



FRDC

FISHERIES RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

FINAL REPORT (DEVELOPMENT AWARD)

AWARD CODE and TITLE

FRDC People Development Program: 2008 Indigenous development scholarship

AWARD RECIPIENT: **Angela Jeffery**

HOST ORGANISATION: Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre, Fisheries Vic - Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transports and Resources

DATE: 27/03/2015

Summary

ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN

The aim of this project was to develop a better understanding of Aboriginal fishing practices (past and present) through the development of educational materials.

This was to be undertaken as on-the-job training while working at Fisheries Victoria's Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre (MFDC) and, as a result of this scholarship, by researching indigenous fishing methods at the National Museum of Australia.

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED TO DATE

- Two traditional fishing posters were developed:
 - A state by state overview of traditional fishing practice
 - Traditional fishing methods of the Wadawurrung, the traditional owners of the country on which the MFDC stands.
- An indigenous fishing learning space was established within the MFDC showcasing
 - The indigenous posters.
 - Replica traditional fishing tools (a woven fishing net and thrusting spear) were commissioned and included in the display.
 - Artworks by indigenous artists illustrating key fish species and fishing activity.
- Indigenous fishing information has been included in fisheries education classes for over 20,000 students.
- Ceremony to showcase the indigenous fishing learning space and the posters, was held and included traditional welcome and smoking ceremony conducted by Wadawurrung elder Bryon Powell.
- Delivered cultural awareness training for the Fisheries Victoria staff.
- Additional funding received from Fisheries Victoria to establish the '*Balla-wein*' learning space.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the following organisations and people.

- Fisheries Victoria.
Thank you for awarding me an Aboriginal traineeship that gave me the great opportunity to work in Fisheries Education @MFDC and helping me with project. Particularly Julie, Anne, Alex, Mike, Gabrielle, Leanne, Bob and Allan.
- Wadawurrung, Traditional Owners (TOs)
Without their agreement, time and patience one of the two posters would not have been developed. In particular Sean, Bryon and Simone were extremely helpful and generous with their time.
- The Corangamite CMA
Thank you for allowing me to finish the project in my new role with the CCMA, and providing assistant and support when I needed it. Particularly Tim, Gareth and Jo.
- The FRDC
Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to complete this project and facilitating some publicity in your FISH magazine to promote the posters. Particularly Jo-Anne and Ilaria.
- Fluid
Thank-you for helping developing the amazing design of the two posters. You were extremely patient as we fine-tuned details via loads of emails. Particularly Melissa.

Background

This professional development activity was designed to:

- research traditional Indigenous fishing practices and create educational tools to be used in the MFDC.
- increase my own knowledge and gain experience in working with traditional owners.

Need

At the time of applying for this scholarship the MFDC had few Indigenous educational tools that could be used for engaging students. Also, although I had completed a unit at university on "Caring for Kuntri" this scholarship gave me first-hand experience of researching material and working with Indigenous people.

Objectives

The original objectives to be undertaken included:

- 2 Information posters
- Photographs of fishing related activities and implements
- Replication of traditional fishing tools
- Local Aboriginal art fishing related.

All of these objectives have been achieved.

Methods

Research methods undertaken for this project included:

- Desktop searches
- Library investigations – VIC state Library, Queenscliff, Hobson Bay, and AIATSIS library.
- Trip to National Museum of Australia
- Working with collated Wadawurrung material with TO

Results/Discussion

Being successful in receiving this development award has created many firsts for my new career path into the Environmental sector including

- (1) undertaking in the real-world (not through University driven) project,
- (2) learning to manage a project, an essential skill,
- (3) developing a close working relationship with Indigenous TOs,
- (4) developing educational materials,
- (5) commissioning replica fishing tools.

Benefits and Adoption

Benefits of this project include:

- Industry sectors – Fisheries (all state depart.), Education institutes (e.g. Aquariums, schools, Universities etc.)
- Community – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and broader community

The information gathered and used in the two posters could be used to meet the Australian Curriculum needs in schools.

The Wadawurrung poster contains information that has never been released to the public before. This was their way of sharing their practices and language. Also the Wadawurrung poster is intended to be utilised by Wadawurrung people during their cultural awareness training sessions and school based lessons.

The Indigenous poster that included all states, Territories and the Torres Strait highlighted one fishing practice each or raise awareness that culture was and still is strong.

Further Development

Ideally if Fisheries Victoria were to continue the Aboriginal trainee position each new person entering the position could work with a different TO, resulting in a series of Victorian based traditional fishing posters.

Not only this, I could see this kind of tool being developed around Australia with like positions (Indigenous Trainee) and TOs.

Intellectual property

The information gathered from the Wadawurrung not included into the poster will remain confidential and never used without prior consent from Wadawurrung.

All information gathered for the Australian poster was taken from public records, literature and the like.

Appendices



Photo of me in front of the MFDC Indigenous interpretation wall.



Ceremony celebrating the exchange of the traditional thrusting spear and to showcase the indigenous fishing posters especially the Wadawurrung poster.