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Meet the Mob who love tagging sharks

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Great white sharks are one of the target species. Picture: AAP

Supermarkets ditch Australia Day goods

By DARREN COYNE



IN a move that has outraged dinki-di Aussies who love waving little plastic flags made in China, two supermarket chains are refusing to sell Australia Day merchandise in the lead-up to 26 January.

Grocery giant Woolworths revealed last week that it would not be selling the merchandise as there had been a decline in demand in recent years. Aldi quickly followed.

In recent years, Invasion or Survival Day rallies across the country have been strongly attended with many Australians finding it difficult to celebrate the



Laura Thompson, co-founder of Indigenous company, Clothing the Gaps.

day the English First Fleet raised its flag at Sydney Cove in 1788

Department store Kmart also announced recently it would no longer sell Australia Day products

in an effort to be 'inclusive and respectful'.

However, a spokesperson from rival supermarket Coles says the company would continue lining its shelves with Australia Day paraphernalia.

Opposition leader Peter Dutton slammed Woolies decision as an 'outrage', prompting Agriculture Minister Murray Watt to accuse him of trying to start a 'culture war'

Gunditjmara woman, Laura Thompson, co-founder of Clothing the Gaps, welcomed the decisions, saying 'the absence of Australia day merchandise in shopping spaces was a welcome relief for First Nations Mob who don't celebrate Australia Day'.

"Woolies said it themselves, that

sales of Australia Day products are poor – Australia Day is not good for business. We would love to see Woolies go one extra step and stock Aboriginal Flags from a Blak business instead," Ms Thompson said.

Recovering

"First Nations people are still recovering from the Referendum just three months ago when the majority of Australians voted 'no' to a First Nations Voice to Parliament. The reality that many people don't care or want to listen to First Nations peoples' voices feels extra heavy this year in the lead up to Jan 26.

"It's exhausting trying to convince Australians again that Jan

26 is not a date to celebrate but, having big businesses boycotting the day is a powerful show of support. It sends a strong message to the government that they need to move with the times and growing sentiment from the Australian public who don't want to celebrate Australia on this date because it is not inclusive of First Nations people.

"January 26 is always going to be a day for truth telling, reflection, mourning and coming together to celebrate First Nations peoples' resistance and survival. We have never celebrated on this date instead we have reclaimed Australia Day by calling the day for what is: Invasion Day, Survival Day and a Day of Mourning," she said.

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MY FAMILY Anna Dancey (Yuwaalaray, Queensland)



Julian Nicholls, Ravi Dancey and Anna Dancey are pictured in front of Parliament House in Canberra for the 2023 CONVERGE Conference.

I AM here today with my family on Ngunawal and Ngambri Country for the First Nations Media Australia CONVERGE Conference as a delegate for NITV.

My father is from a little place called Dirranbandi in southern Queensland, which is right on the border with New South Wales. It's situated right on the river, so we are freshwater Mob!

From way back in the day, my family have been working in the area on both sheep and cattle stations, and some of the family even owned land, which for Blackfellas, was unheard of at the time.

I've been delving really deep into my family history recently and have found out about the prominence of my family,

especially in that town, which has been really interesting to learn about and uncover things I never knew.

On my mother's side I am Filipino and my husband Julian is Indian, so my baby Ravi really has a massive melting pot of cultures to identify with, and grow up with, which is really exciting.

At the moment we are living on Gadigal Country in Sydney, and we are lucky because we live a little bit out of the city where there is some bush and it's just beautiful. We like to say that we are 'raising a free-range kid'.

For us as parents it's really important that Ravi has this natural space to explore and is connected to the Country and land he is living on.

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



Shalom dancers prepare for their performance at a Christmas event in Townsville, Queensland, called Stable at Riverway. Picture: Alf Wilson. See story, page 25.

Koori Mail

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Art elevates culture at NGV Triennial



AN eight-metre-long bronze eel trap by Wurundjeri artist Aunty Kim Wandin takes pride of place in the moat of NGV International.

Aunty Kim's artwork, *luk bagurrk*

gunga, is one of many on display from 120 international artists, designers and collectives—including Japanese artist Yoko Ono, participating in the NGV Triennial 2023 exhibition.

● Read more about the exhibition, page 29.



Aunty Kim Wandin with her work *luk bagurrk gunga 2023*, presented as part of the *NGV Triennial* and co-commissioned by NGV and the City of Melbourne. The exhibition is showing until April 7, 2024 at NGV International, Melbourne. Picture: Eugene Hyland.

Protocols in the firing line

Sydney councillor vows to 'wind back' Acknowledgments of Country in Council meetings

By LIINA FLYNN



A NSW local government councillor is calling for his council to scrap the current Acknowledgement of Country at the beginning of council meetings – and hopes other councils will follow suit.

Cumberland City Council councillor Steve Christou is the latest in a growing trend of elected representatives who want to “wind back” the respectful protocol, that he said has been “severely overdone and cooked”.

Cr Christou told the *Koori Mail* that he believes acknowledging only the Traditional Indigenous Owners at official meetings and events is “discriminatory to all nationalities, regardless of your background”.

Mr Christou said that if he was reelected, he would prioritise dumping “welcome to country and smoking ceremonies”.

“In Cumberland City Council, we have 240,000 residents and only 1,500 are Aboriginal people,” he said.

“We will no longer have an Indigenous policy that represents 0.65% of the Cumberland City Council population at the expense of the majority of our diverse residents”.

Mr Christou said his party, the Our Local Community group, has written an alternative acknowledgement that he believes is “more inclusive” and refers to migrant families and



Councillor Steve Christou.

pioneers – and uses this when he addresses council meetings.

“It’s not an attack on Indigenous people – it’s everybody being treated as equal,” he said.

Mr Christou said the “overwhelming” ‘no’ vote in the recent Voice to Parliament referendum “nailed” home his desire to dump the current protocol.

“I had my personal beliefs, but the vote of local residents reinforced them,” he said.

“My Cumberland electorate had one of the highest percentages of voting ‘no’ in Australia – close to 54%.

“I was already thinking that the



Arts executive Rhoda Roberts.

Indigenous policy in Cumberland had been overdone and forced down people’s throats, but that really solidified it.”

Mr Christou also was upset with how Labor Party councillors on council “started naming meeting rooms and a new civic square under Indigenous names, with no consultation with residents or input with other councillors”.

He said that by being vocal on the issue, he hoped to see more support to make the changes and encourages other elected representatives in other towns to make the change to “represent everyone equally”.

Mr Christou said he was aware of the

Councils in South Australia who had already voted to dump their regular Acknowledgments of Country and of the councils in Western Australia who were now considering it.

When asked if he perceived his actions were racist, Mr Christou said “I don’t think it’s racist at all and once people throw the racism card, I think they have lost the debate”.

“It’s about that everybody is equal and needs to be represented equally regardless of background ... we all helped to build Australia up together and everybody needs to be acknowledged and accepted equally,” he said.

Arts Executive and Widjabul Wiabul woman Rhoda Roberts said including the respectful protocol was “simply a matter of good manners”.

Ms Roberts said the Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country practices were created as ways to address the “cultural amnesia of the country” and remind people that Australian history extended back much further than the arrival of the first European colonists.

She expressed concern that the removal of these simple but powerful statements from local government meetings was another step backwards in terms of the slow reforms Australia was making in regards to addressing reconciliation with First Nations peoples.

Desert festival lights beckon



VISITOR registrations are now open for Parrtjima – A Festival in Light, the free 10-day festival held in Alice Springs (Mparntwe) from April.

Curated by Rhoda Roberts and with new event delivery partners on board, the 300-million-year-old MacDonnell Ranges will again become a natural canvas for the Ranges Light Show, alongside an immersive installation projecting animated

Western and Central Desert art onto the red sand of Alice Springs Desert Park.

The theme this year is 'Interconnectedness', celebrating how everything in Indigenous culture is connected, with an emphasis on the

complexities of the planting seasons and Indigenous Australians' connection with the land and kwatye (which means both water and rain in Arrernte).

For more information or to register for free, visit parrtjimaaustralia.com.au

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o p i n i o n

A journey shared

On January 26, on all our minds is Survival/Invasion Day – or as others like to call it – Australia Day.

As the years go on, our minds and bodies fill with more passion, disappointment, anger, frustration and love, for a respectful national conversation about changing the date.

It's hard this year to feel that a national conversation is even possible after the referendum results this country served up last year.

How can half a country have a conversation about such an important matter that should involve the whole country? Is that even possible with the amount of close-minded people that live here on our Country?

I also like to read the thoughts of our people on social media – Indigenous X caught my eye and stretched my mind, that I am still in the process of decolonising. They put forward the thought "Maybe we shouldn't change the date of Australia Day at all" (extracted from Luke Pearson's IX piece 2017). The thought is about the commitment that is actually needed, as a country, to make it happen and what is needed after the change.

They equated it as just like joining the gym, it's an act that won't make you fit – it's simply an indication that you actually want to achieve losing weight, gaining muscle and getting fitter.



Shelley Ware

"Changing the date is expressing a desire to want Australia, and the people in it, to aspire to be better than we have been in the past, and to be better than we are right now."

So once the date is changed, we have so much more to do as a country. I can't wait for the day that happens and then to put in the needed work.

There is so much more that we as a country need to do to make it happen. But has the referendum shown us that majority of people aren't ready? Or have you, like me, heard from people who are now sorry they voted 'No'. Our biggest problem seems to be that half this country lives on Facebook and other forms of social media and fall prey to misinformation and disinformation. Will this be our biggest problem again? I hope not!

What role do our educators play? Even though teachers are mandated to teach the truth of our country's history, children

are leaving school, still as misinformed as always. This plays a huge role in the current situation our people find ourselves in. It's time for leadership within schools to get this right. To follow up on teacher's planners, sit in the classrooms, have casual chats with your students and see if you as a school, need to do more, to provide opportunities for teachers to learn more, to be connected and proud.

To all my people and to all our allies, I put out love and strength this day of mourning. Once again spend as you choose, not how others want you to. If you need to sit still and just be do that, if you need to gather with family and Mob do that, if you need to march do that.

This year will be tougher, but for our children and their children, we have to keep going, united and strong in our cultures, truths, pride, history and traditions. We know and we are waiting for people to catch up on what Australia should look, feel and be like on January 26. I still believe there will come a day, it will be so.

The fact that Woolworths and Big W are not stocking "Australia Day merchandise due to gradual decline in demand" brings me hope.

Always was always will be.

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

Deb Mailman takes total control

By LIINA FLYNN



WHEN Deb Mailman was at school in Mount Isa, she wanted to be a teacher. But everything changed when her teacher told Deb she could choose acting as a career.

So, at 17 years old, Deb auditioned for a performing arts course at university – and without knowing what was in store, moved to the “big city” of Brisbane.

Now, she is one of the most recognised and loved Indigenous actors in Australia, starring with a lead role in the successful TV show *Total Control*.

With the third and final season of *Total Control* now screening on ABC, Deb talked to the *Koori Mail* about her life and her acting role as Alex Irving – an Independent politician in an alternative Australia where there’s an Aboriginal Prime Minister.

Family

“My dad is Aboriginal, a Bidjara man and my mum is Maori, from the North Island in New Zealand,” Deb said.

“Growing up, my parents were supportive and even though we had very little, they made sure we had a great childhood and brought us kids up with a strong work ethic.

“At the beginning, it was hard because I was a broke, homesick student and lived on two-minute noodles and tomato sauce when I was at uni.

“It’s challenging moving from a country town to the big city and I was always ringing up mum and asking for \$20 for a feed.

“Acting isn’t an easy industry and for any success there’s 1,000 failures – before, in-between and after.



Actor Deb Mailman plays Alex Levy in the ABC’s political drama *Total Control*, now in its third and final season.

Challenges

“There were challenges, but I had blinkers on – and nothing was going to stop me and I had a lot of faith in what I was doing.

“I’m lucky to be able to carve out the career I wanted, saying yes to opportunities and now I’m in a successful leading role.

“I love acting and all I want to do is work and resonate with great people.

“In my life, I have a ‘no dickhead’ policy.”

Total Control

In this final season of *Total Control*, Deb once again works

alongside some of the biggest names in Australian TV and film, like Rachel Griffiths (playing Rachel Anderson) and Rob Collins (playing Charlie Irving).

“I get so much joy because we have become like a family,” Deb said.

“It’s a Blackfella film and our writers haven’t shied away from the bullshit that happens for our communities.

“We can have deep conversations, tackle our frustrations and make fun and nuanced stories for ourselves and for our Mob.”

Deb describes her character Alex as “a smart, black woman

who is helicoptered into parliament and everyone has under-estimated her”.

“At first, all she wanted to do was create a medical centre for Elders in her town and she’s gone on to become a kingmaker,” she said.

Season Three

Season three is set two years since Deb’s character Alex anointed Paul Murphy (played by Wayne Blair) as Australia’s first Aboriginal Prime Minister.

In this season, Alex is fighting to get a nation-changing piece of legislation introduced, to ensure no Australian child will be

sent to prison.

“I love that she has been given the opportunity to show what’s possible as an Aboriginal politician,” she said. “It’s a great premise to explore as an actor

“This legislation is important and drives her. After the death of young person in custody, she wants to shake up the system where police keep kids incarcerated.

“It’s a big issue for us Mob and Alex is dealing time and time again with the failures of the system.

“In this season, her health is not great. She is carrying everything – all that weight, all the hurts and brokenness that we all feel. She also feels the inspiration to make a difference.

“It’s been the most rewarding role I’ve ever played.

“It deals with black politics and navigating between federal and state level. It’s also about how hard it is to juggle personal relationships with family and community.

“I take my hat off to politicians – it’s better being an actor,” she laughed.

The person

In her own life, Deb has two sons and is happily married. Despite having had body issues as she was growing up, she’s become a role model to many as she stands proudly in the limelight.

“I’m thankful and happy and while I get anxious, stressed and vulnerable, I try not to live there,” she said.

Deb said she always has time for others when they need someone to talk to.

“I give people time, patience and a willingness to listen when they are not doing so well,” she said.

“My advice is to be a friend to people, with no judgements.”

Calls for urgent action on dangerous jail conditions



TWO incidents at Alice Springs prison have highlighted conditions Aboriginal advocates and a union that represents corrections workers describe as dangerous.

The NT has some of the highest prison rates in the country, locking up 1127.8 people per 100,000 in the September 2023 quarter, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, more than five times the national average.

The Territory has the highest rate of recidivism, with 56.7% of prisoners returning to prison, well above the national rate of 42.7%.

The figures are worse for Aboriginal people, with nearly 3.5% of the Territory’s Indigenous population incarcerated during the same time period.

Only Western Australia locks up First Nations people at a higher rate (4%).

Last week, more than 20 prisoners in Alice Springs rioted, allegedly using bed frames and fans as weapons.

Guards used tear gas, two inmates were taken to hospital for treatment and two dormitories damaged.

About 15 prisoners on Boxing Day attempted to escape from Alice Springs jail when they tore through a ceiling and crawled through a roof space before the alarm was raised.

Justice Reform Initiative board member Olga Havnen said there hadn’t been an appetite from government to invest in alternatives to incarceration.

“We know that just simply incarcerating people over and over again doesn’t work, it’s highly costly and it’s totally ineffective,” she said. “At what point do we wake up and do something that has an effective evidence base?”

“The whole system is degraded, the judiciary, the police, the government, none of

this works and I understand and really accept the vulnerability and the frustration and the fear that ordinary people feel as victims of crime but what we’re doing clearly does not work.”

Ms Havnen called for a community-based and therapeutic approach to addressing drug and alcohol issues and mental health problems.

NT Attorney-General’s department figures show show corrections facilities are at capacity, with 41% of people in the two prisons on remand (not yet sentenced).

United Workers Union NT secretary Erina Early said the prison was short-staffed and in a poor state because damage from a riot in 2022 had not been fully repaired.

She suggested overcrowding, heat and boredom may have contributed to the incidents.

NT Attorney-General and Justice Minister Chansey Paech said the government was addressing the over-representation of First

Nations people in prison through its Aboriginal Justice Agreement.

Since 2020 the number of Aboriginal prisoners in the NT has been rising.

“Our government is supporting a new model of delivery towards reducing reoffending and imprisonment rates of Aboriginal Territorians; engaging and supporting Aboriginal leadership; and improving justice responses and services to Aboriginal Territorians,” Mr Paech said.

“We are delivering necessary changes that support healthy, responsible, safe and resilient communities such as a range of law reforms, community courts, law and justice groups, alternatives to custody programs and supported bail accommodation.”

Ms Havnen called on the government to install air-conditioning at the prison. A spokesperson for the Attorney-General’s department said temperatures at jails were monitored and additional cold drinking water supplies were available. – AAP

UN: Australia in breach of human rights covenant



A DECISION by the United Nations Human Rights Committee has criticised the Federal Court for breaching the rights of an Aboriginal native title claim group.

While the UN committee's decision is non-binding, it puts pressure on the Australian government, particularly if criticising other countries on human rights. And, potentially, raises questions about the native title system.

A spokesperson from the Attorney-General's department said the Australian government takes seriously its human rights obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and is considering the committee's views, with a response expected in the next month.

The Human Rights Committee found that Australia should reconsider the Wunna Nyiyaparli's native title claim and ensure that they have effective participation in those proceedings.

Until then Australia should: refrain from activities which might adversely impact the interests of the Wunna Nyiyaparli in their traditional lands; review any mining concessions granted over the traditional lands without the consent of the Wunna Nyiyaparli; and pay the Wunna Nyiyaparli adequate compensation for the harm they have suffered as well as reviewing legal aid funding to native title matters.

The claim in question

The claim in question covers the Roy Hill pastoral lease in the Pilbara and includes three iron ore mines controlled by Australia's richest people: Roy Hill (80 per cent owned by billionaire Gina Rinehart's Hancock Prospecting); Fortescue Metals Group's (the company founded by billionaire Andrew Forrest) Cloud Break; and



A general view of assembly of the high-level event commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023.

Christmas Creek.

The companies have agreements with the native title group over the area in question recognised by the Federal Court.

If the mining companies breach their agreements with the recognised native title holders, they're in breach of the requirements of the Native Title Act.

But the world's foremost human rights organisation has advised that these agreements should be reconsidered.

The lawyer who ran the case, Charles Sturt University legal academic Scott Calnan, said the Wunna Nyiyaparli people claimed: a breach of cultural rights as an Indigenous people when interpreted in the light of the right to self-determination; a breach of the right to due process, and; a breach

of the right of equality before the law.

First decision of its kind

It is the first UN Human Rights Committee decision both on a native title issue in Australia and, internationally, on the required procedure when governments determine the interests of Indigenous people to their land.

In 2012 the Wunna Nyiyaparli lodged a native title claim in the Federal Court.

"However, shortly thereafter they dismissed their lawyers and did not have funds to engage new lawyers so that they were self-represented," Dr Calnan explained.

"The Federal Court thereafter instituted a 'separate question' procedure that the Wunna

Nyiyaparli did not understand, did not prepare for, or follow court directions in relation to, because they did not understand those directions.

"Because of this, when the separate question was heard, the court decided that the Wunna Nyiyaparli were prohibited from making their own submissions or putting on any evidence of their own and the court struck out their native title claim."

The Wunna Nyiyaparli unsuccessfully appealed.

The Federal Court then granted the Nyiyaparli people's (a broader language group) native title claim, which encompassed the land the Wunna Nyiyaparli had lodged their 2012 claim over.

"This meant that the Wunna Nyiyaparli were no longer entitled

even to go to court again to challenge the decisions made about their traditional land," Dr Calnan said.

Wunna Nyiyaparli take claim to UN

In 2019 the Wunna Nyiyaparli took their grievance to the UN, and the case was determined in mid-2023.

"The Human Rights Committee in its decision found in favour of the Wunna Nyiyaparli and against Australia, finding that Australia had breached the cultural rights of the Wunna Nyiyaparli when read with the right to self-determination and the right to due process," Dr Calnan said.

"Our clients should have been given an opportunity to put on anthropological and other evidence.

"My clients say that they speak for that Country, they say that their ancestors are buried on that Country, that their Elders know the songlines and they have a duty to protect the sacred sites.

"They're actually really upset that mining operations on the land are destroying sacred sites, including marshes."

Dr Calnan said the decision opens an important new avenue for Indigenous people to complain to the UN about their treatment over Country rights.

"There are lots of Indigenous people who want to know their claims to native title are being dealt with fairly by a fair procedure," he said.

"That's all the UN decision, basically, is about: that, if you go to an Australian court claiming native title, you should have a fair procedure, you should be able to get enough legal aid so you can put your case."

The Australian Government has 180 days to consider its response to the decision and a response is expected by February. – AAP

City puts First Nations at the heart



A NEW First Nations Strategy will seek to drive understanding, recognition, and respect of First Nations people across the City of Parramatta.

The strategy, which has been in development and consultation for almost two years, builds on the legacy and learnings of Council's Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan, which increased spending in procurement from First Nations businesses and delivered greater incorporation of First Nations culture into programming including at Riverside Theatres and Parramatta Artists' Studios.

City of Parramatta Lord Mayor Cr Pierre Esber said the new five-year plan centres Dharug and First Nations people and communities at the heart of what council does.

"The Dharug and First Nations community is an important part of the



Jannawi Dance Clan continue to practise and share Dharug culture through dance.

unique tapestry of the Parramatta LGA," Cr Esber said.

"Our goals and actions must reflect the needs and aspirations of Dharug and other First Nations people who have a connection to this Country.

"Parramatta has always been an important gathering place for First Nations people, and we want to ensure it continues to be."

The strategy is guided by five pillars: social justice, cultural leadership, social

cohesion, celebration and accountability.

It will see council continue with existing commitments, such as the Warami Program and First Nations programming in council community facilities, and further identify and act on opportunities to increase First Nations specific applications to the council's Community Grants Program, improving the delivery of local services and programs.

It will also include an audit of civic participation and identify any barriers for First Nations people, identify cultural education opportunities, embed First Nations First Frameworks in Community Hubs programming, and improve the understanding of the role of the Internal Ombudsman for First Nations people amongst other actions.

Council will also work closely with the Dharug Nation to improve land access and caring for Country to enable cultural practice and create awareness about Dharug history on specific local sites.

After supporting one of their favourite bands, KISS, NT band Mulga Bore Hard Rock are now set to headline their own shows on a national tour.



Hard rockers ain't a bore



THEY are known as the band of school kids who travelled from their tiny community in the

Northern Territory to open for their heroes KISS, on the Gold Coast leg of their End Of The Road tour in 2022.

First Nations hard-rockers Mulga Bore Hard Rock (MBHR) are now set to hit Melbourne and Launceston this January, February and March, with their own headline show at Melbourne's Cherry Bar on January 19. Special guests on the night are local Melbourne rock'n'rollers The Subordinates.

Then they're off to Songlines' Share The Spirit Festival at the Myer Music Bowl in Melbourne on Invasion Day to open for No Fixed Address and Blackfire at the Brunswick Ballroom on January 27.

After heading back home for school, the group will then return to play the St Kilda Festival on February 18 and Mona Foma's big closing bash in Launceston at Cataract Gorge Reserve on March 2.

The band's sound pays tribute to early AC/DC, Ted Mulry Gang, the early Angels and early Rose Tattoo. It's also reminiscent of the early rifferama and glam theatrics of their heroes Gene,

Paul, Ace and Peter.

MBHR comprise six family members from the remote central Australia desert community of Akaye (Mulga Bore), about two hours northeast of Alice Springs.

It was front man Alvin Manfong, who is now the 19-year-old singer, songwriter and lead guitarist, who first came across KISS on YouTube when he was learning to play guitar.

He instantly fell in love with the music, the clothes, the make-up and the whole vibe.

When he got his cousins and brothers to form a band, their style emerged through jam sessions and covering classics

by KISS, Status Quo and Guns N' Roses – along with playing their own originals, which are sung in English and their Anmatyerre language.

Representing their tiny community school of around 15 students from bubs to seniors, MBHR started to gain attention when they were crowned Battle of the Bands champs at the 2022 Battle of the Bands NT competition.

Not long after MBHR found themselves opening for none other than KISS on their End of the Road farewell tour stop at Gold Coast Cbus Super Stadium.

The opportunity emerged

through a series of social media messages, by their manager to KISS and industry contacts pitching MBHR to open for their heroes.

The appearance resulted in national television, radio and press coverage on the *Today Show*, ABC TV and radio.

The band is working to bring their anthemic songs and glam rock flair to even more music fans and have released two singles – *Big Train*, inspired by the powerful freight train that speeds through their town on its journey from Adelaide, to Alice Springs, to Darwin – and the self-explanatory anthem *Let Me Rock'n'roll*.

koori

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Wadeye unrest blamed on lack of opportunities

By LIINA FLYNN



SIMMERING family tensions and outbreaks of conflict have again flared up in the remote Indigenous community of Wadeye.

Fighting broke out recently between rival family groups, just as the first rains of the hot and humid NT wet season fell.

Wadeye community resident Bill Ivory, who works with the local Kardu Diminin Corporation (KDC), told the *Koori Mail* the latest round of fighting involved several family groups, who sometimes use crossbows and other weapons during disputes which can become very heated.

While things have settled down, Bill said there are long standing issues in the community that haven't changed – including a lack of resources and a lack of adequate engagement between police and community residents.

After years of ongoing conflicts, the latest outbreak of fighting took place on the same day that NT Police Minister, Brent Potter visited the troubled township.

The Minister's visit followed a series of attacks and ram raids on the fortified Wadeye police compound, which prompted NT police to deploy the Territory Response Group to the township.

Bill said the situation in Wadeye was complicated and some residents would not leave their houses for fear of being attacked.

"There are so many people living here now and the hot conditions are conducive to arguments and fights," Bill said.

"At this time of the year during the build-up, tensions rise, and it doesn't take much to spark things off.

"It's not always the same groups fighting each other. Often



Pictured from the air, the remote community of Wadeye is located 320 kilometres south-west of Darwin, in the the Port Keats region of the Northern Territory. The isolated region is cut-off by poor road conditions and affected by heavy rain for about five months of the year during the Wet Season.

there are deep- rooted conflicts that go back years. Sometimes it's about land or resources, or jealousy."

Wadeye is the largest Aboriginal community in the NT and consists of 23 different clans from different areas.

The Kardu Diminin people are the Traditional Owners of Country, but Mob from outside the Port Keats region have been coming to live in the community since the 1930s.

Understaffed police

As well as overcrowded conditions and a lack of basic resources in Wadeye, Bill said that the local police station seemed understaffed.

"The police at times appear to struggle due to a lack of resources. I believe that we are supposed to have about 13 or 14 police staff, but in reality it's only appears to be about seven, on the ground," he said.

"We also need better engagement between the community and police, maybe ever better cross cultural training on both sides.

"The KDC represents the Traditional Owners and we have offered to run induction training

with police.

"We 've done a couple of community inductions, and we believe the attitudes on all sides need to change, including community, police, and service agencies.

"Some are posted here and perhaps don't want to be – and some want to be here and do engage with the community, getting involved with footy and festivals.

"Our induction can involve talking to them about the structure of community and protocol, so that there is better understanding all round as to why people do what they do.

"It's important because we have so many different tribal groups and clans living in the same community."

Bill said it's also important that community members better understand the role of the police and the pressures they are under.

"The community needs to step up and the leaders need to lead and engage with each other," he said.

"Wadeye leaders need to sort a lot of it out and work together with the police and the government."

Bill said the repeated attacks

on the police station are unfortunate and often happen when community members who had been in jail returned to Wadeye.

"There are some young fellas who are in and out of prison – and many times when they come back, they want trouble," he said.

"The majority of the community here wants peace, but like anywhere, the young ones often are bored, look for trouble and are completely disrespectful of police."

Solutions

With a lack of resources, education and work opportunities at the heart of the deep social issues in the community, Bill said more private and government organisations need to help out and provide solutions.

"We only have one shop and when it closes on a Saturday, there's nowhere else people can go for a feed," he said.

"Many residents go hungry in this place for a range of reasons and prices at the store are often expensive because of high freight costs.

"We need more organised activities for youth and better alternatives for family groups



Wadeye community member Bill Ivory works with the Kardu Dimini Corporation (KDC) and the NGB

wishing to return to their country in the short or long-term.

"The roads to outstations here and also the main road are in very poor condition and we need to work with government to improve them.

"When the local pool opened recently, all the kids had somewhere to go for once to swim, use up energy and go home and have a decent sleep.

"If we had better facilities here, this may alleviate some of the built up energy of the youth.

"We are constantly striving for better services and facilities so the town becomes a safer place where people want to live.

"We have a plan to get a new store constructed, and possibly a recreation club up and running. These ideas appear to have some support from government.

"NT Police Minister Brent Potter is also the minister for alcohol policy and we were hoping to talk to him, but he didn't contact the KDC or the Traditional Owners when he visited the community recently.

"We hope to build better relations with both the NT and Federal governments so that there are positive solutions for this community. The TOs here are very keen to build better working arrangements."

The *Koori Mail* contacted Minister Potter's office for comment, but had not received a reply at the time of publication.

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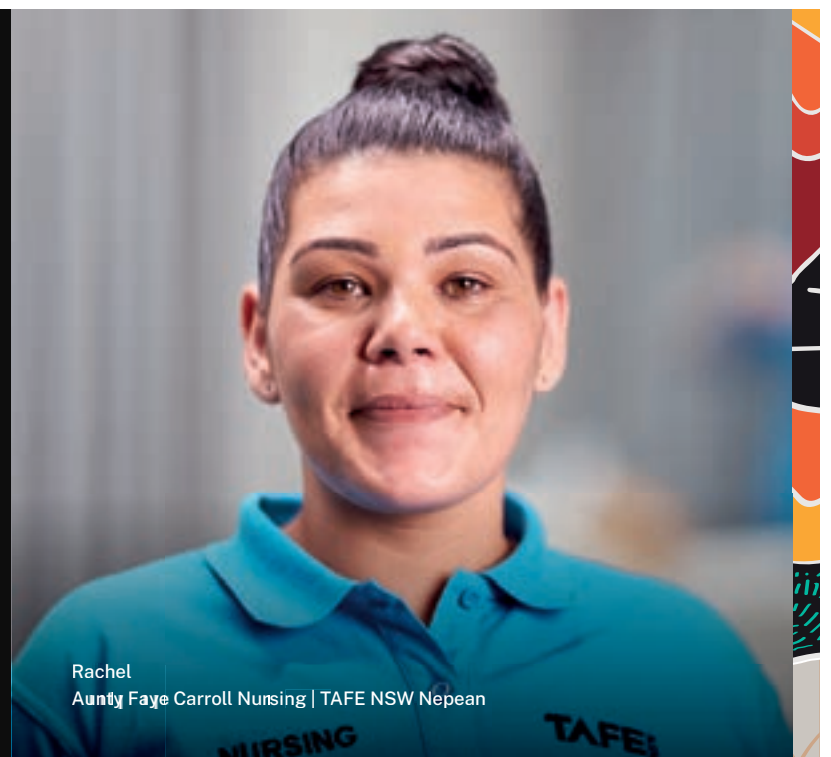
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Yabun honours our Mob



IT'S free, inclusive and it's thriving! The annual Yabun Festival is again set to light up Gadigal lands with music and fun on January 26.

Australia's largest one-day celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures will bring talented Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander musicians like Emily Wurramara and Tjaka to the stage and offers activities and experiences for everyone.

Established in 2003 by the Gadigal Information Service Aboriginal Corporation, the festival radiates the richness and resilience of our cultures through live music, kids' activities, market stalls, traditional performances and community discussions.

Theme

This year's Yabun theme, Surviving, Guiding, Thriving, reflects the resilience, wisdom, and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

After a challenging year with the referendum, organisers said the Yabun festival stands as a testament that regardless of



Traditional dancing is a popular feature of the Yabun festival.

political landscapes, Indigenous culture and communities continue to flourish.

Everyone is welcome to come together to honour the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to a thriving future where the world's oldest living culture, celebrates our heritage,

guidance and the vibrant tapestry of Indigenous life.

With MCs Majeda Beatty and Isaac Compton to guide the day's festivities, the artists' lineup also includes Mi-kaisha, Frank Yamma, Cindy Drummond, Tasman Keith, Glves, Green Hand Band, Velvet

Trip and Chasing Hosts.

Children's space

There is a fun space for our youngest attendees to learn, play.

A marketplace will showcase goods and products, highlighting craftsmanship and creativity.

Stalls include BRACKS Indigenous Clothing, Café Dreaming Redfern, Gillawarra Arts, Mary's Wiradjuri Beading, River Sistas, Saretta Art & Design, William Walker Respecting Country, Yaingayaingarra, Kallico Catering, and Dream Big Education Wellbeing & Consulting.

Speak Out

The 'Speak Out' tent is back with engaging and meaningful conversations about the crucial issues facing Aboriginal communities today.

MCed by Katie Leslie and Nathan Leslie, Corroboree is back and showcases culturally significant performances. Dance groups featured include Jannawi Dance Clan, Mui Mui Bumer Gedlam, Wagana, Brolga Dance, Yangkay, Djaadjawawan Dancers, Ngaran Ngaran Culture Awareness, Muggera, Buuja Buuja Butterfly Dance and Djawula Dancers.

A dedicated Elder's tent will be there where our Elders can relax, have a feed and connect with Mob. Yabun will take place on January 26, from 10am till 6pm at Victoria Park, Sydney.



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Enrol for 2024. Speak with your preferred kinder service or local council today about how to register for a place or visit vic.gov.au/koorie-kids-shine to learn more.

Australia called out over its human rights record



AUSTRALIA'S mistreatment of refugees and asylum seekers as well as the over representation of Indigenous people in custody have been called out by an international human rights group.

Human Rights Watch declared Australia's reputation "tarnished by some significant human rights concerns" despite being a vibrant democracy that largely protects civil and political rights.

"This includes the cruel treatment of refugees and asylum seekers as well as its failure to address systemic discrimination against First Nations people," the group said in a recent global report.

The organisation's Australia researcher Annabelle Hennessy criticised the federal government for continuing its

more than decade-long offshore detention regime. In September 2023, Australian authorities sent a group of 11 asylum seekers to detention on Nauru and another 12 people in November.

The human rights group noted the government allocated \$1.5 billion over the next four years to maintain detaining asylum seekers outside of its territory.

Its report mentioned the defeat of the Indigenous voice referendum, which would have enshrined a First Nations advisory body in the constitution.

"While this was unsuccessful in every state, Australia's state and federal governments remain obligated to uphold the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, which should remain a priority," Human Rights Watch said.

The over representation of Indigenous people in the

adult prison system, making up one-third of inmates despite only being three per cent of the population, was also called out.

At least 19 Indigenous people died in custody in 2023, including a 16-year-old who took his own life after being detained in prolonged solitary confinement in pre-trial detention.

Serious concerns about the treatment of children in custody and the use of chemical restraints in aged care were yet to be seriously addressed by the government, the group said.

Investigations into alleged war crimes committed by Australian troops in Afghanistan were described in the report as "important developments for justice".

"The families of the victims have been waiting for over a decade for prompt and adequate compensation," it said.

The suspension of

Queensland's human rights laws to allow police to detain children indefinitely, royal commission findings into people with disabilities facing serious neglect and abuse, and a lack of concrete actions to tackle human rights abuses in China were also mentioned.

The report pointed to Australia remaining the only Western nation without a human rights law or constitutional charter.

The human rights group praised Australia for securing the release of journalist Cheng Lei from detention in China as well as democracy activist Chau Van Kham, who spent four years in a Vietnamese prison.

"The Australian government has had some achievements in 2023 advocating for human rights on the international stage but needs to do more, particularly in the Asia-Pacific," the group said.

-AAP



A new report has criticised Australia's human rights record.

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FEB	22-24	- Global STOP Domestic Violence Conference - Asia Pacific New Directions in Juvenile Justice Reform Conference
JUL	15-16	- National All Abilities Initiative's: ANDIS Conference - National Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Conference
JUL	22-24	- National Closing The Gap Indigenous Health - National First Nations Substance Misuse Prevention - National First Nations Chronic Disease Closing The Gap Conference
SEP	5-6	- First Nations Strong Women's National Conference - First Nations National Employment and Training Conference - First Nations National Business and Enterprise Conference
OCT	2-4	- First Nations National Juvenile Justice Conference - Say No! To Family and Domestic Violence Conference
DEC	3-5	- First Nations National All Abilities Initiatives: ANDIS Conference - National Indigenous Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Conference - National First Nations Elder's Wellbeing: Greater Choices For Aged Care Conference

For more information please visit our website
www.icsconferences.org

Kids over-represented in juvenile detention



INDIGENOUS children are 29 times more likely than non-Indigenous kids to be locked up in juvenile detention centres across the nation.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a new report with data showing that, in the four years from June 2019 to June 2023, more than half (59%) of young people aged 10 to 17 in detention were Indigenous.

Maggie Munn is national director of Change the Record, a First Nations-led justice coalition dedicated to reducing the number of Indigenous people behind bars.

"First Nations children are incarcerated en masse across Australia due to racial profiling, over-policing and a complete and utter failure on behalf of governments to address the systemic disadvantage, discrimination and racism our people face.

"It's undisputed that First Nations people, people who experience housing insecurity or instability, people with disabilities or mental illness, people who live in poverty, people who experience family or domestic violence – all are exposed to the legal system at higher rates than those who live without those issues," Maggie Munn said.

"As a result we are seeing trends and tendencies where poverty, racial, economic and health issues are criminalised."



Activists have been highlighting the problem for years.

The statistics are even more stark for the youngest children legally able to be locked up, aged 10 to 13, with Indigenous kids 46 times as likely as their non-Indigenous peers to be in detention.

The number of Indigenous children aged 10 and older in detention has risen since the September quarter of 2020.

Before this, the number had been decreasing.

The vast majority of children in detention (77%) were unsentenced – that is, they were awaiting their initial court appearance or sentencing.

The remainder were serving a sentence.

On an average night in the June quarter of 2023, Indigenous children were more likely to be in detention than non-Indigenous young people across all states and territories.

"We are asking governments to invest in solutions that work," Maggie Munn said.

"There are hundreds of evidence-based programs that are working with children and

their families to give children the support they need."

Among the states and territories for which rate ratios could be calculated, the rate ratio for Indigenous young people aged 10 to 17 in detention ranged from 10 times the non-Indigenous rate in Victoria to 30 times in Western Australia.

In the NT, it is almost always above 90% and at times, all the children in detention are Aboriginal.

The NT and Queensland had the highest rates of Indigenous children aged 10 to 17 in detention (50 and 45 per 10,000, respectively) and Victoria had the lowest (7.7 per 10,000).

Across the four-year period, the NT consistently had the highest rate of kids in detention on an average night (6.6 to 22 per 10,000 aged 10 to 17).

During this time, there were declines in the rate of young people in detention on an average night in NSW, Victoria, WA and South Australia.

-AAP

The Mob who wrangle sharks



WHEN the crew from Joonga Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation receive a ping on their phones they don't check Insta or TikTok, they head straight to sea, hoping to check out a shark.

The Indigenous-owned business has the SMART (Shark Management Alert in Real Time) drumline contract for the NSW south coast from Batemans Bay to Broulee.

Every day its staff take the boat out and set lines with bait (usually mullet) at first light, about 500m from shore.

When it's taken, a satellite alert is triggered and sends a message to the crew, who have 30 minutes to reach the drum and get to work.

If it's a target species – a white, bull or tiger shark – its game on. All other animals are released.

Wally Stewart, a Walbunja man from the far south coast Yuin nation, manages projects for Joonga, including the shark contract, cultural boat tours and an all-Aboriginal dive team.

The Joonga crew have all had specialist training to work safely with sharks.

"We get the shark up beside the boat, lasso it in the middle and then we roll it over and,



The Joonga Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation's shark team and board in the NSW South Coast. (AAP Image/Supplied by Joonga)

basically, they go to sleep," Mr Stewart says.

The shark response is known as tonic immobility, whereby it goes into a calm, trance-like state so pictures can be taken of its gums and teeth along with measurements and small samples to share with scientists.

This greatly reduces the risk of the animal or crew being hurt.

A tag is then attached before the shark is released further out at sea.

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has 37 shark listening stations along the NSW coast, from Tweed Heads in the north to Pambula in the south.

If a tagged shark swims within 500m of one, information is sent via satellite to the SharkSmart app and the @NSWSHarkSmart X account so beach-goers and surfers can access real-time updates.

Data from the full network of stations also provides insights into the movements of sharks.

"It's about 10 per cent fishing and about 90 per cent science," Mr Stewart says.

"It's a great job for our young fellas that we trained up. Real work, important work.

"This is where they want to work for the rest of their lives. They're sea people, sharks don't

worry them, they've swum with them."

The relationship between NSW Fisheries and the south coast community hasn't always been harmonious.

It spent decades and thousands of dollars prosecuting Aboriginal fishers and there's still a class action in the wings.

But, for now, the Joonga team is collaborating on projects that help the health of local marine ecosystems, including a research program on sea urchins.

Populations have exploded along the east coast in recent years and are moving further south as ocean temperatures rise.

"Everywhere we go diving, there's nothing there anymore," Mr Stewart says.

"We identified all these fishing sites that we've been fishing forever, places our parents' fathers told us to look after, and they're gone.

"There used to be all this kelp and plenty of lobsters.

"Now there's all these sea urchins and it's barren."

Joonga trained up an Aboriginal dive team to work with scientists conducting underwater surveys, quantifying numbers and identifying species of sea urchin.

Later in 2024, the project will start removing urchins and see if kelp begins regrowing.

A commercial sea urchin business may also be possible.

The DPI says its shark management program, which also uses nets and drone patrols, is the largest in the world.

It says SMART drumlines have proven the most effective tool for catching target sharks, minimising the catch of non-target animals and maximising the survival of all animals caught on the gear.

It's collating more than 34,000 alerts from the listening stations to create interactive maps of tagged sharks, plus using satellite data.

When a shark breaks the surface long enough to be received, the tag 'pings' the location via GPS.

Sharks sometimes don't 'ping' for a time because they can travel vast distances; some of the tagged animals have been tracked to New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia.

For the Joonga crew, the day ends taking in the drumlines an hour before sunset.

"In summer it's long days for the boys and they can sit there all day, throwing a line in to catch a snapper to share with mob," Mr Stewart says.

"But the way the our guys are able to handle sharks is really good and they can't wait till they get a shark on the line."

—AAP

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Deadly caravan brings a

By SARAH ROBERTS-FIELD



AS they step inside an eight-metre caravan, young kids across Australia experience something life-

changing.

Inside, there are three digital audio workstations, a vocal booth and a workshop/learning space for up to 20 people.

It's operated by Mad Proppa Deadly (MPD), an innovative mobile music program that teaches First Nations youth how to write, produce and record music – for free.

The program is the brainchild of Gumbaynggirr and Gamilaroi man Nate Weatherall, a hip-hop artist, music producer and youth worker.

Created in 2018, MPD is an Indigenous corporation based in Armidale, NSW, that has turned a simple caravan into a music studio.

The studio space provides a culturally safe, creative environment and can travel anywhere to help regional and remote youth share their story through song – by introducing them to the technology needed to



Music caravan workshop participants at a Tamworth workshop.

create it.

Through these modern storytelling and technology skills, young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are empowered to connect with each other, their community and themselves.

Nate grew up on Gumbaynggirr Country in Armidale and said he couldn't find a studio or any of the spaces and tools needed for making music. It was an innate passion for him, as he'd been surrounded by music all his life.

Nate would travel to the Tamworth Country Music Festival every year with his family, and caught the music bug off of his great-grandparents – who were some of the first buskers at the festival when it started.

At age 12, his passion for hip-hop was ignited, prompting Nate to start rap with all his cousins in town. He fell in love with the digital technology of making beats and using looping programs, going on to write his first raps in the early 2000s.

"I wrote music, did a bit of



Music workshop participants in Tamworth, on Gomeroi Country.

performance and rapping for a few years with family, and once it really piqued my interest, it was something I'd always go back to," Nate told the *Koori Mail*.

His own experience was the catalyst for MPD; he wanted youth to experience something

he had always wanted at that age, too.

If they wish to write a song, look at the equipment and play around making a beat or freestyle, MPD now provides that opportunity for them.

It's not just in Armidale. The



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proppa studio to our Mob



Program creator and hip hop artist, Gamilaroi man Nate Weatherall is taking music to remote communities.

beauty of a fully mobile caravan is its ability to travel across the nation to remote and regional communities, into missions – and gift youth with an experience they may otherwise never have had.

"I first thought of it when I was sitting at my uncle's house, and had been doing workshops quite regularly, going to different communities," Nate said.



Buddy Knox plays blues in the caravan that's become a mobile recording studio.

"I thought it'd be really cool to have a caravan set up as a music space; that way, you don't have to try and look for something else.

"We don't have to come and take office space, but if you've got some power, we can pull up and use the space creatively like that."

Passing on knowledge of his own



Phil and Teria using gear in the mobile studio.

experience and skill has been most important to Nate over the past few years. He prefers going into communities, doing six-month traineeships with youth and teaching them how to do workshops.

"Then it's in the community and they can continue to utilise their new skills," Nate said.

"I think being active out on the ground has allowed a lot of youngsters to see that this is something they can grasp, and realise there is a real opportunity within it.

"It's really nice to be able to travel to those places, park up for a few days and have the young people in the community come through to enjoy it.

"We want to support these communities and youth that we work with in the regions; give them the opportunities they don't have, like others in the cities – because once upon a time, I was that young person



Mark Atkins recording vocals in the caravan.

looking for that next way through and I never had anybody there."

Nate emphasises the importance of MPD's work is being more than just a one-off, as he believes such projects fail communities.

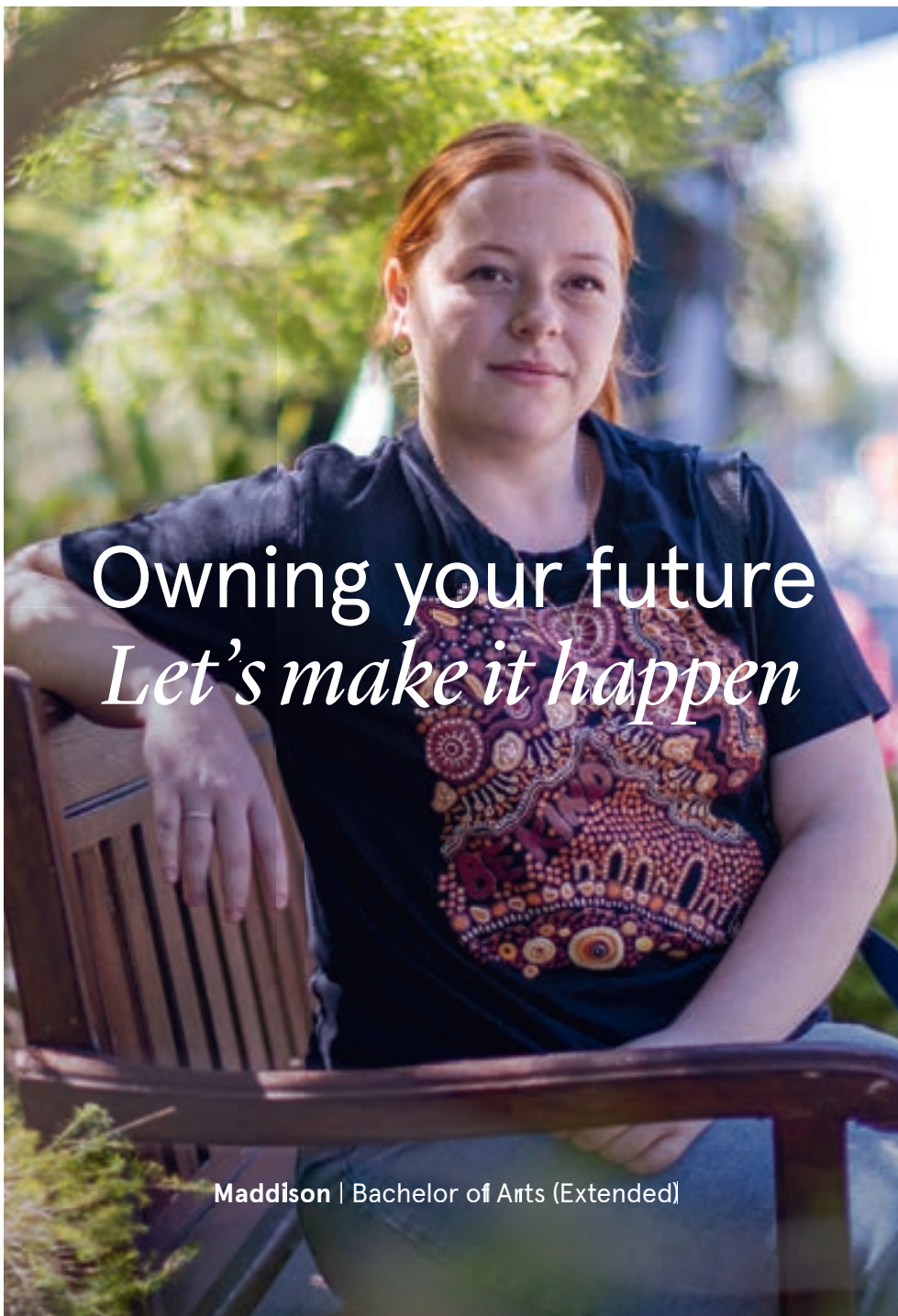
He doesn't want youth to lose their confidence or hope.

So on a weekly basis, the team creates more sustainable change by ensuring that gig opportunities and what is shared and learnt remains in place for participants use in the future.

Upcoming workshops

MPD has upcoming DJ workshops for free in Uralla, NSW, on Tuesday, January 24, from 10am to 3pm and in Armidale, NSW, on Wednesday, January 25, from 10am to 3pm.

To learn more and get involved, visit mpd.org.au



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Funding for women waiting for help against violence



EXTRA funding will help clear a waiting list for women seeking help against violence in Central Australia.

An additional \$7.6 million to support women and children experiencing domestic violence and expanding temporary accommodation places was announced last Thursday by Assistant Indigenous Australians Minister Malarndirri McCarthy and Lingiari MP Marion Scrymgour.

The Northern Territory has some of the highest rates of domestic and family violence in the country, with the Australian Bureau of Statistics finding 7,700 First Nations people per 100,000 (or 6,100) recorded a family assault to the police in 2022.

Women's Safety Services of Central Australia (WoSSCA) will receive \$4.1 million over four years to fund six additional roles, to help expand capacity in Yuendumu, Papunya, Ntaria, Ti Tree and a children's advocate. WoSSCA chief executive

Larissa Ellis said the extra funding would help to clear wait lists in remote communities and reduce the need for people to travel to Alice Springs for assistance.

"Our services deliver a crucial support for women and children in Alice Springs and surrounding communities and with this funding we're ensuring that if women need our help, we can be better positioned to provide it," she said.

Where you live shouldn't matter

"When it comes to family violence where you live shouldn't dictate how much support you can get, that's why we're focusing on our services for regional communities to ensure that support is where it's needed most."

Aboriginal Hostels Limited will receive \$3.5 million to construct up to 20 additional short-term beds at Apmere Mwerre Visitor Park in Alice Springs, offering families a safe place to sleep and to seek support.

The NT held the nation's largest coronial inquest into



NT federal Senators Malarndirri McCarthy and Marion Scrymgour.

domestic violence in 2023, where domestic violence homicide rates are seven times higher than the national average.

Aboriginal people accounted for 88 per cent of domestic and family violence-related assault victim-survivors in the NT in 2021, 79 per cent of whom were women.

Sophie Hantz, senior policy officer at the NT Council of Social Service (NTCOSS), said the funding was a fantastic start to the year.

"Children as victim-survivors in their own right often have complex and distinct needs from their parents," she said.

"So being able to have specific workers for children who are presenting to the service is awesome."

The NT government deployed at least 50 extra police to Alice Springs over summer as part of its plan to try to address alcohol-related offending.

Carol Smith, principal legal officer at Central Australian

Aboriginal Family Legal Unit (CAAFLU), said the investment into domestic and family violence was welcome, but funds were desperately needed by Aboriginal community controlled organisations.

Services need funding to continue

"CAAFLU already provides an outreach legal and support service to Aboriginal women and children in Yuendumu, Papunya and Ntaria but we have not received any additional funding to continue the work we have been doing for 24 years, despite seeing an increase in the numbers of people needing to access our services," Ms Smith, an Arrernte woman, said.

"We are aware that there are a number of remote Aboriginal communities in the Central Australian and Barkly regions, such as Mutitjulu and Finke, that do not receive any legal service support."

Senator McCarthy said all women and children deserve to feel safe and supported. **-AAP**

Beat the Heat

Hot weather
can be
dangerous



Everyone can be affected by hot weather.

There are simple ways to keep cool and stay hydrated in summer.

- Avoid being outdoors in the hottest part of the day as much as possible. If you have to go outside, seek shade or shelter.
- Keep your home cool by closing curtains and blinds to block out the sun and using air conditioning or fans.
- 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



NSW Aboriginal Land Council nominations open



NOMINATIONS are now open for the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) elections to be held on February 24, 2024.

NSWALC Councillors are elected to represent the political, cultural, social and economic interests of the Aboriginal community in New South Wales.

NSWALC chief executive Yuseph Deen urged all eligible candidates to get their nominations in.

"The elected councillors are responsible for setting the strategic direction of NSWALC, allocation of the council's resources and making decisions on important issues affecting Aboriginal people in New South Wales," Mr Deen said.

"The role of a councillor is critical in ensuring the Land Rights network continues to thrive. We have inherited a profound legacy; we need to continue to strengthen it for the next 40 years."

Candidates should make sure they leave time to prepare forms and lodge them with the NSW Electoral Commission, particularly if doing this by post.

"It's important that candidates submit their nominations as early as possible so that if there is an error, they can fix it," Mr Deen said.

"If a defect in the form or accompanying materials is not corrected by the close of nominations, then the nomination will be rejected."

Candidates for one of nine regional positions must have their forms received by the returning officer no later than midday on Tuesday, January 30. For more information, visit elections.nsw.gov.au/elections/local-government-elections/becoming-a-candidate-alc24

Perth barrister to replace Senator Pat Dodson



A PERTH barrister and son of immigrants has been chosen to fill the Senate vacancy left by the "father of reconciliation" Pat Dodson.

Varun Ghosh joined the Labor party in Perth aged 17 after his parents moved from India in the 1980s and began working as doctors.

He is currently a barrister at Francis Burt Chambers and has worked in commercial and administrative law, as well as industrial relations and employment law.

Mr Ghosh has an honours degree in law and arts from UWA where he also served on the Guild Council as chair and guild secretary. He also has a masters in law from Cambridge University in the UK.

Mr Ghosh said his preselection was an honour he won't take for granted.

"I have had the privilege of a good education and believe strongly that high quality education and training should be available to everyone," he said.

Yawuru man Senator Dodson recently announced he would retire on January 26, due to health reasons.

Mr Ghosh's preselection will need to be endorsed by Western Australia's parliament before he can take the federal seat.

Home ownership opens to remote communities



THE National Rural Health Alliance (the Alliance) has applauded the Federal government plans to enable residents to become homeowners in remote Indigenous communities, through long-term lease arrangements and investment by the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility.

"This would certainly play an important role in the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people, increasing stability and control over their own lives, with housing available 'on Country'," Alliance chief executive Susi Tegen said.

"Closing the gap can only be successful when Indigenous communities are in control by being able to make decisions which suit them and their communities. This includes home ownership. Housing security builds generational wealth and a sense of achievement and pride.

"Home ownership is crucial to fostering a safe and prosperous community and improving social outcomes.

"The Alliance acknowledges the importance of land and significance of ownership to Indigenous communities. From an indigenous perspective, land is not owned by a few. Rather, it belongs to everybody.

"More accurately, we belong to it. Therefore, owning land is not only about financial gain but also about the spiritual connections people build with their surroundings. We're pleased that the government has acknowledged this and taken steps towards facilitating home ownership for Indigenous communities."

Housing in remote First Nations communities is predominantly social housing and therefore, government-owned. There are limited opportunities for home ownership or other forms of housing.

Governments find it difficult to keep up with the demand for building and maintaining adequate housing in these communities. This results in long waiting lists for social housing, overcrowding, and poor-quality housing.

"We understand that Indigenous people in Australia face many health challenges and that those living in remote areas have higher rates of disease burden and lower life expectancy," she said.

"We hope that the latest government plans to increase the possibility of home ownership will help ease the burdens on this population and improve circumstances to lead a healthy and fulfilling life."

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NSW Aboriginal Land Council Election of 9 Councillors

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations were invited on Tuesday, 2 January 2024 for the elections to be held for the nine Councillors of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC). One member will be elected to represent each NSWALC Region:

Central	Mid North Coast	North Coast
Northern	North Western	South Coast
Sydney and Newcastle	Western	Wiradjuri

HOW TO NOMINATE

Nominations must be lodged by the close of nominations at 12 noon Tuesday, 30 January 2024.

Nominations, changes to nomination forms, or withdrawals of nominations will not be accepted after the close of the nominations. It is the responsibility of candidates to ensure that their nomination is complete before lodgement.

Nominations can be lodged by:

Email: candidates@elections.nsw.gov.au
In person: NSW Electoral Commission, 231 Elizabeth Street, Sydney
Post: PO Box N693, Grosvenor Place, Sydney, NSW 1220

A complete nomination must include:

- ALC.201 – Candidate nomination form
- ALC.201A – Statutory declaration – Grounds for disqualification from office
- Nomination deposit of \$50.00 (ALC.201B Nomination deposit return form should also be lodged).

The nomination deposit must be in the form of cash, bank cheque, credit union or building society cheque made out to the NSW Electoral Commission. The deposit can also be paid at any Westpac Branch by cash, bank cheque, credit union or building society cheque made out to the NSW Electoral Commission (personal cheques are not accepted). Further details can be found on the ALC.201 Candidate nomination form.

Candidate nomination forms are available from:

- elections.nsw.gov.au/NSWALC24
- 231 Elizabeth Street, Sydney (phone 1300 022 011 for an appointment)

Following the close of nominations, if more than one nomination is received for a Region, a draw to determine order of candidates' names on the ballot paper for the Region will be conducted at 2pm Wednesday, 31 January 2024 at the NSW Electoral Commission office on Level 13, 231 Elizabeth Street, Sydney. Candidates and/or their representatives are welcome to attend.

ELECTION DAY

Election day is Saturday, 24 February 2024.

MORE INFORMATION

For information on the election visit elections.nsw.gov.au/NSWALC24
Information about the election can also be found on the NSWALC website alc.org.au

John Schmidt
Electoral Commissioner for NSW
Returning Officer

The NSW Electoral Commission is providing electoral services for the conduct for the 2024 Election of Councillors for the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.



TO GATHER TOGETHER



Pictured left to right from CONNECT 2023:

Naomi Moran (Koori Mail), David Hulett (PromoGear), Eve Langford (Amber's Food Wraps), Deb Munson (Baagi Milaygiin), Laura Rose (IBA), Karen Seage and David Lappan (Snap Printing Underwood) and Shane Jacobs (Orana Services).

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Richmond Bridge in southern Tasmania was part of the Richmond bicentenary celebrations.

Bridging the gap

Richmond bicentenary acknowledges Traditional Owners

By ALF WILSON



THE devastation caused by colonial settlement to the Mumirimina people in southern Tasmania was recognised during 200-year celebrations for Richmond town.

Celebrations for the bicentennial of Richmond (26 kilometres from Hobart) will take place until March. Events started in December last year with a street parade and another 70 will take place over 'Five Weekends in the Coal Valley'.

City of Clarence Mayor Brendan Blomeley, said Richmond was regarded for its rich and diverse history, and acknowledged the hardship of the Aboriginal people.

"So much has taken place here in Richmond, there are many stories to be told, and this has been a truly memorable event to recognise those who have lived here before us," Cr Blomeley said.

"Not everyone knows the river at Richmond was used by the Mumirimina people for hunting and fishing for thousands of years but their stories are just as important as the establishment of the village, and as the the coal valley became a rich agricultural area."

The bicentennial is presented by the Richmond Bicentenary Planning Committee and the Clarence City Council – and both acknowledged the Mumirimina people.

"Any historic commemorations of Richmond cannot be separated from the devastation colonial settlement

meant for the Traditional Owners of Country – the Mumirimina people of the Oyster Bay nation," a council spokesman said.

"Through talks, music and events, the Richmond Bicentenary program acknowledges the Mumirimina people's deep connection to Country, waterways, and sky."

Bridge walk

The Richmond Bridge was a part of the street parade last year. Work on the Richmond Bridge started in December 1823 and finished two years later. It is Australia's oldest bridge still used by traffic – including trucks up to 25-tonne load limit.

As people approached the iconic bridge during the parade there was a moment of truth-telling where participants were asked to 'think as they walk' in an act of recognition for the Mumirimina people, who within 15 years of Richmond's establishment, no longer remained on their land.

An exhibition was also on display at Richmond Courthouse titled, *Mumirimina: Country and People*. It featured 12 artworks depicting the people and stories of lands stolen and lives ruined, further underscoring the contrast between Richmond's prosperity and the overwhelming Mumirimina loss.

The Sounding the Bridge concert took place at the Richmond Town Hall on the Saturday evening with Coal River Valley composer and pianist Louise Denson debuting her musical work *Bridge*.

Part of the same event included a performance of

mulaka milaythina (The Hunting Ground) by Warlpiri and Palawa woman Nunami Sculthorpe-Green, in collaboration with Louise Denson. It first debuted at the 2023 Clarence Jazz Festival.

'Weekends in the Valley' events

January 18-22: Richmond History Festival Talks, exhibitions.

January 21: Collectors' Roadshow – guided tours, and events focused on Richmond and the Coal River Valley and its role in Tasmanian development.

February 3-10: Convict muster. Explore convict ancestry with keynote speakers,

February 10-12: convict history-themed talks and music.

February 10 and 11: Heritage Farming Expo. Experience traditional farming demonstrations and displays, and the contribution of convict farm labourers. Presented with Hobart Vintage Machinery Society.

February 23-27: Bicentenary of Town Proclamation. Open House Richmond, presented with the Australian Institute of Architects, offers unprecedented access to more than thirty properties. Explore Richmond's diverse architecture along with special events, walks and talks, and exhibitions.

March 8-11: Fruits of the Valley. Celebrate the 2024 harvest at the Richmond Village Fair. A celebratory street party for local residents will conclude the festivities.

Funding opens for languages



EXPRESSIONS of interest are now open for the First Nations Languages Education Program which aims to teach and strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Developed in partnership with First Languages Australia (FLA), the national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, the initiative recognises that each community has different aspirations and needs for teaching and sustaining First Nations languages.

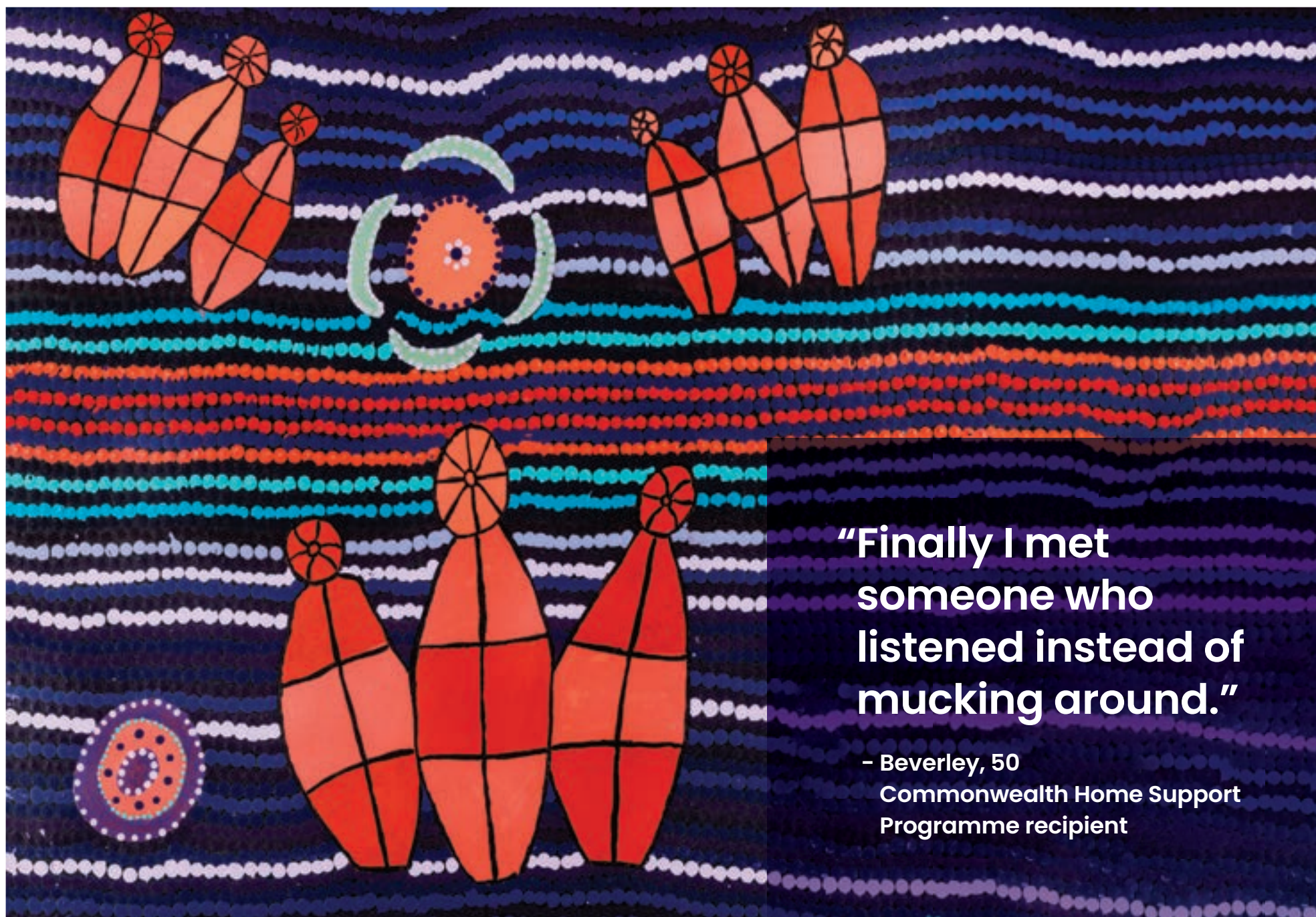
As well as funding a local language plan, the program will also support up to 60 First Nations Language educators in primary schools across Australia.

Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy said "all students, Indigenous and non-Indigenous will benefit from this program that will ensure First Nations languages thrive into the future".

The Program aims to progress Target 16 of Closing the Gap, to support a sustained increase in the number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken.

Communities that register their interest will first work with FLA to develop a local language plan.

Applications close February 28. For more information, visit education.gov.au/schooling/first-nations-languages.



**“Finally I met
someone who
listened instead of
mucking around.”**

– Beverley, 50
Commonwealth Home Support
Programme recipient

Artwork by: Dr Mick Adams

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Denise spreads health message following a battle with cancer



AT 79 years old, Denise Berry has no plans on slowing down and is spreading an important message to the community.

The Aboriginal Elder from the Illawarra has become an advocate for early detection measures to beat bowel cancer, following her own diagnosis of the disease this year.

Like most women, Aunty Denise focuses her attention on the health and wellbeing of her family and community – her needs often coming last.

Changes

It wasn't until she started noticing changes in her bowel habits that she realised her health needed to come first.

In early 2023 Denise visited her doctor at the local Aboriginal Medical Service for further investigation and was diagnosed with bowel cancer.

"When the doctor told me, I went numb," Denise recalls.

"I just sat there and couldn't

even think. It was frightening."

After successful treatment, Denise is now cancer-free. She is encouraging eligible people to do the free test with the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program, even if they have no signs or symptoms.

"You have to do the test to find the cancer – don't leave it until it's too late.

"Do the test as part of your regular health check.

"If not for yourself, do the screening for your family, your children, and your grandchildren".

Free screening

All eligible Australians aged 50 to 74 will receive the free at-home screening kit in the mail or through their health professional every two years.

Aunty Denise wants her experience to serve as a lesson to others to complete their bowel screening kit.

"When you receive the kit, open it, and do it," Denise says.

"There is no 'shame' in using it and posting your samples back."

Bowel cancer is one of the most

common cancers affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, however with regular screenings and early diagnosis, almost all bowel cancers are treatable.

Rich life

Now, between mothering, exercising, and spending time with her grandchildren, Denise continues to lead a rich and fulfilling life and wants others to have the same opportunity.

"It is most important that we look after each other but even more important to be responsible for your own health," Aunty Denise says.

"Do the test. It could save your life".

Information

For more information, visit www.indigenousbowelscreen.com.au or have a yarn with your health professional.

To order a replacement kit contact the National Cancer Screening register by visiting www.ncsr.gov.au, talk to your health professional, or call the Screening Register on 1800 627 701.



Aunty Denise Berry urges everyone to take care of their health.

IMP: It's more than running



Applications for IMP 2024 are now open!

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Fearless leader honoured



TO some, Dr Bush-Blanasi was a fierce Indigenous rights activist, to others, he was the most stubborn man in the room.

To most, he was both.

The former chair of the Northern Territory's most powerful land council was remembered at a state funeral service in Darwin on Friday.

Dr Bush-Blanasi died in early November aged 61, after serving nine terms on the Northern Land Council board, including four as chair representing 51,000 people in the territory's largest council jurisdiction.

Friends, family, colleagues and even foes remembered the Yolngu and Mayili man as a fearless and respected Indigenous leader.

"His dedication to land rights and Indigenous empowerment was not a solitary journey but one fueled by the collective love and encouragement of those closest to him," his brother Conway Wirrapanda Blanasi said.

"His legacy is not just in the milestones, advocacy and change but also in the years of connection that rippled through communities."

A passionate advocate for the voted-down Voice to Parliament referendum, he 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.

NT and federal politicians were among



Mourners pay their respects during the state funeral of Indigenous rights activist Dr Bush-Blanasi in Darwin, Friday, December 15, 2023. Picture: AAP, Neve Brissenden

the hundreds of people who attended the funeral.

Federal NT senators Malarndirri McCarthy and Marion Scrymgour were emotional during their eulogies, with Senator McCarthy calling him a friend and respected colleague.

"He had an incredible ability to call things out to us as political leaders on all sides of politics and to talk straight," she

said.

"He had to work with all sorts of industry, mining, fishing and pastoral groups and it takes a great deal of skill to be able to agree to disagree but still have the respect of those people."

Dr Bush-Blanasi was named 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.

In her speech, NT Chief Minister Natasha Fyles called Dr Bush-Blanasi a "truly inspirational leader and role model".

"May his spirit continue to guide us as we carry forward his vision of a world where every individual is empowered to reach their full potential," she said.

Lisa Mumbin, chairperson of the Jawoyn association representing and promoting the views of Jawoyn Traditional Owners, worked closely with Dr Bush-Blanasi.

"He was a fighter, and he never gave in to anyone," she said.

"He would walk into (our) office past the reception with no appointment, as we all know, no appointment for him."

Ms Mumbin had known him since he was three years old, taking on a maternal role from a young age.

She spoke fondly of having to pull him up on his attitude.

"I had many fights with my son," she said.

"He was stubborn in many ways, he can be good, he can be bad and he can be terrible."

"But he loved so many people and respected so many people."

Dr Bush-Blanasi's body now begins the four-hour journey back to Beswick where it will be returned to his family.

"Many of my people are not here today," Ms Mumbin said

"They're waiting for my son to go home where he belongs." – AAP



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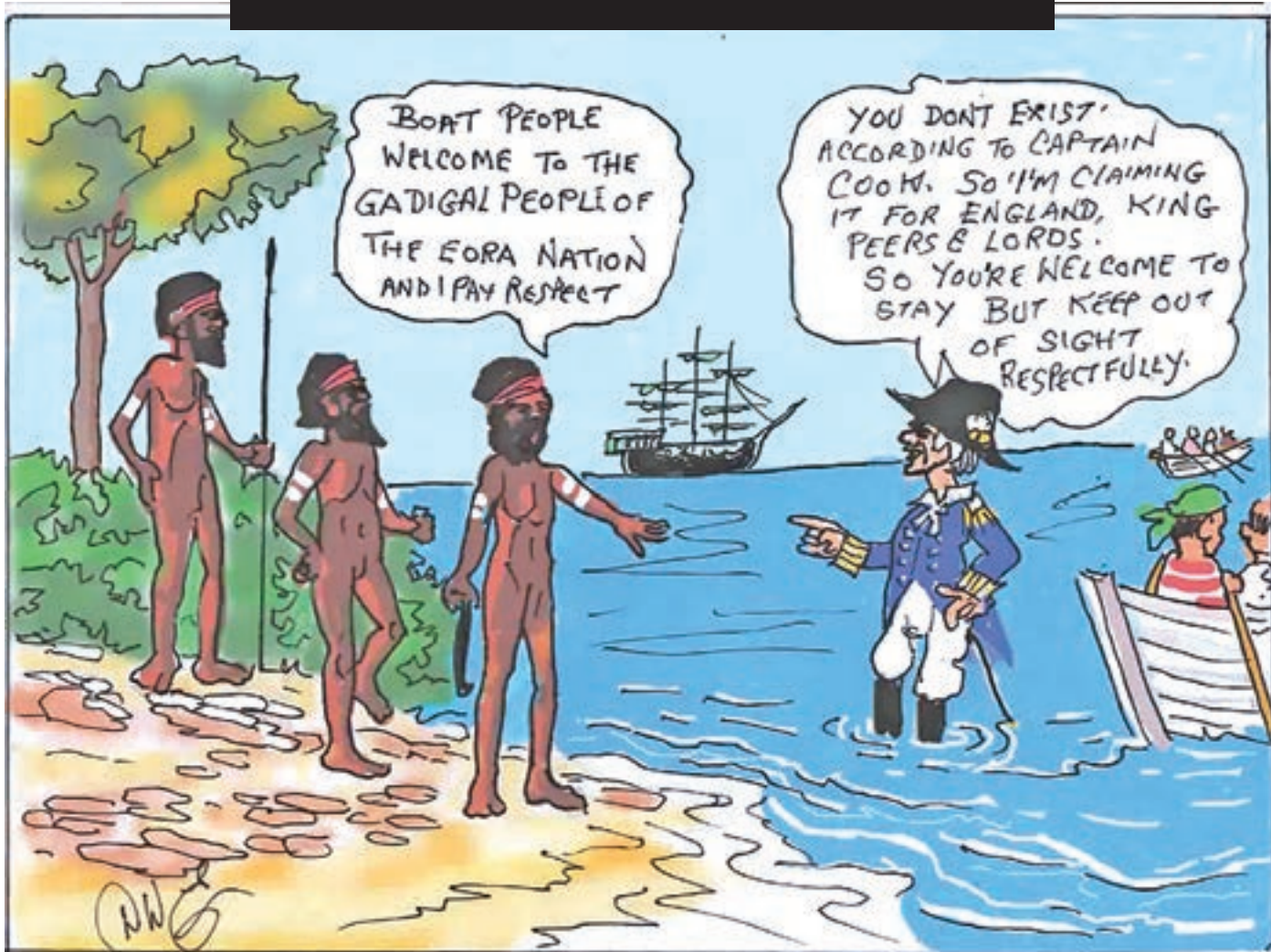
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Danny Eastwood's view



A YARN WITH...



Evelyn Billy Injinoo, Cape York

Favourite bush tucker?
Wallaby made into curry..

Favourite other food?
Thai food, especially combination with noodles.

Favourite saltwater food?
Crayfish, my husband Gibson is from Yorke Island and we get some sent down.

Favourite non-Indigenous food?
Stroganoff.

Favourite drink?
Lemon, lime and bitters.

Favourite music?
Bethel Worship.

Favourite sport?
Rugby league. I grew up in a football family.

Favourite rmovie?
Ike and Tina Turner.

Favourite holiday destination?
Magnetic Island, off Townsville.

What do you like in life?
I like to encourage others.

What don't you like in life?
Making excuses.

Which person would you most like to meet?
Jesus Christ – being a Christian, he is so important.

Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire?
My close family members including my late mum who I would like to have a long yarn with.

Who or what inspires you?
Indigenous people who have businesses as they work hard.

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people?
I try and help young people to work and encourage them to have a good life.

Quote



“In my life, I have a no dickhead policy.”

– Bidjara/Maori actor Deb Mailman talks about career and her role in Total Control.

● See page 5

Unquote

Unwelcoming moves spread

Cane toads were first introduced in far North Queensland but have now spread across all of Australian and have become a troublesome plague.

Perhaps the growing spread of councils and councillors who want to scrap acknowledgements could be likened to the spread of cane toads across Australia.

The calls from councils and councillors who want to scrap acknowledgments of Country at meetings (often wrongly labelled as welcomes) is spreading from South Australia and Western Australia, to NSW.

Or perhaps it's like the transmission of the Covid virus across the continent.

So what's the solution? Freezing? Isolation? A vaccine maybe?

Difference

There's a difference between a Welcome to Country and an acknowledgment of Country.

In NSW, it seems some councillors are unclear about what these differences are.

Only an Aboriginal person from the Country upon which the meeting or event is taking place can deliver a welcome to Country.

Any other Aboriginal person must deliver an acknowledgement of Country. The same goes for any non-Aboriginal person – they can only deliver an



acknowledgement of Country.

Perhaps understanding can only begin by understanding the terminology and its meaning – understanding takes a willingness to listen and learn.

When fear drives disguised racism, it shows up in ignorant comments made by people responding to inflammatory remarks from their chosen leaders.

It seems some councillors and their constituents believe it is about being welcomed to Australia, the nation. But that's not correct. Whether a welcome or an acknowledgement, the act is a deliberate recognition of the tribal lands on which the event takes place, as well as the people who have belonged to, and cared for, that land for thousands of years.

As arts executive Rhoda Roberts says, it's 'simply a matter of good manners' as we address the 'cultural amnesia of the country'.

It's not about who owns the land, but it's one small step in the path toward reconciliation and a continuation of saying sorry to the First Inhabitants of Australia who were colonised, murdered and moved off their lands once the white settlers arrived

KOORI MAIL 100% ABORIGINAL-OWNED

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

Talk turns into action

Human rights award winner brings change to our communities

By LIINA FLYNN



WHEN it comes to making change, Waanyi/Kalkadoon lawyer Sandra Creamer gets results.

Last year, the Adjunct Professor and researcher won the Queensland Council of Social Services (QCOSS) human rights award for her extraordinary efforts in advocating for Mob in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Better lives

Helping other people to live a better life is at the heart of everything Sandra does.

As a researcher, she's visited many Aboriginal communities and talked to people to find out what the real issues are.

"I've recently been doing research with the University of Queensland, working on the rights to health of Indigenous Peoples under the new Human Rights Act," she said.

Barriers

"We go into communities and speak to people about their health concerns – and there are discrimination barriers out there.

"They told us interpreters for Indigenous people were needed in emergency departments – in places where their language is not the main language.

"Now, we need to do something to change things."

Extra mile

Sandra's work doesn't end with talking – she also goes the extra mile to find solutions to the problems.

"It's about making sure we support them in what they need," she said.

"I've also been interviewing people about righting the wrongs that are happening with kids in care and getting small grants for youth programs in community groups across Queensland."

Helping women

Sandra has worked with Indigenous women in Australia and globally, and believes it is important to empower Indigenous women for self-determination, equality on their rights, as well as understanding how they can challenge issues that affect their communities.

She was instrumental in organising for personal hygiene products to be made freely available to Indigenous women in remote communities.

"People don't have much in those communities when it come to health and basic human needs," she said.

So, Sandra worked with the organisation Share the Dignity to make sure women were able to have hygienic bags for women's products.



Waanyi/Kalkadoon lawyer and Adjunct Professor Sandra Creamer with Queensland Human Rights Commissioner Scott McDougall and QCOSS chief executive Aimee McVeigh. Prof Creamer is pictured with her QCOSS human rights award.

"These things are expensive in those communities," she said.

"Modibodi gave us 1,000 pairs of period pants to give out – and then we built a distribution network, together with non Indigenous organisations.

"Doing these things for women is really important."

Water and hygiene

Finding small grants for much-needed infrastructure is another way Sandra continually helps people in Indigenous communities.

She has worked on health projects where water and hygiene was a concern, then sourced funding to get water tanks.

"I sourced small grants for outstations in the NT where I'd interviewed people at, so they could get water tanks installed there," she said.

"I also got grants for water tanks in town camps around Alice Springs.

"I make sure they can control their own economies – through education and workshops – then they can build and grow things for themselves.

"It's about truth telling ... letting people know 'these are the hurdles we have in life' – and by doing this, we can help make change."

"It's Mob creating opportunities for our Mob.

"I'm battling for them – we are here to pass all that on and have our Mob help."

Growing up

Sandra grew up in Kalkadoon Country, Mount Isa, in a family of 12 children.

"We didn't have too much," Sandra said.

"My mum passed away when I was young and dad worked on a station out bush while family members brought us up."

Education was important to Sandra and she went on to get a law degree, then became an Adjunct Professor of Public

Health at the University of Queensland.

As a single mother, Sandra has an intimate understanding of the struggles that women just like her were going through.

"Becoming a lawyer then gave me an opportunity to turn around and help them," she said.

Lawyer

When she was admitted to the Bar, it was Sandra's son, barrister Joshua Creamer, who admitted her into the Supreme Court.

"It's the first time a son did that," she said. "I wanted to help open doors.

"It's about truth telling – when we are working we are letting people know 'these are the hurdles we have in life' – and by doing this, we can help make change."

Awarded

In 2019, Sandra was awarded an AM for her service to Indigenous women and has been the chief executive of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance (NATSIWA).

QCOSS chief executive Aimee McVeigh described Sandra as an advocate, author, lawyer and international human rights leader who has made an inspirational difference for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

"It's an honour to highlight and celebrate all the award finalists' life-changing work," she said.

"Queensland is a better place thanks to their tireless efforts and dedication to their clients and communities.

"Their compassion, courage and commitment to deliver what is needed is inspirational."

Border Ranges escarpment. Pictures: J Spencer DPE

Gidjuum Gulganyi calls

'Old People's Track' invites walkers to Bundjalung Country



WHEN the new Gidjuum Gulganyi Walk in Northern NSW is completed this year, it will span 39 kilometres through a national park that protects some of the last remaining refuges of the ancient Gondwanan rainforests.

The multi-day walk, now under construction, stretches from the new Unicorn Falls carpark in Mount Jerusalem National Park (NP) to Minyon Falls.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) senior project officer Daryl Moncrieff said the walk will deliver a world-class bushwalking experience and will help to foster advocacy for environmental conservation and sustainability.

Widjabul Wiabul

Mr Moncrieff said advice was sought from Widjabul Wia-bal Native Title holders and the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) to ensure the route did not impact areas of cultural significance.

"The track's name – Gidjuum Gulganyi – was decided by Widjabul Wiabul native title holders and the Wollumbin Consultative Group," he said.

"It means 'Old People's Track', in recognition that the trail passes through the ancient traditional lands of the Bundjalung Nation, who have occupied the area for many thousands of years.

"It is a priority for NPWS to work

closely with Aboriginal communities on this project and provide opportunities for them to share their culture and participate in, and benefit from, the regional tourism industry."

Once complete, the three-night, four-day Gidjuum Gulganyi Walk will form part of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service network of 13 Great Walks across NSW.

"The hinterland of the Northern Rivers is one of the most biologically diverse parts of Australia, protecting some of the last remaining refuges of the ancient Gondwanan rainforests,"

Mr Moncrieff said.

"The Gidjuum Gulganyi Walk, and the new shorter walks linked to it, will provide opportunities for a diverse range of visitors to enjoy three spectacular conservation areas – Mount Jerusalem National Park, Whian Whian State Conservation Area and Nightcap National Park – and will strengthen the appeal of the Northern Rivers region as a walking destination,

The route includes 28.4 kilometres of existing walking tracks, park management trails and old logging trails, which will be upgraded to walking track standard, and 10.8 kilometres of newly constructed walking track.

Three new remote, walk-in camps will be built to provide basic facilities such as tent platforms, shelters and toilets. These camps have been designed to accommodate a



Blackbutt Lookout in the Border Ranges.

sustainable number of low-impact walkers.

"Our national parks play a critical role in encouraging locals and visitors alike to value and protect the hinterland environment, and the rare and threatened species that call the area home," he said.

"The walk was designed according to a minimal impact approach, using existing trails and disused logging tracks.

"The walk allows the natural elements to determine the route to reduce the need for further disturbance in constructing new trails."

Construction of the walk is expected to be completed mid-2024.



Minyon Falls in Nightcap National Park.



Koonyum Range. Pictures: J Spencer DPE

“The hinterland of the Northern Rivers is one of the most biologically diverse parts of Australia, protecting some of the last remaining refuges of the ancient Gondwanan rainforests”.



Palms Forest Walk - Border Ranges.



Map of the new multi-day Gidjuum Gulganyi Walk stretching from Mount Jerusalem National Park to Minyon Falls. Picture: NPWS



Minyon Falls in Nightcap National Park.



Bar Mountain in the Border Ranges.



Trees in the high altitude of the Border Ranges.

The divisive day is here

Ella Noah Bancroft

January 26. The day that divides a nation. The day that the mainstream culture has always told us to celebrate. The day that causes so much pain and so much joy.

The day that keeps us divided.

Perhaps it's time we stop taking cues from the dominant culture and reach into our hearts – to reflect and take accountability for our part in a society that thrives off division.

The cracks of this system have been showing, and now it's not just Indigenous people that feel and see the injustice of this colonial project, we now have entire generations of our youth standing up for our land, waters, better justice systems, fighting the corporate control machine and understanding that people and the planet have to go before profit or they won't have a future.

Perhaps we really have to sit in what it means to be Australian?

What does our culture see as success?

What are the key values and belief systems of this current mainstream culture?

Where did the name Australia even come from? It came from the Latin words Terra Australis, which means Southern Land.

Who and what was destroyed in order to birth the Australia we know today?

Whose land was stolen?

What does it mean to even be Australian – to disregard hundreds of years of ancestry and just claim a new, more destructive way of living in this world and the attempted erasure of the oldest living culture in the world?

So, celebrate being Australian, but remember that many beings, both human and more than human, have had to die to allow Australia, “the lucky country” to thrive.

Who is lucky in our communities?

Those who want to profit off the fertile soils, the old growth trees, the crystal clean waters and use these resources to build the wealth of individuals and the nation.

These resources are not for trading, or for selling, or for making money. These resources are literally our ancestors.

The stones, the sand, the waters, the soil – they are our ancestors and so we must start to see how the capitalist colonial project continues to have power over all living beings on this continent in the name of profit and privilege.

Remember that your privilege rests on the bodies of many beings taken to fuel the continuation of this (more recent) and destructive culture known as ‘Australian’.

I pray that January 26 is a time that we reflect and mourn



Bundjalung woman Ella Noah Bancroft addresses the crowd at the 2023 Survival Day rally, held on Bundjalung Country in Cavanbah (Byron Bay).

“I do not want to celebrate the ‘Australia’ that holds this continent with unsustainable systems of oppression.”

the deep grief that the land holds.

A day of mourning and grieving the attempted destruction of a culture that cared and sustained healthy life on this continent for more than 60,000 years.

A day to mourn our poisoned waters, our degraded soils, our old cedar trees taken and cut down.

A day to mourn the blood shed from both human and more than human to make way for this culture of dominance and power to take over.

I do not want to celebrate the ‘Australia’ that holds this continent with unsustainable systems of oppression. I know that the land, the land and the waters are crying.

They are mourning the loss of the custodial culture that protected them since time immemorial.

I am mourning the silencing



of our magic, as humans, to exist within the reality of the concrete jungle.

A realist that creates more disconnection, separating us further and further from our truth and purpose to be in right relation to all around us.

The truth about January 26 is that it's the day that Captain Phillip and colonist ships came to shore and built a colony that values extraction, greed, destruction and profit over people.

This isn't an us versus them day, it's actually about realising that the current system that was forced upon this continent is one that doesn't serve many of us.

Our nation might be getting richer, but our people and our planet are getting sicker.

I do not want to celebrate using the dispossessed peoples of Europe to build a new empire in the name of Christianity, to continue the colonial project and

“This day is a day not to celebrate, but to reflect on what was lost. To reflect on what the symbolism of that day was to not only Indigenous Australians, but to all human beings on this planet who are fighting for love and connection to Country.”



Pictured left: Signage at the Cavanbah Survival Day 2023. Above: Community members united in Cavanbah on January 26, 2023, to mark a day that has become increasingly divisive.

the attempt to try and destroy the oldest living culture on this planet.

The symbolism of January 26 also marks the day in which our ancestors died trying to protect their more than human kin, children and women.

It marks the day that the European empires continue their great reign over the world.

It marks a day of a changing of consciousness on this planet, as so many of our Indigenous peoples' lives were taken, and with some of them, went the knowledge systems of 60,000+ years.

The culture that knows more magic than you could even imagine. The culture that was thriving in amongst the harsh Australian bush and desert landscape.

The culture that made and protected the soils that yield the harvest and fruits that this country so relies on to be a part of the big global trade system.

This day is a day not to celebrate, but to reflect on what was lost.

To reflect on what the symbolism of that day was to not only Indigenous Australians, but to all human beings on this planet who are fighting for love and connection to country.

For the people who want community and village living, for those who care about the waters and the food and the soil.

What happened on that day became like a domino effect – to the most extractive system this

world has ever seen.

Our ancestors protected this country. The soil was moist, it was soft, and mostly it was so alive that every seed would thrive.

On Bundjalung Country where I live, was where the forest met the sea.

Our old, big cedar trees, our ancestors of protection, with tree trunks bigger than you can ever imagine. Trees that were allowed, under our original culture to thrive, to be in connection and kinship – taken in one swift blow.

Suddenly the boats came, gun shots fired, poison given, the land gets cleared, the blood fills our river ways, our cedar trees fall to the ground with a great thump.

A thump so loud it echoed to the ends of the earth.

In one action, gone. A cedar tree that has lived in our ecosystem for thousands of years, carrying so much energy, gone, sent back to England to build buildings for the coloniser.

This day is not a day for us to be divided, but one for us to come and unite through our common humanness, stating that this system is not sustainable.

It's important we all take time to reflect upon the death and destruction that is caused by our “first world”.

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



draws a crowd

By ALF WILSON



THOUSANDS of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, women and children enjoyed the unique Christmas event Stable at Riverway last December.

They were amongst more than 30,000 at the Townsville event, now held at the idyllic Riverway beside the fresh water of the Ross River.

Now in its 23rd year, the event, which had previously been held at Strand Park on the other side of town near the sea, took months of preparation by volunteers from the Combined Churches of Townsville.

Shalom Dancers

Under the guidance of Chaplain Andrew Bollom, the Shalom Dancers arrived from the communities of Tennant Creek, Mount Isa, Yarrabah, Palm Island, Mornington Island, Northern Peninsula Area and, Cape York and Charters Towers.

Playing an important role alongside a Roman soldier, they entertained people on the main stage before the official opening. When they arrived at the entrance to Bethlehem town, the soldier asked them, "who goes there?" The dancers replied, "the first people of this nation, this is our land, may we come in?"

The soldier said, "we welcome the first people of this nation whose ancestors lived here for thousands of years".

Soldiers then allowed the dancers to enter, but blocked others from entering.

At 6pm each night for four nights, the town of Bethlehem came to life.

Alongside the ever-popular baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph in their stable, were dozens of stalls, craftspeople, soldiers, shepherds, animals and three wise men – who all brought visitors the Christmas story.

Stable Express

One popular attraction with families was the Melville's Stable Express – a mini train with carriages which took passengers for a drive around the Riverway complex.

Mabuiag family Mary-Ann Whap and children Malachi Whap-Hughes (11), Heze Whap-Hughes (6) and Aryanna Whap-Hughes (9), all enjoyed a ride on the Stable Express and later went for a walk through Bethlehem.

"We really had a good time here and this is a great Christmas event," they said.

Badu Islander Ishmail Tamwoy walked around Bethlehem and later checked out the yarning circle adorned with Torres Strait and Aboriginal flags.

Co-ordinators of the Yarning Circle were Aboriginal couples Chris and Shirley Congoo from the Salvation Army, – and Joshua and Nathasha Lane.



Badu Islander Ishmail Tamwoy with a Roman soldier behind him.



Shalom dancers from many communities played a big role during the annual event.



Mary-Ann Whap with Malachi Whap-Hughes, Heze Whap-Hughes, and Aryanna Whap-Hughes after their ride on the Stable Express.



Characters playing the roles of Joseph, Mary – and baby Jesus in the manger.



Zina-Rose James and Mescha Lorraine.

A food fiesta area was also popular with people who sampled a wide variety of dishes including traditional TS delights.

Zina-Rose James (17), from Palm Island and Mescha Lorraine (15), from Mornington Island, both said they loved the event.

"This has been so good and really is a happy event with lots of goodwill," Zina-Rose said.

Because of the flooding which had cut roads and closed Cairns airport, many visiting families from the far north centres such as Cairns, Mossman, Tully, Cardwell, Innisfail, the Atherton Tablelands, NPA and Torres Strait could not be there.



Stable Express driven by Craig Melville.



One of the three Wise Men.



Young Shalom Dancers perform on the main stage.



Joshua Lane, Nathasha Lane, Chris Congoo and Shirley Congoo at the Yarning Circle.

Dundalli honoured as

By CHRISTINE HOWES



THE biggest crowd in many years attended this year's commemoration of Brisbane Frontier Wars warrior Dundalli last week.

About 120 people came together in Post Office Square – the site of his public execution on January 5, 1855 – to hear speakers who included organisers Wayne Wharton and Kanat Wano, alongside Elders Gordon Coburn and Glenice Croft, Boe Spearim, author Melissa Lucashenko and several others.

"It was people like Dundalli, Pemulwuy and Yagen and Windradyne, and the various leaders around the country that opposed the invasion," Mr Wharton said.

"Next year marks 150 years since Dundalli's execution.

"When they hung Dundalli, they hung him as a criminal for defending his family, for defending his countrymen and for defending his land.

"It was an act of war, every action that he committed was to defend his rights and the rights of his people.

"The colony and the governments controlled and occupied by force.

"So when we go through today, the importance of gathering here, the importance of telling that story is just as important as any Gary Cooper or John Wayne movie or any other two-bob Hollywood Western you want to go and see.

"Our people and the restriction of knowledge about our people is such that we know more about the Hollywood Westerns and the Indian heroes than what we do about our own heroes in this country.

"And when I say the heroes, I mean, the many hundreds and thousands that were killed through the invasion of this country.

"There was no peaceful settlement.

"There was no peaceful colonisation.

"There were no treaties.

"There were no agreements.

"What we had here was utter warfare committed by Wellington's finest."

Mr Wano said the day was an opportunity to educate people about a great First Nations warrior.

"I just saw there was a purpose that I had to follow to make sure that I assisted the organising committee whatever way I could," he said.

"Just to keep the story alive.

"In my culture, Kebisu was a warrior, and I think we all need to stand up for human rights and justice.

"I think as a Torres Strait Islander living in Brisbane, I helped the event because it was sharing the day to commemorate a warrior leader, and it was an honour to do it."

Mr Coburn said the story about Dundalli's resistance was not known, or told, for a long time.



A smoking ceremony was conducted to cleanse Country.
Pictures: Christine Howes



Auntie Glenice Croft addresses the crowd.



Wayne Wharton.

Author Melissa Lucashenko told the gathering that the resistance to the colonial invaders by warriors like Dundalli never ended, it just changed shape. "Resistance continues to this day," she said.

"I'm glad all you people here today, white and black, we all together, and we are here to support this warrior," he said.

Ms Croft said they were there to commemorate Dundalli and the many other unsung heroes of the Frontier Wars.

"There's a lot of strong bloody women in me, and a lot of warriors," she said.

"People who have always had to stand up, people who have always spoken up."

Mr Spearim said there were many First Nations warriors.

"History informs us of the position we're in as Aboriginal people," he said.

"It gives us understanding.

"Men and women in different parts of this country bravely sacrificed their lives, whether they died on the battlefield or were captured and hung publicly, and in some cases, their bodies decapitated and sent to England, or to be put on show to pacify Aboriginal people in that area.

"So we are here to honour them and to carry that legacy."



Boe Spearim.

He said we were fortunate to know about Dundalli.

"We're fortunate enough to know Dundalli because of the time, and the fear that he put into the colony as well," he said.

"He was a well-written-about person in that time because he led such an important resistance.

"He was given the authority to defend Country, and not just his Country, other people's Country.

"The battlefield and the frontier at that time was here, where we are sitting."

Ms Lucashenko paid her respects to the Traditional Owners

of the land where Dundalli fought and died and said she was pleased to see so many people there.

"The fact that there are young people, old people, white people, black fellows, people from far south, people from far north, it speaks to solidarity," she said.

"Dundalli was the war chief because he had the endorsement of the Bora to prosecute war in this country against the invasion in the late 1840s and early 1850s

"He brought people together, and that solidarity is why the resistance lasted as long as it did

and in the way it did.

"Not that it's ever ended, it's just changed shape.

"Resistance continues to this day."

She said 150 years was not a long time.

"It was the time of my great-grandparents," she said.

"The resistance continues, and if we can build on solidarity and continue to tell the truth and shame the devil, then in a few years time, this square will be absolutely packed out and there will be a statue of Dundalli, right there, taking pride of place."



Lin Morrow, Barbara Wharton and Andrew Dunstone.

warrior for his people



Christopher and Jalo (10) Rolfe and Amy & Eli (10) Windsor with Bamira, Chelsea and Braelyn Rolfe.



Ether Jones and her family.



The Huch family.



Julie Duncan and Janzell Bartlett.



Uncle Gordon and Aunty Judy Colburn with Caroline Cobbo.



Kanat Wano, originally from TSI, was thinking about all the warriors who resisted invasion, including Kebisu, who, like Dundalli, fought for his (TSI) culture and people.

Dundalli a poem by Tom Hardy, August 2020

There is no headstone I have read
No remembrance at all.
City folk on the bones may tread,
Ignorant of his courage and fall.
Once this warrior led his clans
To save their cherished dreamtime lands.

He from the Blackall Ranges came,
A Dalla man, tall and noble.
To face a foe he could not name,
Whose invasion must be broken.
It was at the Boreen Corroboree,
They chose their lawman, Dundalli.

With cattle and carts the settlers crept,
From the rivers to boundless plains.
The people and their spirits wept.
Dundalli heard the clamouring refrains.
Of timeless laws and anxious Elders.
Please stop the march of these white fellas.

With guile and native intelligence,
He leads his furtive warrior bands,
To hinder with bold impudence,
This defilement of their sacred lands.
The Dreaming never saw such sin,
His tribes dispersed from land and kin.

At Beerburum, he drew the line.
"This is as far as you may advance.
Our Country must forever shine
Under our care, our vigilance."
He tried to explain, he tried to inform,
His words like leaves in a gathering storm.

Ancient laws he must enact
The White man did not agree.
His laws were of a different tack,
More civil, by the King's decree?
The newcomer made no pretence,
To understand cultural difference.

Each would break the laws of the other,
But one would come to dominate.
Oblivious to the hurt to his Black brother,
The trespasser came to subjugate.
Embers of warfare swelled to flame,
Fanned by intolerance and blame.

When 30 are poisoned on Kilcoy Station,
Age old law demands revenge.
Two convict shepherds' lives are taken,
But the bloody usurpation will not end.
Dispossession, murder and robbery
Sapped the spirit of their corroboree.

For killing and hostility,
Dundalli must be apprehended.
His people defy this inequity.
Their lands, their totems will be defended.
His whereabouts they artfully concealed.
For 13 years, the squatters squealed.

In the heat of the summer season
Finally they captured him.
Through foul bribery and treason
A sorry fellow dobed him in.
Newspapers in Sydney and Brisbane town
Proclaimed that this dog must be put down.

He stood majestic before the court
Aloof from all proceedings.
His cause was just and bravely fought.
He ignored Judge Therry's pleadings.
The system never gave him voice,
Resistance was his only choice.

Dundalli, a giant upon the scaffold,
Guilty of two murders, the verdict states.
The raging press wants the stories told,
In words screaming with vitriol and hate.
Quickly, the trap door is withdrawn
The Lawman Dundalli is fallen.

But what's this horror so misbegotten?
The hanging rope is far too long.
Dundalli's feet stand on his coffin.
The executioner with a cruel thong,
Wrenches the ankles up to the wrists.
The warrior dies in a violent twist.

This forgotten execution place,
Haunts the sacred ANZAC Square.
Dare we through the silence trace
A sordid history of death laid bare.
They deserve our recognition.
Why so long for our contrition?

Could we now, Australians all,
Correct the record of our nation,
So that through Dundalli's great fall,
We tell the truth of our foundation?
Our country's black deaths really matter.
Heed the call for Makaratta.



Online presence gives Bininj artists access to world markets



WARRADJAN Cultural Centre in Kakadu has launched a new website allowing lovers of Indigenous art to view the centre's collection of works in an accessible way.

Kakadu has long been recognised for the richness of its arts and crafts scene and now, visitors can purchase paintings, weavings, jewellery and carvings created by the Murumburr Traditional Owners and Bininj/Mungguy community.

The new website supports Bininj artists and connects people to Country, the people and culture that breathe life into Kakadu National Park.

Through interactive displays and exhibits, visitors to the centre can

understand the relationship Bininj/Mungguy have with their families and their land, especially stories from the creation era when the Nayuhunggi (first people) created the land, plants and animals and gave people laws to live by.

Bininj/Mungguy artists and weavers will often be present at the centre demonstrating their works and sharing insights and stories with visitors.

Eva Petterson, daughter of Murumburr Traditional Owner, Elizabeth Petterson said "it is important to preserve our heritage and history, it is our identity, it's who we are as Aboriginal people".

"Practising it, living it, it's important for the next generation," she said.

In the centre, visitors are invited to

move through the display as a Rainbow Serpent creation ancestor moves through the country travelling first through the lowlands during the dry season, then into the stone country during the wet.

All the artefacts are locally made, with great care taken collecting and constructing display features, such as the goose hunting platform, dilly bags, pandanus baskets and paintings

Warradjan is the Kundjeyhmi word for pig-nosed turtle, an inhabitant of nearby Ngurrungurrudjba (Yellow Water Billabong). Warradjan Cultural Centre is located five minutes from Kakadu's largest accommodation and tour centre, Cooinda Lodge.

To see the website, visit warradjanculturalcentre.com/



Earrings made by Lynne Nadjowh from the Warradjan Cultural Centre, Kakadu.

Karla granted a Walkley award



PRESENTER, producer, journalist and proud Western Arrernte woman, Karla Grant, has been honoured for her outstanding contribution to journalism.

She received her award at the 68th Walkley Awards for excellence in journalism and to top it off, also received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the First Nations Media Awards.

Karla is the executive producer and host of NITV's *Living Black* – the longest running Indigenous current affairs show on Australian television – and her award recognised more than three decades of leadership in Indigenous affairs coverage in Australia.

NITV's *Living Black* was also recognised as the Best News and



Proud Western Arrernte woman Karla Grant has been recognised for her contribution to journalism.

Current Affairs Program for 2023, and was awarded Best Interview for *Deborah Cheetham: Forging Her Own Path* – Karla's in-depth interview with the Yorta Yorta soprano and actor.

Her awards acknowledge the work Karla has done throughout her

career to explore and uncover stories of national importance which have shone a light on social disadvantage and injustice, and given a voice to First Nations communities.

From extensive reporting on Country, to presenting in studio, and her insightful interviews, Karla has interrogated the systems and policies impacting First Nations peoples, held power to account, and celebrated Blak excellence.

She has also continued to actively champion greater representation in the industry and career pathways for emerging Indigenous journalists.

She has worked tirelessly to provide a voice for the voiceless, and to ensure the issues being experienced in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are recognised as matters of significance for all Australians.

UMI ARTS calls for Expressions of Interest



FIRST Nations artists and members of UMI Arts are invited to send in Expressions of Interest (EOI) to exhibit work in the 2024 UMI Arts exhibition series.

UMI Arts' artistic director Lisa Michl Kōmanggén said the Queensland-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural organisation is free to join and offers many benefits from exhibition opportunities and profile building, to workshops and representation at art fairs across Australia.

"We are continually seeking new ways of representing our members and developing partnerships outside of UMI Arts' gallery, from private commissions to public initiatives," she said.

Upcoming exhibitions

YOU & ME: Showcasing artworks in all mediums, You & Me kicks off in March. EOIs are open to all First Nations artist members until February 2.

CULTURE THROUGH OUR EYES: Featuring work in any medium, this is open to First Nations youth in Cairns and surrounds enrolled in Years 7 -12, EOI close April 12, with the exhibition opening in May.

FRESHWATER SALTWATER: This is UMI Arts' signature exhibition for established and senior member artists, featuring significant new works in any medium. EOIs close May 24, with the exhibition opening in July.

To become a member of UMI Arts, visit umiarts.com.au/become-a-member/

Membership is free for Indigenous individuals 15+ years with a bloodline connection to Far North Queensland. Forms can be returned in person or to admin@umiarts.com.au

Readers invited to learn more about the country they live in



IN a new children's book *Walk With Us*, Adam Goodes

draws inspiration from the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*, and invites readers to find out more about the country they live in.

Walk With Us is the fourth book from the 'Welcome To Country' series.

It's a collaboration between Adnyamathanha and Narungga man and former AFL champion Adam Goodes; journalist and political advisor Ellie Laing; and Barkinji illustrator David Hardy.

It's a series of stories for the whole family and is set to connect readers to important protocols of respect for First Peoples and listening to Country.

The book features the traditional language of the Cammeraygal people and brings important messages for the next generations – as we continue to negotiate a path where we can all walk together.

The creative team behind the book include communications



Walk With Us is a new book in the series *Welcome to Country*.

executive Ellie Laing and Barkinji illustrator David Hardy (who has worked on films like *Lion King 3* and *The Little Mermaid*).

Together they're aiming to connect young children, parents and educators with First Nations protocols, embedding themes of listening, understanding and respect.

Ellie Laing said *Walk With Us* is an invitation to learn.

"Like all our books, it's written not just for kids, but for adults too," she said.

"You might have noticed the phrase 'Walk With Us' also features in the final line of the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*, which reads, 'We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future'.

"So as the title suggests, this book is about inviting readers to go on a journey of learning and appreciation together, to ultimately advance our nation and continue to make a difference.

"You will see the story features members of a non-Indigenous family, Harvey and his mum who are led on a walk on Country by Uncle Boris.

"The walk not only teaches Harvey and his mum about Aboriginal customs, but also helps them reflect, feel calm, and connect with Country and their ancestral spirits.

"So please enjoy *Walk With Us*, and we hope it inspires you to take your own walk on Country soon."

Queensland and ACT premiere screenings of WINHANGANHA



WINHANGANHA, is a Wiradjuri concept meaning to remember, know and think. It is the title of Wiradjuri artist Jazz Money's debut film, which premiered in Sydney last November.

Jazz Money is an award-winning Wiradjuri poet and artist based on Gadigal land – Sydney.

Their practice is centred around poetics while producing installation artworks that encompass digital, performance, film and print.

Their first poetry collection, the best-selling *how to make a basket* (UQP, 2021) won the David Unaipon Award.

WINHANGANHA was developed over a two-year period, working closely with the NFSA collection, where Jazz sifted through and reflected on the institution's extensive collections of works made by and about First Nations Australian people.

"This film is centred upon the belief that it is our own bodies that are the truest archive of our experience, and that First Nations bodies tell a powerful story of sovereignty and resistance," Jazz said. "And while First Nations bodies have been documented, mythologised, degraded and catalogued, and stored within the colonial gaze of the archive, these bodies, these people, have danced and sung and marched and are utterly whole, beyond what can be held in these collections.

"The film asks how we will create new futures through that which we inherit."

Based on collected film, television, audio and music recordings, the new film is a poem in five acts that acknowledges the horrors, joys and beauties to be discovered within the archive.

It includes original poetry written and performed by Jazz and an original score by Filipino-Aboriginal rapper and composer DOBBY (Rhyann Clapham).

WINHANGANHA has its Queensland premiere at QAGOMA on January 26 and also screens at Arc Cinema in Canberra on the same day.

Art and culture intersect in new works at NGV Triennial



FIRST Nations artists are making a strong showing at the NGV's Triennial exhibition, on display in Melbourne now.

The exhibition boasts one hundred projects by more than 120 artists, designers and collectives at the forefront of global contemporary art practice, shown across four levels.

Featured in the exhibition, Wurundjeri artist Aunty Kim Wandin's eel trap, which was commissioned by the City of Melbourne in partnership with the NGV, acknowledges the connections between Wurundjeri people and the lands and waterways they have been custodians of for generations.

The sculpture is a tribute to the history of Wurundjeri women, their tradition of weaving, and their relationship with the short-finned eel, known in their language as iuk.

Also on display is *Mun-dirra* – a monumental woven fish fence created over two years by 13 artists working with three apprentices in Maningrida, Arnhem Land.

The immersive installation is made up of ten segments and represents one of the most two common types of fish traps produced in the area.

The weavers are all women



Bonnie Burarrngarra weaving fish fence. Picture: Shaana McNaught

from the Burarra language group in Western Arnhem Land, who specialise in the customary weaving practice.

The artists use the woven pandanus form to tell a powerful story about the way knowledge is

transferred matrilineally, as well as how Burarra people have lived sustainably with the lands and waterways for generations.

Other First Nations artists showing their works in this exhibition include Betty Muffler

(Pitjantjatjara/ Yankunyjatjara Elder), Aunty Kim Wandin (Wurundjeri Elder), Iluwanti Ken (Pitjantjatjara), Selinda Davidson (Pitjantjatjara), Lehuauakea (māhū Native Hawaiian), Keith Wikmunea (Wik-Alkan and Wik-Mungkan

man), Timo Hogan (Pitjantjatjara/Spinifex Lands), Wanapati Yunupingu (Gumatj), Burarra women from Maningrida Community and Sky Hopinka (Ho-Chunk Nation/Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians)

The theme of the 2023 NGV Triennial is Magic, Matter and Memory: Magic that draws from the beliefs, stories and symbols to find ways human spirituality has shaped the world around us.

Matter is in nature, in the materials and making, highlighting the central role that materials and the natural world play in shaping human culture. Finally, Memory shines a light on the histories of people, places and objects that make up the complex tapestry of our contemporary world.

The NVG Triennial offers an array of art forms and disciplines, ranging from robotics to AI, textiles to sculpture, and animatronics to conceptual art.

With many of the works on display entering the NGV Collection, the NGV Triennial establishes a lasting legacy for Victoria that can be accessed by future generations to come.

The Triennial is on show across four levels of NGV International building until April 7.

For more visit ngv.vic.gov.au/triennial/events/

event listings

TASMANIA

Adult Beginner

Filmmaking Workshop

when: Jan 20

where: KIN Creative Space, Beach Rd, Kingston Beach

info/bookings:

events.humanitix.com/adult-beginner-filmmaking-workshop

Gail Mabo, Lisa Waup, Dominic White exhibition

The exhibition is toured and curated by McClelland Gallery

when: January 27 - March 9

where: Devonport Regional Gallery: Upper and Little Galleries, Rooke St Devonport

info/bookings:

paranapleartscentre.com.au/events/mcclellandcurrent/

VICTORIA

Touring Exhibition: Layers of Blak

Designers present 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: until Mar 10, 2024

where: Art Gallery of Ballarat

info/bookings: more dates later in the year and 2024, see

koorieheritagetrust.com.au/whats-on/exhibitions/layers-of-blak/

11th Koorie Art Show 2023 and

6th Koorie Art Show – Young Mob

when: until Feb 19

where: KHT, Fed Square, Melbourne

info/bookings:

exhibitions.koorieheritagetrust.com.au

NGV International Triennial

when: until Apr 7

where: NGV International, St Kilda Road, Melbourne

info/bookings: See story, page 29.

ngv.vic.gov.au/triennial/events/

2023 Mecca Holiday Collaboration: Kaylene Whiskey

when: until Feb

where: Ian Potter Centre, NGV Fed Square

info/bookings:

nav.vic.gov.au

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/

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Nyumbi

Every Saturday at 11am, visitors are invited to this celebration of Nyoongar



A Self-Adornment Study (detail), 2023
by Eleanor Franks (Gubbi Gubbi / Kabi Kabi).

All fired up about design



DECORATED fingernails will be on show as part of the new exhibition *Fired Up: Stories Through Ember and Earth*. Held at Koorie

Heritage Trust, the exhibition features new artworks by nine artists from the 2023 Black Design program.

The Black Design program provides artists with guidance from professional mentors. In this iteration, Janet Fieldhouse and David Ray shared their knowledge and skills in the art of ceramics.

All the art pieces are experimental and visitors will see a range of forms and expressions including a large black crow depicting Waa in a fiery glazed vessel, and woven clay wall hangings.

Other works feature body adornment, decorative mouth grills used for dental embellishment, knuckle dusters and a chess board

– all hand-made objects showing the impact of colonisation and telling stories about the land and sea.

Making objects from clay extends back thousands of generations among Australia's First Peoples. Passed down from generation to generation, this knowledge manifests in the present, draws on the past and extends into the future.

Artists in the exhibition are Annie Brigdale/ Yorta Yorta, Suzanne Connelly-Klidomitis/ Wiradjuri, Nicholas Currie/Yugambah and Kuku Yalnji, Trina Dalton-Oogjes/ Wadawurrung and Gunditjmarra, Eleanor Franks/Gubbi Gubbi, Mick Harding/ Taungurung, Darcy McConnell/ Dja Dja Wurrung and



After You, 2023
by Darcy McConnell
(Dja Dja Wurrung, Yorta Yorta)
Pictures: Christian Capurro.

Yorta Yorta, Sean Miller/ Gamilaroi and Corina Muir/ Yorta Yorta and Boonwurrung.

Presented by the Koorie Heritage Trust, the exhibition fosters cultural innovation within the Victorian design sector and provides a platform for sustainable design practices.

You can see it in the Yarra Building, Fed Square Melbourne, until February 11.

culture through song, dance and language, as local performers share their rich culture and history.

when: Jan 20, 27; Feb 3, 10, 17

where: City Room at WA Museum Boola Bardip, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth

info/bookings:

fringeworld.com.au/whats_on/nyumbi-fw2024

3 Journeys: Aboriginal Storytelling through Film, Music and Art

when: until February 4

where: Wesfarmers Gallery, WA Museum Boola Bardip, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth

info/bookings:

visit.museum.wa.gov.au/boolabardip/three-journeys

The Boomerang Show with Joshua Warrior

5-star comedy performance

when: Jan 22 - 28

where: The Rechabite, Northbridge WA

info/bookings: tickets from \$25-\$30 can be purchased at fringeworld.com.au/whats_on/the-boomerang-show-with-joshua-warrior-fw2024

Tali Desert Sand Dunes and Little Gems – Artworks under \$500

when: daily until Jan 23

where: Gallery 1, Japingka Aboriginal Art Gallery, High St, Fremantle

info/bookings: japingkaaboriginalart.com/exhibitions/

Ngala Maya (Our Place) – City Of Bayswater Community Concert

when: Feb 3, 4-8.30pm

where: Pat O'Hara Reserve, Morley

info/bookings: Free event, for more visit

localista.com.au/listing/au/morley/events/city-of-bayswater-community-concert

Wundig Wer Wilura

Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse bring more Noongar magic to the stage with the world premiere of their opera.

when: Feb 9-15

where: His Majesty's Theatre, 825 Hay Street, Perth/ Karboordup

info/bookings: Performed in Noongar language with English surtitles.

Bookings essential, at perthfestival.com.au/events/wundig-wer-wilura/

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 find out more about the physical exhibition, visit magnt.net.au/natsiaa

Katherine Travelling Film Festival 2024

when: Feb 9-11

where: Katherine Cinema 3, Katherine, NT

info/bookings: Festival also playing in Darwin (Feb 22-25) and Alice Springs (Feb 23-26). Film program for all venues available at sff.org.au/tff/

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

Australian native ingredients with Daniel Motlop

when: 6-7.30pm, Feb 6

where: City of Tea Tree Gully Library, Montague Rd, Modbury

info/bookings:

Tickets (\$10) selling fast at eventbrite.com.au/e/australia

n-native-ingredients-with-daniel-motlop-tickets-777981713247?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

NEW SOUTH WALES

Blak Out at Sydney Festival 2024

First Nations programming at the festival.

when: until Jan 28

where: venues across the Sydney region

info/bookings: program details and more at sydneyfestival.org.au/blak-out

Yabun festival

when: 10am-6pm, Jan 26

where: Victoria Park, Camperdown, Sydney

info/bookings: free event, for more visit whatson.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/events/yabun-festival

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/

Saltwater Freshwater Arts Exhibition

This touring exhibition features Aboriginal artists from the Worimi, Biripi, Dunghutti and Gumbaynggirr Nations on the Mid North Coast of NSW.

when: until Jan 28

where: Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree

and

when: Feb 3 to March 31

where: Glasshouse Regional Gallery, Port Macquarie

info/bookings: see future tour dates and venues into 2024 at saltwaterfreshwater.com.au/contact/

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

where: Bundanoon, Shoalhaven.

info/bookings: For full program and to book go to bundanon.com.au/miwatj-yolngu

Three Echoes Western Desert Art

Showcases works by 57 acclaimed artists from Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff), Papaya and Utopian Aboriginal communities.

when: until Feb 25

where: Tweed Gallery, Tweed Heads

info/bookings: gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions

QUEENSLAND

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

where: UMI Arts Shop 4, Jensen Plaza Gallery, Manooora

info/bookings:

umiarts.com.au/

Mare Amoris I Sea of Love

Last days of this exhibition, bringing 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

Gone Fishing

when: until Jan 21

where: Gallery of Modern Art & Gallery 3.5

info/bookings: free entry, qagoma.qld.gov.au/exhibition/gone-fishing

WINHANGANHA

when: Jan 26

where: Gallery of Modern Art & Cinema A

info/bookings: free entry, qagoma.qld.gov.au/cinema/program/winhanganha/

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Emily Kam Ngwarray

when: until April 28

where: National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

info/bookings: nga.gov.au/exhibitions/emily-kam-ngwarray/

INTERNATIONAL

Blak Rainbow: The Art of Dylan Mooney

when: until May 2024

where: Australian Embassy Gallery, Paris, France

info/bookings: ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/blak-rainbow/

Statistics suggest kid's ear health is improving



INDIGENOUS children are experiencing fewer ear problems thanks to improved

access to screening and early ear infection detection, however new data suggests rates are still excessive and preventable.

Figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reveal the proportion of Indigenous children under 14 with an ear or hearing problem declined from 11% in 2001 to 6.9% in 2019.

AIHW spokesperson Jo Baker said the new data marked a promising step forward for communities.

"Hearing problems in children can affect speech, language, thinking skills and behavioural development," Ms Baker said.

"First Nations people and in particular children, experience high rates of ear and hearing problems, which can have profound impacts on overall health and quality of life."

While the decrease is promising, the research found three in 10 Indigenous children still experienced hearing loss in 2019, jumping to four in 10 in remote areas.

The report found social and economic disadvantage to be contributing to greater rates of untreated acute and chronic ear infections among Indigenous people.

University of Newcastle ear, nose



New data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows an improvement in Indigenous children's ear health, but with preventable infections still prevalent, the figures show more still needs to be done.

and throat surgeon Kelvin Kong said most ear disease and hearing loss affecting Indigenous people is preventable.

"Access to culturally safe ear and hearing health specialist services is crucial for First Nations people to seek and receive timely diagnosis and treatment," Professor Kong said.

He said middle ear infections are the main cause of hearing loss among children and young people, and early

detection is vital for appropriate treatment.

The report found the number of audiology services available to children are on the rise, and almost 98% of babies had their hearing tested after birth.

It also found that in 2022, 36% of Indigenous people under 25 years old with a hearing device were less than four when first fitted, compared with 10% in 2008. – **with AAP**

New grant backs research into health equity



IF you are a student with a project that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led research, you can now apply for a funding grant from the Lowitja Institute.

The GLOW Grant Program 2024–26 offers project grants of up to \$800,000 to support research aimed at improving unacceptable health inequities in areas of HIV and viral hepatitis among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The program offers scholarships to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students wanting to develop their skills and knowledge on how to increase health equity and address disparities that continue to drive the transmission of HIV and viral hepatitis within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Lowitja Institute chief executive Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed said in comparison to non-Indigenous people in Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience a higher incidence of HIV and viral hepatitis infections and increased barriers to diagnosis and treatment.

"We know what's best for our communities, and by putting the research back into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community hands, we can work towards improving health and wellbeing outcomes within a generation," she said.

"These grants will deliver research that is community-led, culturally safe and self-determined. They will also support capability building among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to support their entry into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research workforce."

"Lowitja Institute looks forward to working alongside Gilead Sciences and UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health to deliver the program over the next three years."

A range of scholarships and grants are available and will be administered over three rounds in 2024.

For more information, visit lowitja.org.au

New CT scanner will make a difference for TS Islanders

By ALF WILSON



A NEW CT scanner service at Thursday Island (TI) Hospital has been praised by its first patient

Dorothy Elu.

Dorothy said she was happy that she didn't have to travel to Cairns and be away from family for several days.

About 50 to 60 patients a month, from the TS Islands and Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) on the mainland, are expected to benefit from the new service.

"It's really good news for me," Dorothy said. "I have children and grandchildren on Thursday Island and it would be hard being away for several days."

"I only just came back from Cairns not long ago from another appointment and didn't want to have to go all the way back."

The Computed Tomography

(CT) scanner is fully operational and benefits patients who previously had to travel to Cairns Base Hospital for up to three days, being away from family.

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

It is the first CT scanner for the Torres Strait and NPA and the second for the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service. (The first CT scanner was installed at the Weipa Integrated Health Service in 2021.)

Queensland Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services Shannon Fentiman was thrilled for Mrs Elu and the other patients.

"We know that leaving family members when you need to travel for care can be challenging," she said. "That's why our \$64 million

redevelopment of Thursday Island Hospital is so important.

"Our government is committed to delivering services closer to home for all."

Member for Cook, Cynthia Lui, said the service at Thursday Island will help attract and retain 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 up-skill First Nations staff to support the scanner and other services, similar to what has occurred in Weipa since the installation of that hospital's scanner in 2021," Ms Lui said.

Thursday Island Hospital medical services director, Dr Jennifer Wharton, said the testing and investigation phase of a patient's care at Thursday Island Hospital is important.

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



Dorothy Elu was happy to have her scan at TI Hospital supported during her session by Allied Health Assistant Joe Bon (left) and Dr Aaron Sparshott. Picture: Queensland Health

Mr Harrington wins for contribution to language



ADRIAN Harrington from Goonellabah Public School has been recognised for his outstanding contribution to Aboriginal education in NSW public schools at the 18th annual Nanga Mai Awards.

Mr Harrington is one of 12 dedicated teachers, community leaders and schools to win an award last year. He joined 13 academically successful students, confident public speakers, talented performing artists and outstanding sportspeople who were also recognised.

Adrian Harrington received the award for Outstanding Leadership in Aboriginal Languages.

Adrian, or Uncle Ajay to his students, is an outstanding role model to the young Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children at Goonellabah Public School, near Lismore.

Working hard to grow relationships across the school community and ensuring the best educational opportunities for all, Ajay's priority and passion is to share Aboriginal language/s with students, building pride as well as truth, knowledge and respect for culture. Ajay has been a substantial contributor to the school's Bundjalung Language program, which is delivered across 11 classes each week, significantly adding to



Adrian Harrington received the award for Outstanding Leadership in Aboriginal Languages at last year's Nanga Mai Awards.

the cultural pride of students.

A leader in the community, Ajay is widely respected for his dedication to Aboriginal culture as well as education, across the Lismore network.

He is Lismore president of the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG), where he works to ensure that the schools in the region are supported and all

voices are heard; school, student and community.

Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning Prue Car said NSW public schools worked to enhance and elevate Aboriginal culture and identity through education.

"Today is a wonderful day as we celebrate academic excellence in our Aboriginal

learners, leaders and educators," Ms Car said.

"I want to send a big congratulations to all the hardworking teachers, school leaders and students being honoured at the Nanga Mai Awards."

NSW Department of Education Secretary Murat Dizdar said the Nanga Mai Awards recognised students, staff and community members who demonstrate excellence across all areas of education, from academic achievement, performing arts and public speaking, through to sport and leadership.

He said there had been an outstanding number of nominations for the 2023 awards.

"From talented young scholars, dancers and athletes to staff who work tirelessly for their schools and communities, I commend the leadership, creativity and excellence demonstrated by our 2023 Nanga Mai Award winners," Mr Dizdar said.

"These awards continue to show that strong community partnerships, dedicated staff and targeted, culturally appropriate programs are integral to the success and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in NSW public schools."

The 18th annual Nanga Mai Awards are supported by: Hicksons Lawyers, University of NSW, Teachers Health, Learning Links, TOMRA Cleanaway, Bendelta, Australian National Maritime Museum, Ethika Group, Holding Redlich, CQUniversity Australia.

Wollotuka celebrates 40 years



IN 1983, a visionary initiative began at the University of Newcastle, laying the

foundation for what would become a monumental force in Indigenous education.

The Wollotuka Institute, named after the Awabakal word meaning "eating and meeting place", is a place where students find not just academic guidance, but a culturally safe environment that respects and integrates Indigenous knowledge and traditions.

Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, the Wollotuka Institute has a retention rate of nearly 80% for Indigenous students.

It has been instrumental in producing graduates who go on to make meaningful contributions to their communities and the broader Australian society.

Head of the Institute, Associate Professor Kathleen Butler emphasises "It's not just about academic success, but also about cultural resilience and progress".

The institute has been a pioneer in integrating Indigenous perspectives into the academic curriculum, promoting a more inclusive and comprehensive educational experience.

It has become a hub for cultural revitalisation, empowering students to not only embrace their heritage but



The Wollotuka Institute hosting celebration events.

also to become advocates for their communities.

The 40th-anniversary celebrations this year were marked by a series of events, including panel discussions on the Institute's history, weaving workshops, and Aboriginal art exhibits and performances by Watjima Dance.

Wollotuka's journey is also a story of generational change.

Worimi and Wiradjuri man Jodan Perry reflects on his family's deep connection with the Institute.

From his grandmother, who instilled the value of education, to his sister, a medical

graduate, the Perry family's story is intertwined with Wollotuka's legacy.

"The support network here is unparalleled," Perry said. "I'm proud to be part of what has been built."

The University of Newcastle has been a staunch supporter of the institute.

"Wollotuka has driven our success in Indigenous higher education. Students who study with us, succeed with us," Vice-Chancellor Professor Alex Zelinsky said.

"The Institute is not just an educational establishment; it's a vibrant centre of cultural

resurgence, a place where education is intertwined with the journey of cultural renewal and self-determination."

For those inspired by Wollotuka's legacy and looking to be part of its continuing story, the University of Newcastle offers a welcoming and supportive environment. With a range of entry options, scholarship programs, comfortable accommodation and a commitment to cultural safety, the university enables Indigenous students to thrive academically and culturally.

For more information, visit, www.newcastle.edu.au



Dr Ray Kelly and Associate Professor Kathleen Butler at the Wollotuka gala event.



The Perry family, Dr Joe, Colleen and Jodan, has been part of the Wollotuka Institute for three generations.

Winning businesses to BLOOM at CIAF Fashion performance



LYNELLE Flinders of *Sown in Time* and Desert-Rain Magpie of *Maggie Dreaming* have been named the inaugural recipients of Cairns

Indigenous Art Fair's (CIAF) new and innovative fashion and textile design accelerator program, BLOOM.

The successful recipients responded to the call for expressions of interest launched towards the end of 2023. Through the BLOOM program they will receive business mentorship, skills training and industry connections, culminating in a performance-ready collection for the 15th anniversary season of CIAF in July this year.

A descendant of the Dharrba Warra Clan from the Starke River area north of Cooktown, Lynelle Flinders is based in Cairns and specialises in hand-printed textiles. Her involvement with CIAF's Fashion Performance goes back to 2013 when her designs were shown. Her vision for her business, *Sown in Time*, is to provide high-quality, hand-made Indigenous fashion designs and clothing to a world-wide market.

"I am grateful to CIAF for this opportunity to learn from industry professionals and take the next step in my design and business journey," Ms Flinders said. "I am also keen to share what I learn with others. It's never too late to dream."

Currently studying a Bachelor of Contemporary Indigenous Australian Art at Griffith University,

Nyoongar artist Desert-Rain Magpie uses her art practice to strengthen cultural identity. She is an established weaver, currently living with her family on the Gold Coast, and is hoping to develop her skills working with textiles through the BLOOM program.

"After attending CIAF for the first time in 2023, I was inspired by what I saw at the fashion shows and would love to learn more about the work behind the scenes,"



Benita Williams models fashion by Lynelle Flinders' *Sown in Time*.

she said.

"The inaugural Bloom Textile Development mentorship is a chance to work with industry leaders and mentors to grow my professional artistic practice and learn about the world of textile design".

According to CIAF's Artistic Director Francoise Lane, BLOOM aligns beautifully with art fair's ambitious and transformative four-year plan to promote the development of new, high-quality First Nations creative experiences, and is the first program of its kind in the organisation's 15-year history.

"We created BLOOM for fashion design and textile artists to support the production of quality fashion garments and textiles that are retail market ready," Ms Lane said.

"Launched in 2013 under the curation of



'Untitled' punch needle tapestry by Desert-Rain Magpie depicts the Pimpama River and native plants from Bullongin Country. This work was a finalist in the Queensland Regional Art Awards' First Nations category.

Grace Lillian Lee of FNFD, CIAF's fashion performance essentially pioneered Australia's Indigenous fashion movement and is a much-loved highlight of our annual program.

"BLOOM is about taking the next step and propelling the movement beyond performance for performance's sake into a viable, Queensland-based industry."

A call for expressions of interest from designers for CIAF Fashion Performance 2024 will be issued in late January.

The art fair's theme in 2024 is Country Speaking and will run from July 25-28. For more information visit ciaf.com.au

Coordinator wanted

CIAF is seeking a fashion coordinator for its 2024 Country Speaking Fashion Performance. Applications for this two-year, part-time program are open now and close January 31, 2024. This is an identified role where Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander knowledge or connections are strictly required. Email artfair@ciaf.com.au for details.

New collaboration aims to guarantee financial freedom



A NEW collaboration is set to benefit Indigenous businesses through the design and development of an Indigenous Business Guarantee.

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) and National Australia Bank (NAB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on the new venture.

The MoU outlines how IBA and NAB will work together to provide Indigenous businesses with access to mainstream banking services and improve financial education and training for Indigenous business owners.

IBA's chief executive Kirsty Moore leads the Commonwealth entity with a vision for a nation in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are economically independent and an integral part of the economy.

"IBA exists to enhance and support the economic development opportunities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia. This collaboration with NAB serves to broaden IBA's impact within the business sector.

"The growth of the First Nations business sector is incredibly exciting. With over 65,000 years of existence, they bring a wealth of knowledge and innovation as our original entrepreneurs.

"Aligned with the 2023 Indigenous Business Month theme, 'To Gather, Together', the collaboration with NAB works to bring resources together that benefit our First Nations businesses and we look forward to seeing this sector grow."

NAB Executive Indigenous Business Banking Noel Prakash, believes NAB's business banking strength can support First Nations business growth.

"Businesses play an integral role in strengthening First Nations leadership and creating opportunities for communities to succeed," he said.

"First Nations businesses are leading the charge by driving self-determination, and rapidly improving financial capability and inclusion.

"Working with First Nations people, we want to strengthen financial resilience, increase business and employment opportunities, and remove the barriers that have traditionally made it hard for First Nations customers and businesses to access financial services.

"NAB has set a new target to more than double our lending to First Nations businesses and community organisations to at least \$1 billion over the next three years."

About IBA

IBA is a commercially focused organisation with economic independence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at its heart. IBA programs assist Indigenous Australians in buying their own homes, being successful in business, and investing in commercial ventures that provide strong financial returns.

IBA resides in the portfolio of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and is accountable to the Australian Parliament through the Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Linda Burney MP.

Women entrepreneurs establish Good Return



A NEW initiative is set to help Indigenous women entrepreneurs to tackle the challenges faced when trying to establish and grow their own businesses.

Called Good Return, the not-for-profit has teamed up with Indigenous-led group Kimberley Jiyigas, to tackle the historical and gendered inequalities that hinder access to capital, resources and the training required to build financial security.

Together they support sustainable change within the Indigenous community and produced the Maganda Makers Business Club.

The club is a collective, where experienced Indigenous businesswomen guide, nurture and upskill emerging women entrepreneurs. They are provided role models and upskilled with

access to shared resources, networks and connections allowing them to grow, create and sustain their businesses.

East Kimberley Jaru woman Natasha Short leads the Maganda Makers Business Club. She is also Kimberley Jiyigas managing director and has a deep understanding of the social, cultural and economic dynamics of the Kimberley region – and the women who live and work there.

"These are resourceful and talented women who are determined to be influencers of social change regionally, nationally and internationally," Ms Short said.

"We now have almost 200 club members, who are running businesses in the arts, food and catering, hospitality, mining services and much more".

Natasha's leadership and vision are supported by an innovative collaboration with the founding members, which include Good Return and Sir Robert

Menzies Foundation for Leadership.

New funding from Visa Foundation, which supports the club, will enable the club to expand into two new remote regions in Australia and reach even more women. The grant will also support the establishment of a new initiative that provides financial assistance to club members to help grow their businesses and empower them through entrepreneurship.

Good Return chief executive Shane Nichols said "we are passionate about a world where all people have access to resources and opportunities to improve their lives and have over 20 years' experience in building financial inclusion through localised approaches across Asia and the Pacific".

"The Maganda Makers Business Club pilot has shown us that, even in a remote location with limited financial resources and infrastructure, strong and



East Kimberley Jaru woman Natasha Short.

inspiring women can flourish and their families and communities have benefited from this," he said.

"We are excited about the next stage in this program and are immensely grateful to Visa Foundation for their support in making it happen."

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT

Partnership to restore Country



THE Gumbayngirr ranger team of the Ngiyambandigay Wajaarr Aboriginal Corporation (NWAC)

is set to undertake weed management in one of Coffs Harbour's most treasured natural sites.

The staged bush revegetation work at the Bruxner Park Flora Reserve will rejuvenate the bush and improve biodiversity.

The reserve is an area of special environmental and cultural significance within the Orara East State Forest overlooking Coffs Harbour and contains an abundance of natural wonders.

The project is the result of the Gumbayngirr ranger team working in partnership with Forestry Corporation and Envite Environment.

This partnership aims to maintain environmental values within the flora reserve through the removal of a range of target species including lantana, camphor laurel, tobacco tree, crofton weed, broad-leaved paspalum and a range of common environmental weeds.

Priority areas for this work include the surrounds of the Forest Sky Pier, one of Coffs Harbour's most iconic visitor sites, and the nearby Gungali Track and Korora Lookout.

The rangers will work alongside Envite's experienced bush regenerators to develop their existing skills and to experience and expand their capacity to deliver programs, which manage and protect Gumbayngirr land and water.

NWAC head ranger Jesse Shilling said "This partnership provides our team of rangers with good practical experience working on Country that complements our team's existing skills and qualifications".

Envite Environment area



The team from the Sealy Lookout Bush Regeneration project.



manager Mick Webb said "following the removal of weeds from target areas, the plan allows for revegetation of some sites with suitable species, however, this is heavily dependent on a break in the current dry conditions".

Forestry Corporation's partnership leader Ryan Ellis said "The Bruxner Park Flora Reserve in Orara East State Forest has a range of nature-based experiences including forest walks, treetops adventures, the cultural tours and café, amazing lookouts and a rich blend of indigenous and European history"

"The current project of weed management is just a small part of the ongoing maintenance and management of the reserve to ensure the site continues to be appreciated into the future," Mr Ellis said.



(Centre and bottom) Views of the Niigi Sealy Lookout.



The interagency meeting on Waiben.

Agencies plan for TS workers

By ALF WILSON



JOBS constructing infrastructure projects for Brisbane's 2032 Olympic Games

could be in the sights of workers from the Torres Strait, following an interagency meeting at Mura Kosker Soror on Waiben (Thursday Island).

At the meeting, which was held in December, 32 representatives from government departments, private businesses and not-for-profit organisations discussed future employment opportunities.

On Common Country managing director Noel Gertz was at the meeting and said it was highly productive.

His Townsville-based company works with Civil Safety and represents many Torres Strait Islanders who are seeking work and careers around North Queensland.

Mt Gertz said TS workers were proving to be great assets in a wide variety of fields around the region and there were plans to expand his company to have offices in Weipa, Cairns, Mackay and Mareeba.

"The meeting was useful in helping me understand the working skills required for TS people and also the opportunities available to them on the mainland," Mr Gertz said.

"This includes possible work on major infrastructure programs and even on the demand during construction for the Olympic Games.

"I was in Richmond out west from Townsville recently and saw a gang of railway workers there from Badu island.

"Many of their forebears helped build and maintain the

railways as far away as WA and the western line from Townsville," Mr Gertz said.

Also at the interagency meeting was facilitator Moses Nelliman. Moses is the Acting Manager of the Thursday Island Service Centre Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts and said the meeting was a great opportunity for attendees to share information and network.

"Terms of references had been drafted at an earlier workshop and outlined a key purpose of the Thursday Island Interagency meetings is for stakeholders to work collaboratively to deliver locally-led solutions that respond to service delivery priorities or opportunities across the Torres Strait," Mr Nelliman said.

Mr Nelliman said the meeting was attended by representatives from DTATSIPCA, Torres Shire Council, Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Torres Strait Regional Authority, Queensland Government departments of Health, Tourism, Innovation and Sport, Energy and Public Works, Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs and Housing.

Also attending were National Indigenous Australians Agency, QIFVLS, QPS, Torres Health, TAFE Qld, Mura Kosker Sorority, On Common Country, Civil Safety, Port Kennedy Assoc, Black Stars Consultants and Tagai State College.

"All agencies have committed to meet bi-monthly in 2024," Mr Nelliman said.

Mr Nelliman said he was delighted with the 32 who turned out in person for the December meeting.

The meeting was the third since before Covid.

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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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council is seeking applications from experienced and motivated people interested in a rewarding career undertaking the role of Chief Executive Officer. \$83,000 (Salary Packaging Available).

All applicants must obtain a copy of the Position Description and Selection Criteria. These are available on request by email at Admin@BirpaiALC.org.au

Applicants must address the selection criteria for their application to be considered.

The pre-employment checks will form part of the application process and include, NSW Working with Children Check and a National Criminal History Check.

Aboriginal people are strongly encouraged to apply

Applications can be forwarded to admin@birpaiALC.org.au or marked "Confidential" and posted to:

**The Chairman
Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 876, PORT MACQUARIE 2444**

Applications Close: 29th February 2024



Transition Case Worker – Mt Druitt Aboriginal Identified Position

**Located in Mt Druitt
Full time 38 hours per week
Contract to June 2024, with possibility of extension
Salary of \$88,288 gross per annum + super + generous salary packaging**

CRC is excited to be hiring to our team of dedicated and experienced Transition Case Workers for a dynamic program aimed at reducing homelessness by supporting people transitioning from prison into safe and secure accommodation. And we'd love to hear from you.

- Play a key part in our established program, and contribute to long-lasting change for our clients and the community
- Join a diverse and passionate team in a flexible and supportive organisation

We want to hear from people from First Nations backgrounds, including those with lived experience of the criminal justice system and homelessness.

Why work for us?

- Support programs that aim to break entrenched cycles of disadvantage, homelessness and imprisonment
- Be part of a community-based agency that has been delivering effective services in our field for over 70 years
- Join a dedicated, energetic team with a culture of flexibility, trust, integrity and respect
- Additional Wellbeing Leave
- Access the support of Cultural Supervision for First Nations staff

How to apply:

CRC considers being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a genuine occupational qualification as specified under section 14 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW).

Applications will remain open until the position is filled.

PLEASE APPLY NOW! Apply via:
<https://www.crcnsw.org.au/about-us/work-with-the-crc/?ja-job=826097> For more information email recruitment@crcnsw.org.au



Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer

At BreastScreen Victoria, we strive to make a difference. We encourage an innovative, client focused and respectful approach to our work.

We are looking for a person to support the implementation of the Beautiful Shawl Project, and other community engagement activities to support and improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in the BreastScreen program.

You will have:

- demonstrated ability to work with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, Communities, and organisations
- strong communication and negotiation skills,
- ability to prioritise, and
- good problem solving skills.

In line with special measure provisions in Section 12 of the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act (2010) BSV will only be accepting applications for these positions from people who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

About the role:

The role is full time (0.8 FTE part time option) and is ongoing. BreastScreen Victoria is in the process of developing an Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan. Successful applicants will be required to travel intermittently throughout Victoria as part of the Beautiful Shawl Project.

How to apply:

To discuss before applying please contact Annabel on 03 8843 0069. Applications including resume and cover letter can be emailed to careers@breastscreen.org.au

Applications for this role will close on 9 February 2024.

Successful candidates are required to undertake a national, and where relevant international police check and have a current drivers license.

We are committed to promoting diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility within our workplace, and encourage people from diverse communities and backgrounds to apply for roles at *BreastScreen Victoria*. This includes (but is not limited to): people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; LGBTQ+ communities; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and people living with disability.

BreastScreen Victoria have a number of policies, procedures and systems that promote inclusive behaviour throughout our workforce. They are all key indicators for successful performance in this role.

Talent Acquisition Consultant

- Lead the First Nations recruitment portfolio for NAB
- Make a genuine difference through the work you do
- Use your passion to drive positive outcomes for our customers, colleagues, and communities
- Melbourne or Sydney based

NB: Please note this role has been identified as an opportunity for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Person.

About us

It's more than a career at NAB. It's about more opportunity, more moments to make a difference and more focus on you.

Your job is just one part of your life. When you bring your ideas, energy, and hunger for growth to us, you'll be recognised and rewarded for your contribution in return. You'll have our support to excel for our customers, deliver positive change for our communities and grow your career.

At NAB, we work together to deliver exceptional outcomes that exceed our customers' expectations. We're an ASX listed organisation that has been serving Australian communities for more than 160 years. We're investing in positive change and our work changes the future of banking. Our colleagues have an impact far beyond work, and you'll be part of a team that is helping to solve some of society's biggest challenges.

The role

Talent Acquisition plays a critical role in optimising a business landscape and NAB is on a very exciting journey! We currently have an exciting opportunity for a Talent Acquisition Consultant in a small but important team that will support and deliver First Nations Talent Acquisition strategies and toolkits that address the ambitions, challenges and hiring practices that drive and increase First Nations hires for NAB.

This role will allow you to grow personally and professionally, with a focus on our First Nations Hiring. You'll enhance our programs and help shape the colleague experience of our First Nations Talent community, whilst building NAB's reputation as an Employer of choice.

Your opportunity

Lead the delivery of First Nations hiring strategies that enables NAB to proactively achieve hiring ambitions
Conduct inclusive recruitment process including sourcing, screening, shortlisting, interview. offer management and compliance.

Actively source First Nations talent by leveraging sourcing channels such as LinkedIn, Seek talent, First Nations publications, MyMob and community connections.

Relationship management of third-party vendors relating to your portfolio.

Operate as a trusted advisor for First Nations recruitment by presenting external insights, industry knowledge, trends, forums, data and insights.

Partner with stakeholders and talent acquisition to influence First Nations hiring outcomes and deliver best practice to positively impact Hiring Manager and Candidate Experience.

What you will bring

To succeed in this role you will be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage, possessing a good knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and societies. Your ability to communicate effectively within



this environment is crucial to continue NAB's commitment to building a workforce and community where all First Nations Peoples can thrive. Demonstrated experience in recruitment or talent acquisition gained either from internal, boutique or agency.

Experience in building strategic sourcing strategies using various social media and recruitment platforms

Ability to interact, negotiate, influence and work with multiple stakeholders at all levels

Experience developing best practice solutions to improve Inclusive hiring processes

Passion for social talent branding and marketing that aligns to NAB's Employee Value Proposition

Join NAB

If you think this role is the right fit for you, we invite you to apply, job number 791448.

We are intent on providing an environment where you can work your way. Ask about our many flexible work options and to read how we make our recruitment process accessible and inclusive at NAB, please visit www.nab.com.au/about-us/careers/apply-for-job. Or alternatively please contact Matt Roberts Clifton - Manager Inclusive Hiring at matt.robertsclifton@nab.com.au for more information.

To be eligible to apply, you must have Australian or New Zealand citizenship or Australian permanent residency status. Please note unsolicited CVs from agencies will not be accepted.

This position is only open to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander applicants. The filling of this position is intended to constitute an affirmative measure under section 8(1) of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth) and s 12 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic). It also constitutes a genuine occupational requirement under section 14 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW) and sections 26(3) and 28 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic).

NAB considers that being Aboriginal and/or a Torres Strait Islander is a genuine occupational requirement for this position under section 25 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, section 14 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW) and sections 26(3) and 28 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic).

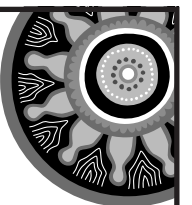
Additionally, the filling of this position is intended to constitute a special/equal opportunity measure under section 8(1) of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth) and s 12 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic). It also constitutes a genuine occupational requirement under section 14 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW) and sections 26(3) and 28 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic).

The position is therefore only open to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander applicants

Please note candidate screening methodologies and interviews may be conducted prior to the closing date of the job advertisement



Communities and Justice



Aboriginal Client Service Officer Department of Communities Justice Illawarra Shoalhaven District, Coniston

- **Clerk Grade 2/4**
- **Base Salary range \$74,803 to \$86,539 pa plus superannuation and annual leave loading**
- **Opportunities for learning, development, and internal career progression**
- **Generous leave entitlements including Flex Leave**
- **Up to 12-month Temporary role with a possible opportunity to progress to ongoing.**

This position is open to Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people only.

Your role

The Aboriginal Client Service Officer (CSO) provides advice and support to clients, advocates and other stakeholders, across a broad range of applicant, tenancy and property management services.

This role is committed to improving outcomes for the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The role manages relationships, partnerships and networks between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the Department to improve communication on and access to services for clients and to support sustainable tenancies.

What you'll do

You will be passionate about making a difference and delivering innovative solutions for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. You will have a strong customer focus and a commitment to person-centred, culturally sensitive client outcomes.

The role could also include providing a broad range of applicant, tenancy and property management services and advice to clients. Work in partnership with other stakeholders to resolve tenancy issues and neighbourhood disputes; manage breaches of the tenancy agreement.

You will be working across a range of Housing programs, policies, and systems to maximise efficiency and service delivery outcomes.

Note: In accordance with Clause 26 of the NSW Government Sector Employment (General) Rules 2014 and in accordance with Sections 14 and 21 of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977* the Department of Communities and Justice considers that being of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent is a genuine occupational qualification for this role and preference will be given to candidates who meet the pre-established standards:

- Documented verification of Aboriginality.

Applications close 11:59pm AEST Tuesday January 23, 2024

For more information about the role or what it's like to work for DCJ, please contact the hiring manager Via: Adam.Cook@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 reach out to Robert Chiplen Via: Robert.Chiplen@dcj.nsw.gov.au

To apply visit jobs.dcj.nsw.gov.au and search **64142**

**Ask your mob,
your way.**

RUOK?



**STRONGER
TOGETHER**
ruok.org.au/strongertogether

Voluntary Independent Board Director

Are you ready to make a meaningful impact on the lives of Aboriginal children and families? Ngunya Jarjum Aboriginal Child and Family Network is on the lookout for two dynamic and experienced Independent Board Directors to help steer our organisation through an exciting phase of growth and diversification.

Ngunya Jarjum Aboriginal Child and Family Network
Lismore, Lismore & Far North Coast NSW
Board Appointments Directors



Voluntary position

About Us:

Ngunya Jarjum was founded in 1995 by Bundjalung elders and community members with a noble mission: to address the crisis of insufficient Aboriginal kinship and foster carers. Our goal is to keep Aboriginal children in family, on Country, and immersed in their culture. Over the years, we've evolved from a small foster care support agency into one of the largest Aboriginal community-controlled designated agencies under the NSW Office of Children's Guardian. Our scope covers the Bundjalung Nation, encompassing the Clarence, Richmond, and Tweed Valley areas.

We are governed by a board of non-executive Aboriginal directors, guided by a membership predominantly of Bundjalung descent. With over 140 Aboriginal children and young people in statutory out-of-home care and a carer pool of almost 115, we proudly boast one of the largest Aboriginal workforces in the non-government sector of Northern NSW.

The Roles:

As we embark on this exciting journey of expansion and diversification, we are seeking two passionate Independent Board Directors to join us. We're looking for individuals with dynamic qualities, substantial experience, and a collaborative spirit. Your values should align with Ngunya Jarjum's purpose, ensuring:

A connected, culturally rich, and thriving community.

Support for local families to nurture their children, raise them on Country, and preserve our culture and strength into the future.

The Board is specifically seeking individuals with the following skills:

- Accounting, finance, and risk qualifications and experience, including a background as CFO or registration as a CPA or CA.
- Legal qualifications and experience, especially in areas such as governance, commercialization, privacy, contracts, and policy.
- Diversity is at the heart of our mission. We actively welcome applications from both Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander individuals and non-Indigenous professionals. Our commitment is to enhance Indigenous representation on our Board. Successful appointments will begin with an initial term of 2 years.

Responsibilities:

As an Independent Director, you will provide invaluable, impartial perspectives to corporate decision-making and oversight. Your role is to ensure that our organization operates within the law, adheres to its specific charter, and upholds ethical expectations. You should possess:

- A strong understanding of governance and the role of a board director (AICD qualifications and/or previous board experience preferred).
- The ability to assess strategic plans, risk management, budgets, and financial reports critically.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with a collaborative mindset.
- Personal qualities of integrity, professionalism, and a passion for improving the lives of Aboriginal children, young people, and families.
- Board Directors will attend eight meetings annually, including remote and face-to-face sessions (where possible). Additionally, you may represent Ngunya Jarjum at events, AGM.

What Does an Independent Board Director Do?

We provide induction support for new Board members and ongoing professional development opportunities. Ngunya Jarjum covers necessary accommodation, travel, and related expenses for Board Directors attending meetings and approved business.

For more information, please contact

Ngunya Jarjum Director Brenda Holt at brendaholt7@gmail.com.
Join us in making a positive impact on the future of Aboriginal children and families!

MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY NORTHERN TERRITORY

HEAD OF ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

\$135,000 per annum, plus super

CURATOR, ABORIGINAL ART AND MATERIAL CULTURE

\$90,000 per annum, plus super

To apply and for further information
please visit our website

magnt.net.au/careers

Applications close 11:59 pm
Sunday 18 February 2024



13 X CRAICCHS JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- NURSES
- DENTIST
- COUNSELLOR
- DENTAL ASSISTANT
- MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST
- YOUTH HUB ASSISTANTS
- YOUTH HUB COORDINATOR
- CLINICAL SERVICES MANAGER
- INDIGENOUS HEALTH WORKERS
- AODS WORKER OR COUNSELLOR
- SUICIDE PREVENTION AFTERCARE WORKER
- VSM / INHALANT SUPPLY REDUCTION OFFICER
- SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATION OFFICER

For all the details on these positions go to:

www.employmentmatters.com.au



BESTCARE
@ Benalla
HEALTH

Aboriginal Cadet 2024



Aboriginal Identified Position

Work Type: Part Time – Fixed Term

Benalla Health offers a working environment that encourages professional development and embraces the concept of work/life balance, whilst striving for excellence.

Position Summary:

The Benalla Health cadetship program is an Aboriginal identified position which provides an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nursing and/or midwifery or allied health students to gain extra skills and experience in a positive and culturally safe environment.

The Aboriginal cadetship programs at Benalla Health will provide paid work placement of a minimum of 8 weeks (or 40 shifts) full-time equivalent. Shifts can be rostered around your studies.

The benefits of Benalla Health's Aboriginal cadetship include:

- Income while studying
- The opportunity to work in a chosen health service

- Exposure to the work environment and workplace culture
- Familiarisation with a potential future place of employment
- Skill consolidation through practice
- Mentoring by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal staff

Who can apply for this role:

The cadetship program is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who:

- Are enrolled in a Diploma of Nursing or Bachelor of Nursing/Midwifery degree or a bachelors, or master's level entry degree, in an allied health discipline
- Have successfully completed the first 12 months of their diploma or degree
- Live in Victoria and maintain a pass grade in all subjects
- Demonstrate well-developed communication and interpersonal skills

For more information or to apply please scan the QR code or contact:
Nicole Gulavin
Clinical Nurse Educator
Benalla Health

(03) 57614310
education@benallahealth.org.au



www.benallahealth.org.au |



DOING THE MOST GOOD



Careers with Queensland Health



Team Leader - Cultural Assessment & Liaison Team (Identified)

Kirwan Health Campus

Salary: \$113,158 up to \$118,430

About your opportunity

Team Leader (Identified) Cultural Assessment & Liaison Team – Child & Youth Community Mental Health Service – Permanent full-time.

As a member of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Assessment Engagement Service management team provide strategic direction and leadership to the Mental Health Service group to ensure the provision of clinical services are culturally informed, strengths focussed, safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and communities.

Under s25 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, there is a genuine occupational requirement for the incumbent to be Indigenous to the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community.

Skills and experience:

- High level of skills and ability to combine your lived experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family structures, culture, practices and protocols with highly developed mental health and alcohol and other drugs knowledge to deliver culturally responsive services.
- Ability to work autonomously to advise, lead, direct and shape the delivery of culturally secure services through:
 - Peer support and mentoring of other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff
 - Providing cultural supervision and advice to non-indigenous workforces
 - Advocating for the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and Providing cultural leadership and direction in service planning, development and delivery
- Highly developed interpersonal, written/verbal communication and negotiation skills including client and community engagement, advocacy and networking.
- Lead quality activities including service evaluation and research documentation including the preparation of statistics and reports

Generous remuneration package value up to \$118,430 p.a. comprising:

- Salary range of \$98,886 to \$103,799 p.a. (Health Worker 7)
- Annual leave with 17.5% loading
- 12.75% employer contribution to superannuation.

Other employment benefits may include: professional development, salary sacrificing options, shift and locality allowances, employee wellness and assistance programs, and access to corporate discounts.

Requirements

- Diploma in either:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care
 - Mental Health
 - Alcohol and Drugs
- Blue Card Checks: Potential applicants are advised that the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000 requires Queensland Health to seek a 'working with children check' from the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian prior to appointment to this position. 5.1.
- This position requires the incumbent to operate a "C" class motor vehicle and an appropriate license endorsement to operate this type of vehicle is required.
- This is a Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) risk role: Hepatitis A/B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, and Pertussis.

Please refer to the Role Description for further details.

Why make the change?

The coastal hub of Townsville is an ideal base for exploring the Great Barrier Reef. Townsville is a dynamic neighbourhood with access to a variety of top-notch educational facilities, cutting-edge medical facilities, affordable housing, distinctive retail stores, great events, and a wide range of recreation opportunities.

Interested..?

Contact: Lisa Phelan on 07 4433 9710.

Further information

We are committed to building inclusive cultures in the Queensland public sector that respect and promote human rights and diversity.

Job Ad Reference: TV536486

Apply ONLINE: <https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-TV436486>

Closing Date: Thursday, 1 February 2024.

You can apply online at www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au

A criminal history check may be conducted on the recommended person for the job. A non-smoking policy applies to Queensland Government buildings, offices and motor vehicles.





Aboriginal Homelessness Case Manager Tweed Heads

Would you like to make a real difference in people's lives? If so, come and join the team at Momentum Collective.

You will case manage First Nations people who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless.

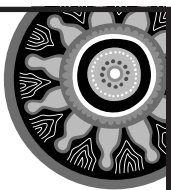
Here at Momentum we are known to provide a culturally safe environment and provide career development and mentoring opportunities for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees.

Momentum Collective is committed to creating social change and inclusive opportunities for everyone. We promote diversity when recruiting our team and are guided by our core values of trust and respect, wellbeing, innovation, working well together and being gracious. We respect the special place our nation's first people hold in our communities and value the differences in everyone.

To apply: please call Janet on 0437253130 or email recruitment@mymomentum.org.au



Communities and Justice



Aboriginal Mentor – Clerk Grade 5/6 Wellington Correctional Centre

Location: Wellington Correctional Centre

Employment Type: Ongoing, Full-Time

Salary: \$93,295 to \$102,941 pa plus Superannuation and Leave Loading

This position is open to Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people only.

Your role

We are currently seeking a qualified specialist to join the team at Wellington Correctional Centre as an Aboriginal Mentor. As a Mentor at the centre you will be responsible for providing cultural, spiritual, emotional, and rehabilitative support and development to offenders on a regular basis.

What you'll do

As a significant part of this role, the successful candidate will provide culturally specific advice on the development and delivery of Aboriginal programs and encourage offender participation in all programs endorsed by Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW).

The role is critical in assisting correctional centre management with crisis situations of Aboriginal offenders, the organisation of cultural activities and mediation between CSNSW, the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal offenders. It's an exciting role with a lot of scope for the right person who will possess exceptional communication skills.

As part of this role, the successful applicant will be required to perform however not limited to the below duties:

- Assist management with crisis situations of Aboriginal offenders, organising mediation and cultural activities between CSNSW, the Aboriginal Community and Offenders
- Indorse positive professional relationships between the department and the Aboriginal communities to assist in addressing the offending behaviours of offenders
- Develop support programs and networks within the local aboriginal communities for the growth of post release strategies as well as work with a variety of local, regional and government organisations to identify work, education and training opportunities and broaden the community base of rehabilitative support networks for offenders.

What we're looking for

- Proof of Aboriginality
- Current and valid driving licence and willingness to travel within NSW
- Knowledge of Aboriginal culture, history and the justice system.

Applications close 4 February 2024 at 11:59pm AEST

For more information about the role or what it's like to work for DCJ, please contact the hiring manager Brianna Zaidan via brianna.zaidan@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 contact Erica Tam via Erica.Tam@dcj.nsw.gov.au

To apply visit jobs.dcj.nsw.gov.au and search **64762**

LPT1861

Board Appointments

Make healing happen - it's time to act

The Healing Foundation (THF) is a national not-for-profit organisation that provides a platform to amplify the voices and lived experience of Stolen Generations survivors and their families.

Play a pivotal role in influencing and shaping the strategic direction of THF, contributing to the realisation of its strategic plan.

- Paid board opportunity
- 3 year appointment
- Identified position



Scan the QR code to learn more
Expressions of interest close 31st January 2024



HorizonOne

NOTICE OF IMAN PEOPLE'S NATIVE TITLE AUTHORISATION MEETING

The Applicants of the Iman #4 Native Title Claim and the Directors of the Wardingarri Aboriginal Corporation (RNTBC) have called an authorisation meeting for the following purposes:

1. Approve a draft S87A Agreement for a Determination of Native Title over the Iman #4 Native Title claim.
2. Authorise the Wardingarri Aboriginal Corporation (RNTBC) to hold Native Title on Trust for the Iman #4 People and be the Registered Prescribed Body Corporate.
3. Authorise any ILUA's over the Iman #4 claim area required for the determination.
4. Authorise a further Native Title Claim over the hatched area of the Map contained in this notice and authorise Applicants to prosecute the new claim.
5. Authorise negotiations with the State of Queensland for compensation where Native Title has been extinguished over the Iman #4 claim area.

The arrangements for the meeting are as follows:

Date: Saturday 17 February 2024

Venue: Bauhinia House, North Rockhampton
Cnr of Berserker & High Streets

Time: 9:00am for sign in, meeting starts at 9.30am

Only the descendants of the following Iman ancestors will be entitled to participate in the meeting: Mary Arwa, Jim Waterton, Ada Robinson, Maggie Palmtree, Lizzie Palmtree, Eliza Shields, Mary Ann (mother of Maggie Dunn), Fanny Waddy/Sandy, Dick Bundi/Bundai and Alice Dutton and the mother of John Serico (known as Aggie).

Travel Assistance

Assistance with travel will be provided only to those who register by **4:00pm on Monday 5th February 2024**.

Please Contact Kennas to register for the meeting by
Post: PO Box 201, Rockhampton Qld 4700 / Email: kennas@kennas.com
Phone: 07 4924 9123



SPONSOR A PUPPY AND GIVE SOMEONE WITH A DISABILITY A NEW LEASH ON LIFE.

Each puppy takes two years and more than \$27,000 to train. We receive no government funding so rely heavily on the generosity of people like you to carry out this vital work.



**Assistance Dogs
Australia**
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Free Call 1800 688 364
Or simply post the attached form
Or visit www.assistedogs.org.au

The Civic Precinct, Newcastle, NSW – Preparation of an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report for Proposed Public Domain Plan Submission

Public Notice and Registration of Interest
National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

City Plan heritage have been engaged by Place Design Group on behalf of the City of Newcastle Council to prepare an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report for the Civic Precinct in Newcastle to inform a Public Domain Plan Submission. The Civic Precinct is bounded by Union Street in the west, King Street and Civic Park to the south, and Darby Street in the East. The northern boundary follows an indirect line between Centenary Road, Workshop Way, and Civic Lane. The site is approximately 15.6ha in area. The proposed Public Domain Plan and subsequent ancillary works may result in impacts upon Aboriginal objects protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and will therefore require the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report. In accordance with Heritage NSW (2010) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents, individuals or groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to establishing the significance of potential

Aboriginal objects and intangible cultural values in the area of the proposed development are invited to register their interest to participate in the heritage consultation and assessment process.

Contact details are as follows:

Tim Field
Place Design Group
Mob: 0403 863 059

Contact details for the heritage consultant:
Jakub (Chaz) Czastka
City Plan Heritage Pty Ltd
Level 6, 120 Sussex Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000
T: 02 8270 3500
E: chazc@cityplan.com.au

The registration period closes on
Friday 2 February 2024.



Notice under Section 29 of the Native Title Act 1993
Exploration Licence Numbers 8159, 8160 & 8405 (Act 1992)

This notice is given in accordance with the requirements of section 29 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth).

Description of the nature of the act

Pursuant to the Native Title (Right to Negotiate (Exclusion) – NSW Land) Determination No. 1 of 1996 (Cth), Exploration Licences 8159, 8160 & 8405 include a condition to the effect that the holder must not prospect on any land or waters covered by the licences in relation to which native title exists without the prior written consent of the Minister administering the Mining Act 1992 (the ‘Native Title Condition’).

The Minister administering the Mining Act 1992 intends to give consent to prospecting on land subject to native title in parts of the licences in accordance with the Native Title (Right to Negotiate (Inclusion) – NSW Land) Approval No. 1 of 1996 (Cth).

Should consent be granted, the licence holder may apply to renew or transfer the licences prior to them expiring (including partial renewals or partial transfers).

Note: If the consent is granted, it will apply to any renewal, re grant or re-making (including partial renewals or partial transfers) or extension of the term of the licences, which may be valid pursuant to section 24MD(1) of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) without a further notification under section 29.

Holder’s details

Bowdens Silver Pty Limited (ACN 009 250 051) is the holder of Exploration Licence 8159, Exploration Licence 8160 and Exploration Licence 8405, all for Group 1 minerals.

The licences contain a condition that the holder must not prospect on any land or waters on which native title exists without the prior consent of the Minister administering the Mining Act 1992. The licence holder has sought the Minister’s consent to conduct prospecting activities in parts of each licence area.

Description of area that may be affected

Exploration Licence 8159 covers about 74 units and is situated approximately 17 kilometres south of Ulan, in the State of NSW.

Exploration Licence 8160 covers about 95 units and is situated approximately 7 kilometres east northeast of Gulgong, in the State of NSW.

Exploration Licence 8405 covers about 128 units and is situated approximately 7 kilometres south of Gulgong, in the State of NSW.

The areas within Exploration Licences 8159, 8160 and 8405 that may be affected by the grant of Minister’s consent are detailed in the following table:

Diagram reference	Lot & DP information	Diagram reference	Lot & DP information
1	Lot 283 in DP46123	6	Lot 7001 in DP1026308
2	Lot 295 in DP722886	7	Lot 4 in DP1210670
3	Lot 227 in DP755442	8	Lot 16 in DP1210629
4	Lot 232 in DP755442	9	Lot 7300 in DP1136036
5	Lot 233 in DP755442		

These areas are also shown in the diagrams below and referred to as ‘RTN lots’ in the Location diagram.

Name and postal address of person by whom the act would be done

The Minister administering the Mining Act 1992, PO Box 344, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310.

How further information about the act can be obtained

Further information may be obtained from; Assessments and Systems, Regional NSW on (02) 4063 6600 or titles@regional.nsw.gov.au.

Notification Day

For the purposes of section 29(4) of the Native Title Act 1993 the notification day is 1 February 2024. 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.

Notice of an application to register an area agreement on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements in Queensland
Notification day: 24 January 2024



QI2023/009 Iman People #2

Description of the agreement area:

The agreement area covers about 14,000 sq km and is located about 75 km north east of Roma in the vicinity of Taroom and Wandoan

Relevant LGAs: Banana Shire Council, Central Highlands Regional Council, Maranoa Regional Council and Western Downs Regional Council

The agreement contains the following statements:

[The agreement includes no statements mentioned in subsection 24EB(1) or 24(EBA(1) or (4)]

Parties to the agreement and their contact addresses:

State of Queensland PO Box 15216 City East, Brisbane QLD 4002	Heather Tobane and Jeffery Tull on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the Iman Compensation Claim Group; Wardingarri Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC 388 Dean Street, Frenchville QLD 4701
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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 24 April 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 Sylvia Jagtman on (07) 3052 4248 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

Notice of a non-claimant application for determination of native title in New South Wales
Notification day: 31 January 2024



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 **30 April 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 30 April 2024**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **30 April 2024**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.



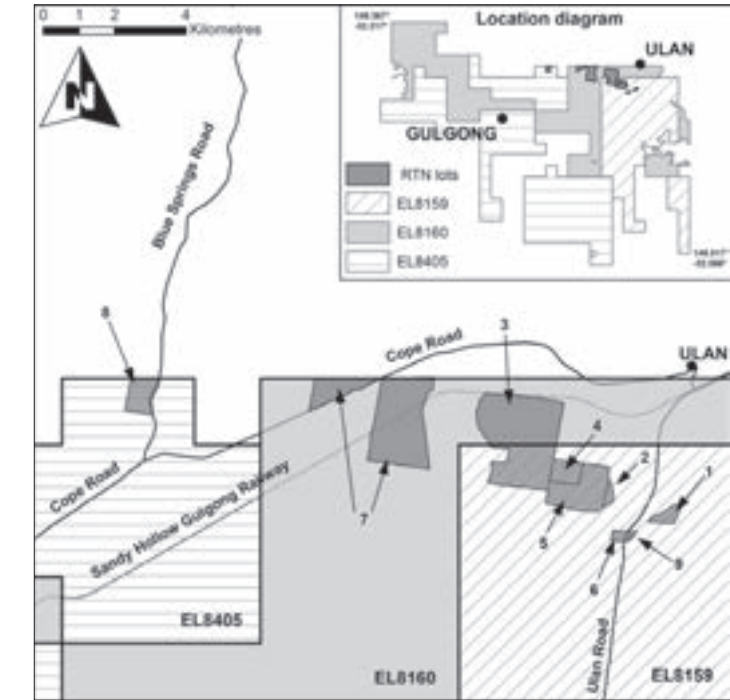
Applicant’s name: Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council
Federal Court File No: NSD1345/2023

Non-native title interest: The applicant holds an estate in fee simple in relation to the areas comprising the application area but, pursuant to section 36(9) of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW), the applicant’s interest is subject to any native title rights and interests that existed in relation to the land immediately prior to its transfer to the applicant

Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks a determination that native title does not exist

Description: The application covers about 0.5 ha and is located over Lot 1205 on DP752067, located in the suburb of Waverton
Relevant LGA: North Sydney Council

For assistance and further information about this application, call Megan Harris on 07 3052 4921 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
Assessment – Invitation to
Register Interest – HN1066-A

Heritage Now, on behalf of a Proponent (name provided on registration), is requesting the names of Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Project Area (approximately 1 hectare in size) in Castlereagh, Penrith Local Government Area. An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report is being prepared with provisions for a test excavation under the *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* and Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist the proposed applicant in the preparation of an application for an AHIP and to assist the Department of Premier and Cabinet Secretary (or a delegate under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974) in his or her consideration and determination of the application.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements 2010*, please send your registration to Ngaire Richards (1/48 Kalaroo Road, Redhead NSW 2290, hello@heritagenow.com.au) by Thursday 1 February 2024. Please be advised that 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.

CALL FOR REGISTRATIONS -
ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

Aboriginal community consultation for proposed Zahra Grammar School Minto

Zahra Education Incorporated is proposing to construct a new school at 127 Eagleview Road (Lot 204, DP785818), Minto, NSW. Proponent contact details are Dr Gulzar Khan, Principal, Zahra Grammar School PO Box 5032, Minto NSW 2566. Email principal@zahragrammar.nsw.edu.au.

The proposed development is a new school including student facilities, library, canteen, multipurpose hall, staff room, ancillary and administration facilities etc. The site is 19,991 square metres in area and located within the City of Campbelltown Local Government Area (LGA).

The project is being assessed as State Significant Development - SSD-46134480. The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist with the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and, assist Heritage NSW (Department of Planning and Environment) to consider and determine decisions relating to the project.

We invite Aboriginal people with cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the vicinity of these proposed works to register an interest in the process of community consultation regarding the proposed development.

Please register interest before 5 pm on Thursday 1st February, 2024 to:

Vanessa Hardy, Cultural Heritage Connections
PO Box 490, Dulwich Hill, NSW 2203
Phone: 0410 030 986
Email: vanessa@heritageconnect.com.au

NOTICE INITIATING NEGOTIATIONS WITH NATIVE TITLE PARTIES
MINING ACT 1971 (SA) — SECTION 63M

TAKE NOTICE that:
Lodestone Mines Limited ACN 150 740 613 of 1 Waymouth Place, Adelaide SA 5000 (**Lodestone**) is the registered holder of South Australian Exploration Licence (EL) numbers 6940 and 6006. This notice relates to the whole of EL6940 (as described below) and that part of EL 6006 being the land described below:

EL6940
PINE VALLEY STATION AREA – Approximately 90 km northeast of Waikerie, bounded as follows:
Commencing at a point being the intersection of latitude 33°12'S and longitude 140°07'E, then east to the boundary of the Danggali Wilderness Protection Area, then commencing in a south- westerly direction along said boundary to latitude 33°26'S, west to longitude 140°07'E, and north to the point of commencement, and all the within latitudes and longitudes are geodetic and expressed in terms of the Australian Geodetic Datum as defined on p. 4984 of Commonwealth Gazette number 84 dated October 6, 1966 (AGD66)
AREA: 838 square kilometres approximately

EL6006 (Part Only)
WADNAMINGA AREA -Approximately 45 km SSW of Olary, bounded as follows:
Commencing at a point being the intersection of latitude 32°56.83'S and longitude 140°0.08'E, then east- northeast to latitude 32°55.60'S and longitude 140°7.08'E, thence south to latitude 32°56.91'S and longitude 140°7.08'E, thence west to latitude 32°56.91'S and longitude 140°0.08' E, and north to the point of commencement, and all the within latitudes and longitudes are geodetic and expressed in terms of GDA2020 / MGA zone 54 (EPSG:7854).

AREA: 13.98 square kilometres approximately (together the Land).
Lodestone proposes to carry out mining operations on the Land. The general nature of the proposed mining operations that are to be carried out on the Land is as follows:

General nature of proposed mining operations
Exploratory operations to determine the geological structure of the land and presence of economic mineralization and/or water and without limiting the foregoing, such operations may include any of the following: Geophysical surveys including airborne and ground surveys of magnetics, gravity, electrical and seismic methods. Geochemical sampling including radon surveys, soil, rock chip and drainage; Shallow trenching and various drilling methods including auger, rotary mud, reverse circulation, aircore and diamond drilling.

Lodestone seeks to negotiate a native title mining agreement in respect the Land and the proposed mining operations with native title parties (if any) as provided for by Part 9B of the Mining Act 1971.

The proposed operations are authorised by the following tenements under the Mining Act 1971: Exploration Licence numbers 6940 and 6006 (Part only).

In this notice a reference to an exploration licence includes that tenement and any extensions, renewals, transfers, assignments, re-grants, or other dealings with that tenement. A reference to Lodestone includes its successors and assigns.

If, four months after this notice is given as required by the Mining Act 1971, there are no persons registered under the law of the State or Commonwealth as the holders of, or claimants to, native title in the Land, Lodestone may apply ex parte to the Environment, Resources and Development Court for a summary determination authorising entry to the relevant Land for the purpose of carrying out mining operations on that Land, and the conduct of mining operations on that Land.

Any person who holds or may hold native title in the Land is invited to contact Lodestone in respect of Land for the purpose of

1. negotiating an agreement in respect of the proposed mining operations on the Land; or
2. requesting further information about this notice.

Lodestone can be contacted at Lodestone Mines Ltd, 1 Waymouth Place, Adelaide SA 5000 or by email or telephone.

Email: abigailsteed@outlook.com . Telephone: 0419 819 963.
Contact: Abigail Steed – Steed Lawyers.

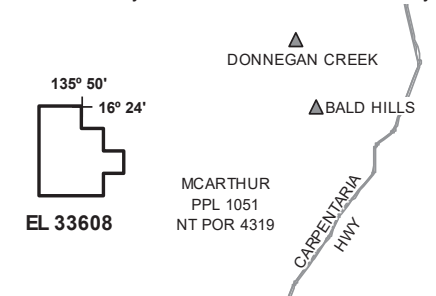
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION
LICENCES

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

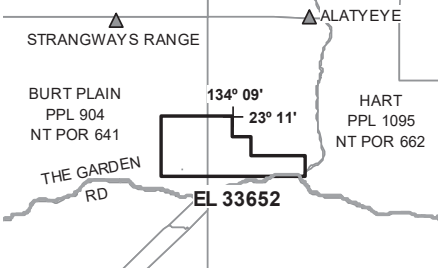
The Honourable Mark Monaghan MLA, the Northern Territory Minister for Mining, C/- Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) of her intent to do an act, namely to grant the following exploration licence applications.

Applications to which this notice applies:

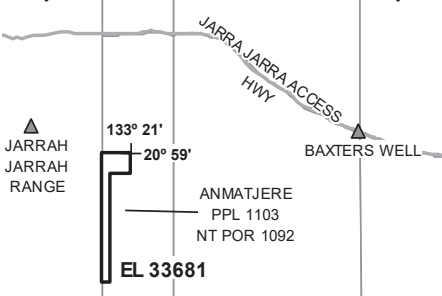
Exploration Licence 33608 sought by DALY TENEMENTS PTY LTD, ACN 658 845 786 over an area of 12 Blocks (40 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the BATTEN locality.



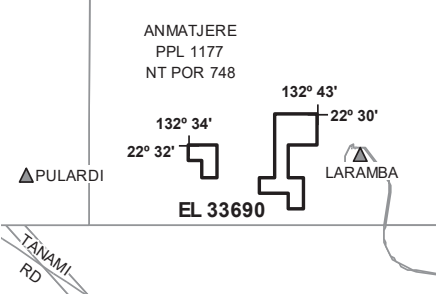
Exploration Licence 33652 sought by GEMPART (NT) PTY LTD, ACN 081 859 896 over an area of 17 Blocks (54 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the LAUGHLEN locality.



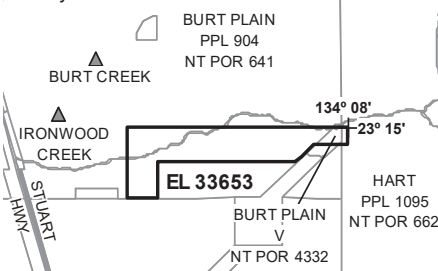
Exploration Licence 33681 sought by IGO LIMITED, ACN 092 786 304 over an area of 7 Blocks (21 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the CONICAL HILL locality.



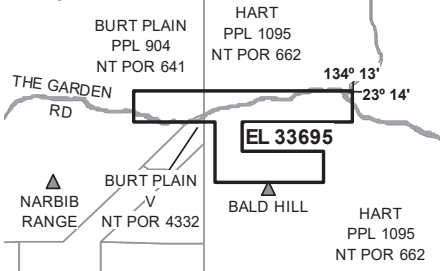
Exploration Licence 33690 sought by MIOXIDE NT PTY LTD, ACN 636 686 747 over an area of 15 Blocks (48 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the NAPPERBY locality.



Exploration Licence 33653 sought by WILUNA WEST GOLD PTY LTD, ACN 116 550 111 over an area of 30 Blocks (93 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the LAUGHLEN locality.



Exploration Licence 33695 sought by WILUNA WEST GOLD PTY LTD, ACN 116 550 111 over an area of 13 Blocks (42 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the LAUGHLEN locality.



Nature of act(s): The grant of an exploration licence under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* authorises the holder to conduct activities in connection with exploration for minerals for a term not exceeding 6 years and to seek renewal(s). The term for which it is intended to grant the mineral exploration licences referred to in this notice commences from the date of grant. Further information about the act may be obtained from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, GPO Box 4550 Darwin NT 0801 or 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: 17 January 2024

POWER THE HAPPY FOR SICK KIDS LIKE NED

Ned, age 5

Since being diagnosed with leukaemia at age two, hospital has been Ned's life. But thanks to Captain Starlight, the fun of being a kid hasn't stopped. And it shouldn't.

Because a healthy dose of fun and happiness is essential to the health of sick kids like Ned. Donate this Starlight Day to help more sick kids like Ned discover the power of happy.

DONATE NOW
starlight.org.au

Starlight
children's foundation 30 years

NOTICE
NYANGBAL PEOPLE
NATIVE TITLE AUTHORISATION MEETING

10 February 2024 – Ballina RSL Club, 1 Grant St, Ballina NSW 2478

APIX Law Group on behalf of the Steering Committee of the Nyangbal People publishes this meeting notice.

Date: 10 February 2024
Time: 9:00am Registration for 10:00am Start
Place: Ballina RSL – 1 Grant Street, Ballina NSW 2478

Background

The Nyangbal People have not achieved native title recognition and this proposed claim is to be brought to have native title rights and interests recognised in the Federal Court.

Proposed Native Title Claim Group

The proposed members of the Native Title claim group are the descendants (including through adoption) of the following Nyangbal Ancestors:

Who Should Attend

All members of the proposed native title claim group (descendants of Nyangbal Ancestors) are invited to attend.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. King Billy Kelly | 7. Harry Combo Snr |
| 2. Benjamin Bolt | 8. Rosie Rountree |
| 3. Hannah Lowe | 9. John Jack Roach |
| 4. John + Susan Cook | 10. William Ferguson |
| 5. King Jack Kapeen + Mary Brown | 11. Ginger Ferguson |
| 6. Charlotte Livingston | 12. John Jack Roach |

Any Aboriginal person claiming to have native rights and title in the claim area under Nyangbal law and custom (and not being a descendant of a named Apical) are also invited to attend with pre-registration details to be provided.

Attendance in Person

Attendance will be in person and only those present will be entitled to participate in decision-making. All persons who attend will be required to respect the meeting group purpose and directions of the chair, and security will be present to ensure no disruptions or unruly behaviour take place.

Pre-Registration and Contact

Pre-registration is encouraged by contacting us by email at admin@apixlawgroup.com.au and stating your name, descent identity (including pathway from apical) and contact details.

Anthropologist Dr Anthony Jefferies will be in attendance and if you wish to discuss your claim group membership, please include that in your registration email

Agenda for Meeting

- Confirmation of persons who make up the proposed claim group
- Discussion and agreement on a decision making process
- Discussion and agreement to make a native title claim
- Appointment of applicant members to bring the claim
- Applicants rules and membership for carrying out duties
- Any other business



Proposed Claim Area



NOTICE OF CONSULTATION

POONINDIE CEMETERY WORKS

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATIONS UNDER SECTIONS 21 AND 23 OF THE ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ACT 1988 (SA)

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Minister), who is responsible for the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* (SA) (Act), has received an application for authorisations under sections 21 and 23 of the Act from District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula (Applicant) to carry out upgrade works at the Poonindie Cemetery, some 17 km north of Port Lincoln.

Section 21 makes it an offence to excavate land to uncover any Aboriginal site, object or ancestral remains (together, heritage) without authorisation under the Act, while section 23 makes it an offence to damage, disturb or interfere with heritage without authorisation under the Act.

The Poonindie Cemetery formed part of the former Poonindie Mission that was operated by the Church of England from 1850 to 1894. The former Poonindie Mission holds historical significance for many Aboriginal families across South Australia, and potentially other parts of Australia, who have historical connections to the mission, and whose ancestors may be interred at the cemetery. The Poonindie Cemetery is listed as an Aboriginal heritage site on Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation's (AAR's) central archives.

Consultation and submissions

Prior to considering whether to grant any authorisation under the Act, section 13 requires the Minister to take all reasonable steps to consult with the State Aboriginal Heritage Committee, Traditional Owners and any other Aboriginal parties with an interest. For further details, please call (08) 8429 9419 or visit: agd.sa.gov.au/heritage-applications.

An Aboriginal Community consultation meeting will be held for Traditional Owners and any other interested Aboriginal parties from **6:00 pm on Thursday 8 February 2024 at The Terrace Hotel** located at **208 South Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000**.

Aboriginal people with an interest in this matter may also attend this meeting online in Port Lincoln at the **Port Lincoln Airport (PLA) Conference Room (Old PLA Terminal)** located at **Lincoln Highway, North Shields SA 5607**.

A light supper will be provided for attendees at both venues. If you wish to attend, for catering purposes, please RSVP to AAR on (08) 8429 9419 or via AAR.CIR@sa.gov.au.



Government of South Australia
Attorney-General's Department

W21101



Notice under Section 29 of the Native Title Act 1993

This notice is given in accordance with the requirements of section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

Description of the nature of the act

New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) intends to undertake the act of the compulsory acquisition of the land, and any native title rights and interests in Lot 7025 DP1020631 and Lot 7317 DP1166614 and Lot 7332 DP 1166365. The doing of the act will wholly extinguish any native title rights and interests in the acquired land under section 24MD(2)(c) of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

LAHC intends the land to be a mixed-use development at Forbes consisting of social and affordable housing, and some private residential development.

Description of area that may be affected

Lot 7025 DP1020631, Lot 7332 DP 1166365 and Lot 7317 DP1166614 are approximately 2.5km north-northwest of the Forbes town centre in the Forbes local government area. The land is shown in the diagram below:

Name and postal address of the entity who will do the act

New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation, 4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street, Parramatta NSW 2150.

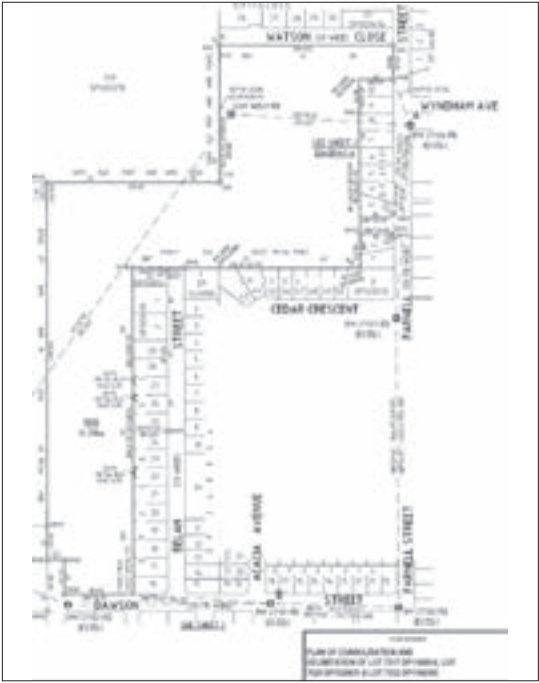
How to get more information about the act

For more information, contact Glyn Richards, New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation via glyn.richards@facsa.nsw.gov.au.

Notification Day

For the purposes of section 29(4) of the *Native Title Act 1993*, the notification day is **18 January 2024**.

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.



LP1495



Notice under Section 29 of the Native Title Act 1993

This notice is given in accordance with the requirements of section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

Description of the nature of the act

New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) intends to undertake the act of the compulsory acquisition of the land and any native title rights and interests in Lot 2 DP1285072. The doing of the act will wholly extinguish any native title rights and interests in the acquired land under section 24MD(2)(c) of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

LAHC intends the land to be a mixed-tenure development at Cooma consisting of social and affordable housing, and some private residential development.

Description of area that may be affected

Lot 2 DP1285072 is on the Monaro Highway, approximately 3km northeast of the Cooma town centre, in the Snowy Monaro regional local government area. The land is shown in the diagram below:

Name and postal address of entity by whom the act would be done

New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation, 4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street, Parramatta NSW 2150.

How further information about the act can be obtained

Further information may be obtained from Glyn Richards, New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation via glyn.richards@facsa.nsw.gov.au.

Notification Day

For the purposes of section 29(4) of the *Native Title Act 1993* the notification day is **17 January 2024**.

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.



LP1479



NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	38/3918	PINDINNIS HOLDINGS PTY LTD	33BL	141.1km NE'ly of Laverton	Lat: 27° 32' S: Long: 123° 9' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Mining Lease	38/1313	CREW, Ross Frederick	58.37HA	124.6km N'ly of Laverton	Lat: 27° 32' S: Long: 122° 3' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Mining Lease	57/665	SANDSTONE EXPLORATION PTY LTD	1471.03HA	12.7km SE'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 4' S: Long: 119° 22' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	80/1887	MORNING STAR MINING PTY LTD	200.05HA	17.2km SE'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 19' S: Long: 127° 47' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	80/1888	MORNING STAR MINING PTY LTD	189.64HA	17.7km SE'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 21' S: Long: 127° 46' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	80/1889	MORNING STAR MINING PTY LTD	199.95HA	18.6km SE'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 21' S: Long: 127° 46' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	80/1890	MORNING STAR MINING PTY LTD	199.80HA	19.5km SE'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 21' S: Long: 127° 47' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	80/1891	MORNING STAR MINING PTY LTD	199.93HA	19.4km SE'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 22' S: Long: 127° 46' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	80/1892	MORNING STAR MINING PTY LTD	199.90HA	20.2km SE'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 22' S: Long: 127° 46' E	HALLS CREEK 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 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. 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: 17 January 2024

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 **17 April 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. **17 May 2024**), there is no native title party under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* in relation to the area of the mining tenements. For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

* - 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km²

DMIRS 19546



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	15/1958	MANDILLA GOLD PTY LTD	4BL	10.3km S'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 17' S: Long: 121° 38' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/2051	BEAU RESOURCES PTY LTD	23BL	85.9km SE'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 48' S: Long: 120° 18' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/2055	BEAU RESOURCES PTY LTD	32BL	81km E'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 43' S: Long: 120° 17' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	28/3360	AMERY HOLDINGS PTY LTD	6BL	91.2km E'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 3' S: Long: 122° 36' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	29/1169	RED DIRT MINING PTY LTD	16BL	37.2km SE'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 57' S: Long: 121° 15' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	37/1529	BULLSEYE MINING LIMITED	8BL	88.3km NE'ly of Leinster	Lat: 27° 37' S: Long: 121° 31' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	52/4307	TASEX GEOLOGICAL SERVICES PTY LTD	24BL	59.1km E'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 25° 40' S: Long: 119° 18' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1229	CRONUS MINERALS PTY LTD	20BL	47km W'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 8' S: Long: 118° 51' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1393	REDScope ENTERPRISES PTY LTD	4BL	92.2km SW'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 43' S: Long: 118° 50' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	66/127	ST GEORGE MINING LIMITED	51BL	49.6km N'ly of Northampton	Lat: 27° 54' S: Long: 114° 40' E	NORTHAMPTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/2733	FLYNN GOLD LIMITED	10BL	141km N'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 29° 57' S: Long: 119° 14' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/2917	BARTO GOLD MINING PTY LTD	5BL	11.9km SW'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 32' S: Long: 119° 24' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/2974	AURUMIN MT DIMER PTY LTD	22BL	111.4km NE'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 19' S: Long: 119° 50' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/2983	AURUMIN MT DIMER PTY LTD	39BL	104.1km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 26' S: Long: 119° 58' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3132	HOGAN, Matthew Vernon	4BL	114.5km E'ly of Paynes Find	Lat: 29° 7' S: Long: 118° 51' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	80/5724	IGO NEWSEARCH PTY LTD	200BL	138.3km S'ly of Kununurra	Lat: 16° 55' S: Long: 128° 14' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE, WYNDHAM-EAST KIMBERLEY SHIRE
Exploration Licence	80/5985	RAREXPLORATION PTY LTD	51BL	137.9km SW'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 19° 21' S: Long: 127° 6' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3343	ZETEK RESOURCES PTY LTD (ATF THE ZETEK TRUST)	130.17HA	22km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 33' S: Long: 121° 0' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3433-S	KENT, Robert Wayne	8.60HA	32.1km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 28' S: Long: 120° 44' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3438	PRITAM GOLD PTY LTD	160.68HA	28.7km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 35' S: Long: 120° 55' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3439	PRITAM GOLD PTY LTD	191.87HA	30.6km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 36' S: Long: 120° 54' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3440	PRITAM GOLD PTY LTD	161.44HA	29.6km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 35' S: Long: 120° 54' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3441	PRITAM GOLD PTY LTD	134.50HA	29.9km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 36' S: Long: 120° 54' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5701	BORROMEI, Rino	10.00HA	4.4km W'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 26' S: Long: 121° 16' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5703	SMITH, William John	8.96HA	4.3km W'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 26' S: Long: 121° 16' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5704	ASKEW, Hooi Leng	137.73HA	8.8km SE'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 26' S: Long: 121° 5' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4716	UNWIN, Jeremy Christopher	121.30HA	25.8km SE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 121° 36' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4717	UNWIN, Jeremy Christopher	121.34HA	25.4km SE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 121° 35' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4719	BORROMEI, Rino	9.63HA	17.2km SE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 48' S: Long: 121° 38' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2570	BORROMEI, Rino	3.63HA	22.8km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 34' S: Long: 121° 34' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	57/1529	SANDSTONE EXPLORATION PTY LTD	7.37HA	11.7km SW'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 5' S: Long: 119° 14' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	77/4648	WHITE, Andrew Roy	51.83HA	14.9km SW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 19' S: Long: 119° 12' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	77/4649	WHITE, Andrew Roy	6.76HA	3.4km SW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 14' S: Long: 119° 18' 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: 17 January 2024

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 **17 April 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. **17 May 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

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NOTICE OF AUTHORISATION MEETING OF THE WESTERN KANGOULU PEOPLE

All persons who are members of the native title claim group of the Western Kangoulu People Native Title Determination Application QUD17/2019 (**Western Kangoulu Claim**) are invited to attend an authorisation meeting to consider whether to authorise the Applicant to negotiate a settlement of the Western Kangoulu



Claim with the State of Queensland. Persons who are members of the native title claim group of the Western Kangoulu Claim (**Western Kangoulu People**) are the descendants, including by adoption, of:

- Polly aka Polly Brown aka Polly McAvoy;
- John “Jack” Bradley;
- Hanny of Emerald;
- Nannie, mother of Nelly Roberts; and
- Annie/Nanny Duggan and Ned Duggan.

Authorisation Meeting Details:
Date: Saturday, 10 February 2024
Time: 9am until 3pm
Venue: Maraboon Tavern, Glenlaton Room, Corner Hospital Road & Esmond Street, Emerald, QLD 4720

Background
The Applicant has been authorised to conduct the Western Kangoulu Claim in the Federal Court of Australia. The trial of the Western Kangoulu Claim was concluded in 2022 and the matter is now awaiting judgment. The State of Queensland has proposed that the Applicant negotiate a settlement of the Western Kangoulu Claim on certain terms and conditions (**State Proposal**). The Honourable Judge who has heard the matter has agreed to suspend giving judgment in the Western Kangoulu Claim to allow settlement negotiations to proceed.

Purpose of Authorisation Meeting
At the authorisation meeting, the following matters will be considered by the attendees:

1. the trial and pending judgment in the Western Kangoulu Claim;
2. whether the State Proposal is an acceptable basis for the Applicant to negotiate a settlement of the Western Kangoulu Claim;
3. possible alternative settlements of the Western Kangoulu Claim; and
4. whether to authorise the Applicant to negotiate a settlement of the Western Kangoulu Claim consistent with the State Proposal.

This is an important meeting for the Western Kangoulu People. Decisions will be made by those attending the authorisation meeting regarding the matters considered, even though other members of the Western Kangoulu People are not present.

Travel assistance is not able to be provided for the meetings, however, light refreshments and lunch will be provided to meeting attendees.

Public Notice
CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003
Section 96



Intent to Develop a CHMP
Acciona Energy Australia Global Pty Ltd (ABN 54 600 910 647) (Sponsor) intends to develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) for the Herries Range Wind Farm Project pursuant to Part 7 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld) (ACHA).

Notice Day (Proposed Plan)
The **notice day** for the CHMP is **22 January 2024**.

Herries Range Wind Farm Project
Acciona Energy Australia Global Pty Ltd (ABN 54 600 910 647) proposes to design, construct and operate a Wind Farm for the production of renewable energy to supply the grid network in South East Queensland. The Project encompasses the planning, construction, commissioning, operation, modification, expansion, extension, maintenance and decommissioning of the Herries Range Wind Farm. Construction is expected to commence in early 2025 and will occur over a period of approximately 18 – 24 months.

Sponsor
The Sponsor is Acciona Energy Australia Global Pty Ltd (ABN 54 600 910 647)
The Sponsor’s contact details (including for responding to this written notice and for any general enquiries) are:
Name: Luana Sanders
Position: Senior First Nations Engagement Advisor
Phone: 0460 431 213
Email address: HerriesRangeCHMP@acciona.com
Post: Acciona Energia, Level 10, 157 Ann Street, Brisbane Queensland 4000

CHMP Area
The Sponsor intends to develop a CHMP in the area which is indicatively set out in the pink area designated as “HRWF Project Boundary” in map 1 below (CHMP Area).
The CHMP Area includes land parcels with the following Lot/Plan description: 1SP210449, 1SP214597, 4SP210449, 4ML881, 5BNT38, 5SP180390, 7ML242, 9BNT449, 13BNT38, 18BNT1434, 23M341444, 24ML6, 28BNT57, 37BNT449, 38BNT450, 39BNT796, 40BNT796, 80ML716, 217MH276 and any roads or watercourses within the external boundary of the CHMP Area.
Shires: Goondiwindi Regional Council, Southern Downs Regional Council, Toowoomba Regional Council
Locality: Gore, Karara, Cement Mills, Oman Ama, Mosquito Creek, Stonehenge, Kooroongarra, Leyburn
Nearest Towns: The CHMP Area for the wind farm is located approximately 46km west of Warwick; approximately 60km north-west of Stanthorpe; and approximately 1 km from Karara.
Other identifiable features:
The CHMP Area is located on both the east and west sides of Rabbit Fence Rd. It lies north of the Cunningham Highway.

Responding to the Notice
Section 35(7) of the ACHA says that a person is an Aboriginal Party for an area if:

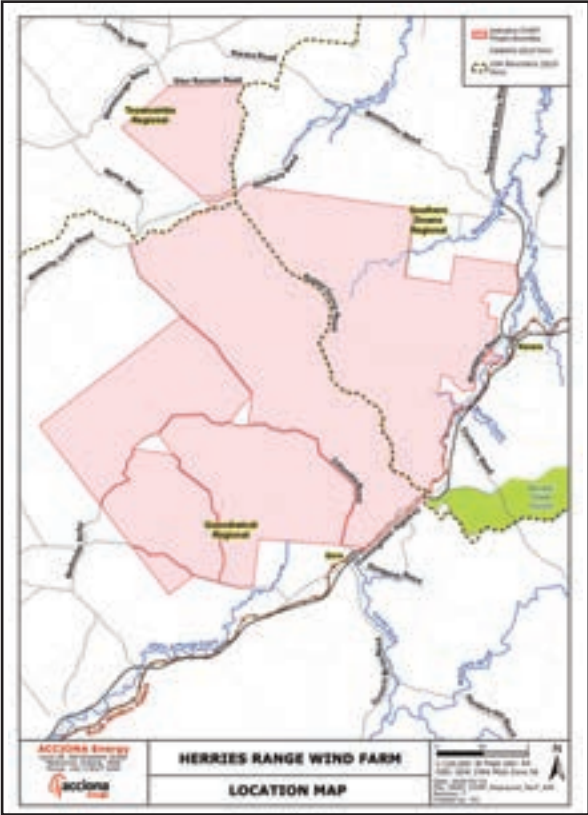
- The person is an Aboriginal person with particular knowledge about traditions, observances, customs or beliefs associated with the area; and
- The person
 - o Has responsibility under Aboriginal tradition for some, or all of the area, or for significant Aboriginal objects located or originating in the area;

Or

- o Is a member of a family or clan group that is recognised as having responsibility under Aboriginal tradition for some, or all of the area, or for significant Aboriginal objects located or originating in the area.

If you satisfy this definition for all or part of the CHMP Area, or you have been nominated to act on behalf of an Aboriginal Party, and you wish to take part in developing the CHMP, please give written notice to the Sponsor by 22 February 2024.

Aboriginal Parties who respond by 22 February 2024 will be endorsed by the Sponsor to take part in developing the CHMP. The Sponsor may not endorse an Aboriginal Party that does not respond by 22 February 2024.



Map 1



Notice under Section 29 of the Native Title Act 1993
Exploration Licence Numbers 6354, 8159 & 8403 (Act 1992)

This notice is given in accordance with the requirements of section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth).

Description of the nature of the act
Pursuant to the *Native Title (Right to Negotiate (Exclusion) – NSW Land) Determination No. 1 of 1996* (Cth), Exploration Licences 6354, 8159 & 8403 include a condition to the effect that the holder must not prospect on any land or waters covered by the licences in relation to which native title exists without the prior written consent of the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992* (the ‘Native Title Condition’).

The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992* intends to give consent to prospecting on land subject to native title in parts of the licences in accordance with the *Native Title (Right to Negotiate (Inclusion) – NSW Land) Approval No. 1 of 1996* (Cth).

Should consent be granted, the licence holder may apply to renew or transfer the licences prior to them expiring (including partial renewals or partial transfers).

Note: If the consent is granted, it will apply to any renewal, re grant or re-making (including partial renewals or partial transfers) or extension of the term of the licences, which may be valid pursuant to section 24MD(1) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) without a further notification under section 29.

Holder’s details
Bowdens Silver Pty Limited (ACN 009 250 051) is the holder of Exploration Licence 6354, Exploration Licence 8159 and Exploration Licence 8403 all for Group 1 minerals.

The licences contain a condition that the holder must not prospect on any land or waters on which native title exists without the prior consent of the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*. The licence holder has sought the Minister’s consent to conduct prospecting activities in parts of each licence area.

Description of area that may be affected
Exploration Licence 6354 covers about 10 units and is situated approximately 26 kilometres east of Mudgee, in the State of NSW.

Exploration Licence 8159 covers about 74 units and is situated approximately 17 kilometres south of Ulan, in the State of NSW.

Exploration Licence 8403 covers about 100 units and is situated approximately 21 kilometres east southeast of Mudgee, in the State of NSW.

The areas within Exploration Licences 6354, 8159 and 8403 that may be affected by the grant of Minister’s consent detailed in the following table:

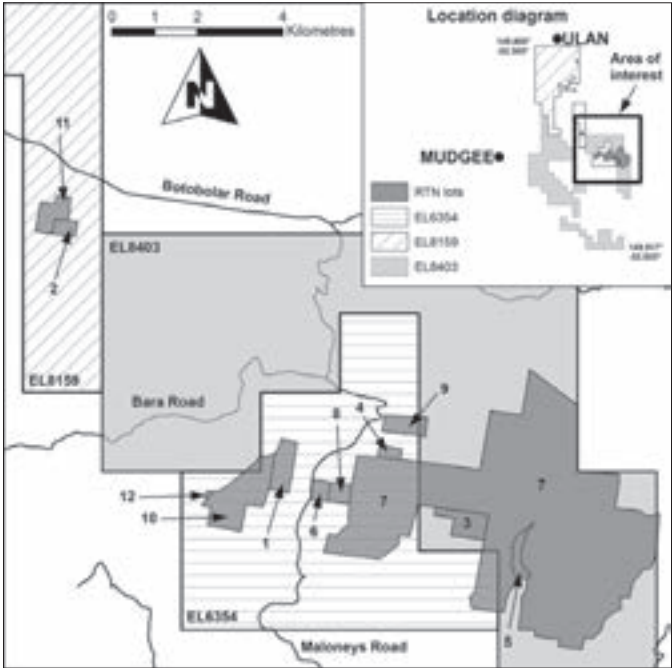
Diagram reference	Lot & DP information	Diagram reference	Lot & DP information
1	Lot 17 in DP755412	7	Lot 7002 in DP1021472
2	Lot 186 in DP755416	8	Lot 7001 in DP1021496
3	Lot 124 in DP755435	9	Lot 7005 in DP1030477
4	Lot 158 in DP755435	10	Lot 7006 in DP1095549
5	Lot 165 in DP755435	11	Lot 7006 in DP1095550
6	Lot 7001 in DP1021460	12	Lot 7005 in DP1113853

These areas are also shown in the diagrams below and referred to as ‘RTN lots’ in the Location diagram.

Name and postal address of person by whom the act would be done
The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*, PO Box 344, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310.

How further information about the act can be obtained
Further information may be obtained from; Assessments and Systems, Regional NSW on (02) 4063 6600 or titles@regional.nsw.gov.au.

Notification Day
For the purposes of section 29(4) of the *Native Title Act 1993* the notification day is 1 February 2024. 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.



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Notice Under Section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) Assessment Lease Application 50 (Act 1992)

This notice is given in accordance with the requirements of Section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

Description of the nature of the act

The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992* intends to grant an assessment lease under section 41(1)(a) of the *Mining Act 1992* (NSW) on land subject to native title.

Should a lease be granted, the lease holder may apply to renew or transfer the lease prior to it expiring (including partial renewals or partial transfers).

Note: If the lease is granted, the renewal, re grant or re-making (including partial renewals or partial transfers) or extension of the term of the lease may be valid pursuant to section 24MD(1) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) without further notification, provided the requirements in section 26D(1) are satisfied.

Montoro Roofing Pty Ltd (ACN 002 944 694) is the applicant for Assessment Lease Application 50 which, if granted would authorise the prospecting for clay/shale and structural clay for an initial term of up to six years.

Description of area that may be affected

Assessment Lease Application 50 covers about 6.59 square kilometres and is situated approximately 4 kilometres south southwest of the town of Wyee, in the State of NSW.

The areas within Assessment Lease Application 50 that are covered by this notice under section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) are the land parcels or cadastral descriptions detailed hereunder and shown on the diagram below:

Diagram reference	Lot & DP information	Diagram reference	Lot & DP information
1	Lot 194 in DP1032847	5	Lot 4 in DP 258584
2	Part of the freeway corridor	6	Part of the road corridor for Motorway Link / Doyalson Link Road
3	Lot 33 in DP 258692	7	Part of the road corridor for Motorway Link / Doyalson Link Road
4	Lot 3 in DP 603941	8	Part of Wallarah Creek

Name and postal address of person by whom the act would be done

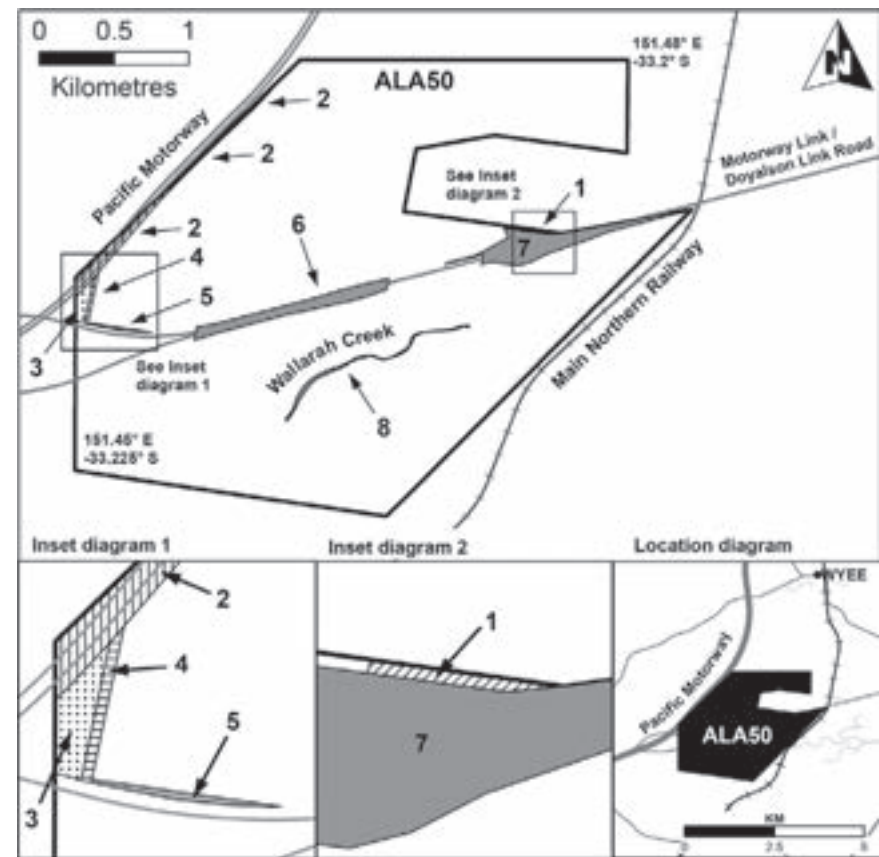
The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*, PO Box 344, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310.

How further information about the act can be obtained

Further information may be obtained from; Assessments and Systems, Regional NSW on (02) 4063 6600 or titles@regional.nsw.gov.au.

Notification Day

For the purposes of Section 29(4) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) the notification day is 1 February 2024. 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 this notice.



Notice under Section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* Exploration Licence Numbers 5920 and 8168 (Act 1992)

This notice is given in accordance with the requirements of section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth).

Description of the nature of the act

Pursuant to the *Native Title (Right to Negotiate (Exclusion) — NSW Land) Determination No. 1 of 1996* (Cth), Exploration Licences 5920 and 8168 include a condition to the effect that the holder must not prospect on any land or waters covered by the licences in relation to which native title exists without the prior written consent of the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992* (the 'Native Title Condition').

The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992* intends to give consent to prospecting on land subject to native title in parts of the licences in accordance with the *Native Title (Right to Negotiate (Inclusion) — NSW Land) Approval No. 1 of 1996* (Cth).

Should consent be granted, the licence holder may apply to renew or transfer the licences prior to them expiring (including partial renewals or partial transfers).

Note: If the consent is granted, it will apply to any renewal, re grant or re-making (including partial renewals or partial transfers) or extension of the term of the licences, which may be valid pursuant to section 24MD(1) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) without a further notification under section 29.

Holder's details

Bowdens Silver Pty Limited (ACN 009 250 051) is the holder of Exploration Licence 5920 and Exploration Licence 8168 both for Group 1 minerals.

The licences contain a condition that the holder must not prospect on any land or waters on which native title exists without the prior consent of the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*. The licence holder has sought the Minister's consent to conduct prospecting activities in parts of each licence area.

Description of area that may be affected

Exploration Licence 5920 covers about 32 units and is situated approximately 16 kilometres north northwest of Kandos, in the State of NSW.

Exploration Licence 8168 covers about 86 units and is situated approximately 12 kilometres north northwest of Kandos, in the State of NSW.

The areas within Exploration Licences 5920 and 8168 that may be affected by the grant of Minister's consent are detailed in the following table:

Diagram reference	Lot & DP information	Diagram reference	Lot & DP information
1	Lot 160 in DP755802	2	Lot 38 in DP1209604

These areas are also shown in the diagrams below and referred to as 'RTN lots' in the Location diagram.

Name and postal address of person by whom the act would be done

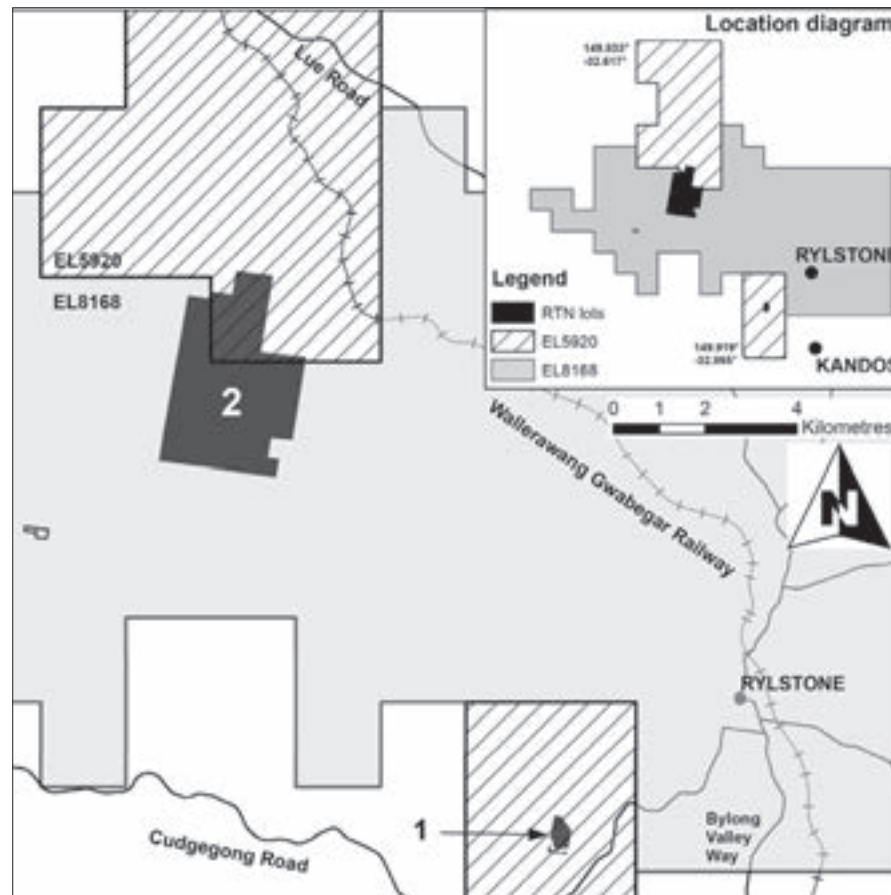
The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*, PO Box 344, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310.

How further information about the act can be obtained

Further information may be obtained from; Assessments and Systems, Regional NSW on (02) 4063 6600 or titles@regional.nsw.gov.au.

Notification Day

For the purposes of section 29(4) of the *Native Title Act 1993* the notification day is 1 February 2024. 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.



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Innisfail-based Richard Turner Memorial team celebrated their win at the 2023 Gordonvale Indigenous Rugby League Football Carnival at Gordonvale in far north Queensland. Pictures: Vili Matemeiwai Baleilevuka

Richard Turner Memorial win strong at Gordonvale

By **CHRISTINE HOWES**

QLD

DESPITE how it may have looked, it was never an easy path for the 2023 Gordonvale Indigenous Rugby League Football Carnival grand final winners, the Richard Turner

Memorial Team, to win over Durringhi. After forming for the carnival in July of 2023, taking on many months of fundraising and selling merchandise, the Innisfail-based team was described as wearing their "hearts on their sleeves" as they rose and rose over the course of the annual two-

day carnival. Leaving behind them the highly-rated Torres Strait teams Paga Panthers, Mulga United and Aragon Warriors, the Irukandji Stingers, Guuyu Colts, and many more, the Memorial side topped the points list after the first day of competition and rarely set a foot wrong on day two.

Richard Turner Memorial teammates Bailey Biondi-Odo (player of the carnival and finals), and Michael Carroll (best back), along with Harley Richardson Memorial team's Aiden Day (best forward) were proud award recipients on awards night after a long, hot and often difficult run to a grand finish.

Plate winners NQ Warriors defeated Kila Naagchi in their grand final. Teams came from as far as Normanton, Pormpuraaw and Palm Island to play in what was a well-organised competition, supported by Bumma Bipperra Media and a huge team of volunteers.



The action in the grand final between the Richard Turner Memorial team and Durringhi was fast, furious and fantastic at what was a proper grassroots community football event which drew in the fans.



Richard Turner Memorial team's Bailey Biondi-Odo (right) had a great carnival at Gordonvale. He won both the player of the carnival and finals. He is with carnival organiser Jason Joinbee.



Action from the grand final between the Richard Turner Memorial team and Diringhi highlighted the quality of local Indigenous rugby league football at Gordonvale.



Diringhi – runners-up at the 2023 Gordonvale Indigenous Rugby League Football Carnival in far north Queensland, where the grand final between them and the Richard Turner Memorial team was hotly contested in front of a packed crowd. *Pictures: Vili Matemeiwai Baleilevuka*



Action from the grand final between the Richard Turner Memorial team and Diringhi highlighted the quality of local Indigenous rugby league football at Gordonvale.

Michael Carroll (left) from the Richard Turner Memorial team was named best back at the carnival – he is presented with his award by carnival organiser Jason Joinbee.

My tribute to a great man in life and in league – Carl Webb

WITH great sadness, I feel the need to write my first column for 2024 about the passing of Carl Webb, a wonderful rugby league player and an even better person who has left us way too soon.

As our readers would have been aware, the powerful NRL forward died last month after a four-year battle with Motor Neurone Disease. He was only 42.

Earlier this month, and in testament to his impact, hundreds of mourners poured into St John's Anglican Church in Dalby to mourn and celebrate the life of Carl Webb. Carl's wife, their four children along with extended family, lifelong friends and former NRL teammates gathered to remember a proud Aboriginal man.

A Welcome To Country began the ceremony and the service ended with a smoking ceremony and a haka to celebrate his Māori heritage.

Born in Mt Isa, Carl played his junior footy for his hometown team the Dalby Diehards, then later with the Toowoomba Clydesdales, before beginning his NRL career with the Brisbane Broncos in his debut season in 2000. He played a total of 187 NRL games – 66 with Brisbane, 115 for North Queensland and six for Parramatta. He crossed for four-pointers on 37 occasions. In 2010 he was a member of the historic first Indigenous All-Stars

team and in 2011 he pulled on the All-Stars jersey again. Carl was dominant for Queensland in State of Origin, too. He played 15 matches for the Maroons. His lone Australian representative game was in 2008.

Carl played the game hard; he was as tough as nails and was a feared opponent. He tackled the MND he was diagnosed with in 2020 with the same vigour. But MND is a relentless disease. Although he was wheelchair-bound in the final 18 months of his life, Carl kept on fighting. He set up a foundation in his name to raise funds and create awareness of MND, and to help others fight the disease.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Carl on several occasions. If I remember it correctly the first time was when he was playing for the Indigenous Dreamtime team that played the New Zealand Māori team at the 2008 Rugby League World Cup.

I remember him always approachable for interviews and it was always good to get him on camera.

Like many rugby league fans, I know that when I think of Carl Webb I will always remember that barnstorming try he scored on



Kris Flanders

debut for Queensland in the opening State of Origin match in 2001. He was just 20 at the time. He crashed his way through the NSW defence like he'd been playing Origin footy for years.

The game was played in front of nearly 39,000 fans at Lang Park in Brisbane. That now-iconic try came just two minutes before halftime and it lifted the spirits of that heaving crowd, and of every player in a Queensland jersey.

Receiving the ball 10m from the tryline, Carl built up good speed and with power he shrugged off the Blues' Jason Croker, got rid of winger Jamie Ainscough before beating centre Matt Gidley, and Croker again, as he crashed over for the try. The determination on his face in replays was intense, and a tad scary. I reckon he would have run through a brick wall if asked to! There was nothing to stop him in that moment, that iconic State of Origin moment, now replayed hundreds of times on our screens and in our minds, and hearts. He inspired Queensland for a famous win with that try, the Maroons crushing the Blues 34-16. Incredibly, Carl was one of 10 Queensland debutants in that match.

Held in high regard for the way he played the game but even more so for what he did in fighting MND, Carl's two former Queensland teams, the Broncos and Cowboys, will honour him



Carl Webb was laid to rest at Dalby in Queensland. He passed away late last month after battling Motor Neurone Disease. He was 42. Picture: Getty Images

and raise monies for the Carl Webb Foundation when they meet during the Easter Round weekend on Friday, 29 March, in Brisbane.

Carl Webb – thank you for the memories.

Rest In Peace.

**Kris Flanders is a proud Gumbaynggirr man. He has 25 years' experience working in Indigenous media with ICAM, Living Black, and at NITV where he was the sports presenter. He is a passionate writer and sportslover.*

Cobbo to the centres: Broncos



BRISBANE coach Kevin Walters has found a centre replacement for the Dolphins-bound Herbie Farnworth – Selwyn Cobbo, while explaining why the youngster from Cherbourg will handle the move from the wing.

Walters will move Cobbo to starting left centre after Farnworth's exit from the club.

The 21-year-old Queensland representative, who has played most of his 49 NRL games as a winger, Cobbo has recently trained in the centre position Farnworth made his own before he joined the Dolphins at the end of last season.

The Cobbo move will cause a backline reshuffle, with Jesse Arthurs, Deine Mariner and Corey Oates likely to vie for the two wing positions.

Walters confirmed the Cobbo switch.

"It is the plan to move him into



Brisbane Broncos' Selwyn Cobbo will move to the centres in 2024. Picture: Getty Images

that role," he said.

"He is probably a bit more natural there in the centres than on the wing and so far he has been really good there. We will find out more when we start playing and he starts doing all the things the great centres do.

"He is young and still maturing with his fitness levels and strength and they will get better as the year goes on, but his footy IQ is very good which you need in that centre role, particularly defensively; that is where I feel he is going to be a good asset."

Recent off-season moves have created a healthy competitive environment for key-positions at the Broncos, which also included the departures of Thomas Flegler (Dolphins) and prop Keenan Palasia (Gold Coast).

The Broncos play Sydney Roosters in round 1 of the 2024 season in Las Vegas on March 3.

– with AAP

Much expected of Fogarty, others in 2024 Premiership season



A NEW year and a new set of expectations in the NRL awaits with each club relying heavily on experienced stars or rising youngsters to step up in key areas in 2024.

Canberra: Jamal Fogarty – All the pressure is on Fogarty in Canberra as the only proven member of the Raiders' spine with the No.1 jersey still up for grabs.

Brisbane: Adam Reynolds – The

Broncos need Reynolds and his ageing 33-year-old body to stay fit.

Canterbury: Stephen Crichton – The Bulldogs desperately need triple premiership winner Crichton to fire at fullback.

Cronulla: Royce Hunt – The Sharks need size in the middle, Hunt offers that.

The Dolphins: Tom Flegler – Flegler had a career year in 2023 and will be asked to lead the way in the middle at the

Dolphins.

Gold Coast: AJ Brimson – The Titans desperately need Brimson's spark in a spine that lacks X-factor.

Manly: Tom Trbojevic – Trbojevic was starting to hit his straps before a pectoral tear last year, and his one fit season in the past four took Manly to the prelims.

Melbourne: Cameron Munster – The Storm need the kind of returns Munster has produced for Queensland in recent seasons.

Newcastle: Kalyn Ponga – Ponga's run at the end of last season was one of the best in Newcastle history but the Knights need that form to become the norm.

North Queensland: Tom Dearden – Dearden was solid in 2023 but the halfback is one of a cast of players needing to return to their 2022 form. – AAP

● Next edition: Parramatta, Penrith, St George Illawarra, South Sydney, Sydney Roosters, Warriors, Wests Tigers

Hodder commits as Lions retain premiership core



TRADITIONALLY pillaged of its talent, 2023 AFLW premiers Brisbane have celebrated a rare and remarkable roster stability after retaining almost all of their grand final side for next season's title defence.

Headlining them is livewire forward Courtney Hodder who has signed on with the Lions up to 2027.

Fellow dual premiership player Taylor Smith (2026) has extended her deal with the club alongside first-year talent Charlie Mullins (2026).

It means that out of the grand final side that beat North



Courtney Hodder has signed an extension with Brisbane Lions.

Melbourne only the retired Phoebe Monahan and Mikayla Pauga (traded to the Giants) won't line up for the Lions in 2024.

Brisbane have defied constant player departures to expansion clubs, winning two flags in five grand final appearances from a possible seven.

"To have three girls win a grand final, turn around and say they want to continue their footballing journey with us is a credit to our group as a whole," two-time premiership coach Craig Starcevich said.

"Courtney, 'Tay' and Charlie all played a key role for us this season across multiple lines, and we feel that they are only going to continue to develop.

"So 2024 and beyond will be an exciting time for our AFLW group and the club as a whole."

AFLW mark-of-the-year winner Hodder understandably drew interest from rival clubs, but said the connection she felt at Brisbane was priceless.

"It is an exciting time at the club, and I love this group of girls, they really feel like a second family to me," she said.

"We were able to achieve something amazing this year, so to be able to look forward to coming back and trying to do it all again for the next few seasons is an incredible feeling."

Making no secret of her lethal ability in front of goal and smart ball work in the forward 50,

Hodder is one of the premier small forwards in the game.

She kicked 11 goals in Season 7 (2022) and six in Season 8 (2023) but she is more than just a danger around goal. An underrated part of her game is her tackling pressure through the forward half and willingness to do the one-percenters.

Hodder's relentless tackling in the grand final against North Melbourne put the Kangaroos under enormous pressure. It added much to the Lions' being able to pull away to record a memorable win.

In other Lions news, the club has also added former West Coast duo Shanae Davison and Eleanor Hartill. – **with AAP**

Inspirational Wills leads by example in the Top End game

By JACKSON CLARK



NORTHERN Territory football champion Phillip Wills' high standing in the game has reached yet another level after having played his 250th NTFL milestone match.

Wills' list of accolades in football has him up there as one of the Top End game's most decorated players.

The 36-year-old produced tremendous football for Darwin Buffaloes, Nightcliff and currently Palmerston, where he recently played his 250th game.

The Magpies may have lost to the Tiwi Bombers, 16.14 (110) to 9.1 (55) in his milestone match but that could never overshadow Wills' achievements and standing in football.

He said he was "incredibly grateful" for the love and support over the recent weekend, and throughout his career.

Wills won the Nichols Medal – the NTFL's highest individual honour – in 2018-19, has claimed four club best-and-fairest awards, and is a triple-premiership player at Nightcliff.

Wills played 148 games for the Buffaloes, 84 with Nightcliff and now 18 for Palmerston.

As a testament to his leadership, he has served as captain for all three teams he has represented.

The workhorse midfielder also played 57 games for Northern Territory Thunder.

"To everyone who's been part of this journey, I extend my heartfelt thanks," he said upon his most recent milestone.

"My family, especially my wonderful wife, Katie, and three amazing daughters, have been my pillars of strength – none of this would have been possible without (their) unwavering support.

"Football has been an incredible teacher in my life, imparting lessons of strength, resilience, commitment, and forging lifelong friendships."

Wills' early football career in Darwin was in the double-blue colours of the Buffaloes, where he undertook plenty of heavy lifting as skipper of the struggling 'baby Buffs' teams of the late 2000s and early 2010s.

He won multiple best-and-fairest honours at Darwin and finished in the top-three of the Nichols Medal on a

handful of occasions.

A shock move to Nightcliff in 2016 proved a masterstroke as a rejuvenated Wills won three premierships at the Tigers – including one as captain – in 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 – and that elusive Nichols Medal.

Despite a lack of on-field success in recent seasons, Wills has imparted his leadership and wisdom on the young group at the Magpies as a playing assistant coach.

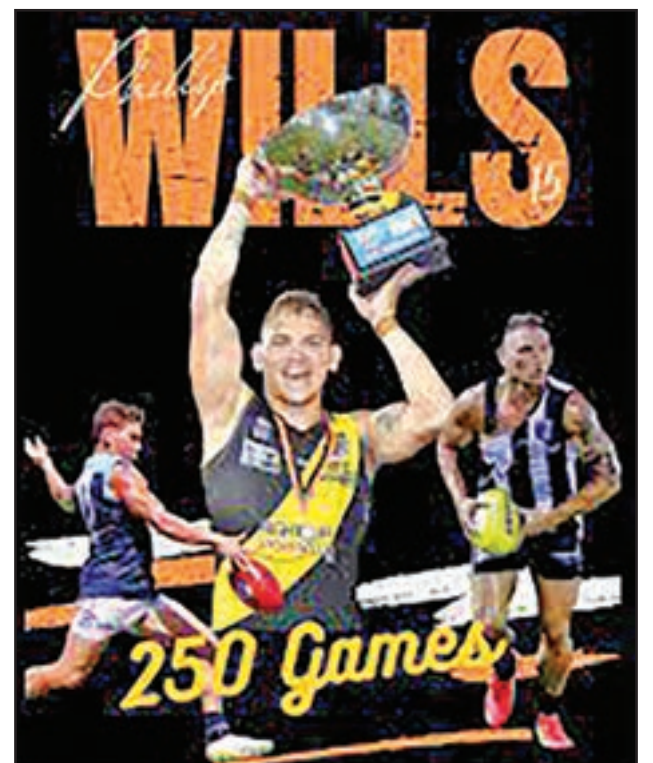
Wills says he plans on playing plenty more games of top-level football.

"While there's plenty of hard work ahead, I have my sights set on reaching game number 300," he said.

"Throughout this journey, I've learned the importance of commitment, consistency, trusting the process, and refraining from shortcuts.

"Approaching 37, I understand that while the exterior might suggest otherwise, it takes an immense effort to step onto the field each week alongside my teammates.

"Football has enriched my life in countless ways, and now, my focus is on giving back and contributing positively to others' lives."



How Palmerston Magpies celebrated the inspirational Phillip Wills' 250-game NTFL milestone recently.
Picture: PMFC

This football mis-alignment needs a serious realignment

THE development of women footballers in the AFLW stands no chance with what is a mis-alignment with the VFLW. As it stands, the vast majority of players in the AFLW are only playing 10 games a year. This is simply not enough game-time for anyone to improve.

Let's take a look at how.

In men's football, there is a season-long alignment of the AFLM with second-tier football – VFL, SANFL, WAFL – which allows AFLM players to pick up a game in the second-tier when back from injury to get game-time and minutes into their bodies, which, in turn, makes their potential re-selection into the AFLM that much clearer. This also should be afforded to



Shelley Ware

women's football.

Take Victoria, for example. In 2022, we saw the VFLW and AFLW seasons slightly overlap, which was great. But in 2023, and again in 2024, there was and will not be any such alignment. This presents a huge problem. There are all sorts of rules around player-loads, like how many games AFLW players can play outside of that league, which amounts to five.

Sisters Maddy (Essendon) and Georgie Prespakis (Geelong) played all 10 in-season games for their

respective AFLW clubs but none for their same-name, AFLW-aligned VFLW clubs. How can these girls, who are some of the best in the league, get better at football

with this arrangement? And how even can the game improve with elite AFLW players held to this low-total amount of games in a season?

Word has it also that AFLW clubs won't let their players play in the VFLW for several reasons: (1) the level of coaching isn't as good; (2) the facilities are poor and, with these factors in mind, (3) the risk of injury is too high.

It gets way worse for the AFLW 'train-on' players (those outside the primary squad). The effect of this rule upon them means that too many of them have only played three or four VFLW games in two years. That is all kinds of wrong.

How do our up-and-coming players even get a chance? This situation needs to be sorted ASAP. Noise needs to be made about it.

I presume the powers-that-be at AFL HQ would be fully aware of this problem,

but what are they doing to fix it? Nothing this year, sadly. Maybe it's a case of "stand still, maybe no-one will notice, see how long we can get away with it".

The AFL must truly invest in not just the AFLW but the people, the players, that make the AFLW even possible. Those women need a nationally-aligned state league or even a national reserves league and with longer seasons, so they have more game-time to improve and enjoy the game they love. Because if not, they will leave this game for other sports and people will eventually stop watching it. That's not going to be fair on anyone especially the players whose hands may be forced.

***Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She appears on AFL.com.au's Colour Of Your Jumper.**

Footy in January? Why not!

By KRIS FLANDERS



RUGBY league in January? Why not! Hardcore fans and the teams they'll be cheering on this month can thank Rod

Broad for that.

Broad, founder of the Battle of the Countries rugby league tournament, said the only thing hotter than the temperatures this month will be the heat brought by "blackfella-style" footy.

The 2024 edition of the growing tournament takes place at Ziems Park in Corrimal on the NSW south coast, this weekend.

"No matter what generations we are talking about, blackfellas always have a unique style of football, it's off the cuff," Broad said.

"I don't see too many other nationalities play the game like we do."

Team registrations have come in thick and fast over the past several months.

There will be age divisions ranging from under-10s through to under-17s (boy's and girl's) and Open men's and women's teams. Regular-round games will be played on Friday, Saturday (with semi-finals) and the big finals on Sunday.

In total, there are 36 teams ready to rep Country.

"The teams that are coming are eager to play," Broad said.

"We have a large number of younger age groups this year, hence why we have an extra day for play. Our kids will play footy any day of the week given the opportunity. It's going to be cracking days for those kids. They're our future stars and the cream of the crop when they eventually come through.

"It's all very exciting; it's been a long time for preparations and organising."

Gates open on Friday with the boy's and girl's games kickstarting the weekend's action.

The Open men's and women's

divisions will start their games on Saturday and play their finals on Sunday.

"For the first time in a long time the Open women's division is back," Broad said.

"Obviously, being a family event we want the women representing so it's great to have that division back."

Broad says not only are people looking forward to some great rugby league but it is also a chance to encourage teams, supporters and the general public to check out the beautiful beaches and surrounds that the Wollongong area has to offer.

"I'm glad to welcome and see people come to my Country," he said.

"The Illawarra and south coast here have some amazing beaches and waterways and lots to see and do. Some of the Mob coming don't get to see the ocean much."

● **Battle of the Countries, 19-21 January @ Ziems Park, Corrimal**



Action on the field will heat up at the 2024 Battle of the Countries rugby league tournament on the NSW south coast this weekend.

A serious side to the Battle

By KRIS FLANDERS



WHEN Rod Broad set out to create a rugby league tournament, it was always as a platform to address

a serious issue affecting our people.

The annual Battle of the Countries rugby league tournament will primarily always be about raising awareness of issues surrounding suicide – its prevention and related mental ill-health; the footy is just the vehicle.

Broad says he and fellow

organisers want to reach players, supporters, fans and anyone and everyone else attending the football this weekend to let them know that they are not alone in battling whatever it is that may be holding them back, and that it is OK to talk, to speak up, to have that conversation.

"Many times, for many for people they may not know where to turn or how to access help or are even too upset to make contact," Broad said.

"We want to let them know that they can turn to people for help and that there's no shame in doing that.

"We all go through hardships; for us Blackfellas we've gone through a lot of hardships and continue to battle those.

"Our plan and my goal is to support one another; support our communities. It is an issue that is among our communities across the country."

There are several support services at the tournament this weekend, Broad said, that people can freely access.

"We have a number of mental health services that are attached to us – the Ministry of Health, NSW Health, who'll have a stall there, and our local Wollongong Headspace organisation."

Moz and the Aussie Sevens all primed for Perth



MAURICE Longbottom leads selection in Australia's men's Rugby Sevens team primed to push toward a finals berth ahead of the first round of the Perth Sevens.

Australia will battle with traditional sporting rivals Great Britain in both the men's and

women's pool-stage games.

In the group stage, Australia's women will have to get through Canada (world No.5), South Africa (No.11) and the Brits (No.9) if they are to make it three tournament wins in a row.

The men take on Ireland (No.5), the USA (No.10) and Britain (No.11) in what looks a favourable draw for the 26-28

January showpiece at Perth Oval.

Australia's men are yet to taste tournament success this sevens season, most recently falling short 45-12 against Argentina in the final at Cape Town last month.

New Zealand are in the men's Pool C in a Pacific-centric group featuring Fiji and Samoa.

Coming off tournament wins in

Dubai and Cape Town to start the campaign, Australia's women should have no trouble progressing from their pool and into the knockout stages.

Pool B: Australia, Ireland, Great Britain, USA
Pool C: Fiji, New Zealand, France, Samoa

Women

Pool A: Australia, Canada, Great Britain, South Africa
Pool B: France, Fiji, Brazil, Spain
Pool C: New Zealand, USA, Ireland, Japan.

– AAP

Perth Sevens Pools

Men

Pool A: Argentina, South Africa, Canada, Spain

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Ngarrindjeri-Kaurna Elder Uncle Major 'Moogy' Sumner welcomes one and all in a barefoot-circle Welcome to Country ceremony ahead of the Big Bash League's Jason Gillespie Trophy match between Adelaide Strikers and Perth Scorchers at Adelaide Oval. Picture: Peter Argent

Welcome to First Nations Round



BIG Bash League cricket held its annual First Nations Round this month (3-11 January) in what Cricket Australia called a reaffirmation of its commitment to deepening meaningful connections with Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander Peoples. Throughout the eight days of First Nations Round matches, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and ceremony was showcased and celebrated, along with the barefoot circle, ochre-hand ceremony, Welcome to Country, the incorporation of local languages and an

immersive experience through music and art. Additionally, players wore uniforms designed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, each with their own unique stories connected to the traditional lands of each club. Each club hosted its own dedicated match during the round. That

began on 3 January when the Sydney Sixers hosted Brisbane Heat in Coffs Harbour, and the Perth Scorchers hosting Adelaide Strikers for the two-game Jason Gillespie Trophy match at Perth Stadium – the two sides met again two days later at Adelaide Oval for game-two of the trophy match.

Baylin taking first steps in the game he loves



Baylin Williams (centre) with the Australian under-10s team he played with at the Ultimate Fiji Cup tournament held in the Pacific nation last month. Pictures: Supplied

By KRIS FLANDERS



NOT too many nine-year-olds have represented their country in sport, but not too many kids that age are like Baylin

Williams. Hailing from Jervis Bay on the NSW south coast, Baylin played for Australia in football-soccer in the under-10s team at the Ultimate Fiji Soccer Cup tournament in Fiji last month.

Baylin's parents, Mel Williams and Sebastian Arregin, said the trip was a giant step for the young striker.

"It was phenomenal for him, to test himself against the best Fijian kids, and he stepped up over there," Mel said.

"Culturally, too, it was an unforgettable experience. We gifted a Fijian chief from one of the villages there with a shield from back home, it was a highlight."

Sebastian, who comes from a South American background where football is a religion, was happy his son got to have that experience.

"For him to get a taste of international football and travel was good for him," he said.

"You don't normally think of Fiji and soccer, they usually shine in sports like rugby union and rugby league, but the talent and depth of skills shown by the Fijian sides was great to see."

For Baylin, there were several



Baylin represented his people, and himself, with enormous pride at Fiji.

highlights.

"I got to play soccer in Fiji and score goals and winning goals, some of the Fijian players were rough but I went rough back," he said, laughing at the new memory.

"I gave a shield to one of the chiefs in Fiji and he said thank you and was happy."

Baylin plays locally for Huskisson/Vincentia FC where he averages about 8-10 goals a game, but at this age his parents say that he just enjoys playing, and seeing his teammates scoring goals.

"The best thing about soccer is my friends and playing with them, and scoring goals and celebrating," Baylin said.

"I play at striker and I get to score lots of goals.

"I like playing with the teams I'm in because they pass a lot and they love me and I love them too."

With his dad, Baylin has been kicking a football around the family backyard since he was two-years-old. In fact, the yard is basically a re-purposed soccer field and fan's dream. It has with netted goals and the family's two British Bulldogs act as opposition.

Unlike other kids his age, Baylin doesn't have toys or even an X-Box; rather, at last count, there are 36 different types of soccer-balls just waiting to be kicked.

"Every day I practice and play," Baylin said.

"We've got goals and balls in our yard and witches-hats, and the dogs."

In 2023, Baylin trialled with the Global Football Network in Sydney. The GFN sends out talent scouts and coaches from the English Premier League and English football clubs.

As for what the future in football holds for Baylin, he said he would love to one day play and compete at football's biggest stage, the World Cup.

When quizzed for which national team he would want to represent there, Baylin selected two different ones over Australia – "Brazil, or Uruguay!" That's fair, given his South American family connections, and that his football idol – Pelé the Great – is also one of those country's greatest ever players.

QRLW expansion a boost for footballers

By ALF WILSON



THE expansion of the Queensland Cup Women's Premiership will provide a major boost for Indigenous footballers in the state's far north including Cape York and the Torres Strait Islands.

The QRL recently announced the competition will expand over a three-year period.

Eight teams contested the 2023 Women's Premiership and that included the Mackay Cutters, which included several Indigenous women, Brisbane Tigers, Burleigh Bears, Central Queensland Capras, Norths Devils, Souths Logan Magpies, Tweed Seagulls and Wynnum Manly-Seagulls.

In 2024, the Sunshine Coast Falcons and the Toowoomba-based Western Clydesdales will join.

In 2025, the Ipswich Jets will enter the competition.

In 2026, the Redcliffe Dolphins will

follow suit.

The big news for the many skilful players from around the Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area is that the Cairns-based Northern Pride will gain entry in 2025, while the Townsville Blackhawks will do so in 2026.

Competitions manager at the QRL David Maiden said the expansion of the organisation's premier women's rugby league competition would provide greater opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players from the remote north.

It is also all part of a greater plan for the Women's Premiership competition to match the statewide footprint of the men's Queensland Cup competition.

Since taking on the role at the QRL, Maiden was instrumental in taking the Queensland Cup to smaller towns, called Country Week Round, which saw matches played at Waiben-Thursaday Island, the NPA and Cape York, for example.

"As is the case for our men, (QRLW expansion) will provide an opportunity for Indigenous women to play in the statewide competition regardless of postcode and without having to move from the support of family and friends," Maiden said.

"As the Northern Pride (Cairns) and Townsville Blackhawks (women's teams) gradually enter the competition, each area will hopefully see an increase in opportunities to play the game as the local female competitions also expand to cater for increased numbers.

"There are also opportunities for under-age females to play 17-and-under statewide competitions so this gives them a solid foundation of development.

"I know for a fact there is an untapped wealth of talent in the far north and through the Cape and Torres regions through my years working in the area and attending carnivals.

"We are so looking forward to seeing these players get an opportunity closer to home."



Women's rugby league in Queensland's far north will expand over the next three years.

Tributes for Troy Dargan following tragic accident



THE family of NRL player Troy Dargan and the wider community have paid tribute after he died in a motorcycle accident while holidaying in the Cook Islands.

The playmaker's management Aria Sports Group confirmed the news via social media.

Troy, affectionately nicknamed "TJ", was 26.

"On behalf of the Dargan family, it is with a heavy heart that we share the news of TJ's tragic passing," a statement from Aria Sports Group read.

"He and his family were holidaying in the Cook Islands where TJ was involved in a motorcycle accident.

"TJ will be greatly missed and our

thoughts and prayers are with his family."

Troy was recruited by Canberra after a stint at South Sydney. He played two NRL games, for South Sydney in 2020, and had joined the Raiders on a two-year contract for the upcoming season.

Born in Sydney, Troy was of Cook Islands and Indigenous Australian descent. He made his first-grade debut against the Sydney Roosters in the

Rabbitohs' first game after the NRL returned from a COVID-enforced hiatus in May 2020.

He partnered club legend Adam Reynolds in the halves twice while Cody Walker was suspended, but made way once the regular five-eighth returned in round 5 of that season. Troy twice represented the Cook Islands at international level. – AAP

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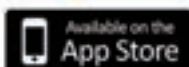
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Adelaide's new 'Strike weapon

By PETER ARGENT



MITAKOODI man D'Arcy Short's arrival at the crease as an opener for the Adelaide Strikers in BBL|13 is paying huge dividends for the South Australian side.

Short's opening combination with teammate Matt Short – no relation – has been a crucial part of the Strikers' return to form in the national Twenty20 competition.

Short – D'Arcy – has produced significant double-digit scores in four of his past five innings, beginning with a blistering 56 against the Melbourne Renegades earlier this season.

His 24 in the Jason Gillespie Trophy match against the Perth Scorchers came off just 13 deliveries, that included three massive sixes and a boundary.

In this match, Short's strikerate was an astronomical 184.61 against Perth's classy trio of Jason Behrendorff, Jhye Richardson and Lance Morris.

D'Arcy Short. Picture: Peter Argent

Ayden McGregor-Baptista will end his four-year absence from the SA Boomerangs squad when he returns to Alice Springs for the 2024 National Indigenous Cricket Championships next month. Picture: Peter Argent



McGregor-Baptista to return for Boomerangs

By PETER ARGENT



AYDEN McGregor-Baptista will end his four-year hiatus from representative cricket when he returns to Alice Springs next month.

The 25-year-old will wear the red of the South Australian Boomerangs team at the 2024 National Indigenous Cricket Championships from February 22-27.

The 2024 event will mark a

welcome return to the big stage of Indigenous representative cricket.

"I have been playing in this event since my early teens," McGregor-Baptista said.

"The first one was back in 2013, and I reckon this is my ninth trip."

The three-time captain of the Boomerangs wants SA to remain at their competitive best.

"It's a big task taking on the bigger states, especially New South Wales, and the Queenslanders, but we are keen to be competitive in this year's

NICC," he said.

"(And) I'm not keen on the captaincy this year but will still have a leadership role within the squad."

A true all-rounder, McGregor-Baptista is noted for his aggressive batting, crafty off-spin bowling, and an elite fielder, either in a catching role or stationed in the outfield.

He is a prototype for a modern short-form cricketer with his natural athleticism and good eye.

McGregor-Baptista spent the 2022-23 season playing

Twenty20 cricket with the Golden Grove Cricket Club, and this year is back at the Rostrevor Old Collegians in the Adelaide Turf competition.

Originally from Darwin, McGregor-Baptista moved to Adelaide in his early teens where he won a cricket scholarship at Rostrevor College.

He was a member of the elite underage programs with the SACA, playing a year of under-15s Schoolboys nationals, and spent three years in each of the SA Redbacks' under-17s and -19s national programs.

Remain vigilant in a time of excess sport

WAY back in the olden days of the ancient Roman Empire some 2500-or-so years ago, the rulers there employed a concept called 'Bread and Circuses'. It came in the form of free food, alcohol and entertainment and was primarily used to distract and appease the frustrated and generally deprived masses 'lest they cotton-on to the excesses by those same rulers in their name and on their coin (taxes). In time, however, the debauchery and excess by successive Roman Emperors and their sycophants would be the Empire's own undoing.

This concept of distraction remains to this day and it can take several forms – mass media (social, traditional or otherwise), and professional sport, of which we in this country have plenty.

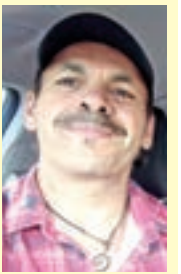
As it is Mob who primarily peruses these pages, it is incumbent upon us to strike a balance between 'consuming' the games that we love with a wider responsibility to our community, families and friends, even personal relationships. Part of this vigilance is to remain aware of the path the people we love around us are on. Of course, sport was and remains a terrific vehicle for our people to progress. This country's modern-day origins had our people on the backfoot from the start, and that terrible legacy remains. Pockets of light poke out from the darkness though, and that is Mob rising above what some of society would have us forever be.

Is this fair though? Why can't we just immerse ourselves totally in sporty-sport sportsball like everybody else without worrying about all this business of politics, social or otherwise? We can – you can, I can – but the reality is, the more ineffective we as a people become if sport is our entire lives, the better it is for policy-makers to make decisions that can be detrimental to us. Simple as that.

'Jeez brus, where did this all come from, this is the sports section, dammit!?' I'll tell you where – from enjoying a well-deserved break, driving through nearly 4000km of Country, and not wanting to take anything in this life for granted.

Welcome back, my people.

***Darren Moncrieff is a Wadjarri-Yinggarda man from Kuwinyardu who started with Yamaji News in 1997 and freelanced in the Kimberleys and the NT. He is Koori Mail sports editor**



Darren Moncrieff



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Alice heats up for Imparja Cup, NICC



INDIGENOUS cricket's biggest tournament will be underway this time next month with the largest contingent of teams yet at Mpwarrte-Alice Springs.

The seventh edition of the National Indigenous Cricket Championships and the 31st edition of the iconic Imparja Cup will see teams from around the country and the Northern Territory play out over 10 days at parks, gardens and dedicated cricket ovals in Australia's Red Centre.

The Imparja Cup is scheduled to take place from 18-21 February with the NICC to follow-on from 22-27 February.

The NICC has been a platform from which Indigenous cricketers have launched their careers.

Big names such as D'Arcy Short, Dan Christian, Ashleigh Gardner and Scott Boland have all gone on to represent Australia at the highest level after having played at the national Indigenous



The Western Australia women's team celebrates a wicket at a previous NICC tournament. *Picture: Cricket Australia*

tournament.

Since the amicable split of the singular tournament into two, the Territory-wide Imparja Cup and the NICC have been held side-by-side on Arrernte Land, with hundreds of cricketers, coaches and match officials from different Mobs around the country coming together in the heart of Central Australia to celebrate cricket, culture and Country.

The Imparja Cup is Australia's biggest Indigenous cricket festival. It was originally founded by custodians Shane Franey and Ross Williams as a family match between Alice Springs and Tennant Creek in 1993.

The tournament has made a significant contribution to the history and story of Indigenous cricket in Australia. It was the foundation upon which Cricket Australia created the NICC in 2016.

NT Cricket's head of cricket Darren Treumer said the Northern Territory community is looking forward to welcoming everyone to the "spiritual home" of Indigenous cricket.

"The Imparja Cup is a significant part of cricket in the Territory and we look forward to celebrating that rich history with a new wave of talented Indigenous cricketers from around the country," Treumer said.

● **2024 Imparja Cup, 18-21 February; 2024 NICC 22-27 February.**



Scott Boland will have to bide his time during the current Test series against the West Indies. *Picture: Supplied*

Aussies unchanged; Boland to cool his jets



AUSTRALIA'S unchanged line-up for the current two-Test series against the West Indies means cult hero Scott Boland must bide his time on the sidelines until at least New Zealand next month.

Pat Cummins' men made light work of Pakistan with a series clean-sweep 3-0 in which the Aussie quicks were rarely tested in December and January.

National selectors announced their 13-man squad for the series with the West Indies ahead of the first Test which begins in Adelaide today (Wednesday 17 January).

Two further Tests are scheduled in New Zealand in February and March.

Boland has also been added to the squad, but will join the group late and likely act as a back-up bowler.

The 10-Test paceman returned for Melbourne Stars in the BBL and took 2-38 from four overs in the match against the Sydney Sixers.

Australia Test squad vs. West Indies:

Pat Cummins (capt), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitch Marsh, Matt Renshaw, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc.

– with AAP

Mitchell is off on a Flyer with Southside

By PETER ARGENT



IT seems that Leilani Mitchell is just getting better with age – proof of that is her game on the court for the Southside Flyers in the current 2023-24 WNBL season.

The 38-year-old has proved to be a valuable asset off the bench for the Flyers this season. The diminutive guard, standing at 165cm – or 5'5" – often plays as a shooting or point-guard and it is here she has made her presence felt.

Against Bendigo, Mitchell shot four three-point bombs at an amazing 80% accuracy. In Adelaide against the Lightning, Mitchell delivered a trio of three-pointers from just four shots. In total, Mitchell's shooting from downtown has been at 41.3% – elevating her among the top four performers across the league.

Mitchell is a three-time WNBL championship player at the Sydney Flames (2016-17), Canberra (2018-19), and Southside (2019-20).



Leilani Mitchell drives to the basket for Southside Flyers in a recent round in the WNBL.

Picture: Peter Argent