



Koori Mail

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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Honouring the ancestors



Images in recognition of Indigenous 'trailblazers' Nanbarry, Barangaroo, Pemulwuy and Patyegarang lit up the Sydney Opera House sails. The illumination at dawn marked a day which saw hundreds of thousands turn out for Survival/Invasion Day rallies and gatherings across the country. Full coverage, pages 25-31

Artwork by Aboriginal digital artist Brett Leavy celebrated Aboriginal history, culture and people, as part of the Dawn Reflection service on January 26. (AAP Image)

TIME FOR UNITY



THE nation's major sporting codes set the scene for yet another divisive national day by dropping the use of 'Australia Day' on social media.

Cricket Australia came under fire from some quarters for not referencing Australia Day in marketing around the Gabba Test while the AFL Players Association, several clubs, and the country's hockey teams called for a

change of date.

Many sports and teams used their social media accounts to recognise January 26 as a "painful and sorrowful day" for Indigenous people.

The stance of the sporting codes followed the decision of major supermarkets and other retailers to stop stocking Australia Day merchandise. Despite the annual controversy, millions across the nation still celebrated, commemorated or

protested on January 26, the day Captain Arthur Phillip landed at Sydney Cove in 1788.

Sydney's Opera House set the scene, illuminated with images of Indigenous historical figures, while Melbourne hosted its annual smoking ceremony and yarning circle to mark the start of Australia Day.

Tens of thousands of protesters turned out for Invasion Day and Survival Day rallies calling for change,

providing a visual reminder of opposition to the public holiday. In Melbourne, cheers rang out when a eulogy was read out for the 'long overdue and painfully anticipated death' of Australia Day.

The toppling of a statue of Captain Cook, which was cut off at the feet and graffitied in St Kilda on the Thursday, was also celebrated.

And on a sporting note, the second day of Australia's cricket test against the West Indies had to be placed in a

brief lockdown after protesters entered Brisbane's Gabba.

In his final Australia Day address, Governor-General David Hurley urged people to focus on the things that unite.

He reflected on the words of noted Queensland poet and novelist David Malouf. "Australia is still revealing itself to us and we are all part of its evolving story," he said.

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Barty backs NZ Open

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MY FAMILY

Aunty Delores Prior – Cairns



Aunty Delores, inset, with family and supporters of the Barry Prior Memorial team.

Family means being together, supporting one another, making memories, showing love.

Especially when our loved ones pass away, we come together to show our love, respect and support during this time.

About 60 members of my family gathered in Townsville for an event which was in memory of our late Birri Gubba warrior, Barry Wayne Prior.

He was a son, grandson, nephew, brother, cousin, father and best friend. I am Barry's mother.

Wadda Mooliin in language means 'hello/greeting'.

Your *Koori Mail* photographer saw us having a get together at Strand Park where we yarned and had a joyous and great time together.

It was the afternoon before the big Bindal Sharks rugby league carnival in Townsville, where a team was entered in memory of the man we miss so much.

That was a training session and barbecue and we were on Wulgurukaba Gurambilbarra Country. Thank them for allowing us to be there.

It was beside the golden sand beach of the Strand and Pacific Ocean and in the

background was the high rise Aquarius Hotel and the location was idyllic and ideal to celebrate the life of our much loved family member.

It was late in the afternoon and they came from around North Queensland, including from Charters Towers, Palm Island and as far north as Cairns and Yarrabah and south from Sydney, as the nephew came from there to play.

Barry's brothers, cousins, nephews and son played in the team.

We all enjoyed friendship and shared memories and many members of the Blackman, Prior and Blanket families were there. For the next two days, our family and friends played rugby league in memory of Baz and lots of people at the ground honoured him.

It was a very emotional, but happy event and we spent several days together at the Sports Reserve where the carnival was held. The event was organised by Raymond Prior and Shanane Mills-Prior and their families and we even had a big sign to honour Barry who had been a quality heavyweight boxer and top, all-round sportsman.

The weekend was a heart warming time – family is so important and I love them all.

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.

Koori Mail

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OUR CHILDREN



Mariah Santo with George, aged three, and Karsyan, four, enjoying the cricket at the Goldfield Ashes carnival, played in Charters Towers earlier this month. For story and more pictures from the competition see pages 18-19.

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Ancestor found: Her name is Nanny Nellie

By LIINA FLYNN



AWABAKAL woman Irene Ridgeway cried when she laid eyes on the life-sized, clay statue of her great grandmother for the first time.

Irene was in the storage room of the Australian Museum – and the emotional moment was the culmination of years of Irene's research to find her family.

Irene's ancestor was named Nellie Walker – and her story has become a powerful catalyst in changing the way colonial museums around the globe represent Aboriginal people in public history.

Nellie's statue was one of three statues of 'full blood' Aboriginal people commissioned by the museum in the 1920s. The people – a child, a man and a woman – were called the 'Wunderlink group' and exhibited as nameless objects to be studied.

It was an era when, in the 1925 Australian Census, Aboriginal people were declared a 'dying race'.

Irene's journey and Nannie Nellie's story has become a new SBS/NITV documentary called *Her Name is Nanny Nellie* – and it's directed by Irene's son, Daniel King.

The spark

Irene told the *Koori Mail* her journey to find family began in the mid-90s when she was doing family research.

"I wanted to know where I came from so I could share the information with my kids," Irene said.

"Nannie Nellie was born in Bombala in 1867 and moved from place to place until she

passed in 1942."

When the museum curator, Ernst Wunderlink, commissioned the statues in 1925, Nellie went to Sydney. That's where Nellie, along with Uncle Jimmy Clement and Uncle Harold Marsh, had a full body cast made of them.

The nameless statues were then displayed with no names to acknowledge who they were.

Removals

"Uncle Harold Marsh was nine years old when he was removed from his family and brought to Sydney," she said.

"The relief body cast was done naked and that would have been very difficult for him.

"He was never taken back to his family.

"This removal is something that happened to so many people.

"Daniel and I talked about opening up the conversation and reclaiming the narrative about what it was like for those who survived and were herded around."

Shocked

Irene said in the 1990s, her grandmother wrote to the museum and asked them to take down the relief of her mother.

"She was displayed in a glass box with kangaroo pelt skins around her waist," Irene said.

"This is how my grandma saw her mum for the first time.

"I was shocked when I saw a photo of it – the nameless objectifying of Aboriginal people at the time.

"So, the museum took the exhibition down and in the process of moving the statues around they were damaged."

Then last year, after much restoration work on the statue, Irene gave permission for the museum to display Nannie Nellie

again – this time fully clothed and acknowledged for who she was.

The exhibition was on display for one month and it was the first time that many of Irene's family saw their ancestor.

The statue of Nannie Nellie is no longer on exhibition and Irene has given permission for the museum to keep her, but not to move or damage her.

Door opens

"This opened a door – in museums everywhere there are reliefs of Aboriginal people," Irene said.

"Now, the truth telling is starting to come out and people are talking about ethics and changing the narrative.

"So, my son, the director got funding to make this doco and we tell the wonderful, but tragic story that's about Uncle Harold and Jimmy as well."

As part of Irene's journey to better represent Aboriginal people in museums, she also searched for the other statues' descendants, in order to reunite them with their families.

She hopes this story will encourage more Indigenous people to find their family connections too.

"My story is the story of many people and a lot of people who see it will say 'this happened to my grandmother or mum'," she said.

"It wasn't that long ago that people were being taken from their families – the Stolen Generations.

"I hope people enjoy what we have made and embrace it – make sure you take tissues."

● You can watch *Her Name is Nanny Nellie* online on SBS on Demand.



Awabakal woman Irene Ridgeway with the statue of her great grandmother Nellie Walker.

Treaty talks emerge from ashes of referendum fail



INDIGENOUS leaders are trying to pave a new way forward after the failed Voice referendum, with treaty negotiations continuing across the country.

More than 35 years after Bob Hawke was handed the Barunga statement in Arnhem Land, Indigenous leaders are still waiting for a treaty.

Frustrated with a lack of federal progress, in 2018 then Northern Territory chief minister Michael Gunner took matters into his own hands.

He re-signed the Barunga statement, which requests a treaty between government and Indigenous people, and committed to treaty talks.

One territory government, two leaders and three Aboriginal affairs ministers later, progress has been slow.

A treaty commission, initially established to consult with communities, was disbanded in 2022 after handing down its final report.

Six months out from a Top End election, Labor has again promised to put treaty back on the table.

Deputy Chief Minister and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Chansey Paech said the failed Voice to Parliament referendum campaign slowed the process.

"We paused the treaty conversations during the referendum because I didn't want to fatigue people in remote communities and mix the messaging up," he said.

"Unfortunately we didn't get the outcome we were hoping for, and we gave people some time to have sorry business around the outcome and time to heal."

Mr Paech said the time had come to revive the working groups.

Symposiums on treaty discussions will take place in April at Alice Springs and Darwin.

"Parliaments across this country must not see the referendum result and be frightened to do anything in the Aboriginal space," Mr Paech said.

But with urban voters preoccupied with rising crime rates and an opposition pledging to dismiss treaty if elected, it could be a long time before any formal agreement is signed.

At the last election, the Country Liberal Party won enough votes to hold onto several bush seats across the territory, leaving the door open for Labor to attempt to claw back votes on Indigenous issues in 2024.

"People want treaty," Mr Paech said. "I'm really confident that remote Aboriginal Territories are absolutely ready."

Across the nation, treaty negotiations are at varying stages in the states and territories.

Victoria's Liberal-National Party opposition has pulled support for treaty negotiations, citing concerns about cultural heritage.

Queensland's LNP has also withdrawn its treaty support, with the state Labor government insisting bipartisan support will be required before moving forward.

NSW Premier Chris Minns was set to begin a year-long consultation period in January but after the referendum result, he walked back his enthusiasm.

Tasmania has committed to progressing truth-telling and treaty, while Western Australia has no plans.

South Australia legislated a state-based voice to parliament in 2023, with another up and running in the ACT.

—AAP

‘Father of reconciliation’ ready to hang up his hat



WHEN Senator Pat Dodson hangs up his hat – with its familiar band showing the colours of the

Aboriginal flag – he’ll be calling time on an extraordinary career that began in the priesthood.

Retiring last Friday after more than seven years in the upper house, Labor Senator Dodson, 75, has been referred to as ‘the father of reconciliation’ in recognition of his work to advance the relationship between Indigenous people and wider Australia.

This came despite an early life touched by fear and tragedy as the Yawuru Elder who was born in Broome spoke about in his maiden speech to the Senate in 2016.

“I was born before the constitutional changes of 1967,” he said in the speech, referring to the successful referendum to have Aboriginal people counted in the population.

“I was hiding in the long grass in the Northern Territory town of Katherine and watched my age-mates being taken by welfare and police.”

While the young Pat Dodson and his siblings avoided becoming members of the Stolen Generations, their parents died in 1960 and Pat, brother Mick and two of their siblings were made wards of the state.

In 1975, Senator Dodson became the first Aboriginal person to be ordained as a Catholic priest.

But a few years later he left the priesthood, finding it difficult to reconcile his Yawuru spirituality with some aspects of Catholicism.

Commissioner

He later worked as a commissioner on the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and had spells as director on the Kimberley and Central land councils.

Senator Dodson later said that being a royal commissioner had crystalised his understanding of the importance of self-determination and giving a voice to the seemingly voiceless.

He chaired the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation from 1991 to 1997 and co-chaired the Expert Panel for Constitutional

Recognition of Indigenous Australians from 2010 to 2016 before joining the Senate.

In 2023 Senator Dodson was diagnosed with cancer, meaning he played a lesser role than he’d hoped in the unsuccessful Voice referendum campaign.

During his farewell speech to the Senate in November, Senator Dodson handed the message stick for reconciliation to the next generation. He reiterated words from his maiden speech about the deep shared spirituality that has nourished his people for thousands of years.

“My people, the Yawuru people, have a formula about reconciliation, without having known what reconciliation was,” he said.

“Mabu ngarrungunil, a strong community where people matter and are valued; mabu buru, a strong place, a good Country where use of resources is balanced, and sacredness is embedded in the landscape; and, finally, mabu liyan, a healthy spirit, a good state of being for individuals, families and community, whose essence arises from our encounter with the land and people.”



Labor senator Patrick Dodson has now retired from politics.

Koori Mail

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o p i n i o n

Make a stand

Just want to shout out and thank the garbos, who chose to work Invasion Day and collected my bins, first public holiday ever in 25 years of living there. Shout out to the non-Aboriginal woman who pushed her baby in the pram wearing an Aboriginal flag hat on her morning walk. Shout out to the Carlton Football Club staff, who chose to work Invasion Day and attend the march.

These small and significant actions made a difference to the message being sent to the powers that be and the First Nations people in your world.

I know that people all around this country did small and big gestures on January 26 that showed people that as a nation there is a problem with celebrating the start of colonisation in this country. These gestures add up every year, meaning we are closer to rising above the ignorance and that hope is still worth holding on to.

I spent the day as an MC, for the Share the Spirit Festival at the Sidney Music Myer Bowl where 20 First Nations bands like Coloured Stone, Uncle Kutcha Edwards, Yung Warriors, No Fixed Address and Mulgabore hard rock band and more came together to celebrate



Shelley Ware

blak excellence.

A day where we come together as a community at the many events around this country to fill our souls with our strength and energy to get through days like Invasion Day together.

The closing act, the Mulgabore Hard Rock Band was outstanding, they absolutely shone all the way from Mparntwe/Alice Springs. Talk about rockstars, they brought the house down and left us all with such happiness and pride.

Sadly, my son chose to spend the day with his friends away from Mob, which on any other day is safe but on Australia day it is not safe for our people. He faced some of the most interpersonal, in-your-face, disgusting, vile racism I have heard of in years. Australia needs to get

it's act together.

I do look forward to the day we do change the date and we do get to celebrate this country for all the beauty it holds in its people, talent, culture, history, community and love. But sadly, we have too many people who want to hold onto a 30 year “tradition” and keep the division alive – I have words for that but I like working for the *Koori Mail* and I have to watch my words and, well, they can’t print them.

What does honestly strike me as so bizarre, is the fact that the people causing the division in this country are also the ones who shout out the loudest, when First Nations people have something to say, “Stop trying to divide this country.” What they want to say is – “Get back in your box I made for you and don’t come out!”

So, I say to my people keep talking throughout the year, don’t stop, keep sharing the love you have in your big hearts, keep strong in spirit and when you don’t feel that strength stand back and let someone else speak, while you take a minute to heal. We are a big Mob and we are strong united, we have each other’s back and we will get through this time, and history will be the judge of this period of time. Always was, Always will be.

Cyclone batters Qld coast



THOUSANDS of Townsville residents remain without power as northern Queensland begins to clean up following Tropical Cyclone Kirrily. Strong winds hit regions on Thursday evening along with rainfall totals between 100 and 150mm but minimal property damage was recorded.

About 66,000 customers experienced a power outage at the peak of the cyclone's crossing and 42,000 households remained without power on Saturday afternoon.

Power outages

Ergon Energy deployed 600 restoration crews and said the focus would be on Townsville which had the majority of outages.

Queensland Premier Steven Miles said power outages were also affecting phone networks and water supply for some 10,000 households.

He urged people affected to continue conserving water and know that crews were prioritising reconnection.

"Thankfully, we know of no loss of life and very minimal property damage at this stage," he told reporters on Saturday.

Emergency Management Minister Murray Watt said residents within Townsville City Council and Burdekin Shire Council could apply for government hardship payments worth \$180 per person up to \$900 for a family of five or more to cover the costs of essentials as a result of loss of power requiring the disposal of spoilt food or medicines.

Support measures

Other support measures were also available to eligible individuals in those areas to help make their homes safe and reconnect essential services such as electricity, water and sewerage.

People requiring immediate assistance can contact the recovery hotline on 1800 173 349.

Residents take shelter as 100km winds strike

By ALF WILSON



SIX Aboriginal men were safe in a shelter when Cyclone Kirrily struck Townsville early on the night of Thursday, 25 January. Lincoln Poynter, Damien Donaldson, Ronnie Wilson, Ben Nomoa, Greg Inkerman and Matt Dick said they were glad to be in the shelter when the winds which reached more than 100km per hour crossed the coast near Townsville at about 8pm. Mr Dick is from Doomadgee and the others are from Palm Island or Townsville and they left the shelter the next morning to find trees down in the Townsville CBD.

"The wind was so strong when we went to the shelter and I was worried for my safety but the shelter was good," Mr Dick said.

Authorities had predicted it would be a category 3 cyclone however it ended up as a category 2 which was less destructive.

Near where the six were sitting in the CBD there were several trees down and Mr Poynter said the damage could have been much worse.

"There weren't many houses damaged and it was mainly trees," Mr Poynter said.

The *Koori Mail* did a drive around Townsville the following morning and found a lot of houses were without electricity, traffic lights were not working, shops were shut, and there were a lot of trees which had fallen across roads.

However, council and SES were hard at work and power was gradually being restored.

Palm Island

Residents of Palm Island were calling for a cyclone proof shelter to be built in the wake of the cyclone which swept across the Aboriginal shire.

As Kirrily blew across Palm Island local resident Vaughn Charles phoned the *Koori Mail* with up to date reports.

"It is blowing really hard here but local authorities have been keeping us informed on its progress with hourly text messages", Mr Charles said.

Mr Charles said that locals living at Butler Bay suburb were evacuated to safer places on the island.

And residents who were residing in farms at remote parts of the island were also evacuated.

Ingham District

At 8.20pm during the cyclone the Hinchinbrook Disaster Group based at Ingham sent texts advising locals to stay indoors.

Any who had concerns for their safety could make their way to a cyclone shelter at Menzies Street.

All residents in Townsville, Ingham, the Burdekin and on Palm Island were advised to stay off the roads.



Above: Lincoln Poynter, Damien Donaldson, Ronnie Wilson, Ben Nomoa and Greg Inkerman in the CBD the morning after Cyclone Kirrily. Top right: Doomadgee man Matt Dick behind a tree in the CBD which was blown down.



Emma, Louisa and Patricia Joe with their supplies.



Lanin Yasserie with a chain saw amongst fallen trees on Palm Island. Lanin was a member of the council gang. The crew worked closely with Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Michael Bissell, who was co-ordinator, and the local Disaster Management Group. The morning after the crew scouted the island armed with chainsaws and cut down branches from fallen trees and cleared them and picked up rubbish.

Preparing for the onslaught

By ALF WILSON



SISTERS Patricia, Louisa and Emma Joe were amongst hundreds of First Nation's

People living in Townsville who wanted to be sure they had enough food and drinks as Tropical Cyclone Kirrily was approaching their city.

It may have been the calm before the big blow with destructive winds and heavy rains but that gave locals time to be prepared.

Townsville has a large population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Residents flooded into supermarkets to purchase supplies such as milk, bread, groceries and items like candles and batteries for transistor radios.

It was feared electricity would be cut when Kirrily struck Townsville that coming night.

The service stations which remained open were busy as drivers filled up their vehicles. Many gathered sandbags from the local council or businesses to

hold back flood waters which had been predicted in some areas after the heavy rain.

It was about 10.30am on January 25 about 12 hours before the expected arrival of Kirrily when the *Koori Mail* saw the sisters of Torres Strait Moa island descent.

They were sitting in the city CBD with three trollies full of food and drinks.

"It cost us more than \$400 but we wanted to be sure we had enough for our families if the power was cut and shops closed after the cyclone," Emma said.

The family lives in a South

Townsville suburb about 1km from the city centre and which would have been in the danger zone if the eye of the cyclone hit.

For Patricia it was going to be the first cyclone she had been in but Emma had experienced one before.

"I was around during Cyclone Yasi," Emma said.

The sisters were armed with a large umbrella which was essential as rain started to fall heavily. Survival Day which had been scheduled for the following day was postponed to a date to be announced.

Funding to boost healing for women and children facing family violence



A PROGRAM that supports First Nations women, children and families has received a \$23.2 million funding boost from the Federal Government.

The *Healing for Families* program will deliver culturally-based and trauma-informed healing support to 12 locations across Australia where it is needed most – such as counselling and therapy, financial support and advice.

The funding boost will see the program expand to a further seven communities, taking the total to 12, and will focus on women and children who have experienced the impacts of family violence and children at risk of removal into out-of-home care.

The new locations are Aurukun, Qld, Bidadanga, WA, Coffs Harbour, NSW, Ngukurr and Numbulwar, NT, Port August, SA, Perth, WA and Tasmania.

With three in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experiencing physical or sexual violence, the *Healing for Families* program recognises the crucial role First Nations women play in ensuring the strength and well-being of their families and communities while working to address the disproportionately high rates of violence they experience.

The \$23.2 million package is in addition to the funding dedicated to establishing five healing sites for First Nations survivors of child sexual abuse.

Delivering concrete action on the dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2023-25 under the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032, the *Healing for Families* program



Council members – Danilka Hunter, Agnes Walbidi, Maureen Yanawana, Barbara White, Andrew Minyardie, William Bangu, Eugene Bumba, Sue Mandijalu.



Tania Baxter, Bidadanga Aboriginal Community chief executive.

aims to improve the social and emotional well-being of First Nations families through healing.

It follows a \$96 million investment announced in December for new grant opportunities for eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to help end family, domestic and sexual violence.

The Albanese Government

remains committed to Closing the Gap and reducing family violence, with initiatives including *Healing for Families* working in genuine partnership with communities to provide crucial opportunities for trauma recovery.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney said healing programs worked best when they were community-led.

"First Nations women are vital to the strength and wellbeing of First Nations families and communities, with this funding boost we're ensuring more women have access to the crucial services that deliver opportunities for healing," Ms Burney said.

"These further investments are about ensuring communities are in the driver's seat when it comes to service delivery, and we'll continue working with them to ensure they have the support they need to deliver the programs that offer pathways to real change."

Minister for Social Services

Amanda Rishworth said the rates of family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia were disproportionately high for First Nations women and children.

"We can do more to prevent violence by listening to people and ensuring that funding is getting to communities that need it. Recovery and Healing is one of the key pillars of our *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*," she said.

"Ensuring culturally-based and trauma-informed healing support is delivered where it is needed most will assist."

"Through a combined effort between the Government, First Nations communities, and the family, domestic, and sexual violence sector, we can ensure we can turn the tide on violence in our communities and provide safer, brighter futures for all Australians."

Bidadanga Aboriginal Community chief executive Tania

Baxter welcomed the funding.

"Bidadanga is a remote Aboriginal community in the Kimberley region of WA with unique needs that our organisation supports, with *Healing for Families* funding ensuring we can develop more in-depth and targeted support for the women, children and families in remote community settings that need it most," Ms Baxter said.

"We work hard to build and sustain a close relationship with our community and understand their culture, family obligations and diverse needs, with this relationship providing a strong foundation to deliver the essential activities to support healing."

"Our community understands better than anyone what they need to encourage healing, that's why our ground-up and hands-on approach is crucial in meeting the needs of community, with *Healing for Families* an essential lifeline to ensuring we can continue to work with our members and community to build a stronger future."

If you or someone you know is experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, domestic, family or sexual violence call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732, chat online via 1800RESPECT.org.au or text 0458 737 732. These services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Feeling worried or no good? No shame, no judgement, safe place to yarn. Speak to a 13YARN Crisis Supporter, call 13 92 76. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you are concerned about your behaviour or use of violence, you can contact the Men's Referral Service on 1300 766 491 or visit www.ntv.org.au.

Victorian opposition decides to withdraw treaty support



VICTORIA'S opposition has withdrawn its support for Indigenous treaty negotiations, citing concerns about cultural heritage laws.

The First People's

Assembly of Victoria says it had no idea the state opposition was withdrawing support for treaty until it was announced on TV.

But the opposition Aboriginal affairs spokesperson says the assembly must not have been listening.

The proposed treaty will pave the way for legally enforced Aboriginal consultation on future Indigenous-related decisions.

Negotiations between elected representatives and the Victorian government are at an early stage, with the coalition previously backing legislation to create a body to oversee the process.

But during a Sky News interview, Nationals leader and opposition spokesman

for Aboriginal affairs Peter Walsh said the coalition had withdrawn its support, citing concerns about cultural heritage laws.

On Monday, Mr Walsh said assembly claims they were blindsided showed 'they were not listening or paying attention'.

Opposition Leader John Pesutto said the coalition's decision was based on discomfort on the possible divisive nature of treaty, including suggestions there could be separate justice and child protection systems for First Peoples.

He blamed an 'element of secrecy' and said the news shouldn't have come as a shock following numerous discussions around those topics.

Despite slamming both the government and assembly over a lack of transparency, Mr Pesutto would not be drawn on when the coalition made its decision to withdraw its support for the treaty.

Mr Pesutto said it was important to close the gap between Indigenous and non-

Indigenous Victorians, but he believed the way forward was not through a treaty.

"I'm championing a focus on real life outcomes, making sure Indigenous Victorians can get an education, the support they need and the life opportunities they deserve as opposed to one that will focus on a treaty," Mr Pesutto said.

Despite the coalition throwing its support behind a bill to start the treaty process in 2022, it was not always supportive of the idea – instead stating its preference for a national treaty.

'Too soon'

Following last year's Referendum loss, Mr Pesutto seemed to echo those sentiments, saying it was too soon to declare a party stance on treaty.

Rueben Berg, co-chair of the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria, described the opposition's withdrawal of support as 'disappointing, but not surprising'.

Despite the opposition's decision, Mr Berg said there was still a path towards treaty.

"It would be more useful to have bipartisan support, so that our issues don't just become political footballs," he said.

"But we are intent on continuing to progress treaty outcomes, regardless of this bipartisan support."

Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan said Mr Pesutto needs to give an explanation to Victorians.

"Have courage of your own convictions for goodness sake, and talk to the Victorian community about why you have made this decision," she told reporters.

"Not cloak it in this secrecy, clearly, that we've seen for months and months to only find out now in the last week of January."

She said cultural heritage approvals are a part of a broader process and accused the opposition of using issues with that to crab walk away from treaty.

–AAP

A new tune helps Emily heal from fire and loss

By JILLIAN MUNDY



THIS Friday is a big day for Emily Wurramara – it's her 28th birthday and she is launching *Magic Woman Dancing* into the world.

The Warnindhilyagwa woman from Groote Eylandt, who grew up between Meanjin (Brisbane) and the Northern Territory spoke with the *Koori Mail* from a small beachside town south of Nipaluna/Hobart, which she has called home for the past five years.

Magic Woman Dancing is the first of fourteen songs from the multi-award-winning songwriter, poet and musician's long-awaited second studio album – *Nara*.

Em, as she prefers to be called, wrote the soulful *Magic Woman Dancing* in high school.

It was a poem about a sensual, loud and 'out there' friend.

Growing up in a fairly conservative family influenced by a Christian missionary way of thinking, Em says she was enchanted and jealous.

"Because (I thought) I can't be like that. I am not confident enough to be that.

"I wrote this song, to call myself out, and to recognise there is so much power in liberation, freedom and self," she explained.

She describes it as an anthem celebrating self-expression.

Listening to some of the lyrics it's easy to imagine they could be describing Em – there is something pretty magical and captivating about her too.

Since audiences were first introduced to her via the *Black Smoke* EP (2016), Em's natural talents as a storyteller have been on show, beautifully delivered through music that is engaging and that builds on a history that resonates deeply with audiences around Australia.

The EP has amassed over fourteen million streams on Spotify alone, as well as widespread Australian industry acclaim.



Emily Wurramara
Picture: Claudia Sangiorgi Dalimore

"I just realised, after I lost everything, when I had nothing, I actually had everything at the same time and it was really beautiful."

Nara, which means 'nothing' in her Warnindhilyagwa language, may be nothing the industry expects but it is full of her vision, passion and artistry.

The title is also a reflection of losing her home and material possessions in a 2019 fire.

Em recalls being woken by her brother, seeing her grandmother's woven mat burning on the wall, sleepily grabbing the dummy her daughter had used as a baby and her laptop containing years of work, then calmly walking out, closing the door behind her.

"It was just a surreal moment, I

wasn't hurt, I was surprised, I wasn't grieving, I was just like, in that moment, oh, okay, that's what it is."

It wasn't until she was amongst her neighbours who were panicking that someone may be trapped inside the apartment block that any sort of emotion or panic set in.

While the fire destroyed her and her neighbours' homes in the West End of Meanjin (Brisbane) luckily everyone escaped in time and no one was hurt.

The same day Em went about setting up a benefit gig to raise

funds for her neighbours.

She also felt her perspectives shifting. She was more deeply present within herself, and with friends.

"I just realised, after I lost everything, when I had nothing, I actually had everything at the same time and it was really beautiful.

"So this album is packed with everything.

"It's a rebirth of who I am as a person, as an artist, just as a being, as an entity on this planet, but also it's kind of like a letting go of a lot of stuff too.

"A big, big healing process for me."

Leading up to the fire she had been feeling stagnant in her artistic practice.

Moving to Lutruwita/Tasmania with her daughter soon afterwards took her out of her comfort zone and gave her space to grow.

"Moving down here really gave me an insight as to what I'm doing and who I am, but also what I'm leaving for my daughter, what legacy that I'm going to be making for her to carry on.

"I just want her to be able to do what she wants to do without feeling some kind of expectation to society or expectation to others or how others stereotype us.

"Coming down here was the best thing that ever happened.

"I feel very lucky, I have really beautiful support around me and beautiful connections that I've made over the last like five years we've been here."

Em has been in the music industry since she was 14 and learnt the ropes. She is now self-managed. She has taken her time to realise her artistic visions, worked to save money so she can pay collaborators a rate they deserve and has built a team of good people around her.

The new song has a mystical music video featuring dancer Gabe Comerford, Em's mum Angela Wurramara and Em's partner Kai Mason. It depicts characters, uses intricate costuming and prosthetic masks, and references Em's cultural identity.

"I love sci-fi, I love *The Lord of the Rings*, I love *Star Wars*. I'm bit of a nerd, my partner and I play *Dungeons and Dragons*," she explained.

No more spoilers – check it out online!

While *Nara* will not be launched until later this year, you can hear Em at festivals over the coming months – A Festival Called Panama in Lutruwita (March), The Gum Ball in the Hunter Valley NSW (April) and Ride The Wave in Port Macquarie NSW (April).

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Wiradjuri Spirit reawakens

By LIINA FLYNN



A CARVED burial tree (dendroglyph), surrounded by a fence on Wiradjuri Country, has become a catalyst for an Elder-led project that changes our cultural understanding and protects Aboriginal heritage.

On Wiradjuri Country, Uncle Neil Ingram used to find Aboriginal artefacts that had been ploughed up on farms. It was the 1960s and 70s and Greg, his young Wiradjuri son, was inspired by his father's passion for protecting and promoting Aboriginal culture and heritage.

Neil was part of a group who protected dendroglyphs – Aboriginal traditional burial trees.

Now Greg Ingram is also working to protect these sacred sites and has been helping set up an Elder-led project to make sure these sites are protected in the long-term.

Greg works for Central Tablelands Local Land Services (CTLLS) as an Aboriginal Communities Officer. Part of his job is to protect cultural heritage on the Traveling Stock Route (TSR) network, where many burial trees are located.

Travelling Stock Routes

"The TSRs were based on old Aboriginal camps," he told the *Koori Mail*. "They are corridors that connect smaller watering and camping reserves – and are still used as places where travelling stock can rest and be watered on the way to be sold."

"One day, a local guy told us to come and look at a burial tree that was still intact – and we knew we needed to make a management plan to protect it."

The tree

"At first there was only a small fence around the tree – people didn't understand there's more to it."

"I got them to understand that the tree is just a small part of a larger area that includes the burial site where an Elder would have been buried."

"Then the local Elders wanted to find out more about the sites and got funding for a research project."

"So we got a list of TSRs and



Pictured above and below: Burial trees (dendroglyphs) on Wiradjuri Country. Dendroglyphs also known as marara or tapholgyphs, were traditionally made by removing a sheet of bark from a tree and then carving the bare surface to face the burial mound of a Wiradjuri Elder of high standing.



did cultural surveys so we could protect what was on the sites."

Greg said the Elders wanted to use Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to locate the resting place of the Elder man.

So, Greg contacted La Trobe University researchers, including archaeologist Caroline Spry, to help investigate where the grave of the Elder was located.

Burial site

"In our cultural practices, the dendroglyphs usually point toward the burial site, between 20 to 40 metres away," Greg said.

"This fact finding was a truth telling – no more surmising."

"Now we had evidence to use for writing reports to help us protect and preserve the site."

"The Wiradjuri man who had been buried there also had his

wife buried nearby across the way."

"We are not sure if it was a common practice – it's unusual."

While the tree marking the woman's grave had already fallen over, Greg said he'd found anthropological reports documenting the site – as made by a hobbyist archeologist in the 1960s.

Greg also scoured the Trove and AIATSIS history databases to find more information about the sites.

"That area is highly significant and there are many burial sites in that region," he said.

"In the parish up the road there's another dendroglyph burial by the roadside and people had been using it for firewood until we came in and protected the site."

Greg said some of the local

landowners were in discussions with the Wiradjuri Elders about giving them access to their properties, so the burial sites there could be investigated.

Greg hopes more landowners can assist the organisation in finding more burial tree sites which might be located on their land.

"We work mostly with sites on the TSRs – it makes accessing them easy," Greg said.

"It's a current working TSR and well managed. It's a good indicator that western practices and Aboriginal heritage can coexist, side by side."

Wiradjuri philosophy

Underpinning the collaborative research project is the Wiradjuri philosophy of yindamarra.

Greg said it outlines "how to conduct oneself on country".

"Things take time," Greg said. "It's about respecting all things – going slow, listening, respecting

plants, animals, water and the old people – especially Elders."

At the heart of the ongoing Elder-led project is the reconnection of Aboriginal people to Country and cultural sites; fulfilling obligations of protecting old people; and teaching young ones how to follow in their footsteps.

Spiritual awakening

Greg said the whole experience was a spiritual awakening.

"It made me feel reconnected to Country, the old people and the spirit of Wiradjuri," he said.

"To be able to protect this and be part of this was fulfilling and healing."

"We are bringing Aboriginal culture into the here and now."

"We also needed to protect and preserve the women's burial site."

So, following cultural protocol, the Wiradjuri women took responsibility for managing the sites where an Elder woman was buried.

"Aunty Alice Williams looked after the process of contacting council and then buying fencing materials to protect a site on a road verge managed by council," Greg said.

Findings and lessons

"It's important that the work is Elder and community led. The Elders wanted all this work to be done and employed the university to come and help the community do the research."

"Now, they can teach their nephews and nieces how to understand, protect and preserve these sites."

Greg said Local Land Services had established a pilot training program to train the local community in conservation and ecosystem management.

"The training delivered is by Firesticks Alliance teachers," he said. It gives Aboriginal people the cultural competency to manage site recordings and community engagement.

"We're hoping to get more funding to incorporate the course in TAFE across all regions."

Impact

"The whole project has had a big impact on community. We hope that in future, the young people can have opportunities to teach about traditional burials, in other groups and institutions."

You can read the full research report in *Australian Archaeology* at <https://doi.org/10.1080/03122417.2023.2219378/>



Wiradjuri Elders on Country meet with La Trobe University researchers.



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Women tackle violence



A FRESH approach to address high rates of violence against Indigenous women and children does something simple, yet revolutionary.

It centres the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, including those who are experts in the field and those who have lived experience of family and domestic violence.

To this end, a steering committee to develop a standalone national plan has come together in Canberra for the first time.

First Nations people are disproportionately impacted by family violence and abuse.

Indigenous women are an appalling 33 times more likely to be hospitalised and will die six times more often from domestic violence than non-Indigenous women in Australia.

Social Services Minister Amanda Rishworth says culturally appropriate and independent advice is needed to create systemic change.

"The First Nations national plan will guide a whole-of-society approach to addressing the unacceptable rates of family



A communal area at the Alice Springs Women's Shelter. The shelter, the only one in town, is in need for increased funding in order to cope with rising demand for its services by women and children affected by domestic violence. (AAP)

violence and abuse against First Nations women and children," she told a gathering last week in the capital.

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap, signed by all states and territories, the Commonwealth and Indigenous peak organisations, targets a 50 per cent reduction in all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children by 2031, progressing towards none.

Steering committee member Hannah McGlade, an academic, lawyer, advocate and Noongar woman from Western Australia, says developing a stand-alone approach that centres Indigenous women's voices is critical.

"We won't be able to close the gap in Indigenous family violence and address the shocking murder rates of Indigenous women and girls without this kind of high level plan and commitment from all governments," she says.

Dr McGlade says there are myriad complex intersecting issues driving and underlining the violence, noting colonisation and systemic and structural discrimination.

"We know Aboriginal women's leadership, knowledge, expertise and understanding is essential, it reflects the fundamental principle of Aboriginal self-determination."

The relationship between mainstream women's organisations and Indigenous women has not always been easy, with complaints First Nations women's voices and policy ideas are overlooked and ignored.

Tragic outcomes

For example, recent calls to criminalise coercive control have been opposed by Indigenous women, who point to cases when over-policing has led to Aboriginal women seeking help for family violence being arrested, at times leading to tragic outcomes.

"For too long Aboriginal women have not been heard," Dr McGlade says.

"We've been advocating for these systemic reforms, knowing that without them our women's and children's lives continue placed at risk.

"Too often Aboriginal women

have been unsupported in their traumatic experiences, there's been a lack of culturally appropriate and early responses."

Indigenous Australians Minister Linda Burney says the members of the committee brings an enormous depth of experience and expertise and will play an important role in providing guidance and advice.

"This is a demonstration of the Albanese government's commitment to working in genuine partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to address significant challenges, including family violence and abuse," she noted of Wednesday's meeting.

Led by two co-chairs, the committee is made up of 12 non-government First Nations representatives, reps from each state and territory and the Commonwealth, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner.

The First Nations National Plan will follow the foundations set in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2023-2025, under the goals of the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032.

– AAP



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Police program targeting our children axed



A NSW policing program that selects and targets people, including children, who police predict may commit crimes in the future, has been abandoned. The axing of the controversial program, described by critics as oppressive, followed a five-year investigation by the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC).

The investigation expressed significant concerns over the NSW Police's Suspect Targeted Management Plan (STMP), calling it 'unreasonable, unjust and oppressive'.

The pre-emptive policing plan, according to a law expert, was disproportionately harmful to young and Indigenous people and 'heavy-handed'.

A report co-authored by Dr Vicki Sentas, a senior lecturer at UNSW Law and Justice, sparked the LECC investigation, whose results led to last month's discontinuation of the program.

"The aim of the STMP was to disrupt people's everyday lives with coercive and punitive interventions," Dr Sentas said.

"It was heavy-handed, excessive, and oppressive."

"It increased vulnerable young people's contact with police and the criminal justice system, going against basic principles of diverting youth from crime."

"Our research found children as young as 10 and 12 were targeted," Dr Sentas said in the report titled 'Policing Young People in NSW: A Study of the Suspect Targeting Management Plan'.

Dr Sentas said she first noticed a pattern of intensified police harassment in 2013 through her work at Redfern Legal Centre, where she runs a police powers clinic for UNSW law students.

Clients and lawyers in community legal centres, Legal Aid, and the Aboriginal Legal Service were sharing similar concerns.

"For just one example, a young Aboriginal boy had been stopped and searched hundreds of times. His family was distraught, and they were about to move out of their home to avoid the harassment. His prior offending was very minor, shoplifting, and he had

behavioural and cognitive difficulties," says Dr Sentas.

At the time, no information on the STMP was available in the public domain. Dr Sentas and report co-author Camilla Pandolfini, then a Public Interest Advocacy Centre lawyer, had to build knowledge from the ground up. They developed a community-based network of collaborators and lawyers who could advocate on the STMP in partnership with the Youth Justice Coalition.

the STMP 'is, or may be, unreasonable, unjust, oppressive or improperly discriminatory in its effect on children and young people'.

NSW Police stopped using the policy on young people in September 2023, avoiding any formal finding from the LECC of agency maladministration. Dr Sentas welcomes the NSW Police decision to completely cease using the STMP by December.

"It's incredibly rare and difficult for manifestly oppressive systems of policing to be abandoned. This is the result of the LECC's persistent and careful scrutiny. Robust police accountability needs to be well-resourced and ongoing," says Dr Sentas.

"The result is critically important for overpoliced communities and especially First Nations communities who have been advocating for a change to heavy-handed policing for many decades."

"But there is much more work to be done. The STMP is just the tip of the iceberg. First Nations are grossly overrepresented in all aspects of everyday policing: from general and strip searches to consorting warnings to bail breaches and more."

A new approach

Dr Sentas' research indicated police had been unlawfully searching children and young people, not because they were suspected of committing an actual offence but because they were listed

on the STMP. The research also showed that First Nations young people were disproportionately targeted.

As NSW Police has indicated they will develop a replacement program, Dr Sentas says they would need to work closely with and listen to Aboriginal community organisations.

"Any new police framework for the early prevention of crime must be incorporated into the NSW Closing the Gap process, focused on supporting health, housing and education, as well as trauma-informed, culturally supportive approaches led by Aboriginal community organisations rather than punitive and coercive ones," says Dr Sentas.

"The approach to supporting First Nations children needs to be led by First Nations communities."

"Any new police framework for the early prevention of crime must be incorporated into the NSW Closing the Gap process, focused on supporting health, housing and education, as well as trauma-informed, culturally supportive approaches led by Aboriginal community organisations rather than punitive and coercive ones"

Dr Sentas also led a research team in rigorous academic analysis of case studies from interviews with the lawyers, case law and court documents, and limited quantitative data. They reported the findings in 2017 which alerted the broader community to the impact of the STMP policy on young people.

Systematic change

In response to the report and its public attention, Dr Sentas says NSW Police revised the policy to gradually reduce the number of children aged under 14 on the STMP. But Dr Sentas says that the STMP was unreformable and needed to be scrapped.

In 2018, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC) launched an independent investigation. Their final results published in October 2023 found

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Professor Tom Calma AO, National Coordinator, Tackling Indigenous Smoking

The Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) program aims to reduce smoking and vaping rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

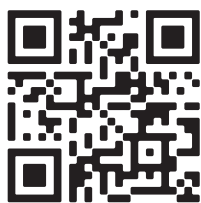
The Department of Health and Aged Care is offering over \$8 million to design and deliver projects providing better health outcomes for First Nations people.

The National Reach and Priority Projects (NRPP) should reach populations on a national scale or across large geographies. The three priority groups for the NRPP are:

- remote communities
- young Indigenous people (youth)
- Indigenous pregnant women, their families and women of childbearing age.

A public tender will open soon. Suppliers must design and deliver projects that support a population health approach and meet specific criteria, with applications assessed individually. Successful projects will be chosen on merits including Indigenous participation, value for money and not duplicating existing TIS work.

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Tim puts hand up for a seat

By DARREN MONCRIEFF



TREVOR Tim is four-months into an election campaign from which the self-described "Murri from the 'Curry" hopes to formally land a seat as a councillor on the Cairns local council.

Tim is contesting the vacant Division 4 in the March 16 Cairns Regional Council elections. The last council elections were held in 2020.

Cairns' Division 4 takes in the three "M" suburbs of Manoora, Manunda, Mooroolool, plus Earlville and Kanimbla.

Tim is operating with five other candidates for regional council mayoral candidate Cr Amy Eden, under the 'Team Eden' ticket.

Tim, 53, threw his lot into the political arena in October last year in the hope to effect positive change in the far north Queensland capital he's called home for 45 years. The idea to do so had been bubbling away for some time.

Tim is a long-time radio host, sports-broadcaster and producer at Bumma Bippa Media 98.7FM, the first and only Indigenous radio service in



Division 4 candidate for the Cairns Regional Council March elections Trevor Tim with part of the Team Eden team (from left) Amy Eden, Emma Gelling and Kesa Strieby campaigning in Cairns.

Gimuy-Cairns. He is also a motivational speaker, life coach and traditional-dance instructor.

He was born in far western Queensland at Cloncurry – the 'Curry as local Mob call it – and went to school at Mt Isa before the family shifted to Cairns in his youth. Tim has ties also to the Torres Strait at Darnley Island from his mum's side.

"Cairns Regional Council needs a bit of colour," Tim said, as we stand sharing a coffee near the Team Eden stall at the

bustling weekend Rusty's Markets in the centre of the city during a sweaty but pleasant early January mid-morning.

"I'm not sure if I'm the first Indigenous man to run for election here; if so, fantastic, if not, also fantastic. It just means I'm here for my community. Division 4 has a lot of First Nations people but I'm here for non-First Nations people, too."

Local council elections are curious beasts. Their outcomes directly affect local residents, yet

they receive nowhere near the hype nor scrutiny that a federal or state election does. Local elections can also be the springboard from which councillors launch their wider political careers – "Watch this space!" was all Tim would say about that.

Division 4 became vacant late last year following the resignation of Cairns' former mayor Bob Manning due to health issues. Cr Terry James sought and was appointed the

office of mayor which, under the Local Government Act 2009 (LGA), he could not also hold a divisional seat, hence the vacancy.

Trevor Tim wants to make a stand for his town.

"People will have their favourites (at election time) but if people are happy with a First Nations person to represent them, then here I am," he said.

"I'm a candidate who happens to be Blak.

"If I win, great! If I lose, also great! I've got a beautiful life and I love what I am doing.

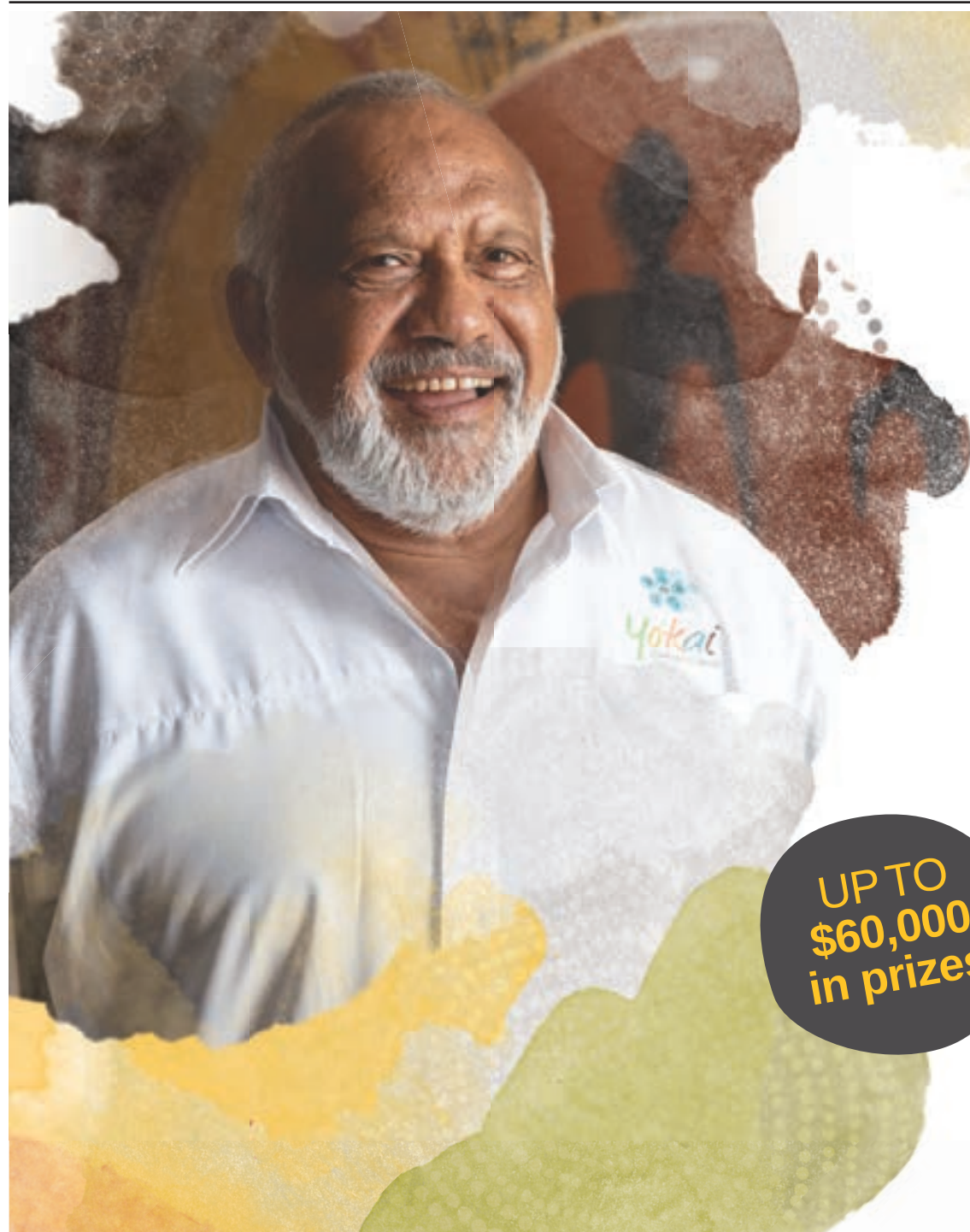
"This is not about 'come and go'; it's about 'come and grow'. Everything you may want in life may be outside your comfort zone, I'm here to get uncomfortable to get comfortable. I'm throwing my iron in the fire, and am looking forward to this new chapter in my life."

Something that got Trevor Tim's early vote was his family's blessing to run for election.

"My family is all for it," he said.

"My dad, Viv Tim, said 'I love you and support you, and good luck, but don't ever forget you're carrying my name'.

"I am who I am because of my father. I am happy to carry that burden."



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Mob markets

Story and pictures
by CHRISTINE HOWES



ON Survival Day in Cairns, the idea of running a Mob Markets at a football carnival was a response the 'no' result in last year's referendum. Mob Markets founders Talicia Minniecon and Lia Pa'apa'a said "we were both campaigning for a 'yes'."

"So when that didn't happen, we were trying to figure out ways to activate our community and make sure that there was still hope in our community," Talicia said.

"To make sure black voices were amplified, and that black businesses and global Indigenous Mob are standing with us as allies, in solidarity."

"Being business owners, we knew that we had the connections and the database of people that we could connect with, to be able to make this happen."

Lia said they knew the talent was there.

"We wanted to have a creative community response to how we were feeling about the 'no' vote," she said. "And we thought rather than splitting the community into two separate events, let's collaborate."

"So we were able to run this element of it and bring value to an existing event that was already happening – the Survival Day Knockouts Reconciliation Carnival."

Talicia said there was significance tied to the day.

"Historically, we know this as a day of invasion and a day where our people had to start surviving through this thing called colonisation," she said.

"And so when we get to be together, the significance for me is showing our children that they are a part of a lineage of First Nations and global Indigenous warriors that did not just lay down and be defeated."

"That they're a part of a lineage of people that stood up and that fought. That we're still here and we're thriving and we're doing everything that we can through whatever barriers come and face us."

"We are finding ways to make sure that we are bringing solutions for our communities. So I think the significance as well is finding black joy."

"It's not all about the negativity surrounding First Nations issues, but it's also about our celebration of our survival."

"It's a celebration of the joy that we have."

Continued on next page...



Survival Day Knockouts Reconciliation team work in the canteen.



Wasada Gutchen, Savannah Toby, Hannah Gutchen, Harley Thaiday and Deryn Thaiday at Kaizi's Traditional Coconut Oil.



The Gimuy First Nations Home School Co-op stall.



Referee Chasidy Pearson.



Mob Markets organisers Lia Pa'apa'a and Talicia Minniecon.



Clor Fatnowna and Shilo Villafior at Perfectly Imperfect.



CIAF Exhibition Assistant Catherine Curnow.



Leleai and Mercina Gabey at Gabey Girls Handmade Accessories.



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bring black joy to football

Continued from previous page...

"It's a celebration of the ability that we have to collaborate with people cross-culturally."

"And that is the significance of today – the fact that we continue to find ways to make sure that we are breathing life into our black communities right now – and into the next generation."

Survival Day Knockouts Reconciliation Carnival committee member Thais Sariman said they were keen when they were approached with the idea.

"We wanted to support local Indigenous businesses," she said.

"Putting their names and brands out there, in a place where we're all together on the same day."

Lia said there were 16 stalls at the

market – a small but good start.

"Some early childhood service providers are here," she said.

"We've got Deadly Choices and different artists representing the Cape, Torres Strait and even as far as Darwin."

Talicia said they were all working together.

"We have an amazing community of allies that are really showing up for First Nations people and global Indigenous people, especially in the Far North Queensland region," she said.

"I think it's a precious thing to see, we can't do this without our other brothers and sisters – we all need to work together."

See more pictures of rallies around the country on pages 25 to 31.



Cara and Jyroz Congoo.



Samara Fukofuka, Merindi and Felicity Schreiber at Woven Collective.



Montessori Children's Foundation team.



Sharrae Anderson, Jeorjah and Talicia Minniecon at TTOPP.



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Inspiring pathways open

Noongar students get ready for business success

By NICK PATON



INDIGENOUS students from Western Australia were thrilled to come together on Noongar Country earlier this month for this year's National Indigenous Business Summer School (NIBSSWA).

Hosted by the University of Notre Dame Australia and held at the university's Broome campus, it's the first time the event has been held in a regional area.

Designed to inspire Australia's future leaders, the group of 32 Indigenous Year 10 and Year 11 high school students came from across Western Australia and the University of Notre Dame's Broome campus. They took part in a six-day program, learning from Indigenous leaders, entrepreneurs and local business owners.

The students also heard from 2020 NSW Young Australian of the Year, Corey Tutt OAM, who travelled to Broome to deliver the keynote address at the event.

Professor Tutt, a Kamilaroi man from the New South Wales south coast, is an author, social entrepreneur and the founder of DeadlyScience – a not-for-profit that provides science books and equipment to remote schools in Australia.

Professor Tutt said the summer school program provides a fantastic opportunity for young Indigenous students.

"I'm looking forward to yarning with these Indigenous leaders of the future about my experiences in creating and growing DeadlyScience into



Lavinia McKenna, Rachael Richards and Kadius McKeagg take part in a workshop.

Australia's leading STEM charity, focusing on Indigenous students," he said.

"When I was growing up I'd have loved to have had the opportunity to attend an event like this."

The NIBSSWA program is an initiative of the Australian Business Deans Council and a collaboration between business schools at Western Australian universities.

It is guided by the principle of 'Katitjiny Boya Birrit', meaning 'pathway to understanding business' in Noongar language.

Notre Dame's National Head of the School of Business and Law, Professor Michael Quinlan, said the immersive NIBSSWA experience had the potential to change the lives of the students who took part.

"We are thrilled to be able to host the event at our Broome campus and to give these students a unique insight into university life and a future career in business," he said.

"The students will hear first-hand from local Aboriginal entrepreneurs about the opportunities that working in business may bring."

Professor Quinlan said students will be able to create business ideas of their own, giving them the potential to build a legacy for themselves and their families.

"By bringing these students together in Broome we hope to foster a sense of belonging and connectedness, and to nurture their interest in studying business at a university level."

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Corey Tutt OAM travelled to Broome to deliver the keynote address at the event.

New water bore improves station's tourist potential



OUT on the Gulf of Carpentaria's coastal waters sits a rare treasure. It's here, where a remote tourist attraction called Seven Emu Station is based.

Seven Emu comprises 209,200 hectares of land on Garawa Country and is home to senior Garawa man Frank Shadforth, who has worked on the property's organic cattle station his whole life with his family.

The station is also the base for two acclaimed Youth Training and Work Pathways Camp programs, which provide residency and mentorship for at-risk Aboriginal youths.

These programs give at-risk youths training, work experience and employment opportunities through the property's cattle enterprise, eco-tourism business, and booming bush food enterprise.

However, these operations rely on the availability of safe water – something the station was previously lacking, leaving Frank and his family to rely on a seasonal water supply that was pumped from the Robinson River.

Not only did this pose a safety issue, but it had the potential to restrict a range of activities held on Seven Emu as well as shorten its tourist season.

Fortunately, this risk was avoided – construction of a new bore and solar pump began last November on the property, thanks to over \$76,000 of funding from the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC).

The property initially had a bore, however, it was never properly constructed and collapsed in 2007. Now, the new bore will provide year-round clean water for the station's

visitors, allowing them to stay on Country over multiple nights. This will only boost tourism numbers.

It's a major milestone for the Shadforths – a fourth generation family whose continuing tradition keeps their Garawa culture alive.

Frank and his family are eager to share their Indigenous knowledge and skills – not only with the youth campers – but with non-Indigenous people too.

"The bore will prevent the restrictions on all our activities on the property and help to run our business more effectively," Mr Shadforth said.

ILSC Group Chief Executive Officer, Joe Morrison, said the new bore is an important addition to the Shadforth family's ability to operate enterprises on their Country.

"First Nations peoples are the rightful owners of Country. Seeing the Seven Emu

Station team achieve their aspirations for their land is what it's all about," Mr Morrison said.

"Everything the ILSC does is to serve First Nations peoples and this story is a clear example of our organisation's commitment to achieving this."

The new bore will enhance Seven Emu's growing bushfoods enterprise – which for the past two years – has seen traditional medicines being shipped to southern-based restaurants within Australia.

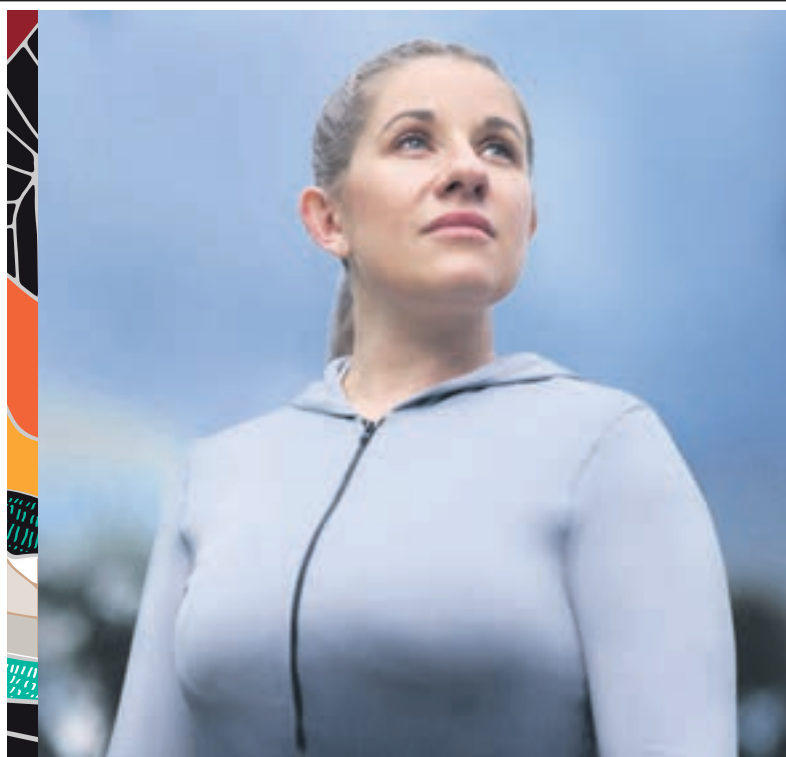
Seven Emu Station was purchased in 1953 by Frank's father, Willie, who was one of the first known Aboriginal people to buy a pastoral lease.

The property is located on the Savannah Way in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Northern Territory.

'First Nations peoples are the rightful owners of Country. Seeing the Seven Emu Station team achieve their aspirations for their land is what it's all about.'



Senior Garawa man Frank Shadforth has worked on the property his whole life.



TAFE NSW 



"I wanted to help bridge the gap between community and law enforcement."

Cass, IPROWD Graduate, Wonnarua Nation

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Kids criminalised by system



APPROACHES to youth justice for the youngest children who can be charged in Australia have little therapeutic or developmental benefit and fly in the face of international human rights advice.

A report by the Australian Institute of Criminology, looking at police and children's court outcomes for kids aged 10 to 13, found current approaches continue to criminalise them.

The research found children charged with early offending are more likely to be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, to have child protection involvement and to have a neuro-disability.

Too many

The report shows too many young children end up being 'managed' in criminal justice system settings, rather than receiving specialist support and care in the community, Justice Reform Initiative executive director Mindy Sotiri said.

"We know that the contact with the youth justice system makes it more likely that someone will become entrenched in the adult justice system and we know that too many children who have experienced trauma and are living with disabilities and mental health conditions are criminalised rather than cared for," Dr Sotiri said.



Current responses to children aged between 10 and 13 with alleged offending have little therapeutic or developmental benefit, a new criminology report says.

Children aged 10 to 13 years comprised 7.4 per cent of all children under statutory youth justice supervision, or 667 of the 8,982 children under supervision, in 2021/22.

Over-represented

However, the proportion of youth justice clients who were aged 10 to 13 years varied considerably between jurisdictions, from 1.9 per cent in Victoria to 14.8 per cent in the Northern Territory.

Indigenous children were significantly over-represented, particularly at the youngest age,

and were almost twice as likely as non-Indigenous kids to have their matters proceed to children's court.

More than a fifth (21 per cent) of children aged 10 under supervision (community orders or detention) were Indigenous.

The study highlighted substantial levels of victimisation among younger children with alleged offending, with half already experiencing a prior intervention order, mostly as complainants or victim-survivors.

"It is tragic and inhumane that we are incarcerating small children who are victims of family violence,"

said Maggie Munn, director of the non-profit Change the Record that advocates to reduce the number of Indigenous people in prison.

"We know that children who come into contact with the criminal legal system have experienced significant trauma in their short lives.

"The sad reality in this country is that current law and order responses are criminalising victim/survivors of family violence, poverty, and homelessness, as well as those with disabilities," the director added.

Non-violent

Most alleged offending was non-violent (71 per cent), particularly among 10-year-olds (82 per cent), the report found, but significant resources are nonetheless expended in the investigation, prosecution, defence and legal adjudication of younger children charged with offending.

"A clear-eyed policy response requires our leaders to acknowledge the failure of the youth justice system and requires also a commitment to significantly invest in the evidence-based alternatives that work," Dr Sotiri said.

These include early intervention, prevention and diversion programs, case management services, alternative court models and First Nations place-based programs, she said, and restorative justice

programs that are proven to turn lives around and reduce reoffending.

Supportive and preventative interventions are likely to have the greatest impact for children charged with early offending, according to the institute of criminology.

The study findings suggest that justice responses, as opposed to statutory community supervision or detention, are not currently used as a last resort in responding to this group of children, and that there is significant scope to improve early therapeutic, educational and social support.

A coalition of legal, Indigenous and human rights organisations recently published an open letter to Victoria's attorney-general calling on the government to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14.

That includes the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) whose chief executive Jill Gallagher said contact with the criminal justice system exacerbates intergenerational trauma and cycles of disadvantage, undermining children's health and wellbeing.

"In Victoria we have seen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 12 and 13 locked up when they should be thriving at school and playing sport on the weekend," she said.

— AAP



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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

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Laneway honours our 'Queen' Mary



A LANEWAY in the town of Huskisson on the south coast of New South Wales has been

named in honour of Mary Carpenter, the 'queen' of Aboriginal leader James Golding, also known as King Budd Billy II.

The Shoalhaven City Council approved the new name as a way of honouring Huskisson's Indigenous history.

The laneway runs off the town's main street, Owen Street, to the grounds of the former Anglican Holy Trinity church graveyard.

It links the line of sight of her burial place in the nearby village of Myola with his burial place in the church graveyard.

Mary Carpenter died in 1928. She was believed to be about 105 years old which means that she was alive long before any Europeans settled on the banks of the Curambene Creek.

The *Nowra Leader*



Mary, left, with one of her daughters, Rebecca Golding, who is buried in the churchyard. *Sunday Telegraph*, 29 Nov, 1927

newspaper reported on March 2, 1928, that her funeral provided 'a scene which will live long in the memory of those who were privileged to

witness it ... honoured by all, a kindly and gentle soul, her century long life will remain a fragrant memory in the history of her people and the district at large'.

Many other newspapers recorded her death, including the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Few if any of Huskisson citizens have achieved this recognition.

The Huskisson – Woollamia Community Voice recommended the name Carpenter to the Council, supported by the Jerringa Local Aboriginal Land Council and descendants of Mary. The 'Voice' noted that it was regrettable that the NSW Geographic Names Board does not allow double-barrelled names, but to many locals, the lane will probably become informally known as 'Mary Carpenter Lane'.

She has many descendants in the Shoalhaven and throughout NSW, including Carpenters, Wellingtons and Goldings.



This evocative postcard of King Budd Billy II and Queen Mary, was sent all over the world by visitors to Huskisson and it is arguably one of the most distributed photos from South Coast NSW at the time.

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Families reunite at

By ALF WILSON



A RECORD number of First Nation's cricket players and supporters recently travelled to Charters Towers for Australia's biggest cricket carnival.

The Goldfield Ashes was held from January 19 to 21, with more than 240 teams in four men's and women's grades. An estimated 25 per cent of participants were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

The turnout was bigger this year, according to the many people who told the *Koori Mail* they thought this was because it was held a week before the normal Australia Day long weekend.

It was a carnival during which entire families met in goodwill and friendship, not having seen on another for some time, and with lots of family groups coming from remote areas.

'Towers' Indigenous families stepped up to help, billeting many of the families visiting from Charters Towers, Townsville, Cairns, Mackay, Cape York, Thursday Island, Darnley, Cherbourg and even as far away as Victoria. Perhaps the theme amongst families was highlighted by long-time captain of the West Indigies team after they played and narrowly beat another Indigenous team, Black Break, on day two.

"We pay tribute to our brothers from Black Bream," Glenn said as more than 100 spectators looked on.

West Indigies and Black Bream entered men's and women's sides as did the Garbutt Magpies and Mount Garnet.

Other sides with mainly Indigenous players included Brothers and One Mob.

First Nation players were also among those making up a number of other teams.



Mount Garnet Eagles men's side. Pictures: Alf Wilson



All smiles were Black Bream supporters Scott and Mila Davidson, and Sakirrah, aged two.



(Back, left) Kadick Kudub and Dion Sullivan, (front) Toni Feltes and Raquel Lee from Cherbourg.



Tinarja Jeffress wore a hat with a plastic fish on it – of course!



Local Elder Kennedy watched Black Bream compete.



Allan Beeron from Tully supported Black Bream.



Nickayla Mansfield and Chenille Castle.



Black Bream ladies have a break at Central State School.

the Goldfield Ashes



Sisters Lorraine, Iriaka and Nicole Ross.



Veteran Mount Garnet player Steven Royee.



All the way from Thursday Island were Roger and 13-year-old Zen Seden.



Josh Henry and Robyn Masso were at an airport field on day two.



Relaxing in a chair is Rasden Radcliffe, with (behind) Stanely Mordoch, Harley Tallis and Kobe Walker.



West Indigies and Black Bream players together after their day-two match.

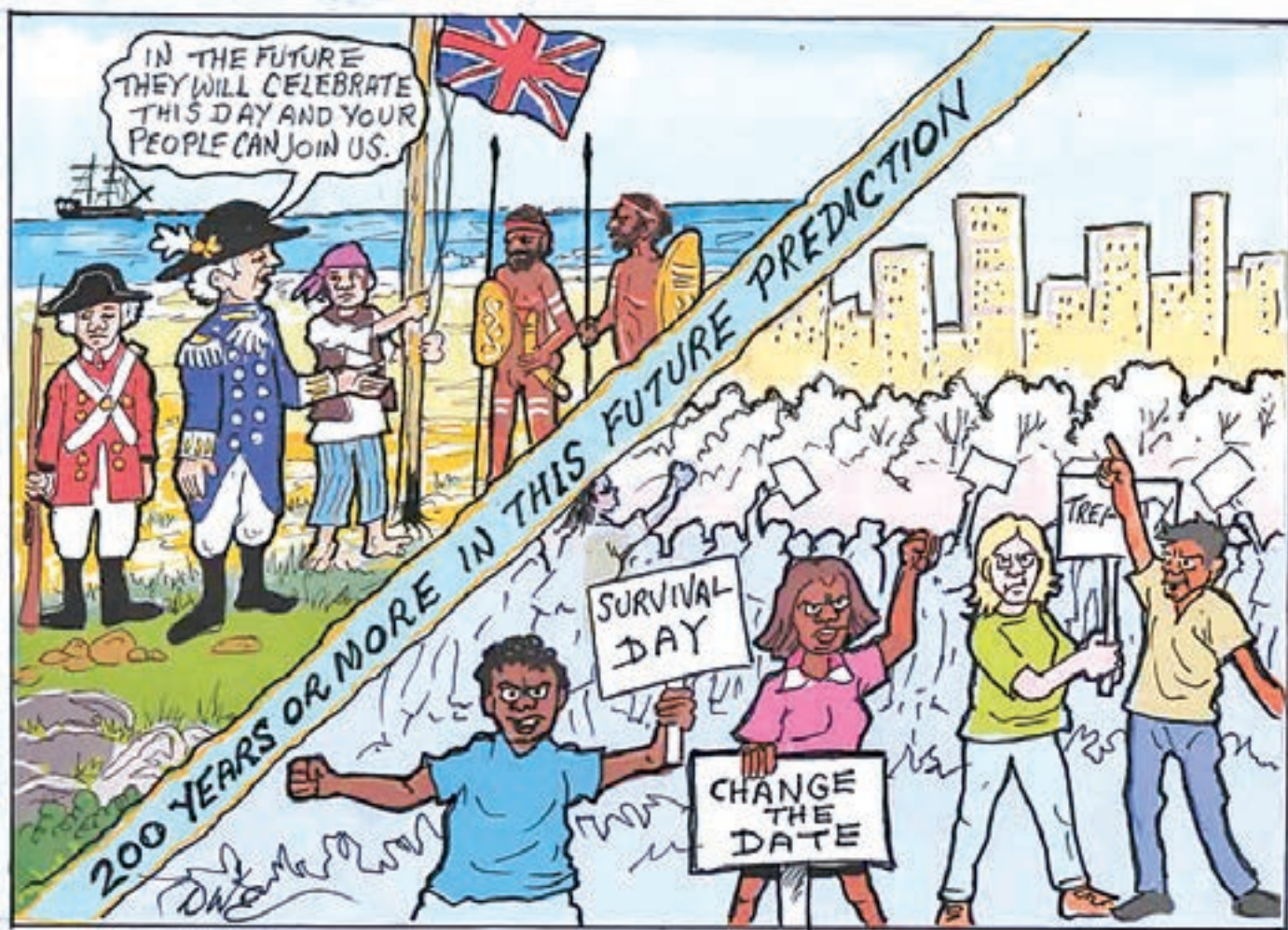


One Mob team.



From left, Joel Masso, Marty Masso jnr, Matty Masso snr and Bobby Masso.

Danny Eastwood's view



Quote



"I'd argue it's much more inclusive to celebrate modern Australia and the continued survival of the oldest culture on this planet, to celebrate the contribution of all nationalities who have made this continent their home, and not continue to memorialise perpetrators of massacres, murderers and dispossession, the perpetrators of invasion."

– Pakana woman
Merinda Sainty

● See page 28-29

Unquote

It's time to change the date

January 26 has come and gone, and once again been marked by division.

Across the nation hundreds of thousands of people turned out in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at Survival and Invasion Day rallies and protests, while similar numbers proudly waved their Australian flags, with its Union Jack providing a constant reminder of the colonisation by the British.

Of course, many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people would have understandably found it difficult to find anything to celebrate from a country which earlier this year rejected the idea of giving them a Voice to Parliament.

And while that rejection appears to have bouyed many who don't believe in reconciliation, as evidenced by various local councils doing away with Welcome to Country ceremonies and acknowledgements of Country at meetings, there are others who genuinely want to see change.

That's why it is heartening to see that major sporting codes across the country are starting to recognise that celebrating Australia Day on January 26 is simply not very sporting. Most of those codes have star players who are either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and realise that it is not in the best interest of their games to continue a tradition of division, when the basic premise of most sport is to be inclusive.



It's a pity that the politicians just don't seem to get it. The Opposition leader Peter Dutton, especially, continues to cement his reputation not as a figure that unifies, but as a person that feeds off division. His call to boycott Woolworths and other retailers who chose not to stock Australia Day merchandise in the lead up to the day was yet another cynical attempt to spark the type of culture wars that appeal to the rabid right-wing conservatives so fond of waving their plastic, Chinese-made flags on January 26.

So what's the alternative?

Perhaps leave January 26 as a day of mourning – and a celebration of survival – for First Nations people, and look for another date that would appeal to everyone in the country. Some in the past have suggested May 8 (Maaate) as an appropriate day that could be embraced by both sides of the political spectrum. It's not such a bad idea. Australia Day, after all, has been held on various different dates during the past century. Surely it's time to unite, rather than continue, year after year, with a day that divides.

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

A YARN WITH...



Lorraine Young Umagico, Northern Peninsula Area

Favourite bush tucker?
I love all bush tucker food.

Favourite non-Indigenous food?
Any good food.

Favourite drink?
Coconut water.

Favourite music?
Country.

Favourite sport?
I'm not a sporty person.

Favourite read?
Lessons in Chemistry – a new book I just picked up.

Favourite holiday destination?
Jamaica.

What do you like on TV?
News.

What do you like in life?
Sunsets and great company.

What don't you like in life?
Arrogant and rude people.

Which Black or Indigenous person would you most like to meet?
Malcolm X and Nelson Mandela.

Which people would you invite for a night around a campfire?
Leonora Adidi, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, the Obamas and Jason Momoa.

What is your ultimate goal?
To have a language or cultural centre with languages on my Country.

What would you do to better the situation for your people?
For me personally, for my people, it's language revitalisation, not just little words, but fluently speaking the language.

Waterhole dreams stir a thirst for knowledge

By SARAH ROBERTS-FIELD



WATER is the gift of life, essential to the identity and existence of all living beings and cultures. For

Indigenous people, water is more than just a necessity for survival; it is a sacred and vital part of cultural and spiritual identity.

Kamilaroi water scientist Bradley Moggridge knows this all too well and believes that protecting and managing water is a custodial and intergenerational responsibility.

Bradley, an Associate Professor in Indigenous Water Science at the University of Canberra, was born and bred in one of the oldest suburbs in Sydney – Toongabbie.

In the early 1970s, before the area started getting built up and was still surrounded by cow paddocks, Bradley would hang out in creeks, and ride BMX bikes with his friends.

Then his parents splurged and got a pool turning the family home into a community hub.

During this time, he would spend countless hours with his nan asking her questions about water.

The knowledge she carried was precious and in the late 90s, Bradley luckily had parts of her story recorded, as part of the NSW National Parks Aboriginal Women's Oral History program.

Golf champion

Bradley has an innate connection to water and Country, an inherent, life-long love that runs alongside his love of golf. At the age of 15, he was given the opportunity to travel to Hawaii for the sport.

"It was 1987, we were playing in the National Aboriginal Golf Championships in Sydney, and we had a presentation at Yarra Bay House at La Perouse," Bradley told the *Koori Mail*.

"Charlie Perkins, rest his soul, committed money to send us to Hawaii to play the Indigenous Hawaiians.

"The day after, mum, dad, my brother and I flew out, and Uncle Neville Bonner was our patron on tour."

Bradley's love for golf is unwavering as he joyfully described the 1987 experience and said another tour is needed. He was eager to try the pro circuit around that time, but was talked into going to uni instead.

Moral dilemma

"I got into geology at the University of Technology in Sydney and did some industrial experience in WA. It got to the point where I wasn't happy with my space," Bradley said.

"I loved learning about the earth, that I won't deny – learning more about the structures and



Kamilaroi water scientist Bradley Moggridge on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River, 2023

"Some of my uncles used to say to me, you just got to go out and sit on Country and the stories will come to you. The places will come to you. The understanding will come to you. The ancestors are whispering through the trees; you've got to sit and listen to Country rather than talking all the time."

how the earth was formed – but I was looking for uranium in a national park in WA and it didn't sit well with me. So I came home and changed from Geology to Environmental Science.

"Later on, I was able to connect some of those geoscience stories with groundwater and also traditional knowledge, and that's been exciting."

With a love for science and an inquisitive nature about the formation of our planet Bradley's passion for water grew deeper when a lecturer in the early 1990s suggested he consider working with groundwater as a career, because it would be a big issue.

Water holes

Bradley was doing a Master's degree in groundwater when, on one particular day as he was out in the field on his Country with an uncle and a catchment management officer, they all began talking about Bradley's work.

The conversation awakened something within him.

"I told them I had this place in my head that I'd dreamt about

and it was a water place," Bradley said.

"It was three waterholes, and I ended up painting that story just for myself – but they confirmed the three waterholes that I had been dreaming about.

"It's on the pathway to one of our significant sites where a lot of initiation happens for the young fellas, and that was a moment where I realised this is important. I don't have hair on my head, but the hair on the back of my neck stood up," he laughed.

First scientists

First Nations people of Australia are the first scientists, yet there still needs to be a way to validate their traditional knowledge in Western science.

Bradley says the nation is slowly getting there, but that it's up to modern, Western science to evolve.

Listening to, and hearing, truth-telling of traditional knowledge ways and being open to understanding how Australia's Aboriginal people came to be the keepers of the oldest surviving culture on Earth, is crucial to validation.

"We, as Aboriginal people who

are living on one of the planet's driest continents, have survived climate change already, through our stories, our connections, and our history," he said.

"Those stories where they're told and retold by Mob, and then it becomes validated by science, that stuff's exciting, but better work must be done.

"A lot of our stories through the early days of the colony, and our songs and observations, were always perceived as fiction. They were perceived as mumbo jumbo, myths and legends.

"Whereas they're not. They should, (instead), be part of the evidence to understand Country and our water systems better because that knowledge is there and it's been lived.

"It's lived experience."

As many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people struggle to connect to modern-day science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), Bradley leads change by inspiring the next generation to infiltrate the system and uphold their cultural responsibility to care for Country.

He wants everyone, particularly young people, to know that if you

want, you can do science.

"If you have questions about Country, the Earth and water, you can become a scientist and answer those questions yourself.

"We have the minds of young people who ask, why does the moon change phase? Or, what are the star stories?

"There are opportunities in astronomy, water science and fire – a key part of the Australian landscape. Cultural fire burning will be part of how we manage this landscape, which has been the way for thousands of years, and we've got to get back to that.

"It's the same for water, the way we value and understand water, where it flows and doesn't. As a young one, you can dream of doing that because there are now opportunities.

"Some of my uncles used to say to me, you just got to go out and sit on Country and the stories will come to you.

"The places will come to you. The understanding will come to you.

"The ancestors are whispering through the trees; you've got to sit and listen to Country rather than talking all the time."



The annual festival is a time family and friends to catch up. *Pictures: Jillian Mundy*



Palawa men Danny Gardner and Hank Horton lead dancers at the beginning of a ceremony to honour ancestors.

Nayri young women steal the show at Putalina



Festival opening act 14-year-old Pyper Robertson impressed the crowd with her beautiful voice.



DENNI (aka Madam Pakana) had the crowd on their feet.

By JILLIAN MUNDY



WHILE the vibe is not competitive and all Putalina festival performers are nayri (deadly), it has to be said that the young women stole this year's show.

Opening act, 14-year-old Pyper Robertson, wowed the audience, singing covers with her silky-smooth vocals. It was her first time on the Putalina stage.

She was followed by singer/songwriter Madelena Andersen-Ward, her vocals also smooth, and with a bit of grit.

Hip hop artists DENNI and Miss Kaninna took the festival energy up a notch or ten with powerful performances that got the crowd on their feet.

Both artists have been finding success and honing their craft on the festival scene over the past few years.

For Miss Kaninna, who was crowned Triple J Unearthed Artist of the Year in 2023 with her debut single Blak Britney, it was a return to the Putalina stage.

Her recent music has more than a few explicit lyrics, backed up with some saucy dance moves so with the festival being a family day, she toned it down – some lyrics were replaced with techno sounds, others slipped through in backing vocals, but many in the audience already knew the songs so sang along anyway.

"It was hectic, I thought oh no these people know me as a kid and I'm swearing, but I feel like everyone was vibing it, and some of the uncles came up and said it was the best," she explained.

"I've been working hard on this (music) for the past two years, actually seeing people enjoy it who it's for feels good.

"This is where it started. I've been on this stage since I was a

kid. I was just worried about the swearing and shaking my ass too much."

If anyone was offended it certainly wasn't obvious, they all appeared to be having a fine time.

Also showcased in the line-up of talent from the Aboriginal community in Lutruwita (Tasmania) were Putalina stalwarts Dougie Mansell, Bob Wilson, Dewayne Everettsmith and Pakana teenager and guitarist Clay Maynard who performed with his band Astral Project.

Warren Mason also played, his dulcet tones as if in harmony with the beautiful surrounds and sad story of Putalina.

There were activities for children, a cultural walk, a big feed, stalls and craft workshops too.

Mid-festival, dozens danced in a ceremony to honour ancestors and to remind those who were visitors about the festival origins.

Almost every other day of the year, Putalina is a reflective, somewhat sombre and tranquil place.

The returned Aboriginal land about 30 km south of Nipaluna (Hobart), on the shores of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, holds one of the most significant stories of invasion, genocide and the fight for rights and recognition for the Palawa.

In 1847, the 47 Tasmanian Aborigines who had escaped massacre, murder, fatal diseases brought to their shores by the British, and enslavement, were moved from the Wybalena concentration camp on Flinders Island in the Bass Strait to ex-convict buildings at Putalina. When the camp closed in 1876 there was one survivor.

Those who perished at Putalina were buried on site. In the early 1990s, the graves were robbed and human remains traded by 'collectors' and 'scientists' across the globe.

In the early 1980s, the Aboriginal community started successfully campaigning for the return of ancestors and stolen land.

Putalina was first reoccupied by the Aboriginal community on January 16, 1984.

Since then, most remains have been returned and cremated in dignified ceremonies and in 1995 the site was returned to the Aboriginal community through legislation.

The first Putalina festival was organised by Jim Everett and Darlene Mansell in 1987.

It has been held each year since on the Saturday closest to the date of reoccupation.



Carleeta Thomas, Cody Gangell, Dione Rogers, Janice Ross, Jan Langridge and Madeline Wells at a festival jewellery making workshop.



Five-year-old Charlotte Wheldon-Greaves from Launceston had a busy day making handprints.



Teresa Lesley from Launceston with Elijah Maynard.



Jasmine Mansell with her children Jahli and Liana Langford; it was a big day for Liana – it was her first festival and she took her first independent steps.



Miss Kaninna ramped the festival energy up a notch or ten.



Craig Everett was joined by his children CJ, Tanganutura and Hadies for 'Stongest Mob', while DENNI (aka Madam Pakana) performed from the crowd.



Madelena Andersen-Ward wowed the festival-goers with a mix of silky smooth and gritty vocals.



A Putalina favourite Dwayne Everett Smith – he started performing at Putalina when he was a child, before achieving national and international recognition.



Tony Brown with his daughters Heidi and Madi who both returned home from interstate for the festival and Tony's birthday.



Trio of Palawa creatives – Emma Robertson from Hobart, Bianca Templar from Launceston and Mon Mansell from Hobart, who each had a stall with their handcrafted jewellery and other wares.



Jim Everett speaks about the history and significance of Putalina, also known for a time as Oyster Cove.



Ruby Dillon with her father Anthony Dillon.



Amrita Acharya and Tasha Jean.



Tina Goodwin and daughter Karlie Burgess.



Putalina stalwart country singer Dougie Mansell supported by fiddle player Matthew Fargher.



Hadies Everett, Leo Vienna-Hallam, Toby Mac, Lily Vienna-Hallam and CJ Everett enjoyed Palawa kipli's bush tucker flavoured icecreams on offer at the festival.

The pendulum begins to swing

Here in so-called Australia, I am asking that you walk with me and our natural world – our more-than-human kin.

Walk with us into a new time on this planet – a time when we start to walk side by side. Where we rip down pyramid systems and bring back circular systems. Where we reclaim and reshape our old ways of being to build the new paradigm of existence. A new way and a new world where we walk with our mothers, helping and supporting them as they support the next generation.

Where we walk with our men, bringing back their initiations and creating places of care for them to express vulnerability. Walk with our children, teaching them how to identify plants and make fire.

Walk with our Indigenous, establish real relationships, listen (even if its uncomfortable), support with therapy and learn our culture.

Walk with our migrants, encourage them to hold on to their ancestral ways of being. Walk with anyone who has felt the violence of this oppressive system known as Australia.

It's no wonder that the violent system that was built on genocide, is also the violent system that makes one in six women into domestic violence victims.

Where women and children are exposed to violence and addiction. We the nation are a product of that system which grew us up and the only thing to blame is our culture that told us what



Ella Noah Bancroft

success looks like.

Walk with anyone who has felt ashamed to speak their ancestral tongue or who has changed their cultural name to not be shamed by others in this country.

Walk with anyone who has felt sexism, racism, classism, ableism or ageism – that this system thrives, perpetuates and accepts.

The gold in all of this is that never before have we had so many people wanting a system change, wanting to be well and connected, wanting to create gardens and come back to community – and in all of that, there is so much hope for us to

hold.

The tide is changing, the ocean is roaring, the mountains are filling with fire and it will be the mother who changes the systems unless we choose too.

I want to celebrate the magic of humanity, I want us to return to a way of living that brings us great joy.

We need to address our culture and build one that values vulnerability and sees accountability and honesty as best achievements we can have as human beings.

We must change the cultural narrative of what success looks like. It's successful if you want to raise your children with other people, it's successful if you ask for help, it's successful to take accountability. It's successful to heal it and in order to do so we must feel it.

Imagine a world where our young ones grow up thinking that being a kind and caring person, a loving person, was the equivalent of being famous or rich.

Imagine the lengths they would go to, to become the person that our society sees as a truly successful human.

Imagine the beings of joy that we would help craft, the spiritual path we would walk them on as they become their best selves. Do we not owe it to the next generation to really help them be their most magical, kind, caring and beautiful beings?

I look around the world currently and know that things are

changing. Never before have Indigenous people all over the world had so many allies. Never before have I seen people speaking the truth on mainstream media about global issues of capitalism. The time is now – we all know that something has to shift, that we are ready for a great change.

It's about moving forward in a way that aligns us with the earth-based knowledge and the lore of the land – not in alignment with the corporate law and the technological future. Technologies advancement means continuing the mining sector until it takes every last mineral from our mother in the name of evolution.

I am excited for 2024. I know the great change is upon us. I am diving into love this year, I am diving into care for myself so I may care for others, I'm diving into being vulnerable and taking accountability to a whole new level.

Will we continue to uphold systems that encourage ongoing genocide? Will we continue to uphold systems that fuel and fund genocide on other lands?

Can we stand together to build something much more powerful for our next generations?

Imagine a nation of people who reclaim their ancestral ways, who return to deep animist views, who value mothering and women-centred societies.

Imagine if we really zoomed out from the big picture and recognised the systems that we

live under and understand how much pain and oppression exists within this country and beyond. I personally find it difficult to connect to Australian culture, as an Indigenous woman, it's almost fundamentally set up to oppose our way of living, our culture and our lore.

After years of colonisation on these stolen lands, after years of soils being poisoned by chemicals, of the cane sugar empires sucking up all the Queensland river-ways and giving so many of our people diabetes. After our waters are sick and have been poisoned, after so much damage has been done now in 2024, Australia is asking the Indigenous to solve it. To solve the fires, floods and the climate crisis. Now, after so long of our old people telling the colony what they needed to do without being listened to, now they are asking.

And in that I see great hope, as the pendulum begins to swing, let us return, let us love, let us Indigenise our country and bring back our culture leaders to lead us into a new era of being.

There's no more time to waste. We have to come together, build a better, more indigenised culture and way of being on this continent, and in this world – so we may return to great relation with our more-than-human kin and the magical world we live within.

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

Infrastructure crumbling

Aboriginal communities are growing – but the infrastructure of the services that support their health and wellbeing is crumbling.

Leaking roofs, jagged cracks in walls, permanent bright yellow signs on display to warn of tripping hazards, and mouldy ceilings – this isn't a scene from reality TV; it's the daily reality for many Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs).

Many ACCOs are dealing with crumbling infrastructure, some having received little to no infrastructure funding in decades. These community-driven organisations serve as the lifeblood of Aboriginal communities across Australia.

For over half a century, ACCOs have delivered exceptional health and wellbeing outcomes by providing services within an environment and atmosphere where culture is celebrated.

In recent years, they have played a crucial role in caring for communities during bushfires, floods, and a global pandemic.

Unfortunately, many ACCOs are left fighting for their communities with one



Jill Gallagher

hand tied behind their backs. Aboriginal health and wellbeing services have been ignored for too long, relegated to the bottom of the priority list.

It isn't just ACCOs in Victoria that are experiencing infrastructure challenges – there is shared concern across the continent.

In 2020, NACCHO estimated a need for \$900 million upgrade ACCO infrastructure nationwide.

More than a decade ago the Victorian government assessed the needs of 22 of

Victoria's Aboriginal health services, with the subsequent report finding that 17 centres needed immediate upgrading and that 21 buildings were non-compliant with contemporaneous building standards.

The Victorian Government 2013 Assessment of the Current and Future Infrastructure Requirements of Key Indigenous Organisations in Victoria report recommended an immediate investment of \$147 million, but that recommendation

has never been actioned.

In the last decade, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Victoria has increased by 66%. Infrastructure funding hasn't kept up with the increase in demand – let alone been supported to fix the issues found a decade ago.

Currently, VACCHO is leading an asset assessment, funded by the Victorian Government, for some ACCOs – which will provide an updated picture since the 2013 report.

While this is a welcome step forward, this was a conversation that was put on hold for a decade and must be paired with committed urgent action and investment.

When I visit my local ACCO, I see skilled, passionate, and dedicated people working tirelessly to provide vital support for the community – but there isn't enough being done to support them. I also have walked through buildings with Members of Parliament who have said they would not meet constituents in facilities like those our ACCOs have to deliver health and wellbeing services in.

For over two decades,

I've worked at VACCHO, witnessing first-hand the determination and commitment of ACCOs and their workers, many of whom dedicate their lives to serving their communities.

In 2022, VACCHO called for the establishment of a dedicated perpetual infrastructure fund to develop and maintain the facilities of ACCOs. This proposal would require a once-off investment from the Government to enable self-determination and transfer necessary resources to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

This week, the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation launched our 2024-25 Budget Submission, urging the Victorian Government to further its commitment to self-determination and champion Aboriginal knowledge and innovation. Strengthening and expanding the capacity of ACCOs is crucial to resourcing them to deliver vital health and wellbeing services to Aboriginal elders, families, and communities.

The submission includes important measures that seek to remove systemic

barriers in the health system, invest in critically needed infrastructure, and prioritise Aboriginal knowledge and innovation. Supporting ACCOs in doing what they do best alleviates demand on the already overstretched health system.

There are also broader impacts on the other systems as Victorian ACCOs invest in prevention and support services across education, justice, child protection, youth services, and family and social services, with flow-on impacts to the wider Victorian economy.

As we embrace a new year, let's make Aboriginal health and well-being a priority for all Victorians.

If governments invest in ACCO infrastructure, they will be empowered to apply Aboriginal ways of knowing, being, and doing to help our communities thrive. This ensures our Boorai (children) will grow up to shape the future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and all Victorians.

● Jill Gallagher AO is the CEO of the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO).



Co-event hosts Staycee Charles, Kyle Ellis and Michelle Ellis.

Victorian region hosts its first Invasion Day gathering

By PAUL CONNELLY



STAYCEE Charles and Kyle Ellis organised and co-hosted the first Invasion Day Mourning Service on Gunditjmara Country in Hamilton, South West Victoria.

"We have never had anything like this in our region, so we have always had to travel to attend an event like this. I thought we should have one here," Staycee said.

"This is for us to celebrate our ancestors and Elders who fought

for our survival, and to make the wider public aware, even if they don't want to listen."

Auntie Claudette gave a Welcome to Country, saying: "We need to be aware where we lie in the grand scheme of things. We all sit under the same umbrella. It is important to acknowledge the soil you sit on because this is your home now too! Today we are going to share stories and knowledge with you for as long as we are here. These stories have been handed down from my ancestors to my uncles and aunties, my brothers and sisters,

to me, and even passed onto my daughter who is here today."

"Our people governed this land and passed on that knowledge, we only want to share the same with you. We are not asking the people of Australia to leave, that is not our goal, the goal is to acknowledge our people."

Southern Grampian Shire Council mayor David Robertson, who attended with his deputy Hellen Henry, told the *Koori Mail* "It is hard to say I understand where the Indigenous are with their hurt and their feelings, because I am not in that situation.

"I have never been scorned or ridiculed. If you haven't ever been in that situation it is hard to say I know how you feel, pretending you do is just not real. So I have said I will listen to your stories, and I have listened to their stories, from Uncle Johnny Lovett and Auntie Claudette.

"Stories about their fathers and grand fathers and uncles going off to war but when they returned home there was nothing for them like the other soldiers received. The more I hear the more I do understand. From a council point of view and the Reconciliation

Action Plan (RAP) we are developing our doors will always be open. We look forward to a partnership," Mr Robertson said.

The Reconciliation Action Plan is chaired by Staycee Charles.

While only about 50 people were able to make it to the event, the day was considered to be a success with people travelling from Portland, Ararat and Horsham.

Staycee told the *Koori Mail* that this will now be a permanent event moving forward, and they are already planning next year's activities.



Mayor David Robertson and Councillor Helen Henry.



Shea Rotumah and his children Kirili, Majirndi and Neidjie.



Michelle Ellis, Auntie Donna Wright and Tamasin Ramsay.



Uncle Sonny Wright proudly displays the Aboriginal flag.



Thousands attended the protest and march in Naarm (Melbourne). Picture: Ali MC - See the next edition for more photos from the Melbourne march by Ali Mc.

Council holds service despite threat of Nazis



Uncle Andrew Gardiner. Pictures: Paul Connelly



A section of the crowd at the Meri-Bek City Council gathering.



Wurundjeri man Thane Garvey performs a smoking Ceremony.

By PAUL CONNELLY



AROUND 250 residents gathered at the Meri-Bek City Council in Coburg for a Mourning Service, to join together in acknowledgement of the hurt and injustice suffered by the First Nations communities across Australia. The event also aimed to unite people on a journey towards a path of healing and reconciliation.

First initiated by the council five years ago, this was only the third actual event due to Covid. Last year's event was marred by the disruptive protest by 15 Neo-Nazis dressed in all black shouting Nazi slogans and threats.

This year, the council under the

leadership of Mayor Adam Pulford, ensured police and private security were present to ensure the safety of all attending.

Cathy Henderson provided the Acknowledgement of Country while Wurundjeri leader Uncle Andrew Gardiner delivered a Welcome to Country.

Wurundjeri man Thane Garvey conducted the smoking ceremony and explained the purpose of the tradition.

Smoking ceremony

"I find it a bit funny we call it a smoking ceremony, because our aim here is to create steam. I am sure many of you have used eucalyptus in diffusers before and know that it can ease congestion. It was also used to keep away insects and also is steeped in spiritual purposes, such as

connecting with our ancestors.

"This was traditionally the ceremony which kicked off all the other ceremonies," he said.

Returning to the podium after the ceremony, Uncle Andrew continued his address to those present.

Black history

"It is recognised that Australia, particularly Victoria and Melbourne where we are, has a Black History, prior to the occupation and convict and settler class that followed. Our people have been oppressed since our ancestors were pushed off their traditional Country. There was no respect for our ancestors and no treaty negotiated with them." Mayor Adam Pulford was next to address those gathered.

"We should all be proud here today in hearing from Uncle

Andrew, that we get to share this land with the oldest living culture in the world.

"Today we reflect on the true history of the 26th on January and what that means for the people here and First Nation communities across the country. This was the day that the ships arrived first arrived on the shores and began the loss of so much for first nation communities, of lives through the Frontier Wars, Sovereignty, of Culture and of Language. I think it is important that we do sit in that heaviness today, because it is important for us to reflect on what is our true shared history."

The event concluded indoors with Storytime for the children, from the indigenous book Day Break, by Amy McQuire, the story of a family making their way back to Country on January 26.

Activists unite in support of Indigenous resistance

By BOB NEBE

"From the river to the sea, Always was, always will be."



THE amalgamation of two iconic phases; one from the Indigenous struggle here, and the other from the struggle in Palestine, best sums up this year's

Invasion Day rally in Magandjin (Brisbane).

If there was a constant theme to the speeches and march itself, it was the joining of people fighting against the forces of oppression.

The rally began with Aunty Glenis Croft and her call for freedom for Palestine, for West Papua, but mostly for our Mob, with the flags of these distinct people groups flying behind her.

Aunty Glenis, who turns 81 in a few days, summed up the collective sentiment: justice for all victims of genocide.

Moojidi spoke out against the colonial law, institutions, and attitudes wielded against us; humorously explaining how to oppose these tools of oppression.

But it was Uncle Lionel Fogarty, a prominent figure of Brisbane Black activism for decades, whose fiery conviction against the genocide both here and in Palestine informed a solution, respect.

Respect for First Nations people, and especially Aboriginal women for whom he called on the state government to create a day in honour of.

Amy McGuire encapsulated the day when she said: "Today is a day that they want us to forget. So they can celebrate with their conscience free. They don't



Lionel Fogarty delivers a heartfelt speech to the large crowd.

want us to connect the dots with what is happening in Gaza today. What Palestine has shown us is that there is a collective indigenous resistance. We will never be free until we all are."

In a departure from the regular Invasion Day rally procedure, people were given a choice of marching to Musgrave Park as usual or taking a new path to the Gabba (where the cricket test match was ongoing), following the speeches. Those who went to the Gabba protested, even causing a temporary lockdown of the stadium, though most of the over 10,000-strong crowd marched to Musgrave Park where they enjoyed the afternoon entertainment, food, and company.



Aunty Glenis Croft, who turns 81 next week, addresses the crowd.



Moojidi tells the gathering what to do with colonialists.



The protest march, about to cross the river over Victoria Bridge.



Green Left activists at Queens Gardens.



Brian Hesling and Suzy Robinson fly the flag at the feet of Queen Victoria.
Pictures: Bob Nebe



Protest placards spelt out the issues of 'celebrating' 26 January. Pictures: Jillian Mundy

A change is in the air

By JILLIAN MUNDY



NO doubt calls to 'Change the Date' are being heard, just not by Prime Minister Albanese. Eight Tasmanian

local governments have moved citizenship ceremonies to another date, municipal celebrations are gradually changing the date, for the first time this year state public servants were entitled to swap the day off for another, and you would be hard pressed to spot an Australian flag flying from a car, a bogan booing or shouting insults as the rally passes or an 'oi oi oi'.

In the biggest crowd yet, around 5,000 turned out to the Nipaluna/Hobart Invasion Day Rally.

They walked from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) to parliament lawns chanting 'Australia Day is not OK, we won't celebrate Invasion Day'.

Before hearing from a line-up of passionate speakers, a reflective silence was poignantly broken 21 times by gunshots from a nearby 'salute' by the Australian Army that marked 'Australia Day'.

TAC campaign manager Nala Mansell suggested Albanese take 'his head out of his own arse' and listen.

She encouraged people to call on senior federal politicians to demand he change his stance.

"The biggest, most well-attended, most loudest-and-proudest events held in this state are no longer the Australia Day celebrations but the protests against them," she said.

Pakana woman Merinda Sainty reminded the crowd Australia Day was not even celebrated on 26 January when she was born and said more than the date needs changing.

"We need to re-evaluate what is being celebrated," she said.

"I'd argue it's much more inclusive to celebrate modern Australia and the continued survival of the oldest culture on this planet, to celebrate the contribution of all nationalities who have made this continent their home, and not continue to memorialise perpetrators of massacres, murderers and dispossession, the perpetrators of invasion."

Pakana leader Puralia Meenamatta – Jim Everett believes change is close.

"We can see it, we can smell it, it's nearly here," he said.

"And then we better start thinking about resolving this business of our citizenship,



The rally has the same message each year – one difference is the crowd grows bigger each year and there are fewer Australia Day activities.



MC Palawa law student Maggie Blanden said Prime Minister Albanese needed to stand up and do what is right.



Palestinian man Feras Shaneen from Tasmanian Palestine Advocacy Network spoke at the rally.

because we're not going to accept the citizenship without some conditions and stop all this rubbish about taking our lands away and giving it to the logging firms, giving it to the miners.

"Our philosophy is we are Country, Country is us, you cut our Country, you cut us.

"They say this is the best country in the world.

"Well, I don't know what state the rest of the world is like because it's not too damn good here.

"You take a look at the destruction of lands, seas and waterways, look at the mess they are."

He said Australians should start thinking about assimilating to understand how First Nations



"These are the people who keep telling the rest of the world – 'don't respect these Aboriginal people, we don't respect them. We'll celebrate the day we came here and massacred them. We will celebrate taking everything from them. We will celebrate taking their people's lives.'" – Pakana leader Puralia Meenamatta - Jim Everett pointing to the Tasmanian Parliament House behind him.

protect and live with Country.

"The idea that we are going to continue to assimilate into the Western world's money machine has to stop."

American-born MONA Arts curator and bass-player for the Violent Femmes, Brian Ritchie, who now calls Tasmania home, said change has happened and resistance was futile.

"It's just that it changed in the future, the sooner we get to that future, the less embarrassing it is for Australia as a whole," he said.

"In Lutruwita, we have a history of many embarrassing things.

"We would have the largest trees in the world if we hadn't just cut them down a few years ago, extinction of our top predator, but



It's a sign of the times, with the agenda of protesters writ large on placards and banners.

for Mob in Lutruwita



Merinda Sainty-White on fiddle and Jodi Haines performing *Change the Date* written by Merinda's mother Theresa Sainty – Jodi hopes the lyrics can soon be adjusted to reflect a change of date actually happening.



Rocky Sainty leads a ceremonious guard of honour before a minute of silence was observed.



Minjungbal/Yugambah/Kukuyalanji man Reuben Bartz has come to the Invasion Day rally since he moved to Nipaluna two years ago. He is pictured with Trawlwoolway Pakana trio Janice Ross, who welcomed the crowd, and Jam Graham-Blair and Jess Maynard, who were amongst those who led the remembrance ceremony.



Merinda Sainty-White.



Piper Sainty-White, in the arms of her father Lewi White, as she watches her mother and grandmother address the rally.



Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre campaign manager Nala Mansell.

the worst thing that happened was what happened to the population here, which was a very, very extreme attempt at genocide."

The rally also heard from Tasmanian Palestine Advocacy Network, recognising the shared history of displacement, dispossession, genocide, resistance and brutal impacts of



"Resistance is futile because the date already has changed. It's just that it changed in the future, the sooner we get to that future, the less embarrassing it is for Australia as a whole." – American born MONA Arts curator Brian Ritchie, from the Violent Femmes, who now calls Tasmania home.

colonialism and Western imperialism both peoples face. "On this day of mourning, it is a stark reminder of the absolute depravity and barbarity of the white man on Country," Randa Al-Hasan said.

"It is not enough that they change the date, it must be abolished, genocide and settler colonialism must never, ever

be celebrated."

Palestinian man Feras Shaneen, who has seventeen family members stuck in a church in Gaza fearing for their lives, said if the Australian government admits to Israel's genocidal behaviours, it meant having to admit Australia was also built on systems and structures of colonisers and



Emerenna Burgess turned out with her flag and stood in the same place she has for years – even when the rally went online during the COVID-19 pandemic and there was no actual crowd.

ethnic cleansing.

He said migrant families, including his own, had been tricked into thinking Australia had the world's best government and were hosting them.

"But the truth is, Aboriginal people are the hosts and everyone else are simply guests here."

With First Nations people and

Palestinians connecting all around the continent he believes Australia is nervous because the truth is coming out.

"The colony is falling apart bit by bit, colonisers will colonise and real will always recognise real," Shaneen said.

"We must resist the lies, we have to for humanity, we must not look away."



Billie Craig and Dolly Ratara.



Chelsea Sinclair and James Dimas.



Noel Rapihana, Christine Abdulla and Cissi Hawkins.



Patrick and Rene Ferguson.

Not a date to celebrate

By PETER ARGENT



THOUSANDS of people across the nation gathered in parks and marched in city streets to celebrate the survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

Across the nation people gathered to acknowledge January 26, some acknowledging it as Survival or Invasion Day and others, Australia Day.

This selection of photographs was taken in Adelaide, South Australia.



Emily Tzeegankoff.



Marchers at the Adelaide Survival Day rally display the banner 'Always was, always will be'.



Reika Wilson and Kshann Martin.



Casey Reynolds, Keisha Savo, Chelsea Espie, Tara Savo and Clayton Espie, holding Mason Reynolds.



MCs Eisha Anderson and Clinton Bennel.



Marchers in South Australia take to the streets.



Jamika McAulay.



Haley Calford-Walker, Belinda Mitchell and Bam Calford.

Our Mob stand together

By NICK PATON



THOUSANDS of people gathered in Perth city for this year's Invasion Day rally and protest march, in what could be one of the largest turnouts of crowd numbers in recent years.

Mob and their allies poured into Forrest Place around midday chanting, "No pride in Genocide", "Not a date to celebrate!" and "Always was, Always will be, Aboriginal land!" before hearing from local, interstate and international speakers.

Uncle Herbert Bropho spoke about the need for governments to listen more to Aboriginal people about decision-making and the dire need to take better care of Aboriginal mothers who may need help, but who are continually failed by the system.

"Our people are dying out there, and our Aboriginal mothers are dying out there, so we need to use today to raise your voice and say that the government needs to do better than this," he said.

Aunty Meretta Kickett spoke to the crowd about the death of her own daughter Tiffany Woodley, a victim of domestic violence.

"I'm here of course to support Mob, but I'm also here in support of the memory of my beautiful daughter," Aunty Beretta told the *Koori Mail*.

"It's important that I stand up and speak the truth about her injustice, and that her life was cut short without the proper help she needed."

"But I'm also here in support of our Palestinian friends," Aunty Meretta said.

They are the Indigenous people of where they are from and we are the Indigenous people from here," she said.

I'm wearing both the Aboriginal and Palestinian flag over my shoulders today to show that we are standing in solidarity with the Palestinian people."

Noongar woman, Dr Hannah McGlade said there is still so much to do in terms of Australia as a whole respecting Indigenous rights.

"We have a lot to learn," Dr McGlade said.

"But as Aboriginal people, we have a right to our traditional practice, and we need to make sure our rights are being properly respected," she said.

"We know about the brutality that goes on and we know that Aboriginal children are still being removed, are we are experiencing the highest rates of murder as well."

"There was a fake history brought to Australia, and we demand our truth, and we demand our treaty."

"Everybody needs to know the true history of this place – and the violence."



Lukah Gorrie, Taynan Lilydale, Zaria Lilydale-Fabila, Norah Gorrie, Shannyce Lilydale, Jade Bromilow.



Uncle Herbert Bropho spoke at the rally, urging governments to 'do better'.



Thousands of people marched through the streets of Noongar Country in Perth after the rally.



Jasmine Gregory (Bard/Gidja), Jesse Hamill, Damien Hamill and Cian Hamill.



Nawoola Davey, Memarloo Jayla Davey and Meretta Kickett.



More than 5,000 people gathered in Perth city for this year's Invasion Day protest – the rally was one of the largest in recent years.



Local Perth teacher Kristina Krieska at the Perth rally wants to inspire her students to learn about the true history of Australia's brutal past.



Dr Hannah McGlade spoke at the rally.



Signs at the rally.

Kutcha's truths set to ripple at Mona Foma

By LIINA FLYNN

"Dreaming doesn't just happen when you fall asleep, or you have passed away."
– Kutcha Edwards



WHEN Mutti Mutti singer Kutcha Edwards was in a graphics class at high school one day, he remembers

his spirit "transcending and floating out the window, like I was daydreaming".

"In my dreaming, I heard my name on the wind," he told the *Koori Mail*.

When he went home that evening, he told his mum "I want you to call me Kutcha".

From that day onwards, he was known as Kutcha Edwards – renouncing his given birth name for a new name that he said "reclaims my Aboriginality."

As a survivor of the Stolen Generations, Kutcha has spent his life on a path of reclaiming culture and telling truth to audiences everywhere.

Kutcha will be bringing his truth-telling to a performance with the Australian Art Orchestra at Mona Foma festival in Nipaluna (Tasmania) on February 24.

Orchestra

Working with friend and orchestra artistic director Aaron Choulai, Kutcha will perform ten of his original songs that have been scored for orchestral accompaniment.

It's not the first time Kutcha has performed with an orchestra – in June last year, he performed with the Melbourne Youth Orchestra.

"I rehearsed with that ensemble only once," Kutcha said. "Then after we performed, we got two standing ovations."

Stolen generations

Kutcha said he draws on his lived experience of being a survivor of the Stolen Generations to bring meaning to his music.

He has effective ways of helping his fellow musos to tap into the deep emotion underlying his music before they perform with him.

When he first worked with an orchestra, he brought photos of his mum and dad to the stage and introduced his family to the band members.

"Then I collected trinkets from some of them, things like pieces of jewellery," he said.

"Then I said 'how do you feel when I do that?'"

"I confronted them and then I put up a picture of myself at 18 months old, in 1967 – and I tell them that my mum and dad had to hand me over to the



Australian Art Orchestra artistic director Aaron Choulai with Kutcha Edwards.

Picture: Ibukun Oloruntoba

authorities – as well as my six siblings.

A lived experience

"Then I said, 'what we want, you to do folks, is to stop reading the music scores and instead, understand where my songs come from – a lived experience'.

"It resonated with the orchestra – they stopped being so regimented and connected to the lyrics and understood the messages.

"Some of the Melbourne

Youth Orchestra participants were in tears.

"Information is power and what I do is to drop imaginary pebbles in an imaginary pond and that creates a ripple.

"Whether people have a negative or positive experience, they leave thinking 'wow I didn't know that'.

"Once they've heard and empathised with that information, they can't unhear it and so it resonates."

Children's home

Kutcha spent 11 years in a children's home after he was removed from his parents as a child.

"I met mum when I was six, then it took her seven years to convince the authorities it was time for her kids to come back and live with her," he said.

"When we went back to live with mum, things were different for me.

"In the kids' home, your room and possessions were yours, but mum taught me how to live in a communal situation.

"I had my connections with my older brothers and sisters, but it was difficult with the three new, younger ones – and mum didn't know my characteristics."

Singing

As a child he remembers music inspiring him to sing.

"I remember being in that children's home and on occasions I'd be placed in car with strangers and go on joy rides in the Dandenongs," he said. "I would hear the wireless and remember songs like *Mornington Ride*, by The Seekers."

Eventually, he and The Seeker's lead singer Judith Durham worked together to rewrite *Advance Australia Fair*.

He remembers in English class at school, he was asked to 'write a poem that explains you'. He wrote a poem about being one drop of change and spreading a ripple wherever you go.

"It's about moving from loneliness to connection," he said. "I am that one drop, it's about coming back to family, clan and tribe.

"I was born on the Murrumbidgee River – and the river of life is resonant."

The greats

Over the years, Kutcha has recorded many albums and worked with many of the great names in music – from Uncle Archie Roach and Auntie Ruby Hunter – to Dan Sultan, Paul Kelly and the many members of the Black Arm Band.

"I've performed with the greats, but I'm still an unknown," Kutcha said.

"I don't like publicity. I let my work speak for me.

"I've been singing all my life – I was in choirs in primary school and I was scared of the audience when I was first in rock bands like Backfire, then later the Kutcha Edwards Band.

"I used to care what an audience thought of me, but I don't care any more about that.

"I've been at it 30 years, always been waiting in the wings, but now I'm putting my music out there with an orchestra.

"I love making music and I want to nurture and help others."

Kutcha recently mentored the lead singer of Mulga Bore Hard Rock Band, which will also be performing at Mona Foma. Check website for details.

Mona Foma

Mona Foma will be held in Hobart, Nipaluna from February 15 to 25, then in Launceston on March 2. For more information, the full line up and tickers, visit monafoma.net.au

Guy Simon is a good fellow



BIRRIPI, Worimi, Waddi Waddi and Walbunga actor and director Guy Simon has been named as the Belvoir St Theatre's 2023 Balnaves

Foundation Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Fellow. Guy will receive \$45,000 over an 18-month period to create a new work as a resident artist at Belvoir in 2024/25.

The Balnaves Fellowship is open to playwrights to write a new play – and to directors who can lead the creation of an Indigenous-led new stage work. It can be a new play, an adaptation or via a devised process. It includes an invitation to be a voice in Belvoir's artistic decision-making.

In 2024, Simon's new project will draw on his upbringing in the La Perouse community, delving into and creating a narrative that combines horror and dark comedy: An Indigenous family move into a house that holds a rich history deeply embedded in the foundations of the land it occupies, where they confront an unsettling presence, prompting a swift decision to leave. Following this, a non-Indigenous family takes up residence.

Guy Simon was born on Birripi Country and raised in La Perouse on Gadigal Country. He graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art in 2010.

His stage credits include Melbourne Theatre Company's *Jacky*; Sydney Theatre Company's *The Visitors*, *The Tempest*, *Playing Beatie Bow*, *Grand*

Horizons, *The Harp in the South*, *The Battle of Waterloo*; Belvoir's *Jasper Jones*, *My Brilliant Career*, and Griffin's *Whitefella Yella Tree*, *First Love is the Revolution*.

The Balnaves Foundation chief executive Hamish Balnaves said the foundation supports "the next generation of Indigenous artists and the creative development of new works that reflect Australia's diverse stories and enrich us all".

The Fellowship is one of Australia's prestigious theatre awards, attracting entrants of the highest calibre. Previous recipients include Leah Purcell and Nakkiah Lui. The 2022 recipient, Dalara Williams, is currently working on her play, made possible by The Balnaves Foundation.

Belvoir has also announced Brendon Boney and Abbie-lee Lewis as 2023 Balnaves Associate Artists. They will each receive \$5000 and will participate in two one-week writing intensives, along with Balnaves Fellows Dalara and Guy, and participate in Belvoir's Associates Program.

Brendon is a Wiradjuri and Gamilaroi man from Wagga Wagga and is working on a new play exploring brotherhood, inheritance and what it means to step into leadership roles.

Abbie-lee is a Kalkadoon woman from Western Australia. She has a passion for directing and theatre-making and seeks to further her development of the craft by assistant directing, and she is currently developing a contemporary re-telling of Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein*.



Guy Simon is the Balnaves Foundation fellowship winner for 2024.

Artback NT needs a Business Manager

Artback NT is a leading not-for-profit arts organisation that has been representing Territory artists for nearly 30 years.

Artback NT supports the development of creative practice, tour shows and exhibitions around the NT and Australia, and manages festivals and workshop programs on behalf of remote communities.

Key information about the role

Report to: CEO, Artback NT
Location: Garramilla (Darwin)
Contract: Full-time, 12 months – with a 3 month probationary period and the intension of renewal, subject to funding outcomes
Remuneration: \$94,000-\$102,000 + superannuation. Salary will be assessed based on experience. 6 weeks annual leave, with 17.5% loading
Closing date: 5 February 2024
Contact: Shay Vigona-Goudge - e: ceo@artbacknt.com.au; p: 8941 1444

This is an exciting opportunity to connect with a thriving arts scene.

For more information, full job description and selection criteria, head to artbacknt.com.au/about/careers/

Darwin artist shares his healing art with the south



FOR the first time in his 35-year career, Les Lipwurrunga Huddleston, a renowned Aboriginal artist, spiritual healer, and talented didgeridoo maker and player, brings 36 of his works to Melbourne from his home in Darwin, in the free entry, all-ages art and cultural exhibition, *Lipwurrunga*.

From his traditional Country of Roper River (East Arnhem Land, Northern Territory), Les has explored land, water, identity and healing themes through his art and life.

Les has been married to Beverly for 35 years, with four daughters and 11 grandchildren. He experiences a profound joy in sharing the rich and artistic tapestry of his Indigenous culture.

"Through my art, I share the beauty of my heritage and my love for art with my children and grandchildren – a skill which is already evident in their paintings. My father Harry, a diver who picked up unexploded ordnance during the bombing of Darwin, also passed down the ancient art of didgeridoo making to me, and I will have a handful of those that I have made on display at the Melbourne exhibition," Les says.

Les's work is iconic in Australian history. One of Les's fish paintings has been on display alongside the



Preview of artwork by Les Huddleston included in the *Lipwurrunga* exhibition.

National Apology to Australia's Indigenous peoples, located in Sydney.

A role model for his community and family, Les is also the nephew of Gertie Huddleston, the famous artist from Ngukurr Aboriginal community.

Visitors to the exhibition are invited to join Les as he tells the story of his and his family's journey.

He says, "Lipwurrunga is the name given to me that represents my place and my way. I hope people who visit this exhibition experience my people, my family, my journey and my community through art and sound".

Les will also be giving cultural

talks during the exhibition and performing healing ceremonies, where he welcomes people to join in his mesmerising sound healings.

Didgeridoo sound therapy is a traditional Aboriginal natural healing and holistic health practice that uses meditation and intention to effect positive changes in a person's mind, body and spirit.

Lipwurrunga is presented by Empowering Community Growth, a community organisation dedicated to supporting grassroots and fair-trade community work. This event is also supported by the City of Borroondara and the Fair Trade and Gift Shop.

According to Jill Forsyth,

founder of Empowering Community Growth, Les Huddleston is a man of great talent, with an enormous capacity to work and give to his community in positive ways.

"Les Huddleston, a visionary artist with grand dreams, paints not just on canvas but on the walls of Darwin itself. His large murals grace supermarkets, schools, and aged care facilities, infusing these spaces with joy, life, and a profound sense of belonging.

"Les dreams big, aspiring to leave a legacy of his culture and security for his family in retirement. His art is a testament to his passion for sharing ideas and nurturing the next generation," Jill says.



Les works on a design for a surfboard.

"Through art sessions in local schools, he imparts his deep connection to the land and water, fostering a rich understanding of his roots. The *Lipwurrunga* Exhibition captures only a glimpse of Les's vast capacity, showcasing paintings, didgeridoos and carvings that serve as a conduit for sharing his knowledge, cultural preservation, inspiration, and bringing out the best in people."

Lipwurrunga is showing at Kew Courthouse Gallery, in Kew, Victoria until Sunday, February 4, with didge sound healing sessions daily at 1pm. For further information visit ipwurrunga.com.au

event listings

QUEENSLAND

Boomerang Banter: An Artistic Yarning

An artistic yarn between Indian fusion singer Menaka Thomas and Indigenous artist and didgeridoo player Glenn Barry, using sound and story.

when: Feb 10, 10-11.15am

where: Boondall Wetlands Education Centre, Paperbark Drive, Boondall

info/bookings: Free, Suitable for children and families.

reserve a spot at eventbrite.com.au/e/imaginasi-a-boomerang-banter-an-artistic-yarning-tickets-757556801787

First Nations Artisan Market

when: Feb 17

where: Sobah Brewery and Cafe, Burleigh Heads/ Kombumerri Country

info/bookings: sobah.com.au/pages/events

The Summer Show

The annual group exhibition of UMI Arts member artists.

when: until February 23

where: UMI Arts Shop 4, Jensen Plaza Gallery, Manoora

info/bookings: umiarts.com.au/

Weaving with Durban Bagii

(Carly Wallace)

when: Feb 24, 1-3pm

where: Grey St, South Brisbane

info/bookings: tickets at eventbrite.com.au/e/weaving-with-durban-bagii-carly-wallace-tickets-802199599597

Art & This Place gallery tour

Join First Nations storytellers and creatives as they explore the complex stories of history, culture and place revealed in artworks from QAGOMA's Indigenous Australian Art Collection.

when: Feb 25, 11.30am-12.30pm

where: Queensland Art Gallery, Stanley Place, South Brisbane

info/bookings: eventbrite.com.au/e/tour-art-this-place-tickets-788814705017

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Babbarra TEXTA

Works made in TEXTA by artists from Babbarra Women's Centre.

when: Feb 2-March 2

where: Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre, Katherine East, Big River Region.

info/bookings: gyracc.org.au/event/babbarra-texta/

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/tfff/

2023 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (Telstra NATSIAA)

when: until Feb 18, 2024



BLM protest rally, Martin Place, 2014, digital print. Picture: courtesy of Barbara McGrady

McGrady exhibition makes history



THE recent history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Sydney is chronicled in a new, free, photographic exhibition at the University of Sydney's Chau Chak Wing Museum.

Australia has a Black History is a retrospective of Gomerol/Gamilaraay photographer Barbara McGrady, whose work captures more than 30

years of significant social, political and historical moments for Aboriginal people in Sydney.

Barbara McGrady: Australia Has a Black History

when: until 10 June

where: Chau Chak Wing Museum, University Place, University of Sydney.

info: sydney.edu.au/museum/

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, please visit magnt.net.au/natsiaa

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Nyumbi

A celebration of Nyoongar culture through song, dance and language. Continue your journey into the museum exhibition

Ngalang Koort, Boodja Wirn – Our Heart, Country, Spirit.

when: Feb 3, 10, 17, 11am

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

info/bookings: fringeworld.com.au/whats_on/nyumbi-fw2024

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

3 Journeys: Aboriginal Storytelling through Film, Music and Art

when: until February 4

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

info/bookings: visit.museum.wa.gov.au/boola-bardip/three-journeys

Wundig Wer Wilura

Award-winning songwriters and storytellers 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/

Perth Festival

when: Feb 9-Mar 3

where: Perth and suburbs
info/bookings: perthfestival.com.au

Mutiara

Marrugeku Dance

when: Feb 9-12

where: Perth Festival, Studio Underground, Northbridge/Yandilup

info/bookings: Tickets selling fast at perthfestival.com.au/events/mutiara/

Dane Simpson: Always Was Always Will Be...Funny

For 60,000 years of laughs, book now!

when: Feb 6-11

where: The Pleasure Garden, Russell Square, Northbridge

info/bookings: fringeworld.com.au/whats_on/dane-simpson-always-was-always-will-be-funny-fw2024?widget=1

NEW SOUTH WALES

Dan Sultan

when: Feb 1, from 7pm

where: Blue Mountains Theatre and Community Hub, Springwood

and

when: Feb 9, from 7pm

where: Theatre Royal, Castlemaine

info/bookings: dansultan.com/shows

Miwatj Yolngu – Sunrise People

Ending soon.

when: until February 11

where: Bundanoon, Shoalhaven.

info/bookings: For full program and to book go to bundanon.com.au/miwatj-yolngu

Yuldea

Bangarra Dance Theatre's Yuldea returns, awakening the earth and sky worlds to tell the story of the Anangu

people of the Great Victorian Desert.

when: Feb 22-24

where: Riverside Theatre, Parramatta

info/bookings: bangarra.com.au

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/what-s-on/exhibitions

Saltwater Freshwater Arts Exhibition 2023

Features Aboriginal artists from the Worimi, Biripi, Dunghutti and Gumbaynggirr Nations on the Mid North Coast of NSW.

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/

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Australian native ingredients with Daniel Motlop

when: 6-7.30pm, Feb 6

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

info/bookings: Tickets (\$10) selling fast at

eventbrite.com.au/e/australian-native-ingredients-with-daniel-motlop-tickets-777981713247?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

Frank Yamma and David Bridie

when: Feb 9, 7.30pm

where: The Venue at The Gov, Port Rd, Hindmarsh, Kaurna Country

info/bookings: ticketed event, adelaidefringe.com.au/fringetix/frank-yamma-and-david-bridie-af2024

Adelaide Fringe

when: Feb 16-Mar 17

where: venues around South Australia

info/bookings: see the full festival program at adelaidefringe.com.au/

Club Culture

A one-night-only event, featuring art workshops by Mali Isabel, Ben Williams, and Lawson Dodd, and live performances from Katie Aspel, Rob Edwards, Sonz of Serpent, and DJ Phoenix.

when: Feb 16 until late.

where: Club Curious at Gluttony – Rymill Park

info/bookings: adelaidefringe.com.au/fringetix/club-culture-af2024

VICTORIA

First Nations Drag Festival

(Part of midsummafestival)

when: Feb 8, 7.30pm

where: Pride of our Footscray Community Bar, Hopkins St, Footscray

info/bookings: Free entry for First Nations attendees, visit midsumma.org.au/whats-on/events/first-nations-drag-festival/ for more.

Dan Sultan

when: Feb 10, from 7pm

where: Wangaratta

Performing Arts and Convention Centre, Wangaratta

info/bookings: dansultan.com/shows

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

Touring Exhibition: Layers of Blak

An exhibition of jewellery designs created by participants in KHT's Blak Design program.

when: until Mar 10.

where: Art Gallery of Ballarat

info/bookings:

more dates/venues later in the year, see koorieheritagetrust.com.au/whats-on/exhibitions/layers-of-blak/

NGV International Triennial

Featuring First Nations artists Betty Muffler, Auntie Kim Wandin, Iluwanti Ken, Selinda Davidson, Lehuauakea, Keith Wikmunea, Timo Hogan, Wanapati Yunupingu, Burarra women from Maningrida Community, and Sky Hopinka.

when: until Apr 7

where: NGV International, St Kilda Road, Melbourne

info/bookings: ngv.vic.gov.au/triennial/events/

Watercolour Country:

100 Works from

Hermannsburg

when: until April 14

where: The Ian Potter Centre, National Gallery of Victoria, Fed Square, Melbourne

info/bookings: ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/watercolour-country/

TASMANIA

Gail Mabo, Lisa Waup, Dominic White

Exhibition toured and curated by McClelland Gallery

when: until March 9

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

info/bookings: paranapleartscentre.com.au/events/mcclellandcurrent/

Creative Australia, First Nations First - Launceston Community Forum

when: Feb 14

where: Launceston Airport, Western Junction

info/bookings: allevents.in/launceston/forum

Mona Foma

A festival in lutruwita

when: Feb 14-Mar 2

where: Hobart and Launceston

info/bookings: monafoma.net.au/

Mulga Bore Hard Rock

when: Feb 29

where: Mona, Main Rd Berriedale

info/bookings: monafoma.net.au/program/artists/mulga-bore-hard-rock

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Creative Australia, First Nations First Community Forum

when: Feb 9, 10am

where: Gandel Hall, Parkes Place, East Parkes

info/bookings: creative.gov.au/advocacy-and-research/first-nations-first/

The 16th National Apology Anniversary

when: Feb 13

where: Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Reed Street North, Greenway ACT

info/bookings: eventbrite.com.au/e/the-16th-national-apology-anniversary-tickets-807324217467?aff=ebdsoporgprofile

Emily Kam Kngwarray

when: until April 28

where: National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

info/bookings: nga.gov.au/exhibitions/emily-kam-kngwarray/

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT



The graduates at the ceremony (Cowboys pic).



Coonamble Community Corrections (CSNSW) team leader Damien Kennedy.

Serving with passion



PROUD Wiradjuri man and ex-professional rugby league player Damien Kennedy, is passionate about creating better outcomes for Aboriginal offenders.

Damien works as a team leader at Coonamble Community Corrections (CSNSW) the central western plains of NSW. He entered CSNSW in 2018 as an Aboriginal Client Services Officer, after working with FACS and NSW Health.

Before that, he played for the Western Suburbs from 1996 to 1998 and the Canberra Raiders from 1999 to 2000.

"My proudest achievement has been working alongside other passionate officers in the Western District, to change the approach of Community Corrections," Damien said. "I want to achieve better outcomes for the Aboriginal people we work with – and their families,"

"The work that has been implemented here is outside the normal 'business as usual' approach. It's aimed at working directly with Aboriginal people in their own comfort zone."

For his commitment to community safety and reducing reoffending, Damien is among 10,700 Corrective Services NSW staff who are being recognised and celebrated on National Corrections Day, January 19.

National Corrections Day takes the community behind the prison walls and Community Corrections office doors, to hear the stories of corrections staff and learn about the important work they do.

The CSNSW workforce includes around 5,500 custodial officers, 2,100 Community Corrections professionals, 1,500 psychologists, and 1,600 corporate staff.

Little goals help to achieve big dreams

By ALF WILSON



RECENT hospitality graduate Samuel Waigana believes in working hard "for those little goals".

Now a Cowboys Leagues Club employee, Samuel is one of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander hospitality students who graduated from the 2023 North Queensland Cowboys' *Dream, Believe, Achieve* program.

Samuel said the *Dream, Believe, Achieve* program instilled belief in participants and made a big difference to their lives.

"In the first week of class, most of us would agree we were shame to speak, meet each other or even stand and describe ourselves in front of the class," Samuel said.

"But over weeks of mentoring and teaching, we slowly developed those characteristics

in ourselves and helped our fellow classmates.

"When work experience week came around, some of us got the opportunity to serve and host with The Ville during the Cowboys 2023 season launch – to test what we'd learnt in a short time."

Samuel and the other graduates all super-charged their skills and their employment prospects in the support and hospitality industries.

Now, 50 of the graduates are already putting their newly acquired qualifications and job-ready work experience to use and have found meaningful and ongoing paid employment in North Queensland.

The Hospitality program was a 10-week course across four intakes. It included qualifications in Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) and Responsible Gambling Services (RSG).

Students were taught by in-class training modules, one-on-

one mentoring and guidance – and on-the-job work experience with *Dream, Believe, Achieve*'s 10 industry partners.

Over 14 weeks, Individual Support graduates studied for First Aid and CPR certificates, NDIS Screening (Yellow Card) and 120 hours of work placement. Now they can pursue career opportunities in disability, mental health and aged care.

The graduation ceremonies for the two courses were held in Townsville. The graduation was the first for the Certificate III in Individual Support program, while the 65 graduates from the 65 Certificate III in Hospitality program added to the program's 326 graduates since 2018.

"Keep working hard for those little goals that you want to accomplish and set new goals, keep going and keep building yourself and the right employer will come," Samuel said.

The Cowboys *Dream, Believe, Achieve* program was

established in 2015 delivering education, training and industry-recognised qualifications to unemployed and disadvantaged North Queenslanders, providing mentoring support to assist students in completing their studies and achieving their career goals.

The program has provided a boost to local industry and hospitality employers over eight years, through supplying reliable, confident and skilled workers, even throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supported by the Queensland Government, training is delivered by program partners Allara Learning (Hospitality) and selectability (Individual Support).

Cowboys chief community and government relations officer Fiona Pelling said the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training provided funding, as part of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.

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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Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- Permanent full-time position
- 38 hours per week
- Location in Ballina, NSW
- Salary range negotiable from \$100,00 - \$130,000, plus relevant entitlements and superannuation
- This is an identified Aboriginal Position. An applicant's race is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised under Section 14(d) of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977

Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council is looking for a strong leader who has demonstrated experience in leading and managing organisations, holds a high level of commitment to land rights and social, cultural, and economic justice for Aboriginal people.

Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council is within the Bundjalung nation in northern NSW and is one of the largest land owners in the Ballina, Byron and Richmond Valley Local Government Areas.

The role will lead Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council and the local community through one of the most significant times in its history. To ensure the return of our community back into permanent homes after the flood in 2022. The role will oversee capital infrastructure projects, the protection and advocacy of our Culture and various programs and business initiatives.

To find out more about this role and if you are interested, please email jalicair@outlook.com to register for an information session, request a job package to apply for this role or arrange a time to discuss this opportunity.

Applications close on Sunday 3 March 2024 at 5pm.



MERRIMANS Local Aboriginal Land Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (Attractive Remuneration Package Negotiable)

The Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) is seeking applications from experienced and motivated people interested in a rewarding career undertaking the challenging role of Chief Executive Officer.

This position holder will provide an extensive range of assistance and support to the elected Board through the day-to-day management of the MLALC's affairs in accordance with delegated authorities; the provision of sound and accurate advice and the implementation of the Board's resolutions in a timely and appropriate manner.

The successful applicant will have demonstrable knowledge and understanding of the ALRA, the capacity to interpret and implement legislation and sound communication skills.

Organisational and management experience is essential together with an understanding of accounting practices and principles. A sound knowledge and appreciation of Aboriginal issues would also be required.

All applicants must obtain a copy of the recruitment package containing the Position Description and selection criteria and address the selection criteria for their application to be considered. For a recruitment package contact the Contact Officer **Troyleen**, by email: admin@merrimanslalc.org.au or on (02) 44737288 – 0483 055 003

Applications can be forwarded to ceo@merrimanslalc.org.au or marked "Confidential" and posted to:

The Chairperson
Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Council
14 Umbarra Road
Wallaga Lake NSW 2546

Applications close Thursday 15th February 2024

Aboriginal people are encouraged to apply.



Aboriginal Community Development Officer (Male Identified) (SCS108)

Council is seeking a motivated individual to be part of our Community Development team as the Aboriginal Community Development Officer. This position is male identified and a job share working alongside a female-identified Aboriginal Community Development Officer.

- Permanent, part-time position – Job share (14 hours per week).
- Remuneration package of \$1,215.68 gross per fortnight with the opportunity to progress to \$1,458.82 gross per fortnight + superannuation (11%).
- Generous leave entitlements including provision to 'purchase' leave.
- Ongoing training and development opportunities.

Please note: this role does not provide direct social support services.

Your new role:

As the Aboriginal Community Development Officer, your key responsibilities will include:

- Creating, supporting, managing and delivering innovative capacity building projects, events and programs in line with the Community Strategic Plan, Reconciliation Action Plan and identified community need;
- Lead or support the facilitation of the planning, delivery and evaluation of key events relevant to the local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations community including but not limited to Apology Day, Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week;
- Support the coordination and community engagement around the development, monitoring and implementation of Council's current and future Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP); and
- Building strong networks and stakeholder relationships to facilitate effective communication, information sharing and increased understanding of culturally appropriate practice between Council and local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nation Peoples.

What you will need to succeed:

- Qualifications in community development, social services, communications or a related discipline;
- Substantial experience relevant to the role including relationship management, community development, community consultation and the implementation of promotional strategies.
- Current Class C Driver's Licence;
- A current NSW Working with Children Check.

What is next?

Applications close **Friday, 16 February 2024** at 11.59pm AEDST with interviews to be held in the week commencing Monday, 26 February 2024.

If you are interested in this role and would like more information, please contact Alexandra Osgood on 02 6926 9320.

For more information and to apply, please visit <https://wagga.pulsesoftware.com/Pulse/jobs>

Council is an inclusive employer. We strive to reflect the community in which we work, as a result we welcome and encourage applications from skilled people from all walks of life. This includes women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culturally and linguistically diverse people, people with a disability, veterans, sexually and gender di

APS 6 Project Officer (Affirmative Measures - Indigenous), Strategy and Innovation

The Strategy and Innovation team are responsible for supporting the Commission's strategic reform and planning agenda. The Project Officer will be responsible for project documentation and records management, supporting contract management and procurement activities, writing briefings and other documents for internal and/or external audiences, coordination and support for meetings and other support roles of the Strategy and Innovation team as required.

The Project Officer will be integral in a range of organisational activities and strategies designed to support improvements in safety and quality of healthcare for First Nations people including the development and evolution of the Commission's Reconciliation Action Plan, Cultural Safety Framework and support for relevant advisory bodies. The Project Officer will also provide support for the team and be involved in a broad range of organisational strategies, performance monitoring and reporting, and project development activities.

This will include undertaking research and analysis of information, administration and project management, stakeholder engagement, facilitation of meetings, preparation of project documentation and collaborating with other relevant programs within the Commission.

Duties of the Project Officer will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1 Undertake a range of project management activities, including input into project planning and documentation; monitoring and reporting on progress of projects; and identifying issues and proposing possible solutions.
- 2 Support procurement and contract management activities including financial administration and budget preparation, invoicing and monitoring.
- 3 Draft, edit and collate meeting and workshop papers, submissions, correspondence, discussion papers and briefing notes, and provide secretariat support for meetings, including preparation of agenda papers, meeting notes, logistics and other administrative tasks.
- 4 Collaborate with members of the Strategy and Innovation team and other program teams within the Commission to support delivery of designated projects.
- 5 Research, review and analyse data, reports, published material and expert opinion to provide information and advice to support the development of projects and initiatives, including issues specifically related to Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander healthcare.

- 6 Work with the team to create and/or update guidance for internal processes and work independently and actively identify key actions required for the effective operation of the team.
- 7 Under the guidance of the Senior Project Officer and the Stream Director, liaise with other agencies, clinical organisations, consumer groups, government authorities, industry bodies and contractors.
- 8 Other duties as required and directed.

The successful candidate will have:

- Demonstrated experience in project management and secretariat support, including the ability to manage, and report on budgets.
- Excellent problem-solving skills and the ability to critically assess issues and recommend practical solutions in a timely manner.
- Demonstrated well developed written and oral communication skills, including the ability to produce high level documents including briefing papers, reviews, submissions, correspondence and meeting papers that clearly communicate complex issues in a manner appropriate for the audience.
- Strong interpersonal skills with an ability to communicate effectively and develop productive working relationships with the Commission and with a range of external stakeholders.
- An understanding of Australia's health care system and key safety and quality issues, including issues relevant to the health care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

To apply for this position, please complete and submit an application form and upload:

- A CV summarising your relevant experience and qualifications.
- A two-page cover letter broadly addressing your suitability against both the position description and selection criteria.

Candidates must be Australian citizens to be eligible to apply.

Questions about the role can be directed to Naomi Poole on 02 9126 3536.

Closing date for applications is midnight,
Sunday 11 February 2024.

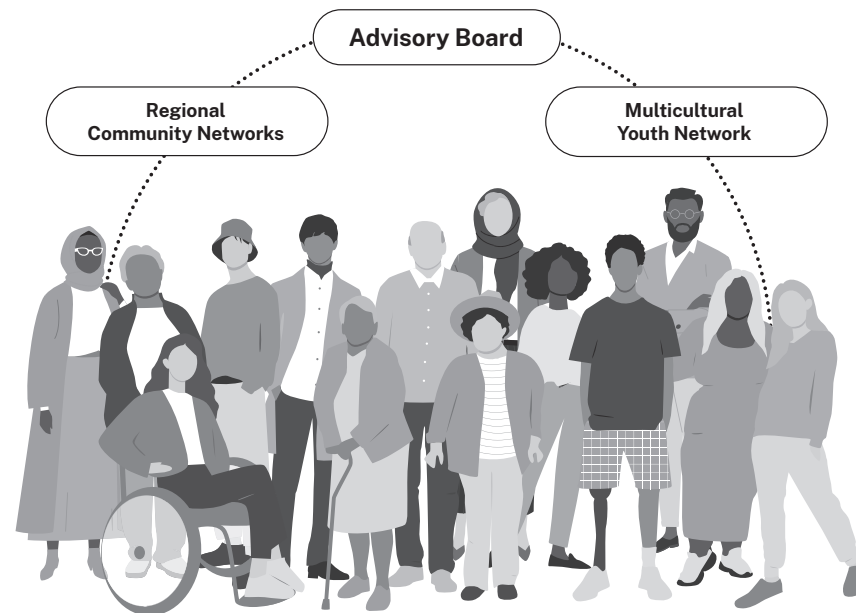
Multicultural NSW



Advisory Positions: Aboriginal Members

Applications are currently open for positions on Multicultural NSW's advisory bodies.

Multicultural NSW plays an important role in building and maintaining a cohesive and harmonious multicultural society that enriches the lives of all the people of NSW.



**Scan here to find out more about these opportunities.
Expressions of interest close Sunday 18 February 2024.**

Membership on each Regional Community Network includes identified positions for Youth and Aboriginal people.

www.multicultural.nsw.gov.au/careers-at-multicultural-nsw



**A conversation could
change a life.**

ruok.org.au



- **Tenant Advocate** – Northern Rivers Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service (NORTAAS)
- **Assistant Manager** – Northern Rivers Womens Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS)

The Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre (NRCLC) is seeking to recruit to the roles of:

Assistant Manager (WDVCAS) 35 hours per week

The position is banded at SCHADS Level 6 with a salary range from \$102,822 to \$105,085 (dependent upon qualifications, skills and experience), plus superannuation and leave loading. PBI Salary Packaging is also available

Tenant Advocate (NORTAAS) 21-28 hours per week

The position is banded at SCHADS Level 5 with a salary range from \$94,111 to \$100,375 (dependent upon qualifications, skills and experience), plus superannuation and leave loading. PBI Salary Packaging is also available

NRCLC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply

Applications close at 9am on Monday 19 February 2024.

The Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre (NRCLC) has been operating in Lismore since 1996. NRCLC has grown from a free legal service to a centre that offers wrap around support to clients and communities which includes the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS), Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Service (TAAS), Disaster Recovery Team and Social Work Team.

For further information about the position and to apply, please visit our website
<https://northernriversclc.org.au/work-or-volunteer/>

Enquires should be directed to recruitment@northernriversclc.org.au



An Australian Government Initiative

Where carers can
get support.

carergateway.gov.au

1800 422 737

Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

Emergency respite available 24/7



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@BirpaiLALC.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@birpaiLALC.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

FULL-TIME ABORIGINAL HEALTH TRAINEESHIPS

'NAGGANG PROGRAM'

'Naggang' is Dharawal for "good in health"

In partnership with the AES - AH&MRC and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services - The Naggang Traineeship Program aims to build the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the primary health care workforce with a focus on Business Administration



AH&MRC
Aboriginal Health & Medical
Research Council of NSW



AH&MRC
Training



aes
Aboriginal
Employment
Strategy

The Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) assists the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) across NSW to ensure they have access to an adequately resourced and skilled workforce to provide high-quality health care services for Aboriginal communities.

Traineeship Locations - Peak Hill, Orange, Dubbo, Wellington, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Tamworth, Moree, Mt Druitt, Penrith

Traineeship Commencement: 18 March 2024

Expected Trainee completion Date: 17 March 2025

Traineeship duration: 12 months

Employment type: Full time 38 hours per week

Course Name: HLT30113 Certificate III in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care - Business Administration

To obtain an application package and for details on how to apply, please email

ashleigh.knight@aes.org.au. For enquiries, please contact **Ashleigh Knight 0409 702 927**

Closing Date to submit applications Friday 16 February 2024 (Sydney time)

Seeking expressions of interest ODPP First Nations Advisory Group (Identified Position)



The ODPP is seeking expressions of interest from First Nations people working in the criminal justice sector for membership within its First Nations Advisory Group. The establishment of this Group is central to the ODPP's commitment to improving the experiences of First Nations people in the criminal justice system.

The Group will be the ODPP's primary consultation body on First Nations issues arising within the ODPP and the criminal justice system. It will provide feedback on the development of policies and practices relating to First Nations staff, witnesses, victims of crime and accused people. The Group will advise on relevant cultural knowledge and sensitivities that the ODPP should consider in their decision making.

The Group will meet four times per year, with two of those times being face to face meetings in Sydney. For non-NSW government employed Group members, the ODPP will provide remuneration for participation in meetings. For all Group members, the ODPP will cover travel expenses for the purpose of attending meetings.

The ODPP is seeking Group members with diverse professional backgrounds, but will prioritise EOIs from First Nations people with experience working in the criminal justice system and NSW government; lived experience in First Nations communities; and experience working with Elders, young people and victims of crime.

Find out more and apply: <https://www.odpp.nsw.gov.au/about-us/First-Nations-People-and-the-ODPP/Career-opportunities-and-professional-development>

Applications will close on Thursday 29th February 2024.

• INTEGRITY • RESPECT • ACCOUNTABLE • AGILE • INNOVATIVE •



Fulham Correctional Centre

Fulham Correctional Centre is part of The GEO Group Australia Pty Ltd (GEO). GEO is the leading provider of privately managed correctional services in NSW and Victoria.

The Aboriginal Wellbeing Officer (AWO) is responsible for the provision of pre and postrelease services that support and promote health, wellbeing, traditional needs and 'healing' of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners, their families and the broader Aboriginal community.

The AWO also provides individual support to Aboriginal prisoners at times of crisis, provides education in relation to cultural heritage and identity, and support prisoners with issues related to family reconnection and community reintegration.

The AWO will identify as an Aboriginal Australian and ideally have a background in social work, welfare or community services.

For any enquiries, please contact the Human Resources Team on (03) 5142 3830 or via email FulhamHR@geogroup.com.au

Applicants must apply via the below website.

Applications close: Midnight, Thursday 22nd February 2024

To apply, visit us via our careers website
www.geogroup.com.au
Equal Opportunity Employer



What type of caregiver would you like to be?

Emergency Carer – support families at times of crisis. This can be short, medium or long-term care depending on the family's circumstances and family finding.

Respite Care – this can be one off periods of care or a consistent arrangement with a jarjum being part of your family for a few days during monthly respite time.

Allowances to support expenses and a professional casework team ready to support you – enquire with us today... Info packs available.

*All carers and their adult household members must have a valid cleared WWCC and submit paperwork required by the agency. Applicants undergo an assessment process and will be registered on the NSW carer register if successful. All carers are required to abide by the Ngunya Jarjum Code of Conduct.

Restoration – provide a safe and nurturing home while parents are supported to work towards their Jarjum returning home or an alternative kinship placement is identified through family finding.

Kinship or foster care – care for a Jarjum long term while maintaining connections with their mob and meeting all their needs working with the case work team and family members.

Become a carer with Ngunya Jarjum and keep our kids connected to culture



APPLY NOW

Call 6626 3700 or visit www.ngunya.jarjum.com



COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

- Communicate the inspiring stories of excellence in Indigenous education through a range of channels
- Full time, fixed term (until May 2025) opportunity based at our Callaghan Campus
- 17% super, generous annual, personal, and life leave, wellbeing programs, health and fitness discounts

This is an identified position and applicants must be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person. Being an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person is a genuine occupational qualification as authorised under Section 14(D) of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act, 1977 NSW.

As the Communications Specialist, you will be the editorial expert of our Indigenous voice, responsible for creatively communicating the inspiring stories of excellence in Indigenous education to our communities.

Whether it be writing long form articles, content for owned and earned channels, or engaging with journalists, you will identify and share stories about the research, people, programs, and achievements of the Indigenous Strategy and Leadership Division, the Wollotuka Institute, and other areas of Indigenous excellence.

This specialist role will contribute communications expertise to University-wide initiatives aimed at connecting with First Nations communities and delivering against the University's reconciliation and equity priorities.

This fixed term position is a Parental Leave cover until May 2025, is full time, and will be located at the Callaghan Campus (Awabakal and Worimi land).

Closing date: Tuesday 13 February 2024 at 11.59pm AEDT



Aboriginal Practice Lead (Identified role)

About the role

The Aboriginal Practice Lead will provide Culturally safe professional child and family counselling & advocacy support services based on Trauma Informed Cultural Healing Practices in supporting recovery from complex trauma and assist in establishing connections with Culture, family, and broader communities of care.

The role aims to assist children and young people to recover harmful impacts of complex trauma (current, transgenerational, and intergenerational).

Benefits

- Active Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)
- Aboriginal Recruitment, Retention & Professional Development Strategy
- Generous salary packaging
- Employee Assistance Program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Aboriginal and LGBTQIA+ Communities of Practice
- Membership of Ngindaay Guumaldanha – Aboriginal Staff Network

How to apply

If this sounds like you, please visit our careers website www.mackillop.org.au/positions available.

For further information contact Esmail Manahan, National Director, Aboriginal Service Development, esmail.manahan@mackillop.org.au

We believe that cultural safety is everyone's business. Aboriginal people can feel isolated in non-Aboriginal organisations and MacKillop is committed to creating a culturally safe and inclusive workplace, where all workers feel comfortable, supported and respected.

This is a special measure under the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 Section 12 and Section 89 for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander applicants only.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Rekindling The Spirit
Lismore, Lismore & Far North Coast NSW
CEO (CEO & General Management)

Full time
\$160,000 – \$180,000 per year

About the Organisation

Rekindling the Spirit (RTS) is a collaborative primary health care and wellbeing service run by, and for, Aboriginal people, families, and communities; a service that works to ensure that Aboriginal people within families and communities reach and celebrate good health and wellbeing.

Purpose of Position

The CEO will lead and drive the strategic direction and vision of RTS as outlined in the Strategic Plan. The CEO is responsible for leading the Management team and working closely with the Board of Directors in ensuring high quality and innovative service delivery that meets all quality, operational and financial targets. The role involves working collaboratively in a team with the RTS staff, referring agencies, funding bodies, clients and other allied agencies and workers.

This position is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Identified under Sections 14 and 21 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

Information Package: For an information package including a Position Description and Selection Criteria please email hr@rts.ngo or phone 02 5629 1058.

Applicants will only be considered by providing the following information:

Current Resume
Cover Letter

A document addressing Selection Criteria

Closing date: Tuesday 20 February at 5.00pm



MALE ABORIGINAL FAMILY VIOLENCE SUPPORT WORKER

About Us

Relationships Australia NSW (RANSW) provides a safe, judgement-free environment where individuals, couples and families can address the critical matters impacting their relationships, and their lives.

What you'll do

This is a male case work role that that will deliver services primarily in-person across various Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA) locations in NSW with occasional telehealth provision depending on court needs.

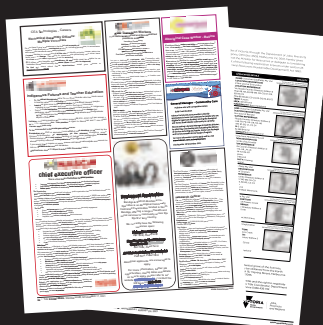
The Details

- **Being male and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a genuine occupational requirement of this position under NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977**
- Work independently within the courts and remotely with the support of a specialised team
- Contract to 30/6/25, 3–5 days per week
- Valid NSW Drivers Licence is essential as travel is required in this role plus generous meal and travel allowance
- Approx. \$50 per hour + super + leave loading + salary packaging benefits

What you'll bring

- Understanding of domestic and family violence, its gendered nature, and its disproportionate impact upon women and children
- Understanding of how to safely work with men who use violence, in a way that avoids inadvertent collusion
- Experience working with men impacted by domestic violence is preferred but not essential
- Ability to conduct risk assessments, identify short term needs to ensure client, child and family safety
- Ability to effectively engage with clients in stressful situations, other service providers, lawyers and court employees

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND A LINK TO APPLY, SEE OUR WEB AD ON THE KOORI MAIL WEBSITE UNDER JOBS & GENERAL WEB ADS



For all your advertising needs

email:
advertising@koorimail.com



Business Support Advisor (Business Coach)

Yarpa Hub Business Coach (identified)



Are you an experienced Business Coach looking to work for an organisation that supports your career development in a dynamic and purpose driven environment?

The Yarpa Hub provides a range of business support services to First Nations businesses in NSW to assist with the establishment, growth, and sustainability of their ventures.

As a Business Support Advisor (Business Coach) for the Yarpa Hub, you will support our members by providing one on one business advice, information, support, coaching and mentoring. Along with training and development workshops and networking opportunities that create pathways to success.

We encourage applications from First Nations people with a strong motivation to contribute to economic prosperity for our people and communities.

What would my day look like?

- Contribute to the success of the First Nations business sector through the delivery of tailored business information, support, and advice.
- Build relationships with clients to develop understanding of their needs for business establishment, growth, and sustainability.
- Contribute to the design and delivery of training and development workshops.
- Promote Yarpa Hub in the community through outstanding service and conduct.
- Documenting interactions in the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) database

Our ideal candidate will have:

- Knowledge of the First Nations business sector.
- Demonstrated success in securing and nurturing business relationships.
- Training and workshop facilitation experience.
- Understanding of business development processes across a broad range of industries.
- Ability to manage multiple projects and remain flexible through planning process.
- Strong attention to detail.
- Commitment to contributing to a dynamic team to deliver excellent service to our clients.

Location: Hybrid working. Liverpool office + Work from Home

Salary: \$97,000 – \$114,100 per year + 12% super

Other benefits: 9-day fortnight, Salary packaging and EAP

Excited to apply and get started?

For more information please contact:

Jessica Griffiths

Email: jgriffiths@yarpa.com.au

Ph: 0439 177 553

To Apply

https://www.seek.com.au/job/73269409



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

(Attractive Remuneration Package Negotiable)

The Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council (ELALC) is seeking applications from experienced and motivated people interested in a rewarding career undertaking a new and challenging role of Chief Executive Officer.

This position has recently been established following amendments to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, 1983 (ALRA) as amended, and provides an excellent opportunity for the successful applicant.

This position holder will provide an extensive range of assistance and support to the elected Board through the day-to-day management of the ELALC's affairs in accordance with delegated authorities; the provision of sound and accurate advice and the implementation of the Board's resolutions in a timely and appropriate manner.

The successful applicant will have demonstratable knowledge and understanding of the ALRA, the capacity to interpret and implement legislation and sound communication skills.

Organisational and management experience is essential together with an understanding of accounting practices and principles. A sound knowledge and appreciation of Aboriginal issues would also be required.

All applicants must obtain a copy of the recruitment package containing the position description and selection criteria and address the selection criteria for their application to be considered.

For a recruitment package contact the Contact Christine Hbous by email: careers@edenlalc.org.au

- All applications are to be forwarded to careers@edenlalc.org.au.
- Applications close 5pm Monday 19th February 2024

Aboriginal people are strongly encouraged to apply.



GILGANDRA LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL (GIL LALC)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
(Remuneration Package Negotiable)

30 hour week-Monday to Friday

The Gilgandra Local Aboriginal Land Council (GLALC) is seeking applications from experienced and motivated people interested in a rewarding career undertaking the challenging role of full-time Chief Executive Officer.

This position holder will provide an extensive range of assistance and support to the elected Board through the day-to-day management of the Gilgandra LALC's affairs in accordance with delegated authorities; the provision of sound and accurate advice and the implementation of the Board's resolutions in a timely and appropriate manner.

The successful applicant will have demonstratable knowledge and understanding of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALRA) (or the ability to rapidly acquire), the capacity to interpret and implement legislation and sound communication skills. Organizational and management experience is essential together with an understanding of accounting practices and principles. A sound knowledge and appreciation of Aboriginal issues would also be required.

All applicants must obtain a copy of the recruitment package containing the Position Description and selection criteria and address the selection criteria for their application to be considered. For a recruitment package contact the Administration Officer Sally Carr, by email: admin@gillalc.com or on (02) 6847 1477.

Applications can be forwarded to admin@gillalc.com or marked "Confidential" and posted to:

The CEO Recruitment Panel
Gilgandra Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 163
GILGANDRA NSW 2827
Applications close DATE
COB 14TH February 2024

Aboriginal people are encouraged to apply.



Careers with
Queensland Health

Health Worker - Generalist (Identified)

Townsville

Salary: \$63,921 - \$67,198

The Townsville Hospital and Health Service vision is world-class healthcare for northern Queensland.

Our purpose is `great care every day`.

We are planning and innovating for the future, advancing healthcare through impactful research, training tomorrow's health sector workforce.

As an employer we are seeking to attract and retain a diverse and skilled workforce and we are committed to HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF OUR PEOPLE.

Employment Term

Permanent full-time / commencing ASAP

About your opportunity

As a member of the Cultural Assessment & Liaison Team (CALT), Adult Program Area you will participate in and contribute to the delivery of a culturally sensitive and appropriate mental health care service to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients who access the Kirwan Community Care Team.

Under s25 of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*, there is a genuine occupational requirement for the incumbent to be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander to work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Role Requirements

- This position requires the possession of a Certificate III in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care.
- Proof of qualification and registration or membership (if applicable) with the appropriate registration authority or association.
- Drivers Licence: This position requires the incumbent to operate a class C motor vehicle and an appropriate license endorsement to operate this vehicle is required.
- This is a Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) risk role: Hepatitis A/B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, and Pertussis.

For additional information regarding the responsibilities and/or other requirements for this position please refer to the role description.

Generous remuneration package value up to \$76,671 p.a. comprising and a salary range of \$63,921 to \$67,198 p.a. (HW3)

Benefits of working for Townsville HHS

- Remuneration - Competitive packages with salary packaging options available.
- Superannuation - Up to 12.75% employer contribution.
- Annual leave loading - 17.5%.
- Employee assistance and peer support programs - Supporting our staff through difficult times.
- Attractive salary sacrificing options
- Parental leave and flexible working arrangements
- Employee assistance and staff wellness programs
- Supportive and inclusive workplace environment

Other employment benefits may include: professional development, salary sacrificing options, shift and locality allowances, employee wellness and assistance programs, and access to corporate discounts.

Why make the change?

Townsville is one of the main gateways to the Great Barrier Reef, with the natural wonders of Magnetic Island a short boat ride away.

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.

Unsolicited resumes from recruitment agencies will not be accepted.

Interested..?

Further information

We are committed to building inclusive cultures in the Queensland public sector that respect and promote human rights and diversity.

Contact: Sally Gela on 07 4433 9480.

Apply ONLINE: <https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-TV540440>

Job Ad Reference: TV540440

Applications close: Tuesday, 13 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.



Queensland
Government

Notice of intention to consult with and seek the consent of Yirendali
Aboriginal Corporation ICN8398 to enter into two Shared Benefit
Agreements and CHMA's

James Hill, Martina Jacobs and Jeffrey Lammermoor, on behalf of the Yirendali Aboriginal Corporation (ICN: 8398) (Yirendali AC), are proposing to enter into four agreements. These are:

- a Shared Benefits Agreement and Cultural Heritage Management Agreement with Wongalee Renewable Energy Farm Pty Ltd in relation to Wongalee Wind Farm; and
- a Shared Benefits Agreement and Cultural Heritage Management Agreement with Prairie Renewable Energy Farm Pty Ltd in relation to Prairie Wind Farm.

Both Wind Farms are shown on the map below.

Yirendali Consultation

The Yirendali AC seek to consult with and seek the consent of the Yirendali People to enter into the Agreements. Yirendali People are the members of the traditional owner group comprised of Yirendali persons, being persons descended from the following Apical Ancestors:

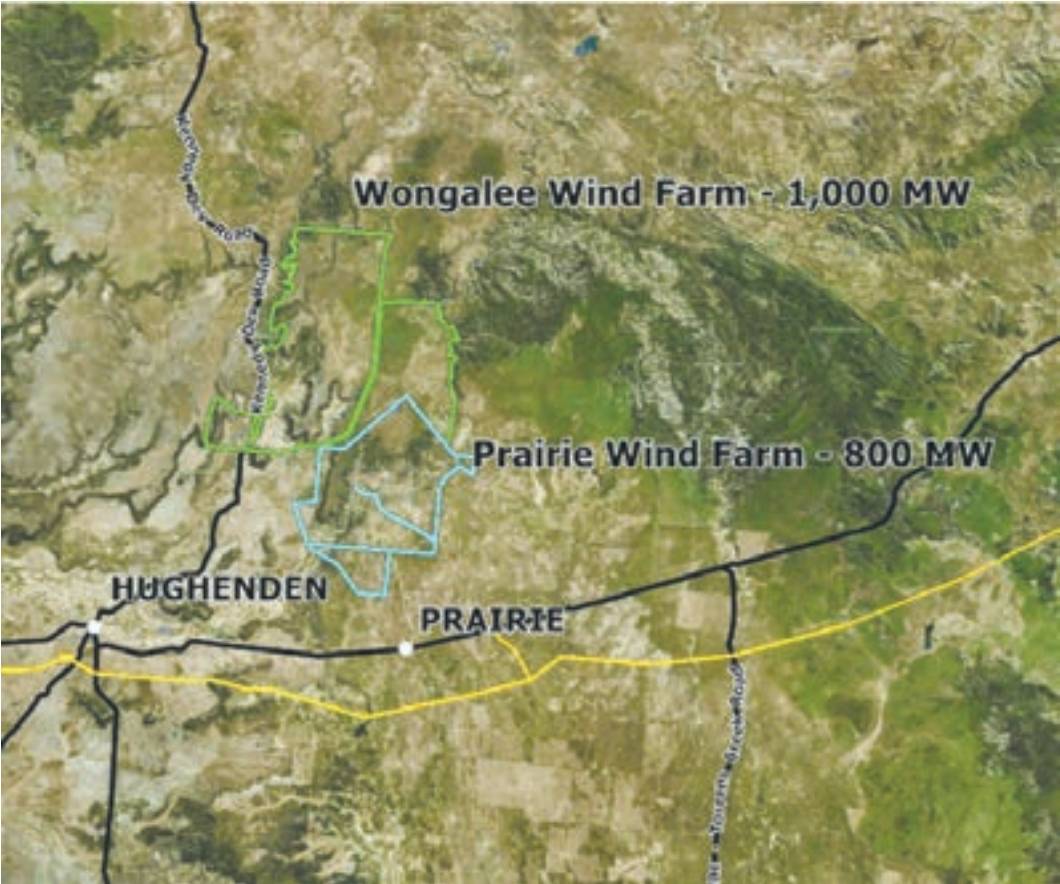
- b) Henry Major Luco;
- c) Phillip and Ida Lammermoor;
- d) Polly and Kiara (Kyra) (Kara) Christison;
- e) Maggie Chermiside; or
- f) the Hill family.

These persons are invited to attend the meeting as set out below:

Friday, 23 February 2024 10:00AM Mercure Inn Townsville
166 – 194 Woolcock Street, Townsville QLD 4812

Videoconference facilities will be available for those unable to attend in person. Please contact yirendaliac@gmail.com for further details.

There will be no travel assistance offered however light refreshments will be provided at the meeting.



Applications are now open for the Wildlife and Small Institutions Animal Ethics Committee membership

The Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action is seeking expressions of interest for a chairperson and up to nine Category A to D members, for appointment up to a period of three years.

WSIAEC provides animal ethics committee services for small institutions or organisations unable to maintain a viable animal ethics committee.

The primary responsibility of the WSIAEC is to ensure that all use and care of animals for scientific purposes by eligible institutions is ethically acceptable and conducted in accordance with the Australian Code and relevant Victorian legislation.

Applications are encouraged from people of all ages, Aboriginal people, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and from lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, gender diverse, intersex, and queer people, and those aged 25 years old or less.

For more information on the selection criteria and how to apply, please visit boards.vic.gov.au and search for 'Wildlife and Small Institutions Animal Ethics Committee'.

Applications close on 11 February 2024

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL DISTRICTS BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

Notice issued pursuant to section 85(1) of the Constitution Act 1934

Pursuant to section 82(1) of the Constitution Act 1934 the South Australian Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission ("the Commission") is about to commence proceedings for the purpose of an electoral redistribution of South Australia into House of Assembly electoral districts.

What is the basis of the redistribution?

Whenever an electoral redistribution is made, the number of electors in each electoral district must not vary from the electoral quota by more than 10 per cent. The electoral quota is obtained by dividing the total number of electors for the House of Assembly as at a specified date, being a date not earlier than six months before the date of the Commission's order, by the number of electoral districts.

What is the task of the Commission?

In making an electoral redistribution, the Commission is required to:

- have regard, as far as practicable, to-
 - a) the desirability of making the electoral redistribution so as to reflect communities of interest of an economic, social, regional or other kind;
 - b) the population of each proposed electoral district;
 - c) the topography of areas within which new electoral boundaries will be drawn;
 - d) the feasibility of communication between electors affected by the redistribution and their parliamentary representative in the House of Assembly;
 - e) the nature of substantial demographic changes that the Commission considers likely to take place in proposed electoral districts between the conclusion of its present proceedings and the date of expiry of the present term of the House of Assembly.

The Commission is also authorised to have regard to any other matter it thinks relevant.

Can you make a submission?

The Commission invites representations from any person in relation to the proposed electoral redistribution.

Any persons wishing to make representations to the Commission regarding the proposed electoral redistribution may do so in writing, and deliver the representation either personally or by post to the Secretary of the Commission, by 5:00pm on Friday 19 April 2024.

When and where will the hearings take place?

The Commission will conduct a preliminary hearing as to demographic data which will commence at 10:00am on Tuesday, 6 February 2024 in the Supreme Court Building, 1 Gouger Street, Adelaide.

Please refer to our website edbc.sa.gov.au for more information and details of the Commission.

The Secretary
Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission
Level 6, 60 Light Square
Adelaide SA 5000

Postal address Email
GPO Box 646 edbc.secretary@sa.gov.au
Adelaide SA 5001



NOTICE OF AUTHORISATION MEETINGS OF BIGAMBUL PEOPLE

The Bigambul People are the descendants of the following people:

- (a) Nellie Yumbeina
- (b) Queen Susan of Welltown
- (c) Jack Noble
- (d) Sally Murray
- (e) Susan, Mother of Duncan Daniels
- (f) Jack and James Armstrong

The purposes of the meetings are:

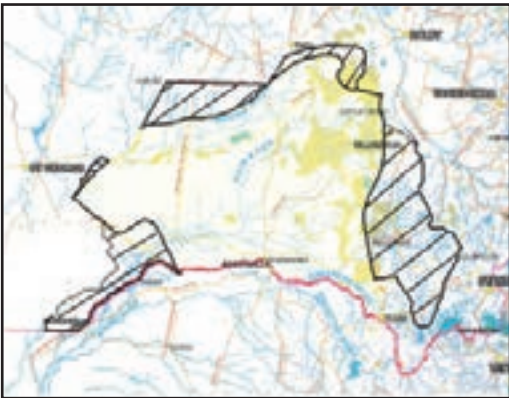
1- Authorisation of New Native Title Determination Applications

At the meeting two new native title claims will be authorised and applicants for the claims will be appointed.

The first applies to the Bigambul Property at Turallin (Lot 135 on CP DY1033) which is held on trust by the PBC for the Bigambul People. The location and area of the claim is depicted in the hatched area on the map below.



The second claim is intended to cover the traditional country of the Bigambul People beyond the determination area. Although authorisation of the Bigambul People is sought for the lodgement of claims for the whole hatched area in the map, it is not necessarily intended to cover all of this area in the one claim.



2 - Compensation for impairment and extinguishment of Bigambul Native Title

At the meeting the matter of pursuing compensation from the State of Queensland for impairment and extinguishment of Bigambul Native Title will be discussed and the Bigambul People will be asked to:

1. Authorise the PBC to negotiate with the State of Queensland (the State) relating to an ILUA providing for compensation for the impairment and extinguishment of native title over their traditional lands.
2. Authorise the PBC to file a further claim seeking compensation for extinguishment and impairment over any part of their traditional lands (including within the external boundaries of the existing determination area and any new Bigambul Native Title Claim) in the Federal Court should it believe such action is necessary or desirable.
3. Direct the PBC to seek the approval of the Bigambul People for any offer by the State to settle the entitlement of Bigambul People to compensation for the impairment and extinguishment of Native Title on their traditional lands (including any proposal for an ILUA).

TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETINGS

Each member of the Bigambul People are invited to attend one of the following Native Title Consultation and Consent Meetings (at their preferred location) below:

- 26 February 2024 Cherbourg – Community Hall, 22 Barambah Avenue, Cherbourg, QLD 4605
- 27 February 2024 Brisbane – Brisbane International Virginia, Cnr Sandgate Rd &, Zillmere Rd, Boondall QLD 4034
- 29 February 2024 Toowoomba – Community Room at Toowoomba Library, 155 Herries St, QLD 4350
- 1 March 2024 Goondiwindi – Gateway to Training, 15-21 Russell St, Goondiwindi, QLD 4390

The Meetings will commence after the authorisation meeting for the Bigambul QGC ILUA. It is anticipated that this will not be before 1.00pm on the day of the meeting.

REGISTRATION FOR MEETINGS

Please register your attendance by contacting Australian Heritage Specialists on 07 3221 0000 or by email to bigambul@ahspecialists.com.au on or before 22 February 2024 stating your name, address, email, phone number and the Bigambul apical ancestor from which you are descended.

Ask your mob,
your way,



STRONGER
TOGETHER

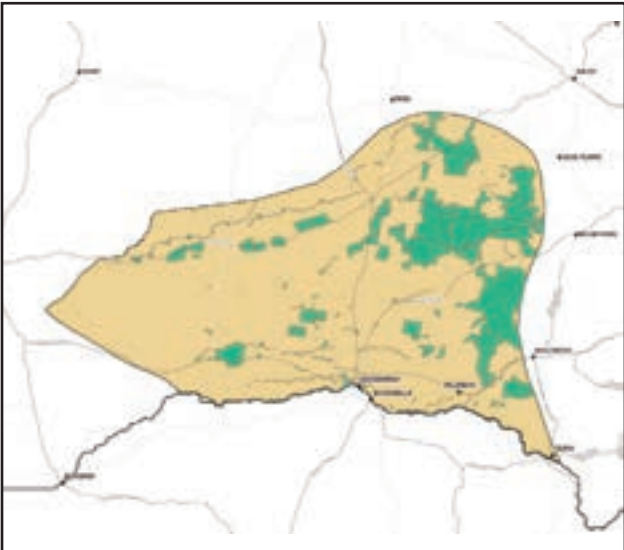
ruok.org.au/strongertogether

NOTICE OF NATIVE TITLE CONSULTATION AND CONSENT MEETINGS
BIGAMBUL NATIVE TITLE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC (ICN 8479)

The Bigambul Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (BNTAC) invites all **Bigambul People** to attend a meeting of the common law native title holders in the area of the Bigambul determinations (Bigambul People Part A QCD2016/012 and Bigambul People Part B QCD2017/003) (**Bigambul People NT Determinations**) and to consult with and obtain their consent to a proposed **native title decision**.

The **native title decision** is to make an Indigenous land use agreement (ILUA) between BNTAC and QGC Pty Limited ACN 089 642 553 (QGC). The proposed ILUA is intended to supplement the existing ILUA entered into between the Bigambul People and QGC which was registered on 12 January 2012 (QI2010/024) and subsequently assigned to BNTAC (**Original ILUA**). The ILUA is proposed to ratify and re-affirm the consents given under the Original ILUA, in return for a revised benefits package for the Bigambul People.

The ILUA applies to the area of the Bigambul People NT Determinations.



BNTAC will hold a series of meetings in various locations to conduct broad and meaningful consultation with the Bigambul People.

This notice invites each member of the Bigambul People to attend one of the following Native Title Consultation and Consent Meetings (at their preferred location) below:

26 February 2024 Cherbourg – Community Hall, 22 Barambah Avenue, Cherbourg, QLD 4605

27 February 2024 Brisbane – Brisbane International Virginia, Cnr Sandgate Rd &, Zillmere Rd, Boondall QLD 4034

29 February 2024 Toowoomba – Community Room at Toowoomba Library, 155 Herries St, QLD 4350

1 March 2024 Goondiwindi – Gateway to Training, 15-21 Russell St, Goondiwindi, QLD 4390

For each meeting, confirmation of attendance will open at 9.30am and the meeting will start at 10.30am sharp. The Bigambul People are the biological descendants of the following people:

- (a) Nellie Yumbeina
- (b) Queen Susan of Welltown
- (c) Jack Noble
- (d) Sally Murray
- (e) Susan, Mother of Duncan Daniels
- (f) Jack and James Armstrong

To attend a meeting you must register your attendance by 5pm 22 February 2024. To do so, please contact Australian Heritage Specialists on 07 3221 0000 or by email to bigambul@ahspecialists.com.au

A \$70.00 cash reimbursement will be given to each individual Bigambul attendee to assist with travel costs. This will be provided on the day, at the attended Meeting.



Expressions of Interest (EOI)

The NSW Department of Primary Industries Fisheries is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from Gomeroi people to join a research project called Culture, Fish and Flows.

The EOI process aims to attract Gomeroi people with cultural knowledge and experience in caring for Country to work with Fisheries to answer this research questions:

What are Gomeroi science, knowledge, values, experience and perspectives about river flow and native fish ecology, and how do we include these elements within the Fish and Flows Management Framework?

To find out more about this project, you can meet Fisheries for a 30-minute online information session in February 2024.

To register please contact the NSW Department of Primary Industries Fisheries on Stephanie.McCaffrey@dpi.nsw.gov.au



NOTICE
EASTERN MAAR PEOPLES (VID21/2019) NATIVE TITLE AUTHORISATION MEETING

11:30am (following the Corporation's AGM), **Friday 16 February 2024**, Harris Street Reserve, Warrnambool



Background

The Eastern Maar Peoples have made a claimant application to the Federal Court of Australia seeking recognition of their native title rights and interests under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) ('NTA'). The claim is called *Janice Austin & Ors on behalf of the Eastern Maar Peoples* (VID21/2019) ('Native Title Claim'). On 28 March 2023 the Federal Court of Australia recognised the Eastern Maar peoples native title over a large part of the Native Title Claim area. This area is outlined in purple in the below map. The Federal Court is expected to recognise the Eastern Maar peoples native title over the areas outlined in blue and marked as Areas 1, 2 & 3 in the below map. The area to the west of the Hopkins River to the Shaw River ('Area C'), which is included but not marked in the below map, is also part of the Native Title Claim area.

This is an authorisation meeting to consider authorising the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation ('the Corporation') to make native title decisions about land and waters which fall within any and all current and future Eastern Maar Traditional Owner Group's Native Title Determination Areas and in relation to any other area of Eastern Maar Country.

An update will also be provided on other matters concerning the Native Title Claim, as outlined further below.

The Corporation has called its Annual General Meeting ('AGM') for the same date and location. The AGM will take place before this Authorisation Meeting.

THIS NOTICE INVITES all members of the native title claim group as described below to attend the native title Authorisation Meeting at the date, time and location below.

The native title claim group is the Eastern Maar peoples, being those descendants, including by adoption, of the following persons:

- 1. King of Port Fairy and Eliza
- 2. Old Jack (father of John Dawson)
- 3. Charlie and Alice (parents of Albert Austin)
- 4. Samuel Robinson
- 5. Mary Caramut
- 6. Lizzie (mother of Frank Clarke)
- 7. Robert and Lucy (parents of Alice Dixon)
- 8. Barney Minimalk
- 9. Nellie Whiturboin
- 10. Louisa (mother of Williams Rawlings)
- 11. Richard Sharp

Who:

- (i) either identify as being from the eastern domain of the Maar speaking people and are recognised as being from the eastern domain by the Eastern Maar people; or
- (ii) otherwise identify as Maar, Gunditjmarra, Tjap Wurrung, Peek Whurrung, Keeray Wooroong (Kirrae Whurrung), Kuurn Kopan Noot, Yarro Waetch (Tooram Tribe), Djargurd Wurrung, Gulidjan and/or Gadubanud and are recognised as being from the eastern domain by the Eastern Maar people.

IMPORTANT

There is a preference that people attend the Authorisation Meeting in person. Access via videoconference will be provided to those that cannot attend on the day. To attend online please contact Community Liaison Officer Charmaine Singleton on 0407 532 887 or charmaine.singleton@fnlrs.com.au by COB 14 February 2023. Materials and videoconferencing links will be sent ahead of the session by Charmaine.

AUTHORISATION MEETING

WHEN: Friday 16 February 2024

WHERE: Harris Street Reserve, Warrnambool

TIME: 11:30am (following the Corporation's AGM)

The purpose of the Authorisation Meeting is to:

1. Consider AUTHORISING the Corporation to make native title decisions about land and waters which fall within any and all current and future Eastern Maar Traditional Owner Group's Native Title Determination areas and in relation to any other area of Eastern Maar Country, by:
 - a. Consulting with each family group in accordance with the process set out in the Corporation's Rule Book; or
 - b. For other native title decisions, including arbitration by the National Native Title Tribunal, by giving standing authorisation to the Corporation to make these decisions without further consultation with Eastern Maar native title holders; or
 - c. In accordance with a different process as agreed by the common law holders (Eastern Maar Peoples) at the meeting.

An update will also be provided on the following matters in the Native Title Claim:

1. The Area C trial.
2. The consent determination of native title over Areas D and E.
3. The recognition of native title over section 47C - Park Areas.

Map of Native Title Claim area



For travel and accommodation assistance, where required for you to attend this meeting, please contact Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation Administration Officer Katie Clark on **0427 271 937** or admin@easternmaar.com.au by **COB 14 February 2023**.

Curio Projects (heritage consultants), on behalf of Western Sydney University (University), are commencing community consultation with Indigenous community members and Knowledge Holders for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence (situated at Victoria Road, Rydalmere). The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be a new University building (circa 6,000m² of floor area) that will play a key role for communities in Western Sydney. The project will be a demonstration of the University’s commitment to serving and empowering its Indigenous education, employment, and research.

As a central objective, the Indigenous Centre of Excellence will provide opportunities to celebrate Indigenous cultures and connection to Country. The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will serve as an intersection for knowledge exchange, steeped in the principles of reciprocity, generosity, and respect. The vision for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence is to provide a space where people of all ages, abilities and interests can explore and learn more about Indigenous cultures. The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will transform access to cultural collections and heritage, as well as showcasing stories from Western Sydney.

As a State Significant Development (SSD), the Development Application (DA) for the Project is submitted to the Minister for Planning pursuant to Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. The project will therefore be exempt from the requirements for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) in accordance with Section 90 of the NSW Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

The purpose of consultation with Indigenous communities and Knowledge Holders is to assist Western Sydney University in the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) to support the lodgement of an SSDA and to assist the NSW Department of Planning and Environment in their consideration and determination of the SSDA.

The University has already undertaken significant consultation with Indigenous community members and the University’s Elders Advisory Board. This additional community consultation is being undertaken in order to further assist Western Sydney University’s assessment of the cultural significance of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence study area. This notification is being undertaken in accordance with Section 4.1.2 of Heritage NSW consultation guidelines.

Curio Projects invite local Indigenous community members and Knowledge Holders who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Indigenous object(s) and/or places in the location of the study area to register their interest in being involved in consultation.

Please note that any details relating to Indigenous community groups, Knowledge Holders or individuals who should be consulted with respect to this project may be provided to the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council and Heritage NSW. Registrants are welcome to request that their details are not provided to Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council and Heritage NSW. This request can be made at the time of registration, or by contacting Wayne Clark on 0405 270 711.

Please forward registrations to Curio Projects no later than 22 January 2024, via phone, email or mail to:

Curio Projects
5 Blackfriars Street, Chippendale NSW 2008
consultation@curioprojects.com.au
(02) 8014 9800

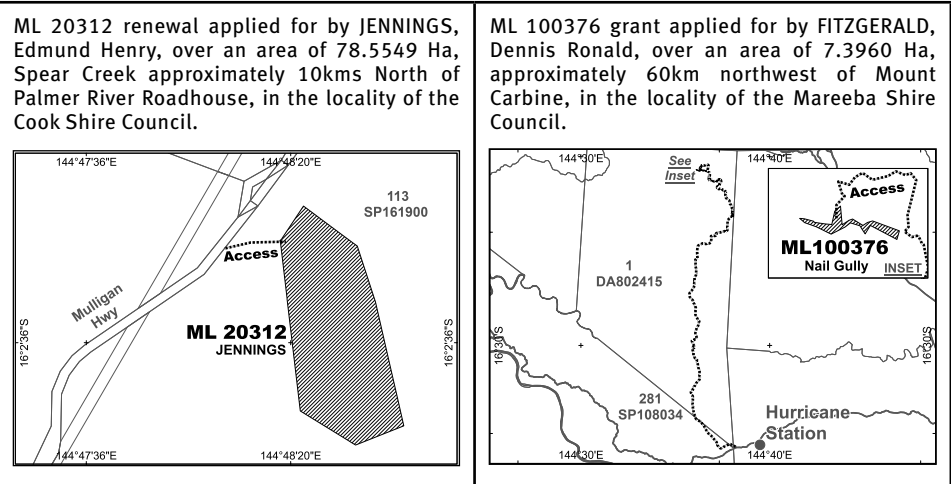
NOTICE OF PROPOSED RENEWAL AND GRANT OF MINING LEASES
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed renewal of Mining Lease (ML) 20312, and the grant of ML 100376 subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

Nature of Act(s): The renewal of the ML 20312 under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) authorises the holder to mine and carry out associated activities subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) for a term not exceeding twenty (20) years with the possibility of renewals for terms not exceeding twenty (20) years. The grant of the ML 100376 under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) authorises the holder to mine and carry out associated activities subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) for a term not exceeding ten (10) years with the possibility of renewals for terms not exceeding ten (10) years.

Name and Address of person doing Act(s): It is proposed that the renewal for ML 20312 and the grant for ML 100376 of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) by the Queensland Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

Native Title Parties: Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) any person who is a “native title party” is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed renewal of ML 20312 and grant of ML 100376. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after the Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: 1300 720 980 or Email: nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au. Enquiries in relation to the registration of a native title determination application may be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Brisbane Registry, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.





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	25/635	FORTIFY MINING PTY LTD	30BL	44.4km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 45' S: Long: 121° 55' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	30/580	FORRESTANIA RESOURCES LIMITED	13BL	55km W'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 44' S: Long: 120° 28' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3776	GREATLAND PTY LTD	168BL	249km NE'ly of Laverton	Lat: 26° 41' S: Long: 123° 42' E	LAVERTON SHIRE, WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2187	TASEX GEOLOGICAL SERVICES PTY LTD	70BL	50.8km SE'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 26° 0' S: Long: 119° 0' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2195	YERRIDA CO PTY LTD	17BL	81.3km NE'ly of Meekatharra	Lat: 26° 17' S: Long: 119° 14' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2196	YERRIDA CO PTY LTD	20BL	86.2km NW'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 26° 16' S: Long: 119° 26' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3138	GOLDFIELDS TECHNICAL SERVICES PTY LTD	6BL	111km NE'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat: 30° 0' S: Long: 118° 42' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3157	FLEET STREET HOLDINGS PTY LTD	20BL	73.7km N'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 35' S: Long: 119° 6' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6788-6789	FORTUNA RESOURCES PTY LTD	249.86HA	21.7km SW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 4' S: Long: 120° 59' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	20/2499-2501	ATKINSON, Mark Wadham	535.40HA	33.6km NE'ly of Cue	Lat: 27° 11' S: Long: 118° 5' E	CUE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	20/2502	ATKINSON, Rory Mark	172.96HA	35.6km NE'ly of Cue	Lat: 27° 10' S: Long: 118° 6' E	CUE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	20/2503	ATKINSON, Mark Wadham	118.21HA	31.1km NE'ly of Cue	Lat: 27° 12' S: Long: 118° 5' E	CUE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5705	ASKEW, Hooi Leng	64.43HA	7.9km SE'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 25' S: Long: 121° 5' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5709	MORRISON, Simon Mark	98.79HA	9.7km N'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 21' S: Long: 121° 18' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2784-2785	BLACK CAT (KAL EAST) PTY LTD	289.65HA	31km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 42' S: Long: 121° 47' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4726	SAUNDERS, Lilliane Maria	23.50HA	20.2km E'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 8' S: Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4727	RICCIARDELLO, Kenneth	112.06HA	26.2km SE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 121° 36' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2571	BORROMEI, Rino	9.77HA	41.2km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 19' S: Long: 121° 44' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY

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 exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.

Notification day: 31 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 **30 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. **31 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

DMIRS 19789



Notice Under Section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) Mining Lease Application 643 (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 a mining lease under section 63(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.

Centennial Myuna Pty Limited (ACN 101 508 981) is the applicant for Mining Lease Application 643 which, if granted would authorise the mining for coal for an initial term of up to 21 years.

Description of area that may be affected

The entire area of Mining Lease Application 643 that covers an area of about 108 hectares situated approximately 6 kilometres east southeast of the town of Awaba, in the State of NSW as shown on the diagram below.

Name and postal address of person by whom the act would be done

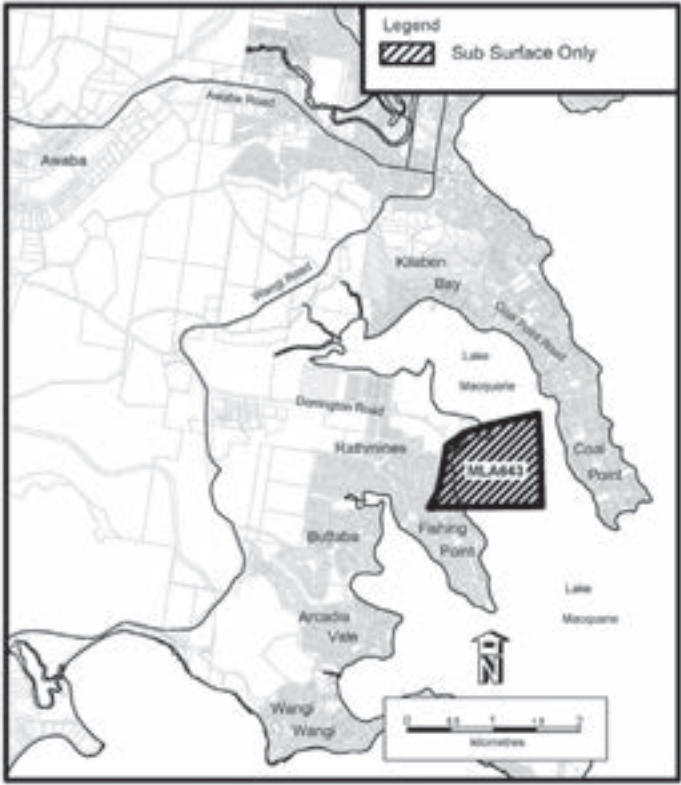
The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*, PO Box 344, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310.

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 15 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.



LP1865



Notice Under Section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) Mining Lease Application 642 (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 a mining lease under section 63(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.

Taronga Mines Pty Ltd (ACN 126 854 288) is the applicant for Mining Lease Application 642 which, if granted would authorise the mining for copper, silver and tin for an initial term of up to 21 years.

Description of area that may be affected

The entire area of Mining Lease Application 642 that covers an area of about 713 hectares situated approximately 9 kilometres northwest of the town of Emmaville, in the State of NSW as shown on the diagram below.

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 15 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.



LP1875



NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Mining Lease	15/1909	SALKANOVIC, Frederick Ferid KELEHER, Damian Peter	131.09HA	22.8km SW'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 18' S: Long: 121° 27' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Mining Lease	25/379	MONGER EXPLORATION PTY LTD	376.92HA	33.2km E'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 6' S: Long: 122° 0' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY

Nature of the act: Grant of mining leases, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of 21 years from notification of grant and a right of renewal for 21 years.

Notification day: 31 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 **30 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. **31 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.

DMIRS 19791

A conversation could change a life.

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Notice of an Authorisation Meeting of the Gomeroi People Native Title Claim Group (NSD 37/2019)



When: Monday 19 February 2024
2.00pm to 6:00pm – Meeting registration*
Tuesday 20 February 2024
8:00am to 9:00am – Meeting registration*
9:00am – Meeting opened
5:00pm – Meeting closed
Wednesday 21 February 2024
8:00am to 9:00am – Meeting registration*
9:00am – Meeting opened
5:00pm – Meeting closed

Thursday 22 February 2024
8:00am to 9:00am – Meeting registration*
9:00am – Meeting opened
5:00pm – Meeting closed
Friday 23 February 2024
8:00am to 9:00am – Meeting registration*
9:00am – Meeting opened
5:00pm – Meeting closed

*Note: To attend in person, registration will be open to Gomeroi People native title claim group members anytime throughout the meeting, but members are encouraged to register on the Monday between 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm or on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday between 8.00am and 9.00am to allow adequate time for all business to be addressed. To attend by videoconference/telephone you **must** register by Friday 16 February 2024.

Where: In person: Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre
Greg Norman Drive, Hillvue, Tamworth, NSW 2340

Remote access: Contact NTSCORP to attend by videoconference or telephone (by 16 February 2024 at the latest)

Who should attend: The meeting is open to all members of the native title claim group in the Gomeroi People native title determination application (NSD37/2019) ('Gomeroi Claim Group', 'the Claim Group' and 'Gomeroi Claim' respectively), being all the descendants of the following apical ancestors:

1. Thomas Pitt (who was born in 1838);

2. Billy Barlow (who was born in Tycannah in 1835);

3. Peter James Cutmore (who was born in Tycannah in 1849);

4. James Swan (who was born in Combadello in 1825);

5. Harriett Wyndham (who was born in Mungie Bundie in 1863);

6. William Levy (who was born in Terry Hie Hie in 1867);

7. Sally Nerang (who was born in Terry Hie Hie circa 1840);

8. Eliza Barlow (who was born in Terry Hie Hie circa 1860);

9. Kitty Dangar (who was born in Walgett in 1837);

10. William Clark (who was born in Collarenebri in 1845);

11. Murray Ippai (who was born in Collarenebri);

12. Mary Ann Ippai (who was born on the Barwon River);

13. Edward Morgan (who was born in Dungalear in 1855);

14. Nancy Morgan (who was born in Dungalear in 1861);

15. Robert Nicholls (who was born in Collarenebri in 1842);

16. Frank Mundy (who was born in Collymongle in 1872);

17. Lena Combo (who was born in Mogil Mogil in 1876);

18. Jack Thunderbolt (who was born in Walgett in 1847);

19. Betsy Yates (also known as Polly Yates and Polly Burras) (who was born on the Barwon River circa 1860);

20. Jenny (who was born in Walgett circa 1840);

21. Dick Silk (who was born in Walgett);

22. Fred Parker (who was born in Gingie in 1864);

23. Murray Rook (who was born in Collarenebri in 1865);

24. Ethel Tinker (who was born in Mercadool circa 1878);

25. Emily McPherson (who was born in Collarenebri in 1892);

26. Billy Whitford (who was born in 1828);

27. King Robert Cobbler (who was born in Mogil Mogil in 1855);

28. Billy Wightman (who was born in Kunopia in 1813);

29. John McGrady (who was born in Moree in 1853);

30. William Dennison (who was born in Kunopia in 1843);

31. Charlie Dennison (who was born circa 1846-1866);

32. Alice Dennison (who was born in Moree circa 1863 - 1873);

33. Lucy Long (who was born in Boomi circa 1850);

34. Minnie Lance (who was born in Boomi circa 1868);

35. Harry Denham;

36. Charles Cubby (who was born on the Boomi River);

37. Sarah Wilson (also known as Sarah Murphy and Sarah Witman) (who was born in Kunopia in 1868);

38. Reuben Bartman (who was born in Boomi in 1876);

39. Billy Dunn (who was born in Mungindi);

40. William Edwards (who was born in Thallon);

41. Queen Susan (who was born in Welltown);

42. Phoebe Munday-Williams (who was born in Mungindi in 1864);

43. George Bennett (who was born in Mungindi in 1873);

44. Amelia Bell (also known as Amelia Brown) (who was born in Bingara in 1862);

45. William Snow (who was born in Tamworth or Moonbi in 1855);

46. Francis Snow (who was born in Tamworth in 1858);

47. Matilda Wyndham (who was born in Bingara in 1842);

48. Thomas Duke (who was born in Bingara in 1847);

49. Teasie Griffen (also known as Jessie Griffen and Ellen Griffen) (who was born in Barraba in 1859);

50. Mary Anne Hammond (who was born in Tamworth in 1836);

51. Elizabeth Guest (also known as Eliza Gillan) (who was born in Liverpool Plains in 1840);

52. Jane Maloney (who was born in Walhallow in 1838);

53. Mary Ann Healy (who was born in Murrurundi in 1829);

54. Thomas Taylor (who was born in Coolah in 1836);

55. Elizabeth Loder (also known as Elizabeth Bates) (who was born in Murrurundi in 1843);

56. Sarah Gatehouse (who was born in Aberdeen in 1835);

57. William Duncomb (who was born in Muswellbrook circa 1830);

58. John Morris Tighe (who was born in 1852);

59. Susan Bishop-Young (also known as Susan Dangar) (who was born in Warialda);

60. Sarah Murphy (who was born in 1846);

61. Thomas French (who was born in Scone in 1825);

62. John Thomas Bates (who was born on the Mooki River in 1840);

63. Alexander Nean (who was born in Liverpool Plains in 1843);

64. David Johnson (who was born in Cassilis circa 1838-1844);

65. Mary Orr (also known as Nellie Orr) (who was born in Garrawilla in 1853);

66. Julia Campbell (who was born on the Castlereagh River circa 1833-1834);

67. Annie Jendis (who was born in Burbagate in 1845);

68. Harriet Munro (who was born in Gunnedah in 1867);

69. Alice Eliza Natty (who was born on the Namoi River near Boggabri in 1857);

70. James Tighe (who was born in Coonabarabran in 1842);
71. William Tighe (who was born in Toorawandi in 1844);

72. Patrick Tighe (who was born in Coonabarabran in 1852);

73. Jane Tighe (who was born in 1864);

74. Mary Jane Griffin (also known as 'Old Ibidah');

75. Susan Slater (who was born in Coonabarabran in 1839);

76. Thomas Leslie (who was born in Kirban circa 1850-1854);

77. James Leslie (who was born in Armatree in 1853);

78. Ellen Fuller (who was born in Rockgidgiel in 1854);

79. Sarah Hughes (who was born in Coonabarabran circa 1834-1859);

80. James Cole (who was born in 1845);

81. Mary Ann Hall (who was born on the Castlereagh River in 1840);

82. Samuel Bruce Smith (who was born in Tambar Springs circa 1860 – 1863);

83. Elizabeth Ann Smith (who was born in Mullaley in 1866);

84. William Green (also known as William Edwards) (who was born in Kings Plains near Inverell in 1853);

85. Angus Landsborough (who was born in Newstead in 1867);

86. Patrick Landsborough (who was born in Newstead in 1872);

87. Alec Brown (who was born in Bundarra in 1873);

88. Margaret King (who was born in Gummin Gummin near Gulargambone circa 1854-1858);

89. William James King (who was born in Coonabarabran circa 1851-1853);

90. Florence May Blackman (also known as Louisa Florima Blackman) (who was born in Coonamble in 1846);

91. Euphemia Blackman (who was born on the Castlereagh River in 1851);

92. Henry Arthur Yates (who was born in Coonamble in 1860);

93. Betsy Yates (who was born in Wingadee in 1854);

94. Annie Day (who was born in Bullarora Station near Coonamble circa 1871-1876);

95. Army Toomey (who was born in Wingadee near Coonamble in 1886);

96. Maria Clare Hall (who was born in Gulargambone circa 1830-1833);

97. Thomas Carney (who was born in Tonderburine in 1852);

98. Jim Duncan (who was born in Coonamble in 1854);

99. Thomas Reid (who was born in Cuttabri in 1840);

100. Thomas John Blacklock (who was born in Terembone in 1851);

101. Thomas Dangar (who was born in Drilldool in 1857);

102. Harry Doolan (who was born in Pilliga in 1855);

103. George Green (who was born in 1851);

104. Lucy Barr (who was born in Boggabri in 1851);

105. Peggy Reid (who was born in Cuttabri in 1836);

106. Julia Jane Saunders (who was born in Wee Waa in 1845);

107. William Newman (who was born in Cuttabri in 1807);

108. Emma Dingwell (who was born in Bograh Station near Narrabri in 1864);

109. Kate Purser (who was born in Narrabri in 1863);

110. Mary Ann Lucas (who was born in Millie in 1840);

111. Frank Maybury (who was born in Killarney Station near Narrabri circa 1840);

112. Charlotte Hagan (also known as Charlotte Keegan) (who was born in Narrabri circa 1850-1870);

113. Nellie Combo (who was born in Wallah Station near Narrabri in 1850) and

114. Mary Peake (who was born in Narrabri in 1848)

Descendants include persons who are descendants by adoption according to traditional law and custom.

Background

The area that is the subject of the Gomeroi Claim is bounded by the NSW/QLD state border in the north, the western slopes of the New England Tableland in the east, the Hunter and Goulburn Rivers in the south and the Castlereagh River in the west. The Applicant in the Gomeroi Claim (**Gomeroi Applicant**) comprises the following persons:

1. Sidney Chatfield;

2. Peter White;

3. Malcolm Talbot;

4. Richard Green;

5. Clayton Simpson-Pitt;

6. Chris McGrady;

7. Madeline McGrady;

8. Allan Tighe;

9. Dorothy Tighe;

10. Ian Brown;

11. Lee-Ann Pearl Davern;

12. Noeline Sherill 'Sheryl' Nicholls;
13. Shannon Draper;

14. Christine Porter;

15. Susan Smith;

16. Elaine Binge;

17. Anthony Munro;

18. Leslie 'Jacko' Woodbridge (passed away); and

19. Don Murray (passed away)

The Gomeroi Applicant was authorised to act on behalf of the Gomeroi Claim Group at a Gomeroi Claim Group meeting held on 27 – 30 June 2022.

Authorisation of New Applicant

Sadly, in late 2023, Uncle Leslie 'Jacko' Woodbridge and Uncle Don Murray passed away. Accordingly, at this Gomeroi Claim Group meeting, the Gomeroi Claim Group will be asked to consider and make decisions to authorise a new Applicant. This could involve:

i. reauthorising the 17 remaining members of the current Applicant to be the Applicant; or

ii. nominating and confirming 2 people to replace Uncle Leslie 'Jacko' Woodbridge and Uncle Don Murray and reauthorising the 17 remaining members of the current Applicant as well as the 2 additional people to be the Applicant; or

iii. any new composition of Gomeroi Claim Group members as the Gomeroi Claim Group decides.

Agenda for the meeting

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country;

2. Update on developments in relation to the Gomeroi People's native title determination application and related future acts;

3. Confirm the process of decision-making for the purposes of authorising the making of the native title determination application and dealing with matters arising in relation to it, including authorising a New Applicant;

4. Expert Anthropological Report of Jitendra Kumarage
- (a) Presentation by Expert Anthropologist Jitendra Kumarage of the key findings of his Anthropological Report prepared for the Gomeroi Claim (**Anthropological Report**);

(b) Discussion and information in relation to the process undertaken with the State of NSW in relation to establishing that there is a credible basis for the recognition of native title by consent in the area subject to the Gomeroi Claim;

(c) The Gomeroi Claim Group will be asked to consider and make decisions about authorising the Applicant to provide the Anthropological Report to the State of NSW on a confidential and without prejudice basis;

(d) The Gomeroi Claim Group will be asked to consider and make decisions about the next steps the Applicant should take to address the matters arising from the Anthropological Report and in support of having native title recognised by consent.
5. Authorisation of new Applicant

(a) Discussion and making decisions on whether the Gomeroi Claim Group wishes to reauthorise the 17 remaining members of the current Applicant to be the Applicant; or nominate and confirm 2 people to replace Uncle Leslie 'Jacko' Woodbridge and Uncle Don Murray and reauthorise the 17 remaining members of the current Applicant as well as the 2 additional people to be the Applicant; or nominate any new composition of Gomeroi Claim Group members to be authorised as the Applicant.

(b) The Gomeroi Claim Group will consider resolutions and make decisions to authorise a new Applicant. The Gomeroi Claim Group will be asked to authorise the new Applicant to make an application to the Federal Court for an order under section 66B of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) that the new Applicant replace the current Applicant.

(c) The Gomeroi Claim Group will consider resolutions and make decisions about placing conditions on the powers of the Applicant including in relation to the Applicant's ability to enter into commercial and other agreements which may affect the Gomeroi Claim Group's native title rights and interests.

(d) The Gomeroi Claim Group will be asked to consider and make decisions about whether to give instructions to the Applicant about the processes it must undertake in making its decisions. For example, whether or not the Applicant can make decisions by majority, and whether the Applicant can nominate certain members of the Applicant to sign documents on behalf of the Applicant.

Continued next page

Magun win Cairns' KO event

By CHRISTINE HOWES



IN seasonally hot and humid conditions, six teams played it out for the first Survival Day Knockout Reconciliation Carnival in Cairns last weekend.

Organiser and founder Noel Underwood said there would have been more than 40 teams were it not for two cyclones in the far north, one of them

the night before, knocking out several Townsville and Palm Island teams from joining the comp, after already losing those from further north, thanks to TC Jasper before Christmas.

Underwood and his committee decided to go ahead with the six teams they had in a round-robin format, in what was a well-organised and well-supported two days of footy action.

"We don't celebrate the day, because it's an

important day for us," he said.

"But bringing all of our Mob together in one place, celebrating what we achieve as a whole, Indigenous people, I think that's the most important thing, and being happy."

For the record, Magun Warriors from the Torres Strait won a difficult and hard-fought grand final against

popular Yarrabah side Ooombunghi Bulldogs, 26-16.

● See our 13 February edition for more



Magun Warriors and their army of fans celebrate winning the first Survival Day Knockout Reconciliation Carnival in Cairns. Picture: Christine Howes

from previous page

6. Consideration of an Options Paper concerning the establishment of a Gomeri Corporation and application of benefits received under Resource Agreements

At this Gomeri Claim Group Meeting, the Gomeri Claim Group will consider and discuss an Options Paper in relation to the establishment of a Gomeri Corporation to act as the Nominated Entity for various agreements, to implement those agreements and to advocate for and advance measures for the benefit of Gomeri People.

This Gomeri Claim Group meeting **is not** a meeting to establish a Gomeri Corporation. This Gomeri Claim Group meeting will provide the opportunity for the Gomeri Claim Group to consider the Options Paper including how benefits under resource agreements can be received and applied, to receive advice and information, and to discuss and provide feedback on the Options Paper to inform the next steps in relation to the process of establishing a Gomeri Corporation and the receipt and application of benefits under resource agreements.

7. Aboriginal Water Entitlements Program

In 2018, the Commonwealth Government announced \$40 million in funding to support Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) First Nations to invest in water entitlements for cultural and economic purposes. In July 2022, the Minister for the Environment and Water, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, recommitted the Commonwealth Government to deliver the Aboriginal Water Entitlements Program (AWEP). In December 2023, the Commonwealth Government announced an increase in the program's funding from \$40 million to \$100 million.

In 2023 the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) commenced consulting about the AWEP investment.

At this Gomeri Claim Group Meeting, the Gomeri Claim Group will receive information in relation to the AWEP and consider and make decisions in relation to any instructions the Gomeri Claim Group wish to give to the Gomeri Applicant in relation to the position to be taken on the AWEP.

8. Section 10 applications under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cth)

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (ATSHP Act) is Commonwealth legislation that can be used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to make applications to protect places and objects from injury or desecration. The places or objects in question must be of particular significance in accordance with Aboriginal tradition.

Section 10 of the ATSHP Act enables the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment to make a long term declaration for the protection and preservation of significant Aboriginal areas and objects from injury or desecration.

At this Gomeri Claim Group Meeting, the Gomeri Claim Group will receive information in relation to the processes under the ATSHP Act and consider and make decisions in relation to any instructions the Gomeri Claim Group wish to give to the Gomeri Applicant in relation to applications under the ATSHP Act in the Gomeri People native title application area.

9. Other business

Any other matters, as determined by members of the Gomeri Claim Group.

Attending the Meeting

The Gomeri Claim Group meeting will be held in-person, and there will also be the



option to participate remotely by telephone or videoconference.

Attending in person

If you wish to attend the Gomeri Claim Group meeting in person, please contact NTSCORP by no later than **Monday 12 February 2024**, so that all relevant arrangements can be made.

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided at the venue.

For those attending the Gomeri Claim Group meeting in person, mileage assistance and accommodation may be available in accordance with NTSCORP's meeting assistance policies, as reasonably adjusted to account for COVID-19 related variations. If you require accommodation **you will need to contact NTSCORP by telephone or send an email to CFC@ntscorp.com.au with confirmed details, by no later than Monday 12 February 2024.**

Please note if you do not contact NTSCORP by **Monday 12 February 2024** to confirm your request for mileage and accommodation assistance, NTSCORP cannot guarantee we will be able to assist with travel and accommodation arrangements — although you would still be more than welcome to attend the meeting.

Attending remotely

You may also choose to attend the Gomeri Claim Group meeting by videoconference or telephone. You will still be able to listen, ask questions, and vote on resolutions if you attend remotely.

In order to attend the Gomeri Claim Group meeting by videoconference or telephone, members must:

1. **REGISTER** - Call or email NTSCORP to register your attendance.

Please contact NTSCORP as soon as possible by calling the below number or sending an email to the address below. Registration to attend remotely will close at **5pm on Friday 16 February 2024.**

2. **MEETING ACCESS** - Once you have registered, we will send out details of how to attend the meeting by videoconference or telephone. Please contact NTSCORP by telephone to discuss.

NTSCORP's contact details:

Freecall 1800 111 844 or (02) 9310 3188
Post: P.O. Box 2105, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012
Email: CFC@ntscorp.com.au

Should you have any queries or simply require further information, please do not hesitate to contact NTSCORP Limited.

Jess to make history with the All-Stars

BARKINDJI and Wongaibon woman Jess Skinner will make history next month when she becomes the first woman to coach in the Indigenous-Māori All-Stars showpiece.

Jess has spent the past three years honing her craft as an assistant coach with the women's All-Stars side but now takes over the senior role from Ben Jeffries, who'll remain on as an assistant.

Jess is no stranger to coaching roles.

She has passed on her football knowledge to the First Nation Gems team, and at the NRL's Indigenous Women's Academy.

She was aligned with the Prime Minister's XIII in 2018 and has worked with the game's governing body as a pathways strategy manager.

In 2022, she was also part of the Jillaroos' winning World Cup campaign, and again with the national team during last year's Pacific Cup tournament.



Kris Flanders



Jess Skinner was appointed coach of the Indigenous All-Stars women's team for the match in Townsville next month. *Picture: Supplied*

The All-Stars gig is the realisation of one of Jess' long-term goals. It also means she will be a figure of inspiration to others who may have the idea to also coach in rugby league, especially those from her hometown Trangie, in western NSW, past Dubbo.

The Indigenous-Māori All-Stars game, which will be played in Townsville on Friday, 16 February, will be twice as special for Jess and her family – for her Indigenous roots, and her New Zealand heritage through her father's side.

Jess is held in high regard in the game. The first Jess Skinner Cup tournament, played last year, is testament to that.

The women's All-Stars team will benefit greatly with Jess in charge. She is a student of the game and has been part of many successful sides. It will be fascinating to see how they play under her tutelage, and what style of footy she has the sisters playing against the Māori opposition.

Roll-on All-Stars!

**Kris Flanders is a proud Gumbaynggirr man who has 25 years' experience working in Indigenous media with ICAM, Living Black and NITV where he was the sports presenter. He is a passionate writer and sportslover.*



Above: Baryulgil Descendants' Shyla Miller-Mundine with the trophy after Baryulgil won the women's division final.

Left: The action in the men's final of the 2024 Battle of the Countries between Baryulgil Descendants and Newcastle All Blacks was intense.

Baryulgil the best at Battle of the Countries

By KRIS FLANDERS



IT was double the joy for the Baryulgil Descendants rugby league men's and women's teams

at the 2024 Battle of the Countries tournament at Corrimal and Wollongong this month.

The two teams won their respective divisions at the growing annual event, coincidentally both defeated Newcastle All Blacks teams in both deciders.

Injuries and fatigue meant that the NAB women could only field a team of 10 and, fearing a forfeit in the decider, the Baryulgil sisters showed great sportsmanship by saying they would match whatever numbers their Newcastle sisters could field so that a final could be played.

But that's where the pleasantries ended as Baryulgil ran riot, displaying razzle-dazzle footy to take the final 32-4.

The Baryulgil women set the scene early when they scored the opening try in the first set of six.

NAB gave their supporters a glimmer of hope with a try just before halftime to trail 16-4 at the break. But Baryulgil adopted the tactics that worked so well for them in the first half by throwing the ball around with great

success as the tries continued.

In the men's final, Baryulgil scored what would later count as the all-important first try of the game.

The Newcastle men returned serve, however, and they hit the lead 12-6, showing all the skill and class that has won this club Koori Knockout titles and other big tournaments.

When the second half rolled around, the weather was a steamy 34°C degrees, although it would have been much hotter for the players out in the middle.

Down 12-8, the Baryulgil brothers took their chances. Literally, on the final tackle, they feigned to kick, threw the footy back down the blindside, created an overlap, and scored in the corner to level the scores at 12-all. The kick for goal, which would have sealed the game, went wide.

On the restart, both sides went on the attack for the rest of the match but to no avail.

Baryulgil showed plenty of grit in defence to keep NAB from getting that winning try and the All Blacks threw everything but the kitchen sink for the win.

There was lots of feeling and tension in the final minutes with both sides coming together in the heat of the moment.

The enthralling decider finished at 12-all and, having

scored first, the trophy was Baryulgil's.

Battle of the Countries founder Rod Broad praised the teams and their supporters for a wonderful tournament.

"It was a massive weekend, a record number of teams, great talent and great football," he said.

"In the men's final, I think we just saw the start of a fierce rivalry; it was a wonderful game and so tight and that reflected in the end scoreline.

"I'd like to see more action between Baryulgil Descendants and NAB.

"We also had some meaningful conversations with the teams and supporters from the mental-health side of what this tournament is about – connecting people with those services and having those conversations about suicide preventions and just supporting one another."

Organising and running tournaments like the BOTC doesn't come easy and Broad said he was lucky to have a supportive crew alongside him.

"A lot of work goes into it," he said.

"I've got a team that are my family helping to put this event on. Without them it wouldn't happen.

"Same thing with our amazing sponsors, the Battle of the

Countries wouldn't exist without them, too, and local footy clubs also for granting us to play on their fields and use their facilities."

There will be some downtime for the hosts, the Illawarra Titans, and the organising committee but the organisation will continue to work towards getting the side together for other tournaments, and of course the Kids In Care Cup later this year.

"We'll never stop, you know, while there's kids that still need care and love that tournament will be there," Broad said.

"While the suicide rates are still high, the Battle of the Countries tournament will be there.

"We will continue to support our communities and be there for them."

Junior results

Mindaribba defeated Newcastle All Blacks 24-4 in the final of the under-10s/11s division.

Southwest beat the Titans 50-0 in the under 12s-13s while Dharawal United won the under 15s.

Gadhu Sisters won the under-15s girls title drawing 10-all with Riverstone, but got the trophy as they were the first try-scorers.

Newcastle Hawks defeated Maitland 18-6 in the final of the boys under-17s.

NT Buffaloes maintain unbeaten rep record

By JACKSON CLARK



THE Northern Territory Football League representative side has won its fourth consecutive game after a 32-point triumph over Essendon's VFL team at

Marrara Stadium in Darwin last week.

The NT Buffaloes made better use of the wet and slippery conditions to win 11.7 (73) to 5.11 (41).

It was a fast and competitive start to the game with some excellent passages of play from both teams.

The home team managed a narrow lead at the first change before kicking away with a four goals-to-none second quarter as small forward Jayden Magro kicked three opening half goals.

The game stooped to a lull during the second half as the Bombers rued inaccuracy in front of goal.

Former AFL player Jed Anderson was brilliant all afternoon with his ferocious attack on the contest and ball-winning ability. The former Hawthorn, North Melbourne and Gold Coast midfielder was judged best afield, continuing on from his excellent form for Southern Districts in the NTFL.

Anderson told AFLNT Media that he loved pulling on the black, white and ochre jumper again.

"I was a little bit nervous when we ran out after the long gap for me in rep footy, including some goosebumps when I saw the crowd and my family and friends; it's been unreal," he said.

"It was great how all the boys showed up and showcased what the NT has to offer, there are some good footballers up here and I think the whole team showed that against a good side in Essendon."

Experienced Wanderers defender Braedon McLean displayed his classy ball use and decision-making while skipper Ryan Nyhuis also performed solidly.

Magro and Southern Districts midfielder-forward Beau Schwarze top scored for the NTFL with three goals each.

Tiwi Bombers players Kim Kantilla, Karlson Kantilla and Brendan Kantilla were included in the Essendon team's 24-man squad.

The trio generated plenty of scoring opportunities for the VFL Bombers and performed well at the higher standard of football.

Bombers captain Xavier O'Neill told AFLNT Media that he enjoyed the experience playing in the Top End.

"It was a good hit out for us, even if the conditions weren't quite what we're used to," he said.

"Playing with the Tiwi boys (Kim, Karlson and Brendan) was a big occasion for us, and them; it showed they are great players and we're pleased to be associated with them at Essendon."

"We've watched videos of our club's history up here and the good work they've done, so no matter what level we're at as a team, we just want to maintain our links with the NT community."



Litonya (left) and Laquoyia Cockatoo-Motlap have suited up for the Palmerston Magpies in the 2023-24 NTFL Women's Premier League. Picture: Supplied

Twins make return to the Magpies

By JACKSON CLARK



TWIN sisters Laquoyia and Litonya Cockatoo-Motlap have reunited at Northern Territory Football League club

Palmerston for the 2023-24 Women's Premier League season.

Laquoyia has played four games for the Magpies so far, making her return against St Mary's in round 8 where she was named among her team's best players. The following game she produced a starring best-afield eight-goal performance against Wanderers in her team's 120-point win.

Litonya's first appearance came in round 12 against the Tiwi Bombers where she also was named among the Magpies' better performers. The twins played in the team's important 12-point win over the Darwin Buffettes a fortnight ago.

The pair spent a couple of seasons at Port Adelaide in the AFLW and made their debut together in round 9 of the 2022 season. At Port, Litonya played five games while Laquoyia played one. They were later delisted at the end of the 2023 season.

The Yupangathi and Gangadlidda women are the nieces of former Essendon and Port Adelaide player Che Cockatoo-Collins.



NT's Jed Anderson, former AFL midfielder, was judged best-on-ground in the NTFL-Essendon match last week. Picture: AFLNT Photos

Strong support in clubland on the question of 26 January

IT was heartening to see more and more AFL clubs coming out in support of First Nations people on the question of 26 January, either calling for a change of date, or acknowledging that the current date is not the day to celebrate for many people in this country.

Under the guidance of Belinda Duarte, the Western Bulldogs acknowledged the shared history we have and that 26 January brings pain and sorrow for First Nations people. The club encouraged people to talk about what the current date means to

them, to share that knowledge and to listen deeply.

Port Adelaide, a club with strong support for the Indigenous cause, came out strong and proud with their statement.

Port didn't just post what they had to say on their stories



Shelley Ware

that disappears after a few days, but they posted it on their timelines so it would stay visible.

The club said their board, staff and players support changing the date. It was a strong stand that will be felt within the football community and, hopefully, open up some eyes.

Personally, I'm proud to be the chair of the Carlton Football Club's Reconciliation Action Plan committee, and be a part of their statement on Invasion day, where, "we, the club acknowledge, and admire the

resilience of First Nations communities and encourage respectful discussions with one another, in a way that fosters unity".

But... once again, deafening silence from the AFL Commission. There was no statement that I could find from AFL House. In my opinion, this is actually shameful on their part.

Here we are, at a time where we should be able to say what we really think and why, and have open, respectful and honest conversations about important

issues, like this, but nothing!

Despite this, I am mighty proud of the clubs that did come out and support our community.

We see what is happening, we know what our community says and feels about 26 January, so to know that these high-profile clubs have our backs, so to speak, is great to see.

***Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She appears on AFL.com.au's Colour Of Your Jumper.**

All-Stars on cyclone watch

By DARREN MONCRIEFF



THE NRL's lack of a contingency plan surrounding the Indigenous-Māori All-Stars games in Townsville next month could force the abandonment of the event altogether.

The sixth instalment of the popular annual rugby league and cultural showcase between the two First Nations peoples is scheduled to kick off on Friday, 16 February, at Townsville Stadium.

But the NRL has yet to articulate its plans for a back-up host city should a cyclone hit the area again and cause major disruptions to the region and/or render the Townsville Stadium unusable. Specific questions sent to the league were left unanswered at time print.

Tropical far north Queensland experienced its second cyclone in as many months last week.

On 25 January, Cyclone Kirrily crossed the coast near Townsville, bringing with it destructive winds, tidal surges, lashing rain, and localised and flash flooding across major roads in and out of the town and region, and

caused power outages for 65,000 homes.

On 13 December last year, Cyclone Jasper crossed the coast at Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire 170km north of Cairns, bringing with it prolonged rain and widespread flooding across the region. The entire 300-strong community was evacuated to Cooktown 83km to the north, while surrounding towns and Cairns experienced flooding and major disruptions that lasted weeks.

There was no word from the NRL as to what contingencies are in place should another cyclone form off the Queensland coast between now and the All-Stars event in early February.

Townsville hosted the All-Stars in 2021. Its re-selection this year is part of the NRL's four-yearly rotation system between host cities. But under this plan, Melbourne would have played host to next month's games after that city hosted the first Indigenous-Māori All-Stars clash five years ago in 2019.

Townsville Stadium is the home venue for the city's NRL club, North Queensland Cowboys, whose first game of the premiership season at the ground begins a month after the All-Stars on 16 March in round 2.



Indigenous All-Stars' Ryan James is tackled by the Māori All-Stars defence during the match at Rotorua International Stadium in Aotearoa-New Zealand in February last year.
Picture: Getty Images

A mixed bag for cricketers in reduced BBL season

By PETER ARGENT



ACROSS the reduced schedule of the Twenty20 BBL|13 season each club played 10 regular-round matches before last week's grand final between the Sydney Sixers and the Brisbane Heat (won by the Heat).

This season, there were just three Indigenous players across the eight franchises – Scott Boland (Melbourne Stars), Brendan Doggett, D'Arcy Short (Adelaide Strikers) – with former Australian fast bowler Jason Gillespie continued in his role as coach at the Strikers.

Gillespie's Strikers struggled for much of the season at the foot of the ladder but they made a late charge and actually made the finals. This was after introducing greater spin options to his bowling attack.

ADELAIDE STRIKERS (2) D'Arcy Short Brendan Doggett

The boy who hailed from Darwin and now at his third BBL franchise, D'Arcy Short played in



Fast bowler Scott Boland was on stand-by for the entire five-Test summer.

his first season at the Strikers. He started BBL|13 with a pair of half-centuries, including a top score of 66, in the 19 December clash with Sydney Thunder. He played a specific role with the Strikers this season and reached double figures in seven of his 10 innings. While he remains underutilised at the bowling crease, Short has been excellent

in the outfield for the majority of the tournament.

Rockhampton export and Queensland Sheffield Shield-winning quick Brendan Doggett moved in to the Strikers program but he managed to play just the one game for the team in this season. In a match where bat dominated the ball, in the New Year's Eve clash at Adelaide



Adelaide Strikers teammates Brendan Doggett (left) and D'Arcy Short. Pictures: Peter Argent

Oval, Doggett's three overs cost him 40 runs. With coach Jason Gillespie deciding to re-focus on a spin-based bowling attack later in the tournament, it meant Doggett was unable to re-gain selection.

MELBOURNE STARS (1) Scott Boland

Scott Boland played just three BBL games for the Stars because

for the majority of the summer he toured with the Australian Test team as a squad member. In his first match, he took two wickets against eventual grand finalists, the Sydney Sixers. Against cross-town rivals Melbourne Renegades he finished with the figures of 1-27 but then went wicket-less against his former team, the Hobart Hurricanes.

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Ash Barty will tee it up in the New Zealand Open Pro-Am next month at Millbrook. Pictures: Getty Images

Aussie sport calls for re-think



THE nation's major sporting codes have unanimously stopped referring to 'Australia Day'

as the AFL Players Association, several clubs and the country's hockey teams called for the date to change.

Almost all sports presented a united front last week on 26 January. None of the major codes or teams from within them referenced Australia Day in any post on social media, a far cry from as recently as five years ago.

Instead, many sports and teams used their social media accounts to recognise 26 January as a "painful and sorrowful day" for Indigenous people.

AFL players were particularly strong on the matter, with their association declaring the day as one "not...to celebrate. We hope one day our leaders can come together, listen, learn and find the right date that we can all celebrate together."

Port Adelaide, the Western Bulldogs and North Melbourne were unequivocal in their push for a date change.

NRL clubs remained quieter on the issue, with no 'Australia Day' posts but only South Sydney acknowledging the date and its history for Indigenous people. The NRL acknowledged "today represents a painful and sorrowful day for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples".

Football Australia, the NBL and multiple Super Netball clubs took a similar stance.

The Kookaburras and Hockeyroos went one step further, with the Paris gold-medal hopefuls calling for a move away from 26 January.

Rugby Australia, its clubs and the Supercars did not post at all in regards to 26 January.

Cricket's position in the headlines in the middle of summer has often left the sport as the on-field face of the issue.

- AAP

Barty headlines NZ Open as ambassador



FORMER world tennis No. 1 Ash Barty is confirmed to headline the Ambassador line-up for the 103rd New

Zealand Open, set to take place between 29 February-3 March at Queenstown's Millbrook Resort.

Barty, who attended the New Zealand Open in 2023 as a spectator, is a three-time Grand Slam singles champion with an impressive competitive streak.

She played on the world's stage across her 12-year professional tennis career in which she was ranked world singles No. 1 for 121 weeks overall.

Barty is also an accomplished golfer who plays off a 4 handicap. In 2022 she played in the Icons Golf Series in New Jersey alongside other international sporting icons like American swimming legend Michael Phelps, English footballer Harry Kane and former Australian cricket captain Ricky Ponting.



Former world tennis No.1 Ash Barty will try her hand at golf.

"The New Zealand Open is a fantastic event and I really enjoyed my time there this year supporting our friend Louis Dobbelaar," Barty said.

"New Zealand is a beautiful country and somewhere I always love to visit. Having the

opportunity to play in the pro-am event in 2024 is something I'm excited about, though I definitely need to start practising! Golf has always been a passion of mine, I feel fortunate to be able to play in events like the New Zealand Open and experience an

incredible course like Millbrook.

"I imagine that first tee shot in front of everyone will be quite nerve-wracking, but once the first ball hits the fairway, hopefully things should settle down. My aim is to go out there and enjoy every minute of it and hopefully make the weekend pro-am cut."

Barty will tee it up alongside former New Zealand representatives Jeff Wilson (rugby and cricket), Sean Fitzpatrick (rugby), Israel Dagg (rugby), Stephen Fleming (cricket), Ella Gunson (hockey), international rally driver Hayden Paddon, Ponting, and former England cricket legend Sir Ian Botham.

The tournament is one of New Zealand's leading sporting events with a long and prestigious history. It was founded in 1907.

It is the only National Open in world golf played in a Pro-Am Format and is co-sanctioned on the PGA Tour of Australasia and Asian Tour schedules and has a partnership agreement with the Japan Golf Tour. - AAP

Bomaderry to host cricket fest



THE home of the 2022 Koori Knockout final will host a day of top-level and community cricket.

The 2024 Indigenous Festival of Cricket will be played at Bomaderry on the NSW south coast this weekend (2 February) at the newly upgraded Artie Smith Oval.

Included in the big day will be a pair of T20 matches involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teams from the Big Bash League cricket teams Sydney Sixers and Sydney Thunder.

The women's fixture will take

place at 1.30pm, with the men's match to begin at 5pm.

The day will begin with a Welcome to Country, followed by an Indigenous youth cricket program that will combine the game with connection to heritage and Mob.

Almost 300 registrations have already been accepted.

The day will be co-hosted by Shoalhaven Council and the Cricket NSW Foundation.

This will be the second of three similar Indigenous youth programs funded by the foundation around the state this season, with the objective of creating unique, holistic, and

enjoyable opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to play and love cricket.

The Cricket NSW Foundation is the charitable arm of Cricket NSW and exists to enrich communities and improve lives through cricket by enabling access to the game for all within NSW.

Jake Balnave, head of the Cricket NSW Foundation, said the festival would be a great opportunity to bring together different levels of the game at the redeveloped oval.

"The Indigenous Festival of Cricket is shaping up as a great

day for the people of the south coast," he said.

"Our Indigenous youth programs have been really successful over the last few years in engaging First Nations youngsters with a combination of cricket and connecting to Country and we are really happy to be able to bring one of these clinics to the region.

"Then to have our Big Bash League clubs, the Sixers and Thunder, bring their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teams down to play a women's and then men's match is very exciting."

Shoalhaven Mayor Amanda Findley describes the upgraded

Artie Smith Oval in Bomaderry as a hub of cultural celebration and sporting excellence.

"We extend our gratitude to Cricket NSW Foundation for their commitment to fostering a connection between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and the game of cricket," Cr Findley said.

"Council is thrilled to present an upgraded state-level sporting facility for the Shoalhaven that caters to high calibre events such as this."

The Sixers' and Thunder's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teams were announced earlier this week.

High honours for our Evonne



TENNIS legend Evonne Goolagong Cawley was honoured at Melbourne Park last week, five decades after winning her first Australian Open title.

Goolagong Cawley claimed four Open singles crowns, the first in 1974 when she overcame American Chris Evert at Kooyong Tennis Club. The then 23-year-old had already made three consecutive finals, falling twice to Margaret Court (1971, 1973) and once to Britain's Virginia Wade (1972).

Goolagong Cawley lifted the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup a further three times – in 1975, 1976 and 1977 – when she became the first mother in the Open era to win a grand slam title.

In a ceremony on Rod Laver Arena last week, it was announced that from next year the Open's annual celebration of First Nations culture during week one of the tournament will be known as *Evonne Goolagong Cawley Day*. The Australian Tennis Foundation will host an annual fundraising breakfast named after the seven-time major singles champion, generating money towards Goolagong Cawley's drive to improve the lives of Indigenous children.

"We are delighted to honour Evonne here at the Australian Open, at Rod Laver Arena, 50 years after her first Australian Open win," TA boss Craig Tiley said.

"Evonne exemplifies all that is good and great in our sport, both on and off the court.

"She's a shining example of humility and grace, and the dedication she's shown over so many years to helping others is an inspiration to us all."

The tennis legend was inducted into the Sport Australia, International Tennis and the Australian Tennis Halls of Fame. – AAP



Evonne Goolagong Cawley was honoured at the Australian Open last week in a ceremony on Rod Laver Arena during the 2024 Australian Open. Picture: Getty Images

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Jess McDowell-White has been a revelation for the Townsville Fire during the 2023-24 WNBL season. Picture: Getty Images



Jess Fires up in Townsville



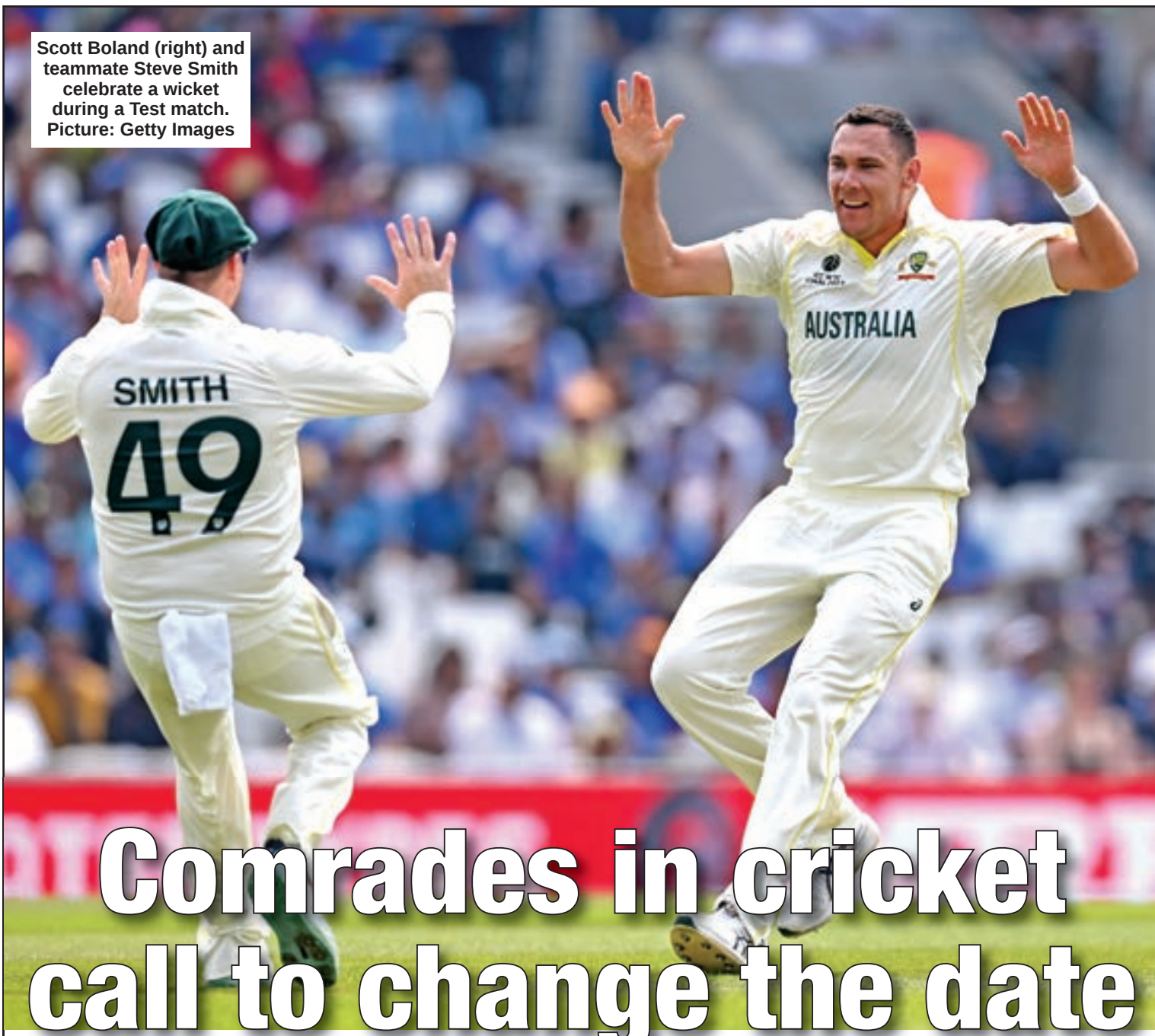
FRESH from a five-year stint in the United States, Jess McDowell-White's big-game experience is helping push Townsville Fire up in the rankings in the 2023-24 WNBL season.

The Fire lead the ladder and are

looking at the double-chance in the play-offs should the north Queenslanders maintain their current position.

The WNBL is growing in popularity and has cemented itself on the Australian sporting landscape as a summer-season sport alongside the popular NBL.

Scott Boland (right) and teammate Steve Smith celebrate a wicket during a Test match. Picture: Getty Images



Comrades in cricket call to change the date



A CONVERSATION with Australian Test fast bowler Scott Boland has led leading batsman Steve Smith to call for a change to the date of Australia Day.

Smith has joined his Test captain Pat Cummins in calling for a change to the date.

One of the most recognisable names in Australian sport, Smith said he had consulted Indigenous teammate Boland before forming his view.

It comes a day after Cummins voiced his push for change, with Smith saying he too believed it was time for a rethink on 26 January.

"I was speaking to Scott

Boland about this just the other day and as Australians, you want all Australians to celebrate that day," Smith said.

"(But) all Australians don't (with) the way it is at the moment.

"Maybe that is the way forward, (changing it) to have all Australians celebrating on that day."

Smith's position comes as Cricket Australia face scrutiny around a decision to not use the term "Australia Day" in marketing the Gabba Test against West Indies.

CA's stance remains in line with a decision the sport took in 2021 to drop the term from promoting BBL matches on the day, with some teams instead

wearing Indigenous strips.

That call prompted scathing criticism from then Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who labelled the decision as "ordinary" and CA to have "a bit more focus on cricket and a little less focus on politics".

The organisation has adopted a similar stance in both 2022 and 2023, with Ashleigh Gardner particularly upset last year when the women's team was made to play on the date.

This summer marks the first time the men's team has played on 26 January since 2019, with the date falling on a Friday and Tests later in the summer creating a challenge for officials.

Cummins last week backed CA's decision not to market the

match as an Australia Day Test, as it was routinely called in the past.

"(The issue) is not new – this conversation comes up every year and Cricket Australia has been pretty consistent the last four or five years with the way they approach it," he said.

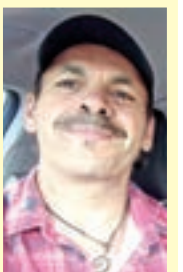
Cummins became the first highest-profile sporting personality to push for a change of date given the historical context around 26 January for the Indigenous community.

"I absolutely love Australia. It is the best country in the world by a mile," Cummins said.

"We should have an Australia Day, but we can probably find a more appropriate day to celebrate it." – **with AAP**

A free press is key to sport transparency

AMONG the most troubling sports news I've read recently was the American NFL plan to buy a stake in ESPN, the multi-platformed Entertainment and Sports Programming Network. This is no good on several fronts.



Darren Moncrieff

Sport is its own eco-system. It is multi-layered and can be found in most corners of society. Among the countless pastimes founded by man, organised sport can be a force for good in the world. On the flipside, sport has been used as a propaganda tool by nefarious regimes, including those in the Western world. Left unchecked, however, the business that runs sport, i.e. the NFLs, MLBs, AFLs, NRLs, etc, can become a law unto themselves.

The potential for ESPN to become a pseudo-mouthpiece for the multi-billion dollar NFL, then, is a worry.

Organisations this big require interrogation and honest examination. Aside from the dynamic action on the field – Go the LA-Oakland-Las Vegas Raiders! – the league is a millionaire's plaything. All but one of the "organisations" (not clubs) are privately owned by millionaires who have no problem feasting off the public teat. The Buffalo Bills franchise, for example, will receive a taxpayer contribution of US\$850m and a further US\$650m from the state of New York toward a new stadium – a state with a chronic homelessness issue. It is only through investigative journalism that this issue was brought into the spotlight. Without an independent press, what chance for issues such as this to come under scrutiny?

There are murmurings of discontent here with the sizable media units each at the AFL, NRL and even Cricket Australia. Hopefully, voices of reason, without fear nor favour, can keep these organisations in check. Sports' health, and this version of democracy, depends on it.

***Darren Moncrieff is a Wadjarli-Thakarli/Yinggarda man from Kuwinyardu (Carnarvon) in Western Australia who started with Yamaji News in 1997 and freelanced in WA's Kimberley region and in the Northern Territory. He is Koori Mail sports editor**



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ALL-STARS vs THE CYCLONES



A NEW opponent has emerged for the Indigenous-Māori All-Stars teams with a much larger capacity to cause damage, and whose origins can be traced directly to the Pacific Ocean – tropical cyclones.

The Indigenous-Māori All-Stars pre-season match-up is scheduled to kick off on Friday, 16 February, at Townsville Stadium before a 25,000-strong capacity crowd.

This will be the sixth instalment of the popular annual rugby league and cultural showcase event between the two First Nations

peoples.

But standing in the way of the teams and the thousands of fans making plans to attend the game is a cyclone season making its presence felt in tropical far north Queensland.

The region has experienced its second cyclone in as many months

after Tropical Cyclone Kirrily crossed the coast near Townsville last week.

Kirrily comes in the wake of TC Jasper that crossed at Wujal Wujal community north of Cairns last month on 13 December.

● All-Stars on cyclone watch – Page 50

Head-to-Head



Men – IAS 2 (2019, 2023), MAS 2 (2020, 2022) – 1 draw (2021).



Women – MAS 3 (2019, 2021, 2023), IAS 2 (2020, 2022)

Jess returns Fire in T'ville



JESSICA McDowell-White's stunning return to the WNBL after five years away is paying off for the Townsville Fire.

McDowell-White had a standout season in the NBL1 North competition for the Southern District Spartans where she averaged 12.67ppg and 6.58apg. That led to her signing on at the Fire.

The daughter of Brisbane Lions three-time AFL premiership player, Darryl White, McDowell-White spent five years in the United States' college basketball system, and graduating at the University of San Francisco early last year.

Point-guard McDowell-White has contributed strongly to the Fire's season.

The Townsville side is sitting clear on top of the WNBL ladder with just a month left of regular-season games.

The north Queenslanders are joined at the top of the league table by Leilani Mitchell's high-flying Southside Flyers.

● More, page 50

Garbutt in the top five at Goldfield Ashes

By ALF WILSON



GARBUTT Magpies' women's cricket team were one final short of taking out the biggest tournament of its kind in Charters Towers in north Queensland recently.

The Indigenous team from Townsville claimed third place out of 24

teams in their particular division at what is Australia's biggest annual cricket carnival, the 2024 Goldfield Ashes tournament, held from 19-21 January.

A massive 234 men's and women's cricket teams across four divisions played out the locally famous 'Ashes' event at 70 grounds including at parks, schools, an aerodrome

reserve, part of a golf course, and on private properties.

It was estimated that 25% of the players were Aboriginal and-or Torres Strait Islander, with some teams mostly with Indigenous players.

Alongside the Magpies were West Indigies, Mt Garnet and Black Bream, which fielded both men's and women's teams, and One Mob and Brothers.

Many of the other teams included some First Nations players.

Seasonal rain had washed out some matches late on the first afternoon otherwise there was a full weekend of play.

Many of the Indigenous players said that the high number of First Nations cricketers at the carnival was due to the event being shifted to

a week before the 26 January public holiday long-weekend.

Organiser of the Garbutt Magpies women's team Nicole Ross was delighted with the effort from the team.

"We looked dead in our uniforms, too; they were designed by Bracks Indigenous Clothing," she said.

● More, page 45



Garbutt Magpies' women's team finished third at the recent Goldfield Ashes cricket tournament at Charters Towers in north Queensland. Picture: Alf Wilson



Battle of the Countries full wrap – Pages 44-45