



Koori Mail

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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Australia's only national dance competition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural dance groups returned to the Sydney Opera House last weekend.

See Joseph Mayer's photos, page 5.

Pictured are members of the Dinawan's Connection dance group from Dubbo, NSW.

Ranger numbers to double by 2030



THE number of Indigenous rangers is set to double by 2030.

The federal government has announced that the Indigenous rangers program would receive a \$359 million boost to increase the number of rangers from 1,900 to 3,800.

The funding was announced as part of the federal government efforts to close the gap and centre First Nations knowledge in environmental protection.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been caretakers of Australia's diverse environments and its wildlife for

tens of thousands of years.

The Indigenous rangers program has helped combine this traditional knowledge with conservation training to help protect ecosystems across the country.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney, made the announcement last Friday, saying the funding injection would also help lift the employment rate of First Nations Australians from 55.7 per cent in 2021 to 62 per cent by 2031.

"With more than 65,000 years of experience caring for Country, Indigenous rangers hold unique and valuable skills in managing Australia's natural environment,"

Ms Burney said.

"This will mean more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will have the opportunity to do things like protect precious endangered species and control weeds and feral animals."

Investment

The investment prioritises establishing new Indigenous Rangers Groups in protected areas that don't already host the program, and hiring more First Nations women as they currently represent just 33 per cent of the program's workforce.

"First Nations women and girls are vital in protecting sacred and cultural sites, and offer a range of

unique skills and lore," she said.

"It's important they have the opportunity to continue the work of their mothers, grandmothers and all their women ancestors and pass this knowledge onto the next generation, because there are no text books, no manuals."

The announcement came as Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek revealed Ronald Archer as the new director of national parks.

A Djungan man from the Western Tablelands in north Queensland, Mr Archer's appointment makes him the first Indigenous Australian to hold the position.

As part of his new role, he will

be responsible for the protection and conservation of the Uluru and Kakadu national parks alongside other marine parks.

"As Australia's first First Nations person to hold the position, I look forward to supporting and strengthening the role of traditional custodians in caring for their country in partnership with Parks Australia," Mr Archer said.

"We have an amazing opportunity to make greater impact in the ways we manage our natural and cultural resources whilst supporting and strengthening the skills and expertise of our stakeholders"

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Moz on board for Aussies in 2024

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MY FAMILY

Alphie Hosea (Badu Island, Torres Strait)



Mona Waianga, Lasika Warria, Alphie Hosea and Tenniel Nona.

On my home Badu Island I have many family and extended family members who are all very important to me.

I am aged 32 and have lots of relatives amongst the Hosea, Nona and Baira families.

They also have members living around North Queensland in Cairns and Townsville.

Badu is a beautiful place to live on and there are plenty of things to do with family, such as fishing from the wharf, where we catch Snapper, garfish, mackerel and even barramundi.

Having a fish off the beaches can also be great and in the waters and mangroves around Badu there are plenty of mud crabs and cray fish.

They are good eating at the family barbecues we have together.

We also enjoy each other's company at the Badu Island Hotel where we catch

up and socialise with lots of family and friends.

Many local people gather there and have a good yarn.

Another thing we enjoy is watching rugby league at the local football oval, especially carnivals such as the Island of Origin.

This year, it was especially big and lots of people from Badu and other islands were at the games – some we hadn't seen since the previous year.

I barrack for any of the Badu teams such as Mulga, Kulpiyam and Argun when they compete and I follow Manly in the NRL season.

Whilst we don't get to many other carnivals, we do follow the TS teams which compete on Thursday Island and at Bamaga and follow their results on social media or on livestream.

Your photographer saw me with my cousins Mona Waianga, Lasika Warria

and Tenniel Nona when we were in Townsville to pick up my daughter Mary-Ella Hosea aged 12 who is a boarding student at St Pat's College.

Tenniel was there to pick up her little sister Alice who is also a boarder and it is great to have them home.

We only stayed overnight in Townsville and our photo was taken outside the big hotel known as the Sugar Shaker in the CBD.

That evening we strolled through the mall and had a look at some cafes and just enjoyed being in a big city for a short time.

We hoped to see relatives from the Baira family, many of whom reside in Townsville, which is also a good place to visit.

But it is also good to return back to Badu Island, as I am a proud Torres Strait Islander and just enjoy being with family there.

SHARE YOUR FAMILY WITH OUR READERS

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.

OUR CHILDREN



Chisholm Catholic Primary Bligh Park student Amelia Gale enjoyed making art at Hawkesbury cultural immersion day, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from Catholic schools explored their cultural heritage.

Koori Mail

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Rusty honoured for keeping the vibe alive

By JILLIAN MUNDY



THE Mob in and around Port Augusta certainly punch above their weight when it comes to live music – and it was evident at the Umeewarra Downtown Music Festival earlier this month.

The one-day event featured local 'backyard' bands to award winning line ups

A highlight of the event was Brolga front man's Russell 'Rusty' Smith's induction into the South Australian Music Hall of Fame.

The Pitjantjatjara man who grew up at Umeewarra Mission in Port Augusta is the fourth First Nation's artist to be inducted following the late Archie Roach AC, the

late Ruby Hunter and band No Fixed Address.

It was the first time anyone had been inducted outside of Adelaide.

"Having it as part of Umeewarra Downtown Festival was very important to me," he said.

"I want young people to see that an Aboriginal person from Port Augusta, through working hard, can achieve such high stature in their field.

"Music has been my safe space. In my time of need it is a way to think about who I am and where I have come from – as a boy from an Aboriginal mission to playing music internationally and being recognised in the SA Music Hall of Fame."

See more photos and read more about the festival and Russell in the next edition of the *Koori Mail*.

Russell Smith rocked up just in time to help young pizza-box percussionists Logan Anderson and Laz Wilton conquer their stage fright, and join other children including Laz's big sister Elira Wilton-Craig.



Pictures: Jillian Mundy

Mingkill Yanma from Indulkana (APY Lands) loving life as headline act Brolga performs.

Truth-telling, local voices still on government's radar



TRUTH-TELLING along with local and regional voices remain on the government's agenda despite the failed referendum earlier this year.

Indigenous Affairs minister Linda Burney made the commens on the eve of a Closing the Gap meeting on Friday with Aboriginal affairs ministers around the nation and peak body representatives.

Just a month on from the failed Indigenous Voice referendum, Ms Burney acknowledged that how



Indigenous Affairs Minister Linda Burney.

community can move forward from the setback, would be top of the agenda.

She said there would be

specific discussions about housing, education and inland water targets.

But she wouldn't close the door on the government's commitment to the Uluru Statement, which calls for a truth-telling process and a treaty along with a Voice.

"Very much what I'm hearing moving around the country is 'what does it mean for the rest of the Uluru statement?'" Ms Burney told ABC Radio.

"In particular, I'm hearing the importance of truth-telling. I am not saying I've got a model in my mind, but I am saying that what

I'm hearing very clearly from Aboriginal communities is the importance of truth-telling."

The Voice proposal had included a number of local and regional dialogues that would feed into a national body.

The minister said a similar consultative framework at the local level remained a "very live discussion", pointing to Voice models operating in Australian states and territories.

"There are structures across Australia and they have to be self-determined, it's not up to government to say 'this is the way

you do things'," she said.

"But our job is to make sure that we implement the things that were promised in the last election ... what's most crucial, in my view, is to make sure we come up with a considered way forward, not a grab bag."

Of the 19 national socio-economic Closing the Gap targets, just four were on track in data released earlier this year.

"We've also got some of the targets in Closing the Gap that are actually going backwards, and that's completely unacceptable," Ms Burney said.

Free bikes

Recycled bikes and scooters head for remote NT Aboriginal communities



A NEW program is bringing free recycled bikes into outback communities. The social enterprise program Revolve ReCYCLING has given new life to 106 old bikes and scooters, destined to bring joy to outback riders.

The bikes and repair tools were donated by Sydneysiders and restored by volunteers and other members of the community at Revolve ReCYCLING's Alexandria workshop.

The bikes will now be taken to seven remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory, where local partners will distribute them to spread joy, encourage engagement and encourage school attendance.

The project is in partnership with Indigenous NGO Wantu and other local Indigenous stakeholders.

While on site in the NT, bike maintenance workshops will be offered and will provide training for future bike repair mechanics at schools, along with cultural trips, building BMX tracks and organising races.

The bikes were delivered on an epic 11,000 kilometre drive by Revolve

ReCYCLING's general manager Guido Verbist and Sienna Young.

"Every kid in Australia deserves the joy of a bike and can learn a lot from a bike too," they said.

"It's very cool to collect kids' bikes and scooters where they are no longer needed or wanted and get them to outback kids who definitely want them."

Revolve ReCYCLING calls the practice "bike equity" and it has four-fold impact.

It helps the environment by keeping material out of landfill and cutting emissions, empowers the kids, builds understanding between people, communities and cultures and creates employment opportunities for our communities.

Sienna said the experience helped her understand the challenges faced by outback communities, but also their resilience.

"For someone raised in Sydney, I saw how different it is for remote Indigenous communities where many kids don't have access to things we take for granted – like bikes and scooters," she said

"I also learned how important it is to be hands on about social justice and it motivates me to do more in the future."



Revolve ReCYCLING's general manager Guido Verbist, with Elaine check out the recycled scooters.

Koori Mail

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o p i n i o n

Talk about grief

Grief is so debilitating and about twenty emotions mixed into one. Sorry business is different for all of our communities around this beautiful country – and different again for all the different cultures that are a part of our families too.

This year has been full of loss and sorry business for my family. We have lost ten significant people and our hearts are heavy. The loss started for me with the loss of my host mum in America, from when I was an exchange student in 1990.

I didn't have time to mourn her loss as my mother-in-law's Alzheimer's disease came to a point where we were going to lose her too. In February and March we cared for her daily until she passed peacefully with our family surrounding her. After knowing and loving Ede for 25 years her passing was a huge loss in our lives. She was a wonderful Omi to my son Taj.

Two weeks later, we had a shock passing of one of my son Taj's friends, he was just 15 years old and he went to bed and didn't wake in the morning. This loss put us in a spin. We had no answers, the doctors had no answers, and we just had to grieve this young man's life the best way we can. Art and his friends have been huge in Taj's healing and he is a good talker, so for that we are blessed.

Not long after the loss of Taj's friend, my mum was given the bad news her Pancreatic cancer had come back. This time there



Shelley Ware

was nothing they could do. My dad passed away 25 years ago. His was a sudden loss and in some ways the instant pain of his loss was harder. We cared for mum for her last eight weeks and when she passed peacefully on August 28 holding my brother's and my hand, the relief of no more pain was real. The grief set in soon and the fog that it puts on life has hit hard. She is missed dearly.

A week later my husband's best friend passed of the same horrendous disease. My husband Steven had to leave me to be with his friend Pat, who we knew we only had days with. We also lost my aunty and my cousin in the same weeks. We didn't quite know what to do with ourselves, in fact we still don't quite know.

The loss of Uncle Kevin Coombes hit our community hard. He left a legacy that is one to admire and aspire to and it was an honour to be a part of his service.

Sadly, we lost another one of

Steven's childhood friends to cancer a few weeks ago and this week my brother-in-law's mum.

The reason I am sharing this with you all is because our community too often have ongoing grief like this, that can hold us in a place where we feel trapped. I know that feeling too well, but I want you to know you are not alone and we have to feel the grief so we can heal but we also have to move through it.

It's important to talk to others about how you are going, support those who are going through grief, a simple cup of tea and a chat or even a text message to touch base. If you need more help, which to be honest I feel I just might after this year, see a professional and get some words of wisdom or just get the noise out of your head. Look after yourself, see a doctor if you have even the slightest of worries about your body and notice any changes that may require extra medical attention. Don't leave it until too late.

Love those in your world as hard as you possibly can. Everyday is a blessing but know you are not alone. You are part of the oldest surviving living culture in the world and you have your ancestors to guide you. Listen to them. If you too are grieving a loss in your life, be kind to yourself and go gently.

● **Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide**



Let's Dance



AUSTRALIA'S only national dance competition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural dance groups returned to the Sydney Opera House last weekend.

DanceRites was staged over two big days for a chance to win prizes that total \$36,000. The winners were due to be announced on Sunday evening. Each group presented 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.

More than 350 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers from across Australia took part, and the Sydney Opera House forecourt was transformed into a spectacular dance ground.

– See our next edition for the winners, and more pictures.

Pictures: Joseph Mayers



Aunty Munya's book explains the seasons

By NICK PATON



IN her new picture book, *Ask Aunty: Seasons*, Aunty

Munya Andrews introduces children to the concept of First Nations seasonal calendars.

For Aunty Munya and many other Aboriginal communities in Australia, the seasons don't change when the calendar does, or align with the western idea of the four seasons of Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring.

Aunty Munya explains how there are actually six seasons on her Country.

"The Western seasons follow the movements of the Earth around the Sun, whereas our seasons look for immediate changes in our environment," Aunty Munya told the *Koori Mail*.

"This could be by certain plants or fruits becoming available, or flowering, or certain species fattening up and getting ready to be eaten," she said.

"And so that really makes us great environmentalists in the things that we are observing around us, and observing the seasons, and being so in touch with those subtle changes."

Aunty Munya said First Nations seasons are the seasons that apply here to Australia in particular, and that it's important for both



Aunty Munya Andrews.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to have a deep understanding of Country, and how important Country is to Mob.

"But there is also the need for people to be aware about their own environment," Aunty Munya said.

Award-winning Bundjalung artist Charmaine Ledden-Lewis has created stunning illustrations for the educational picture book, bringing vivid and emotive visual storytelling to each page.

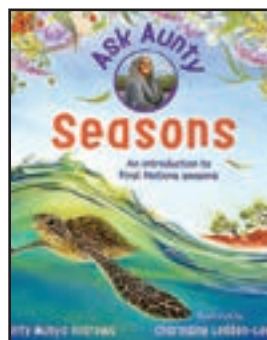
"One of the seasons that we call 'Lalin', refers to the 'married turtle

season' and this season is from about November to January on the calendar," Aunty Munya said.

"This season is called the married turtle season because it's the time of the year when the turtles are getting together and they are breeding, and so all the little, tiny, baby turtles we know will be born soon after that time."

"We know it's 'Barrgan' season when the bush fruits start to bloom, and the Dugong season starts."

An Aboriginal Elder from Bardi Country in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, Aunty



The new book, *Ask Aunty: Seasons*.

Munya is the co-director of Evolve Communities, through which she runs cultural awareness training programs, Reconciliation and Ally accreditation.

Evolve Communities are making such a huge impact they were recently named as NSW State winners of the Telstra Best of Business Awards.

Educated in Australia and the USA, Aunty Munya has university degrees in both anthropology and law and is passionate about keeping Indigenous languages alive to leave behind a legacy for everyone to enjoy.

She has practised law in Victoria and New South Wales as a solicitor and barrister, and is equally well-versed in the traditional laws, customs and practices of her people.

To engage her followers in a fun and accessible way, Aunty Munya creates 'Ask Aunty' videos for her organisation's website and TikTok channel, translating words from the Bardi language and

discussing cultural knowledge.

"People want to know about this stuff," Aunty Munya said.

"Especially the people that live here in Australia, because they are curious and they want to know about the things that happened here before 'Captain Cook', and they want to find out more," she said.

"I do believe people want to feel that deeper connection to Country, and I always say, 'language is the key', and so if you speak the language, the land opens up in front of you, and you can see it from a different perspective - and so I think the success of the TikTok videos come down to Australians wanting to forge a closer bond with Aboriginal people and sharing our cultures with one another."

Aunty Munya said her next book will focus on bush skills and how to survive in the bush.

"Because having those survival skills here in Australia is very important," she said.

"Books like these will help to teach mainstream Australia - and the kids growing up - that Aboriginal people are just as smart as other peoples around the world, and will also help them to learn to come around to our way of thinking about things, and appreciating the science and the knowledge that our people possess in understanding our environment."



Stan Grant.

Charges dropped for man who harassed Stan Grant



A MAN who admitted harassing ex-ABC journalist Stan Grant online has been ordered not to contact the reporter

after having a charge dropped on mental health grounds.

Michael Steven Davis, 41, faced one charge of using a carriage service to threaten serious harm after other charges were withdrawn earlier in proceedings.

Deputy chief magistrate Theo Tsavdaridis on Thursday dismissed the remaining charge against Davis on the grounds of his mental illness, releasing him into the care of a clinical psychologist for two years.

He also issued a two-year apprehended violence order, ordering Davis to avoid all contact with Grant or his partner, ABC sport journalist Tracey Holmes.

A special order was made to stop Davis using social media to contact either of the couple.

The 41-year-old was present in Sydney's Downing Centre Local Court for the judgment.

Davis's lawyer previously told the court his client intended to meet Grant and apologise for the abuse.

Grant cited racial abuse as one of the reasons for stepping down as host of the ABC show Q+A, using his final program in May this year to speak directly to his abusers.

"To those who have abused me and my family, I would just say - if your aim was to hurt me, well, you've succeeded," he said at the time.

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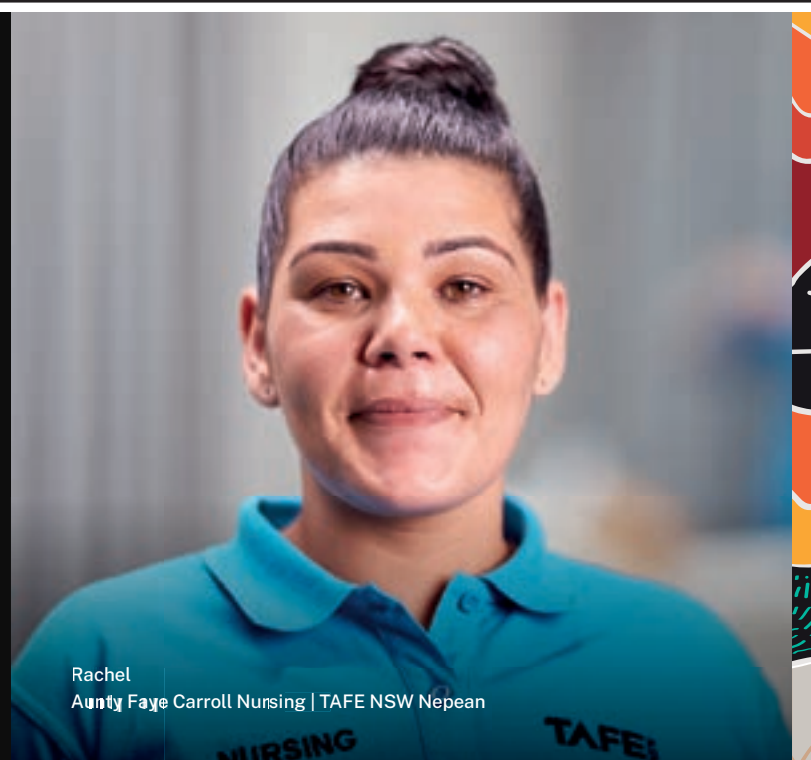
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Art works honour Legacy centenary



ARTWORK showcasing Indigenous vessels will adorn the Australian War Memorial in honour of women who supported families through conflict.

The artwork by Waradgerie sculptor Lorraine Connelly-Northey was made to mark the centenary of the veterans charity Legacy.

Comprised of up to 100 coolamons – vessels used by Indigenous communities for food preparation – made out of salvaged metal, the sculpture pays tribute to communities on the home front while war was playing out overseas.

Each of the coolamons represents different soils of Waradgerie country in central NSW.

Ms Connelly-Northey said the work paid tribute to the strength and resilience of Indigenous women.

“Coolamons are traditional Aboriginal implements used to winnow native grass seeds into flour for seedcakes to feed the protectors of our country and abroad, including Aboriginal soldiers who fought for freedom, one for every year of Legacy’s history,” she said.

The work was unveiled at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on Friday and the memorial’s head of art Laura Webster said it was a significant piece.

“When displayed in the galleries the scale and beauty of Lorraine’s work will engage visitors encouraging a broader understanding and acknowledgement of the role of women in caring and

supporting families affected by war,” she said.

“This work increases the representation of the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children in the memorial’s collection.”

The charity Legacy was set up following the end of World War I to look after the families of veterans after the conflict.

As it marks its centenary, the charity now supports more than 40,000 partners and children of veterans. Its chair Eric Easterbrook said the artwork was a powerful statement.

“This sculpture is a way to recognise the centenary of Legacy in Australia and ensure that it encapsulates everything that Legacy stands for and its connection with the Australian War Memorial,” he said.

– AAP



Artist Lorraine Connelly-Northey poses for photographs with her artwork at the Australian War Memorial storage facility in Canberra.

Guard who shot shackled prisoner found ‘not guilty’



THE mother of an Aboriginal man shot dead while trying to escape custody has called for guns to be taken from prison officers as one was found not guilty over the death of her “cheeky boy”.

Dwayne Johnstone, 43, died after being shot outside Lismore Base Hospital as he ran in leg shackles from a prison van after receiving treatment on March 15, 2019.

He had been taken to the northern NSW hospital when he collapsed and began convulsing in the cells after being remanded in custody earlier that day.

Leaving court flanked by supporters after being cleared of criminal charges, the officer who shot Mr Johnstone told media he



Dwayne Johnstone was shackled when he was shot.

was “very sad” it occurred.

Asked if he would continue working as a prison officer, he said he would “look at that tomorrow”.

The officer who cannot be legally identified was initially charged with manslaughter, which was upgraded to murder in August 2022, prompting a strike.

Public Service Association

secretary Stewart Little said it has never been explained to the officer why the charge was upgraded, and a coronial inquest suspended when the officer was referred for prosecution still needed to go ahead.

The officer was doing his job, which involved firearms he was trained to use, Mr Little said.

“This officer at all times acted in accordance with his training, and again, we think that was reflected in this decision,” he said outside Sydney’s Darlinghurst Supreme Court following the not guilty verdicts for murder and manslaughter.

“The government are going to have to look at this and whether there is some sort of legislative reform required,” he added.

Mr Little suggested shortening “extraordinarily long” leg

restraints.

“We’ve had a number of escapes where inmates have run out of sight, even in pure daylight, wearing these leg restraints,” Mr Little said.

Mr Johnstone’s mother Kerry Shanahan also called for reform. “Just get rid of the guns so no one else has to go through it,” she told media.

She said there were no winners from the not guilty verdicts but was relieved the trial was over.

“(The officer) has got to live with it for the rest of his life. I have to live with not having my son.”

She remembered hearing from her son about a new girlfriend days before he died.

“He was cheeky, but he was my cheeky boy,” she said.

Defence lawyers told the jury

that Officer A identified himself as a corrections officer and shouted “stop or I’ll shoot” before firing.

Mr Johnstone was taken back to the hospital after being shot but died about two hours later.

Officer A told police Mr Johnstone was running quickly and he did not believe he or other corrections officers would be able to catch up, despite restraints around his ankles.

Mr Johnstone had earlier been remanded in custody on charges of assault and possession of a stun gun.

Last year the jury in a trial over the same incident was discharged after it was unable to reach a verdict following nearly a week of deliberations.

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Stars of the day artists Genie Battese and Lynne Spotswood from Launceston, whose work features in the new Riawunna space.

By JILLIAN MUNDY



THE University of Tasmania's (UTAS) Riawunna Centre for Aboriginal Education celebrated their new Launceston home earlier this month. The new campus, on the banks of Laykila/North Esk River is a short walk from downtown Launceston. Five kilometres down the road from the old one, it's part of a

UTAS \$45.5 million development. Aboriginal community from across Lutruwita/Tasmania came to the sunset opening of the swanky new learning spaces, offices and cultural garden/gathering space.

Operating for over three decades, Riawunna is a welcoming space for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and community.

A main offering is the Murina pathway program, with units in history and politics, storytelling

and academic study skills, with a Tasmanian Aboriginal lens. It equips students with skills and confidence to move onto further studies. It also de-stigmatises university for families and community.

Head of Riawunna, Dave Warrener, says Riawunna holds a special place in the minds and hearts of many in the Aboriginal community.

At the opening, Aunty Lola and Uncle Rex Greeno lit the new gathering space's fire, which

contained ashes from the last fire at the old campus, for the first time.

Aunty Lola was amongst the first Murina program students, or bridging course as it was called in the early 1990s.

The multi-award winning artist and senior shell necklace maker went on to study education, then complete a Bachelor of Fine Arts.

"When they said come and do this course at Riawunna, I thought that's a scary place, the university, that's not for me, a little girl who

came off Cape Barren, then Flinders, I had no good education, I had rheumatic fever for two years so missed a lot of schooling," she explained.

That year there were five other Aboriginal bridging course students in Launceston. These days the course can attract upward of twenty students at one campus.

"It's become an important place for young people to learn basic knowledge, skills and culture," she said. *(Continued on next page...)*

Beat the Heat



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- Limit physical activity, like housework or exercise, to early in the morning when temperatures are lower.
- Drink water regularly even if you don't feel thirsty.
- Take water with you if going outside.
- Keep in touch with family and friends.

For more tips :
health.nsw.gov.au/beattheheat



"It's a safe space to be and they can express themselves in their way and look at what they would like to study or do in the future."

Another former Murina student, Lynne Spotswood, teamed up with Genie Battese to collaborate on the garden and gathering space design.

Their designs depicting river reeds (used for weaving) and family connections were laser cut into steel. The base of the new fireplace and seating feature palawa kani places, names and words.

There's a pathway with shells gathered from around Lutruwita/Tasmania, including Cape Barren and Flinders Islands, spread and sealed into it. Everything is designed to connect Country and generations.

Bianca Templar, who graduated from UTAS with a Bachelor of Social Work in 2016, led a weaving workshop at the opening.

She reminisced about her nan Gloria Templar and Dorothy Murray (both deceased) leading the first shell stringing workshop on the old campus.

She said Riawunna was her 'backbone' when she studied.

"We could cook meals in there and sleep in there if we were studying late," she said.

This year there are 908 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying at UTAS across their three Tasmanian campuses and online

*'Palawa' and 'Pakana' both mean 'Tasmanian Aborigine'.



Uncle Rex and Aunty Lola Greeno, with their son Dean, lit the first fire at the new campus.



Riawunna staff and Palawa Mob Brendan Murray, Janice Ross and Georgie Spotswood with potential student Connie Goss catching up at the opening.



Organisers, kana women Courtney Fechner and Emmaleen West.



Pakana Mob Di Spotswood, Trudy Maluga, Heidi Maynard from Launceston and Tony Medcraft from Burnie.



Gubbi Gubbi brothers Fred and August Geritz with Woolwonga boy Flynn Ashby.

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Sandy's early diagnosis is reason to feel 'lucky'

By JILLIAN MUNDY



Sandy Taute feels lucky, like she has been given a second chance. The Walpiri enrolled nurse and mother from

Nipaluna/Hobart is in the 'lucky' 30% of patients diagnosed with ovarian cancer in the early stages – and you could say by chance.

Statistics on ovarian cancer detection and survival are alarming.

It is the most lethal of reproductive cancers across any gender.

One Australian dies every eight hours from ovarian cancer.

51% of those diagnosed are not alive within five years.

Approximately 70% of patients are not diagnosed until the disease is in advanced stages.

The lack of an early detection test is one of the biggest barriers to improving survival rates.

Cervical screening tests do not detect ovarian cancer.

The only definitive diagnosis is through invasive surgery and biopsy – often by removal of ovaries.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are 1.4 times more likely to be diagnosed, and while data is patchy, studies show one-year survival rates are lower than non-Indigenous Australians.

"I want to help change the statistics and give those diagnosed with ovarian cancer a greater chance of survival," said Sandy.

"Research is the answer."

Last month she hosted *Frocking Ovary It*, an event to raise awareness and funds as part of the Frocktober initiative by the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation whose aim is to develop a critical early detection test and more targeted treatment options.

The upbeat Saturday event, held on returned Aboriginal Land at Piyura Kitina/Risdon Cove raised over \$10,000 through a mega raffle, stalls, a silent auction and direct donations.

The event was also a chance for Sandy to thank those who nurtured and cared for her in times of need and to encourage women to be a 'squeaky wheel' when they feel something is not right in their body.

She also told her story, bravely sharing intimate details of her life.

Sandy explained how 2022 kicked off well – adult learn-to-swim lessons, getting fit and losing weight in the lead-up to her second endometriosis removal surgery.

The June surgery had to be stopped when she suffered an anaphylactic reaction to the anaesthetic.

In October her father passed away after a short illness, she had a few pains in her chest,



Sandy Taute feels she is lucky to be in the 30% of women with ovarian cancer who get an early diagnosis because early detection is rare, with the disease having very few symptoms in its early stages, but key to successful treatment.

overwhelming tiredness, was a bit forgetful and still had stomach pains; she wrote it off as grief and having had covid earlier in the year.

"I just kept on pushing myself," she said.

"It's my personality to keep on going, to keep strong."

Sandy had been routinely dip-testing her urine as part of a ketones diet when she discovered traces of blood. She let her gynaecologist know and one diagnosis led to another.

Like many patients, she presumed test results were negative when no one contacted her.

It wasn't until Sandy searched for her daughter's immunisation records for school enrolment that she stumbled across alarming results in her own My Health Record.

"No one had told me, no one had received the report," Sandy explained.

"With this day and age with the IT systems we've got you wouldn't think that would happen, but it did."

There appears to be a glitch for specialists who work in both the public and private health systems being alerted to results with the urgency they may require.

Sandy went straight to her doctor and underwent further testing.

In a matter of weeks, she went from dealing with endometriosis and anaphylaxis,

"Ovarian cancer isn't talked about much and lots of women don't understand how it's diagnosed, how it's treated or that it's one of the most lethal cancers out there."

**– Oncologist
Dr Nicole Krzys**

Sandy's prognosis is good.

Her oncologist/gynaecologist Dr Nicole Krzys, who is on the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation Board, referred to Sandy's early diagnosis as the silver lining of a terrible year for Sandy.

"Sandy is really lucky in the sense that she had something found on a CT scan that was done for a different reason. Most people present with ovarian cancer at a much later stage where the cancer has already spread, that's because it doesn't cause any symptoms initially."

Dr Krzys said people suffering from endometriosis have roughly one and a half to two times the risk of developing this rarer form of ovarian cancer.

"Ovarian cancer isn't talked about much and lots of women don't understand how it's diagnosed, how it's treated or that it's one of the most lethal cancers out there and we have a really long way to go when it comes to research around it," she said.

"It has been woefully under-researched for many, many years.

"You cannot get anywhere with any medical problem without putting money into research."

Research into ovarian cancer is considered to be where research into breast cancer was 50 years ago.

Although it is less common than breast cancer, proportionally more women die from ovarian cancer.

Compared to the breast cancer 92% five-year survival rate, ovarian cancer is 49%, uterine cancer 84% and cervical cancer 74%.

Improvements in breast cancer survival came from dedicated research, early detection tests, public campaigns and advocacy.

"The research for an ovarian screen test has been very difficult, but recently there has been some progress made by Australian researchers," Dr Krzys said.

"It's early days, further studies are being performed."

Symptoms of ovarian cancer are often vague, non-existent or not significant until it is advanced and it has spread, it is very difficult to treat and almost impossible to cure.

Only 30% of cases are diagnosed early.

Symptoms can include persistent or sudden onset of bloating and abdominal swelling, appetite loss or feeling full quickly, tiredness, unexplained changes in weight, change in frequency of urination and lower back pain.

If caught in early stages survival rates are as high as 92%.

Further information can be found at the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation and Cancer Council websites.



to also blood cancer, suspected tuberculosis, an undetected small stroke and then ovarian cancer.

In the past year, Sandy has dealt with eight medical specialists.

When she returned to the operating table in May this year for endometriosis removal her surgeon also took her fallopian

tubes and both ovaries because they looked suspicious.

A pathologist, it seems by chance not routine, took a second look at her removed left ovary, discovering a clear-cell carcinoma, a rare and deadly ovarian cancer.

It had been removed before it spread.

Racism and hate abound



RACISM and hate is experienced in every corner and every suburb of the nation, a groundbreaking new report has found.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been detailing experiences of racism - including against children - for the Call it Out project since it first launched in early 2022.

Academics from the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research at the University of Technology Sydney, have collated and analysed the first year of data in detail for the In Every Corner of Every Suburb report.

An Aboriginal mother who heard a racial slur being used against her son at the playground spoke about her own similar experiences as a child and how the incident made her feel.

"It broke my heart," she said.

"My little boy was only two years old being called an 'abo', he didn't even understand he was being called this sick name.

"I used to get called 'abo' in primary school and I remember a girl who was my friend tell me her mum said I was an 'abo' and to stay away from me.



A report has revealed the shocking prevalence of racism against First Nations people across Australia after the Call it Out project gave people tools to report.

"From then on, I used to hold my lips tight, so they looked smaller."

The report analyses data in the 12-month period up to March 2023, in the lead-up to the unsuccessful referendum on a First Nations Voice, held in October.

Report author Fiona Allison said they believed the reports provided a snapshot of the daily experiences of First Nations

people - and that people could still register incidents.

"It's harrowing reading and what we received is really just the tip of the iceberg of what's out there," she said.

"It's just such a terrible problem, it's pretty massive."

Call it Out provides a simple and secure way for people to report or call out incidents of racism and discrimination towards First Nations people.

Those who have experienced racism themselves can use the register, as can friends and relatives and also people who have witnessed racist incidents.

The aim is to generate evidence to assist First Nations leaders, organisations and advocates in garnering support and resources to develop tools and strategies to address racism and discrimination, including recommendations for systemic and cultural change.

"One thing we hope this report does is educate the public that this is a real thing," Dr Allison said.

"Some people have been quite shocked that in trying to report racism, and that includes non-Indigenous people, but also Indigenous people trying to call it out, that they've just been hitting a brick wall, in that it feels like racism is still so acceptable.

"That feels like what's happened lately, there does seem to be a level of tolerance for it.

"But the idea is for this to be an annual piece of work and so over time, we hope that the collective bringing together of data will point to some particular strategies or initiatives that might be used to combat racism."

The report found racist

incidents reported "in every corner of every suburb of this country", including workplaces, businesses, schools and community settings.

Racism in the workplace is identified as a major concern, with almost a quarter (23 per cent) of First Nations respondents reporting they had experienced racism at work, with many people experiencing more than a one-off incident.

Physical and verbal abuse, hate speech, bullying, threats, intimidation and damage to property, taken together, made up 38 per cent of reports.

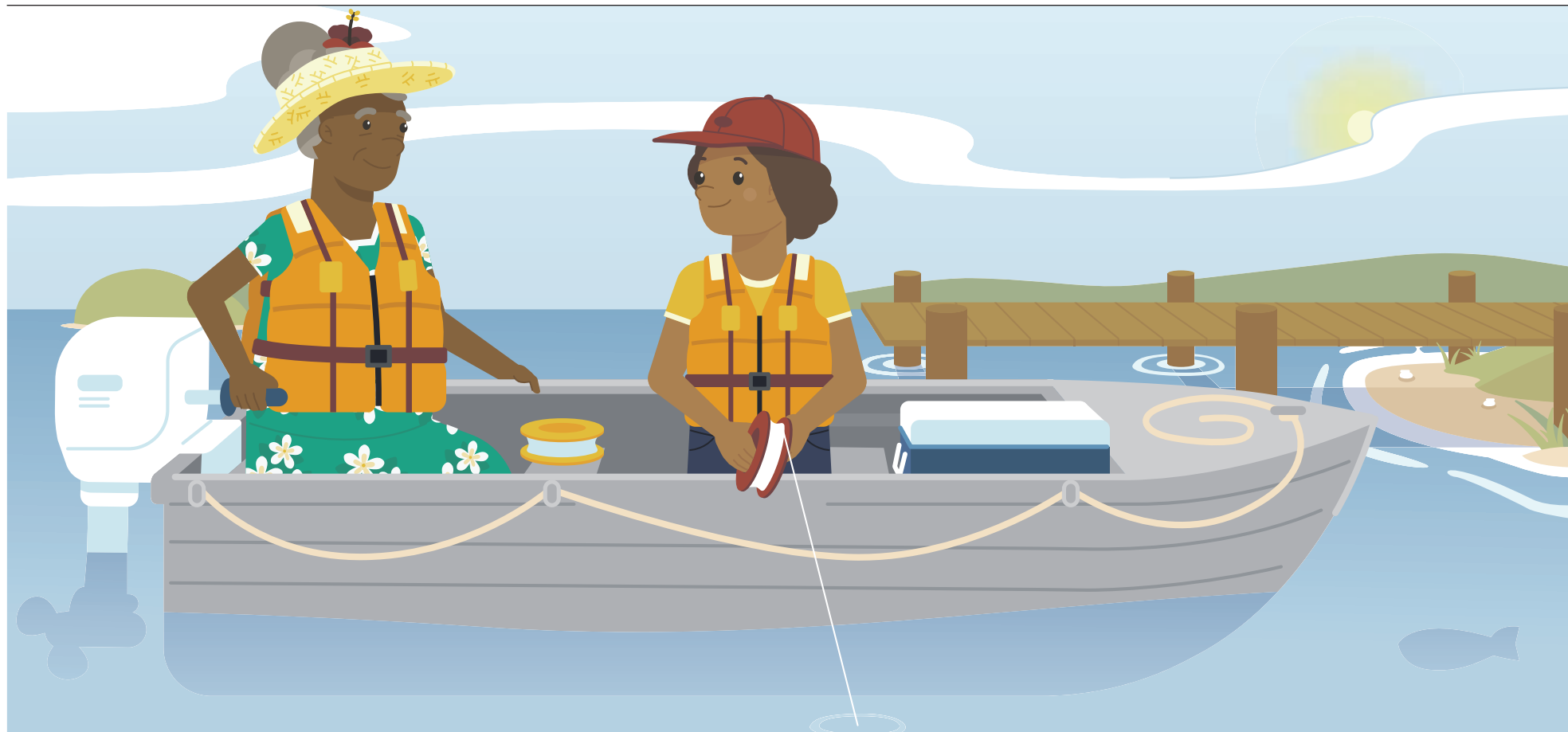
Negative attitudes and stereotyping were the most commonly reported forms of racism (20 per cent), with respondents reporting references to government and other "hand-outs" made to Indigenous people, alleged criminality, drug and alcohol use.

Professor Larissa Behrendt, from Jumbunna, said the Call it Out register was started as a response to the need for people to tell their stories.

"It is encouraging to see it capture experiences that might otherwise fall through the cracks of the legal system," she said.

-AAP

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Australian Government

PFAS Independent Review

Call for submissions

Public submissions for the Australian Government's Independent Review of land uses around key Defence bases impacted by per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination opened 9am AEDT Monday 23 October 2023 and close 9pm AEDT Sunday 3 December 2023.

The Review will focus on communities around RAAF Base Williamtown (NSW), Swartz Barracks (formerly known as the Army Aviation Centre Oakey) (QLD) and RAAF Base Tindal (NT). However, other communities affected by Defence's historic use of PFAS are also able to make submissions.

In addition to calling for submissions, public hearings have been held at the three sites, details for remaining hearings are below.

Learn more about the public hearings on our website.

Upcoming public hearings:

Virtual hearings

Wednesday 29 November 2023

- Session 1: 10am – 1pm
- Session 2: 5:30pm – 8pm

Details on how to join the virtual hearing will be provided upon registration.

Learn more and register



Scan the QR code or visit the website below to learn more about the Review, including how to make a submission. Scanning the code will also provide details to register to speak at a public hearing or attend as an observer.

www.pfasindependentreview.com.au

Contact

1800 879 142 (9am – 5pm, Mon-Fri)
pfas.submissions@defence.gov.au
PO Box Q1084
Queen Victoria Building NSW 1230

news

NT quarantine deaths to be examined



AN inquest into the death of three people during forced quarantine at Howard Springs will examine the legality of their detention and adequacy of their care.

David Hardy, 77, Raylene Dick, 50, and Karen Bading, 56, were all classified as deaths in custody.

The trio had been diagnosed with or suspected to have COVID-19 and died in the nation's largest quarantine facility in Darwin during the Omicron wave between November 2021 and January 2022.

Counsel assisting the coroner Patrick Coleridge said issues to do with their care during their time in the Centre for National Resilience (CNR) would be examined in the inquest.

"What was the quality of care ... were they adequate, was it easy for someone in a position of a detained person to access services, were services easier to access for some?" he asked during a directions hearing last Friday.

Mr Coleridge indicated that the legality of their detainment would also be probed.

Mr Hardy, 77, was the only international traveller, while Ms Dick and Ms Bading were detained from majority



The deaths of three people, including two women from Indigenous communities, in Darwin's Howard Springs quarantine facility will be examined at an inquest.

Indigenous communities within the NT.

"In what circumstances were they taken into the facility, why were they detained, did it occur with their consent (and) how was their consent obtained?" Mr Coleridge asked.

"That is a very, very broad brush overview of the issues likely to arise and it seems everyone will bring a different perspective to the table."

Coroner Elisabeth Armitage said she suspected the term "death in custody" would be debated as well as the adequacy and access to care.

The Howard Springs facility was used to quarantine repatriated Australians suspected of contracting COVID-19, including Mr Hardy.

However, it was also used to detain members of the local

community with suspected COVID under orders from the chief health officer.

Mr Coleridge said while the trio had "individual and independent stories", there would be "common features and lessons to learn from the circumstances in which they died".

Family members of all three deceased dialled into the court hearing as the coroner expressed her condolences.

"If there's anything special that you would like to contribute or particular cultural matters that you would like us to address or incorporate into the inquest please let us know," she said.

The inquest is set down for two weeks of hearings from April 8 next year.

– AAP

First homes delivered under \$100m Homelands package



THE Federal and Northern Territory governments are delivering on the \$100

million Restoring Funding for Homelands program, with families on Central Australia's Utopia homelands returning to refurbished homes.

In the remote community of Atheley, about 230 kilometres north east of Alice Springs on Utopia homelands, father and son Charlie and Zachariah have received the keys to their restored homes.

It's the first of more than 80 properties to be refurbished under the \$100 million program. The last of six homes in Atheley will be

completed later this month as works continue on Paru in the Tiwi Islands.

Construction is soon to commence at Kurrajong Bore (Utopia) as well as Groote Eylandt in Mawulyumania (Thomson Bay), Akwalirrumania (Four Mile) and Yedikba (Emerald River).

The Commonwealth's \$100 million Restoring Funding for Homelands is being delivered under a national partnership agreement with the Northern Territory Government.

It is also in collaboration with local communities including Elders and Traditional Owners, who have provided valuable input in the priorities, design and

implementation of restoration projects.

Also part of the Australian Government's \$100 million commitment is essential infrastructure work on power, water and sewage systems, with works already underway in Big Rivers, Barkly, Central Australia, East Arnhem and Top End regions.

The Commonwealth's \$100 million Restoring Funding for Homelands not only honours the Government's pre-election commitment; it also recognises the significance of homelands for Aboriginal Territorians.

Restoring Funding for Homelands is supported by all four Northern Territory Land Councils, as well as Aboriginal Housing NT.

Housing for Elders



A PARCEL of land in Woodbridge will be home to a unique housing project dedicated to providing homes for Aboriginal Elders.

Owned by DevelopmentWA, the land will be developed under plans by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Noongar Mia Mia.

The organisation has contracted to purchase a 1,695sqm site at the Midland estate for the construction of a residential complex of eleven new accessible units for Elders and their carers – all in recognition of the lifetime of contribution they have made to community.

Donation

The sale, which is subject to planning approval, was made possible by Sisters of St John of God and a donation from the Estate of Sonya Rodgers.

DevelopmentWA also provided Noongar Mia Mia with advice and support through the sales process of the land.

DevelopmentWA acting chief executive Dean Mudford said “we recognise the importance of this housing project and our agency is



On site at the future location of the homes are: DevelopmentWA manager John Clifton, NXT TEC technical director Matakia O'Goshi Lim, Noongar Mia Mia director Laurel Sellers, Noongar Mia Mia managing director Tina Ugle, Noongar Mia Mia chair Jasmine Kadic, DevelopmentWA Aboriginal Economic and Community Development manager Les Oakley, NXT TEC director Anthony Piccoli and NXT TEC chair Natasha Di Ciano.

proud to support the delivery of safe and secure housing for Aboriginal Elders and their carers.”

Noongar Mia Mia managing

director, Tina Ugle, said “it is important for us to acknowledge the support, passion and hard work Aboriginal Elders provide over many years”.

“By building safe and secure accommodation for the Elders in the next stage of their life, it's a great way to give back.

“Being able to do so means a

lot to our organisation and the wider community.”

Noongar Mia Mia secures quality, long-term housing for Aboriginal people across the Perth metropolitan area, and provides culturally safe tenancy support and property management support.

Services

The organisation's services are designed and delivered by Aboriginal people, for Aboriginal people.

Noongar Mia Mia will partner with precast building technology company, NXT TEC Ltd for the construction of the residential complex located in Woodbridge.

NXT TEC's innovative housing technology boasts a turnaround time of less than six months, making it quicker and more cost effective than traditional construction methods.

The planning and building process will be completed in 2024, and the housing complex will be owned and managed by Noongar Mia Mia.

The residential complex will be well located close to the St John of God Midland hospital and essential amenities, including public transport and shops.

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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 TEOSA PRV12057

A big welcome to culture



IT was all about contemporary Aboriginal culture, dance, food and music at the recent Giiyong Festival.

Held in Eden on the far south coast of NSW, it's the largest multi-arts Aboriginal cultural festival in the Yuin Nation.

Almost 2500 people attended the recent event with performances from Emma Donoavan, Radical Son, J-MILLA and contemporary violin virtuoso Eric Avery. Local performances from up and down the south coast also graced the Auty Rose Mumbulla-Stewart Stage, MC'd by comedians Sean Choolburra and Steph Tisdell.

'Come to welcome'

Giyyong means 'come to welcome' in the south coast languages as spoken by Elders.

Visitors, presenters, performers and volunteers came from all over Australia, with many claiming it to be the best Aboriginal cultural festival they have ever attended.

Festival director, Jazz Williams, of South East Arts said "Giyyong Festival is a crucial event for our region and encourages people to value Aboriginal artists and the rich Cultural history and activity across the Yuin Nation".



The women of Djaadjawan Dancers and Duurunu Miru Dancers at Giyyong Festival. Picture: Angi Highl

"South East Arts has secured multi-year funding and will produce Giyyong Festival in 2024 and 2025, with continued support from our partners," she said.

During the festival, the Auty

Beryl Cruse Stage, in the Moneroo Bobberr Gudu Keeping Place, hosted important conversations and presentations from Ellen van Neerven, Kirli Saunders, Steph Tisdell and Professor Asmi Wood.

The most popular discussion on the day was the panel presentation, chaired by Clarence Slooke and featuring Uncle Noel Butler, Kerrie Saunders and Chef Mark Olive, on the topic of food

sovereignty. Many of the performers, including Eric Avery and Mudjingaal Yangamba Choir sang in the traditional languages of their people.

Dancing

In the Auty Tina Bobbins Ganya, or camp, and in the Bunaan Ring, audiences were packed up to ten deep to witness some of the best traditional dance groups from across the Yuin Nation in NSW.

In the evening four dance groups – Duurunu Miru, Gumaara, Gadhu and Djaadjawan – came together for Dhillwaan Yarrkural (Nightfall Dance) – a spectacular and moving performance that sent the dust flying and is being heralded as the emotional highlight of the 2023 event.

Throughout the day, the Ganya also hosted traditional and contemporary cultural demonstrations and presentations including didgeridoo demonstrations, cooking with chef Mark Olive, weaving with Amanda Reynolds, traditional stone tool making with Shane Herrington, artefacts from the Australian Museum, native grains from Black Duck Foods, Auty Aileen's Yam Hut and and Uncle Pirate's pyrography.

(Continued on next page...)

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15 December 2023





Pictured above and top right: Aboriginal dancers kick up the dirt at the Giiyong Festival.
Bottom right: The crowd enjoyed performances of music and dancing across multiple stages.
Pictures: David Rogers Photography

(Continued from previous page.)

The festival also featured the premiere of the Giiyong Gumleaf Band's music video for their *Giiyong Song*, composed by Wayne Thorpe.

The Giiyong Gumleaf Band was a unique project developed for the 2022 Giiyong Festival, led by Uncle Ossie Cruse of Eden, and a feature documentary about the

band and the history of gumleaf music in Australia will be launched in 2024.

Giiyong Festival is coordinated and produced by South East Arts, with collaboration and assistance from Twofold Aboriginal Corporation and Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council. Over 70 volunteers came onboard from across the community providing

vital support to the small festival team.

Giiyong Festival is presented with support from the Federal Government's Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Program, the NSW Government, Create NSW, Regional NSW and Destination NSW and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal's Stronger Communities Fund.

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Community Drop-in

If you'd like to know more about current operations, decommissioning, South-East Australian Carbon Capture and Storage, and proposed Kipper and Turrum drilling activities, the Esso Consultation Team will be hosting a community drop in at Lakes Entrance:

When: Thursday 7 December 2023
Where: The Bellevue Hotel, Lakes Entrance

Time: Any time between 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm

There will be maps of the facilities and infrastructure, brochures about the projects, and friendly staff available to answer your questions.

No booking is required.

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Please connect us with other interested people

If there is anyone you know who may be interested in our activities, we encourage you to share this information with them.

To find out more information

For more information about Esso's Decommissioning activities and other projects, please go to the Esso Consultation Hub at:



<https://www.exxonmobil.com.au/community-engagement/local-outreach/consultation-hub>

Like to be consulted about these activities?

Please fill in the Esso Consultation Questionnaire in the Esso Consultation Hub to let us know if you'd like to be consulted and any questions or feedback you may have.

news



Aunty Ivy Trevallion, right, with her daughter Surum Trevallion at the launch.

Book honours traditional TSI adoptions

By ALF WILSON



IT took more than 30 years of struggle, setbacks, renewed hope and ultimate triumph by a

working party for the Queensland Parliament to pass a bill in 2020 to legally recognise a traditional custom – an ancient child-rearing practice among Torres Strait Islander people where a child is “adopted” by a relative or community member.

On the Kupai Omasker Working Party were Waiben-based Aunty Ivy Trevallion, Belza Lowah, former Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia, Alastair Nicholson, Mer descendant Francis Tapim and author Paul Ban, (whose new book is called *Piri Piri Mab*).

Journey

Their long journey has been detailed in a new book launched in Townsville recently, where Aunty Ivy, Mr Lowah, Chief Justice Nicholson, Mr Tapim and Mr Ban gave emotional speeches about the journey.

The working party included members Uncle Steve Mam, Dana Ober and McRose Elu. Together they all helped pass the Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act 2020 through the Queensland Parliament in 2020.

It is the first piece of legislation in Australian history to recognise the practice of Torres Strait Islander people in



The cover of the book, *Piri Piri Mab*.

“adopting” a relative or community member.

In the book, Mr Ban takes readers on an historically important and remarkable journey of the Kupai Omasker Working Party.

Mr Tapim who was also MC for the launch described the *Piri Piri Mab* as an important educational book and was glowing in his praise of other members of the working party.

“They have done a lot of work and this book is a must read for all Torres Strait islander people and others,” Mr Tapim said.

Mr Ban is not a Torres Strait Islander, but has previously worked for the Department of Children's Services 1977 to 1988, spending four years in the Cairns office.

He has been working in private practice in Melbourne since 1995 and has a Bachelor

of Social Work, Graduate Diploma in Aboriginal Studies, Master of Social Work, Master of Arts in Aboriginal Studies and a Master of Conflict Resolution.

He has been a resource person to the working party since its inception in 1990 – after completing his Master of Social Work thesis ‘*Traditional Adoption Practice of Torres Strait Islanders and Queensland Adoption Legislation*’ in 1989.

Also at the launch were Greg Anderson, Regional Director of DATSIP, and Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa commissioner C'Zarke Maza.

“In Queensland, whilst we have attained legal recognition of Torres Strait Islander traditional child rearing practices, the real driving force behind this world first achievement was a small band of Torres Strait Islanders and a handful of philanthropists who formed the Kupai Omasker Working Party,” Mr Maza said.

At the completion of the launch ceremony Mr Ban and other members of the working party signed books and then everybody enjoyed a feast of great food.

Mr Ban said he hoped the book would be placed at schools, libraries, in government departments, with politicians and as many other places as possible.

The book is available to buy for \$25 on Thursday Island (email Ivy Trevallion ivy.trevallion@outlook.com), in Townsville (email Francis Tapim fat98@bigpond.com), and from author Paul Ban (email: pzb@ozemail.com.au).

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Island gets CT scanner



THE arrival of a CT Scanner to the Thursday Island Hospital will mean patients from the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) will have closer access to the service.

The scanner was installed at the hospital in late November and will benefit 50 to 60 patients a month from around the Torres Strait and will commence operations in mid December.

CT scans generate images that allow clinicians to visualize segments of bone and soft tissue from multiple perspectives and ensure a full range of information required for diagnosis and management.

Training

The scanner has been undergoing a detailed commissioning process followed by training of the hospital's medical imaging staff in its use.

A special blessing ceremony for the new scanner was held at the hospital on November 14.

The CT scanner is the first for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area and the second for the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service following the



From left with the CT scanner are Radiographer Sarah Baxter, Father Tom Stephens who did the blessing, Allied Health Assistant Joe Bon, Neil Thomas and Michael Baxter both radiographers. *Picture: Qld Health*

installation of a CT scanner at the Weipa Integrated Health Service in 2021.

Thursday Island Hospital Director of Medical Services Dr Jennifer Wharton said access to a CT scanner in the testing and investigation phase of a patient's

care here at Thursday Island Hospital is tremendously important.

"Our clinicians here are at the hospital are excited about having this service," Dr Wharton said.

Member for Cook Cynthia Lui said the introduction of the CT

scanning service at Thursday Island will create opportunities for growth and development by attracting and retaining staff, while also increasing the self-sufficiency of the hospital. A full-time radiographer has been recruited to support the new

service and opportunities will be provided to upskill First Nations staff to support the CT scanner and other services, similar to what has occurred in Weipa since the installation of that hospital's scanner in 2021," Ms Lui said.

Queensland Minister for Health, Mental Health, and Ambulance Services Shannon Fentiman said the installation is a game changer for residents, saving 50 – 60 patients a month from travelling outside the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula area to receive care.

"Our rural and remote communities deserve access to world-class health care, no matter where they live, and this \$2.1 million investment will mean faster access to potentially lifesaving scans for cancer, stroke, and other medical conditions. I'm thrilled that staff and residents across the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area will have access to this vital piece of equipment, with scans expected to commence from mid-December. The CT scanner is in addition to the \$64.4 million redevelopment of Thursday Island Hospital currently on track for completion in early 2024," Mr Fentiman said.

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New strategy gives T0s a say in healing the water



A NEW Djaara Gatjin (water) strategy has been launched by the Dja Dja Wurrung Elders, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, and its enterprise DJANDAK Called Dhelkunyangu Gatjin, which means 'working together to heal water', the strategy was launched at the Platypus Compass, by the streamside in Axedale recently.

The strategy involves DJANDAK partnering with all water agencies across Dja Dja Wurrung Country to implement the Dja Dja Wurrung vision for managing water, outlined in the strategy.

Since the strategy's release in June, DJANDAK and its water agency partners have been co-developing actions and initiatives that incorporate Dja Dja Wurrung knowledge and practices into conventional water management.

Dja Dja Wurrung Group chief executive Rodney Carter praised the work of DJANDAK's Gatjin team and Dja Dja Wurrung knowledge group Kapa Gatjin ('Knowing Water') in developing and beginning to implement the strategy.

"It gives me immense pride to officially launch this strategy," Mr Carter said.

"Dja Dja Wurrung People have a cultural obligation, passed down from our Ancestors, to care for water and ensure it is healthy as it flows downstream to neighbouring Mobs.

"Through Dhelkunyangu Gatjin we are working in partnership with water authorities and the community to apply 60,000 years of knowledge and culture to water management.

"Today is also a celebration of ngaldurrong yana (walking together). We are thrilled that our water industry partners have committed to working with us, to heal water and heal Country for the benefit and healing of all," Mr Carter said.

Dhelkunyangu Gatjin sets out a pathway for Dja Dja Wurrung people to work in partnership with authorities and the community to manage water for a healthy and sustainable future.

DJAARA's 2013 Recognition and Settlement Agreement with the State of Victoria gives Dja Dja Wurrung people a right to be involved in the management of water that falls on and flows through Dja Dja Wurrung Country.

The launch ceremony was part of a week of celebrations marking 10 years since the Recognition and Settlement Agreement was signed.



Kapa Gatjin (Dja Dja Wurrung water knowledge group) received certificates of appreciation acknowledging their invaluable contribution to the Djaara Gatjin (water) strategy.



Dja Dja Wurrung Group CEO Rodney Carter speaks at the official launch of the Djaara Gatjin Strategy Dhelkunyangu Gatjin (working together to heal water).



DJANDAK Gatjin (water) policy manager Caitlin Dunnolly-Lee.



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Help shape Australia's national arts and cultural organisations

Expressions of interest are invited for upcoming board positions

Australia's National Cultural Policy *Revive* recognises that the boards of our national cultural organisations should be representative of contemporary Australia. This will enable us to tell more stories, provide greater opportunities and ensure our institutions are reflective of our society.

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Expressions of interest are sought from those with knowledge and experience in the arts and cultural sector as well as in organisational leadership and governance. People with a mix of skills and experience representing all forms of diversity are encouraged to submit an expression of interest to help shape and lead Australia's contemporary creative sector.

The Government will consider applications as positions become available across a number of Commonwealth arts boards and councils including for Creative Australia, Screen Australia and our nine National Collecting Institutions.

For more information including about *Revive* and how to submit your expression of interest, please visit www.arts.gov.au/board-appointments. You can also contact us on 1800 935 919 or via email at appointments@arts.gov.au

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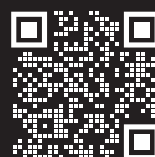
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‘Fearless’ NT land council chairperson dies aged 61



LAND rights activist and long-serving chair of the Northern Land Council Dr Bush-Blanasi has died aged 61.

Dr Bush-Blanasi served on the NLC board for nine terms, including four as chair representing 51,000 people in the territory's largest and most powerful land council.

A passionate advocate for the recently voted down Voice to Parliament referendum, he also secured Sea Country rights in Arnhem Land for Traditional Owners in 2022.

The Aboriginal Sea Company was the first of its kind and enabled Traditional Owners to oversee commercial fishing, aquaculture and other fishing-related activities along the Arnhem Land coastline.

"A fearless leader gone too soon ... his leadership was bold and uncompromising," NLC said in a statement.

"Never deferential; he spoke truth to power ... his political nous



Dr Bush-Blanasi.

was second to none; equally as influential when talking with countrymen or politicians."

Dr Bush-Blanasi was crowned the NT's 2023 Australian of the Year and awarded an honorary doctorate for his work supporting native title claims, including overseeing the historic hand-back of the remaining half of Kakadu National Park to 14 clan estate groups.

Dr Bush-Blanasi was also a

strong advocate for Indigenous women, consistently advocating for family-centric policies.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney and NT members of Federal Parliament Malarndirri McCarthy and Marion Scrymgour expressed their sadness at his death.

"As three female representatives in the field of Indigenous Affairs – his respect and courage was a constant source of strength for all of us," they said in a joint statement.

"His wisdom, leadership and his sense of humour will be sorely missed."

The trio said Dr Bush-Blanasi was a "shining example" of what can be achieved by Indigenous Australians deciding their own futures.

The Yolngu and Mayili man is survived by his children and grandchildren.

NT Chief Minister Natasha Fyles said he was an inspirational leader for Indigenous Australians everywhere.

"More than his achievements, Dr Bush-Blanasi was a friend and

confidant to many," she said.

"Always offering advice and wisdom, we will miss his guidance."

NT Aboriginal Affairs Minister Chansey Paech took to social media to say he was "devastated" by the news.

"This is without a doubt one of the hardest things to hear," he said.

Funeral preparations are being finalised.

The members and staff of the Central Land Council also paid their respects, lowering its flag to half-mast out of respect for the 2003 NT Australian of the Year.

"Our younger members can barely remember a time when Dr Bush-Blanasi did not provide strong leadership to the Northern Land Council, either as chair or deputy chair," Central Land Council deputy chair Warren Williams said.

"It is truly heartbreaking to lose yet another respected and outstanding Territory leader well before his time.

"Dr Bush-Blanasi was a steadfast and outspoken ally over

many years." Mr Williams said.

"He connected with people from all walks of life and cut through with decision-makers on all sides of politics."

"From the 2018 Barunga Agreement about a treaty with the NT government to the campaign to bring the Aboriginals Benefit Account under the control of Aboriginal Territorians and this year's Voice referendum, you could always count on him to fight on the right side of history."

"He stood with the other NT land council chairs as they delivered the Barunga Voice Declaration to the Australian people at Parliament House in Canberra in July," he said.

"Our thoughts are with Dr Bush-Blanasi's family, friends and colleagues, especially those at the NLC. We know how they feel, having lost our own chair unexpectedly this time last year."

"In a year of losses this is a loss that reminds us that we all must do so much more to close the life expectancy gap between our people and other Australians."

—AAP

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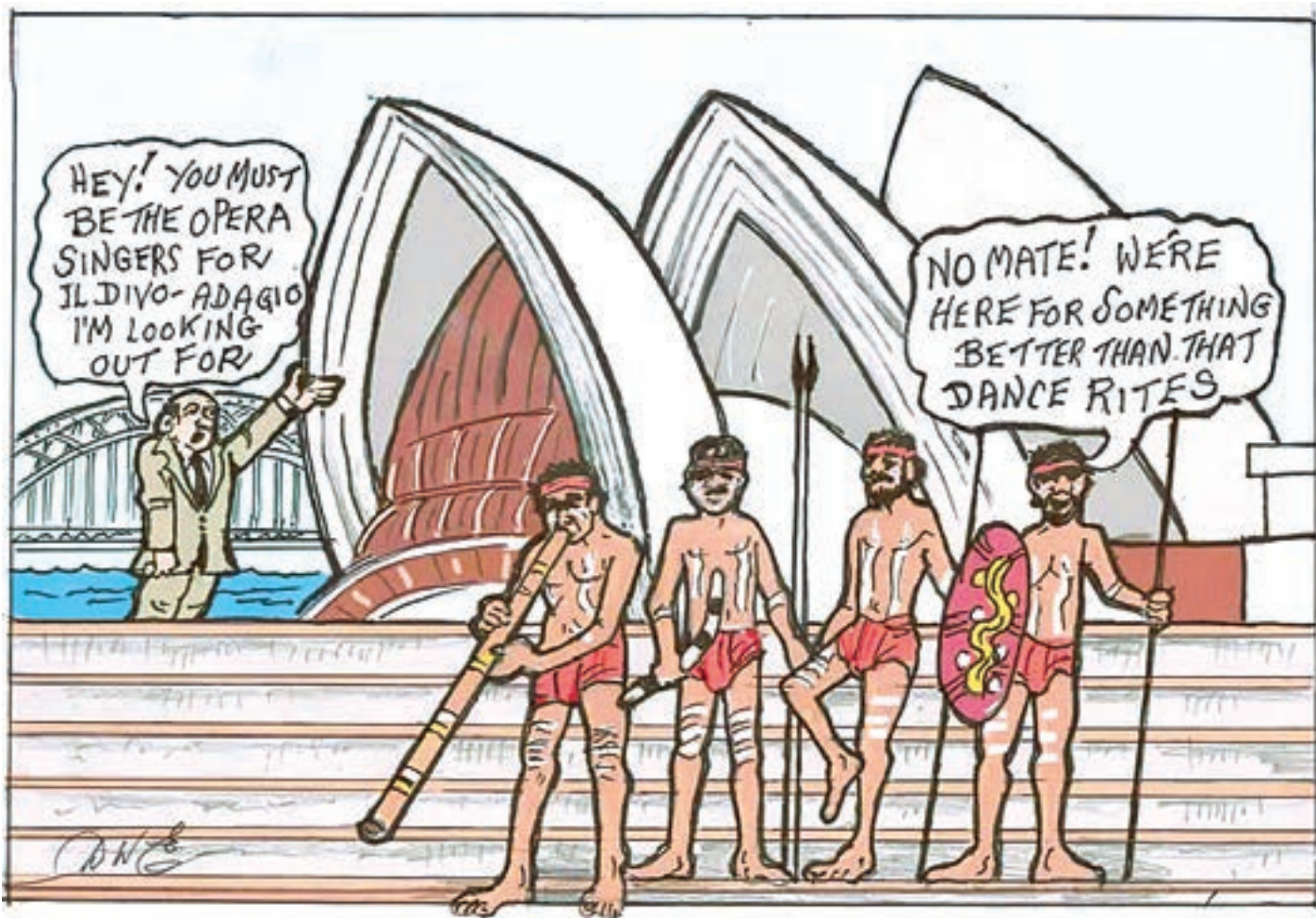
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Dr Deanne Gilson

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Danny Eastwood's view



A YARN WITH...



Bernie Lamont

Latrobe, Tasmania (aged 51)

Favourite bush tucker?

Wild passion fruit.

Favourite other food?

Barramundi fish.

Non Indigenous food:

Sweet and sour pork.

Other favourite food:

Fried rice.

Favourite sport?

Cricket. I still play reserve grade in Tasmania.

Favourite movie?

Keanu Reeves series, *John Wick*.

Favourite holiday destination?

Alice Springs or the Gold Coast.

What do you like in life?

Peace and quiet.

What don't you like in life?

Fake people who think they are better than you.

Which Black or Indigenous person would you most like to meet?

Anita Heiss.

Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire?

Kevin Hart the actor and comedian.

Who or what inspires you?

Normal people.

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people?

I hope that others have a better understanding of our lives and what it is really like and not how they think we are. Let them walk our lives to see it. The older I get I click onto what life is really about.

Quote



"The Western seasons follow the movements of the Earth around the Sun, whereas our seasons look for immediate changes in our environment."

-Aunty Munya Andrews, Western Australia

● See page 6

Unquote

Funding boost for the rangers

The Federal Government's commitment to pump an extra \$359 million into the highly successful Indigenous Ranger Program (IRP) is great news for communities across Australia.

This funding will double the number of rangers by 2030, with priority given to improving gender equality, and will help establish ranger programs in Indigenous Protected Areas where there are no programs at present.

With an overall investment of \$1.3 billion to support the IRP from 2021 to 2028, the government hopes to increase the workforce from 1,900 to 3,800 by 2030.

Anyone who has spent time with Indigenous rangers knows how important their work is. From caring for Country by removing noxious weeds and pests, taking part in data collection and studies, and using traditional fire burns to manage bushfire risks, rangers around the nation are at the front line.

But with such a vast landscape to look after and protect, any boost to numbers will be most welcome.

As Indigenous Affairs Minister Linda Burney said when announcing the funding boost, the program is not only good for jobs, but also for the environment.

"With more than 65,000 years of experience caring for Country, Indigenous Rangers hold unique and valuable skills in managing Australia's



natural environment – combining traditional skills passed down from their ancestors, with modern day science and technology," she said.

She also spoke of the importance of ensuring that the gender balance was right.

"First Nations women and girls are vital in protecting sacred and cultural sites, and offer a range of unique skills and lore; it's important they have the opportunity to continue the work of their mothers, grandmothers and all their women ancestors and pass this knowledge onto the next generation. Because there are no text books, no manuals."

Ms Burney is right.

Unless there is a massive change in thinking regarding the ongoing protection of the natural environment, the coming generations will not have much to celebrate. In just a couple of hundred years the environment has been so badly polluted and damaged and it will take ongoing funding commitments, combined with education and hard work if we are to turn that around.

Caring for Country is paramount.

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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).

Healing with music

By SARAH ROBERTS-FIELD

JOURNEY into a new world of discovery, where you can experience connection, healing, communication and personal growth. The world of music.

For Getano Bann – an extraordinarily gifted Torres Strait Islander singer, songwriter, story-teller, dancer and music therapist of more than 20 years – music is the door through which conversations can begin.

Getano, young and living on the banks of the Pioneer River in North Queensland, found an escape from the chaos of home life, transporting himself to a place through song where he could dream, create and express his woes.

A vision

His mother had a vision of what Getano's life would be, having had many dreams leading up to his birth. It's something he shares with her as he similarly had dreams of his children before they were born.

"My mother's dream of me in this life was that I was going to be a singer and I was going to use music as my gift," Getano said.

"The afternoon I was born, she unravelled all the dressings around me. She took the sweat from under her arms and rubbed me head to toe, saying 'This is the family smell, whatever you do in this life will reflect on your family'.

"She opened my mouth, gave me a blessing and said 'In this life, you're going to be a singer' and then she spit into my mouth," Getano told the *Koori Mail*.

Music has always been a part of his life. As a little kid, he would sit and sing Elvis songs with his mother, sing in the choir and at church. Family members would share stories of hearing Getano sing before he could even talk.

Touring

He was touring, playing in rock bands and eating cold pizzas in the back of a van while studying at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music (CASM) in South Australia. Before that, Getano was in the Aboriginal Islander Dance Theatre (AIDT).

His interest in music therapy was piqued after reading an article on the practice in 2003.

"I thought, hey, that'd be really great. I still want to make music, but I want to sit in the back of the van eating cold pizzas," he said.

Getano began his studies at Queensland University where he graduated with a diploma in music therapy. However, as an arts worker, he has used music in his practice for 40-plus years.

"I remember playing at Woodford Folk Festival nearly 30 years ago. There's a song I



Getano Bann has been using music for decades as a method to heal.

wrote about my son called Joshua. I would sing that song and there would be men crying in the audience," he said.

"I thought, hey, this is deadly. I can make these people cry.

"So I'd look at ways of telling stories and the more people who cried in the audience, the more good I felt that I was communicating something."

In his early 20s, and with his popularity growing, Getano realised it wasn't his story that audiences were crying about – they were connecting because they could hear their own stories. It is a connection he values immensely as an artist and one he doesn't abuse.

Music therapy came to prominence after the Vietnam war. Soldiers were 18 to 19 years old, and the music of the 70s was used as a way of soothing and exploring issues that these young men had due to their experiences.

Deep trauma

Getano selflessly helps people with deep trauma all around the world, including child soldiers, Elders and survivors of the Stolen Generations, in places such as schools, hospitals and prisons.

"I come with my skills. I come with my guitar. I come with my love and being non-judgmental," he said.

"I try to help as many people as I can. At the end of the day, we are a collection of our stories and as a therapist, what I'm trying to do is help people tell

their stories in a meaningful way that makes sense to them first, and then hopefully to other people.

"There have been a number of sessions after I finished where I've sat in the room by myself and cried, just feeling grateful that my life experience isn't as tough as I think it is sometimes.

"You can take on their trauma too, but it's about being non-judgmental. When we go into relationships and we have a love interest or a connection, a lot of us interpret that love as 'if

for me to have?

"Some of those times are really hard and I find myself sitting there crying in front of them and they're looking at me like 'Why are they crying?'.

"It's because the world is a difficult place," he said.

Loving intention

Getano always tries to approach his practice with a loving intention and when songwriting workshops take place in prison, he first informs the guards that he doesn't want to know the prisoners' names or

life or the choices that they're making."

One harrowing experience he recalls was when a young teenager had committed a horrific crime – the brutal murder of a toddler.

In prison, the teenager wrote a poem and Getano helped convert it into a song.

"For the last 25 years, I've used that song when working with other young juveniles who are either repeat offenders that keep going back to prison or they are on that path," he said.

"They'll play the song of this young person, which is quite a powerful song."

In prison situations, he looks at ways of getting support for the inmates.

"For example, housework goes a lot quicker if you've got something to dance along with and in prison situations, it's used to calm people.

"It's a means of catharsis to evaluate your life."

Getano's dedication to his work and to promoting healing reveals the artist and therapist's incredible compassion, empathy, heart and spirit.

Music is a way for those he helps to translate their hurt, pain and anger into songs, giving them a way to show other members of their family exactly how they're feeling.

"Writing and having a song to perform is not the process, it's the outcome.

"In that therapeutic situation, there's just you, me and my guitar," Getano said.

"I just look at it and think, this person is sitting in this space with me trying to find some direction and support, some wisdom and help in their life. Isn't that a humbling thing for me to have?"

– Getano Bann

it wasn't for this person, I wouldn't feel these emotions', which isn't true.

"Because you could walk out in the afternoon and look at the setting sun and go – wow, isn't that beautiful? Isn't that magical?

"In a therapeutic situation where I'm working with young people who are either trying to kill or poison themselves or trying to do it to each other, they don't want to think about what's going on in their lives.

"I just look at it and think, this person is sitting in this space with me trying to find some direction and support, some wisdom and help in their life.

"Isn't that a humbling thing

what they do.

"I don't want to know. I'm not there to judge them. They're in prison because they've been judged," he said.

Creating a space that is one of complete comfort, trust and safety is the first step in helping those with such troubles. A lot of the work Getano does could be very challenging or confronting, such as working with pedophiles, but he says as a therapist you have to take away your own bias.

"You're there to help the person because they're sick. They've got their own things going on for them," he said.

"Your role there is to help them examine their own way of



Delegates from the 2023 CONVERGE Conference.

Storytellers gather

By NICK PATON



DELEGATES from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander media sector gathered this week in Canberra on the lands of the Ngunnawal people and Ngambri people for the annual CONVERGE conference.

Indigenous media organisations travelled far and wide from all corners of the nation to share in the CONVERGE Media

Conference program, supported by First Nations Media Australia.

Under the theme of 'Our Voices, Our Media', the focus of this year's conference was about empowering the voices of Mob and communities, and working out ways to amplify the voices of younger Mob in the sector. The conference also discussed the critical need for more sustainable investment from governments for the Indigenous media sector to continue to be at the forefront of Indigenous news, current affairs and storytelling.



Uncle Stan Grant speaks at the conference.



Uncle Ned Hargraves enjoys a cuppa at the CONVERGE media conference.



Judy Dickson, Maggie Walshe, Aunty Val, Rita Metzenrath.



Sarah Vahtola (NITV/SBS), Natalie Ahmat (NITV), Peter Ballard (SBS).



Catherine Liddle (Coalition of Peaks).



Andrea Daniels (NIDA), Travis Cardona (NIDA).



Claire Stuchbery (Local & Independent News Association), Mikaela Ford (Community Media Training Organisation).



Julian Nicholls, Ravi Dancey, Anna Dancey.



Tangiora Hinaki (Ngaarda Media), Kathy Anderson (NG Media), Karina Hogan (ABC).



Laurie May, Dr Daniel Featherstone, Kelly Williams (ABC).



Minister Linda Burney.



Dot West, Gavin Ivey.



Brett Levy (Virtual Songlines), Neil Turner (PAKAM).

Dreaming of a new way of being

UN's special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories, Francesca Albanese, just finalised her time here in Australia and left as one of the most prominent critics of both the Australian government and the Australian media for their portrayal of the Genocide that is currently taking place in Palestine.

Firstly it's important to point out, as Francesca Albanese did, that this is not just a conflict that started on October 7, 2023. Palestinian territory – encompassing the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem – has been illegally occupied by Israel since 1967. The tragedy that occurred in Israel is part of a much bigger story, one that many Australian journalists are not portraying with complexity and context and other western media outlets that support this genocide.

More than 11,100 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since October 7, and the attack is not proportionate. Half of those killed have been children. Albanese criticised the media landscape as "very basic". The media has not



Ella Noah Bancroft

been portraying the complex nature of this conflict and including the context of how we arrived at the situation that took hold on October 7.

Albanese agreed that Israel should be able to defend itself but what is now taking place is committing war crimes and breaking international law. Israel has bombed hospitals, places of worship, killed thousands of children (Half of Palestine's population are children), thousands of Palestinians who

have been imprisoned and under Israel rule, the targeting of civilians and so many more war crimes that have been committed.

But we no longer need to turn to mainstream media outlets to inform us as a community on global issues, with the use of social media now many Palestinian journalists and civilians are raising their voices, sharing their stories and we are able to witness for the first time in human history, a war taking place on the other side of the world unfold on our phones.

I am not an expert, I struggle to even find words to talk about what is happening. I can question the Israeli government's actions and also not be anti-semitic.

I am not against anyone for their race or religion but I am against corporations and governments murdering and continuing colonisation all over the world to gain more wealth, resources, land and better trade routes to support the already privileged countries.

Now is a time of great quickening, one where we start to see the cracks of the system,

where our government time and time again shows us their true colours and it is only up to us to stop them. Our politicians and our government are a reflection of us, we must write emails to our local, state and federal governments and representatives condemning them for supporting this genocide.

I am a true believer that there are many complex reasons as to why this conflict has started and for many of us who are not connected to the communities experiencing pain on both sides, we might never really understand it on an embodied level. There are many reasons why war starts but one thing I do know is that we are in a race against time as the global west clutches to a system that is unsustainable, that is built on death, destruction, greed and pain. Until we choose to come together and rebuild and design a system that is better not just for us but for all of the globe, including our more than human kin, then the wars will not stop.

We have to dream into a new way of being on this planet. We cannot continue to use finite resources that contribute to the

continuation of colonisation on someone else's land. We have to think of another way of being, one that doesn't use human lives in exchange for a privileged resource-rich life.

Societies, communities and countries of the "first" world are the biggest problem right now, and I believe are contributing in the unseen to the conflicts taking place not only in Palestine but all over the world.

And so I leave this article with my accountability. I take responsibility for my involvement in this current system that has a flow-on effect that creates destruction of our forests, seas, brother, sisters and more than human kin. I acknowledge I wrote this article on a computer that uses precious resources that were mined. I want to be different from the mainstream culture that raised me. I want to take accountability and learn to be able to understand my own place in the bigger picture of this global community.

I pray for peace.
● Ella Noah Bancroft is a Bundjalung woman and a regular contributor.

A new path to follow

After more than 30 years working in higher education and writing, I have made the decision to retire. This is my last article for the *Koori Mail*. It's been close to 15 years and I feel a massive sense of accomplishment. But you don't live a life of servitude to be seen, you do it because you become blessed in helping others, in representing those most vulnerable. And through the grace of God I have been truly blessed.

I remember as a 15 year old leaving Toomelah Mission to pursue an education in the 'Big City', and try and heal the relationship with my Mother after being taken from birth. I arrived in Inala to be raised by the Mob, the many Aunties and Uncles ... and the streets of West End. Born Free, Shanky St and Bowman Johnson Hostels, and the many brothas, sistas and cousins that took me in and looked after me... the best way to say thank you was becoming the very best person I could be.

After allowing hate to dominate my early years, the ultimate goal became a celebration of our humanity, rather than dwelling on my own misfortune and taking the opportunities I was given. You only have to look at Palestine to know that you can't beat oppression by gunning down innocents at a music festival, and Israel to know you can't reclaim your soul bombing innocent children. Hate will



Woolombi Waters

never overcome hate.

As hard as it is for some to accept, it is not civilisation that links our humanity, but instead our Aboriginality. It is our civilisation that divides us and keeps us separated, built on the fear and hate of the other. No matter how distant or how long ago each and every one of us, Indigenous or non-Indigenous, Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, white or black, we were all at one time Aboriginal, we all came from somewhere.

We all need to ask ourselves what legacy we want to leave our grandchildren: more trauma, more abuse, more division, or instead do we want to heal our past? Put simply, rather than victimisation and suffering, and God knows as Blackfellas we have had enough of that, we need to

speak of our enduring strength and survival.

That we have Aboriginal people of privilege in this country aligning their own life experience to the children of Gaza is deeply disturbing. Truth is Jesus already has a monopoly on martyrdom and other than his legacy over the last two thousand years martyrdom has a very short lifespan.

Also, in talking from my own life experience giving into trauma becomes a very difficult road back and let's be honest, it doesn't really empower anyone towards change. Not the oppressor anyway – victimisation just reaffirms their position in denying the voice of those who give in to it. Having seen myself as a victim in the early years of my life, I say today to those I truly care about that you can never become a victim to circumstance. Instead, this circumstance becomes your life journey and builds not only your awareness, but also your resilience and growth.

My being fair skin Aboriginal doesn't mean I'm not Black it just means I have white blood. I still have 100,000 years memory connection to land before it was taken. Truth is you have to make a conscious effort to let go 100,000 years of ceremony, ritual, tradition and transgenerational love to instead focus on the transgenerational trauma and the hate of the last 230 years.

I grew up with love

respect and grace on Toomelah mission. I would walk into homes with pictures of the 'Last Supper' on the walls accompanied with renditions of 'The Praying Hands' and portraits of Jesus Christ. This was among financially some of the poorest people in Australia, but in faith and the Holy Spirit they were among Australia's most wealthy.

There was a dignity among our people, the way we dealt with racism was to be better than; better dressed, better presented and well-spoken. The kitchens were spotless clean and if you dared walk in with a shirt off you were clipped around the ear and told to go and put one on. I am old enough to remember the men coming home from work, not after one day but weeks at a time – they would walk into that same spotless kitchen and throw an envelope down with cash.

Nan or the Aunties would go through it, give them money for tobacco, drinks and a little gambling. We would treat these men as Kings. Why? Because they were Kings. Today rather than remember these times with great pride, we are told over and over again to give our power away to the mission managers, the pastoralists and the farmers who owned the properties our people worked on.

Not me. I remember those old men and strong women and I will continue to honour and praise them

over and above the institutional laws and racism they were forced to live under, meaning that my time within this industry has come to an end. I just don't fit in anymore. The protest movement and the Aboriginal industry and academy are no longer the communities I grew up in and loved. It's time for me to go and enjoy my time with my children, grandchildren, family and community.

We were never slaves, not until we enslaved our own minds. These old people were not slaves they were survivors and warriors, descendants of the first great ocean crossing over 100,000yrs ago.

The world's first scientists who lived in accordance with the land. Unfortunately, this has become lost as romanticism in justifying the anger and the hurt of people who deny their ancestry claiming we are oppressed and powerless to colonisation. We were custodians who built the greatest land estate of any civilisation over 100,000 years ago, and this is not what we teach or scream in the streets.

Today through the trauma and the pain and the hurt of invasion we forgot that most basic principle of who we really are, and this is the space I am now choosing to live in. If I am responsible, not only for my own pain, and the trauma I carry, then I am also responsible for the enduring

strength I have carried over generations in being able to overcome the obstacles and hurt I faced as a child.

If I give the responsibility of my own suffering over to institutional racism and history then I am powerless, as I cannot change my race, I cannot change my history, but I can change the circumstance for which I find myself. And that is what I am doing. I am choosing true sovereignty for myself and my children and grandchildren.

I may have been taken from my mother at birth but today I am middleclass, well educated, a multiple homeowner having travelled the world, I am internationally published with a PHD. That I did myself, like the old people I saw in Toomelah refusing to bow my head or scream, giving into oppression.

I still remember my Auntie Mavis Dennison who had took me in putting me on the bus with just one bag and her bible in hand. I can still see her in the rear window crying as the bus pulled out of Goondiwindi as I left for Brisbane.

"Ngiyani mayuu-li Waabi... ngiyani mayuu-li" ("We did it, Nan... we did it...")

● Editor's note: Woolombi Waters has been a regular *Koori Mail* columnist for almost 15 years and for that we thank him. Everyone here at the newspaper wishes him all the best in retirement.

Understanding conflict in Gaza

A Jewish response

Dear friends, I write in response to the article Understanding Conflict in Gaza by Wollombi Waters in your latest issue 15 November '23.

I am a longstanding activist for a just peace in Palestine-Israel and a spokesperson for Jews against the Occupation 1948.

I am Jewish. My parents got out of Prague the day the Nazis marched in, 15 March 1939. Many of my relatives were slaughtered by the Nazis. This family background means that social justice values and inclusion are in my DNA. For me, 'Never Again' means Never again for anyone.

I fear Mr Waters has been fully captured by the Zionist narrative which we in Jews against the Occupation 1948 consider an apology for a great historical injustice of dispossession and oppression not unlike that which has been perpetrated here in the land now called Australia.

Coming to recent events first. Mr Waters, like the Zionist propagandists, and our mainstream media which parrot their story,

starts his narrative of the current horrors in Gaza with the atrocities committed by Hamas and others against Israeli military and citizens on that dark day 7 October 2023.

This was indeed a dark day. The brutality of the slaughter does indeed evoke nightmare memories for Jews. But I am personally offended at the comparison of this day with the Holocaust. One day of terror hardly cuts it. It diminishes the gravity of the Holocaust to make such a comparison. What about the genocidal slaughter being conducted by the State of Israel against the people of Gaza? The denial of food, water, medicines, energy and fuel with six weeks and counting of attacks on hospitals, schools, and residential apartment blocks. The declared aim of this horrific onslaught is the 'elimination of Hamas'.

What does that mean? How can a movement and belief system be 'eliminated'? This extreme destruction certainly evokes the Holocaust for me.

But Mr Waters neglects to mention that on 4 October, Israeli

colonialists/settlers attacked the Al Aqsa Mosque, the third most sacred site in Islam. This attack culminated many months of pogroms, deadly attacks on Palestinians by Israeli colonists, killing over 200 Palestinians and setting alight whole villages. For us as Jews, this is incredibly reminiscent of our historical experiences over centuries in Poland and Russia and other parts of Europe and at the hands of the Nazis.

The attack on Al Aqsa was the trigger for Hamas' attack. First Nations peoples here can well understand the impact of such desecration of sacred sites.

And the longer term background is the decades-long siege of Gaza, where Israel controls every medicine that goes in and every cabbage that goes out. (This siege was imposed by Israel in response to the recognised as fair elections where the people of Palestine elected Hamas to govern both the Occupied West Bank and Gaza. They were fed up with the corruption and collaboration with the Israeli occupation by the Palestinian Authority.) We may not like Hamas or agree with their

fundamentalist beliefs, but they were the people's choice. What price democracy?

And going back further, there are the dispossession, massacres and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians which established the State of Israel in 1948. These continue as I write. The Palestinians are denied their right of return to their lands, (a right set down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), while every Jew around the world has the right to 'return' to present day Israel.

The question of indigeneity is fraught, but the land of Palestine has been conquered and inhabited by waves of different peoples throughout its history. The antecedents of the Jews, the Hebrews, were only one of this cornucopia of peoples who conquered the land and were in turn conquered. Why should Jews have special status over those who came before, like the Canaanites and those who came after – the Romans, the Mameluks, the Turks, the British?

The Zionist movement conquered the land and dispossessed the Palestinians whose ancestors had lived there for

thousands of years.

This is not to deny the very real spiritual and cultural connection of the Jewish people to that land and their Hebrew antecedents. The Jewish people emerged and were formed there. The Jewish religion is focused on the land and the Jewish people. Their beliefs are as valid as Muslim and Christian beliefs about what they all call the Holy Land.

But modern law and human rights, while recognising the freedom of religious belief, are not and cannot be based on religious belief. Modern international humanitarian law was developed in response to the horrors committed by the Nazis against the Jews and others. It is a terrible irony for Israel and the Zionist movement to so flagrantly violate them.

There is no military solution to this situation. There is only a political solution based on the recognition that Palestine-Israel is the homeland of both Palestinians and Jewish Israelis and that there must be equality, security and full human rights for everyone living between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

Vivienne Porzsolt

Dear KM Letters Editor,
Thank you to Woolombi Waters for his 'Understanding conflict in Gaza' article (15 November).

I think he gets it wrong.
Because my father was a Jewish refugee from Austria, who got to New Zealand-Aotearoa, I have taken a strong interest in Israel-Palestine.

Yes, there have always been Jews in Palestine, as well as many other groups.. Askkenazi Jews, like Dad... his ancestors

were probably from the Khazar kingdom, near Turkey. Please look at THE THIRTEENTH TRIBE by Arthur Koestler, or THE INVENTION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE by Shlomo Sands.

The bloody founding of the so-called Jewish State in 1948 was a racist response to European racism. The Indigenous people, the Palestinians, were forcibly displaced by threats and terror and killing. They became refugees, and have been forcibly prevented from

returning home, by the invaders, ever since. This story will be familiar to many of your readers, I think.

I struck the apartheid and the Jewish supremacist thinking when I worked in Israel-Palestine. I am a great admirer of Vivienne Porzsolt and JEWS AGAINST THE OCCUPATION here.

This genocide against the Palestinians must stop. PM Albanese must be pressured into demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. In the last

vote at the UN, Australia shamefully abstained.

If readers, and Mr Waters, would like to talk about any of this, my mobile is 0451 509 232. You are welcome to phone me.

Can I echo the lovely Leonora Adidas (A YARN WITH...), when asked what she didn't like in life? 'Violence. War. Racism.'

Best wishes...
Stephen Langford

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

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In the remote NT community of Wadeye, locals are calling for upgrades to community infrastructure, including housing, roads and a modern shop with more capacity.

Wadeye calls for change

By LIINA FLYNN



BEHIND Wadeye's run-down houses, burnt-out cars and security fences, there's hundreds of young people growing up in a community with few resources.

As they run barefoot through heat and red dirt, they are growing up in one of the largest remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory.

Situated on the traditional lands of the Kardu Diminin people, about seven hours west of Darwin, Wadeye (pronounced Wad-air) has a growing population of about 2,700 – with the majority of residents under the age of 25.

It's one of many remote Aboriginal communities facing the challenges of distance, over-crowding and a lack of basic services that most other Australian communities take for granted.

Wadeye has other challenges too. It's a unique community, where 23 different clans all live side by side.

Over generations, as people grew up here with few opportunities, fighting between family groups became common – leading to a series of destructive riots that brought negative attention to the community over the past few years.

But the people of Wadeye are determined not to be stigmatised by the rest of the world.

The recent Yidiyi Festival at Wadeye brought a host of musicians to play for the youthful community. Organised by the local non-profit Aboriginal corporation, Murinbata Tribal Development Corporation (MTD), the music concert featured hip hop muso J-Milla and other Indigenous artists Radical Son, Kootsie Don and Yung Milla. It also brought peace and pride to a community that has been stigmatised by the infighting and violence.

How did Wadeye get to this?

Over the past 50 years, anthropologist Bill Ivory has explored the history and the leadership of Wadeye (formerly known as Port Keats) and has formed lifelong friendships in the community.

Bill said that since colonisation and the first mission that was founded at Port Keats in 1935, the community has grown to incorporate different clan groups that filtered in from their own traditional lands in the surrounding area.

In the 1930s, the lure of tobacco and other goods and services offered at the mission, drew in more and more of the clans from the surrounding regions, including Western Australia. Then when droughts and associated food shortages came, along with diseases brought by outside settlers, the clans clustered together to survive.

"After first contact, diseases like leprosy,



Pictured above left and below: The community of Wadeye come out for the Yidiyi Festival. Above: Emerging leader Marita Perdijert.



cholera and smallpox brought up to 80% death rates in the first wave before the people built up immunity," Bill said. "The population now has come back to what it might have been at first contact.

"It's been a growing and complex community. Even though the people fight a lot, they are still very reliant on each other in a social sense. Traditionally, they would continually visit each other to exchange goods, arrange marriages and ceremonies – following what they call 'blackfella highways' from Darwin to WA."

Ceremonies

With an average life expectancy of 50 years or less (according to Australian National University research), it's not surprising that the Wadeye population is so young.

Bill said that over the past few decades, many of the older community leaders have passed away. That's when traditional cultural initiation ceremonies for men and women stopped being held and people

were anxious about the future.

But over the past three years, Wadeye community leaders, with the support of MTD and its general manager Jake Clark, have reintroduced cultural ceremonies as a way to stop the unrest within the community.

"Now the community is starting to feel confident in ceremony and they are invigorated by it," Bill said.

Traditional Owner Jeffrey Pultchen said "we try to teach (people) the importance of family respect.

"Respect is an important thing and we need to keep working on it," he said.

Marita Perdijert

Recently, younger people are beginning to step up in leadership roles. Wadeye resident Marita Perdijert is one of these young leaders and is a trainee of the Kardu Diminin Aboriginal Corporation (KDC).

"I'm learning new things all the time," Marita said. "One day I want to be a strong woman leader and be able to assist my people to have better lives.

**"For us to achieve our goals, the government needs to work beside us."
– Marita Perdijert**

"All of my family, old and young, are here at Wadeye. It is my traditional Country through my father and grandfather and all the old people.

"I would like to see a proper shopping centre in our town. Also some smaller shops like a hairdresser.

"For us to achieve our goals, the government needs to work beside us, not in front of us."

Margaret Perdijert

Kardu Diminin Traditional Owner Margaret Perdijert is an Aboriginal Liaison Officer with the NT Police. She is also a ceremony leader for the women.

She's a striking leader with flaming red/pink hair, she also wants to see better services in Wadeye "like shops, a recreational club, nice parks, and places for kids to play".

"We are trying to achieve these things and we need both governments to stand up more and support us," Margaret said.

"We need to have more jobs here for our young people, and this will help us as we try to keep the young people especially, out of trouble. We have our important sites and beautiful country here. It is our home.

"The festival this year was great and we, as local people, helped organise this event."
(Continued on next page...)



TO and ACLO Margaret Perdjert.



Traditional Owner Jeffery Pultchen has been instrumental in bringing change to Wadeye through reintroducing cultural ceremonies.



Locals outside the Wadeye store.



Pictured above: Inside the Murrinhpatha Nimmipa Store at Wadeye, food prices are expensive and locals want support to build a better shop with more storage room. This means that refrigerated goods won't have to go to waste if not sold before the next barge load arrives.

Continued from previous page:

In a rapidly growing community, Bill said the community infrastructure remains woefully inadequate.

"We need to make Wadeye a place to be proud to live in, be safe and have jobs," Bill said. "But we still need the things we needed 30 years ago – like decent houses and streets and similar services to anywhere else."

"It's a community that's overcrowded and a lot of people go hungry."

"Prices are expensive and the government needs to support the community as we move toward building a new store."

New store needed

MTD manager Jake Clark said the store at the moment is 33 years old and the storeroom is small.

"So supplies are brought in by barge weekly and that adds 30% on top of the food," he said.

"Because of an increase in the fuel levy, the need to rely on

expensive barge freight costs and restrictive storage in the current store, food remains very expensive.

"The government promised years ago that the main road would be sealed so that transport trucks could use it for longer when the rains come and stop road access – but that process appears to have come to a halt."

"We need to create something the people here are going to be proud of – an affordable store where produce can be kept for longer."

"In Wadeye, we have no Vinnies or Red Cross charities where people can get emergency food supplies – and if they are hungry, they have nowhere to go to – only to neighbours or relatives and they are in the same way."

"MTD assists them with food vouchers as much as possible, but

it's not sustainable in the long term as the population continues to grow.

"Unless we achieve better food security, we won't stop the urban drift. I've seen hundreds from Port Keats going to Darwin and getting stuck in the long grass. Food in Darwin is much cheaper."

Education and work

As well as few opportunities for entertainment and employment in Wadeye, there's issues with access to health services and a growing disengagement with education.

"I've recently had locals turning up at the shop to work," Jake said. "They put on their work shirts, but because they can't read or write, they are limited in what they can do because they didn't have the basic education."

"They want to engage and be

part of the team, so they get jobs like security, cleaning and some get the opportunity to work in the chiller room stacking food."

How to get change

Finding solutions to these infrastructure, social education and health problems is not easy.

But rather than put them into the 'too hard' basket as has often been done by governments up until now, Bill said upgrades and funding need to be coordinated on a broad scale on all levels of government.

"For change to occur it has to come from the top down as well as the bottom up," he said. "Everyone needs to take responsibility and governments need to work with local corporations too."

"The people here are in a comfortable place they love. They

don't want to live anywhere else, but they like to go to Darwin because things are cheaper."

"But they can only live like that for a few weeks of the year, then they come back to overcrowded houses and battle from day to day."

"The people here need choice and agency."

"They want to be safe and secure – particularly the women and kids – and feel good about engaging positively with everyone in community."

"By MTD bringing artists like J-Milla to town and organising peaceful events like Yidiyi Festival, the kids get a taste of things that make them happy, without conflict, and they see another world."

"The concert made them feel good, almost like the rains have come and the dust is settling and it's good to be alive."

Milla's land down under has a raw side

By LIINA FLYNN



THERE's no Kombi or stereotypical barbecues and beer in Yung Milla's new song *Land Down Under*.

The Marranunggu rapper instead draws on his childhood in Palmerston, near Darwin, growing up in a poor family and influenced by violence and gangs.

Raw passion

But despite having lived on the raw side of life, the 20-year-old has emerged with a passion for helping other young people – and his new song is just another part of his journey of connecting with them.

"We didn't have a lot when I was growing up, but mum made sure we got through," he told the *Koori Mail*.

"I lived off dry cereal and tinned food and was surrounded by domestic violence from the age of nine to 12. I had family members making money in illegal ways but they had to do it to get through."

"My parents sent me to a boys boarding school in Sydney when I was 11 for two years. The Mob there couldn't even understand how I was talking – it was crazy."

"My parents did it to help me and I never understood it, but mum said you'll understand when you're older. Now, I understand and thank her."

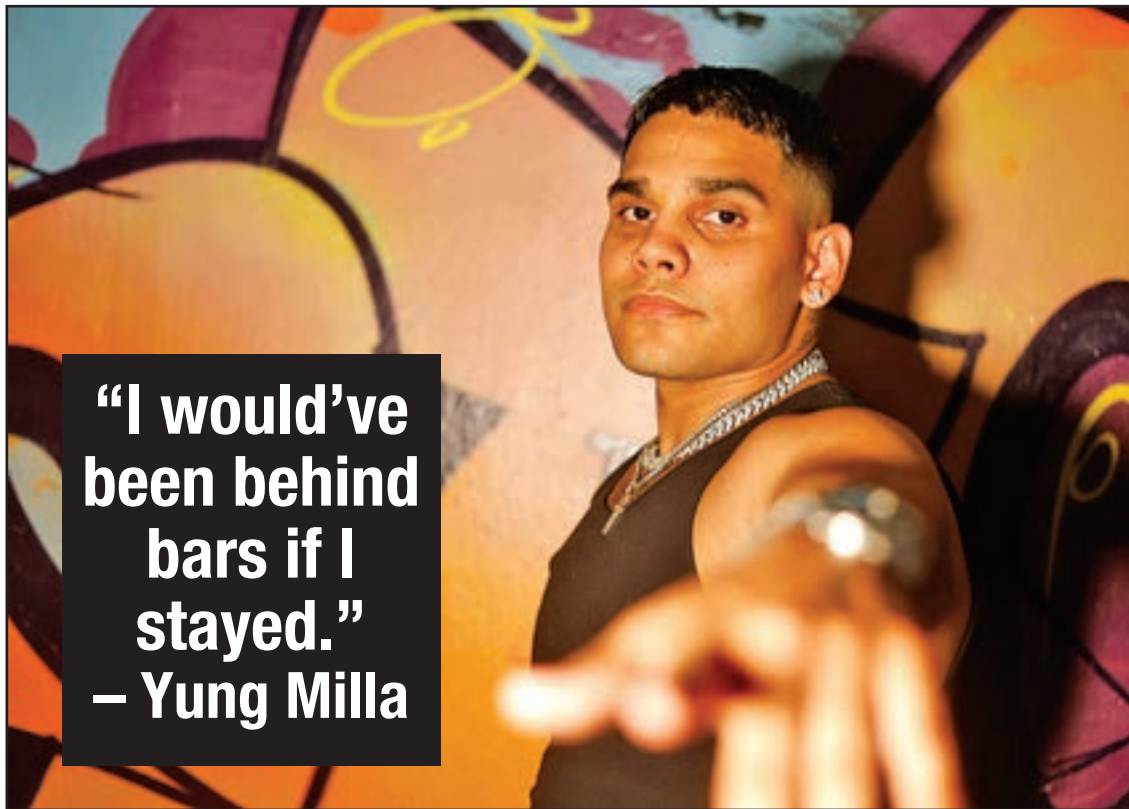
"I would've been behind bars if I stayed. My friends from then are all locked up and now they see me on TV."

These days, Yung Milla works with young people who have been in juvenile detention, ages 12 to 18 years old.

"I work with the organisations Pathfinders and Saltbush, with boys who get bailed and do activities with them and keep them from breaching their bail," he said.

"I understand the boys, because I was doing that at their age. No-one understands you

**"I would've been behind bars if I stayed."
– Yung Milla**



better than someone that's been there and gets it... now I can help them find their own paths through troubled times. That's why I wanted to bring the raw side to the *Land Down Under* video.

"I can show the kids where I've come from and I relate to them."

"It's song about my crew and the town where I grew up."

"Like a lot of places up here it's

got problems and we get through by sticking together and staying strong, trying to make it out, looking up rather than down."

Elevating

"The song is elevating – I play off the line 'land down under' to show we are all going to get better and achieve more."

"Some of the kids say to me

'look at me, I'm like this', but I tell them – we come from the same place and using your past as an excuse."

One of the lines in the new song is 'I'm just a young man trying to right my wrongs'.

It's the springboard line for his bigger message to all young people.

"Whatever you want to aim for,



Pictured top left: Yung Milla. **Bottom left:** J and Yung Milla with the Wadeye kids. **Bottom right:** J and Yung Milla on stage in front of hundreds of young fans in Wadeye. **Above:** Bro x Bro J-Milla and Yung Milla on stage at the Wadeye Yidiyi Festival.

you can achieve," he said

"Whether you want to be a musician, a doctor, a rugby player or a leader in community – just go for it because anything can happen."

"You can't blame what you've been through – probably your idols have been through that too, but you just didn't know."

Yung Milla is the younger brother of emerging star and hip hop musician J-Milla.

Bro x Bro

The brothers recently played together to a big crowd in the remote NT community of Wadeye.

"Together we are powerful," Yung Milla said. "We came from the same struggle and it's a blessing that I could share the stage with my big brother."

The brothers have unreleased songs they've collaborated on – so get ready for more.

To hear *Land Down Under*, and see the music video filmed in Darwin CBD, check it out on YouTube or visit onepagelink.com/YUNGMILLA



Kootsie Don won the hearts of the kids of Wadeye at the Yidiyi Festival.

Kootsie emerges



EMERGING music star Kootsie Don (23), started her career by cruising round Darwin, making music and uploading songs to

Soundcloud. Eventually the Bad Apples label got a hold of her music and invited her to Sydney to play at Vivid Live.

"It was a mentoring opportunity," Kootsie told the *Koori Mail*.

Now, the proud Larrakia, Jawoyn and TSI singer is based in Sydney, while her career takes off and she plays her feel good, RnB, hip hop music at concerts across the country.

She's been playing her single *Lemme Know*, which she says is about "finding a work/life balance while focusing on her professional goals and how hard it is to maintain meaningful

relationships at the same time".

"*Lemme Know* is a song that says 'if you can't support me at my worst you don't deserve me at my best,'" Kootsie said.

Kootsie was one of the performers on stage at the recent Yidiyi festival in Wadeye.

The trip to the remote NT Aboriginal community was important to Kootsie, who had recently started doing community work with kids in Darwin with the Saltbush organisation.

"These are the shows that mean the most to me, inspiring these young little people and telling them they can do it too," she said.

"I was keen to yarn and connect with them. I'm a very active person and I wanted to have some fun with the Wadeye kids and do some physical activities. We got chalk and

played games like hop scotch and tag."

"There's a lot of male mentors in these communities, but we need more female mentors to teach the girls things too."

"I want to do more community work to develop these young girls – by building a relationship with them and become a big sister for them."

"If we invest more in these communities we can build up the youth to be the change to develop the future generations."

"To create opportunities and places for them to take their skills, build them up, get them strong so they can look after their Elders and their communities too."

"It's melted my heart seeing these kids come out and enjoy themselves and I want to come out and explore other communities too."

Radical change is coming



The Radical Son band gets ready to fly by charter plane to the remote NT community of Wadeye for the recent Yidiyi Festival – located about an hour's flight, west of Darwin.

By LIINA FLYNN



JUST to be clear, Radical Son (aka David Lehu) is not an entertainer. With a voice as deep as the ocean and as soulful as a church choir, he's out to see some "proppa change".

"What makes me unique as an artist is that I'm not out there to make people feel good," he told the *Koori Mail*.

"I'm out for some proppa change and I don't see it coming.

Old ways

"Let's talk about going back to our old ways.

"Our songs were about teaching people the next lesson – and it's all been monetised now.

"I see music as a deeply cultural thing, but to be an artist, you have to apply for funding to arts funding bodies – and the people who decide who gets funded decide on which voices they think need to be heard."

Who is Radical Son?

The big man, with a big voice, has also had a big life.

He's been in prison, found strength in music and already has two albums under his belt.

He's worked with some big names like the late Uncle Archie Roach and Emma Donovan.

When it comes to words to describe the seasoned performer, he's keen to not be categorised.

"I have a Tongan dad and a Kamillaroi mum who I was raised with," he said.

"She was the eldest of seven and was raised off Country. She was sent away from Country and taken out of school at an early age.

"When people write about me, they write that I'm part this and part that, or that my music is this genre – but I am so much more than that.

"I'm thinking about removing

the Aboriginal and the Tongan and I'd like them to introduce me without saying I'm an artist, because I'm so much more than these labels.

"Labels are like teams and people support some and some want nothing to do with it.

"I'd like my songs to be for everyone – what's wrong with that?"

Until you call my name

His latest song *Until you call my name* is described as a song that delves into gratitude and the power of love.

As he sings in the song's music video clip, the raw power that emanates from his face shows many emotions.

It's a deeply moving song, not outwardly political – and full of metaphors.

He insists it will be interpreted differently by different people, but it's definitely not for entertaining.

"I sing from the heart and I hope that comes across when I sing," he said.

The song includes lyrics 'I hear you call my name / Wanting to engage / We're all finding our way / We're coping with the struggle'.

The song is the second single from his new album *Bilambiyal – The Learning*, which will be released next year.

It's been described as a 'soul record' – an album about personal survival; that touches on a troubled past and shares 'lessons learnt and an act of guidance for those who follow.'

Wadeye

Radical Son and his band performed recently in the remote NT community Wadeye at the Yidiyi concert.

It's a community where locals are again embracing traditional culture and ceremony – despite the problems that the modern world has brought to their way of life.

"Many years ago I came here with the Jimmy Little Foundation



Pictured top left: Radical Son band meets Wadeye TO Margaret Perdjer on Country at Wadeye. Bottom left: Radical Son meets Wadeye TO Steven Bundock. Above: Radical Son on stage at the Yidiyi Festival concert in Wadeye.

and they were pushing the healthy eating campaign.

"Wadeye back then only had one shop. Now, as far as infrastructure, things haven't changed much.

Traditional culture

"Coming to communities like Wadeye, we think we have something to teach, but we bring so much shit from the cities," Radical Son said.

"I have a fantasy that we can live by laws that our people used to live by and prevent a lot of the problems we see.

"Having men's and women's business is a fundamental part of many cultures – when a boy was of age, they would remove them from the women.

"People bag out Aboriginal

people saying we have been here for thousands of years and have not progressed. But to me if it's not broken, don't fix it."

"All our Dreamtime stories talk about creatures, animals and people and how we were doing the wrong things and punished for it.

"We need to strive to not do those things always... but it's harder to do right things, because there's so much material wealth to fight over.

The struggle

"We are all divided – even Aboriginal people are against each other so much, it's no wonder the government can get away with so much.

"We are too busy fighting each other.

"To go back to our own laws –

think that was the best thing we have to offer the rest of the world, but for some reason we are ignoring it."

"I heard a spiritual teaching story about how it's the aggressor, not the victim, who needs to be helped the most.

"Most of us think it's the victim that needs the most help but in this system, we isolate the perpetrator and send them into a prison – and that turns into other problems."

The future

With a message of hope and to keep working toward change, Radical Son said he is grateful and still striving.

"I'll keep going," he said. "I keep releasing good product and being invited to play shows like at Wadeye is a privilege."

First Nations fashion label wins at home and abroad



BEING awarded for adding colour and culture to the wardrobes of stylish travellers worldwide has made Charmaine

Saunders and Denis Keffe from Mainie Australia, very proud.

A First Nations-owned and led enterprise, Mainie Australia was recently named the inaugural winner of the First Nations category in the Premier of Queensland's Export Awards.

Charmaine and Denis are the co-founders and directors of the business which is based in the state's far north.

Charmaine is a Gunggari Aboriginal woman from the Maranoa River region in western Queensland, and is also the

creative director.

She said since launching in Cairns in 2015, Mainie Australia has developed a global market for its designer brand.

In 2021 and 2022, the company made its first foray into overseas markets as the official provider of Indigenous fashion to the Australian Pavilion at the Dubai World Expo.

Charmaine said the business honours the world's oldest continuous living culture by bringing authentic Indigenous Australian art designs to life on giftware, garments, and accessories.

Mainie Australia's collection includes handcrafted fashion scarves made with natural textiles, including silk, cashmere, and Australian-grown merino wool, as well as silk kaftan tops, men's silk ties and pocket squares, and vegan-

friendly, plant-based modal scarves.

Mainie Australia is stocked by leading travel retail chains in international airports and tourist shopping precincts around Australia.

Mainie Australia exports to the North American market through its Amazon USA e-commerce platform.

The awards featured 43 companies competing across 15 categories and Charmaine said "Mainie Australia is proud to be the inaugural winner".

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our amazing friends and loyal customers for their unwavering support," she said.

"This support fuels our mission to promote the remarkable talent of Aboriginal women artists and to celebrate Australia's rich and ancient Indigenous cultural heritage, spanning over 60,000 years."



Business Mainie Australia wins the inaugural First Nations category in the Premier of Queensland's Export Awards.

New chair brings advocacy experience to Indigenous businesses in Arnhem



ANINDILYAKWA woman Katerina Bara from Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Enterprises (GEBIE) has been elected as Arnhem Aboriginal Business Council's (AABC) new chairperson.

Ms Bara was elected in AABC's annual general meeting last month and brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to empowering Aboriginal businesses and communities.

"I nominated for the position to challenge myself and because I think the AABC is a good way to unify Aboriginal businesses in Arnhem Land and advocate for what's in our best interests.

"Having the AABC body means we can have a stronger voice to advocate for our communities in all areas from health, education, infrastructure, and employment. Our businesses are all seeking the same purpose, which is to overcome disadvantage and create jobs and an economy in the long run for Aboriginal people," she said.

Focus on advocacy

Since 2019, Ms Bara served as deputy chairperson of GEBIE following a decade-long tenure as a director on the board. Her journey is marked by her dedication to community service and her remarkable leadership in various capacities.

Her governance skills began at the grassroots level where she worked in the East Arnhem Regional Council as a liaison officer and as a Centrelink agent before pursuing her passion for land management and becoming a team leader at Groote Eylandt Mining Company (GEMCO/South 32).

GEMCO is an open-cut, strip-mining operation that produces high-grade manganese ore, located on the island of Groote Eylandt, in the Gulf of Carpentaria in Australia's Northern Territory.

"A key focus for me is to advocate for an immediate improvement on housing shortages across Arnhem Land. The AABC can advocate collectively and help put our smaller communities on the map.



New chairperson of Arnhem Aboriginal Business Council's (AABC), Katerina Bara.

It's important that government will listen to us and help us achieve our goals," Ms Bara said

The AABC was incorporated in January 2020 with six founding members to meet the need to create a united voice for commercial Aboriginal-owned businesses across Arnhem Land. The ultimate goal of the AABC is to be a key influencer and advocate to government, industry, and advisory bodies on matters relating to Indigenous business, and aims to create a prosperous and thriving economic environment in Arnhem Land, the Gove Peninsula and the Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island areas.

Promoting collaborative and effective trade, serving as a collective voice for Aboriginal businesses, and operating socially responsible and sustainable enterprises, the AABC strives to create local indigenous employment with provided training and skills opportunities.



AABC Members at the recent AGM.



Reconciliation Australia director Sharon Davis (centre) visits a NSW school. With more teachers bringing Indigenous languages into their teaching, Sharon hopes more schools incorporate innovative new ways of approaching reconciliation between First Nations and non-Indigenous peoples in the classroom.

Teachers talk Noongar



TEACHERS walking around the playground of Winterfold Primary School are thrilled when they hear students using Noongar language words.

For more than five years, Noongar language teacher Sharon Gregory has been working with students – and teachers – at the school in Beaconsfield, southern Western Australia, on Noongar boodja (Country).

Winterfold principal Kim Calabrese and teacher Fern Vallesi believe it's helping foster reconciliation between First Nations and non-Indigenous people, which is vital for their school community.

"It's the future that we need and to do that we need to change," Ms Calabrese said. "I think it's the space that needs the most amount of work and that it's fundamental to providing success for all students."

Ms Vallesi said, after the unsuccessful referendum on a First Nations Voice in October, reconciliation was even more important now.

"Aboriginal kids can see just how important we think their culture and language is," she said.

"We're quite a multicultural school, we teach Noongar language and Italian and have trilingual signage.

"It is really about celebration of language and the heritage of the area because there were a lot of Italian migrants who moved to the area after the Second World War."

The Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education Awards, held every two years, bring together Australian schools and early learning services chosen for their outstanding dedication to reconciliation.

Finalists for the awards, including Winterfold, which won the schools category, were selected from 100 applicant educational institutions.

Reconciliation Australia director and chair of the awards panel Sharon Davis

said advances in education-based reconciliation have meant that schools and early learning services are increasingly becoming places that are welcoming for First Nations students and families.

"We're seeing more and more instances of teachers having a crack,

century, when the dominant narrative was really colonial fiction.

"With access to other people's lives literally in our hands on our phones, I think young people are starting to think a bit more critically about what they're taught," they said.

"Hang on, those things I learned

**"[It's] a big change from the approach to education last century, when the dominant narrative was really colonial fiction."
– Sharon Davis**

which is what we want to see," they said.

"People are doing some really good work in this space, which is exciting because when you talk about reconciliation education or incorporating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, or discussing racism, some teachers have been scared to make a mistake or say the wrong thing.

"And so now we're seeing a rise in teachers having a go, which I think is a bit of a turning point."

The judges were impressed by the finalists' use of local Aboriginal languages, embedding of reconciliation and Indigenous histories and cultures into the curriculum and their strong relationships with local Elders and communities.

Reconciliation in Australia is based on the five principles of race relations, equality and equity, institutional integrity, unity and historical acceptance.

Sharon Davis said it was a big change from the approach to education last

about Aboriginal people, that they were just nomads who roamed the land and happened to come upon a kangaroo and pick a few berries.

"Now, that's actually untrue, and you can see the different lives of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander peoples from around the country."

Sharon Davis said all children benefited when reconciliation is considered in education.

"For Aboriginal kids to get to see reflections of themselves in learning is so important, but it's also pride when other kids recognise the importance of it too," they said.

"So if you have your non-Indigenous mates saying 'Hey, wow, that's amazing, Eddie Mabo was fantastic' or they learned about Aboriginal scientists creating fish traps or Aboriginal people being the first bakers or they learned about famous Aboriginal sportspeople.

"It's that shared pride in yourself as an Aboriginal kid in the classroom, but

also being able to see non-Indigenous peers and friends being super proud of your own culture is pretty deadly."

At Winterfold, the school formed a reconciliation committee, made up of local Aboriginal and non-Indigenous people, meaning the broader school community is involved.

They make sure everything in that space is led by local Aboriginal people, ensuring cultural safety and respect.

Attendance rates are strong and the school's Noongar language and cultural program has the support of local Aboriginal parents and the broader community.

"That great work is happening from the grassroots," Ms Calabrese said.

"It's happening in the classes, it's happening with the community, it's happening from the bottom up.

"Someone asked me the other day 'What's the magic formula at Winterfold?' and the answer is that our reconciliation program is being driven by the grassroots."

Sharon Davis hopes more schools continue to develop strong and innovative approaches to reconciliation, which they hope evolves to help combat racism.

They said they appreciated the finalists' efforts to address anti-racism in their settings and to build strong and respectful relationships with their local First Nations communities.

"Kids in classrooms are the next police and the next nurses and the next teachers and how great it would be for them to be able to be anti-racist in their approach to their practice when they come out of school and out of university?" they said.

"It will be more and more important because they're impacting the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples so I think there definitely needs to have a larger focus on anti racism within education." – AAP

Awards value leadership



TWO inspiring First Nations global change makers have been honoured at the 2023 University of Queensland Alumni Awards.

Already leaders in their respective fields, Dr Alicia Veasey and Dr Jordan English are among 18 alumni from the University of Queensland to receive the awards as recognition for their work in transforming communities for the better.

Dr Alicia Veasey

Currently based on Bundjalung Country, Torres Strait Islander Dr Veasey is an obstetrician and gynaecologist specialising in paediatric and adolescent gynaecology.

She won the Indigenous Community Impact Award for her community leadership and for working to advocate for Indigenous self-determination within health systems.

She is co-chair of the Queensland Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Clinical Network where she provides leadership on cultural safety and strengths-based reforms for Indigenous peoples in the health



Indigenous Community Impact Award went to Dr Alicia Veasey.

system.

She said she was “always interested in working in health”.

“At the end of primary school, I wrote on my graduation certificate that I wanted to be an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker, like my dad,” she said.

“What I didn’t realise at that time was the joy I would find in providing women-centred care.

“Whilst it’s not always easy, I’m proud of my marriage and family.

“We have a busy house with two doctors, numerous additional professional and community responsibilities, three young children and a dog. Life is messy and chaotic at times, but most



Dr Jordan English was awarded Distinguished Young Alumni.

Sunday afternoons you’ll find us all down at the beach taking in the last rays of sun and laughing.”

If she could change one thing about the world for the next generation she said she wanted every person to realise the importance of Country and land – and to recognise that our relationship to land is just as important as the relationships we have with other people.”

Her advice to graduating Indigenous students: “Ground yourself in Country”.

“You need to know where you have come from to know where you are moving to.

“Use your education to confront

settler-colonial institutions and systems, including those we have internalised, as scary as that may be.”

Dr Jordan English

Dr English is a lawyer who now works as a Supernumerary Teaching Fellow in Law at St John’s College, Oxford.

He received a Distinguished Young Alumni Award for his exceptional leadership, commitment to meaningful change and advancing Indigenous representation in the field of law.

His research has contributed to the fields of private law and civil asset recovery. He is a published author who is committed to the educational success of Indigenous Australians.

Through his work as a Fellow with the Aurora Education Foundation, he mentors and provides support to Indigenous scholars studying in the United Kingdom.

He said he was inspired to pursue his career path by his economics teacher, Dr Barry Neighbour.

“He was so enthusiastic about his subject that it ignited my own intellectual curiosity,” he said. “He is the reason I am an academic today. I had wanted to study

economics, (but) he suggested I do a commerce degree – and Law was intended simply to complement that.

“But it only took a few weeks of classes for me to realise how much I enjoyed Law and how little interest I had in much else.”

Dr English’s advice to others is straight-forward. “People are just people,” he said.

“A lot of time in my early years in law school was spent, either putting people at certain advanced stages in their career on a pedestal, or comparing myself to my peers.

“In the short-term, it drove me to work hard but it was not a healthy way to be.

“As I have gotten older, I have come to realise that everybody has something going on and no decision in life is completely free of sacrifice. It is a matter of deciding what kind of life you want to live and not prioritising one kind of success over others.”

The 2023 UQ Alumni Awards were announced at a ceremony at Customs House on October, 26 and recognised nine diverse categories of accomplishment.

To learn more about this year’s award winners or nominations for 2024 please visit, stories.uq.edu.au/alumni/2023/alumni-awards-2023/index.html

Graduates are top of their game

By ALF WILSON



SEVENTEEN young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths from numerous remote communities have been recognised for their academic, cultural and sporting achievements at the annual NRL Cowboys House awards and graduation ceremony.

The gala graduation ceremony was held at NRL Cowboys House in Townsville on November 14 before the youths returned to their communities.

The efforts and achievements of the year 7-12 youths, including the 17 graduating students, were celebrated by families and community members, school community members, partners, supporters, staff and students on NRL Cowboys House campus.

They were amongst more than 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island secondary school students from some of Australia’s most remote communities who were recognised at the awards and graduation ceremony.

The event was a culmination of a 2023 school year defined by new faces, experiences, challenges and change guided by the NRL Cowboys House values of family, integrity and resilience.

Speaking at Tuesday’s awards ceremony, NRL Cowboys House General Manager Rochelle Jones paid tribute to the students’ commitment.

“Hard work has been shown by many of our students through their academic achievements, and it brings great joy to us all when they return from school with a proud smile and the news of how well they’ve done on an exam or assignment.

“I also acknowledge the resilience and bravery of all our students and particularly our families, as education and boarding add an extra challenge to their lives and they all work so hard to nurture our future leaders.

“As we prepare to say goodbye to our graduates, we thank everyone who has made a difference to the lives of our young



2023 NRL Cowboys House graduates.

people this year and we wish our 2023 graduates all the best for what lies ahead,” she said.

The event was hosted by Year 11 students Bruce Baudu (Thursday Island) and Makeilla Gibson (Cooktown) and saw the return of five past students for a live Q&A about life since graduating from NRL Cowboys House.

Continuing a strong tradition, the Year 12 graduating students each received a special North Queensland Toyota Cowboys Indigenous jersey with their name and boarding number on the back, featuring artist Renee Wilson’s *Mundarlbi* design.

The award night follows a school year that has seen a number of exciting highlights for students across all year levels, including performances at art and music festivals by NRL Cowboys House Dance troupe, the annual NAIDOC Day celebration held in September, that united everyone under the theme, ‘For Our

Elders’, and with a focus on the arts, programs like the Young Indigenous Printmakers provided opportunities for students to learn more about themselves and their culture.

Cowboys Community Foundation Director Jeff Reibel said that the opportunity to encourage learning through collaboration was a highlight.

“2023 has been a year of growth for our football club, The North Queensland Toyota Cowboys, which has meant new opportunities as we work together in our goal of removing distance as a barrier to education. With the commencement of our inaugural NRLW program this year, we were delighted to introduce Tahlulah Tillett as a player ambassador, taking her place in the House family alongside Reuben Cotter and of course House parent Sareka Mooka.

“It’s been a real pleasure to see how these players have embraced the opportunity to mentor and inspire the young

NRL Cowboys House graduates, 2023

Ruhkoa Ahmat-Nona (Badu Island)
Samjoe Baragud (Yam Island)
Kylorren Beetham-Kepa (Yam Island),
Steph Bob (Warraber Island),
Kelly Dalton (Normanton),
David Foster-King (Doomadgee),
Kairon Hudson (Weipa),
Isaiah Kepa (Yam Island),
Wyatt Lourigan (Mossman),
Leland Michael (Cooktown),
Shontay Mick (Doomadgee),
Coralie Mundraby (Normanton),
Bobby Naawi (Moa Island),
Desharnthie Nona (Warraber Island),
Cooper Pearson (Yarrabah),
Connor Rogers (Morrington Island),
Ariel Tapim-Wailu (Murray Island)

men and women boarding at the House and encourage them to reach for greatness. I always enjoy hearing the stories of our students, many kilometres from their families and home communities, coming out of their shell, to grow and learn under the guidance of these leaders,” Mr Reibel said.

Tahlulah is of Moa descent, Reuven has Boigu bloodlines and Sareka is part of a big Mabuig family.

NRL Cowboys House celebrated its first four inspirational graduates in 2019, before honouring 17 graduates in 2020, 13 graduates in 2021, 17 graduates in 2022 and now a further 17 in 2023.

NRL Cowboys House provides supported accommodation and wraparound support for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students accessing quality secondary education in Townsville.

The House works in partnership with 11 local schools to provide opportunities that would otherwise be inaccessible to the students due to remoteness.

NRL Cowboys House is a joint initiative between the National Rugby League, North Queensland Cowboys, the Queensland Government and the Australian Government.

Award-winning STEM program is giving kids a love for learning



THE Buraligim Weiber (A Place of Learning) program is immersing Indigenous primary school students in science. The central

Queensland project has now earned recognition at the Education Queensland Showcase Awards.

Buraligim Weiber is a collaboration between Gladstone West State School and CQUniversity.

Launched in 2021 for First Nations students in years 3 and 4, it's now offered as a STEM (science, education, engineering and mathematics), humanities and social sciences initiative for all year 4s at Gladstone West.

The innovative project was one of nine featured at the awards and was named joint winner in the Telstra Building on Foundations (Years 3-6) category – with the school being awarded a \$20,000 bursary to reinvest in school improvement activities.

During the Buraligim Weiber program, students participate in 20 weekly activities at the state-of-the-art community learning facility at CQU Gladstone Marina.

The Australia Pacific LNG STEM Central lead, Associate Professor Linda Pfeiffer said the program also connects with land, sea and community.

"Students experience first-hand science alongside experts in their fields and Traditional Owners and First Nations peoples, including Byellee woman and artist Tricia Coleman," she said.

"They also get to participate with citizen science groups, to tackle the issue of sustainability, while raising interest and awareness of STEM careers."

The program is reviewed yearly, and CQUniversity research captures impacts for students and community.

Gladstone West Primary School Acting Principal Sarah Jacob said the win recognised big impacts for students.

"I am so proud of our Buraligim Weiber program and our work



Primary school students on a Buraligim Weiber (Place of Learning) program trip to Quoin Island in 2022.

supporting First Nations students, and to receive the Showcase acknowledgement of the incredible work and dedication of our team is an absolute honour," Ms Jacob said.

"We will continue to make a real difference for First Nations students in our local community through our partnership, and this will have a life-long positive impact and help us to ensure more positive outcomes for our First Nations students."

Earlier this year, CQUniversity's STEM Central received \$18,700 from the Queensland Government's Engaging Science Grants program to grow the Buraligim Weiber project and improve engagement, literacy and school attendance across the region.

The program is funded by Australia Pacific LNG, operated downstream by ConocoPhillips.



CQUniversity's Associate Professor Linda Pfeiffer, Queensland Education Minister Grace Grace, Acting Principal Gladstone West State School Sarah Jacob.

Big noise about language

Early Learning is opportunity to protect languages



MORE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are learning to speak up in language.

Under the *Ningnanah No More* language program, the NSW Department of Education has announced two new Aboriginal language hubs – now there's three.

Ningnanah means 'to be quiet' and the *Ningnanah No More* program aims to increase the level of Aboriginal languages being taught in early childhood education and care (ECEC) services.

These hubs are springing up in ECEC services, and it's helping to foster a lifelong connection to Country, culture and learning.

Each hub comprises an

Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation coordinating language teachings across multiple early childhood services in their region.

They will support the goal of having 50% of Aboriginal children (in the year before school) able to access an Aboriginal language by 2025, as outlined in the First Steps Strategy.

Through the hubs, Aboriginal language groups keep control over language revitalisation efforts in their region and ensure resources are available where and when they are required.

The Winanga-Li Aboriginal Child and Family Centre will coordinate teaching resources of the Gamilaraay/Yuwaalaraay/Yuwaalaar ay Aboriginal languages across the Gunnedah, Walgett, Tamworth and

Moree Plains regions.

The Dubbo regional Aboriginal Education Consultative Group will coordinate teaching resources for the North Wiradjuri Aboriginal languages across the Dubbo, Narromine, Parkes and Gilgandra regions.

Aunty Julie Carey is the director of Kulai Preschool, part of the Gumbaynggirr Aboriginal language hub established in 2022.

She said the service's 75 children were enjoying learning language.

"It gives them a sense of belonging, it gives them something back that has come well before them and will continue well after them," Aunty Julie said. "It strengthens their identity, it makes them proud and it connects them to

Country and community. They hit primary school and they build on that language and follow it through."

Aunty Julie said learning language also helped children develop confidence.

"It really opens up another part of your brain – it's like something blossoms," she said.

"It's great for their wellbeing and they tend to want to interact more in conversations."

Aunty Julie said children and educators were now also using language beyond the sessions and in their daily routines, in the playground, at mealtimes and on the bus home, even inspiring older community members.

Early Childhood Outcomes Relieving Deputy Secretary Mark Barraket said the significance of

these hubs will have impact well beyond the early years.

"Language is so important for sharing knowledge and ideas across cultures and generations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are the original voices of this Country that have been spoken for tens of thousands of years," Mr Barraket said.

"Embracing language at an early age provides an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and identity to be developed and nurtured in the earliest stage of formal education, while at the same time, improving educational outcomes for children.

"The positive outcomes from these hubs will continue throughout these children's lives and across the entire community as well."

Songs cooked in a kitchen

By PAUL CONNELLY



A NEW book of stories, songs, photographs and tributes commemorates iconic Australian Indigenous musicians Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter.

Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter; Songs from the Kitchen Table, is the first significant tribute to Auntie Ruby Hunter, who was a ground-breaking female Indigenous songwriter and performer – and a major part of Archie's life.

The book features 80 of Archie's songs and 30 of Ruby's – including Archie's early works *They Took The Children Away* and *Charcoal Lane*, his timeless classic *Tell Me Why*, and his final masterpiece, *One Song*. Also included is Auntie Ruby's song *Down City Streets*.

The lyrics are accompanied by stories about their composition, rare photographs and heartfelt tributes to Archie and Ruby from those who knew them best, including Paul Kelly and Emma Donovan and journalist Jack Latimore.

After Archie passed away, the job of compiling the book was left to his friend and long time manager, Jill Shelton.

"The idea of a songbook had been in the works for some time, and after the release of his memoir *Tell Me Why* in 2019, his publishers Simon and Schuster got right behind it,"

Ms Shelton told the *Koori Mail*.

"Archie was really excited by the project and we purchased songbooks from other artists for inspiration and ideas, but unfortunately by the time we did start work on it, Archie's health had declined.

"Sadly he didn't get to do much of the layout, so the publisher took on the project with contributions from Mushroom Artists.

"It was important that Ruby was included in this book as they were the first people to hear each other's songs, created around their kitchen table. It is a beautiful book that celebrates those songs, and the stories behind them."

Archie and Ruby's son Amos Roach said he was really happy with the book.

"It is a wonderful book," he said. "It goes back through many old photos and memories in the 80s and even the 70s. Having lyrics in chronological order is the best.

"It's a musical journey of dad and mum. There was unfortunately never an Archie and Ruby album, but this comes close to that."

"The book shares the stories of the songs' origins, the trips that we did and mob that we met. Some of the children's songs were written by communities we visited. They have captured the work they did individually and together, and with collaborators like Craig Pilkington and Paul Kelly, or as we knew him Uncle PK.

"He stayed with us while

Charcoal was being recorded. We would even go to the football with Paul, and dad would come and pick us up later."

Asked what it was like to grow up with a famous musician dad and listen to the songs being created Amos said,

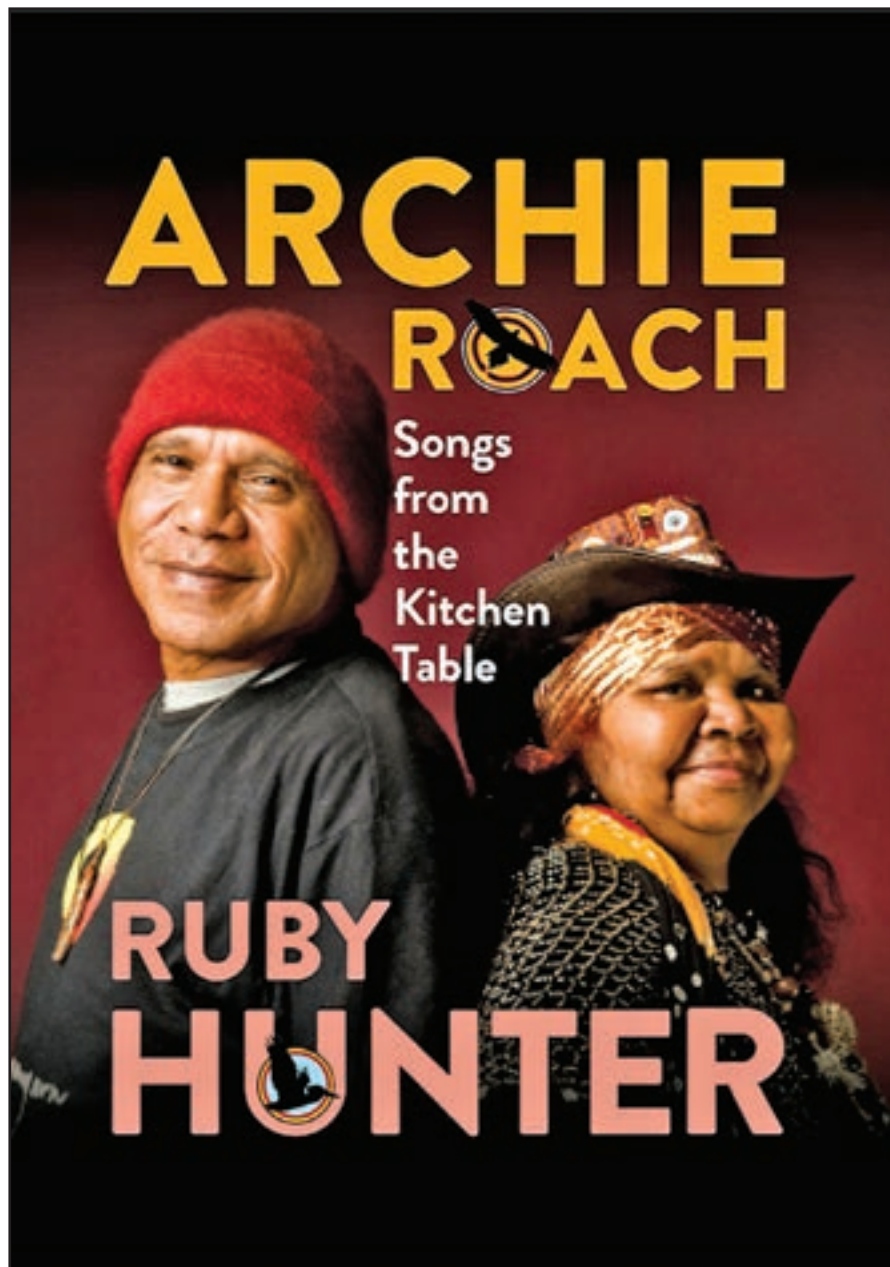
"It all happened around the kitchen table, anyone who visited our home, family included, all saw those songs being created. As well as family, many famous people came to our house, like Paul Simon on his Graceland Tour. It was the first time everyone in the family was taller than someone else in that kitchen," Amos laughed.

"To the fans who loved mum and dad, this is the complete journey of Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter, but know, that there is so much more to come from their legacy."

Amos said he's seen YouTube videos showing the reactions of people across the world to *They Took the Children Away*, and knows that this would have touched his dad's heart.

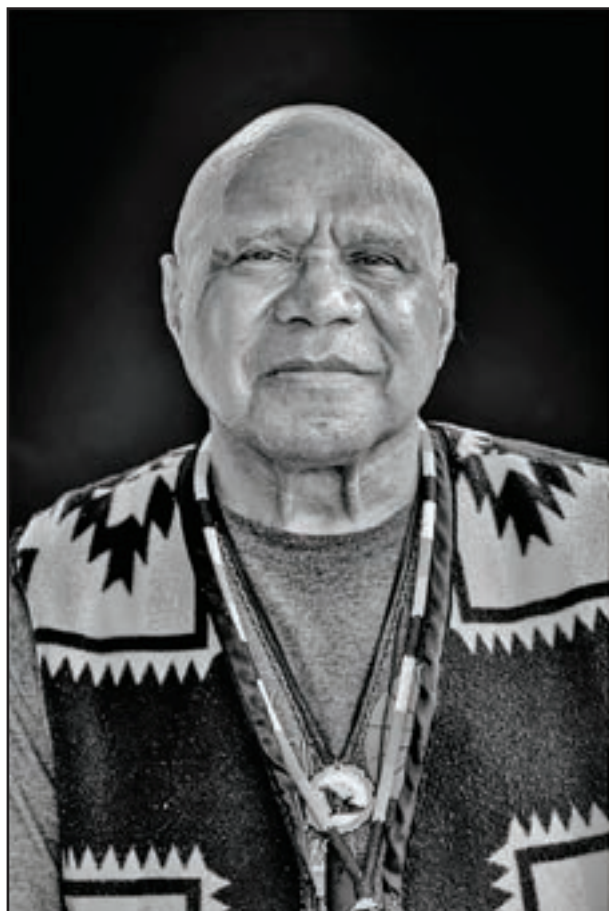
At the back of the book is a QR code which links to a Spotify playlist of Archie and Ruby's songs.

Archie Roach's legacy has soared, much like the Wedgetail Eagle, his totem from his mother's ancestral lands. Uncle Archie's and Auntie Ruby's songs stand as anthems for both the experience of dispossession and our shared humanity and will endure for generations to come.



A new illustrated book *Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter; Songs from the Kitchen Table*, tells the stories of the many songs of Uncle Archie and Auntie Rudy, along with many old photographs from their journey together.

Lovegrove and Roach are ready to fly



Ellie Lovegrove releases her first single, *I'm Gonna Fly*, a duet with Archie Roach.

By PAUL CONNELLY



FITTINGLY released on the same day as the incredible new book *Songs from the Kitchen Table*, *I'm Gonna Fly* by Ellie Lovegrove in a duet with Archie Roach

A gifted singer-songwriter, mother, Aboriginal health worker and community advocate for First Nations people, Ellie Lovegrove has been sharing her stunning vocals with the world since the age of 10.

She first performed for her family and friends, before capturing the hearts of Australia as a Top 12 finalist on Australia's *X Factor* in 2013. Mentored and coached by international artist and producer RedFoo, Lovegrove was the recipient of the New and Emerging Talent Award at the National Deadly Awards in 2013, and also won the Channel 9 Young Achiever of the Year Award, and the NAIDOC Youth of the

Year Award for the SA Southeast.

She collaborated with many other Australian musicians over the years and now *I'm Gonna Fly* unveils her first official single release.

The track attests to Lovegrove's powerful growth after spending time on the road with Uncle Archie Roach.

"After sharing some time touring with Uncle Archie and listening to his stories, I had commuted back to Adelaide and written the song in a time of deep reflection," Lovegrove said.

"I had the first verse and the chorus, but I wasn't sure where to go next and humbly asked if Uncle Archie would listen to what I had and if he would be interested in collaborating. I had no expectations, if anything I just wanted to share with him as he had with me and I was deeply taken back when I was told Uncle had included a verse to the song.

(Continued on next page...)

Lovegrove and Roach are ready to fly



(Continued from previous page...)

"To then be able to intertwine our voices together in the last chorus was a really special moment for me. *I'm Gonna Fly* is a song I wrote about breaking free from things I felt were holding me back from being true to myself.

"It's about personal growth and being in alignment with my miwi (spirit) and trusting that despite the trials and tribulations I may face, if I am true to myself and my spirit, I will prosper, spiritually, mentally and therefore physically.

"This song is very sentimental, and it is about growth, letting go and overcoming those heavy feelings change can bring. I feel as though it will create a life of its own as different people interpret the lyrics to their own circumstances."

She worked with producer Craig Pilkington to bring the new single and music video to life. She's been on a musical journey – from watching Archie Roach on TV to performing with him at Adelaide Fringe in 2015.

"The first and last time I had the privilege of performing this song with Uncle Archie was in the Spiegel tent at the Adelaide Fringe when I had opened for him," Lovegrove said.

"I grew up watching Uncle Archie sing on TV. Having all of my family telling me how he was singing of the experiences our people have faced, I never thought that I would get to meet him, let alone work, share space and stories, and collaborate with him one day.

"Uncle Archie and Auntie Ruby are our community's most precious story tellers and song keepers. Their voices and music are timeless, and their stories will live on through all those that have had the privilege of hearing them."

Armed with a remarkable vocal range, a passion for caring for community and a sonic warmth that permeates beyond her creations, Ellie Lovegrove is a breath of positivity on the Australian musical landscape.

"I am deeply honoured that my first ever single will be one that I was able to collaborate with Uncle Archie on. It has great sentimental value and has been sitting in the archive for some time, so to be invited to share it in Uncle Archie's song book is incredible."

I'm Gonna Fly, the single and *Songs from the Kitchen Table* were jointly released on November 15.

If you order the book through the Archie Roach Foundation all profits are directed to the foundation to continue Archie's legacy.

Yankunytjatjara leaves English at the door



A NEW exhibition dares audiences to leave English at the door and surrender to the sounds and images of the strong Yankunytjatjara wangka (language).

With original artwork by Coober Pedy-based Yankunytjatjara artist Myra Kumantjara, the Yankunytjatjara *Wangka! Keeping Ancestral Voices Alive* exhibition has language at its heart.

Myra is an Anangu education worker who grew up in Iwantja (Indulkana) Community on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands.

She works between Coober Pedy, Iwantja and Oodnadatta and has a passion and desire to create resources that help Anangu live and work between two languages.

Her artworks, which are produced as educational flashcards, illustrate important pieces of life and Country, including waru (fire), Nyii-nyii (zebra finch), tjiwa munu tjungari (grinding stones) and mangata (quandong).

She said the artworks were inspired by her own experience of working in the classroom.

"The flashcards are for kids to see, read, write their language, and to help young (Anangu) teachers build confidence in the class," Kumantjara said.



Myra Kumantjara painting at Coober Pedy. Picture: Mobile Language Team

Karina Lester, Aboriginal co-manager and senior Aboriginal language worker at the Mobile Language Team, said the exhibition reflects this important work.

"Learning Yankunytjatjara is a holistic and sensory worldview, this exhibition shows the creative ways language can be used with technology to keep language strong," she said.

"When kids are competent and confident in two languages, they find purpose and meaning in life.

"This exhibition is about helping kids to read and write Yankunytjatjara."

Opening

The exhibition opened recently at the Tarnanthi Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art.



Myra Kumantjara, *mangata* (bush tomato).



Myra Kumantjara, *nganngi* (frog).

Pictured left: Anangu education worker and artist Myra Kumantjara from Iwantja (Indulkana) Community Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands.

stronger languages.

While it is spoken across Australia, its traditional homeland is the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands in north-western South Australia and across the border in the wider region surrounding Uluru.

Living languages

In 2021, the South Australian Museum and the Mobile Language Team (University of Adelaide), joined Aboriginal communities from across South Australia to develop the Aboriginal Living Languages South Australia Cooperative (ALLSA).

The project seeks to unlock South Australian Museum collections to creator communities and to facilitate the creation of new cultural works, including online language learning activities, storytelling, visual art and exhibitions. Crucially, ALLSA aims to increase access to language resources for communities, schools and families and to promote SA's rich language heritage.

All exhibition panels are presented only in Yankunytjatjara with English translations available via QR codes (a large-print English guide will also be available).

Yankunytjatjara Wangka! Keeping Ancestral Voices Alive is open until March 31, 2024, from 10am-5pm daily.

Miss Kaninna brings her powerful voice to hip-hop

BY ALI MC



WHEN it comes to the politics of her music, Miss Kaninna pulls no punches.

"I want to make white people feel uncomfortable, because history is uncomfortable," she told the *Koori Mail*.

The proud Yorta Yorta, Djadja Wurrung, Kalkadoon and Yirendali singer and musician has been hitting the airwaves hard this year, with songs such as *Blak Britney* and *Pinnacle Bitch*.

The Music Victoria Award-nominated powerhouse has also attracted attention at festivals such as BigSound and received high rotation on Triple J; *Blak Britney* was the number one most played track on the national station within a fortnight of its release.

Inspiration

Hailing from lutruwita/Tasmania, Miss Kaninna grew up on the shores of Bruny Island and says her greatest inspiration comes from the matriarchs in her family, including her mother and grandmother.

"I grew up around a lot of very staunch black women," she said.

"My family are very staunch and the Tasmanian Aboriginal community are also a massive inspiration to me."

Despite the blend of rap and pop that typifies her current sound, Miss Kaninna recalls her childhood soundtrack – like many First Nations families – was country music.

"Growing up, I never really was exposed to hip hop until my adolescence," she said.

"When I grew up, I was listening to country music.

"But my mum had deep reggae, soul r'n'b and funk roots. She loves that kind of music. So I listened to a lot of Lauryn Hill and Erykah Badu and Bob Marley."

However, Miss Kaninna said she was inspired in the early 2000s by the success she saw of Nicki Minaj.

"When Nicki broke out in the mid 2000s, that's when I really kind of solidified my appreciation for rap and for women in pop," she said.

Character building

Miss Kaninna would go on to study Aboriginal Theatre at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts and then be cast as lead character Cynthia in the theatre tour of *The Sapphires*.

She told the *Koori Mail* that the training and experience of formal theatre performance



"I've experienced more racism in the past few years releasing music than I have in my whole life. Racism is still real and that's what I'm trying to communicate through my music – like wake the fk up."**

– Miss Kaninna

Miss Kaninna Tour Dates

Fri 8 Dec: Meredith Music Festival, Wadawurrung Country/Meredith
Wed 27 Dec: HAYDAYS Music Festival, Nipaluna/Hobart
Sat 30 Dec: Beyond The Valley, Wadawurrung & Eastern Marr Country/Barunah Plains
Sun 31 Dec: Wildlands, Meanjin/Brisbane
Mon 1 Jan: Sun Cycle, Naarm/Melbourne
Sat 6 Jan: Wildlands, Boorloo/Perth
Sat 3 Feb: Laneway Festival, Brisbane/Meanjin
Sun 4 Feb: Laneway Festival, Eora/Sydney
Fri 9 Feb: Laneway Festival, Kaurua Yerta/Adelaide
Sat 10 Feb: Laneway Festival, Naarm/Melbourne
Sun 11 Feb: Laneway Festival, Boorloo/Perth
Fri 8 -Sat 16 Mar: SXSW 2024, Tonkawa, Comanche & Apache Land/Austin TX

forged a solid foundation for her current career.

"Continuously performing to big crowds as a character

definitely helps you in your confidence to be onstage," she said.

"I've always wanted to

incorporate a show feeling, a performance feeling, rather than it just being a gig. And I hope that translates to people

because for me, I think music is so much more than just a listening thing.

"It's a visual thing. It's the whole engagement with people."

Along with a string of show stopping performances in 2023, Miss Kaninna is also a presenter on Triple J's *Hip Hop Show* where she aims to highlight the talent of women and non-binary artists.

Breaking paradigms

However, she says breaking the Australian paradigm of the white, male rapper has attracted criticism.

"People get so up in arms when I only put on female rappers," she said.

"We're only playing Black POC women and non-binary people in an attempt to try and broaden people's minds here in so-called Australia."

She also told the *Koori Mail* that she has experienced a lot of racism since her music and profile has elevated to a national level.

"I've experienced more racism in the past few years releasing music than I have in my whole life," she said.

"Racism is still real and that's what I'm trying to communicate through my music – like wake the f**k up."

The world beckons

Along with multiple shows around the country, Miss Kaninna has also been invited to perform at the internationally recognised South By South-West (SXSW) music conference in 2024, after being spotted by a representative at her BigSound performance in Brisbane.

"I did the show at Big Sound and the SXSW dude from Texas was there and watched my show.

"And then they offered me to come over to America next year, which will be good but I have to self-fund the whole thing, which is kind of a bit stressful."

Miss Kaninna said that forging a career in music as an independent and staunch black woman was a challenge, but one that she was committed to.

"This is my livelihood.

"This is not a joke. This is my life and my life career," she said.

"One of the goals is liberation of my people and for myself as well. I feel like when I'm liberated others are liberated, and when others are liberated, I am."

Miss Kaninna said she would love to conduct community workshops, and for anyone interested to get in contact.

"Anybody in any of the communities want me to come and do a program, I'm 100% down," she said.

"You just have to invite me to come and I'll be there."



La'shauna Nathaniel, left, offers a tasting sample to CEQ Team member Manuel Mareko at the IBIS Nurupai (Horn Island) store.

New role for La'shauna kicks off with World Diabetes Day



NEW Indigenous nutrition cadet, La'shauna Nathaniel, is set to promote healthier eating in remote Cape York and Torres Strait Island communities.

Remote-store operator Community Enterprise Queensland (CEQ) used World Diabetes Day on November 14 to make the appointment and highlight the importance of knowing one's risk of type-2 diabetes to help delay or prevent the condition.

CEQ is supporting local health services to get this message out to customers via store digital notice boards, encouraging people to know their risk of diabetes and take action.

Torres Strait Islander La'shauna's primary focus will see her work alongside remote store teams to improve the position of healthy food options and make it easier for

customers to purchase them.

Her former role was as a casual cashier at the IBIS store on Waiben (Thursday Island), and she will now also work closely with CEQ health, wellbeing and nutrition manager Melinda Hammond and store nutritionist Georgia Day.

La'shauna expressed her excitement about the role and the potential for developing a career in the health and wellbeing sector.

"I am honoured to contribute to the health, wellbeing and nutrition team at CEQ," she said.

"I believe this role presents a unique opportunity for me to make a positive impact on the health of my people, and I am eager to explore further study and professional development."

For more information on World Diabetes Day, visit worlddiabetesday.org

Cultural safety at heart of new birthing program



FIRST Nations parents who have experienced complex childhood trauma are set to get support through a new project.

Healing the Past by Nurturing the Future is a new Aboriginal-led community-based project at Latrobe Regional Health (LRH).

It is the first hospital in Victoria to focus on reducing trauma-related distress for families at the time of having a baby, as well as supporting First Nations parents with their own trauma, which often stems from the ongoing effects of colonisation.

The project involves expanding the hospital to provide culturally appropriate birthing suites and family rooms, as well as encouraging more Indigenous families into the hospital.

Staff are also being trained on issues such as using culturally safe language.

University of Melbourne Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing director, Professor Catherine Chamberlain, said childbirth presented an ideal opportunity to help heal from childhood hurts and intergenerational trauma.

"A lot of this trauma is a result of colonisation, particularly from the forced removal of children from families and practices designed to fracture communities," Dr Chamberlain said.

"This has been incredibly damaging for communities and relationships, and at the same time, all the knowledge underpinning these communities has been suppressed or destroyed.

"This won't go away until we heal the past and there is a lot of evidence in the ongoing effects of this, we are seeing this most in the number of children in out-of-home care."

Each year, 50 Aboriginal mothers deliver babies at the hospital, but some are afraid to come into a mainstream health organisation, worrying they will be targeted— or are scared they would have their babies removed.

LRH chief executive Don McRae said,

"If we have culturally safe measures, then more people will want to come here to have their babies, and we will have better health outcomes for families".

Feedback and ongoing evaluation will be used throughout the project to allow improvements to care, and once developed it could be rolled out to other hospitals.

One in two inmates report a mental health diagnosis



MORE than half of the people in prison said they had been previously diagnosed with a mental health condition – and many reported a family history of incarceration.

The prison entrants were surveyed for the report *The health of people in Australia's prisons 2022*, by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The report includes information gathered from 73 of 87 prisons across Australia, excluding Victoria. It develops a comprehensive view of the health, well-being and social factors that affect people before, during and

after time in prison.

Most prison discharges surveyed for the report were happy with the health care they received in prison.

AIHW spokesperson Amanda Donges said "Many people in prison come from disadvantaged backgrounds, with poorer physical and mental health outcomes than the general population.

"They are less likely to have accessed health care services in the community, and more likely to have a history of risky behaviours that can affect health and wellbeing."

Nearly one-third (31%) of prison entrants had an education level of Year 9 or below.

In the 30 days before entering

prison, more than four in 10 (43%) were homeless, nearly half (46%) were unemployed and one in 20 (5.1%) were studying.

More than half of surveyed prison entrants (51%) reported a previous diagnosis of a mental health condition, including alcohol and other drug-use disorders.

Almost three-quarters (73%) of prison entrants reported using illicit drugs at least once during the previous 12 months.

One in four (25%) prison entrants reported that one or more parents or carers had been in prison when they were a child.

This was more than twice as likely among Indigenous entrants (36%) than non-Indigenous entrants (15%).

Four in 10 (42%) prison entrants aged 18–24 had a parent or carer in prison during their childhood.

"The majority of people reported access to a range of health care and other services in prison. Nearly three quarters (72%) of prison discharges rated the healthcare they received in the prison clinic as good or excellent," Ms Donges said.

"Four in five (80%) reported their physical health improved or stayed the same while in prison. A similar proportion (81%) reported their mental health improved or stayed the same while in prison."

Adults aged 18–44 in the general community (65%) were about 1.5 times more likely than prison entrants (42%) and prison

discharges (41%) of the same age to rate their health as very good or excellent.

First Nations discharges were more likely to rate their physical health as very good or excellent (45%) than non-Indigenous discharges (37%).

Nearly half (48%) of prison discharges expected to be homeless on release from prison, with 45% planning to sleep in short-term or emergency accommodation and 2.8% expected to sleep rough. About half (52%) of prison discharges had their own stable accommodation arranged.

There are more than 62,000 receptions into and releases out of, Australia's prisons each year.

event listings

NEW SOUTH WALES

Three Echoes

Western Desert Art

Showcases works by 57 acclaimed artists heralding from Ikuntji(Haasts Bluff), Papaya and Utopian Aboriginal communities.
when: Dec 8- Feb 25
where: Tweed Regional Gallery
info/bookings: gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au/w-hats-on/exhibitions

Saltwater Freshwater Arts Exhibition 2023

This touring exhibition combines the Saltwater Freshwater Aboriginal Art Award and contemporary cultural objects exhibition, featuring Aboriginal artists from the Worimi, Biripi, Dunghutti and Gumbaynggirr Nations on the Mid North Coast of NSW.
when: December 7-27
where: Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree
info/bookings: see future tour dates and venues into 2024 at saltwaterfreshwater.com.au/contact/

SandSong: Stories from the Great Sandy Desert

when: Dec 5, 2023
where: Orange Civic Theatre, Wiradjuri Country.

and
when: Dec 8-9
where: Glasshouse, Port Macquarie, Birpai Country
info/bookings: bangarra.com.au

The Power of Creativity: My Horizon Line

A retrospective of work by Jeffrey Samuels.
when: until January 27, 2024
where: Flood St, Leichhardt
info/bookings: boomalli.com.au/

Miwatj Yolngu – Sunrise People

Engage with First Nations artists and leaders in the cultural sector at this curated program of talks, workshops and performances.
when: until February 11, 2024
where: Bundanoon, Shoalhaven.
info/bookings: For full program and to book go to bundanon.com.au/miwatj-yolngu

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Tali Desert Sand Dunes and Little Gems – Artworks under \$500

when: until Dec 20
where: Japingka Aboriginal Art Gallery, Fremantle
info: japingkaaboriginalart.com/exhibitions/

3 Journeys: Aboriginal Storytelling through Film, Music and Art
when: until February 4

where: WA Museum Boola Bardip, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth
info/bookings: visit.museum.wa.gov.au/boola-bardip/three-journeys

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Vincent Namatjira: Australia in colour

when: until Jan 21, 2024
where: Art Gallery of South Australia
info/bookings: agsa.sa.gov.au/

Tarnanthi Festival

when: until Jan 21, 2024
where: Art Gallery of SA, North Terrace, Adelaide
info/bookings: free entry agsa.sa.gov.au/whats-on/tarnanthi/tarnanthi-2023/

Yankunytjatjara Wangka! Keeping Ancestral Voices Alive

when: until March 31, 2024
where: South Australian Museum
info/bookings: samuseum.sa.gov.au/event/yankunytjatjara-Wangka

QUEENSLAND

Daniel Boyd Rainbow Serpent (Version)

when: until Dec 16
where: Institute of Modern Art, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane
info/bookings: ima.org.au/

The Summer Show

The annual group exhibition of UMI Arts member artists is the final exhibition for 2023 in the UMI Arts calendar.
when: until February 23, 2024
where: UMI Arts Shop 4, Jensen Plaza Gallery, Manooora
info/bookings: umiarts.com.au/

Mare Amoris | Sea of Love

An exhibition that brings the preciousness of our Sea Country and waterways to the fore.
when: until Jan 20, 2024
where: UQ Art Museum, UQ St Lucia
info/bookings: art-museum.uq.edu.au/mare-amoris-sea-love

WILDLANDS

Music festival, line-up includes Miss Kaninna
when: Dec 31
where: Brisbane showgrounds, Brisbane
info/bookings: shows in SA and WA Jan 2024. For more on all WILDLANDS wildlandsfestival.com.au/

NORTHERN TERRITORY

2023 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (Telstra NATSIAA)

when: until Feb 18, 2024
where: Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory(MAGNT), Larrakia Country, Darwin
info/bookings: To enter the virtual gallery, vote for the People's Choice Award or



Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, 2023. Picture: provided by CIAF

CIAF calls for artists



Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) has put the call out for Expressions of Interest (EOI) in two opportunities open to First Nations artists and creatives who live in Queensland, and/or have a strong connection to Queensland.

CATAPULT is a two-part exhibition and professional development program for First Nations artists of all skill-levels. The program is designed to create critical pathways for independent artists offering tailored support that will lead to exhibiting work within CIAF's 2024 Art Fair.

The programs are supported by the Queensland government through Arts Queensland.

ART FAIR EXHIBITOR

CIAF is also calling for Queensland's First Nations artists and creative practitioners who are currently working on, and planning to, exhibit work at CIAF 2024.

Both opportunities are open now and artists have until Friday, December 8, to visit CIAF's website at ciaf.com.au/opportunities-and-eois to view and complete their Expressions of Interest (EOI).

CIAF is among the nation's strongest Indigenous art fairs, committed to strengthening and celebrating culture, creating professional development opportunities for First Nations artists.

find out more about the physical exhibition, please visit magnt.net.au/natsiaa

Katherine Prize Award

when: until Dec 22
where: Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre, Katherine
info/bookings: Follow the links at northernterritory.com/katherine-and-surrounds/events/

VICTORIA

Connection @ THE LUME

Don't miss your chance to catch this breathtaking cultural experience presented across 3,000 square metres of immersive gallery space.
when: until Dec 23
where: THE LUME, Melbourne
info/bookings: thelumemelbourne.com/

Dan Sultan (Solo)

when: Sun Dec 3, 3pm
where: Beer DeLuxe - Albury, Australia
info/bookings: dansultan.com/shows

Watercolour Country: 100 Works from Hermannsburg

when: until April 14, 2024
where: The Ian Potter

Centre, National Gallery of Victoria, Fed Square, Melbourne

info/bookings: ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/watercolour-country/

A Daylight Connection Double-bill Whose Gonna Love 'Em? I am that I AM

when: Nov 22- Dec 3
where: Tower, The Malthouse, Southbank and

Chase

where: Beckett Theatre, The Malthouse, Southbank.
info/bookings: malthousetheatre.com.au

Touring Exhibition: Layers of Blak

This exhibition is the outcome of Koori Heritage Trust (KHT) and its Blak Design program, which provides a platform for nurturing sustainable, collaborative First Peoples design practices. Each artist presents a range of contemporary jewellery grounded in their connection to culture, Country and family. The works draw on cultural connections through materials and design, while experimenting with

creative ways to reimagine jewellery.

when: Dec 9 - Mar 10, 2024
where: Art Gallery of Ballarat
info/bookings: more dates later in the year and 2024, see korieheritagetrust.com.au/whats-on/exhibitions/layers-of-blak/

11th Koorie Art Show 2023

when: Dec 3 - Feb 19
where: KHT, Fed Square, Melbourne
info/bookings: exhibitions.korieheritagetrust.com.au

TASMANIA

Silk Stockings

A project partnership between Design Tasmania and Walantanalinany Palingina, the first of its kind, the project aims to nurture and promote First Nations design and making in traditional and contemporary contexts.
when: until December 3
where: Babel Island Store, Babel Island
info/bookings: designtasmania.com.au/programs/silk-stockings

'Invitation to milaythina kani' by Jillian Mundy
 Travel on Country with

palawa in the short film *Language of the Land – Milaythina Rrukani*, by Troy Melville and Jillian Mundy. Hear about connection to language and place. Consider the resonance of original place names, the power of speaking names on Country and the connection language builds between people, land and time. This is an invitation to kani and to learn about the place names of Lutruwita.
when: until Dec 9, 2023.
where: FIRST SPACE at Sawtooth ARI Gallery, Launceston
info/bookings: sawtoothari.com/upcoming

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Dan Sultan

when: Dec 2, 2023
where: UC Hub Canberra
info/bookings: dansultan.com/shows

Emily Kam Ngwarray

when: Dec 2, 2023 until April 28, 2024
where: National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
info/bookings: nga.gov.au/exhibitions/emily-kam-ngwarray/

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT



Pictured from left, back row are Spencer Parson, Cayless Pryor, Daniel Kopp, Peter Condon, Jake Aitken, Billie Colliss. Front row: Morris Sam and Michael Smallwood.

Motoring milestone

By ALF WILSON



TEN Indigenous youths completed a milestone 'Customised First Nations Work Preparation Program for the Automotive Industry' and graduated with certificates at a ceremony in Townsville.

The program will result in the 10 gaining apprenticeships either as motor mechanics or panel beaters and was run by On Common Country (OCC) alongside the Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland). It was held at the Townsville and District Rugby Union Clubhouse on November 23 and the *Koori Mail* was invited along.

Those who received their certificates were Spencer

Parson, Cayless Pryor, Daniel Kopp, Peter Condon, Jake Aitken, Billie Colliss, Morris Sam and Michael Smallwood.

Absent at the graduation were the other participants Arness Martin and Blake Dawson.

Placement stage

The group involved in the first intake of this specialised program completed their five-week Customised Motor Trades orientation and are now moving into the placement stage with participating employers Mike Carney Toyota, Carmichael Ford, and Alexander Body Works-AMA Group which had representatives at the graduation.

OCC, through the Queensland Government's Indigenous Workforce and Skills Development Grant, have developed this program to deliver individualised work preparation

and training to disadvantaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander jobseekers in Townsville.

The Indigenous Workforce and Skills Development Grant program supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' skills development through Indigenous led projects that support or respond to local training and workforce needs.

Director of OCC Noel Gertz says that the Customised First Nations Work Preparation Program for the Automotive Industry provides participants with the requisite 'soft' skills to support a sustainable career post training completion.

"We have developed a strong alliance with members of MTA Queensland including Mike Carney Toyota, Carmichael Ford, and Alexander Body Works-AMA Group to ensure a range of learning opportunities and

successful outcomes for the participants involved in the program."

Mr Gertz reiterated that "OCC will continue to support participants for six months after employment is achieved, reinforcing positive outcomes along with providing culturally appropriate work environments".

Pathways

CEO of MTA Queensland Rod Camm says that "MTA Queensland is pleased to work with OCC to deliver new employment pathways to the Townsville indigenous community.

The automotive industry offers an exciting and rewarding career choice, with on-the-job work experience laying the foundation for the start of their careers. We are excited to follow this first intake of jobseekers as they

progress through the program."

Member for Townsville Scott Stewart said that this intake is one of three in collaboration with MTA Queensland members of the Townsville region.

Businesses in the automotive industry and jobseekers interested in being a part of future intakes are encouraged to contact On Common Country.

Bindal Aboriginal Elder Aunty Dorothy Savage and Torres Strait Islander Francis Tapim spoke to the graduates and the audience and praised the program.

"This is about confidence gained from doing the program which is a wonderful course and you are our future leaders," Aunty Dorothy said.

Mr Tapim said it a great to see Indigenous youth moving into work in the motor industry which would hold them in good stead for long and rewarding careers.

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

*Koori Mail – Our ABC audit means our readership is guaranteed.
No other newspaper aimed at the Indigenous market can offer this!*

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Aboriginal Employment Program Multiple Vacancies - Section 51

Multiple unique opportunities are available in various business groups and locations with our Department, including Kalgoorlie.

DMIRS is seeking to increase the diversity of our workforce to better meet the differing needs of our customers and to improve equal opportunity outcomes for our employees. These positions are part of the Aboriginal Employment Program (AEP), which is a diversity initiative to achieve equality and increase workforce representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Give back to your community, grow your skills and develop a career path, feel welcome, encouraged and supported.

- Kalgoorlie - Facilities Officer - Level 3
- Cannington - Business Support Officer - Level 3
- Perth - Digital Content Officer - Level 3
- Perth - Customer Advocate - Level 4
- Perth - Project and Trader Intervention Officer - Level 4
- Perth - Assistant Policy Analyst /Policy Analyst - Level 3 to Level 5
- East Perth - Environmental Compliance Engagement and Support Officer - Level 5

For further details please visit www.jobs.wa.gov.au and enter AEP into the search bar.

For information on the program and employment conditions please contact Shona Ngeru, Manager Aboriginal Strategy on (08) 9222 3733 or Shona.NGERU@dmirs.wa.gov.au.

Applications Close: 4.00 pm on Wednesday, 6 December 2023 (WST).

DMIRS_18876

Aboriginal Community Development Officer

- **Permanent full-time position**
- **Location: 119 Redfern Street, Redfern**
- **Salary: \$91,036 to \$103,288 per year plus superannuation**

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 a passionate and driven Aboriginal Community Development Officer to join our team at 119 Redfern Street, the new Aboriginal Knowledge and Culture Centre.

The Aboriginal Community Development Officer will work with a range of internal and external stakeholders.

This role will develop and implement strategic, innovative and vibrant programs through 119 Redfern Street.

They will work in the local community to strengthen cultural expression and understanding, community cohesion and enhance wellbeing.

For further information contact: Tracey Duncan Senior Community Engagement Coordinator on 0439 986 748.

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 by
Wednesday
13 December

CITY OF SYDNEY



LMS Administrator

RANZCO is the pivotal education institution committed to excellence in learning and continuous professional development of ophthalmologists across Australia and New Zealand. We are embarking on an exciting journey to migrate our Learning Management System (LMS) to a brand-new platform and we're looking for a seasoned LMS Administrator to join our team. This is a unique opportunity to make a significant impact on the future of online learning within our organization. This is a 6-month contract position (1.0FTE) with a 15 January 2024 start

Key responsibilities:

- Participate in the planning & execution of the LMS migration project.
- Analyse and document the requirements for course migration and content integration into the new LMS.
- Adapt and transform existing content to align with the capabilities of the new platform.
- Collaborate closely with the vendor and RANZCO SMEs to structure and author course content.
- Execute rigorous testing to identify and address issues, such as broken links, multimedia errors, and functional problems.
- Conduct pre-migration content audit of the existing LMS to identify and rectify compliance, security, and data integrity issues.

Please refer to the position description (<https://ranzco.edu/classifieds-2/?id=19350>) for details.

Along with the cover letter/video, please provide answers to the questions below:

- Previous three roles and the size of the team you worked with?
- Previous LMS platforms you have used and if these were supported by a vendor. If so, which companies?
- Outline the process you would use for understanding, documenting and implementing business rules
- What makes for an excellent LMS in an adult learning content?

Applications must include a CV and covering letter that address the selection criteria and the above questions. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The role is based out of RANZCO HQ in Surry Hills, Sydney. We support flexible work practices and will require attendance at the office as required by the business.

If you're ready to be a part of this pivotal project for RANZCO, please submit your resume and cover letter outlining your relevant experience and skills. You can submit this in either written or video formats.

RANZCO is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from candidates of all backgrounds and experiences.

Please note, although the closing date for this position is 9:00am on Thursday 7 December 2023 AEDT, RANZCO may interview suitable candidates prior to this date. Prospective applicants are therefore encouraged to submit their application as soon as possible for attention Nainika Chandekar via nchandekar@ranzco.edu.

Project Officer, Black Duck Group (Indigenous Targeted)

Part time – Darwin or Melbourne – 4.1 SCHADS Awards

Developing a mentoring and training program to create unique enterprise pathways and employment for Indigenous young people.



The Company

Black Duck Group is a majority-led Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Enterprise that provides young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with sustainable pathways and livelihoods to support cultural capabilities and transform economic standings. We create programs to provide the learning and pathways for young Indigenous people through a combination of Black Duck and partner organisations.

The Project

Develop an online and in person training program to support pathways and ongoing mentoring for employment, small business and/or cooperative development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and communities.

The project will:

- Engage Elders early in process for a multi generational cultural connection
- Ensure community cultural responsibility and celebration is a key success
- Discuss and explore ways to support access and education to skill building
- Provide skills, confidence and support to help achieve dreams
- Foster mentoring and relationship building
- Create agency and be culturally reflective
- Be designed with community for community
- Be accessible and scalable
- Unlock passion and connect opportunity to potential
- Designed for self-agency

Key Duties

- Establish and Maintain relationships with key partners and clients
- Create an online and in person training program that will facilitate the skills needed to be a social entrepreneur, start a business and/or a cooperative
- Ensure effective and efficient delivery of training program

- Create a mentoring and matching process
- Communicate sensitively and effectively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- Regularly communicate with Board of Directors
- Work effectively as part of a team and independently
- Develop training program in line with project priority areas

Position Details

- Part time (16 hours a week) 6 month contract
- 4.1 SCHADS Awards \$41.52
- Melbourne or Darwin based
- Work from home negotiable

Qualifications and Experience

- Previous project based experience preferred
- Demonstrated awareness of the importance of cultural safety
- This position is targeted for applicants of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.
- Exemption is claimed under and is intended to constitute a special/equal opportunity measure under section 8(1) of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth), and from: s 27 of the Discrimination Act 1991 (ACT).

Initial Client

Develop a product to support pathways and ongoing mentoring for employment or small business development for Thamarurr Youth students who have returned from Centurion University in India after a six-month training program in textiles and apparel.

Thamarurr Youth Indigenous Corporation aims to improve the lives of the First Nations peoples from the Thamarurr Region in the Northern Territory by identifying and nurturing its future leaders.

All applications to be sent to:

Black Duck Group, Mark Watt – mark@socialengine.org.au

**Ask your mob,
your way,**

RUOK?



**STRONGER
TOGETHER**
ruok.org.au/strongertogether

FIELD TECHNICIAN

SKA-Low Telescope – Multiple Positions (Identified Role – Indigenous)
Location: Geraldton, Western Australia
Salary: AU\$51,031 - AU\$65,77 plus up to 15.4% superannuation
Tenure: 12 month Specified Term – Full-Time

To be considered you will need:
Essential: • Completion of year 10 schooling as a minimum. • Ability to follow instructions. • Commitment to attend training through TAFE. • Commitment to safe work practices, environmental sustainability, equity, and diversity. • Ability to work in a small team, contributing constructively to an inclusive and high performing team culture.
Desirable: • Previous experience working in remote locations. • An interest in astronomy, electronics, or engineering.

How to Apply: for this role, please apply on-line providing your CV, and a Cover Letter clearly addressing the essential criteria of this role and your motivation for applying. Under CSIRO policy, only those who are able to demonstrate how they can meet the essential criteria may be appointed <https://jobs.csiro.au>
Applications Close: Role will remain open until filled. CSIRO reserve the right to close the advert at any time during the advertising period.

MLAHMC

Expression of Interest Board of Director (voluntary)

Do you want to make a real difference in the lives of Aboriginal people in NSW?

MLAHMC Ltd is one of the largest Aboriginal Community Housing Provider in Australia with properties across NSW. We are now seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI's) from suitably qualified individuals to join our Board of Directors.

We are looking for a highly motivated individual with financial, governance, and risk management experience, preferably with an in depth understanding of the Aboriginal housing sector. You should have excellent communication skills, cultural competency, and be an independent thinker who can work collaboratively with other Board members and management.

As a Director at MLAHMC Ltd, you will play a key role in shaping the future of Aboriginal housing and related services in our area of operation. You will work with a team of dedicated and passionate professionals to deliver sustainable, quality housing and related services, and build stronger and healthier families and communities.

If you are passionate about making a difference, we encourage you to submit your Expression of Interest as soon as possible!

To express your interest, please send your resume and a cover letter to corporateservices@mlahmc.org.au

MLAHMC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Aboriginal people are strongly encouraged to apply.

What makes MLAHMC so special?

- We are a leading Aboriginal housing organisation in NSW, with a vision for stronger and healthier families and communities.
- We are passionate about making a difference in the lives of Aboriginal people.
- We offer the opportunity to work with a team of dedicated and passionate professionals.

Apply now to join MLAHMC and make a real difference!

Website - www.mlahmc.org.au. **Facebook** - www.facebook.com/mlahmc/

1800 231 160 | www.mlahmc.org.au

Sydney Local Health District

Aboriginal Traineeship Program in Dental Assisting

Location: Sydney Dental Hospital, Surry Hills
Classification: Dental Assistant Grade 1
Employment Type: Temporary Full-Time up to February 2025
Salary: \$1,221.24 to \$1,304.61 per week plus Superannuation
Enquiries: Gary Pratt on (02) 9293 3262 or via email at gary.pratt@health.nsw.gov.au
Closing Date: 13 December 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: **REQ448441**

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

Sydney Local Health District

Aboriginal Mental Health Unit Manager

Location: Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
Classification: Health Manager Level 3/Nurse Manager Grade 3
Employment Type: Permanent Full-Time or Permanent Part-Time – Minimum 24 hours p/w
Enquiries: Merryn Sheather on 0477 755 951 or via email at Merryn.Sheather@health.nsw.gov.au
Closing Date: 4 December 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: **REQ445340**

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

About Just Reinvest NSW (JR NSW)
 Just Reinvest NSW (JR NSW) supports Aboriginal communities to develop their own solutions for change, making them safer and more just. Our goal is to reduce Aboriginal People's interactions with the criminal justice system.

We do this by creating stronger and safer futures through both community-led initiatives and state-wide policy & legislative reform, redirecting funds away from systems that harm people, towards communities with high rates of contact with the justice system.

We work alongside Aboriginal communities to support place-based, community-led and data driven approaches to inform local solutions, such as devising local "justice circuit breakers". Our place-based approach feeds into our broader policy and advocacy work to create levers for change. JR NSW brings together Aboriginal communities, government agencies, philanthropic and private sector partners across political and cultural spectrums to leverage the Justice Reinvestment approach.

About the CEO role
 The Just Reinvest NSW Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for delivering JR NSW's strategic vision and progress against the strategic plan. The CEO is also the public face of justice reinvestment in media and forums that maintain JR NSW's public profile.

A crucial facet of the JR NSW CEO's duties includes maintaining collaborative relationships with key partners, overseeing all operations and strategic activities, and executive leadership and direct management of JR NSW supporting body team and oversight of the management of community-based staff and engagement of consultants.

For more information about the role and application details see the full job description at:
<https://www.justreinvest.org.au/work-with-us/>
Applications close 13 December 2023.

Communities and Justice

Casual Community Service Field Officer, Corrective Services NSW

Location: Gunnedah & Tamworth Hub Community Corrections
Salary: Clerk Grade 3 – \$43.27 per hour
Position Type: Casual

If you enjoy a community-based role, have strong communication skills and display resilience and courage, we encourage you to apply.

Your role

Exciting opportunities for Casual Community Service Field Officers to join our growing team at Gunnedah & Tamworth Hub Community Corrections, North District. This role is to supervise and manage offenders on mandated community service and coordinate the logistics of a community service worksite/s.

Applications close Sunday 17 November 2023 at 11:59pm AEST

For more information about the role or what it's like to work for DCJ, please contact the hiring manager Sharon Aldridge on 0477 813 946 or at Sharon.aldridge@dcj.nsw.gov.au

If you've got a question about applying or would benefit from an adjustment in the recruitment process to help you perform at your best, please call Nastassja Le Claire on 0460 961 902 or via Nastassja.LeClaire@dcj.nsw.gov.au

For more information, please visit jobs.dcj.nsw.gov.au and search 64006

A talent pool may be created for future ongoing and temporary roles and is valid for a period of up to 18 months.

Notice of a non-claimant application for determination of native title in Queensland

Notification day: 13 December 2023

A 'non-claimant' application has been made to the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) seeking a determination that native title does not exist in the area described below. The Applicant has a non-native title interest in the area, which is set out in their application and summarised below.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), there can be only one determination of native title for an area. Unless there is a relevant native title claim, as defined in section 24FE, over the area described below on or before **12 March 2024**, the area may be subject to protection under section 24FA and **acts may be done which extinguish or otherwise affect native title**.

A person who claims to hold native title rights and interests in this area may wish to file a native title claimant application or become a party to this non-claimant application. These may be the only opportunities to have those rights and interests taken into account in the Federal Court's determination. Any other person may also wish to become a party.

If you want to become a party to this application, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, **on or before 12 March 2024**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **12 March 2024**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.

Applicant's name: Lord Penna Land Holdings Pty Ltd ACN 651 910 075
Federal Court File No: QUD452/2023
Non-native title interest: The applicant is the Registered Lessee of Lot 6 on Crown Plan CNA55 (Tenure Reference SH2/3626)
Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks a determination that native title does not exist

Description: The application area covers about 178 sq km over Lot 6 on Crown Plan CNA55 and is located about 17 km north east of Barcaldine

Relevant LGA: Barcaldine Regional Council

For assistance and further information about this application, call Sylvia Jagtman on 07 3052 4248 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

32 hours per week
Salary \$61,500.00 per annual

The Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Land Council (GILALC) is seeking applications from experienced and motivated people interested in a rewarding career undertaking a new and challenging role of Chief Executive Officer.

This position holder will provide an extensive range of assistance and support to the elected Board through the day-to-day management of the GILALC's affairs. This management will be in accordance with delegated authorities; the provision of sound and accurate advice and the implementation of the Board's resolutions in a timely and appropriate manner.

The successful applicant will have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, the capacity to interpret and implement legislation, and sound communication skills.

Organisational and management experience is essential together with an understanding of accounting practices and principles. A sound knowledge and appreciation of Aboriginal issues would also be required.

All applicants must obtain a copy of the recruitment package containing the position description and selection criteria and address the selection criteria for their application to be considered.

For a recruitment package contact officer Trevor Potter, by email: trevor.gilalc@gmail.com Phone 02 6732 1150 between the hours of 8.30am to 4.00pm Monday to Thursday

Applications can be forwarded trevor.gilalc@gmail.com or marked "Confidential" and posted to:

The Chairperson
GLEN INNES Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 157
GLEN INNES 2370

Applications close 4.00pm Friday 05th January 2024
Late applications will not be accepted

Aboriginal people are encouraged to apply.



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
25/512	BLACK CAT (KAL EAST) PTY LTD	688552	9.65HA	32.2km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat 30° 41' S : Long 121° 48' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
27/532	BLACK CAT (KAL EAST) PTY LTD	688553	177.42HA	33.1km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat 30° 37' S : Long 121° 47' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
27/532	BLACK CAT (KAL EAST) PTY LTD	688554	177.45HA	33.6km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat 30° 37' S : Long 121° 47' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
27/532	BLACK CAT (KAL EAST) PTY LTD	688555	163.21HA	34km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat 30° 37' S : Long 121° 47' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
39/1760	MATSA GOLD PTY LTD	681470	6.78HA	59.2km N'ly of Edjudina	Lat 29° 16' S : Long 122° 25' E	LEONORA SHIRE
39/1840	MATSA GOLD PTY LTD	681436	25.45HA	55.6km S'ly of Laverton	Lat 29° 7' S : Long 122° 23' E	LEONORA SHIRE
77/2573	SURVEYOR RESOURCES PTY LTD	673862	190.53HA	3.7km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat 31° 12' S : Long 119° 17' E	YILGARN SHIRE
77/2573	SURVEYOR RESOURCES PTY LTD	673863	169.22HA	2.9km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat 31° 12' S : Long 119° 18' E	YILGARN SHIRE
77/2573	SURVEYOR RESOURCES PTY LTD	673864	173.81HA	2.3km W'ly of Southern Cross	Lat 31° 13' S : Long 119° 18' E	YILGARN SHIRE
77/2573	SURVEYOR RESOURCES PTY LTD	673865	159.55HA	4.8km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat 31° 12' S : Long 119° 17' E	YILGARN SHIRE
77/2658	SURVEYOR RESOURCES PTY LTD	673857	132.97HA	7.8km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat 31° 10' S : Long 119° 16' E	YILGARN SHIRE
77/2659	SURVEYOR RESOURCES PTY LTD	673859	4.31HA	4.3km NW'LY of Southern Cross	Lat 31° 11' S : Long 119° 17' E	YILGARN SHIRE
77/2659	SURVEYOR RESOURCES PTY LTD	673860	8.23HA	4.2km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat 31° 11' S : Long 119° 17' E	YILGARN SHIRE
77/2659	SURVEYOR RESOURCES PTY LTD	673861	27.68HA	4.6km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat 31° 11' S : Long 119° 17' E	YILGARN SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of amalgamation applications which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals.

Notification day: 29 November 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 **29 February 2024**. 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. **29 March 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.

DMIRS_19003

For all your advertising needs
email: advertising@koorimail.com

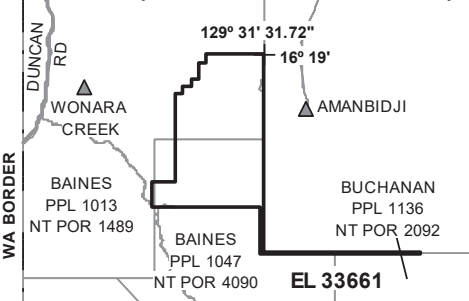
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION LICENCES

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Honourable Nicole Manison MLA, the Northern Territory Minister for Mining, 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.

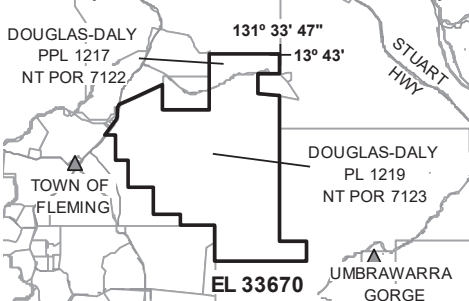
Applications to which this notice applies:

Exploration Licence 33661 sought by BAUDIN RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 618 455 593 over an area of 250 Blocks (741 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the NEWRY locality.



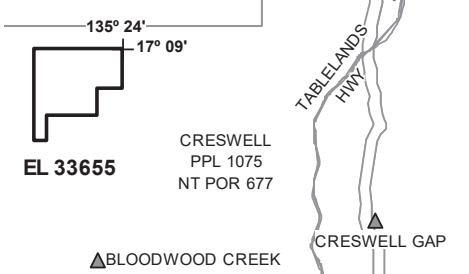
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 4765

Exploration Licence 33670 sought by GEMPART (NT) PTY LTD, ACN 081 859 896 over an area of 156 Blocks (465 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the TIPPERARY locality.



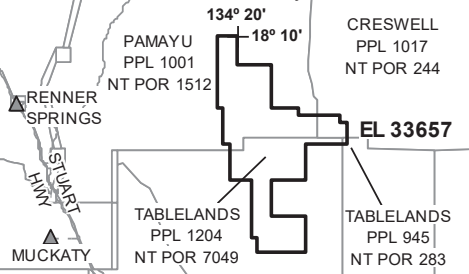
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5170

Exploration Licence 33655 sought by GREEN CRITICAL MINERALS LIMITED, ACN 118 788 846 over an area of 33 Blocks (109 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the BLOODWOOD CREEK locality.



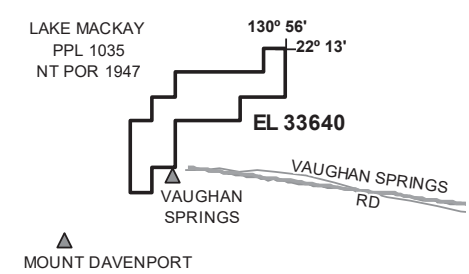
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5963

Exploration Licence 33657 sought by GREEN CRITICAL MINERALS LIMITED, ACN 118 788 846 over an area of 250 Blocks (815 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the MONMOONA locality.



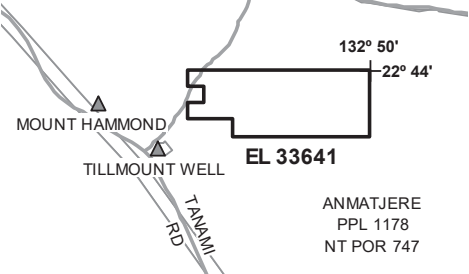
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5761

Exploration Licence 33640 sought by NORTH TENNANT MINERALS PTY LTD, ACN 654 828 912 over an area of 15 Blocks (48 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the VAUGHAN locality.



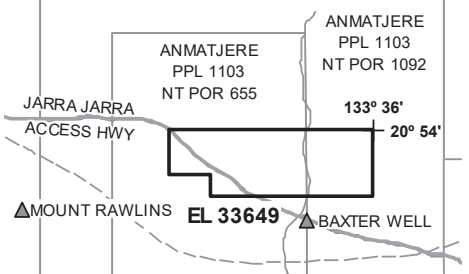
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5053

Exploration Licence 33641 sought by NORTH TENNANT MINERALS PTY LTD, ACN 654 828 912 over an area of 44 Blocks (140 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the NAPPERBY locality.



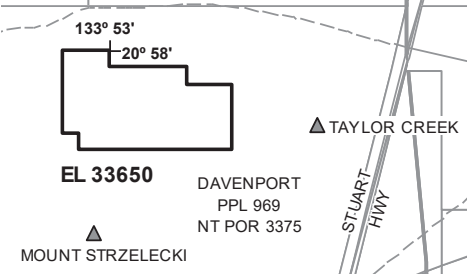
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5452

Exploration Licence 33649 sought by NORTH TENNANT MINERALS PTY LTD, ACN 654 828 912, over an area of 28 Blocks (90 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the NUMAGALONG locality.



Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5656

Exploration Licence 33650 sought by NORTH TENNANT MINERALS PTY LTD, ACN 654 828 912 over an area of 54 Blocks (174 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the CRAWFORD locality.



Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5655

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 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.

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: 29 November 2023

Notice of Public Comment

ConocoPhillips Australia Otway Exploration Drilling Program Environment Plan

ConocoPhillips Australia is inviting public comment on the Otway Exploration Drilling Program Environment Plan. The public comment period will run for 30 days between 16 November and 18 December 2023.

The public can view the Environment Plan and associated documents on the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) website by visiting <https://consultation.nopsema.gov.au>

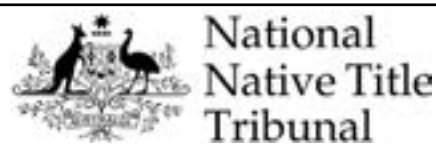
About the proposed activity: ConocoPhillips Australia is planning to undertake exploration activities in offshore permits VIC/P79 and T/49P located in Commonwealth waters of the Otway Basin, 19 km offshore of Victoria and 28 km offshore of King Island, Tasmania.

The proposed Otway Exploration Drilling Program involves seabed surveys at up to a maximum of nine locations, and drilling up to a maximum of six exploration wells in water depths ranging from 53 m to 500 m. The activity is scheduled to commence no earlier than 1st of April 2024 and will be completed no later than 31st of December 2028, with the exact timing dependent on the acceptance of the Environment Plan and the availability of a mobile offshore drilling unit.



Notice of an application to register an area agreement on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements in Queensland

Notification day: 6 December 2023



QI2023/006 Jangga People Part Compensation ILUA

Description of the agreement area:

The agreement area covers an area of about 20,569 km and is located 1 km west of Glendon and about 115 km west of Mackay including Mount Coolon and surrounds

Relevant LGA: Charters Towers, Isaac and Whitsunday Regional Councils

The agreement contains the following statements:

[Explanatory notes in brackets inserted by the National Native Title Tribunal]

The agreement includes no statements mentioned in subsection 24EB(1) or 24EBA(1) or (4)

Parties to the agreement and their contact addresses:

State of Queensland
Native Title and Indigenous Land Services
Department of Resources
PO Box 15216
City East QLD 4002

Bulganunna Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC ICN 776;
Colin McLennan, Marie Wallace, Justin Power and Rebecca Budby on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the Jangga Compensation Claim Group;
c/- Dillon Bowers Lawyers, PO Box 626, Townsville City QLD 4810

Responses to an application to register an ILUA—where the application has not been certified:

Any person claiming to hold native title in relation to land or waters in the area covered by the agreement may wish, in response to this notice, to make a native title determination application or equivalent application under a law of a state or territory in respect of any part of the area. **The application must be made by 6 March 2024.** If that application is registered on the Register of Native Title Claims, the registered native title claimants must be a party to this agreement before it can be registered.

Details of the terms of the agreement are not available from the National Native Title Tribunal.

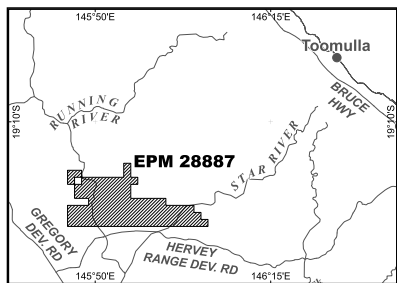
For assistance and further information about this application, call Claire Smith on 08 6317 5333 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION PERMIT FOR MINERALS

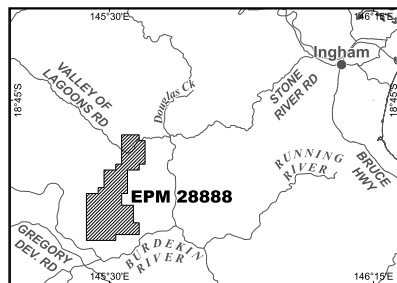
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

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 Exploration Permit for Minerals (EPM) shown below, subject to provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

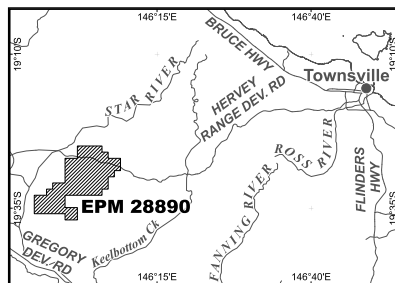
EPM 28887 applied for by GOLD ALPHA INVESTMENTS PTY LTD, ACN 640 504 472, over an area of 97 sub-blocks (313 km²), centred approximately 65 km south west of Toomulla in the locality of Charters Towers Regional Council.



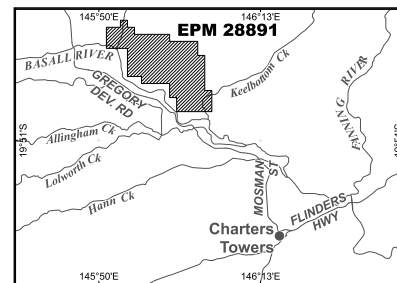
EPM 28888 applied for by GOLD ALPHA INVESTMENTS PTY LTD, ACN 640 504 472, over an area of 99 sub-blocks (320 km²) centred approximately 79 km south west of Ingham in the locality of Charters Towers Regional Council.



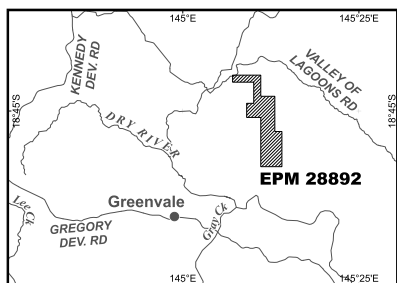
EPM 28890 applied for by GOLD ALPHA INVESTMENTS PTY LTD, ACN 640 504 472, over an area of 79 sub-blocks (255 km²), centred approximately 85 km west southwest of Townsville in the locality of Charters Towers Regional Council.



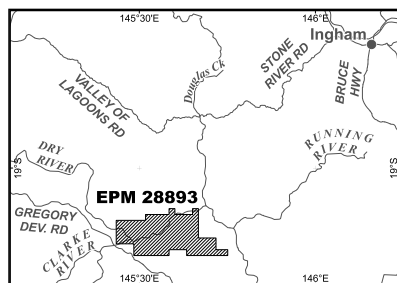
EPM 28891 applied for by GOLD ALPHA INVESTMENTS PTY LTD, ACN 640 504 472, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (322 km²), centred approximately 54 km north northwest of Charters Towers, in the locality of Charters Towers Regional Council.



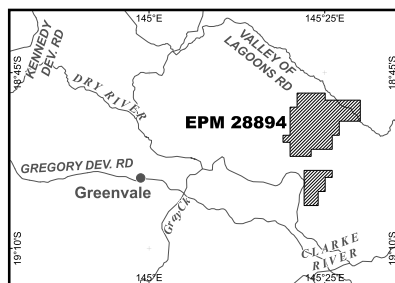
EPM 28892 applied for by GOLD ALPHA INVESTMENTS PTY LTD, ACN 640 504 472, over an area of 36 sub-blocks (117 km²), centred approximately 33 km north east of Greenvale, in the locality of Charters Towers Regional Council.



EPM 28893 applied for by GOLD ALPHA INVESTMENTS PTY LTD, ACN 640 504 472, over an area of 97 sub-blocks (314 km²), centred approximately 87 km south west of Ingham in the locality of Charters Towers Regional Council.



EPM 28894 applied for by GOLD ALPHA INVESTMENTS PTY LTD, ACN 640 504 472, over an area of 77 sub-blocks (250 km²), over two non-contiguous areas, centred approximately 45 km east of Greenvale, in the locality of Charters Towers Regional Council.



Nature of Act(s): The grant of an Exploration Permit Minerals under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) authorises the holder to explore for minerals subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) for a term not exceeding five (5) years, with the possibility of renewals for terms not exceeding five (5) years.

Name and address of person doing acts: It is proposed that the Exploration Permit Minerals 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 Exploration Permit Minerals. 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, Commonwealth Law Courts, 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, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland 4000, Telephone: (07) 3052 4040. 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, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland 4000, Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

Further Information: About the proposed grant of the Exploration Permit Minerals, including extract of plans showing the boundaries of the Exploration Permit Minerals 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: 13 DECEMBER 2023



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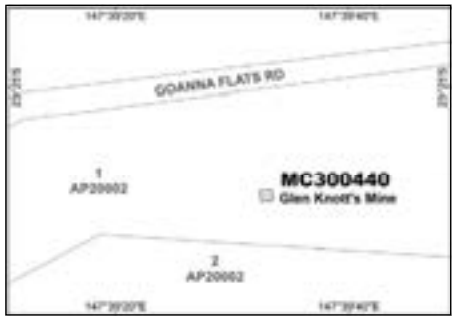
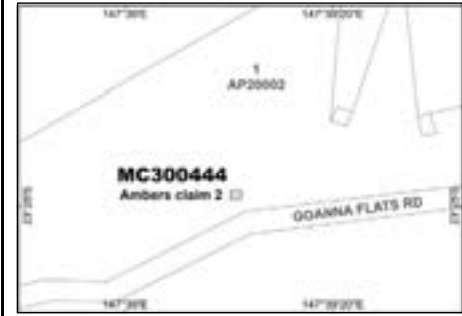
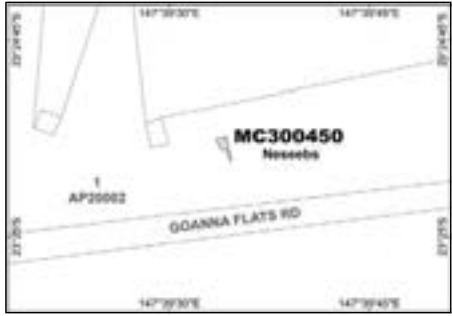
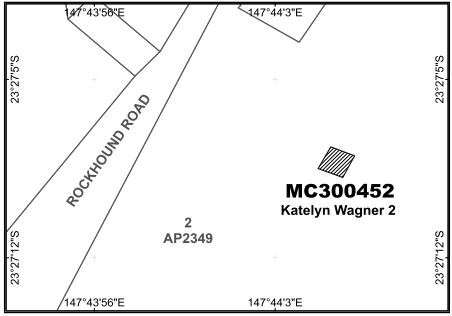
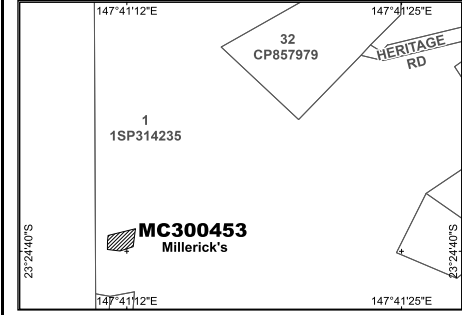
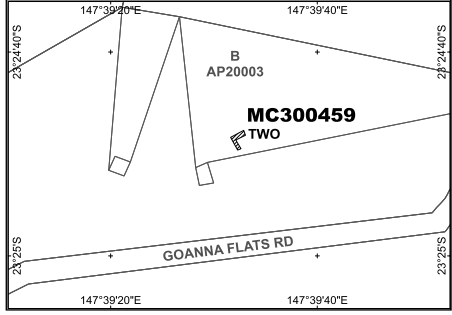
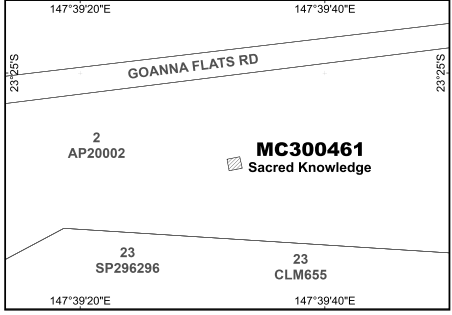
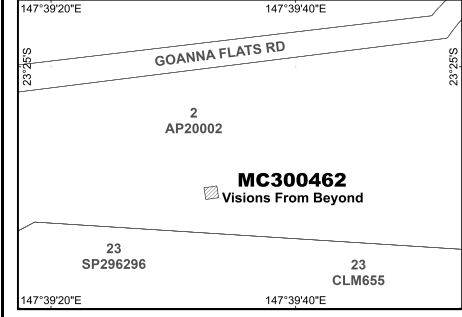
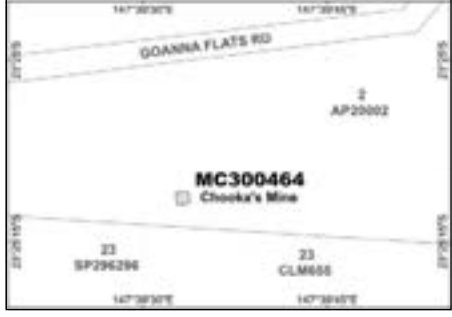
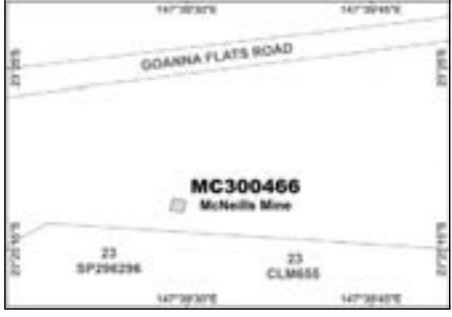
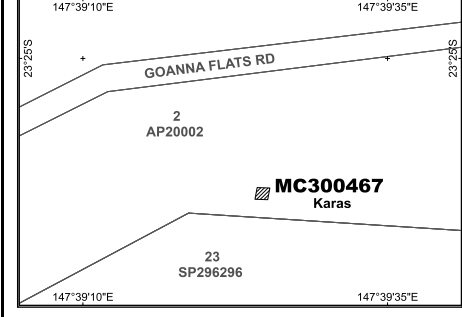
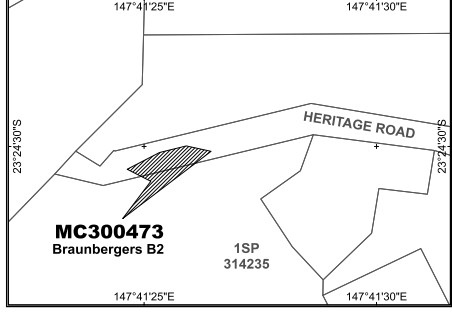


www.koorimail.com

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF MINING CLAIMS

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 Claim (MC) shown below, subject to provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

MC 300438 applied for by Shayne James Roy McNelley, over an area of 15.81 ha, centred approximately 3.6 km south east of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 	MC 300439 applied for by Bradley James Heron, over an area of 900m², centred approximately 2 kms north west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 	MC 300440 applied for by Glen H Knott, over an area of 890m², centred approximately 4 kms west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 	MC 300442 applied for by Coral Maree King, over an area of 880m², centred approximately 4 km west north west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 
MC 300444 applied for by Amber Louise Betteridge, over an area of 900m², centred approximately 4.6 km west north west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 	MC 300447 applied for by Nigel Jonathan Monteith, over an area of 858m², centred approximately 4.3 km west north west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 	MC 300450 applied for by Naseeb Norman Jeha, over an area of 652m², centred approximately 4 km west north west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 	MC 300452 applied for by Katelyn Annette Wagner, over an area of 900m², centred approximately 1.8 km north east of Sapphire, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 
MC 300453 applied for by Joshua Jacob Millerick, over an area of 900m², centred approximately 1.5 km north west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 	MC 300455 applied for by Shayne Donald Heron, over an area of 900m², centred approximately 2.1 km north west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 	MC 300459 applied for by David Roy Walter Moore, over an area of 870m², centred approximately 4 kms west north west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 	MC 300461 applied for by Rachael Jan Knipe (50%) and Rodney James Bradshaw (50%), over an area of 900m² centred approximately 4 km west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 
MC 300462 applied for by Dawn Maria Favaloro (50%) and Brett William Favaloro (50%), over an area of 900m² centred approximately 4 km west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 	MC 300464 applied for by Kara-Rose Carruthers, over an area of 900m², centred approximately 4 km west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 	MC 300465 applied for by Steven James Ballin, over an area of 800m², centred approximately 2.2 km north east of Sapphire, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 	MC 300466 applied for by Phillip Gerard McNeill, over an area of 900m², centred approximately 4.1 km west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 
MC 300467 applied for by Kara-Rose Carruthers, over an area of 900m², centred approximately 4.2 km west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 	MC 300473 applied for by Bryan Henry Braunberger, over an area of 813m², centred approximately 1.4 km north west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council. 		

Nature of Act(s): The grant of a Mining Claim 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 Act(s): It is proposed that the Mining Claims 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 Claim. 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: May be obtained from the Department of Resources, Mining Registrar, Small Scale Mining Hub, PO Box 275, Emerald, Queensland, 4720. Telephone: (07) 3078 3031 or Email: SSMHub@resources.qld.gov.au

Notification Day: 13 December 2023





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Thank you!

Expression of Interest Cultural Heritage Management

OzArk Environment & Heritage has been engaged by Ramboll on behalf of Kempsey Shire Council (the proponent) to complete an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme (the project) within the Kempsey local government area. The project will involve installing and operating a sewerage collection system, treatment plant and treated effluent dunal discharge for properties in Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fishermans Reach.

OzArk is seeking persons or groups who wish to be consulted about the project and this consultation group will assist OzArk and the proponent in the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report and to assist Heritage NSW and the Department of Planning and Environment in their consideration and determination of the project.

If you hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects or places in the project area, please register your interest to be consulted.

Registrations can be made by post: OzArk
PO Box 2069 Dubbo NSW 2830;
email: catherine@ozarkehm.com.au
or by phoning OzArk on 02 6882 0118.

All submissions should be received no later than 13 December 2023.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Invitation to Register Interest – HN1041-A

Heritage Now, on behalf of Waverley College, is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment as part of a State Significant Development Application for proposed redevelopment of the Senior Campus at 131 Birrell Street, Waverley NSW.

Contact details for the proponent are: Simon Potter, Waverley College, spotter@waverley.nsw.edu.au. Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places in the area are invited to register an interest in the community consultation process. The purpose of the consultation is to inform the assessment and assist in the consideration and determination of any approvals that may be required for the development.

Please send your registration to Jenna Weston (Heritage Now, 275 Stanmore, Petersham NSW 2049, hello@heritagenow.com.au) by 13 December 2023. Please note your details will be forwarded to Heritage NSW and the Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless you inform us that you do not want your details released.



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
Mining Lease	27/519	NORTHERN STAR RESOURCES LTD	367.18HA	19km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 27' S : Long: 121° 31' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	29/442	LARSEN, Jake Thomas	5.99HA	30.2km S'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 56' S : Long: 121° 7' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Mining Lease	57/664	KJELLGREN, Gary Herbert MACK, Christopher Geoffrey	9.03HA	5.5km S'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 2' S : Long: 119° 18' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Mining Lease	77/1307	DJO MINERALS PTY LTDy	109.57HA	20.6km SE'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 38' S : Long: 119° 35' E	YILGARN SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of mining leases, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of 21 years from notification of grant and a right of renewal for 21 years.

Notification day: 29 November 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 **29 February 2024**. 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. **29 March 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.

DMIRS 19002



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	15/2024	BRADLEY, Joseph Robert	1BL	12.9km N'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 50' S : Long: 121° 7' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	28/3367	MIRAMAR (GOLDFIELDS) PTY LTD	3BL	71.7km E'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 7' S : Long: 122° 24' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	29/1243	WESTERN EDGE RESOURCES PTY LTD	12BL	37.8km N'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 2' S : Long: 120° 55' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	36/1089	BLACK CROW (WA) PTY LTD	20BL	36.3km S'ly of Leinster	Lat: 28° 14' S : Long: 120° 39' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3894	GOLD ALPHA INVESTMENTS PTY LTD	7BL	7km NE'ly of Laverton	Lat: 28° 34' S : Long: 122° 26' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3896	GTT METALS GROUP PTY LTD	61BL	187.1km E'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 26° 39' S : Long: 122° 6' E	WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	39/2288	GTT METALS GROUP PTY LTD	3BL	62.8km N'ly of Edjudina	Lat: 29° 14' S : Long: 122° 20' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	39/2432	GOLD ALPHA INVESTMENTS PTY LTD	111BL	87.6km E'ly of Edjudina	Lat: 29° 39' S : Long: 123° 14' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2177	GREAT WESTERN EXPLORATION LIMITED	45BL	86.2km NW'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 25° 59' S : Long: 119° 41' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2182	GREAT WESTERN EXPLORATION LIMITED	68BL	78.2km NW'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 25° 58' S : Long: 119° 50' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1413	AURUMIN SANDSTONE PTY LTD	12BL	26.2km S'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 13' S : Long: 119° 21' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1414	YEE HA RESOURCES PTY LTD	1BL	65.4km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 25' S : Long: 119° 29' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1415	YEE HA RESOURCES PTY LTD	1BL	64.1km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 26' S : Long: 119° 30' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/2829	MCCLAREN, Kym Anthony	2BL	4.7km SW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 16' S : Long: 119° 18' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6850	XIAO, Zhiqiang	55.76HA	4.8km N'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 54' S : Long: 121° 8' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3431	RIO TINTO EXPLORATION PTY LIMITED	181.22HA	27.3km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 20' S : Long: 120° 46' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3432	RIO TINTO EXPLORATION PTY LIMITED	193.22HA	27.6km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 21' S : Long: 120° 46' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5681	KING, Alex Bruce	22.17HA	2.7km W'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 26' S : Long: 121° 17' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5694	MURTAGH, Jason Lee	199.85HA	6.4km NE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 24' S : Long: 121° 22' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4621	CAMPBELL, Graeme	120.58HA	4.8km W'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 45' S : Long: 121° 25' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4624	CAMPBELL, Graeme	139.34HA	4.1km W'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 45' S : Long: 121° 25' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4687	ASRA MINERALS LIMITED	197.92HA	29.9km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 1' S : Long: 121° 53' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2566-S	BLEAKLEY, Peter Craig	10.11HA	56.6km NE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 13' S : Long: 121° 51' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2567-S	BLEAKLEY, Peter Craig	10.28HA	56.6km NE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 13' S : Long: 121° 51' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2568	NORTHERN STAR (KANOWNNA) PTY LIMITED	24.97HA	19.9km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 27' S : Long: 121° 31' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	59/2323	MORRIS, Sam Adam	199.80HA	17.1km N'ly of Yalgoo	Lat: 28° 11' S : Long: 116° 42' E	YALGOO SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	77/4624	MCLEVIE, Devin William	2.00HA	18.9km SE'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 36' S : Long: 119° 35' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	77/4639	LARSEN, Jake Thomas	9.71HA	11.8km SE'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 31' S : Long: 119° 35' E	YILGARN 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: 29 November 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 **29 February 2024**. 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. **29 March 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.

* - 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km²

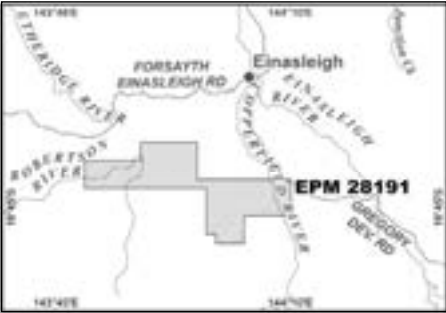
DMIRS 19000

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION PERMIT FOR MINERALS

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 the Exploration Permit for Minerals (EPM) shown below, subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

EPM 28191 applied for by TRI-STAR GOLD PTY LTD, ACN: 649 967 751, over an area of 96 sub-blocks (311 km²), centred approximately 25 km south-southwest of Einasleigh, in the locality of Etheridge Shire Council.



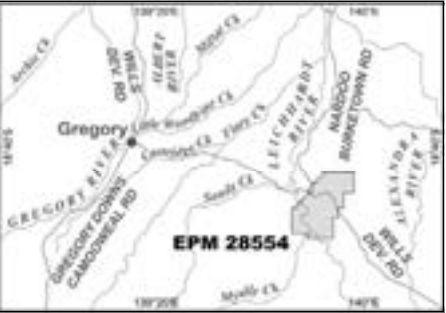
EPM 28523 applied for by FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN: 095 546 428, over an area of 25 sub-blocks (81 km²), centred approximately 86 km southeast of Greenville, in the locality of Charters Towers Regional Council.



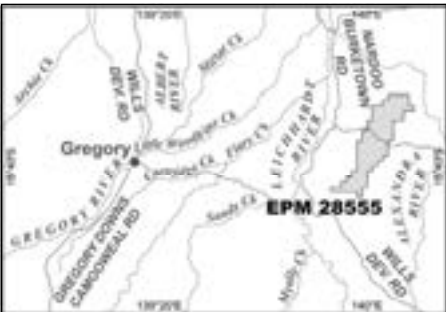
EPM 28530 applied for by FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN: 095 546 428, over an area of 13 sub-blocks (42 km²), centred approximately 72 km southwest of Chillagoe, in the locality of Mareeba Shire Council.



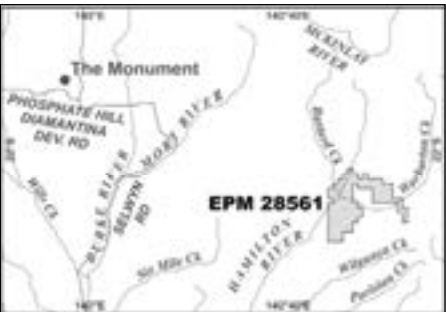
EPM 28554 applied for by FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN: 095 546 428, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (324 km²), centred approximately 69 km southeast of Gregory, in the localities of Burke Shire Council and Carpentaria Shire Council.



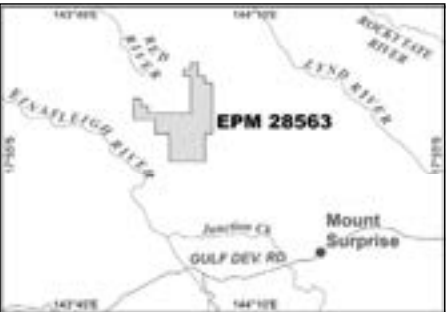
EPM 28555 applied for by FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN: 095 546 428, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (324 km²), centred approximately 82 km east of Gregory, in the locality of Carpentaria Shire Council.



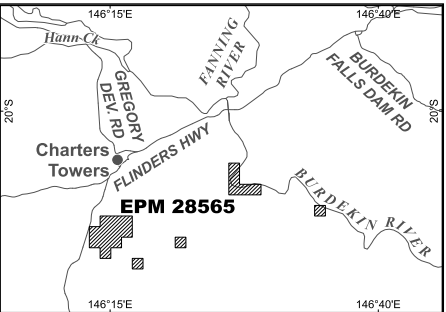
EPM 28561 applied for by TARAGON VALLEY PTY LIMITED, ACN: 623 574 603, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (317 km²), centred approximately 115 km southeast of The Monument, in the localities of Boulia Shire Council and Cloncurry Shire Council.



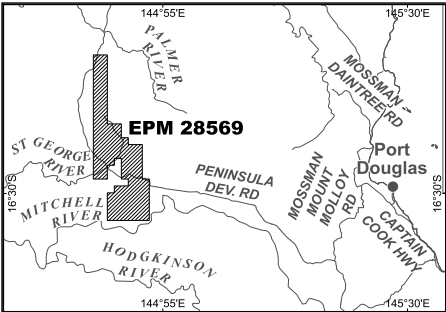
EPM 28563 applied for by FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN: 095 546 428, over an area of 67 sub-blocks (218 km²), centred approximately 52 km northwest of Mount Surprise, in the localities of Etheridge Shire Council and Mareeba Shire Council.



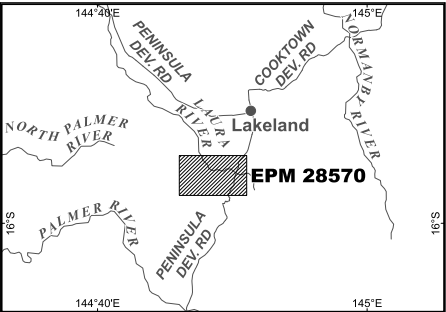
EPM 28565 applied for by BALLYMORE RESOURCES LIMITED, ACN: 632 893 611, over an area of 19 sub-blocks (61 km²) non-contiguous over 5 areas, centred approximately 20 km southeast of Charters Towers, in the locality of Charters Towers Regional Council.



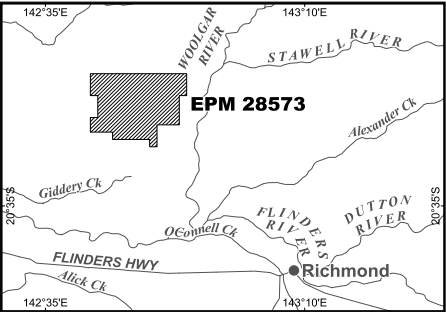
EPM 28569 applied for by FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN: 095 546 428, over an area of 95 sub-blocks (312 km²), centred approximately 70 km west of Port Douglas, in the localities of Cook Shire Council and Mareeba Shire Council.



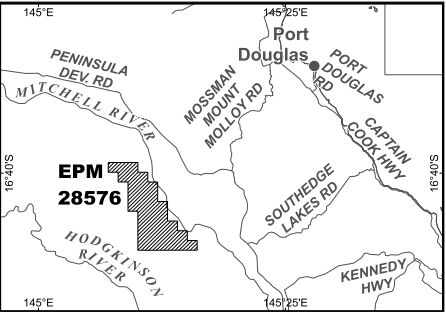
EPM 28570 applied for by Gene BOOTH and Ivar STORRONING, over an area of 15 sub-blocks (49 km²), centred approximately 10 km south-southwest of Lakeland, in the locality of Cook Shire Council.



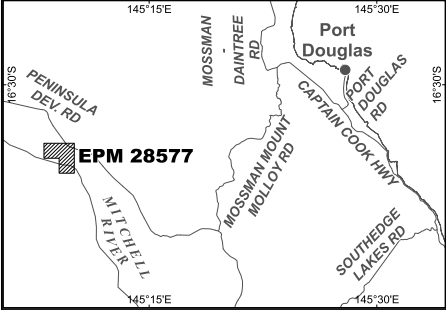
EPM 28573 applied for by BOOMARRA MINERALS PTY LTD, ACN: 600 326 261, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (321 km²), centred approximately 54 km northwest of Richmond, in the locality of Richmond Shire Council.



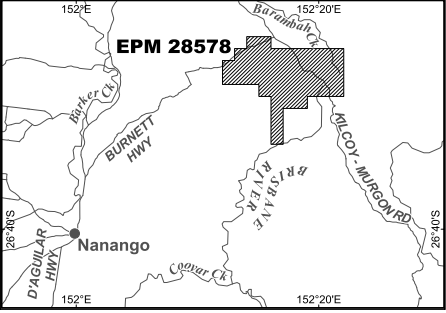
EPM 28576 applied for by FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN: 095 546 428, over an area of 34 sub-blocks (111 km²), centred approximately 41 km southwest of Port Douglas, in the locality of Mareeba Shire Council.



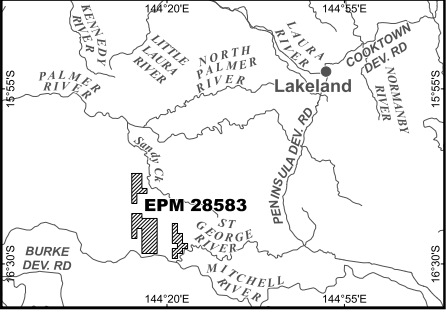
EPM 28577 applied for by FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN: 095 546 428, over an area of 3 sub-blocks (10 km²), centred approximately 35 km west-southwest of Port Douglas, in the locality of Mareeba Shire Council.



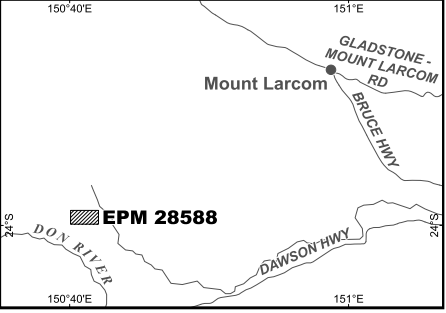
EPM 28578 applied for by OLLENBURGS PTY LTD, ACN: 631 498 765, over an area of 44 sub-blocks (135 km²), centred approximately 36 km northeast of Nanango, in the localities of Gympie Regional Council and Somerset Regional Council.



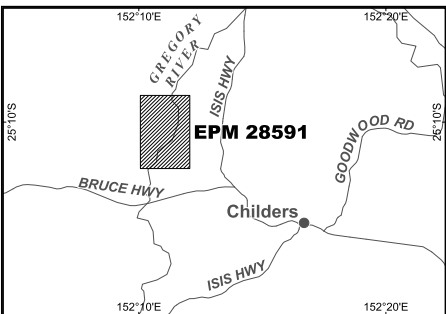
EPM 28583 applied for by HARDROCK MINERAL EXPLORATION PTY LTD, ACN: 646 002 888, over an area of 51 sub-blocks (167 km²) non-contiguous over 3 areas, centred approximately 76 km southwest of Lakeland, in the localities of Cook Shire Council and Mareeba Shire Council.



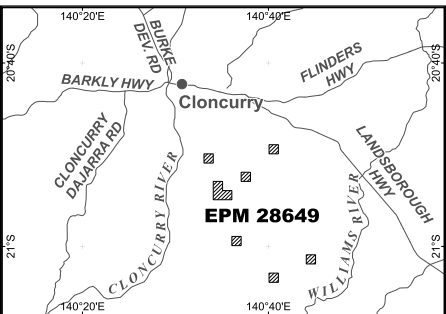
EPM 28588 applied for by CANTERBURY EXPLORATION PTY LIMITED, ACN: 153 459 137, over an area of 2 sub-blocks (6 km²), centred approximately 36 km southwest of Mount Larcom, in the localities of Banana Shire Council and Gladstone Regional Council.



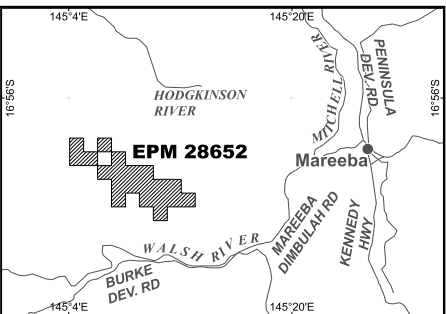
EPM 28591 applied for by Joseph William VELLA, over an area of 6 sub-blocks (19 km²), centred approximately 12 km northwest of Childers, in the locality of Bundaberg Regional Council.



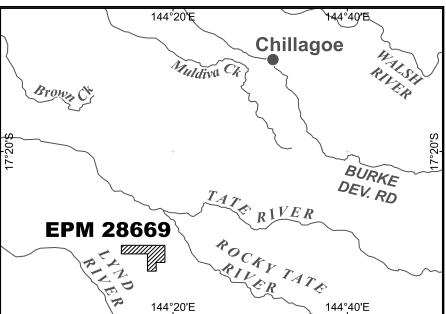
EPM 28649 applied for by TNC MINING PTY LTD, ACN: 652 408 378, over an area of 9 sub-blocks (29 km²), non-contiguous over 7 areas, centred approximately 32 km south-southeast of Cloncurry, in the locality of Cloncurry Shire Council.



EPM 28652 applied for by Wayne Thomas SAUNDERS, over an area of 20 sub-blocks (65 km²), centred approximately 29 km west of Mareeba, in the locality of Mareeba Shire Council.



EPM 28669 applied for by FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN: 095 546 428, over an area of 8 sub-blocks (26 km²), centred approximately 49 km southwest of Chillagoe, in the locality of Mareeba Shire Council.



Nature of Act(s): The grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld), authorises the holder to explore for minerals for a term not exceeding five (5) years with the possibility of renewal for a term not exceeding five (5) years. It is proposed to grant the Exploration Permit for Minerals subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) and the Native Title Protection Conditions.

Name and Address of person doing Act(s): It is proposed that the Exploration Permit for Minerals 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 the Exploration Permit for Minerals. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after 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: (07) 3248 1100 or Email: qldreg@fedcourt.gov.au.

Further information: 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.

Expedited Procedure: The State of Queensland considers the grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals to which this notice applies, is an act attracting the Expedited Procedure. The Exploration Permit for Minerals may be granted under, within a period of four (4) months after the Notification Day a native title party lodges an objection in respect of each individual Exploration Permit for Minerals with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of that Exploration Permit for Minerals is a future act attracting the Expedited Procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

Notification Day: 6 December 2023

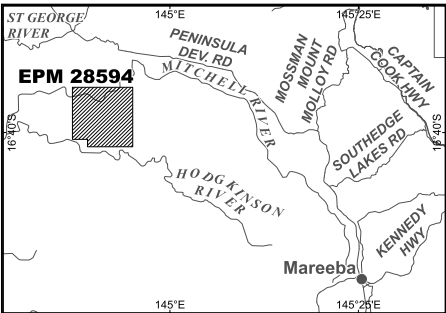


NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION PERMIT FOR MINERALS

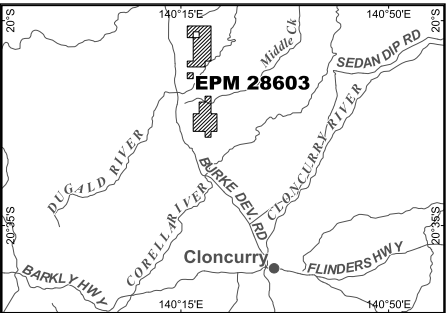
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

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 the Exploration Permit for Minerals (EPM) shown below, subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

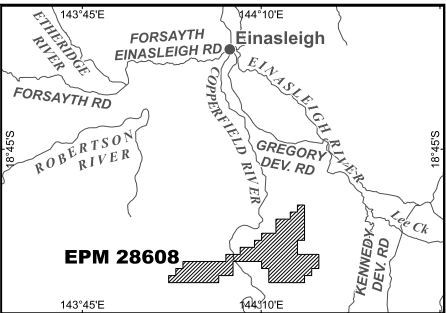
EPM 28594 applied for by XRINGER PTY LTD, ACN: 655 325 518, over an area of 62 sub-blocks (203 km²), centred approximately 73 km northwest of Mareeba, in the locality of Mareeba Shire Council.



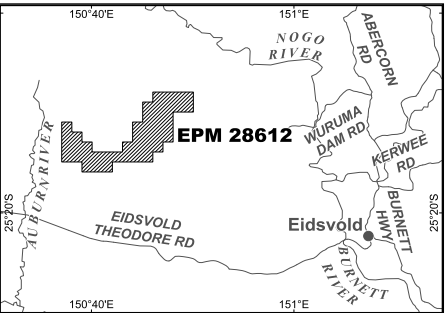
EPM 28603 applied for by ROSEBY COPPER PTY LTD, ACN: 067 584 409, over an area of 41 sub-blocks (132 km²) non-contiguous over 3 areas, centred approximately 64 km north-northwest of Cloncurry, in the locality of Cloncurry Shire Council.



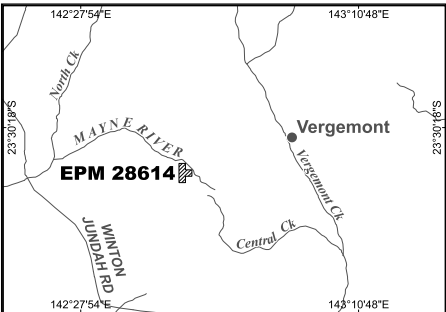
EPM 28608 applied for by TRI-STAR GOLD PTY LTD, ACN: 649 967 751, over an area of 85 sub-blocks (275 km²), centred approximately 50 km south of Einasleigh, in the locality of Etheridge Shire Council.



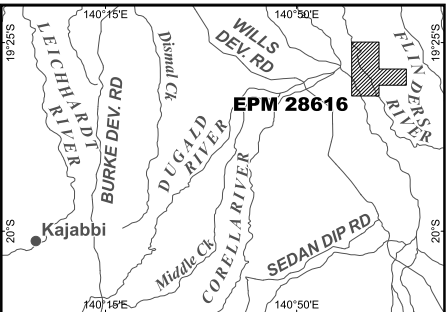
EPM 28612 applied for by GREEN CRITICAL MINERALS LIMITED, ACN: 118 788 846, over an area of 42 sub-blocks (130 km²), centred approximately 46 km northwest of Eidsvold, in the locality of North Burnett Regional Council.



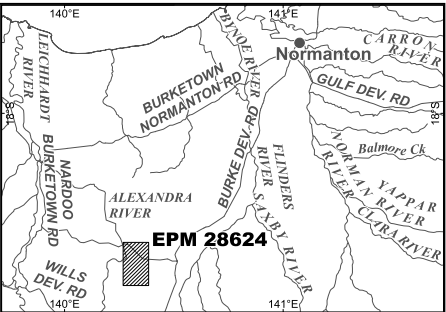
EPM 28614 applied for by Mirko CINDRIC, over an area of 4 sub-blocks (12 km²), centred approximately 30 km west-southwest of Vergemont, in the locality of Winton Shire Council.



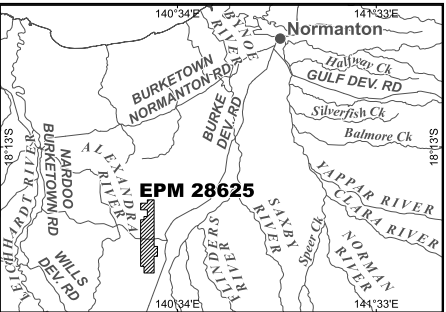
EPM 28616 applied for by AUSVAN BATTERY METALS PTY LTD, ACN: 639 665 151, over an area of 65 sub-blocks (210 km²), centred approximately 125 km northeast of Kajabbi, in the localities of Cloncurry Shire Council and McKinlay Shire Council.



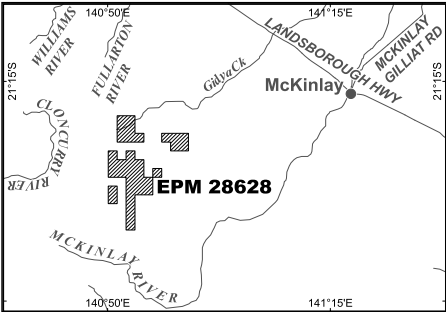
EPM 28624 applied for by AIC COPPER PTY LTD, ACN: 651 088 256, over an area of 84 sub-blocks (272 km²), centred approximately 137 km southwest of Normanton, in the locality of Carpentaria Shire Council.



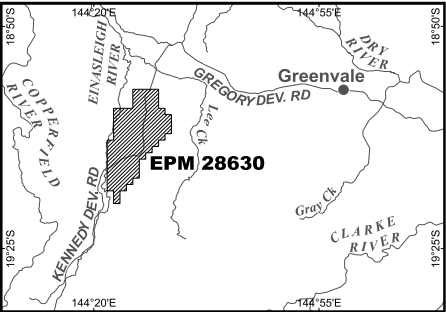
EPM 28625 applied for by AIC COPPER PTY LTD, ACN: 651 088 256, over an area of 82 sub-blocks (266 km²), centred approximately 129 km southwest of Normanton, in the locality of Carpentaria Shire Council.



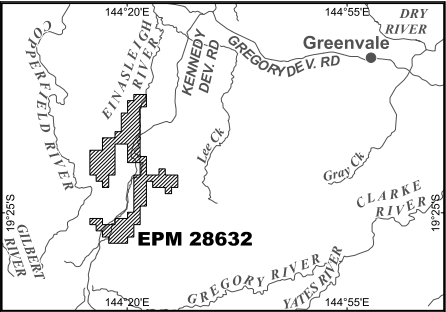
EPM 28628 applied for by TP-1 PTY LTD, ACN: 661 887 690, over an area of 35 sub-blocks (112 km²) non-contiguous over 4 areas, centred approximately 43 km southwest of McKinlay in the localities of Cloncurry Shire Council and McKinlay Shire Council.



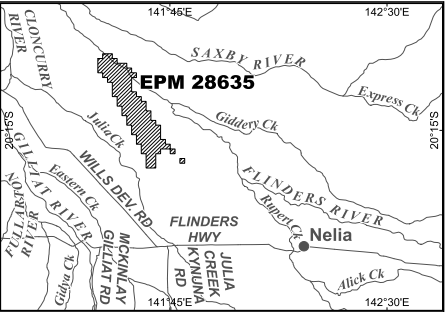
EPM 28630 applied for by SUPERIOR RESOURCES LIMITED, ACN: 112 844 407, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (323 km²), centred approximately 58 km southwest of Greenvale, in the locality of Etheridge Shire Council.



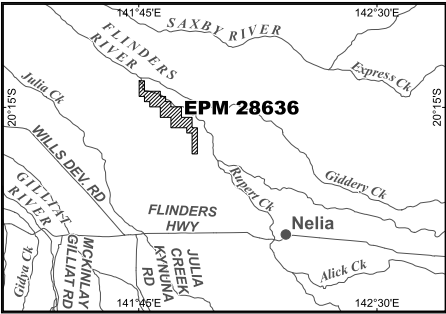
EPM 28632 applied for by SUPERIOR RESOURCES LIMITED, ACN: 112 844 407, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (323 km²), centred approximately 76 km southwest of Greenvale, in the localities of Charters Towers Regional Council and Etheridge Shire Council.



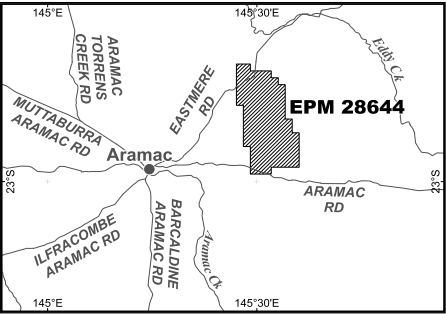
EPM 28635 applied for by CMG 3 PTY LTD, ACN: 662 757 780, over an area of 118 sub-blocks (379 km²) non-contiguous over 2 areas, centred approximately 82 km northwest of Nelia, in the locality of McKinlay Shire Council.



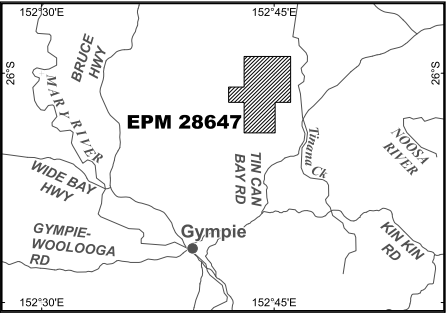
EPM 28636 applied for by VANTEQ MINERALS PTY LTD, ACN: 649 157 335, over an area of 36 sub-blocks (116 km²), centred approximately 57 km northwest of Nelia, in the locality of McKinlay Shire Council.



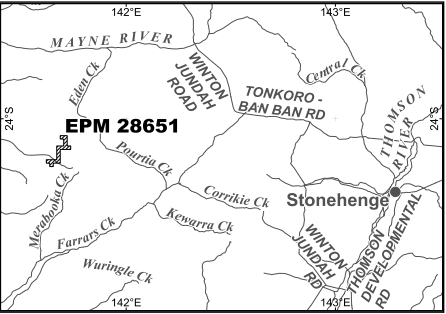
EPM 28644 applied for by ACTIVEX LIMITED, ACN: 113 452 896, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (316 km²), centred approximately 32 km east-northeast of Aramac, in the locality of Barcaldine Regional Council.



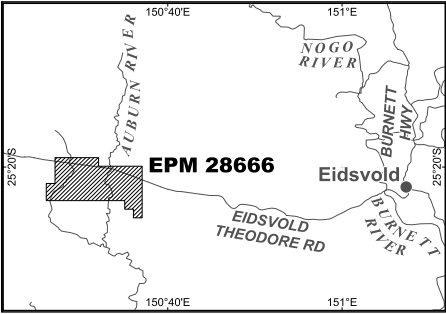
EPM 28647 applied for by SUMMIT MINERALS LIMITED, ACN: 655 401 675, over an area of 14 sub-blocks (43 km²), centred approximately 20 km north-northeast of Gympie, in the locality of Gympie Regional Council.



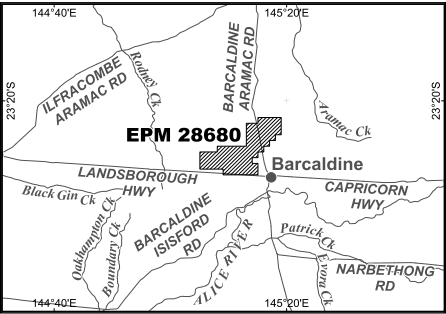
EPM 28651 applied for by DBM EXPLORATION PTY LTD, ACN: 624 988 343, over an area of 16 sub-blocks (50 km²), centred approximately 165 km west-northwest of Stonehenge, in the locality of Diamantina Shire Council.



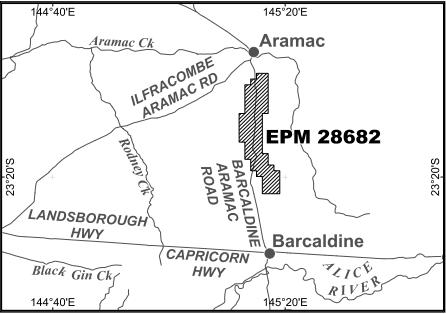
EPM 28666 applied for by GREEN CRITICAL MINERALS LIMITED, ACN: 118 788 846, over an area of 50 sub-blocks (155 km²), centred approximately 60 km west of Eidsvold, in the locality of North Burnett Regional Council.



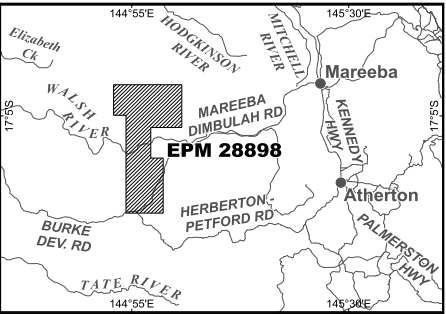
EPM 28680 applied for by RENEGADE EXPLORATION (QLD) PTY LTD, ACN: 645 510 078, over an area of 68 sub-blocks (214 km²), centred approximately 10 km northwest of Barcaldine, in the locality of Barcaldine Regional Council.



EPM 28682 applied for by RENEGADE EXPLORATION (QLD) PTY LTD, ACN: 645 510 078, over an area of 75 sub-blocks (236 km²), centred approximately 39 km north of Barcaldine in the locality of Barcaldine Regional Council.



EPM 28898 applied for by EQ RESOURCES LIMITED, ACN: 115 009 106, over an area of 147 sub-blocks (481 km²), centred approximately 55 km southwest of Mareeba, in the locality of Mareeba Shire Council.



Nature of Act(s): The grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld), authorises the holder to explore for minerals for a term not exceeding five (5) years with the possibility of renewal for a term not exceeding five (5) years. It is proposed to grant the Exploration Permit for Minerals subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) and the Native Title Protection Conditions.

Name and Address of person doing Act(s): It is proposed that the Exploration Permit for Minerals 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 the Exploration Permit for Minerals. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after 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: (07) 3248 1100 or Email: qldreg@fedcourt.gov.au.

Further information: 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.

Expedited Procedure: The State of Queensland considers the grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals to which this notice applies, is an act attracting the Expedited Procedure. The Exploration Permit for Minerals may be granted unless, within a period of four (4) months after the Notification Day a native title party lodges an objection in respect of the individual Exploration Permit for Minerals with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of that Exploration Permit for Minerals is a future act attracting the Expedited Procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

Notification Day: 6 December 2023



One of the principal organisers of the 2023 NATSISA Nathan Lovett-Murray (left) with Stan Yarramunua at the ceremony at the MCG earlier this month. *Pictures: TS Garvie Photography*



Fox Sports (rugby league) presenter Jake Duke.

Awards' celebrated return

By DARREN MONCRIEFF



A TWO decades' long wait came to a celebratory end this month at the 2023 National Aboriginal & Torres Strait

Islander Sports Awards that honoured Blak excellence in the games we play across the length and breadth of this country.

The event was held at the MCG which saw over 350 guests pack out the Olympic Room.

MC Shelley Ware began proceedings with a heartfelt recognition of the great Frank Reys, the first and only Aboriginal man to win the great Australian horse race the Melbourne Cup in 1973 – 50 years ago this year. Ware also acknowledged Sports Australia Hall of Fame inductees Jonathan Thurston, Mark Ella and Nova Peris.

Volunteer award-winner Aunty

Jenny Pryor from the Bindal Sharks rugby league organisation in Townsville spoke passionately about her experience and the inspiration of young people in her region.

"They inspire us, and we do this for our people," she said.

"Sport is where we can start talking about changing the levels of disadvantage. I feel blessed (with the work I do). Just don't forget where you come from and give back to community."

NBL referee Jacqui Dover, who sports a super-cool Aboriginal flag tattoo on her arm, was a worthy choice as Official of the Year.

In a light-hearted moment, Dover, upon receiving her award, said speaking in front of a packed Olympic Room was a more terrifying prospect than fronting a packed stadium of basketball fans going off at their teams, the opposition, or her.

"There's a lot of great athletes

in this room and it's such a cool thing to be a part of," she said.

"Hopefully, there will be more referees in the years to come."

Junior Sportsperson award-winner Jesse-May Hall was away competing and couldn't attend the ceremony. She spoke via pre-recorded video and said: "This is such a huge honour to receive from my community. I've received a lot of awards but this one here, from my own Mob, means so much to me."

During a break in formalities, Ware had a sit-down chat with former AFL star forward Eddie Betts.

The former Carlton and Adelaide player related a poignant moment at the end of his career after his 350th and final game.

"When I retired it was during Covid (the worldwide pandemic)," he said.

"So after the game, with the players, it was just me – no fans,

no nothing. It was a pretty sad moment. But I always remember this quote: 'Don't be sad that it ended, be happy that it began at all'."

Jake Duke is an accomplished presenter on Fox Sports' rugby league coverage. He was a popular winner in the Media Representative category.

"It is a real privilege to do the job I do with Fox Sports," he said.

"It's not a job I take lightly, and sharing our Mob's stories is important ... but it just doesn't feel right to win an award at the MCG when Eddie Betts is in the room! But seriously, it is important to have Blak faces in these roles.

"I always remember the chat I had with (former NRL great) Preston Campbell; he's inspired me a lot. One day, I was telling him how I was disillusioned working in the media; I told him this at an airport. And he said, 'You can't do it from the outside, but we (you

and I) are on the inside – you're doing incredible work where you are'."

"I thank my parents, my family and friends for this award."

Popular winners in the Sports Team category were the barnstorming Walgett Aboriginal Connection RLFC, this year's runaway winners of the Koori Knockout rugby league carnival.

"For us proud Walgett boys, all of us – we grew up in the town – it's proud for us to be able to continue that tradition of hosting the carnival," the WAC's Mark deWeerd said.

"Fifty-odd years later, the KO is bigger than the game of rugby league itself.

"But family is what's important to us as Blackfellas; we turn up every year and it allows us to demonstrate excellence at the event. It shows how much it means to us – our families coming together as one."



Representing Walgett Aboriginal Connection RLFC (from left) Matt Rose, Tyson Hodge, Trent Rose, Mark deWeerd and George Rose.



Aunty Jenny Pryor from the Bindal Sharks rugby league organisation.



William McKeown (left) and Peter Mills (right) from the TSYsRA were presented with their award by Simon Flagg from the Wathaurong Aboriginal Corporation at the 2023 NATSISA at the MCG earlier this month. Pictures: TS Garvie Photography



MC Shelley Ware.



The great Cathy Freeman was presented with her Lifetime Achievement award by Jed Smith, who is on the NATSISA organising committee.



Yvonne Mills, Benny Mills and NBL referee Jacqui Dover.



Former AFL footballer Eddie Betts and Shelley Ware.



Ron Griffiths.



Auntie Pam Pederson.

Dust may have settled but let debate rage on Best 17s

WITH the dust well and truly settled on rugby league this year, it's a good time to name what I consider the best of the best and highlights from the NRL and NRLW seasons. It was tough to settle on my best 17 in both leagues given there's so much exciting talent across the clubs.

Right, here's my top 17 brothers from the NRL:

1. Reece Walsh – the top fullback of the season; brilliant
2. Jahream Bula – best rookie season ever; Tigers fans are cheering.
3. Latrell Mitchell – a match-winner on his day; too big and too fast.
4. Koton Stagg – why the Broncos went as far as they did.
5. Selwyn Cobbo – simply sensational; highlights reel is something else.
6. Ezra Mam – his Grand Final display was one of the best

performances ever.

7. Nicho Hynes – had the ability to be a top class star; big 2024 ahead.
8. Josh Kerr – consistent prop, a good young forward; a good buy for Dolphins.
9. Scott Drinkwater – out of position as hooker but difficult to leave out; crafty enough to kill it at hooker.
10. David Fifita – back to his unstoppable best; big 2024 ahead
11. Reuben Cotter – like the Terminator; unstoppable.
12. Tyrone Peachey – great for the premiers this year.
13. Jack Wighton – out of position but has the skills, speed and size for lock.
14. Cody Walker – so great to



Kris Flanders

see this playmaker back in Origin
15. Bradman Best – enormous for the Knights; deserved that Blues jersey.

6. Josh Curran – does not stop, big engine, this lad; top buy for Bulldogs.
17. Wade Graham – a shame this Cronulla legend won't go round again; thanks for what you did in the game, brother.

Talented sisters

With over 35 talented sisters in the NRLW, it was extremely difficult to select a team of 17. But here goes:

1. Tamika Upton – the Dally M champion picks herself; a match-winner.
2. Shakiah Tungai – speedster who knows how to score a try.
3. Jaime Chapman – rising champion with all the skills; great to watch when in the clear.
4. Jasmine Peters – was great for the Cowboys; can become one of the top centres

5. Kimberley Hunt – great NRLW debut with a massive future; can score.
6. Kirra Dibb – Cowboys co-skipper; match-winner and playmaker of the future.
7. Caitlin Moran – played a handful of games but always takes the game by the scruff of the neck, like at the Koori KO
8. Caitlan Johnston – the game's best prop with bustling runs and tough defence; a fan favourite.
9. Quincy Dodd – classy hooker with abilities galore; makes one of the most crucial positions her own.
10. Keilee Joseph – a top forward, one of the best in the game, always solid in defence and running the ball; great for Queensland in her Origin debut
11. Mahalia Murphy – a welcome return to the NRLW will only get better in 2024; a return to representative footy next season?
12. Shaylee Bent – picks herself; brilliant for Titans, NSW and Australia.
13. Olivia Kernick – great work ethic; one of the best for the Roosters.
14. Tommaya Kelly-Sines – welcome back to the NRLW; much suited to this standard.
15. Tallisha Harden – veteran of the game but has all the skills and does the hard yards.
16. Ahlivia Ingram – NRLW debutant; from Indigenous All-Stars to Canberra Raiders to Australian PM's XIII.
17. Bree Chester – kickstarted her NRLW career and stood tall for Gold Coast; has a bright future.

**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.*

Aussie loss good for the game

By TOM LAW



IT was all going so well, until it wasn't. After Australia dispatched Samoa and Aotearoa-New Zealand with ease during the 'group stage' of the 2023 Pacific Championship, the Kiwis pulled out a masterclass performance to defeat the world champions 30-0 in Hamilton to win this year's cup. Hastily organised but with multi-year government backing, the overall Championships provide a blueprint to be built on, somewhat disjointed but with plenty of potential to build on.

It is Australia's first loss since the 2019 upset at the hands of Tonga, the largest ever defeat in the Kangaroos' history, and the most points the men's national team has conceded in a game since 1952. Coming off the back of a 36-18 victory over the same opposition a week prior in Melbourne, any defeat would have been a surprise, let alone a performance that kept Australia scoreless for the first time in 18 years.

There was very little indication it would end this way. Australia began the month of representative football with a 38-12 domination over Samoa, surpassing the tally registered 12 months prior against the same opposition in the World Cup final. An Indigenous-dominated back line featuring Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, who had lined up for Samoa the year prior, Koton Stagg and Reuben Cotter dominated proceedings, with Tabuai-Fidow registering a double and Stagg scoring one try and kicking five goals.

Two weeks later, Cotter was brought in to the second row with Nicho Hynes, the 2022 Dally M winner omitted from that year's travelling convoy, featuring from the interchange to ensure it would be international business as usual as far as Australian victory went.

But a week later, it all went wrong. Perhaps the women, taking to the field as part of double-header fixtures in Australia, provided a



The Australian Jillaroos and Kangaroos were in unfamiliar territory when they both were defeated at the hands of New Zealand at the recent 2023 Pacific Championships. Above is Jaime Chapman, and above right is Ruben Cotter. Pictures: Getty Images

precedential warning. The Jillaroos recorded a tight 16-10 win over the Kiwi Ferns in Townsville, with four Indigenous players lining up: Jaime Chapman on the wing, Tamika Upton scoring twice from full-back, Olivia Kernick in second row and Caitlan Johnston also going over from interchange. Keilee Joseph was an unused squad player, having been called up as an injury replacement, with Shaylee Bent the reserve for both games. In that second encounter a fortnight later, the New Zealanders reversed proceedings to record their own victory, with a converted Chapman try nullified by 12 points to the visitors.

On the day in Hamilton, the Australians were clearly second best, with the Kiwis combining and looking like a slick, well-oiled machine, one that had been working on linking up key players in the important parts of the pitch, while Australia looked at best like a team of individuals cobbled together.

Perhaps the outcome may have been different without the standing down of last year's World Cup top tryscorer, Josh Addo-Carr, after an altercation at the Koori Knockout, or indeed the absence of Latrell Mitchell with his hand injury. Regardless, the day, the week, the year belongs to the Kiwis, while focus for the coaches and administrators will eventually turn to 2024.

Paradoxically, Australian defeat may very well serve to spark greater interest in the national team, or at least the international game. After such a heavy drubbing, very few sports would have had the discourse turn toward an introspection at how such a thrashing came about. But Meninga was able to joke to the post-match press conference that "everyone likes to see us lose, so we made everyone happy."

There will be questions as to how next year's edition will play out. Rather than a like-for-like repeat, with Tonga (coming off the

back of a series whitewash from their tour of England) mooted to replace Samoa, it has been suggested that the main Championship be expanded to four teams, removing the bye-weekends that stymie any sense of momentum and made the third group games in effect meaningless dry-runs for the finals the following week.

However, with the Cook Islands needing to take part in World Cup qualification before the 2026 tournament, and loose guarantees made of a touring side to England, there are questions as to how such a structure could be implemented.

The main point however is that there is buy-in and commitment not only from the game's powerbrokers, but at a political level too; \$7m was pledged by the Australian federal government to fund this tournament and associated rugby league community outreach and training programs, while it is no secret that the Labor government views sports

diplomacy in the Pacific as a powerful tool to counter the threat from China.

There may be more of a structure for the women's games rather than series of one-offs – in their only game, the Papua New Guinea Orchids defeated the Cook Islands 28-20 in Port Moresby, with Essay Banu, a Torres Strait Islander, scoring for her other nation. To the north as well, Alex Johnstone also lined up for PNG, scoring in the 16-43 defeat to Fiji as well as in the 32-12 victory in the following week's final.

How that result impacts who plays whom in 2024 remains to be seen. There are no shortage of opinions about how the game should be structured going forward, with the players keen to ensure more games to rival the intensity and popularity of State of Origin. However next year pans out, the Kangaroos will be looking to learn from the worst result in their history and reclaim the title of world's best.

Draft Class of '23 steps up

By PETER ARGENT



Two-time premiership player, Larke Medal winner, Allies captain and All-Australian captain Ryley Sanders from Launceston was swooped on by the Western Bulldogs at last week's 2023 AFL national draft.

Sanders was one of a handful of Aboriginal young footballers picked AFL clubs at the draft.

The young Tasmanian was described as a player with clean hands, a high footy IQ and strong in leadership.

Joining St Kilda, 186cm West Australian Lance Collard was formerly part of West Coast's Next Generation Academy and noted as a dynamic forward talents who had a standout season for Subiaco in the WAFL.

A 206cm ruck talent Mitchell Edwards was once a Fremantle NGA prospect before he was collected by Geelong at the draft. He won a premiership with Peel Thunder in the Colts in 2022, and was an AFL Australian Academy member this year where his ruck craft and follow-up work were hallmarks of his game.

Lawson Humphries, 20, from the Pilbara in WA's north, joins Edwards at the Cattery. He is a 182cm wingman from Swan Districts whose ball use and decision-making are among his standout attributes and proficient on both sides of his body. He played his junior football with the Wickham Wolves.

**After attracting some interest from Collingwood, 200-gamer Chad Wingard was re-secured by Hawthorn at the draft.*



Ryley Sanders – Pick 6, Western Bulldogs, from Sandringham Dragons community club via North Launceston.

Main: Mitchell Edwards was one of a handful of Aboriginal young footballers picked at last week's national AFL draft. Edwards joins Geelong via WAFL club Peel Thunder. Pictures: Peter Argent



Lance Collard – Pick 26, St Kilda, from Subiaco (WAFL) via North Beach.



Lawson Humphries, from the Pilbara, joins Geelong.

Another draft, another batch of missed opportunities

THERE has been a noticeable drop in the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players and coaches at AFL level numbers which, in my mind, are worrying signs. One would have thought we would be seeing an increase in numbers at the drafts – national, pre-season, mid-season and rookie – but that hasn't happened. Something is wrong. It's been this way for a while.

Firstly, I want to con-

gratulate and celebrate those who were picked at the national draft but my question is: Where are our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players from remote and



Shelley Ware

rural communities? Where and what are their pathways, and the support to make that happen? There are good people in the football industry working hard to convince the coaches, their assistants and talent managers to understand that these boys are not – to use a term more used in the juvenile justice system – “at risk”, that our kids are worth a go. When are these people in positions of power going to work harder

for someone who is amazingly talented at football, but who may be overlooked only by where he was born?

Honestly, not much has changed since I started working in AFL media 25 years ago. In fact, I kind of feel it is getting worse. I hear story after story of AFLM and AFLW players promised the support to make it properly into an AFL team only for their short-lived presence was to make a club look good.

It just seems so easy for clubs to give up on players from remote communities. The excuses I've been hearing have been “homesick” – well why didn't you bring home to them? – and my all-time favourite “not fit enough” – isn't that, like, your actual full-time job, to get people get match-fit?

Some AFL clubs do get this right, and these are the ones who have taken the time to learn.

AFL football is fast

becoming a game for the privileged few, and not for those who may live remote, those who need a little extra support and opportunity.

In the end, this was another draft and another missed opportunity, and opportunities.

**Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She appears on AFL.com.au's Colour Of Your Jumper.*

Teams shaping up for the BOTC

By KRIS FLANDERS



CHIP-and-chase, flick passes and big hits are back with the Battle of the Countries which kicks off in Wollongong on the NSW south coast in

January. The event, hosted by Illawarra Titans RLFC since 2019, offers up

three days of classic Aboriginal rugby league starting 19 January 2024.

Founder and BOTC event coordinator, Rod Broad, says the competition, which takes place at Ziems Park in Corrimal, is always exciting, and believes this tournament will be the biggest and best yet.

"We've got over 25 teams participating... massive event... it's backyard footy," he said.

"It's always about the kids, they're our future, if we can help these kids to be better versions of themselves then that's what we want.

"It's always great to see those bush kids come down and see the ocean for the first time and see their smiles, play some footy and connect with Mob."

Boys' division teams will be Under-10s, -11s, -12s, -13s, -15s and 17s.

In the girls' division matches will be played in age groups of Under-12s and 15s.

There will also be an Open men's and womens' divisions.

Interest in the event is high.

Teams like Redfern All Blacks, Campbelltown Ghosts, Riverstone Roos, Maitland United, Mindaribba Warriors and Newcastle All Blacks will be taking part.

"People always ask me 'why January'?" Broad said.

"I always say that we've been a couple of months without NRL footy, the Koori KO (October) and the All-Stars (February).

"For the men to win (the BOTC) teams must win five games across two days; playing 40-minute games in warm conditions is a lot.

"It's a real test of stamina for who wants it the most, but teams always sign up to compete.

"They want to play in the Battle of the Countries."



Garbutt Magpies players Jermaine Ross and Nicole Ross.



Teams will line up to take part in the 74th edition of the Goldfields Ashes cricket carnival in the north Queensland town of Charters Towers. Pictures: Alf Wilson

Biggest amateur cricket carnival in southern hemisphere

By ALF WILSON



MORE than 500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players will line up at Australia's biggest cricket carnival, the Goldfield Ashes in Charters Towers from 19-21 January next year.

Interest is already at an all-time high in the carnival after Australia's World Cup victory over India and the emergence of Aboriginal man Scott Boland as a world-class seam bowler in Test cricket.

Nominations for the Goldfields Ashes closed last Friday (24 November).

It is expected there will be more than 240

teams across five men's divisions (A-1, A-2, B-1, B-2 and Social), as well as a women's competition.

A-grade men's matches will be in the Twenty 20 format and will be held on turf wickets, weather permitting.

The B-1 grade will be 50-overs-a-side games with bowlers restricted to 10 overs and both divisions are seriously contested.

In the B-2 and Social grades both teams bowl a maximum of 35 overs with batters required to retire at the end of an over when they reach 50 and bowlers sending down no more than seven overs.

The women's division is also serious cricket and will be half day matches which attract plenty of spectators.

Among some of the sides confirmed for the carnival include Garbutt Magpies, Black Bream and West Indigies, each of whom will have a men's and women's teams.

Other sides with a majority of Indigenous players include Garbutt Jets which recruits some cricketers from Melbourne, and Weekend Wariyas from Hughenden.

Teams from as far away as Brisbane, northern NSW and WA are also expected at the big event.

Garbutt Magpies' Nicole Ross said she is excited about the Ashes.

Games will be played on more than 70 fields at Charters Towers and surrounding areas.

"The men's team will be going to the

Ashes for the 10th year and our women's side have been going for the last eight," she said.

"Everybody is talking about it.

"We get to catch up with family and friends from many different areas. We will be training hard for it."

From a modest six men's teams from the first event in 1949 and has grown to become the largest amateur cricket carnival in the southern hemisphere.

Many carnival teams have some wacky rules.

In the lower grades which have by far the most teams, anybody who drops a catch or scores a duck, has to change into a woman's dress for the remainder of the day's play.

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Kaantju and Lamalaig woman from the Kulkalgai Nations Nadine Hunt competed in the arduous Hawaii Ironman Championship in October. Inset: Nadine Hunt, post-race. Picture: Supplied



Hawaii – Hunt's greatest challenge

By KRIS FLANDERS



RESILIENT – that's probably the best way to describe Nadine Hunt who recently completed the incredibly gruelling Hawaii Ironman World Championship on the island of Kona. Also, super-fit!

The 45-year-old international event is among the toughest in the world.

It consists of a 3.86km open ocean swim, a 180km bike ride through the Hawaiian lava desert and a 42km run to the finish line.

The mentally and physically demanding event was everything and more for Hunt.

She finished the race in 10:56.49s.

The Kaantju and Lamalaig woman from the Kulkalgai Nations in the Torres Strait completed an Ironman event in her hometown Cairns earlier this year, finishing sixth in her age division. This qualified her for Hawaii.

"Being among some of the best female triathletes in the world was remarkable," Hunt said.

"No other First Nations woman from Australia had ever been at the starting line of this event and so that was something that was really exciting for me, and very humbling.

"It's a special place, you can feel the spirits of the land and the people and their ancestors.

"I wanted to show how strong my Mob and my people and my culture is, too, by competing and completing the race.

"I remember the values my grandfather told me about– respecting the land and the sea – and to do that when you're in someone else's country too.

"I pay my respects wherever I compete.

"In Kona, it was just holding the sand in my hand and feeling the water and being welcomed by it and being thankful for it, to make sure that I'm looked after."

Hunt, 35, was a 2011 graduate of the Indigenous Marathon Project in which she completed the New York City Marathon.

After much thought, Hunt started began her journey into the world of triathlons in 2020.

Support also came from fellow IMP graduate and founder of Tri-Mob, Nat Heath.

"Nat was inspirational for me starting out," Hunt said.

"He got Tri-Mob up and going and of course competed in triathlons in his own right.

"I bought my first road-bike and started riding and then competed in a few comps locally, starting with some half-Ironman.

"There's a local triathlon group up here in Cairns who have been super supportive and helped me."

Hunt recalled moments when her body was screaming for her to stop; it was in those moments where she needed to remember exactly why she was there.

"I loved and embraced every minute of the race, it's a life-changing opportunity and I had no choice but to finish it," she said.

"The biggest motivator was my son; I have a 5-year-old.

"No-one truly understands the amount of training you need to put in; sometimes it's 18 hours a week training along with work, and my studies. My son sacrificed a lot for me to do this, I owed it to him to finish, and make those sacrifices worthwhile."

Before the race, Hunt was super-confident for the run-leg.

She's also become a better cyclist after a tough fall a few years ago, while also holding no fears for the swim leg.

"I've never been a huge swimmer and that's the leg that starts you off," she said.

"But I've come to love the swimming and I actually felt really good out in the ocean.

"The bike course is on an open highway among lava rock-fields and



you're fully exposed to the heat and the sun. I haven't experienced temperatures like that before.

"There were a few slumps during the bike leg but you have to keep a positive mindset. There's the wild winds, lots of elevations to climb – a very tough bike ride.

"Then you finish that ride with a marathon run, so it's insane, but that's what you sign up for."

There were mixed emotions at the finish line. All the sweat and tears were worthwhile when she spotted some familiar faces in the crowd.

"It was surreal crossing the line," she said.

"I was composed and fine until I saw my Mum and I just lost it. It was special to have her there.

"You know, mum and dad have always been there for me.

"My partner fought his way through the crowd and security to embrace me as well.

"To have loved ones there at the end of something so enormous does not compare to anything else I've achieved in the sport."

Koori KO bound for Bathurst

By KRIS FLANDERS



THE biggest Aboriginal sports event – bar none! – is heading to the place made famous by the V8 Supercars when the 2024 NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival heads to Bathurst next year.

Bathurst sits on Wiradjuri country and the local mob are excited to host thousands of brothers and sisters for the big event.

Bathurst, in the Central Tablelands past the Blue Mountains in NSW, last hosted the Koori Knockout in 2011.

The regional city, home to well over 37,000 people, will once again welcome the biggest Aboriginal rugby league competition in the country.

Its selection comes about from the

winners of this year's KO, Walgett Aboriginal Connection – led by the Rose brothers, George, Matt and Trent – who, as per KO tradition, can choose wherever to hold the next event.

Toni-Lee Scott is the chief executive of the Bathurst Aboriginal Land Council.

She was at the announcement last week and says it's a proud moment for the town and a privilege to host the KO.

"It's an honour to have it back in Bathurst, great news for the town," Scott said.

"It's the largest gathering of Aboriginal people in the state.

"It's a positive reason for us to come together and connecting with family and culture and watch some of the best rugby league on the field.

"This is going to mean so much to our community because a lot of our Elders

haven't been able to make the journey to previous Knockout locations.

"There's also expenses involved with travelling so the Mob here are very excited, they welcome it, they will get to experience it and also get to show off their town.

"The Rose boys have a special connection with Bathurst.

"Matty still lives in town with his wife and kids, and George and Trent all have family here.

"It's always a part of their home and to bring the KO this way is good for them with their ties also to Walgett."

The Macquarie River runs through the town centre and the famous Bathurst 1000 has put the town on the international map.

The city is a great destination and offers some wonderful views of the city and surrounding countryside. When the October

long-weekend rolls around the average weather in Bathurst is 21°C-degrees, which should make for comfortable playing conditions.

"The name of the game at the announcement was taking the KO back to country towns," Scott said.

Scott says the announcement has been just as exciting not only for the local Aboriginal people of Bathurst but also for the wider community.

"They're welcoming it with open arms," she said.

"Bathurst is a real rugby league town, we play a lot of football here. The public is super-keen, like us Mob. They're going to get an education about how Aboriginal rugby league is played and also learn more about our culture and the other cultures that will come from other areas."

Moz on board for Aussies in 2024 SVNS season



EXPERIENCED campaigner Maurice Longbottom has kept his place in a strong Australia

Men's Sevens squad for the 2023-24 SVNS season, joining an older, wiser group of players complementing a sprinkling of exciting new talent.

Back-to-back events kick off the re-imagined World Rugby Sevens series, beginning at Dubai on 2-3 December, followed a week later in Cape Town on 9-10 December.

The season is a critical one as teams build towards the 2024 Paris Olympics which take place in July.

Malouf returns as captain following an injury-disrupted

2022-23 season, while Henry Hutchison will make his return from an ACL knee injury sustained at the Sydney 7s in January.

"I am thrilled with the group we have," said head coach John Manenti.

"We are starting to build some real consistency with the core of the group, while adding quality through some new faces.

"Throw in the experience and skill of Nick Malouf, Josh and James Turner and 'Moz' Longbottom, and we're starting to see some continuity from year-to-year – which can only be a good thing."

The squad is notable for its inclusion of Wallabies legend Michael Hooper, who will make the full-time switch to the Sevens



Maurice Longbottom. Picture: AAP

squad in early January – he is unavailable for the first two rounds in Dubai and Cape Town. Ben Dowling returns to

Sevens after a season with the NSW Waratahs, having previously competed in the 2021-22 season, competing at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

Having just left school, Hadley Tonga is another notable signing for the program – the winger previously represented the Australia U18s in 2022 though missed the 2023 program due to injury.

Young Hayden Sargeant and Michael Icely are the other two new faces, with the rest of the squad having been central to the team's automatic qualification for the Olympics last season.

A group of development players has also been selected, including Ben Dalton, Aden Ekanayake, Conor Hickey,

James McGregor and Henry Palmer.

"I am over the moon to be able to welcome back Henry Hutchison into the playing squad – an ACL injury always tests a player's resolve to come back, and 'Hutch' has worked his tail off to get back," Manenti said.

"Hadley is one of the most exciting young players in Rugby – he is super-fast and extremely elusive. He's only young, but I think he can make a real impact this year.

"It's great to have Ben (Dowling) back, too. He showed plenty of quality when he was with us a couple of years ago, and it looks like his time with the Waratahs has only helped make him a more complete player.

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Anika strong in unbeaten knock

By PETER ARGENT



ANIKA Learoyd displayed good technique and strong endeavor in her recent innings for Sydney Thunder against Adelaide Strikers at Karen Rolton Oval in Adelaide last

weekend.

The 21-year-old, a graduate from the National Indigenous Cricket Championships, came in as a middle-order bat in a difficult situation but she posted an unbeaten 27 with four boundaries in a 26-minute stay at the crease four minutes shy of half-an-hour. Thunder made 118.

This was her 17th WBBL appearance.

The girl from the Gumbaynggirr people seems to like this venue. In January while playing for NSW in the WNCL, Learoyd smashed a brilliant 131 against South Australia.

Her and Tahlia Wilson produced an outstanding 164-run second-wicket stand.

Learoyd was in total control where she dispatched the pace and spin of the SA attack with ease, striking 13 fours and three sixes in her better than a-run-a-ball 128-delivery innings.

Fellow Aboriginal player Wilson is her teammate at the Thunder.



Anika Learoyd showed good technique. Picture: Peter Argent

Manangoora Magpies kings of the Barra Cup



Happy winners, the Manangoora Magpies, who recently won the Borrooloola Barra Cup cricket competition.

Roper region a showcase for good sport



THERE'S a new king of Gulf country cricket after the Manangoora Magpies took the 20th anniversary edition of the Borrooloola Barra Cup at Borrooloola.

This milestone cricket event brought together spirited teams from the region that ended in a thrilling victory for the Magpies.

The Borrooloola Barra Cup, initiated two decades ago, has become a highlight on the local sporting calendar, fostering solidarity and community spirit.

The Manangoora Magpies emerged victorious in a hard-fought competition, showcasing the talent and

dedication of the local teams.

Initially conceived with the aim of raising awareness about domestic violence against women, the Borrooloola Barra Cup has played a pivotal role in starting conversations about this pressing issue within the community.

The event, made possible through the collaboration of NT Cricket and Roper Gulf Regional Council, not only celebrates the region's passion for cricket but also serves as a platform to address critical social issues in one of the most remote parts of the NT.

Roper Gulf Regional Council chief executive Marc Gardner said:

"Sports have the power to bring people together, and the Borrooloola Barra Cup

exemplifies this beautifully.

"Beyond the cricket field, it's a platform for men, women and families with addressing challenges, promoting mental health through physical activity, and building a stronger, more resilient community."

Roper Gulf Regional Council acknowledges the support of NT Cricket and the local community in making the Borrooloola Barra Cup a resounding success.

"I extend my gratitude to NT Cricket and the entire community for their amazing support," Gardner said.

"The success of the Borrooloola Barra Cup wouldn't be possible without their commitment to our shared goals of community well-being

and social progress."

The event's dual purpose was to engage people in physical activity for the mental health benefits it brings, and as a way to continue addressing the crucial conversation around domestic violence against women in regional Australia.

"(Our) heartfelt congratulations to the Manangoora Magpies and all participating teams for their sportsmanship and commitment to the spirit of the Borrooloola Barra Cup," council said in a statement.

"(We) look forward to continued collaborations and initiatives that promote community well-being and social change through the universal language of sport."

Do better than performative tick-a-box

BELIEVE someone when they tell you who they are. This is generally true when patterns of behaviour emerge. Take the case of Australian sport.

There was none more excited than this bloke when during the latter stages of the first decade of the 2000s, the AFL began to recognise our people via Indigenous Round, then in its infancy. Fast-track to today, and virtually every team sport and local league does it, which is great. In some quarters, however, it has almost become a performative gesture. And that's not great.

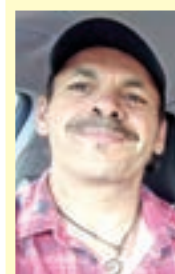
If you would have read our back page story about the WBL and its First Nations Round, it kinda defeats the purpose. If there are countrymen and women in your teams and games and then Indigenous Round rolls around and they're nowhere to be seen then what's the point, really.

One Uncle in NSW who I shamelessly claim once coined a phrase to describe this – "policy tick-a-box", i.e. apply for the Blak dollar, run a program or three, write your report, detail the 'outcomes', call it a success, eat, sleep, rinse, repeat, all the while the Aboriginal community isn't really progressing. It is so frustrating.

This reminds me of former NT Senator and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Nigel Scullion. 'Scully the Scallywag' once infamously dipped into the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, the vehicle from which monies from the Aboriginal Benefits Account (ABA) was distributed. Scullion once brazenly granted funds from the IAS-ABA toward AFANT, the powerful recreational fishing industry lobby group in the Northern Territory that has the ear of successive territory governments and the NT's mainstream media on talkback speed-dial.

If nothing changes then everything stays the same. That's not anything anyone wants in this space. Do better.

***Darren Moncrieff is a Wadjarli-Thakarli/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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Awards return for 2024



ORGANISERS of the resurrected national Indigenous sports awards have confirmed the event will run again next year and with new developments to enhance the show.

Indigenous Sports Network's Nathan Lovett-Murray said that with the success of the 2023 National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sports Awards at the MCG earlier

this month, the organising committee have locked in a date and venue for 2024.

"Next year, the sports awards will be televised and we will have more people at the venue which can hold up to 550 people," Lovett-Murray confirmed to members last week.

"We have booked the MCG Olympic Room again (for) Saturday, 16 November, 2024."

The awards celebrate the contribution

Indigenous people have made to their various sports or to sport in general.

At the 2023 awards, Olympic gold medallist Cathy Freeman was presented with the Lifetime Achievement award, while cricketer Ash Gardener was presented with the National Sports person of the year Award.

The awards were last held in 2003, in Adelaide.

They began in 1986 and were held

every two years. It was rotated among Australia's capital cities and gained in popularity with each passing event.

ATSIC, the national Indigenous representative body, was a big backer and sponsor. But when it was summarily dismantled by the John Howard Coalition government in 2005 the sports awards followed suit. Into this void came the Deadly Awards, the Dreamtime Awards, and sports categories at the annual NAIDOC Awards.

Late last year, Wayne Coolwell reached out to several individuals to resurrect the awards. The idea took root and several weeks later a committee was formed to steer the new Indigenous Sports Network, which included former AFL footballer Lovett-Murray and media personality Shelley Ware.

As the first event of its kind in 20 years, this year's categories and winners were decided upon by consensus by the new committee of former national-level sportspeople and those with decades' experience in the space. But next year the nominations will be placed in the hands of the general public, with the judging panel to pick the winners from those nominations.

Also, with such a short turnaround from concept (December 2022) to execution (November 2023), organisers and organisations had only a small window of time to prepare package deals, but with a longer lead-in time toward the next event in 2024 organisers have put out the call.

"There were many businesses that missed out (on sponsorship packages) who would like to sponsor next year," Lovett-Murray said.

"So if there are organisations or individuals who would like to sponsor an award category next year, or to do so again, they can get in contact."

**Organisations keen to get on board, can get in touch with the Indigenous Sports Network at nathan@indigenoussports.com.au*



National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sport Awards organising committee members (from left) Rob Hyatt, Nathan Lovett-Murray, Shelley Ware and Jed Smith. Picture: TS Garvie Photography

Brisbane feels the Heat after First Nations Round debacle

By DARREN MONCRIEFF



THE non-selection of an Aboriginal cricketer during the WBBL/09 First Nations Round has passed without comment from

Brisbane Heat, Cricket Australia and cricket's national Indigenous advisory committee this week and last.

The highly anticipated round of fixtures that acknowledges Indigenous peoples' contribution to the sport, and this country, ran over two weekends in the world's No.1 Twenty20 women's cricket competition.

But in the opening fixture of the round in which Brisbane Heat hosted Melbourne Renegades, the teams' Aboriginal players, Mikayla Hinkley (Brisbane) and



Mikayla Hinkley.

Ella Hayward* (Melbourne), were notable absentees.

Kunja woman Hinkley was a



Ella Hayward.

regular fixture in the Heat's games this season but her inexplicable absence in First

Nations Round called into question the good work Cricket Australia has been doing in this space for the past decade.

Hinkley was required to run the water.

Her non-selection was reportedly endorsed by the body that advises CA on these matters, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cricket Advisory Committee.

Two days later in Melbourne, Hinkley regained her spot in the team against Melbourne Stars, but that came only after an 11th hour withdrawal by the Heat's captain due to injury.

Hinkley's form has been solid. Last season she played just three games but this season the classy late-order power-hitter has shown why Brisbane signed her to a two-year deal.

Since her debut in the quick-

fire format of the WBBL in 2015-16 with Sydney Thunder, Hinkley has played 62 games, has a career-best high score of 49 and recorded 12 not-outs with a strike-rate at 95.5.

Cricket's national Indigenous advisory committee is an officially sanctioned sub-committee of the Cricket Australia board.

According to CA: "(It) has the responsibility and scope to provide guidance to Cricket Australia management and the Cricket Australia Board on issues impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and provide strategic advice on Cricket Australia's RAP."

**Jawoyn woman Ella Hayward is steadily progressing back to the Renegades' senior team through its reserves side.*



Manangoora Magpies win cricket's Barra Cup – P55