



Aboriginal On Country Gathering 2024

We know how to manage our land and waters
We know how to build successful communities

WHEN

24 – 27 March, 2024

WHERE

Quality Hotel Lakeside, 286 Napier Street
Bendigo VIC 3550



PROGRAM OUTLINE

WHERE Lakeside Hotel, 286 Napier Street,
Bendigo VIC 3550
Ph 03 5445 5300

WHEN Sunday, March 24 to
Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Accommodation and daily breakfast will be provided by Woor-Dungin for those coming from out of town.

Check-in at 4pm on Sunday, March 24 to enjoy the welcoming dinner and orientation.

Those attending from Bendigo area should arrive at the hotel by 9:00am Monday, March 25.

Coffee/tea breaks, lunch and dinner are included at no cost to attendees each day of the conference.

Attendees will be reimbursed for their transportation costs. If travelling by train or taxi, bring a tax receipt or other statement of your cost. If traveling by car, please bring a statement of the number of kilometers traveled from home to the conference. We will reimburse twice that amount. Anyone seeking reimbursement must provide bank account details so we can reimburse directly to your account.



ABOUT WOOR-DUNGIN

Woor-Dungin is a not-for-profit organisation walking alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples toward self-determination.

We get our mob the support they need, including funding from philanthropy and services from our pro bono partners. We unite people to achieve more than they could on their own.

Woor-Dungin was set up because Victorian Aboriginal organisations have often had difficulty obtaining resources for important projects in their communities.

We have a unique model. We ask our Aboriginal partners what they need and then work with them to find resources. We facilitate culturally respectful relationships with donors and pro bono supporters and encourage the development of contacts and skills.

As a result of our work, our partners have accessed new funding, communities have made great progress, and even laws changed (the Victorian Spent Convictions Scheme).

Woor-Dungin means ‘share’ in the language of the Gunnai people of south-eastern Victoria, and sharing is the philosophy underpinning the Woor-Dungin model.

Woor-Dungin takes a community-development approach to create bridges between Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and philanthropy, building partnerships for change based on strong and trusting relationships and shared learning.

Click [here](#) to visit our website and learn more about what we do.



WHY ARE WE INVITING YOU TO THE GATHERING

We know how to manage our land and waters
We know how to build successful communities

This year's gathering will first address an area of great importance to First Nations peoples as well as Australia generally. First Nations' leadership in land and water management with all of its positive effects on environmental sustainability requires both governmental and private sector support.

Dja Dja Wurrung, our conference co-host, has been doing seminal work in this area and is a featured presentation at this gathering. You will experience a walking tour of their work in the city of Bendigo. Other organisations attending have also been involved in managing, or have the desire to manage, their lands and will contribute their perspectives.

The gathering will also address culturally informed community building as the key to First Nations' survival. Bendigo District Aboriginal Corporation (BDAC), also one of our conference co-hosts, will lead off with a presentation of their magnificent community. Other organisations attending will also have the opportunity to talk about their efforts and struggles.

A third issue which will be addressed in this year's program is how increased racism, as we witnessed during and since the Referendum, has been affecting First Nations people, especially young people. We hope to have a robust conversation around ways to combat these effects.

We strongly encourage philanthropists to attend this conference and become deeply engaged with these issues and with First Nations representatives who are dealing with them.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY 24 MARCH

4:00
PM

Check - In at hotel

7:00
PM

Dinner

Get to know each other
Orientation

MONDAY 25 MARCH

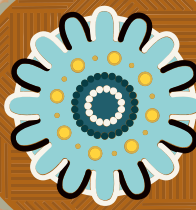
9:00
AM

Conference begins

Dja Dja Wurrung will provide a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony.

Commissioner Travis Lovett of the Yoorrook Justice Commission will address current issues in land justice.

Dja Dja Wurrung will present the seminal work they are doing in land/water management and take us on a City of Bendigo walking tour to view the application of their work in the larger community.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

TUESDAY 26 MARCH

9:00
AM

Conference continues

Bendigo District Aboriginal Corporation (BDAC) will present their story.

All other First Nations organisations attending will have an opportunity to present their stories.

Philanthropists attending will discuss funding opportunities.

WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH

9:00
AM

Conference continues

Discussion and development of plans to combat the effects that increased racism is having on First Nations' young people.

2:00
PM

Conference ends



REGISTER NOW

To secure your place at the hotel and be included in catering please register for this event no later than **March 14, 2024** by clicking on the link below.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Please indicate on the registration form whether you need accommodation at our Bendigo venue.

I look forward to seeing you.
Warm regards,

Shaun Middlebrook, CEO

If you have any questions
Please contact Catherine (catherine@woor-dungin.com.au)