

Indigenous Knowledges Symposium

Keynote | Introduction



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[#RespectIndigenousKnowledge](#)
Indigenous Knowledges Symposium

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Professor Braden Hill

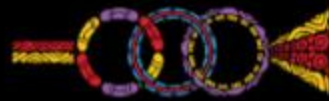
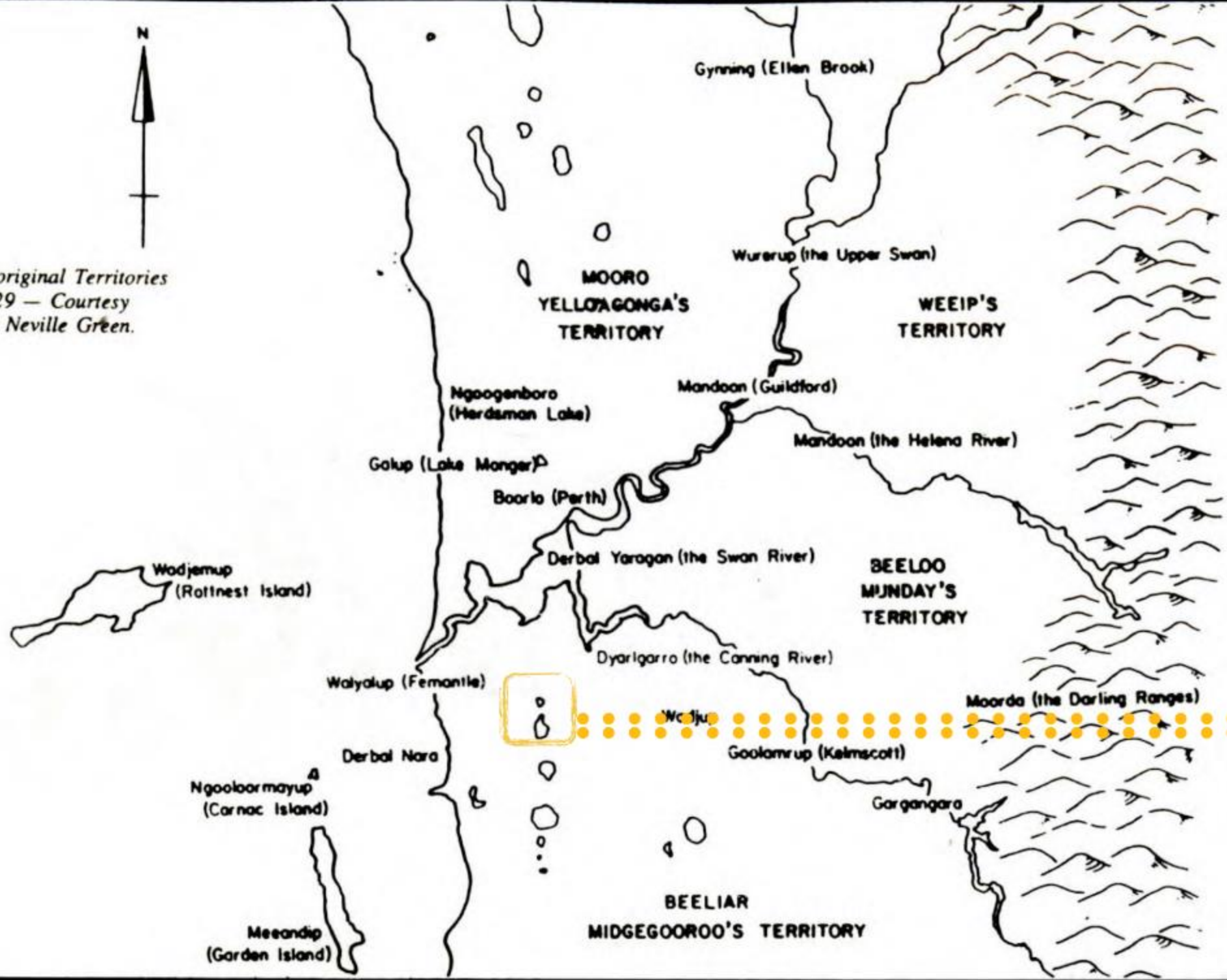
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Noongar Boodjar



Aboriginal Territories
1829 — Courtesy
Mr Neville Green.



Kurungkurl Katitjin
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Whadjuk Boodjar

Coolbellup

The place to move to the
water

Beeliar Noongar people occupied Coolbellup and surrounds for more than 2000 generations.

In WA, by 1960s there was greater community integration with white people.

Coolbellup becomes home to many Indigenous families and migrant communities

Arrival of colonisers displaced Noongar people from their country

'Native Welfare Department' purchased housing from the State Housing Department in and around Coolbellup

Assimilation policy attempted to 'breed out' Aboriginal people. Many people lived as 'fringe dwellers' or on 'native' reserves.





Ngungy Karla Mia (My Home Fire)

Ngungy Katitjin Mia (My Learning
Place - Library)

Our Library – Coolbellup Library



Winner of the Public Libraries Multicultural Services Award 1997

Our Library – Coolbellup Library

“

Before I started, the white librarians used to get frustrated that all the Noongar kids would hang around outside or walk straight by the library, but would never come in.

They had never had an Aboriginal person working for them, so they had no connections to the local Indigenous community at all.

They also had so few books/resources that had Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content that were actually accurate or respectful.

”

Coolbellup Library



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Home work program for
Aboriginal school kids in the
local community.

Coordinate in liaison with the
Aboriginal Education Officers
in the local schools.

Significantly developed the
Library's Indigenous
collections - particularly
children's literature and
learning resources

Oral histories project with
local Noongar elders that
were made accessible within
the library.

Celebration of all major days
of significance with community
speakers, performances etc.

Introduced a toy library that
had a strong focus on
education and literacy
utilising the new computer
lab

Fostered further Indigenous
employment within the local
council and library.

GOOD SPORTS AT COOLBELLUP LIBRARY

Coolbellup Library's Aboriginal Outreach Officer, Brenda Hill, has organised an exciting day on 7 July to celebrate NAIDOC Week and get local Aboriginal kids involved.

Brenda has arranged for Aboriginal sporting personalities to come and run a round-robin type activity, featuring a variety of their preferred sports. The sportsmen and women, including athletics (javelin) champion, Richelle Hume and sprinter, Shane Hearn, are from the Aboriginal Development Foundation for Sport and Recreation. The programme aims to provide indigenous youth with role models and real-life examples of Aboriginal achievers. Coolbellup will also host Aboriginal singing, dancing and didgeridoo performances and a sausage sizzle.

The NAIDOC Week activities are part of Coolbellup Library's Aboriginal Outreach Project. For more information, contact Brenda Hill at Coolbellup Library on (08) 9314 1695.

Is your library planning NAIDOC Week activities? Why not let us know. Contact Yvonne Morant, Public Library Services (08) 9427 3166.

LISWA Newsletter 1998

Inclusion as Action

Inclusion means **taking action and doing the work**.

Overcoming paralysis from the fear of getting things wrong.

Being **resilient** when mistakes are made.

Listening wholeheartedly and engaging broadly.

Carefully **examine** the issues and themes you highlight in your work (and what isn't highlighted) – is it also intersectional?

Moving beyond morning teas!

Build **sustained relationships** with diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Employ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Libraries are not politically neutral and they can never be because knowledge production is not.

Inclusion as Action

Staff environment and staff culture is critical – racism and 'micro'-aggressions major challenge

Within universities, relationships with Indigenous centre staff is key as major conduit to community

Women of Colour Report 2021:

- Only one-third of respondents felt their **identity** as a woman of colour was recognised and **valued at work**.
- Almost 60 per cent of respondents **experienced discrimination relating to their identity**, such as their sex, ethnicity, age or religion.
- Almost 70 per cent of respondents said there were **no people with diverse backgrounds holding senior positions** at their organisations.

“ Unlike discrimination that happened on the streets, these discriminations at the office were usually subtle...and that's the scariest part of it. ”

Inclusion as Action



Visibility is powerful, but just the first step to creating inclusive spaces.

Relationships are vital



Role of University Libraries in the Now

Ensure our library communities reflect the communities we serve

Commit through action, resourcing and naming

Proactively educate as a means of addressing the role of libraries in harbouring racist knowledges about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Celebrate Indigenous excellence and critique – **nothing about us, without us** is now an expectation

Shift from passive to active demonstrations of advocacy – more than allyship, we need accomplices!

Thank you!