

Ancient Wisdom & Systems Thinking:

Solutions emerging for a better future.

By

Dennis Simmons & John Thompson

July 8th 2021



Kgiabar (Dennis Simmons) has links to the Nyoongar (South West), Yamatji (Central West) and Madawangkar (Central Desert) of Western Australia. He has developed and delivers cultural education programmes and is the founder of [Maar Koodjal](#); a not-for-profit organisation active in strengthening culture via healing of trauma from colonisation, and reconnecting Aboriginal people with culture and 'country'. In addition, he provides cultural education programs to non aboriginal people.

John Thompson is 5th generation Australian of English/European descent who was conceived and born on Nyoongar land. For as long as he can remember he has had a strong connection to nature and Mother Earth. During a long period of deep nature immersion and connection in his mid-thirties, he met an [Aboriginal Elder](#) who listened to his story and explained that all knowledge was 'in country', and because he was accessing this information & wisdom, he had an obligation to give back. johnthompson.com.au

Dennis and John met a few years ago and immediately recognised they had a similar world view and vision. Dennis's view informed by an unbroken Aboriginal cultural lineage and wisdom tradition stretching back beyond 60,000 years. John's informed by the study of self-organising systems, long periods of nature immersion, natural philosophy, learning from indigenous peoples in various parts of the world along with many years working with trauma and abuse recovery. Since this time, they have had endless conversations and spent

time together 'on country' for wisdom, knowledge and skills exchange. They are currently collaborating to support each other in their respective projects and working together to integrate new science and knowledge with the wisdom of the aboriginal culture. From this is emerging programmes for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

It is difficult for us to provide a synopsis of what we will be talking about on the 8th of July. For both of us it is an intuitive process. That is, we won't really know until it emerges on the day. We can provide a general outline though.

Dennis will begin the session with a 'welcome to country'. We will be speaking from [Whadjuk](#) country, part of the Noongar Nation in the S.W. of Western Australia, and the information and wisdom he provides comes from this land. This will involve diggeridoo and the welcome in language. Dennis will explain the significance of the welcome, why it is necessary and what it means for you. Then he will share story and cultural information guided by his ancestors. Given the audience it is likely this will illustrate interrelationship, interdependence, self-organisation along with emergence and many other systems properties. Although anything is possible.

John will speak after Dennis and this is likely to be about his distant ancestor's disconnection from nature and natural wisdom, the self-organisation of rational conscious mind (driven by a history of conflict, invasion, trauma and exploitation over thousands of years) and the resultant loss of relationship and meaning. From a systems viewpoint he will then talk about the increasing instability of global systems and the transformational opportunity for self and society this offers. If time permits, John will include a brief description of his transformational work from the ground up with those on the front line of change and transformation. This involves the integration of ancient wisdom with self-organising and transformational systems. His aim is to foster self-organising, replicable, sustainable, interconnected networks for information/skills/resource sharing to support individual and collective change for a sustainable future.