

# Bundiyarra News

Incorporating Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre

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 Bundiyarra Irra Wangga Language Centre

June 2021

Welcome to our second edition for the year...

As always, it's been a busy time at Bundiyarra! So much more has happened since starting to compile this newsletter, but it'll have to wait until next time or this won't see the light of day!

Three different workshops have been held, including a very successful Language Expo at Gunnadoo Farm, some progression on the short stay accommodation project and grant applications in the pipeline.

## Fun and successful Furnace fundraiser

The weather was kind, the food was good, the raffle prizes were plentiful, the movie was fabulous and the whole evening was successful.

More than 70 people – adults and kids many from the wider community – enjoyed *The Furnace* fundraiser movie event at Bundiyarra on March 12.

Held by Bundiyarra as a fundraiser to cover the costs of a permanent headstone for the late Gami (Uncle) Ollie George on his grave at Kirkalocka Station, the movie was shown outside under the stars, on the Chapman Valley Mens Shed mobile screen, complete with a fabulous sound system. The mens shed kindly donated the use of the screen, for which we were extremely grateful.

Gami Ollie George was a Badimaya man and worked for over 20 years with the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre, to record his beloved language for his family and future generations.



**Family:** Members of Gami Ollie George's family at The Furnace fundraiser at Bundiyarra.

Sadly, he passed away in 2018 and is buried on his country at Kirkalocka, where he grew up in the 1930s and 1940s.

In 2017 Gami Ollie George was named the National NAIDOC Male Elder of the Year for his tireless work preserving the Badimaya language.



**In memoriam:** Gami Ollie George looking pretty pleased with himself, at the launch of his book: *Nganang Badimaya Wangga: Yarns with Gami Ollie George*, in 2017.

And the same year, the language centre published his book: *Nganang Badimaya Wangga: Yarns with Gami Ollie George* based on 24 yarns he relayed about growing up on country, learning his language from his elders, and cultural knowledge. (The full-colour book is available from the language centre for \$25.)

In 2019, *The Furnace* was filmed in Mt Magnet and Kalbarri. The filmmakers worked with the language centre and Badimaya language community to translate 15 pages of the film's script into Badimaya.

This translation was only possible thanks to the hard work of Gami Ollie and his family to record their knowledge of the language. *The Furnace* went on to be the only Australian film selected for the Venice International Film Festival in 2020.

The film's writer and director, Roderick MacKay, made his only appearance in Geraldton to talk about the making of the film and paid tribute to Gami Ollie, his family and the Mt Magnet community.

In addition to the Chapman Valley Mens Shed, local Geraldton businesses gave overwhelming support in donations of food and drink and raffle prizes. We extend a BIG thank you to them on page 3.



**Happy faces:** Members at the signing of the new Gnully Wangga Naaguja language group agreement, signed by Dion Harris and Shirley McMahon, of the Mooniemia Nhaaguja Aboriginal Corporation and Cynthia Councillor and Stuart Councillor, Naaguja Warangkarri Aboriginal Corporation.

## Historic agreement signed to revitalise local ‘sleeping’ language

**A**n historic agreement was recently signed, paving the way for a ‘sleeping’ Mid West Aboriginal language to be awakened and revitalised.

Bringing together Naaguja language speakers for a meeting at the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre (BIW) in Geraldton on Tuesday 27 April, the formation of the Gnully Wangga Naaguja (We Speak Naaguja) language group will see work begin on its revitalisation.

The language is indigenous to Northampton, Chapman Valley and the surrounding region, and although many people have identified as Naaguja, reclaiming the language will help to reinforce that sense of identity.

An agreement between the Naaguja Warangkarri Aboriginal Corporation and the Mooniemia Nhaaguja Aboriginal Corporation will allow the Gnully Wangga Naaguja language group to drive the process of revitalisation following the traditional kinship and social structures.

Naaguja Warangkarri Aboriginal Corporation Chairperson, June Councillor, said it was a very successful meeting.

“It has been a long time coming and we’re very happy with the outcome,” she said, “It was a good mixture of male and female participants, so it was a very balanced meeting.

“It makes us proud to take it [the language] back, Aboriginal languages are rising, particularly in the Mid West,” said Ms Councillor. “It awakens the spirit within you.”

Gnully Wangga Naaguja will work in partnership with BIW and both Aboriginal corporations have contributed \$10,000 each to support future language work and publications.

It was important that Naaguja elders were part of the meeting as they will guide the revitalisation process in partnership with their younger Naaguja people.

Cynthia Councillor, a director of Naaguja Warangkarri Aboriginal Corporation, said the language group is looking for funding to keep the process going.

“We’re not looking for a handout,” she said, “we need to find funding streams to help keep the process going.

“Although it has been a long time coming it gives us a sense of ownership and something to give back to the kids,” Ms Councillor said.

“I am so happy for the Elders who are not here to see this day, and for our future generations, our kids are showing interest now.”

Elder Shirley McMahon, a director of Mooniemia Nhaaguja Aboriginal Corporation, said she also had waited so long for the reactivation of her language.

“I’m 81 now and I’m so glad to be able to speak my language, everyone has the right to speak their own language, no matter their creed or colour,” she said.

“When my brother and I went to school, we had it knocked out of us, one day I forgot I wasn’t allowed to speak it and got caned, that’s one thing I’ve never forgotten.”

Research has uncovered Naaguja previously recorded by anthropologist Daisy Bates in 1908, and well-known local historian Stan Gratte OAM, in the 1960s.

The Councillor family also made recordings of late Elder Glen Councillor around 20 years ago.

There are some semi-speakers of the language in the Northampton area, however fluent speakers had not been known of since the 1960s.

## Nola helps jazz up the Goddess Artemis

Our own poet laureate, Nola Gregory, (pictured) is getting her work out there (watch out Peter Salmon), with a poem being picked up by Perth's Artemis Orchestra, a 22-piece jazz ensemble.

Founded by Gemma Farrell in 2017, the aim of the orchestra is to promote marginalised genders in jazz as musicians, soloists and composers.

Artemis is the Greek goddess of the hunt, the wilderness, wild animals, the moon, and chastity. Pretty jazzy hey?

Nola's poem, *Australia's Silenced*

*History*, was spotted on the Creative Spirits website by Perth saxophonist, Alana MacPherson. Alana contacted Nola for permission to use the poem, which Alana wrote music for, and it will now appear on Artemis Orchestra's debut album as *Silenced*.

Nola said she is thrilled about it.

"I am very thrilled, I was invited to be on the recording, but I couldn't be there due to COVID restrictions in the studio," she said.

However, Nola will be there for the album's debut launch of original music, *The Elephant in the Room*,



at The Rechabite, 224 William Street Northbridge on Saturday 26 June.

"I will be reading my poem at the launch," she said.

And the best bit is Nola will be picking up royalties, so we must get the song on high rotation...!

## EH team helps Barrel Well back to normal after Cyclone Seroja

Bundiyarra's Environmental Health Services team swung into action after recent Cyclone Seroja heavily affected the Barrel Well community.

The team provided the community with fuel, generators and water, and also helped community members clear roads and surrounding areas by removing fallen trees and debris that had been blown around from the strong winds.

A few other target points the team has been trying to improve on, is a bigger focus on remote communities by implementing action plans for each community. This will result in a more efficient and practical approach to maintaining remote communities.

The team will also be doing some training at Murdoch University in water treatment and management in remote

communities which the team is very excited about.

As usual, the team still carries out rubbish removals, pest control treatments, home inspections and for disability or elderly clients the team does slashing.

As a whole, the team is trying to ease away from the daily routine of collecting rubbish and slashing lawns, and beginning to do more work in the homes, focusing on things like skin infection and respiratory disease, to name a few.

Illnesses like these are due to the environment and can easily be eliminated with simple steps in the home like washing your hands and face.

The team's aim is to get into homes to encourage and explain the importance of a clean and healthy home.

By Steven Kelly



**And the man who made it all possible:** The Furnace writer and director, Roderick MacKay, and his talented artist wife Tessa MacKay, who won the 2019 Archibald Packing Room Prize for her portrait of actor David Wenham – *Through the looking glass*.

### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS FOR THE FURNACE FUNDRAISER (in no particular order):

Rigters Supa IGA stores; Women Inspiring Better Business, (WIBBs); Nukara Music Festival, (James Thompson); Yamaji Art; Mitchell & Brown Retravision; Euphorium Creative; Shore Leave Festival; Streeties; Western Australian Centre for Rural Health (WACRH); Go Health; Piper Lane Café; Quiet Life; Midwest Aerial and Acrobatic Studios; Getaway Outdoors; Bunnings; Sport First Geraldton; Aussie Pastries; Sports Power; Nature's Choice health shop; Geraldton Sporting Aboriginal Corporation; Flow Vitality; Orana Cinemas Geraldton, Geraldton Pet Meat Supplies; Mick Davey Butchers.

# Spruiking Bundiyarra as a tourist destination

In this life under lockdown, domestic travel has taken an upward swing and Aboriginal tourism experiences are quite coveted.

Bundiyarra has long been interested in tourism, and more recently turning its focus to becoming a tourist destination rather than offering tours.

In early May, Geraldton hosted the WA Regional Tourism Conference and Bundiyarra's CEO Wayne McDonald (pictured) presented at the conference, detailing

Bundiyarra's growth and demonstrating the suitability of the cultural precinct as a tourist destination.

"We see Bundiyarra more as a destination for tour companies to include in their itinerary than trying to set up a tourism business of our own," Wayne said.

"Bundiyarra is primarily a resource centre for Aboriginal people, and it includes the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga



Language Centre along with a small environmental health services team that helps and educates Aboriginal people on safe health practices to keep their homes clean and maintained.

"Our grounds have grown over time and we can offer a culturally safe and inclusive place for people to gather, have a yarn, enjoy some entertainment and for tourists to learn about our culture," he said.

"We look forward to progressing our plans as a tourist destination, and thanks to WA Labor's election commitment of \$44,000 to construct an outdoor stage that will allow us to host inclusive events for the whole community.

"This will add to our already well-developed grounds and facilities and also provide a venue for hire for the wider community," said Wayne.

## Plan to make WA top Aboriginal tourism destination

Visitor Experience and Expectations Research 2019/20 shows 81 percent of visitors to WA are interested in an Aboriginal tourism experience; however, only 17 percent have the experience demonstrating the need to grow the industry.

Recognising this, the WA Government aims to make good on its election commitment of supporting a range of initiatives with the release of *Tjina: WA Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2021-2025*.

The plan was launched at the WA Regional Tourism Conference in Geraldton in May, and is backed by the \$20 million Aboriginal Tourism Fund.

Tourism WA developed the *Tjina* (broadly translates to 'discoveries by foot' across several Aboriginal language groups) plan, in conjunction with other government agencies, WA Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC) and the State's Aboriginal tourism industry.

Tourism Minister David Templeman said the funding will support the development of authentic Aboriginal experiences outlined in the *Tjina* plan.

"It will work towards making our State Australia's top Aboriginal tourism destination," he said.

## The Emu in the Sky as a poem

Language Centre Coordinator Rosie Sitorus was selected to create and perform a poem for the University of Western Australia's StoryBursts 2021: WA Monologue Program.

The program, a partnership between National Science Week and the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR), invited WA writers of all ages to collaborate with ICRAR researchers and write creative, non-fiction science-inspired monologues.

With the help and guidance of Warriyanga Thiinma cultural and linguistic consultant, Peter Salmon, and in collaboration with Dr Natasha Hurley-Walker from ICRAR, Rosie wrote *The Emu in the Sky* which was performed and recorded as a stage performance and made available to view or listen to nationally, during National Science Week.

It was assessed by ICRAR's Dr Richard Dodson and *The Emu in the Sky* was most commended by the judging panel.

# Painting the country

Following on from the Warriyangga on Country project field trip we undertook in October last year, and reported on in the March newsletter, we can now report the second part of the project has been accomplished.

A two-day painting workshop was held at the beautiful Gwoonwardu Mia Cultural Centre in Carnarvon, in early April with emerging artists Tracey (Dolly) Merritt, Bernice Merritt and Andrea Milly Milly, under the mentorship of successful lead artist and trip participant Sonya Edney.

Paintings were created from places visited and stories Peter Salmon told at those places on country.

Children who came along on the trip also painted a large canvas under Sonya's tutelage, a beautiful representation of the country and their memory of it.

Sonya has created a suite of stunning paintings from the trip and along with the emerging artists' work, they will be exhibited at a future exhibition in Carnarvon.

The paintings will then be incorporated into a book of the trip and stories Peter Salmon has told over his more than four years of working with the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre.



**Getting started:** Lead artist Sonya Edney with Peter Salmon, Dolly Merritt (front left), and her children Tyra and Angela Little, and Bernice Merritt (rear right) and daughter Hayley Merritt.



**Helping the kids:** Sonya Edney guides Hayley Merritt and Phillipa Little on starting their painting.



**Creative:** Neamo Little contributes to the youngsters' large painting.



**On the road:** Andrea Milly Milly works on her painting of the trip; on the road near Glenflorrie Station.



**Concentration:** Bernice Merritt at work on her painting from the trip.



**Contribution:** Tyra Little helps mum Dolly Merritt start her painting.

# Bundiyarra's Sorry Day very well received

**B**undiyarra commemorated Sorry Day with a full program packed into the morning on May 26, that received loud and positive feedback.

Radio MAMA broadcast the event live, and there was plenty of entertainment and talk about what Sorry Day means to people.

The morning began with Vietnam Veteran Graham Taylor performing a Welcome to Country, followed by the Streeties Mayu Choir singing while Pedro Abednego, Graham and volunteer schoolchildren raised the flags as a nod to the Yamatji Aboriginal War Memorial, and recognising all those serving defence personnel, past and present.

Graham, who served in the army and turned 19 while he was there, spoke about the Yamatji War Memorial and how while Aboriginal people were serving in the defence forces, back home in Australia, Aboriginal children were being taken away from their families.

This policy of the 'Stolen Generation' began in 1910 and was finally abolished in 1969; the *Bringing Them Home* report (1997) estimated that at least 100,000 children were removed from their parents.



**Heartfelt:** Well-known local poet, Nola Gregory reads her *Dark Aussie Digger* poem.

After a minutes' silence, Pastor Paul Ihanimo said a prayer and local poet, Nola Gregory read her moving poem *Dark Aussie Digger*.

Nola's nephew, Zain Laudehr, sang the *Sorry* song, penned by Nola in response to then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's National apology to the Stolen Generation in 2008. T-shirts had the words printed on them and were worn by Midwest representatives who attended the National apology in Canberra.

## Sorry Day conversation

Bundiyarra Chair Alan McDonald started the conversation around Sorry Day, and Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga senior language teacher Edie Maher and



**Songbirds:** Streeties' Mayu Choir sing during the flag raising.

her brother Charlie Maher talked about the effect the Stolen Generation had on their family.

Bundiyarra CEO Wayne McDonald shared some moving words about being removed from his family to the Pallottine Mission at Tardun in late 1968 as a State Ward, where he stayed until he was 18-years-old.



**Sharing:** Bundiyarra CEO Wayne McDonald talks about what Sorry Day means to him.

This long gap had a profound effect on his life, as when he was able to return to the family fold, family gatherings were awkward as Wayne did not know his close or extended family.

He said this experience caused him to become quite an introvert and a bit of a loner. Not what he would recommend to anyone, especially men who tend to internalise their feelings.

Wayne reached out to encourage men to express themselves more, to offload.

"I'm a loner," he said, "even at home, which is where I prefer to be, and this sometimes causes problems," he said.

"I urge men to talk more, don't keep it in, share your experiences with people, it's more healthy."

*Sorry Day continued page on page 6*

Sorry Day continued from page 6

## Enrol to vote

Focus was also placed on encouraging people to enrol to vote. Members from the Australian Electoral Commission in Perth including Community Engagement Officer, Paris Kuhnold, were on hand to help people enrol.



**Be heard:** Former Labor Party politician, Carol Martin, encourages people to enrol to vote, to ensure everyone has the opportunity to be heard.

Former Labor Party member representing the seat of Kimberley – and the first Aboriginal woman to be elected to any Australian parliament – Carol Martin, gave a clear message and encouragement to people on the importance of being on the electoral roll.

City of Greater Geraldton Councillor, Natasha Colliver, spoke about being enrolled to vote, and how your voice



**Entertainers:** Buddy Alone and Eric Dalgety performed their popular brand of music at the Sorry Day event.

can make a difference, even at a local government level.

Will Hayward, Co-Chair of the Aboriginal Family Led Decision making program, (AFLDM) announced at Bundiwarra early in May by WA Minister for Child Protection, Hon Simone McGurk MLA, gave a moving speech about the pilot program (see story on page 7).

*Red Ochre's* Eric Dalgety and Buddy Alone entertained with their popular brand of music and singing group *Warralgurniya* – the language centre's Rosie Sitorus and Jacqui Cook and local musician Darcy Hay, with the ubiquitous Peter Salmon, delighted the audience with their soulful singing in Warriyangga language.

Feedback on Bundiwarra's Sorry Day was very positive, with lots of congratulations on the program content. Many people, Indigenous and non-Indigenous were moved by the stories shared on the morning and the AEC Community Engagement Officer, Paris Kuhnold, sent thanks for 'such an awesome day' she said it was an honour to be included in an event that had so much meaning.



**Promoting voting:** Electoral Commission Community Engagement Officer, Paris Kuhnold, with City of Greater Geraldton Councillor, Natasha Colliver and Wayne Bynder, promote the value of being on the electoral roll.

**Inspired:** Museum of Geraldton Regional Manager, Leigh O'Brien, with Learning and Engagement Officer Bernadette Anderson.



**Legal eagles:** Tim Hampson, Xavier Sellathambu, Terina Radcliffe and Georgia Keyzers from Aboriginal Legal Service Geraldton, attended the morning's events.



**Talking about Sorry Day:** Language centre Senior Language Teacher Edie Maher, with her brother Charlie Maher.



**Enjoying the morning:** Shine Today Program Manager, Barbara Thompson and CEO Rebecca Millar, came along for the morning.

ook who popped into the language centre last month.

The Nharnuwangga Wajarri Ngarlawangga (NWN) rangers. They are working on country in the NWN determination area, specifically the Collier Range National Park, in the southern Pilbara.

An exciting new ranger team, Nikkita Smith, Jack McPhee, Lylia Flowers and Stewart Robinson all come from nearby Yulga Jinna community and were in Geraldton doing some TAFE training related to their ranger work – and visited the language centre where they were presented with some Ngarlawangga language resources to take away.

Funded in partnership by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Aboriginal Ranger Program and the Jidi Jidi Aboriginal Corporation (JJAC), the first ranger trip was in September 2020.

With assistance from cultural heritage experts Terra Rosa Consulting (TR), the rangers are working towards a Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management and Aboriginal Sites Work as well as targeted training in AusChem units, at Central Regional TAFE in Geraldton. Terra Rosa Aboriginal Partnerships Coordinator, Nerida Haynes, said pest management training will also be undertaken to ensure the JJAC land management unit becomes self-reliant through fee-for-service opportunities with various stakeholders on NWN country. “The outcomes of the funding agreement will be a fauna monitoring program and a cultural heritage management



**Ngarla language:** Language centre linguist, Jacqui Cook, shares some resources with Nikkita Smith, Jack McPhee, Lylia Flowers and Stewart Robinson of the Nharnuwangga Wajarri Ngarlawangga ranger team, during their visit to Bundiyarra.

## New ranger team visits Bundiyarra

plan for the Collier Range National Park and immediate surrounds within NWN country,” she said.

Craig Allsop, Senior Anthropologist with TR and lead consultant on the program said since working on their country the rangers have gained confidence and a sense of pride.

“There’s a real energy and excitement when they get out there and get into the work,” he said.

“My old people told me about the importance of looking after this place, and here we are doing it,” said Jack.

“We don’t want to stop at the end of a trip, we want to keep going!”

All the rangers are related to Elder Tadgie Limerick who has worked with the language centre on the Ngarlawangga language for some years.

## Putting Warriyanga country on the Living Atlas of Australia

Natalie Reisbeck-Brown, a mapping expert joined the Warriyanga on Country trip last October with Peter Salmon and his extended family, and the Bundiyarra-Irra Wangga Language Centre team.

Natalie is aiming to map the country for the Atlas of Living Australia through its Spatial Portal that visualises and analyses relationships between species, location and environment.

The atlas data helps with a more detailed picture of Australia’s biodiversity to aid scientists, policy makers, environmental planners, land managers, industry and the public to work more efficiently.

Natalie caught up with Peter on one of his forays south on the music touring circuit to finalise some data.

The Atlas of Living Australia is an open source, available to everyone.





**Midwest dynamic:** William Hayward, Co-chair of the AFLDM, (the pilot program of which was announced at Bundiyarra), with Wayne McDonald; Bundiyarra CEO; and Renee Ronan, Department of Communities Specialist Child Protection Unit – AFLDM implementation group at the Sorry Day event at Bundiyarra.

## Two-year pilot program around out of home care announced on Bundiyarra grounds

In early May, Bundiyarra was chosen as the site for Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Minister for Child Protection, to announce a two-year pilot for the WA trial of the Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making program (AFLDM).

The Midwest-Gascoyne region is one of two WA locations chosen for the pilot program which aims to address over-representation of Aboriginal children in out of home care. The other site is Mirrabooka in the Perth metropolitan area.

Minister McGurk (pictured right) said Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children make up 57 per cent of children in out of home care in WA.



“Aboriginal organisations need to lead this work,” she said, “they are the experts; and we must work alongside them to deliver culturally appropriate solutions that will help keep children and young people safe at home.”

Co-Chair of the AFLDM, William Hayward, who accompanied Minister McGurk to make the announcement, returned to Geraldton to talk more about the program at Bundiyarra’s Sorry Day.

Mr Hayward said the Midwest was chosen not only for its dynamic, but there are rural communities in the area and also an urban hub like Geraldton as the main city or town.

“But also, it was chosen because the Aboriginal

community-controlled organisations here presented really strongly,” he said,

“And that the myth that Aboriginal people aren’t capable to make decisions for our own children and child protection.

“It was easy to see that here the network of aboriginal organisations and the community presented with that real strength,” said Mr Hayward.

“There’s every chance of success because of the service delivery readiness here.”

He said AFLDM is actually about the department letting go of power; and letting go of control.

“It’s an independent family decision making forum where an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation and independent conveners will actually champion and facilitate child protection planning,” he said.

“Instead of the Department of Child Protection and family support conducting those meetings, it’ll be conducted by our community organisations independently with an independent convener.

“It will be about supporting our families and empowering them with a voice to come up with solutions to the challenges that they face in child protection,” said Mr Hayward.

He said it is an honour to work with the Midwest and the Department of Communities with the pilot program.

Mr Hayward met with the Midwest Aboriginal Organisations Alliance (MAOA) and other stakeholders during his stay in Geraldton to advance the program.

The pilot program is due to start in October this year.

## Two nominations for WA Song of the Year

As reported in the last edition of *Bundiyarra News*, music has become a big part of our eminent Warriyangga-Thiinma language speaker and octogenarian Peter Salmon's life, and he is becoming quite the musical celebrity of late.

Two of his songs were selected to feature on WA Music's *Sounds of the Midwest* album, due to be launched and released on July 23 at Queens Park Theatre in Geraldton, and they will be performed live at the launch.

Not only that, they have been nominated in Western Australian Music (WAM)'s 2021 Song of the Year competition presented by Act Belong Commit, in no less than two categories: Global and Outstanding Indigenous!

After Peter wrote the Boundary song *Yirdiya* (yirdiya means boundary), with music written by the language centre's coordinator, linguist and talented musician, Rosie Sitorus, it was followed up with *Warri Yungu Warri Baba* (No Rain No Water) and both songs are on the *Sounds of the Midwest* album.

Teaming up with language centre linguist and musician, Jacqui Cook and Geraldton musician Darcy Hay, the quartet, *Warralgurniya*, or 'Singers', was formed and will play live at the WAM Song of the Year 2021 Awards Party in Perth on Wednesday 30 June where all the winners will be revealed.

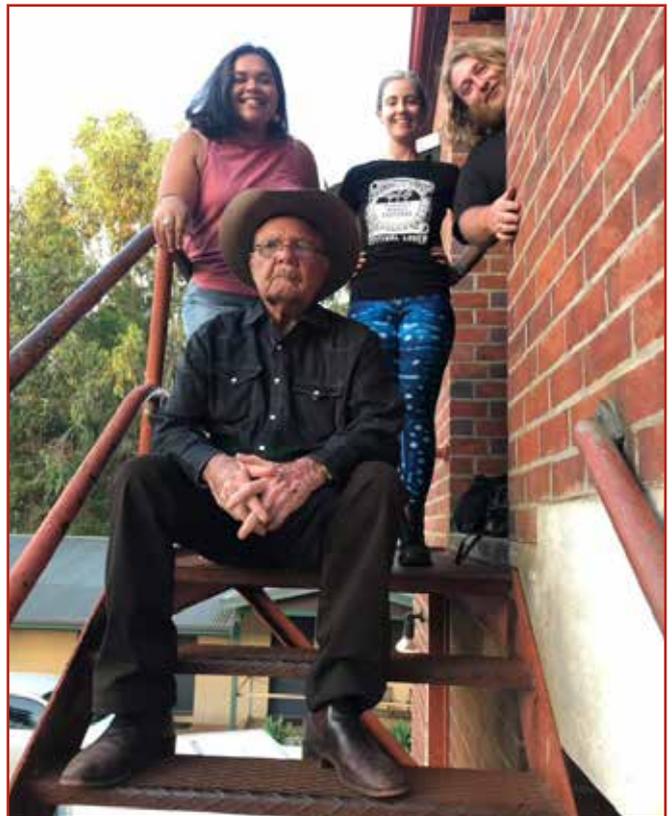
The talented quartet has enjoyed recent success on the 'touring' circuit!

After four sets at the popular Nannup Music Festival, in early March, they played at the WAM Fest, presented by Act Belong Commit and West Australian Music, in the State Theatre Courtyard in Perth on March 27. This was a well-attended event, where Peter caught up with his grandson, Gerrick and Gerrick's children.

Then it was back to Geraldton to play at Nukara's fabulous music festival on April 18. According to Rosie one punter told her he was almost moved to tears listening to their songs.

*Warri Yungu Warri Baba* has been played on RTRFM Perth community radio, and Double J radio station. Getting some high rotation!

Rosie said: "we are just so excited about these



**Barndi:** *Warralgurniya (Singers)* at Nannup for their gig at the Nannup Music Festival.

nominations. Obviously, we think these songs are special, but to have them recognised by the music industry is such a privilege.

"*Warralgurniya* exists to tell Mr Salmon's incredible stories through song; and we hope that this platform will help reach more people," she said.

"Mr Salmon is a living treasure and as he heads towards 90 it's more important than ever that his stories and knowledge are recorded and shared."



**Family:** Peter Salmon with grandson Gerrick Weedon and great-granddaughter at WAM Fest in late March.

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## Peter pops up in Paris...

Peter continues to gain notoriety for his work – spanning the world – recently being broadcast on a Parisian current affairs program!

An Australian audio producer, based in Paris, came across ABC Susan Standen's coverage of the Warriyangga on Country trip we all went on in October

last year, that has appeared on the ABC's *7.30 Report*, ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt radio, an online article and on *Australia Wide* with Sinead Mangan.

Abi McNeil produces a current affairs program, *La Matinale*, on Radio Campus Paris, and was keen to edit a longer version for her show.

Mr Salmon is enjoying so much reach with his stories that he will soon need a bigger hat!