Category: Social Affairs

Project: Working with First Nations Peoples: Co-designing a visual language.

What was the challenge?

Cultural Fire Credits is an initiative by the Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation and the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation supporting Indigenous-led projects and providing pathways for Aboriginal communities to utilise traditional land management practices to heal, protect and manage the Country. For information designers practicing as allies, advocates and activists for Indigenous communities the decolonisation of design practices is the key challenge
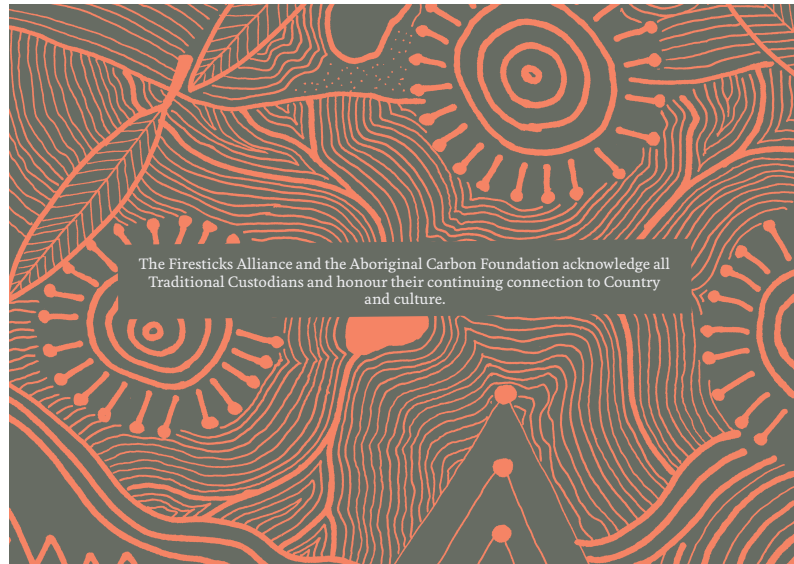
What was the solution?

The co-design of the brand mark, knowledge triangle and visual language to communicate the philosophy and guidelines of the Indigenous designed and led cultural fire credits, the partnership between Firesticks Alliance and the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation, the implementation and assessment of the cultural fire credits, the principles of the mentoring program and the Indigenous governance processes. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Kfv5zhoddu5AJYmRvpC3gYs5VpSE5pvR/view
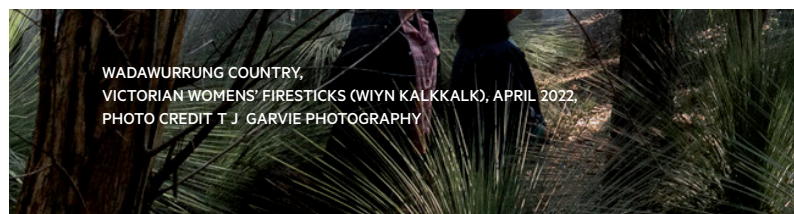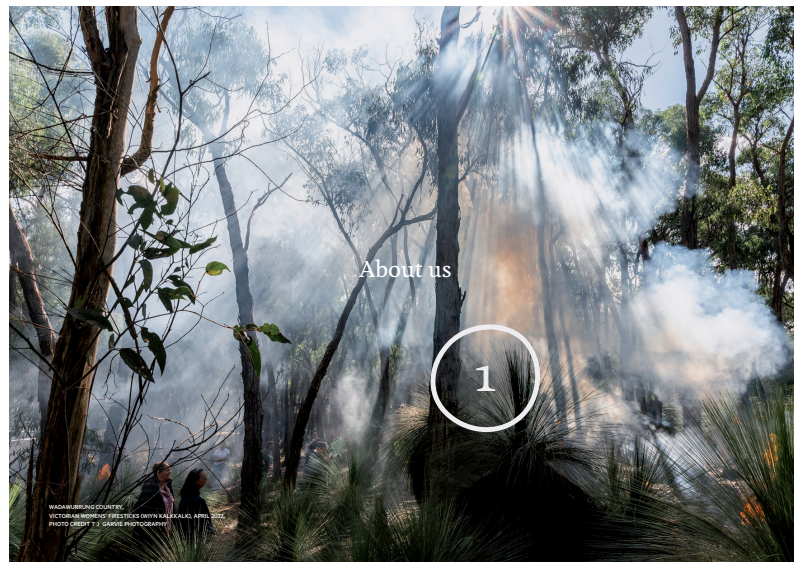
What was the effect?

The brand mark, the knowledge triangle and the visual language are co-designed as a visual foundation for ongoing programs. The information design was informed by Indigenous-led protocols and guided by principles of respect and reciprocity. The decolonising practices of the information designer include deep listening and iterative consultations in collaboration practices to ensure the processes of translation and interpretation foreground Indigenous self-determination and sovereignty.

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The Firesticks Alliance and the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation acknowledge all Traditional Custodians and honour their continuing connection to Country and culture.

Artwork by Indigenous knowledge holder and fire practitioner Leeton Lee, descendant of Thungutti, Bundjalung and Mualgal peoples.

About us

1

WADAWURRUNG COUNTRY,
VICTORIAN WOMENS' FIRESTICKS (WIYN KALKKALK), APRIL 2022,
PHOTO CREDIT T J GARVIE PHOTOGRAPHY

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Acknowledgements support respectful representation and include recognition of Country, description of gathering and date, participants and their community, and credit for the photographer. Prior and informed consent is negotiated for all images and descriptions.
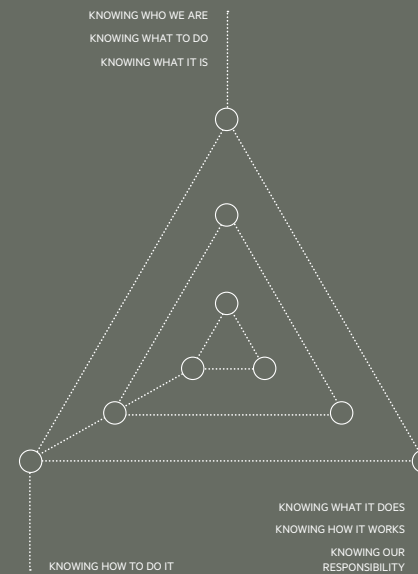

CULTURE
COUNTRY
COMMUNITY
INDIGENOUS-LED

PROTOCOLS
MENTORSHIP
KNOWLEDGE
GOVERNANCE

Brand mark designed by Lyndal Harris Jacqueline Gothe with Peta Standley in consultation with Firesticks Alliance and Aboriginal Carbon Foundation 2022. This brand mark represents the partnership between Firesticks Alliance and Aboriginal Carbon Foundation demonstrating the relational connections between culture and governance, country and knowledge, community and mentorship and Indigenous led protocols.

2.1

...ng the Knowledge ...Cultural Fire Credits

FIGURE 1 THE KNOWLEDGE TRIANGLE

To give a practical example of the Knowledge Triangle, 'knowing what it is' might apply specifically to identifying a plant, 'knowing what it does' might be knowing that the leaves of that plant are good for a sore stomach, and 'knowing how to do it' might mean preparing the plant as medicine. This final step – committing an action of knowledge that is of benefit and sustainable – can [also] be seen on a large scale in terms of a whole mass of people and in terms of where we are today with society ... research methodologies and current understanding of environment." He goes on to say that "understanding of process and action is usually distorted ... by government policies or bureaucracies or simply the loss of knowledge, so the loss of knowledge can ... stall that process and put people in the situation of only having two sides of the triangle like knowing what it is and knowing what it does but ... not ... how to apply it or how it works or how to do it and that's a fundamental problem within the application of contemporary fire practice." (Steffensen, V. field notes, 24 June 2016 in Standley. P. 2019)

KNOWING WHO WE ARE
KNOWING WHAT TO DO
KNOWING WHAT IT IS

KNOWING WHAT IT DOES
KNOWING HOW IT WORKS
KNOWING OUR RESPONSIBILITY

KNOWING HOW TO DO IT

The Knowledge Triangle. Victor Steffensen and Kuku Thaypan Elders Dr Tommy George and Dr George Musgrave developed the knowledge triangle used in the Firesticks mentoring practices. Design Victor Steffensen, Jacqueline Gothe Peta Standley and Lyndal Harris

2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

Part 4-5: How to purchase or supply Cultural Fire Credits?