

Namabunda Farm

Collaborator Engagement Framework & Expectations



This document gives background to establishment of Namabunda Farm by Bundjalung Tribal Society and outlines the cornerstone values which underpin the work taking place here and expectations for future collaborations.

Establishment of Namabunda Farm

Namabudna Farm is situated at 112 Whites Lane, Alstonville, NSW, and consists of three separate properties with a combined area of 29.494 ha (approximately 72 acres). The property is surrounded by macadamia and cattle farmland and was originally planted with lychees for commercial production, around 35-40 years ago. This commercial venture ended soon after it began, and for many years the land sat unused except for the lease to Namatjira Haven, a Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre.

In the last 7-10 years, the vision for Namabunda Farm has shifted to a site of cultural activities and opportunities for On Country employment, training, access and workshops for Bundjalung people as well as members of the broader community. This has involved a core partnerships with local non-Indigenous businesses Ethos Global and Living Agroecology, which have respectively facilitated the clearing of Bana Grass and Camphor trees which had overtaken most of the land and the replanting of native food forests using traditional Brazilian syntropic agroforestry. More recently work has also begun on re-establishing the creek which runs through Namabunda Farm as part of the Richmond River watershed, and further sections of the Bana Grass and Camphor trees have been cleared for walking paths and yarning circles.

The vision for the future of Namabunda Farm is one which centres culture, collaboration, and access to Country for Bundjalung peoples. It is also a place for non-Indigenous people to learn from and with Bundjalung people through volunteering, research, community planting days, and engagement workshops.

Cornerstone Values

Namabunda Farm is a site for growth and empowerment of Bundjalung people, by Bundjalung people.

Commitment | Respect | Integrity

Our Commitment

As a location for training and workshops, Namabunda Farm provides opportunities for Bundjalung people to reconnect with Country and open doors to employment and mental and social wellbeing in a supportive environment. **This is our commitment.**

If you would like to collaborate with us at Namabunda Farm you will need to understand that this commitment is our priority.

To work with us, we ask that you are clear about your commitments, and are clear about how your business will be of benefit to *us*, not only how we can be of benefit to *you*.

Behaving with Respect

Namabunda Farm is here to benefit the Bundjalung community. **We operate according to cultural protocols of respect in how we do our business.** Sometimes our commitment to respect for our community mean that Sorry Business, or other stressors in our community or lives will disrupt planned events or mean that there are last minute cancellations to meetings. Behaving in a respectful manner when collaborating with us at Namabunda Farm means being accepting of this and being willing to work with us to rearrange meetings or events which have been disrupted.

Another important aspect of respect when working with us at Namabunda Farm is the recognition that the **Bundjalung Tribal Society Board of Directors are the body which makes decisions about the visions for Namabunda Farm.** Collaborators need to understand that they will not be decision makers.

We expect that all collaborators will engage with us in polite and respectful ways and be aware of our commitments outside of their work with us. If at any time this becomes unclear, we ask that you seek clarification on how to maintain respectful practices in working with us.

Acting with Integrity

At Namabunda Farm, a key aspect of behaving with integrity is **openness and clarity in communication**. We ask that when you seek to work with us you come with a clear plan which has integrated flexibility so as to accommodate the respectful work practices outlined in *Behaving with Respect*.

For researchers, we also expect that any information which is gained from research at Namabunda Farm and to be presented elsewhere is first presented to the Bundjalung Tribal Society Board of Directors for their approval. When planning research, we also expect that you include in your budget catering for events and to pay community members for their time.

Expectations for Collaborators

We feel that it is important to set out clear expectations so that we can build mutually beneficial relationships.

In acting in accordance with the above values of Commitment, Respect and Integrity, we ask for a few concrete behaviours from potential collaborators;

- 1.** Please first think about and clearly communicate how your research or collaboration proposal will benefit *us* as well as *you*
- 2.** We ask that you have consistent and clear communication with one centralised point of contact with whom Bundjalung Tribal Society will deal on a regular basis
- 3.** If you are asking for contributions from Bundjalung community members or the Board of Directors (for example participation in research), we ask that you include funding to pay people for their time & information
- 4.** If you are a non-Indigenous person, we recommend that you have a base level of prior Cultural Awareness Training, or experience working with First Nations communities, before asking to work with us
- 5.** In order to collaborate or work with you on your research project, we may ask that you sign a formal collaboration agreement/s. You should have a willingness and capacity to do so before asking to work or collaborate with us
- 6.** We ask that you incorporate flexible timelines into your project