

Jeder Biennial Gathering Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th November, 2023

Wisemans Ferry: <https://www.wisemans.com.au>

Calling Question: Where to now? Rebirth, Connection, Direction
We met on the lands of the Dharug Aboriginal people.



Core Team:

- Sahar, Harley, Luke, Kaeleen, Drew, Chontelle, Vic
- Dee (process and design support, not attending)

Welcome to Wisemans Ferry!

People started arriving on Tuesday the 7th for a pre-gathering at Wisemans Ferry Inn Hotel for dinner. As the sun began to set on gathering eve a group of members gathered at the Heritage Pub, a cosy establishment with a rustic charm that perfectly set the tone for the evening.

We sat at a long wooden table overlooking the spectacular cliff faces of Wisemans Ferry surrounded by laughter and the clinking of glasses. Over dinner, we discussed our excitement for the upcoming gathering, reminiscing about previous years and sharing our hopes for the days ahead.



After dinner, the group decided to take a leisurely stroll (upstairs) to the charming little museum that showcased the history and artefacts from bygone eras. As they wandered through the exhibits, they marvelled at the intricate details and craftsmanship of the past, drawing inspiration for their own contributions to the gathering.



Returning to the gathering space, on Dharug country they found themselves at a picturesque location surrounded by tall, ancient trees, mountains and the river Dyarubbin.

It was a lovely bit of fellowship together and a nice connection point before we started the work as many of the Members present had not yet met.

The group collaborated to set up the gathering space and carefully reviewed the flow to create a sense of unity and connection.

The Jeder Gathering is not just an event; it is a celebration of knowledge, experience and connection. A reminder that our common passion and purpose is a strength to be embraced. Most importantly the Gathering provides us with the opportunity to plan and set our common intentions for the Future of Jeder!



The pre-night preparations, the dinner at Heritage Pub, the visit to the Museum and the careful setup of the gathering space were all a testament to the dedication and love of the community that make this event, and The Jeder Institute, so special!!



Wisemans Ferry Inn Hotel

Welcome to The November Gathering at Wisemans Ferry

We are up and running!!!



DAY ONE

On Day One of the Jeder Gathering, members enjoyed a delightful morning at the Heritage Cafe, embracing the rustic charm and lively conversations that set the tone for the day.

We continued our journey and all met at 9am, down by the river, where we were warmly welcome with a Welcome to Country by Rhiannon Wright, of the Dharug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation, near the tranquil waters of the Wiseman Ferry river.

Rhiannon talked about the importance of the river and connection to country for her mob and shared a series of videos with us which were made on country.



After our Welcome to Country, we reconvened back in the venue space and started with the Core Team welcoming everyone and giving an overview of the Flow and sharing any housekeeping notices.

We were joined by Chris from APACMS and also Cherish, Hannah and Drew on Zoom throughout the day, which covered circle time discussion rounds, focus on smashing the Jeder pillars, enhancing transparency, and maintaining constant communication within the organization. Members contributed their valuable insights, enriching the gathering's spirit.

Circle Practice & Check-in



Vic started with a Circle Practice teach and Members responded to the following check-in question, "What does Jeder do for you?"



Organisational Updates



After we had all checked in, we had a morning tea and reflection break where people got to get to know each other more and have a rest or a stretch outside.

After the break, we moved in organisational updates, as follows:

- Admin and Invest in Us was hosted by Harley
- NPod was hosted by Jason
- Coaches was hosted by Aleks
- Teams were hosted by Vic for CoBu, Luke for Together Home, Mark for CoS and Sharon for BIS
- Member checkin was hosted by Chontelle

Jeder Connections

The next session was hosted by Sahar on our connections, asking the question “how do we let go and grow together into the future of Jeder?”





Acknowledging the 3 Spaces: Past, Present, and Future

During our gathering, we engaged in a reflective process that involved creating three circles on the ground, each representing a different stage of our journey: the past, the present, and the future.

- **What's in the past?**

In this space, members acknowledged what they were ready to release or leave behind. It was a moment of closure and letting go, allowing for a sense of freedom as we move forward.

- **What's present now?**

This circle was dedicated to fully embracing the present moment. Members shared what is currently alive in their personal journeys and within their contributions to the work of Jeder, fostering a sense of presence and mindfulness.

- **What are we working towards?**

The final circle was a space for setting intentions. Participants reflected on their future goals and visions, both within their personal lives and in their collective efforts at Jeder. This circle represented hope, growth, and the power of intention moving forward.

Through this process, we created a shared sense of community and connection, honouring the journey we have been on and the path we are walking together.



This activity focused on the past challenges and how we move forward from that. We discussed how, as an organisation, we want to move into the future.

Members were invited to go for a walk and find an object or item to bring back to the circle and the working spaces.

We stood in each circle and discussed how we felt and what connection we had to that space. Each Member moved into the next space and had their individual reflections on each of the spaces and what it meant to them.

After this fun and insightful activity, we had a lunch break.

Lunch Time



Open Space Technology



After lunch, Vic gave a brief teach on the practices and principles of Open Space and supported by Harley and Chontelle, we all moved into Open Space Sessions. Discussion groups were started on these topics and were then carried over to day 2 to finalise and create actions from.



The Wicked Ideas that were put forward were:

- Wicked idea 1: Smashing the pillars with Chontelle
- Wicked idea 2: Consistency within paid and unpaid contributions with Aleks and Cherish
- Wicked Idea 3: How Do we keep transparent & accountable especially during tougher times, or when things don't work with Luke

After the initial discussion rounds, each of the groups offered their feedback and pieces of gold before we moved into checkout.

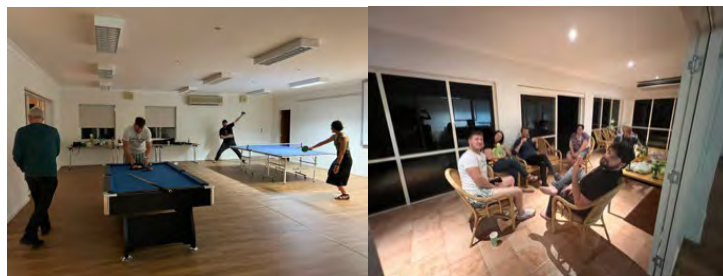
Costume Pool Party



The day finished with a delightful BBQ and pool party, where laughter and camaraderie filled the air. Pool tables and table tennis provided additional avenues for friendly competition and connection. As the day drew to a close, everyone had the privilege of witnessing a breathtaking sunset over the river, adding a touch of magic to their Jeder experience.



This gathering not only embodies the spirit of unity and shared purpose but also serves as a platform to shape the future of Jeder. The dedication and love of this community shine through in every moment, making The Jeder Institute truly extraordinary.





DAY TWO



Welcome Back and Check-in



On Day Two of our Jeder Gathering, Luke and Sahar welcomed everyone, including Fran, and gave an Acknowledgement of Country, did some housekeeping and then we centred our attention on the aspects of connection and rebirth. The check-in question guiding our reflections was, “What new connections and relationships have you formed within Jeder, and what do they mean to you?”

In addition to Fran’s check-in, he shared cherished moments and the news of his departure from Jeder to embark on his newly organized venture, CALMER. We extended our heartfelt gratitude for the time Fran dedicated to us and wish him the very best on his new journey.



Boat Excursion

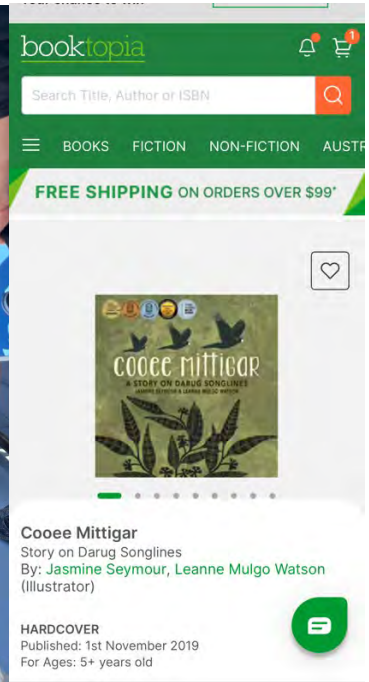
Following this, we joyously embarked on a boat excursion along the Wiseman Ferry river. The boat ride wasn't just about racing each other on the river, with Dimi taking the lead; it evolved into a bustling trust and communication exercise. Laughter and excitement echoed as we explored a smaller river, accompanied by Rhiannon Wright's voice recording—a profoundly moving experience of storytelling.

11 Stories from the River Dyarubbin



Mari Badu Muru – Big Water Path, by Leanne Mulgo Watson © 2022

11 Stories from the River Dyarubbin is a series of 11





Lunch Time



Rapid Discussion Rounds hosted by Vic, Chontelle, Harley, Drew, Chontelle & Marg

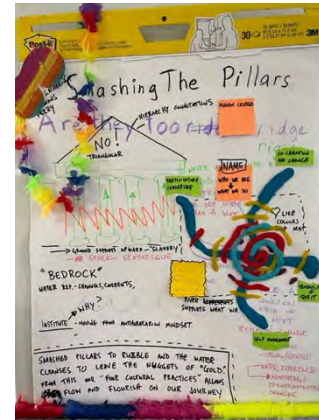
After the boat excursion, our lunch, catered by Heritage Cafe, became a delightful pause in our day, fostering more connections among us. Marg and Chontelle had a blast trying to smash the pillars, while Luke and Aleks delved into exploring the other themes.

These moments of shared exploration deepened our bonds. These discussions are crucial for our collective growth and progress, and the insights were invaluable.

Using the Rapid Discussion Rounds process to take the ideas into action, the following three topics were worked on:

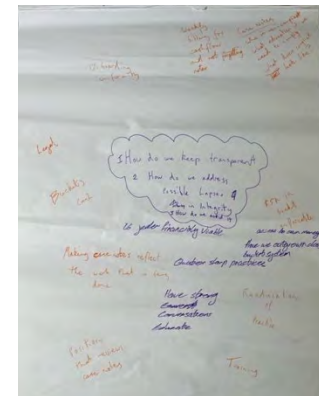
Topic 1: Smashing the Pillars

Some work was commenced on a proposal to shift the Jeder Pillars into pools, rivers or something more fluid. The discussion was rich and the proposal will be available for Member comment in the near future.



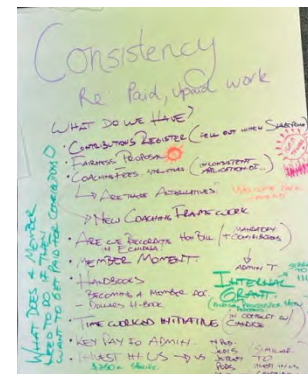
Topic 2: Transparency within the Organization

This was a discussion based topic and will be ongoing in many areas of the Membership.



Topic 3: Clarity and Consistency of Contributions, and Both Paid and Unpaid Work

This was a discussion based topic and will be ongoing in many areas of the Membership.



Final Organisational Update



Chontelle and Jason introduced two topics:

- NDIS Audit Touch Base
- Member Check in Touch Base

After they gave an overview, there was an open Member discussion and a Q&A for Members to gain more clarity and further next steps.

Check-out



As part of our check-out process, we asked, "What is your gift to Jeder?" Each of the members received seeds to plant when they returned home—a symbolic gesture representing the growth and potential within our Jeder community.

One Member who joined on Zoom reflected, "I feel a bit shy today to share anything too self-reflective. I'll settle with I like to think what I do for Jeder is bring my smile, offer a space for others to open up, be comfortable and welcomed and a vibe. Vibes can differ dependant on mood haha"

A special note of celebration to Vic—Happy Birthday! May your year ahead be filled with joy and wonderful moments.

As the day came to an end, a powerful storm swept through with intense winds and rain. It served as a poignant reminder that, in the face of nature's might, our Jeder community remains resilient—a testament to the strength and unity we share.

Thank you for your active participation and commitment to shaping the future of Jeder. Your presence and contributions make our community truly extraordinary. Looking forward to more shared moments on this journey.

A massive thank you to Harley, Chontelle, Luke, Vic, Marg, Drew, and Sahar for the great co-facilitation for the November gathering of 2023.

