

Bundjalung and Kunwinku women's cultural exchange and collaborative textile Project | Goonengerry, NSW



- Total project cost \$84,876.91
- RAF Funding \$19,930
- Leveraged Funds \$34,954
- Audience Numbers 2,452
- Engagement | National long-term partnerships

This project facilitated the Wake up time Women (a regional Bundjalung women's textile-arts collective), to participate in a cultural exchange and collaborative arts project with a group of Kunwinjku women textile artists, visiting from Injalak Arts, Oenpelli, NT. The project involved a two-week exchange between the groups of artists and culminated in a weekend-long fully booked public workshop for women.

Benefits to the community included:

- The development of strong, mutually inspiring, cultural bonds between two groups of regional, remote Indigenous women artists and the building of self-esteem, pride and confidence through these reciprocal activities
- Provided the community an opportunity to engage with local and interstate cultural groups, expanding their cultural understanding and respect
- The building and fostering of strong relationships and partnerships with local organisations including Arts Northern Rivers and Northern Rivers Community Gallery
- Inspirational connections, healing, respect, recognition and validation of shared experiences with other Indigenous Australian women
- The development of new arts practice and professional skills, and the enabling of the Wake Up time Women to broaden their artistic repertoire
- Enabling the collective to gain experience and build confidence in training, running workshops, sales and merchandising
- Raising the awareness and value of Aboriginal artists and arts practice through engaging the local community, some of whom have never had the chance to meet first-language speaking Indigenous Australians.

Future Impact:

- There is potential to extend the project, with the exchange being hosted in the Northern Territory
- The women having developed a close bond and are eager to work together again.