



BECAUSE OF HER, We Can!



Emma Richards

Story by Shelley Harrison

Emma was born in Perth. Her mother is a Gubrun woman from Kalgoorlie. Her father is a Barnjarla man and as children they moved to Port Lincoln, which allowed them to connect more with their Barnjarla heritage. Living near the coast their mum and dad would often find the kids at the fish traps.

Emma's connection with the coast continued to shape the person she has become today. The Barnjarla cultural aspects of the Marine Parks Connections project is a pivotal part of getting school students to create their own unique connections to Country. Emma has been involved in every aspect of the project and this has helped built up her capacity and confidence to develop and promote the Barnjarla connection to country.

Emma has played pivotal role in improving peoples understanding of Aboriginal culture. She is a proud spokesperson for her people and has had to navigate her way through a lot of hardship just to get her people recognised.

She is a single mom and has worked really hard to not only to instil culture and connection into her own children, but also the wider community. Emma works with Adelaide University as a Project Officer training doctors in cultural awareness, but also mental health issues of Aboriginal youth with a loss of connection to Country.

Emma works full time, but has still managed to work on a number of projects connecting local schools with the environment and Country, as well as revitalising and sharing with the public Barnjarla language.

In the past she has been a Chair of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee as well as sitting on other Boards.

She is a strong, passionate and hardworking woman. She puts her culture and her family before herself, sometimes to the detriment of her own health.

I am proud to have worked so closely with Emma, and my project and my own understanding and connection with Aboriginal people would not be where it is today without Emma.

NAIDOC Week



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