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Institute of TAFE



# Introduction

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- Introduction
- Summary of the Project
- Background
- Key Outcomes - Successful Strategies (selection of)
- DVD presentation - 2 short digital stories
- Questions

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## Digital storytelling - voice recording



Aunty Irene Thomas, Elder & student assisted by  
Charles Atkinson, Koorie Teacher, Goulburn Ovens  
TAFE

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Digital storytelling - group session using  
Photo Story 3 computer program



Beginner classes conducted at North Shepparton  
Community Learning Centre

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Digital storytelling - group excursion to meet  
Elders at Cummeragunja Mission & Barmah,  
Murray River



Uncle Colin Walker, Elder with participants Wendy  
Bryce,  
Murray Moulton & Eva Ponting

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## Digital storytelling - listening to stories by Uncle Kevin Atkinson at Cummeragunja school



Charles Atkinson (Koorie teacher), Uncle Kevin Atkinson senior (senior), Chris Turner (teacher support) & Tom Pearce (student)

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## Summary of the project

- **Project Launch June & showcase November 2008**, the Aboriginal community of Shepparton celebrated a successful conclusion to its inaugural digital storytelling project, DIDGe, following an engaging ten week program.
- **Community program & production** six short stories (DVD & website) by Elders – traditional keepers and tellers of stories working with aspiring younger storytellers.
- **Partnerships** Academy of Sport, Health & Education (ASHE), The University of Melbourne, North Shepparton Community Learning Centre (NSCLC) & Centre for Koorie Education, Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE (GOTAFE).
- **Funding** Adult, Community & Further Education Board (Community Learning Partnerships) & Indigenous Coordination Centre – Victoria Office

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## Objectives

- Develop capacity within the community & resources for the community to promote understanding & respect for Koorie culture & heritage from a historical & contemporary perspective.
- Re-engage Koorie people in learning, leading pathways for further training, higher education &/or employment.
- Form strong & enduring partnerships between three key providers of further education & training: Koorie Unit, GOTAFE, NSCLC & ASHE

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## Background

Why was the project needed in the Shepparton area?

- NSCLC services a community- significantly disadvantaged (North Shepparton).
- High number of Indigenous people live in the government housing in this area.
- ABS data indicates low levels of engagement with post compulsory education & training. (Shepparton area)
- Rates of year 12 completion for Koorie students is well below all students (28% of Koorie students completed Year 12 compared with 54% all students). (2005 Greater Shepparton)
- High proportion of young Koorie people are leaving school & not engaging with further training & employment options.
- TAFE course completion rates for Koorie students are currently 40% & unemployment rates for Koorie people significantly higher than for non Koorie people.

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## Who was involved in the project?

- Partner organisations: ASHE, NSCLC & GOTAFE
- Reference group (12 people from partner organisations & Indigenous community members)
- Project Coordinator
- Teaching staff (4) & teacher/student support staff (6) (4 Indigenous staff out of total 10 employed)
- Elders (4): 2 male & 2 female Elders
- Indigenous Participants, 16 – 60 + years (25)
- Community members attendance at Showcase event, November 21, 2008 (170 +) exceeded expectations.

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## Key Outcomes

### Successful Strategies (selection of):

- **Partner organisations relationships** have been established & continue their strong working relationship of sharing resources: brought together in a common interest to promote Aboriginal culture & development of participants.
- **Community resource** DIDGe DVD is already being used people in the community: strategic Indigenous organisations to promote cultural awareness & at times of community events & celebrations, amongst students & their families & friends - Indigenous & non-Indigenous peoples.
- **Storytelling** Increasingly engaged Koorie Elders interest & skills in storytelling & learning new media. Link to *Lotipa: Speaking to* (Elders Photography Project), Berry Street, Hume Region (RACV, McEwen Foundation, Rumbalara Elders & Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Melbourne Museum).
- **Cultural transfer** This project has created an environment in which cultural transfer across generations has occurred & opportunities to develop this further have been identified.

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## Resources



- DIDGe DVD - select stories
- Website [www.gotafe.vic.edu.au/didge](http://www.gotafe.vic.edu.au/didge)
- Contact details [rothompson@gotafe.vic.edu.au](mailto:rothompson@gotafe.vic.edu.au)
- Questions?

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The Digital Storytelling Project is supported by the Victorian Government, through the Community Learning Partnership Project & Indigenous Coordination Centre, Victoria Office.

