The Waugal Rising

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (ICIP) NOTICE:

The artworks and film content embody traditional knowledge of the Artist/Storyteller/Musician and/or Ballardong community.

Dealing with any part of the stories, images or music for any purpose that has not been authorised by the custodians is a serious breach of the customary laws of the Ballardong community and may also breach the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth).

For enquiries about permitted reproduction and cultural consents to use the traditional knowledge embodied in this work, contact The Shire of York, who can put you in touch with the creatives.





Dennis Noongali Kickett
Acrylic on canvas, 2026

Noongali, the Lead Artist, discusses the motive and impetus for this work:

“I grew up here, this is my home and I spent a lot of time here along the river. There is nothing really there that acknowledges the Noongar culture.

To have the story done, it’s a legacy that in the future our grandchildren will have.
I wanted to do a story coming from my father who was a strong role model for me.
It’s a powerful story and is part of Aboriginal culture all over Australia and I was proud to do it, it just flowed and it was like it was meant to be. The culture has always been here, now we’re bringing it back for all to see”.

Noongali’s painting ‘The Waugal Rising’ is inspired by the Creation story told by his sister, Tracey Kickett.

All the paintings were commissioned by the Shire of York to illustrate local Ballardong people’s stories about the Gogulyar Bilya (Avon River), reflecting its continuing cultural and spiritual significance for Ballardong people.

The project was made possible with the generous support of the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport through the Arts Activities in Regional Communities grant programme.

This is the first phase of a major project to bring Ballardong cultural interpretation into the public realm, expressed through Ballardong artistic practice as a powerful new audio-visual trail, the Golgulyar Bilya Bidi, on the Experience York App.

Phase 2, planned for completion by 2027 and supported by Lotterywest funding, will develop the artworks into interpretive signage to link with the App, creating a permanent cultural trail along the riverbank. This phase will transform the lead artist’s Waugal Rising artwork into a permanent, animated light projection in Avon Park.