

Waddananggu Mala ~ Information Pack

~ Fri 28th - Sun 30th Aug ~

(Recommend: Arrive Thursday, Depart Monday)

Ticket sales CLOSE 5pm Friday 21st August, unless SOLD OUT PRIOR

This event is capped at 200 people.

This document will be emailed to you as a PDF when you purchase your event ticket.
Still have questions after reading this info pack? Email wandjcustodians@gmail.com

~ Waddananggu Mala - '5' Year Celebration + Ceremony ~

All sovereign tribes and non-Indigenous supporters are invited to join the Mala Celebration - to celebrate half a decade of Waddananggu!

Mala (five) years ago, Wangan and Jagalingou Cultural Custodians set up a stone Bora ring around a sacred fire, birthing the historic Waddananggu 'the talking' Ceremony opposite Adani's mine.

For five years they have occupied Waddananggu, asserting their human rights as Wangan and Jagalingou people and Cultural Custodians of Waddananggu, to practise culture and live on their homelands.

"Yina ngali Yamba nani, ngali bindana yina yiyala" This is our home. We live here now.



Steps to be part of the Celebration!

1. **Read this information pack** even if you have been to Waddananggu before.
2. **Secure your ticket for the event:** To help us plan the event, [please grab your ticket to join the Celebration as soon as you have locked in your travel plans.](#)
3. **Keep a look out for your welcome email and any important updates.**
4. **Join the [Facebook Organising Space](#)** to:
 - * see requests from organisers that you may be able to help with
 - * organise carpooling + airport/train/bus pickup and dropoff
5. **Remind all of your travel companions** to secure their ticket separately.
6. **If your registration details change** please let us know by emailing wandjcustodians@gmail.com.
7. **Stay Flexible:** Keep an eye on the [Waddananggu Mala Facebook Event](#) for updates. A volunteer will contact you for any critical changes to arrival.
8. **Please do NOT bring your dog** (unless a registered Assistance dog)

| | |
|---|----------|
| What to expect! | 4 |
| How to get to Waddananggu / What to do when you Arrive | 4 |
| By car | 4 |
| Flying into Emerald | 4 |
| Train or bus | 4 |
| Carpooling / Airport, Train or Bus Pickup | 4 |
| When to come / how long to stay | 5 |
| When to arrive + depart | 5 |
| Accommodation, Facilities and Meals | 5 |
| Accommodation - Camping | 5 |
| Meals, Tea and Coffee | 5 |
| Food Allergies | 5 |
| Facilities | 5 |
| Wifi, Mobile Reception and Charging Devices | 5 |
| Weather + Landscape + Swimming | 6 |
| Health and Safety | 6 |
| Not feeling well? | 6 |
| Waddananggu is in a Remote Location | 6 |
| Family Friendly | 6 |
| Respecting Wangan and Jagalingou Country and Waddananggu | 6 |
| Financial Contribution | 7 |
| Donation - Pay it Forward | 7 |
| What to bring, and NOT bring | 7 |
| Sorry - NO DOGS (unless registered assistance dogs) | 8 |
| Help others attend Waddananggu Mala | 8 |

What to expect!

A three day celebration filled with time connecting on Country, ceremony, yarns and live music by special guests, including of course Gurrityula!

This is a fluid celebration with Cultural (and weather/conditions!) considerations - so please arrive at Waddananggu with flexibility and a willingness to respect the Cultural Custodians and their decisions!

How to get to Waddananggu / What to do when you Arrive

Waddananggu is located within Wangan and Jagalingou Country, in remote Central Queensland, about 4 hours inland from Bowen, a 13 hour drive north from Brisbane and 9 hours drive south from Cairns.

The Front Camp (the original camp) at the stone Bora ring and first sacred fire is approximately 1km opposite Adani's Carmichael coal mine and [the drop pin is here](#).

The Cultural Custodians now live deeper into Waddananggu territory, at Gamu Yuna Warba (spring dam 1) which is approximately 4 km inland from the Front Camp.

By car

Waddananggu is 2wd accessible in dry weather, but care should be taken on dirt roads.

IMPORTANT: Read this "[Driving Guide](#)" which includes where you are going, what to do when you arrive and other important and useful information.

Flying into Emerald

We will commit to ensuring a lift to/from Waddananggu for anyone who:

- Fly into, or out of, Emerald at the below times AND
- **For arrivals - initiates their request for a lift BEFORE Friday 14th August** (e.g. 2 weeks before the event). Note: we organise lifts back to the airport at Waddananggu.

You can arrive earlier / depart later on these same days, but may need to wait.

- **Arrive: Thursday: 11:35am** (or earlier, on the same day)
- **Depart: Monday: 2:55pm** (or later, on the same day)

It need to initiate self-organising a pick up via the [Facebook Organising Space](#). We will help you in this process, but to reduce volunteer workload, we ask you to start the process.

Train or bus

If you want to get the train or bus - **you will need to self-organise your pick up AND drop off before you book your train/bus**. Get help from other participants in the [Facebook Organising Space](#). This may have a lot of uncertainty for you, as the reality is, the vast majority of people only commit/register a week or two out.

Both Mackay and Emerald would be good towns to consider getting to, opening your pickup/drop off options to people travelling to/from Mackay and Brisbane respectively. Clermont (bus) is also a good option, opening yourself up to both Mackay and Brisbane travellers.

Carpooling / Airport, Train or Bus Pickup

You can self-organise carpooling and any pickups in the [Facebook Organising Space](#), but to help the many volunteers supporting Waddananggu - **please secure your ticket for the Celebration as soon as you know you are coming**.

When to come / how long to stay

When to arrive + depart

To get the most out of the Celebration, we recommend you arrive on Thursday 27th and depart on Monday 31st.

You can opt in for Thursday night dinner and Monday breakfast when you secure your ticket (more details below).

Please do not arrive earlier than Thursday, or depart later than Monday.

Accommodation, Facilities and Meals

Accommodation - Camping

You will be camping under the stars at Waddananggu, the same sky that inspired Gurrityula's song, [Under the Stars](#).

You can bring a tent, sleep in your car, bring a campervan or caravan (weather permitting - the roads can get boggy if there has been a lot of rain). It will be cold at night in August, and the area can sometimes be dusty, so if you are sensitive to dust or the cold, it's recommended you bring accommodation you can close up rather than things like hammocks and mozzie nets.

Meals, Tea and Coffee

Three nutritious meals will be provided each day during the Celebration event (Friday/Saturday/Sunday) and you can opt in for Thursday dinner and/or Monday breakfast.

There will be meat and vegetarian/vegan options, along with gluten and lactose free.

Tea, coffee, sugar and milk (dairy and plant-based) is provided.

BYO snacks!

Food Allergies

We capture any food allergies when you secure your ticket and can generally cater for most people that need certain food items to be excluded like onions and capsicum.

If you have anything that is really concerning to you, bring your own cooker/cooking gear to self-cater. You can also use the camp fire to cook, however refrigeration will not be available.

Facilities

There are communal shaded spaces, water, tea/coffee and drop toilets with capability to sit.

The camp kitchen will only be available to the event cooks and their volunteers.

Wifi, Mobile Reception and Charging Devices

Wifi: is available via Starlink at Gamu Yuna Warba, which will be the central hub where meals will be provided and people can camp.

Charging: There is solar power to charge devices, however if you have your own solar set up and/or personal battery packs, please bring them with you. You will only be able to charge larger devices like laptops during times when there is sunlight, and priority will be given to any device being used to support the event.

Weather + Landscape + Swimming

The landscape is currently green, and you can swim in Gamu Yuna Warba (spring dam 1).

In August, the days will be mild and the nights cold. Belyando is a good location to use to check the weather ahead of your trip.

Health and Safety

Not feeling well?

Please don't come if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms or are feeling unwell. Elders will be joining the Celebration and we want to keep them, and everyone else, safe!

We will gladly refund the cost of your ticket(s) if you are unable to come due to illness, but will be unable to help with any transport arrangements you may have made.

Waddananggu is in a Remote Location

Waddananggu is in a remote area with the nearest hospital around 3 hours away. Please consider this if you have particular medical needs that would find this problematic.

Family Friendly

Children are welcome and have a great time at Waddananggu! Just a few small points - no specific facilities are provided for them and please take into consideration that Waddananggu is in a remote environment that is exposed to the elements and the camping area and dams are unfenced.

Children's care and safety will remain the responsibility of their parents/caregivers at all times.



Play with Aunty Meisha!



Painting up with Gundulu



Making tools from Gidgee

Respecting Wangan and Jagalingou Country and Waddananggu

Whilst participating at the Waddananggu ceremony, you must be respectful to Country and Wangan and Jagalingou culture. This means:

- Do not **move or take any stones or artefacts** that you find along the journey or at Waddananggu, unless you have been advised that it is okay to do so from a Wangan and Jagalingou Cultural Custodian
- **Do not wear any items into either Bora ring (that circle the sacred fires)** at Waddananggu other than your clothes. This includes: sunglasses, glasses, hats, jewellery and shoes. Do not consume alcohol around a Bora ring.

- **If you see that one of the sacred fires is low on wood**, please put a piece of wood on it, as long as you have already been smoked into the ceremony. Once you have been smoked in, you are a part of the Waddananggu ceremony and tending the fire is a cultural responsibility of all ceremony participants
- **Do not swim in the spring dam with sunscreen**, insect repellent or anything else on your body that can contaminate the water. Do not use soaps, including biodegradable ones.
- **Take out what you bring in.** Don't leave rubbish or belongings behind. **If you think there is something that Waddananggu could use, please ask first before assuming and leaving it behind.**
- Be mindful that their old people's spirits are still living in the area so people are encouraged not to whistle at night.

This is included in the [Participation Agreement](#) that you will agree to when you secure your ticket.

Financial Contribution

We don't want costs to be a barrier for anyone attending the event. Limited free tickets and a "pay what you can" option are also available by request - simply email wandjcustodians@gmail.com with why you'd like to attend this event for the promo code.

The ticket price for the three days of Celebration covers the cost of food (3 meals daily), artists and other things like fuel, gas and supplies to set up the event.

You can also opt in for dinner on Thursday night and/or breakfast on Monday morning.

If you have the means, an additional donation is gratefully received to help cover costs and others to attend. You can do this by:

- Using the "Donate" option at the end of the tickets

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| Waged | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Friday, Saturday, Sunday: \$220 → Thursday dinner: \$15 → Monday breakfast: \$5 |
| Concession | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Friday, Saturday, Sunday: \$100 → Thursday dinner: \$10 → Monday breakfast: \$5 |
| Children (12yrs & under) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Friday, Saturday, Sunday: \$50 → Thursday dinner: \$5 → Monday breakfast: \$5 |

Donation - Pay it Forward

Whether or not you are attending the event, you can chip in to help someone else attend, with donations being prioritised to First Nations people.

What to bring, and NOT bring

Please do NOT bring alcohol or any illicit substances.

A detailed list is here in the [What to bring and not bring](#) guide. This guide will also be emailed to you upon securing your ticket. Some important things to bring are:

- Camping gear and a chair
- Your own cutlery, crockery and mug
- Bike, helmet, repair kit if you want to go for a ride to check out the surroundings - there are some great tracks to explore. A mountain bike, or thick-tyred hybrid, is recommended.
- Good walking shoes (there are prickles about!)
- Day pack, water bottle
- Sun and rain protection, warm clothes!

And, check out the [Waddananggu Wishlist](#) that has a list of general items needed at Waddananggu, which you may be able to donate and bring with you. **Please check with us first before bringing anything** by sending us an email at wandjcustodians@gmail.com

Sorry - NO DOGS (unless registered assistance dogs)

Assistance dogs are welcome but we ask that **all other dogs be left at home**. There are seven camp dogs already on site, and as such we cannot host additional dogs (even if tied up).

Help others attend Waddananggu Mala

Everyone is encouraged to join the [Facebook Organising Space](#) where we can all help each other out - participants and volunteer support crew alike. It is here you can answer call-outs for help, such as participants needing camping gear, airport pickup or a lift.