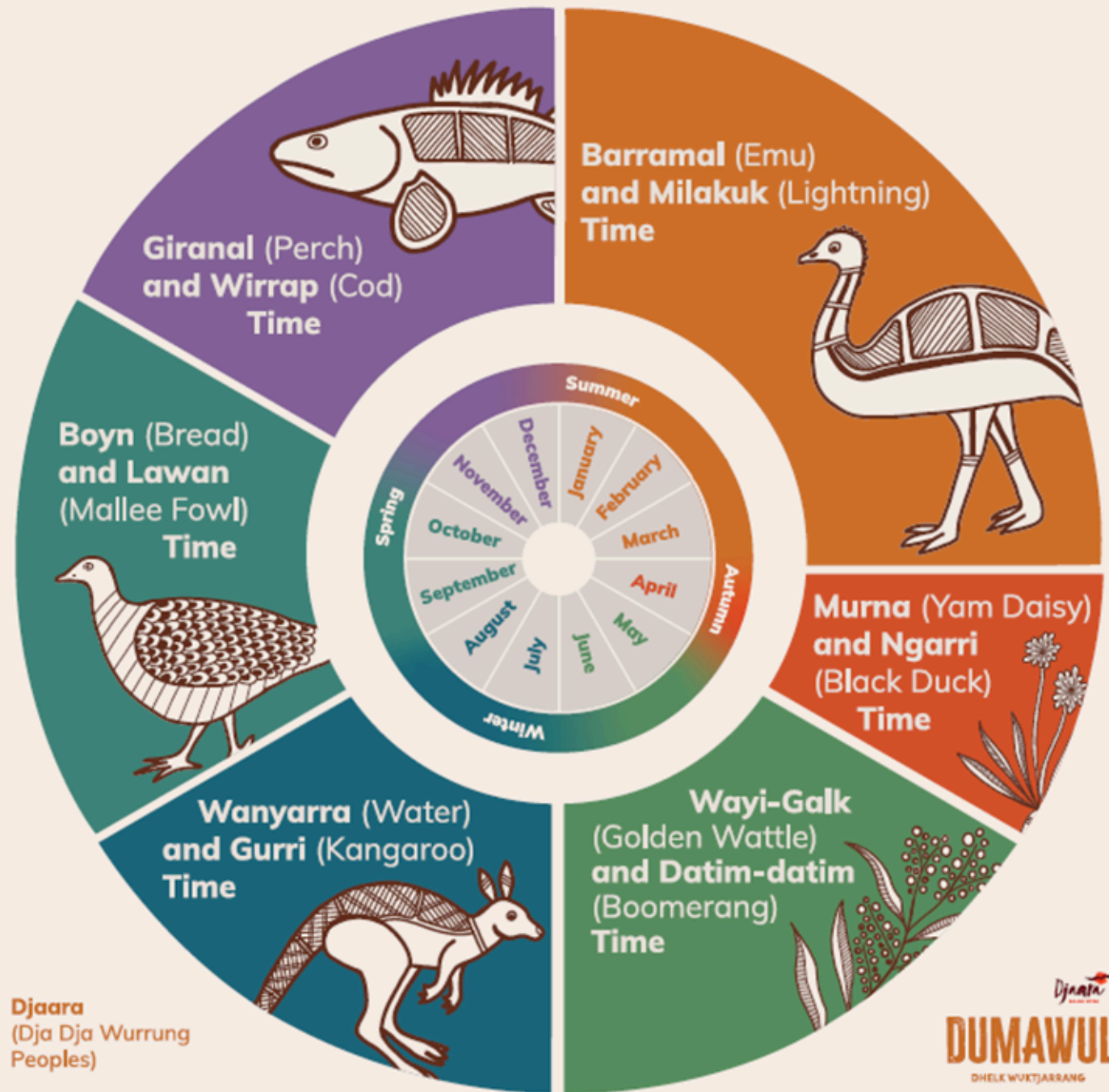


The Djaara Seasonal Calendar



Murna (Yam Daisy) & Ngarri (Black Duck) Season



The first cool rains begin after the hot times and the land begins to rehydrate. **Ngarri** begin their courtship and nest making. **Murna** is flowering and the Rain Moths emerge from the ground. **Lawan** (Mallefowl) begin making their nests.

Djaara
People

Wura-Wura-Yi Dja
Sky Country

Galk-Galk & Malak
Forest and Plants

Djandak Wi
Country Fire

Gatjin
Water

Yapuka, Wirrap & Murrun Dja
Birds, Fish & Animals





Murna (Yam Daisy) & Ngarri (Black Duck) Season



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Djaara

People

- Harvesting **Murna** tubers
- Collecting **Ngarri** eggs
- Building fish traps
- Collecting river stones for tools while the water is low
- **Marn Groom** being played in the cooler weather

Djandak Wi

Country Fire

- Begins after first two or three rains of the year
- Cooler weather and green plants means less danger of big fires
- Conditions allow **Wi** (fire) to move across country at night
- Helps prepare Country for flowering time
- Wait until the Bardi Grubs have left the ground so it doesn't harm them

Wura-Wura-Yi Dja

Sky Country

- Lyra (**Lawan** - Malleefowl) begins to be seen at sunrise. This tells us nest building season has begun
- Canopus (**Waa**) almost due south at sunrise
- Altair (**Bunjil**) - Visible at sunrise to the north east
- Pleiades (daughters of **Bunjil**) just visible at sunset to the north
- Sirius (**Ware-Pil** - Eagle) to the north at sunset
- Jupiter (**Bunjil's campfire**) - directly north at sunset
- Milky Way (**Barramal** - Emu) overhead all night - with the southern cross visible - Bunya the possum at its head
- Capella (**Gurri** - Kangaroo) - just above north horizon at sunset

Gatjin

Water

- Water is low after summer
- The first rains start to fill up creeks, rivers and lakes

Galk-Galk & Malak

Forest and Plants

- Plants start to green and grow with the rains
- **Murna** flowers blossom, which indicates the tubers are ready to be eaten
- **Wurrak** (banksia) flowering
- Fungi begins to fruit
- Hearts of the soft tree fern emerge
- Small, tuberous plants grow well after rains

Yapuka, Wirrap & Murrun Dja

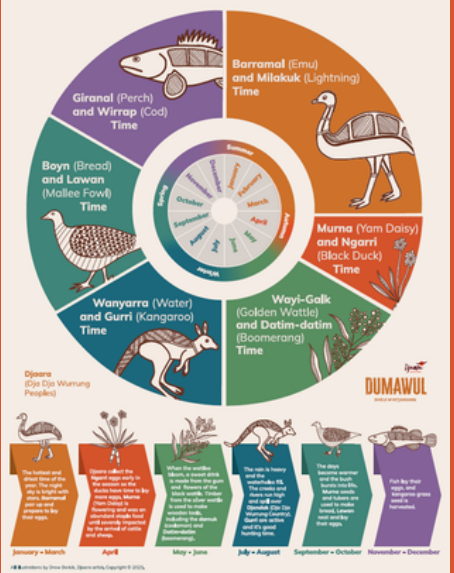
Birds, Fish & Animals

- **Ngarri** courtship begins, preparing for mating up and laying of eggs
- **Ngur-ngur** (Wombat) emerge to bask in sunshine
- **Lawan** (Malleefowl) start preparing their nest
- **Gurri** (Kangaroo) and **Djinbongurre** (Wallaby) feed on fresh new plant growth
- **Gariyn** (Bardi Grubs) emerge from the ground as Rain Moths, leaving small holes in the soil.
- **Wila** (Brush-tail Possum) breeding season

Weather

- Days getting shorter
- Cool rains
- Temperature declining
- Dew point rises

The Djaara Seasonal Calendar





Gariyn (Bardi Grub) / Rain Moth



Introduction

Gariyn (Bardi Grubs) spend years underground as pupae before emerging as Rain Moths during the first cool rains after the hot times. They only live as a moth for 24 hours.

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Bardi Grubs are amazing bait for catching **Wirrap** (Murray Cod). They have been used by **Djaara** people for thousands of years. On **Djandak** you often find Bardi Grub holes near the **Biyal** (River Red Gums).



Rain Moths can be the same size as a small bird. They don't have a mouth, so they can't feed or drink. All they can do is mate and lay eggs. The female can lay over 40,000 of them!

Djali (Language)
The word '**Gariyn**' is actually used for anything small, white and edible, so it is also used for white termite and other grubs, rice and small eggs, even maggots! The name 'Bardi' actually comes from the Noongar people in Western Australia

Both the pupae and the moth are an amazing food source. Many different species of fish, bats, birds and mammals rely on the yearly emergence of the moths to give them a big hit of nutrients. **Djaara** can also eat both the pupae and the moths for valuable protein.

There are many great videos online showing how to catch Bardi Grubs





Gariyn (Bardi Grub) / Rain Moth



Sharnni's Story

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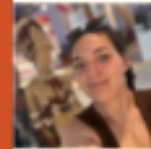
Sharnni Cooper

Sharnni Cooper is a proud Dja Dja Wurrung and Yorta Yorta woman, artist and educator based in Bendigo, Victoria. Sharnni was born and raised near the Murray River on Yorta Yorta Country.



Listen to Sharnni read the story here!

Sharnni's Story



FOUNDATION

Bardi Grubbing



I go with Pop to find Bardi Grubs.

We look under a big tree.

We look under grass.

We find a hole.

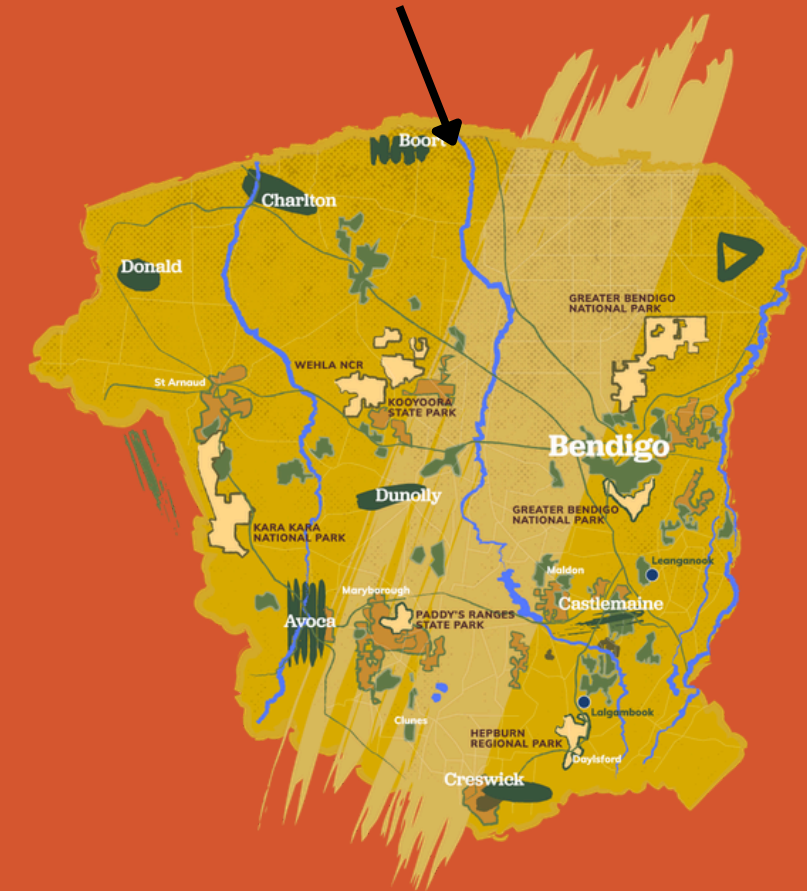
We tap the hole and listen.

A grub is in the hole.

We use a hook to get the grub.

Big Cod love eating grubs.

And we love eating Big Cod.



You can find Bardi Grubs all over Djandak, but Sharnni and her Pop like to find them near any big rivers, especially up the north of Djandak.





Gariyn (Bardi Grub) / Rain Moth



Sharnni's Story

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Sharnni's Story

LOWER PRIMARY

Bardi Grubbing



Pop and I go together to get Bardi Grubs. We need them to catch Big Cod in the river.

I love going on Country with Pop. He teaches me how to listen to Country, how to respect Country.

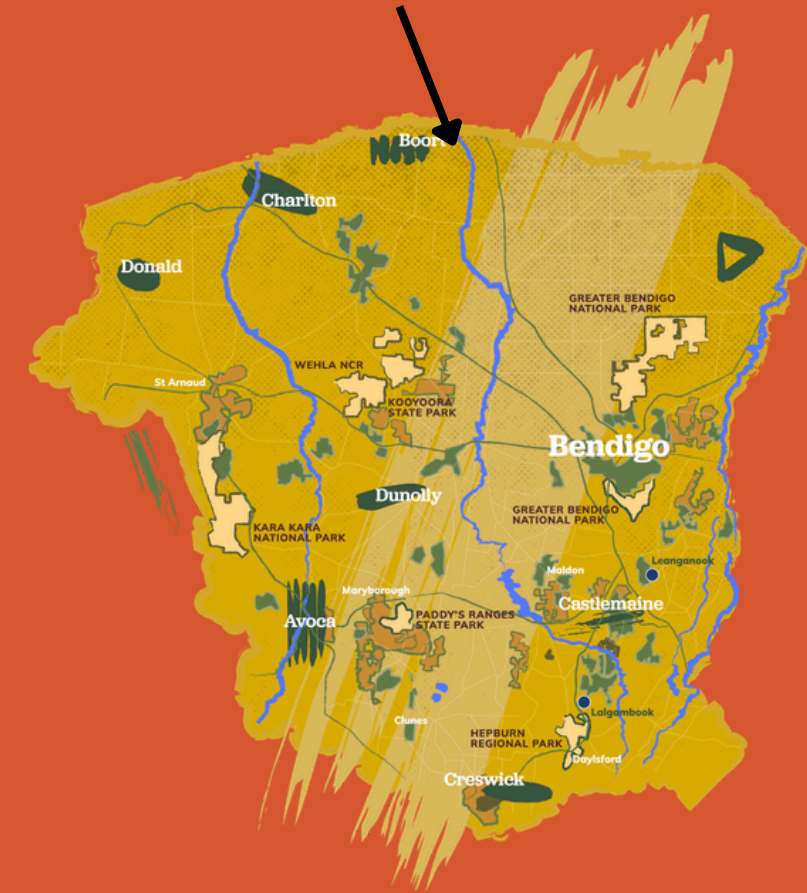
When we dig for baby grubs we have to be gentle. We just take what we need. This helps care for Country.

We look for holes near big trees. Pop can hear if a grub is inside by tapping the hole.

If one is inside, we use a hook to get the grub.

Some people like to eat the grubs. They are good for you. But we like to use them for catching Big Cod.

Dinner time!



You can find Bardi Grubs all over Djandak, but Sharnni and her Pop like to find them near any big rivers, especially up the north of Djandak.





Gariyn (Bardi Grub) / Rain Moth



Sharnni's Story

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Sharnni's Story

UPPER PRIMARY

Bardi Grubbing



When I was young, I'd go out with my pop to gather Bardi grubs. Those trips were memorable. He didn't just show me what to do – he taught me how to listen to the land, respect it, and enjoy being out on Country.

When we dig for baby grubs, we have to be gentle. We don't want to damage the nest or harm anything living there. It's about taking only what we need and caring for the land while we do it.

We look for holes near big trees, and under grass. To check if a grub is still inside the hole, we gently tap the top. If it makes a soft thudding sound, the grub is probably still there.

1

Sharnni's Story

UPPER PRIMARY

Bardi Grubbing



We also look around the hole. If we see little hairs, it often means the grub has already changed into a moth. But if the area is clear, the grub might still be hiding inside.

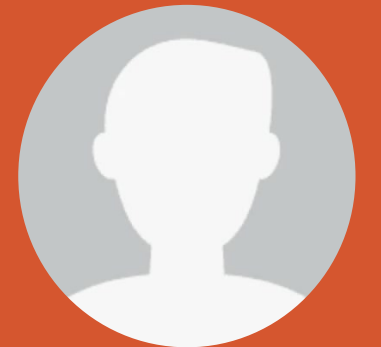
If the grub is still inside, we get a stick or a cable with a spring at the end that we use as a hook. It pierces the end of the grub and we pull it out.

You can eat the grubs, they are very high in protein and are supposed to taste nutty. I just use them for fishing, to catch big Murray Cod.

These moments with my pop taught me more than just how to find Bardi grubs.

They taught me patience, respect, and the importance of understanding the land – not just using it.

2



Listen to Sharnni read the story here!





Gariyn (Bardi Grub) / Rain Moth



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Educational Prompts - Lower Primary

Sharnni's Story

Read Sharnni's story of hunting Bardi Grubs to give a Djaara context

Place Based Learning Opportunities

Are there any Biyal (Red Gums) near your school? Or creeks/ivers?

Reading

Make a connection between Sharnni's story and your own life

Technologies

Design a hook to catch a **Gariyn** in its hole.

Art

Create a dance to reflect the life cycle of the **Gariyn**.

Geography

Is there a place near your school that might have **Gariyn**?

PE

Look at the fine motor skills needed to catch **Gariyn**. Can you train for these using different objects?

Writing

Use six frames to tell the story of the life of a **Gariyn** and Rain Moth

Maths

A Rain Moth can measure 12cm long and 16cm across. Make your own representation of the Rain Moth.

Science

Look at the place of the **Gariyn** and Rain Moth in local food webs.

History

Sharnni's practice of hunting **Gariyn** with her family has been passed down for thousands of years. What is a tradition that might have changed in their family?





Gariyn (Bardi Grub) / Rain Moth



Educational Ideas - Upper Primary

[Back to Menu](#)

Sharnni's Story

Read Sharnni's story of hunting Bardi Grubs to give a Djaara context

Place Based Learning Opportunities

Are there any **Biyal** (Red Gums) near your school? Or creeks/ivers?

Geography

What does Sharnni's story tell us about Djaara relationship to Country?

Science

Explore the life cycle of the **Gariyn**. Represent their place in the food chain of their local habitats.

Art

Create a song that reflects the **Gariyn's** life.

Civics

Is it legal for anyone to go and collect Bardi Grubs? Should/shouldnt it be?

History

Look at the impact colonisation has had on the gathering traditions of Traditional Owners

Writing

Bardi grubs spend years underground before emerging during the first cool rains after the hot times. They only live for 24 hours.

Write a short story in first person describing the Rain Moths emergence. Describe what they might feel, smell, hear and see.

Technologies

Design a hook to catch a **Gariyn** in its hole. Test different materials.

Maths

Look at a rain chart for your local area. When, on average, might we expect Rain Moths to emerge?

What percentage of their life do **Gariyn/Rain Moths** spend above ground?

Economics

Selling Bardi Grubs as bait is a modern industry. Look at the price of a grub and how difficult it might be to make a profit as a business

