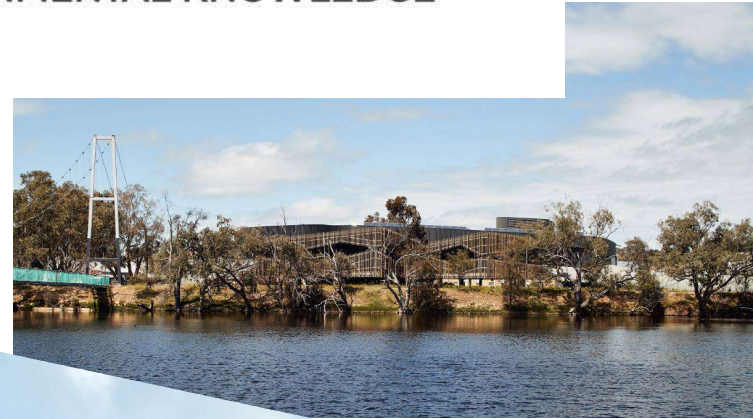




BILYA KOORT BOODJA

CENTRE FOR NYOONGAR CULTURE
& ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE





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- Initial idea- Northam Regional Centre Growth Plan 2012
- 2014-Feasibility Study –Northam Aboriginal and Environmental Interpretive Centre completed
- 2014-National Stronger Regions Fund Application \$2.1 million submitted
- May 2015- Funding successful
- The Aboriginal and Environmental Interpretive Centre commences.
- November 2015 - Tenders for Architectural Design and Interpretive Design Awarded
- February 2017- Tender for Construction Awarded



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VISION

For the NAEIC to be identified as a world recognised Aboriginal cultural and Environmental interpretive experience and tourist destination....

OBJECTIVES

- Display space for Aboriginal culture and keeping place for artefacts
- An incubator for Aboriginal enterprise
- Creation of employment opportunities for Aboriginal people, both direct and indirect
- Environmental education, particularly actively incorporating Aboriginal knowledge to improve natural resource management
- Develop a focus for regional tourism



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DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

- Architects and Interpretive designers worked together
- Building design linked closely with Interpretive design to ensure that spaces worked together.
- Construction phases- building construction followed by interpretive fitout
- 3.5 year project
- Projected completed 10 August 2018.
- Centre officially opened 10 August 2018



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Community Engagement

Formation of the Advisory group- Consultation commenced early 2016

Shire approach–

- Initially more of the “open invitation” approach
- Targeted approach
- Identifying the community leaders
- Ensuring that the engagement process was keeping the community informed
- Ensuring that the engagement process was progressing and moving forward
- Development of the story also involved others as needed: Local Environmental groups



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Aboriginal Advisory Group Role

- Provide input into all aspects of the creation of the Centre
 - Input into building design
 - What story was going to be told-Interpretive design
 - Signed off on all content, including text, video and audio content, and spaces within the centre
 - Who to talk to



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Major Achievements

- Heavy emotional and time commitment from the local Aboriginal community
- The quality of the product that has been achieved
- The opportunities that have been created for education, economic development and tourism
- A deeper understanding of Aboriginal history and culture



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WHERE ARE WE NOW 1 YEAR ON

Operational challenges

- Upskilling staff
- Programme development
- Marketing
- Development of the tourism market
- Business development



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WHERE ARE WE NOW 1 YEAR ON

Success

- Centre has been catalyst for change in community-
 - Education programmes
 - commitment to development of RAP
 - strong commitment to significant celebrations-NAIDOC, Reconciliation Week
 - Catalyst for Cultural Awareness training



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Things we've learned

- Be real – What is the story
- Know what you don't know
- Be Honest