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The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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‘Yes’ walkers rally around nation



Walkers in Melbourne joined thousands around the nation on Saturday and Sunday, turning out in support of the Yes campaign for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. The referendum will be held on October 14. Story and pictures, pages 12-15. Picture AAP

Colonisation had ‘positive impact’, says No senator



Jacinta Nampijinpa Price. Pic: AAP



COLONISATION of Australia by the British has had a positive impact on Indigenous people, a leading No campaigner says.

Opposition Indigenous Australians spokeswoman Jacinta Nampijinpa Price last week delivered a National Press Club speech in Canberra setting out her argument against having an advisory body enshrined in the constitution.

Asked if she accepted that trauma sparked by colonisation had been passed down between generations of Indigenous Australians, Senator Price rejected the idea.

“That would mean that those of us whose ancestors were dispossessed of their own country and brought here in chains as convicts are also suffering from intergenerational trauma,” she said.

“So I should be doubly suffering.”

Senator Price said colonisation had delivered many benefits.

“We’ve got running water, we’ve got readily available food,” she said.

“Many of us have the same opportunities as all other Australians in this country, and we certainly have probably one of the greatest systems running around the world in terms of the democratic structure.”

Senator Price said the referendum – due to be held on October 14 – was dividing the nation, and the gap in wellbeing was not caused by systemic racism.

“If we keep telling Aboriginal people that they are victims, we are effectively removing their agency and then giving them the expectation that someone else is responsible for their lives,” she said.

The former Alice Springs deputy mayor supports recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the constitution, as well as legislated local and regional voices.

Former AFL players sue



SEVEN former AFL players of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background have launched a class action lawsuit against the football code, alleging senior management did nothing to prevent racism within the sport.

Former North Melbourne great Phil Krakouer is the face of the suit, with the other six players still unnamed but all known to be retired and to have played between 1975 and 2022.

Documents for the class action were lodged in the Supreme Court on Friday. Phil Krakouer said the AFL was aware of

the racist treatment of players but failed to act.

“For decades, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people of colour have been racially abused while playing AFL, and we feel the AFL sat back and watched it all go by,” he said.

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Bindal Sharks seek compensation from NRL – see sport

INSIDE



Is this senator Fit for Office?

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These two women are leading the way



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MY FAMILY

Sarah Roberts-Field, Bundjalung



Sarah (missing tooth) with her father Steven, mum Rhoda, and sister Emily and brother Jack. Pic: Ivan Sen

Thirteen kilometres west of Nhulunbuy CBD on Gumatj land in the north east of Arnhem Land lies the community of Gunyangara (Ski Beach).

It's 2010. I'm nine years old and this is where I live with my family and the belonging, surrounding families of the Yunupingu, Burarrwanga and Munungirritj.

My parents, Rhoda Roberts AO and Steven Field are working on an annual festival called the Garma Festival.

In this small remote community, there is no shortage of fun. My brother Jack with my sister Emily and I, ride our bikes up and down the red dirt road in laughter with our other sisters and brothers, we inflate air beds and float out far on the calm, desolate seas with no fear. The Aunties and Uncles tell us to watch out for crocs and we hear them, we know they're right, but we're nine and surely the air beds make us invincible. Outside of the Garma office there is a yellow, olympic trampoline and we jump again and again for hours.

My Gumatj sisters and brothers ask me one day to speak some Yolngu Matha, but I don't know how. I only know one thing, so with immense passion and pride I tell them as I jump on that trampoline "I'm Bundjalung!"

I am forever a proud Widjabul Wiabul woman and have family affiliations with many Bundjalung Clans as well as the Gumbaynggirr, Dunghutti, Yaegl and

Gamilaroi nations and have grown up on Country here in Northern NSW. I come from a huge family. My grandfather, the late Pastor Frank Roberts Jnr, was one of the founding members of our vital *Koori Mail* and it's a legacy we as a family carry with enormous pride. My Uncle Phil Roberts was also involved with the *Koori Mail* board a number of years ago.

At Heritage Park in Lismore resides an echidna-shaped garden called the Lyle Roberts Senior Memorial Bush Food Garden.

It commemorates my great-great-grandfather, deeply-respected Widjabul Custodian and the last fully initiated man of the Bundjalung, Lyle Roberts Snr. celebrating edible foods used by our Ancestors and his three-point plan for us all to live by: retain pride of race and colour, retain identity and language and consider relationships with other people to make the best of a new life.

"Aboriginals becoming better Aboriginals" is what my grandfather Frank was concerned and involved with and now, as my family has expanded even more in beginning my journey here at the *Koori Mail*, I carry similar passion. As I listen, learn and grow with family, so does my passion and pride for continuing culture and capturing our stories.

● Sarah Roberts-Field has just begun a journalism cadetship at the *Koori Mail*.

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If you would like to see your family featured in the 'My Family' section of the *Koori Mail*, email a high-resolution digital photo to editor@koorimail.com along with a full caption (always reading from left to right) and between 350 and 400 words about your family. Tell us who is in your family, what you like to do as a family, your traditions and achievements, and what is important to you.

Koori Mail

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OUR CHILDREN



Aboriginal students from Carinity Education Shalom in Townsville are pictured dancing for Elders at a nearby retirement village.

About 95% of students at Carinity are Indigenous and the learning establishment has expanded to cater for increased enrolments.

Student numbers have more than tripled since the school re-opened in 2019.

Newly renovated buildings officially opened on August 18 are helping the school keep up with that increase.

The renovated secondary school science centre and general learning areas are helping to accommodate rapid expansion of the school, whose student population has increased by 23% over the past year.

The \$2.15 million building project has been jointly funded by Carinity and the Queensland Independent Schools Block Grant Authority, an Australian Government capital assistance scheme. – Alf Wilson

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Debutantes travel in style

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Preparing for the ball are, L-R, Lara Robinja, Katiana Zboril, Dakoda Taylor-Hodgins, Kyiesha Fretwell-Ferguson, Latisha Humbert, Cordelia Daylight, Tenika (Shirley) Lechleitner Spencer, Rosarita Leonorah Williams, Carol Moore and Shantay Morris.

Kids to share in \$22m toxic chemical win

NLC calls for harsher penalties for illegal clearing



THERE will be no age limit on who will receive funds from a multimillion-dollar payout to an Indigenous group impacted by toxic chemicals on cultural lands, a judge has ruled.

The Commonwealth in May agreed to pay \$22 million to people living in Wreck Bay, on the NSW south coast, after firefighting foam containing toxic chemicals leaked into sacred waterways.

The settlement of the civil action, brought by the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council, was approved by the Federal Court, including an estimated \$16.5 million going to Indigenous people whose cultural use of the polluted lands was affected.

Objections

Justice Michael Lee ruled that children from the community would be able to share in the payout after objections were made by some of the 980-member group.

Justice Lee said minors should be compensated because of the 'intergenerational impact' on practising



Toxic chemicals in firefighting foam accumulate in the body and are linked to cancers and other diseases.

culture. He said the settlement did not include any restrictions and he did not believe there should be an age limit on who received the funds.

Earlier, counsel for the class action,

William Edwards SC, said there were several categories of objections from group members about the settlement distribution, including wanting to bar minors.

The court heard around 104 young people were at risk of missing out on money from the settlement, but that there was a buffer in it that meant minors could be included if the court ruled them eligible.

"It's been a controversial subject within the community," Mr Edwards said.

The court was told there were a 'plurality' of views on how to share the funds among the class action group, which represented people living near the HMAS Creswell and Jervis Bay Range Facility and those using the land for traditional or cultural purposes.

It was brought solely seeking damages over decreased use of the land and does not also include compensation for personal injuries from the PFAS group of chemicals.

The so-called "forever chemicals", which accumulate in the body and do not naturally degrade, are linked to cancers, birth defects and other diseases.



NORTHERN Land Council Chair, Dr Samuel Bush-Blasasi, has described a \$7,536 fine for clearing 200 hectares of land at Tarwool Station as 'outrageously low'.

"A fine of this size will not deter developers from continuing this practice. If anything, it demonstrates that for a small fee you can clear land wherever and whenever you want," Dr Bush-Blasasi said.

"The NT Government must start building and enforcing a regulatory environment which serves the interests of all Territorians.

"The current punishments are ineffective, as we see through continuing instances of illegal land clearing across the Top End. Something needs to change. Regulations need to be stricter, investigations need to be more transparent and penalties must be harsher.

"In 2023 the Northern Land Council nominated Aboriginal representatives to take up positions on the Pastoral Land Board. These nominations were rejected. Considering the shared interests and rights to land in the Territory from both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, a balanced representation within this statutory authority could lead to more mutually beneficial decision making.

"Aboriginal Territorians have legal rights to Country subject to pastoral leases. They need to be given an opportunity to protect sacred sites before land clearing can happen.

"The Northern Land Council is not opposed to developing land. But Native Title Holders rights must be respected in that process."

Design agency wins top award

By NICK PATON



A FIRST Nations agency dedicated to representing First Nations illustrators took home the top

Indigenous Design Award at this year's Good Design Awards in Naarm (Melbourne) earlier this month.

Solid Lines, developed by Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) researcher Dr Nicola St John and co-researcher Emrhan Tjapanangka Sultan (Western Arrarnta, Luritja and Kokatha), alongside the Jacky Winter Group, consulted closely with many First Nations creatives to ensure culturally safe and supportive representation in the industry.

"Winning the Indigenous Design Award is a huge honour," Mr Sultan said.

"And it recognises the importance of First Nations voices within the design industry and the important work Solid Lines is doing to support First Nations artists to be represented fairly.

"We want our agency to break down expectations of what First Nations art and design is and let our artists define their work for themselves."

Mr Sultan said as proud storytellers, the work of Solid



RMIT researcher Dr Nicola St John and Emrhan Tjapanangka Sultan from Solid Lines, Australia's first illustration agency dedicated to representing First Nations illustrators. Picture: James Henry

Lines is grounded by Country, community, and cultural identity.

He said Solid Lines is all about creating solid pathways for emerging First Nations artists to find success, recognition, support and fair representation within the art and design industries.

As Australia's first First Nations-led illustration agency, Solid Lines are reimagining the future commerciality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creativity, contributing to policy development and setting new

standards within Australia's creative space along the way.

Setting up Solid Lines involved many First Nations creatives sharing their voices, values and experiences of working within commercial art settings to provide a foundation to build and develop the agency.

Diversity

The agency also acts as a space to inform the design and commercial art community on the diversity of First Nations creative

practice and how to engage respectfully and meaningfully within commercial settings.

"The artists that we spoke to at the very beginning stages of the artist consultation process felt like they weren't being represented culturally, specifically around intellectual property," Mr Sultan said.

"We found that a lot of agencies owned the rights to a lot of the artworks that were being designed by these artists."

"So, we wanted to make sure

that what we set up with Solid Lines supported artists to own their own works."

The Good Design Awards are the highest honour for design and innovation in the country and reward diverse projects across 11 design disciplines covering more than 35 categories and subcategories.

Each year, the awards celebrate the best new products and services on the Australian and international market, excellence in architectural design, engineering, fashion, digital and communication design, and reward new and emerging areas of design including design strategy, social impact design, design research and up-and-coming design talent in the next-gen category.

Solid Lines also received the prestigious Good Design Award in the Social Impact category in recognition for outstanding design and innovation.

"Solid Lines is addressing a really important issue and has incredible potential for industry-wide and cultural impact," the Good Design Awards Jury noted.

"We commend the deep co-creation process that brought onboard insights from a variety of vital voices and appreciate how they came together in the agency's core values, questions and considerations."

Koori Mail

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o p i n i o n

Ignore the lies

How easy it is to write words of ill intent on socials and walk away and get on with your life. Happens every millisecond, of everyday, people not feeling the consequences of their actions and words towards others.

For too many generations our own people have done this to each other, in many different ways. Throughout the referendum campaign I have seen these words in a variety of nasty ways written on too many people's pages or posts – "You need to de-colonise yourself". Growing up the choice of phrase was – "You are a coconut". Mostly I see people saying this, as they sit in their house, doing nothing to bring self-determination to our people, just bringing truth to the saying – 'Hurt people hurt people.'

Instead of leading by example and actually de-colonising one's own brain, spaces and spheres of influence to help self-determination to our people, they bring more pain with words. These words said with ill intent, ultimately hold our people back, afraid to move forward as this is seen as assimilation and only confuses people about where they belong in this world.

I ask the people who say this with such disdain – what are you doing to empower our people? How are you truly helping one to understand their self-worth and help them understand what it means to de-colonise oneself?



Shelley Ware

Or do you truly understand it yourself?

It's a long process for our people to decolonise ourselves, the effects of colonisation are in our everyday and Jacinta Price even suggesting they are not is ludicrous. So don't throw this into our people's faces to make yourself feel superior to them, teach them as our old people have always done with love, time and gentleness.

I also want to address the lies that are being said by No campaigners, not our people who have their own legitimate reasons for saying No, but non-Aboriginal people who are being directed by their own internalised racism, that they think doesn't exist in them – which is a huge problem in this country!

Some of the ridiculous lies I've heard and read are – if the Yes is successful all First Nations people will get \$1million dollars each. We will tie up the high court for years with our claims. In

Queensland there are mountaineer groups who are campaigning No because they believe, we are going to take their mountains and they won't be able to hike anymore. That leads to the ridiculous amount of people who actually believe we will be taking their own homes. The irony is the constitution actually protects our property and they don't understand that. Also, the structure of our government won't allow these things to happen and the smartest of smartest constitutional lawyers have said this over and over again.

I have to also address the rubbish that people are saying like – "Well if all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can't agree then it's a No for me." Please you and your family can't even sit at a table and agree on one thing, that's normal. How do you think 350,000 plus First Nations people with different lived experiences are going to agree on one thing?

All I do ask is you walk carefully through this time, talk to people if you need, turn off socials, block racists, ignore the hate and be a part of the love for each other. Whatever the outcome is, we will continue to move forward, as all of us want a better future for our children today and tomorrow.

● Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide.

Possible burial sites found in grounds of former boys home



SURVIVORS of the Stolen Generations are calling for the truth to come out after possible hidden graves were found in the grounds of a notorious boys home near Kempsey on NSW's mid north coast.

Kinchela Aboriginal Boys Training Home was run by the NSW government from 1924 to 1970, housing Aboriginal boys forcibly removed from their families and deliberately reprogrammed to assimilate them into white Australian society.

Documentary evidence and testimonies from past residents have revealed it was a brutal and dehumanising place, with boys called by numbers rather than names, and routinely abused, physically, sexually, psychologically and culturally.

In December 2021, at the request of survivors, the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs engaged archaeologists to conduct a search of the site, which is owned by Kempsey Local



Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney wants further investigations.

Aboriginal Land Council, using ground-penetrating radar.

Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation board member Uncle Roger Jarrett said they wanted all identified anomalies to be immediately prioritised for excavation, and for further surveys to search for additional disturbances.

"It's gotta be published because the truth has gotta come

out," he said.

"For the future, it's important to get the truth done, because a lot of stuff has been covered over by the government.

"For our justice and for our healing for all our brothers."

Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney backed the call for further investigation, saying claims of possible secret burial sites were 'deeply disturbing'.

"Fifteen years after the Apology to the Stolen Generations we are still coming to grips with our history," she said.

The boys sent to Kinchela were among thousands of Aboriginal children across Australia systematically kidnapped from their families and communities under accepted government and church policies and practices.

They became known as the Stolen Generations.

NSW Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Harris said the department would continue to work alongside Stolen Generations survivor organisations to learn more about history and healing for Aboriginal

families and communities.

"Missing children forms an important and sensitive part of this commitment," he said.

Mr Harris said Aboriginal Affairs NSW has not been granted permission to share the report and has no authority to move forward on any excavation work without express permission of the landowners and the necessary legal approvals.

Ian Hamm, who chairs the Healing Foundation's Stolen Generations reference group, said it wasn't a stretch to imagine children died and were buried in unmarked graves, given the brutality meted out at the home.

"There is a lot more work required in understanding the story of the stolen children," he said.

Mr Hamm pointed to Canada and Ireland, where mass graves of children have been found on the grounds of institutions.

"I think what this has done is awoken Australia to the possibility that the treatment of stolen children – even how they were treated in death – is still

unresolved and unfinished business," he said.

Mr Hamm, a Stolen Generations survivor, said the discovery would have a profound effect on all Aboriginal people.

"I think what makes this even more confronting right now is that we're six weeks out from a referendum, when, for the second time, our worth as human beings is going to be judged," he said.

"Clearly, our worth as human beings a couple of generations ago wasn't very high."

Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation chair Uncle James Michael 'Widdy' Welsh told NITV that further investigation was needed to reveal the truth of what happened at the institution.

"This is truth-telling," he said.

"Their policies took us away from our families.

"I want their policies to give us back our heritage and build back our families.

"We know what works for us, the government needs to give us resources so we can make our families and communities strong again."

– AAP

Jessie's 'scribbles' to go online

By JILLIAN MUNDY



WHAT palawa woman Jessie Maynard calls 'scribbles', others call works of art.

Her intricate fine liner pen drawings – or scribbles, will now feature as the main graphic element of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre's (TAC) new website, which is set to go live any day now.

"When I'm sitting on the couch, I just scribble, it's just a scribble to me, to get something out of my head," the 30-year-old mother of four from Nipaluna (Hobart) explained to the *Koori Mail*.

"I can't look at it the way other people do.

"I'll be in an emotional state, like dealing with child protection, I'll open a book and I don't have words to put down so I just scribble and I just draw.

"It's to clear my head."

Many of her drawings represent her children and their connections.

She is happy for others to apply their own interpretations.

"It's interesting to see what other people see when they look at them."

While her artistic talent has been publicly recognised before with a drawing used for a logo and a painting receiving \$500 at auction, most of her self-described 'scribbles' go to friends and family as greetings cards.

Jessie also makes shell necklaces and other jewellery, does natural dying, dances, and



"It's pretty cool," says palawa artist Jessie Maynard about what she refers to as her 'scribbles' featuring on Lutruwita/Tasmania's largest Aboriginal organisation's new website.

enjoys Aboriginal community-run art and craft workshops.

"Everything art and crafty I love to play around with, any opportunity I'm there."

Community

The TAC's Digital Communications Manager, Sarah Wilcox, said they were drawn to her representations of community and family.

"I can't wait to showcase Jessie's artwork because she's an amazing artist, seeing that

represented for the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre across Lutruwita is just so moving, exciting and nayri mapali."

Sarah said the new website adheres to the latest accessibility standards for vision impaired, is easy to use and has plenty of new features, including expanded health information, easy search functionality for events, news and articles, online job applications and a donation button.

"You can support to have our land returned, land management

programs – helping young people learn how to do cultural burns and going on camps, and strong on Country programs," she said.

"The old site was created on a blog structure and was really difficult to search, it was created when not everyone had websites and not everyone was used to using them, and less understanding of how to make it easy for people.

"I'm so excited, we've road tested it with community members and staff members and

they've all loved it."

The TAC started when websites were science fiction. For 50 years the TAC has represented the political and community development aspirations of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, and delivered services to the Aboriginal community in Tasmania.

● You can check out the new improved site, featuring Jessie's artwork any day now at tacinc.com.au

Hundreds rally against Santos gas plan



TRADITIONAL Gomeroi Owners joined hundreds of protesters who gathered outside NSW Parliament to oppose a major coal seam gas project planned for the state's west.

Santos' Narrabri Gas Project has faced sustained backlash from local farmers, conservationists, Traditional Owners and others, who loudly voiced their position at Sydney's Macquarie Street last Thursday.

Protesters say the oil and gas giant's plan to drill up to 850 wells for the extraction of coal seam gas and run a pipeline through the Liverpool Plains foodbowl will compromise farmland and Indigenous heritage sites.

They say the wells will pass through the Great Artesian Basin which is vital to the area's grazing and farming and could be at risk of contamination.

Independent MP Roy Butler, who represents the Narrabri region, told the protest without access to groundwater, local towns would be forced to empty out.

"We cannot place groundwater at risk and that is what this project does," he said.

Crossbenchers, Greens MLC Cate Faehrmann, Legalise

Cannabis Party MLC Jeremy Buckingham and independent MP Joe McGirr also spoke at the protest to express their opposition to the project.

The NSW and federal governments approved the Narrabri project in 2020.

Santos launched proceedings last year in the national native title tribunal to continue the project without consent from the Gomeroi People.

Traditional owners voted 162-2, with four abstentions, to reject the agreement.

Gomeroi woman Sue-Ellen Tighe told the protest the bodies responsible for allowing the ongoing extraction of fossil fuels pave the way for the destruction of traditional lands.

"We from the Gomeroi nation, as all first nations, continue to maintain our identity and connection to country to our stories, our laws and our cultural practices," she said.

"We demand the state and federal governments stop the extraction, the consumption and the selling of fossil fuels in this country."

The protest was held by a coalition of groups including Traditional Gomeroi Owners, NSW farmers, the Country Women's Association, Unions NSW and Lock the Gate.



Hundreds of people have rallied against a major coal seam gas project proposed by Santos they claim could irreversibly damage vital farmland and Indigenous sites in western NSW.

Qld suspends Human Rights Act to keep jailing children

By ALI MC



THE Queensland Government has suspended their Human Rights Act for a second time this year, rushing through legislation to indefinitely detain children in adult police watch houses.

The new legislation will predominantly impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, who make up more than 60 percent of those in detention.

The Queensland Human Rights Act – introduced in 2019 – protects children from being detained in adult prisons; as such, its suspension was required to pass the new legislation.

Maggie Munn, a Gunggari person and National Director of First Nations justice advocacy group Change the Record, told the *Koori Mail* the move to incarcerate children as young as ten in adult watch houses was "fundamentally cruel and wrong."

"It's incredibly worrying that the Queensland Government for the second time this year has suspended human rights laws to punish children, the majority of whom are First Nations kids. What does that say about the human rights our government values?" Munn said.

"I worry for these kids, what they will be exposed to, how they



Queensland's decision to suspend its Human Rights Act has been described as 'deeply unjust and inhumane'.

will be treated, and the harm and trauma they will have to work through as a result of this government's blatant disregard for their rights."

Munn also told the *Koori Mail* there needed to be alternative solutions that would focus on harm minimisation and address child behaviours.

"There have been countless opportunities for this government to pursue alternatives to incarceration that focus on a child understanding their behaviour, addressing it and being held accountable outside of a prison cell, and yet these solutions and alternatives continue to be ignored," they said.

"Not only has the Queensland

Government suspended its own Human Rights Act to allow for these harmful amendments, the use of adult watch houses as places of indefinite detention is a clear breach of international human rights standards and laws and quite frankly is deeply unjust and inhumane."

Blindsided

The move even blindsided Queensland Human Rights Commissioner Scott McDougall, who told the *Koori Mail* he has "real concerns about irreversible harm being caused to children" detained in police watch houses, which he described as a "concrete box."

"[A watch house] often has

other children in it. There'll be a toilet that is visible to pretty much anyone. Children do not have access to fresh air or sunlight," he said.

"There's been reported cases of a child who was held for thirty-two days in a watch house whose hair was falling out. After two to three days in a watch house, a child's mental health will start to deteriorate. At the point of eight, nine or ten days in the watch house, I have heard numerous reports of children breaking down at that time."

He also stated that 90 percent of incarcerated children and young people were on remand and had not even been sentenced.

"Queensland has extremely high rates of children in detention being held on remand. So these are children who have not been convicted of an offense," he told the *Koori Mail*.

Debbie Kilroy, CEO of decarceration advocacy group Sisters Inside, said these are "horrendous laws that are going to perpetrate violence and harm against particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, not only today, tomorrow, next month, but for generations to come."

She also expressed concern about children being placed not only into police watch houses, but in adult prisons as well.

"Parts of adult prisons will also

be deemed designated children's prisons, and that's a concern because they're going to send children into adult prisons," she said. "Really what you're doing to a child is telling them this is your future, which is the adult prison system."

New laws

The new laws are set to be in place until 2026 and have been publicly justified by the Queensland Government's Minister for Police and Corrective Services Mark Ryan as managing 'capacity issues.'

However, Kilroy told the *Koori Mail* that this latest legislation to incarcerate predominantly First Nations' children was a continuation of the colonial carceral project that began with invasion.

"This country was colonised and invaded, land stolen, sovereignty never ceded, over 200 years ago. And this is the ongoing carceral, colonising project that we see. Nothing's changed," she said.

"We know that this is not about community safety. If it was about community safety, we would all be sitting down as a community, reimagining our community, and what the resources that cops and cages have, and allocate that funding to communities to build their own modes of safety and security."

Cop 'used choke hold'



AN inquest into the death of an Indigenous man has heard a police officer used a neck restraint technique for the first time just before the arrest turned fatal.

Steven Lee Nixon-McKellar, 27, died shortly after having pressure applied to his neck while a senior constable arrested him outside a relative's house in Toowoomba on October 7, 2021.

Mr Nixon-McKellar's family requested he be referred to as Steven during the Coroner's Court hearings, which started at Toowoomba on Monday.

Senior Constable Tylarr Colman told the first hearing of the coroner's inquest at Toowoomba courthouse that he placed Steven in what is officially known as a lateral vascular neck restraint (LVNR) within five seconds of spotting him struggling with two officers.

Two other officers had responded to an anonymous phone call about a grey Subaru SUV displaying another vehicle's number plate outside a house in Toowoomba.

"Given both officers were completely fatigued I didn't have many other options," Sen Const Tylarr Colman said.

Under questioning from counsel assisting, Julie Pietzner-Hagan, Sen Const Tylarr Colman said he had completed training in the LVNR technique one month before but had used a different neck restraint called a choke hold in his personal martial arts activities.

"I found it quite strange for him to go unconscious that quickly as that hadn't happened in training scenarios," Sen Const Colman said.

The inquest heard the difference between the holds was the LVNR put pressure on the sides of the neck to constrict the flow of blood to the brain while the choke hold pressured the windpipe and blocked the flow of air.

One of the officers needing



Family and friends of Steven Lee Nixon-McKellar are seen holding a protest rally outside the Toowoomba Magistrates Court in Toowoomba, Monday, September 11.

assistance, Senior Constable Simon Giuliano, testified earlier in the day he yelled 'choke this c*** out, choke him out' and 'he's asleep' when the hold was applied to Steven.

Steven was later unable to be resuscitated by paramedics because his throat was obstructed by vomit.

Steven's family and friends were warned by State Coroner Terry Ryan the officer's body-worn footage to be played at the inquest could be upsetting but many chose to stay.

"I have to see what they done to my grandson, they have got to be stopped," a woman in the public gallery said.

Solicitor for the Nixon-

McKellar family, Stewart Levitt, suggested to Sen Const Colman that he had mistakenly applied the hold to Steven and had caused his death instead of subduing him.

"Definitely not, I did not lose position on the LVNR," he said.

Sen Const Giuliano also disagreed with Mr Levitt's suggestion he and another officer, Constable Brandon Smart, had treated Steven as 'less than a person' by assuming he had committed a crime and tried to physically constrain him for no reason.

Const Smart, who was sworn in as an officer in 2018, said he approached the driver's side of the vehicle and yelled for its

occupants to get out because he thought the SUV would ram their police van.

Footage showed Steven wrestling with both officers and trying to grab their batons.

"I struck him in the quad with my baton to achieve compliance and it was not effective so I wrapped the baton around in a bear hug and, as he was larger than me, it was not effective," Const Smart said.

Under cross-examination by Mr Levitt, Const Smart denied his bear hug had prevented Steven from complying with directions to get on the ground.

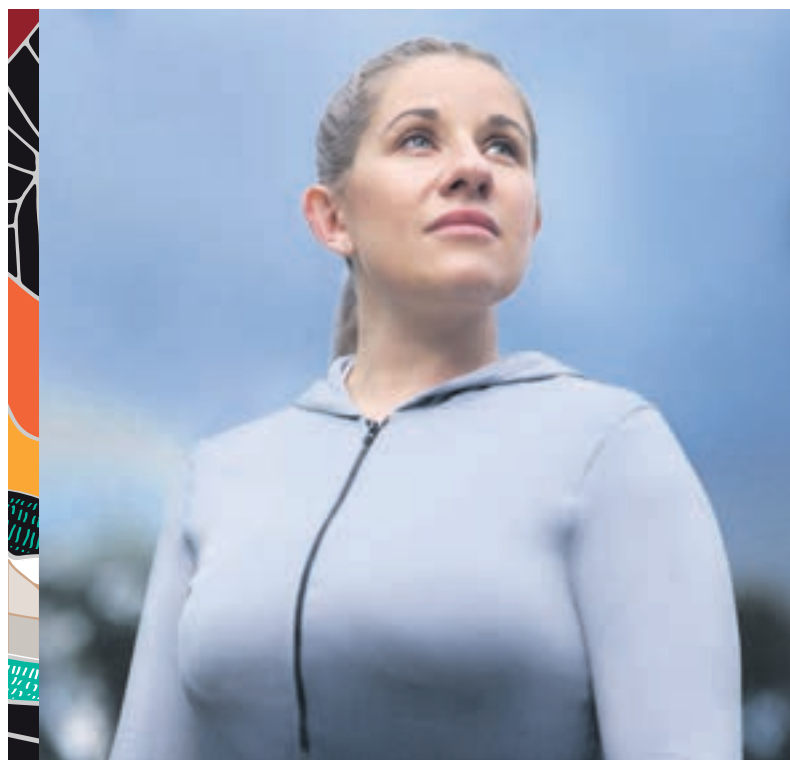
Speaking outside court, Steven's mother Raelene said she hoped the inquest would

lead to accountability for the officers and Queensland following other states to ban the LVNR.

"One of the things we showed up for this week is to find out why my son was pursued with such aggression with no further information," Ms Nixon said.

About 40 people gathered outside the courthouse before the start of proceedings for a Black Lives Matter rally to mark 551 Indigenous deaths that organisers say have died in custody since a royal commission made its recommendations in 1991.

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Report scathing of govt's treatment of Vic children

By ALI MC



THE Yoorrook Justice Commission recently handed down a damning report on the impacts of Victoria's child protection and criminal justice system on First Nations peoples.

The Yoorrook for Justice report contains 46 recommendations, calling on the Victorian government to 'transform Victoria's child protection and criminal justice systems to address systemic injustice against First Peoples.'

Key recommendations include:

- A call on the State Government to negotiate through treaty dedicated legislation to ensure the safety, wellbeing and protection of First Peoples children and young people;
- The creation of a new independent police oversight body to end the practice of police investigating police complaints;
- Changes to bail laws;
- Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14 years;
- The prohibition of routine strip searching in all Victorian adult and youth prisons;
- Strengthening human and cultural rights.

Professor Eleanor Bourke, a Wergaia/Wamba Wamba Elder and Chair of Yoorrook, told the *Koori Mail* that the commission "is appointed as a Royal Commission, which is the highest level of inquiry and we've ever had into Aboriginal matters in this country."

She said that the aim of their work is "to achieve truth, understanding and transformation" by investigating the historical and ongoing impacts of colonisation on First Nations peoples in Victoria.

As such, this is the first time in the nation's history that a



Governor of Victoria Margaret Gardner receives the report from Professor Eleanor Bourke.

government will be forced to respond to recommendations for major reforms handed down by its own truth-telling commission.

Yoorrook was established in 2021 as a recommendation from the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, who called for a comprehensive truth and justice process.

Public hearings

A series of ongoing public hearings are being held in which community members, Elders, organisational representatives and witnesses are heard by the commissioners.

The commissioners also include Wurundjeri and Ngurai Illum Wurrung woman Sue-Anne Hunter, Kerrupmara/Gunditjmara man Travis Lovett, Palawa woman Maggie Walter and former Justice of the Supreme Court Kevin Bell, a non-

Aboriginal Victorian.

In collecting information for the report, the commission held 27 hearings, undertook 12 roundtable discussions, received over 100 submissions, made five adult and youth prison visits and received over 4,000 government documents.

The commission also heard from a range of witnesses, including Victoria's Chief Commissioner Shane Patton, who made a public apology for the trauma First Nations peoples had suffered since colonisation due to police actions.

"You'll see there's quotes from the ministers, and the government, and the chief of police, which I think are the most important things, because we had them in a situation where they had to explain why something wasn't happening," Bourke said.

"But beyond that, of course, we talked to many of our people when we went around the state to hear what they were concerned about. And these spaces [child protection and criminal justice] were always high on the list."

Bourke said it was important for people to understand the connection between historical injustices and the current over-representation of First Nations peoples in both child protection and criminal justice systems. "The dealings with the legal system and the police are just constant. It's across generations," she said.

"From the time the laws were made people were captured and families stayed in that system, somehow tragically."

Bourke also said that it was vital for non-Indigenous people who worked within the system to

better understand the enduring legacy of colonisation.

"Professional people that deal with our people, whether they're teachers, prison workers or social workers, if they haven't got the right background, they've got no real understanding," she said.

The report also found that without major reforms, First Nations' children would continue to be at greater risk of entering the child protection and criminal justice systems from birth.

Pipeline

In her 'Chairperson's Foreword' Bourke wrote: "Yoorrook heard of a 'pipeline' in which our children are moved from the child protection system into the youth justice system and ultimately into the adult justice system."

Bourke said that she was hopeful that the government would respond positively to the report's recommendations.

"We're talking to government officials all the time and will be in a position to ask for an update on progress," she said.

But just as importantly, Bourke said that the positive impact the truth-telling process has had on Victoria's First Nations' community had acted as a form of healing, especially for those who shared their story in the public hearings.

"Many of them have already told us they feel better and lightened, because they've been able to tell their story that they wanted to put on the public record," she said.

"That's the important thing – so that other Victorians know."

The Yoorrook Commission has been extended until 2025 and will continue holding public hearings on a range of topics.

Submissions can also be made directly to the commission or a yarn with a community 'truth receiver' can be organised.

Learn more at yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au.

Barngarla celebrate decision to abandon nuclear dump



THE federal government's decision to abandon a plan to build a nuclear waste dump near Kimba in South Australia has been met with joy from Traditional Owners.

Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation chairperson Jason Bilney praised TOs who had fought to protect their Country.

"I acknowledge my Barngarla people for being so strong and

the resilience of our community to fight this waste dump," Mr Bilney said.

"We welcome the move by Federal Resources Minister Madeleine King today to listen to our voices and walk away from the atrocious conduct of the former government.

"Today, this ends, and I thank everyone who has been with us along the way."

The decision to build the facility to store low and intermediate level radioactive waste on SA's Eyre Peninsula

was made by the previous federal government, and was met with anger and frustration by the traditional custodians.

In an application for judicial review, Barngarla Traditional Owners argued that the plan was approved in 2021 without their input or consultation and that construction would disturb a sacred site.

"This plan was flawed from the start and finally today, things went our way and there will be no dump on our land," Barngarla Elder Aunty Dawn Taylor said.

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Returning to Country



A FARM in south west Queensland has been bought by a local Aboriginal corporation to allow its people to return to Country, an initiative Indigenous groups hope will become more common.

Kullilli Bulloo River Aboriginal Corporation has bought the 47,100 hectare Thargomindah Station with the help of a carbon farming and finance partnership.

"For Kullilli people this is a very significant acquisition of Kullilli Country," corporation director Cassandra Stevens said.

"The land has cultural and spiritual significance for our people and being able to now own and operate it for Kullilli people is a huge milestone."

Ms Stevens said buying back the traditional lands was a win for the descendants of the Kullilli people, most of whom were forcibly removed from their lands between the 1880s until the late 1960s.

"We were removed from Country and have been dispossessed of Country for over 100 years, so this is a very



Those involved in the sale of the station pose for a photo at Thargomindah Station, left to right: Casey Taylor – Conscious Investment Management; Adam Klein – former owner of Thargomindah Station; Ronald Saltner – Kullilli Bulloo River Aboriginal Corporation; Glenn Kvassay – Climate Friendly; Cassandra Stevens – Kullilli Bulloo River Aboriginal Corporation, at Thargomindah Station, south western QLD. (AAP)

significant milestone for Kullilli people," she said.

"Our ultimate aim is to have our people go back on Country, for our children to have the opportunity to care for Country and learn cultural practices that have been taken from us."

The money was loaned to the

corporation from impact investor Conscious Investment Management and will be paid back through carbon farming income.

"It has given the Kullilli people a pathway to acquire their land and directly manage the property from day one," said

Iain Wood, from Conscious Investment Management.

Climate Friendly assessed the project and will work with regulators to sell the credits. It expects the farm to deliver 270,000 tonnes of carbon abatement over the next 25 years.

"The Kullilli Bulloo River Aboriginal Corporation can undertake any other activities they wish on the property provided they're consistent with carbon farming," Skye Glenday from Climate Friendly said.

The Kullilli people will own and operate the land after the carbon farming arrangement ends in 25 years.

Suzanne Thompsen, from the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network, says projects such as this one were helping empower Indigenous communities.

"I think it's fantastic," she said.

"It's exciting that there are more and more people out there seeing the value of offsetting and the value of partnering with First Nations groups to offset or restore country."

The project is being discussed at a summit in Sydney on Friday as part of the conversation around co-benefits and inclusion of Indigenous communities in carbon project investment.

The Australasian Emissions Reduction Summit will hear from Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen and the coalition's Ted O'Brien. **-AAP**

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Program to highlight the significance of women

By NICK PATON



THE search is on for established, emerging or re-emerging Whadjuk and Noongar female artists to take part in a public art program at Yagan Square in Perth, highlighting the area's rich history as a meeting place for Whadjuk women.

Launched last week by the Cook Government, through DevelopmentWA, up to four artists will be selected to take part in the two-year program.

Led by the design theme for the program, 'The Significance of Whadjuk Women', the artists will use temporary and permanent art elements such as installations, artwork on canvas, live drawing, and Yagan Square's digital tower to bring to life stories illustrating the deep cultural connections of the site.

The design themes and guidance for the public art program have been led by a specifically appointed Whadjuk Elders Reference Group of Women – Karen Jacobs, Gail Yarran and Cheryl Martin.

The women will employ and develop the skills of Whadjuk or Noongar female artists and continue to ensure Whadjuk history and culture is embedded in the precinct, as the rejuvenation of Yagan Square progresses.

"The whole area of Yagan Square and the Wellington Street station area is so significant to Aboriginal women, especially Whadjuk women," Ms Jacobs said.

"This area was our decision-



Karen Jacobs is a part of the Whadjuk Elders Reference Group of Women.

making ground, and if you remove all of the infrastructure that's there at the moment, you can just visualise the foreshore area of the city being massive wetlands, with all the ochre sites in the backgrounds - and large groups of women, upwards of 300 in number, gathering and coming together, and sitting together on the ground and making those really important decisions about cultural education and the nurturing of children."

Design theme

The design theme is supported by a range of sub themes as female symbols of life, including Karla (fire), Beelier (fresh water), Boodjar (land), and Ngaangk (sun) connections.

"When we get art programs like this available to us, especially in areas like this, it's important to carry on the tradition of having women heavily involved," Ms Jacobs said.

"What's important to us as Whadjuk women and senior women is that the women apply



A new public art program at Yagan Square in Perth will highlight the area's rich history as a meeting place for Whadjuk women.

for this opportunity."

"Not only do we want to transfer knowledge to the artists about the significance of the area, we also really want to see the heart and soul of Whadjuk women upheld within the art that is been put forward."

WA Aboriginal Affairs Minister Tony Buti said artwork and storytelling go hand in hand with ensuring the protection of Aboriginal history and heritage.

"This is a great opportunity for

four Whadjuk and Noongar female artists to take a blank canvas and create a new and vibrant interpretation by bringing their stories to life in Yagan Square," Mr Buti said.

"I look forward to seeing their artwork, which will weave symbolic Aboriginal culture into the very centre of our city, and enable more people to enjoy the incredible history of our state that goes back many thousands of years."

Artists are required to attend a briefing session on Friday, October 13, where they will be provided more information on the program's cultural context, its themes, and requirements.

The EOI period will be open until October 23, 2023, with the program to run from early 2024 to December 2025.

For more information, or to register interest in being a part of the program, visit www.developmentwa.com.au/



Information sessions for First Nations developing rural floodplain management plans

The NSW Government is developing floodplain management plans for the **Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lachlan valleys**. As part of this process, we are engaging with the First Nations community about the protection of cultural assets on the rural floodplain.

We would love to meet with you at one of our information sessions in the southern Basin during August and September.

A presentation will be given at the start of each meeting, however, you are welcome to drop in at any time and have a chat. The department will have maps and other information for you to look at. Catering will be provided.

Floodplain management plans set rules and assessment criteria for earthworks on a rural floodplain. They also identify cultural assets and protect them from the impacts of earthworks.

For more information and to find a session near you, use the QR code to visit our website.



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AN INVITATION

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WAMS is collating a variety of information to create an historical record of its operations since 1986.

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WAMS would love to hear from you!

To share your recall/memories of WAMS please contact **Michael Bennett, historian**, who is working with us to collate all the information for this project. Michael's email is michael@coasthistory.com.au

With sincere thanks,
Board of Directors. WAMS

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CBCity First Nations Hub and Resource Centre – anchor organisation

The City of Canterbury Bankstown is seeking an anchor organisation to operate a newly established First Nations Cultural Hub and Resource Centre (The Hub) located in Bankstown CBD on a two-year trial period. The anchor organisation will be responsible for the day-to-day operations and sustainability of The Hub as well as a particular focus on providing a space for the community to come together and maintain and promote the First Nations Culture.

An information session for interested organisations will be held **Wednesday 20 September, 2pm at Bankstown Senior Citizens' Centre, West Terrace, Bankstown.**

To register your interest in attending, for more information and to submit your EOI, visit **cb.city/FNHub**

Expressions of interest open **9am Friday 1 September and close 5pm Friday 29 September.**

CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN

Sorry doesn't cut it: AFL players to sue

Footballers allege racism in the sport left them traumatised



Former North Melbourne great Phil Krakouer.



SEVEN former AFL players of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background have launched a class action lawsuit against the football code, alleging senior management did nothing to prevent racism within the sport.

Former North Melbourne great Phil Krakouer is the face of the suit, with the other six players still unnamed but all known to be retired and to have played between 1975 and 2022.

Documents for the class action were lodged in the Supreme Court on Friday.

Lawyer Michel Margalit told *ABC News 24* the players would be seeking compensation for the alleged lack of duty of care.

"Our claim alleges that the impact of this racial vilification has had life-long consequences, and has caused significant pain and suffering and this remains with the players for life," she said.

Phil Krakouer told the ABC the AFL was aware of the racist treatment of players but failed to act.

"For decades, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people of colour have been racially abused while playing AFL, and we feel the AFL sat back and watched it all go by," he said.

"Sorry doesn't cut it."

Ms Margalit said on Saturday that other players are expected to join the suit.

"Even though in recent times there's been more significant steps towards recognition that racism existed in the AFL and steps to prevent it, the AFL has failed in enforcing the policies and this is where they have failed, fallen down."

"It's not enacting policies, it's the enforcement," she said.

In a statement, the AFL said it has not received any documentation regarding the class action suit, but committed to reviewing any documents it receives.

"If any formal correspondence is served on us we will review it," the statement read.

"Until that occurs we are unable to make any further comment."

The code has come under fire in recent years over allegations it has failed to address racism in the past.

In 2021, Collingwood released a report finding a culture of "structural racism" under the leadership of former president Eddie McGuire at the club, eventually leading to his resignation.

-AAP



Referendum



This year a referendum will be held on whether to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

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Yes campaign marches on after colonisation comment



THE campaign for an Indigenous Voice is firing up around Australia with calls to remain focused on the referendum

question after controversial comments about colonisation.

Mass marches have taken place across the nation, with Indigenous leaders calling for those who support a constitutionally enshrined advisory body to cut through disinformation they say is being spread by the No side.

Indigenous Australians Minister Linda Burney said the show of support had left her speechless.

"I am almost crying," she told a Melbourne rally on Sunday.

"It's truly overwhelming to look out over this crowd and see you, to know where your hearts are, to know where your spirit lives."

Professor Maree Meredith told a Canberra rally that some people had more of an opportunity in society to have their voices heard and the referendum could help tip the scales by ensuring Indigenous voices were listened to.

"My people share their voices for eight years less than non-



Supporters of the Yes campaign are seen during a walk for the Yes vote event in Melbourne, Sunday.

Indigenous Australians on average," she said.

"It's a chance to start to close the gap between life, education and opportunities of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians."

She also said the conversation

on Indigenous disadvantage - which both sides of the campaign have said they want closed - was a small victory in itself.

Ngunnawal Elder Aunty Violet Sheridan said the referendum wasn't about the past but about the

future after the debate in the past week was overshadowed by comments about colonisation.

"Our voices deserve to be heard in the decisions that shape our lives, the lives of our children, our grandchildren," she told the

Canberra rally.

"Let's ensure that our stories, our land, our voices are respected and valued in building a brighter, more inclusive Australia."

● Continued next page

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Share your feedback on the Tolland Masterplan

We're transforming Tolland into a modern mix of housing comprising 500 new homes, vital community infrastructure, landscaped open spaces and new streetscapes.

The Tolland Masterplan aims to help ease housing shortages in Wagga Wagga and will incorporate a mix of new social, affordable, seniors and private homes.

The Tolland Masterplan is on public exhibition until Tuesday 24 October. We want your feedback.

Join us at the following events:

Community BBQ and drop-in session 1

• Thursday 21 September 2023
Come any time between:
11 am - 1 pm or 4 pm - 7 pm

Community BBQ and drop-in session 2

• Tuesday 10 October 2023
Come anytime between:
11 am - 1 pm or 4 pm - 7 pm

All events will be held at
Tolland Community Centre,
41 Bruce Street, Tolland

Questions? Call: 1800 738 718



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Marchers took to the streets and bridges of Boorloo (Perth) in Western Australia. Pictures: Nick Paton

Advocates call for an end to falsehoods

● From previous page

It came after Opposition Indigenous affairs spokeswoman Jacinta Nampijinpa Price stirred controversy by saying British colonisation had not had lasting negative impacts on Aboriginal people.

Prominent 'no' campaigner Warren Mundine said the nation needed to "recognise the good and bad" of colonisation and move forward to avoid being "stuck in history".

"You cannot go on forever saying that colonisation ... is going

to stop us from doing things, is going to stop us from improving our lives and keep us in poverty," Mr Mundine told the ABC's *Insiders* program on Sunday.

He pointed to prominent Indigenous Australians such as himself and academic and activist Marcia Langton as examples that First Nations people were able to succeed.

Mr Mundine said the largest gap was not between black and white, but between cities and people living in remote and regional Australia.

"This is where the problems

are, we have to stop treating Aboriginal people the same," he said.

Lasting impacts

But Indigenous activist Joe Hedger said the impacts of colonisation were clear, pointing to the lasting impacts of the Stolen Generations.

"You only have to look at the circumstances of many of our communities, particularly where you have poor housing, you have poor services," he told AAP.

"These things don't just happen out of nothing, they're an ongoing

manifestation of things that have happened over 230 years ago."

Mr Hedger said people in the 'yes' campaign should not mistake apathy from undecided voters as disdain for Indigenous people and "support them with truth".

"Don't confuse their hesitation for not caring - they deeply, deeply care about this vote and about the future of our nation," he told a rally in Canberra on Sunday.

"Be kind, be gentle."

Federal minister Bill Shorten said it was important the debate heads back to the basics and arguments are focused on the

changes to the constitution before Australians.

"It's far less dramatic and far less worrisome to the rest of Australia than some of the 'no' case are making out," he told Sky News on Sunday.

Indigenous activist Noel Pearson said it was important Voice campaigns aren't "distracted by these attempts to chuck controversy bombs into the water" by the 'no' side in order to distract from what the referendum was about.

Voters will head to the ballot box on October 14.



First Nations Health Scholarships

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The Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme is funded by the Australian Government. ACN is proud to work with the Department of Health and Aged Care as the fund administrator for this program.



The lead walkers made sure their message was loud and clear. From left are Chris Rollason, Brenton Creed and Ben Gertz.

Townsville turns out

By ALF WILSON



MORE than 500 people took part in the "Walk for Yes" march along the

Townsville Strand on Saturday. The walkers left Strand Park at 11am and walked 1km on a bitumen path next to the idyllic Pacific Ocean and they carried signs and banners supporting the Yes vote at the coming referendum.

At the completion of the walk they gathered at the public park area next to the rockpool and enjoyed a barbecue.

They chanted support for a Yes vote and more than 200 walkers were members of various trade unions.



Velma Gara and Max Lenoy participated in the walk.

Adelaide says Yes



Crowds during a walk for the Yes event at Victoria Square in Adelaide



DRAFT MASTER PLAN RELEASED

Have your say on the future of North Head Sanctuary

The Harbour Trust has created a draft master plan for North Head Sanctuary in Manly, which is now open for public exhibition and consultation.

HAVE YOUR SAY

To help shape the future of North Head Sanctuary, we want to hear from you. Documents are available to view online on our Have Your Say portal.



To find out more or have your say, scan the QR code or visit harbourtrust.gov.au/north-head-consultation

Harbour Trust

Public exhibition closes at 5pm (AEDT) on Tuesday 31 October 2023.

Seismic Survey Consultation Invitation



Searcher Seismic Pty Ltd is proposing to conduct 3D Marine Seismic Surveys (MSS) located offshore in the North West Region of Western Australia. As such Searcher wishes to provide all potential stakeholders the opportunity to provide us with any values or sensitivities affecting your functions, interests or activities in order to address any issues or concerns.

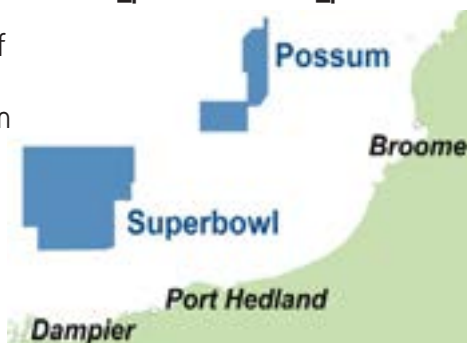
Possum 3D MSS is approximately 211km offshore of Broome and 246km from Port Hedland. Survey duration is about 70 days. Acquisition commencing by Dec 2025 on approval. Full Environment Plan: https://info.nopsema.gov.au/environment_plans/563/show_public

Superbowl 3D MSS is approximately 106 km offshore of Port Hedland. Maximum annual survey duration will be about 80 days. Acquisition commencing by Dec 2025 on approval. Project details are available on our website: searcherseismic.com/stakeholderfeedback

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- are able to analyse, critically assess and drive performance;
- have the confidence and connections to strengthen community engagement and collaborative partnerships;
- are a leader who thinks strategically, embodies personal integrity, has political astuteness, commercial acumen, resilience and are a team player; and
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Applications are to be submitted online. To obtain the Applicant Information Pack and instructions on how to submit your application, please visit www.executivequarter.com.au/hhb

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Applications close midnight, Wednesday 11 October 2023.

Should you wish to receive assistance on submitting your application, please contact Executive Quarter who are facilitating this process on 0497 499 749 or hhb@executivequarter.com.au



Queensland Government

Crowds converge on capital



Supporters of the Yes campaign gathered in Canberra on Sunday. Pictures: AAP



Hundreds marched in Canberra.



A lonely figure among the Yes supporters.



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Lois Peeler and her daughter Tanya Peeler.



Young women and their partners on the dance-floor at the Worawa Debutante Ball.

Women take part in debutante ball

By PAUL CONNELLY



NINE young Indigenous women from Worawa Aboriginal College gathered last month at the San Remo Ballroom for their biannual debutante ball.

The Worawa Debutante Ball coincided with the 74th Anniversary of the first Aboriginal Debutante Ball held August 26, 1949, at the Collingwood Town Hall.

The Worawa Debutante Ball serves to celebrate that historic event and provide the opportunity to reflect on the tenacity of those involved in the original event which was held at a time before Aboriginal people weren't counted as Australian citizens.

With the exception of a few, all participants were YortaYorta whose families were either living, or at some time had lived on the riverbank of the Goulburn River between Shepparton/Mooroopna, an area known as 'the Flat' following the walk-off from the Cummeragunja Aboriginal Reserve in 1939.

The Cummeragunja walk-off was a milestone in the struggle for Aboriginal rights and dignity both nationally and for the YortaYorta people.

Addressing those gathered, Elder-in-residence and former principal Louis Peeler nee Briggs who herself was a flower girl at the first Aboriginal Debutante Ball, spoke of the history of the college and its aims.

"Worawa Aboriginal College, the only Independent Aboriginal School in Victoria, is situated on the very land that once formed part of the Coranderrk Aboriginal Station, and we honour all of those who walked the land."

"As Aboriginal people our ancestral connections tie us to the land of our forebears. This is the basis of our belief system, our moiety system, our law, our kinship system, our cultural ceremony, and our spiritual nourishment.

"This relationship with the land is special, deeply felt and essential to who we are, and how we have become who we are. It is within this context that Worawa College has a unique curriculum at its heart."



Taking part in the original ball in 1949 were, back row (some names are missing): Harold Bux, Ken Briggs, Laurie Atkinson, Selwyn Briggs, Jimmy Murray, Kevin Russell, Clem Briggs, Perry Atkins, Alf Turner, Barney Walker, Sam Green. Seated back row: Hyllus Briggs, Daphne Bonney, Geraldine Briggs, Elva Briggs, Lorraine Nelson, Mattie Mullet, Clara James, Agnes Charles, Viney Morgan. Front row: Frances Briggs, Jean Watson, Elsie Cooper, Beverley Briggs, Amy Briggs, Lois Briggs, Beryl Walker, Lillian Nicholls, Nancy Green.

The young women are guided through a pathway to the deb ball.

"Tonight we have seen young women who have taken up that challenge, I am proud of these young women and I know that the family members and carers here tonight are also extremely proud."

Executive Director and Principal Tanya Peeler also spoke.

Celebration

"Tonight we come together to celebrate the achievements of 12 incredible young women. Among them three hold the title of Honorary Ambassador having previously made their debut in 2021."

"These ambassadors have demonstrated outstanding leadership and continue to inspire those around them, we congratulate them and their achievements. The remaining nine young women are making their debut tonight marking the culmination of their journey to Worawa's pathway to womanhood program. This pathway has empowered these remarkable individuals, nurturing their personal growth and fostering a sense of confidence and cultural pride. It has been an incredible pleasure to get to know these young women and watch them flourish. Their journeys are a testament to the nurturing environment

this college provides, one which encourages personal and cultural development.

"As the newly appointed principal of Worawa college, it is an honour to stand before you, and I am humbled to contribute to the growth and success of our students."

The dedication of the students is played out at the commencement of each school day, when the students recite the poem written by the College founder Hillis Morris.

I am a child of the Dreamtime People part of this land like the Nal gum tree. I am the river softly singing, chanting our songs on the way to the sea.

My spirit is the Dust Devils mirages that dance on the plains, I am the snow, the wind and the falling rain.

I'm a part of the rocks and the red desert earth, red is the blood that flows in my veins. I am eagle, crow and snake that glides through the rainforests that cling to mountain side.

I awakened here when the earth was new, there was Emu Wombat and Kangaroo, no other man of different hue. I am this land this land is me...I am Australia.

Worawa commenced operation in 1983. It is a full boarding school catering for Indigenous girls in the secondary years of schooling enrolled from years 7



Australian Government



Aboriginal Heritage Proposed Cambridge Avenue upgrade, Glenfield

Transport for NSW invites Aboriginal people and Aboriginal groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places for Cambridge Avenue upgrade, Glenfield to register to be consulted.

To register your interest, please contact:

Corrine Quinlan, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer | 0447 978 380
corrine.quinlan@transport.nsw.gov.au

Registrations must be received by phone or in writing by **7 October 2023**.

Transport for NSW has started early planning for a future upgrade and extension of Cambridge Avenue, Glenfield. The recommended design would involve duplication and extension of Cambridge Avenue westward from Moorebank Avenue to Campbelltown Road. This upgrade would improve access to the Moorebank Intermodal Terminal and address the long-term population and employment growth in the Liverpool Moorebank sub region.



The proposal may result in Transport for NSW:

- Applying for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Part 6 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and/or
- Undertaking investigations in accordance with the *Code of practice for archaeological investigations in NSW 2010*, and/or
- Undertaking an environmental impact assessment under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

SB1047

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Dodson ponders debate



LABOR Senator Patrick Dodson is looking at the debate about a Indigenous Voice to Parliament from a different perspective.

Cancer can do that.

Speaking from his home on Yawuru Country in Broome, where he's recuperating from chemo, Senator Dodson said that being away from the political bubble had been valuable and was helping his recovery.

"In some ways it's been a blessing because I think that the debate has degenerated into personalities and individuals when it really should be focusing on what we are trying to do as a nation," he says.

"There are political games being played, which is unfortunate.

"I think it diminishes us as a people.

"It obviously detracts from the significance of the provision, that is the recognition of the First Peoples and the Voice and their ability to make representations."

In March, Senator Dodson visited Winnunga Nimmityjah, the Aboriginal medical service in Canberra, for a COVID vaccination.

His doctor realised he was very ill and sent him to hospital, where he was diagnosed with a serious infection on his oesophagus and Hodgkins lymphoma and he's



Labor Senator Pat Dodson is on leave while he battles cancer. He believes the generosity of Australians means the voice to parliament referendum can succeed.

been on leave from parliament since.

He hopes to be back on his feet in time to help campaign for the referendum on a First Nations Voice to Parliament on October 14.

Just over thirty years ago, Senator Dodson travelled around the country for the Royal Commission into Aboriginal

Deaths in Custody.

His role as a commissioner was to explore the underlying issues, the legal, cultural and social factors that were leading to Aboriginal people being taken into custody at vastly disproportionate rates.

"It became clear that they had very little say in the way in which the social policies of government

ought to be delivered and they were disempowered through the process," Senator Dodson says.

"And the poverty, not only the physical poverty of people, but the quality of life that people had in terms of a civil democracy.

"The other thing that struck me, of course, was the police and their power.

"They certainly have a lot of authority and they wield that authority fairly effectively in the lives of Aboriginal people."

During the course of the royal commission Senator Dodson listened to hundreds of Aboriginal people, custodial workers, police, lawyers, academics, held town meetings and spoke to anyone he could find who might have solutions to help keep Indigenous people out of prison.

These conversations supported Senator Dodson's conviction that if you give people a say in matters that affect them, you give them agency and you get better outcomes.

The royal commission made 339 recommendations, many of which have still not been implemented in full.

Senator Dodson said a national First Nations voice, made up of representatives from regions from all over the country, would be able to make representations to policy makers on issues of substance that affect Indigenous people.

"Including deaths in custody and other legacy matters from the

royal commission and other inquiries like the Bringing Them Home report about the Stolen Generations," he says.

"The principle is clear and the principle is right that the First People should be recognised and that they should have a body that represents their interest.

"And that body should be able to make representations to the parliament and to the executive."

The Voice proposal includes the provision that how the machinery will work will be legislated by the parliament.

"So the argument about detail is really spurious at this point because the detail will come when we get to dealing with legislation and that'll be in the open forum of parliament," Senator Dodson says.

He is still optimistic about the referendum's success.

"Australians are very generous, generally, when we respond to challenges," he said.

"And I would say to the Australian people, there's nothing to fear, there's no hidden agenda. There's no risk in what we're being asked to do.

"In fact, if we were able to support the referendum, it would bring us great honour, and it would help us shift the basis of our relationship with Aboriginal people and enable us to deal with the more complex issues that we know will confront us the day after the referendum anyway." -AAP



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Domestic and stock rights are a basic landholder right under the *Water Management Act 2000* allowing you to take and use water for domestic consumption and non-intensive stock watering without a water access licence or water use approval and in most cases a water supply work approval. These rights do not permit the construction of a dam or water bore without a water supply work approval.

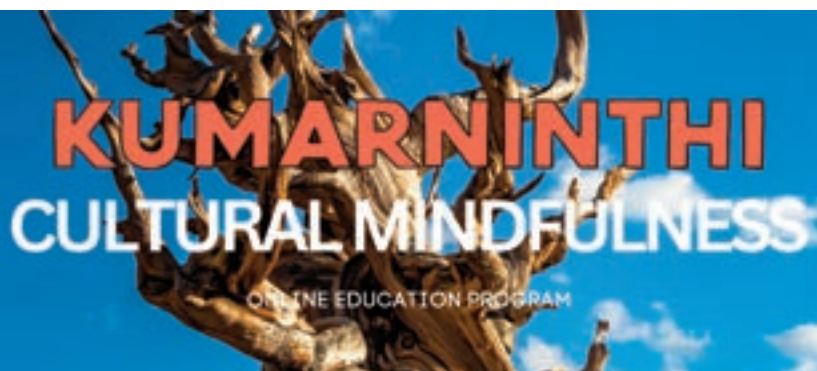
These rights apply if you own or occupy a parcel of land which:

- has river, lake, or estuary frontage, or
- is overlying an aquifer.

Domestic and stock rights are largely unregulated. There is no limit on the volume of water that may be taken or detailed guidelines about how the rights to the water can be used.

The NSW Government has committed to a review of domestic and stock water rights and wants to hear from you on how these rights are currently used and whether they should be further regulated.

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Island residents rebel

By DARREN COYNE



RESIDENTS of Cabbage Tree Island near Ballina in northern New South Wales have

vowed to fight attempts to prevent them from returning to their island home.

The *Koori Mail* reported last edition that residents had been told it was unsafe for them to return to their homes following the flood events of early 2022.

Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council issued a statement late in August saying members had voted to proceed with building new houses on other land away from the island.

Jali chairperson Lenkunya Roberts said: "Mother Nature has spoken. Cabbo is no longer safe for our Mob to live there, but we are absolutely committed to making sure our cultural connection is maintained."

That decision angered a number of residents, who say it happened without proper consultation, and at a meeting that possibly did not have a quorum as a number of



Residents of Cabbage Tree Island are preparing to fight moves to prevent them returning home.

residents left in disgust when they realised that a motion was being put that would destroy their homes.

Late last week, the Indigenous Justice Advocacy Network, on behalf of Traditional Owner Susan Anderson, lodged a summons with the NSW Land and Environment Court.

The summons, which has

been set down to be heard by Justice Pain tomorrow (Thursday, September 21), seeks an urgent injunction to declare that "the decision of the respondent on the 28 of August to demolish the houses ... is void and of no effect".

Further, Ms Anderson wants a declaration that Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council is

"statutorily barred to prevent the applicant from entering the land to assert their common law native title rights".

In an affidavit supporting her application, Ms Anderson has described how she was born on the island 70 years ago, as was her mother.

Her grandfather John Jack Cook, the lone survivor of a

massacre at nearby Evans Head, had been granted the land with his brother-in-law in the 1880s.

"The community survived through the whole of the 20th century despite the challenges of the protectorate, the theft of children, the racism, and the unspeakable repression of us Aboriginal people."

Ms Anderson, and many other residents, maintain that reports and claims that the island houses were severely damaged in the floods were not true.

"In the 2022 flood which is the biggest in living memory, including 1974, many properties in Wardell and around Lismore were destroyed. On the island though, water only entered four of the 22 houses, and according to reports I have seen and my own eyes, not one of the houses on the island were disturbed from their foundations."

Following the floods, the NSW and federal governments had committed \$70 million to build new homes for more than 170 residents displaced by the floods, and another \$50 million towards infrastructure repairs.

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Danny Eastwood's view



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Widjabul Wia-bul and Yaegl artist

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Binging (Turtle)

Favourite other food?
Sushi

Favourite drink?
Orange juice

Favourite music?
Neo-soul R&B

Favourite sport?
Basketball / Rugby League

Favourite read?
Dark Emu

Favourite holiday destination?
Buccarumbi Campground, along the Nymboida River

What are you watching on TV?
MCU, Marvel Universe. I'm a big kid aye

What do you like in life?
Being creative

What don't like you life?
Being told that you can't do what you want to do

Which Black or Indigenous person would you most like to meet?
My great-grandfather

Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire?
My family near the Nymboida River

Who or what inspires you?
Our old peoples stories

What is your ultimate goal?
To have my own version of success

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people?
I think it's all of us together, as community, as Mob, to respect and support each other through cultural practice, our own professional practices and doing that in innovative ways while also still listening to the practices of our community and Mob.

Quote



"We are not just focused on plays. And we are not just focused on the scripts. We know that we are leaders in this (performing arts) space, and everyone who works on the festival is a First Nations person. We've brought our old practice of composition, and movement and dance, back into the picture."

– Murriwarri and Ngemba woman Lily Shearer, is director of Yellamundie Festival

● See page 62

Unquote

Island residents need answers

No-one could say that the floods that devastated the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales, Bundjalung Country, in 2022, were not traumatic.

Residents in low-lying areas of Lismore, which was one of the worst affected places, were forced to abandon their homes to the rising waters, or climb into their ceilings until rescuers arrived.

It was different at Cabbage Tree Island, near Ballina, in the Richmond River.

Yes, the waters rose. As they had countless other times. And yes those floodwaters were about two metres higher than anything previously seen in recorded history ... but as Susan Anderson says in her affidavit to the NSW Land and Environment Court, only four of the 22 houses on the island actually had water in them, and according to local residents, that was caused by the wash of flood-rescue boats travelling past.

So why, after almost two years, are the residents now being told it is not safe to return?

In no other flood-affected area have residents been told they can no longer return to their homes. In fact, in areas such as north and south Lismore, where many houses were in fact severely damaged, many residents have indeed returned, while others remain in negotiation for buybacks or house



OUR SAY

relocations.

Why then are Cabbage Tree Island residents – who initially were told they would eventually be going home – being treated so differently?

And what is happening with the millions of dollars promised by the state and federal governments to 'build back better'?

The common complaint heard by the Koori Mail from angry residents is that they had been kept in the dark up until an extraordinary meeting late in August where a motion was unexpectedly put to demolish all the houses on the island.

Surely, all residents should have been fully informed prior to the meeting that such a life-altering motion was even being considered.

The matter has now proceeded to the NSW Land and Environment Court as desperate residents fight to save their homes.

Quite simply, it should not have come to this, and it is time for a thorough investigation by an independent body to determine what is actually happening.

The already traumatised residents deserve at least that after all this time.

KOORI MAIL 100% ABORIGINAL-OWNED

The Koori Mail is owned by five Aboriginal organisations on Bundjalung country in northern NSW – Kurrachee Cooperative (Coraki), Bunjum Cooperative (Cabbage Tree Island), Nungera Cooperative (Maclean), Buyinbin Cooperative (Casino) and the Bundjalung Tribal Society (Lismore).

Gwen has a love for learning

By LIINA FLYNN

IN 1974, in East Arnhem Land, a film crew came to the Milingimbi bilingual school to make a documentary about the languages being taught there.

Aboriginal educator Gwen Warmbirrri was one of the assistant teachers at the time. She was only 17 years old and very shy, but when others working at the school who inspired her said 'it's time for you to stand up and become a better teacher for our kids' - that's what she did.

Gwen built up the courage and prepared to set off for Batchelor College to study education. But before she left, the school principal asked her to stay and be part of the documentary filming with the children and the teachers.

Called *Not to lose you, my language*, the film featured staff and students (including Gwen) at one of the first of five government schools in the NT to trial bilingual teaching in both English and the local Djambarrpuyngu language. The film is still available on the department of education website.

"When I came back from my training as a qualified teacher, I started working and teaching classes at the school," Gwen said.

"It was just after Cyclone Tracey and even though I was young, I took on teaching classes in local language, as well as English."

Retired and inspired

Now 65, Gwen officially retired from teaching at the school only last year. After 49 years of teaching, she has inspired generations of young people and been involved in the integration of language and culture into the education system.

The Milingimbi school recently celebrated its 50-year anniversary of officially being a bilingual school.

Gwen said the school had originally been a mission school, established in the 1920s and had become a government bilingual school in 1973. Her parents had also been educated at the school, but she said "they learned differently to me in the mission days. When I started attending the school, lessons were still taught in English only, so I learned how to become fluent in English," she said.

"But after the school transitioned in 1973, I got to step

out from what I was taught in the mission days and teach my own language too.

"Now the kids learn and know their language.

"In our culture language matters, it is our identity and our survival. But it's important we also know English so we can be fluent with the outside world.

"In our community now, a lot of people are not afraid to step out and speak to Europeans and visitors to our community."

Djambarrpuyngu language

The Djambarrpuyngu language taught at the school is one of the 16 local languages of the Yolŋu people. It became the 'father' language used and taught in the area over time - much like English did in many other places. Until Year 3 at the school, both English and Djambarrpuyngu are taught, but after that, lessons are only taught in the local language.

Keeping culture alive

It's not just the embracing of local language that's changed at Milingimbi. Now, learning on Country is an integral part of teaching too.

"The kids are learning from the Elders as well as from rangers working in the community," Gwen said. "They take kids out on Country to see what's in their outstations so they grow up and become hunters, getting food from sea and land.

"That's keeping our culture alive.

"It's important we keep this life learning strong in our children; keep the fire burning so kids know how to survive."

Role models

Keeping the fire burning and inspiring future generations to learn has been Gwen's lifelong passion - and her journey of becoming a role model to others started with her own parents.

"I want to acknowledge my mother and my father," she said. "They were strong role models for me and my community.

"I also had other family members who used to teach during the time before the Bali bombing - and I was told to look to Charlie Menjarri as a good role model.

"He was a linguist and taught Aboriginal language and bible to



Gwen in her happy place ... in front of school children ... at the recent 50th anniversary celebration at the bilingual school.



Gwen with her friend Mary McCarthy, who is the Families as First Teacher coordinator at the school, working with children up to 4 years old.

kids in the community."

Passing it on

Two of Gwen's own children also went on to become teachers, with her daughter Janelle also teaching at the Milingimbi School.

"Some of the secondary girls at the school are already talking about what they want to be - models, teachers, nurses," Gwen said.

"I tell them 'if you want to become who you are in the future, you have to come to school every day and learn and focus on the subject that is being taught to you'.

"I am learning all the time and I'll never stop learning," Gwen said.

Two worlds

The dual language learning goes both ways at Milingimbi.

With a student population that is 96% Indigenous, every classroom has an assistant teacher from the local community who is the lifeline to local culture and community for visiting staff and teachers.

Gwen said visiting teachers also learn the local language while they are there and she invites them to come and sit with her and learn.

"I've influenced so many people and some people ask me to sit and talk with them for hours," she said.

Even though Gwen has 'retired' from the school, she's still making waves and influencing change in how education is rolled



Gwen's passion for history has been instrumental in her teaching at the school: At the 50th anniversary celebrations at Milingimbi School, a display of historic photographs from the school community had generations of family members looking at the photos and pointing out themselves and their grandfathers and grandmothers.

out in the NT.

Gwen was one of the speakers at the recent SNAICC conference and it's one of many she's set to contribute to around the country.

"I gave a speech on work with our children - growing them up in how to be strong Aboriginal children in the Aboriginal way," she said.

History

Gwen is also part of a project to archive images and photos of the 'old people' for the Yalpirri Foundation Arts Centre archives.

"History is so important for the younger generations to learn," she said. "I did history at school and it led me to the arts centre to search for our history and speak about it to the kids.

"This is a big part of me and my teaching. I teach people to connect and know about family and their cultural connections.

"I recently went to a history conference and did a history speech about 100 years of the church.



Kids at the school sing in language at the recent 50th anniversary celebrations.

Senator signs up for Fit for Office challenge

By NICK PATON

WITH a political career spanning more than 15 years, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy is one of Australia's most adored and respected Members of Parliament.

Now the Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and the Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health, Senator McCarthy first entered the public sphere as a journalist with the ABC and more recently for SBS/NITV.

As a proud Yanyuwa woman from the Gulf country in the Northern Territory, Senator McCarthy works each day to bring communities together and ensure remote communities are engaged with, and listened to, on a national level.

"I am incredibly passionate about helping others," Ms McCarthy told the *Koori Mail*.

"A person can do so much good in a position of service, whether it's at a local government level, or state, territory or federal level," she said.

"I would encourage Mob out there, who might be thinking about taking up a career in politics to just get out there, and give it a go."

Senator McCarthy was elected to the Northern Territory Assembly as the Member for Arnhem in 2005.

During her seven years in the assembly, she held the ministerial portfolios of Local Government, Regional Development, Indigenous Development, Tourism, Women's Policy and Statehood.

She was elected as senator for the Northern Territory (including Christmas and Cocos Keeling Islands) in August 2016 and again in 2019.

Her experiences bring unique perspectives to the role of Labor senator for the NT, a familiarity with the challenges and opportunities facing Territorians, and the perseverance and determination to drive change.

With the referendum set for October 14 fast approaching, Ms McCarthy said its important mob are taking care of their mental health.

"The well-being and mental health of all Australians, but in particular our Mob, is so critical in the lead up to the referendum, and beyond," Ms McCarthy said.

"That's why \$10 million has been allocated by the government, in that space, to assist organisations like 13 YARN who do a fantastic job at supporting Mob, and to assist the other well-known organisations who people can call for support."

Last week Senator McCarthy



Labor Senator for the Northern Territory, Malarndirri McCarthy.

met with AFL Legend Michael Long, completing the final leg of his 650km walk from Melbourne to Canberra in support for a Voice to Parliament.

"I'm enormously proud of Michael," Ms McCarthy said.

"He is an extraordinary Australian who has been a leader in the AFL, and always encouraging young Australians to get involved in sport," she said.

"To see Michael walk from Melbourne to Canberra, in support of a Voice to Parliament, I just knew we had to walk alongside him."

"It's been so good to see just how many people have turned up in the past two weeks and walk with Michael, but especially this morning, seeing so many people walk with Michael on the final leg of his journey."

"We know that this is not the first walk Michael has done, and being his second walk, he has been an incredible influence on a very positive scale," Ms McCarthy said.

"But Michael can also see that Closing The Gap is still not closing fast enough."

"There was a significant amount of people who turned up this morning - a long, long, line of people walking with Michael to the finish line - it was something that was just so great to see and be part of."

Next week, Senator McCarthy will lead more than 15 senators and federal MPs and 100 of their staff with a four-week exercise challenge from

September 25 to October 22.

The 'Fit for Office Get All Parliamentarians Physically Active' challenge by AUSactive (Australia's peak body for the exercise and active health sector) encourages Australian's 'from the top' to be active more often with the aim of tackling Australia's mental health crisis and inactivity to relieve the economic burden on the health-care system.

As assistant minister for Indigenous health, Senator McCarthy said she is very excited to get involved in this challenge because it's encouraging all the offices in Parliament House to compete in a different way, on a physical level, in terms of exercise.

"And I think that's a good thing."

"My staff and my entire team are getting organised, and my chief of staff will act as our coach who will make sure that we are all doing our push-ups and sit ups, and doing our bit to get healthy as part of the challenge," Ms McCarthy said.

"But at the end of the day, we are doing this to encourage other Australians to do the same."

Ms McCarthy is also encouraging Australians to conduct themselves in a respectful way in the lead up to the referendum.

"It's been a long time since we had a referendum, nearly two decades," Ms McCarthy said.

"And I have to say, that I am



Gordon Reid MP, AFL Legend Michael Long, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy and Senator Jenny McAlister.

pleased there is only one month to go until the referendum, but I certainly hope that we get the outcome we would like which is the support for the Yes vote."

Senator McCarthy said her advice to Mob is to make sure they are enrolled to vote at the upcoming referendum.

"But most importantly, we want all Australians to make their vote count."

"I don't want to see the next generations of Australians have to deal with what we have been

dealing with all of the time like high rates of suicide, high rates of incarceration, low birth rates for our babies, low unemployment and lack of housing," she said.

"I do believe this is our chance, to take a leap of faith as a country, and to recognise First Nations people, and to enable First Nations people to have a Voice, and to have a say in the Parliament, and the Executive, on matters that impact them."



Cultural burn to help orchard regenerate

Biyan Biyan during the burn.



FOR the first time in fifty years, fire has touched some of the highest parts of Barrington Tops to regenerate the Bularr-Gulga Watuun (Diuris Venosa), a vulnerable double-veined Donkey Orchid endemic to the sub-alpine grasslands of the mountains.

The event, led by Worimi Elder Aunty Michelle Perry, took place on the Biyan Biyan plain in the shadows of Mount Barrington with approximately 60 people participating in the two-hectare snow-grass burn.

The burning project was done in partnership with the NSW Government's Biodiversity and Conservation Division and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, with assistance on the day from Yarrabin Fire.

The practice was a special moment for Aunty Michelle and the Perry family, who have a strong connection to the area through their maternal grandmother Jessie Cook, the daughter of renowned Gloucester tracker and stockman Jack 'Malukut' Cook.

"Not only just to start (the burn), but to be amongst it when all the smoke was going and bending down and encouraging that next blade of grass to go, really gave you a sense of what the old people did back in the day to look after Country," she said.

"But to be there with all your family and all your Mob was quite emotional, and a couple of people came up to me quite emotional,

just watching that burn take place.

"And to learn the song that was written about the burn by Jaz (Jazlie Davis), asking the orchid to come up, and practising dance as the women felt the Country underneath their feet. It was amazing."

It is hoped the fire will promote the growth of the Bularr-Gulga Watuun (Gathang – 'two tails white one') so that its tubers can be sustainably harvested.

The state government's 'Grow, Harvest, Heal' project aims to change the way we think about threatened species.

"That burn was the first on Began Began since the mid-1970s, and the first cultural burn potentially since colonisation," said NSW government Senior Threatened Species Officer Luke Foster.

"We aim to use fire as a way of not only getting community back on their own Country, but also making the decisions around the conservation and management of the plants and animals that live there."

The burn was the centrepiece of a four-day cultural camp at the Little Murray campground, with family and friends from various Aboriginal Nations in attendance.

Other activities included spear/stick making for men and singing, dancing and learning Gathang language for women.

Aunty Michelle said the cultural event will serve as a blueprint as she works to launch her not-for-profit, Gimbigu (for our grandmother), which will be based on sharing her culture.



Pic: Luke Foster

The orchard, Bularr Gulga Watuun.



Worimi Elder Aunty Colleen Perry and granddaughter Gabby Perry preparing brooms for the fire.



Aunty Michelle Perry during the burn.



Jodan and Maurice Perry carving their walking sticks.

The **Koori Mail** welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Preference will be given to submissions of interest to Indigenous Australians. Please include your town and State of residence, and daytime telephone number for checking purposes. Items may be edited and reproduced.



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KEEPING YOUR SAY SHORT AND SWEET

A BIG thanks to all of our readers for sending letters, poems and other feedback; we love hearing from you.

You can help us by keeping your letters to 400 words or less and poems generally no more than 25 medium-length lines. This will increase your chances of being published.

Even if sent via email, all letters and poems must be accompanied by the author's full name, home town/city and state/territory, and a contact number so we can verify content. After that, we're happy to withhold names and addresses upon request. We will publish 'Looking For' letters as long as they do not breach

the privacy of individuals mentioned.

And we're happy to consider photos alongside letters – as long as they're of a high enough resolution and standard, and as long as copyright requirements are met. We accept no responsibility for returning original photos, so please send copies instead. – **EDITOR**

Action speaks louder than words

We are being asked in a time of broken promises to trust, to believe and to hope that real change is coming. I feel disheartened by this system and the lip service and lies that hold up the walls of parliament house. From lies that have been spoken and spread since 1788, the lies of terra nullius, to the lies of land-back promises that just gave more corporate bodies ownership of our lands. I am tired of this corrupt system that continually puts profit over our people and the planet. It is our communities who are impacted by the destruction of our lands, waters and kinship system but ultimately it will be the downfall of this entire nation and everyone who currently resides within it, if we continue to exist within a system that is fundamentally anti woman, anti Indigenous and anti nature.

How many times have our people and our communities fallen victim to empty promises and lip service of politicians? How many times have our people been continually disenfranchised by this current capitalist system? It seems to be never ending and yet again we are asked by the government and by others to trust, to believe and to have hope that the system is changing. I don't want to trust anymore, what I want is actual action that shows me change is on the way.

It is a hard time for our communities right now, as the political landscape feels like a battle ground, our people laying



Ella Noah Bancroft

victim to the weapon words that are used against us, no matter where we stand on the side of the debate, we are all feeling the heat from wider Australia.

This is a hard time for our mental health and for our communities and I pray we hold the hope of one another and that no matter what happens on October 14, that we know deep inside that we will never stop fighting because we stand on the shoulders of warriors, our Elders, our ancestors. We stand on the shoulders of those who know the deep truth of our country and our kinship and we stand on the shoulders of those who have always fought for change. What has given me great hope amongst all this chaos has been our people. We have lead the way with respectful and loving conversations even if it's been hard and we disagree. We are showing this so-called Australia how to be in right relationship with different opinions and that is the greatest light of all of this.

The reasons for distrust are seen from the history of this country, our own lived experience, and that lived experience of our family members. The corruption of politicians and this system is so overt it's sometimes hard to see how they get away with it. Once the cameras go down, the promises go down with them, all the way down the drain.

Currently we have two very clear examples of political lies that are impacting our communities here on Bundjalung and on Gumbaynggirr. These are just a few examples that exist within hundreds of situations that constantly impact our people and communities and give reason to distrust all governments.

To our Cabbage Tree Island community, I send my love and prayers. Cabbage Tree Island or also known as Cabbo is an Indigenous community located in Ballina Shire, it was hit, along with many other towns including Lismore, during the 2022 floods. The community has been fenced, its locals were relocated to Wardell, a neighboring town, with the promise that they would be able to return. They were promised they could rebuild and then in September 2023, the Department of Environment and Planning decided that the community cannot return and they cannot rebuild.

They are now going to demolish the standing buildings on the land. For generations upon generations our people have lived there. It's reported that it was settled by three

Aboriginal pioneers in 1885 and in 1893 the island was designated an Aboriginal Reserve, with our people moving there from the region, and Cabbage Tree School opened in this year too and has schooled so much of our Mob.

How is it possible that they cannot return due to flooding yet the state and federal governments will continue to develop large high density housing on wetlands only furthering future floods impacts and creating more damage to all communities in the Northern Rivers?

Why are the neighboring towns who were flooded also not being relocated? Why is the construction company, which built a dodgy highway with no drainage system on the bypass off Grafton, not responsible for the extra 2.5 metre high water during the floods, or for the destruction of all the small southern towns of Lismore?

When will it go too far if it hasn't already? When will someone take responsibility and accountability for the lies and corruption?

Just across our Bundjalung border, on Gumbaynggirr country, our brothers and sisters there are facing their own difficulties with lying politicians. As part of Labor's election campaign they promised a great koala national park, the protection of the forests and our kin the koalas. Then once they were elected, they gave the government owned NSW Forestry Corporation authority to log the koala habitat.

Gumbaynggirr Traditional Owners and activists have taken to

protesting to prevent the devastation of their lands and for future generations. The NSW Environment Minister Penny Sharpe announced logging operations in 106 identified koala "hubs" by the government-owned NSW Forestry Corporation had been suspended but it was clear that NSW Forestry was only stopped because of Traditional Owners and protesters who stood in their way.

This is the power we can have when we work together for a common cause and when we stop listening to empty promises from politicians and demand action. History is a great teacher of what has happened and what's to come. Time and time again, we see land grabs, destruction of homeland, new and extended mines, forest destruction and waterways poisoning all in the umbrella of "advancement" of country and economic wealth for this country.

It's time we come together to fight something bigger than constitution reconstruction, it's time that we fight for real truth to be told and for land back. We know what we need to protect our country, culture and communities for the next generation and it all involves securing our lands. No more election campaign promises, no more bureaucrats, no more politicians, it's time for us the people to rise and not be divided.

● Ella Noah Bancroft is a Bundjalung woman and a regular contributor.

The Australian constitution ...

With the upcoming referendum, there is a lot of misinformation being shared in regards to the Australian Constitution. The greatest myth is that our constitution represents one of the great 'democracies'. Truth is we are governed by a constitution which favours a privileged few with its foundation built on a Protestant work ethic and class system based on an outdated empire established on the other side of the world.

Our constitution is not one that allows for laws that secure our future, the social and ecological systems we depend on nor in maintaining a peaceful just society. Australia's constitution does little more than say which level of government can make what types of laws. It defines the matters that each level of government may make these laws, but provides no guidance on what would constitute a good or bad law for a democratic society.

This is why the Yes campaign want to write the Aboriginal Voice into the constitution, because quite frankly it needs a reform. Currently, laws and even treaties at state and local level can be changed too easily. Also, the treaty process we are witnessing particularly in Queensland is not one driven by Traditional



Woolombi Waters

Owners, but instead state government and Indigenous peoples who claim a historical and community connection to the state, not a traditional one prior to occupation.

The minister for the treaty process in Queensland is herself a Traditional Owner, Leanne Enoch, a Ngugi Quandamooka woman from Minjerribah (Stradbroke Island). But her allegiance appears to be with party politics over Traditional Owners. Ms Enoch was the Environmental Minister who signed off on the Adani coal mine against the wishes of the Wangan and Jagalingou Traditional Owners. She was housing minister during Queensland's worst ever housing crises. And now her government has its sights on our children with some of the cruellest juvenile custody law proposals ever seen. Laws that go against the United Nations convention on the rights of children.

In Queensland, as with many other states, treaty is

already happening before Voice, but in what many Traditional Owners see as a land-grab in response to the successful Northern Territory Timber Creek compensation claim, not for the rights of Traditional Owners as claimed by the Blak Sovereign movement. How then can one justifiably argue "Treaty before Voice", when it was also published recently in the *Sydney Morning Herald* that the No campaign is purposely instructing representatives to use 'fear' and 'doubt' driven by 'emotion' rather than 'facts' to undermine the Yes campaign. Any argument based on the premise of "if in doubt say no..." has absolutely no substance nor place in any meaningful discussion. As the Yes campaign are saying in response, "if in doubt, find out..."

What Qld is now proposing regarding juvenile custody laws in allowing police greater powers to take our kids away and put them in adult watch houses and adult jails is for our people, particularly in consideration of our recent past abhorrent. And why? Because the crises in the cost of living and homelessness has produced a generation of adolescents with no form of security or care. No wonder they are rampaging in record numbers. For the first time in Australian history, over 50%

of Australian households are saying they cannot live week to week.

As a result, Australian children's mental health and wellbeing is deteriorating at alarming rates. A recent study highlights that 70% of presentations to paediatricians in Australia are for mental health concerns, and that more than half of these children experiencing mental health problems are not receiving professional help. Among kids aged 6-12, social anxiety disorder increased by 45% between 2020 - 2022, ADHD by 42%, peer relationship difficulties by 39% and educational and learning difficulties by 35%. And rather than an Indigenous Voice at the table, people want to engage in treaty talks with governments whose answer to the crisis is simply to lock our children up.

We have also seen the federal government successfully appealed in 2022 against a high-profile court decision that had found the federal environment minister had a duty of care to protect young people from the climate crisis when assessing fossil fuel developments.

Laws and administrative decisions by executive governments such as the Adani coal mine approval will grievously harm our climate and therefore our children's

futures.

This is despite one of the greatest concerns relating to the increase in child mental health problems being this generation witnessing Australia responsible for major extinction of animal and bird species (one of the largest rates in the world) while approving activities that cause catastrophic climate change. Our constitution as it stands currently is beyond ineffectual, it is actually contributing to the devastation and needs reform.

The approach is autocracy more than democracy, subjection more than freedom. It is, however, possible to change that system to make democracy far more effective in safeguarding the public interest. This can be done by building a constitution which as a minimum finally enshrines certain human rights that are currently being denied not only to our Mob but all Australians. The time for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament is now.

Imagine if all Australians had rights that do exist for other nations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to safe and healthy working conditions, freedom from economic exploitation, an adequate standard of living for themselves and their family,

including adequate food, clothing and housing, continuous improvement of living conditions, freedom from hunger, and the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Imagine if our Mob, through the Voice, had rights on an equal basis with non-Indigenous people to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and rights to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. These are rights enjoyable by other Indigenous nations around the world but not here.

The Australian Constitution enables our governments to escape all these obligations. Laws which violate the universal rights of humans in Australia are lawful here because our constitution does not prevent the violations. But, were these rights to at last be enshrined in our constitution, via an Indigenous Voice, then we could lobby more effectively for change and actively contributing towards legal-systems that have the full capacity to ensure laws that protect our most fundamental of human rights via the Voice of First Australians.

● Woolombi Waters is a regular correspondent.

Albert, 72, shares his final wishes following diagnosis

By ALF WILSON



HIGHLY respected amongst the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in

Townsville is 72-year-old Albert Abdul-Rahman, who has been told by doctors he has a terminal medical condition, and has "a month to a year at most to live".

Albert contacted me and asked could I do a story on him outlining his before-death wishes.

Whilst it was one of the most difficult I have ever done, as I have been a friend of his for 53 years, I agreed.

Over the decades I have seen Albert at many events such as NAIDOC celebrations, Survival and Mabo Day gatherings, cultural festivals, on Palm Island where he worked for many years and even at protest marches to support those charged after the 2004 riot on Palm.

Not to forget the scores of Allblacks football carnivals he has been at.

So on Saturday, September 9 I went to his unit in the suburb of Oonoonba and he greeted me as he sat in his wheelchair in the carport.

Albert had a tube coming from his nose and some years back had two legs amputated below the knees.

Normally a man of few words, Albert had a huge smile on his face when his three-year-old granddaughter Jmara Kirby sat near him.

"I have a serious infection and could have as short as a month to live or if I am lucky it could be 12 months," he said.

Albert didn't want to sing his own praises although I have been privy to his outstanding contributions towards the betterment of First Nations



Albert Abdul Rahman and Angie Akee.

Peoples here for many decades.

First of all I asked Albert his thought on the coming Voice Referendum and his answer was a resounding "Yes".

"There must be a Voice in Parliament and it is so important for our futures and that of our children," he said.

Born in PNG, Albert arrived in Townsville during 1970 and served six years in the Australian military based at the local Lavarack Barracks.

"I lasted for six years and there was lots of racism and it was hard to cop.

"Since then I have been an advocate for rights of First Nations people," he said.

In his heyday, Albert was a robust man with a big physical presence and he played local Australian Rules football for

Wulguru and South Townsville clubs, and also maintained a close association with the Indigenous club Garbutt Magpies.

Some of his major achievements have included setting up programs for Indigenous youth and also being on a Murri Court panel.

Good programs

"Both were good programs and we used to liaise with police and the Court including Magistrates about Indigenous culture and sensitivity which were considered when sentencing was done," Albert said.

Albert said that both programs were discontinued by government of the day and was particularly critical of the

decision to stop the youth programs.

"That was when Campbell Newman was Queensland premier and we never had a youth crime problem then like we do have here now," he said.

Respected Torres Strait Islander Angie Akee was glowing in her praise of Albert who she said had done much as an advocate for First Nations peoples in the region.

"Albert organised and done many programs for our people especially youths which were culturally appropriate and I first met him when he was in the Army in Townsville in the early seventies.

"He was very passionate about our people and engaged with us and was seen as a neutral person who was listened

to. He did a lot towards reconciliation. To me he was an inspiration," Mrs Akee said.

Mrs Akee said first and foremost Albert was a man of God who made positive decisions for her people based on spiritual beliefs.

"Albert used to meet with police and was behind programs which benefited our youth and they worked. He also did good work when on the Murri Court," Mrs Akee said.

Whilst I was there Albert had a visit from a Townsville University Hospital medical worker who provided some medication.

Then just as I was about to leave he was hugged by Mrs Akee which was a touching finale to my visit. Let's all pray for Albert in the coming months.

Crackdown over human-dingo interactions



BOOKINGS for camping permits on K'gari (also known as Fraser Island) have increased by 51 per cent since 2018.

The Queensland government said last Saturday an extra 13 staff members will be hired to enhance community safety, after a number of attacks by dingoes, also known locally as wongari.

An extra \$2 million will be allocated this year, with another \$3 million to be spent annually to boost safety programs on the island, which is off the Wide Bay-Burnett region.

The additional jobs include six Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers, four Indigenous rangers and three Department of Environment and Science technical support positions.

The state's Environment Minister Leanne Linard said management was being stepped up as crowds increased, with half a million campers now visiting the island annually.

"The natural setting that attracts so many visitors to K'gari also presents challenges, particularly in regard to the island's wongari population and their interactions with humans," she said.

"In recent months, we have seen a number of wongari attacks on humans, ranging from minor to very serious."

In one case, a woman was chased into the water by the animals.

Ms Linard said visitors will see increased face-to-face interactions with rangers monitoring compliance, with a renewed focus on dealing with problem animals.

"The message to those visiting and living on K'gari is simple, enjoy this unique natural wonder but always be alert to the presence of wongari, heed the safety messages, educate yourself about how to behave around wongari and always treat them like the wild animals that they are," she said.

Visitors to the island are warned not to walk alone, carry a stick and to always avoid running, as it can provoke the animals.



More money will be spent by the Queensland government to educate the public about dingoes on K'gari, with concerns growing over the number of interactions.

Women lead the way

By JILLIAN MUNDY



TWO young Aboriginal change makers, Maggie Blanden and Renee Cremer, have been selected to the Global Institute for Women's Leadership's (GIWL) Youth Committee.

Along with fifteen others, between 18 and 30 years old, they were selected from over 500 applicants.

They bring passion and life experience to make positive change, especially on gender-based issues.

The committee aims to bridge the gap between experiences of young people and policies that will dictate their lives.

Maggie, a palawa law student from lutruwita/Tasmania is passionate about sexual violence and missing and murdered Indigenous women.

"There is a culture of silence, it is disgusting," she said.

"The state has been perpetrating a culture of silence against us since they pretty much arrived."

"One in three Aboriginal women are likely to be raped in their life."

Her own history of being sexually assaulted ignited the passion.

"This is a perfect opportunity to work with women in Australia on consent laws, on sexual violence and bringing that into the forefront of Australian minds."

Julia Gillard

GIWL was founded and is chaired by Julia Gillard, the only woman to have served as prime minister of Australia.

Maggie said Gillard is an inspiration to women of her generation, especially Gillard's famous misogyny speech.

"It is ingrained into our conscience, keeps us motivated and reminds us that women can be in any position of leadership."

"We're so lucky to have had her in our younger years."

"Having a seat at the table, as an Aboriginal woman, is something that shouldn't be overlooked."

"I look forward to seeing the first Black female president of Australia."

Inspired by Tasmanian Aboriginal lawyers who have come before her, she plans to bring what she has learnt about white law back to her community to use for their own betterment.

Maggie is the great-grand daughter of Aunty Ida West AM.

She grew up amongst passionate Aboriginal activists, attending protests since she was a baby, witnessing how campaigning led to land returns and the first steps towards treaty.

Earlier in the day that *Koori Mail* caught up with Maggie, her



Maggie Blanden, a palawa law student from lutruwita/Tasmania, said former prime minister Julia Gillard was an inspiration.

nan had called her 'Mini Ida'.

"That was the biggest compliment of my life," she said.

"She was a very proud Aboriginal woman who campaigned for equality for her community as well as for all people, she believed that no-one should be discriminated against and that is something really special I am always reminded of."

"Everyone, the refugees, the people of colour that aren't Aboriginal, queers, she just wanted everyone to feel included and be accepted in Australia."

"It's a special gift that she has given us all, just to be really kind to everyone, to work toward a better future for all, not just ourselves."

"She was a staunch women who would never take no for an answer and I hope that I'm like that one day."

Maggie has worked on law reform and policy development including raising the age of when children can be imprisoned, native title and treaty.

Legal intern

This year she is as a legal intern with North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service in the area of domestic, family and sexual violence against Aboriginal women, and works with the Indigenous Law and Justice Hub at the Melbourne Law School, and is part of a group of law students providing neutral advice and education on the upcoming referendum.

Maggie is excited, impressed and empowered by the diversity of the other GILW Youth Committee members, their life

experiences and ideas.

"You wouldn't get those ideas from a group of straight white men – ever."

Renee, a Yuin woman and mother of two, originally from Gubbi Gubbi country (Sunshine Coast), who has a Bachelor of Arts with majors in politics and policy studies and minors in international relations and criminology, is equally as impressed with her peers on the committee.

Renee is the Chief Executive Officer of Young Australians in International Affairs (YAIA), an early career public servant with the Defence Department, represented Australia as part of the delegation at the G7 Youth Engagement Forum and was a Global Voices Scholar at the 2019 OECD Forum in Paris.

She hopes to inspire other young Indigenous women, mothers especially, to pursue their passions with tenacity and dedication, and influence policies to dismantle obstacles in their way.

Of the 46 young people, aged 18 to 30, involved in the YAIA, Renee is the only parent.

"I think there's quite a gap in the conversation considering the average age of women having children now is 31."

"Where as you have people like me, having their first child at 23, but not exactly being prepared to let go of their career aspirations and dreams."

"Being an Aboriginal woman, it's pretty different, I think in terms of our caring responsibilities and the relationships that we have across our families, and the commitment there."

"I think it can have quite an



Renee Cremer, a Yuin woman and mother of two, originally from Gubbi Gubbi country (Sunshine Coast).

impact in our ability to fully engage in the workplace or as a young person pursuing an ambitious career."

She has experienced challenges with studying and working, alongside motherhood, including opportunities in the form of scholarships coming her way but no support and no part time options available in a job she had with a large insurance company.

She is paying huge HECs debts alongside childcare fees, both based on taxable income.

Passionate

She became passionate about her career path after a speaking competition at the National Schools Constitutional Convention when she was 16.

"My speech was about recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the preamble to the Constitution, funnily enough it is the world we're currently living in."

It was 2010, two years before Reconciliation Australia's Recognition campaign, and the local member of parliament congratulated her on her speech but told her constitutional recognition would never happen.

The comments ignited her determination.

The GIWL Youth Committee members have expertise in issues from First Nations justice, mental health, local government leadership, international affairs and disability activism to toxic masculinity.

The committee is chaired by Chanel Contos, whose campaigning resulted in

consent education being mandatory in all Australian schools from kinder to year 10.

"Culture, policies and laws that are being made now will be lived out by young people of Australia, so they are integral to how we shape the future of this country," Contos said.

Gillard said the committee embodies a new generation of compassionate leaders, already doing incredible work to make real change in their communities.

"Young people are best placed to address the world's greatest challenges, and with the diverse talent and experiences of this group, I am excited to see what they'll be able to achieve working together towards a more inclusive and sustainable future".

Rigorous research

GIWL, with bases at the Australian National University and King's College London brings together rigorous research, practice and advocacy to make sustainable change towards workplace gender equality and a more gender equal society.

The GIWL are holding a Youth Summit in Brisbane from October 19 to 20.

Free tickets are available for under 30s through Eventbrite. Speakers and facilitators include Julia Gillard and June Oscar.

Maggie is looking forward to co-facilitating a 'Turning Ideas for Change into Policy Action' where she can share her own experiences and help workshop ways to make change for issues bought to the room.

higher education 2024

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The Wollotuka Institute is located in the Birabahn Building, on the traditional lands of the Pambalong Clan of the Awabakal people.

University of Newcastle has a place for you

For 40 years, the Wollotuka Institute has operated as a support centre for Indigenous students studying at the University of Newcastle. As the number one university in Australia for Indigenous enrolments, Wollotuka and the University together, are providing unparalleled leadership and championing the need for academically enriching and culturally affirming education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at a local, national and international level.

Operating across all University of Newcastle campuses, Wollotuka is located on different Aboriginal countries across the east coast of Australia. The campuses are welcoming, inspiring and collaborative environments. When you study through Wollotuka you'll be supported by experienced staff,

Elders, cultural leaders and fellow students who will help make your time at the University of Newcastle successful and fulfilling.

Wollotuka provides assistance and a number of services during your undergraduate or postgraduate studies, including an enabling pathway program – Yapug – specifically designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

What is Yapug?

Yapug is a pathway program designed to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people gain the knowledge and skills for entry into university while immersing them in Indigenous knowledge, history and culture. Together with the Wollotuka Institute, Yapug provides students with foundational knowledge, embedded support and a range of social activities to enjoy during

their time in the program and into their degrees.

Yapug top 5 benefits:

- Yapug is completely free.
- The Yapug program provides you with a culturally safe and inclusive program, connecting you with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, staff and community.
- Upon completion, you will receive guaranteed entry into selected degrees at the University of Newcastle.
- You have the support of a dedicated Indigenous Enabling Learning Advisor, who is available to help guide you through your studies and answer any questions you have during your time in Yapug.
- Study at the University's Callaghan campus in Newcastle or their Ourimbah campus on the Central Coast.
- You will have access to a wide

range of courses that will help set you up for success in your degree.

Studying at the University of Newcastle

The University offers hundreds of scholarship programs which can give you extra support throughout your studies and provides secure, affordable, and comfortable accommodation options for students while studying.

For any student interested in exploring Indigenous culture and history as part of their studies, they offer a Bachelor of Global Indigenous Studies. This dynamic and highly specialised degree has also been combined with a Bachelor of Development Studies and is taught and managed by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander academic and administrative team. The program focuses on ensuring you have a strong understanding of

Indigenous culture, history and politics and that you're able to use Indigenous knowledge systems to respond to ecological, social and economic challenges.

The Wollotuka Institute provides an inclusive, culturally safe environment where you can come for support, advice, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing. They are guided by a comprehensive set of cultural standards that reflect and embrace the essence of their goals. Their space is one where you can connect with other students and community – a home away from home while studying at the University of Newcastle.

There's a place for you at the University of Newcastle. To find out more about Wollotuka and explore other programs available for 2024 visit www.newcastle.edu.au.

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NIKERI Institute delivers alternative study pathways

The National Indigenous Knowledges Education Research and Innovation (NIKERI) Institute at Deakin University provides access to university for First Nations students through our distinctive Community Based Delivery (CBD) learning program. The CBD model offers a combination of on-campus study blocks and supported learning in home communities. This enables students the flexibility to maintain family, work, and fulfil cultural obligations while studying without having to relocate from home.

NIKERI's Indigenous Direct Admissions Program (IDAP) will again be offered in November. The program is designed to provide applicants with the study skills to succeed, prepare them for university, and the experience of on-campus study blocks through the CBD model. Amelya See Kee, from Thursday Island in the Torres Strait attended the program last year and says it helped ease her concerns about transitioning to university study.

"You can come and do the IDAP program that will show you



Amelya See Kee and Bonnie-Rose Taffe are studying at NIKERI Institute at Deakin University.

what NIKERI has to offer. [We were] shown the right referencing, essay writing and met other students which was really helpful to transition. That made it really easy to see myself coming to uni."

With a history of more than 35 years of providing higher

education opportunities to First Nations students, NIKERI is proud to have graduates from all states and territories in Australia working in health, education, arts, law, Indigenous research and environment management.

The unique learning

environment at NIKERI brings together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from across Australia to share their individual perspectives and experiences. Surrounded in class with First Nations peers, students study in a space that prioritises First Nations Knowledges and cultural safety.

Final year, Bachelor of Early Childhood Education student Bonnie-Rose Taffe, a Wiradjuri woman from Albury, New South Wales, felt the CBD model would allow her to commence study while maintaining work and other commitments.

"As I was apprehensive to return to an education setting, I felt as though NIKERI was able to offer me a more culturally safe environment where I would be supported by other First Nations people and community."

First year Bachelor of Nursing student, Amelya agrees.

"For me what makes NIKERI so appealing is that I can still live at home in community and work and I don't have to move away from my connections to home and my

family. I still have that option to be home and help and then NIKERI is another community and support."

Admission to courses at NIKERI Institute is based on alternative entry. An ATAR or high school graduation certificate is not a necessity as other factors such as knowledge gained through experience are also considered. Bonnie-Rose adds that it is this value placed on students' own knowledges and experiences that sets the Institute apart.

"This is in the way of their teaching style, their knowledge and also their understanding into the matters that First Nations students face in educational environments. It is very humbling to be on this journey with other First Nations students and have created our own community where we support one another."

All prospective students who have completed an online application to NIKERI Institute are invited to attend the program. For more information about applying to the Institute contact our dedicated Student Services team via 03 5227 2538.

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Image: The Creation Tree of Knowledge by
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Education is the key to success and giving back

Kortana Cullen-Blissett is a proud 20-year-old Biripi woman from Taree, living on Darug land in western Sydney. Kortana is currently studying a Bachelor of Arts (Pathway to Teaching Primary) at Western Sydney University's Penrith campus, with dreams of becoming a primary teacher.

When Kortana started High School, she took part in Pathways to Dreaming, a cultural based program which encourages mob to aspire to university education, run by Western. In year nine Kortana changed High School and was upset to think she would have to leave the program.

After doing her own research and speaking with her Pathways to Dreaming Project Officers, Kortana used her determination to work with her teachers and Principal to help bring the program to her new school, so that she and her classmates could participate in the program and the opportunities it offers.

Spark to a flame

In High School, through the support of her music and drama teachers, Kortana developed a passion for art, drama and music which helped her build a community of friends and helped develop her spark of excitement into a flame.

She knew that she wanted to become a teacher of music and drama.

It was while she was taking part in the Pathways to Dreaming program, that Kortana first heard of the Indigenous Pathways Entry Program.

The Indigenous Pathways Entry Program is a way for mob to gain entry into Western Sydney University, that's not dependent upon an ATAR or prior study.

Kortana was reassured to find that there was a way for her to get into university and achieve her dream of becoming a teacher.

"With the subjects I was studying for Year 12, I knew my ATAR wasn't potentially going to be the strongest, so to the additional safety net of the Indigenous Pathways Program was reassuring," said Kortana.

Initially, Kortana was apprehensive about the Indigenous Pathway Program assessment process and remembers feeling unsure about her abilities to pass the assessments.

Control

"I like to have a certain amount of control, which helps me to keep the anxiety of new experiences from becoming overwhelming," said Kortana.

"Though the moment I got through the first assessment, I felt like a weight was lifted and I



Kortana Cullen-Blissett

understood that I was capable. It was a relief to be able to take that confidence into the next round of assessments."

Kortana found the exams within the Indigenous Pathway Entry Program were designed to support Indigenous students. The assessments and readings were all in plain English and were focused on issues related to mob and other Indigenous issues.

"They are designed to help you succeed and to feel supported through the process with time to reset your thinking between assessments," she said.

Since commencing at Western Sydney University, Kortana has continued to be uplifted by the ongoing support from both her family and the University. The jovial rivalry between her and her aunty is one of things that keeps her

motivated to keep working towards her goals.

"Knowing that I will finish my degree journey with a Master's degree, my Aunty now is saying that she might have to come back to University to keep up," she said.

Support

She has also found support from within the Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education which provides a sanctuary for Indigenous students on campus. "The Badanami team have been amazing, they help you work through any issues you are having, or even just provide a place of safety and security after a long day of classes."

Kortana has received two scholarships from Western Sydney University, the Indigenous Smart Start Grant and the Eucharistic Community Scholarship for Aboriginal

Women. These scholarships have supported her with the costs associated with commencing university.

Having previously been working four jobs, the scholarships have allowed her to take a step back, knowing that she has the support to pay for things like her textbooks, equipment and parking. This has relieved the pressure of needing to work more hours and has given her the ability to focus on her studies.

Working as an Indigenous Student Ambassador, Kortana has found a way to give back to the programs that helped her immeasurably during High School, by going to Careers Markets and Schools, to give advice and support to the next generation of students.

In the future, Kortana is looking at ways she will be able to support her mob, to bring

widespread education to communities and ensuring that young Indigenous people are able to set out on a path where education is not a barrier.

She is hoping to work towards an executive role within a school and applying for the Department of Education's FASTstream program, which helps teachers to accelerate their career to school principalship.

Advice

Her advice for Indigenous people looking to start out on their higher education journey.

"Trust your intuition, it will lead you in the right direction. Don't ever feel embarrassed about asking for help. Your ancestors want you to succeed, and Western will help you make it possible. Find that support from your peers or other support structures within the University".



UniSA's Aboriginal Pathway Program: Mother and son study duo

Mother and son Lavinia 'Lovie' Richards and Zac Nelson-Richards have shared many moments in life together but never thought studying at university would be one of them.

After completing the University of South Australia's Aboriginal Pathway Program (APP) earlier this year, Barngarla Elder and Port Lincoln local Lovie, 66, and her son Zac, 26, celebrated their achievements at UniSA's Whyalla graduation ceremony.

The APP is a one-and-a-half-year program to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students embrace university study. It is designed for people who don't meet standard university entry requirements, such as students without an ATAR.

The APP is offered through UniSA College and is taught in five locations across SA – Adelaide, Ceduna, Mt Gambier, Pt Lincoln, and Whyalla.

Students who successfully complete the APP can transfer into any degree at UniSA either



Lavinia 'Lovie' Richards, left, with APP Regional Tutor Barbie Clutterbuck and Zac Nelson-Richards. Picture: Lauren Shivvaan.

in-person or online.

APP Director Dr Nazz Oldham says the APP's focus is on preparing First Nations students to succeed at university.

"Whatever the students' background, the APP provides a culturally safe and supportive environment for them to build the necessary academic, literacy

and numeracy skills to prepare them for their undergraduate degrees," he says.

"We spend time showing students how uni works, what they need to do and even how to get financial support to build their confidence and make uni a lot less frightening."

Lovie was made aware of the APP when her cousin explained the program to her. Frustrated with continual knock backs from potential employers, she decided to explore study options at university to boost her education and employment opportunities.

"I was quite amazed at what UniSA had to offer through the APP and the possibility of further study," Lovie says.

At the same time, son Zac had always dreamed of attending university but had not completed Year 12. The APP gave him that option.

"Studying with Zac has been very inspirational," Lovie says. "Zac being a computer whiz helped me in the areas I found difficult, and I was able to encourage him in other areas he

was not sure about."

Zac and Lovie are now both studying undergraduate degrees at UniSA. Zac has commenced a Bachelor of Design (Illustration and Animation), while Lovie has begun a Bachelor of Arts (Creative Writing and Literature).

Zac says the best phrase he heard during his time in the APP was "you're never too old to study at university".

"It was strange at first to go back to studying after dropping out of school a few years ago," Zac says. "I am a bit of a slow starter, so I struggled in the first stages, but once I started to understand the subjects, I found myself getting through my work quickly."

Zac hopes to one day pursue a career in animation. Lovie has plans to become an author.

Through the APP, students can develop the skills, knowledge and confidence that sets them up for success in their future studies and beyond.

For more information, visit unisa.edu.au/app or email app@unisa.edu.au.

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*Students are not charged course fees but may be required to pay Student Services & Amenities fees as determined by the Australian Government.



University of
South Australia



Dharma Ducasse
Student, Bachelor of Arts
(Law, Policy and Politics)
Aboriginal Pathway
Program completer



Amelia thrives at The University of Sydney

As a young high school student Amelia Stanmore had no interest in going to university and wanted to work in music or drama. After getting a taste of uni life through a summer residential program, she's now studying Psychology and has her sights set on becoming a doctor.

Born in Blacktown, Amelia moved around western Sydney as a child before living on the Central Coast. During Year 12 at Gosford Selective High School, Amelia took part in the University of Sydney's Gadalung Program, a five-day residential program designed to build the educational confidence and motivation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

"I actually chose and fell in love with the uni before figuring out what degree I wanted to study," says Amelia. "It just felt very much like home with the community and Aboriginal networks."

The Gadalung Program gives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students the chance to experience university life, meet university students and staff and learn about pathways for tertiary education. Through her time on campus Amelia found out about the Gadigal Program, which enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to apply for

an early conditional offer at the University before sitting their final exams. Applications are assessed on factors beyond academic achievement, such as personal interests, motivations and goals.

Amelia was accepted into the University and supported by a scholarship moved to Sydney to begin a Bachelor of Psychology in 2021. She now lives near the main campus in Newtown with a fellow student and says the scholarship and bursaries from the University have provided her with financial stability.

"Money has always been a massive struggle. So to be able to support myself without having to stress my family has been great."

As well as making friends at uni, a highlight for Amelia has been career opportunities. She is currently working as a Student Ambassador and a Student Activity Officer.

"Career-wise I've really enjoyed all the opportunities I have. At the moment I'm working on changing the way Indigenous Acknowledgements of Country are taught for the health unit."

In the second year of her degree, Amelia has become interested in general health and is planning to combine her degree with



Amelia Stanmore joined the University of Sydney through the Gadigal conditional early offers program. Photo: Stefanie Zingsheim

a Master of Nursing. After graduation she wants to work as a Registered Nurse and ultimately to become a paediatric doctor.

"My nan was a nurse and passed away recently, and the more that I did the degree, the more I realised it was the health and biomedical models that I was enjoying the most."

Amelia encourages high school students to make the most of every opportunity. "I think it's always worth getting involved and trying every option."

For more information about studying at the University, as well as scholarships and support, visit sydney.edu.au/gadigal



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Image credit: Youth United Artists: Bronwen Smith & Gavin Chatfield (Yuin people from the south coast Batemans Bay) - together they go by 'Gwiyaala Aboriginal Art'. 23/9360 CRICOS 00026A TEQSA PRV12057

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THE KOORI MAIL, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 | 33



Celebrating First Nations leadership in practice

Cris Castro believes leadership is something anyone in the public service can practice and apply, no matter what their position or experience.

The Sir Roland Wilson Pat Turner Scholarship alumnus completed a Master of Leadership through The Australian National University (ANU) Research School of Management. He graduated in 2021.

The Master of Leadership teaches contemporary approaches to leading people, managing teams and undertaking organisational change, and explores how businesses and leaders can deliver societal impacts.

"While most people consider management and leadership to be an art form, it was amazing to see how much scientific evidence exists around what does and does not work," Cris said.

Cris has recently been promoted to Assistant

Secretary, Closing the Gap at the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR).

"I work in Secretary Natalie James' office and am responsible for overseeing and driving DEWR's contributions to the Closing the Gap reform agenda, including the Priority Reforms set out in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap."

Cris uses his platform wisely. "As an Aboriginal person and holding a leadership position within DEWR, I advocate on behalf of staff and the Indigenous community in everything I do."

"It is about sharing a vision of how we could be doing bigger and better things for the community – building a coalition of motivated and willing public servants and harnessing their collective power to deliver even greater public value."

The Master of Leadership has added to Cris' growing toolkit of skills and experience.

"Since returning to my department I have successfully practised a range of leadership techniques to obtain the buy-in from internal and external stakeholders, including to some significant reforms in the vocational education and training sector."

The Sir Roland Wilson Pat Turner scholarship is a one-to-three-year full-pay scholarship for any level of postgraduate study at ANU or Charles Darwin University for high-performing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander APS 4 to SES Band 1 APS employees.

The scholarship allows you to take paid time out of work to focus on full-time postgraduate study.

Applications to begin study in Semester 2 2024 and Semester 1 2025 open on 11 October 2023. Learn more about the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation and the Pat Turner scholarship program at srwfoundation.anu.edu.au.



Sir Roland Wilson Pat Turner Scholarship alumnus Cris Castro.

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Applications to study in Semester 2 2024 and Semester 1 2025 opening in October 2023.

Find out more at srwfoundation.anu.edu.au or email srw.foundation@anu.edu.au

'Education is key' says Brisbane's first Aboriginal deacon

"Dancing in two circles" is how Clinton McGoldrick describes his approach to spirituality and life as an Aboriginal Catholic in modern-day Australia.

As the first-ever ordained Indigenous man in the Brisbane archdiocese, Clint has a foot in both worlds.

"I have this Indigenous connection to land, lore and ancestral spirits," says Clint, a descendant of the Worimi people of coastal NSW, "and alongside that, I have this Catholic identity, a belief in the gospels and a sense of duty to ensure everybody has access to the narrative of Jesus."

A former schoolteacher who holds multiple university degrees, Clint is eager to endorse the phrase used by many Indigenous leaders: Education is key.

"How many aunties and uncles do we have around us saying, 'Education is the key', and absolutely it is," says Clint, who has completed master's degrees in Educational Leadership and Theology at ACU, and is currently pursuing a Master of Spiritual Direction.

"If we want to make a change with our mobs, to increase pathways and improve outcomes and quality of life, we need to express our knowledge in a way this society understands."

For Clint, this has meant engaging in research on themes of importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. While his long-term goal is to pursue a PhD exploring the impact of colonisation on Indigenous cultures, his current research investigates the relationship between Catholicism and Indigenous spirituality.



ACU Alumnus, Clinton McGoldrick, centre, has gone from high school battler to serving as a spiritual leader in his community.

Deacon Clint's ministry is currently centred on pastoral care as an army chaplain for the Australian Defence Force.

Two decades ago, he served as a combat engineer before moving into teaching. A self-confessed "battler" in high school, he says that military service put him on the straight and narrow.

"Growing up in a single-parent family without a father figure, I missed that structure

and rigidity," says the 44-year-old, who now has his own young family. "I needed guidance on how to contribute and be part of a system, and the army certainly gave me that grounding."

Clint has drawn inspiration from his mother Noeline, a nurse from Worimi Country who raised him and his sister in Brisbane. He forged a connection to country during frequent trips to Forster to visit family.

"There was certainly a strong connection to



Clinton McGoldrick is Brisbane's first Aboriginal deacon

family and sacred sites around Forster," he says. "Unfortunately we didn't have a depth of understanding of why these sites were culturally-significant, and in terms of the passing on of language, that was also missing. But that all comes down to history and the impact of colonisation."

Clint has found his calling in army chaplaincy and the spiritual guidance of Indigenous soldiers. He sees his role as giving a voice to the voiceless, and encourages other Indigenous people to "dance in two circles" while taking the leap into higher education.

"It can be a big ask to go to university and be away from mob, particularly if you're connected culturally and language-wise," he says.

"But these days, there are supports to help you find a balance between study and other commitments. The benefits of higher education are just huge: Building your knowledge, skills, language and confidence to better yourself, while contributing to your community in a positive way."



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“One thing you realise when you get here, is that everybody is finding their way, finding their feet. The best thing you can do is to keep putting one foot in front of the other and move forward, eventually, you’ll find that your heart will tell you which way to go... that’s probably the best way to direct yourself, really.”

CAMERON CALLOPE, Gkuthaarn Country
Bachelor of Health Science

“My hairdressing career helped me realise that I wanted to work with people on a deeper level – to help them and advocate for them.” Jaala has chosen a Master of Social Work Studies at UQ to hone her skills even further before taking everything she has learned back to her community.

JAALA OZIES, Djukun Country
Master of Social Work





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Brisbane River element from *A Guidance Through Time* by Quandamooka artists Casey Coolwell and Kyra Mancktelow

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Creating change

By **DARBY JONES**

Thanks to the generous support of The University of Queensland (UQ) scholarships, **Jaala Ozies** can pursue her passion for helping people.

Through her Master of Social Work at UQ, she aspires to create change within her local community.

Jaala is a Djukun woman from Broome, Western Australia.

When I caught up with her recently, she had just returned from a visit and was eager to tell me all about it.

A long way from home

“Djukun Country is wild Country,” Jaala said.

“It’s geographically remote and isolated ... there are so many beautiful colours – the turquoise waters and the red pindan dirt.

“It’s the barrgana (cold weather) season at the moment and the Lirringgin (soapbush wattle) are in flower, which means the stingrays and mullets are fat.”

Jaala has made the long journey from Broome to Brisbane to study a Master of Social Work.

She has always had a passion for people.

This passion led her into hairdressing – a career she worked in for many years before pursuing an undergraduate degree in community development.

“My hairdressing career helped me realise that I wanted to work with people

on a deeper level – to help them and advocate for them.”

Jaala has chosen a Master of Social Work to hone her skills even further before taking everything she has learned back to her community.

She aspires to create a positive change in the realm of human rights and social justice.

She claimed that her decision to come to UQ felt like a natural progression.

“It’s a big adjustment, but there are so many supports in place.”

The power of scholarships

Jaala spoke of the support she has received through UQ scholarships, which has not only helped her move to Brisbane, but take time off work to focus on her studies.

“It has made a world of difference,” she said.

“It would have been a lot harder for me without it ... I would have had to defer until I could relocate interstate and I would probably still be in Broome trying to work and save up to get back here.”

Instead, Jaala has been living on campus, where she is able to devote the time to engage deeply with her program.

Reflecting on what she has learned so far and how much she is enjoying it, she said that UQ’s Master of Social Work is honing the skills that she developed throughout her undergraduate studies.

Extracurricular opportunities

In addition to developing her professional skills, Jaala is making the

most of her time on campus by engaging in UQ’s extracurricular programs.

Since arriving at Kev Carmody House in February 2023, she has taken part in numerous extracurricular opportunities, such as UQ Ventures’ Curiosity program, which is designed to teach students business skills and build a network of like-minded entrepreneurs across all areas of UQ.

“I had a fantastic time and I learned so much about the business world,” Jaala said.

“We’ve got great opportunities here at UQ, so many wonderful opportunities to help you grow and learn.”

Another opportunity Jaala valued was UQ’s Winter School, where she attended a one-week intensive course on Indigenous Language revitalisation, held by the UQ School of Languages and Cultures.

After identifying that the Djukun language wasn’t on the list, one of the course lecturers offered to help her record it.

Coached by her uncle, Jaala and her course lecturer recorded 50 Djukun words from a 120-year-old Djukun language list.

“It was a fantastic opportunity I couldn’t refuse,” she said.

Jaala has learned some exciting facts about Djukun Country during her time at UQ.

Recently, she met Associate Professor Steven Salisbury from the UQ School of the Environment, whose work on Djukun Country over the last decade has helped

showcase the area’s spectacular fossilised dinosaur footprints.

Jaala was so grateful for the opportunity to meet a researcher who could help her explore the links between these tracks and her own cultural heritage.

Jaala spoke of how the support she received to relocate has enabled her to pursue passions outside of UQ, and how these have helped her to learn and grow.

She spoke eagerly of a book writing workshop in West End, where she would hone her writing skills.

Inspired by her experience with the School of Languages and Cultures, she is in the process of writing a children’s book to teach Djukun to the people in her community.

Words of wisdom

Perhaps one of Jaala’s fondest memories of her time at UQ is a yarnning circle at Kev Carmody House.

It was there that she met award-winning singer, songwriter and activist Uncle Kev Carmody, who offered her some words of wisdom.

“Uncle Kev told me, don’t lose heart. Don’t give up. Just go for it.”

When asked if she had any advice for people who were considering coming to UQ, she said:

“UQ is all about creating change. When you come to UQ, you can create change. Don’t talk yourself out of it before you begin. You have to start somewhere. From little things, big things grow.”

“My hairdressing career helped me realise that I wanted to work with people on a deeper level – to help them and advocate for them.”
– Jaala Ozies



Jaala Ozies is a Djukun woman from Broome. She is studying a Master of Social Work at UQ.



“That little kid in the bush is well and truly alive in me. I walk into the Faculty of Medicine and I say to him: Look at what we’ve done. Look at what we’ve created. We did this.”
– Cameron Callope

Cameron Callope is a Gkuthaarn Thanikwithi man from the Gulf of Carpentaria. He is studying a Bachelor of Health Sciences at UQ.

Listen to your heart

By DARBY JONES

Cameron Callope is a Gkuthaarn Thanikwithi man from the Gulf of Carpentaria who, at the height of a successful music career, leapt into the unknown to pursue a Bachelor of Health Sciences at UQ.

I had the chance to sit down with him to talk about kinship and Country, his pathway to UQ, and how he had the courage to listen to his heart, embrace a massive change in his life and pursue a career in medicine.

Dream big, then dream bigger

Cameron began our chat by telling stories about his childhood home on Gkuthaarn Country.

He reflected on what it was like to grow up surrounded by his old people in a remote Indigenous community, sitting and yarning around the campfire.

“When they spoke, they spoke of connection,” he said.

“Of pain, excitement, magic, culture, wonder ... all the stories were of wonder and imagination and how we were a part of that – that that is who we are.”

It was these early experiences that taught him the power of imagination.

“I can’t emphasise enough the importance of imagination,” he said.

“I always return to a quote from Einstein: Imagination is the highest form of intelligence. Imagining what you could be in your life, where you could go, and the opportunities that are open to you.”

Cameron’s capacity for imagination has served him well throughout his life, helping him build a successful career

in the music industry as a rap artist and even work with international stars like Snoop Dogg.

“That life was everything I dreamt it would be,” he said.

“But I felt like there was still so much more out there.”

Taking the leap

It was this feeling that, at the height of his music career, inspired Cameron to pursue a career in medicine through a Bachelor of Health Sciences at UQ.

Cameron described how it felt arriving to St Lucia campus for the very first time:

“When you look at satellite pictures of Australia during the wet season, floodwater reaches out in all different directions,” he said.

“Eventually, it makes its way down to the main river system where it’s supposed to be.

“On my first day at UQ, I felt like I’d finally come down into that main river system where I was always supposed to be.”

Cameron spoke of travelling to UQ by bus on his first day and what it felt like to be among people who shared his ambitions.

He admitted that, as the bus approached UQ, he was overcome with joy.

He realised he had reached a place where he could create the life he wanted to live.

Pursuing your passion

Through his studies, Cameron has discovered a passion for public health.

He aspires to create positive systemic changes that will benefit his community.

“I think I could be of greater service looking at the social systems, public health, looking at ways in which we

could make a much more equitable society,” he said.

“One in which we understand that our differences as human beings are our strengths.”

When asked if he had any advice for people who were considering changing their career through tertiary study, Cameron was eager to share the following:

“If you’re not sure about what you want to study and where you want to go in life, that’s okay, that’s normal.

“One thing you realise when you get here, to UQ, is that everybody is finding their way, finding their feet.”

He reiterates that there’s nothing unnatural about this feeling, and he encourages students not to stall their momentum because of it.

“The best thing you can do is keep putting one foot in front of the other and move forward,” he said.

“Eventually, you’ll find that your heart will tell you which way to go ... that’s probably the best way to direct yourself, really.”

The power of philanthropy

Cameron is also an advocate for scholarships and expresses gratitude for the support he has received while studying at UQ.

“I’ve been fortunate to receive scholarships through UQ,” he said.

“For me, scholarships help to lessen the social stressors – accommodation, bills.

“They allow me to study in a safe, comfortable environment and be the best that I can be while I’m here at UQ.”

Cameron is the proud recipient of the Geoffrey Huey Sattler Indigenous Scholarship.

This scholarship was established in 2019 by a donation from the Estate of UQ Alumnus Geoffrey Huey Sattler to support First Nations students in their studies at UQ in perpetuity.

He is also the recipient of the Fiona Kennedy Memorial Scholarship, which was established in 2020 by a donation from Professor Fred D’Agostino to honour the life of his UQ colleague.

“That scholarship was special to me because I know that Fiona was a member of staff at UQ,” Cameron said.

“I did my research after receiving it, and the significance of that scholarship wasn’t missed on me.”

While reflecting on his journey at UQ and how far he has come in his life, Cameron once again recalled that little boy from the bush.

“That little kid in the bush is well and truly alive in me. I walk into the Faculty of Medicine and I say to him: Look at what we’ve done. Look at what we’ve created. We did this.”

Darby Jones is a Kamilaroi writer and editor whose work has been featured in The Jacaranda Journal, Beyond Queer Words, and Lemonade: Letters to Art. He studies a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Writing, at UQ where, in 2022, he won the Kingshott Cassidy Poetry Prize. His manuscript-in-progress, “Unintelligible Bodies”, recently secured him a Varuna First Nations Fellowship for 2024.



Explore the pathways, scholarships, support and opportunities available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at UQ.

study.uq.edu.au/join-our-community



Why Jaydah is thriving in her new uni territory

When Marranuggu woman Jaydah Turner moved away from her home in the NT to study in Melbourne, she was understandably nervous. But Victoria University's support network, revolutionary learning model and extensive professional placement opportunities have seen her flourish.

"I moved to Melbourne to study at VU a week after graduating from my high school, Taminmin College in Humpty Doo.

A family member had recommended VU after their own great experience here. After I did a tour of the uni I knew this was the place for me."

Support and focus lead to success

"At first it was an achievement adjusting to things like managing finances and big city living – back home everyone knows everyone! So the support from Moondani



Jaydah Turner – Bachelor of Youth Work and Criminal Justice

Balluk (Indigenous Academic Unit) staff has been amazing. They're there for anything from academic support to just having a yarn.

'Maintaining consistently good grades is something I'm really proud of. I credit VU's

Block Model as it focuses on one subject at a time. Friends at other unis are juggling four subjects, which can be extremely stressful, but the Block Model allows you to take it all in.'

"A highlight of my studies so

"I know the early exposure I'm getting to the industry through my placements and internships is giving me the confidence and experience employers are looking for."

far has been participating in three 12-week internships with CareerTrackers, a placement program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. In first year, I completed an internship at The Brotherhood of St Laurence,

working directly with young people. In second year I worked at the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, helping disadvantaged members of the community.

"My latest CareerTrackers internship was at the Department of Health and Human Services, in which I learned so much about the child protection system.

I worked for a 'youth foyer', which helps people at risk of homelessness. I'm currently working in retail, and as an administration assistant at the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Centre within the Lakidjeka Program, where I plan to become a case adviser.

I also completed a uni placement at Sunshine Youth Space, a sporting drop-in centre. I know getting so much early exposure to the industry through my extensive placements is giving me confidence and the experience employers are looking for."

MOONDANI BALLUK

We're here to support you!

As an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander student, you'll be pleased to know Moondani Balluk is here to support you as you study at Victoria University.

We can help you apply for a course, get financial assistance and scholarships, tutoring, housing support and career advice.

You'll study under our exclusive Block Model and also have the opportunity to learn from prominent Aboriginal activists and academics, including Professor Gary Foley, Dr Paola Balla and Jacqui Katona.



Artwork by Paola Balla

A BIT ABOUT US

Our name means 'embrace people' in the language of the Wurundjeri people who first lived in the western region of Melbourne.

Moondani Balluk - Indigenous Academic Unit delivers Aboriginal units and courses, including Aboriginal politics, traditions and policy, health and education using decolonial approaches to learning and teaching. We also conduct and support Aboriginal research alongside our Aboriginal History Archive, built around the Foley collection, located at our Footscray Park campus.

Contact to find out more
Marcus Brooke, Aboriginal Student Support Coordinator
03 9919 4914
marcus.brooke@vu.edu.au

For more information:
vu.edu.au/moondani-balluk



TRACKS to Zoology

Kyle Smith, a proud Worimi person from the Central Coast, started studying in the UNE TRACKS program in late 2020 after searching online for pathways to university.

When asked about their choice, Kyle, who uses the pronouns they/them said, "I didn't get the required ATAR for a Bachelor of Zoology, and I wasn't sure how the other pathways worked. With the extra support from Oorala, I found it beneficial to enter the TRACKS tertiary preparation program. The program helped me develop the required skills such as writing and answering assessments which is so useful when starting a bachelor's degree."

Kyle felt supported by TRACKS lecturer Kate Carter and was able to access Oorala's free tutoring service. Kate comments "One of the benefits of undertaking a pathway program such as TRACKS is that students have time to become familiar with the culture of university and find their place in it. Once students feel comfortable and valued within the institution, their potential for success is great."

Now in their first year of a Bachelor of Zoology Kyle reflects that "My interest in reptiles started when I was very young, after catching my first lizard at about 4 years of age. I was really into Steve Irwin back then. I went to Australia Zoo in about 2005, and I loved it all, especially the crocodiles."

"At home I have a menagerie of reptiles including a diamond python named Neil, a

children's python called Toffee, a bearded dragon called Ghidorah, a striped marsh frog named Pepe, a blue tongue called Frodo, plus a collection of fish, arachnids and a dog named Percy."

Originally keen to work in a zoo, Kyle had a change of mind after volunteer experience at the Laboratory of Applied Zoology and Ecological Restoration (LASER) and the University of New England's Reptile Ecology and Environmental Disturbance (REED) lab.

Some of Kyle's volunteering has involved assisting postgraduate students with their research projects and has included looking at the cognitive ability of Bells Turtles, and canoeing around local waterways in the New England area checking the cameras set up to monitor for turtles basking on basking platforms. Kyle says "The canoeing has been lots of fun".

This has sparked such an interest that Kyle has decided to major in Animal Ecology. "I see myself going into ecological field work with focus on herpetology, the study of reptiles and amphibians."

Kyle added that they would "recommend TRACKS as a pathway to university to other students due to the support the team at Oorala gives to help us through our studies and into the degree afterwards."

Kyle Smith, a proud Worimi person from the Central Coast with Neil his diamond backed python.



A pathway to university, tailored for you

At UNE we understand not everybody has the academic background to dive head-first into a uni course. So we've developed TRACKS, specifically to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people prepare for university study.

TRACKS Tertiary Preparation Program

The dedicated team at our Oorala Aboriginal Centre will work alongside you, stepping you through the program, helping you to gain the skills and confidence necessary to undertake a degree at UNE.



Your culture, your community and our partnership – helping you to future fit your life.

Apply now!

Benefits of TRACKS include:

- Can be studied completely online
- Is flexible to suit your specific needs
- Free access to peer mentors and tutorial support
- You will be part of a community of like-minded students who share similar goals.
- The opportunity to study a unit in your area of interest that may count towards your UNE degree

For more information visit
une.edu.au/tracks-course
or phone Oorala on **1800 622 384**

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Want to study without leaving your family and community? Charles Sturt University is a leading provider of online education for First Nations students.

We're here to walk with
you on your journey.

Find out more

→ study.csu.edu.au/first-nations



Scholarships at Monash

Monash University will offer over \$50 million in scholarships over the next three years for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and students experiencing economic disadvantage.

More than 6,000 students will be eligible to study for a university degree under an expanded and diversified Monash University scholarship program.

Indigenous students undertaking a three-year undergraduate degree, relocating from a regional or remote area, can receive a minimum of \$25,500 towards their degree, or at least \$38,500 for a five-year double degree. Economically disadvantaged students undertaking a three-year undergraduate degree, relocating from a regional or remote area, may receive a minimum of \$24,000 towards their degree, or at least \$36,000 for a five-year double degree.

Acting Provost and Senior Vice-President Professor Sharon Pickering announced the new program, which will be in place for incoming students in 2024, and will build on previous scholarship supports for students who have typically faced barriers to undertaking higher education.

"Monash is committed to empowering the next generation of changemakers to reach their full potential through our enriched scholarships program, Kummargi Yulendj. It offers financial support at a level to make a difference as well as sector-leading support programs to ensure student success," Professor Pickering said.

The Monash scholarship program was gifted the name Kummargi Yulendj, which translates to 'Knowledge is Rising', by Yaluk-ut Weelam Boon Wurrung Elder, N'arweet



Proud Wemba Wemba/Yorta Yorta woman Jaya Blandthorn speaks with the Hon Jason Clare MP about her Monash University nursing degree.

Carolyn Briggs AM, an Adjunct Professor with the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture.

The name is grounded in her family's deep connection to the Ngargee, or ceremony tree, in St Kilda. Standing strong for 800 years, this towering red gum symbolises knowledge and its power to create lasting impact.

"What it means to me is the generations

of knowledge that it holds. Kummargi is rising up. Yulendj is a knowledge, deep knowledge that is rising up. The Ngargee tree is symbolic of something that is old, before settlers. It's more than a tree – it will be a habitat long after this too," Professor Briggs said.

"We've got 80,000 years of human history, and that knowledge has somehow survived.

With Kummargi Yulendj Monash has made its commitment to knowledge being shared across Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities."

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) Professor Tristan Kennedy said it was incumbent upon universities to ensure students had full access to resources and support to allow them to succeed during their time at Monash, and prepare them for their future careers. He said students who choose to study at Monash receive an experience that extends well beyond an excellent education in the classroom and financial support.

"Through Kummargi Yulendj, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and students from low income and regional backgrounds will have priority access to the university's Jobs for Students program to build their employability skills ahead of the completion of their degree," Professor Kennedy said.

"Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students have access to ongoing support via our William Cooper Institute – a dedicated Indigenous hub of research, learning and engagement. Support includes tutoring, subsidised prescribed textbooks, cultural and community events, Orientation Camp, Indigenous Leaders Program which includes an international study tour and Elder In Residence Program, as well as Monash Abroad mobility grants and priority access to teaching activities for their course and Student Academic Success learning advisors.

To find out more about Kummargi Yulendj, visit <https://www.monash.edu/learning-teaching/kummargi-yulendj>



**Charles Sturt
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First Nations

Want to study at university
but don't meet the requirements
of entry?

The **Connections First Nations Direct Entry Program** may be for you.

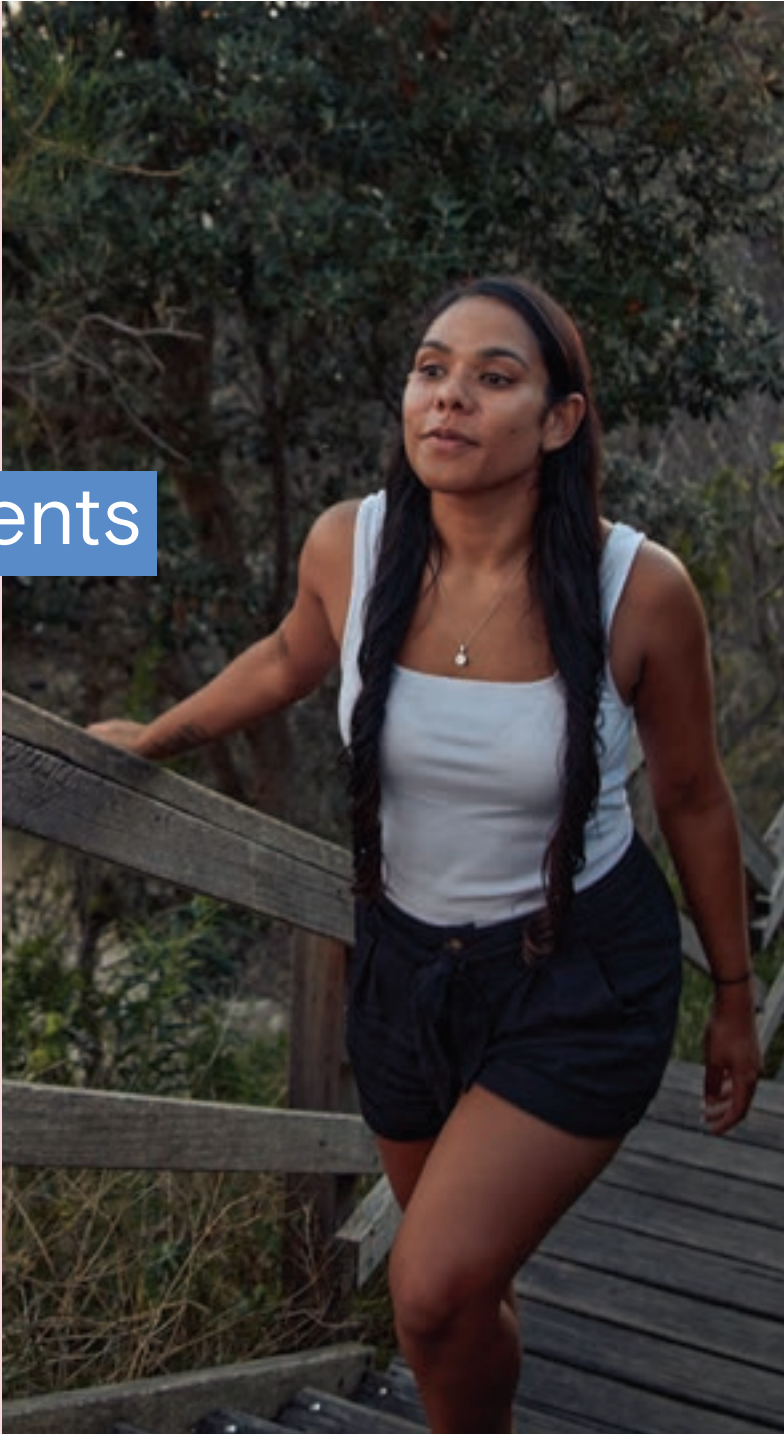
Connections is a five-day direct entry program for First Nations peoples interested in studying with Charles Sturt University.

Successful completion of this program will provide you with guaranteed entry into a broad range of our 2024 bachelor degrees.

Travel and accommodation with support options available to eligible students.



Find out more
→ study.csu.edu.au/first-nations





Charles Sturt
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Study at
Charles Sturt



First Nations Student Connect

First Nations students at Charles Sturt can access a range of support services through First Nations Student Connect.

This includes:

- advice and advocacy to support you throughout your studies
- access to a range of financial support options, including scholarships
- academic support services including tutoring and academic skill development
- access to culturally safe study spaces on campus and online
- access and supported referrals to other specialised support services, including counselling and support for disabilities.

We're here to walk with you on your journey



Find out more

→ study.csu.edu.au/first-nations

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Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good



Although its roots go back further, **Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good, or DIYDG**, was officially established in Cairns in 2016 when, as described by co-founder and chairperson Semara Jose, "A small collective of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and culturally diverse young people got together to do good work within our communities."

She says the process was a steep learning curve. "We were in our early 20's and learning our obligations in terms of reporting, and building the capacity and skill set of the organisation, it was just huge."

Prior to incorporating DIYDG, Semara, a proud Gudjula, Eastern-Kuku Yalanji and Darnley Island woman, says the group had been auspiced by a non-Indigenous corporation. She says that while they appreciated the opportunities this provided, it never fully aligned

with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander value system.

"That was what triggered us to get incorporated," she says. "We felt it was time to stand on our own two feet and do the things we wanted, the way we wanted to do them."

Fellow DIYDG co-founder Stacey Ketchell, is a Wakaid and Meuram woman hailing from the eastern

"participating in community and providing more and more opportunities for young people. It was going well but, at the same time, we knew we could benefit from new skills and capabilities to really drive home the point that us deadly young black people know what we want."

It was at this point the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) - an 'away from base' residential block program specifically aimed at Indigenous early-mid career professionals - came onto their radar.

Semara, Stacey and Daniel all signed up for the BBA and Daniel, who is a Kuku-Yalanji and Guugu Yimidhirr man, says the timing couldn't have been better. "We took away a lot of learning from our degree that we were able to implement straight away, particularly in terms of how to run

"We felt it was time to stand on our own two feet and do the things we wanted, the way we wanted to do them."

and western islands of the Torres Strait. She says that despite full-time work and family commitments, she, alongside many others in the DIYDG team, poured all their spare energies into DIYDG.

"We were figuring things out as we went," Stacey explains,



Student leaders enjoying their time at the Wellbeing Camp

and operate a business, and how to grow one within our unique capacity."

Daniel says that while balancing work, family and studies was an ongoing challenge, the fly-in, fly-out nature of the course made this balance easier than other methods of study. "Block Mode meant we could keep up with our home obligations because we knew we had time set aside purely for our university degree. I'm not saying

it wasn't hard, but the structure definitely helped," he says.

"I came away from the degree much more conscious about the impact of the choices I make and realise we have an amazing opportunity to reshape how we do business in Australia. The positive ripple effect for our communities could be huge!" says Semara.

For more information about the BBA, head to bba.uts.edu.au



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To apply visit: jumbunna.uts.edu.au

Jumbunna



YUNGKURRINTHI

Student Engagement

Welcome to Flinders University, and the Yungkurrinthi community network.

Indigenous Admission Scheme (IAS)

The Indigenous Admission Scheme (IAS) provides an alternative pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people into Flinders University. Semester one 2024, first round applications close late October, with second round applications closing mid-January 2024. If you are interested applying for the Indigenous Admission Scheme (IAS), please email IAS@flinders.edu.au

Indigenous Student Support Officers (ISSOs)

ISSO's work directly with students to provide one-on-one support throughout the student lifecycle on a range of matters, from pre-enrolment advice through to post graduate studies and assist with pathways to further study or employment. Staff can also provide you with referrals to health and counselling, disability or any other services you may need to access.

Elders on Campus

Across Flinders SA and NT campuses. Elders on Campus can provide cultural mentoring, support, advice, information and referral to support the wellbeing and success of students studying at Flinders.

Accommodation

There are multiple accommodation options depending on your circumstances. Flinders is the only South Australian University with on-campus accommodation, Flinders Living. Furthermore, Indigenous Student Support Officers can help assist you in the process and link you to independent and government housing options.

Scholarships

Appropriate financial support can often be a barrier to students' success. Flinders has a range of scholarships available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to assist in meeting accommodation, study and living costs.

Contact

1800 641 811
+61 8 8201 3033
Yungkurrinthi@flinders.edu.au

Be Fearless.

**[Flinders.edu.au/study/
indigenous-students](https://flinders.edu.au/study/indigenous-students)**



CRICOS 00144A

Scholarships for success with NSW Health and Western Sydney University

Lacey Lowe always dreamt of going to university, but until recently the proud Biripi and Worimi woman always found a reason not to do it. Now, the 38-year-old is successfully studying a Bachelor of Science (Environmental Health) through Western Sydney University, with the help of NSW Health.

Her family are understandably proud, but Lacey says taking the first step was daunting.

"It's super scary to go into that but you've done a bit of life, so I'm ok putting my hand up if I don't know something ... and the amount of support and help that you have, it's amazing," she said.

The NSW Health Aboriginal Environmental Health Scholarship is paying her university fees for every subject Lacey passes, saving her thousands of dollars.

She also receives \$500 a year to

cover student administration fees and tutoring costs.

"It's a fabulous opportunity with NSW Health and at the end of this degree, I'll be qualified, I'll have a qualification," Lacey said.

The degree will allow her to pursue a career in environmental health, especially as an Environmental Health Officer.

It's a job in demand. Most Environmental Health Officers work in local government to protect people and the environment by assessing, inspecting and enforcing laws around food safety, public health and the environment. Their work includes educating, inspecting, risk assessment and monitoring public pools, pollution complaints and tattoo premises.

"I think there's a lot of different things that you can do in a day in this profession. I love biology and

science, there's nothing really boring here.

"We need these people, that's why I'm in the industry, there's not a lot of me in the industry," Lacey said.

The degree, which is delivered by distance education, allows Lacey to study at her own pace.

"They're not going to set you up to fail, it's not going to be something that you half do, because if you're struggling, or you are kind of questioning yourself, there's so many outlets for support."

Lacey says everyone interested should apply for a NSW Health Aboriginal Environmental Health Scholarship.

"It's really fulfilling, you get to meet like-minded people and we need more Indigenous voices in STEM. Like, we can do it, we're good at it, so 100% get out there, kids!"



Proud Biripi and Worimi woman Lacey Lowe

2024 Aboriginal Environmental Health Scholarships

Scholarship includes:

- › University course fees paid
- › Flexibility to study full-time or part-time
- › \$500 a year for student administration fees

Applications open until
10 October 2023



Apply
today



www.health.nsw.gov.au/aehs



Changing lives with a passion for Life Long Learning

Throughout her career, proud Gomeroi Yinnar (woman), from Moree NSW, Rebecca Lewis has completed many leadership courses, but what attracted her to the AGSM @ UNSW Business School's Emerging Indigenous Executive Leadership Program (EIELP) was that this program approaches leadership skills and frameworks with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective.

"It's the only program I've ever done that really had that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective. It gives you strategies on how to cope and be resilient to some of the politics and confrontations that can come in your work environment when it comes to First Nations affairs," she says.

Rebecca says having the opportunity to network with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders was also extremely valuable. She learned about how family history, community and culture helped shape the leaders they've become and for her, that was an empowering experience.

"It focused on being a leader but acknowledged navigating in two worlds. Your traditional culture and the Western world. It asks the question of where you fit in as a leader today without impacting your cultural integrity.

"When I started the EIELP, they said 'we want you to do a project that's impactful and meaningful.' I thought oh perfect, I'm going to do this. I knew with the expertise here I

could properly set it out, get help putting strategies in place, and figure out how I was going to do it. The Honour Roll project was an extension to the original research of Michael Bennett," says Rebecca.

The EIELP program module, 'Develop and implement a strategic action learning project to impact change in your organisation' gave Rebecca the opportunity to bring a project to life that was close to her heart, and the hearts of First Nations Peoples everywhere in NSW - the NSW Aboriginal Trackers Honour Roll.

The Aboriginal Trackers display was officially opened at the NSW Police Academy in Goulburn in March 2023 and Rebecca says it was an extremely proud moment.

The historical display and honour roll reflects the remarkable stories of 609 NSW Aboriginal Trackers, showcasing their dedication and unique skills which enabled NSW Police to solve crime, apprehend offenders, save lives and share knowledge through storytelling and learning from the land. While she was able to follow her passion for knowledge and education into the EIELP, the program and Honour Roll project made Rebecca consider her career outside the NSW Police Force (NSWPF).

Now Rebecca has started a PhD focused on defining what is appropriate police discretion within Aboriginal communities. She will also be using her policing history to



Rebecca Lewis' participation in the Emerging Indigenous Executive Leadership Program (EIELP) at AGSM @ UNSW Business School, provided her with a unique platform to pay tribute to the overlooked Indigenous Trackers of the NSW Police Force.

inform her work, talking to Aboriginal police officers and First Nations communities to get their view of appropriate discretion.

"In academic literature, there's a lot of research in the space of inappropriate police discretion and linking that to overrepresentation. I can't find anything that defines appropriate discretion," Rebecca says.

Rebecca always had the intention to change people's minds, but through following a passion for #LifeLongLearning to

AGSM, Rebecca now has the skills and confidence to turn the power of knowledge into a new profession, with life-changing capabilities.

To learn more about AGSM's Emerging Indigenous Executive Leaders Program (EIELP)
<https://www.unsw.edu.au/business/our-schools/agsm/learn-with-us/short-courses/emerging-indigenous-executive-leaders-program>



UNSW
Business
School

AGSM



Indigenous Leadership Opportunity

Join high performing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander managers seeking a unique pathway to executive roles.

Emerging Indigenous Executive Leaders Program
 AGSM @ UNSW Business School

Applications Open
 January 2024

Limited places available
 Find out more at
<http://unsw.to/EIELP>

Jessica's contributing to the lives of young people



Jessica Addo

Award-winning TAFE Queensland graduate Jessica Addo wants to break down barriers to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children experience positive learning environments.

Miss Addo, 30, gained two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education qualifications at the TAFE Queensland Cairns campus via RATEP.

RATEP is a community-based education and early childhood education program that provides a direct pathway for Indigenous people to become registered teachers, qualified teacher aides or early childhood educators.

"It has always been my passion to become a primary school teacher because I want to help make a difference in children's lives," Miss Addo said.

"I was born and raised in Cairns and I identify as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

"From my mother's side, our family is connected with Yarrabah and I have family on my father's side at Mornington Island, but my deepest contact with community is through my grandmother at Mapoon," she said.

Miss Addo said Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators bring valuable community and cultural knowledge to education settings.

"These educators play a significant role in their communities because they have a deep understanding of the local context, languages, histories and cultures," Miss Addo said.

Connect naturally

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children love seeing people from their own culture work in classrooms because they connect naturally – having a teacher who can speak their language makes a positive impact and creates close relationships," she said.

Miss Addo said enrolling at TAFE Queensland and participating in RATEP was one of the best decisions she ever made.

"RATEP was very hands-on. On top of assessments, I undertook practical work in a classroom which provided me with the skills required to be successful in a job," Miss Addo said.

"Before completing my studies, I gained a permanent role as a

coordinator in an outside school hours care service, and I have since transitioned from an administration role into a service manager position.

"I am proof that life-changing job opportunities arise when you complete your training," she said.

Miss Addo's dedication to her studies earned her the Vocational Student of the Year Award at the 2023 Tropical North Queensland final of the Queensland Training Awards. Miss Addo will compete for the state title in Brisbane on 9 September 2023.

Miss Addo has used her TAFE Queensland studies to gain credit towards a Bachelor of Education, and she has received a scholarship to complete her university degree.

"I feel very honoured and grateful for these opportunities and I can't wait to see where my degree will take me when I finish," Miss Addo said.

"In the future, I hope to relocate to work in a remote community, either in Weipa, the Torres Strait or the Northern Territory," she said.

To find out more about RATEP at TAFE Queensland visit: tafeqld.edu.au/ratep or call 1300 308 233.

Kimberley
Early childhood educator

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Scholarships providing pathways for CQU First Nations students

After initially applying for a scholarship in the hopes of receiving a small bursary to purchase some textbooks, CQUniversity student Dionne Singleton said she could not be more grateful to receive the inaugural CQUniCares Holding Redlich Indigenous Law Scholarship.

The scholarship, which provides recognition and financial support to an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander student studying a laws-related undergraduate course in North Queensland will provide Dionne with up to \$5000 to help with her study expenses.

"I was so excited to be chosen, I know that there are many worthy recipients and am very appreciative to be selected," Dionne said.

"Now I can buy my textbooks and will also have the funds to purchase a laptop!

"I have always prioritised my children's education, so now I can look forward to doing something for myself."

Holding Redlich Pro Bono Lawyer and First Nations Advisor, Nareeta Davis said the scholarship was intended to help support First Nations students to enter the law profession as graduates.

As a CQUniversity alumnus and



Vanessa Maruna, Dionne Singleton, Nareeta Davis.

casual academic at the University, Mrs Davis is an advocate for First Nations education in regional Queensland.

"Australia's legal profession is in need of more First Nations voices. In the years to come, it's vital that universities, government and law firms invest in a clearer and well-supported pathway for First Nations law students," Mrs Davis said.

"Holding Redlich is deeply committed to this outcome and partnering with CQUniversity to

offer this scholarship is just one step we are taking to support and work alongside First Nations law students."

CQUniversity Deputy Director of Philanthropy Francois Gallais said a quality education should be accessible to everyone – regardless of background, location or life circumstances.

"That's why we offer a variety of scholarships and bursaries that can help with things like relocation, living on campus, laptops and

technology, childcare, study and living expenses, travel and more," Mr Gallais said.

"Whether you're just starting out or continuing your studies, receiving a scholarship can help balance your study and life commitments. A scholarship looks good on your resume and may also open the door to industry networks and work experience opportunities."

The Australian Government also provides CQUniversity with funding

under the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP). The funds provided as part of this program are directed – exclusively – towards students from low socio-economic (SES) backgrounds (as defined by SEIFA), persons from regional areas and remote areas (as defined by ASGS), and Indigenous persons, people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and who identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

CQUniversity offers numerous scholarships specifically for First Nations students. Applications for scholarships that will be awarded in early 2024 open on Tuesday, 3 October.

Want to know you'll feel welcomed and supported if you're thinking about Uni or TAFE? At CQUniversity you'll join thousands of past and present First Nations students who've changed their lives and those in their communities through higher education.

With dedicated Indigenous Student Engagement Officers and plenty of other support and services to help, you can SEE IT. BE IT. Find out more at cqu.edu.au/firstnations

SEE IT.

BE IT.

WITH SPECIALISED SUPPORT FOR FIRST NATIONS STUDENTS

CQU is committed to making you feel welcomed and connected throughout your student journey, and we're proudly Australia's most inclusive university with some of the best graduate outcomes in the country.

Studying at TAFE or University is a step in the right direction to help you, your family and our communities. Choose from over 250 course options available online or on campus at 20+ locations in regional and city areas.



NAREETA KULLILI, THARGOMINDAH BACHELOR OF LAWS



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Summer School, early start

By GRACE ANDREWS

In 2022 I applied to the early offer program at James Cook University to study a Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences. When doing so, Auntie Karen from the Indigenous Education and Research Centre contacted me to talk to me about my tertiary study options and have a yarn about a program called Summer School. Summer school was a pre-program for prospective Indigenous school leavers who were applying or thinking about applying to JCU for their tertiary studies. Auntie Karen told me it would be a really good idea to apply for the program and come spend a week at JCU to see what university would be like. A few weeks later, after applying, I got an email informing me that I was one of the 24 year 12 students invited to JCU for the program. I was so excited to see Townsville and the university, but also a little sad cause I was missing the First & Forever, first nations musical festival – I really wanted to see Barkaa.

I was born and lived all the way down south, in Deniliquin NSW, Koori Country. So it was quite the hike, after a 3 hour drive and a 3 hour plane, I had finally arrived in Townsville. We were all being housed at Saints Residential collage, which was one of the collages on campus. We started by meeting

everyone, both from the IERC and the other students who had come from all over Queensland.

During the week we focused on four main areas of study Math, English, Chemistry and tertiary study skills. All programs and classes were run by the IERC staff and academic lectures, with the help of a number of indigenous student ambassadors. The ambassadors were amazing, because they were already students at JCU it was really good to yarn with them and learn more about their experiences at university. They gave the best advice and directed a lot of us in the right direction, informing us about their own study course. All the academic lectures and team building activities helped me build a basic knowledge and the skills to commence my own university studies in 2023 and gave me the opportunity to experience what university life was like as a whole.

Choosing JCU Townsville was a really big and definitely life changing decision for myself, I would be moving 23 hours (drive) away from my family and home. Summer school really solidified my decision and helped me grow confidence in my ability to move away from home and live and study on my own. Meeting and becoming close with everybody who works in the Indigenous Education & Research centre made me feel so comfortable and safe within the space. The students and

staff have become like family, and I wouldn't be on this journey without their continued support and warm experiences I had at summer school.

I have a distinct memory of when I first arrived in Townsville this year after driving my little MG3, with my whole life packed into it, all the way up here. I walked into the centre and Emma (IERC staff member) came running out to greet my dad and me. I was so overwhelmed with emotions and nervous to be there, I broke down into tears hugging her, she squeezed me, and I just knew in that moment, that these people where my family and they would always look after me.

I am now in my second semester of my first year of the Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences and absolutely loving my journey so far. I live on campus at the new Burrallga Yumba accommodation building right next to the IERC. I have also been able to contribute to the establishment of Bebegu Yumba Wadja Bimbi, the Townsville Indigenous Student Association, helping to organise and promote social and cultural events for our Indigenous student cohort. I receive so much love and support no matter what and know that without the summer school program I never would have met the IREC staff or any other students and made the valuable relationships I cherish and admire so much today.



Grace Andrews



Are you planning to study in 2024?

Then our intensive preparatory program is open to you! This is the perfect opportunity for you to build basic knowledge and skills to commence university studies next year!

The IERC covers all costs associated with the program, including travel to and from Townsville, accommodation and catering costs for all participants.

JCU Summer School - Monday 27th to Friday 1st December 2023
Bebegu Yumba campus, Townsville, James Cook University





Feeling connected matters

Griffith University is committed to championing the culture, knowledge and experiences of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

As a Griffith student, you'll be equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence to excel and thrive.

- Ranked in the top 2% worldwide
- Australia's most awarded teachers
- Flexible study options
- 1,000+ scholarships
- Practical experiences
- Digital support for online students
- Personalised support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

With a dedicated presence on each of Griffith's five physical campuses, the GUMURRII Student Success Unit aims to elevate the everyday by offering a welcoming student experience where culture and excellence are nurtured, valued and celebrated.

Find your deadly university experience at **griffith.edu.au/gumurrii**

Make it matter

“GUMURRII is amazing, they offer lots of support to new and continuing students with mentoring, tutoring and even advice on financial support available and scholarships.”

Jacob Page

Bachelor of Exercise Science and Doctor of Medicine



Brighter Futures Scholarship recipient
Bachelor of Psychological Science/
Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice

How Griffith student Brooklyn Whitmore is working to close the gap

After witnessing the impact left by an epidemic of youth suicide as a child in Pine Creek, Brooklyn Whitmore became determined to change healthcare in remote Australia for the better.

She remembers countless smoking ceremonies and funerals with parents paralysed by grief—and the silence and shame that rose in its wake.

Trying to make sense of the senseless, Brooklyn found no one within the community that was willing to talk about what was happening.

The stigma of reaching out for help among her peers and elders was suffocating and left a deep impression. It became the foundation for her motivation to study.

Brooklyn's initial plans to change the system by studying law didn't go as planned but opened her eyes to the importance of health and

'The scholarship has made a huge difference to my wellbeing. I can afford my own textbooks and the specialised software we use for statistics'

wellbeing.

The eldest of seven and a proud Dharug woman, she is the first in her family to go to university.

But Brooklyn's path to studying her double degree in psychology and criminology and criminal justice has been one of significant struggle. At times, she could barely afford her textbooks.

A scholarship from Griffith University gave Brooklyn a lifeline and allowed her to focus on studying. The scholarship fund offers students facing financial hardship or educational disadvantage grants of \$5,000 to offset the increasing costs of living.

"The scholarship has made a huge difference to my wellbeing," she says. "I can afford my own textbooks and the specialised software we use for statistics. I'm not constantly fretting about how I'm going to pay for things I need."

"With the financial pressure off my shoulders, my head can think straight. My mind isn't constantly fretting about how I'm going to pay for this, or how I'll get through that situation."

But scholarships are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Griffith's support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

With the largest Indigenous student population of any Queensland university, Griffith has a range of dedicated services available for its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cohort.

Pathways

The GUMURRII Student Success Unit has provided higher education pathways for students in a culturally safe learning environment for several years, from tutoring to networking and mentoring.

GUMURRII staff can assist with everything from enrolment and orientation right through to graduation, supporting undergraduate and postgraduate Indigenous students at all stages of their academic journey.

With a presence of each of Griffith's campuses, GUMURRII is dedicated to strengthen Indigenous student retention,

progression and success at university.

With Griffith's support, Brooklyn has been able to take up an identified cadetship with the Way Forward program, operating out of Metro South Health's Addiction and Mental Health Services unit.

She's now working to close the gap by helping to deliver informed, culturally safe healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

As she progresses towards graduation, Brooklyn's future is looking brighter than ever. As for what's next, the standout student says she's eyeing a gig in musical therapy research after completing her undergraduate studies.

"I want to eventually have my own multidisciplinary team—and travel to remote communities, delivering culturally appropriate, high-quality healthcare," she says.

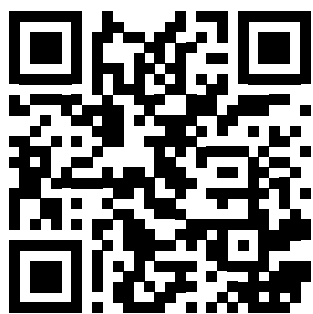
Wirltu Yarlū

Aboriginal Education

Wirltu Yarlū understands the unique challenges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people face before and while studying at university. Wirltu Yarlū are here to provide unwavering support every step of the way, helping you excel in your studies while staying connected with your peers, family, community, and cultural identity.

Our commitment to making higher education accessible and equitable for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people includes entry and leadership programs for high school students, recruitment and academic entry pathway support, student success, and advice while you are at university. We can help with application and enrolment assistance, course selection advice, academic planning, and financial aid and scholarship opportunities. Once at the University, Wirltu Yarlū provides academic and pastoral support, such as cultural advice and guidance, counselling, mentoring, career planning and cadetships and job placement opportunities.

Talk to us, and let's start planning your career adventure!



High school to dentistry: A journey of perseverance, passion, and support

Life is full of surprises, and the journey is not always straight. For Latisha Sykora, a current student of the Bachelor of Dental Surgery at The University of Adelaide, her venture into the field of oral health began during her years in high school. Despite facing challenges, her determination and passion for healthcare led her to where she is now - a successful general dentist with a promising career ahead.

Latisha completed her high school journey with a Certificate III in Dental Assisting, gaining experience and further understanding of the importance of oral health. But she wanted more.

After working in rural and remote communities, gaining knowledge and a further understanding of the importance of oral health, Latisha decided to embark on her journey into oral health therapy. In 2019, she completed the Bachelor of Oral Health at The University of Adelaide. After graduation, her passion for paediatrics and oral health promotion led her to go even further, enrolling for the Bachelor of Dental Surgery. She will be graduating at the end of 2024.

Latisha's journey was not always easy, but she found support along the way. She



Latisha Sykora, final year student, Bachelor of Dental Surgery at The University of Adelaide.

learned about Wirltu Yarlur Aboriginal Education, the student success and support service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at the University of Adelaide. "I had put through my application to attend the University of Adelaide when I received word of Wirltu Yarlur. I was supported from the very beginning, from the interviewing process to understanding how

the life of a university student was soon to be. I was adamant that this change would be refreshing and positive, so I knew with the help of the mob, I was going to be just fine."

The safe and supportive space provided by Wirltu Yarlur during Latisha's time at The University of Adelaide has been immeasurable. "They provided me a place where students can

genuinely feel acknowledged and visible, especially amid the bustling atmosphere of a university. I've received unwavering support from the staff and service during challenging times. In a world that differs vastly from ours, Wirltu Yarlur remains a haven where I can authentically exist, relieved of the burdens of university demands and societal norms."

As Latisha approaches graduation, she is pondering about the potential paths her education might lead toward. "My primary focus is evolving to be the best clinician I can become.

Indigenous education and oral healthcare hold dear to me, as I believe in effective positive change within our community." Her professional growth will remain an ongoing journey, and she is excited about the future.

In her spare time, Latisha mentors Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students thinking of applying to university. She is an Ambassador for the Karnkanthi Education Program, coordinated and led by Wirltu Yarlur at the University of Adelaide.

"To those who are debating the prospect of attending university, I encourage you to take the chance. University can seem a little overwhelming and slightly daunting, but I assure you that you can navigate it successfully", says Latisha.

"The University of Adelaide is well equipped to guide you throughout your journey, and Wirltu Yarlur is a friendly and open environment with many who were once in your shoes. I challenge you to bet on yourself because it is truly the best decision I ever made."

Lifting up your career

The prospect of pursuing higher education can be overwhelming. Fortunately, the Karnkanthi Education Program is here to offer a helping hand and make the journey less challenging for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Translating to 'lifting up' in the Kaurna language, the Program, run by Wirltu Yarlur Aboriginal Education at The University of Adelaide, provides a range of services that assist High school students from year 10 to year 12/13 in navigating the complexities of tertiary education, and prepares them by building on their unique personal, academic, and cultural strengths.

Avah Topp, a current first year student in the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, believes the Karnkanthi Program was fundamental to help her cement her chances of accessing University Education. "I wouldn't be where I am now if it wasn't for the Karnkanthi Program. Without their support, I wouldn't be studying Medicine or at Uni. It provided me with an endless number of opportunities. I met my best friend in the program and succeeded in the academic tutoring provided. They helped me with my estimated ATAR and everything I needed to apply and enter University. I would have been lost without the program. It's a great community", says Avah.

Through mentorship, academic support, and cultural connection, the Karnkanthi Education Program is breaking down barriers and providing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander High school students with the opportunity to pursue higher education, helping them to achieve their goals and seize their dreams.

For the Program Coordinator, Bianca Bettley, a Yuin and Dunghutti woman, the initiative allows participants to be a part of an ever-growing community of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who aspire to develop their resilience and leadership skills to help them succeed in life.

"We work closely with students to ensure sustainable academic growth and success. Ultimately, we aim to build their confidence to pursue a higher education that will empower the students for life."

Students in years 10 and 11 can apply to join the program any time of the year. Year 12 students must apply by June 30. Applicants can participate in academic, cultural, social and career development activities, access private tutoring for school subjects, financial support for educational costs, travel and accommodation, and student development scholarships.

For more information, contact Bianca at bianca.bettley@adelaide.edu.au.



Avah Topp, first-year student, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at The University of Adelaide



**Southern Cross
University**

The actions we take today impact our tomorrow

As a student at Southern Cross University you will be part of a community offering the best student support, steeped in the traditions of care, at one of the top universities in Australia for Indigenous students.

From Indigenous Knowledge and the study of science and healthcare to business and education, we are constantly learning from the past, interwoven in the present and the future.

That's why more than 700 Indigenous students have chosen to make Southern Cross University their gateway to transforming tomorrow.

Your study options include:

- Indigenous Knowledge
- Business, Law and Arts
- Education
- Health
- Science and Engineering

Transforming > Tomorrow

scu.edu.au/study

Ashlee Cable: Bachelor of Science →

CRICOS: 01241G TEQSA: PRV12043



Swinburne sets Dalton on the path to owning his own business

Dalton Sanderson, a proud Wadawurrung man from the Western Kulin Nations, came to study at Swinburne University of Technology with the goal of eventually starting his own electrical business.

He chose to study a program unique to Swinburne – the dual Diploma of Sport/Diploma of Leadership and Management, which is a collaboration between Swinburne and industry partner the Richmond Football Club (which also happens to be Dalton's favourite footy team).

The dual diploma is aimed at students with an interest in sports or business, and provides hands-on opportunities to build skills in managing people and becoming a leader.

"I chose this program as I believe it could excel me further into the business world as well as provide some insights into a real-world organisation," says Dalton.

Once he finishes the dual diploma, Dalton plans to study a business degree to move him further towards owning his own business one day.

Dalton says his favourite part about studying at Swinburne is the community feel and group environment – something that he feels is extra important to him since he was just 17 years old when he started at Swinburne.

"You are split into classes of around 20 people that you spend the whole year with. This allows you to still have similar connections as in high school," he says.

He says the staff at Swinburne's Moondani Toombadool Centre (MTC) have helped him

settle into university life and provide fun opportunities along the way.

The Moondani Toombadool Centre offers ongoing cultural and academic support for Indigenous students all the way through their Swinburne journey to ensure a positive, inclusive and successful experience.

"The Moondani Toombadool Centre mob have been very helpful as when I started I was still very young and they have introduced me into the uni atmosphere, through the Indigenous Nationals University Games, and giving me overall support where I need."

Dalton's advice to students considering studying with Swinburne and the Richmond Football Club is to take every opportunity that comes your way.

"Just step into the different environments and take in all aspects of the course, because it will change you a lot despite only being a short time," he says.

If you'd like to have a yarn with the Moondani Toombadool Centre about your study options and what support we can offer you, please reach out at indigenoustudents@swin.edu.au.

Scan the QR code if you're interested in a career in the sports industry or building your leadership skills check out the dual Diploma of Sport/Diploma of Leadership and Management at Swinburne University of Technology.



Dalton Sanderson

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Moondani Toombadool Centre

Moondani Toombadool Centre is a transformational leader grounded in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges.

Moondani Toombadool Centre offers you ongoing support from course selection right through to graduation. This includes:

- a range of scholarships for Indigenous students,
- tutoring through our Indigenous Academic Success Program,
- a dedicated Indigenous student lounge, and
- social and cultural events throughout the year.

And as Swinburne is a dual-sector university, we have courses ranging from certificate level to PhD – so we can provide pathway options into any area of study that may interest you.

For more information on studying and available support for Indigenous students at Swinburne, please contact the Moondani Toombadool Centre:



Get 'Fair Dinkum' about good health



"If you're serious about your health, isn't it time you made some Fair Dinkum Choices?"

A new health promotion campaign from Coonamble Aboriginal Health Service (CAHS) is calling for other groups and organisations to be part of a collaboration championing better Aboriginal health.

With the slogan Fair Dinkum Choices™, the new campaign comes with an app filled with health related information, useful for Aboriginal community members and associated groups.

Pam Renata from CAHS said the initiative to trademark 'Fair Dinkum Choices' was to showcase health promotions "around words that resonate with our people as well as the wider community".

"The words Fair Dinkum, came from our champion Jonathan Knight from Bourke, who was sitting around with a few close friends and talking about the issues that was affecting our small community," Pam said.

"They were talking about trying to implement programs that would help combat those issues, whether it was healthy eating, or in relation to drug and alcohol use, or mental health,

"So they would say to each other, just be 'Fair Dinkum' about it, and it sort of stuck."

Pam said CAHS was a large business made up of three Aboriginal Community Controlled Medical Services in Coonamble, Gilgandra and Dubbo, along



Coonamble Aboriginal Health Service staff and comedian Sean Choolburra at the campaign launch event.

with a dental clinic, a gym and a funeral service.

"We have a large Aboriginal community client base and are linked to organisations such as Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations and the non-government organisation sector.

So in order to have a wider impact, CAHS designed the Fair Dinkum Choices™ campaign with its corresponding app – and invited others to

get involved and connect with a wider, targeted audience.

Pam said the campaign was available under a fee for service agreement and is perfect for groups such as sporting groups who go into Aboriginal communities and want to engage with locals there.

"The Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council has also signed up," Pam said. "They can utilise the promotion resource packages we developed and use

the app too.

"We also promote their events through the app – and people can check the app to see what's coming up in their local area.

"There's also a list of local AMS's with phone numbers, the hours they are open and reviews of what they offer."

Pam said the new trademarked health campaign is supported by Indigenous law firm Terri Janke and Company.

"The trademark has been through a very rigorous process and was launched in October 2022 in Dubbo," she said. "The launch was facilitated by comedian Sean Choolburra and key note speakers included Greg Inglis from the Goanna Academy, Nikita Tompkins from Illawarra AMS.

"We had ambassador to the Healthy Deadly Kids Program, Tyson Demos, who is also a former NBL player with the Illawarra Hawkes and Gold Coast Blaze – as well as Brent Naden, who is an NRL player with West Tigers."

Pam said the CAHS approach is to provide health services addressing not just the physical well-being of the individual but also the social, emotional and cultural well-being of the whole community.

If you are interested in getting involved win the new Aboriginal Health Promotion marketing campaign, you can contact Pam Renata at CAHS on 0419 695 616 or email pamr@dubboams.com.au. You can also visit the website cahs.net.au/ or download the Fair Dinkum Choices™ app to see health promotion events in your region run by partnering organisations and view licensed merchandise available for purchase.

Community approach to birthing puts mums first



WHEN Natalie Page went into labour suddenly with her first baby she was quite frightened.

Ms Page's mother drove her to the nearest hospital to give birth to her oldest daughter Emariah.

"I was so scared, my mother had a very traumatic time giving birth and I kept thinking, 'What if this is me? What if I don't make it?'," Ms Page said.

But by the time she had her third daughter Unarra at the Mater Mothers' Hospital she benefited from having a midwife by her side who made her feel at ease.

Birthing in Our Community (BiOC) is a partnership program between Mater Hospital, the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service Brisbane (ATSICHS).

The prenatal health care program, now in its 10th year, is promoting a self-determination model that prioritises Indigenous mums' physical and mental wellbeing.

Ms Page said she benefited and wished she had been able to access the BiOC program with her first pregnancy.

"They have provided so many services, including transport to medical appointments and have



Natalie Page and her children Emariah Page, 10, Callanima Hopkins, 2, and Unarra Hopkins, 9 months, posing for photo at Pandanus Beach in Wynnum, Brisbane. A unique Birthing in Our Community program that has changed the face of maternity care for Indigenous mums and bubs is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Picture: AAP Image/Supplied by Mater Mothers' Hospital.

been there to provide milk and bread if needed," she said.

ATSICHS Brisbane chief executive Renee Blackman said the success of the birthing program showed what could be achieved when partners worked together with a shared vision and commitment to Aboriginal-led

models of care.

"Every mum at BiOC gets their own midwife 24/7 working side by side with a multidisciplinary workforce to make sure all our women feel confident and safe to access the care they need for themselves and their bub," Ms Blackman said.

The program provides comprehensive and culturally safe maternal and infant health services, which contribute to closing the gap in health outcomes for Indigenous mums and their newborn babies.

A paper published in the medical journal *The Lancet* said the BiOC model had demonstrated a

reduction in preterm births, nursery admissions and low birth weight, which was helping to close the health care gap for First Nations babies.

It found that the program successfully reduced two-thirds of out-of-pocket expenses by bringing the service closer to women and providing free transport.

IUIH chief executive Adrian Carson said improved outcomes demonstrated the success of Aboriginal community-controlled health services (ACCHSs) leading reform with mainstream maternity services, such as Mater Mothers' Hospital.

"The ACCHS sector has long advocated that models of care specifically designed for First Nations people and delivered by ACCHSs can achieve better outcomes for our people and be more cost-effective," Mr Carson said.

Mater chief medical officer Associate Professor Mike Beckmann said that the program had promoted a move towards a model that was about community.

"Health and wellbeing should be more than hospitals, it is feeling safe, connected and understood," Mr Beckmann said.

"It is about meeting your physical needs as well as your emotional, psychological, spiritual and cultural needs, and that's exactly what this program does." – AAP

ARTS YARN



Manyjilyjarra artist Corban Clause Williams sits beside his winning work, *Kaalpa* (Kalypa, Canning Stock Route Well 23), 2023.

Sydney Contemporary recognises the deadly arts

Manyjilyjarra artist Corban Clause Williams has been announced as the inaugural winner of the Sydney Contemporary \$10,000 acquisitive MA Art Prize.

The winner of the new prize, designed to identify, promote and realise the potential of emerging artists in Australia, was announced as the annual fair opened to the public on September 7. An exhibition of Williams' work was shown in the fair's FUTURE sector, along with design company, EG Projects.

Corban Clause Williams is an emerging artist from the Pilbara region whose work is informed by time he has spent on Country at Kaalpa, a desert water site that features in

traditional stories. His artworks contribute to ongoing dialogues about untold narratives of remote Australian life, bringing contemporary experience of ancestral Country to life on canvas.

Staged at leading multi-arts centre Carriageworks, Sydney Contemporary was established in 2013 and hosts an expansive program of art, performance, talks, food and drink, with the work of more than 500 artists and 96 galleries featured at the 2023 fair.

Sydney Contemporary is supported by the NSW Government through its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW.

Voices will soar as votes are tallied

As the votes are being tallied in the constitutional referendum to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament, acclaimed Yorta Yorta soprano and composer Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO and members of the Dhungala Children's Choir - the peak choral performance group for Indigenous children in Victoria - will take to the Hamer Hall stage with the full force of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, MSO Chorus and Consort of Melbourne for a timely encore of the powerful 2019 concert, *Eumeralla*, a war requiem for peace.

The work, which is written and composed by Cheetham Fraillon and sung entirely in the ancient dialects of the Gunditjmarra people, brings into focus a dark period of Australia's colonial history that is yet to be fully reconciled.

Its story harks back to the mid 19th century and a battleground southwest of Melbourne that remains haunted with the memory of war and loss from one of the most brutal resistance wars fought on

this continent.

Cheetham Fraillon, who is also the MSO First Nations Creative Chair, acknowledges the coincidence of an important piece of Australian programming being performed on such an historic date.

"Although the performance date for *Eumeralla* was selected more than a year ago, the alignment with the Voice referendum offers our MSO community an opportunity to come together and - hopefully - celebrate a momentous occasion for our nation."



Yorta Yorta soprano and composer Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO.



Eumeralla, a war requiem for peace
when: Saturday, October 14, 7.30pm
where: Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne
Info/tickets: mso.com.au

Music



Spinifex Gum at QPAC

Friday, October 20, 8 - 9pm
Queensland Performing Arts Centre

Discover the unique blend of choral music and contemporary song performed by young Indigenous female choir Marliya. Combined with dance, the high energy, high impact, and hauntingly beautiful collaboration lays bare the injustices faced by Indigenous Australians and shines a light on the strength of those who fight for their community.

Spinifex Gum brings together The Marliya choir, led by Lyn Williams AM, the music of Felix Riebl and Ollie McGill (The Cat Empire) and choreography by Deborah Brown.

Spinifex Gum is presented by QPAC and WOW - Women of the World Australia. For information and tickets visit qpac.com.au/event/spinifexgum_2

Xavier Rudd

when: Thursday, September 21, doors open at 5pm and 8.30pm

where: Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach Queensland.

info/tickets: (Sydney event, Sept 23, sold out) wanderlust.com.au/event/truenorth-2023/

Dan Sultan

when: Saturday, September 30, 7.30-9.30pm

where: The Princess Theatre, Woolloongabba Queensland.

info/tickets: selling fast!

theprincesstheatre.com.au/events/dan-sultan



Jessica Mauboy *Yours Forever* 2024 tour tickets selling fast

Jessica Mauboy is preparing to tour her album *Yours Forever* early next year and tickets are selling fast with some shows already booked out. From March 12, 2024, the deadly songstress takes her show to venues in all states and territories around Australia, with a performance in Auckland, NZ on May 11 concluding the tour. Leading to the tour Mauboy is also set to play at the Deni Ute Muster, September, 29-30, and the Yarrabah Music and Cultural Festival, October 7. For information and tickets visit jessicamauboy.com.au/

Concert

Songs For Freedom Concert,
Sydney Barangaroo.
Picture: Brett Boardman



Singing for an important cause

Big hART and the community of Ieramugadu, Roebourne, Western Australia, invite the nation on to share a very special concert event on September 23, marking the 40th anniversary of the passing of John Pat in custody.

Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi Elders will lead Songs for Freedom, an uplifting concert of original songs created by an intercultural group of artists raising their voices to heal a nation.

With musical direction from Grammy award-winning artist Lucky Oceans and powerful narration by Ngarluma man Patrick Churnside, guest artists Kutcha Edwards, Emma Donovan and Nooky join the concert in Roebourne. Songs for Freedom offers heartfelt messages of freedom and hope from the people of

the Pilbara, in their own words, and is set to fill the night with voices of peace, freedom and Country.

Songs for Freedom is the public manifestation of a project that has been running in Roebourne since 2010. Thirteen years ago the Elders invited Big hART to come into their community to help create good stories and good images about Roebourne with their young people and for people outside of their own community.

It was their desire to combat the impacts of the many negative stories being reported about the small Pilbara area by finding positive ways to connect with their own young people, sharing cultural practices, and giving them access to growth opportunities through

different mediums.

Since that time Big hART, supported by the Elders, has delivered workshops in the community, the school and the prison, creating digital content, music, theatre and performance to transform the negative stories told about Roebourne into rich stories of renewal, self-determination and the power of culture in Ieramugadu.

Many of the songs included in Songs for Freedom have been created through engagement with these workshops.

Australia's first premium Indigenous streamings platform www.indigiflix.com.au will live-stream (for free) this Songs for Freedom concert commencing at 5pm WA time and 7pm AEST.

First Nations Media Awards Nominations open

First Nations Media Australia (FNMA) are celebrating the exceptional achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander media workers through the 2023 First Nations Media Awards.

With awards for individuals, organisations and across a wide range of content categories, we want to hear about the projects, people and teams you know that deserve to be acknowledged for their great work over the past 12 months!

Categories

MAJOR AWARDS

Lifetime Achievement

First Nations Outstanding Contributor

First Nations Media Legend

DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Best Training and Professional Development Award

Best Digital Product Award

Organisational Excellence Award

CONTENT AWARDS

Best Short Radio Documentary

Best Feature Radio Documentary or Series

Best Feature Television Documentary

Best Community Television Documentary

Best Language/Culture Production

Best Sports Coverage

Best Drama or Comedy

Best Low Budget Music Video

Best High Budget Music Video

Best News or Current Affairs Program

Best News or Current Affairs Story

Best Photography

Best Interview or Oral History

Best Promo or Station ID - Radio

Best Promo or Campaign - TV, Print or Online

Submit your nominations now for a 2023 First Nations Media Award. Go to firstnationsmedia.awardsplatform.com/

Event Listings

NEW SOUTH WALES

Cyril Knox Art Prize exhibition

when: Sept 23-29
where: The Crossing Theatre, Narrabri.

info/bookings: crossingtheatre.com.au/

Saltwater Freshwater Arts 2023

when: until Oct 8
where: Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Leichhardt

and
when: Oct 20-Nov 25
where: Wadjar Regional Indigenous Gallery, Yarrawarra

info/bookings: saltwaterfreshwater.com.au/contact/

Sydney Fringe 2023

when: Sept 1-30
where: venues across Sydney
info/bookings: Find out

about DEADLY TIX discounted tickets for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and other First Nations people, at sydneyfringe.com/deadly-tix/ Book early to avoid missing out on the discounted tickets.

The Visitors

Sydney Theatre
when: Sept 11–Oct 14
where: Drama Theatre, Sydney Opera House
info/bookings (essential): sydneytheatre.com.au/whats-on/productions/2023/the-visitors

Waru

– journey of the small turtle
Bangarra Dance Theatre
when: Sept 22-23
where: The Art House Theatre, Darkinjung Country, Wyong, and
when: Sept 27-Oct 14

where: The Studio Theatre, Walsh Bay, Gadigal Country.

info/bookings: Tickets selling fast at bangarra.com.au/productions/waru-journey-of-the-small-turtle/

Yellamundie Festival

Presented by Moogahlin Performing Arts
when: Sept 28-30
where: Carriageworks, Sydney
info/bookings: carriageworks.com.au/events/yellamundie-festival-2023/

Numbuh: Bindimu Currie Exhibition

when: Opening night, Sept 23, 6-8pm, exhibition runs until Oct 7
where: Front galleries, Boomalli, Leichhardt
info/bookings: free entry, boomalli.com.au

Jessica Mauboy Yours Forever tour

when: Sept 29-30

where: The Deni Ute Muster, Deniliquin, NSW

info/bookings: jessicamauboy.com.au/

VICTORIA

Collective Movements

when: until Oct 22
where: Latrobe Regional Gallery, Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA)
info/bookings: monash.edu/muma/exhibitions/previous/2023/collective-movements

Waru – journey of the small turtle

when: Oct 19-21
where: The Story House, Geelong Arts Centre, Wadawurrung Country.
info/bookings: tickets at bangarra.com.au/productions/waru-journey-of-the-small-turtle/

The Soils Project: A collaboration

when: Aug 5–Nov 12
where: TarraWarra Museum

of Art, Wurundjeri Country
info/bookings: twma.com.au/

Yuldea

Bangarra Dance Theatre
when: Sept 27–Oct 7 (more dates in other states)
where: Arts Centre, Wurundjeri Country, Melbourne

and
when: Oct 13–14 (more dates in other states)
where: Ulumbarra Theatre, Djaara Country, Bendigo
info/bookings: bangarra.com.au/productions/yuldea/

Eumeralla, a war requiem for peace

when: Sat, October 14, 7.30pm.
where: Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne
info/bookings: mso.com.au

TASMANIA

Twist

when: June 9–Oct 22
where: Tasmanian Museum

and Art Gallery's Argyle Galleries, Henry Hunter Gallery 5, Salon Gallery and Bond Store.

info/bookings: tmag.tas.gov.au/whats_on/exhibitions

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Sharing Stories Arts Exchange Exhibition Opening

This exhibition is focused on building positive reciprocal relationships between local Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, in the wider Canberra community.
when: 17-26 Oct, 2023. Special opening event, Oct 17, 5.30-7.30pm
where: Project Space, ANU School of Art & Design, Acton, ACT
info/bookings: please RSVP for the opening event via soad.cass.anu.edu.au/events/2023-sharing-stories-arts-exchange-exhibition

Opportunities knock

10th Koorie Art Show call for entries

The Koorie Art Show is an open-entry, non-acquisitive award exhibition, presenting the works of Koorie and Victorian-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists (new and emerging, mid-career and senior) aged 17 years and above.

All submitted entries are included in the exhibition and are eligible for one of several cash awards.

Date: Entries will be accepted until midnight, Sunday, October 1, 2023.

Entry forms at:

korieheritagetrust.wufoo.com/forms/mbripe405jkkan/
Exhibition runs Dec 3 - Feb 19

The Koorie Art Show Young Mob is also open for entry. KAS Young Mob showcases the diverse talent of Victoria's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists aged between 5 and 16 years.

Young mob can enter at

korieheritagetrust.wufoo.com/forms/m1sjub7o032nknz/

Boundless Mentorship

The 2024 Boundless Indigenous Writer's Mentorship is open for applications until midnight Sunday, November 26. Presented by Text Publishing and Writing NSW with support from the First Nations Australia Writers Network (FNAWN) and Booktopia, the prize was established to reveal and nurture powerful new Indigenous voices in Australian literature.

This joint initiative will provide a year-long structured mentorship to an unpublished Indigenous writer who has made substantial progress on a manuscript of fiction or non-fiction. The recipient of the mentorship will be paired with a senior Indigenous writer working in the same genre, providing feedback on their manuscript and professional advice. The successful applicant will also receive professional development from Text Publishing and Writing NSW.

Previous recipients of the prize include Edoardo Crismani, mentored by Miles Franklin Literary award-winner Tara June Winch in 2023, Judi Morison mentored by Larissa Behrendt, 2022 and 2021 recipient Lenora Thaker, mentored by Julie Janson. Since the prize's inception, two of the mentored writers, John Morrissey and Lenora Thaker, have been offered publishing deals by Text Publishing.

To apply or for more information see writingsw.org.au/support/funding-opportunities/boundless-mentorship-2024/

Bell rings up KWM First Nations Art prize

Richard Bell has won the 2023 King & Wood Mallesons First Nations Art Award.

The winning work, *No Tin Shack* was selected from 28 finalist artworks. It tells the story of Bell's family being ordered out of his childhood home by the Booringa Shire Council Health Inspector, so that it could be demolished, ultimately leaving his family with nowhere to go.

A well-established Australian artistic figure, Bell is represented in most major national and state collections and has exhibited in a number of solo exhibitions at important institutions in Australia, Europe and America. He works across a range of media including painting, installation, performance, and video.

"Winning an award or prize is a humbling experience, finding ourselves wondering how fortunate we have been to win," Bell said. "We, momentarily, feel sad for those who didn't win. But, Yeah, No. It's all mine! Thank you very much (a la Elvis)!"

Award patron Djon Mundine OAM, FAHA spoke to the revealing, truth-telling aspect to Bell's winning artwork.

"Richard's work is so important - it's theatrical, personal, and historical fact - that even though we; the Australian society, in the supposedly affluent good life of the post WWII decades; everywhere the remnants of colonial project existed in shanty towns of poverty in third world conditions at the edge of every country town and city," Mundine said. "That even though society had an appearance



Richard Bell won the 2023 King & Wood Mallesons First Nations Art Award-with *No Tin Shack*.



Queensland Local Artist Award-winner, Keemon Williams' *Self Portrait (But I always wanted to be one of the Macho Men)*.

of turning the race and poverty corner, the colonial oppression and trauma persists right up to the present day."

As the recipient of the award for 2023, Richard receives \$25,000 and his

work will be displayed in an exhibition with the other finalists at Griffith University Art Museum in Brisbane until October 14.

The QLD Local Artist Award, valued at \$5,000, has been awarded to Meanjin-based artist Keemon Williams, for his work *Self Portrait (But I always wanted to be one of the Macho Men)*.

The Queensland Local Artist winner, Keemon Williams said:

"There's a risk in making work, especially personal work, and I'm both honoured and delighted that it's culminated in this award. As always, this money will be injected into my practice, and empower

me to do new and ambitious things."

Two People's Choice Awards valued at \$1,000 each will be announced on October 10 following an online voting period from September 14- October 4.

King & Wood Mallesons Chief Executive Partner, Australia, Renae Lattey said the company is committed to building strong partnerships with First Nations peoples and communities, "continuing to listen to and learn about their experience and draw on their leadership to guide and enrich our efforts."

"The King & Wood Mallesons First Nations Art Award centres the voices, perspectives, and experiences of First Nations artists so they can continue to express their identity, culture, spirituality and relationship to Country through art," she said.

Winning artworks can be seen at www.kwmfnaa.com/

Event Listings

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Spring Salon/York 2023

when: 2-25 Sept

where: Gallery 152, Artitja Fine Art, Ballardong Country

info/bookings:

artitja.com.au/

Jurrungu Ngan-ga (Straight Talk)

when: until Sept 23

where: Heath Ledger Theatre, Black Swan State Theatre Centre of WA, Perth

info/bookings:

blackswantheatre.com.au/season-2023/jurrungu-ngan-ga

Magic Spirit:

Apii Thatini Mu Murtu (To sing and carry a coolamon on country together)

when: Oct 6-7

where: Perth Concert Hall

info/bookings: features

William Barton

waso.com.au/concerts-tickets/whats-on/concert/magic-spirit

QUEENSLAND

The King & Wood Mallesons First Nations Art Award

when: until Oct 14

where: Griffith University Art Museum

Mare Amoris | Sea of Love

when: until Jan 20, 2024

where: UQ Art Museum, UQ St Lucia

info/bookings:

art-museum.uq.edu.au/mare-amoris-sea-love

Brisbane Festival

when: Sept 1-23

where: various venues

info/bookings:

brisbanefestival.com.au

Xavier Rudd

when: Thurs Sept 21, 5pm

and 8.30pm

where: Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach Qld.

info/bookings:

wanderlust.com.au/event/truenorth-2023/

Dan Sultan

when: Sat, September 30, 7.30-9.30pm

where: The Princess Theatre, Woolloongabba Queensland.

info/tickets: selling fast!

theprincesstheatre.com.au/events/dan-sultan

Jessica Mauboy

when: Oct 7

where: Yarrabah Music and Cultural Festival, Jilara Oval, Yarrabah

info/bookings:

jessicamauboy.com.au/

Scott Darlow's Deadly Heart tour

when: Sat, Oct 28

where: Leftys Music Hall, Brisbane

info/bookings: 18+ free

event-for details go to

facebook.com/darlowscott/event

Waru

- journey of the small turtle

when: Nov 3

where: Cairns Performing Arts Centre, Gimuy Walubara Yidinji.

info/bookings: Tickets

selling fast. See details and

tickets at

bangarra.com.au/productions/waru-journey-of-the-small-turtle/

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Desert Mob 2023

when: until Oct 22

where: Araluen Arts Centre, Mparntwe/Alice Springs

info/bookings:

desart.com.au/desert-mob/

Waru

- journey of the small turtle

Bangarra Dance Theatre

when: Nov 9-10

where: Darwin Entertainment Centre, Garramilla.

info/bookings: Tickets

selling fast at

bangarra.com.au/productions/waru-journey-of-the-small-turtle/

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Scott Darlow's Deadly Heart tour

when: Sept 23

where: Pretoria Hotel, Pretoria SA

info/bookings: 18+ free

event-for details go to

facebook.com/darlowscott/event

Thukeri Weaving Workshop

with award-winning

Ngarrindjeri, Ngadjuri, Narungga, and Wirangu artist Sonya Rankine

when: Sat, Sept 30, 11am and Sat, Oct 7, 12.30pm

where: Children's Artspace,

Adelaide Festival Centre

info/bookings: Participants

will join Sonya in the

Children's Artspace exhibition *Thukeri*. Sonya

will share the Ngarrindjeri Dreaming story of Thukeri

before leading participants in a weaving workshop

where they will create their own Thukeri (small bream fish) and Thukeri scale that they are welcome to contribute to the exhibition or take home as an original work of art. Suitable for ages 4 and up. Tickets \$10, limited availability. Go to adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/whats-on/thukeri-weaving-workshop

Our Mob/Our Young Mob (SALA Festival)

when: Until Oct 7

where: The Galleries, Festival Theatre Foyer, Adelaide Festival Centre

info/bookings: free entry adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/whats-on/our-young-mob

Tarnanthi Festival

when: Oct 20, 2023-Jan 21, 2024

where: Art Gallery of SA, North Terrace, Adelaide

info/bookings: free entry agsa.sa.gov.au/whats-on/tarnanthi/tarnanthi-2023/tarnanthi-at-agsa/

Artists and storytellers line up for Yellamundie

By NICK PATON



WITH a vibrant lineup of Indigenous talent, Gadigal Country is set to sparkle when the Yellamundie

Festival celebrates its 10th Anniversary in Sydney next week.

Taking place at Carriageworks in Redfern on September 28-30, this significant 10-year milestone highlights the critical role the Yellamundie Festival plays in the realm of First Nations performing arts.

Presented by the renowned Moogahlin Performing Arts, in association with Carriageworks and the Australian Performing Arts Market (APAM), the festival will showcase the variety and very best of contemporary performing arts in six stunning new performances by First Nations creatives over three days.

Yellamundie Festival Director Lily Shearer, a Murriwarri and Ngemba woman, said the festival is the only national First People's gathering of storytellers and artists in the country.

"We have held six Yellamundie festivals over the past 10 years which has led to 44 new stories from around the country being told on the stage," Ms Shearer told the *Koori Mail*.

"And of those, many have gone on to have a production and presentation on some of the main stages around the country."



EULOGY

by A DAYLIGHT CONNECTION
(Writing for Stage)
Friday, September 29, 6.30pm.

EULOGY is an exploration of corporate commodification, class, socialism, population crisis, land rights, retribution, redemption, crime and punishment in the realms of the afterlife. A satirical, slapstick, black-comedy about life, death and funeral insurance. Exploiting pop/cult-culture tropes like the Goonies, Beetlejuice, and Scooby Doo, creating a chaotic and magical world of unexpected and familiar characters that will equally shock and delight. Created by Kamarra Bell-Wykes and Carly Sheppard with Alexis West.



Bush Medicine Magic
by Peta Strachan
(Movement)
Thursday, September 28,
6.30pm.

An abstract dance piece about the power of mother earth's medicines, all different elements that come together to make bush medicine magic and healing energy. Elemental Law. Healing and comforting energy that radiates beams of light out of our healing stones, native flowers, ochre, the power of mother earth's medicines come together removing darkness into light.



A Wake – A Woke Mob
by Maurial Spearim
(Writing for Stage)
Saturday September 30, 6.30pm.

A dark witty comedy of eras that strips away the facade of grief when the patriarch passes away in a small country town. Families butt heads, old wounds are opened. Can family and community let their walls down to heal and rebuild after the dust settles?



Healing Scars
by Warren Mason
(Composition and Movement)
Thursday, September 28, 6.30pm.

A collaboration with Elder dancers to create a story of who we are and where we come from. **Healing Scars** crosses a number of generations of injustice of First Nations peoples since colonisation. Stories are told through dance, sound design and language telling the tough stories for this country to move forward.

more resources than we have and whilst the Yellamundie Festival is a great way to come and experience First Nations artists and their works it's important for our allies to understand that we have a plethora of talented people, in all aspects of creative production within our cultural arts community, who are ready to take on these



What is Wrong With Us?
by Michael Weir
(Writing for Stage and Composition)
Friday, September 29, 6.30pm.

Influenced by urban hip hop culture and mixed mediums incorporating motion graphics, spoken word sharing the stories of pain and hardship experienced by the oppressed experiences of grief suffered over multiple generations of our First Nations people. This story paints a clear picture of how trauma and grief we continue to hold back and oppress with hopes to contribute to this awakening with an alternative narrative.

roles and jobs within the industry in the mainstream."

"Someone could be at Yellamundie and be looking up at an actor or performer and say, 'What's that person's name?' or 'I wonder who their agent is because we should book them for our next show'."

At 5pm on Friday, September 29, the festival will host free event **Local Players**, presented in partnership with Australian Performing Arts Market.

First Peoples dance, theatre and contemporary performance artists living and working around Gadigal will give insights into their practice and their aspirations for



Yellamundie Festival Director
Lily Shearer.



Watersong
by Shannon Jensen
(Writing for Stage)
Saturday, September 30, 6.30pm.

With the return of Lynette after a 15 year absence, **Watersong** focuses on the relationship between three women in the Joinbee family. The women must come together for the grandmother's final days – unearthing the family secret that separated them and cut off their connection to the long line of water women connected to the water and spirits who once dwelled in the rivers of their Country that came long before.

national and international engagement.

Dramaturgy in Dance! – A First Peoples Perspective, also a free event, will be held at 11am on Saturday, September 30.

Facilitated by Tammi Gissell and featuring actor/director Kirk Page, this panel enables critical dialogue around the role of dramaturgy in dance from a First Nation perspective. Panellists will discuss vital issues of cultural and professional authority – ultimately seeking what it means to hold responsibility for First People's dramatic representation in dance – in both practical and ethical terms, in Australia and in the International market.

"We are not just focused on plays," Ms Shearer said. "And we are not just focused on the scripts. We know that we are leaders in this space, and everyone who works on the festival is a First Nations person."

"We've brought our old practice of composition, and movement and dance, back into the picture."

Tickets:
moogahlin.org/yellamundiefestival2023

Theatre/Dance

Bangarra tells our stories, dancing

Bangarra Dance Theatre, now under the guidance of Kokatha choreographer Francis Rings continues to innovate, educate and entertain, delivering their unique way of telling First Nations stories through dance to audiences around the country. As the 2023 season of *Yuldea* prepares to wrap up at the end of October in Melbourne and then Bendigo, the curtain opens on a new story about a little turtle.

The creators of Bangarra's first production for children hope the tale of a small green turtle named Migi will resonate with kids. *Waru* is a collaborative effort written by Munaldjali/Nununkul actor Hunter Page-Lochard and his father, long-time Bangarra artistic director Stephen Page.

Best known for starring in ABC fantasy sci-fi series *Cleverman* and subsequent roles in *Les Norton* and *Harrow*, Page-Lochard has enjoyed working with his father.

"It is always fun creating and learning with Dad," Page-Lochard told AAP.

"It can have its ups and downs but I thoroughly enjoy it."

Waru is inspired by the green



Bangarra's first production for children *Waru – journey of the small turtle* is set to tour Victoria, NSW, Queensland and NT from September–November. Picture: Daniel Boud

turtle's significance in the Torres Strait Islander (Zenadth-kes) totemic system.

The production follows the journey of Migi and her story of survival from the day she hatches on an island to the many challenges she faces during her lifetime including ghost nets, pollution and predators.

Children will be able to participate in and learn about Torres Strait Islander culture, dance, language and the impacts of

climate change.

"Dance theatre and theatre allows you to create these imaginative worlds, so if you have a social issue like climate change then you can dress it around this magic world of theatre and it allows a child to embody it," Page said.

He said the pair have a natural instinct and rhythm when working together.

"I did frustrate Hunter sometimes because I like to joke a lot and he didn't have much time,

so he got mad at me a couple of times but then we refocused," he said.

The duo aimed to create an interactive 45-minute experience given the target audience for the production is children aged three and up.

"Time was always something that we spoke about and trying to figure out how long does this need to be in order for the kids to follow it and to remember, and that is when we started to come up with

ideas of making it quite interactive," Page-Lochard said.

Like many island environments, the Torres Strait is under serious threat from climate change including rising sea levels eroding the lands and increased sea temperatures.

Human pollution is also impacting the health of marine life.

Waru – Journey of the small turtle will play at the Melbourne Arts Centre from September 12 before touring nationally. –AAP

Yuldea plays Melbourne

September 27–October 7

Arts Centre, Wurundjeri Country, Melbourne



Dancers Amberlilly Gordon and Kiarn Doyle in *Yuldea* Picture: Daniel Boud

Discover inclusivity in the music sector

'Artist Assist' is a pioneering initiative aimed at providing comprehensive support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, transgender, and non-binary individuals working within the music sector. The program provides participants with insights, practical skills and guidance to fortify their presence in the music business.

Included is a 3-day residential workshop to be held in January 2024, covering a wide spectrum of topics, including well-being, values, culture in the music business, finance, and marketing, and featuring guest speakers from Support Act, TikTok and Nornie Bero (Owner of Mabu Mabu), along with tailored mentoring sessions led by Kerry Kennell (Kennell&Co), Emily Wurramara (artist) and Alyse Newman (owner of AANTHOLOGIES PR & Artist Management). Participants will stay at the Queen Victoria Women's Centre in Naarm.

A small grant is available to participants to cover attendance costs.

The program is the product of a partnership between Indigenous Business Australia and Torres Strait Islander woman Kerry Kennell's artist management business Kennell&Co Impact Consulting + Strategy, with sponsorship from Songlines Music Aboriginal Corporation and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Music Office (NATSIMO).

Award-winning singer-songwriter and proud Warnindhilyagwa woman Emily Wurramara is an Artist Assist program ambassador. "'Artist Assist,' is a groundbreaking program that will foster inclusivity and a more equitable environment for First Nations women, transgender, and non-binary individuals," she said.

Expressions of Interest close at 11.59pm Sunday October 15, 2023.

More info at www.kennell.com.au/assist



Dance group Dinawan Connections at DanceRites 2019. Picture: JaimiJoy

Return of DanceRites

Australia's only national dance competition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups, DanceRites, returns to the Sydney Opera House Forecourt this November.

The free event will be the largest on-site iteration of the competition since it began in 2015. Twenty-five dance groups and more than 350 performers from over 30 nations and clans across Australia will take to the Forecourt in a joyous celebration of First Nations

music, dance and culture.

DanceRites will unfold over two days, with heats on Saturday, November 25 and finals on Sunday, November 26. Each group will present a Cultural Dance and Song cycle, representing their local storytelling and language, with many also performing an optional 'Wildcard' dance to showcase their unique style.

Groups will be judged by a panel of First Nations dance experts on their

technical dance skills, engagement with language and culture, skin-markings and traditional instrumentation.

A total of \$36,000 in prizes will be awarded this year, including group awards for the winner and runner-up, as well as a separate prize for the best 'Wildcard' dance. Two Rites of Passage awards will also acknowledge individuals' outstanding contributions to revitalising cultural knowledge and practices.

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT

New bus drivers handed the keys



TROPICAL North Queensland's newest bus drivers have been handed the keys to a new career having

completed the inaugural Moving the Mob trainee bus driver program at Kinetic.

Moving the Mob was launched on Gimuy Country (Cairns) this year to encourage greater Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation within Kinetic's workforce and across the transport industry.

The program offers First Nations people holding a car driver's licence flexible paid training in a supportive, culturally safe environment to become qualified and confident bus drivers.

Having attended information sessions in May, Doug Rautoka-Bon and Lisa Gibson are among eight people who have now successfully completed their driver's licence upgrade this year and are ready to hit the road and lead the way for a new wave of bus drivers.

They were supported on their journey by Leanne Baldwin, who helped launch Moving the Mob after previously completing Kinetic's Women Up Front trainee driver program.

Leanne, who has gained experience as a school and route bus driver over the past 12 months, says it was a proud moment when the program delivered its first successful graduates.

"Having gone through the licence upgrade process with Kinetic only a year ago myself, it was a privilege to now take on the role of mentor and support our new drivers," Leanne said.

"Providing the public with



Doug Rautoka-Bon, Leanne Baldwin and Lisa Gibson.

transport is an important way we can support the community and seeing Doug and Lisa take this journey has been amazing."

Doug has now taken on a full-time role as a route driver while Lisa is operating a school bus service to Aboriginal community Yarrabah east of Cairns.

Lisa said the opportunity to receive training and get behind the wheel of a bus and has been life changing.

"Six months ago I would never have imagined I would become a bus driver and qualified to drive heavy vehicles," she said.

"Completing the Moving the Mob program has been a great experience and I look forward to coming to work each day and helping children get to school and home again safely."

In addition to encouraging people to become bus drivers, Moving the Mob also provides job opportunities in other areas of the business. Six other applicants in the program have also now commenced other roles at Kinetic.

Pathways

"It is important the program provides genuine career pathways so those unable to complete the licence upgrade can find roles in cleaning, maintenance and other areas of the business," Kinetic's Talent & Inclusion Manager, Moana Matthews says.

"This is a program developed over six months in consultation with community and employment organisations, and it's been fully embraced by our team in Cairns as we look to expand it into other parts of our

business.

Kinetic's Manager in Cairns, John O'Brien, who has been a major driver of the program said it was great to see some early success.

"Having our first bus drivers come through the program is a massive achievement and it's great to see Doug and Lisa hitting the road and blazing a trail for others," Mr O'Brien said.

"We're creating employment opportunities and at the same time enriching our team with cultural diversity and understanding more reflective of this incredible community we operate in."

"As we continue welcoming First Nations team members through the program in coming months, we may even be able to get a graduate driving a Kinetic bus in next year's NAIDOC celebrations."

Director pipeline launched



THE Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) has announced the launch of the First Nations Director Scholarship

Program, a new national initiative aimed at developing Australia's Indigenous director pipeline.

The AICD's ambition to develop a targeted program for First Nations leaders has been accelerated by a \$1 million grant provided by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), which will facilitate the delivery of governance training to 135 First Nations leaders over the coming three years.

The program will be delivered in partnership with the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute (AIGI) and The Observership Program and is an exciting opportunity for the AICD to collaborate with these organisations, to provide effective and culturally appropriate training that delivers world-class governance education and mentoring.

Scholarships will be awarded to Indigenous leaders in the community-controlled sector who have been nominated for their potential to transition into senior leadership roles including executive, c-suite and board positions.

AICD Managing Director and CEO Mark Rigotti said this was a groundbreaking program for the AICD and acknowledged the NIAA for its endorsement of such a significant initiative.

"This is a very important step in the AICD's stated ambition to increase the relevance and reach of our governance education and services for First Nations members and directors.

"We firmly believe it's through this type of program and especially with the strong emphasis on collaboration, that the AICD can make a serious and important contribution to increasing and advancing the level of First Nations representation in the board rooms of Australia."

Delivery partner AIGI is an Indigenous-led organisation that supports First Nations organisations and communities to strengthen sustainable systems of self-governance.

Your guide to employment

Welcome to the Koori Mail's Indigenous Job Opportunities section. Each edition we publish scores of employment advertisements from around the nation. To be part of this section, simply give our advertising staff Chris or Stuart a call on (02) 66 222 666, email advertising@koorimail.com or see our website – www.koorimail.com

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Murra Mia Aboriginal Corporation
Strengthening Aboriginal Tenancy Program

**Strengthening Aboriginal Tenancy Program
Team Leader - Full-Time**
Location- Batemans Bay

Overview of Program: The Strengthening Aboriginal Tenancy Program will provide tenancy support through local strategies to Aboriginal people with complex needs whose tenancies are at risk of failure. Support includes case management, advocacy, community outreach services and assisted referrals to other specialist support services to sustain new or existing tenancies.

Core Responsibility - To coordinate the activity of the Murra Mia Aboriginal Corporation Strengthening Aboriginal Tenancy Program (SATP), Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Shires. To promote a sound work team environment to support staff and clients in achieving the program's objectives. The team Leader will be required to carry a caseload of clients and perform the duties as described in the position description for Team Leader, Strengthening Aboriginal Tenancies Program, Eurobodalla, and Bega Valley Shires.

The Team Leader will work as part of a Senior Management team to provide practical supportive and specialist intervention to those who seek assistance from Murra Mia Aboriginal Corporation.

This is an identified position under Section 9A of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977. Male applicants are encouraged to apply.

Enquiries: Michelle Craig on 0457 798 647 or email: michelle.craig@aru.org.au

Closing date: 11 October 2023



MacKillop Family Services

Kickstart your career with us today

Exciting and rewarding career opportunities are available for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people working in WA, NT, ACT, NSW & VIC.

If you would like more information about working at MacKillop, contact us at indigenousjobs@mackillop.org.au

mackillop.org.au



Australia's National Science Agency

Indigenous Graduate Program

Join Australia's national science agency as a graduate in one of three streams.

Enterprise services: including finance, HR, communications and IT.

Research Development: pursue a research or scientific career and/or undertake an honours degree in a STEM field.

Research Fellow: become an independent researcher and pursue an MPhil or PhD.

Successful candidates in our Research Development and Research Fellowship streams are eligible for paid study leave to undertake relevant studies.

Roles available nationally.

Visit csiro.au/careers/impossiblewithoutyou for more information and to apply.
To enquire about the roles, contact Tommy Zeaiter Indigenouscareers@csiro.au.



2024 Trainee Legal Assistant Program

Are you a business administration / secretarial school graduate ready to kick-start your career? If so, applications for our 2024 Trainee Legal Assistant Program are opening on Monday 18 September 2023!

Our 9-month Trainee Legal Assistant Program provides you with:

- On-the-job training and development, with rotations through 3 different legal teams so you can experience what it's like to work in different areas of the firm.
- A comprehensive orientation and learning program.
- A dedicated buddy/coach within each of your 3 rotations who will teach and guide you when undertaking tasks and offer advice along the way.
- A dedicated Team Leader who will support and coach you through your entire program and beyond.

Upon successful completion of the program, you will be placed in a permanent Legal Assistant role within one of our legal teams.

Key program dates

- Applications open on Monday 18 September and close on Monday 16 October 2023
- Offers made 6 November 2023
- Trainee Legal Assistant Program commences on Monday 29 January 2024

Essential criteria

To be considered for our Trainee Legal Assistant Program, you will need:

- Certificate III in Business Administration, Advanced Diploma of Business (Legal Practice) or equivalent qualification. (Or applicable administration work experience)
- Excellent spelling and grammar
- Strong organisational skills and attention to detail

To apply please visit our website or contact **Thea Allen on +61 3 9672 3442** for a confidential discussion.




RANGER - POOL

Department For Environment and Water
Various locations across SA
Term and Ongoing contracts available
Vacancy No: 548452
\$57,842 - \$62,221 p.a. (OPS2)

Within the National Parks and Wildlife Service, under the direction of the Senior Ranger, the Ranger is responsible for contributing to the effective operational management of National Parks and Reserves. Core responsibilities surround the management of park conservation and wildlife values, supporting park visitors to ensure they enjoy a safe and memorable experience, supporting the maintenance and presentation of park facilities and assets, participation in fire and emergency response, and working with key partners, including park neighbours, conservation partners, volunteers, and Aboriginal communities.

Enquiries to:
DEW:Enquiries Ranger Pool
enquiriesrangerpool@sa.gov.au

To apply and for more information visit the I WORK FOR SA website: www.iworkfor.sa.gov.au and search by vacancy number.

Application Instructions:
Applicants are to submit a 2-page application letter addressing the key role outcomes outlined in the role description and a CV. Please complete a Pre-Employment Declaration.

Applications close:
11pm, Wednesday 27 September 2023

The South Australian Public Sector promotes diversity and flexible ways of working including part time. Applicants are encouraged to discuss the flexible working arrangement for this role.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.




VLA's Independent Mental Health Advocacy program (IMHA) are seeking First Nations Australians to provide representational advocacy to First Nations people.

- 2 x Full time ongoing positions
- Bendigo/Shepparton and Melbourne/ Dandenong locations
- Salary range: \$74,920 - \$96,952 plus super & salary packaging
- Culturally-aligned support with Cultural and Ceremonial leave, First Nations Staff Network, and VLA's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment strategy

We're seeking professionals with mental health consumer experience, &/or a background in community development, consumer advocacy, mental health advocacy, community sector advocacy, social work, mental health service provision and similar fields.

In this role you will provide representational advocacy to First Nations people at risk of or on compulsory treatment orders, help people understand and exercise their rights to assist in treatment, care and recovery. You will also provide expert advice to staff regarding engaging and working with First Nations communities.

This role works closely with IMHA and Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) staff, Aboriginal Community Engagement Officers, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service staff, as well as Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officers, Emotional and Social Wellbeing officers and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

Apply now at www.careers.vic.gov.au

For more info:

- Questions about the role: contact Helen Makregiorgos on (03) 9280 3708 or imhaadmin@imha.vic.gov.au.
- For more information about IMHA: www.imha.vic.gov.au
- Learn more about VLA's commitment to First Nations employment on the careers section of our website: <https://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-employment>



- Aboriginal identified position
- Permanent full-time opportunity
- Salary: \$75,356 – \$85,351 per year plus superannuation
- Location: Sydney city centre
- Option to work under a 19-day month arrangement

Our people are passionate about their communities and connected to their teams. They're motivated by our genuine commitment to diversity and inclusion, and our clear, compelling plan for our global city: Sustainable Sydney 2030 – 2050 Continuing the Vision.

Be part of a purpose-led organisation, with care at its core. You'll make a difference by acting in the best interests of our communities and city. Be better together with collaborative and inclusive partnerships. Embrace possibilities and be open to new ideas and creating bold solutions.

The people and culture team is looking for a workforce officer – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inclusion to improve employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

To be successful in this role, you will have:

- experience in workforce programs designed to support the employment, development and engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees.
- managed competing priorities, achieving tasks within strict timeframes and limited supervision.
- designed, developed or contributed to communication materials such as newsletters, flyers, PowerPoint presentations or templates.

This is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identified position which is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised under section 14(d) of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

For further information about this role or the application process, contact Sara Hamilton, workforce advisor – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inclusion on 0474 882 300 or shamilton2@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

To apply for this role please visit cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/careers

Apply online by 11.59pm, Sunday 8 October

CITY OF SYDNEY

WE ARE RECRUITING

- **Reconciliation Action Lead**
First Nations applicants
- **Programs and Services Officer Libraries**
First Nations applicants
- **Community Wellbeing Officer Libraries**
- **Senior Coordinator Community Inclusion**
- ... plus more.

For more information go to:
jobs.darwin.nt.gov.au



Exciting opportunities in parks maintenance

- **Permanent full-time positions**
- **Location: inner-city**
- **Option to work under a 19-day month arrangement**

Caring for our city, creating a future for all

Our people are passionate about their communities and connected to their teams. They're motivated by our genuine commitment to diversity and inclusion, and our clear, compelling plan for our global city: Sustainable Sydney 2030 – 2050 Continuing the Vision.

Be part of a purpose-led organisation, with care at its core. You'll make a difference by acting in the best interests of our communities and city. Be better together with collaborative and inclusive partnerships. Embrace possibilities and be open to new ideas and creating bold solutions.

The City of Sydney seeks motivated candidates to join our dedicated parks maintenance team. The team is responsible for the care and maintenance of over 400 parks, gardens, sports fields and open spaces in our local area.

Crew Member – 11 positions

Salary: \$64,311 per year plus superannuation

You'll help maintain parks and open spaces using equipment and hand tools to produce quality green spaces.

Gardener – 6 positions

Salary: \$72,822 per year plus superannuation

With qualifications in a related field, you'll supervise and mentor workers and apprentices to bring best practice horticulture and landscape services to our communities and local stakeholders.

For further information contact: Jeff Duncum, parks operations coordinator on 02 9265 9333

If you identify as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person and require support for your application contact Sara Hamilton, workforce advisor – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inclusion on 0474 882 300

To apply visit
cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/careers



Apply
online
by 11.59pm,
Sunday
8 October



Communities and Justice



Aboriginal Elder/ Mentor, Reintegration (Corrections)

- **Located at the Balund-a Program Mookima Wybra**
- **2 x Permanent Part-time Ongoing Positions**
- **Clerk Grade 5/6, \$93,295 to \$102,941 pa plus superannuation**
- **Contribute towards positive outcomes of Indigenous people**
- **Rewarding and unique career opportunity**
- **Inclusive Team Environment and Culture**

In this role you will be provide culturally-specific advice and support, to both residents and the multidisciplinary team.

Specialise in the development and delivery of Aboriginal identified offender groups in a culturally sensitive manner and encourages participation.

Supervision is implemented consistent with CSNSW mission of reduction of re-offending.

Closing Date: 11.59pm 6 October 2023 (closing date subject to change)

For more information about the role please contact: Tamara Duffy – Talent Acquisition on 0482 665 139.

To apply, visit jobs.dcj.nsw.gov.au and quote job reference number: **62860**



Project Officer Aboriginal Projects

The North Central Catchment Management Authority creates natural resource management partnerships and programs that deliver lasting change. We are seeking an engaging person to join our Environmental Water team.

The Project Officer will play an important role in collaborating, consulting and delivering projects which support First Nations People in relation to Natural Resource Management (NRM), including understanding their aspirations for delivering water and caring for Country.

They will assist to incorporate Traditional Owner knowledge, values, perspectives and objectives into the environmental water program and native fish recovery plan.

The successful candidate will have a passion for the environment and working with First Nations communities.

This position is for a fixed term period though until June 2024, and is part time (22-30 hours per week negotiable). We understand that life balance is an important part of our employees' lives and offer a wide range of flexible arrangements.

For more information further information contact Sophia Piscitelli, Project Manager on 0408 318 692.

For a copy of the position description or to apply, visit the Jobs and Tenders section of our website at www.nccma.vic.gov.au or contact HRManager@nccma.vic.gov.au.

Applications will be accepted until 4pm Friday 29 September.

Connecting rivers, landscapes, people

Join a small team of case workers in the SHLV program, PT 30-hours per week, 12-month parental leave cover at centre-based organisation.

Domestic & Family Violence Case Worker

(Identified Aboriginal) 12-month contract

- Become a part of a small team in the Domestic and Family Violence space and join a reputable not-for-profit centre-based organisation.
- Based in the beautiful Eastern Suburbs, Maroubra, 2035
- Part-time; 30 hours per week over 4 or 5 days, with flexible work hours
- Competitive above award pay rate of up to \$45.08 - \$48.50 + Super + access to NFP salary benefits (based on experience).

About our client

The Junction Neighbourhood Centre (JNC) provides a diverse range of community services and programs for the communities in Eastern Sydney, with a focus on people who are socially isolated, disadvantaged and vulnerable. As a not-for-profit organisation operating for nearly 50 years, the focus of our work is strengthening communities and creating connections. We have community centres in Maroubra, Glebe and Bondi Junction which provide community information and places for the community to meet and participate in a wide range of groups, classes and programs. We have capacity building projects targeting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and people who are socially isolated. We also offer specialised services for older people and their carers, for families with children under 13 and learning and development services for agencies in the region.

About the opportunity

Working in a collaborative team of caseworkers, this role involves enabling women who are experiencing Domestic & Family Violence to stay safely in their own home or home of their choice. This is done through case management, safety strategies and support for women in the local LGA.

The role involves:

- Day-to-day management of complex caseload of clients and management of new referrals
- Case management of clients in the Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV) program as per program guidelines including risk assessment, safety audits, and safety plans according to DV safety assessment tool.
- Assess, approve and monitor brokerage expenditure to provide security upgrades for clients
- Participate in the Womens Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service and local Safety Action Management (SAM) meetings
- Maintaining and growing key stakeholder relationships in the community
- Working collaboratively across the organisation and maintain referral pathways with other service providers
- A focus on providing cultural support for Aboriginal women and families who are experiencing DFV
- Work in a culturally supportive and safe organisation with mentorship opportunities available

This role could be right for you if you:

- Self-identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander woman.
- Bring experience working in the Family and Domestic Violence space or strong knowledge of working with women and children experience DFV
- Highly responsive and adaptable to handle a busy working environment
- Have qualifications in community service, case work or similar would be highly regarded.
- Bring a respectful, non-judgemental and collaborative working style
- Have highly developed written and oral communication skills

The right candidate must be able to work from the office, have a valid drivers license and be up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations. This role considers being a woman is a genuine occupational qualification for this position under s. 31 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW).

This is an opportunity you don't want to miss! APPLY now to be considered for the role and send through a current resume. Questions? Email me at Alessandro.Romeo@beaumontpeople.com.au

There is no closing date for this role, please apply as soon as possible as all applications will be reviewed as they are received.

At Beaumont People we believe a diverse workplace is a happy workplace, and we love working with organisations that feel the same way. We encourage applications from people of all different backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people from CALD backgrounds and people with disabilities. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, marital or parental status. Should you require a reasonable accommodation to be made for your application to be assessed we would be more than happy to discuss how that can be arranged.



Aboriginal Identified Aboriginal Field Officer Clerk Grade 5/6

- Package up to \$115,294 pa.
- Broken Hill, Temporary Full-Time up to 30 June 2024

We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed team member with experience in responding to the complex needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients. You should be able to communicate with people from a variety of backgrounds and with relevant stakeholders and service delivery partners.

Apply Online: [iworkfor.nsw.gov.au](https://www.iworkfor.nsw.gov.au)
Jobs NSW Ref. No. 00009YWU
Closing Date: Sunday, 15 October 2023 11:59pm
Enquiries: Steven Wright on (08) 8004 9750 or Steven.wright@legalaid.nsw.gov.au

Artwork: © Luke Penrith

Legal and Client Support Officer – Clerk Grade 3/4 Broken Hill

- Package up to \$96,924 pa.
- Broken Hill, Ongoing Full-Time

We are looking for a client focussed team member. Who will deliver consistent quality services in a high-volume environment. High-level communication skills and dealing with our clients and legal staff interactions. These interactions include reception, phone and legal administrative functions.

Apply Online: [iworkfor.nsw.gov.au](https://www.iworkfor.nsw.gov.au)
Jobs NSW Ref. No. 00009YMF
Closing Date: Sunday, 15 October 2023 11:59pm
Enquiries: Alison Couch on (08) 8004 9748 or Alison.Couch@legalaid.nsw.gov.au

Artwork: © Luke Penrith



Project Officer(Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Co-ordinator) Identified Position

An exciting opportunity in a new role working with the ODPP to ensure it is a culturally safe place to work.

This role will provide project management, co-ordination and support for the development and implementation of culturally informed projects relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment with the ODPP. This position will lead and support the implementation of a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment initiatives, projects, and strategies to respond to future challenges and ensure legislative and regulatory compliance and standards.

The Project Officer will be relied on by the Executive, Managers, HR and various Committee members to provide specialist advice including preparation of reports and briefs, coordinating resources, maintaining project documentation and implementing and monitoring project plans to ensure project outcomes are achieved.

Importantly the role will communicate with key internal and external stakeholders and coordinate working groups, committees and consultations to facilitate exchange of information and regularly check in with individual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff.

A talent pool will be created for future ongoing and temporary, full-time/part-time positions that may arise over the next 18 months.

Find out more & Apply: via jobs.odpp.nsw.gov.au, reference number 925
Inquiries: Nigel Richardson – Director Human Resources - (02) 9285 2549
Closing date: Monday 2nd October 2023 (11:59pm)

Sydney Local Health District



Aboriginal Mental Health Liaison Officer

Location: Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH)
Classification: Aboriginal Health Worker
Employment Type: Temporary Full-Time up to July 2024

Salary: \$1,090.40 to \$1,606.00 per week plus Superannuation

Enquiries: Merryn Sheather on 0477 755 951 or via email at Merryn.Sheather@health.nsw.gov.au
Anna McGowan on 0476 495 168 or via email at Anna.McGowan@health.nsw.gov.au
Closing Date: 4 October 2023

This is an Identified Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander Position. Applicants for this position must be of Aboriginal descent through parentage, identification as being Aboriginal and being accepted in the community as such. Exemption is claimed under Section 14 of the Anti Discrimination Act 1977.

To apply visit jobs.health.nsw.gov.au
Search for Job Reference Number: **REQ432648**

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

Aboriginal Targeted - Solicitor - Legal Officer I-III - Criminal Law Division

- Package up to \$140,584 pa.
- Coffs Harbour, Gosford & Tamworth
- Ongoing & Temporary Full-Time

We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed team member who is passionate about the provision of legal services to disadvantaged people in the criminal justice system. Applicants should be hardworking, a team player and a desire to learn new skills as well as expanding upon existing strengths.

Apply Online: [iworkfor.nsw.gov.au](https://www.iworkfor.nsw.gov.au)
Jobs NSW Ref. No. 00009YJ7
Closing Date: Wednesday, 4 October 2023 11:59pm
Enquiries: Rachel Howell on (02) 6766 6322 or Rachel.Howell@legalaid.nsw.gov.au

Artwork: © Luke Penrith

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Join us at the Caloundra CSSC

The Caloundra Child Safety Service Centre is positioned in the Sunshine Coast on Gubbi Gubbi Country and only a stones throw away from the beautiful Kings Beach.

We have an opportunity for a Child Safety Officer to join our team. Caloundra CSSC is an Early Adopter site for Delegated Authority, which is a process that enables one or more functions or powers of the Director-General of DCSSDS under the Child Protection Act 1999 to be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation, for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child.

This is an exciting opportunity to:

- Make change and inform culturally safe practice responses
- Work towards reconciliation
- Experience the benefits of EIRC
- New insights and career opportunities
- Meet new friends

Don't Delay
Your application, your next adventure
Awaits!

Apply online
<https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-411352-22>
or contact Caloundra Child Safety Service Centre
Ph: 07 5438 5400
and have a chat with Claire (Manager)

Ministry of Health

Help keep our mob
healthy and well.



Join the Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) Aboriginal Advisory Group to help shape the delivery of our Strategy.

Time commitment: Two-hour meeting during business hours every six weeks. And approximately two hours of preparation per meeting. (For one year initially).

Reimbursement: Members are reimbursed for their time in line with NSW Health guidelines.

Location: NSW Ministry of Health, St Leonards, or virtual.

About the role

The HEAL Aboriginal Advisory Group is seeking two Aboriginal community members who are experienced working with community or health organisations. Experience on an Advisory Group, Board and/or knowledge of the health system is desirable but not essential.

You will provide ongoing input and advice to help shape policy and delivery of our Strategy to keep people healthy and well over the next decade with a focus on supporting Aboriginal people. This is a key step to ensuring policy and program design is culturally safe, appropriate, and meets the needs of Aboriginal people in NSW.

Applications close Wednesday 11 October 2023 11:59pm AEST

To submit your Expression of Interest please fill out the form by visiting <https://forms.office.com/r/M0kswyMJUe>

For more information about this role please contact Aaron Simon: aaron.simon@health.nsw.gov.au or (02) 9461 7861

For more information on the HEAL Strategy please visit health.nsw.gov.au/heal/Pages/nsw-healthy-eating-strategy.aspx

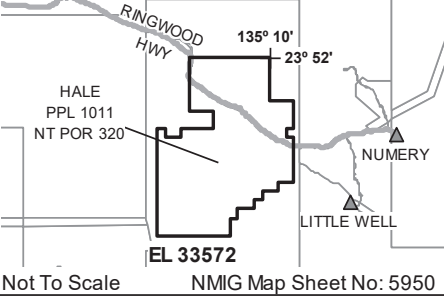
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION LICENCES

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

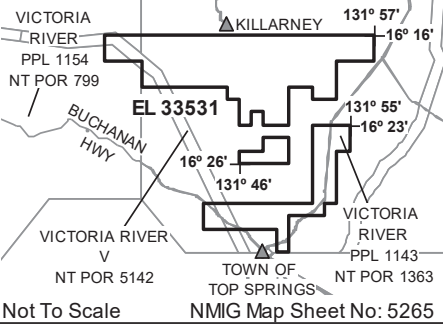
The Honourable Nicole Manison MLA, the Northern Territory Minister for Mining and Industry, C/- Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) of her intent to do an act, namely to grant the following exploration licence applications.

Applications to which this notice applies:

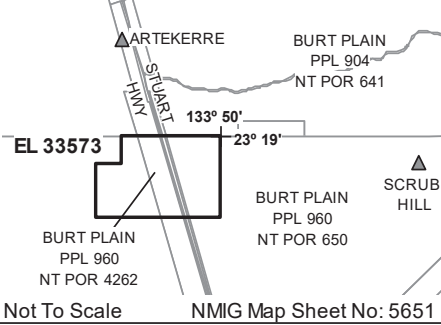
Exploration Licence 33572 sought by BROKEAGEDIRECT PTY LTD, ACN 629 383 357 over an area of 250 Blocks (785 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the LIMBLA locality.



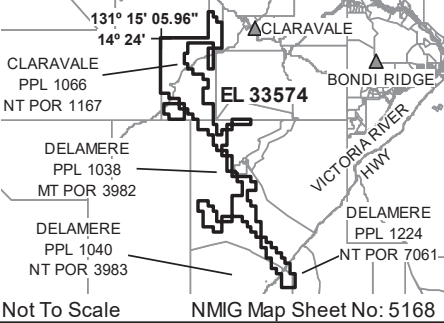
Exploration Licence 33531 sought by ANTHONY WRIGHT, over an area of 129 Blocks (425 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the KILLARNEY locality.



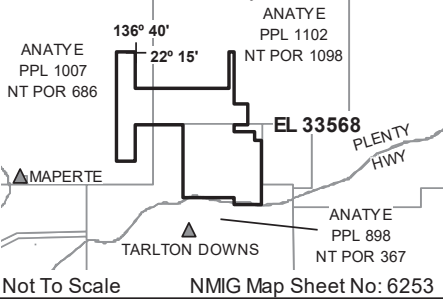
Exploration Licence 33573 sought by PAUL RICHARD MATSON, over an area of 14 Blocks (45 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the BURT locality.



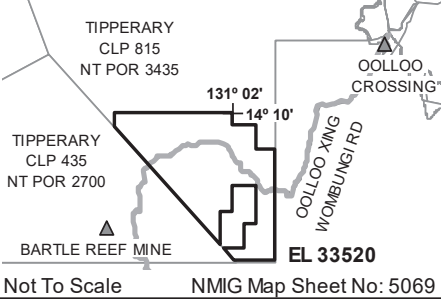
Exploration Licence 33574 sought by COPPEROZ PTY LTD, ACN 603 957 124 over an area of 250 Blocks (821 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the FLORA locality.



Exploration Licence 33568 sought by LITCHFIELD MINERALS PTY LTD, ACN 612 660 429 over an area of 250 Blocks (794 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the ALGAMBA locality.



Exploration Licence 33520 sought by PEREGIAN MINERALS PTY LTD, ACN 656 661 586 over an area of 104 Blocks (304 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the WINGATE MOUNTAINS locality.



Nature of act(s): The grant of an exploration licence under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* authorises the holder to conduct activities in connection with exploration for minerals for a term not exceeding 6 years and to seek renewal(s). The term for which it is intended to grant the mineral exploration licences referred to in this notice commences from the date of grant. Further information about the act may be obtained from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, GPO Box 4550 Darwin NT 0801 or Centrepoint Building 48-50 Smith Street Darwin NT 0800, telephone (08) 8999 5322.

Native Title Parties: Any person who is, or becomes a "native title party" within the meaning of the *Native Title Act 1993* is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2, Division 3, Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993*. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries concerning becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Brisbane QLD 4001, or telephone (07) 3307 5000.

Expedited Procedure: The Northern Territory Government considers that the acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure as defined in section 237 of the *Native Title Act 1993*. The exploration licences referred to in this notice may be granted unless an objection is made by a native title party to the statement that the act is one which attracts the expedited procedure. Such an objection must be made to the National Native Title Tribunal within 4 months of the notification day.

Notification Day: 20 September 2023

Authorisation Meeting

THIS NOTICE INVITES biological blood descendants of the following ancestors to attend a native title authorisation meeting at the time, date, and location below:

1. Ni:ju (Mother of Yimbudda and Binghy)
2. Yimbudda (Mother of Kungura)
3. Kungura (Father of Robyn Wells, Milton Wells (dec), Victor (dec), Fiona Wells (dec). Brenda Wells, Audrey Wells, Leonard Wells. Charmaine Wells referred to in this notice as the newly described native title group.

DATE: Tuesday, 26 September 2023
TIME: 9:30am
registration commencing at 9:00am
registration will be open until 9:30am
VENUE: Overlander Motel, 566 Hannan Street, Somerville KALGOORLIE WA 6430

The purpose of the Authorisation Meeting is to, after receiving information, legal advice, consider whether to authorise a native title determination application (Proposed Application) seeking determination application recognition of native title rights and

interests over the lands and waters generally described as the land and waters over the Lake Rason area of the Great Victoria Desert Western Australia.

The preceding description and map are indicative only and the precise boundary of the claim will be decided at the Authorisation Meeting.

It is proposed that at the Authorisation Meeting the following will be authorised.

- a) The making and naming of the Proposed Application.
- b) The terms and conditions of appointment of the Application to make the Proposed Application and deal with matters arising in relation to it under the NTA; and
- d) Provision of assistance and legal representation to the native title claim group in relation to the Proposed Application

Contact Person: Leonard Wells-ph:0447 039 651-
email:leonardwells164@gmail.com



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Saving Lives

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Suicide Prevention.

13 11 14

Registration of Interest

Aboriginal Community Consultation

Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010

Regis Resources Ltd are conducting an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed development of an Electricity Transmission Line (ETL) as part the McPhillamys Gold Project. The proposed ETL is approximately 16 km in length, running from McPhillamys Gold Mine, near Blayney, connecting to the existing 132 KV transmission line to the north-east. Regis Resources Ltd is seeking to consult with Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places in the area associated with the ETL through a process of community consultation regarding the proposed activity.

The purpose of the consultation is to assist Regis Resources Ltd in the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to assist the Department of Planning and Environment in their determination of the development.

Regis Resources Ltd invites registrations of interest in the community consultation from Aboriginal persons or groups who may hold cultural knowledge of, or who have a right or interest in, the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the proposed activity.

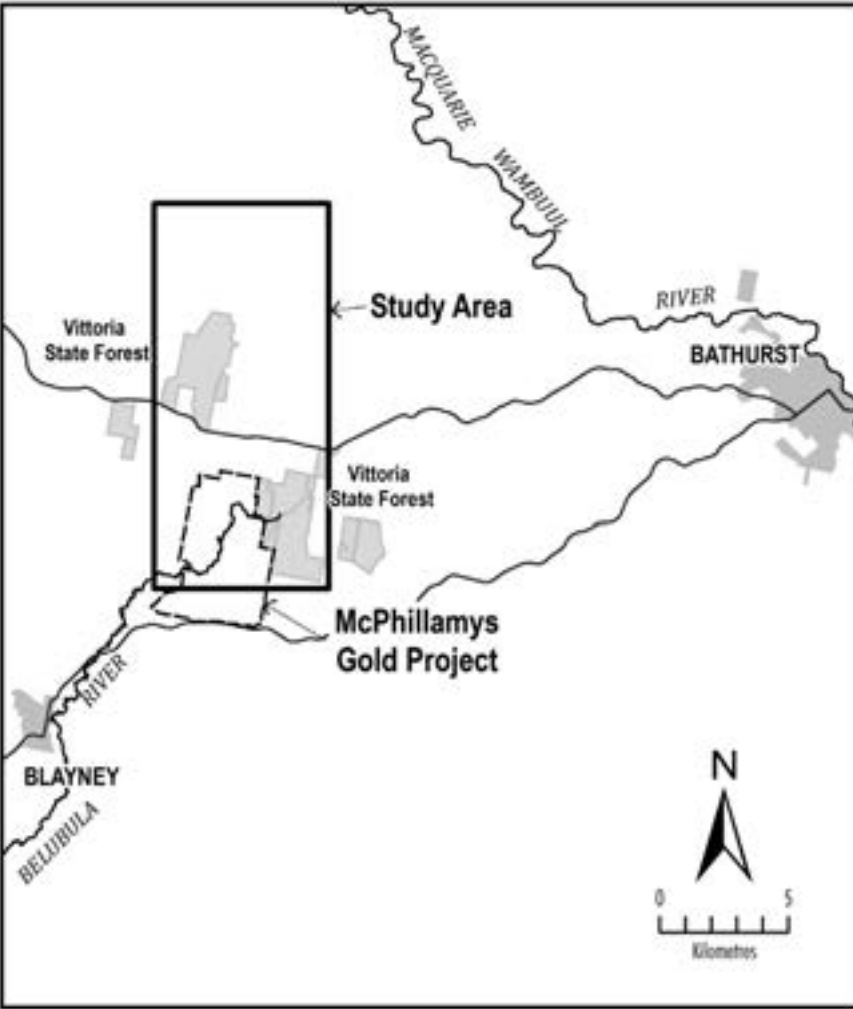
All registrations of interest for the project must be received by 5 pm Friday 6 October 2023. Please register in writing to:

Jamie Reeves
Niche Environment and Heritage
Email: jreeves@niche-eh.com
Ph: 02 9630 5658

Regis Resources Ltd can be contacted via:

Danielle Wallace
Health, Safety and Environment Manager
Regis Resources Ltd
Email: dwallace@regisresources.com
Ph: 02 6368 4100

Please note that the names of Aboriginal persons and groups who register an interest will be forwarded to Heritage NSW, and the Orange and Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Councils unless the person or group specifies that they do not want their details released.





Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project

Notice and registration of Aboriginal interests

Transgrid is proposing a new 330 kilovolt (kV) electricity transmission line between Mount Piper and Wallerawang in the Lithgow Local Government Area, NSW to transmit power from renewable energy generators in the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone to the Sydney basin.

The key elements of the project include:

- A new 8-kilometre, double circuit 330 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and support structures between the existing substations at Mount Piper and Wallerawang.
- Removal of some redundant wooden structures supporting the existing 132 kV transmission line within the same corridor.
- Widening the existing easement from 45 metres to 60 metres to accommodate the new 330 kV transmission line and the existing 132 kV transmission line.
- Upgrading existing access tracks and installing new tracks to provide access to the project area.
- Other ancillary works at the two substations to facilitate the project.

Transgrid and OzArk Environment & Heritage are seeking registrations of interest from Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the vicinity of the project. The purpose of consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist Transgrid to prepare an environmental impact assessment for the project.

Following registrations of interest, we will work with the registered Aboriginal people to determine our preferred consultation approach and assessment methodology over the coming months.

You can register your interest by writing (email or letter) to:

Catherine Burrowes
OzArk Environment & Heritage
145 Wingewarra St
Dubbo NSW 2830

Telephone: 02 68820118
Email: catherine@ozarkehm.com.au

**Registrations must be received by
close of business 5 October 2023.**



NOTICE TO GRANT AMALGAMATION APPLICATIONS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following amalgamation applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Exploration No.	Applicant	Amalg No	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
38/3656	RICHMOND, William Robert	680568	2.61HA	107.7km N'ly of Laverton	Lat: 27° 39' S: Long: 122° 14' E	LAVERTON SHIRE

Nature of the act : Grant of amalgamation applications which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals.

Notification day: 20 September 2023

Native title parties: Under Section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to the applications. The 3 month period closes on **20 December 2023**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100.

Expedited procedure: The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each amalgamation application may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **20 January 2024**), a native title party lodges an objection with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of the licence is an act attracting the expedited procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, or GPO Box 9973, Perth, WA 6848, telephone (08) 9425 1000.

For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

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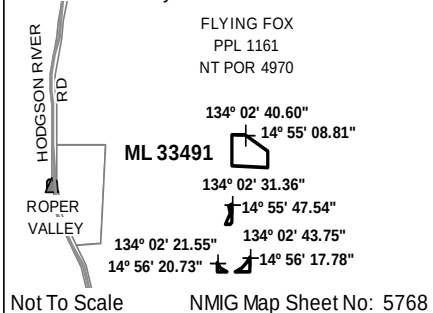
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF MINERAL LEASE

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Honourable Nicole Manison MLA, Northern Territory Minister for Mining and Industry C/- Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth)* of her intent to do an act namely to grant the following mineral title application.

The application to which this notice applies:

Mineral Lease 33491 sought by AUSTRALIAN ILMENITE RESOURCES PTY LIMITED, ACN 093 419 311 over an area of 40 Hectares depicted below for a term of 4 years, within the CHAPMAN locality.



Nature of act(s): The grant of a mineral lease under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* authorises the holder to explore and mine for minerals including (but not limited to) the processing and the removal of minerals from the lease area and the treatment of tailings or other mining material the property of the Crown on the lease area, including any extractive minerals for or in connection with any of the purposes specified in the lease document for a term the Minister thinks fit and to seek renewals. The term for which it is intended to grant the mineral lease commences from the date of grant. Further information about the act may be obtained from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801 or Centrepont Building 48-50 Smith Street Darwin NT 0800, telephone (08) 8999 5322.

Native Title Parties: Any person who is, or becomes a "native title party" within the meaning of the *Native Title Act 1993* is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2, Division 3, Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993*. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries concerning becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Brisbane QLD 4001, or telephone (07) 3307 5000.

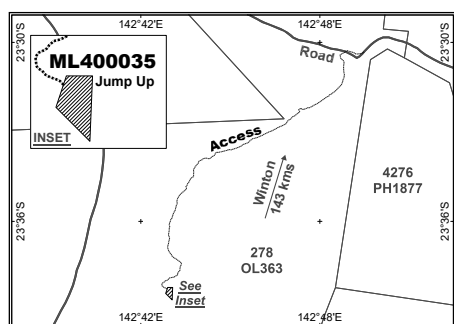
Notification Day: 20 September 2023

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF MINING LEASE

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Resources, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* of the proposed grant of Mining Lease (ML) 400035 shown below under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)*.

ML 400035 sought by Noel Edward KERR, over an area of 20 ha, centred approximately 143 km south southwest of Winton, in the locality of Winton Shire Council.



Nature of Act(s): The grant of a Mining Lease under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)* authorises the holder to mine and carry out associated activities subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)* for a term not exceeding ten (10) years, with the possibility of renewals for terms not exceeding ten (10) years.

Name and address of person doing acts: It is proposed that the Mining Lease be granted subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)* by the Queensland Minister for Resources, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

Native Title Parties: Under the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* any person who is a 'native title party' is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed grant of a Mining Lease. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until three (3) months after the Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000.

Telephone: 1300 720 980 or Email: nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au. Enquiries in relation to the registration of a native title determination application may be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Brisbane Registry, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

Further Information: Further information about the proposed grant of the Mining Lease, including extract of plans showing the boundaries of the Mining Lease Application may be obtained from the Department of Resources, Mining Registrar, Small Scale Mining Assessment Hub, 99 Hospital Road, Emerald, Queensland, 4720. Telephone: (07) 3078 3031 or Email: SSMHub@resources.qld.gov.au

Notification Day: 4 October 2023



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PUBLIC NOTICE



Sea Country Consultation

Beach Energy is inviting consultation with First Nations Peoples who may have an interest in Sea Country in Beach's offshore project areas. Beach supplies the Australian east-coast gas market through production at the Otway Gas Plant near Port Campbell and the Lang Lang Gas Plant 80km south-east of the Melbourne CBD.

As Australia continues its transition to more renewable energy sources there is still demand for natural gas from homes, business and industry. To continue meeting this need, Beach has commenced planning and consultation for its Offshore Gas Victoria (OGV) Project.

Activities and Timing

Activities will occur in existing production and exploration licenses held by Beach and will include seabed assessments (non-seismic), removing suspended wells, drilling and connecting new wells to existing pipelines. Starting from early 2024, activities will be run over different phases through to late 2026. The project and all timings are subject to final internal and regulatory approvals, vessel availability and weather conditions. There are several locations south of Port Campbell and in Bass Strait, as shown on the project maps (see QR code below).

Environment Plans

The OGV Project will require Environment Plans to be approved by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) before activities can start.

Environment Plans must include:

- a description of the proposed activities
- a description of the natural environment including the social, economic and cultural features
- evaluation of the impacts and risks
- any measures to reduce impacts and risks that were identified during consultation
- environmental performance outcomes and controls
- implementation strategy and reporting requirements
- a description of how consultation was carried out with relevant persons whose functions, interests and activities may be affected by the project activities.

An important part of developing an Environmental Plan is consulting and obtaining feedback from people with a cultural connection to Sea Country through Indigenous tradition.

Consultation

Beach aims to conduct transparent and respectful consultations with First Nations groups, and other relevant persons.

If you consider your functions, interests or activities may be affected we would like to consult with you to understand your concerns and where possible, to explore measures to reduce any impacts and risks.

We are required to share consultation records with NOPSEMA, however you can tell us if any cultural information that you share with us is sensitive and it won't be published in the Environment Plan.

If you know of other community members who may be interested or affected by the proposed activities, please ask them to contact us via our dedicated First Nations Engagement Manager, Candice on community@beachenergy.com.au

Further Information

Project information sheets, activity location maps and further information on consultation can be accessed via the QR code below.

P 1800 797 011

E community@beachenergy.com.au

beachenergy.com.au



READ MORE

GD23-0214

PUBLIC NOTICE

DHUDHURUA, WAYWURRU AND NGURAI ILLUM NATIVE TITLE AUTHORISATION MEETING

21 October 2023, Novotel Melbourne Preston

Background

Massar Briggs Law is convening a meeting for all Aboriginal People who assert native title rights and interests in the area of land and waters depicted in the **map below (Proposed Claim Area)**. The meeting is being convened to discuss and authorise the making of a joint Native Title Determination Application for the Dhudhuroa, Waywurrurru and Ngurai Illum People over the area depicted in the Proposed Claim Area.

THIS NOTICE INVITES all Aboriginal People who assert native title rights and interests in the Proposed Claim Area to attend a meeting to authorise a Native Title Determination Application, being the descendants of the following apical ancestors (**Proposed Native Title Claim Group**):

1. Charles Tattambo (c. 1790 – 1868), grandfather of Lizzy Davis nee Murchison/Eylett (b.1857-60-d.1957), Hughie Anderson (c.1844-56 – d.1928)
2. Nelson also known as Tro-Bullock (active 1840s) (married to Nora also known as Wannanee, parents of John Terrick)
3. Tooterie
4. Lydia Briggs (nee Beaton, nee Edmunds) (c.1851 – 1885)
5. King Brangy Brangy/Bangui/Brankey (early 1800s), father of Kate Brangy (c. 1856 – 1918), Edith also known as Ada Brangy (c. 1866 – 1904) and Amelia Brangy (d. 1973)
6. Mary Ann Brewer (nee Barbour) (c. 1844 – 1910)
7. Maggie Nelson, nee Stone alias McDonald, and her grandfather King Billy Elengeist
8. John Pierce Jr (c. 1839-41 – 1877)
9. Mary (early 1800s), mother of Mary Jane Andrew (c.1856 – 1945)
10. Jinny Cooper (Jilibino) also known as Jenny Mutton also known as Jane Cooper (c. 1828-1838 – 1884)
11. Jane Lee
12. Maggie Simms (died 1878)

Any person who is or may be a Descendant/member of the Proposed Native Title Claim Group should attend whether or not they have an ancestor listed above. For any queries or further information, please do not hesitate to contact Tara Rosenberg at Massar Briggs Law on 03 9653 9040 or tara@massarbriggslaw.com.au.

Information Session:

WHEN: 21 October 2023

WHERE: Novotel Melbourne Preston, 215 Bell Street, Preston VIC 3072, Australia

TIME: 9:00am – 12:00pm

AUTHORISATION MEETING

WHEN: 21 October 2023

WHERE: Novotel Melbourne Preston, 215 Bell Street, Preston VIC 3072, Australia

TIME: 1:30pm – 4:30pm

Purpose

The purpose of the Authorisation Meeting is to authorise a Dhudhuroa, Waywurrurru and Ngurai Illum Native Title Claim.

Decisions to make at this meeting include:

- What decision-making process to use to authorise the claim
- Agreeing on key details of the native title claim
- Choosing and authorising the Applicant for the claim, and putting conditions on their authority
- Anything else raised at the meeting about a native title claim over the proposed claim area.

Proxies

Those people who are and may be eligible to attend but are unable to do so may request a proxy voting form from Massar Briggs Law.

Attending the Meeting

The Authorisation Meeting will be held in person at the Novotel Melbourne Preston. If you wish to attend the meeting, please contact Tara Rosenberg at Massar Briggs Law on 03 9653 9040 or tara@massarbriggslaw.com.au by no later than **5pm on Friday 13 October 2023**.

For those attending the meeting, accommodation assistance may be available. Please contact Massar Briggs Law (details above) for accommodation assistance no later than 5pm on Friday 13 October 2023. Please note that if you do not contact Massar Briggs Law by Friday 13 October 2023, Massar Briggs Law cannot guarantee we will be able to assist with accommodation arrangements – although you would still be more than welcome to attend the meeting.

Morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea will be provided at the venue.



Relevant Person Consultation:

ConocoPhillips Australia Otway Exploration Drilling Program

ConocoPhillips Australia is continuing to develop an Environment Plan for the proposed offshore Otway Exploration Drilling Program that consists of seabed surveys and the drilling of up to six exploration wells in exploration permits VIC/P79 and T/49P, located in Commonwealth waters.

ConocoPhillips Australia is releasing draft Environment Plan chapters to support consultation and has extended consultation on the proposed activity until **30 September 2023**, after which time we will pause consultation so we can collate a submission to NOPSEMA for public comment and assessment. Relevant persons can view the draft Environment Plan chapters and information on how to provide feedback via the consultation hub by scanning the QR code below or can request copies of the draft chapters and other relevant information, by contacting ConocoPhillips Australia.

We are asking relevant persons to provide feedback by **30 September 2023**.



The Environmental Planning Area covers the area assessed within the Environment Plan and encompasses a wide range of habitats and marine species, cultural values and socio-economic activities



SCAN HERE

For more information:

E: otway@conocophillips.com

T: 07 3182 7122

conocophillips.com.au



Australian Government
Australian Heritage Council

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO A NATIONAL HERITAGE LISTING: WAVE HILL WALK OFF ROUTE

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Australian Heritage Council is proposing amendments to the **Wave Hill Walk Off Route** National Heritage listing to correct factual errors in the listing. The National Heritage List recognises places that are of outstanding significance to the nation for their natural, Indigenous and/or historic heritage values.

The Australian Heritage Council, on community advice, proposes to change the date of the Walk Off from the **22nd of August 1966 to the 23rd of August 1966**. Further to this, parts of the Buchanan and Buntine highways that relate to the Walk Off Route have been renamed. The Council proposes amendments to the listing to correlate the historical route to contemporary maps. The Council's initial assessment concludes that all of these proposed amendments do not alter the National Heritage listed values of the place.

Comments are invited on these proposed amendments to the Wave Hill Walk Off Route listing. Further information is available by contacting the Australian Heritage Council at heritage@dcceew.gov.au. The Wave Hill Walk Off National Heritage listing can be accessed via the Australian Heritage Database, <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl>.

Contact us

Please provide any written comments by **5:00 PM AEST on 2 November 2023**.

Australian Heritage Council
GPO Box 3090
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Or by email to: heritage@dcceew.gov.au

All comments will be provided to the Minister for the Environment for consideration when making her decision on whether or not the proposed amendments alter the heritage values of the National Heritage Listing.

2343SD_4230



13 11 14

NGUJIMA-YIN FLOATING PRODUCTION STORAGE AND OFFLOADING FACILITY OPERATIONS AND PYRENEES FACILITY OPERATIONS ENVIRONMENT PLANS

For more than 35 years, Woodside has been developing and operating LNG and oil projects in Australia. Our focus is the safety, reliability, efficiency and environmental performance of our operations and activities.

Woodside consults so that feedback from relevant persons is considered and used to inform the revision of two operations Environment Plans for the **Ngujima-Yin Floating Production Storage and Offloading Facility Operations** and **Pyrenees Facility Operations**.

Our activities

Woodside plans to continue producing crude oil at the Pyrenees and Ngujima-Yin Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) facilities and is submitting a five-year revision to the operational Environment Plans. The Environment Plans for the Pyrenees FPSO and Ngujima-Yin FPSO facilities will cover operations including offloading and associated activities, inspection, maintenance, monitoring, and repair of the FPSOs and subsea infrastructure, disconnection and sail-away of the FPSO facilities when required, and production from two proposed additional wells from the Ngujima-Yin FPSO.

The Pyrenees FPSO is located about 45 km northwest of Exmouth, Western Australia. Production began in 2010 and is scheduled to end in 2035. The Ngujima-Yin FPSO is about 50 km, northwest of Exmouth, Western Australia. Production began in 2008 and is scheduled to end in 2028.

We are seeking input from relevant persons whose functions, interests or activities may be affected by continued operations.

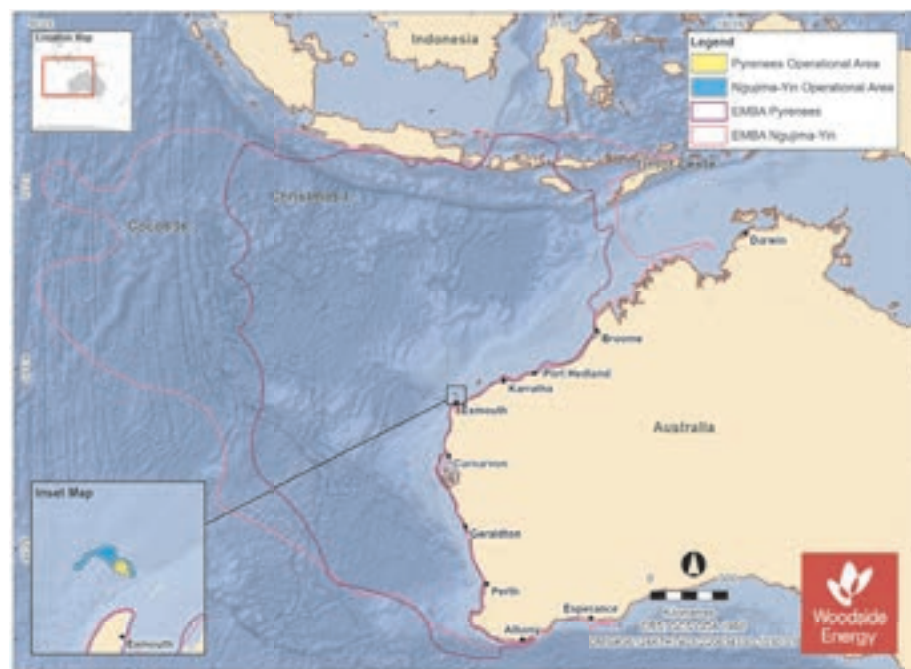
The environment that may be affected (EMBA)

The EMBA is the largest area where activities could potentially have a direct or indirect impact. The broadest extent of the EMBA takes into consideration planned and unplanned activities, and for these two Environmental Plans, is determined by modelling a highly unlikely release of hydrocarbons from loss of well control or a vessel collision with the FPSO with enough force to breach the hull.

The EMBA represents the merged area of many possible modelled paths that a highly unlikely hydrocarbon release could travel if left unmitigated and depending on the weather and ocean conditions at the time of the release. This means in the highly unlikely event a hydrocarbon release does occur, the whole EMBA will not be affected.

We want to hear from you

If you are an individual, organisation or community group and believe your functions, interests or activities may be impacted by our activities, we would like to hear from you by **Friday, 27 October 2023** to identify you as a relevant person.



Want to know more or provide input?

A feedback form and more information can be found at:
www.woodside.com/sustainability/consultation-activities.

You can also subscribe via our website to receive future information on upcoming activities.

E: Feedback@woodside.com

Toll free: 1800 442 977

woodside.com





NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	38/3860	LEGENDRE, Bruce Robert	70BL	165.8km E'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 26° 37' S: Long: 121° 53' E	WILUNA SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.
Notification day: 20 September 2023
Native title parties: Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The 3 month period closes on **20 December 2023**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100. The mining tenements may be granted if, by the end of the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **20 January 2024**), there is no native title party under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* in relation to the area of the mining tenements.
For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.
* - 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km²

DMIRS 17765



NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	09/2823	OCTAVA MINERALS LIMITED	31BL	130.5km N'ly of Mullewa	Lat: 27° 21' S: Long: 115° 34' E	MURCHISON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/2013	LODESTAR MINERALS LIMITED	20BL	9.4km W'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 56' S: Long: 121° 3' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	20/1058&1060	NEMEX PTY LTD	106BL	42.2km N'ly of Cue	Lat: 27° 3' S: Long: 117° 59' E	CUE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	27/720	ALTARE CAPITAL PTY LTD	5BL	54.2km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 31' S: Long: 121° 58' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	27/722	ALTARE CAPITAL PTY LTD	7BL	43.8km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 34' S: Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	28/3306	CARAWINE RESOURCES LIMITED	9BL	196.3km N'ly of Balladonia	Lat: 30° 42' S: Long: 124° 10' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	31/1360	DISCOVEX RESOURCES LIMITED	4BL	36.6km E'ly of Edjudina	Lat: 29° 50' S: Long: 122° 44' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3725	JINDALEE RESOURCES LIMITED	1BL	28.4km S'ly of Laverton	Lat: 28° 52' S: Long: 122° 27' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3815	SALDARIS, Jim	2BL	41.5km SE'ly of Laverton	Lat: 28° 57' S: Long: 122° 36' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	39/2287	TATTERSON, Timothy Vincent	4BL	61.9km SE'ly of Leonora	Lat: 29° 12' S: Long: 121° 51' E	LEONORA SHIRE, MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	39/2405	SOLSTICE MINERALS LIMITED	16BL	36.5km N'ly of Edjudina	Lat: 29° 29' S: Long: 122° 24' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1397&1399	OMNI GEOX PTY LTD	131BL	45.4km NE'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 39' S: Long: 119° 34' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	69/3865	NORTHAMPTON MINING PTY LTD	20BL	126.4km N'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 25° 27' S: Long: 120° 14' E	WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	69/4181	DEEP VENTURES PTY LTD	42BL	247.4km W'ly of Eucla	Lat: 31° 30' S: Long: 126° 17' E	DUNDAS SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/6519	CAPRICE RESOURCES LTD	48BL	15.9km N'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat: 30° 46' S: Long: 118° 10' E	MOUNT MARSHALL SHIRE, MUKINBUDIN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/6520	CAPRICE RESOURCES LTD	19BL	44.5km NW'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat: 30° 38' S: Long: 117° 52' E	MOUNT MARSHALL SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/2914	MINING EQUITIES PTY LTD	4BL	52.4km NE'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 48' S: Long: 119° 34' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6822	FORTUNA RESOURCES PTY LTD	9.70HA	6.3km N'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 53' S: Long: 121° 9' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6825-6828	FOCUS OPERATIONS PTY LTD	750.2HA	9.9km N'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 52' S: Long: 121° 11' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3424	COMPLETE PROSPECTING PTY LTD	162.84HA	24.5km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 22' S: Long: 120° 48' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3430	CLARK, Michael	198.96HA	25.1km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 33' S: Long: 120° 54' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5676	GOLDTIMERS PROSPECTING PTY LTD	175.96HA	16.6km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 19' S: Long: 120° 53' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5686	ARMSTRONG, Jason Thomas	117.97HA	11.9km W'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 27' S: Long: 121° 12' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4705-4706	ASRA MINERALS LIMITED	339.4HA	25.6km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 1' S: Long: 121° 50' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4707-4708	ASRA MINERALS LIMITED	264.1HA	24.7km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 1' S: Long: 121° 48' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2563-S	GERVASONI, Gary John	6.68HA	22.7km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 24' S: Long: 121° 33' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	29/2686	HENDERSON, Courtney Jade	110.53HA	9.1km SE'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 44' S: Long: 121° 6' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	39/6426	NUTLEY, Bree	96.87HA	61.2km N'ly of Edjudina	Lat: 29° 16' S: Long: 122° 14' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	57/1527	COMPLETE PROSPECTING PTY LTD	198.94HA	57.6km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 29' S: Long: 119° 7' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of Special Prospecting Licences, which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term up to 4 years from the date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.
Notification day: 20 September 2023
Native title parties: Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The 3 month period closes on **20 December 2023**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100.
Expedited procedure: The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each licence may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **20 January 2024**), a native title party lodges an objection with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of the licence is an act attracting the expedited procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, or GPO Box 9973, Perth, WA 6848, telephone (08) 9425 1000.
For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.
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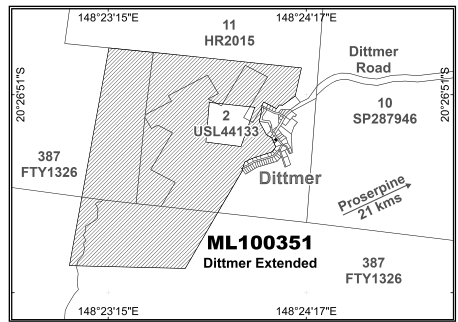
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NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF A MINING LEASE

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Resources, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed grant of Mining Lease (ML) 100351 shown below under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

Mining Lease 100351 sought by BALLYMORE RESOURCES LIMITED, ACN 632 893 611, over an area of 272.32 ha, centred approximately 21 km southwest of Proserpine, in the locality of Whitsunday Regional Council.



Nature of Act(s): The grant of a Mining Lease under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) authorises the holder to mine and carry out associated activities subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) for a term not exceeding fifteen (15) years, with the possibility of renewals for terms not exceeding fifteen (15) years.

Name and address of person doing acts: It is proposed that the Mining Leases be granted subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) by the Queensland Minister for Resources, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

Native Title Parties: Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) any person who is a "native title party" is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed grant of Mining Lease. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after the Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: 1300 720 980 or Email: nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au. Enquiries in relation

to the registration of a native title determination application may be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Brisbane Registry, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

Further Information: Further information about the proposed grant of a Mining Lease, including extract of plans showing the boundaries of the Mining Lease Applications may be obtained from the Department of Resources, Mining Registrar, Mineral Assessment Hub, Level 9, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders Street, Townsville, Queensland, 4810. Telephone: (07) 4447 9230 or Email: MineralHub@resources.qld.gov.au.

Notification Day: 4 October 2023.



North Queensland Land Council Native Title Representative Body Aboriginal Corporation



NOTICE OF A NATIVE TITLE AUTHORISATION MEETING THE DJABUGAY NATION (QUD692/2016) CLAIM GROUP COMPRISING THE DJABUGAY, BULWAY, YIRRGANYDJI, NYAKALI AND GULUY PEOPLES

An Information Session and an Authorisation Meeting for the Djabugay Nation comprising of the Djabugay, Bulway, Yirrganydji, Nyakali and Guluy Peoples, will be held by the North Queensland Land Council as follows:

Information Session	Authorisation Meeting
Date: Thursday, 28 September 2023 Time: 9:00am to 5:00pm Venue: Rydges Esplanade Resort 209-217 Abbott Street, Cairns Qld 4870	Date: Friday, 29 September 2023 Time: 9:00 to 5:00pm Venue: Rydges Esplanade Resort 209-217 Abbott Street, Cairns Qld 4870

AUTHORISATION MEETING

PURPOSE: This meeting is an additional meeting that will consider the same issues as were considered at the 8 August 2023 meetings.

This meeting is called to consider the important question as to whether or not the **Djabugay Nation (QUD692/2016) claim** comprising the Djabugay, Bulway, Yirrganydji, Nyakali and Guluy Peoples should be **COMBINED** with the **Yirrganydji (Irukandji) People (QUD14/2019)** and **Yirrganydji (Irukandji) People #2 (QUD337/2015)** claims.

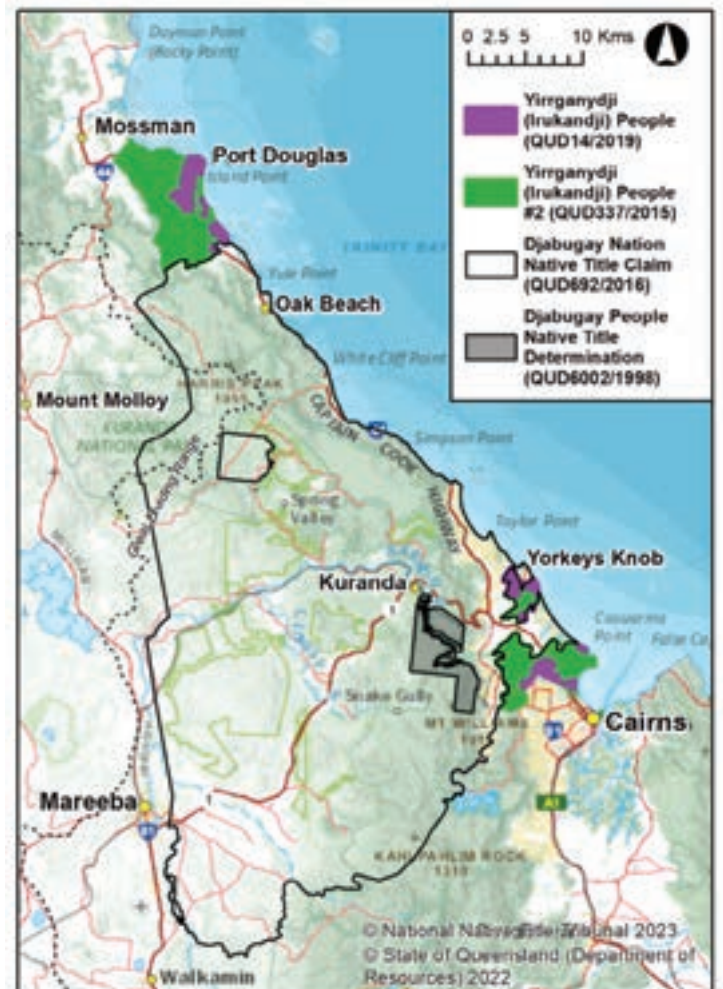
At the previous meeting on 8 August 2023, the claim groups for the **Yirrganydji (Irukandji) People (QUD14/2019)** and **Yirrganydji (Irukandji) People #2 (QUD337/2015)** passed resolutions authorising their two claims to be combined with the **Djabugay Nation (QUD692/2016) claim**.

The claim group for the **Djabugay Nation claim** however, did not pass any resolutions about the possible combination – whether for or against. That is why this further meeting is being called. A decision needs to be made, whether for or against, as to whether or not to combine.

If the claims are combined, there will then be only **ONE** claim – the **Djabugay Nation claim** – over the whole of the area of each of these claims. That is, the **Djabugay Nation claim** would be the **ONLY** claim that would cover both the areas within the black outline of the Djabugay Nation (QUD692/2016) claim, and the areas of the Yirrganydji (Irukandji) People claims highlighted in green and purple, as set out in the map.

WHO CAN COME TO THIS MEETING: This meeting is open to all members of the **Djabugay Nation native title claimants** comprising of the Djabugay, Bulway, Yirrganydji, Nyakali and Guluy Peoples who are the biological or adoptive descendants (in accordance with traditional laws and customs) of the following apical ancestors:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Biddy Tangir Coleman; | 28. Annie Courtney; |
| 2. George Coleman; | 29. Polly Courtney; |
| 3. Ginny/Jinny Njujingai; | 30. Kitty Courtney (mother of Dick Richardson and others); |
| 4. Worundu and Maritjima (parents of Ernest Bounghi); | 31. Charlie (who partnered Kitty Courtney); |
| 5. Billy Boyle; | 32. Molly Dingga and her partners Ngunbitji and Patupita; |
| 6. Nellie Kuranda nee Street (mother of Topsy Thomas and others); | 33. Tommy Hobson and his partners Cissie and Rose; |
| 7. Andrew Thomas aka Billy; | 34. Kitty Donald; |
| 8. Jerry Bardon; | 35. Nellie and Micky (parents of Mary Anne Lawrence); |
| 9. Maggie (mother Janie Clarke nee Brown); | 36. Cissie Hunter/ Fournile; |
| 10. Robert Clarke; | 37. Wulwai; |
| 11. Joshua Barron; | 38. Waimbul and Jakere; |
| 12. Merukan (father of Toby Brim and others); | 39. Jikangoman (mother of Charlie Hyde); |
| 13. Annie Brim; | 40. Nellie of Redlynch (who partnered Jiritju); |
| 14. Barney Hunter and Minnie Street; | 41. Charlie Fournile; |
| 15. Tambo/Sambo Street and Kitty Street; | 42. Walter Fournile; |
| 16. Jimmy Hobbler; | 43. Billy Jagar; |
| 17. Billy Hobbler; | 44. Kitty Ikitjiti (mother of Maggie Aleck); |
| 18. Tommy Newbury; | 45. Lizzie and Peter Harwood; |
| 19. Jimmy Newbury and Polly Thompson; | 46. Frank and Jinnie of Redlynch; |
| 20. Waikanigai; | 47. Billy and Rosie of Speewah; |
| 21. Joe and Annie Davidson; | 48. Jeanie Graper; |
| 22. Andrew Dabah; | 49. Charlie McGrath aka Frank Lyons; |
| 23. Billy Long and Nellie (parents of Nellie Hastie); | 50. Nellie (mother of Peter, Charlie, Mick and Phillip Reid); |
| 24. Jimmy and Nellie Street; | 51. Henry of Barron River; |
| 25. Jinny (mother of Tambo Banning); | 52. Old Man Manga/Mange; and |
| 26. Minnie (mother of Buttercup Banning); | 53. Niju Wu of Double Island |
| 27. Billy and Rosie (parents of Bella Robinson who raised Charlie Levers and Peter Banning); | |



The **Agenda** items for the Authorisation Meeting are as follows:

- Confirmation of a decision making process;
- Consider the issue of whether to combine of the Djabugay Nation (QUD692/2016) claim with the Yirrganydji (Irukandji) People (QUD14/2019) and Yirrganydji (Irukandji) People #2 (QUD337/2015) claims.
- If appropriate, authorise:
 - the Djabugay Nation (QUD692/2016) native title claim to be combined with the Yirrganydji (Irukandji) People (QUD14/2019) and Yirrganydji (Irukandji) People #2 (QUD337/2015) native title claims ; and
 - the Djabugay Nation native title claim (QUD692/2016) be the lead claim; and
 - the applicant for the Djabugay Nation native title claim to apply to amend its claim to combine it with the two Yirrganydji claims (Yirrganydji (Irukandji) People (QUD14/2019) and Yirrganydji (Irukandji) People #2 (QUD337/2015)).
- Discussion around possible Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) structures for a combined claim and determination (noting that no specific decision will be made at this meeting but instructions may be able to be provided from the claim group to the applicant about the issue).

Contact Person: Please contact **Cherona Walker**, Legal Administration Officer on **Free Call 1800 814 779** or **07 4042 7000** by **4pm Friday 15 September 2023** to **register** your attendance for catering purposes and/or for your travel request for assistance to be considered by NQLC management. **Please note that any requests after this date will not be considered.** There will be buses for those people living in Yarrabah, Kuranda and Mareeba – **PLEASE REGISTER.**

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Tallisha Harden will lead the PM's XIII team against PNG Orchids.

Harden to lead PM's XIII against PNG

By KRIS FLANDERS

AUS TALLISHA Harden was named captain of the Women's Prime Minister's XIII team that will play Papua New Guinea Orchids this month.

NRLW veteran Harden will skipper the team in which eight of the 13-woman squad is Indigenous; alongside Harden is fellow NRLW players Keisha-Leigh Coolwell, Quincy Dodd, Kimberley Hunt, Taneka Todhunter, Janelle Williams, and First Nations Gems representative players Kayla Fleming and Jasmin Morrissey.

A Men's PM's XIII was also named and they will play the PNG men's team, the Kumuls. This team also includes a strong Indigenous flavour in Josh Addo-Carr, Reuben Cotter, Nicho Hynes, Tyrell Sloan, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow and Cody Walker.

The rep games will be played at Port Moresby this weekend. It will be the first time Australian teams have played our northern neighbours since 2018.

Australian men's coach Mal Meninga said the match would be also a selection guide ahead of the first ever Pacific Championships later this year in October and November.

"There was a fairly unanimous agreement across the selections and I can't wait to see this group test themselves in the green and gold," Meninga said.

Australian women's coach Brad Donald said this game would be an opportunity for the players to further their representative aspirations and the unique experience of playing league in PNG.

"It's a really well-balanced team featuring some of our First Nations Gems players, emerging talent in the NRLW competition and a handful of Jillaroos representative who will be the key leaders," Donald said.

Dynamic Cobbo, Walsh bond forged in academy



SELWYN Cobbo and his partner in razzle dazzle Reece Walsh have been electric for Brisbane this season and share a bond that has deep roots in the Broncos' academy program.

When No.1 Walsh darts to his right on the football field Cobbo is never too far away, with the creative fullback setting up plenty of the ever-smiling winger's 20 tries this year.

Cobbo came into the academy, essentially the Broncos' junior pathway program, as a 15-year-old where he joined Walsh.

"He has been really helpful for me. Growing up through the academy we have that little connection," Cobbo said of Walsh.

"Sometimes I don't talk and he just puts that ball in front of me. He gives me the tries."

"It is a privilege to work beside him and play beside him. He is an amazing boy. He is gifted. He is a natural footy player and to play outside him is amazing. We have the same goal."

The connection the Broncos players share has been integral to them hosting a NRL preliminary final this weekend.

That special relationship can be traced back to the academy program, from which a suite of current players graduated.

Broncos head of recruitment Simon Scanlan said Walsh and Cobbo "forged a really close bond" at the academy.

"Selwyn is a quiet and reserved. Reece is bubbly and

energetic so they would have gravitated towards each other," he said.

"I am sure Reece made him feel welcome in the academy program with the personality he has got."

The way the two 21-year-olds play, with flair and skill, is similar to how the Broncos played in the 1990s when current coach Kevin Walters was working his magic in a backline that included the likes of Allan Langer, Willie Carne and Steve Renouf.

Walsh has 22 try assists and 31 line-break assists to put him in the top five for the season in each category. He also had a competition-high 48 errors, with Cobbo in third on 37.

Walters has not restricted them, allowing them to express

themselves on the field.

While both are keen to cut out mistakes, the pay-off for backing their natural talents has been integral to Brisbane's success.

"Selwyn and Reece are both competitive and dedicated and the coach (Walters) has let them play, like in the Broncos glory days," Scanlan said.

"Some coaches are structured and rigid but he has let them play to their strengths, which is really important too."

When Cobbo was a schoolboy in Cherbourg he wrote on the blackboard at a leadership camp that he wanted to be a Broncos player when he grew up.

"Dreams do come true. I guess I achieved them. Anyone can do that if they want to go after it," he said. – AAP



Brisbane's Selwyn Cobbo crosses for one of his 20 tries this year as teammate Reece Walsh looks on. The pair have formed a close bond since coming through the Broncos' academy as teenagers. Picture: Getty Images

Repping our family cultures likely to increase in years ahead

BOOM rookie Roosters forward Siua Wong played for Fiji at last year's Rugby League World Cup but the 20-year-old hasn't ruled out possibly switching international allegiances at the Pacific Championships later this year.

Wong was born in New Zealand and has Fijian, Samoan and Tongan heritage - as well as Chinese. Last week when asked he jokingly said, "If China has a team, I'll rep them too."

This gets you thinking about some of our top Indigenous players who've played NRL and have represented their Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island

heritage, and other bloodlines.

Dane Gagai immediately comes to mind. The brilliant Newcastle and former Brisbane star has pulled on the Indigenous All-Stars jersey on three occasions in 2015, 2016 and 2017. The 32-year-old has also pulled on the Māori All-Stars jumper in 2019. He has also appeared for Australia seven times and, while he's yet to play for the



Kris Flanders

New Zealand Kiwis, that actually remains an option - if he has even considered it.

Before Dane there was Brent Webb, who was born in Cairns, and has both Torres Strait Island and New Zealand heritages. Between 2002 and 2006, he played over 100 NRL games for the Warriors before playing over 160 games in the English Super League for Leeds and Catalans. Brent repped the Kiwis on 17 occasions between 2004 and 2008. Had the All-Stars concept been around when he was playing he would have the options open to Dane.

Cronulla's 2016 premiership

star Andrew Fifita has played six matches for the Indigenous All-Stars and represented Australia on seven occasions. He also pulled on the red-and-white colours of Tonga in 10 games.

Craig Salvatori, who played five games for NSW and two for Australia, was named in the Indigenous Team of the Century. 'Salvo' also coached the Italian side in the 1997 World 7s and again in the 1999 Mediterranean Cup.

Canberra's Josh Papali'i has represented Australia and Samoa at Test level. Frank Pritchard played Test matches for New Zealand and Samoa. And Josh

Mansour repped Australia and Lebanon in seven games each.

Is there a pressure on those with mixed heritage to pull on the colours that best represent them? Or is that decision an easy one?

Culturally, is it important that a player can perform the war-cry with the Indigenous All-Stars and the following year perform the haka? I think we'll see a bit more of this in coming years.

**Kris Flanders is a proud Gumbaynggirr man who has 25 years' experience working in Indigenous media with ICAM, Living Black and NITV where he was the sports presenter. He is a passionate writer and sportslover.*



Aboriginal women's football trailblazer Kalinda Howarth will miss the remainder of the AFLW season following a serious injury at training last week. *Picture: Getty Images*

Rising Sun's setback by ACL injury



IN what is a huge personal blow, versatile Gold Coast forward Kalinda Howarth will be sidelined for the remainder of the 2023 AFLW season.

Howarth, a trailblazer for Aboriginal women in the AFLW, was sent for scans after leaving

the training field earlier last week with results confirming the 24-year-old has ruptured her ACL. The club confirmed the news later.

"Unfortunately scans confirmed that Kalinda has sustained a full rupture of her ACL which will sideline her for the remainder of the season," Gold Coast AFLW physiotherapist Jasmine

Herlihy said.

"Kalinda will meet with a specialist in the near future before having an operation to repair the ligament."

Suns head of women's football Fiona Sessarago says the club will continue to support Howarth.

"It's devastating news for Kalinda who has been an integral member of the Gold

Coast Suns since the team's inception into the AFLW competition, and is a graduate of our Suns Academy," Sessarago said.

"What's important is now ensuring Kalinda is provided all the support she needs throughout her rehabilitation and we look forward to seeing her return to the field stronger than ever."

Much to cheer in finals footy

AS most of our regular readers would have worked out by now, I'm a Blues supporter, so I have been savouring this finals series just a little bit more than usual. But really, the finals is about football played at another level with the players at the top of their game.



Shelley Ware

The big question about the place is, 'Who will take Charlie home this year?' – the Chas Brownlow Medal (the AFL's fairest and best). The Brownlow elevates you among the game's greats. Here's a prediction: Marcus Bontempelli. The 'Bont' had a strong finish to the season and if the count is close he will win it. There are others, too.

Josh Daicos is standing strong in his father's shadow, and following his footsteps of courage, skill and heart. I've known Josh since he was a young kid and I would love to see this happen for him. He is such a good person, too – yes, my soft spot for the boy is showing. I also have a soft spot for Christian Petracca. I love his commitment to his team, and his energy and passion on the field.

I also wanted to touch on the heavy concussion suffered by Angus Brayshaw in the qualifying final against the Magpies. 'Gus' was knocked out in a sixth career concussion. This is concerning for the young man. The last concussion saw him sit out of the game for eight weeks. His recovery from this latest concussion has reportedly been good.

Footy was split about the incident that led to it. Collingwood's Brayden Maynard was not suspended for it, which is what it is, but I don't think it is something to cheer about, as has been in some quarters. There is a young footballer out there who potentially will not be able to play the game again. From all reports Brayden is a good man and I seriously doubt he would have cheered as loudly as some have been at the tribunal's decision. I am sure that, he too, is hoping that Gus can recover and not have any lasting effects.

**Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She appears on AFL.com.au's Colour Of Your Jumper.*

West Coast cut Samo, Winder



WEST Coast have axed another five players from their list, with former Carlton speedster Samo Petrevski-Seton the highest-profile victim of the club's rebuild.

Just days after telling Luke Foley he won't be handed a contract extension, West Coast confirmed Petrevski-Seton, Isiah Winder, Xavier O'Neill, Greg Clark and Connor West will also be shown the door.

Their departures come on top of the retirements of champion trio Luke Shuey, Nic

Naitanui and Shannon Hurn, meaning West Coast will be making at least nine changes to their list.

Petrevski-Seton played 94 games for Carlton after being taken with pick No.6 in the 2016 national draft.

The 25-year-old was traded to West Coast at the end of 2021, but struggled for consistency during his 27 games for the Eagles.

Winder, pick 57 in the 2020 draft, played only seven games at senior level.

"On behalf of the club I would like to thank each of the players for their contributions during their varying times at the

club," the club's general manager of football Gavin Bell said.

"They have each left an impression on the club and we wish them every success in their future endeavours," Bell said.

West Coast collected the wooden spoon this season following a disastrous three-win campaign.

It followed on from last year, when they won only two games.

West Coast coach Adam Simpson was in danger of being axed following the two doomed seasons, but has been retained for next year.

– with AAP



Samo Petrevski-Seton.



Isiah Winder.

Tuivasa re-sets after third loss in the Octagon

NSW WORLD No.6 ranked heavyweight Tai Tuivasa suffered a third successive defeat, with a second-round 'Ezekiel' choke submission loss to the much taller Russian, seventh-ranked Alexander Volkov in the heavyweight co-main event of UFC 293 in Sydney.

Tuivasa entered the Octagon having lost his past two fights; this, his third, was the second time in Tuivasa's mixed martial arts career that the heavyweight slugger has suffered three straight defeats in the cage.

Tuivasa succumbed in the second round to Russian giant Volkov in front of a parochial crowd at the Sydney SuperDome.

The defeat to Volkov adds to successive losses against Cyril Gane and Sergei Pavlovich. Earlier in his UFC career, Tuivasa was bested in three bouts in succession against Junior Dos Santos, Blagoy Ivanov and Sergey Spivak.

Those triple defeats spurred Tuivasa toward a run of five wins in a row.

Tuivasa faces several months in recovery before his next fight.

His record now stands at 15-6. This was his first loss via submission.



Tai Tuivasa bears the look of his loss in UFC 293.



Caleb and Ellie Niki are the toast of Northern Territory rugby league. Pictures: Pema Tamang Pakhrin

Niki siblings are the toast of Top End league

By JACKSON CLARKE



THE Niki siblings have created history in Northern Territory rugby league after winning their respective competition's top individual award recently.

Caleb Niki and Ellie Niki both claimed the NRL-NT's league fairest-and-best in their respective senior men's and women's competitions, becoming the first siblings to achieve the feat.

Darwin Brothers RLFC star Caleb won the Frank Johnson Medal as the most outstanding player in the men's competition.

He had a sensational season returning to the fullback position after spending the previous couple of years in the centres and second row.

Caleb led the competition with 21 tries from 17 games – six more tries than his nearest rival – and also proved deadly in front of



Siblings Caleb and Ellie Niki – the toast of NT rugby league.

goal, finishing with a total of 206 points for the season.

He was selected in the NRL-NT Team of the Year and won the NT News' Player of the Year award.

Ellie's brilliant season culminated in the Gaynor Maggs Medal for the best player in the women's competition.

She was the competition's highest pointscorer (130 points)

and finished second on the try scorer leaderboard with 17 for the season.

Along with her excellent performances in the local competition, Ellie was also one of the standout performers for the NT Titans team that went undefeated at the 2023 NRL National Championships.

Niki is also having an impact in coaching with an involvement

with the NT Titans' junior programs and also with the Darwin Brothers's under-17s.

Caleb's Brothers team bowed out of this season's premiership race after losing 20-12 to Litchfield Bears in the preliminary final.

Ellie said the natural sibling rivalry the pair shared had helped develop their abilities as rugby league players.

Ellie said that she felt 'shocked' but 'very grateful' to win the medal.

"We're very competitive with each other," she told *Nine News Darwin*.

"If it wasn't for our rivalry growing up we probably wouldn't be the players that we are today."

Caleb was just as proud.

"We've always had that competition between us in rugby – whoever gets more medals or more trophies is always better than the other," he said.

"I'm super-proud of what I achieved and what my sister achieved."

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Rose bros steer Tszyu to titles



AUSSIE boxing fans will have one last chance to see rising star Tim Tszyu in the flesh should he defeat American Brian Mendoza on the Gold Coast on October 15.

Tszyu's promoter, No Limit Boxing, run by Aboriginal rugby league identities the Rose brothers from Walgett, predict this will be the last chance for fans to see the 29-year-old in action in Australia for some time.

Tszyu will defend his WBO super-welterweight title and has the chance to join his father Kostya as a unified world champion should he defeat Mendoza.

He hopes to add the WBC strap to the WBO belt he won in March with victory over Tony Harrison in Sydney and then defended successfully against Mexican Carlos Ocampo in June.

Tszyu (23-0, 17KOs) knocked out Ocampo in the first round at the same venue in which he will square off with Mendoza (22-2, 16KOs) next month.

"Very grateful for this opportunity again, to be fighting for a third time this year and in front of crazy Gold Coast fans, it's always an honour," Tszyu said last week in Las Vegas, where he has set up his training camp.

"To be doing it against a credible champion such as Mendoza, it's another honour.

"It's a big opportunity for myself to show the world – to keep showing the world – who I am and where I'm from."

Tszyu and Mendoza are strictly still interim belt holders but will be officially



elevated to champions the minute undisputed divisional king Jermell Charlo enters the ring to face Mexican superstar Saul Alvarez in Vegas on September 30.

Charlo (35-1-1, 19KOs) was to have fought Tszyu for all four belts this year but has twice pulled out, the second time to instead move up two weight divisions to take on super-middleweight undisputed champion Alvarez (59-2-2, 39 KOs).

The winner out of Tszyu and Mendoza is likely to finally get a shot at Charlo next year.

"A big fight like this means the opponents start getting bigger, better and a lot more expensive," said No Limit Boxing boss George Rose.

"So those fights will be taking place overseas, and it's on Tim's bucket-list, as it is on ours.

"We'd love to see him fighting in places like Las Vegas, Madison Square Garden, taking on those big fights and big opportunities.

"Vegas is the home of boxing and for now that's where we're trying to do in Australia too – Vegas in Australia is Gold Coast – and it could be the last time we get to see Tim fight here too."

Kostya Tszyu (31-2, 25KOs) first became a unified world champion in 2001 when he beat American Sharmba Mitchell in Las Vegas to add the WBA junior-middleweight belt to his WBC strap. – **with AAP**

● No Limit Boxing chief George Rose (left) with rising boxing star Tim Tszyu on the Gold Coast. Picture: Getty Images

Cavanagh inspires after life-changing moment

By KRIS FLANDERS



LAIID up in hospital surrounded by his loved ones, Daniel Cavanagh knew that something had to change.

Tipping the scales at around 155kg, the Wiradjuri man was fighting a losing battle with his weight. And now he was in hospital.

"I had a minor stroke," he said.

"I had high cholesterol and high blood pressure and that was a dangerous combination. I struggled to do my shoelaces up, my sleeping patterns were terrible, I was snoring the house down.

"It affected my family too; my wife didn't want to sleep beside me because of my snoring and tossing and turning.

"There was one time when I was at the swimming pool with my young daughter and I copped some hurtful comments which particularly got her upset, which made me upset."

Upon discharge from hospital, Cavanagh knew he had to make some life-altering decisions.

The father of six started walking. Then, he joined the Burbaga Burawa organisation in Penrith where, alongside others, he entered the NSW Health 10-week KO Weight-Loss Challenge.

"The first challenge we did was through COVID so we did a lot of training at home," he said.

"You know, using things around the home like bottles of water for weights and improvising. We did cardio classes online. They also helped with meal plans and educated us on things like nutrition.



Then and now: Daniel Cavanagh's incredible transformation was due to hard work, determination and for his family after a life-changing stay in hospital. Pics: Supplied

"At first, I felt like I was moving better and getting up and down off the floor better with exercises. But it wasn't until someone showed me an old picture of myself and I looked in the mirror properly that I realised that it was working. That inspired me more to keep going."

This was in 2020. Cavanagh hasn't looked back. He exercises regularly and does not take his health for granted. He is currently mentoring and encouraging the newest intake at Burbaga Burawa in their weight-loss challenge.

"For me, part of being overweight was

that I was quite shy around other people, he said.

"But I really enjoyed the group-training and going to the gym with them. I found myself coming out of my shell. I found some confidence.

"They started calling me 'The Sarge' because I found my voice and I was speaking up to encourage everyone – pushing myself to the limits and pushing others to do their best.

"These challenges have changed me physically but also mentally these days."

The 50-year-old did this for himself, and to be around longer for his family and his community.

He says it all starts with just one step, and getting outside, off the lounge, and becoming active.

It's been a tough road with many hurdles, but Cavanagh realised what he would be risking if he stayed on the dangerous course he was previously on.

"The biggest struggle for me was the eating healthier part. I've always enjoyed walking and other physical activities like boxing. But getting those proportion sizes correct and what my body needed to fuel itself."

Cavanagh has gotten down to 105kg. He is on his second lease on life and isn't going to squander it.

"The biggest motivation for me was my family, my wife and my kids," he said.

"I can still remember seeing their faces when I was in that hospital and how affected they were. I didn't want that to happen again.

"I wanted to be a husband to my wife and be a father to my children still, and be a grandfather."

Legend's Hall of Fame honour

By PETER ARGENT



SONNY Morey's induction into the South Australian Football Hall of Fame completes his lifelong journey in the game.

The proud Arrernte man received his well-deserved induction last week.

Morey is a legendary in South Australian football – at SANFL club Central District, and at Gawler.

He was a trailblazer for the Central District Bulldogs in the pioneering days of the club. In 1972, he was runner-up in the SANFL's Magarey Medal to fellow football legend Malcolm Blight. He is credited with having Central District's first-ever kick for the newly established SANFL club. He was also the first player of the club to reach 200 league games in 1976.

In 2011, Morey was selected in the back pocket and playing-coach of the SANFL Indigenous Team of the Century.

"From the 1960s to the 1980s, it was a great era of SA footy, the best in my eyes," a humble Morey said about his career and accomplishments.

"We competed strongly with VFL clubs at the time, and I have a vivid

memory of Footscray coming across and us cleaning them up in a pre-season match.

"It was tough and uncompromising footy and it was important to have strong peripheral vision, as well as a great set of skills."

Between 1964 and 1988 Morey played 213 games and kicked 28 goals for Central District. He played in four state matches for South Australia in 1973 and 1974 and won the Bulldogs' best-and-fairest in 1970. He has Central District and SANFL Life Membership.

His connection to community football started at Gawler Central and included a Gawler and Districts Football League grand final in 1963, and a pair of A-grade best-and-fairest awards in 1961 and 1962.

Morey also coached the Eudunda Roosters for three years including a Barossa & Light league flag in 1978 and was at the Salisbury Magpies from 1990-1992.

"I have many fond memories from my time in football both league and community level," he said.

"A special mention to the Eudunda community, for the way they embraced Carmel, the girls and I when I first got into coaching in 1978."



Football legend Sonny Morey was last week inducted into the South Australian Football Hall of Fame. Picture: Peter Argent

Happy mum Ash Barty stands firm on retirement



ASH Barty has laughed off the prospect of a tennis return, content in motherhood and unswayed by good friend Caroline Wozniacki's own feel-good comeback story.

Australia's former world No.1 and three-time major winner spoke last week to endorse the return of the Brisbane

International as a standalone event to kickstart the tennis season.

Fresh off a dominant Australian Open win, Barty shocked with her sudden retirement in March last year.

Asked if she had itchy feet, the 27-year-old quickly shut down talk of a return after the birth of son Hayden in July.

"I don't have the time to train, prepare

and have so many good memories on this court and I get to create new ones now," she said.

Danish champion Wozniacki retired in 2020 and had two children before bursting back onto the scene as a 33-year-old with a run to the fourth round at the US Open this month.

Barty watched with interest but said it didn't stir anything inside her.

"I'm not coming back," she said with a smile.

"I was really happy for Caro; a dear friend of mind and seeing her back doing what she loves is awesome. She has a couple of kids a bit older than Hayden but I am not coming back, no."

In Barty's absence the Australian women's contingent has thinned.

– AAP

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Williams presses claim for fast start at Glory



STAR Perth Glory recruit David Williams will continue to press claims for a starting berth with the First 11 ahead of round 1 of the 2023-24 A-League Men season.

The former international came on at the 57th minute of the pre-season Australia Cup qualifying match against 2022-23 ALM wooden-spooners Macarthur FC at Larrakia Park in Darwin, and spent the next 30 minutes causing havoc across centre-forward.

Williams fired in a rocket in the 75-minute that sailed high and wide to the right. The Bulls won 4-0.

Glory open the new ALM season at home against Newcastle.

The ALM season kicks off on October 20.

● David Williams in action for Perth Glory. Picture: Getty Images





● Main: Lleyton Green drives Heavenly Holly to victory in the 2023 JC Caffyn Plate at Menangle Park. Inset: Happy driver Lleyton Green.

Green's Heavenly ride

By KRIS FLANDERS



WHEN the horses pinned their ears back up the Menangle Park straight for the final of the JC Caffyn

Plate, driver Lleyton Green got the best out of his horse to win the big race.

Green drove Heavenly Holly to victory for trainer Michael Formosa in a field of nine.

Green is a rising young star in the harness racing industry with a huge future in the sport.

Michael Brown, the first major sponsor of the Plate in 2010, was excited for Green during the Caffyn Plate series. Group One-winning driver and trainer Jimmy Brown started this race and the JC Caffyn Plate.

The Caffyn Plate, sponsored by KARI, is run over 1609m and this year carried a prizepool of \$25,000.

"Lleyton (Green) never ceases to impress me with his driving abilities, passion for the industry and knowledge of harness racing," Brown said.

"He has so much patience, I've seen a lot of his drives and he studies his horses and the form. He gives his horses every chance to run well and win.

"(He has) beautiful hands for a driver and horses respond for him. This young man is going places, last year he was second



Uncle Ivan Wellington performs a smoking ceremony prior to the race.

in this race and this year he wins it."

The JC Caffyn Plate brings the local Indigenous community together with a smoking ceremony and welcome from Uncle Ivan Wellington.

"There was a huge crowd there on the night and to kickstart proceedings was special," Brown said.

"Jimmy Brown presented the specially designed silks to the drivers. I think the crowd appreciated the displays of Indigenous culture and in particular there were lots of talking points about the silks, which was a tribute to elders, given that was the NAIDOC theme.

"This year we discovered

more new drivers to the series. It means so much to the drivers, they want to be in it, they're proud of their culture and identity. The hardest part of my job is saying to drivers they've missed out on the final.

"But I think that spurs the drivers on to be at their best and do whatever it takes to make the final. There's prestige and pride."

Purported values must reflect conduct

MULTI-BILLION-dollar sports organisations are finding out quick-smart that Indigenous former players and-or community groups won't be covered by their (perceived) power and sway.

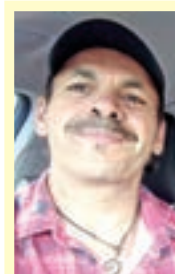
News that a class action is being brought against the AFL is evidence of that (see front page). News also that a little community organisation in far north Queensland is seeking just and fair compensation from the NRL/ARL (see back page) should further convince these organisations that an assertive and confident Indigenous community will take them to task where there is a perceived injustice. And so they should.

It is a brave act to take on the powerful. Countless cases of civil matters by individuals against corporate giants often play out for years and years, causing complainants to lose heart and patience against their more resource-rich courtroom opponents.

I guess the difference here is that unlike those corporate organisations who think nothing of quashing the 'little people', the two big domestic football codes like to sprout their community and social values, their social responsibilities. Whatever the merit of each of these specific cases we report on in these pages, it will at least provide a test of those purported values.

If them Mob love Indigenous Round so much, let's see if the stories and values those pretty playing kits tell are actually reflected in how those football codes' governing bodies conduct themselves.

**Darren Moncrieff is a Wadjarri-Thakarra/Yinggarda man from Kuwinyardu (Carnarvon) in Western Australia who started with Yamaji News in 1997 and freelanced in WA's Kimberley region and in the Northern Territory. He is Koori Mail sports editor.*



Darren Moncrieff

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\$60k NRL compo bid

By ALF WILSON and
DARREN MONCRIEFF



THE Bindal Sharks rugby league organisation in Townsville has appealed to the sports' governing body for fair and proper financial compensation following fixturing that could leave the community group short-changed in the hundreds of thousands.

The community-owned organisation is in the middle of preparing for the 37th edition of the popular Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander Rugby League Carnival at Townsville Sports Reserve from October 13-15.

The annual rugby league tournament attracts up to 30 men's and women's teams from across Queensland's central and north, from Cape York and the Torres Strait. It began almost four decades ago. Planning for the event begins as early as November the preceding year. Each year the carnival is played in the middle of October. The influx of visiting teams, their players and fans to Townsville injects many thousands of dollars into the local economy, with accommodation, food, fuel, public transport,

local taxis, air travel and other expenses.

"(The carnival) is of a benefit to the wider community, not just to the Indigenous community," Pryor said.

But throwing a massive spanner in the works is the ARL-NRL. Rugby league's Australian governing body has scheduled a double-header international featuring the Australian men's and women's national teams in Townsville head-to-head with the Bindal Sharks tournament. The Kangaroos and Jillaroos will play against Toa Samoa and the Kiwi Ferns, respectively, at Townsville Stadium in the late afternoon and early evening on Saturday, October 14.

This is part of the new seven-nation Pacific Championships tournament. The cost of this one-off event in Townsville is reportedly at around \$7 million.

Townsville Stadium and the city's sports reserve where the Bindal Sharks tournament will be played are just 3.2km apart. Bindal fears that the competition for patrons will severely dent the community organisation's capacity to break even.

Pryor has written to Edward Monaei, chair of the QRL's Indigenous advisory committee and Queensland representative to the ARL's Indigenous advisory council voicing her concerns (see below).



Townsville Sports Reserve has played host to almost four decades of the Bindal Sharks' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rugby League Carnival. This year, however, the beloved annual event faces its biggest challenge. Picture: AusStadiums

Bindal Sharks' CEO letter to the NRL

The following is an abridged version of the letter Bindal Sharks chief executive Jenny Pryor wrote to the NRL...

Bindal Sharks was shocked to hear the NRL announcement of having two international games with

our neighbours in the South Pacific – we totally support this event, but it will have an enormous impact on our annual carnival being held at the same time.

It costs us a lot of money to put on the carnival and many spectators won't be able to afford to go to both.

Bindal Sharks is requesting a compensation package of potential loss of income due to the clash.

Bindal Sharks would like the NRL to acknowledge our annual carnival and donate \$60,000 for the potential loss of revenue on our ticket sales, and a guarantee that our

carnival will not be at a loss... and that our people can have an enjoyable, cultural event which also is a contemporary way of the coming together of our tribes.

(The) \$60,000 was a modest amount considering the effect it will have.

Jenny Pryor, Bindal Sharks



Bindal Sharks' chief executive Jenny Pryor.

Matildas goalkeeper Williams joins Melbourne Victory



DECORATED Matildas goalkeeper Lydia Williams has returned to the A-League

Women, signing with Melbourne Victory for the next two seasons off the back of the Women's World Cup.

The five-time World Cup attendee joins from Brighton and Hove Albion after previously having served stints at Paris Saint-Germain

and Arsenal.

The 35-year-old said the World Cup on home soil had made her more eager to return home to Australia and inspire the next generation, especially young Indigenous football fans.

"Obviously, being overseas for a while now and seeing the push and the pull of women's football and how it's grown, then how we all did at the World Cup really helping inspire the next generation - (I

was) really humbled and excited seeing a lot of Indigenous kids coming out and supporting," Williams said.

"That's always really been something that I've wanted: to give back to the community and provide something for the future. So it was just an opportunity too good to be missed.

"I just felt that it was time to come back and be at the place where I first started and it'd be

the place where I kind of end it all.

"Everything just fell into place and I'm really excited to come back to the league."

The goalkeeper has won three championships and two premierships with Melbourne City, and one of each with Canberra United.

Williams replaces Casey Dumont, who has departed as she extends her AFLW commitments with Hawthorn.

"We're thrilled to have a

goalkeeper of Lydia's calibre in the squad for the upcoming campaign," coach Jeff Hopkins said.

"Her experience not only at A-League level but across Europe and internationally will be an invaluable asset to our squad on and off the field."

The Matildas return to action in Olympic qualifiers in Perth in October but Williams played down her Paris 2024 ambitions.

– AAP