



**Gathangga Wakulda
Aboriginal Corporation
Strategic Plan
2025 - 2030**

Acknowledgement of Country

Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation acknowledges the **Birrbyay, Warrimay** and **Guringay** peoples, their lands, waters and skies where we live, work and gather. We honour the strength, resilience and wisdom of our Elders - past and present - and recognise their role in revitalising and continuing the Gathang language, culture and knowledge systems.

We pay our respects to the Ancestors who have cared for Country since time immemorial and to the young people who will carry our language and culture forward. We acknowledge that language and Country are inseparable and we commit to supporting the continuation of Gathang language and cultural practices.

This land has always been and always will be, Aboriginal land.



Contents

Message from the CEO	04
Marrungbu	05
Our journey begins	06
Our story	07
Message from the Board	08
Our Board	10
Our purpose and values	12
The way we do business	13
Our vision	15
Our mission	16
Our goals and path forward	17
Goal 1	19
Goal 2	21
Goal 3	23
Goal 4	25
Goal 5	27
Meet the artist	30



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware this document may include the names or images of people who have passed away.

Message from the CEO

Gathangga Wakulda, in Gathang, “as one”, is the legacy of a group of language leaders from across the Gathang-speaking footprint: Amanda Davis, Jazlie Davis, Benn Stewart, Rhonda Radley, Sharon Edgar-Jones, Jonathan Lilley, Marissa Holland and Michelle Perry, who shared a vision to move towards self-determined activity for the Gathang language footprint. As we collectively carry this vision forward, we do so with great care for our language, Country and cultures, and with our burraydjarr (children) in our hearts and minds.

This Strategic Plan 2025–2030 sets out the path for our Corporation to strengthen the continuation of Gathang language, our cultures and knowledge systems. It provides a yabang (path) and a commitment to embed Gathang in daily life, to create inclusive spaces where language and cultures thrive, to build sustainable enterprises that support our independence, and to ensure strong governance and community-led decision-making.

The values of Responsibility, Growth, Sustainability, Respect and Integrity guide our work. These values are lived practices that shape how we teach, govern and walk together in the footsteps of our Ancestors. They remind us that language is inseparable from Country, and that our responsibility is to ensure Gathang remains a living, thriving force for generations to come.

This plan reflects the voices of Elders, knowledge-holders, educators and community members who have shared their wisdom and aspirations. It is a collective vision that honours the resilience of our people and the strength of our cultural identity. Through education, enterprise and partnerships, we will continue to build opportunities for our community, ensuring that our language is spoken, heard and lived across Birrbay, Warrimay and Guringay Countries.

As CEO, I am proud to present this plan as a testament to our shared determination. It is a living commitment to our burraydjarr, our communities and our future. Together, we will ensure that Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation remains a guiding light for language revitalisation, cultural empowerment, community self-determination and nation-rebuilding.



Gulwanyang Moran

Marrungbu

We express our deepest gratitude to the Gathang-speaking community, Elders, knowledge-holders, educators and community members who participated in consultations, shared their insights and provided invaluable guidance. Your voices, experiences and passion for our language and culture have shaped this plan, ensuring it reflects the aspirations and needs of Gathang-speaking peoples.

Our appreciation also extends to partner organisations, Aboriginal community groups, funding bodies and supporters, whose collaboration and contributions have helped lay the foundation for this important work.

In particular, we acknowledge the New South Wales Government's Department of Regional NSW through the Aboriginal Partnerships Grant Funding for their support.

Marrungbu also to Biripi woman, Keisha Mitchell from KAMRA FILMS for her photography.

“Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation is committed to creating spaces where language thrives, leadership grows and cultural knowledge is shared across generations to come.”

Our journey begins: *Walking in the footsteps of our Ancestors*

Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation was founded in 2024 to strengthen the continuation of Gathang language, culture and knowledge systems while empowering community-led initiatives. Born from the collective vision of Gathang-speaking people, the corporation is committed to creating spaces where language thrives, leadership grows and cultural knowledge is shared across generations.

Our corporation was established with 5 foundational objectives:

1. Continuation of Gathang Language

Gathang will be actively spoken, taught and embedded in daily life through language programs, education pathways and community-led learning.

2. Creating inclusive Language and Cultural spaces

Establishing a dedicated cultural and language centre, mobile learning and secure land for community-based on-Country learning and teaching programs.

3. Developing sustainable enterprises and economic independence

Social enterprises, consultancy services and cultural tourism initiatives will create employment pathways, generate income and support the Corporation's long-term sustainability.

4. Strong governance and self-determination

Effective governance, transparent decision-making and financial independence will ensure the Corporation's stability and leadership in language continuation.

5. Community collaboration and partnerships

Foster meaningful relationships and partnerships to strengthen our impact, ensuring that language and culture remain central to education, business and community initiatives across the Gathang footprint.

Our story: *Who we are*



Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation is a community-led organisation dedicated to the continuation, revitalisation and strengthening of the Gathang language and culture. We exist to ensure that Gathang-speaking peoples have a thriving, sustainable future where our language is embedded in everyday life, where our cultural knowledge is passed down through generations and where our people can connect, learn and thrive.

Our organisation was established by Gathang-speaking community members who recognised the need for dedicated spaces to revitalise, teach and celebrate our language and culture. We are driven by a commitment to self-determination, community empowerment and language continuation, ensuring that our work is led by our people, for our people.

Through education, training, cultural initiatives and partnerships, we work to create meaningful opportunities for our community, whether it be through language teaching in schools, cultural workshops, resource development or future economic ventures. Our work is guided by our values of Responsibility, Growth, Sustainability, Respect and Integrity, ensuring that everything we do is grounded in cultural ways and accountability to our people.

As we grow, we will continue to advocate for Gathang language and culture to be recognised, supported and present in all aspects of life. We are here to ensure that our language and identity remain strong, our knowledge continues to be shared and our people have a place to connect and belong.

Message from the Board

The Board of Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation is proud to endorse the Strategic Plan 2025–2030. This plan represents a significant milestone in establishing a strong, community-led foundation for the continuation of the Gathang language, culture and knowledge systems.

As custodians of the organisation's governance, we recognise our responsibility to ensure that Gathangga Wakulda operates with integrity, transparency and accountability. Our role is to provide stable leadership, uphold cultural authority and ensure that decision-making processes reflect the aspirations of Gathang-speaking peoples across Birrbay, Warrimay and Guringay Countries.

This Strategic Plan outlines a clear and achievable framework for strengthening language continuation, building inclusive cultural spaces, developing sustainable enterprises and supporting community-led initiatives. It provides the structures required for long-term organisational stability, including strong governance systems, financial sustainability, workforce development and regional representation.

The Board is committed to ensuring that all activities of the Corporation are guided by our core values of Responsibility, Growth, Sustainability, Respect and Integrity. These values underpin our governance approach and shape the standards we expect across all programs, partnerships and operations.

We acknowledge the contributions of Elders, language custodians, community members and partners who have informed this plan. Their guidance ensures that our work remains grounded in cultural knowledge, community priorities and the principles of self-determination.

As we move forward, the Board will continue to strengthen governance systems, support strategic growth and uphold the cultural and organisational integrity of Gathangga Wakulda. We are committed to ensuring that this organisation remains accountable to its members, responsive to community needs and positioned to lead the continuation of Gathang for generations to come.



Our Board

Dr Aunty Rhonda Radley



Dr Aunty Rhonda Radley (Anjilkurri), is a proud Birrbay/Dhanggati woman. As an active Aboriginal Elder, she promotes the revival of culture through language and practices. Her passion is the revitalization of Aboriginal languages, and advocating for Aboriginal languages to be learnt, spoken, taught and integrated into everyday life.

She has supported the teaching and learning of the Gathang language for 15 years in the community, educational institutions and corporate sectors.

Aunty Lynette Syron

Respected Elder, Aunty Lynette Syron is a proud Biripi and Worimi woman. Her grandmother was Eileen Cook. Her grandfather was Robert Syron, whose mother was Susan Clarke. She's a grandmother of 9 grandchildren, a mother of 5 and is raising her 2 cousins.

Aunty Lynette has spent all of her working life involved in working for and with community. She's passionate about her Aboriginal culture and feels privileged and thankful to be able to learn the local Gathang language our Ancestors spoke fluently prior to colonisation.



Kara Clements



Kara Clements is a proud Worimi woman, with strong family connections to the Ridgeway and Manton mobs from Karuah. Working as an Aboriginal Education Officer at Dungog High School for approximately 10 years, Kara joins our Board after being nominated by the Southern Warrimay Community. Over the past decade Kara has developed a significant passion for language, having been actively involved in learning and sharing the Gathang language in her communities.

Kara is a mother of 3, deeply committed to preserving and sharing language, not only with her own children, but also with students and young people across the Gathang footprint. Kara is a strong advocate for Aboriginal education and cultural empowerment, and believes in the vital role that language plays in strengthening identity, belonging and community connection.

Jazlie Davis



Jazlie Davis is a Birrbay woman born and raised on Worimi Country in Wambuynbaa (Forster). Jazlie's family bloodlines include the Browns and Crintons from Dingo Creek, Davis family from Rollands Plains, Thorpes from Armidale and Snows from Tamworth. She is a mother of 4 and lives on Darkinjung Country.

Jazlie is a cultural and policy practitioner and advocate with a strong background in community engagement, language revitalisation, and program development. She has worked across New South Wales and the Northern Territory in roles spanning cultural, legal, and policy sectors.

Beginning her career as a remote pilot and social enterprise facilitator in North East Arnhem Land, she holds a Bachelor Science (Aviation) and Graduate Diploma in Yolŋu Language and Culture.

As a founding Director of Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Language and Culture Centre, Jazlie takes inspiration and strength from the language and cultural resurgence across Gathang Country and is passionate about connection with Country, Language, song and story, dedicating her work to ensuring the continuation of Gathang and other Aboriginal Languages for future generations.

Kitana Paulson



Kitana Paulson is a Warrimay/Bundjalung woman born on Birrbay Barray in Djarii and raised on Warrimay Barray, Wambuynbaa. Her family connections include the Simons in Forster and the Curries in Tweed Heads/Fingal on her grandmother's side. Her grandfather's side connect to the Averys from Baryulgil and Donnellys in Muli Muli. Kitana has grown up immersed in Culture, having been influenced by strong matriarchal cultural leaders who have mentored her from a young age.

Growing up, Kitana has always been exposed to Language. Her passion for Language was ignited when she enrolled in a Language class, being taught by one of her mentors, Aunty Mandy Davis, who has been pivotal in the revitalisation and continuation of Gathang in Birrbay and Warrimay Barray. Kitana's passion for Culture has extended into her talent as a Warrimay Artist. Kitana has utilised her artwork to give back to the community, developing various commissioned pieces at no cost, as she recognises its value as a tool for learning through storytelling. Kitana lives, learns and works on Warrimay Barray in the Community Services sector where her role is to educate, influence, empower and support her community through cultural activities and events with a focus on the social and emotional wellbeing of her community.

Our purpose

Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation exists to continue, strengthen and sustain the Gathang language and culture for future generations. We will empower Gathang-speaking people to revitalise their language and strengthen cultural practices. By fostering connections between Elders, young people and the broader community, we will ensure that the Gathang language and culture remains a living, thriving force within our County and people.

Our values

At the core of Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation are the values that guide our work, our relationships and our commitment to the continuation of the Gathang language and culture. These values are grounded in our identity as Gathang-speaking peoples and reflect the principles that have sustained our communities for generations.

Responsibility – Our mob, our people, our language and culture first.

01

We prioritise the needs of Gathang-speaking people and ensure that our work benefits our community first and foremost. We take responsibility for building up our own people through training, skills development and economic empowerment, creating opportunities for growth and self-determination. Nation-building is at the heart of what we do. We work to strengthen our community's capacity by supporting business, governance and leadership development. Responsibility also means having a shared vision, where we support each other and work together, ensuring that no one carries the burden alone.

Growth – We grow, when our people grow.

02

Growth means being responsive to the changing needs of our community, ensuring that we adapt to the political environment and our people. It means economic prosperity, where our mob is thriving, not just surviving. It means ensuring the wellbeing of our people, so that their cultural, social and economic needs are met. Growth is also about mentorship. Our role is to support and uplift the next generation. We will train, guide and empower our people, ensuring that they have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to take Gathang forward into the future.

Sustainability – We are stronger together.

03

Sustainability is about ensuring that what we build today lasts for generations. It means shared responsibility, where our community, Board, staff and partners all contribute to the success of our mission. Economic sustainability is key. We will focus on building financial stability through good governance, transparent decision-making and sound financial management. Sustainability also means ensuring that the Gathang language, knowledge and culture remain strong, with the right structures and leadership in place to pass them down for generations.

Respect – Respect is at the foundation of everything we do.

04

We respect our language, culture, Elders and each other. We create safe spaces where our people feel valued and respected and where they have the freedom to contribute at any stage of their journey. Respect means humility. Listening and inclusion mean respecting different perspectives and ensuring that all voices are heard. It also means that when disagreements arise, we maintain dignity and handle them with care, always putting the strength of our community first.

Integrity – We hold ourselves to the highest standards.

05

Integrity means excellence in everything we do, from the quality of our language and cultural programs to the way we manage our organisation. We will strive for high standards in our teaching, products, governance and services to ensure that we honour the integrity of the Gathang language and culture. Integrity is also about having strong role models, whether it's our board members, staff, parents, or young people, we will lead by example. We want our young people to define their own version of success, where success is not just about money or jobs, but about being strong in culture and fulfilling our responsibilities as a father, mother, community leader and person.

The way we do business

At Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation our work is guided by responsibility to Country, community and the continuation of the Gathang language. Everything we do is grounded in self-determination, cultural ways of being and collective responsibility, ensuring that Gathang remains a living language for future generations.

We prioritise our mob, language speakers and young people, creating opportunities for learning and teaching. Our approach is community-first, ensuring our governance is strong, decisions are transparent and our work is always accountable.

We will strive for high standards in our teaching, products, governance and services to ensure that we honour the integrity of the Gathang language and culture. Integrity means excellence in everything we do, from the quality of our language and cultural programs to the way we manage our organisation.

We will provide high levels of communication back to members and community, ensuring that there is transparency and accountability.

When we refer to **Birrbyay**, **Guringay** or **Warrimay** throughout our work, we are using the Gathang language spelling for these communities. We acknowledge that our mob might use different spellings to represent identity and community, and we recognise and respect this.





Our mission

Our mission is to create inclusive language spaces, cultural programs and learning opportunities driven by community leadership, education, enterprise and self-determination. Through these efforts, we will build sustainable pathways for our people to learn, teach and live Gathang, ensuring its continuation for future generations.

Our vision

Our vision is for Gathang to be a thriving, living language, embedded in daily life and strengthened across generations, communities and Country. Through self-determination, education and Birrbay, Warrimay and Guringay ways of knowing, being and doing, we will ensure Gathang continues to grow and empower our people.

We will know our vision is achieved when **Gathang** is **spoken, heard** and **lived** in everyday life.

We have **strong cultural role models** and **empowered community members** leading the way.

We feel a **deep sense of self, wellbeing and belonging** through **language and culture**.

We experience economic prosperity in our families and communities through participation in our language and culture.



Our goals

To achieve our purpose, vision and mission, Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation has identified 5 goals to guide our operations over the next 5 years.

Goal 1
Continuation of
Gathang
Language

Goal 2
Creating
inclusive
Language and
Cultural
spaces

Goal 3
Sustainable
enterprises and
economic
independence

Our path forward

These goals will ensure the continuation of Gathang language and culture while creating meaningful, long-term change for our people.

Goal 4
Strong
governance
and self-
determination

Goal 5
Community
collaboration
and
partnerships



Goal 1: Continuation of Gathang Language

Gathang will be actively spoken, taught and embedded in daily life through language programs, education pathways and community-led learning.

Year 1 - Objective 1:

Develop and deliver weekly community-led language programs

Developing and delivering community-led language programs will ensure that Gathang remains a living and thriving language, embedded in everyday life. These programs will be designed with direct input from Gathang-speaking communities, prioritising intergenerational learning, cultural continuity and accessibility for all ages and skill levels.

Year 2 - Objective 2:

Create culturally relevant teaching resources

Creating culturally relevant teaching resources will support the effective learning and continuation of Gathang by ensuring materials reflect the language, stories and knowledge systems of the Gathang-speaking community. These resources will be designed to align with community needs, incorporating traditional and contemporary learning methods to engage learners of all ages.



Year 3 - Objective 3:

Establish a Digital Cultural Library and Audio Archive

Create a central digital platform that houses Gathang language resources, including audio recordings of common phrases, songs, oral histories and cultural knowledge. This online library will support self-paced learning and long-term language continuation, particularly for Gathang-speaking peoples who are living off-Country or away from community. It will be a vital tool for education, cultural connection and support for emerging language learners and teachers across the Gathang footprint.

Ongoing - Objective 4:

Support Gathang speaking communities to establish local governance groups including protocols on the use and teaching of the language

Supporting other Gathang-speaking communities to establish local governance groups and develop protocols for the use and teaching of the language will ensure a collaborative and community-led approach to language continuation. This includes creating culturally appropriate guidelines, fostering regional partnerships and strengthening collective decision-making to safeguard the integrity and future of Gathang.

Ongoing - Objective 5:

Support Gathang speakers and emerging teachers through mentorship and training opportunities

Supporting Gathang speakers and emerging teachers through mentorship and training opportunities will build local capacity and ensure the continuation of the language for future generations. This includes developing structured mentorship programs, providing professional development and creating pathways for community members to become confident language teachers and cultural educators.



Goal 2: Create inclusive Language and Cultural spaces

Establishing a dedicated cultural and language centre, mobile learning van and secure land for community-based on-Country learning and teaching programs.

Year 3 - Objective 1:
Plan and deliver an annual Gathang Language immersion camp

Deliver and develop an annual Gathang Language immersion camp in partnership with stakeholders across the Gathang footprint. The camp will bring together Gathang-speaking communities to share knowledge, strengthen language use and create immersive learning environments for all generations. It will serve as a unifying cultural experience that fosters connection and continued collaboration across Birrbay, Warrimay and Guringay peoples.



Year 5 - Objective 2:
Establish a mobile language van to provide outreach programs across Gathang speaking communities

Establishing a mobile language van will enable Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation to deliver outreach programs across Gathang-speaking communities, ensuring language learning is accessible regardless of location. This van will serve as a travelling language hub, providing resources, workshops and community-led programs.



Year 5 - Objective 3:

Establish satellite learning hubs across the Gathang footprint

Where requested, Gathangga Wakulda will work with local Gathang-speaking communities to explore the establishment of satellite learning hubs in other locations. Each hub will be community-driven and reflect the unique needs of each area while contributing to a shared Gathang future.

Year 5 - Objective 4:

Pursue the purchase of freehold land to support On-Country learning and cultural activities

Explore opportunities to acquire freehold land within the Gathang footprint to establish a permanent base for language and cultural education. Owning land will provide autonomy, support intergenerational learning on-Country and offer space for camps, workshops and community gatherings in alignment with cultural protocols and aspirations.

2032 - Objective 5:

Establish a Gathang Language and Cultural Centre

The Centre will be a multipurpose space, offering language classes, cultural workshops, educational programs, resource development and community gatherings. It will support intergenerational learning, ensuring that Elders, language teachers and emerging speakers have a space to share, teach and practice Gathang.



Goal 3: Developing sustainable enterprises and economic independence

Social enterprises, consultancy services and cultural tourism initiatives will create employment pathways, generate income and support the Corporation's long-term sustainability.

Year 2 - Objective 1:

Establish an online presence to promote services, online store and retail platform

Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation will develop a professional online presence that promotes its programs, services and cultural initiatives. This will include an interactive website and digital retail platform to sell Gathang language products and merchandise, as well as provide information about workshops, training and cultural consultancy services. The online platform will support community members on-Country and off-Country, and help expand the Corporation's reach and visibility across the wider region and beyond.

Year 3 - Objective 2:

Develop and expand cultural consultancy services

Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation will develop and offer a suite of cultural consultancy services including language translations, cultural capability development, on-Country workshops and professional development training for educators and organisations. This objective aims to position the Corporation as a trusted cultural authority while generating sustainable income and employment opportunities for Gathang-speaking peoples.

Year 5 - Objective 3:

Explore establishing a Gathangga Wakulda publishing service

Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation will work towards becoming a publishing hub for Gathang language resources and expand its capacity to support other language groups seeking to develop their own resources. This includes editing, design, printing and distribution services, as well as cultural and language advice to ensure authenticity and community control.



Goal 4: Strong governance and self-determination

Effective governance, transparent decision-making and financial independence will ensure the Corporation's stability and leadership in language continuation.

Year 1 - Objective 1:

Develop and implement workplace policies and procedures

Developing and implementing workplace policies and procedures will establish clear guidelines for governance, financial management, staffing and program delivery, ensuring transparency and accountability. These policies will support efficient operations, compliance with regulatory requirements, and a culturally safe and inclusive work environment that aligns with the values and goals of Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation.

Year 1 - Objective 2:

Develop financial systems and processes

Developing financial systems and processes will ensure strong financial management, accountability and sustainability for Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation. This includes appointing a contracted bookkeeper to oversee financial transactions, budgeting and reporting, as well as implementing financial policies and procedures that support compliance, grant management and long-term organisational growth.

Year 2 - Objective 3:

Establish a Gathangga Wakulda office

A dedicated office space will provide Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation with a central hub for governance, administration and language programs, strengthening its operational capacity and community presence. It will serve as a culturally safe space for collaboration, resource management and program delivery, ensuring the organisation can effectively lead language continuation efforts.

Year 2 - Objective 4:

Recruit staff to undertake administrative support to manage operations effectively

Recruiting staff for administrative support will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation's operations. Dedicated personnel will manage daily administrative tasks, coordinate programs and support governance, ensuring the organisation can focus on delivering language and cultural initiatives while maintaining smooth and professional operations.

Year 3 - Objective 5:

Ensure gender and regional representation within governance to reflect the diversity of Gathang-speaking communities

Establishing and maintaining strong governance structures will ensure effective leadership, accountability and strategic direction for Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation. This includes appointing additional Board members to enhance capacity and expertise, ensuring gender balance and incorporating representatives from across the Gathang footprint to strengthen regional collaboration and representation.

Year 3 - Objective 6:

Establish and implement a robust performance development framework for the Board and staff

Establishing a performance development framework for staff and Board members will ensure continuous growth, accountability and strong leadership within Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation. This framework will provide clear expectations, professional development opportunities and regular evaluations, supporting a high-performing team that drives the organisation's mission and long-term sustainability.

Year 3 - Objective 7:

Strengthen financial sustainability through diversified revenue and grant partnerships

Identify and pursue a range of funding opportunities including grants, philanthropic support, sponsorships and fee-for-service models to increase income and ensure the long-term sustainability of Gathang language and cultural programs. Building strong partnerships with funding bodies and aligning with shared outcomes will help expand the Corporation's impact and resilience.



Goal 5: Community collaboration and partnerships

Foster meaningful relationships and partnerships to strengthen our impact, ensuring that language and culture remain central to education, business and community initiatives across the Gathang footprint.

Year 3 - Objective 1:

Build strategic partnerships with key language funding bodies

Strengthen relationships with the Aboriginal Languages Trust and the Indigenous Languages and Arts Program to support funding, co-design and implementation of long-term language initiatives. These partnerships will enhance the sustainability of Gathang language projects, ensure alignment with state and national strategies and enable co-investment in community-led outcomes.



Year 4 - Objective 2:

Establish network of Gathang speakers and learners across the footprint

Facilitate regular gatherings, digital catch-ups and language-sharing spaces to connect Gathang speakers, learners and teachers across Warrimay, Birrbay and Guringay communities. This network will support peer-to-peer learning, mentorship and the exchange of teaching methods and resources.



Year 4 - Objective 3:

Collaborate with health, youth and wellbeing services

Work collaboratively with Aboriginal Medical Services, youth organisations and wellbeing programs to embed Gathang language and culture into health promotion, mental health, out-of-home care and youth development initiatives. These partnerships will create culturally safe spaces, support community healing and ensure language is present in services that care for and empower our people. By aligning cultural practices with wellbeing services, we will reinforce identity, belonging and holistic health across generations.

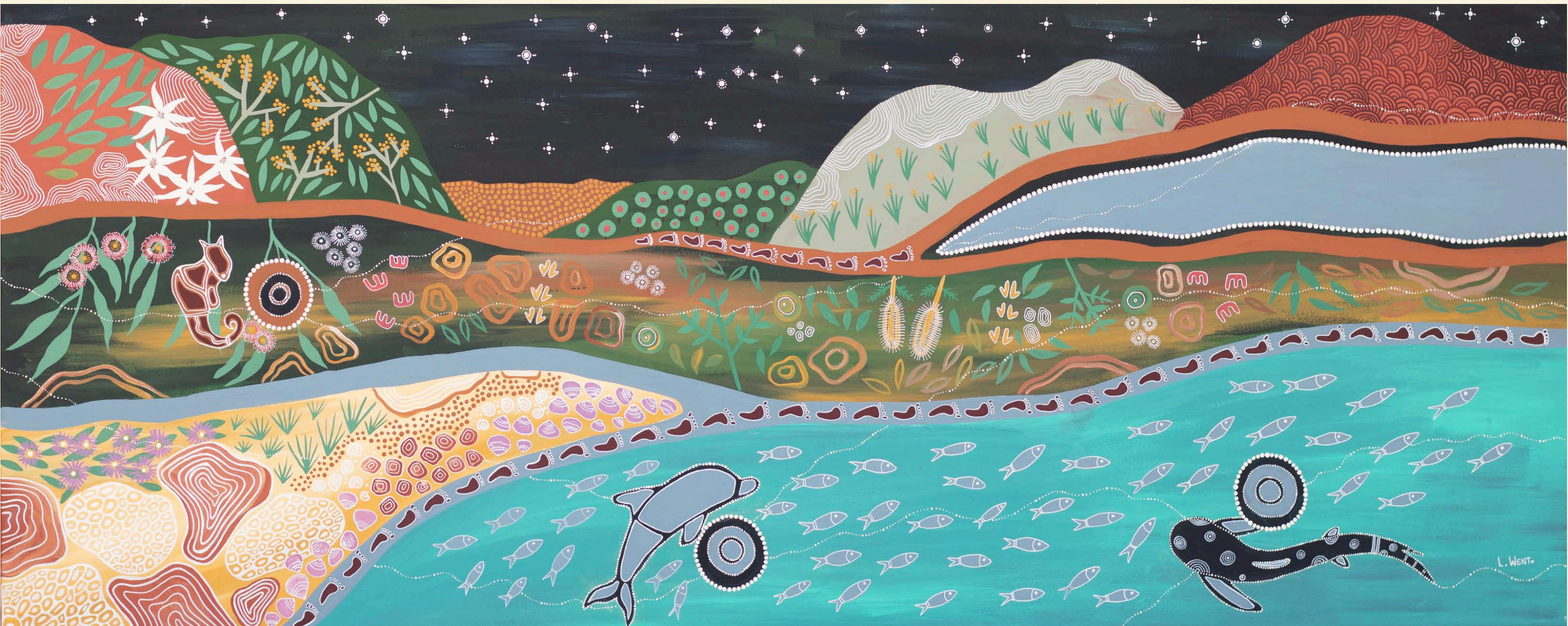


Ongoing - Objective 4:

Develop Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with key partners

Formalise collaborative agreements with organisations such as local Gathang Governance Groups, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Cooperative, TAFEs and universities to support shared efforts in language continuation, land access, cultural programming and governance development across the Gathang footprint.





Meet the artist: *Lara Went*

Lara Went is a contemporary Aboriginal artist and a proud Worimi woman. She lives and works on Worimi Country in Forster.

Lara hand paints her designs, drawing inspiration from the natural world around her on Worimi Country, the ocean, her family, her culture and caring for nature.

Each artwork tells a story and is based on her heart, “yukul”.



The artwork represents the Country where Gathang is spoken and includes the 3 totems for Birrbay, Warrimay and Guringay communities (grey nurse shark, dolphin and possum) across sea, land and sky Country. The lines across the design represent the language lines or voice lines across the Gathang (Birrbay, Warrimay, Guringay) footprint.

The top layer represents the mountains with flowers native to that area. Above are stars representing our Old People and Ancestors. There are freshwater streams between the layers.

The middle section is for the possum, with eucalyptus leaves and flowers, kangaroo and goanna tracks, rocks, community and shared plants such as banksia.

There are more footprints joining the bottom layer which includes coastal flora such as pig face, sea daisies and spinifex, as well as rocks and pippis. Next to this is the dolphin and shark surrounded by the mullet run.



Gathangga Wakulda
Aboriginal Corporation

Address

Unit 1, 48 High
Street,
Wauchope NSW
2446
Australia

Contact

E: admin@gathang.org.au

W: www.gathang.org.au

ABN: 89 217 402 162

© Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation 2025

The material contained in this document is the subject of copyright and/or privileged information. Any use, disclosure (written or verbal), copying or dissemination of this document is prohibited without written consent from Gathangga Wakulda Aboriginal Corporation.