



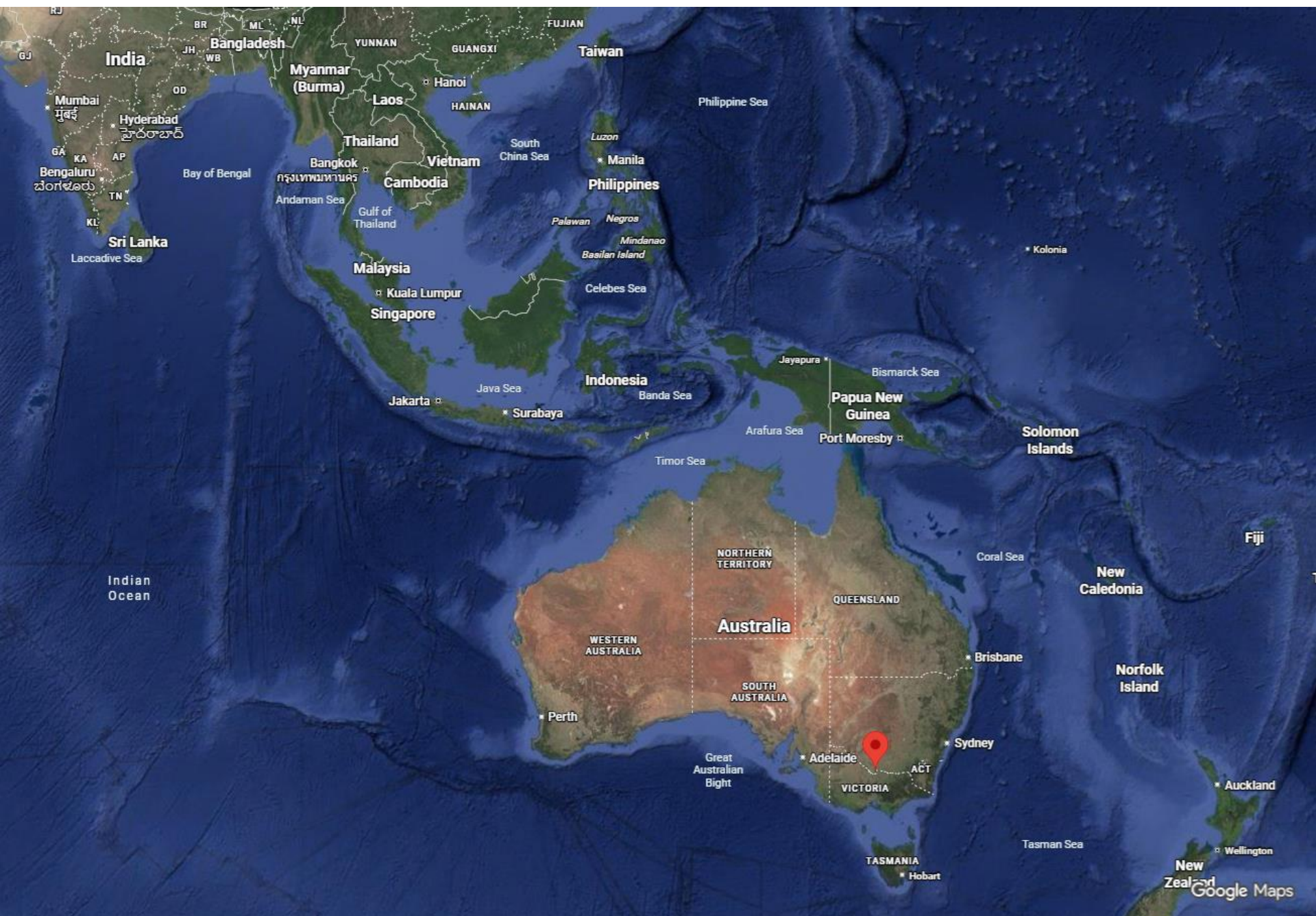
We acknowledge the Traditional Owners on whose land we meet and acknowledge and pay respect to their Elders Past Present and Future, and the wisdom and knowledge passed down through the generations. We also acknowledge the many Indigenous communities represented here today and the Traditional Owners of the Deniliquin area – the Wamba Wamba People

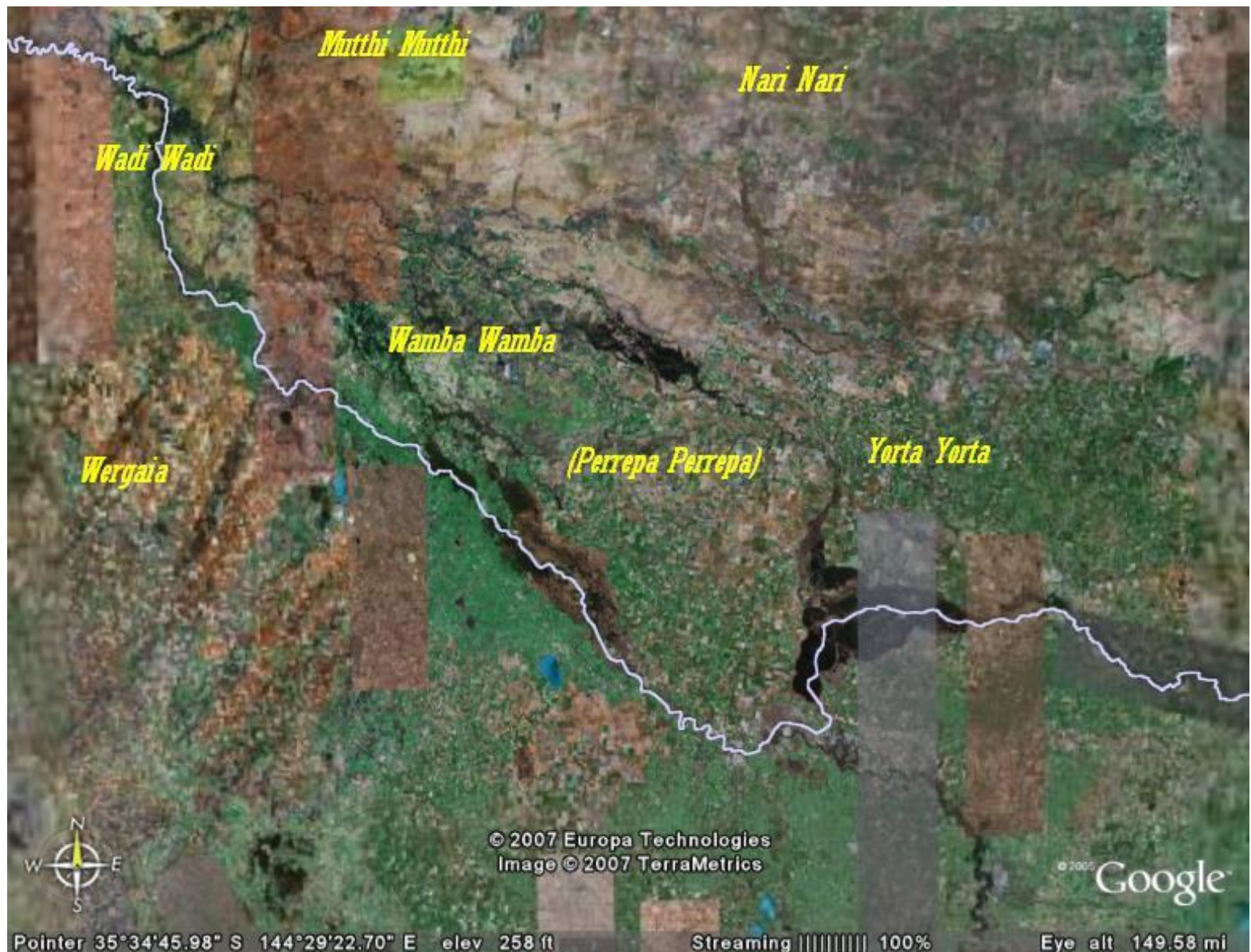
ABCD as a practice in a long-term project in rural NSW Australia.

This presentation draws on more than 60,000 years of cultural knowledge building with a community surviving colonial dispossession and government assimilation policies.

It focusses on the work of families who came together in 2001 to chart a new future for themselves and open opportunities for social, cultural and economic development.

I finally consider the relationships between deliberative and iterative process and how recognise the importance of both may be the way forward.







Tangell



Time Line

Pre 1800's	Families comprising up to 3,000 people lived in their own country becoming aware that something was changing
1830's	Different people arrived but their own population had already been devastated by disease
1850's	Population has fallen to a few hundred people
1870's	Local massacres again decimated the community
1900's	The beginning of the mission period – control by State and Church
1930's to 1970's	Forced removal of Aboriginal children. After this time, the process continues under Government child protection legislation
1960's	Mission closed – forced relocation into industrial area of town
1967	Referendum to include Aboriginal People in the National Census passes with over 90% vote
1984	NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act passed
2003	Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre registered as an Aboriginal Corporation
2008	Close the Gap Framework adopted by Commonwealth Government
2023	Voice Referendum fails 605 vote no

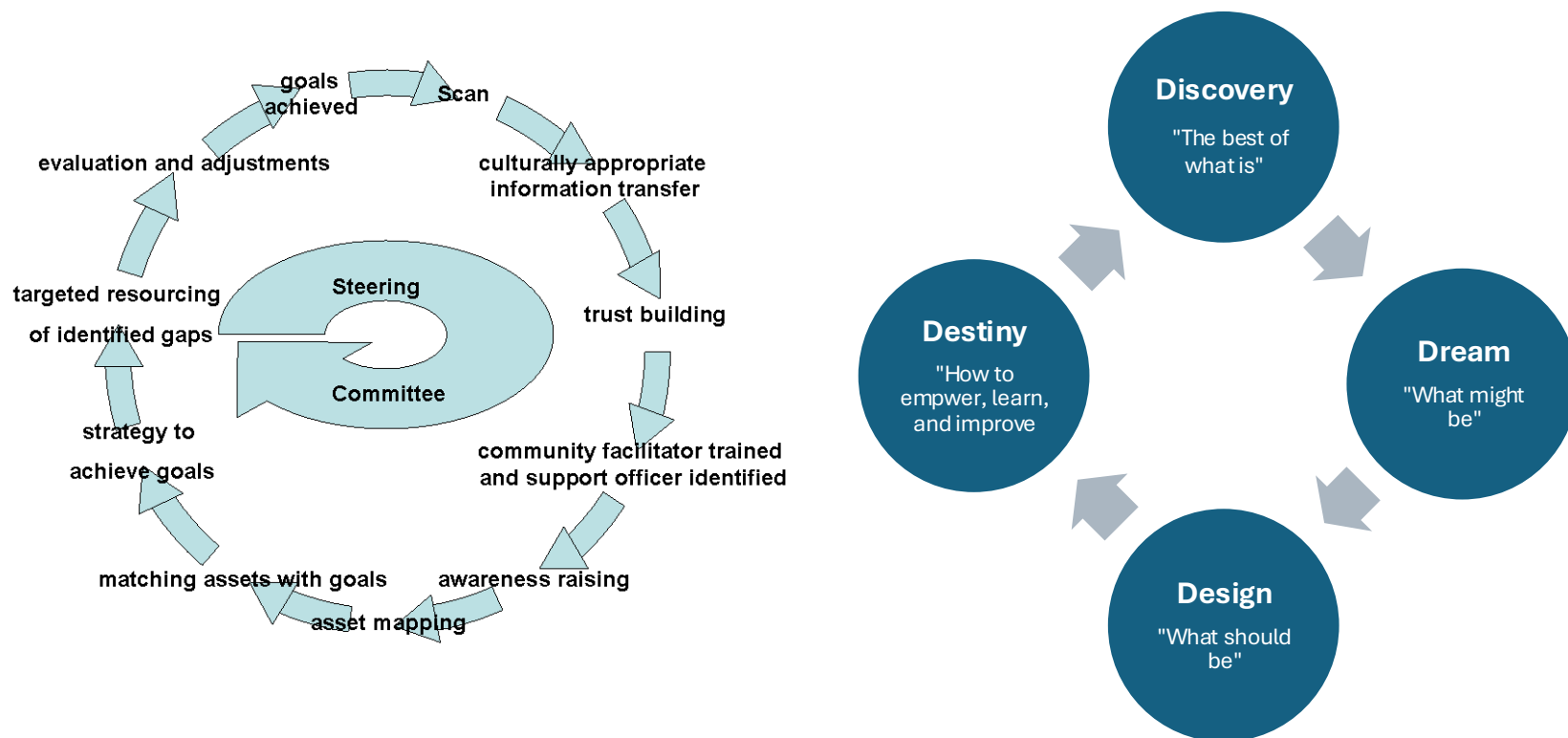
Conserving and sustaining traditional values



A work in Progress



Yarkuwa's ABCD process



Deliberative ABCD - A Project

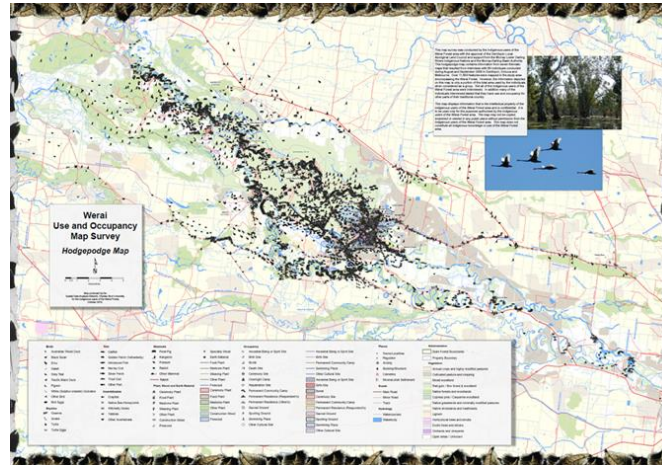
- 2007 Government contract to use ABCD
- Project Title – ***Increasing the capacity of Aboriginal people in environmental, heritage and natural resource management.***
- Project Aim – ***to build the capacity of two Aboriginal communities to manage their environment, including environmental-related heritage and natural resource issues.***

Iterative ABCD – A way of being

- Wamba Wamba Perrepa Perrepa people's history of tens of thousands of generations
- Landuse and Occupancy data demonstrating connection to Country
- Family and kinship connections
- Understanding how to manage resources

LAND USE AND OCCUPANCY MAPPING

Land Use and Occupancy mapping is a method that allows us to catalogue, safeguard and convey the collection knowledge of our community. Use refers to the use of resources – the collecting of plants, animals and fibres etc , Occupancy relates to fixed cultural sites such as campsites, sacred areas, burial grounds and story sites.



Sustainable Indigenous Use of the Natural Resources

The indigenous peoples of the Riverine Plains *Wamba Wamba, Wiradjuri, Yorta Yorta, Perrāpa Perrāpa, Muthi Muthi and Wadi Wadi* use the natural resources of the region for food, herbs & Medicines, shelter, toolmaking and trading.

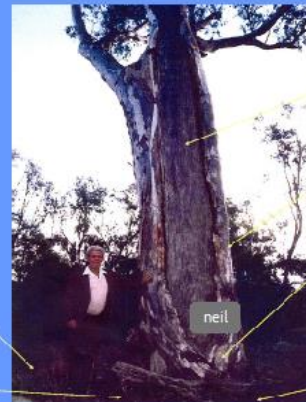
While the resource are exploited, it is done with land management principles in mind, to ensure that the resource continues to be available for the next generation.

These land management principles includes song, dance and ceremony, not only for the conservation of the natural resources, but also to ensure it's continued health and reproduction.

There are many uses for one tree

Old man weed (used as a medicine for cuts and abrasions) harvested from beneath the tree on the floodplain

Roots used to make Boomerangs and clubs



Taxus chewed to clean teeth

Bark taken for Canoes, coolamons and shelters

Honey taken from under bark

Roots used for (Vine and medicinal purposes)

Witchetty Grubs taken from the ground beneath the tree Grubs

This river redgum is still alive and is at Moonacullah. The scar is 15 feet long



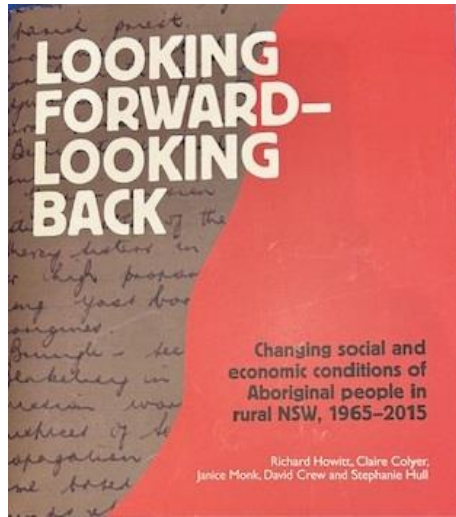
Bark Canoes made in the the 1950's



Collecting swamp grass to make baskets - 1980's



2012 Time to reflect – 50 years of Government policy



Study resumes after 50 years

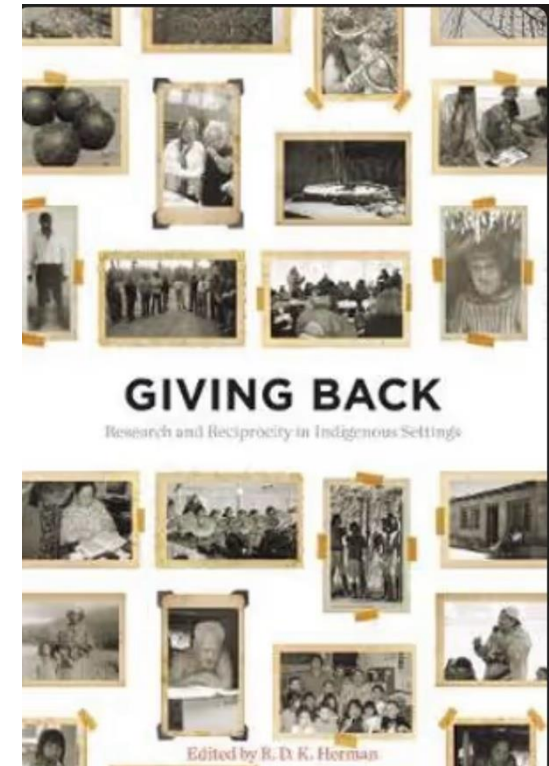
By HANNAH NICHOLS

Many years ago an Australian student, Janice Monk, was studying for a doctoral degree in the United States.

Before she left the US she discovered an interest in cultural relationships.

Her interest was met with a combination of seeing cultural relations and also experiencing it at Kempsey, in northern NSW, where she was part of a group which helped build houses.

Now a professor, her studies centred on Aboriginal people. ■ Professor Richard Howitt of Macquarie University and Professor Janice Monk of the University of Arizona visit Yarkuwa.



The New Centre



The Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre was built on decades of work, commitment, vision and leadership, and now stands as a permanent home for self-determination and sense of strong cultural pride.

Yarkuwa

BUILDING CULTURE & KNOWLEDGE

Pop in for a visit
10am - 4pm
Monday to Friday
394 Hay Rd
Deniliquin

Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre was incorporated in 2003 as a Traditional owner organisation to collect and care for cultural knowledge of the Wamba Wamba Perrepa Perrepa people. It now has a permanent home on the Hay Road in Deniliquin welcoming local community and visitors.



Language & Culture

- Conducting tours on local Indigenous medicine, food & fibre plants and cultural sites
- Permanent museum & gallery
- Celebrating Wamba Wamba language



Environment & Heritage

- Conducting cultural heritage assessments
- Indigenous River Rangers Program conducting activities in the Edward Wakool area
- Junior River Rangers Program working with local students



Community Wellbeing

- Payika Program - a leadership and aspirations program in partnership with the local highschool
- Tityap Telkaya - a culturally safe, strengths-based program supporting First Nations families
- Yarkuwa art shed and community activities



Facilities for Hire

Function Room, Kitchen & Meeting Room



YARKUWA
INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

394 Hay Rd, PO Box 526

Deniliquin, NSW 2710

✉ admin@yarkuwa.org.au

☎ 03 5881 3312

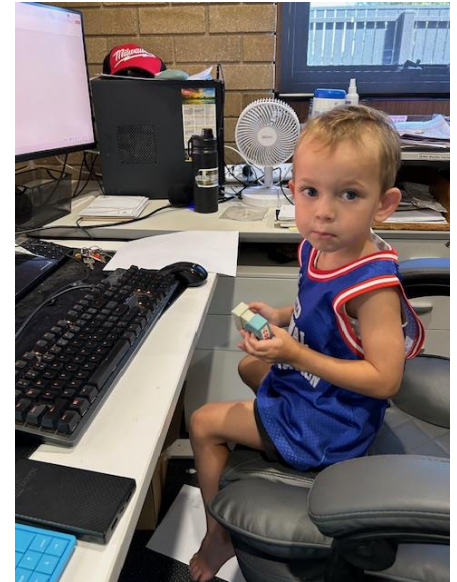
🌐 yarkuwa.org.au



Yarkuwa centre's official opening



The Way
Forward must
always look
back



My thinking at this time after drawing together generations of knowledge is

How do deliberative ABCD processes relate to iterative ones?

How does place based work link to traditional connections and knowledge systems?

How do we work in the broader community? What language should we use?

How do we develop a more collective approach when the media and current narratives are dividing us?

Finally How do we keep going? Why can't we stop? When have we done enough? The answer to some of this for us lies in the more iterative natural processes of ABCD and being open to what this mean and knowing and trusting that the Coda's and eli's of our community will know there is a hopeful future.









