

The Porongurup community came together
for a performance of
THE STARS DESCEND

Inspirational! Wonderful story in movement and music!

were some of the comments I heard as we walked back to the refreshment stalls set up at Twin Creeks Conservation Reserve from the bush site where a dance performance by local volunteers was held. Judy O'Neill.



The low, slow moving grey clouds hinting of rain provided a dramatic backdrop for the 298 patrons who attended the Twin Creeks performance of 'The Stars Descend'. Twenty-four volunteer dancers from our local community were accompanied by professional soloists Janine Oxenham and Russell Thorpe. This was chapter 3 of the five chapters produced for regional groups to inspire climate action through creative dance.

Artistic Director and project manager, Annette Carmichael, explained, "The aim of this project is to create extraordinary memories that will transform how people see and care for country."

In early 2021, Annette formed a partnership with conservation legend and Gondwana Link CEO Keith Bradby to create five regional dance performances highlighting the importance of environmental restoration and the significance of connections across the Link.

In the past two decades, inspired by the Gondwana Link vision, private landowners, community groups and conservation minded organisations (including the Porongurup Friends), have worked to reconnect 1000km of continuous native habitat.

Over five chapters a story unfolded that tracked the stars' journey across the Gondwana Link. In Chapter 3 the stars travel through the granite in the sparkle and quartz of its seams until they reach the ancient Porongurup Range. They glitter, shimmering upwards. They reach into the sky of a setting sun ready to re-join the evening stars, but they hear the birds of the Great Western Woodlands call and in a moment of suspended breath, they fall again, land in the pools of water that form around granite and float towards the Fitzgerald Biosphere.

The story ends in Kalgoorlie (Garlgula/Karkurla) when an emu lays an egg that contains a universe of knowledge and hope for the future. A silky pear grows within the egg, its seeds are like stars, and they are caught by the night breeze and spread out across the country.

On behalf of the Porongurup Friends executive committee, a heartfelt thank you to Annette Carmichael and her production team, to the many Friends' members, notably the extraordinary effort by local producer, Sayah Drummond. There were many volunteers behind the scenes: bus drivers, local and mobile food and drink caterers, marshals, sponsors, and advisors who contributed to the success of a memorable evening.

And... last words to Keith Bradby: *"We are delighted to be part of this exciting partnership with Annette Carmichael Projects. This fusion of creativity and conservation will be invaluable in encouraging more Australians to appreciate the beauty and global importance of our regional environments, the talent of local communities and the many ways we can both enjoy and restore important Australian landscapes and habitats."*

The list of first nation consultants, artistic and production teams, the community dance ensemble and acknowledgements: <https://distributed15.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Event-Programme-F2-sm.pdf>