

AIATSIS | 05-09
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NOONGAR BOODJA PERTH



AIATSIS



South West Aboriginal
Land and Sea Council
Aboriginal Corporation

Waka Nurrkanhayngu

“Regenerating the existence of life”

...together to enable a future for humans, all creatures and
earth



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**Duncan
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Working together two-way with very remote Indigenous community Galiwin'ku in Arnhem Land







<https://www.pastmasters.net/elcho-island-portrait.html>



How are we working
together two-way?



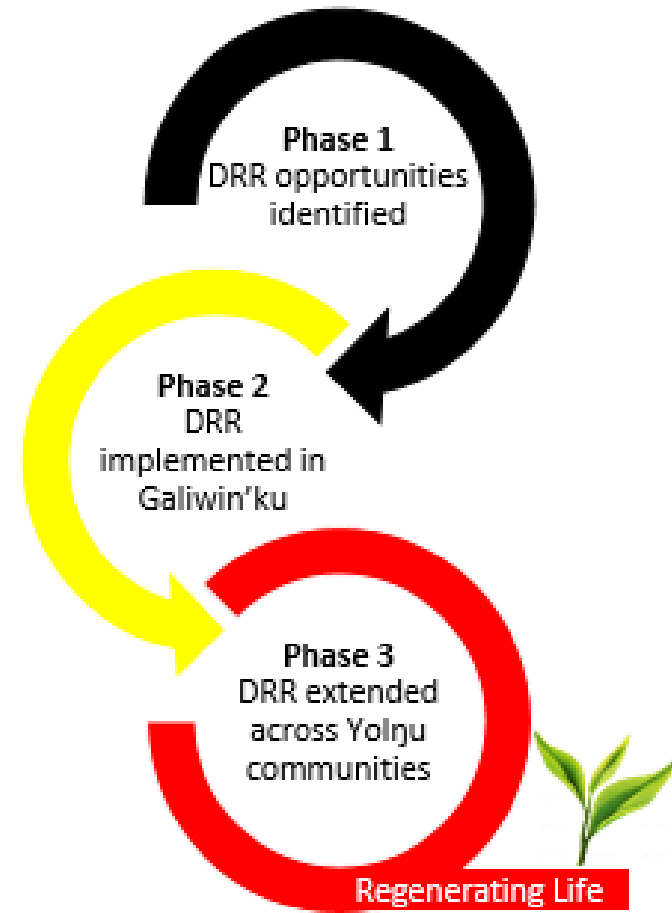
Indigenist community-based participatory action research with Galiwin'ku
Indigenous & Western researchers & community members working together two-way
building upon long-term relationships & Gurrutu [kinship] system

long-term

co-creating & co-implementing → emerging step-by-step
utilizing both Indigenous & relevant Western knowledges

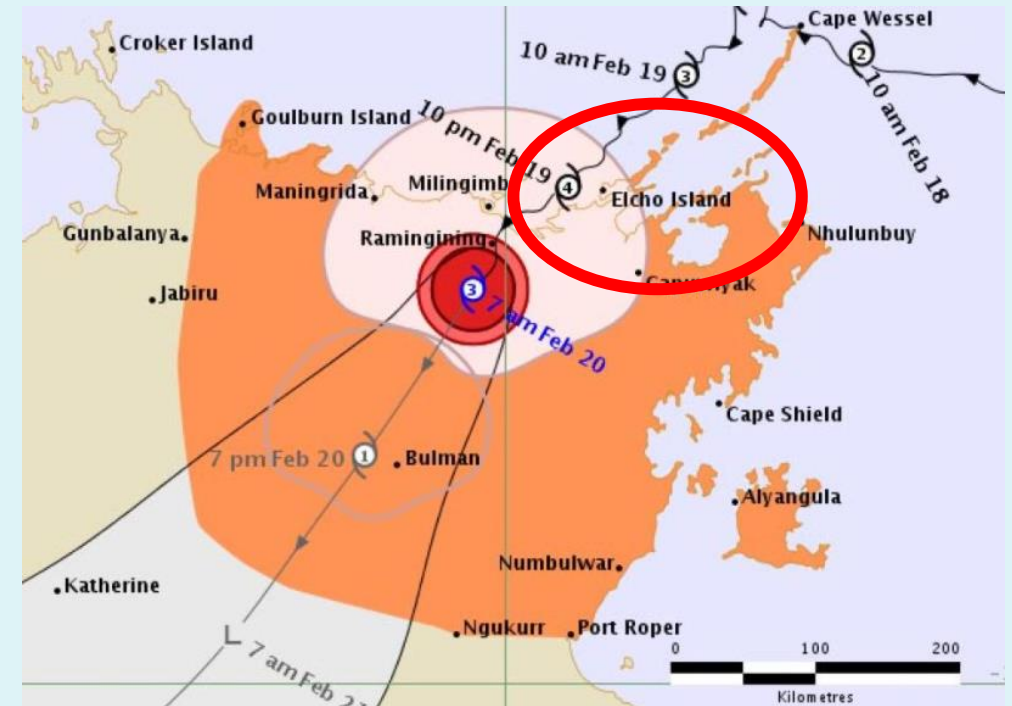
holistic systems approach & transdisciplinary → look at all aspects of life





Cyclone Lam Cat 4 hit Galiwin'ku in 2015

- ~ \$ 80 million damage
- 2/3 of houses destroyed & many houses damaged
- destroyed our inner strength & future
- damaged our country
- deeply hurt Yolngu due to close & deep connections to country



*The native here, the trees, lands were just broken
into pieces. It just drained me inside out.
(Galikali)*

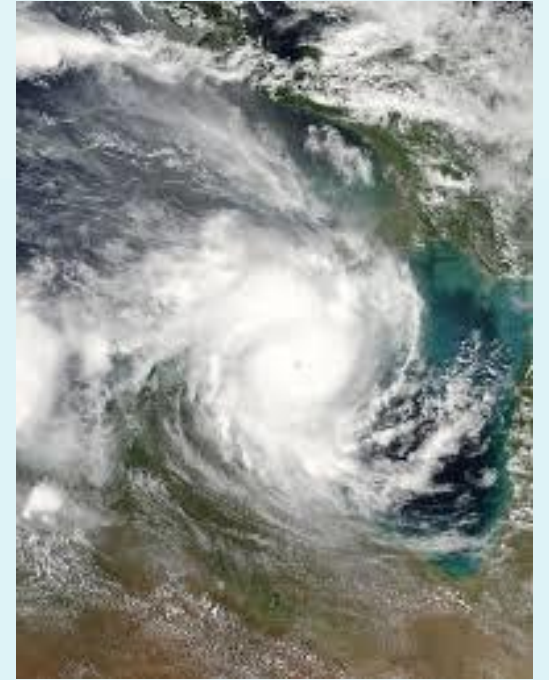


In the old days → Burmulala [cyclones]...

- natural part of life & us
- **cherished** → *"Cyclones are in our song line. We sing and dance cyclones."*
- **used to be smaller** - they didn't cause damage
- not a threat but **important for recycling of life**
 - ✓ cleanses & purifies
 - ✓ refreshes
 - ✓ gives new life - nature incl humans



meant that big & damaging cyclones & future disasters didn't happen

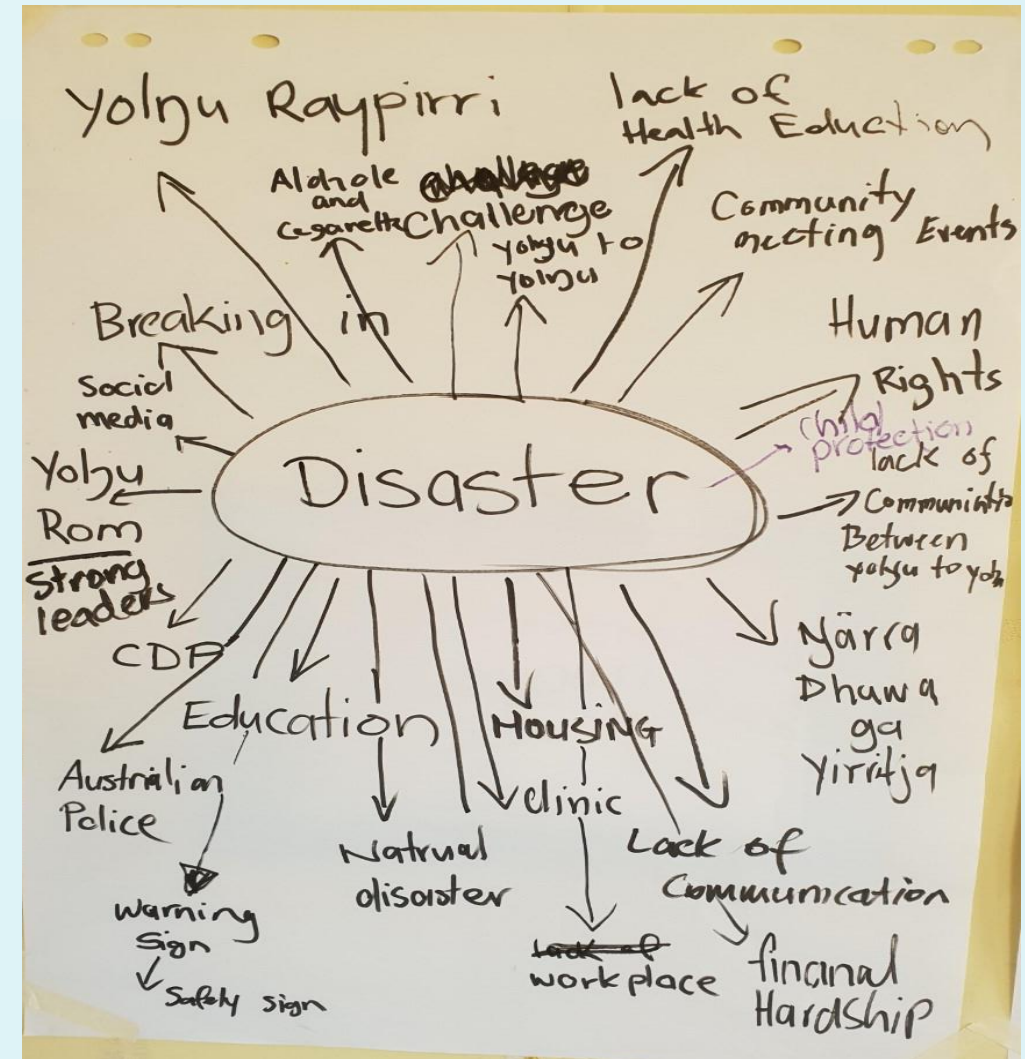


Damaging cyclones

...punishment & warning from ancestors,
because due to colonisation Yolngu are
not living according to Yolngu Rom
anymore



Balanda [White/Western] culture
= real disaster



Co-creating the 2nd phase & AIATSIS funding application



Project title	Project description for promotion (< 35 words)	Project title
from community to community	ice - communities mentoring next communities	
silence	022	
Petra.Buergelt	Awarded Dec 2020 Negotiation & signing of contracts before or on 6th April 2021	
Petra.Buergelt	Petra -> use presentation & feedback content Douglas feeding in DRR James feeding in working both/two ways, Indig leadership & governance, implications for health promotion & working cross-institutional, PAR and/or collaborative + co-design + Indigenous	

- need new ethics bec Yalu let → Yalu will need ethics
- ethics UC and Menzies cross-inst transfer
- 2 months after awarded – revisit
- Project title
- Project description for promotion (< 35 words)



Aims:

- reviving & strengthening Yolŋu Law, knowledges, culture and governance to heal from and reduce the risk of natural and social disasters,
- (re)building Indigenous capacities that reduce the risk of natural & social disasters,
- increasing the recognition of the value of Indigenous culture for our survival
- activating & bringing out the inner being



<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-12-12/proud-aboriginal-elder-dances-with-granddaughter-at-graduation/7017686?nw=0&r=HtmlFragment>



1st Fieldwork

April - May 2022 for 23 days

- in-depth yarning circle conversations Yolŋu & Western researchers for over one week → emerging, clearer, understanding,
 - changes in team members
 - daily living, hunting, sorry business
- ↓
- 32 conversations with Senior Elders, Elders & clan members across all but one of the 16 clans in clan languages and/or English
- ↓
- interpreting & analysing....



2st Fieldwork

August – Sept 2022 for 15 days

- living with Lāwurrpa
- in-depth mapping governance, kinship, education & songline systems
- Mapuru outstation → healers, sorry ceremony, Yolŋu-led independent school, sacred healing site
- collecting selected songlines from Senior Elders
- interpreting & analysing....



What makes Yolŋu stronger?





- inner being – spirit
- living on our country
 - kinship
 - language
 - culture
 - ceremonies
- healers – physically, spiritually, emotionally
 - exchanging knowledges



What makes Yolngu weaker?





- Balanda working on top of us
- not allowing us to live according to our Yolŋu ROM
 - Balanda not recognizing
- not working together two-way
 - don't know much about us



Key pathways for strengthening Yolngu?





Other outcomes so
far?



Dharaṇanamirr dhukarr guṅgayunaraw djamarrkuḷiw' ga gurruṭumirriw marṅgikunharaw ḍäḷkunharaw gakaḷwun dhiyakun märrmaw' nha romgun

Understanding pathways to support Yolṅu children and families to achieve strong learning in two systems.

A Participatory Action Research Project funded by an AIATSIS Research Exchange Grant from 2020-23.



Project Partners: Charles Darwin University; Connected Beginnings, Galiwin'ku; Yalu Aboriginal Corporation; Shepherdson College and FaFT, Galiwin'ku; and Galiwin'ku Childcare

Project Leaders: Assoc. Prof. ḷäwurrpa Maypilama, Rosemary Gundjarranbuy, Anne Lowell, Daisy Nyarrwa Gondarra, Helen Nyomba

Project Team: Dorothy Gapany, Emily Armstrong, Yehnu Gaylene Gurruwiwi, Jeffrey WulaWula, Tanya Lakawuy, Marilyn Murukun, Jonica Natuyṅa Dhurrkay, Meg Hewett, Gayilmarrawuy Gondarra, Bronwyn Price, Dorothy Yungirrṅa Bukulatjpi, Alice McCarthy, Roselie Bananaki Yunupingu, James Gunitjawuy Gondarra, Ted Gondarra, Danny Djangadjanga, Evelyn Djortja, Lucy Strickland, Lyn Fasoli, Miranda Rielly.

This collaborative project explored:

- What can help Balanda to recognise and respect Yolṅu education systems?
- What can help Yolṅu to understand more about Balanda education systems?

We produced this App to share resources developed through the project.

More information: <http://growingupyolngu.com.au/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&p=249&l=1&id=76>



Thank you!



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