



# 21 WOMEN WALK

## Into Wilderness. Into Creation.

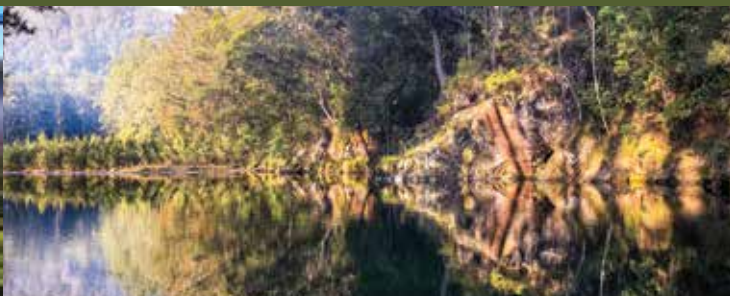
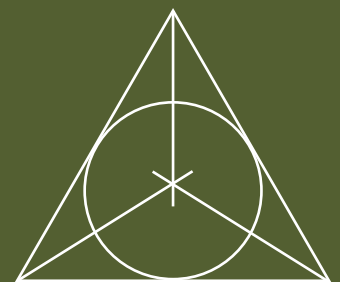
Into a secret location deep in a World Heritage National Park at the pristine headwaters of the Bellingen River on the traditional lands of the Gumbaynggirr Nation - 21 Women Walk.

Into a place and state of protected development embodying the spirit of the communal, ecological, spiritual and aesthetic natures of the feminine. 21 Women Walk is a festival of feminine-thought experienced through the lens of ecological perspective and sensorial creativity-based practice.

21 female thoughtleaders and futurecreators are invited to three days of immersive, nature based, active contemplation into some of the most challenging issues facing our futures.

21 Women Walk will be the inaugural event at Jiiginy Miindala, a privately held unique retreat location never before seen by the public and will feature a curated Son et Lumiere installation from award winning lighting designer, Jenny Hector and composer & spacemaker, Madeleine Flynn

21 Women Walk will set a new paradigm in the art of environmentally sustainable gatherings focusing on artistic and social impact and will exist deeply within the tradition of women exerting effort in order to enact positive change.





# 21 WOMEN WALK

THREE DAYS || ON COUNTRY || 21 WOMEN ||  
|| MAKE ART || THINK BIG || MAKE CHANGE ||

## LOGISTICS & SAMPLE TIMETABLE

### DAY MINUS ONE

Arrive in Gumbaynggirr Country  
Coffs Harbour region / Bellingen Shire  
Overnight Bellingen Motor Lodge  
Meet & greet the 21 Women Walk team

### DAY ONE

Walkers depart Bellingen after breakfast - ground transport provided - to the end of Darkwood Road, Thora where they meet their guide and embark on the intermediate 13km walk\* to Jiiginy Miindala.

- Acknowledgment to Country Ceremony -  
- River Crossing Ritual -

Jiiginy Miindala welcome and site induction  
& select lodgings

Discovery: Introduction to **Water Knowledge Systems**  
with Professor Jacqueline Williams

Discussion - Topic 1

Discovery: 'One Match Fire'  
ceremonial lighting the of the festival fire

Dinner / Methods / Nutrition

- Son et Lumiere I -  
Created by Jenny Hector & Madeline Flynn  
with guided night walk



### LOGISTICS & FAQ:

- All ground transfers and accommodation are provided for participants, from arrival in Gumbaynggirr country
- All luggage will be transferred to the site.
- All meals and dietary requirements will be provided, including lunch en route for walkers.
- \*The majority of the walk will be on well maintained National Parks roads, and walkers will be accompanied at all times by a local guide.
- Participants who choose not to walk in to the site will be transferred to coordinate with the walkers arrival for the communal river crossing.
- River crossing from National Park to Jiiginy Miindala forms part of the opening ceremony. At most times of the year, this is extremely possible on foot, if weather changes, team will be transferred safely over the river in vehicles.

### DAY TWO

Morning Rituals - including:  
Yoga // First Light on the River - Swim Ritual

Discovery: Breakfast / Methods / Nutrition

Discussion - Topic 2

Creative Workshops & Practices

Free time: Including time for remedial health and wellness -  
participants can book in with healers in advance

Lunch / Methods / Nutrition

Discussion - Topic 3

Creativity Workshops & Practices

Free time & remedial health and wellness activities

Dinner / Methods / Nutrition

- Son et Lumiere II -  
with guided night walk

### DAY THREE

Morning Rituals - including:  
Yoga // First Light on the River - Swim Ritual

Breakfast / Methods / Nutrition

Discussion - Topic 4

Creativity Workshops & Practices

Free time / Journaling

Lunch

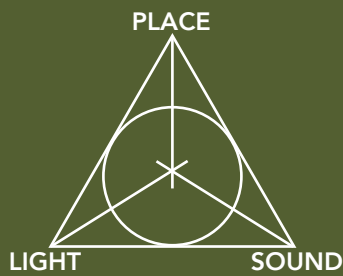
- Commitment to the Creation & Farewell to Country -

Overnight Bellingen  
Depart region the following day

- Comfortable on-site accommodation is provided in a combination of Bell Tents, Observation Decks, Night Sky options. It's recommended to try all.

- **Important** - Communications at Jiiginy Miindala are limited, however emergency calls are available 24/7 via satellite phones. There may be one hour a day where Internet will be accessible.

The event will be supported by an on-site team including - Chef/Nutritionist, Health & Wellness Practitioners, Herbalists etc



# THE TEAM & PARTICIPANTS

We are currently seeking expressions of interest to participate, and join the growing team.



**BRIDGET HART, EVENT PRODUCER**

Raised in the Bellingen Shire, Bridget brings a wealth of lived experience, intimate local knowledge and authenticity essential to this event. With over 30 years experience in organising special events, Bridget Hart is an event director specialising in the creation of experiences for humans through partnerships, relationships, connection and communication.

Bridget is a Director at Capital B Creative - her boutique event agency produces large scale corporate and public events nationally and globally - most recently the National Gallery of Australia's Foundation 40th Anniversary. Bridget is passionate about forging authentic, sustainable and viable connections through communication, events, and humans.



**JENNY HECTOR, LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Jenny is an award winning designer whose mediums of light and space have been witnessed across live performance, music and installation. Her designs are driven by strong collaborations and the spaces they find themselves in. Keen to respond to the growing impacts of light pollution on our environment, Jenny is using this tension to create new methodologies that expand her practice and give rise to unique artistic outcomes.



**MADELINE FLYNN, SOUND DESIGNER**

Madeleine is a leading Australian audio conceptual artist who creates unexpected situations for listening. Her work is driven by a curiosity and questioning about listening in human culture and seeks to evolve and engage with new processes and audiences, through public and participative interventions. This highly awarded practice intertwines local, national and international relationships. Employing diverse approaches of experiencing and sensing through sound, and seeks to push for a sensitive, critical, and learning practice of listening with care and innovation.



**PROFESSOR JACQUELINE WILLIAMS, THOUGHTLEADER**

Dr Jacqueline Williams is a senior research fellow and lecturer at the School of Environmental and Rural Science, University of New England. She has over 25 years experience in natural resource governance including community based NRM prior to entering academia.



**PROFESSOR SUEANNE WARE, THOUGHTLEADER**

Professor Ware is Head of School Architecture and the Built Environment at the University of Newcastle. She holds a master's degree in landscape architecture from the University of California, Berkeley and a PhD from RMIT University, Melbourne. Her most recent books include Sunburnt: Australian Practices of Landscape Architecture; Making Sense of Landscape. Her research outputs as creative works have been awarded national and international design accolades. Much of her scholarly and creative practice work centres on socially engaged design processes, citizen co-design, and design activism.



**LISA TANGER, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST**

Lisa's career spans three continents and more than 20 years of public policy in the private sector, non-profit and government.

Lisa is particularly good at Communications, Public Policy, Stakeholder Engagement, Complex Project Management, Connecting People, Digital Strategy, Publications, Branding, Advocating, Crisis Management, and Premium Service Delivery.

## JIIGINY MIINDALA

Jiiginy Miindala is a modern Australian Aboriginal manifestation, existing uniquely as a private inholding within the biodiversity of the rich pristine watercourse of the New England National Park. Jiiginy Miindala's principal offering is that of deep ecology transitioning occasional the ambient development of heightened states of consciousness illumination, cultivation the epiphany for capacity of coherence from first principles thinking



# SUPPORTERS & CONSULTANTS

## **Shandra Ralph - Jiiginy Miindala**

Shandra Ralph is a proud Yuin, Gumbaynggirr woman who's heart and willingness to share her stories are at the heart of this project.

Through the guiding spirit of her father William Ralph (Gumbaynggirr Nation born) and grandmother Annie Ralph (Yuin nation born moved on to Gumbaynggirr Nation 1888) Shandra is attempting to reconnect to her ancestral origins through first principle approaches to interconnection into country. It is through her and her son's process and story that this project has manifested and continues to be guided. Her story is an amazing journey of courage and Aboriginal self-determination.

## **Amber Haines**

Dancenorth Associate Artistic Director  
Amber Haines is currently the Associate Artistic Director of Dancenorth.

In 2006 Amber attained her Bachelor of Dance from the Victorian College of the Arts graduating with the Mary Orloff Prize for Most Outstanding Dancer. Since then, she has worked with many of Australia's most acclaimed companies and has performed throughout Australia, Europe, United Kingdom, North, South and Central America, Canada, Indonesia and Japan. Amber is a multi-award nominee for the Australian Dance Awards, The Helpmann Awards and Greenroom Awards for Best Dance Performance by a Female.

## **Kerry Pearse**

Kerry Pearse established KemJ Pty Ltd in 2014 and is the founding director of the Burbangana Group, previously Moreton Consulting Pty Ltd. Kerry has extensive experience as a consultant working with government and not for profit agencies through their work with Moreton Consulting since 2010. Moreton Consulting is now Aboriginal majority owned and largely works with organisations driving social change and improving outcomes with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. While Kerry continues to work with Burbangana, they have established KemJ to develop PlanTrak® and work with a broader range of organisations on the north coast of NSW. She is passionate about communities and people.

## **LJ Loch**

CEO Alpha Consulting CEO - LJ brings extensive reputation protection, litigation pr, government relations and crisis campaign experience as a result of her almost 30 years' consulting experience at

a senior level for businesses, government and causes across Asia-Pacific. LJ brings nuance, context and experience – an unbeatable combination. Her measure of success is that no-one outside the client knows Alpha has been involved.

## **Ute Schulenberg - Journalist**

"Journalism was always my plan but plans being what they are, I did not get to realise it until my early 40s ... and have loved every minute since. For me community journalism is the most intimate and honest place to be in this field - telling the stories of people I live with, side-by-side, every day. It is an honour."

## **Kersten Tuckey - Scientist**

Kersten has over 25 years' experience in natural resource management operations, planning and policy with a focus on threatened species.

She has worked in northern NSW on the Koala Habitat Study for the Nambucca Shire Council Coastal Area, this included analysis of koala records, undertaking field surveys, landholder liaison, vegetation assessment, data analysis, research, and report preparation. Kersten has a Masters in Natural Resources focusing of fire ecology.

## **Barbra Mckay - Media Executive**

Results driven senior executive with extensive experience in general management, operations and business development with a diverse career in the National and International Film, Television & Venue Management industries. An expert in strategic thinking, business planning, policy generation and change management, Barbra brings creativity and commerciality together to create exceptional relationships.

## **Sarah Aitken - Physical Artist**

Sarah is a Melbourne based teacher and choreographer from Bellingen NSW with an extensive body of work presented nationally and internationally. Solo and collaborative projects investigate assemblage, authorship, scale and the self, looking at the roles of audience, performer, subject and object and connecting tangibly with audiences, to consider performance as a site for empathy & exchange.

## **Alison Wheeler - Writer / Director**

Alison is a writer/director with over 20 years experience in the production of television, feature film and corporate video. She is in high demand for her clear story telling abilities, cinematic eye and sensitivity towards on screen talent. Alison fosters a fun, safe environment on set and in the edit whilst also understanding the need to bring things in on time and on budget.

## **Amy Freeman - Musician / Creative**

Big picture thinker, positive outlook and plenty of energy. Keen to further expand and promote my projects and willing to offer my assistance to others in the pursuit of theirs.

Being involved in the Television Industry for the last 9 years has suited my interests and kept me driven towards further improvement in the area of Stage Management and Assistant Directing. More recently Amy has been transitioning into editorial, with combined roles of Associate Producer/ Assist Director with an aim to being a Content Creator.





21 Women Walk will exist deeply within the tradition of women exerting effort in order to enact positive change. It is through this connection and lineage that we were invited to hold this event at Jiiginy Miindala.

Aligned in direction with the spiritual matriarch of Jiiginy Miindala, Annie Ralph, a Gumbaynggirr woman, who in 1915 objected to her children being excluded from the education system whilst her son was not excluded from fighting for king and country in Gallipoli.

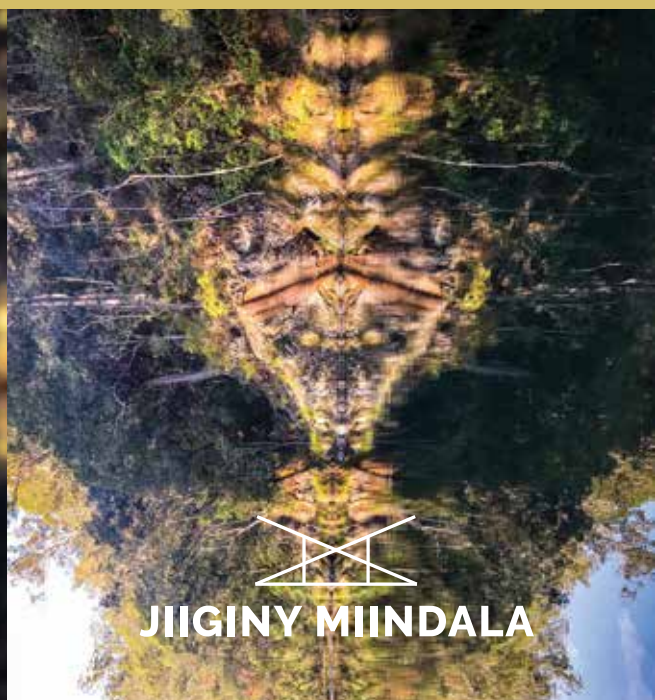
Seemingly unimaginable at the time - over 110 years ago - Annie Ralph, a mother of eight, travelled to Sydney with her eldest boy to provide what can only be described as embarrassment to the Department of Education by explaining to them in simple terms, "that if the state would not allow her children to be educated in public schools, then she did not think her son should fight for her country". Annie Ralph's children were returned to the education system.

It is the essence of this expression of determination and effort to enact great change, that 21 Women Walk launches as the inaugural event at Jiiginy Miindala.

Join us for the journey - Into Wilderness. Into Creation.



**Shandra Ralph**  
Granddaughter



**JIIGINY MIINDALA**