

Neil Morris Bio

Neil Morris is a Yorta Yorta man, born and raised on Yorta Yorta country around the towns of Shepparton and Mooroopna. He has a very powerful connection to the landscape and his culture. It is central to his being and how he functions in this world and led him to return to Shepparton in 2010 after a number of years away, and to start working on projects, on country and with fellow Yorta Yorta peoples. From 2012 – 2015 Neil was employed by Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation (the local Registered Aboriginal Party) as a Traditional Ecological Knowledge Project Officer and more recently he undertook a short term position with the North Central Catchment Management Authority as Indigenous Capacity Project Officer. Through these roles he has been involved in many culturally focused projects where he both developed, and delivered key Yorta Yorta projects. These projects include developing cultural programs for Youth, Language regeneration, cultural insight training, cultural immersion projects including traditional on country Welcome to Country ceremonies. It is a strong passion of Neil's to provide a platform for non Indigenous people to be exposed to Indigenous culture, and also have an appreciation of this fostered. He has actively pursued this endeavour and has been involved in this through work with organisations like Multicultural Arts Victoria, SheppARTon Festival and others. Neil has skills as a musician, spoken word artist, and cultural performer and performs regularly often on Yorta Yorta country, and more recently in Melbourne. Some highlights over the past several years have included Emerge at Twilight Festival (Shepparton), Converge Festival (Shepparton), Light in Winter Festival (Melbourne), Telstra Indigenous Arts Awards Showcase (Melbourne), Melbourne Emerging Writers Festival, SlamaLamaDingDong Spoken Word, Debris, Soul Arts Spoken Word, Shepparton Arts Festival, Rainbow Serpent Festival (Lexton), Next Wave Festival, Mokoan Music Fest (Winton Wetlands), Benalla Festival, and created digital story 'Daydreaming' with Parks Vic and ACMI Digital Storytelling project.