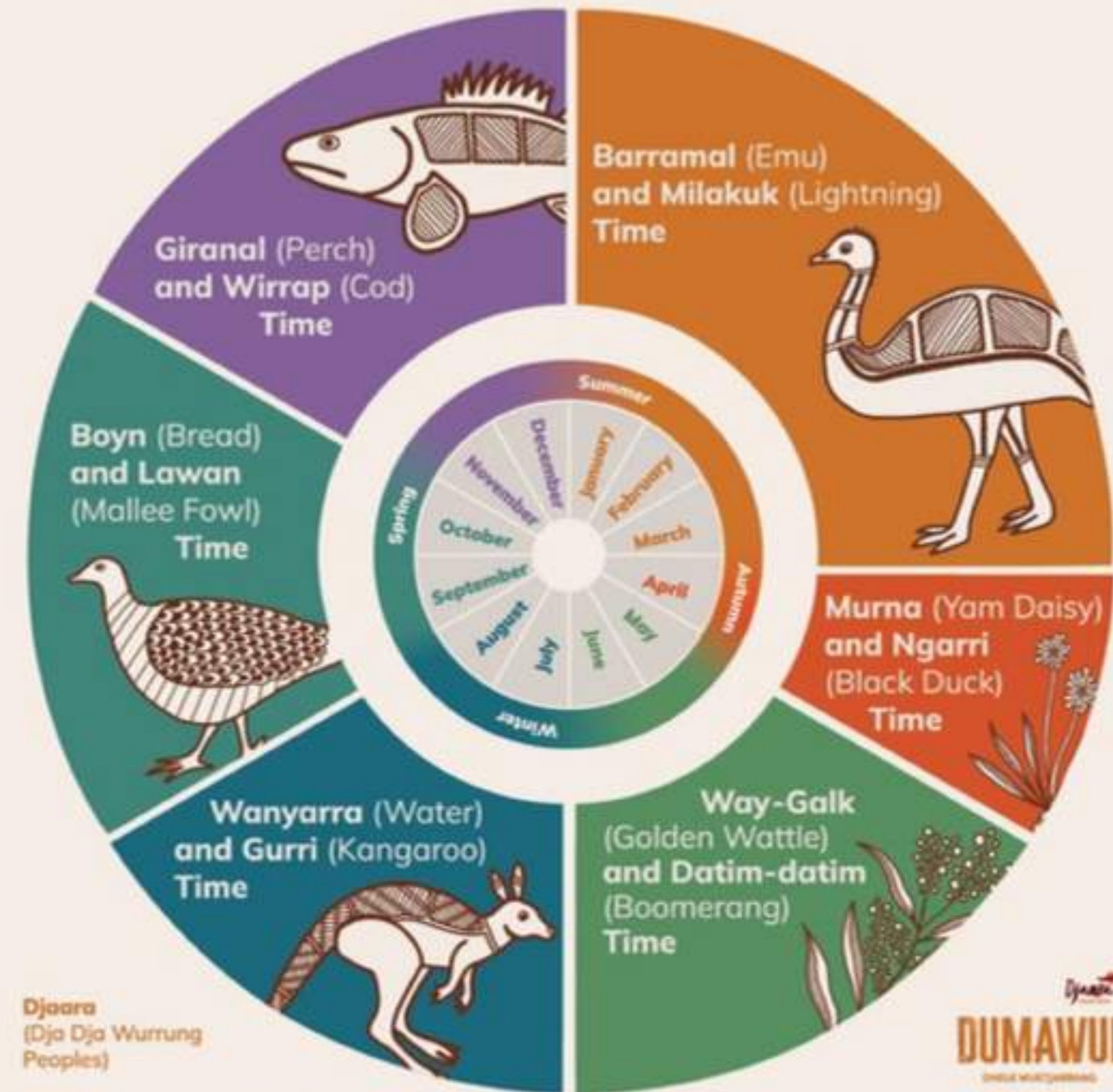
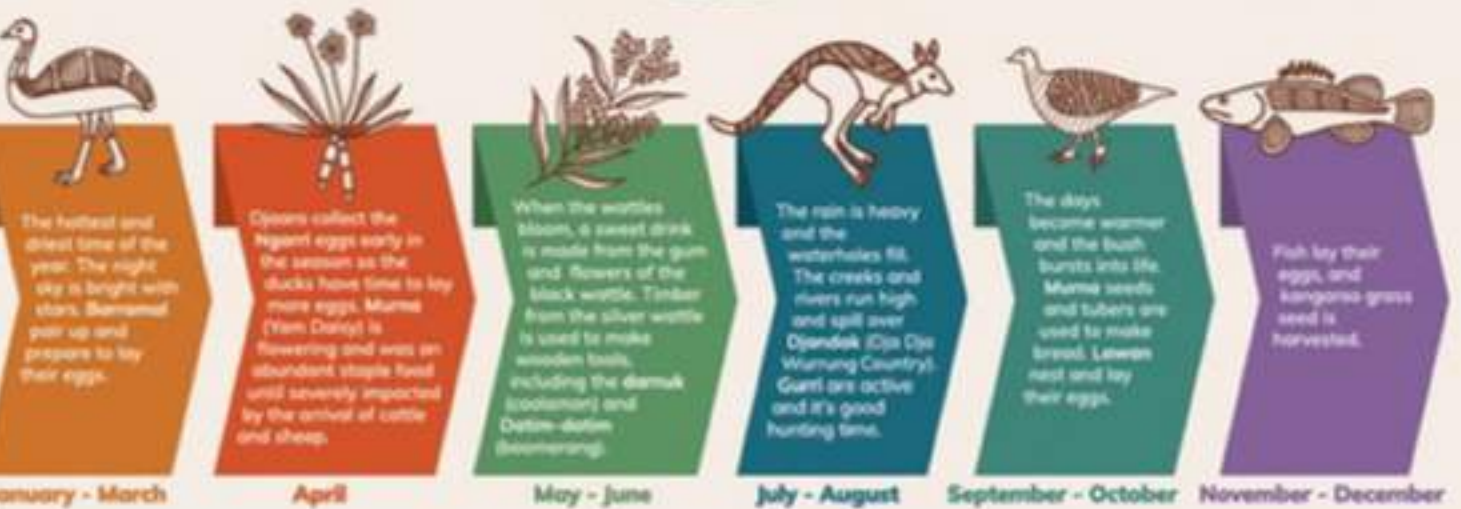


The Djaara Seasonal Calendar



Djaara
(Dja Dja Wurrung
Peoples)

DUMAWUL
Great Wurrung



Wanyarra (Water) and Gurri (Kangaroo) Time

DUMAWUL
Djela Wurrung

Sheltered on elevated ground, **Djaara** (Dja Dja Wurrung People) gather around fires out of the wind and stay warm in bark huts, wearing possum skin cloaks, telling stories and creating tools and artworks. Waterways are high and unpredictable and forests can be dangerous with low light and fog, so they don't travel much. **Gurri** (kangaroo) are active and more visible during the day, feeding on new growth and warming themselves in the sun.



The information in this document is a collection of expressions and experiences of different individual Dja Dja Wurrung people. It does not represent the Collective Expression of the entire Dja Dja Wurrung Community.



Wanyarra (Water) and Gurri (Kangaroo) Time



Djaara

People



- Time of campfires and possum skin cloaks
- Minimal movement around **Djandak** (Country)
- Creating artwork and tools
- Living in bark huts on rocky hills
- Collecting furs from **Wila** (Possum) and **Ngur-ngur** (Wombat)
- Watching and hunting **Gurri** (Kangaroo)

Galk-Galk & Malak

Forest and Plants



- **Way-Galk** (Golden Wattle), **Warrarak** (Silver Wattle) and Yellow Box continue to flower, pollinators feasting
- Early wildflowers
- Orchids and Early Nancy flowering
- **Balatj** (Cherry Ballart) finishing fruiting
- Fungi, mosses and lichens are colourful
- Vivid colours of plants reflect moisture in the soil

Wura-Wura-Yi Dja

Sky Country



- Milky Way (**Barramal** - Emu) directly overhead most of the night, with head of the emu south at sunrise
- Lyra (**Lawan** - Malleefowl) visible to northeast at sunset
- Canopus (**Waa**) southeast at sunrise
- Altair (**Bundjiyl**) northeast at sunset

Djandak Wi

Country Fire

- Too wet and cold
- Plants too green to burn

Yapuka, Wirrap & Murrin Dja

Birds, Fish & Animals



- **Gurri** (Kangaroo) are active, grazing abundant grass and basking in the sun to keep their body heat up
- **Barramal** (Emu) males do not eat, drink or leave the nest. Eggs start to hatch later in the season
- **Ngarri** (Black Ducks) and other waterbird nesting and hatching
- **Ngur-ngur** (Wombat) basking and active in sun
- **Yulawil** (Echidna) active and breeding
- **Lawan** (Malleefowl) monitoring temperature of their nests
- **Watjarang** (Platypus) feeding and building nests to prepare for mating season

Gatjin

Water



- Well filling season. Rock and bark lids used to cover wells to reduce evaporation and prevent leaves and animals from contaminating water
- Creeks, rivers, lakes and dams are full
- Can be dangerous near waterways

Weather

- Frosty
- Misty
- Cold mornings
- Cold winds
- Coldest time of the year
- Days start to get longer again

The Djara Seasonal Calendar





Wanyarra (Water) and Gurri (Kangaroo) Time



Wanyarra / Water

Waterways create a **Baring** (pathway) for Djaara to travel along



Djali (Language)

Wanyarra: pond, waterhole

Gatjin: water

Yaluk: flowing water - creek, river, stream

Caring for Country

Gatjin holds memory, songs and stories. **Gatjin** has **Murrin** (Living Spirit). Healthy water is a priority for **Djaara** (Dja Dja Wurrung People), and they have an obligation to pass on healthy water to Country and other **Balak** (tribes, clans, mobs) downstream.

Yaluk (rivers) are the veins of Djandak. They provide food and medicine and places to camp, hunt, fish, swim and hold **Yapenya** (ceremony). Waterways are places Djaara connect with our **Ngurar Balak** (Ancestors) and pass traditional knowledge on to our children and grandchildren. In this season, **Wanyarra** (waterholes and ponds) are full and overflowing.

Djaara Connection

Most cultural heritage sites are found near waterways. These could be burial sites, birthing sites, earth ovens or middens signifying places Djaara camped and ate.

Djaara would carry small amounts of **Gatjin** in **Tarnuks** (bags made of animal skin). The coolamon, a multi-purpose tool, was also used to hold **Gatjin**.

Creation Story

Bundjiyl created the land and everything in it, including the waterways. When he was finished, **Bundjiyl** went to sit in the sky by a campfire, what we call the planet Jupiter. **Bundjiyl** watches down today making sure **Djaara** are caring for Country

Storing Gatjin

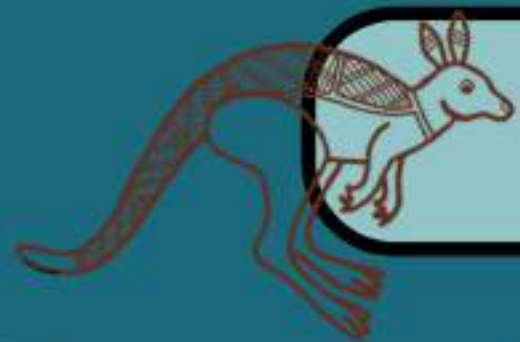
Rock wells were an ingenious way that Djaara stored **Gatjin**. An early form of rainwater tanks, they captured run-off for later use. Rock or bark lids were used to cover the wells to reduce evaporation and prevent leaves or animals falling in.



Djandak

There are four main waterways on Djandak:

- Yalul Yaluk** - Campaspe River
- Yang Yaluk** - Avoca River
- Bulatjal Yaluk** - Loddon River
- Dindilong Yaluk** - Coliban River



Wanyarra (Water) and Gurri (Kangaroo) Time



Wanyarra / Water

Waterways are essential for the health of Djandak (Country) and Djaara (People). They are the most biodiverse areas on Djandak. Here is a collection of some of the things you might find near them:



Plants

Witji - Lomandra
Buwatj - Common Tussock-Grass
Bungurt - Pale or Giant Rush
Dirik - Old Man Weed
Gitjawil Dhurung - Common Nardoo

Animals

Watjarang - Platypus
Yapitj - Common Yabby
Dum - Frogs
Duwan - Brush Tailed Phascogale
Djalup - Freshwater Mussel
Ngarri - Pacific Black Duck
Rakali

Fish

Bandjal - Murray Cod
River Blackfish
Giranal - Golden Perch

Recreation

Waterways are some of the most popular places for leisure and activities such as swimming, fishing, boating, bathing, bird and animal watching.

Trees

Biyal - River Red Gum
Ngamakiyi Galk - Candlebark
Different types of acacia including **Wararak** (Silver Wattle) and **Mutjang** (Blackwood)

Insects

Balam Balam - Common Brown Butterfly
Wurkuk Murmura - Blue Ringtail Damselfly

Economy

Waterways are used for irrigation and helping to grow crops and livestock. They are also a key supply of drinking water for communities.



Wanyarra / Water



Dhelkunyangu Gatjin
Working together to heal water



"If Country is healed, the people are as well. Healthy Country, healthy waterways, healthy people and community".

(Artwork and quote by Aunty Vicki Murray, Dja Dja Wurrung Elder)



Dindilong Yaluk, or the Coliban River, is one of the main waterways on Djandak



Watch the video above and head to the next page for some learning prompts.



Wanyarra (Water) and Gurri (Kangaroo) Time



Wanyarra / Water



Comprehension Questions

What are some of the activities the Djaara people in the video are doing to heal water?

What are some of the animals mentioned in the video that will be helped by having healthy water?

What season do you think the video was filmed in? How can you tell?

Why is it important for willow trees to be removed from waterways?



Reflection/Connections

We all live in areas that are called 'catchments', which means when it rains the water goes to the nearest waterway.

What is the waterway nearest to you? Where does the water go when it rains at your house or school?

What is an action you and your family take to protect water?

Write a short recount of a time you have spent by water - it could be factual or fiction.

Dhelkunyangu Gatjin
Working together to heal water

Wanyarra / Water

FOUNDATION

Wanyarra / Water

On Djandak, water is life.

We all need water to live.

It flows in rivers and fills in dams.

We need it to drink and to grow our food.

And so do the plants and animals.

Every living thing needs water.

When we use the water, we need to keep it clean.

We give it to the next Country.

It is our job to look after water.

We are water, and water is us.

"If Country is healed, the people are as well. Healthy Country, healthy waterways, healthy people and community".

(Artwork and quote by Auntie Vicki Murray, Dja Dja Wurrung Elder)



Use this story as a quick reading task, or to help set context for a lesson.

Wanyarra / Water



LOWER PRIMARY

Wanyarra / Water



On Djandak, water is life.

Djaara call water 'Gatjin'.

Gatjin gives life to all the birds, plants, animals, insects, trees and humans.

It gives life to everything.

This can be dry country, and we know how special Gatjin is.

We need to protect it.

In Wanyarra season, Gatjin is everywhere.

It flows in the creeks and rivers.

It fills the lakes and dams.

It makes the plants bright and full of colours.

Continued... 1



LOWER PRIMARY

Wanyarra / Water



In Wanyarra season, the weather is cold and the days are short.

It's time to make sure you are warm and with friends and family.

It's time to watch the Gurri (kangaroos) feeding and the rain falling.

When the rivers and creeks are full, they are running from our Country to the next.

It is our job to make sure we keep the Gatjin on Djandak healthy.

So that we can pass on healthy Gatjin.

Healthy Gatjin means healthy Country.

And healthy Country means healthy people.

2

Use this story as a quick reading task, or to help set context for a lesson.

Wanyarra / Water



UPPER PRIMARY

Wanyarra / Water



On Djandak, water is life.

Djaara call water Gatjin.

Gatjin is water, but it's more than just water. It is the spirit and force that sustains all living things. It is the lifeblood of Country, and the waterways are the veins. They provide our food and medicine, places to camp, hunt, fish, swim and perform ceremony. Our waterways are the places on country with the most life.

Djaara have many different names for water.

Wanyarra is a pond or waterhole. The deep pools where life can survive in the dry times.

Yaluk is flowing water like a river or stream. Many of our Yaluk don't flow the whole year round.

In this season, Wanyarra season, Gatjin is plentiful.

It is in the rain that falls from the sky and fills the puddles and dams and creeks. It is in the overflowing ponds and waterholes.

1



UPPER PRIMARY

Wanyarra / Water



You can see Gatjin in the colours of the plants and the types of birds and animals you see and hear. The bright green of the grasses, the gold of the wattles and crimson flowers of the ironbark. The croaks of the frogs and the quacks and calls of the ducks. The damp smell of the soil.

In the past, much damage was done to the waterways on Djandak. The search for gold and overuse for farming damaged the waterways and the plants and animals that rely on them. This disrupted the Murrup, the spirit, of Country. It made the waterways sick.

Djaara and others are working to heal Gatjin. It is a big job and we need to work together. For us, and for all the life on our Country, and for the life on other Country that we pass Gatjin on to through our creeks and rivers.

Our waterways are still sick, but we can make them healthy again.

2

Use this story as a quick reading task, or to help set context for a lesson.



Wanyarra (Water) and Gurri (Kangaroo) Time



Wanyarra / Water

Educational Prompts - Lower Primary



Science

How do waterways change throughout the seasons? Record on a table.

How do these changes effect the animals who rely on it?

VC2S2U02

Geography

Connect with your local waterway.

You could go for a walk and observe - what do you notice?
What is significant about this waterway?

How does it serve the local community?

VC2HG2K01

Dhelkunyangu Gatjin

Working together to heal water

Health

Create a campaign at your school to make sure people put their rubbish in the bin - this keeps it out of our waterways.

VC2HP2P07

Extension: Connect with a local waterwatch or landcare group

Maths

What is the average annual flow of your local waterway?
How does that compare to others across Djandak or the state?

VC2M2ST01



Visual Art

Make a physical 3D representation of a waterhole using clay, potato or other found objects

VC2AVA2C01



Wanyarra (Water) and Gurri (Kangaroo) Time



Wanyarra / Water



Educational Prompts - Upper Primary

Science

Look at the effects of severe weather events on your local waterway. Have there been any floods or fires? What impact might these have on the people and animals that rely on the waterway?

[VC2S6U06](#)

History

Research the impact of the goldrush on waterways on Djandak. How might this have impacted Djaara people?

[VC2HH6K02](#)

Maths

What catchment is your local waterway part of? Research and present the data that you find, including what percentage your local waterway is of the catchment area and of the Murray Darling system as a whole.

[VC2M5ST03](#)

Civics and Citizenship

Research and get in contact with your local landcare group. What works do they do to care for local waterways? Organise an interview with a member and ask them to speak about their motivation for volunteering for the group

[VC2HC6K08](#)

Visual Arts

Look at the quote and artwork by Aunty Vicki on the previous page next to the video. How does the artwork reflect Aunty Vicki's words?

[VC2AVA6E02](#)



Dance

Create a set of movements that represent a waterway on Djandak through the seasons

[VC2ADA6D01](#)