

Expression of Interest

PROJECT NAME:

BIG TREE BIYAL Sculpture/Installation Collaboration Commission

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| Name of Organisation | DJAARA DUMAWUL GALK GALK DHELKUNYA DJAARA TIMBERS |
| EOI Contact | Dan Mitchell/Oli Moraes |

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Wawa Djaara and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists - Dumawul invites you to submit an expression of interest to create a collaborative artwork/sculpture/installation from the Guilford Biyal for Big Tree Project.

The Guildford Big Tree is a Biyal (Red gum) on Djandak (Dja Dja Wurrung Country) believed to be more than 530 years old.

It is deeply significant for Dja Dja Wurrung, with its grafted branch signifying it as a marker tree.

“The tree is a grafted tree. The grafts were created when the tree was young, and it’s like a signpost for us as people; they point to significant places,” Aunty Kerri Douglas told the ABC.

With a trunk more than 9 metres in circumference, and a canopy spreading over 34 metres, the tree is a haven for birds and wildlife, and an iconic landmark to locals and visitors to the region.

In 2023 the National Trust recognised the Guildford Big Tree as the Victorian Tree of the Year.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/treeoftheyear/>

In February 2024 several large limbs (25 tonnes’ worth) of the tree broke off. This was a significant and emotional event for the local Dja Dja Wurrung community, Elders and for nearby locals.

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As the word spread, in the following days many people came to spend time to connect with the tree and reflect.

The DJAARA Malamiya (Cultural Heritage) and Galk-galk Dhelkunya (to care for/to heal, many trees) teams acted quickly to ensure those parts of the tree that came down were protected and transported to a safe location until Elders and the appropriate Djaara community members could be consulted around the next steps.

Purpose

- The Commissioned Artwork will be showcased as part of an exhibition at Castlemaine Art Museum Celebrating The Biyal, starting May 18 2026 and any subsequent Big Tree Exhibition. Artworks will remain the property of the Artist – any sales of artworks will be facilitated through the Dumawul Gallery ensuring the commission can stay with Djaara in support of The Big Tree.

Submission Requirements

- Concept for design in writing or recorded message
- Examples of similar previous artworks
- Your connection to Biyal and the Guildford Big Tree

PROJECT TIMELINE:

- **EOI Due Date** – by Friday 23 January 2026
- **Selection** – Wednesday 28 January 2026
- **Final Artwork** – 20 April 2026

| Project Fee | \$2500 |
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| EOI Submission or questions | dan.mitchell@djadjawurrung.com.au 0408 115 867 Oli.Moraes@djadjawurrung.com.au 0456 597 955 |

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DUMAWUL

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