

[View this email in your browser](#)



An invitation to Connect with Country

Hello and welcome to **Week 1** of #NaturePact 2022!

To begin, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters worldwide where this #NaturePact campaign is reaching, from Melbourne, Australia to Munich, Germany to Calgary, Canada and beyond!

Traditional cultures are increasingly being recognised for their ancient and living wisdom about how to live sustainably. Modern, industrialised cultures have a lot to learn – and unlearn – about our identity and relationship with the natural world.

Making a #NaturePact is a way to remember and experience that **we humans are a part of nature** – not separate from it, not above it. When we connect with nature, we are connecting with our origins. In Australia, Traditional Owners call this practice ‘connecting to [Country](#)’.

As Uncle Tinawin, Ngintait Elder and Chair of [First People of the Millewa Mallee Aboriginal Corporation](#), explains:

“As a Traditional Custodian and Elder of the lands of our Ancestors here in north-west Victoria, when I connect with Country, I’m connecting with kin. Thousands of generations of family. For me, Country is my family and our living stories – held in the rivers, the woodlands and the dunes where my Old People lay at rest. For us,

connecting to Country is the way to Country.”

connecting with Country is also caring for Country."

This year, to bring your #NaturePact to life, we hope you will accept the generous invitation from Uncle Tinawin, and Traditional Owners worldwide, to practice connecting deeply with Country – the ancient, living land you are on.

"I encourage everyone to make an ongoing connection with the Country you're on. Find out who the Traditional Custodians are. Learn some stories. Anyone with time, respect and an open mind can connect with the lands, waters and sky around them, and the lessons they offer us all. I invite you to connect with – and care for – Country, as your family too." - Uncle Tinawin.

Country is the term often used by Indigenous Australians to describe the lands, waterways, and seas with which they are connected. Place, custom, law, language, spiritual belief, cultural practice, family and identity are all part of what makes up this deep understanding of Country.

Wherever you are, you can acknowledge First Peoples and connect with Country:

- Find out who are the Traditional Custodians of the land you're on and learn an origin story from this culture. Is there a [website](#) you can visit, or events you can connect with?
- Take the time to sit or walk slowly in nature, gently observing it, and consider how interconnected everything is. Consider that you too are a part of this ancient, living universal connection.



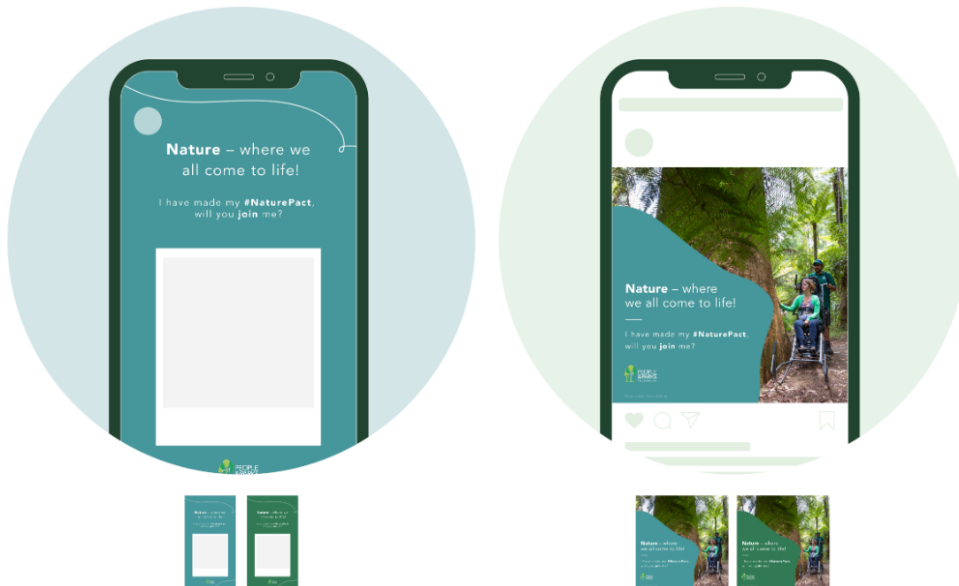


Share a photo, video, or your thoughts about where you feel most connected to Country. Who are the Traditional Custodians? What is it about this nature connection that is special to you?

Enjoy **Week 1** Connecting to Country! Remember, ***we are all a part of nature, and nature connects us all.***

Download #NaturePact Templates

Already signed up for your #NaturePact? Download your #NaturePact Instagram tiles and stories and use them on your socials to let others know you're participating. Make sure you tag @peopleparks and use the #NaturePact hashtag!



SOCIAL MEDIA STORY

[Download Emerald Story](#)

[Download Teal Story](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA POST

[Download Emerald Post](#)

[Download Teal Post](#)

Kind regards

Alison Hill
Managing Director
[People and Parks Foundation](#)

PS Don't forget to share your experiences with us on social media for the chance to win beautiful, sustainable plant-based prizes from our valued #NaturePact 2022 principal supporter and partner, [Koala Eco](#).



Have you made your
#NaturePact?

info@peopleandparks.org



We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the country throughout Australia and acknowledge the ongoing living culture of Aboriginal people.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

