





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CAN acknowledges the Noongar people of the Bibbulmun nation as the traditional custodians of the land and waters on which we live and work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and honour all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the First People of this nation. CAN is proud to work with people from all cultures, but we do so on the understanding of First Peoples, first.

Kalyakoorl Kwadja Be, Kalyakoorl Boorda Be.
Always Was, Always Will Be.

SPELLING

We acknowledge that the spelling and interpretation of Indigenous language can vary greatly from community to community. We honour differences in individuals' preferred spellings of Noongar words and consequently spellings may vary within this program.





Wandjoo

On behalf of CAN's Aboriginal Advisory Group, we welcome you to **Making Time:**

Breathing Space, a professional development day to take a breath; to unwind, create and connect with yourself and others.

Our **wardiny** (purpose) today is to come **dandjoo** (together) on Noongar boodja. As a **moort** (family) we all have a **nanakat** (belonging), and we all **koordak** (hope) that our future for our **parlang** (people) will be **kaartadjiny** (acknowledged) in the work we share with you through the arts.

Nyuny djinanginy boordawan

We look to the future

Nyuny bardoo dandjoo

Let us walk together

Geri Hayden

Chair, CAN's Aboriginal Advisory Group



PRESENTED BY



Working at the forefront of Community Arts and Cultural Development (CACD) since 1985, CAN is an arts producer that partners with communities to uncover and platform West Australian stories, histories and experiences that reveal the depth and diversity of our shared identity. By amplifying these stories so that they reach the broader Australian community, our work transforms historic and contemporary exclusions, imbalances and barriers, and celebrates diverse voices, shaping a more inclusive future.

Created in collaboration with artists skilled in community practice, CAN's work responds to the wisdom of communities and courageously engages in complex community environments, working with multiple stakeholders and respectfully navigating intercultural dialogue and relationships. Fusing myriad art forms and technologies, each community's story is told powerfully to its intended audiences.

can.org.au

SUPPORTED BY



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Australian Government





Kaya & welcome

to Making Time 2025
- BREATHING SPACE -

As we come together to explore the connection between creativity and wellbeing, we invite you to pause, breathe, unwind and create – both with yourself and with others.

The link between arts and health has been central to CAN's work since its beginning. Here, beside the calm waters of the Derbal Yaragan (Swan River), we hope you are inspired by the conversations, creative experiences, delicious food and diverse perspectives shared throughout the day.

At the end of the day, we welcome you to join us to celebrate 40 years of transformative art-making, as we honour CAN's legacy of joy, belonging and resilience. These threads continue to shape everything we do, now and into the future.

Come and breathe in... and out with us,
as we mark this significant milestone.



TOILET

TOILETS TOILETS

CHANGEROOMS

ENTRANCE

MAIN HALL

SPEED
NETWORKING

COFFEE

BUSH
MEDICINE

PAINTING

VERANDAH

SPEED
NETWORKING

TENT 1



CLAY

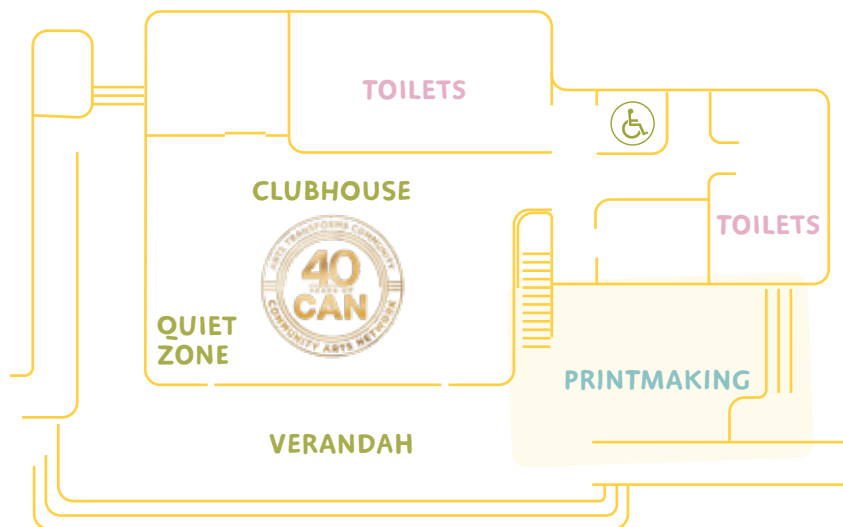
TENT 2



WRITING



Way-finding



TENT 3



REST AS A RIVER

TENT 4



SINGING

Program

13 NOVEMBER 2025

NEDLANDS YACHT CLUB

9.00am	Arrive & Morning Tea Registration	Entry
9.30	Welcome to Country & Smoking Ceremony Clive Smith	Riverside
10.00	Introduction Rick Heath	Main Hall
10.15	The Creative Thread Geri Hayden	Main Hall
10.30	PANEL Community Arts, Health & Wellbeing Zohar Spatz, Tharanga De Silva, Emily Lees & Scott Griffiths	Main Hall
11.30	Creative Workshops & Speed Networking Session 1	See map
12.45pm	Lunch	Verandah
1.30	SEMINAR How to Take Care of Yourself While Working in the Arts Shona Erskine with Jo Smith & Maitland Schnaars	Main Hall
2.45	Creative Workshops & Speed Networking Session 2	See map
4.00	Creative Conclusion & Closing Address Shenali Perera Rick Heath	Main Hall
4.30	Celebrate CAN's 40th Anniversary All welcome	Clubhouse



CLIVE SMITH

Welcome to Country & Smoking Ceremony

Clive Smith is a proud Nyoongar man, committed to preserving and promoting Nyoongar cultural heritage and language. As a knowledge holder he speaks in song and language on behalf of his grandfather Cliff Humphries, one of the last traditional Nyoongar knowledge holders.



RICK HEATH

CEO, Community Arts Network

CAN CEO Rick Heath is a passionate advocate for the arts and for arts industry reform. His professional arts management career spans 30 years across Australia, including leadership roles at arts organisations such as Black Swan State Theatre, Perth Festival and PAC Australia. Rick is a 2025 Churchill Fellow and a Fellow of the DeVos Institute of Arts Management.



GERI HAYDEN

Chair, CAN Aboriginal Advisory Group

Geri Hayden is a strong leader in the community development and cultural advisory space, as well as an accomplished textile artist. Since 2010, Geri has been involved in CAN's doll-making projects, which have evolved into a form of cultural transmission, encouraging strength of identity and pride. Geri is Chair of CAN's Aboriginal Advisory Group.

- PANEL -

Community Arts, Health & Wellbeing

EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION
BETWEEN ARTS AND HEALTH
IN COMMUNITY ARTS

With outcomes relating to health, wellbeing, self-esteem, belonging and healing, community arts often straddles the health and arts sectors. Join moderator Zohar Spatz and panellists Tharanga De Silva, Emily Lees and Scott Griffiths AKA Optamus, as they explore this topic and share their experiences of working in settings such as refugee health and arts, hip-hop education with young people in regional and metro locations, dementia health, and arts in health care and community settings.

- MODERATOR -



ZOHAR SPATZ

**Head of Community and Experimental Arts,
Creative Australia**

Zohar Spatz is a dedicated arts leader with over 20 years of experience advancing community and experimental arts through strategic partnerships and policy advocacy. She champions the intersection of arts, health and wellbeing, fostering collaborations that promote creative pathways to personal and community wellbeing.

- PANELLIST -



THARANGA DE SILVA

**Senior Community Development Coordinator,
The Association for Services to Torture and
Trauma Survivors (ASeTTS)**

Tharanga De Silva is an admitted lawyer and community development practitioner with over 25 years of experience. She has worked with international organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme and ActionAid International in Sri Lanka.

- PANELLIST -



EMILY LEES

**Manager Arts and Health, St John of God
Health Care**

Emily has over 15 years of professional experience working across health, disability, volunteer and social services sectors. In her current role at St John of God Healthcare, she champions the integration of creative practices into clinical care, advancing health and wellbeing through evidence-based programs, strategic partnerships and sector leadership.

- PANELLIST -



SCOTT GRIFFITHS

Hip Hop 101 & Now Sounds Producer

Scott Griffiths (AKA Optamus) is a renowned music producer, rapper and founding member of hip-hop group Downsyde. With 17 years of experience working as a youth mentor in youth centres, prisons, schools and remote communities, Scott integrates hip-hop pedagogy into his programs to engage young people and promote positive mental health and wellbeing.

Creative Workshops

What makes this annual professional development day so special is the opportunity to engage deeply in creative practice. Creativity is how we grow, heal and make sense of the world together. Each interactive workshop has been carefully curated to offer a space for pause and to reconnect through the senses, body, mind and heart. Enjoy this shared moment as we explore one of our core human traits – the ability to imagine, experiment and create.

- VERANDAH EAST -

BUSH MEDICINE

Dulcie Donaldson

Noongar Elder, mother, grandmother and great grandmother Dulcie Donaldson reveals her personal passion and knowledge about making and experimenting with bush medicines. Dulcie will demonstrate how to make natural herbal remedies, followed by a chance to sample some of the finished products.



- VERANDAH WEST -

THREADS OF EXPRESSION

Darryl Dempster

A creative workshop exploring art and storytelling using acrylic paint and paint pens on black canvas, caps and t-shirts. Through symbolism, pattern-making and intuitive design, you'll create meaningful personal imagery while learning about Darryl's artistic process. Artist and art coach Ariel Katzir supports this workshop.



- TENT 1 -



CLAY MEDITATION CIRCLE

Irene Schneider

Journey to inner discovery, self-reflection and creative exploration with clay-play mindfulness practices. Each clay form becomes an offering of connection, gathered into a shared installation that reflects joy, belonging and resilience. The circle offers a breathing space and a moment in presence.

- TENT 2 -



WRITING THE BREEZE

Kate Moss

Switching off phones, participants slowly land in the environment, activating a different mode of doing. This workshop is an introduction to writing as a creative process within studio practice or broadly in life. Writing can happen anywhere, on the train, at the beach, as a sketch, as a beginning – magic happens when we allow ourselves to sit and write.

- TENT 3 -



REST AS A RIVER

Daisy Sanders

This session invites participants into meditative movement and listening to/through the body. Binaural sound will support theta brainwave states, while breath, gravity, “energy dials” and giving ourselves permission to restore and recalibrate will be explored. Please advise any access needs.



- TENT 4 -

SINGING IN NOONGAR

Della Rae Morrison & Kobi Arthur Morrison

Under the gentle guidance of musicians Della and Kobi, learn Noongar language and singing techniques in this community voice workshop. Mother-son duo Della and Kobi bring a wealth of experience running Noongar community choirs to this workshop.



- CLUBHOUSE VERANDAH -

NATURE PRINT MAKING

Francesco Geronazzo

Join master print maker Francesco Geronazzo to work with the natural environment that surrounds us. Together we will produce a kaleidoscopic variety of images referencing the natural world, weaving through various compositions, coloured prints and natural pigments derived from resins and spices.



Speed Networking

New to Making Time this year, Speed Networking is a vibrant opportunity designed to bring creative producers, artists and arts workers together with industry managers, funders and mentors. This process aims to enhance artistic and creative growth through idea exchange and community building, and may open doors to funding, exhibitions and partnerships that might otherwise be difficult to access.

- MEET THE MENTORS -

NIKKI MILLER

Executive Director, Creative Industries,
Department of Creative Industries,
Tourism & Sport

MARTY CUNNINGHAM

Director Special Projects, Creative Industries, Department of Creative Industries, Tourism & Sport

RACHAEL WHITWORTH

Head of Programming, Perth Festival

CARINA MCPHERSON

Art Curator, St John of God Health Care

ALLI DOHERTY

Creative Industry Lead,
City of Fremantle

KATE PARKER

Senior Principal - Social and Cultural,
Element Advisory

ZOHAR SPATZ

Head of Community and Experimental Arts,
Creative Australia

LILLY BLUE

Head of Learning and Creativity Research, The Art Gallery of Western Australia

HANNAH MATHEWS

CEO, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts

MICHELLE WHITE

Executive Producer, Community Arts Network

MANDY HAWKHEAD

Arts Officer, Cultural Development
City of Stirling
Chair, Artsource and **independent artist**

ELIZABETH PEDLER

Executive Director, Spaced



- SEMINAR -

How to take care of yourself while working in the arts

SHONA ERSKINE WITH JO SMITH
& MAITLAND SCHNAARS

Join Shona Erskine as she unpacks a toolkit of resources about the importance of self compassion while working in the arts, and the four stages of compassion fatigue which can either lead to burnout or to personal growth depending on how we employ our own modes of “self care” and a space to breathe. Circus WA Artistic Director Jo Smith and Yirra Yaakin Artistic Director Maitland Schnaars will be joining Shona to share real life examples of these practices in action. A focus on flourishing and spiritual self care will close the session.

- FACILITATOR -



SHONA ERSKINE

Psychologist and coach

Shona is a registered psychologist in private practice with 25 years' experience working in the arts sector. Having spent decades working as a dancer while qualifying as a psychologist, Shona has an expertise in psychology for performing and visual artists. The focus of her psychology work includes performance and creativity as well as communication and complex systems.

- CASE STUDY -



JO SMITH

Artistic Director, CircusWA

Jo Smith is Artistic Director of CircusWA and has been working in the arts since the 1990s. Her career has included roles such as CircusWA Circus Manager, Regional Contemporary Dance Facilitator of Ausdance WA's Future Landings, Creative Producer of Write In the Great Southern, Manager of Bookmark in Albany and Coordinator of Denmark-based community arts festival, Brave New Works.

- CASE STUDY -



MAITLAND SCHNAARS

Artistic Director, Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company

Noongar man Maitland Schnaars is Artistic Director of Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, and an actor, poet and playwright. Maitland co-founded the international theatre company Corazon de Vaca, and has worked with Australian theatre companies such as Black Swan State Theatre Company, Queensland Theatre Company, Griffin Theatre and Performing Lines with TASPerforms.

Feeding Creativity



SHENALI PERERA

Scribe for the day

Shenali Perera is a visual scribe and facilitator who supports community movements and systems change through her art. Visual scribing involves listening deeply to a conversation and capturing its essence in images and words, in live time. Beyond documentation, visual scribing is a tool for collective reflection and deeper engagement.



Cool Fodder Catering

Real food!

Cool Fodder celebrates sustainability and seasonality through chef-curated, whole-ingredient dishes that taste as good as they look. We create cool, chic and authentic food experiences — from stylish catering to pop-up feasts — crafted with quality produce, creativity and care. Delicious, fun and unmistakably real.



Nedlands Yacht Club

Calm and relaxing

A family friendly club formed in 1952, Nedlands Yacht Club has a strong charter for encouraging juniors and families into the exciting sport of sailing. Overlooking the river and city, its picturesque location makes it an ideal venue for Making Time 2025, especially with the addition of its new clubhouse.



For 40 years CAN has been at the forefront of community arts and cultural development in Australia. We invite you to help us celebrate this incredible milestone at **CAN's 40th birthday soiree.**

Join us for a night of fine food, beverages, entertainment and a joyous trip down memory lane.

Notes & thoughts





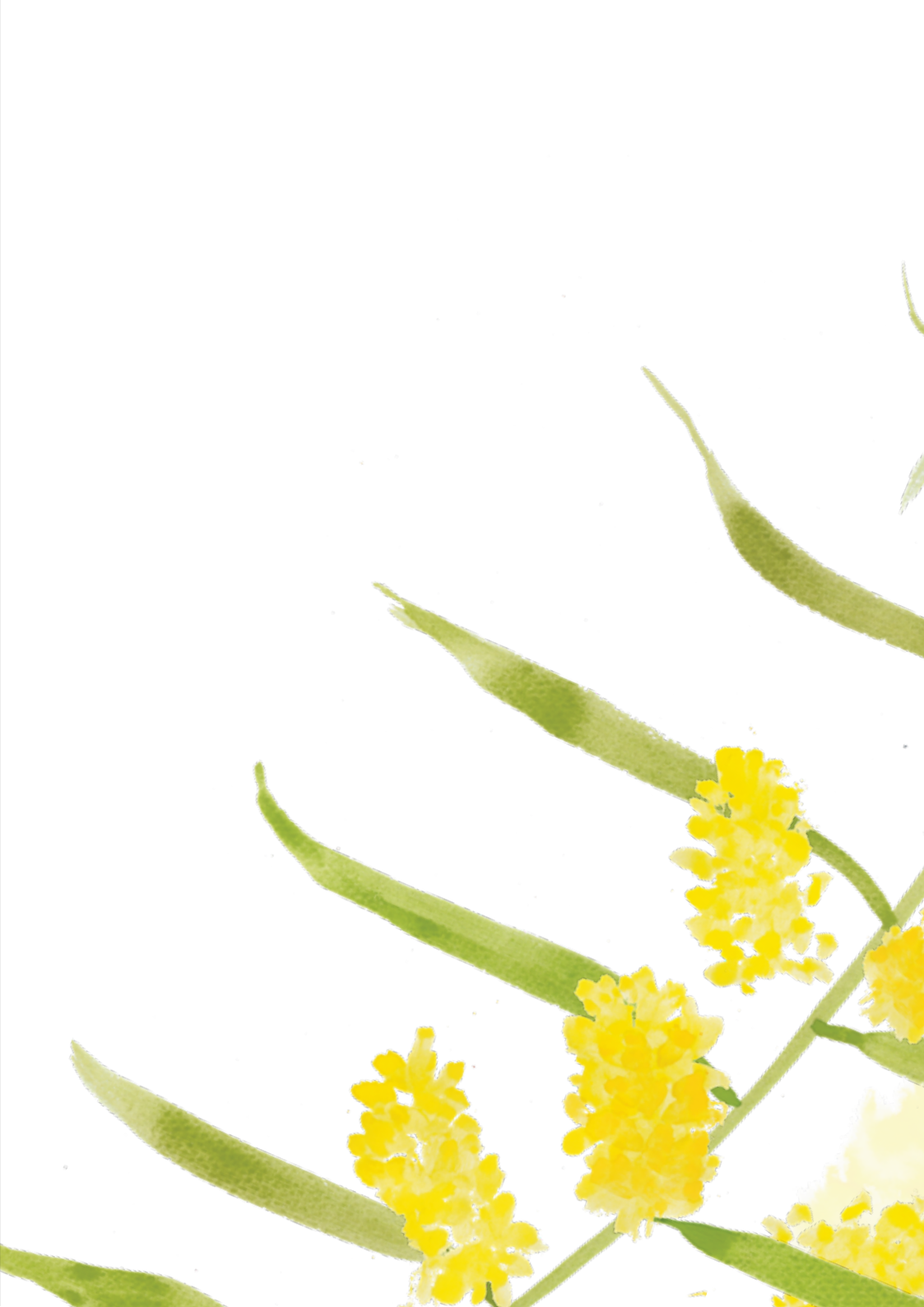


Mungaart & Minarlong

The seeds, resin and flowers of the mungaart have healing properties and have been used by Noongar people for centuries. Minarlong are the yellow flowers of the mungaart tree which is a type of wattle (acacia). Minarlong blossoms have bright yellow flowers during Kambarang. The seeds can be used to make flour, the resin makes a delicious tea, and the hard yet sweet-smelling wood of the mungaart makes tools and weapons.

We have used the mungaart and minarlong as the icon for this year's Making Time, to reveal the strength and resilience of one tree. In softness and strength, we rest and rise.





Boorda!



A watercolor illustration of yellow flowers and green leaves, positioned in the upper right corner of the page. The flowers are depicted with soft, textured yellow petals, and the leaves are green with visible veins. The overall style is delicate and artistic.

COMMUNITY ARTS TRANSFORMS