

MEDIA RELEASE

THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 2025



GARUWA

## First Nations Imagine Case Studies: Lunchtime Provocations

As institutions grapple with the consequences of rising racism and polarisation, [Diversity Arts Australia](#), [GARUWA](#) and [Shifting Ground](#) are demanding more inclusive and equitable futures for the arts and cultural sector. Without a shared commitment to racial equity and justice the frameworks and methodologies that ought to sharpen our practice, deepen relationships, and push for more ethical storytelling are perpetuating hierarchical behaviours.

The cultural sector prides itself on inclusive practices of co-design, equity and diversity, yet do we truly understand who holds power and carries the burden of responsibility in these practices? In the wake of the failed referendum and emboldened backlash against racial justice, the arts claim to stand for progress, whilst avoiding the difficult, yet essential work of reckoning with colonial inheritance and systems that perpetuate racism.

To create a truly inclusive future for the arts, we must strengthen our relational working practices. Join [Diversity Arts Australia](#), [GARUWA](#) and [Shifting Ground](#) to equip yourself with the tools for understanding racial literacy, navigating systemic barriers and redistributing power and ensure that you are and active participant in ethical, creative and intercultural collaborations. This Spring, the [First Nations Imagine Case Studies](#) will reveal a series of provocative conversations with renowned Educator, **Lilly Brown** (Gumbaynggirr), Indigenous Arts leader, **Clothilde Bullen** (Wardandi (Nyoongar) and Badimaya (Yamatji)), influential Creative Director **Ben Graetz** (Malak Malak, Kungarakarn, Muran Clan (Iwaidja) & Torres Strait Islands (Badu Island), highly respected decoloniser, **Genevieve Grieves** (Worimi), distinguished Ballardong artist **Dianne Jones** (Noongar) and celebrated author **Odette Kelada**.

## **“From Consultation to Co-Creation: Strengthening Relational Practice”**

[Clothilde Bullen](#) and [Ben Graetz](#) in conversation with [Genevieve Grieves](#)

Wednesday 10 September, at 12pm AEST

### **[FREE TICKETS](#)**

Co-creation is a commitment to equity, trust and the redistribution of power. This program will demonstrate the critical relationship between self-determination and co-creation, and why ensuring First Nations peoples have control over creative cultural practice is fundamental in ethical, creative collaborations.

We will explore how to strengthen relational practices by identifying who has power and understanding what it means to return it to those who hold responsibility of story, leading us to unpack what ethical collaborations look like and how we can activate models for FN leadership and co-design.

## **“The Story of Race: Racial Literacy as a Tool for Social Justice”**

[Dianne Jones](#) and [Odette Kelada](#) in conversation with [Lilly Brown](#)

Wednesday 29 October, at 12pm AEST

### **[FREE TICKETS](#)**

Across the globe we're witnessing a growing backlash against any work that names systemic racism or colonial power. Theories that help us make sense of race are under attack because they're effective: they expose the roots of inequality, and demand accountability. If your work engages with First Peoples, culturally and racially marginalised peoples, and communities impacted by injustice, the tools to speak about race and our history can help you identify power and drive real systemic justice, for the benefit of your practice and broader social justice.

Our systems are built to mask racism: to individualise the experience, deflect from it, dehumanise it, and make it unspeakable. This session asks, Who is afraid of race? And why is it so carefully protected?

## **ABOUT DIVERSITY ARTS AUSTRALIA**

[Diversity Arts Australia](#) (DARTS) is the national voice for ethno-cultural and migrant racial equity in the arts, cultural and creative industries.

DARTS's work is underpinned by a human-rights ethic, social justice principles, and the belief that a truly diverse spectrum of creative expression and participation is fundamental to a democratic, inclusive and sustainable creative sector, and society.

Informed by our organisational values of: Inclusion, Diversity, Collaboration, Participation and Self-Determination, DARTS advocates for and actively works towards an arts sector that reflects the complex diversity of the Australian population on our screens and stages; in our audiences, our galleries and books; and within boards, committees, and positions of leadership into the future. We support the creative sector to develop practical and strategic ways to influence the stories and cultural landscape of contemporary Australia.

## **ABOUT GARUWA**

[GARUWA](#) is a First Nations-owned and led impact-driven production company that believes in the power of storytelling.

Founded by Worimi siblings Genevieve Grieves and Kieran Satour, First Nations knowledges and culture are central to GARUWA's ways of being. Grounded in collaborative and holistic approaches we work ethically, respectfully and innovatively to amplify community voices, support the next generation of storytellers and create a better future for generations to come.

## **ABOUT SHIFTING GROUND**

[Shifting Ground](#) supports organisations and individuals to become empowered to think, talk and act on issues of culture and race in the form of workshops and consultancy.

Developed by Lilly Brown and Genevieve Grieves, we support organisations and individuals from across diverse communities, including First Nations people, to begin difficult conversations as the first step to changing the way they do things.

Our work re-humanises First Nations peoples and compels organisations and individuals to value our knowledge, experience, diversity and ways of doing things.

We work with organisations to develop a critical language, understanding and practice of decolonisation, race, privilege, power and whiteness, cultural safety and collaboration.

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## **CONTACT**

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