

THOMAS DAMBO

# GIANTS

OF MANDURAH

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



TRAVELLERS'  
COMPANION


Cover image:

*Seba's Song* by Thomas Dambo, Mandurah, Western Australia.

Photograph courtesy of Visit Mandurah.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Thomas Dambo, FORM Building a State of Creativity and the City of Mandurah acknowledge the Bindjareb Noongar people as the Traditional Custodians of Mandjoogoordap (Mandurah). We honour and pay respect to community Elders and to their ancestors who survived and cared for this 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

## HELLO! I'M THOMAS DAMBO.

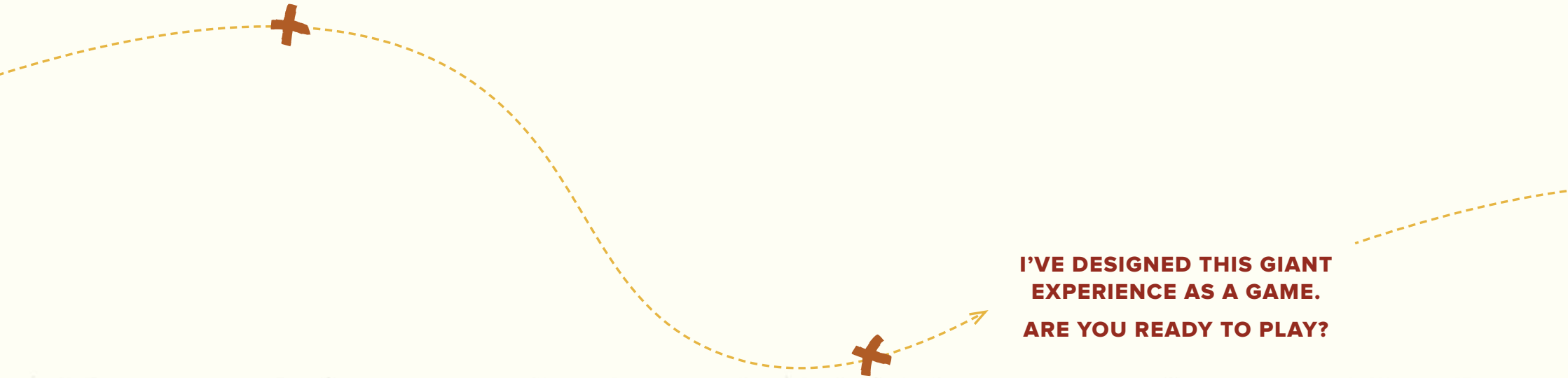
People call me the world's leading recycle artist. Why?

Well, I was taught from a young age about the value of recycling, sustainability, and unlimited imagination. And so to share that message and inspire people to get out into nature, I create larger-than-life sculptures from recycled wood, and put them all over the world.

This is the first time any Giants have appeared in Australia though! Coming from Denmark, Western Australian nature looks like pure magic straight out of a fairytale, so I'm proud and excited to see my sculptures a part of such a unique setting.







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



## FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The McGowan Government is a proud sponsor of *The Giants of Mandurah* through its Regional Events Program.

The program was devised as a way for the Government to support medium to large events in regional Western Australia to boost tourism, increase community vibrancy and participation, and develop regional areas.

The Regional Events Program also plays an important role in positioning Western Australia as an exciting destination to visit and a great place to live by showcasing and promoting a region's unique and diverse attractions.

Tourism is a key part of the Government's plan to diversify the economy, create jobs and develop business opportunities particularly to help regional economies and communities in Western Australia.

Events play an important role in this plan, with the Government sponsoring a range of sporting, cultural, arts and culinary events across the State, through Tourism Western Australia, to attract visitors, encourage them to stay longer, disperse further and do more while they are here.

We hope everyone enjoys this event and takes the time to explore the Peel region.

### Hon Roger Cook MLA

Deputy Premier; Minister for Tourism

### Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC

Minister for Regional Development

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## WALKING ON A DREAM

## MANDURAH AND PEEL

Step into a world of natural wonders and marine adventures.

### Choose your dream adventure

- Cruise Mandurah's sparkling canals and vast waterways, or wander along the Mandurah Boardwalk.
- Take on Dwellingup's world-class adventure trails by mountain bike, four-wheel drive or horseback.
- Board the charming Hotham Valley Forest Trains for a journey to the heart of Etmilyn Forest.
- Journey along the Murray River by boat, kayak or houseboat for a unique café, lunch or pub trail.
- Discover the otherworldly thrombolites at Yalgorup National Park with a guided tour.
- Step into living history at the Edenvale Heritage Precinct in Pinjarra, which reflects 19th century village life.
- Soak up the sun and picnic next to the cool emerald waters of Serpentine Falls.
- Follow the Bibbulmun Track or Munda Biddi Bike Trail through awe-inspiring nature landscapes.

Follow us at @WesternAustralia | #WAtheDreamState



WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA

WESTERNAUSTRALIA.COM



## FROM FORM BUILDING A STATE OF CREATIVITY

FORM Building a State of Creativity's vision is to be a major contributor in ensuring Western Australia is a vibrant, thriving, and connected participant in a global creative economy, and that our work is world-renowned for its ability to catalyse unique cultural expression, arising from our State's healthy and prosperous communities.

We're excited to be working with Thomas Dambo and our partners to bring *The Giants of Mandurah* to life.

We hope this installation will capture the imaginations of the young and young-at-heart. It will highlight important local stories, connecting Western Australia to a global narrative. As a free-to-view outdoor sculpture trail, it will also provide access to arts and culture for thousands of people, transforming the traditional gallery experience, and encouraging people to reconnect with nature and one another.

**Tabitha McMullan**  
Chief Executive Officer

## FROM THE CITY OF MANDURAH

Thomas Dambo's magical giant wooden sculptures have inspired millions of people all around the world, and now it's Australia's turn to experience the wonder and joy these characters bring.

*The Giants of Mandurah* will be hidden away on the edge of Mandurah's stunning waterways and within its unique natural environment, ready for curious minds from far and wide to uncover and explore. Thomas has an incredible way of turning

recycled wood into creatures with their own personality and individual stories and we feel very privileged to have these amazing creations come to our City. Their wooden relatives across the globe have a massive fan base and once you meet *The Giants of Mandurah*, you'll understand why.

**Rhys Williams**  
Mayor of Mandurah





## ABOUT THOMAS DAMBO

**Thomas Dambo is considered the world's leading recycle artist, having been taught from a young age the value of recycling, sustainability, and unlimited imagination.**

Both an artist and an activist, Thomas has exhibited extensively throughout the world including Denmark, USA, France, Germany, China, South Korea and Chile. His practice (based in Copenhagen, Denmark) 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 to demonstrate that trash can be turned into something beautiful. This is the first time that any of his Giants have been seen in Australia.



# THE RHYTHM OF RAINDROPS

BY THOMAS DAMBO

**HEAR THE POEM  
FROM THOMAS  
HIMSELF**

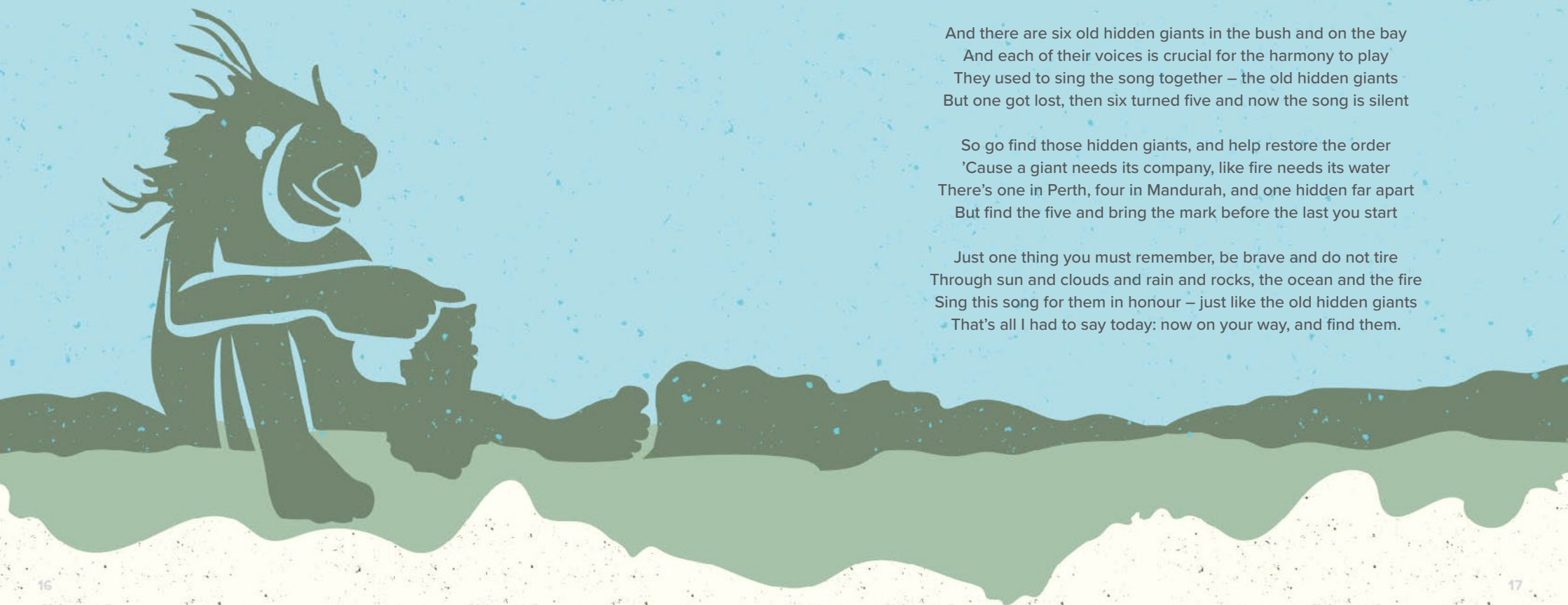
The words that you're about to hear, they hold a special meaning  
I know they're seemingly untrue, but trust me, you're not dreaming  
There is a rhythm in the rain – you can hear it drop by drop  
But if no-one sings along, then soon the song of rain will stop

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.



## MANDJOOGOORDAP.\*

THE MEETING PLACE OF THE HEART.

Where an epic adventure begins ... the hunt for *The Giants of Mandurah*.

A journey into the extraordinary beauty of the wetlands, waterways, bushland and wildlife on the lands of the Bindjareb Noongar people.

A quest that traces the movement and cycle of water: from ocean to air, from air into land, and back again. Through coastal dunes ... up into the clouds ... from the ocean to the bush ... via precious wetlands ... to secret water under the earth ... back to the shorelines ... deep into our imaginations ...

An opportunity, gifted by the Bindjareb people, to learn more about the Creation Story of Djilba Gabi.\*\* And to reaffirm the importance of protecting our natural world, just as the Bindjareb have protected their Country for over 50,000 years.

A game that keeps you guessing until the end.

THE GIANTS ARE WAITING FOR YOU.  
HOW MANY? WHERE?

COME AND FIND OUT

\* Mandurah  
\*\* The Peel-Harvey Estuary

## 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-Yalgorup 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 Noongar 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.





## HOW TO PLAY THE GAME...

**1**

It begins at the Mandurah Visitor Centre, where you pick up a map and vital clues.

**2**

Now you're all set to go on a self-guided expedition to find each Giant.

**3**

Use this 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, make a note or picture of the special symbol it's wearing.

**5**

Now go back to Mandurah Visitor Centre, and find the special code-breaker column outside. Match your five symbols with those on the code-breaker, then scan the QR code. This takes you to a secret web page, where you enter the symbols. Make sure they're in the correct order!

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

**SHARE YOUR  
EPIC ADVENTURE**  
**#giantsofmandurah**

## NO SPOILERS PLEASE!

As with any game, there are rules, however for this particular game the most important rule is *don't ruin the game for anyone else*. As Thomas Dambo asks: 'if you find a Giant, please share your experience with others, but don't spoil the game for them.'

We recommend contacting Mandurah Visitor Centre on 08 9550 3999 to check trails for accessibility regularly throughout the year, as different seasons can have an impact on their condition.

## PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, PROTECT YOURSELVES

Symbols of recycling and sustainability, the Giants want to entertain and to spark the imagination, bringing people out into nature so that we can all honour, appreciate and remember to protect this special planet where we live. So please:

### Look after the environment

- ✕ Stick to the tracks or paths
- ✕ Don't climb over fallen trees or trample on bushland
- ✕ Leave what you find, don't take away anything other than photos and memories (and your rubbish)
- ✕ Respect the wildlife: give it space, don't offer it food or water
- ✕ Sssh, nature at work: keep noise levels down
- ✕ Take your rubbish away with you, or put it in the bins

### Look after yourselves

- ✕ Pay attention to uneven surfaces
- ✕ This is mosquito country, and it gets hot! Wear hats, sunscreen, insect repellent and appropriate walking footwear
- ✕ Bring water and snacks (but remember to take your rubbish away)
- ✕ Be respectful of the other people here to share the experience
- ✕ Be aware that snakes live here
- ✕ Keep your dog on a lead, and pick up its poo



"First the sun must hit the ocean so  
the ocean turns to clouds"

## SANTI IKTO

**FIND SANTI IKTO AT  
KOOLYININAP (HALLS HEAD)**

*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.*

**LISTEN TO  
BINDJAREB  
CREATION  
STORY\***

\* narrated by George  
Walley of the Winjan  
Aboriginal Corporation

GIANTS



20 MIN



1.3 KM



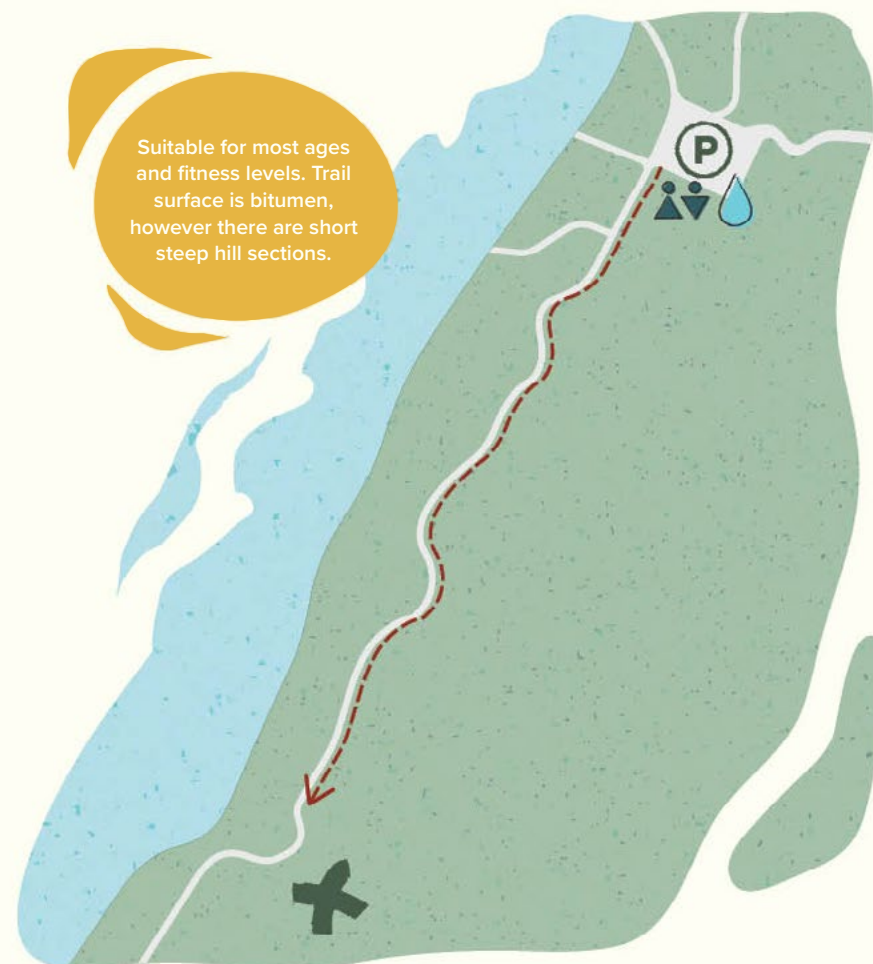
MODERATE



TRAIL  
GRADE 3



ACROD  
PARKING



GIANT



PARKING



TOILETS



WATER



"Wandju.

*Dematga Mamatga Wirrin dat nyining  
Nyoongar Boodja, Binjareb Boodja.*

Welcome.

Grandmother and Grandfather spirits sit with  
us on this Country, Binjareb Country."

Trevor Stack,  
Binjareb Nyoongar Man

Draw or describe the path you've walked to reach this  
Giant. What did you notice along the way?

Why is it so important to  
stick to this path?

Which part of the water  
cycle do you think this  
Giant belongs to?

If there are clouds, look up and count how many shapes you  
see. Be careful not to look directly at the sun! What do the  
cloud-shapes look like? Can you tell a story about them?

Before you leave...  
have you found this Giant's symbol?  
Draw it here:



"Then the wind must move the clouds to land,  
collect them in a crowd"

## SEBA'S SONG

**FIND SEBA'S SONG  
AT WANNANUP**

*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.*

**LISTEN TO  
BINDJAREB  
CREATION  
STORY\***

\* narrated by George  
Walley of the Winjan  
Aboriginal Corporation



20 MIN



1.2 KM



EASY



TRAIL  
GRADE 1



ACROD  
PARKING



GIANT



PARKING



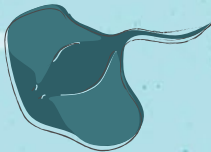
TOILETS



WATER



You're surrounded by water.  
Can you spot any of these?



**BAMBA**  
(STINGRAY)



**KWILENA**  
(DOLPHIN)



**BOOLADAALAANG**  
(PELICAN)

What do you think this  
Giant is looking for?

"Maybe he's looking to see what weather conditions are coming. Sou'westers, we get 'em all the time. The wind stirs the tides up, stirs it in a different direction. Certain winds bring different fish closer to shore, because the water's been stirred up a different way, so it creates that food for them to come closer."

Franklyn Nannup,  
Bindjareb Noongar Elder and Chair,  
Winjan Aboriginal Corporation

Which part of the water cycle do you  
think this Giant belongs to?



The art of listening...  
what sounds can you hear?



Before you leave...  
have you found this Giant's symbol?  
Draw it here:







"The clouds must let the raindrops  
fall until the earth will open"

## VIVI CIRKELSTONE

**SITE CLOSED UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE**

*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.*

**LISTEN TO  
BINDJAREB  
CREATION  
STORY\***

\* narrated by George  
Walley of the Winjan  
Aboriginal Corporation



*Vivi Circlestone by Thomas Dambo,  
Giants of Mandurah, 2022. Photo by  
Duncan Wright, image courtesy of  
FORM Building a State of Creativity.*

Sadly, *Vivi Circlestone* was recently damaged.  
If you are looking to find the symbol Vivi once  
wore, select the one below that looks most like a  
mountain peak and continue your adventure.





The Six Noongar Seasons are called *birak*, *bunuru*, *djeran*, *makuru*, *djilba*, *kambarang*.

What season are you visiting in?

"This Giant laying down here is the shape of someone about to search for water. When you walk along Coodanup foreshore, you see all these little spring outlets. Our family and ancestors would have gotten water from there. We know that people used to practise agriculture by planting and replanting plants there, and so this Giant is actually searching for some water there, in a very sacred place."

George Walley,  
Bindjareb Noongar Elder

Which part of the water cycle do you think this Giant belongs to?

You're close to the Creery Wetlands Reserve where twenty-two species of migratory *djerab* (birds) escape the Arctic winter. One weighs less than a Tim Tam biscuit, but during its lifetime can travel over 400,000 km which is further than the distance from the Earth to the moon! Can you guess which one it is?

-  Bar-Tailed Godwit
-  Red-Necked Stint
-  Great Knot



What is this Giant listening for?  
What might be under the ground?  
Can you draw a picture of whatever it is?

Before you leave...  
have you found this Giant's symbol?  
Draw it here:



"Then mountain water, rivers run  
and flow back to the ocean"

## LITTLE LUI

**START YOUR JOURNEY IN  
LAKELANDS TO FIND LITTLE LUI**

Soon Wagyl's young left their birthplace...

...travelling away uphill and forming the  
Murray, Harvey, and Serpentine rivers as  
they moved across the land. 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.

**LISTEN TO  
BINDJAREB  
CREATION  
STORY\***

\* narrated by George  
Walley of the Winjan  
Aboriginal Corporation



45 MIN



3.6 KM



EASY



TRAIL  
GRADE 2



ACROD  
PARKING



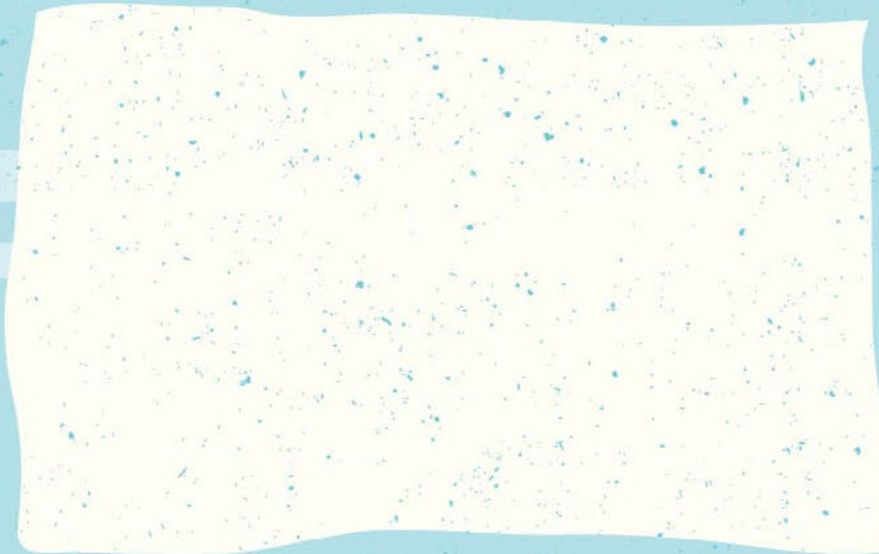
GIANT



PARKING



**Why is this Giant sitting down?  
Make up a story to explain why...**



**Find a grassy area nearby,  
and take a moment to sit down.**

**Feel the earth and connect  
to where you are.**

**Close your eyes, listen, and rest.**

**Why is it important to leave  
nothing but footprints?**



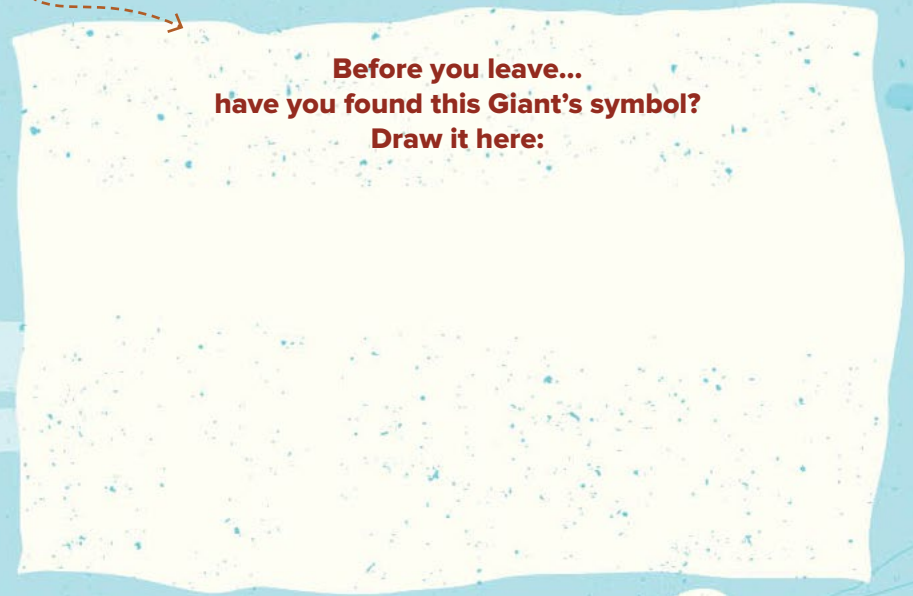
"Marlee Reserve is an old swamp, and swamps usually have land animals and water animals. All those animals were foods of some sort to our ancestors and family of generations past. So, when we go there to have a look, it's really important to remember that whatever land we walk on, we follow the footprints of our ancestors and our family. The word Marlee is 'swan.' It's a good place."

**George Walley,  
Bindjareb Noongar Elder**

**Which part of the water cycle do you  
think this Giant belongs to?**



**Before you leave...  
have you found this Giant's symbol?  
Draw it here:**





## BILLE BOB

**FIND BILLE BOB AT  
SUBIACO THEATRE GARDENS**

Is this where the Giant story starts... or ends?



### FROM THE CITY OF SUBIACO

The City of Subiaco is excited to be bringing the international magic of Giants to our corner of Western Australia. I encourage everyone of all ages to come along on this captivating journey of discovery to find our Giant. While you're here, experience our heritage and enjoy everything that Subiaco has to offer. Discover a new or award-winning place to dine, an independent retailer or one of our many beautiful parks and grounds.

**David McMullen**  
Mayor of the City of Subiaco



2 MIN



0.2 KM



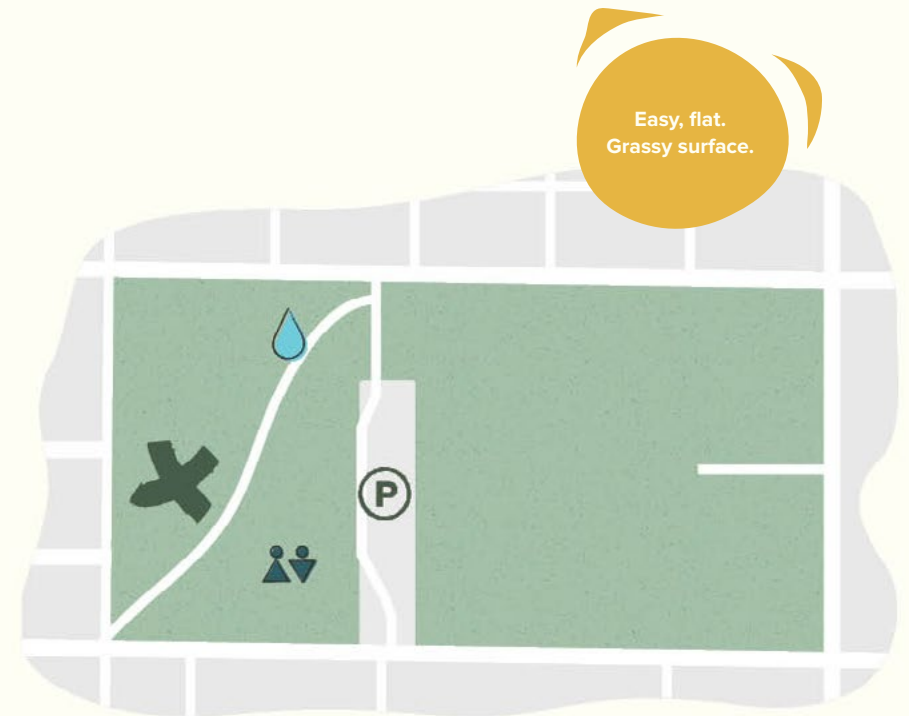
EASY



TRAIL  
GRADE 1



ACROD  
PARKING



\* Whadjuk Noongar Land



GIANT



PARKING



TOILETS



WATER

**This Giant is a long way away from its friends.  
Make up a story to explain why:**

**Imagine you are an explorer, setting off on an expedition. What are the three most important things you would take?**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Before you leave...  
have you found this Giant's symbol?  
Draw it here:**





"Then mountain water, rivers run  
and flow back to the ocean"

## JYTTES HYTTE

**LOCATION: TOP SECRET**

*Now, where is Jyttes Hytte,  
the super-secret Giant hiding?*

*Head back to the Mandurah Visitor Centre with  
all your symbols, and put them in the special  
code-breaker, to discover how to find this Giant.*



60 MIN



3.5 KM



MODERATE



TRAIL  
GRADE 3



ACROD  
PARKING



NO DOGS

### HINT

This is a Grade 3, 3.5 km,  
1 hour hike on flat surfaces of  
crushed limestone and sand.  
It is more challenging than the  
other trails.

"It is exciting to know that somewhere in that  
secret, sacred place, south of Mandurah, there's  
a Giant, waiting to be photographed and enjoyed  
as something that we will take families to."

George Walley,  
Bindjareb Noongar Elder



## ABOUT THE PROJECT PRODUCER

FORM Building a State of Creativity is an independent non-profit organisation. We collaborate with Western Australians to explore how creativity sparks cultural development and community transformation, inspires learning and social connection, and generates artistic and economic opportunity. We have offices and an exhibition space in Perth, and we manage the Spinifex Hill Studio in South Hedland, supporting the arts practices of the only Aboriginal artist collective in the wider Hedland area. Alongside our collaborations with artists and art centres, we also run the Scribblers Festival of literature for young people, and a schools-based creative learning program, Creative Schools.

Through large-scale cultural tourism experiences like *The Giants of Mandurah*, we foster local and global exchange, helping to establish the building blocks for a thriving Western Australian cultural tourism economy.

Previous FORM projects like *Field of Light: Avenue of Honour* (Albany 2018-19), and the *PUBLIC Silo Trail* have shown that public art, when combined with place and story, can have an enduring tourism and economic impact. Experiences like these catch the interest of non-traditional arts audiences, and help encourage local communities to own, direct and sustain tourism-related initiatives.

To find out more about what we do, visit us at The Goods Shed, our exhibition space in Claremont, Perth, or check out our websites:

[form.net.au](http://form.net.au)

[thegoodsshedclaremont.com](http://thegoodsshedclaremont.com)

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

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

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

[publicsilotrail.com](http://publicsilotrail.com)

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

**FORM.**  
building a state of creativity

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FORM would like to thank the following individuals and organisations for their contribution to *The Giants of Mandurah*:


Alcoa Foundation, Bosch Power Tools, City of Mandurah administration and Elected Members, City of Subiaco, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Western Australia), Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Department of Transport (Western Australia), Kennards Mandurah, Logiwest Express, Lotterywest, Mandurah Environmental Action Group, Mandurah Men's Shed, North Metropolitan TAFE, Paul Motley and Xavier Turisini, Peel Harvey Catchment Council, Peel Volunteer Resource Centre, Pinjarra Men's Shed, SeaTram Transport, Thomas Dambo artist team, Tourism Western Australia, Visit Mandurah, and the Winjan Aboriginal Corporation.

And an especially big thank you to all the project volunteers.

---

*The 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.

FORM building a state of creativity, inc.  
39 Guger Street, Claremont, Western Australia, 6010  
[mail@form.net.au](mailto:mail@form.net.au)  
+61 8 9385 2200  
[form.net.au](http://form.net.au)

  @formwa

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

Website designed and built by Dilate Digital

Published by FORM building a state of creativity, November 2022  
Project Lead: John Clark  
Copywriting, design and marketing: FORM Creative Services  
Printed by Scotts Print

©2022. All rights reserved. Copyright for imagery is held by Thomas Dambo Studio and FORM. Copyright for written content and this publication is held by FORM or the individual writers. Every effort has been made to adhere to best practice ICIP protocols.

ISBN: 978-0-9944727-9-3

FORM acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our offices are based, both the Whadjuk Noongar people in Perth and the Traditional Owners across the Pilbara. We honour and pay respect to community members and to their ancestors who survived and cared for this Country.



Please recycle me or pass me on



**SHARE YOUR EPIC ADVENTURE**  
**#giantsofmandurah**

Tell us about your experience  
at Thomas Dambo's Giants  
of Mandurah for a chance  
to win \$500

Project Producer

---

**FORM.**  
building a state of creativity

Project Partners

---



WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA

 CITY OF  
MANDURAH

VISIT  
MANDURAH



lotterywest

 Alcoa  
Foundation

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