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## Sharing Dja Dja Wurrung design & Culture

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### Galkangu - Bendigo GovHub showcases our Culture



West Maree Edwards, Premier Daniel Andrews, City of Greater Bendigo Mayor Andrea Metcalfe, Dja Dja Wurrung CEO Rodney Carter. Bottom right: Dja Dja Wurrung language features throughout the building.

DJAARA celebrated the official opening of Galkangu – Bendigo GovHub, along with Premier Daniel Andrews and other government leaders on 1 September.

**Galkangu** is a Dja Dja Wurrung word meaning 'build together, making things happen together and being more connected to Country'.

Our enterprise DJANDAK has worked hard to make sure Dja Dja Wurrung language, art, culture and knowledge is embedded into the building's foundations.

A significant feature is the **Giramal** (shield) and **Buri-gutang Djaa** (journey) facade designed by Dja Dja Wurrung artist, Natasha Carter.

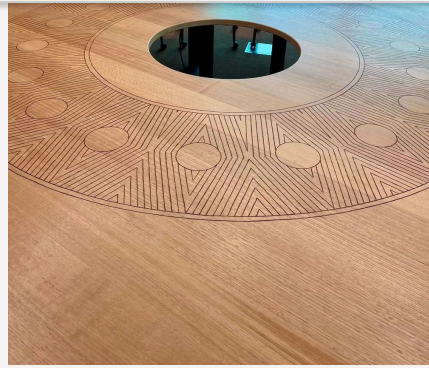
Sharing Natasha's story of the designs, our CEO Rodney said the diamonds and chevron patterns were indicative of Dja Dja Wurrung People.

"These patterns are found on our **giramal** (shields) and **garni** (digging sticks)," Rodney said. "It lets you know who we are, and whose Country you have journeyed on to.

"The repeating layers of red, orange and yellow in the background represent, not only the many layers of Country, but also the number of seasons. A delicate balance. Each one affects the next.







Top: Rebecca Phillips' Circle of Elders (from inside the building). Bottom left: U-shaped symbols on the facade represent people. Bottom right: Troy Firebrace's wood burning artwork on the large meeting room table.

"When inside and up close, you can see the small U-shaped symbols, representing people. Looking out, you will see people — our people and yours — in the landscape. Each one small. Each one an individual. But when you step back and look at the bigger picture, each person makes the whole. This speaks to the importance of working together for a positive impact on Country," Rodney said.

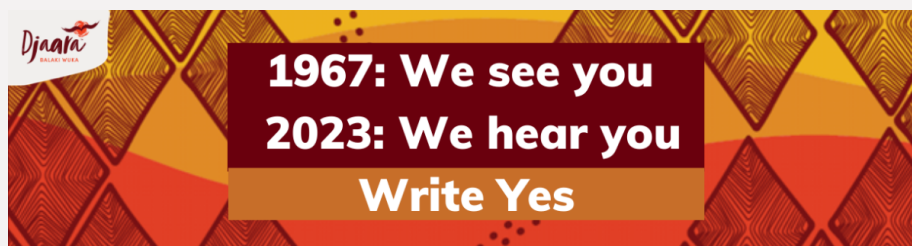
Rebecca Phillips' Circle of Elders sits outside the building on the corner of St Andrews Avenue. Her paintings **Guka Bial**, Grandmother Red Gum, and **Barrembi Yirrip**, Grandfather Ironbark, hang at the building's entrance paintings. Troy Firebrace's wood burning artwork features on the large meeting room table.

Dja Dja Wurrung language features throughout the building. Language carries tens of thousands of years of traditions, customs, and values.

DJAARA's contribution is etched into Bendigo's skyline and throughout the building.

"We hope it gives **dheik murrup** (good spirit) to all that visit and work there," Rodney said.

## All Australians will benefit from the Voice



In 1967, Australia voted to change the Constitution so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People were counted as part of the population, and the Commonwealth would be able to make laws in relation to us.

It was like Australia said to us: 'We see you'.

Since then, the government of the day has made many laws and policies that affect our lives. Many have been to our communities' detriment.

The problem is that these laws and policies have been made about us without us.

The Voice will help the government make better policy decisions.

In 1967, the Australian people said, 'We see you'.

In 2023, we're calling on the Australian people to say, 'We hear you'.

[Read our full statement and quote from CEO Rodney Carter](#)

## Bendigo show of support for Yes



An enthusiastic crowd came out in support of a Yes vote in Bendigo on Tuesday. Organiser Lisa Chesters, Federal Member for Bendigo, was joined by the Federal Minister for Immigration and Citizenship Andrew Giles and multicultural community leaders. A number of DJAARA staff were among those present in support of a Yes vote.



Have you seen our electronic billboard ads?

Look out for them at the corner of Mitchell and Queen Streets in Bendigo and the corner of High Street and Lockwood Road in Kangaroo Flat.

We are showing four different ads in each location.

This is a joint project between DJAARA and Bendigo for Yes (Yes23).

## Use science to bring the Ancestors home



State institutions in Australia are estimated to hold more than 12,000 cases of Aboriginal Ancestral remains.

"The spirits of these Ancestors are trapped and displaced from their mother countries," Rodney said.

Aboriginal communities have stated their wish to return Ancestors to country. But a lack of evidence can make it difficult to establish where the Ancestral remains held by institutions were stolen from.

Rodney outlined a scientific method that could determine the likely origin of Ancestral remains. The Australian Defence Force uses the method - isotope analysis - to repatriate fallen soldiers.

"The science is there," Rodney said.

Rodney presented his paper 'Bringing the Ancestors home: informed consent', for the American Anthropological Association Commission for the Ethical Treatment of Indigenous Human Remains Listening Session in August at the University of Queensland.



Our CEO Rodney Carter



Delegates at the Listening Session at the University of Queensland

[Read the full media release here](#)

## Meet DJANDAK's Design Team

### Djaara-fying Public Space

In the Design team we work with DJAARA members on architecture, landscape architecture, art and interpretive signage projects.

We work closely with DJAARA Members and Dja Dja Wurrung artists to make sure that we have a Dja Dja Wurrung way of seeing the world and doing things through every part of a project.

We listen as DJAARA Members generously share knowledge about Country and what they would like to see in a project. Then we help the architects to design buildings, landscapes, signs and artworks to express those cultural themes.

DJANDAK are leading the way in architecture that reflects the culture of the Traditional Custodians in places that are currently dominated by colonial architecture and ways of designing.



L-R: Cecilia Farley, Nicky McNamara, Claire Reynolds, Sharnie Hamilton, Georgia Carroll, Kacey Sinclair and Reece Hendy.

#### The team:

**Nicky McNamara**, Program Manager, Design, is a landscape architect and project manager who has been working with Aboriginal communities to achieve cultural expression in design for a number of years.

**Sharnie Hamilton**, Cultural Values Manager, is a Djaara, Wemba Wemba and Barapa Barapa woman who leads cultural values assessments at the start of design projects to understand the registered cultural heritage on site as well as the oral histories, perspectives and aspirations of Members for the project/place.

**Cecilia Farley**, Djaara Centred Design Coordinator, is a graphic designer and illustrator producing interpretive signage. She engages Dja Dja Wurrung artists to illustrate signs and ensures that Dja Dja Wurrung Culture is appropriately represented.

**Reece Hendy**, Project Manager Design, is a graphic designer and project manager with experience facilitating artist engagement on public art projects.

**Claire Reynolds**, Senior Landscape Architect, has about 20 years experience working largely in central Victoria.

**Georgia Carroll**, Landscape Architect, has experience on regional projects in central Victoria. She designs and documents landscape in-house at DJANDAK.

**Kacey Sinclair**, Heritage Advisor, prepares cultural heritage management plans, and carries out research to support cultural interpretation in design projects.

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### **SHARING DJA DJA WURRUNG LANGUAGE**

*Our language connects us to water, land, animals, and People.*

*It calls us to ceremony and strengthens our identity.*

We are making sure our language, Dja Dja Wurrung language, is increasingly spoken; we share it in song and ensure it is placed lovingly back to Djandak, where it belongs, by us. Those that live and visit here in Central Victoria more and more want to support Dja Dja Wurrung reclamation of our rights and support our continued presence here. We hope that those who travel across, visit and reside on Djandak recognise our unique language and distinct culture.

**Dhelk murrup** | good spirit

**Djandak** | Country, Dja Dja Wurrung Country

**Djaara** | Dja Dja Wurrung People

**Galkangu** | build together, making things happen together, being more connected to Country

**Garni** | digging stick

**Giramal** | shield



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## Let us know what you think!

Do you like this newsletter?

What would you like to see more of?

We'd love to hear your feedback.

[Get in touch](#)

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