Wenlock Catchment Management Group Inc
Old Mapoon, QLD (Awngthim/ Yupangathi Country)
\$4,000

Wenlock Catchment Management Group will host "Keep the Fire Burning" during NAIDOC Week in July 2024. This week-long event will bring together eight Indigenous tribes along the Wenlock Catchment River and the communities of Mapoon, Weipa, Naprunam, and surrounding areas to celebrate Indigenous culture. It will take place on Country in Mapoon, on ceremonial ground that has been shared for over 100 years.

"Keep the Fire Burning" represents a significant step forward in acknowledging and celebrating NAIDOC Week in the region which has been limited in recent years. The event will feature various activities focused on cultural revitalisation, including dance performances and workshops, art workshops, and singing in language. This celebration aims to rekindle the community spirit and honour the traditions of the Indigenous people in the Wenlock Catchment.

4. EIDSVOLD GARDEN COMMUNITY CONNECT

North Burnett Community Service
Eidsvold, QLD (Wakka Wakka Country)
\$3,500

The Eidsvold Garden Club will host four community gardening workshops led by Indigenous facilitators to share knowledge about local Indigenous flora and fauna, traditional bush tucker, and sustainable land management practices. By highlighting cultural practices, the club seeks to empower its Indigenous members and enrich the cultural understanding of non-Indigenous participants.

As a vital social hub in the small rural community of Eidsvold, Queensland, the Garden Club predominantly comprises Indigenous Australians. Members meet weekly at the North Burnett Community Service office, where they are also developing a new community garden. These gatherings foster not only gardening skills and knowledge but also social connections, making them as much about community building as they are about horticulture.

5. COMMUNITY BUS

Mungindi Hospital Auxiliary Inc
Mungindi, QLD (Kamilaroi/Bigumbal Country)
\$1,200

Mungindi Hospital Auxiliary Inc will establish a community bus service to provide fortnightly 'out-of-town' trips for local elderly and isolated residents.

Mungindi is a remote community of 700 people on the Queensland/New South Wales border that currently relies on limited community transport provided by a local aged care service, accessible only to registered

clients. This new bus service will bridge the transportation gap for residents without private vehicles, ensuring broader access to amenities and services not available locally, while also combating social isolation by fostering social interactions and participation in community activities.

6. BUNDJALUNG BUSH FOOD YOUTH PROGRAM

The Returning Indigenous Corporation
Alstonville, NSW (Bundjalung Country)
\$4,000

The Bundjalung Bush Food Youth Program will teach Indigenous girls aged 14-18 years how to cultivate native bush foods in a commercial setting. The program will be delivered on Country at Namabunda Farm, an Indigenous-owned farm in Alstonville, NSW. The program will begin with an eight-week pilot, involving ten girls identified by their schools as disengaged or at risk of disengagement. This initial phase will help shape the program's overall structure and delivery thereafter.

During the eight weeks, participants will be mentored by an all-Indigenous team from local organisations and businesses, gaining hands-on experience in native bush food propagation, harvesting, managing a commercial nursery, and cooking in a professional kitchen.

The program will equip the participants with practical, work-ready skills, and foster their connection with their culture, community, and the land. By integrating cultural heritage into practical skills, the program aims to show participants how their culture can form the foundation for their future careers and personal growth.



IMAGE: Wildflowers bloomed in the Broken Hill Regeneration Area following the installation of leaky dams by members of Landcare Broken Hill (2022 small grant recipient)

NEW SOUTH WALES

7. SHARING SEAFOOD STORIES ON GARBY COUNTRY

Garby Elders Aboriginal Corporation
Red Rock, NSW (Gumbaygnirr Country)
\$4,000

Garby Elders Aboriginal Corporation will host a workshop for the local Indigenous community, focussing on the health of local waterways and the sustainability of seafood harvesting. Recent research conducted in collaboration with Southern Cross University has uncovered concerning levels of faecal and pesticide contamination in a number of estuaries across Garby land.

The workshop will present these findings, and the risks of consuming local seafood in a manner that is clear, engaging, and accessible. It will serve as a platform for the community to discuss and strategise ways to adapt cultural harvesting practices to address contemporary challenges. The overall goal is to empower the Garby community to make informed decisions regarding Indigenous governance of Garby waterways and ensure the health and sustainability of Garby sea Country for future generations.

8. THE VALLEY HUB - ON COUNTRY

Bowraville Innovative Social Enterprise
Precinct
Nambucca Valley, NSW (Gumbaynggirr
Country)
\$4,000

The Bowraville Innovative Social Enterprise Precinct, in partnership with the Mujaay Ganma Foundation, will collaborate with emerging Indigenous Elders from the local Aboriginal community to create and share stories about Indigenous culture. These stories will be featured monthly on The Valley Hub, an online platform that includes a website, newsletters, and social media channels. The Valley Hub was established to connect the community, share information, and facilitate conversations in response to the challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, bushfires, and floods in the Nambucca Valley.

This project aims to raise awareness of the cultural history of the Nambucca Valley and ensure its preservation by documenting knowledge and stories. It also seeks to highlight the next generation of Indigenous leaders and provide the community with insights into the history, traditions, and lived experiences of the area's Aboriginal people.

9. IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE-SHARING AMENITIES AT BOUNDARY ROCK

Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land
Council
Daruka, NSW (Gamilaroi/Gomeri Country)
\$4,000

The Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council's Ranger team will enhance visitor facilities at Boundary Rock, near Tamworth in NSW. This site is of great significance to the Gamilaroi/Gomeri and Anaiwan people, featuring red ochre rock art on a sheltered granite overhang and is a historically important border site where tribes convened for corroborees and initiation ceremonies. A section of the site is dedicated to cultural tours.

The planned improvements include enlarging a yarning circle with timber log seating, resurfacing a dance circle at the inner entrance, and installing timber log seating along the walking track to the Rock. These enhancements will provide visitors with more opportunities to rest, engage with tour guides, and reflect on the site's cultural significance, fostering a deeper connection to the heritage of the Gamilaroi/Gomeri and Anaiwan people.



10. YARNING PLACE BUSH TUCKER GARDEN

Home-Start Cowra, Canowindra, Weddin

Caragabal, NSW (Wiradjuri Country)

\$4,000

Home-Start Cowra, Canowindra, Weddin will partner with Caragabal Public School to create a Bush Tucker Garden on the school grounds. This initiative builds on the success of the 2021 Wiradjuri Story Poles Project, a collaborative art venture by Home-Start, Wiradjuri Elders, and Caragabal Public School. The primary goal of the garden is to celebrate and promote Wiradjuri culture and heritage.

The garden will be designed as a space for community engagement and will educate visitors about native bush foods, their characteristics, edibility, and preparation methods. Students will play an integral role in the project, engaging in activities such as garden construction, painting garden beds with Aboriginal art, planting, and ongoing maintenance. The project will culminate in a celebratory event upon completion.

Caragabal holds historical significance as part of the Wiradjuri nation, with a scar tree on the school grounds and a history of traditional pathways through the area. Numerous Wiradjuri artefacts, including grindstones for flour and tools, have been discovered in the region, highlighting its cultural importance.

11. MURRAMARANG HISTORY PROJECT

Durras Community Association

South Durras NSW (Murramarang Country)

\$1,000

The Durras Community Association will establish a permanent public display to celebrate and preserve the Indigenous history of South Durras and the Murramarang National Park region, near Bateman's Bay in New South Wales. This culturally rich area is of great significance to the local Murramarang people, the original custodians of the land.

Indigenous Elder Trisha Ellis will be engaged to document the Indigenous history of this area and create a public display that shares these stories. The association will also initiate the process of identifying, documenting, and preserving local artefacts, laying the groundwork for a dedicated safekeeping place in the Durras region. This project aims to honor and preserve the cultural heritage of the Murramarang people for future generations.

12. SCAR TREE RE-LOCATION PROGRAM

Cobram-Barooga Business & Tourism
Barooga, NSW (Bangarang Country)

\$4,000

Cobram Barooga Business and Tourism will relocate two fallen scar trees to the new Bullanginya Daborra Dunggalla Walk along the Murray River in Barooga, NSW. This project involves clearing and tidying the area, safely relocating the scar trees, and installing signage to explain their cultural significance.

Scar trees hold immense value in Aboriginal culture, with some dating back thousands of years. These trees are not just physical artefacts but are also tools for sharing stories and educating both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people about Indigenous history and culture.

Following recent floods, Bangarang Elders identified several scar trees near Wangaratta at risk of being lost or mistakenly used as firewood. They selected the Bullanginya Walk as the ideal location for these trees, where the trees could be safeguarded and their cultural importance shared with visitors and educational tour groups.

VICTORIA

13. BRINGING BACK THE BIRDS - DAVID WINTERBOTTOM PARK, WODONGA

Friends of David Winterbottom Park
Wodonga, VIC (Waveroo Country)

\$4,000

Friends of David Winterbottom Park, in collaboration with the Wodonga Urban Landcare Network and the Duduroa Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation, will host two "Bringing Back the Birds" events to survey birdlife at David Winterbottom Park near Wodonga, Victoria.

This Park covers an area of 15.1 acres adjacent to the Huon Creek. The Friends of David Winterbottom Park have been working to restore the area to create a strong riparian ecosystem and recreation space. The surveys will monitor and record bird populations in the park using citizen science apps. This will generate baseline data which is essential for measuring the impact of ongoing conservation initiatives over time.

The survey events will also provide an opportunity to engage with the wider community, sharing insights into the benefits of birdlife conservation, riparian restoration, and Indigenous land management practices.

14. BUSH TUCKER GARDEN & SEASONAL STORY

Waminda Community House
Benalla, VIC (Yorta Yorta Country)
\$4,000

Waminda Community House (WCH) will establish a Bush Tucker Garden at its premises in Benalla, Victoria. This garden will serve as a space for the community to gain practical, hands-on gardening skills and knowledge. Alongside the garden, WCH will create a story mural and booklet that shares a "Seasonal Bush Tucker Story" about the plants in the garden.

WCH will work closely with local Elders and the wider community, inviting Indigenous and non-Indigenous families and young people to participate in the garden's planning, construction, and planting. They will also have the opportunity to contribute to the "Seasonal Bush Tucker Story."

WCH has been operating in Benalla West for nearly four decades. It serves an area where many households face socio-economic challenges that inhibit their chances to thrive and connect with the community. With a local population of 270 First Nations people, the Bush Tucker Garden aims to address critical gaps in mainstream knowledge about traditional seasons and sustainable land and food management.

15. HELMETED HONEYEATER SCHOOL PLANTING PROGRAM

Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Inc
Yellingbo, VIC (Woiworung Country)
\$3,910.80

Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater will deliver an initiative to educate students about the plight of the critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeater, while actively contributing to the preservation of its habitat.

School groups will visit the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Area, a remnant bushland located about 50km east of Melbourne. This area is home to the Helmeted Honeyeater, Leadbeater's Possum, and other rare and threatened species. During their visits, students will learn about the wildlife populations, habitats, and conservation efforts while gaining hands-on experience in plant propagation and habitat restoration. They will also tour Healesville Sanctuary for a behind-the-scenes look at the Helmeted Honeyeater captive-breeding program.

All activities will be scheduled within the school year and outside the Helmeted Honeyeater's breeding season to ensure minimal disturbance. This initiative aims to foster a deep understanding and appreciation of conservation efforts among students, empowering them to contribute meaningfully to the protection of this critically endangered species longer term.

16. WARRIGUNYA'S VEGGIE GARDEN

Warrigunya Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation
Darriman, VIC (Gunaikurnai Country)
\$4,000

Warrigunya Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corp will construct a vegetable garden at Warrigunya in Darriman, Victoria. Warrigunya provides affordable, stable housing and on-site support for Indigenous men upon their release from prison. The development of the garden will be guided by the knowledge and insights of Indigenous Elders, with long-term management by the residents. The garden will be established during two working bees in August and September 2024.

This vegetable garden will offer the residents a source of fresh produce and provide a meaningful area of focus and engagement. They will also have opportunities to interact with Elders, gaining new skills and confidence in the process.



17. CORINELLA YOUTH GROUP

Corinella & District Community Centre
Corinella, VIC (Bunurong Country)
\$3,750

Corinella and District Community Centre will host a weekly youth group for 11 to 17-year-olds from the communities of Corinella, Coronet Bay, Grantville, and Pioneer Bay in Victoria. This program will feature a diverse range of educational, sports, and cooking activities designed to complement school learning.

Since its launch in early 2023, the youth group has grown significantly, increasing from four to 15 regular participants. Last year, the group embarked upon a philanthropic project, distributing school backpacks and stationery to children in need. Older participants have also naturally taken on leadership roles, mentoring and supporting the younger members.

This program aims to address a critical gap in after-school activities within the region, fostering a supportive and inclusive community for the youth of these towns. By providing a safe and engaging environment, the program seeks to promote personal development, social connections, and community involvement among local young people.

18. NUGAL BIIK RANGERS GARDEN

Whittlesea Community Connections
Wollert, VIC (Wurundjeri/Woi Wurrung Country)
\$4,000

Whittlesea Community Connections will establish a native bush garden at the Wollert Community Farm, which will be managed by the Nugal Biik Rangers. The Nugal Biik Rangers program is First Nations-led for First Nations people, working within a mainstream organisation.

The garden will enhance the Rangers' practical skills in land management and conservation, while enhancing their knowledge of Indigenous plants used for food, medicine, and tools. This initiative also will serve as a cultural strengthening opportunity, fostering a deeper connection to Country and culture.

The Garden will be based at the 160 ha Wollert Community Farm, where an Indigenous Interpretive Trail, meeting place, native nursery and Victorian Aboriginal educational garden will be established and where the Indigenous Rangers are conducting existing land management.

19. COMMUNITY GARDENING TOGETHER

Neighbourhood Collective
Bendigo, VIC (Djadjawurung Country)
\$2,930

Neighbourhood Collective will bring together carers, children, and adults with a disability for several workshops and working bees to increase the capacity of the community garden at the 'Old Church on the Hill' Community Centre, in Quarry Hill, near Bendigo, Victoria.

Many individuals with disabilities and their carers who utilise the Centre have expressed concerns about social isolation, mental health challenges, and limited access to meaningful activities. However, they have shown a strong interest in gardening, particularly in growing their own food. In response, this project will offer facilitated educational sessions and hands-on experience in growing fruits and vegetables. Participants will gain practical gardening skills and knowledge, which will foster their independence and well-being.

The expansion of the garden will also enhance the services offered by Neighbourhood Collective, with surplus produce added to emergency food relief supplies, free community lunch services, and cooking programs.

20. COMMUNITY KITCHEN GARDEN

Atisha Centre Incorporated
Bendigo, VIC (Djadjawurung Country)
\$3,820

Atisha Centre, a Tibetan Buddhist meditation centre on the outskirts of Bendigo, Victoria will develop a community kitchen garden. This initiative involves revitalising neglected land adjacent to its current kitchen and dining facilities.

The garden will serve as a vibrant community hub and a space where individuals can gather to enhance their knowledge of sustainable gardening techniques, including composting, wicking beds, and water efficiency methods. The Centre plans to host cooking workshops using produce harvested directly from the garden, and meals prepared with garden-grown produce will be provided to the community, to offer relief from the pressures of the rising cost of living.

This project represents aims to create a more sustainable and connected community, grounded in principles of mindfulness and environmental stewardship.

21. COMMUNITY CULTURAL YARNING CIRCLE

Maryborough Community House Inc
Maryborough, VIC (Djadjawurung Country)
\$4,000

Maryborough Community House (MCH) will create a yarning circle within its grounds, adjacent to Roscholler Park in Maryborough, Victoria. This park is a popular local destination with a range of recreational facilities including a playground, picnic area, basketball and netball hoops, football goals, a walking track, and a bushland area.

Yarning circles are traditional meeting places where communities gather for storytelling, events, and celebrations. These circles cultivate a sense of community, belonging, cultural recognition, and respect. They provide a space where individuals come together to listen, share, and learn from each other. There is currently no other facility of this kind in the Maryborough region.

By establishing a yarning circle, MCH is not only creating a physical space but also a venue for community engagement and cultural exchange. It is a demonstration of MCH's commitment to fostering inclusivity, cultural preservation, and community cohesion in central Victoria.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

22. YOUNGHUSBAND RIVER FRONT RESERVE REJUVENATION PROJECT

Friends of Younghusband River Care
Younghusband, SA (Ngarrindjeri Country)
\$2,598

Friends of Younghusband River Care Inc will undertake repair and rejuvenation works at Younghusband River Front Reserve to address the impact of flooding that caused significant damage to infrastructure, native vegetation, and wildlife habitats in 2023.

Located on the Murray River near Mannum in South Australia, the Younghusband River Front Reserve will be restored to its pre-flood condition. This will involve the clearing of dead saltbush and debris, removal of hazardous vegetation such as damaged tree roots, eradication of noxious weeds, and replanting with native shrubs and trees. These activities are designed to restore the Reserve's natural ecological balance and encourage the return of native fauna. The project also seeks to foster a sense of collective purpose within the community to support the well-being of those who were severely impacted by the floods.

23. WEAVING OUR LIVES TOGETHER

Woven Flaxley
Flaxley, SA (Peramangk Country)
\$4,000

Woven Flaxley will host a series of cultural weaving workshops that bring together the local community and First Nations people from across the Adelaide Hills region

The workshops will be facilitated by a local Ngarrindjeri person and will focus on Ngarrindjeri weaving techniques. It will provide opportunities for dialogue and storytelling, enhancing mutual appreciation and respect.

The Adelaide Hills region is traditionally the land of the Peramangk people, who experienced displacement following colonisation. While the Peramangk are gradually returning to their lands, Woven Flaxley has been granted permission to share the cultural practices of the nearby Ngarrindjeri, the traditional custodians of the lower Murray River, Fleurieu Peninsula, and Coorong regions.

Through these workshops, Woven Flaxley aims to encourage a genuine interest in local Indigenous history, fostering a sense of unity within the community, and a shared commitment to preserving Indigenous culture and practices for future generations.



IMAGE: Members of the Country Women's Association Tasmanian Online Branch undertook a planting day to grow produce for local food banks (2022 small grant recipient)

24. KAURNA KARDLA

Hills Environment Centre
Lenswood, SA (Kurna Country)
\$4,000

Hills Environment Centre will partner with Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation to deliver Kurna Kardla (Kurna Fire), a two-day workshop for 20 land managers highlighting the vital role of cultural land management practices in environmental management, biodiversity conservation and fire prevention.

The workshop will be led by Kurna Kardla experts, Clem and Quahli Newchurch, and will introduce participants to Indigenous land management practices, including reading country and cultural burning. Cultural burning can reduce fuel loads, improve soil health, encourage biodiversity conservation, all while maintaining cultural connections to the land and promoting community resilience.

A cultural burn will take place on a local property to provide a hands-on practical demonstration of fire practices. The burn site will be monitored for 12 months post-burn to document habitat regeneration. These findings will be shared with workshop participants and governmental bodies, advocating for the wider adoption and support of cultural land management practices in the long term.

25. AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS & FOODS: A COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE BUILDING PROJECT

Gawler Environment Centre
Gawler, SA (Kurna Country)
\$4,000

Gawler Environment Centre (GEC) will partner with First Nations agri-business Red Centre Enterprises to deliver a series of community workshops focused on Australian native food plants. These workshops aim to deepen participants' understanding and appreciation of native flora, highlighting their significance in First Nations culture. Attendees will learn how to grow and utilise these plants for food, health, and wellbeing, gaining insights into their cultural relevance. A workshop designed for children will also offer sensory experiences to foster a connection with the natural world from a young age.

GEC, known for its well-attended monthly workshops on sustainable living and nature education, aims to elevate the profile of First Nations botanical knowledge. By empowering participants with practical skills, GEC seeks to inspire the integration of native plants and foods into everyday life, promoting sustainability and cultural appreciation.

26. LAKUN MARA WEAVING WORKSHOPS

Kapunda Gallery
Kapunda, SA (Ngadjuri Country)
\$2,500

Kapunda Gallery will host two workshops for local community members on the traditions of Ngarrindjeri and Ngadjuri weaving. The workshops will be guided by Sonya Rankine, an artist of Ngarrindjeri, Ngadjuri, Narungga, and Wirangu descent, who leads the art and weaving business Lakun Mara. Attendees will create their own basket or mat using natural and coloured raffia.

Recognising the lack of visible Indigenous history in Kapunda, the Gallery is committed to enriching the town's cultural landscape. By collaborating with Sonya Rankine, participants will not only engage in hands-on weaving but also learn of the stories and wisdom behind traditional weaving practices. This initiative aims to ignite a broader conversation about the Indigenous heritage of Kapunda and support the revival and preservation of Indigenous cultural practices longer-term.

27. DINAHLINE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL & ECOLOGICAL REHABILITATION & TRAINING PROJECT

Dinahline Community Inc
Ceduna, SA (Kokatha, Mirning and Wirangu Country)
\$4,000

Dinahline Community Inc will commence the environmental and ecological rehabilitation of its 1,700-acre mixed-use property through a small-scale, localised regeneration activity.

The project's will focus on a specific area where community members can actively engage in the reestablishment of Indigenous flora and fauna and the natural ecosystem that existed before the property was impacted by farming. It will include elements such as soil conservation, erosion control, revegetation, and habitat restoration. Insights gained from this initial phase will guide the broader, future regeneration efforts across the property.

Members of the community will also undertake a short study tour across the northern region of South Australia to observe, learn and gain inspiration from the environmental and ecological practices of other land managers and projects.

28. BETTS CORNER COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Betts Corner Inc
Ceduna, SA (Wirangu Country)
\$3,999.95

Betts Corner, an Indigenous community near Ceduna in South Australia, will enhance the overall well-being and maintenance of its 78-ha property by acquiring a range of tools, equipment, and storage. The community is committed to improving the lives of its residents but currently relies on equipment borrowed from Ceduna. With new equipment of its own, residents will be able to more effectively and sustainably maintain central areas, playgrounds, residential spaces, and the coastline, ultimately fostering a cleaner, safer, and more welcoming living space for all.

29. BOUNCE CLUB

Charity Bounce
Indulkana, SA (Anangu, Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara Country)
\$4,000

Charity Bounce will facilitate Bounce Club, a weekly after-school basketball resiliency program tailored for the youth of Indulkana, a remote Aboriginal community in South Australia with approximately 400 residents. The program has been developed in close collaboration with local school authorities and community leaders and aims to address the challenge of disengaged youth by offering meaningful employment and career pathways.

Bounce Club will empower students aged 16-18 years to become coaches and lead basketball sessions for younger children in the community. This will provide valuable work experience and will create a new learning environment, potentially enhancing engagement with formal education. This program will also be the sole after-school initiative in Indulkana, reducing a longstanding frustration for both children and parents for youth-focussed activities in the region.

30. HEALING COUNTRY-REHABILITATING WIND SONG

Nipaluna Nursery Inc
Little Swanport, TAS (Luntaytamiriliyuyna Country)
\$4,000

Nipaluna Nursery Inc will facilitate a field day for ecological restoration at Wind Song, an Indigenous-owned property in Little Swanport, Tasmania. This 110-hectare property, once used for grazing, was transferred to Indigenous ownership in 2019, making it

the first property in Tasmania to be returned to Traditional Owners. Wind Song holds significant cultural value to the Luntaytamiriliyuyna people, with ancient stone tools dating back up to 60,000 years found in the region.

The rehabilitation of Wind Song is necessary to mitigate the impacts of past grazing practices and restore its natural ecosystem. The field day will bring together local Elders, secondary school students, volunteers from the Triabunna Community Hub, members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, and local landholders to plant 200 native plants and trees to help re-establish a wildlife habitat.

Beyond the physical restoration activities, the field day will foster cultural exchange and learning. Participants be welcomed through ceremony and dance, followed by a walk on Country to promote a deeper connection to the land. The event will also include a meal featuring local Indigenous foods.

TASMANIA

31. T. POLITUS - PLIGHT OF THE RED HAND FISH

Okines Community House
Dodges Ferry, TAS (Paredarerme Country)
\$3,800

Okines Community House (OCH) will implement a project to raise awareness about the critically endangered T. Politus, commonly known as the Red Hand Fish, which is native to Tasmanian waterways. This species is classified as critically endangered under Australian and Tasmanian law and by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. It is found exclusively in just two small reefs globally, both of which are in Tasmania.

This initiative will engage the local community in the conservation of the Red Hand Fish and its habitat by providing educational and scientific information as part of OCH's Winter Solstice Lantern Parade. This festival is a free community event featuring a parade through the streets of Dodges Ferry.

Leading up to the festival, OCH will organise lantern-making workshops involving local schools. A local marine biologist who is dedicated to saving the Red Hand Fish, will provide educational materials to students. The parade will be led by a large Red Hand Fish lantern, serving as its symbolic mascot.

OCH will also collaborate with local Indigenous communities during the Festival to emphasise the significance of cultural connection to land and sea.

32. CULTURAL ROOTS: UNITING COMMUNITIES THROUGH A BUSH FOODS ARTS TRAIL

West Winds Community Centre Inc
Woodbridge, TAS (Nueronne Country)
\$4,000

West Winds Community Centre (WWCH) will develop a Bush Foods Cultural Trail linking Woodbridge School with Silverwater Park in Woodbridge, Tasmania. The initiative includes the construction of pathways, the establishment of native botanical gardens, mosaic and art workshops, storytelling sessions, the construction of traditional bark huts, and the creation of displays showcasing cultural relics. It will be delivered as a collaboration with local Aboriginal Elders, the South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation, the Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance, and the broader Woodbridge community.

This project aims to celebrate and honour the cultural significance of the area, which was once a gathering place for the Truganini people. It also seeks to address issues of isolation and ecological degradation, while fostering greater ecological awareness through an immersive and educational experience for users of the Trail. By bringing together such diverse stakeholders, including Indigenous Elders, educators, and local residents, WWCC is also endeavouring to build a sustainable and inclusive future which preserves the local Indigenous culture for generations to come.

NATIONAL

33. CREATING ACCESSIBLE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARMERS

Farmers for Climate Action
National
\$4,000

Farmers for Climate Action is creating a Climate Smart Agriculture Toolkit - an information hub to empower farmers with the knowledge and resources needed to navigate farming in a changing climate.

Highways and Byways will support the development of a website as part of the Toolkit. This website will serve as a centralised repository of contemporary research and information. It will alleviate the decision fatigue experienced by farmers in response to the wide-ranging, constantly updating information on climate-smart farming practices. By offering a reliable and independent service, it will also prevent the fragmented approach currently seen in farmer support and guidance, effectively plugging the gaps in information. Indigenous knowledge will also be integrated within the broader information hub. This inclusive approach acknowledges and addresses a longstanding absence in conversations surrounding climate-smart farming.



IMAGE: A cultural yarning circle formed part of a workshop on cultural fire management facilitated by Gondwana Link in southern Western Australia (2022 small grant recipient) (Image: Jim Underwood)



HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

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grants@hb.org.au



www.hb.org.au



(03) 9087 8606

IMAGE: Students undertook site visits as part of a Permaculture Design Course delivered by Wambool Permaculture in the Orange/Bathurst regions of NSW (2022 small grant recipient)