

**St George Illawarra Dragons Community & High Performance Centre (CHPC)**  
**Indigenous 'Walkshop' Notes**

30 November 2021

# POPULOUS®

**Date:**

30 November 2021, 9am – 12.30pm

**Location:**

CHPC Site, UoW Innovation Campus, Dharawal Land

**Attendees:**

Richard Davis, Aboriginal Enterprise Development Officer

Scott Morgan, Wollongong City Council

Mike Barnett, Arcadia

Annabel Spillane, Arcadia

Liam Maccan, Arcadia

Al Baxter, Populous

Kelly Drenth, Populous

Lani Johns, Ethos Urban

Nick Allen, Bridge 42

Scott O'Brien, Bridge 42

Grant Henman, Populous (via video)

Chris Hayward, Populous (via video)

## Key Themes:

1. Acknowledgement
2. Stories
3. Collaboration and transparency

### 1. Acknowledgement:

Acknowledgement is an important first step. The acknowledgement of country (on external signage and at the building entry). The acknowledgement of Indigenous community through artwork, stories and photos. All these can act as a visible statement representing and supporting Aboriginal people.

Enable Indigenous events at the CHPC, in particular those associated with Naidoc week are important.

### 2. Stories:

All the stories need to be told, the good and the bad.

Importance of the earth and the sea, importance of looking after the place, looking after the environment.

The Dragons stretch from Kogarah to Batemans Bay, the stories of these places need to be told in the facility.

On the land, Mt Kembla, Mt Keira, Brokers Nose are all important points on the escarpment with stories and history.

The historical use of the fresh water streams and waterways is important. The area of Puckey's Estate is important and rich in artifacts. The track running along the escarpment is important.

In the sea, the creation of the 5 islands (the 5 sisters) is an important story.

The humpback whale, the eagle and snake are important animal totems for the area, animal totem for Kogarah?

A yarning circle built for everyone (players, staff, fans, kids, community) would be a good way to enable these stories to be told (the circle at UoW Woolyungah Indigenous Centre seen as a good example). Needs to be a single circle large enough for all (do not split it up into smaller circles) and ensure people's backs do not face the Elders.

### 3. Collaboration and Transparency

Be transparent with the process and speak widely. There won't be universal agreement but if the community is listened to, some of the stories told and the Indigenous community acknowledged this will be seen as a success for the Indigenous community.

Jade Kennedy, Carol Speechley, Scott Morgan, Mark Olive will have stories, histories and knowledge worth hearing.

Don't over emphasise the Indigenous community above the other communities that make up the Dragons family. This centre should be for all the communities.

## **EARLY IDEAS DISCUSSED WITH RICHARD AND SCOTT:**

### **Acknowledgement:**

Acknowledge the country on the exterior signage (ie The Dragons Community & High Performance Centre on Dharawal Land). Have an acknowledgment of country in the foyer near the entry.

If there is a museum or display include Indigenous art and/or photos of indigenous players.

### **Stories:**

Potential to connect the main entry foyer and foyer grandstand to the stories and history of Mt Kemble, Mt Keira and Brokers Nose. This could be through framed sightlines, graphics, artwork and/or information touch screens.

Potential to connect the eastern side of the building to the 5 sisters. This could be through framed views, graphics, artwork and/or information touch screens.

Touchscreens in the foyer with Indigenous stories and histories of the local area, the Club and/or players. Tell the stories good and bad.

### **Artwork:**

The way the Dragons Indigenous jersey is created and decided upon is a good precedent for exterior or interior artworks. This could be as subtle as designs in the perforations of the exterior perforated shade panels. Some symbols worth considering are:

- The humpback whale,
- The eagle,
- The dreamtime serpent,
- The reconciliation circle around the Dragons logo already used by the Club.

The artwork at Hill 60/5 Islands is a good example of how mural artwork and stories can be done well.

### **Landscape & urban design:**

A yarning circle for the players, staff, fans, kids and the community. Open and accessible. A place to talk but also to hold ceremonies.

The use of native food and medicine plants.

Use of other artworks (images, sculptures, etc) in the landscape (but don't use totem poles as these are not local).



## IMAGES OF WOOLYUNGAH AT UOW AND THE FIVE ISLANDS:

UoW Woolyungah Indigenous Centre: Yarning Circle, Firepit and Signage.





## The Five Islands: Mural and Yarning Circle



