

Notre Dame Nulungu Talking Heads Seminar Series

A New Partnership, William Roe, 1994

'WANGGAJARLI BURUGUN

'We are coming home'

Date: Wednesday 28th June 2023

Venue: NDB10/101

Time: 12.00pm – 1.00pm



Presenters: Dianne Appleby, Naomi Appleby, Wynston Shovellor, Kevin Puertollano, Maxine Charlie, and Sarah Yu

Abstract

To date, the Yawuru community has found 36 ancestors, scattered across the world, who were removed from Yawuru country during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Many have been held and displayed in European museums, treated as curiosities in collections or as objects for scientific studies, often to validate racist theories of the evolution of mankind.

The Wanggarjarli Burugun story has been created from mabu liyan. The experience has been curated as a journey, which matches the journey of discovery and understanding, as we uncovered the truth about what happened to our ancestors and begin to reconcile this traumatic history.

Members of the community curatorium will discuss all the aspects of the Wanggajarli Burugun project that includes an exhibition, research, the development of a memorial and resting place, and their work in `trying to bring their ancestors back to their home country.

Biographies

Dianne Appleby is a well-known Yawuru cultural leader who has guided the Wanggajarli Burugun project since it began.

Naomi Appleby is a Yawuru representative and was a member of the Repatriation team in 2019 to bring back ancestors from Germany to Australia and undertook archival research for the project.

Wynston Shovellor is a Karajarri representative and was a member of the Repatriation team in 2019 to bring back ancestors from Germany to Australia.

Kevin Puertollano is a Yawuru Bardi elder from a well-known local Broome family and is the current chair of the Wanggajarli Burugun Working Group.

Maxine Charlie is a Yawuru artist who provided artworks for the Wanggajarli Burugun story, and who is a leading member of the Wanggajarli Burugun Working Group.

Sarah Yu is the lead curator of Wanggajarli Burugun. She has worked at Nyamba Buru Yawuru for over 10 years, developing award-winning cultural heritage projects such as Lustre: Pearling & Australia; Jetty to Jetty; Bugarrigarra Nyurdany and Opening the Common Gate.