

05.

**MELISSA BADRAK**

**COORPAROO SECONDARY COLLEGE**

Hands in the Ground



# Hands in the ground.

*A story of Country, community and creating a heart.*



**2022.**

*The floods changed everything.*



**A college without a heart.**



**The story was already on the walls.**



**Waterholes. Footprints. Oxygen. Learning.**



# We listened first.

*Aunty Peggy. Uncle Phil. Aunty Pat. Uncle Troy. Uncle Stephen Coghill — Juggera Elder.*



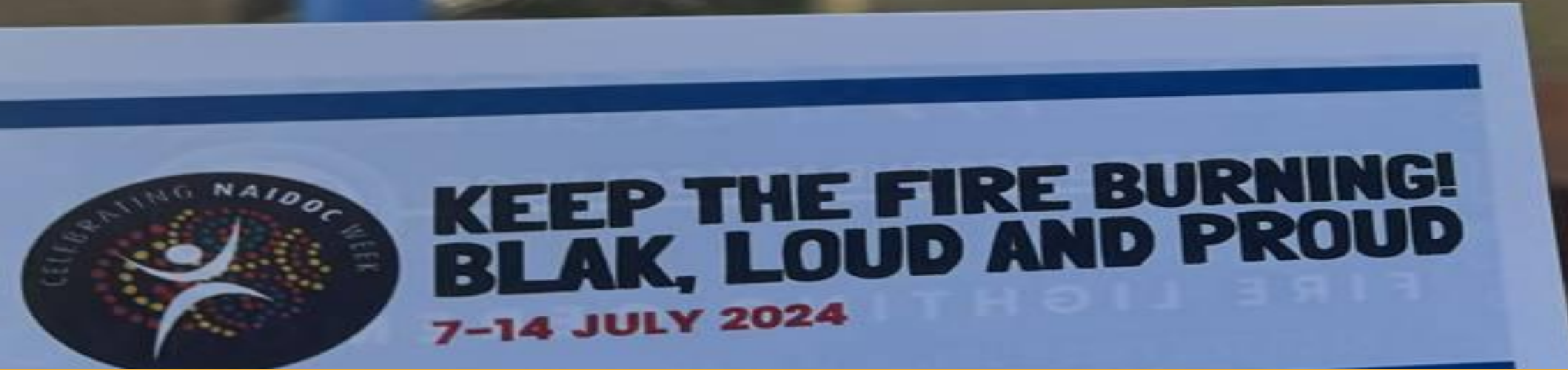
**\$400,000.**

*From a \$6,000 idea to a transformative grant.*



# Tessa Leggo. Fred St Pty Ltd.

*A landscape architect who listened as deeply as we did.*



# Keep the fire burning.

*Blak, loud and proud. NAIDOC Week, 7–14 July 2024.*



# Designed with Country in mind.

*Fire. Water. Earth. Air.*



# The totems wait.

*Originally left blank for a school merger that never came.*



**Blue. Like water. Like belonging.**



# Water remembered.

*A dry creek bed where floods once rose.*



# Footprints through the waterhole.

*We don't know where they come from. Or where they lead.*



# NAIDOC Week. July 2024.

*Country opened to all.*



**The circle holds.**



**Uncle Troy lights the fire.**



# Feet on earth.

*Connection to Country as pedagogy.*



# A heart, beating.

*First Nations community. Joe Kelly's Reconciliation meetings. Year 9 Geography. Every day.*



# Sustainability is not a project.

*It is a practice of listening, of Country, of belonging.*