

Undalup Association in partnership with Margaret River Regional Environment Centre and Friends of the Margaret River presents



The Water Connection
Augusta - Margaret River
CONSERVE • SUSTAIN



2019 WORLD RIVERS DAY PROGRAM

**“WONGI WOODITJUP BILYA”
TALKING MARGARET RIVER**



**29 September 2019
5:30pm to 7:00pm**

Old Church
Community Resource
Centre
Tunbridge Street
Margaret River

Supported by Transition Margaret River, Nature Conservation Margaret River Region and the Shire of Augusta Margaret River



Who is Transition TMR?

Transition Town Margaret River is a community-led local approach to creating a more sustainable future. With a focus on recognising the biological limits of the Margaret River Region and the planet, Transition TMR focuses on promoting ways of living that have the lowest impact on our local environment.

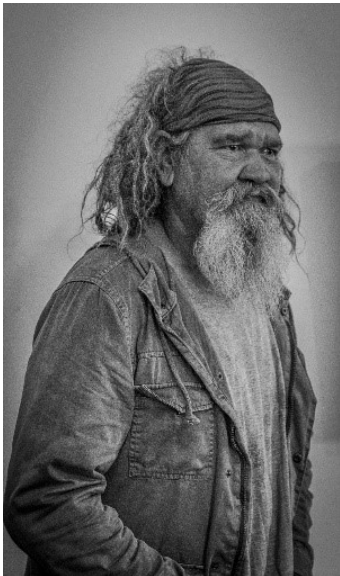
The Water Connection

Each year, Transition TMR in conjunction with the Augusta Margaret River Shire, holds a series of events and this year's theme is "The Water Connection", aiming to promote best practice water management in the region.

The Undalup Association, Margaret River Regional Environment Centre and the Friends of the Margaret River are pleased to offer tonight's event in collaboration with Transition TMR and thank them for their support.

Connection to Country

The Wadandi people have a long association with the South West and its natural resources. Aboriginal lore (learning and knowledge of tradition) dictates how best to keep "Caring for Country" and this is something the Undalup Association is sharing with the broader South West communities.



Aboriginal heritage is a central element in Aboriginal spirituality and customary lore and is inseparable from the natural environment. The land and waterways are associated with dreaming stories and cultural learning that links Aboriginal people with who they are and where they belong. Its conservation ensures continued respect for the ancestors and ancestral beings who shaped the land and waterways.

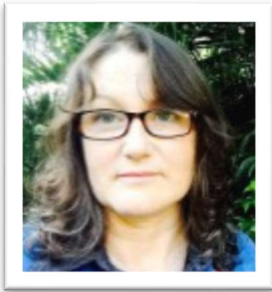
It is important for others to have an understanding of, and connection to our land, to respect and learn from the Wadandi land and sea management practices, so that together we can all explore ways to keep "Caring for Country".

*Photo (Left): Wadandi Traditional Elder and Cultural Custodian, Wayne Webb (Photo courtesy of Double M Photography). Photo (Cover): Wayne Webb 'Out on Boodja' *Photo courtesy of Above Imagery).*





Rights of Nature



Dr. Michelle Maloney, Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA) presents “Rights of Nature Laws”, after a screening of the Undalup Association's recent Bloodlines documentary.

Michelle is a Co-Founder and National Convenor of the AELA, an organisation working to increase the understanding and practical implementation of Earth centred economics, ethics, education and law - including Rights of Nature laws - in Australia.

The ‘Rights of Nature’ movement argues that we can no longer legally allow governments, corporations and other groups to mistreat our beautiful natural world. The movement calls for new laws that recognise the inherent rights of “nature”, to exist, thrive, evolve and regenerate.

Michelle manages the strategic direction and governance of AELA, including the extensive partnerships and networks that AELA has with the legal, academic, Indigenous and environmental advocacy communities. She has more than 25 years’ experience designing and managing climate change, sustainability and environmental justice projects in Australia, the UK, Indonesia and the USA, and this includes 10 years working with Indigenous colleagues in Central Queensland on a range of community development, sustainability and cultural heritage projects.

Rights of Nature laws change the legal status of ‘nature’ from property, to rights-bearing entities. Around the world, First Nations Peoples have been central to building the Rights of Nature movement as people who love and care for Country. These laws can allow people to speak for Country in a modern court and defend plants, animals and ecosystems more easily than in the current legal system. Rights of Nature laws are also designed to be proactive, so they can stop unwanted development before it occurs and change land management practices so that ‘Caring for Country’ becomes central to the legal system.

Rights of Nature laws have been inspired by the ancient Earth-centred laws of indigenous peoples all around the world where First Nations Peoples are advisors and participants. These new laws do not aim to replace or take over the laws of First Nations Peoples, but merely to act as a bridge to move from current western laws that are disrespectful and harmful to nature, to shift society towards a respectful Earth centred legal system.

Artwork by Wadandi Artist, Sandra Hill.





Program

Welcome to Country

Wadandi Elder Wayne 'Wonitji' Webb

'Bloodlines' Documentary

The story of the Wooditjup Bilya (Margaret River) proudly presented by the Undalup Association

Rights of Nature Law

Presentation by Dr Michelle Maloney from Australian Earth Laws Alliance

Question and Answer Time

Tea & Coffee

Thank you

Together we would like to thank everyone for attending and hope you enjoyed the shared knowledge of each presenter. It is up to all of us to listen to the land, understand the "Connection to Country" that we all have and realise how urgent it is to work together to make better decisions on how we can create that balance, ensuring its sustainability for the generations to come. We all have a responsibility to protect and preserve the beauty of Boodja.

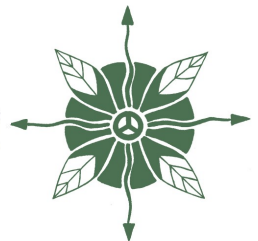
Boodja – Land, Country, Mother Earth – is our most important resource.
No matter what culture or religion – all of us rely on Nala Boodja, Our Country.

"Whilst living, travelling, visiting and holidaying on Wadandi Boodja (Saltwater People's Country) we ask that you respect the area and walk softly on the country, taking the time to listen to Boodja (Country) as she Wongi (Talks) of the Season, and leave nothing but footprints".

Wadandi /Pibulmun Elder & Cultural Heritage Custodian Wayne 'Wonitji' Webb.

This project received grant funding from the Australian Government through the National Landcare Program.

Proudly supported by:



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