

Ballardong First  
24 - 26 January 2026  
Presented by Wheatbelt Arts & Events

Ballardong First is a community-led celebration of Ballardong Noongar culture, created by Ballardong community members and supported by Wheatbelt Arts & Events Inc.

Through art, music, workshops, storytelling and truth-telling, the program invites people of all ages to connect with culture, Country and one another.

Ballardong First offers reconciliation in action — a space for listening, learning and coming together with respect.

All are welcome to join this shared journey of understanding, connection and community.

WE ARE ALL PART OF THE STORY.



**Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

# BALLARDONG FIRST 2026

An inclusive celebration of First Nations history and culture, inviting connection through storytelling, language, art, music, dance and food.

24, 25, 26  
JANUARY 2026

Avon Park, Lowe St  
York Town Hall,  
Gallery 152 - Avon Terrace,  
The Gogulyar Bilya Environmental Centre,  
7 Glebe St, York WA



MORE INFO & TICKETS

[yorkfestival.com.au](http://yorkfestival.com.au)

0411 287944



# SATURDAY 24 JANUARY

Art, food and music shared – learn by doing

<b>9am - 12pm - Ballardong Music Stick drop in workshop</b> Venue: GBEC	Learn to make traditional music sticks, sharing skills, stories and connection to Country. <b>FREE</b>
<b>10am - 12pm - Zach Green, The Storyteller Chef</b> Venue: York Town Hall	A live cooking demonstration exploring native ingredients, with tastings. <b>TICKET REQUIRED</b>
<b>1.00pm - Mooley the Cow &amp; other Ballardong Yarns</b> Venue: Gallery 152, 152 Avon Terrace	A fresh imagining of <i>An Australian Parsonage</i> by Janet Millett – told through the lens of York's Noongar community. <b>FREE</b>
<b>1.00 - 3.00pm - Basket Weaving Workshop</b> Venue: GBEC	A relaxed workshop exploring weaving, texture and creative connection. <b>TICKET REQUIRED</b>
<b>2.00 - 4.00pm - Zero EmCee Hip Hop Workshop</b> Venue: York Town Hall	Two interactive youth workshops, guiding participants through the creative process of lyric writing, performance. <b>FREE BUT TICKET REQUIRED</b>

# SUNDAY 25 JANUARY

Community celebration, shared on Country – gather and enjoy

<b>10.00am - 12.00pm - Zero EmCee Hip Hop Workshop</b> Venue: York Town Hall	This youth-focused program runs across two interactive workshops, guiding participants through the creative process of lyric writing, performance. <b>FREE BUT TICKET REQUIRED</b>
<b>2pm - Journey Home, David Gulpilil</b> Venue: GBEC	This deeply moving film traces the extraordinary life and legacy of David Gulpilil, one of Australia's most significant cultural figures. <b>TICKET REQUIRED</b>
<b>5.00 - 8.30pm - Bushtucker Picnic by the River</b> Venue: Avon Park	A relaxed, family-friendly evening bringing community together through culture, food, music and connection. <b>FREE</b>

# MONDAY 26 JANUARY

Honest stories, shared with generosity – an invitation to listen and learn

<b>10am - When the Roof Fell Away</b> Janet Osborne Archaeology and History Albany Campus, UWA	An illustrated talk uncovering the hidden history of the Gerald Mission at Mile Pool and the Noongar children taken there in the 1850s.
<b>11.45am - Truth, Kinship and Care</b> Ann Hawke, CEO Kinship Connections	Through personal story and lived experience, Ann Hawke reflects on the Stolen Generations and their ongoing impacts.
<b>1.30pm - The Black Pearle</b> Tracey Kickett Audrey Narkle Nettle	A deeply personal family story of survival, kinship and love in the face of displacement and adversity.
<b>3.15pm - Growing Up in York Yarn</b> Dennis Kickett	A truth-telling yarn sharing the life story of growing up Aboriginal in York – from the reserve, to school, work and family life.

## FREE SESSIONS

Venue: The Gogulyar Bilya Environmental Centre, 7 Glebe St

