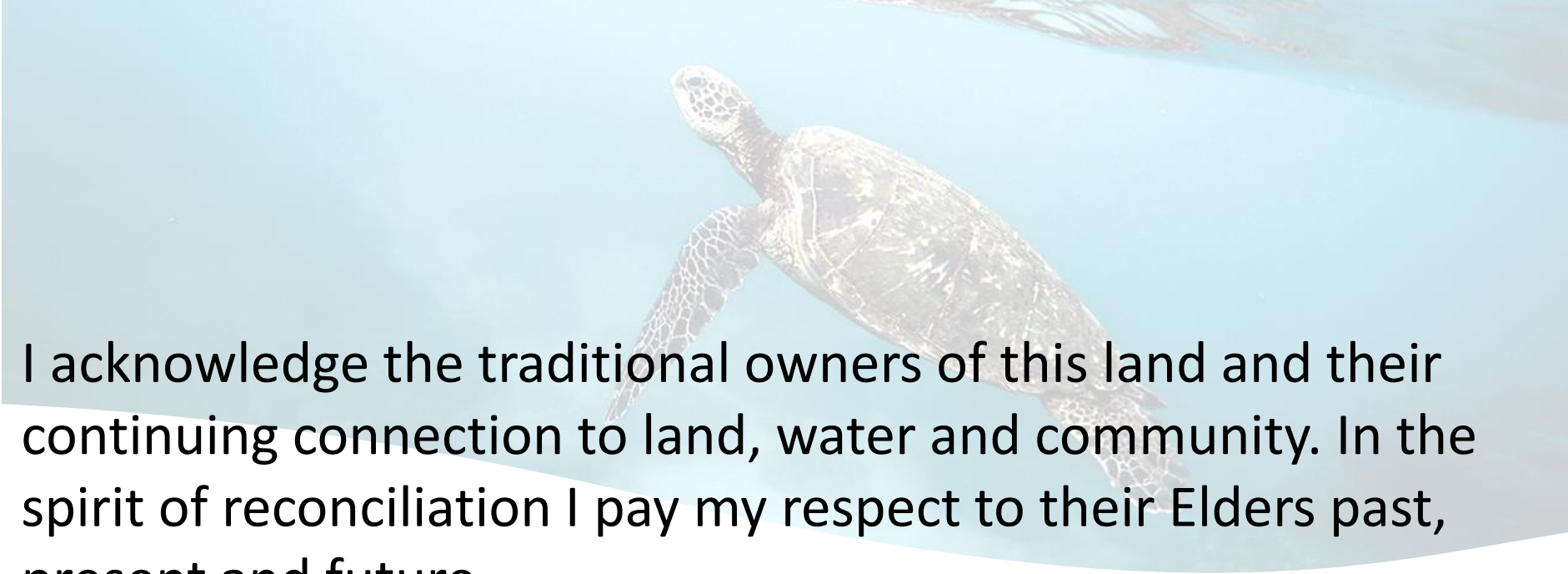


Cultural Artwork Space

Belgian Gardens Cemetery, Townsville



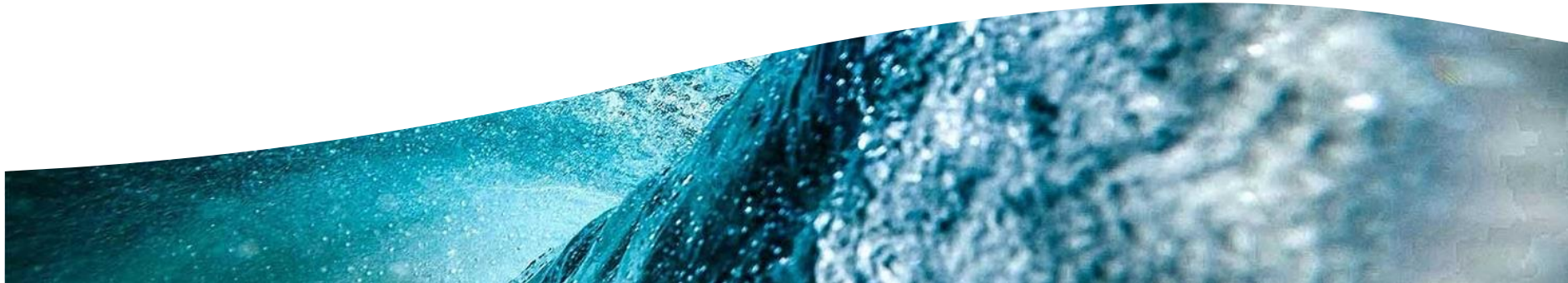
Acknowledgement



I acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and their continuing connection to land, water and community. In the spirit of reconciliation I pay my respect to their Elders past, present and future.

“Storytelling is the most powerful way to
put ideas into the world today.”

Robert McKee



Key Principles



Respect

It is important to Council and the community to set achievable actions and deliverables related to learning and practicing respect.

Relationships

It is important to Council and the community to develop strong, positive, mutually respectful relationships based on two-way communication.

Opportunities

It is important to Council and the community to continue developing and implementing actions within our sphere of influence that contribute to closing the employment, education and economic gap.

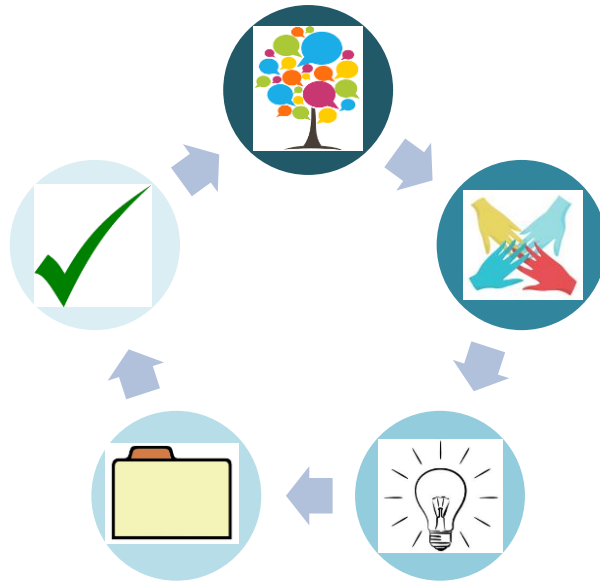
Introduction



The journey of the Cultural Artwork Space was borne from a conversation held on during April 2017 with key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Custodians and Elders. The topic of conversation was “Sorry Business”. The goal for this conversation was to provide a safe space for listening and shared learnings for community and Council.

The Journey

These were the steps of the journey



CONVERSATIONS

Conversations were held....not meetings

INCLUSIVE COLLABORATION

Consistent inclusive collaboration

IDEAS

Ideas were generated

PROJECT

Project created

DELIVERY

Beautiful and functional community space....delivered

Setting the scene

SD1 Section Overview

- SD1 has a high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community members laid to rest
- SD1 is unique when compared to other monumental sections
- Gravesites are colourfully decorated with flowers, tribal symbolism and totems
- Symbols and totems are drawn from the communities cultural background

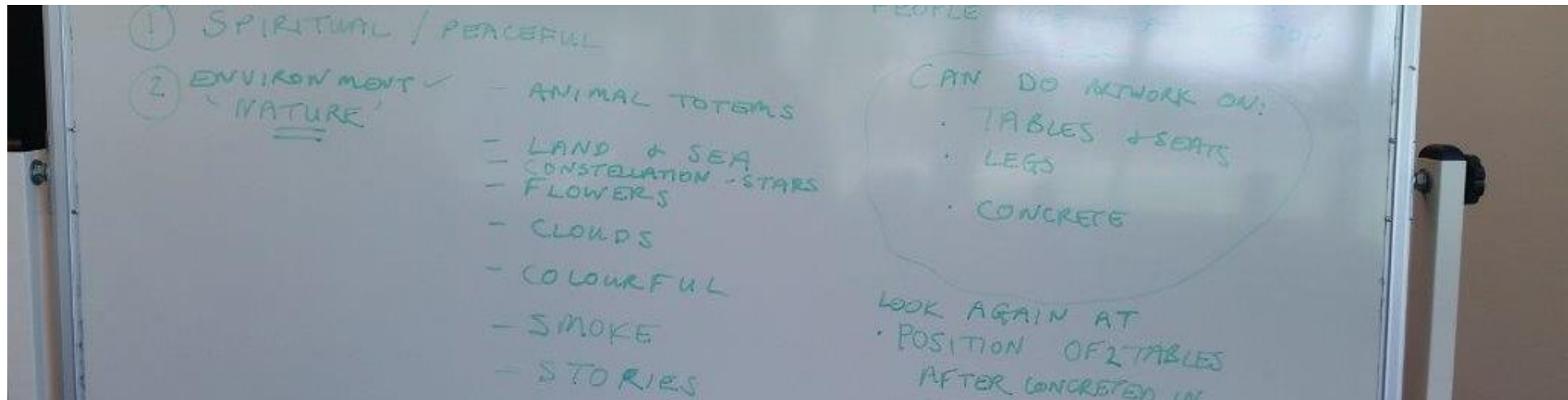


Space prior to Project

- Pallets
- Rubbish
- Carpet
- Bricks
- Plywood
- Difficult to maintain



Conversations



- Multiple conversations
- No meeting table
- Collaborative
- Inclusive
- Open
- Relaxed



Great Ideas!!

Clean up notification

- Traditional Owners and Elders were worked collaboratively with Council and were supportive of the clean up
- Clear communication
- Timeframes
- One month notification



Construction of slab



Opportunities

- The preparation and construction of the formwork and slab was undertaken by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Trainees, who were conducting a Certificate one in Land Management within Council

Mentoring

- Mentoring and supervision of the slab was undertaken by qualified Construction Maintenance and Operations Council staff. Some of these staff were identified.

Externally inclusive

- Suggestion of identified trainees came from the conversations with Traditional Owners and Elders.

Internally inclusive

- Planning and construction of the concrete slab was undertaken by the Construction Maintenance and Operations Team in collaboration with the Community Development Team.

Table and Chair Sets



- Garnered from within Council
- Not new
- Refurbished for the artwork by Council staff
- Enabled an opportunity for artwork within the Cemetery that was reflective of the local Townsville Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community

The table and chair sets provided the platform and **opportunity** for council to not just meet the needs of the community but to **value** add and **exceed** on what was requested from Council by the community.

Slab Artwork



Artists spent **one week** onsite at the Cemetery painting the slab



Artists equally painted 1/3 of the slab



Materials used were primers, paints, lacquers, brushes and rollers



Table and Chair Set Artwork



Artists spent roughly **5 weeks** onsite at the Cemetery painting the table and chair sets



Artists equally painted 1/3 of the table and chair sets each



Materials used were primers, paints, lacquers, brushes and rollers

Cultural Artwork Space



Flexibility and Understanding



- **Understanding** was shown throughout the project in regard to existing family arrangements.
- Sorry business and personal family commitments often took artists away from the commitment of the project.
- Whilst timelines were communicated in the initial conversations; it was important to look beyond timelines to the **deeper** value of the **relationships** being built and the broader outcomes for the community.
- There was no undue pressure or rush put onto the artists to 'hurry' to completion, and now the space is a wonderful sanctuary for the whole community visiting the cemetery.

Outcomes

Sharing

Sharing of culture through stories and traditional language behind the artwork.

Opportunities

Business has been generated for artists from project



Respect

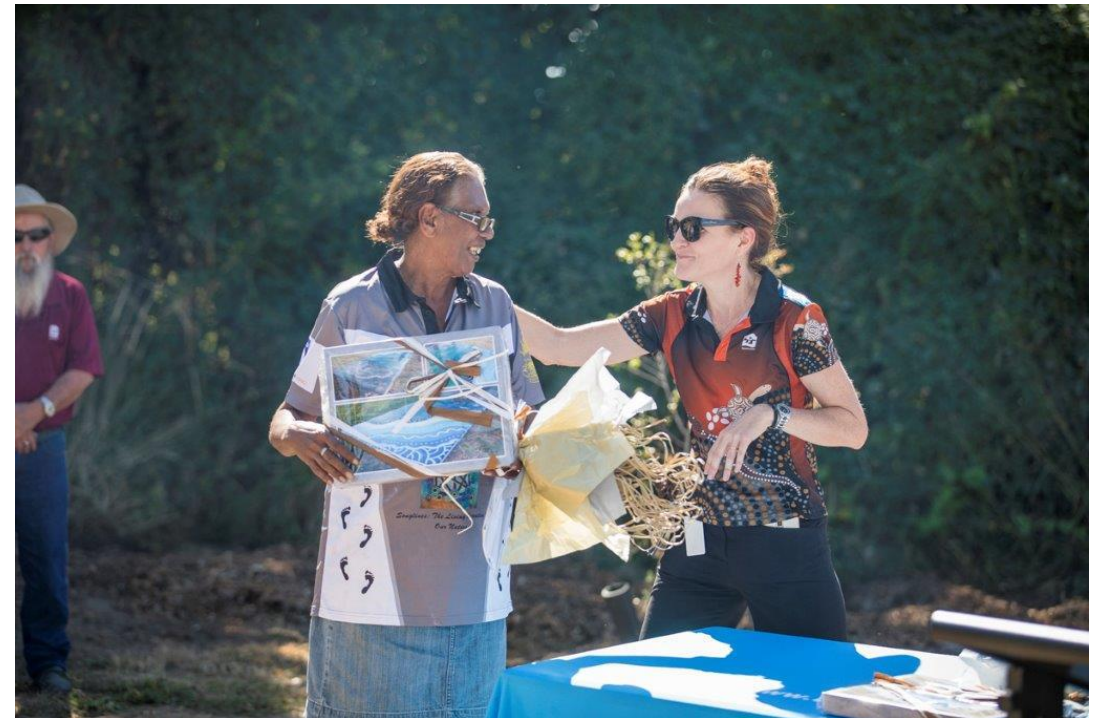
Peer and community respect through implementation of artwork installation at Cemetery

Relationships

Strong relationships have formed and remain between artists, elders and Council.

Nationally Recognised

- The project was recognised by Reconciliation Australia as one of the top five projects chosen from thousands of projects around Australia.
- The project came under the priority area of '**Relationships**', however embodied all three of the core priority areas of Reconciliation; **Respect, Relationships** and **Opportunity**.
- The project was showcased by Reconciliation Australia in a short documentary - <https://youtu.be/FCzInj5xfRM>



Photos



Cultural Artwork Space



Thank you....

