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GARDENS



Subiaco
Arts Centre

*Subiaco is located on Whadjuk Noongar Boodja



THOMAS DAMBO
GIANTS
OF MANDURAH
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
12 NOVEMBER 2022 - 12 NOVEMBER 2023
VISITOR GUIDE
giantsofmandurah.com.au

WELCOME TO BINDJAREB COUNTRY

**Kaya-wandjoo baalap. Nidja Boodja,
Mandjoogoordap Boodja, Bindjareb Boodja,
Noongar Boodja. Nidja ngaalang wonga.**

Hello and welcome to this area, this land, our *kaaleepga*, our homeland. Mandurah, the Bindjareb territory is part of the Noongar Nation.

We welcome you to look at these amazing artworks by Thomas Dambo, and the folklore of two cultures coming together.

We all want people to learn, in moving forward. Folklore covers many different stories of this place.

George Walley
Bindjareb Noongar Elder and Board Director
Winjan Aboriginal Corporation

THE BINDJAREB CREATION STORY

In the beginning...

All across the land there was a terrible drought. The bush, plants, and meat became hard, tough and rank. So three old people from the tribe, Elders, went down to the sea. They began to pray to their Creator for water so that the trees could have some sap, and the animals could get tenderness in their meat.

The Elders called upon their Creator, and the Creator came out of the water. It was in the form of a snake, which they called Wagyl. Wagyl was coloured green and smoky grey, so it was unnoticeable in the water. It came out of the sea, and along its path the inlet was formed.

Having created the inlet, Wagyl gave birth to its young in the estuary, which formed its unique shape.

Wagyl's young stayed in the estuary until they grew bigger. Soon the young left their birthplace, travelling away uphill and forming the Murray, Harvey, and Serpentine rivers as they moved across the land.

The mother, Wagyl, she missed her young ones, and thought they'd gone southwards. She went down, underground, and came up at Lake Clifton to look for them. Not finding her young, she went down to Lake Preston, and looked around there. She kept going around through that way which created the flat land close to the Leschenault Estuary at Australind.

She went in through the Leschenault Estuary and right back around into the ocean, still looking. She never found her children.

The little ones actually went up to the east. They were fat when they left and they started going uphill, forming the rivers and the swamps, which were their resting places. They kept going until they were famished, starved, and they started dissolving.

When they dissolved right out, right at the end of the swamps, they died and went down. Underground springs were created by the young ones going back to their heaven, the ocean. As they went, underground water supplies were restored throughout the land once more.

The old people believed that when the young of the Wagyl became water, the bush got more moisture, more sap, and the sap flowed into the animals, and the animals became fat and tender. The Six Seasons of the people started working again, and the land was green once more.

ABOUT THOMAS DAMBO

Thomas Dambo is the world's leading recycle artist. Based in Copenhagen, Denmark, Thomas' practice celebrates the diversity, beauty and importance of the natural world, with the artist's larger-than-life sculptures handmade using recycled and locally sourced materials.

Thomas' vision is to create art that inspires people to go explore, have adventures in nature, and demonstrates that trash can be turned into something beautiful.

**I'VE DESIGNED THIS GIANT
EXPERIENCE AS A GAME.
ARE YOU READY TO PLAY?**



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Thomas Dambo's *Giants of Mandurah* has been initiated and produced by FORM Building a State of Creativity, and delivered in collaboration with the City of Mandurah.

The project is supported by the State Government through Tourism WA's Regional Events Program, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, and Lotterywest; plus the City of Subiaco and the Alcoa Foundation.

Cover image: *Røskva* by Thomas Dambo, Maine, USA. Photograph courtesy of Thomas Dambo.

Prepare for your epic adventure
giantsofmandurah.com.au



Project Producer
FORM.
building a state of creativity



WHY MANDJOOGOORDAP (MANDURAH)?

With an estuary twice the size of Sydney Harbour, Mandjoogoordap is one of Australia's most spectacular playgrounds for recreation and holiday-makers.

It's also part of the Peel-Yalgrope wetland system, one of Australia's most outstanding examples of biological, aquatic and natural diversity, and a Ramsar-listed 'Wetland of International Importance.'

It's one of the very few places in the world to see living rock-like structures known as thrombolites, made from micro-organisms that resemble the earliest forms of life on Earth.

Already home to many native species, it's also south west Australia's most important habitat for waterbirds and waders, and gives food and shelter to thousands of migratory shorebirds each year from October to March.

This is a region of rich cultural, seasonal and spiritual power. For millennia it has been home to the Bindjareb people, who to this day proudly maintain their strong connection to and care of Country. An important meeting place, this area holds hundreds of original camping and ceremonial grounds, and sites of mythological significance to its Traditional Owners.

Thomas Dambo's Giants have come to stay in secret locations in and around Mandjoogoordap, carefully selected so that people, so long as they tread gently and respectfully, can enjoy the unique natural environment.

THE RHYTHM OF RAINDROPS

BY THOMAS DAMBO

The words that you're about to hear, they hold a special meaning I know they're seemingly untrue, but trust me, you're not dreaming
There is a rhythm in the rain – you can hear it drop by drop
But if no-one sings along, then soon the song of rain will stop

First, the sun must hit the ocean, so the ocean turns to clouds
Then the wind moves the clouds to land, collects them in a crowd
The clouds will let the raindrops fall until the earth will open
So then mountain water rivers run and flow back to the ocean

And there are six old hidden giants in the bush and on the bay
And each of their voices is crucial for the harmony to play
They used to sing the song together – the old hidden giants
But one got lost, then six turned five and now the song is silent

So go find those hidden giants, and help restore the order
'Cause a giant needs its company, like fire needs its water
There's one in Perth, four in Mandurah, and one hidden far apart
But find the five and bring the mark before the last you start

Just one thing you must remember, be brave and do not tire
Through sun and clouds and rain and rocks, the ocean and the fire
Sing this song for them in honour – just like the old hidden giants
That's all I had to say today: now on your way, and find them.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME...

AND FIND YOUR WAY TO A SUPER-SECRET GIANT

- 1 It begins at the **Mandurah Visitor Centre**, where you pick up this map and vital clues.
- 2 Now you're all set to go on a self-guided expedition to find each Giant.
- 3 Use the Travellers' Companion to help you find the way, check out the distances and level of difficulty. All of these routes start from car parks, and are Grade 1 to 3 on the Australian Walking Track Grading System.
- 4 When you find each Giant, collect the special symbol at each site.
- 5 Return to the **Mandurah Visitor Centre**, and enter your symbols into the special code-breaker.

**YOU'LL NOW BE ABLE TO FIND THE
FINAL, SUPER-SECRET GIANT!**

Prepare for your epic adventure
giantsofmandurah.com.au

