



Indigenous Workabout staff planting native seedlings

Danju - Working Together

"Building additional skills and providing job opportunities for local Noongar people."

By Dean Wynne, Indigenous Workabout &
Chris Howe, Leschenault Catchment Council

Danju - Jobs Together is an aboriginal collaboration that is building additional skills and providing job opportunities for local Noongar people in the Leschenault region. The Project began in 2017 as a concept to include Noongar people in landcare work being carried out by the Leschenault Catchment Council within the catchment.

The Leschenault Catchment Council sees great value in working collaboratively with Noongar people as the Traditional Custodians of the land who hold strong connections to the land we work on; and see the benefits gained from local traditional knowledge.

The Danju – Working Together project is designed to benefit the individuals involved, through mentoring into the workforce; cultivating community and friendships; involvement in outdoor, physical activities; plus, a steady stream of paid work opportunities. The project has seen a partnership develop between the Leschenault Catchment Council and the aboriginal enterprise Indigenous Workabout, owned by Collie-based Noongar man Dean Wynne. The partnership strengthened and grew over an initial six-month period, was supported by a Memorandum of Understanding and has continued to grow into the dynamic arrangement that it is today.

The Indigenous Workabout Team has supported the Leschenault Catchment Council on many of its community projects, undertaking activities such as planting, seed collection, fence construction and repair, weed management and pruning services.

The Leschenault Catchment Council have provided on-the-job training for Workabout staff throughout the Program, always seeking the advice of Noongar elders in planning any of its activities. This ensures that there is a strong element of cultural safety for all participants.



With support from the South West Development Commission via the Collie Futures Small Grants Program in 2019, the Danju Project was given a funding injection to allow for the development of a formal business plan, including governance frameworks, allowing the Danju to grow its business offering to a broader market. Through this opportunity, the Leschenault Catchments Council have supported Indigenous Workabout to improve their Safety Management System and undertake formal training for the staff, building the teams capacity to deliver contracts in weed control, landcare and forestry activities across the region.

Danju-Working Together successes to date include:

- 13 individuals in the program;
- 6 x 1st Aid Certified;
- 7 x Chainsaw Operator ticket;
- 3 x native seed collection training APACE;
- 6 x seed collector licenses;
- 6 x Pest control technician certification;
- 40 contracts completed;
- 3 x permanently employed at Boddington;
- 3 year contract with Forest Products Commission

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