FIRST NATIONS ASTRONOMY PRESENTATION OUTLINE

Gary Starr is a proud member of the Garma Festival Aboriginal Astronomy Team.
Led by Ian McLean, the team has shared Aboriginal knowledge, stories & culture and has provided telescopic stargazing sessions at the festival for the last 20 years.

Over the years, various Aboriginal communities have shared Sky Country knowledge with Gary, giving him permission to retell their stories respectfully, helping children and adults gain an introduction to, and understanding of, Sky Country knowledge.

Each presentation lasts about 40-60 minutes and aligns seamlessly with the current NSW science syllabus. We customise presentations to the student's learning level, with younger children receiving an introduction to First Nations astronomy.

Although Australian Aboriginal groups have different astronomical traditions, they share some broad similarities.
We include stories from around Australia and explain how Aboriginal stories relate to natural occurrences, Dreamtime creation, laws and traditions, behaviour, navigation, seasons, history, spirituality, and more.

Sample stories;

- Natural Occurrences - Walu and how she provides day & night. Ngalindi and his wives, and why the moon has phases.
- Creation stories - Why the moon cried (Awabakal)
- Laws, Traditions & Environment - The three brothers in the canoe in Orion, respect for totem, and environmental management.
- Behaviour - The brothers in Orion behave disrespectfully to the sisters of the Pleiades.
- Directions- Using the Southern Cross and the Saucepan
- Seasons and Weather - Using the Emu in the Milky Way. Orion, and the stars.
- Spirituality and History - A resting place for the spirits in the Milky Way and the journey of spirits to the heavens through the Magellanic Clouds.
- Wayfinding and Navigation - Using Songlines, Stars, and Constellations.

This talk weaves together what we can see in the night sky and how Aboriginal people see things differently from Western people (including Western constellations).

This talk can also be paired with a choice of Indigenous Astronomy movies or incorporated into any other presentation.

Please note that all presentations are subject to change and variation due to circumstances and/or time constraints.