



# *Our Way 2014 - 2016*

Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee  
Aboriginal Corporation

## QUANDAMOOKA ARTIST

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We acknowledge and thank David Stevens for his permission to use the artwork on the Our Way 2014 – 2016 cover.

The painting is David's interpretation of post European settlements impact on the Quandamooka peoples natural and cultural resources.

### **The story behind the artwork**

One night when David was out fishing on Back Beach, North Stradbroke Island he saw what looked like tractor tracks in the sand going up to the dunes. David went and had a look and saw the tracks were in fact made by a turtle. It had made its way to the dune to lay her eggs.

David decided to go fishing and leave the turtle alone.

After a while David went back to the dune and saw that the turtle had left, however there were fox footprints around the nest.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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The Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) acknowledges that we operate and function on the lands of the Quandamooka people.

We pay our respect to these lands that provide for us.

We acknowledge and pay respect to the ancestors that walked and managed these lands for many generations.

We acknowledge our Elders who are our knowledge holders, teachers and pioneers.

We acknowledge our youth who are our hope for a brighter future and who will be our future leaders.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to our members who have gone before us and recognise their contribution to our people and community.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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It is with great pleasure that I present *Our Way 2014 - 2016*, a snapshot of QYAC's Strategic Plan 2014 - 2016 outlining our direction and the goals we will tirelessly strive to achieve through to 2016. Every step of the way during development we welcomed guidance from our Elders and paid respect to our traditions and culture while focusing on new ways to develop a strong future for the Quandamooka people.

There is no doubt the 4th July, 2011 was a significant milestone in our history when Justice Dowsett made a binding order on all governments to recognise the society known as the Quandamooka Peoples and its enduring connection to a claim area comprising waters, islands and land on and around Minjerribah.

The creation of a Strategic Plan by and for the Quandamooka people provides valuable information and ideas on our vision for the future and the part QYAC should play in achieving this vision. Overall, the priorities for the coming years were very clear; make QYAC a strong organisation, ensure Quandamooka country and knowledge is cared for, and harness the current passion and skills of our people while identifying ways to increase education and employment opportunities for all Quandamooka.

*Our Way 2014 - 2016* takes the key information from the original sixty-two page QYAC Strategic Plan and outlines for community, industry and government the path forward in order for QYAC to make these priorities a reality.

Together we will continue to build a strong foundation to shape a positive future for the Quandamooka people and be a role model for other First Nations.

QYAC will continue to work towards making a strong, financially robust corporation to uphold the rights and interests of the Quandamooka people and develop a framework for positive economic development.

**Cameron Costello**

Chief Executive Officer  
Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation  
(QYAC)

## THE QUANDAMOOKA ESTATE

The Quandamooka Peoples are a First Nation of over 2000 traditional owners from Moreton Bay, South East Queensland, Australia. The clans of the Quandamooka include the Nunukul, Ngughi and Goenpul.

According to the 2011 Census, there were 425 Aboriginal residents on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) out of a total resident population of 2025. It is estimated that about two-thirds of Quandamooka people live away from the Island.

QYAC membership figures indicate a significant number of Quandamooka live 'off-country' in South East Queensland, with a number of families also living in the North and Far North Queensland regions. It is recognised by ABS that a significant undercount exists for Aboriginal people in the region and that the actual figures are considerably higher.

The Quandamooka peoples' territory (Map 1), known as "Country", comprises the waters and lands of and around Moorgumpin (Moreton Island), Minjerribah, the Southern Moreton Bay islands and South Stradbroke Island. It includes the mainland from the mouth of the Brisbane River, Wynnum, Chandler, Lytton, Belmont, Tingalpa, south to Cleveland, to the Logan River. Quandamooka Country crosses the boundaries of four Queensland local governments.

The Quandamooka people continue to operate under their own distinct system of laws and customs.



## QYAC'S PURPOSE

Quandamooka people as modern custodians of their traditional estate.

Actively caring for country is fundamental to the Quandamooka peoples identity. Our spirit and knowledge lives in our country, and maintaining this spirit is what keeps our people and our country healthy.

QYAC's purpose therefore is to assist the Quandamooka people to care for their country. We understand that in the early stages of establishing Native Title rights, QYAC will do many things on behalf of the traditional owners of this land.

Particularly important is securing Native Title and access to land and sea. In the long-term however, QYAC's purpose is to enable the Quandamooka people to care for country.



Yuliburribah Dance Group

## QYAC'S VISION

Quandamooka people caring for Country in a viable economy using traditional and modern knowledge.



### Caring for Country heals us both

#### - HEAL COUNTRY, HEAL PEOPLE

Being a Quandamooka person means caring for Quandamooka country. As we care for our country, we heal the spirit that lives in ourselves and in our country.

#### ... in a viable economy

In a very practical sense, caring for country is harder to do if its not possible to live there. A viable economy is an essential part of Quandamooka Peoples caring for country.

### Traditional AND Modern knowledge

Our knowledge of country lives in ourselves and in our country. Our Elders help us to learn and connect with Quandamooka knowledge.



## QYAC'S GUIDING VALUES

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### Respect

We respect the people and the environment in which we live and do business. We embrace openness, our strong traditions and relationships that are mutually beneficial. We maintain high ethical standards and behave in ways that earn the trust of our members and the wider community.

### Courage

Our path to Native Title determination has not been easy and we will continue to experience challenges in our future but we have the courage to face difficulty, to speak up and stand by what we believe. We have the courage to stand by our culture and traditions while exploring new ways of thinking to develop a better future for the Quandamooka people, our Country and the community we live.

### Accountability

We take ownership of our decisions, actions and resulting consequences. We understand that with achievement comes great responsibility and we will not shy away from our responsibilities to create a strong future and be a role model for other First Nations.

### Collaboration

We cannot rely on the strength of a few individuals alone, we will accomplish more together. We are committed to building a better future for our children's children through encouraging the Quandamooka people to return to and care for Country while developing strong relationships with the community, business and government.

## QYAC'S GOALS

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### Secure the Quandamooka Estate

Securing the Quandamooka Estate includes representing the Quandamooka people on Native Title and Cultural Heritage matters as well as ensuring the right to access and manage land and sea.



### Engage the Quandamooka people

Bring together the Quandamooka community as collective owners to understand their rights and obligations, make decisions about the future of our Country and continue as active custodians.



### Nurture Quandamooka knowledge

Re-establish and grow cultural knowledge while further developing modern knowledge in areas such as science and finance to effectively care for Country.



### Encourage Innovative Thinking

Encourage new thinking and ideas in all Quandamooka people to best utilise assets and develop a viable economy in order to sustain themselves and care for Country.

# STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING OUR GOALS



## Secure the Quandamooka Estate

- Establish strong business and financial structures, processes, policies and procedures to develop strong foundations for QYAC's ongoing success.
- Ensure all Board members have governance skills and Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) knowledge.
- Develop strategic partnerships with organisations and government to deliver its core business as well as non-core business deemed important to the Quandamooka people.
- Become the lead agency in the region for land and sea management and co-ordination by:
  - Developing a Land and Sea Management Framework;
  - Developing a Cultural Heritage program;
  - Implementing the Indigenous Management Agreement with QPWS; and
  - Establishing a Land and Sea Committee.
- Achieve Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) status for appropriate areas of the Quandamooka Estate.



Quandamooka public art - Wynnum Esplanade

## STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING OUR GOALS (continued)

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### Nurture Quandamooka knowledge

- Create a QYAC knowledge management system to ensure key information is effectively and safely stored and accessible.
- Ensure traditional owners know about, and are teaching others about, our Native Title journey and their Native Title rights and responsibilities.



### Engage the Quandamooka people

- Co-design and implement an engagement strategy in conjunction with traditional owners.
- Utilise the knowledge of Quandamooka Elders through forum sessions to work through Native Title issues.
- Establish a clear Quandamooka identity and encourage the growth of the 'Quandamooka brand' throughout the region.
- Encourage the involvement of the Quandamooka people in events, information sharing and identifying and establishing business opportunities.

## STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING OUR GOALS (continued)



### Encourage Innovative Thinking

- Establish a QYAC Investment Advisory Committee.
- Implement an investment strategy authorised by Native Title holders.
- Establish a large-scale gift fund as a registered not-for-profit organisation to receive philanthropic funds for the benefit of the Quandamooka people.
- Establish a business unit within QYAC to access new revenue sources.
- Conserve financial benefits received under native title.



Quandamooka Elder Uncle Bob Anderson with Northern Territory Senator and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Nigen Scullion.

## QYAC BUSINESS SERVICES

**Providing professional services to community, industry and government.**

QYAC provides a range of services to key stakeholders across a range of skill sets.

Services include:

- cultural heritage monitoring and surveys
- land management projects
- small scale construction
- civil projects
- event and conference management
- cultural tourism
- planning and consultancy advice
- general project management.



Construction of facilities for Queensland Parks and Wildlife.

## KEY AREAS FOR FUTURE INVESTMENT

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Minjerribah Camping staff

QYAC has already successfully established its first commercial enterprise through Minjerribah Camping, a joint venture partnership with Indigenous Business Australia (IBA).

There are a number of other industries that the Quandamooka people have identified to explore for increasing economic development. These industries include:

- tourism
- agriculture and forestry
- alternate energy supply
- accommodation
- retail services
- land and sea management
- construction
- education and training
- provision of general services for residents on country.

QYAC is taking steps to identify the viability of engaging and entering these and other relevant sectors both in its own right or in joint ventures.



**Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee  
Aboriginal Corporation**

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