

# Dungala Woka – “River land”



Dungala Woka is inspired by our country Yorta Yorta Nation and a traditional Yorta Yorta creation story.

Baimi the Creator Spirit saw the old woman with her empty coolamon and told her to go and search for some yams. So, the old woman picked up her digging stick and set out across the dry land.

The old woman travelled a long way away, walking day and night but she could not see any yams. As time went on, she became tired and walked slowly with her digging stick dragging along the earth. Baimi waited for the old woman but could not see her anywhere. Baimi then called out to Gane, the great rainbow snake who was asleep beneath the earth. Gane awoke and made his way to the earth's surface where Baimi asked him to go search for the old woman and bring her back safely.

Gane set out across the land, following the marks left by the old woman's digging stick. His great body pushed the earth into deep crevices, hills and valleys and the beautiful colours from his body spread throughout the land covering trees, plants and all creatures.

Then Baimi called out in a loud voice as thunder cracked and lightning flashed across the sky and rain fell. The rain filled up the deep crevices left by the rainbow snake's body and the river Dungala was formed.

The Dungala is the heart of the Yorta Yorta Nation and symbolises our connection to Country, culture and community. We must care for Country and Country will care for us. We acknowledge our Ancestors and Elders who have inhabited what 'always was and always will be' Aboriginal land.



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