

YAMATJI WATER NEWSLETTER



WELCOMING SHONETTE AND DAKIRA MONGOO TO YAMATJI WATER

We're excited to welcome sisters Shonette Mongoo and Dakira Mongoo to the Yamatji Water team. Bringing energy, curiosity, and a deep connection to Country, they're already making their mark as our newest Water Trainees.



Shonette Mongoo is a proud Yamatji woman with Banjima and Yamatji heritage, with strong ties to Yalgoo, Murgoo Station, and Ngarluma Country. She is developing skills in groundwater and surface water monitoring, field sampling, and environmental reporting, with a passion for blending traditional knowledge with modern environmental science to care for Country. Outside of work, Shonette enjoys concerts, camping, four-wheel driving, and studying a professional makeup course, reflecting her creativity, adventurous spirit, and connection to both Country and community.



Dakira Mongoo is a proud Yamatji woman with deep cultural connections across Yamatji and Banjima Country, and experience on Ngarluma and Whadjuk Country. Recently graduating from high school, she brings energy and curiosity to her traineeship, assisting with water monitoring and environmental data collection, while honouring her connection to Country. Dakira also loves exploring landscapes, camping, four-wheel driving, and drawing, and hopes to one day own a small farm while building a career that supports her community and personal growth.



Pictured above: Yamatji Water team members Shonette Mongoo, Breanna Mead, Vilma Hodder and Dakira Mongoo with Sharon Oxenham (DWER) at the Geraldton STEM Festival.

YAMATJI WATER JOINS DWER AT GERALDTON STEM FESTIVAL

On 25 and 26 February 2026, our water technicians and trainees joined the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) at the Geraldton Regional TAFE STEM Festival. The team worked alongside DWER to showcase career pathways in the water industry and engage with local students.

A huge thanks to everyone involved, from supporting the school and community sessions to helping with pack down. Special recognition goes to Breanna and Vilma for going above and beyond, and a warm welcome to our new trainees, Shonette and Dakira, who had a busy first week!

The festival was a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate collaboration between Yamatji Water and DWER. The team looked amazing in their Yamatji Water shirts, and the stall created an impressive and visually engaging display.

Congratulations to all for making the festival such a success!



Pictured above: Yamatji Water Junior Water Technician, Vilma Hodder, presenting at the 22nd Annual Wetlands Conference in Perth.

22ND ANNUAL WETLANDS CONFERENCE

On 5 February 2026, Junior Water Technician, Vilma Hodder, represented Yamatji Water at the 22nd Annual Wetlands Conference in Perth, alongside Laurie Barlow, General Manager Strategic Projects.

Vilma shared her journey as a proud Yamatji Nations woman progressing from trainee to Junior Water Technician and spoke about the work of Yamatji Water in supporting employment pathways within the water sector.

Her presentation generated strong interest from attendees and highlighted the importance of creating opportunities for Aboriginal people in water management.

VILMA HODDER NAMED 2025 MIDWEST TAFE TRAINEE OF THE YEAR

We are thrilled to announce that Vilma Hodder was named 2025 MidWest TAFE Trainee of the Year! This award recognises her dedication, professionalism, and the outstanding contribution she makes to her team and community.

We congratulate Vilma on this well-deserved recognition and for representing Yamatji Water with confidence and pride.

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GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATIONS PROGRESS WITH CULTURAL HERITAGE SURVEY AT TWIN HILLS

Yamatji Water continues to progress the Twin Hills Groundwater Investigation, with recent on-country activities marking an important step toward the next phase of the project.

In early March, a cultural heritage survey was undertaken as part of the proposed exploration drilling works. Conducted in collaboration with heritage representatives and

specialists, the survey ensures that all planned activities are carried out respectfully and in accordance with cultural protocols, while identifying and protecting culturally significant areas.

The investigation is focused on confirming the viability of groundwater resources within the Twin Hills sub-region, a key area identified for future water supply opportunities. To date, priority drill targets have been identified, site inspections completed, and planning undertaken to minimise environmental impact by utilising existing access tracks and previously cleared areas where possible.

With the heritage survey now complete, the project is progressing toward permitting and the mobilisation of exploratory drilling works, anticipated to commence in the coming months. These investigations will assess aquifer characteristics, groundwater quality, and yield, supporting future water allocation and development opportunities.

YAMATJI WATER SECURES FIVE-YEAR DWER CONTRACT

We're thrilled to announce that Yamatji Water has been awarded a five-year contract with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) to deliver water monitoring, sampling, and hydrogeological services across WA.

Building on our two-year monitoring contract that concluded in February, this new agreement supports long-term, skilled employment for Yamatji people and strengthens our role in sustainable water management.

"This contract is about more than services — it's about building capability on country and creating meaningful, skilled employment for Yamatji people in caring for our water and environment. Long-term partnerships like this allow us to grow a strong Aboriginal business that delivers real outcomes". - Jarrad Oakley-Nicholls, Yamatji Water Chair.



Pictured above: Yamatji Water's Principal Hydrogeologist, Selva Marimuthu, alongside cultural heritage representatives on Country during the Twin Hills heritage survey.

WEBSITE LAUNCH

Our new Yamatji Water website is now live. Visit www.yamatjiwater.com.au to learn more about our work, services, and career opportunities.