

# *Mununjali* Yarning Circle

**A yarning circle is a place to talk, share, discuss, educate and 'have a yarn' together. It is a place to build respectful relationships and to speak in a safe, non-judgemental setting.**

The significance of the circle is evident for Aboriginal people in many ways. The circle is a sacred symbol of the interdependence of all forms of life. It is a key symbol in First Nations spirituality, of family structure, gathering of people, meetings, songs and dances.

## **What is the purpose of yarning?**

Yarning is about building respectful relationships. The use of the yarning circle (or dialogue circle) is an important process within Aboriginal culture.

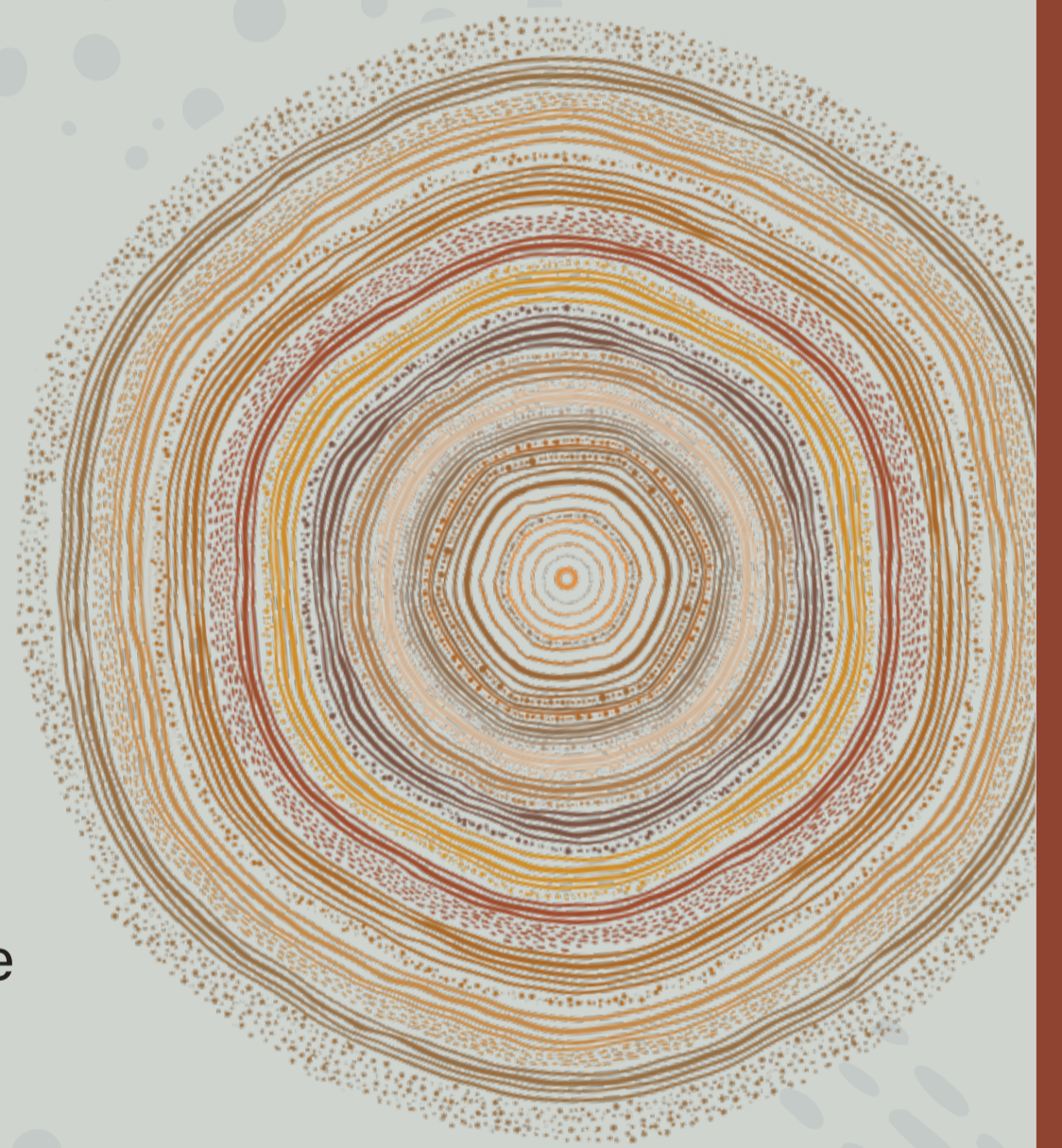
## **Men's yarning circle artworks**

The two waterways represent the Logan and Albert Rivers, while the footprints represent the paths people travel to sit with one another.

The U-shaped symbols represent people, while the straight lines by their sides represent spears to indicate they are men sitting in a circle. We sit in circles so that we are never showing our backs whilst others are speaking, showing them full respect.

The artworks depict different symbols including kangaroo, water hen and lizard tracks with a bright sun and smoke coming from the centre. This represents the stories that people are sharing with one another.

The symbols also represent the connecting pathways between the men telling their stories.



Stone Artworks  
by Jarred Fogarty  
Carving by Paul Stumkat  
Artwork by Waylene Currie

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## **Women's yarning circle artworks**

*Kumi bulbee*

The circle with the U shapes, is a story of our women coming together and sharing space with one another.

Within this circle and holding this space comes a mutual understanding that we are here to share, to heal, to speak about important matters and how we women can unite many differences to move forward with mutual trust, respect and understanding of diverse views and experiences.

The circles also represent and acknowledge all our women before us, our ancestors, who in spirit we honor and continue to carry with us on our journeys. When we come together in our yarning circle, we have protocols of how we respect the yarning circle and one another in the circle, to always face one another, to listen with a deeper understanding, an open mind and open heart, to grow and understand our responsibilities to ourselves and one another.

The water represents our embodiment of the lore of our waterways and the many traditional practices we, as women, carry on around our waterways.

The bottle brush is also another representation of our women and the many things we use the bottle brush for in our traditional practices.

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by Waylene Currie  
Carving by Paul Stumkat  
Artwork by Waylene Currie