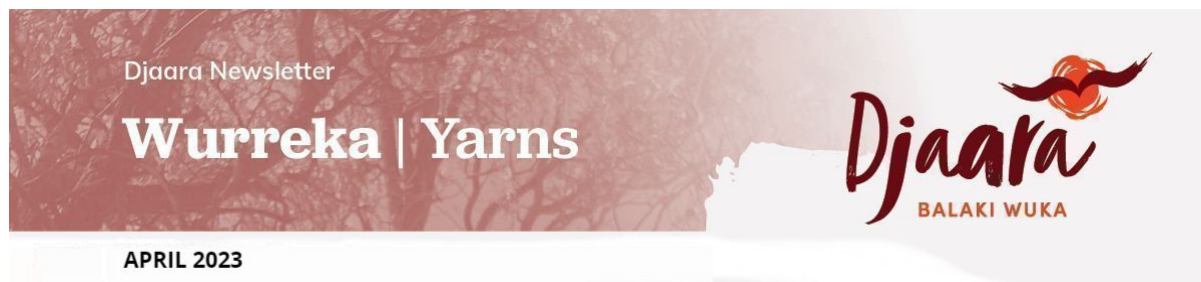


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## SIGNS OF PROGRESS

### Malamiya Mang Arts Festival a first for Bendigo



Kulaba Puthu Karomarna (Orchid time) by Timani Nicholls-Moore.

Residents and visitors to Bendigo can immerse themselves in Dja Dja Wurrung arts and Culture at Malamiya Mang, a five-day Dja Dja Wurrung Arts Festival opening at Dudley House on 12 April.

The festival includes a free art exhibition showcasing the works of talented Djaara artists, arts and craft market, workshops, and Cultural tours led by Dja Dja Wurrung tour guides.

Festival Producer Sarah Lowe said Malamiya Mang (which means 'Then and Now') is a contemporary celebration of the world's oldest continuing Culture.

"Malamiya Mang Arts Festival is a first for Bendigo, which draws on the connection of Dja Dja Wurrung Country and People from the past to the here and now," Ms Lowe said.

“Aunty Fay said: ‘I’d like the rest of the world to know that Dja Dja Wurrung still exist. We are still here as a People. We are proud and value our Culture. We honour our Martiinga kuli (Ancestors), and everything that we do, we are doing on behalf of our Martiinga kuli, who didn’t have the voice that we have today.’”

“The festival aims to bring that sentiment to life, and we’re really excited to share it with the wider community,” Ms Lowe said.



Left: Batja from Cummeragunga by Timani Nicholls-Moore. Right: Artworks by Neane Carter.

Visitors will be able to purchase artworks from the exhibition, which runs from Wednesday 12 to Monday 17 April, and buy craft at the market during the official opening on Thursday 13 April from 4 to 7pm.

[Weekend workshops](#) will enable participants to learn directly from Djaara creatives about bushtukka, traditional plants and healing or boomerang painting, and through a fun-filled puppet show with the Bush Bunch animals.

[Cultural walking tours](#) running over the weekend will help tour participants to develop a stronger connection with Dja Dja Wurrung Country, and a deeper understanding and appreciation of Dja Dja Wurrung Culture – then and now.

Malamiya Mang is proudly presented by Dumawul, an enterprise of the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DJAARA).

Dumawul supports and nurtures Dja Dja Wurrung artists and community, ensuring culturally safe workplace practices for Dja Dja Wurrung creatives, Elders and community.

### Book for workshops and Cultural tours

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## DJAARA signposts new way of caring for Country

A massive storm didn’t dampen the mood as Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DJAARA), Dheikunya Dja Land Management Board and Parks Victoria celebrated joint management between DJAARA and Parks Victoria with the unveiling of





L-R: Parks Victoria District Manager Suzanne Hughes, Dja Dja Wurrung Group CEO Rodney Carter & DJAARA General Manager Cassandra Lewis following the sign's official unveiling.

The new signage promotes the park as one of six that have been handed back to DJAARA to manage jointly with Parks Victoria, and celebrates Dja Dja Wurrung contemporary presence on Djandak.

Dja Dja Wurrung Group CEO Rodney Carter highlighted that joint management – DJAARA leading the management of the six parks – was a key element in DJAARA's 2013 Recognition and Settlement Agreement with the State of Victoria.

"A lot of work has happened over the past 10 years, including establishing the Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board and, together with Parks Victoria, developing and implementing the Joint Management Plan," Mr Carter said.

"We're here today to celebrate the first fruits of this work, and the continued embedding of Djaara on Djandak .

"Working out how we do joint management has been a learning journey for everyone – and we look forward to continued work with Parks Victoria to further improve the process and deliver more tangible outcomes for the community in the future," Mr Carter said.



L-R Uncle Walter Harrison, DJAARA General Manager Cassandra Lewis, City of Greater Bendigo Mayor Andrea Metcalf, Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board Chair Uncle Graham Atkinson.

Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board Chair Uncle Graham Atkinson said it was satisfying, after years of planning and laying the foundations for joint management, to see the signs finally installed.

“I am very proud, and we should all be,” Uncle Graham said.

“Participating in Land Management is central to our fundamental human and cultural rights. Joint management is laying the foundations for self-determination.”

District Manager, Parks Victoria Suzanne Hughes extended her thanks to DJAARA.

“This occasion marks an exciting moment in time for the jointly managed parks, with traditional culture, artwork, and language beautifully represented in the landscape,” Suzanne said.

Signage and other Dja-Dja-Wurrung-designed facilities are also being installed in the other jointly managed parks over the coming months.







Top left: Parks Victoria District Manager Suzanne Hughes and Dja Dja Wurrung Group CEO Rodney Carter.  
Top right: DDLMB Chair Uncle Graham Atkinson speaks while Program Manager Galkangu Joint Management, Harley Douglas holds the umbrella.

Bottom: Uncle Graham Atkinson and Rodney Carter officially unveil the sign amid pouring rain.

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## Dja Dja Wurrung in the spotlight

Dja Dja Wurrung history and Culture opens 'The Trentham District Story', a series of signs about the history of the Trentham district, which were launched by the Trentham and District Historical Society outside the society's museum on Camp Street Trentham on 24 March.

Dja Dja Wurrung Elder, Uncle Rick Nelson worked with DJAARA staff members Hannah Webster, Harley Dunolly-Lee, Harley Douglas, Caleb Dunolly-Lee and Oli Moraes to develop content for the Dja Dja Wurrung sign, which appears first in the series.



Hannah Webster (left) and Jason Kerr with the opening sign (further signs in background).

The sign proudly puts Djaara back in the landscape. It will enable the wider community to understand and appreciate more about Djandak and Djaara, through stories of traditional Culture, historical events and people, and contemporary Dja Dja Wurrung activity on Djandak.

While he could not attend the launch, Uncle Rick said he would like to see further work with local communities to increase awareness through initiatives like interpretive signage and Cultural tourism.

“Although there are many many stories to tell of Dja Dja Wurrung people in the early stages of occupation, it is good to highlight some of the people who shone with extraordinary kindness and unbiased actions in helping the European settlers. These signs show a glimpse of those histories that need to be told,” Uncle Rick said.





Reverse side of the DJAARA sign.

Jason Kerr, who performed the smoking and Welcome, highlighted the importance of partnering with Traditional Owners.

"Having non-Aboriginal communities knowing the history around this part of Dja Dja Wurrung Country is really significant," Jason said.

"Having them understand more about how our People survived, what our Ancestors went through. It's really important to have the story of our First Nations People along with the stories of the early white settlers."

Hannah Webster noted that Australian histories have ignored, misunderstood, and treated with contempt the histories of First Nations people for too long.

"A lot has been achieved, but there's still a long way to go," Hannah said.

"Projects like this are key to increasing community understanding of Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners and the true shared history. This sign properly recognises Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Owners of this unceded land."

Dja Dja Wurrung inclusion in the Trentham District Story was facilitated by DJAARA Executive Team Manager Jim Brooks, who saw the need and an opportunity, engaged with the Trentham Historical Society and supported DJAARA input.

*Our language connects us to water, land, animals, and People.  
It calls us to ceremony and strengthens our identity.*

We are making sure our language, Dja Dja Wurrung language, is increasingly spoken; we share it in song and ensure it is placed lovingly back to Djandak, where it belongs, by us. Those that live and visit here in Central Victoria more and more want to support Dja Dja Wurrung reclamation of our rights and support our continued presence here. We hope that those who travel across, visit and reside on Djandak recognise our unique language and distinct culture.

**Dhelkunya Dja** | Healing earth, healing Country

**Djaara** | People, Dja Dja Wurrung People

**Djandak** | Country, Dja Dja Wurrung Country

**Malamiya Mang** | Long time ago, now (then and now)

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## Let us know what you think!

Do you like this newsletter?

What would you like to see more of?

We'd love to hear your feedback.

## Get in touch

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