



Legacies

Karlkurla

K A L G O O R L I E

Stories from Silky Pear Country





CULTURAL WARNING

Please be advised that the names, voices and images of deceased Elders in this exhibition have been used with their permission.

WE THANK YOU

Janice Scott, Brent Johnston, Betty Logan, Murray McCarthy, Allison Dimer, Geoffrey Stokes, Nyingurta Jessie West, Donald Ballinger and the Elders who are no longer with us, Trevor Brownley (represented here by his son Linden) and Dallas McLean.



LEGACIES KARLKURLA WAS PRODUCED BY

CAN COMMUNITY
ARTS
NETWORK

CAN's purpose is to embrace and amplify creativity, connection and community through the arts and social impact.

SUPPORTED BY



WAM

MUSEUM
OF THE
GOLDFIELDS

Community
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Tjuma Pulka Media
Aboriginal Corporation



lotterywest



Yuwa



WELCOME TO

LEGACIES KARLKURLA KALGOORLIE

STORIES FROM SILKY PEAR COUNTRY

This is an exhibition grounded in truth,
resilience, respect and triumph.

A celebration of our shared cultural heritage,
Legacies Karlkurla features the life stories of ten
Aboriginal Elders who have significantly contributed
to their communities and the Goldfields.

The Elders collaborated with Community Arts Network
to share their legacies through photographic
portraiture and podcasts.

These stories are powerful, poignant and at
times heartbreaking – and have been laid bare
so future generations can deepen their
understanding of our shared history.

The pioneer, gold rush and mining stories of the
Goldfields are widely shared and celebrated. *Legacies
Karlkurla* invites you to experience Australia's often
unheard Black histories – the accomplishments and
contributions made by the First Peoples of this land.

Sadly, two of these Elders passed away during
production. We pay our deep respects to them
and their families for allowing their stories to
remain in this exhibition.

THEIR STORIES. THEIR WORDS. THEIR LEGACY

THE PROJECT BEHIND THE EXHIBITION

The *Legacies Karlkurla (Kalgoorlie)* exhibition is the culmination of Legacies Kalgoorlie, a project produced by Community Arts Network (CAN) to honour and celebrate the life-long legacies of ten Aboriginal Elders from the communities of the Goldfields.

The project was structured around a series of Kalgoorlie-based residencies, during which the Elders' stories were recorded and documented across a range of media, including portraits by acclaimed Djungan-Yawaru photographer Michael Jalaru Torres, and podcast interviews, conducted by Wudjari Nyungar, Anangu and Pila (Spinifex) woman Debbie Carmody and recorded in the ABC Goldfields studios.

In collaboration with community members, these photographs and recordings have been carefully curated and presented in the *Legacies Karlkurla (Kalgoorlie)* exhibition at the Museum of the Goldfields.

The Legacies Karlkurla project was inspired by Ngaluk Waangkiny (Us Talking), a multimedia storytelling project produced by CAN in 2022 to honour and preserve the legacies of ten Boorloo-based Elders. In 2025 the *Ngaluk Waangkiny* exhibition toured to the Museum of the Goldfields with support from Art on the Move, where it also served as a catalyst for 2026's Goldfields-based Legacies Karlkurla project.





LISTEN

Legacies

Karlkurla
KALGOORLIE



Use this QR code to hear **excerpts** from
each of the Elders' podcast interviews.
(30 minutes)



Use this QR code hear
the interviews in **full**.
(5 hours)



BRENT JOHNSTON

The Wati from Dingo Creek



EXCERPT

2 minutes



FULL

26 minutes

“My legacy?

I just want to be remembered as a Wati and an artist.”

JANICE SCOTT

The Bush Encyclopedia



PART 1



PART 2



EXCERPT

5 minutes



FULL

54 minutes

“I believe... our young people [must] rise up, listen to the voice of your Elders, move forward, commit yourself to fight for your people, continue that struggle, because if we stop, that's when we are finished.”

DONALD BALLINGER

A Hard Working Man



EXCERPT

3 minutes



FULL

35 minutes

“My grandfather and grandmother taught me all about where to go, what not to do... and every site we went to is where my great grandfather and great grandmother and all the family used to walk before the white man ever came to Kalgoorlie.”

ALLISON DIMER

Birth of the Karlkurla



EXCERPT

1 minute



FULL

26 minutes

“The karlkurla had fallen from the sky and when it landed it split into four pieces. The karlkurla grew through the rock and the seeds were blown all over the countryside... that’s where the name Kalgoorlie comes from.”

BETTY LOGAN

The Power of Persistence



EXCERPT

5 minutes



FULL

26 minutes

“My dream... I only wanted to do nursing, I didn’t know how I was going to get there, but that was my ambition, to become a nurse.”

GEOFFREY STOKES

The Shotgun Pastor



EXCERPT

4 minutes



FULL

31 minutes

“My father and mother, old people and land – we were told to protect family and land. It was our responsibility – no one else’s. I have been involved in [protesting] deaths in custody, protesting against uranium mining, and I protect sites of significance.”

NYINGURTA JESSIE WEST

The Campfire Carver



EXCERPT

2 minutes



FULL

36 minutes

“I want to teach my family how to carve punu and paint our stories and make sure our traditional practice is passed on to the next generation.”

MURRAY McCARTHY

The Call of Cundeelee



EXCERPT

3 minutes



FULL

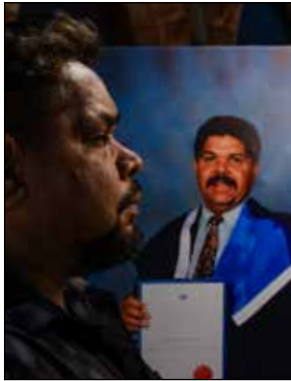
35 minutes

“He kept coming closer and closer, you know, just never got to the point where I could walk up and touch him, but I knew he wanted to be a friend. I put a sign up saying ‘Do NOT Shoot the WHITE Dingo.’ He’s my friend.”

TREVOR BROWNLEY

REPRESENTED BY HIS SON LINDEN

A Man of God



EXCERPT

2 minutes



FULL

31 minutes

“Dad was a very humble man, and he most of the time let his actions speak, rather than his words, and they did... Dad passed on the 9th of June 2025 and it was very unexpected. There’s such a large void that has been left behind, but our faith in God is big enough to fill that void.”





DALLAS McLEAN

Singing and Painting My Country



EXCERPT
3 minutes



FULL
15 minutes

One week after Dallas McLean recorded her life story at the ABC studios in Kalgoorlie, she passed away after a sudden illness. She had not yet been photographed for this project so, with family permission, we celebrate her life and legacy in this exhibition through her artwork and that of her beloved aunty/mother mentor Pantjiti Mary McLean.



Karlkurla Ngurra Wangka

SPEAKING ON SILKY PEAR COUNTRY

By Tina Carmody

ARTIST STATEMENT

This artwork honours our senior Elders who have come together to share their stories. They have inherited and earned the right to knowledge - our cultural safekeepers. The karlkurla is dominant as it represents the Country we are on. The circles represent each of the Elders who kapurturri (come together) to share their unique journey through history.

THE STORY BEHIND KARLKURLA NGURRA WANGKA

The karlkurla (silky pear) fruit and vines represent Country (Ngurra). The Pila (Spinifex) people call this Country Karlkurlatjarraku - the land where the karlkurla grows. The karlkurla vine weaves through other plants producing fruits of identity.

The golden circles represent the location of each Elder's birthplace (kankjuwiltja). The travel lines (ngara) represent the Elders coming together to speak on Silky Pear Country (Karlkurla Ngurra Wangka Kapurturri). The Elders come from different nations of people throughout the Goldfields region but they are socially and culturally connected to Karlkurla Ngurra (Kalgoorlie Country/home).

Karlkurla Ngurra Wangka honours our Elders legacies through birthplace, travel lines and all living beings that contribute to the identity of Elders and their legacies.



Use the QR code to **read more** about the landscape, plants and animals depicted in *Karlkurla Ngurra Wangka*

THE LEGACIES KARLKURLA TEAM



MICHELLE WHITE

Executive Producer

A proud Yamatji storyteller, Michelle White is an award-winning former ABC journalist, producer and broadcaster who has dedicated much of her career to sharing and amplifying the stories of First Nations people. For the past 15 years, Michelle has worked with Community Arts Network, overseeing many of the organisation's multi-media, First Nations legacy projects.



DEBBIE CARMODY

Creative Producer

Debbie Carmody is a Wudjari Nyungar, Anangu and Pila (Spinifex) person. She is a Traditional Owner for Kepa Kurl (Esperance) and Upurli Upurli Nguratja (east of Kalgoorlie Boulder), and has strong social and cultural ties to Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie.

Debbie is a film scriptwriter and director, whose films have been broadcast on ABC and SBS, and she is also an award-winning artist.



MONIKA DVORAK

Project Manager / Curator

A passionate advocate for the development of arts and culture in the WA Goldfields, Monika Dvorak has managed art studios and galleries for over 30 years, supporting artists with professional development, project opportunities, publications, documentaries and art sales to the local and international market. She is also a curator and a project manager, and has worked on many exhibitions and projects in the Goldfields region.



MICHAEL JALARU TORRES

Photographer

Michael Jalaru Torres is a Djugun-Yawuru photographer and poet from Broome, Western Australia. His powerful portraits and conceptual works capture the landscapes and social realities of Indigenous Australia, celebrating cultural resilience and raising awareness of contemporary issues. He is also the founder of the Blak Lens collective.



SEAN LILICO

Podcast Editor

Sean Lillico is a full-time musician, producer, composer, piano tuner and sound technician from Yallingup, WA. He has worked in Perth's finest recording studios as a musician and audio engineer for TV, film and radio. Sean has also worked on community music projects with musicians all over the state as a travelling sound engineer, producer, mentor, music teacher and consultant.



TINA CARMODY

Legacies Karlkurla Artist

Tina Carmody is Anangu, Spinifex (Great Victorian Desert) and traditional owner for Upurli Upurli Nguratja (Cundeelee) and Kepa Kurl (Esperance). Her connection to the community is through Country – Songlines/travel lines and family. Tina's designs are inspired by childhood lessons from her parents, the Seven Sisters Tjukurrpa (Creation Story), and childhood family trips out bush.



REBECCA LYON AUGUSTUS

Designer

Rebecca Lyon Augustus has been working as a designer at Community Arts Network since 2019, and is renowned for creating striking and sensitive designs that honour, respect and reflect the beauty of the work made by project participants.

