

Ngulla Moort Doorntj Koorliny



Painting by local artist Yvonne Kickett symbolising connection to the land, plants and animals and harmony of family and community

Avon Youth was concerned about the disconnection between the youth and their cultural heritage. They applied for a grant in 2009 to Avon Catchment Council (now Wheatbelt NRM) to produce a DVD to record Traditional Knowledge to inform and educate Noongar Youth in Northam of heritage sites significant to Noongar people. The DVD covered The Women's Birthing Place, the Men's Meeting Place, the Old and New Reserves in Northam and Burlong Pools, identifying and recording Aboriginal culture in a 30 minute documentary. It involved an Aboriginal Elders Advisory Group, and young people for input into the content of the DVD, and all production was done locally in Northam.

The sharing of the cultural knowledge raised an

awareness of the necessity of the re establishment of the natural and cultural landscape, bringing benefit to the Aboriginal community by encouraging young people to appreciate and contribute to natural resource management.

Wheatbelt NRM Small

Community Grants 2009

Recipient: Avon Youth

Amount Funded: \$14,285

People Involved: 90

The youth were involved in the filming of the DVD and in the making of the musical sound track. The sound track is original, written and performed by local Noongar musicians. Twenty-one Aboriginal families, 3 local schools, local businesses and community support agencies were involved in the production of the DVD.

The Elders were able to demonstrate a healing process of past history by offering young people a positive approach to the future sustainability of sacred sites. They focussed on the "good times" and advised young people to keep rivers and land free of rubbish.



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Young people also had the opportunity to plant native shrubs to encourage birds and wildlife to return to the sites. The young girls were engaged in a spiritual ceremony with the elders, while the boys learnt traditional knowledge on fishing, hunting and making a didgeridoo. The young people also participated in a traditional dance workshop where they learnt basic steps and rhythm accompanied by the didgeridoo.

This was a very successful project engaging approximately 100 community members.



Elders and young girls planting native shrubs at the Women's Birthing Site.



Elders and young men at the Men's Gathering Place



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