

# Healing Country

## The Healing Country Story-Data Map Co-Design Workshop

### Summary Report

This co-design workshop was held on Thursday 4th & Friday 5th Sept, 2025  
at the QUT Gardens Point Campus, Meanjin - Brisbane.



#### Who was there

The Kids Institute - Aunty Lyn Dimer, Aunty Lynnette Coomer and young one Jaxon

Jagun - Carl Broman and Stevie Wappett

UCRH - Talah Laurie, Veronica Matthews, Kris Vine and her young ones

QUT/Viser – Kerrie Mengersen, Josie Evans, Kate Thompson and her young ones, Sarah Azad, Mick Smallcombe, Ben Kleverlaan and Harshanie

#### The Why

The purpose of this workshop was to further the co-design of the story-data maps for the Healing Country project, specifically from Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar stories. To start forming and displaying the stories that community have been sharing about their climate worries and impacts, and what environmental and health data we should be looking at to support these stories and vice-versa.

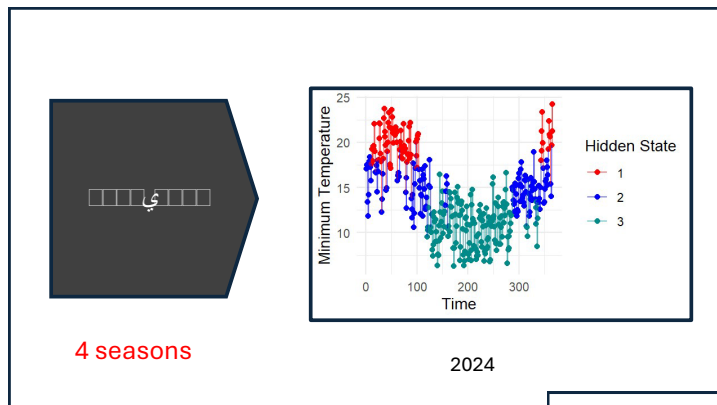
## Day 1

The focus of our first day together was blue.sky.thinking and sharing what is possible by exploring the different pieces.of.the.jigsaw that will eventually be pulled together into the story-data maps.

- Story threads - Using the narrative stories that have been shared by the community and collected by community map-makers. We watched some of the recent videos collected from Whadjuk Noongar and together reviewed the summary graphic of all the story threads that have been collected.
- Technology - Viser team showed examples of different technical elements that can be included, depending on the chosen audience and purpose.
- Artistic creativity - Talah & Sarah talked through elements that could be brought in that are contextually related to each site, acknowledging the cultural significance of each place and being responsive to those stories and where they come from.
- Climate data - Kerrie and Harshanie had worked on linking data to one of the topics that came up in the story sharing: »The.seasons.are.changing;.We.used.to.have.six.seasons;.Now.we.have.four.seasons;. The historical temperature data supports the change and reduction of seasons over time, as is being observed by community.





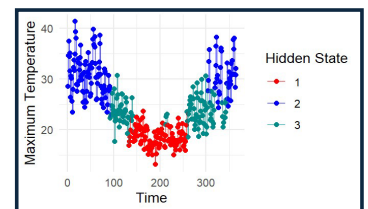
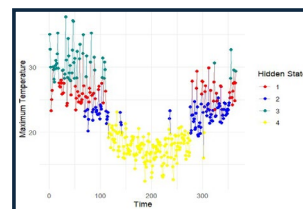
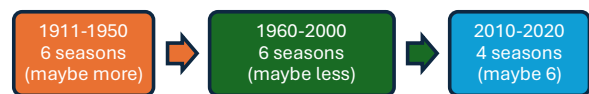


Maximum temperature:

- Increasing trend over time
- Some evidence of a change from 6 to 4 seasons per year

Minimum temperature:

- Increasing trend over time
- Strong evidence of a change from 6 to 4 seasons per year



Discussions focused how we can fit all of these pieces of the puzzle together to support the different layers, both-ways, and what additional pieces do we need.

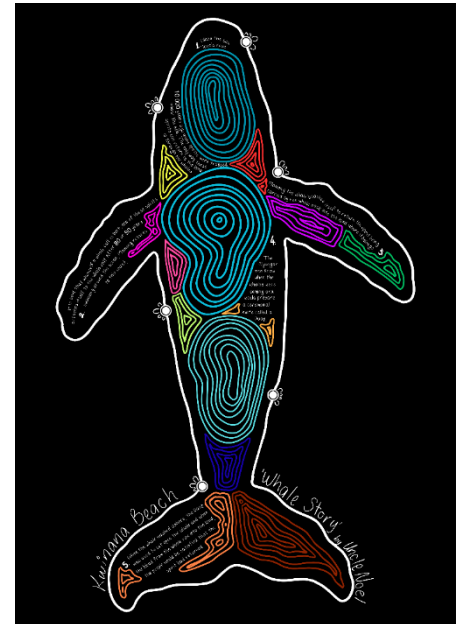
We also had the chance to explore The Cube and see different data visualizations and interactive displays!



## Day 2

Our second day together got down to the hands-on practical decisions of how to weave the knowledge threads together.

- With guidance by 'the Aunty Lynn's' we identified the focus of the first story-data map. This will look at the Kwinana Beach site history to form the story-data map as a **Songline**. This will include early camps and the Whale story related to the close by three islands. We heard about stories shared, particularly from Uncle Noel, and started identifying locations on maps.
- From discussions, we were able to identify the current gaps of these stories. By noting these, we can focus on asking the relevant questions during our next time together when Veronica and Kris visit WA in October. Gaps include:
  - Identifying the location of the camps in Kwinana on a map
  - More detail on the three islands story – Straggler rocks (Bolgart-boya), Carnac island (Ngoolamayup, intestines) and Garden island (Meandip)
  - More details about the whale story – Mammung.
  - Early stories of the area, such as how people used to walk and ride horses across to the three islands
  - Differences that have been observed, such as rising sea levels and change in ocean temperatures and biodiversity (sharks, stingers etc)
  - Archival photos and video where possible, contact the WA State Library.
- Early drafts of the graphical representation of the three islands whale story was presented by Talah, and animated by Pascal. This showed the group what visuals could be possible to contribute and bring to life the story-data maps through movement.
- Consultations were led by Josie, who presented on her Master's project looking at developing heat vulnerability index and considerations needed for First Nation populations specifically. While Kris discussed progress of her current PhD work looking at collectively publishing insights and guidance from this project, around co-designing evaluations with community.



A first draft of the Kwinana Beach Whale Story  
Designed by Talah Laurie with input by Aunty Lynn Coomer and Aunty Lynn Dimer with words by Uncle Noel



Thank you to this whole deadly team for sharing  
your own knowledges and creating such a  
respectful and fun space to work together!



NSW Health

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Report available on the [Healing Country project website](https://www.healingcountryproject.com.au/).

(~~<https://www.healingcountryproject.com.au/>project-healing\_country\_weaving\_knowledge\_systems\_to\_meet\_climate\_challenges~~)