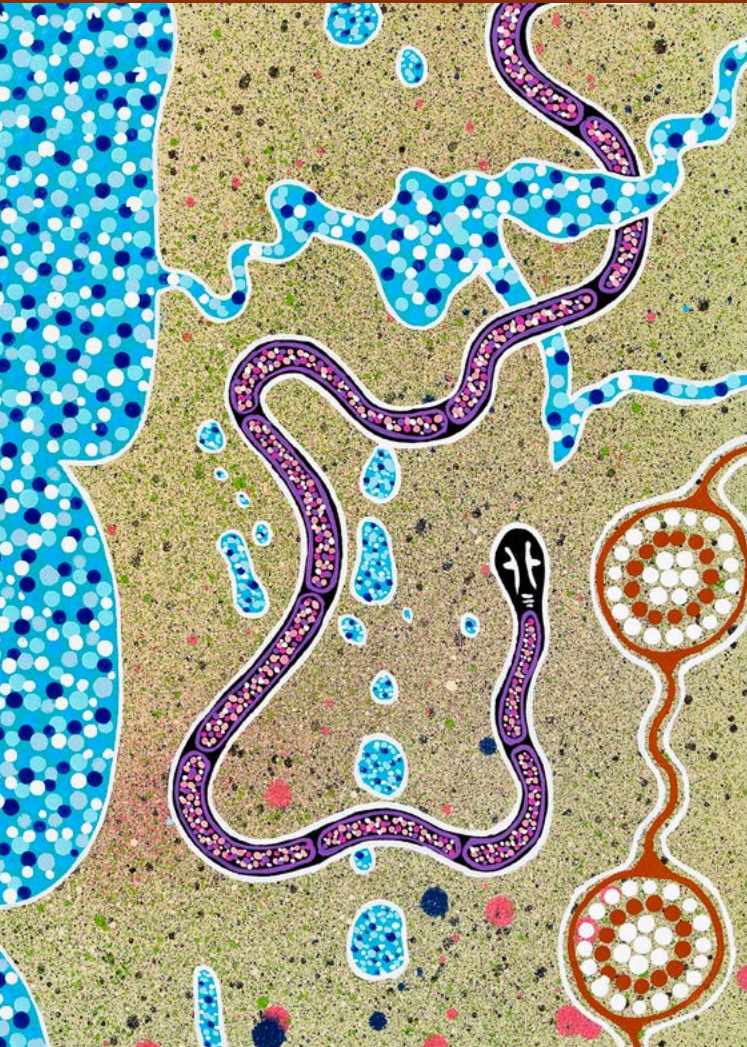




Fiona Stanley Hospital Noongar Art and Cultural Guide



You are standing on Beeliar Boodja – this land holds great cultural significance for Noongar people due to its connection to the chain of wetlands and lakes which once stretched from the Moore River to the Peel Inlet.

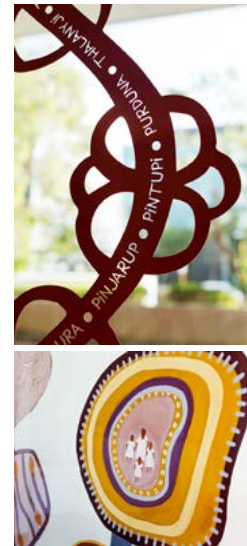
This is the land of the ‘River People’ and fresh water is the lifeblood of their country. They believe a serpent – called the Waugal created all the lakes, rivers and creeks and other features of the landscape.

Please use this guide to discover the Noongar connections to the land around the hospital and the significance to Aboriginal people of the flora and fauna on this site.

1 Welcome to Country

Artists: Wendy Hayden, Deborah Bonar, Ella Taylor and Joanna Robertson (Kidogo Artists Team)

The drawings across 16 metres of glass panels feature local plants and grasses, with insects and small creatures hidden among them – see how many you can find. The artwork provides familiar elements and creates a connection to country to make Aboriginal patients and visitors feel welcome. The canvas wall panel features ochres sourced from around the State and stalks to represent the five regions of WA.



2 Nidja Nyoongar Boodja! (This is Noongar Country!)

This interactive display highlights the ancient Noongar connections to the land around the hospital and the importance of the local environment for their health and subsistence. Traditional owners and families monitored site works during construction, discovering tools and artefacts made thousands of years ago, which are now part of the display.



◀ **Nidja Waugal Wirrin** – The rainbow serpent spirit.
 Artist: Lenard Thorne

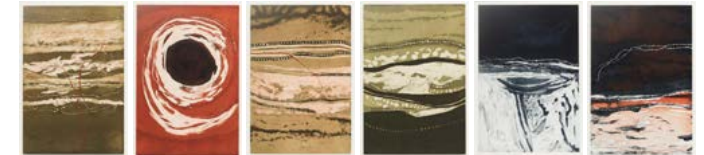


3 Plant Remedies

Artist: Mark Datodi

The screen printed artwork panels depict Australian native plants used as traditional Aboriginal bush food and medicines, such as snakevine, for headache and stings, fuchsia bushes for coughs and colds and red river gum for fevers.

4 Six Seasons



Artist: Shane Pickett

This series of etchings represents the six Noongar seasons of Djilba (July, August), Kambarang (September, October), Biroc (November, December) Bunuroo (January, February), Wanyarang (March, April) and Muguroo (May, June).

5 Wardan-Noorn

Artist: Peter Farmer

The Noongar name for eel is ‘peeneeyt’ and the sculpture draws inspiration from the cultural practice of fishing for eels and other freshwater fish. The eel is swimming through stainless steel reeds topped with slump glass elements, lit from below. The artwork is set in North Park (Wardan Noorn), designed as an outdoor meeting place for Aboriginal people.





6 Balga Mia Mia

Artists: Inspired Art+Freedom and the Department of Justice, Melville Senior High School

These steel sculptures are inspired by Balga bush, traditionally used by Noongar people for medicine, glue, food and fire. Designed by students, prisoners produced the metal work as a part of their rehabilitation and positive pathways back into the community. The area is intended to be a sanctuary and a place for reflection, peace and restoration.

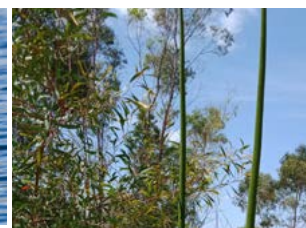


Flora

- A Bullrushes (yanget)** – the crushed female flower has medicinal uses as an antiseptic.
- B Zamia palm (djirilji)** – the red seed is toxic, when treated, the seed is used as a food source.
- C Grass tree (balga)** – the gum was chewed to relieve both diarrhoea and constipation.
- D Banksia (mangatj)** – used in drinks to relieve coughs and sore throats, also as a sweet drink.
- E Peppermint tree (wannil)** – was used to ease congestion, antiseptic washes.
- F Eucalyptus (balyongar)** – used as antibacterial purposes for healing wounds, to relieve congestions due to colds.

Fauna

- G Long neck tortoise (yarkan)** – during Djeran it was part of the diet for Noongar people around the fresh water lakes. Eggs were taken, but not all to preserve the tortoise.
- H Black swan (Mali)** – the black swan is abundant in the Murdoch/Bibra Lake area. Swans were part of the staple diet and the eggs were eaten, with only one taken to preserve the swan.



Flora and fauna

