



Albury City

Wagirra Trail

Murray River Experience

www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

Murray River



AlburyCity Aboriginal Employment Strategy

1. Become an employer of choice for Aboriginal Australians;
2. Increase employment of Aboriginal Australians;
3. Develop systems to maintain Aboriginal employment; and
4. Develop partnerships that support the Strategy

The Murray River Experience Master Plan



The Murray River Experience - Project Principles



Where to from here????



Wagirra Trail

Murray River Experience



The Wagirra Trail

The Wagirra Trail project is a partnership between AlburyCity and the local Aboriginal community to create a 70-kilometre riverside path linking Lake Hume with Wonga Wetlands.

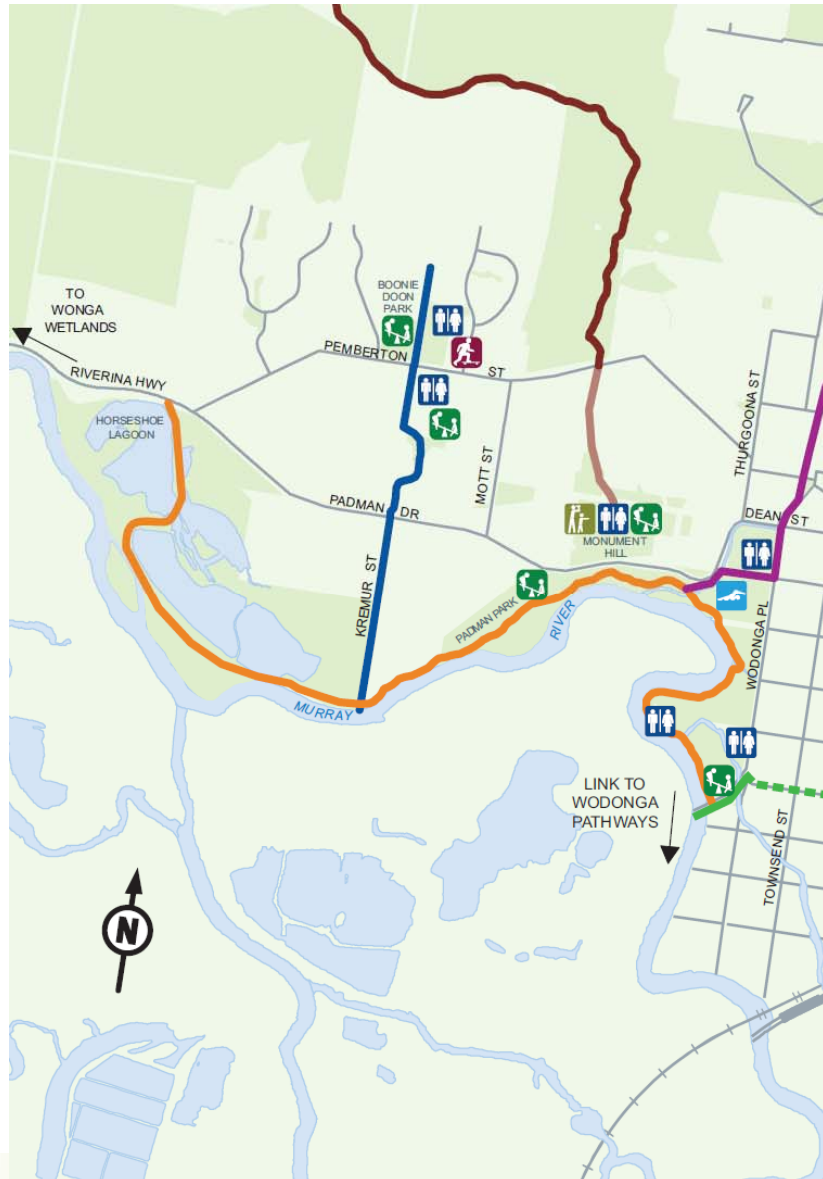
The name Wagirra – a Wiradjuri word meaning to ‘step on the ground’ – reflects the significance of the river to Aboriginal people and the heritage of the project’s all-Aboriginal work team.

The Wagirra Trail is part of AlburyCity’s Murray River Experience capital works program and its long-term vision to return the river to the heart of Albury’s identity.

Stage 1 of the project links Oddies Creek Park to Wonga Wetlands.

The work team is also developing recreational spaces and facilities along the trail. This includes the Oddies Creek Adventure Playspace, a new boat ramp and park at Kramur Street, extensive revegetation, new boardwalks and bridges, public art, and signs interpreting the history and ecology of the river.

The Wagirra Trail project is building lasting skills and leadership in Albury’s Aboriginal community and delivering an outstanding asset to be enjoyed by residents and visitors for generations to come.



Wagirra Trail

The Wagirra Trail links Horseshoe Lagoon with the South Albury Trail at the Union Bridge.

A two metre wide shared pathway meanders through the riverside parks (Noreuil, Australia, and Hovell Tree), past the Adventure Playspace at Oddies Creek, Albury Swim Centre, through Padman Park and west of Kremur Street to Horseshoe Lagoon. There are many places to stop and picnic or just enjoy the tranquility of the Murray River.

The last section of the trail, from Kremur Street to Horseshoe Lagoon, is unsealed.

The Wagirra Trail also links to the Bungambrawatha Creek Trail, West Albury Trail, South Albury Trail and beyond to the Albury–Thurgoona Trail.

Distance	5.6 kilometres
Surface	Predominantly sealed
Grade	Predominantly flat
On or off the road	Off

The Wagirra Project

- A unique, long-term employment and education program
- Bring together the local Aboriginal community and AlburyCity in partnership
- Wagirra is the Wiradjuri word for 'step on the ground'

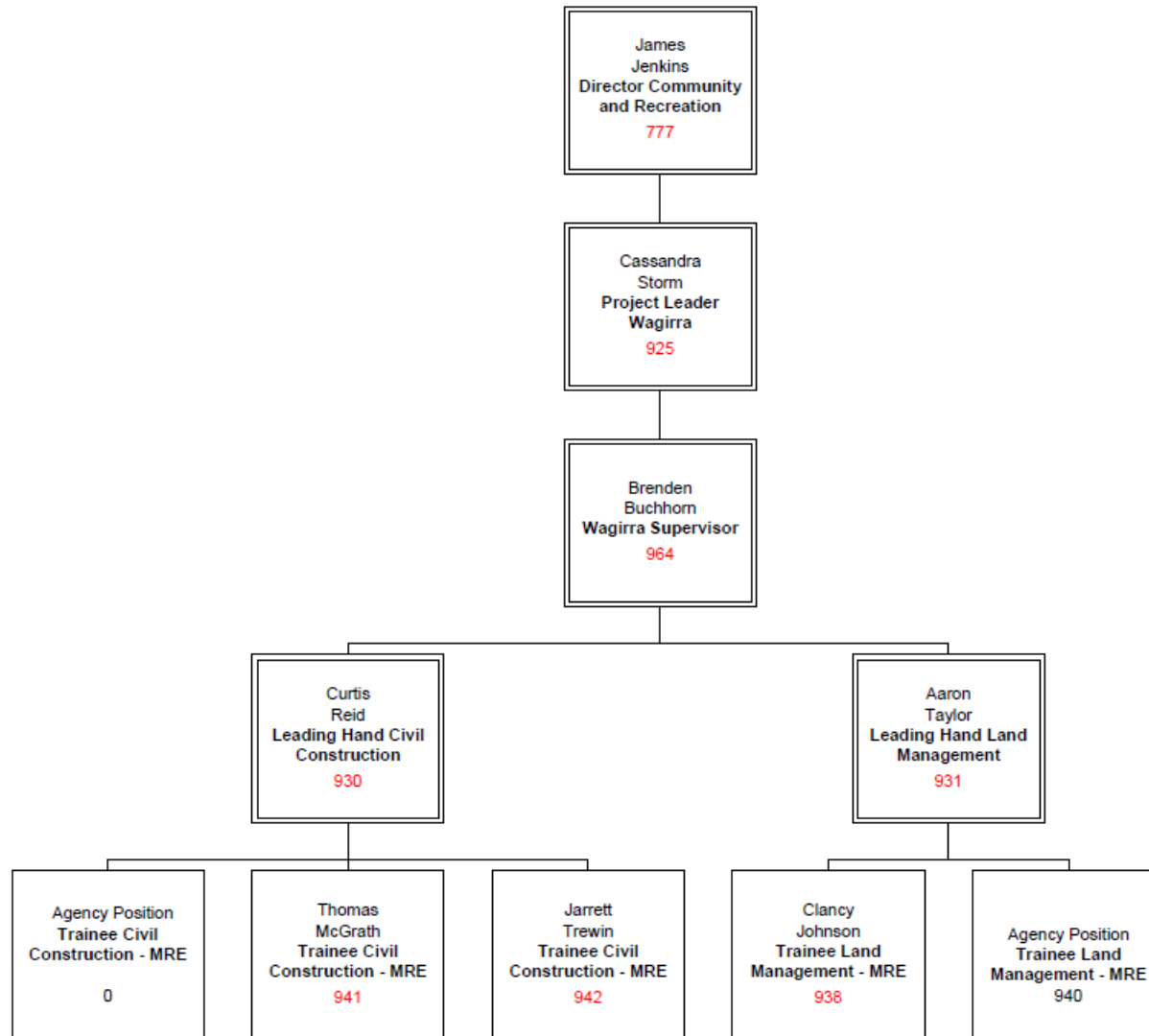
Wagirra Project Staff



The Wagirra Crew



Wagirra Project Staff Org Structure



Wagirra Project Staff - Training



Wagirra Project Staff

Challenges

- Finding suitably qualified Aboriginal supervisors
- Finding and retaining project management/ personnel skills and cultural understanding
- Changing the attitude of the workforce

Wagirra Project Staff

Opportunities

- Continue to develop team members roles as mentors
- Wagirra Steering Committee
- Extension of project to other departments

Wagirra Service & Efficiency Review

Purpose & Objective

A review of the Project to date, including a review of:

- Personnel Management Model
- Staff training progression
- Capacity of leadership staff
- Long term financial sustainability
- Community support structure
- Work opportunities

Wagirra Project Staff

Proud to be part of the Wagirra Trail

BY DAVID JOHNSTON

"THIS is probably the first time in my life that I've achieved anything like this."

Those are the words of Clancy Johnson, a crew member on the Wagirra Trail, which will ultimately link Wonga Wetlands and Lake Hume along the Murray River.

"I'm proud of what I've done and my family's proud of me," he said.

"It's changed my whole life."

Mr Johnson, a 23-year-old father of two, will graduate this month with qualifications and experience he hopes one day will land him a job in the mining industry.

The Wagirra Trail crew is Albury Council's Aboriginal employment and training program that began two years ago.

Mr Johnson joined five other local Aboriginal people in the program in 2011 and they have been responsible for constructing the Oddies Creek playground, Kremur Street boat ramp and are working on the 70 kilometres of cycle-pedestrian trail.

The project has also given the crew on the job training towards nationally recognised qualifications.

"I never thought I'd be working on million-dollar projects and it's just a great experience to carry on through life," he said.

"There's a lot of kids out there that don't have much to look forward to. They're stuck in a cycle of drinking or drugs and it's hard for them because they feel hopeless."

"But things like this have helped me break that cycle."

In addition, Mr Johnson and the other crew members have earned the respect of the local Aboriginal community and he hopes others can follow in his footsteps.

"This project is big for this community because nothing like this has ever happened around here," he said.

"Everyone's talking us up and they're proud of us."

"A lot have been to the playground and to Kremur Street and I think a lot of them are shocked and surprised at what we do."

His qualifications will include a certificate in conservation and land management and formal training in concreting, rock constructions and retaining walls.

He can also operate a hoist and excavator.

Wagirra Trail project leader Cassandra Storm said the crew's accomplishments were a source of pride.

"The quality of their work is first class and they've delivered some fantastic facilities for this community," she said.

"But to see how far they've come as people has been truly remarkable."

"For us the bigger priority has been giving the team the education and skills they need to develop a career."



● Proud moment: Clancy Johnson is about to graduate after two years with the Wagirra Trail crew in Albury, working on million-dollar projects and gaining valuable qualifications. Picture: PETER MERKESTEYN

December 8, 2012

News

Make a milestone

Wagirra set to link Wonga Wetlands to Lake Hume

BY DAVID JOHNSTON

THE creation of the Wagirra Trail along the banks of the Murray River will achieve an early milestone with the opening of the upgraded Kremur Street boat ramp on Monday.

The project has been two years in the making and includes an updated ramp, parking spaces for 20 cars and 20 vehicles with trailers, picnic tables and toilets.

Work has been carried out by members of the Wagirra Trail Crew — an Aboriginal employment and training program created by Albury Council.

It consists of six trainees and two leading hands, Wayne Edwards and Aaron Taylor.

The boat ramp project has been jointly funded by the council and NSW

Roads and Maritime Services.

The trainees have gained experience in the areas of site clearance, surveying, excavation, concreting, landscaping and paving.

They have undergone training to gain the required accreditation to perform the tasks.

Mr Edwards said the boat ramp upgrade had been embraced by the crew.

"The biggest achievement was building the ramp," he said.

"The guys came here with little or no experience in what was involved."

"They will now have the confidence and competency to look for a job in the private sector."

The Wagirra Trail will eventually link Wonga Wetlands to Lake Hume.

The council's commu-

nity and recreation director James Jenkins said the boat ramp was a significant milestone in the long-term project.

"The exciting thing for us is some of the trainees are reaching the end of their traineeships," Mr Jenkins said.

"They have stuck at it and it has been a major project the Aboriginal community can say we built."

"They should have some real pride in the finished product."

The boat ramp upgrade was identified in 2007.

"Maritime services highlighted that there were safety issues having a boat ramp so close to swimming and canoeing areas," Mr Jenkins said.

The council also has funding available to extend the Mungabareena Reserve boat ramp.

● Aaron Taylor and Wayne Edwards have worked on the Kremur Street ramp upgrade. Picture: DAVID THORPE

The Wagirra Project cont.

Successful Grant Application	Amount
Indigenous Coordination Centre – Seed Funding	\$100k
Dept. Education, Employment & Workplace Relations – Employment Subsidy	\$181k
Federal Regional & Local Community Infrastructure Program – Oddies Creek Adventure Playspace	\$408k
Roads & Maritime Services BBP – Kremur Street Redevelopment	\$439k
NSW Department of Primary Industries Fisheries – fish cleaning stations	\$4k
Roads & Maritime Services BBP – Mungabareena Boat Ramp Upgrade	\$43k
Murray Catchment Management Authority – Interpretive Signage and Canoe Tree Project	\$30k
Tourism Regional Development Fund – Wagirra: A Wiradjuri Experience Public Art Project	\$250k

The Wagirra Project cont.

Unsuccessful Grant Application	Amount
NSW Department of Primary Industries Fisheries – Recreational Fishing	\$45k
Federal – Caring for our Country	\$1.5M
Murray Catchment Management Authority – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Incentive	\$44.6k
Regional Tourism Development Fund – Central Albury Riverside Parks Enhancement	Not awarded

The Wagirra Project cont.

Grant Applications current submitted	Amount
RMS BBP Riverside Precinct Design Study	\$50k
RMS BBP Enhancements to Lake Hume Resort & Bowna Boat Ramps	\$20k
NSW Community Building Partnership Program – Noreuil Park Outdoor Exercise Equipment	\$60k
Fish Habitat Action Grant Program – Bank Stabilisation & woody weed and willow removal between Kremur Street & Padman Park	\$50k

Wagirra Project Staff

DVD

<http://youtu.be/NxsOdqvMEWY>

End of Presentation

Thank you

Any Questions?