



Koori Mail

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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Help offered to Mob ripped off by Youpla



ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander people ripped off by a disgraced insurer will be able to access funds after the federal government stepped in with a \$97 million package.

The Aboriginal Community Benefit Fund, owned by collapsed insurance company Youpla, sold junk funeral policies to Indigenous people across the country for decades, including targeting communities where English wasn't the first language and with low literacy levels.

Youpla was exposed during the 2018 banking royal commission but not before thousands of people paid for inappropriate plans, including through Centrepay, where money is automatically deducted from social security payments. Indigenous Affairs Minister

Linda Burney said the Youpla Support Program will begin on July 1, when an interim plan ends, and is expected to help more than 13,000 people recover from financial loss and provide certainty to families.

"Losing loved ones can be one of the most traumatic events,

made harder still for those First Nations people affected by the collapse of the Youpla funeral fund," she said.

"This measure will hopefully bring peace of mind to thousands of families impacted."

● Continued, Page 3
● Editorial, Page 20

Indigenous rights advocate Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue, a trailblazer in the fight for Aboriginal recognition, has died aged 91.

Obituary and pictures, pages 22-23



Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG.
Picture: Leanne King

INSIDE



Take a harbour kayak cruise

PAGE 8



Meet Eddie's cartoon pals

PAGE 21



Master coach has eye on culture

PAGE 46



What's Darin been up to now?

PAGE 49

MY FAMILY Debbie Kennedy, Charters Towers, QLD



I have many family members here in Charters Towers, as well as relatives living at Ayr in the Burdekin – and as far away as Cooktown up north.

They are all important to me. Those who live in Charters Towers are part of the Masso, Davidson, Kennedy and Reid and extended families and we enjoy barbecues and just love each other's company.

Your photographer saw us just outside the front door of my house across from Central State School as we watched our local ladies team, Black Bream, compete in the annual Goldfield Ashes Cricket Carnival.

We all love cricket and many of my relatives play in that side. Uncle Dick Davidson was one of the hard working locals who started the Black Bream team which also fielded a mens side.

I am aged 63 and grew up here and have four children, 18 grand children and three great grand children. They do keep me busy and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Pictured with me are two of them – Athena McLean and Ishmel Miller, a friend Symone Parson and one-year-old Sonny

Johnson. It was so good as we cheered for the girls from under the front roof as it started to rain. I must admit we did get excited as the girls performed really well against good opposition.

We were also delighted to have well known Kenny Kennedy arrive here and have a yarn to the *Koori Mail*.

As well as that, a relative from Tully up north turned up – and with so many people in town for the carnival we got to catch up with the ones we don't get to see so often.

We even got to see some relatives from Mt Garnet near the Atherton Tablelands who were here with their own men and ladies teams.

Whilst we don't really follow test cricket, we are all looking forward to the coming NRL rugby league season and one close family here barracks for the Cronulla Sharks.

There are many Aboriginal people living in Charters Towers and we are a very close-knit community who respect each other.

The year may be young but we are really looking forward to many more family gatherings as it progresses.

Symone Parson, Sonny Johnson (1), Debbie Kennedy, Athena McLean and Ishmel Miller.

SHARE YOUR FAMILY WITH OUR READERS

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

OUR CHILDREN



PCYC Aurukun's Club and Culture afternoon program is keeping young Mob in the area entertained. With competitive basketball, volleyball and Futsal among the mix of activities, the Club's Youth Leadership Team, Kang Kang Youth are refining their skills, keeping active, learning about teamwork and sportsmanship and, most importantly, having a deadly fun time. *Picture: supplied by PCYC Aurukun*

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Journeying back in time

By NICK PATON



GOING back more than 1,000 years in time to explore the First Nations history of Australia has never been easier thanks to a new interactive website which uses historical encounters from around Australia that are visually linked to their geographical locations on a map.

Launched last week by Monash University, Global Encounters is a new virtual reality journey using immersive maps and 3D models that go way beyond Australia's more recent history of British colonisation.

The groundbreaking project is a collaboration between anthropological historian Professor Lynette Russell AM, a Wotjabaluk woman from the Faculty of Arts, and 3D modelling and virtual heritage expert Dr Tom Chandler from the Faculty of Information Technology.

By placing British encounters within a deeper history of global intrusion and exploration, Professor Russell said Global Encounters is reframing Australia's national story by developing narratives that are not merely about colonialism.

"Rather than a British colonial history which problematically begins in 1770 with Cook 'discovering' Australia, this will be a history that documents over 1,000 years of encounter and interaction, where Indigenous people exert their agency and respond to newcomers on their own terms," Professor Russell said.

"The eighteenth-century British arrival will then be contextualised as part of a much longer tradition of dynamic interaction and transaction," she said.

The project includes a virtual reality component that reconstructs the spaces of historical encounters, and allows participants to visualise the ecology and soundscapes of pre-colonial landscapes.

"Virtual reality means people can become an eyewitness to one of the most famous voyages in Australian history," Professor Russell said.

"You will be able to stand on the ship and see the shore coming towards you, but you'll also be able to stand on the shore and see the ship."

The website showcases a new way



Anthropological historian Professor Lynette Russell, AM, a Wotjabaluk woman from the Faculty of Arts, Monash University.

to interact with historical data, and is also scalable, meaning it can be accessed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people wishing to add their own stories.

Dr Tom Chandler, who led the team developing the interactive website, said people will be able to engage in immersive landscapes that take them into an altogether different reality, into the historical 'present'.

"This digital mapping of history invites exploration with complex constructions composed of layers of meaning and process," Dr Chandler said.

"The dynamic elements of the virtual reality model, such as the animation of landscapes and creation of soundscapes, add depth to the historical context," he said.

"For example, the 1606 encounter between the Dutch on board the Duyfken and the people of the Cape Keerweer Region in far north Queensland ... this was a dramatic and violent encounter that reveals misunderstandings on both sides."

Global Encounters is funded by the Australian Research Council Laureate Scheme as part of the Global Encounters & First Nations Peoples: 1,000 years of Australian History project, supported by Monash University.

Visit globalencounters.net/



29 April 1770: Early encounters between the Gadigal and the strangers were tense. Joseph Banks describes two painted-up warriors watching the ship. The Gadigal people had been watching the Endeavour. Today, they made first contact with the outsiders, fighting off an encroachment on their land.



Since around 1500, coastal communities had contact with Makassar-based mariners. In 1705 the VOC (Dutch East India Company) vessels Voskenbos, Waaier and Nova Hollandia under Maarten van Delft spent three and a half months exploring the northern coast of Australia.

Funeral fund bail-out

● From page 1



THE Federal Court handed Youpla a \$1.2 million fine in September for misrepresenting junk funeral policies, finding it told plan holders they would receive a lump sum payment when in fact they would only be reimbursed for expenses they could prove had been incurred.

The company collapsed in March 2022, with more than 10,000 families losing out. The new program will be for people who held

an active policy on or after August 1, 2015, when the Commonwealth removed Youpla policies from Centrepay, acknowledging the risks posed to vulnerable customers.

Resolution payment

Eligible recipients will be offered the choice of a resolution payment – assessed at 60 per cent of the premiums paid up to the value of the insurance – of a prudentially-regulated funeral bond or an opt-out for cash.

The Save Sorry Business Coalition, a First Nations-led campaign to support people exploited by Youpla, welcomed the

announcement but said some would be disappointed it excludes policy-holders who stopped paying in before the 2015 cut-off date.

Wangkumara/Barkandji woman Lynda Edwards, financial capability co-ordinator at Financial Counselling Australia and 2023 NSW Woman of the Year, said it was more than 30 years since Youpla began targeting First Nations people.

"And over 20 years since the Federal government approved Youpla to receive payments via Centrepay, taking money straight from people's social security payments before they could even

put food on the table," she said.

Dunghutti man Mark Holden, solicitor at Indigenous financial organisation Mob Strong Debt Help, said the exploitation and deception perpetrated by Youpla had caused severe harm for individuals, families and communities.

Cultural crisis

"It has created financial and cultural crises, worsened health outcomes and deepened poverty," he said.

"This announcement is ... a strong beginning that gives many Youpla payers the ability to choose

how they will take care of Sorry Business."

Eligible recipients can access financial counselling to help them better understand the options available under the Youpla Support Program. The \$97 million initiative will run for two years, receiving applications until June 30, 2026.

It follows the interim Youpla Group Funeral Benefits Program, announced by the government in July 2022, which allows families of former members to claim a grant to cover immediate funeral expenses and will continue to accept applications until June 30, 2024.

—AAP

Torres Strait sickness warning

By ALF WILSON



ABORIGINAL man Jeffrey Kerr and Torres Strait Islander woman Rita Ware have urged First Nations people living in the far north to hand sanitise and wear face masks following an outbreak of respiratory conditions in the Torres Strait Islands, Cape York and Northern Peninsula Area.

Mr Kerr from Charters Towers and Ms Ware from St Paul's Village on Moa Island in the Torres Strait both urged everybody to follow health guidelines.

"If you do wash your hands and wear a mask in the areas affected there is less chance of ending up sick," Mr Kerr said.

Ms Ware said people in the Torres Strait should ensure they have a mask on hand.

"It should be a clean mask which nobody else has used," Ms Ware said.

Measures

Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service Executive Director of Medical Services Dr Marlow Coates said it was important residents took measures to protect themselves and others.

"Good hygiene is very important in preventing the spread of respiratory conditions such as common colds, influenza, Covid-19, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)," Dr Coates said.

"Always wash your hands with sanitiser, cover your coughs, put tissues straight in the bin and stay away from other people if you or they are sick.

"Practising social distancing by staying



Rita Ware with a face mask on and Jeffrey Kerr are urging First Nations people to follow health advice after an outbreak of respiratory condition

at least 1.5 metres away will mean coughs and sneezes don't reach another person's face.

"Wearing a mask also is highly recommended to avoid transmitting a respiratory condition to others, or to protect yourself from people around you who might have a respiratory condition.

"If you get the flu, you should stay home and rest and drink plenty of fluids until symptoms have resolved, which is usually 5-7 days. If you or your family member is getting sicker, they may have fast or difficult breathing, have chest pains, be sleepy or say they are getting worse. If this happens, they should go to their doctor or clinic, as

you may be suitable to receive antiviral treatment."

Dr Coates said that anybody with symptoms should seek care early, especially if they have other chronic conditions.

"Antivirals are only effective if started early – within the first couple of days of symptoms. As always, vaccination remains our best protection against some respiratory conditions, such as influenza and Covid-19. I encourage all residents to ensure their Covid-19 vaccinations, including boosters, are up to date. These can be accessed through our primary health care centres. The 2024 seasonal

influenza vaccine will become available from April onwards and everyone should ensure they are vaccinated when it becomes available. Flu strains change annually, which is why a new vaccine comes out each year to cover the new strains."

He said the seasonal flu vaccine is a safe vaccine for children and is offered annually to everyone older than six months of age.

Free

The flu vaccine is free for people who are most at risk, including children aged six months to less than five years old, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people aged 65 years and older, people who are pregnant, and people who have certain medical conditions.

Dr Coates said 28 cases of influenza had been recorded across the Torres Strait, Cape York, and Northern Peninsula Area region so far this year, compared with four for the same period last year.

"For Covid-19, 73 cases had been reported so far this year, compared to 61 for the same period last year. We have also recorded 51 cases of RSV so far this year, compared to 13 cases for the same period last year. A single RSV infection does not result in long-lasting protective immunity, and symptomatic illness tends to occur repetitively in children. Symptoms may include a runny nose, cough, fever, sore throat, and headache. We encourage people to prevent the spread by practising good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette – just like for the flu and Covid-19."

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A legacy of love and hope

Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue was an Aboriginal leader, whose legacy will live in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait people and all Australians, for many without them even realising, for years to come. She was simply wonderful and spread her love, commitment and care for our people everywhere she went, she spent her life advocating for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with everything she had.

I remember her as a child, my dad Bob Ware worked with her in Aboriginal Affairs in South Australia for many years. The sad thing is before the internet and since my mum and dad have both passed, I can no longer tell you the exact roles they did together. Dad has been gone for over 25 years now and all I have are photos of them together and memories of how it felt to be around her and how she made me feel, as a young girl and her as a strong Aboriginal woman.

Dr O'Donoghue was one of those women, you felt in a room before you saw her and when you did, her warm beautiful smile lit up the room. I vividly remember how it felt as a child to be in her space, whether it be in a room or around the camp fire. Her feeling of strength and courage mixed in with her gentleness and tenderness have always left me feeling warm



Shelley Ware

when her name is spoken or when I had the privilege to be in her presence as an adult.

There just aren't too many people you meet in your life that make you feel like this, especially forty years after you spent time with them but Dr O'Donoghue did.

A woman who was removed at the age of two, from her family, due to the Assimilation policy, taking them thirty years to reunite as a family, it is a heart ache that is unimaginable to me and a shame this country will have to bear.

She was the first Aboriginal nurse in South Australia, only because she challenged the ban for her not to complete her training because she was Aboriginal, she fought and won

and that legacy alone is one to cherish for all.

She was instrumental in negotiations for the Native Title legislation and the successful 1967 referendum which saw our people included in the national census.

It breaks my heart for her, that in all her years of advocating for our people to be recognised in the constitution, she saw the shocking results in last year's referendum, when the country said no to this simple request.

I encourage you to read her authorised biography *Lowitja* by Stuart Rintoul or watch the *Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue Australian Biography* on Youtube to learn more of her story and see where her passion, drive and love came from. Then learn more about the Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation and her legacy work there, that will continue to thrive for others, as she always did.

Lots of love to those that loved Aunty Lowitja and those that she loved, especially her family at this time of such deep sadness and loss.

We are eternally grateful for her commitment to our people and her love for everyone. She will be missed but never forgotten.

● **Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunyatjara and Wirangu woman from South Australia.**

Rugby star cleared of raping woman



OVER two weeks, a trial has heard graphic and intimate details of the night Kurtley Beale was accused of raping a woman in the bathroom of a Sydney pub.

In the end, it took a jury two hours to find the rugby star not guilty of all charges.

The former Wallaby playmaker was cleared of one count of sexual intercourse without consent and two counts of sexual touching.

The verdicts, handed down in the NSW District Court on Friday, prompted tears and sighs of relief from those present to support Beale, including his wife Maddi.

Beale, who was seated in the dock as the verdicts were delivered hung his head in an apparent show of relief.

Major toll

Speaking outside the court, the 35-year-old said the allegations had taken a major toll on him and his family.

"I've always maintained my innocence," Beale told reporters.

"My family and I have suffered a terrible year and I'm so glad that the truth has come out."

Beale's lawyer, Margaret Cunneen SC, said justice was done with the decision.

The rugby international was charged in January 2023 after the woman told police he touched her buttocks and forced her to perform oral sex in a toilet cubicle at Bondi's Beach Road Hotel the previous month.

But the jury rejected the woman's account that Beale followed her into the cubicle of the men's toilet, removed his penis from his pants and forced it into her mouth.

A secretly recorded phone call captured the moment the woman confronted Beale with the allegations, prompting him to apologise, saying he had "misread the situation".

"I'm so sorry I made you feel like this I misjudged the whole situation," Beale said. "Now I'm f***ing nervous."

Ms Cunneen told the jury detectives had believed Beale's response to be "game, set and match" in proving his guilt.

But, she said, on the contrary it showed



Kurtley Beale, with wife Maddi, said the allegations had taken a major toll on him and his family. Picture: AAP

Beale had been under the belief his interaction with the woman was consensual.

Manipulative

During the trial, Ms Cunneen labelled the alleged victim "manipulative" and asserted she had concocted the alleged rape as a way of gaining sympathy from her fiancé.

Crown prosecutor Jeff Tunks invited the jury to accept the woman's version of events that Beale engaged sexually with her despite her repeatedly telling him "no".

The woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, said during the trial she was using the men's toilets to avoid queues at the women's when Beale entered and locked the cubicle.

She said she looked up to see Beale holding his penis and shaking it up and

down while saying "suck my dick", to which she replied "no" over and over.

The woman claimed the rugby star then grabbed her head and thrust his penis forcefully into her mouth.

One of the charges of sexual touching - rejected by the jury - was an allegation that Beale placed his hands on the woman's hips while they were still in the cubicle and turned her around while saying, "Come on, let's f***."

The other sexual touching charge, on which Beale was also found not guilty, asserted he touched the woman on the backside before the pair were in the cubicle together.

The woman said she was with friends and her fiancé at the venue when she felt a hand move down her buttocks onto "bare skin".

"I turn around and realise it's Mr Beale,"

she told the jury.

Crown prosecutor Jeff Tunks conceded there were inconsistencies in the version of events the woman gave to family members and police.

However, he asked them to consider how she was acting and whether that was consistent with someone who had been the victim of a sexual assault.

"It's clear that she gives different accounts, different aspects, to different people," Mr Tunks told the jury.

"Unlawful sexual contact may affect people in different ways."

Beale is expected to apply for costs to help cover his legal expenses. - AAP

1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)
National Sexual Abuse and Redress
Support Service 1800 211 028

Time to share power



FIRST Nations children's housing, health and other organisations are demanding governments live up to their promises.

The Productivity Commission, last week, released the first of its three-yearly reviews of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, recommending that governments move out of a business-as-usual mindset and embrace power-sharing arrangements.

The review found progress to implement the agreement's reforms was weak, and that "disparate actions and ad hoc changes" had not led to noticeable improvements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Catherine Liddle, chief executive of SNAICC - National Voice for our Children, the organisation that represents Indigenous children in out-of-home care, said they had signed



Catherine Liddle

the agreement, along with other members of the Coalition of Peaks, in 2020 in good faith.

"And hope that change at the government level would drive transformation in the lives of our people," she said.

"Despite our best efforts this hasn't happened."

"It's past time all governments got serious about changing the way they work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations."

Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council acting chief executive Paula Arnol said the findings demonstrated governments were not sharing responsibility or using the skills and knowledge of Indigenous community controlled organisations.

"It's not a 'gap', it's a chasm, we need urgent action now," she said.

"Our communities and services live with real inequity."

"Life expectancy targets aren't on trajectory, and suicide rates amongst our people are climbing."

Victorian Independent Senator Lidia Thorpe said she believed Closing the Gap was a distraction from the real issues.

"And to Close the Gap we need to deal with the fundamental causes of those areas of concern and that is genocide, that is invasion, and that is the ongoing trauma that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people face in this country with incarceration rates,

deaths in custody, child removal, destruction of Country, the list goes on," she said.

"And I can tell you right now, from the Aboriginal people that I speak to across this country, Close the Gap is a dirty word."

But Indigenous housing and homelessness organisations supported the productivity commission's findings, saying they, too, were yet to see any meaningful shift in the way in which governments operate.

Rob Macfarlane, chief executive of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association, said in Victoria alone, the number of Aboriginal women accessing specialist homelessness services increased 20 per cent over the past five years, compared to a nearly 14 per cent decrease over the same period for non-Aboriginal women.

Mr Macfarlane said governments must take immediate and tangible steps to strengthen

accountability mechanisms for housing solutions, which requires a radical shift in behaviour and mindset within governments and institutions.

"The First Nations housing sector, with its long-term experience and innovative approaches, holds a unique and essential power in driving sustainable solutions," he said.

"The gap will widen for our people if attention is not given to addressing the housing emergency faced by our people."

Ms Liddle called on governments to substantially shift the way they operate, think about and interact with Aboriginal community controlled organisations.

"The Productivity Commission was blunt in its assessment that without fundamental change the agreement will fail," she said.

"Australia cannot afford to keep failing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children."

-AAP

High Court backs TOs over mining project



TRADITIONAL owners from the Gulf of Carpentaria region have won a High Court appeal preventing a mining giant expanding onto Aboriginal land without having their say.

In 2013 Glencore applied for a mineral lease for the McArthur River mining project, with plans to build a facility on land to deposit sediment dredged from shallow gulf waters to allow bulk-carrier vessels to ship the mine's ore.

Though Glencore owns the pastoral lease for the land, it is subject to native title.

The case, Harvey & Ors v Minister for Primary Industry and Resources & Ors, considered the Northern Territory Government's (NTG's) proposal to grant a new mineral lease adjacent to the Bing Bong Port on the pastoral lease.

The Northern Land Council and two native title holders – David Harvey and Thomas Simon – have successfully upheld their freeholder and procedural rights to negotiate under the Native Title Act, forcing the company to come to the table and work on an agreement with them.

The High Court last Wednesday unanimously overturned a Federal Court judgment that the new infrastructure facility was too 'remote' from mining and could not be regarded as 'necessary for the meaningful exercise of the right to mine'.

High Court justices Stephen Gageler, Michelle Gordon, Simon Steward and Jacqueline Gleeson ruled the granting of the mineral lease would be a 'right to mine' under the Mineral Titles Act.



Appellant David Harvey (right) pictured with NLC lawyer Daniel Wells at the appeal hearing in Canberra, September 2023. Picture: courtesy of the Northern Land Council.

Also an infrastructure facility was covered by the Native Title Act and the appellants were entitled to their rights under that legislation.

NLC chief executive Joe Martin-Jard said the decision was the result of over 10 years of

struggle by Yanyuwa and Yanyuwa-Mara native title holders to have their basic rights under the Native Title Act respected and followed by the NTG and Mount Isa Mines.

"The NLC congratulates David Harvey, Thomas Simon and the

other Yanyuwa native title holders who have pushed this case. The NLC also acknowledges the powerful legacy of Mr Friday, who started these proceedings.

"These Traditional Owners never gave up. Even when they were unsuccessful in front of four

Federal Court judges, they kept fighting, and today five judges of the High Court have accepted their case.

"The NLC hopes that this decision will prompt the mining company to reconsider its approach to applying for new tenure. We want to see the company engage proactively and in good faith with the native title holders, through their PBC and their legal representatives, to obtain the free prior and informed consent before further disturbing their native title.

Glencore general manager Mark Furlotte said the company respected the High Court decision.

"McArthur River Mine continues to be engaged in discussions with the Traditional Owners and with the Northern Land Council in relation to the land which is the subject of the decision of the High Court and other matters," he said in a statement.

The McArthur River Mine was established in 1992 and is one of the world's largest deposits of zinc and lead.

The mine, almost 750km southeast of Darwin, has been dogged by environmental incidents and claims sacred Indigenous sites face irreversible cultural and ecological damage from its operation.

Last year traditional owners went to the Federal Court seeking "no less than" \$225 million in compensation for environmental and cultural damage from the mining operations.

The court will hand down a decision by December.

– with AAP

Apply now for a Health and Development Participation Grant NSW



The NSW Department of Education has launched a new grant to support early childhood education and care services to implement health and development checks for 4-year-old children in their service.

Eligible services can apply for funding of up to \$7,500.

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Charges to be laid over damage to historic site



THE Northern Territory government will lay charges over allegations that a nationally heritage-listed Indigenous historic site, along the route of the Wave Hill walk-off, has been significantly damaged.

The NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities launched an investigation in September last year, finding significant damage to the site – including the demolition of a historic windmill and fence marking the walk-off route.

Other alleged damage includes the installation of a large solar panel system, fences blocking access and removal of interpretation markers.

The historic route marks the path taken by Aboriginal rights leader Vincent Lingiari as he led striking Aboriginal

workers off nearby Wave Hill Station in a bid for improved pay and conditions in 1966.

At the time, many Indigenous workers were paid only in rations, tobacco and clothing.

His action prompted families working on Limbunya and other stations to also walk off.

Negotiations

Negotiations with the station owners broke down, leading to a seven-year dispute and eventually resulting in a portion of Gurindji homelands being returned in 1974, paving the way for further Aboriginal land rights legislation.

The site attracts thousands of tourists per year and was heritage-listed in 2007.

Singer songwriter Paul Kelly's 1991 protest song *From Little Things Big Things Grow* tells the story of the walk-off

and ensuing struggle for land rights and reconciliation.

Wave Hill station, a 1.25 million hectare cattle property, was bought by Jumbuck Pastoral group for \$104 million in 2021 partly backed by former AFL CEO Gillon McLachlan.

An NT government spokesperson said the route is of national significance and is important to NT traditional owners.

"We are committed to ensuring the preservation and integrity of all heritage-listed sites across the Northern Territory," the spokesperson said.

"Charges are expected to be laid this week in relation to alleged damage at the heritage-listed Gurindji Wave Hill Walk-Off Route."

The government would not confirm which individuals or organisations had been charged.

– AAP

Calls for action as doors close on survivors of DV



FIRST Nations women face appallingly high rates of domestic and family violence, with stretched specialist legal services having to turn away clients or close.

Trying to escape a violent home is never easy, but for Aboriginal women living in remote communities there are frequently complexities on top of complexities.

Small towns with family connections can mean anonymity is near to impossible. Shelters where they exist are stretched, and if a woman is on income management she has no access to cash.

When a woman walks through the doors of the Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit (CAAFLU) she knows she's in safe hands.

The unit is part of the national family violence prevention legal services forum – Aboriginal community-controlled organisations that help First Nations women and children with often complex and multi-layered issues.

The network offers culturally safe and trauma-informed wraparound services, as well as legal assistance.

First Nations women are 33 times more likely to be hospitalised and six times more likely to die from domestic violence than non-Indigenous women.

CAAFLU chief executive P Clarke, an Arrernte woman, painted a scenario of an Aboriginal woman from a remote community on income management trying to escape family violence.

"She could have been hit in the head 20 times ... and may end up at a women's shelter here in Alice Springs, where it's absolutely wrong and horrible but life isn't free, and she has to pay per night \$10.95," she said.

Income management is when Centrelink payments are quarantined onto a debit card that's only authorised for certain purchases, meaning no ability, or sometimes a very small ability, to withdraw cash.

If an abuser takes the card, it's another way to assert control and can further restrict a woman's capacity to leave a violent situation.

In those circumstances, the



Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Unit's principal legal officer Carol Smith, client service officer Shirley Erlandson and legal practitioner Jean Saker, Alice Springs. Picture: supplied by CAAFLU

woman might sign a form meaning Centrelink can deduct the total from her social security payment and then months later not understand why her payment is less.

Ms Clarke explained that without assistance, sometimes already vulnerable women find themselves in further financial difficulty.

"So that's big, bad, wrong and ugly," she said.

"And there is a very horrible story that we could share with our country about all of these issues, which no one is aware of at all and it needs addressing, it's a very serious matter.

"We are wanting to make changes in our community."

At the Top End Women's Legal Centre (TEWLC), almost a third of their clients (31 per cent) are Indigenous and more than three-quarters of their ongoing clients are affected by family violence.

Many clients are referred by women's shelters or police.

Most will have multiple issues

they need help with, and for many migrant and Aboriginal clients English is not their first language.

Over the Christmas break, they were forced to say no to 60 women referred to them because they lacked the capacity.

"We're not able to urgently go to court and get the restraining order to protect the client and her children," the centre's chief executive Caitlin Weatherby-Fell said.

"We're not able to negotiate parenting arrangements to make sure that any time for the children with potentially the parent who presents the most risk, is able to be safe.

"If we're not able to provide any assistance it means people are self-navigating through a system that is increasingly complex, that increasingly relies on lawyers being able to assist because everything is in legalese and nothing is easy to navigate unless you are trained."

Community Legal Centres



Kerry Staines, the chief executive of the National Family Violence Prevention Legal Service forum (FVPLS).

Picture: supplied by FVPLS

Australia chairperson Gerard Brody has written to federal Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus, seeking urgent investment of \$125 million to prevent a crisis for 165 local services across the country.

The NSW Far West CLC has announced that it will cease delivery of its four services, including Warra Warra Legal Service, by July 31.

National Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service (FVPLS) forum chief executive Kerry Staines said the loss of Warra Warra puts Aboriginal women and children at risk.

"Despite their best efforts to continue to support Aboriginal women and children experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence across the vast far west of their state for almost 24 years now, the extreme pressure of retaining community-based legal staff and maintaining its compliance obligations has taken its toll and the centre is no longer able to continue its service delivery," she said.

Mr Brody believes chronic underfunding over the past decade has pushed many services to the brink of closure and that, without a significant injection of extra support, the Far West CLC won't be the last to close its doors.

He says lack of funds means CLCs are forced to turn away more than 200,000 people a year.

"The cost of this crisis can be measured in people in prisons and hospitals, women and children stuck in dangerous situations, people losing their homes, households overwhelmed by debt and financial problems, families

unable to resolve the custody of their children, asylum seekers facing ongoing exploitation, and people left in the dark about their legal rights," he said.

The Top End Women's Legal Service and CAAFLU are finding it increasingly difficult to find and keep staff.

"More investment needs to happen from government, both federal and territory, to help these services because otherwise there's going to be no one around to help the victims," CAAFLU principal legal officer Carol Smith said.

"We're seeing it now ... in Central Australia, they're finding it difficult to get criminal lawyers and every man and his dog wants to be a criminal lawyer.

"But to get people to work in our area, which is even more specialised and more traumatic on the practitioners, it's really hard."

Ms Clarke also wants the NT government to step up.

"We've shared our great stories how when we have had capacity and when we have had the right funding, we can deliver early intervention prevention that works," she said.

"And we've delivered legal education with our children, even in our remote communities and for some reason, the Northern Territory government has not come to the table."

CLCs, Indigenous legal services and legal aid are funded through the National Legal Assistance Partnership, which Mr Dreyfus commissioned Warren Mundy to review.

The final report is due by the end of February.

A spokesperson for Mr Dreyfus said the government had made a record investment of \$2.3 billion in women's safety.

"The Albanese government recognises the extraordinary pressures these services are under, and the importance of strengthening the legal assistance sector," the spokesperson said.

"The government remains committed to supporting critical service delivery for First Nations peoples and will continue to work with states and territories and service delivery organisations to address these issues, including in the (NSW) Far West." – AAP

koori

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BRITISH COUNCIL

CREATIVE VICTORIA

Harbour kayaks inspired by the sky and the water



TWO kayaks painted by Indigenous artist and curator Tyson Frigo will play a central role in helping people delve into the history of Sydney Harbour.

The kayaks are part of a Sydney Harbour Kayaks tour, which takes participants from the Australian National Maritime Museum to explore the western harbour.

Inspired by Indigenous connection to country, Tyson's unique kayak designs each have their own individual meaning and story.

The first kayak, Weaver, decorated in silver and ultramarine blue, depicts a river of silver stars unfurling from a full moon down onto the water's surface where the symbols for a mother whale and her calf can be found.

Inspired by the connection between the sky and the water, this kayak showcases the open and ever-expanding vastness under the stars.

Hunter, the second kayak, ochre red and yellow, is inspired by the ideas of direction and focus.

The design features a spear raised to grandfather sun as he walks his journey across the sky, diamonds, and curving patterns wrapping around the stern.

A singular speared fish is a symbol of triumph and determination.

Frigo said the designs "symbolise how through kayaking, like travelling in a Nawi, or via any means of travel really, we are reminded to move with purpose and mindfulness with destination in mind, gentle yet direct".

Sydney Harbour Kayaks managing director Shannon O'Brien said the tours were a great way to get to know the history of the area.

"As we tour the harbour, we get a chance not only to tell contemporary stories of the



Kayak tours on Sydney Harbour are a great way to learn about Indigenous history.

harbour but we can also introduce the deep and rich First Nations history that the harbour has witnessed," he said.

"These kayaks provide an entry point for those discussions. We view the harbour from a vantage point that Gadigal and Cammeraygal people have seen for centuries."

Director and chief executive of the museum, Ms Daryl Karp, said the partnership with Sydney Harbour Kayaks provided an opportunity that "connects visitors to the richness of our offering".

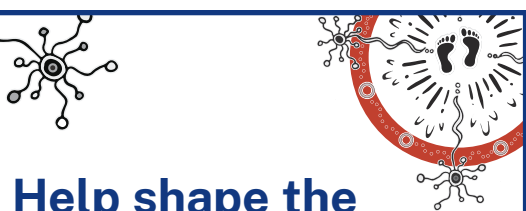
"The harbour's human history is millennia old and providing a chance to introduce this history to visitors is invaluable," he said.

"It encourages further discovery and links to the storytelling that we have inside the museum."

The two kayaks join Sydney Harbour Kayak's fleet at the museum. For more info check www.sea.museum/kayak-experience



Tyson Frigo paints one of the kayaks.



Help shape the future of the new Western Sydney Aerotropolis

A proposed master plan for Bradfield city centre is now available for feedback until Monday 4 March 2024.

The master plan aims to deliver:

- mixed-use development
- future road networks
- open space and parkland within the city centre.

To give feedback:

Scan the QR code included below, or visit planningportal.nsw.gov.au/bradfield



Advisory council seeks members



IF you are interested in being a member of the Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (AACWA), then get your Expressions of Interest in soon.

Established under Section 18 of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972, the AACWA (The Council) is a government board providing advice to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the State Government on matters relating to the interests and well-being of Aboriginal people across Western Australia.

WA Aboriginal Affairs Minister Dr Tony Buti said he wants to "encourage Aboriginal people to consider this opportunity to help build a better future for the next generation of First Nations people".

"The Cook Government is committed to continue collaboration with the AACWA to help to improve economic, social and cultural outcomes for Aboriginal Western Australians," he said.

"In the past five years, the council has made a number of achievements including bringing together Aboriginal Advisory Groups across the WA Public Sector through the first Culture at the Heart Forum."

The council is responsible for leading the way in decision-

making and dialogue regarding issues affecting the recognition and rights, leadership and vision, expertise, well-being, and integrity of Aboriginal communities.

The council is also the WA Government's key strategic partner in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, providing advice and guidance on the state's implementation.

The council meets approximately six times per year in Perth, providing advice on a range of policy matters to Government agencies and at times Ministers.

The current membership is made up of Western Australian Aboriginal leaders, reflecting a diversity of genders, regional experience, and professional backgrounds.

Minister Buti said other achievements of the council include co-designing the transformational whole-of-government Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy and helping to develop the first Western Australian Aboriginal Expenditure Review 2022-23, led by the Department of Treasury.

"And becoming the key strategic partner in the implementation of Closing the Gap in WA," he said.

Applications close on March 18. You can apply by visiting the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website, emailing AACWA@dpc.wa.gov.au, or phoning (08) 6552 5000.

Call for submissions for AIATSIS Summit



ORGANISERS of the 2024 AIATSIS Summit are calling for abstract submissions before the closing date of March 3.

The Summit will be held on June 3 to 7 in Naarm (Melbourne) with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria as Co-convenors.

The Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) provide the Summit as a forum for Indigenous peoples, academics, native title stakeholders, legal experts, GLAM sector stakeholders, community and cultural sectors as well as state and federal government to collaborate in addressing current and future

challenges. It incorporates a three-day native title component, a native title youth forum and has a strong focus on the GLAM and Indigenous research sectors.

This year's theme is Celebrating Indigenous Brilliance: Then and Now. For more information about the call for abstracts or posters, visit aiatsis.gov.au/

Murder charges laid over woman's disappearance



A MAN has been charged with murder over the disappearance of a 23-year-old woman in a remote Cape York community more than a decade ago.

The woman - referred to as Ms Bernard at the request of her family - was last seen at Archer River Quarry on February 10, 2013 about 11pm.

She had been at the Exchange Hotel in Coen earlier that evening and was expected to return home to Kowanyama but never arrived.

Ms Bernard's family said in a statement the past 11 years had been a "sad, long journey" for them.

They said she will be remembered as a cheeky little girl who grew into a quiet, proud and loving mother who loved to dance and swim.

The family also criticised police investigations.

"When we reported our loved one missing to the police in 2013 they believed the man who is now charged with her murder and who told police that she ran off in the middle of the night for no reason," the statement said.

"Our women do not go missing and they don't run off in the middle of the night."

The family said police had been pressured by their lawyer to go back and follow up their failed investigation.

Detective Acting Superintendent Mick Searle said a large-scale search, which included helicopters, police dive squads, the SES and defence force failed to find any sign of Ms Bernard in the months that followed.

"There were challenges in the initial investigation, the fact that Ms Bernard is an Indigenous woman has

no impact on that," he said.

Det Searle said police had been investigating the matter around Coen in the past 12 months but no evidence had been found as a result.

"We have conducted a number of excavations and been in Coen regularly over that time," he said.

"They will continue as points of interest are identified," Ms Bernard's family said they are grieving and want her to be found so she can be returned home and buried alongside her loved ones.

Thomas Maxwell Byrnes, 62, who had allegedly been seen at the Exchange Hotel with Ms Bernard on the night of her disappearance, was charged with murder on Tuesday.

The Coen man appeared in Cairns Magistrates Court last Wednesday and is expected to appear again on April 19.

Det Searle said a

\$500,000 reward announced in April 2023 was still available for anyone who could help police find Ms Bernard.

He said Ms Bernard's family deserved to have answers about the young woman's disappearance.

"Any information that anyone has, please bring it forward because we do want to find Ms Bernard to provide closure for her family," Det Searle said.

"We're not going to absolve that grief or frustration or anger but it's very important for them for the trauma that they've suffered."

A coronial inquest into the death of Ms Bernard initially scheduled for February 19-23 has been shelved until the conclusion of police investigations and all court processes, a spokesperson for the Coroners Court of Queensland said.



A man has been charged with murdering a "a quiet, proud and loving" young mother who went missing from a remote Cape York community nearly 11 years ago.

- AAP



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Grants on offer to help protect heritage sites



A RECORD grants pool of \$750,000 is now open to Aboriginal organisations to undertake cultural heritage projects at registered Aboriginal sites. The 2023-24 Preserve, Promote and Protect our Aboriginal Sites Grants Program is part of the State Government's commitment to empower Aboriginal people in managing their unique cultural heritage.

Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for Aboriginal not-for-profit organisations to undertake on the ground works that protect and preserve Aboriginal sites, promote Aboriginal cultural heritage and provide social and economic benefits to local communities.

Past successful projects have included remediation of registered Aboriginal sites, development and installation of interpretive and truth-telling signage, and employment and training

opportunities for Aboriginal people in delivering on-the-ground projects.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Dr Tony Buti said "as the world's oldest living culture, it is vital that we protect the unique cultural heritage and history of Aboriginal people across our state for future generations".

Value

"Aboriginal heritage holds significant value to Aboriginal people and provides an essential connection to their past, present and future. The grants help foster economic and social benefits for Aboriginal communities by enhancing tourism, providing employment opportunities for Aboriginal people and building a greater understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal heritage."

Applications close on March 29. For more information, visit wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/grants-preserve-and-protect-aboriginal-sites.

Ex-Bishop's residence searched



CHILD-abuse squad detectives have travelled to a popular holiday town as part of an investigation into historic sex offences.

Police have searched the Western Australian home of the former Bishop of Broome Christopher Saunders for a second time.

Premier Roger Cook said detectives were investigating "some very grievous allegations".

"The fact that they're back there today really just demonstrates how seriously they take these accusations," he said on Thursday.

"We're really pleased that they are providing resources that are getting on top of that situation."

The same property was searched by police on January 15. The visits come several months after the Catholic Church handed detectives a report detailing allegations of sexual assault and grooming against the veteran cleric.

The Vatican report found Bishop Saunders hosted "bunga bunga" parties at church properties in Broome, the Seven



Former Bishop of Broome Christopher Saunders.

Network previously reported.

He also allegedly spent thousands of dollars in church money on cash payments, mobile phones, alcohol and cigarettes.

The Vatican identified 67 Indigenous boys and young men who may have been subjected to sexual assault or grooming.

Police are understood to have reopened an investigation into the former bishop after receiving the report.

Bishop Saunders has previously denied the allegations and has not been charged by police. He resigned from his role in Broome in 2020 after sexual misconduct and bullying claims emerged.

The church previously said Bishop Saunders refused to leave the Broome diocese during its internal investigation and he also chose not to participate in questioning.

Its 200-page Vos Estis Lux Mundi investigation found Bishop Saunders developed a "modus operandi" of grooming young Indigenous men for sex during his time in the Kimberley region.

It also interviewed witnesses who described the bishop as being "a wonderful orator and strong leader" but also a sexual predator preying on vulnerable Indigenous boys and young men.

The report was also critical of the WA police's previous investigation into the bishop's alleged offending and the decision not to press criminal charges due to difficulties in establishing the ages of victims at the time of the alleged offending.

WA Police has previously said it carried out two investigations into a number of complaints regarding a member of the Catholic Church in the Kimberley between 2018 and 2020.

It said there was insufficient evidence to lay criminal charges.

- AAP



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Share your feedback on the Crown Land Management Act



We are reviewing the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (CLM Act). We welcome your input on how the Act is working now and your ideas to improve it.

Tell us what you think by 19 March 2024

We want to hear your views on key aspects of the CLM Act. Share your potential priorities and goals for reform.

Public consultation will run until 19 March 2024 (11.59 pm AEDT).

Get involved

- Consider the consultation questions in the discussion paper.
- Prepare a response to some or all questions and raise any other important issues.
- Send your feedback through the Crown Lands website at crownland.nsw.gov.au/review by 19 March 2024.

Email cl.enquiries@crownland.nsw.gov.au for help or advice to submit your response.



Dutton vows to defund EDO

By NICK PATON



MARDUDHUNERA woman Raelene Cooper has responded fiercely to comments made last week by Federal Opposition Leader Peter Dutton when he said he would defund the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) if he wins government at the next election.

"Mr Dutton has not justified any of his comments," Ms Cooper responded.

"Our opponents are trying to take away the only safety net that we have."

Mr Dutton's comments to defund the EDO came just a day after energy giant Woodside halted installation of a massive offshore gas pipeline for its \$18 billion Scarborough gas project, after a serious incident on Monday, January 29.

Speaking from Perth, Mr Dutton announced he would defund the EDO if his party was returned to government because the body is "a bunch of radical environmentalists not approaching situations with objectiveness".

"The Environmental Defenders Office is a body which has been funded by the Albanese government to try and attack mining companies, and to try and stymie new developments, and to try and revisit approvals that have already been given," Mr Dutton said.

"They don't have the best interests of Western Australians at heart – and we think it needs to be defunded, and that's exactly what we'll do if we win government."



Mardudhunera woman Raelene Cooper responded fiercely to comments made last week by Federal Opposition Leader Peter Dutton.

Earlier that week, the Castorone pipeline installation vessel forced an evacuation of workers after it lost control of the pipeline it was installing off the Pilbara coast, causing serious damage to the pipeline - the second serious safety incident involving the vessel in January alone.

Implications

Ms Cooper, a Murujuga Traditional Custodian from the Burrup Peninsula in Western Australia, said she is scared about the implications should another serious incident with the gas pipeline arise in the future.

"I am really scared for the animals, for our environment and for our sacred

songlines. This is the unknown," Ms Cooper said.

"If that incident has occurred today, what happens when a fully pressurised gas pipeline breaks in our precious ocean?"

"Humans, animals – where do we fit into this chaos that is being unleashed, and how is it that these companies and these governments allow this poisonous, dangerous, destructive behaviour to continue?"

The EDO is the largest environmental legal centre in the Australia-Pacific, dedicated to protecting climate, communities and shared environment by providing access to justice, running ground breaking litigation, and leading

law reform advocacy.

The Albanese government have poured more than \$8 million into the EDO since coming to power in 2022, while the Cook government funded the WA branch \$150,000 last financial year.

The WA government have budgeted a further \$150,000 over the next two years – which the WA Liberals will aim to stop if they win the 2025 election.

Legal support

The EDO is supporting Ms Cooper's legal efforts to have Woodside's Scarborough gas project halted over concerns about seismic testing impacts on whales off the WA coast.

Ms Cooper has backed the efforts of the EDO in her case which she said helped her navigate a legal system that was biased against her people, her stories and her culture.

"The federal government has already tried to break us down with the Voice referendum and the WA government has then ripped the heart out of our Aboriginal Heritage Act," Ms Cooper said.

"And now they are all repeatedly hammering the only safety net that we have left."

"Man, industry, governments, decision makers are making terrible decisions to allow these companies and these projects to go ahead without knowing the unknowns," she said.

"When incidents happen, like the Scarborough pipeline disaster yesterday, it is traumatic, it is tragic and it is terrifying."

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WALKING WITH FAMILY

We all want the best for our kids, keeping them safe, strong and connected to culture. Community organisations you trust are here to walk with you. To contact them and find free and confidential support near you, visit the Family Wellbeing Services website. Because when it comes to our children, we all walk together.

Visit familywellbeingqld.org.au or call 1300 117 095.

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Rangers battle plastics



MAMU Indigenous Rangers are set to test beaches, rivers and creeks for microplastics, as part of a national program aimed at improving the health of waterways.

The rangers will test sites in the Innisfail region to find solutions to reduce plastic pollution in waterways.

What are microplastics?

Microplastics are plastics that have broken up into very small particles in the environment.

They include plastic products like microbeads, which are used in a range of cleaning, cosmetic and personal care items; microfibrils shed from clothing and other textiles like fishing nets.

Mamu Senior Ranger Francis Joyce said plastic pollution was one of the issues listed by traditional owners at community meetings last year when planning began for the waterway health project, which is being delivered in partnership with Terrain NRM.

Rangers have recently received training from AUSMAP, the Australian Microplastic Assessment Project team.

AUSMAP records data collected by a network of researchers and citizen scientists to create a map of microplastic pollution hotspots around Australia.

The information is helping to regulate industries and enabling communities and

governments to develop better waste management systems.

"We'll be setting up sampling areas, sieving sand, counting and categorising plastics," Francis said.

"Hopefully, further down the track, this data can tell a story. There's also potential to track plastics to their source if a lot of the same kind of microplastics are detected."

The Mamu Healthy Waterways Project includes monthly water sampling across the Johnstone River catchment, testing for nutrients, pesticides and suspended solids.

The project, which is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, is building on existing water quality monitoring in the region and combining science with cultural knowledge and values.

Rangers have also received training in eDNA sampling.

"This kind of sampling will help us to determine whether our culturally significant species are present or absent in waterways and from there we can develop management plans," Francis said.

"All this information will give everyone a snapshot of waterway health and a better understanding to move towards solutions. By working together and building partnerships with organisations we can create a more sustainable future."

**"Hopefully, further down the track, this data can tell a story".
– Mamu Senior Ranger Francis Joyce.**



Shai Ivey, Latana Simpson and Whyatt Joyce check out some of the found microplastics.

NSW CAPO Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations
Government Accountability Community Workshops

We want your input on what a Government Accountability Organisation should look like. Yarn with us in:

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Australian Government
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NIAA

**Celebrate National NAIDOC Week 2024:
Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud**

The NAIDOC Local Grants Opportunity online applications for 2024 are now open. NAIDOC Local Grants support First Nations communities and organisations to deliver local NAIDOC Week activities and events in communities and regions around Australia. Register and complete an online application on GrantConnect: www.grants.gov.au

Applications close **Thursday 22 February at 3.00pm AEDT.**

Find out more about the NAIDOC Week 2024 theme at: www.naidoc.org.au

2508SD_4530

Jake gives Troy's yarns new life with animation

By SARAH ROBERTS-FIELD



THE fire crackles behind softly-plucked guitar strings as Troy Cassar-Daley gently sings,

'Ninganah you jarjums, Ninganah you kids, or Goonge will come give you a fright'.

As the song continues, young Djardi, who's camping with his family, is drifting off to sleep. He dreams of flying on a huge squirrel glider named Buu, soaring over Bundjalung and Gumbaynggirr Country. They see many animals and encounter the friendly Goonge spirits, whose captivating dance sends all off to sleep.

This is *Ninganah Lullaby*, the 2024 lullaby for ABC Kids. Ninganah means to 'be quiet' and is the title of the song written and performed by Cassar-Daley, a Gumbaynggirr and Bundjalung man.

The story is told through the animation work of Studio Gilay and is about trying to be quiet and still at night, even though you're excited. It was based on Cassar-Daley's early childhood memories, he remembers playing with his cousins and learning from his uncle, connecting with Country and culture.

Talented team

Jake Duczynski is a proud Gomeri and Mandandanji writer and the creative director for *Ninganah Lullaby*. He is devoted to First Nations representation on-screen and fortifying a space for Indigenous voices in the animation industry.



Young Djardi gets a great view as he flies on top of his sugar glider friend, Buu, in the ABC's latest children's series, *Ninganah Lullaby*.

Duczynski and James Hackett joined forces in 2021 to become Studio Gilay, a media company with a team of talented writers, directors, producers and 2D and 3D artists who live for design and animation.

"The more I reflect on why I got into this, the more I realise it was due to the lack of legacy in

our stories," Duczynski said.

"A legacy in blackfellas on-screen in animations and characters that I'd heard about growing up from the Dreaming, such as Hairy Man. All of these stories and characters in my mind and my imagination are so intrinsically part of me, my story and my family stories, but I

never saw them."

The ability to bring First Nations culture and knowledge to the screen through the power of animation is essential to Duczynski. His care, drive, and passion for creating space in the industry for this truth-telling are evident as he spoke with the *Koori Mail* about his beginnings, Studio Gilay and *Ninganah Lullaby*.

Reconnecting

"It's for young kids to start reconnecting with and observing the world around them," Duczynski said.

"In a day in which TikTok superstars, influencers and phones rule the lives of kids and all of us, *Ninganah Lullaby* is about little Djardi starting to see the Country he's on. He sees the endangered animals and the rivers, where the salt meets the fresh, the whales migrating, the song of the curlew, and those brologas cuddling up with their chicks.

"I want it to be something where kids are inspired to not only imagine these beautiful, surreal and dreamy worlds but also the natural world around them in different ways and understand it more."

Tjiti Lullaby – created and produced by Zaachariaha Fielding and Michael Ross from Electric Fields, and *Marringa Lullaby* – written and performed by Emily Wurramara and written

and produced by DOBBY, are two of the previous lullabies made for ABC Kids. *Ninganah* is the first of them all to feature a human character.

Imagination

"I really wanted young kids to be able to see Djardi, his imagination and his dream, the way that he's connecting, and hopefully be inspired to imagine in that way," Duczynski said.

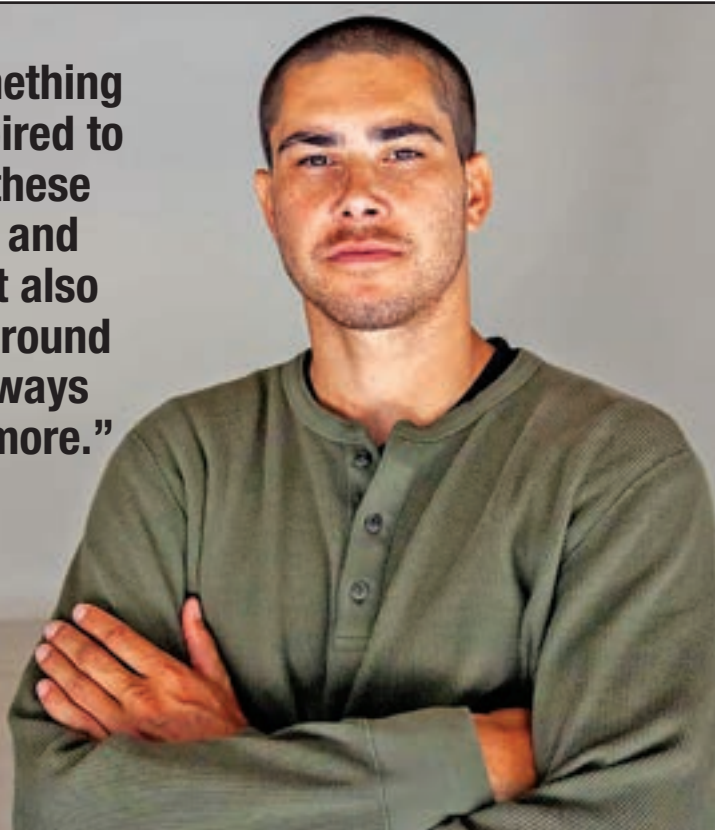
"For them, to be able to hear their voice, stories from our communities and the language and lingo that we speak, to see that on-screen and know that they have a place in this industry, that's a huge growing factor for me."

"I just hope that young Mob watching can see themselves in it; I hope it inspires them to reconnect to the natural world and their Country and gets them interested in animation, potentially as a medium for them to express their story and self."

"It's a big thing for me. I've been lucky enough to find this tool as a storyteller and bring awareness to the beautiful culture we have within us, and I hope the impact of this lullaby is meaningful."

Ninganah Lullaby is available to watch now on ABC Kids and ABC iview, and if you want to see some behind-the-scenes action of the five-month animation process, head to studiogilay.com

"I want it to be something where kids are inspired to not only imagine these beautiful, surreal and dreamy worlds but also the natural world around them in different ways and understand it more."



Jake Duczynski is the creative director for *Ninganah Lullaby*.

Justice Reinvestment Grants



Make a difference to your mob

Have an idea to help your community reduce contact with the police, courts and prison?

Funding is now available to support Aboriginal community organisations in NSW to develop and deliver local solutions that create real change.

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To find out more visit dcj.nsw.info/JusticeReinvestment



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Expressions of Interest close Thursday 29 February 2024. Visit socialfutures.org.au/leap or call 1800 719 625.



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news

Chance to have a say on river protection



ABORIGINAL communities and landholders along the Murrumbidgee River are encouraged to reach out to the Reconnecting River Country program and provide feedback to improve the way water for the environment is delivered.

The NSW Government is exploring how to change river flow management in order to deliver higher environmental flows and create healthier wetlands and floodplains. This could result in periodic low-level inundation of some private and public land.

The Reconnecting River Country program has been working with landholders, Aboriginal groups and other stakeholders in the program area to understand the potential benefits and impacts of these changes.

While hundreds of community members have jumped on board, the NSW

Government is now launching a new awareness campaign to ensure everyone who has not taken part has an opportunity to connect with the program, get involved, and provide feedback.

Higher flows can also deliver better cultural outcomes for First Nations people, as well as improved property access with investment in new infrastructure funded as part of the program.

Since the program started, 115 landholders in the Murrumbidgee catchment have engaged and there have been more than 7,000 community interactions with the program.

Program director Michelle Cavallaro said "boosting the amount of water going back to the environment to future-proof our important wetlands and floodplains is vital and will benefit us for generations to come, but it can't be at the expense of landholders and local stakeholders".

"The NSW Government remains committed to

developing fair and reasonable mitigation measures and compensation for those impacted farming operations and private land users to address inconvenience, maintenance issues or restricted access to property as a result of the higher environmental flows.

"We are also committed to working with First Nations people to understand how the program can improve connection and access to Country and healthy culture."

To find out whether your land is within the proposed environmental flow corridor, visit the online maps for the Murrumbidgee at: <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/water/water-infrastructure-nsw/sdlam/reconnecting-river-country-program/inundation-mapping>.

To connect with the program and register for updates, visit: <https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/water-infrastructure-nsw/sdlam/reconnecting-river-country-program>

Funds for cultural events



IF you have an idea for a cultural event or project, get your applications in soon, because round two of the NSW Government Aboriginal Affairs Cultural Grants Program closes on February 26. This program supports communities to strengthen and maintain traditional and contemporary expressions of Aboriginal culture and support cultural events and activities.

In funding round one, \$500,000 was shared by 30 Aboriginal Community Controlled organisations in celebrating Aboriginal culture in NSW.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty David Harris said the funded projects will help deliver a key priority of the National Closing the Gap agreement that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing and connection to Country.

"From powerful public art to films and festivals, this funding will not only provide

Aboriginal people and communities the opportunity to join together in the strength of their culture, it will also allow all of us to gain a deeper appreciation of the rich cultural heritage of this land," Mr Harris said.

"In what can feel like serious and challenging times, this is the boost we all need."

The funded projects are designed to boost connection to culture and community for Aboriginal people across NSW and give the wider community a greater appreciation for the strength and beauty of the world's oldest continuous culture. The grants also provide opportunities for leadership and learning.

"In the next few months, keep an eye out for events such as the Saltwater Freshwater Festival on the Mid-North Coast, weaving and painting workshops through West Wyalong Local Aboriginal Land Council, and a 40th anniversary exhibition by the Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council, amongst other engaging events and activities," Mr Harris said.

NSWALC elections loom



AS the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) elections approach, 27 nominated candidates are ready to contest for positions on February 24.

Across eight of the nine NSWALC regions, 136 polling booths will be set up for the voters to elect new Council members who will represent the NSWALC membership for the next four years. A postal voting option is also available.

Grace Toomey will become Councillor for the Central Region, after nominating as an uncontested candidate.

The most hotly contested region is the Mid North Coast

with five candidates nominating, and four candidates wanting to become the next Sydney/Newcastle region representative. Incumbents have nominated in eight of the nine regions.

NSWALC chief executive Yuseph Deen said. "I welcome that the majority of contests will be three-cornered contests, bar Wiradjuri where two candidates will battle it out."

"It is important we have a strong voter turnout so Aboriginal peoples can have a say in setting the future direction of NSWALC," Mr Deen said.

"The new council will also be responsible for the allocation of the council's resources and making decisions on a range of important issues affecting

Aboriginal people in NSW.

"The network has never been in a better position to generate ongoing benefits from land acquisition and activation for Local Aboriginal Land Councils and Aboriginal communities

"The new council will be critical in ensuring the Land Rights Network builds on the success and the hard-fought gains of the last 40 years and continues to thrive. We have inherited a profound legacy and we need to continue to strengthen it for the next 40 years." For information about candidates, voting eligibility and polling booth locations, visit elections.nsw.gov.au/elections/local-government-elections/2024-nsw-aboriginal-land-council-elections

Prison staff watch on as Aboriginal man dies



IT took 17 minutes for an Aboriginal prisoner to be pulled out of his cell and given medical treatment after he became unconscious.

But it was too late. By the time paramedics got to Joshua Kerr, he was dead.

Several corrections and medical staff had been watching the 32-year-old behaving erratically on CCTV in the hours before his death.

He was heard saying "I'm dying" over intercom, and seen by prison supervisors trying to drink from the shower and toilet after he was not given water or food.

Not one of these people intervened.

Victorian coroner David Ryan is investigating the Yorta Yorta and Gunnaikurnai man's death, and why prison staff did not get him medical treatment sooner.

An inquest into the August 10, 2022, death began on Monday last week.

Counsel assisting Rachel Ellyard said Kerr had been undergoing quarantine in his cell due to COVID-19 protocols, after leaving prison to go to a funeral in the days before he died.

He had been on remand in prison for more than a year, while awaiting trial.

Hours before he died, Kerr was taken to hospital after lighting a fire inside his cell and burning his hand.

He told a nurse he had been paranoid because he was using methamphetamine.

Kerr was taken to St Vincent's Hospital for treatment, but Tactical Operations Group police decided to take him back to prison before he was formally discharged.

They removed him from the hospital before his wounds could be re-dressed by a specialist.

Kerr was escorted to his cell by the tactical officers about 4.45pm and the following hours were captured on CCTV from his cell, which will not be publicly released.

Ms Ellyard said it was unclear why a directive was given that Kerr's cell could only be opened if tactical officers were present, "as if it was a blanket, enforceable rule" for the rest of the evening.

"It's also not clear whether those giving the directive intended it to have a complete broad effect, or whether anyone took steps to challenge it because they thought it was not right," she said.

She said his behaviour became "consistently distressing and bizarre" over the course of the evening, with Kerr seen flailing his arms while laying on the floor.

He was assessed by a psychiatric nurse from outside the cell, who raised his risk rating to the highest level and mandated he be transferred to a specialist unit, but this did not occur.

About 6.30pm, he said "I'm dying" over his intercom, but there was no response, Ms Ellyard said.

A nurse visited his cell after

blood was seen, but "wrongly concluded" it was from his burned hand, when the blood was actually from his head as he had been banging it, she said.

Kerr's movements began to slow from 7.40pm, with a prison officer looking through the cell window and noticing he had stopped moving at about 8.01pm.

He believed he saw Kerr's chest moving, indicating he was breathing, and tried rouse him using the intercom, before a code black emergency was called. Kerr's cell door was not opened until tactical officers arrived at 8.18pm.

"That's a total of 17 minutes between Josh being visibly unresponsive and having his first access to medical treatment," Ms Ellyard said.

"He died in full view of custodial and health staff."

The inquest continues.

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The death of Yorta Yorta and Gunnaikurnai man Joshua Kerr is being investigated.

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

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news

Awards are a game-changer



EVERY two years Reconciliation Australia, in partnership with the Australian Indigenous

Governance Institute and the BHP Foundation, hosts the Indigenous Governance awards to publicly recognise and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations and projects that make extraordinary contributions to the communities they serve.

In 2022 the Indigenous Governance Awards shortlisted organisations from across the country and across the wide range of diverse First Nations organisations.

Winner of the award category two prize, for small to medium incorporated organisations, the Brewarrina Local Aboriginal Land Council (BLALC), said their win 'changed everything'.

Their application told the story of an organisation that had struggled but overcome its challenges, establishing itself as an organisation which leads not just the local First Nations community but is looked to for leadership from the whole Brewarrina community.

The BLALC, established under the NSW Aboriginal Land Act 1983, lodged a claim for about 8,000 acres in 1984. That claim, Land Claim 1043, is now the longest unresolved claim in the state.

Despite the lack of progress, the BLALC has continued to make significant advances in providing a voice for its community and acquiring land for cultural, economic and social benefits.

It has not always been such a positive story; seven years ago the land council was put under the control of an appointed administrator, effectively taking governance of the council from Aboriginal hands.

However, today, an Aboriginal community board once again drives the organisation's priorities and policies under a community-first approach, and it now has seven full-time staff members.

As Chief Executive Officer, John Reidy, explained, "Brewarrina has twice been described as the state's most disadvantaged community, but that all started to change in 2016 with really strong Indigenous leadership."

More recently BLALC acquired ownership of part of the former Yetta Dhinnakkal minimum-security prison at Gungahlin.

In one of the largest acquisitions of land in NSW land rights history, 7,288 hectares of land associated with the former prison was bought for one dollar from the government and is now owned under freehold title by the BLALC.

The buildings have since been leased by council to the Orana Haven, an Aboriginal community-controlled drug and



BLALC Chairperson Tracy Gordon (left) with members of the women's group. (Supplied)

alcohol rehabilitation service for women.

BLALC director and General Manager of the Brewarrina Shire Council, David Kirby, said the acquisition represents another step towards self-determination for First Nations people.

"Acquiring Yetta was an historic event not just for the Brewarrina community, but for the whole region," Mr Kirby said. "Cultural preservation of our land and our environment is the first priority of our local Aboriginal land council and that sets the platform for very strong governance," Mr Kirby said.

"As Indigenous people we understand the importance of what the connection to land brings us from a spiritual and emotional wellbeing perspective," said David Kirby.

However, he argues that the land council also has a clear responsibility to ensure that employment and economic opportunities arise from land ownership.

He said there is a narrative that Aboriginal people will not use their land for productive purposes but that the BLALC wants to create as many jobs as possible from the newly returned land. With the recent opening of a local abattoir, goat grazing is currently high on the list of considerations.

"Aboriginal people need to demonstrate to mainstream Australia that yes, we know how to use the land and we want the same economic opportunities that you have. The way in which we do that is through ideas that benefit the whole community."

And one of these benefits is an improvement in the town's long troubled history of relations between the Aboriginal and white communities.

Mr Kirby reports that even the acquisition process itself has improved relationships. "It really led us to a place that we hadn't seen before in terms of Black and white relations; all of a sudden for the first time in Brewarrina's 150-year history you had a group of Aboriginal people and a group of white people sitting in a room

discussing the future of a parcel of land."

But success is dependent on having an effective governance system which responds to community needs.

"Recently we formed the First Nations Indigenous Leadership Group, made up of representatives from each part of our Aboriginal community in town, the reserves, the housing estates for example, and invited them onto our board as working group to get a better understanding of what community needs and aspirations are," Mr Kirby said.

Among other economic opportunities being explored by the land council is the development of green energy on their considerable land holdings adjacent to Brewarrina, however given current uncertainty about tax breaks and other financial incentives around the renewable energy sector this idea is still in the research stage.

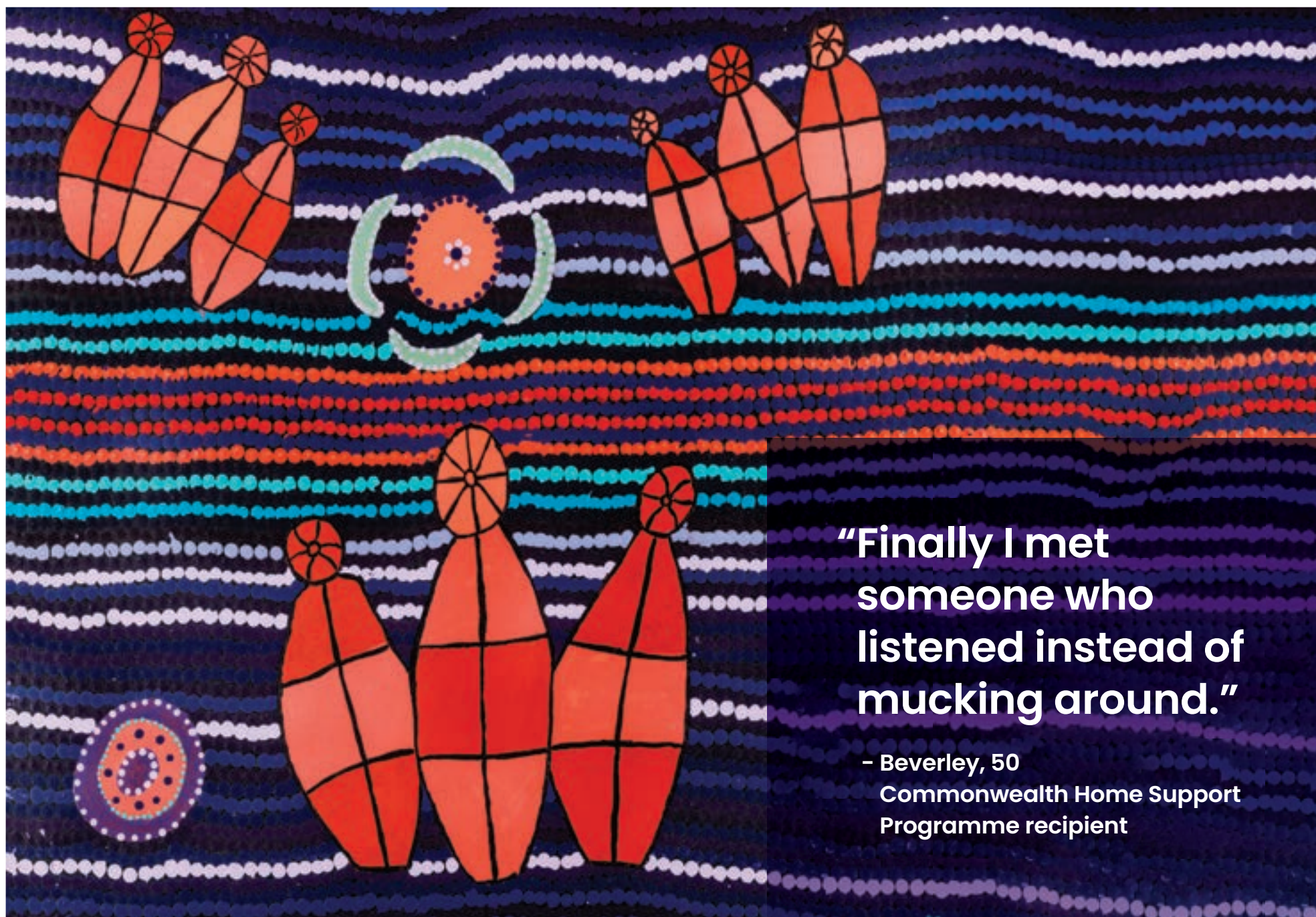
John Reidy said that winning the Indigenous Governance award had been hugely helpful in building such an effective organisation. "It changed everything," he said.

"Winning the IGA had a far bigger impact than we had ever imagined," he said. "After being in administration for years there was a lack of faith from funding bodies and potential partners in our organisation's capacity for financial management but once we won the award, everything changed."

"The award was fundamental to that change. Winning encouraged them to have another look at us and we now have strong partnerships and collaborations with local and national agencies," he said.

Today the Brewarrina Local Aboriginal Land Council and the community it serves have set their eyes firmly on economic self-determination and a move away from poverty and welfare dependency.

● **Applications and nominations for the Indigenous Governance Awards 2024 are now open. Go to: www.reconciliation.org.au**



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Women of science given recognition



THE Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) celebrated the knowledge and contribution of women in its workforce for

International Day for Women and Girls in Science on February 11.

Scientists, natural resource officers and rangers in TSRA's Land and Sea Management Unit are among local women championing conservation and sustainability in the Torres Strait in northern Australia. It is a region rich in culture, language and environmental treasures including turtle, dugong, seagrass and birdlife.

Laura Pearson

TSRA senior ranger supervisor – Central Cluster and Masig, Laura Pearson, said Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) handed down by Elders was still widely practised alongside modern science.

"I have strong people on both sides of my family, including strong grandmothers who know the seasons and tides," Ms Pearson said.

"Back then we didn't have the term 'climate change' or an international shipping lane in the Torres Strait, yet our Elders knew to prepare us for the challenges ahead.

"Our strong grandmothers, they knew the seasons, the tides and were prepping us for the future.

"We didn't understand as children, but now we appreciate what they were showing us.

"I want my great grandkids to see a Wongai tree, this is why I love being in the TSRA Ranger Program as it sees both worlds – traditional and western – working together for our children's future."

Madeina David

TSRA award-winning marine scientist Madeina David, 25, works with communities, universities, scientists and rangers to support a sustainable cultural and ecological future for the region.



Laura Pearson is a senior ranger supervisor.

Madeina often takes on an additional role to translate scientific terms and concepts into local language and practical information for communities and colleagues.

Each year, she coordinates trips with Traditional Owners and rangers

to places including Iama, Poruma, Badu, Moa, Mabuiag and Mer to monitor seagrass, and Maizab Kaur (Bramble Cay) to tag turtles and share findings with remote island communities.

"The Torres Strait is the northernmost part of the Great Barrier Reef," Ms David said.

"With some of the world's largest seagrass meadows, it is home to six of the world's seven marine turtle species and significant dugong populations.

"Our work to combine traditional knowledge and western science is critical in supporting the survival of these marine species for the next generation, locally and globally.

"Moving away from home for study was hard, but now I am living my dream back home on the islands, caring for our oceans and working with our people.

"I would love to see more girls and women, especially from the islands, explore careers in science to care for our land, sea and culture. If you have a passion for the environment, follow your dream as you never know where it can take you and the positive difference you can make."

This year, TSRA celebrates its 30th anniversary and the resilience, achievements and aspirations of the region.



Madeina David is an award-winning marine scientist.

NSW bans spit hoods but still some backing in NT



HUMAN rights advocates are celebrating after NSW has legislated to ban spit hoods.

But they are worried the controversial restraints will be reinstated for use by police on children in the Northern Territory if the Country Liberal Party wins the upcoming election.

Banning the use of spit hoods brought a rare show of agreement to the NSW Upper House on Thursday night, with a bill passed unanimously prohibiting their use by police, in prisons, youth detention centres and mental health care settings.

It's the second jurisdiction to ban the restraints, following Fella's Bill in South Australia in 2021, named in honour of Wayne 'Fella' Morrison, who died in custody after having a spit hood put over his head and being placed in the prone position in the back of a transport van.

Latoya Aroha Rule and Alison Whittaker are researchers from the Jumbunna Institute at the University of Technology Sydney and members of the National Ban Spit Hoods Coalition.

Latoya Rule, who is Fella's sister and has family in SA and NSW, said they felt better knowing spit hoods could no longer be used in either state.

"And that trauma that comes with knowing that these devices exist at all, ones that were used on my brother, I feel a little tiny bit safe, given everything else going on right now," they said.

"There are children, disproportionately First Nations children, who are affected by spit hoods and we need to keep pushing for them."

The Northern Territory stopped the use of spit hoods in juvenile detention after the youth detention royal commission in 2017 and then on children in police watch houses in 2022, but they are still permitted on adults.

However, in February, NT Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro said the CLP had a steadfast commitment to reinstating their use - a move supported by the head of the NT Police Association, who told the ABC that if children consciously spat at police they 'deserved' to have spit hoods put over their heads.

Ban recommended

The Australian Human Rights Commission has repeatedly recommended banning spit hoods in all jurisdiction.

Spit hoods have been implicated in deaths in custody, particularly of First Nations people, Māori and Pacific people across Australia and New Zealand.

Jumbunna researchers found that spit hoods are disproportionately used against First Nations people in Australia – including Indigenous children – and people with mental illness.

In December the United Nations Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture recommended that Australia legislate a nation-wide ban on spit hoods.

There have been multiple reviews into their use across the country, including by the Australian Federal Police, which polices the ACT and banned their use in 2023.

In its 2022-23 annual report, the Victorian Commission for Children and Young People revealed prison officers forced a spit hood onto a 17-year-old boy, who was being held in adult custody.

Ms Whittaker said the recent promise by the NT Opposition Leader to reinstate the use of spit hoods showed how fragile policy bans are.

"Spit hoods are instruments of torture that strip people of dignity, humanity and life," she said.

Karly Warner, chief executive of the NSW/ACT Aboriginal Legal Service, said spit hoods are dehumanising, archaic and harmful.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be grossly over-represented at all stages of the criminal legal system and bear the brunt of any harmful restraint mechanism or other use of force by authorities," she said.

"We hope the steps being taken to ban spit hoods across Australia will mean that no one else dies in this cruel and preventable way."

—AAP

Anderson aims high as women's league rises

By PETER ARGENT



GANGULU woman Alexandra 'Ally' Anderson (29), is a true pioneer in the Australian Football League Women's (AFLW) program.

program.

As one of the leading players in the elite level of the code, she has become one of the stars of the competition.

Born and bred in Brisbane, Anderson had a crack at most sports in her youth. She played rugby league, a bit of soccer and gymnastics – but her main interests were swimming and tennis.

Anderson's first step into the AFL code was at Kedron State High School.

"We had a teacher who was a mad Melbourne Demons supporter, Ross Clayfield, when I was in Year 12," Anderson said.

"He got the class to play with the Zillmere Eagles and it all grew to my playing for the Brisbane side in the intra-state championships.

"Then in 2011, I was selected to play in the Queensland under-18s side for the National Champs."

In 2013, Anderson was one of the pioneers selected for the first-ever game between Western Bulldogs and the Melbourne Demons, held at the MCG.

Along with Kirby Bentley and Kira Phillips from Western Australia and Bronwyn Davey from Adelaide, Anderson was among the four Indigenous talents in those teams.

"My main memories were flying down to Melbourne and going out to the Western Bulldogs training facility at the



Brisbane Lions' Courtney Hodder and Ally Anderson lift the cup in celebration.

"It was pretty surreal when I achieved that dream of being a professional athlete."

Whitten Oval," Anderson said.

"I was surrounded by these amazing players and in a professional environment, living the life of an elite athlete.

"It was my first real taste of that professionalism in my sporting life."

In Melbourne, she won her opening match by 35 points in front of 7,500 patrons, with a score of 8.5 (53) to 3.3 (21).

After another three years of exhibition matches, former AFL chief executive Gillon McLachlan announced the first season of the AFLW would start in 2017, with a foundation season eight-team competition.

Brisbane and Anderson were a part of that opening round campaign and enjoyed an away victory over Melbourne on February 5, 2017 – winning by 15 points. Wearing the number 18 jumper that she has made famous for the Lions women's team, Anderson had 12 disposals, laid five tackles and won three clearances in the initial contest.

"It was pretty surreal when I achieved that dream of being a professional athlete," she said. "Although I had been informed during the lead up I had a good chance of going to the Lions.

"I was 22 at the time and studying my paramedics degree.

"We won all seven games in the minor round and became favourites for the grand final

match against Adelaide at what is now called Heritage Bank Stadium on the Gold Coast.

"When I was drafted to the Lions, I'd already booked a trip to America, and I remember reflecting after the grand final loss that my fitness wasn't up to where it needed to be.

"I committed to improve my fitness from that point.

"The motivating factor for me is I felt I could have done more on that day.

"We still endured another close grand final loss the following year to the Western Bulldogs in season two, going down by a goal again."

Brisbane was involved in a third grand final, this time as underdogs, against the Crows at Adelaide Oval in season five (2021). The Lions were victorious and enjoyed the euphoria of flag-winning glory with a score of 6.2 (38) to 3.2 (20), a three-goal margin.

"There is no other feeling like it," Anderson smiled.

"We have played in finals in seven of our eight seasons in the competition and that was a really big day and a special memory."

Anderson, along with fellow Aboriginal players Dakota Davidson and Courtney Hodder, were all strong contributors in that breakthrough winning Lions flag.

Anderson has achieved All-Australian honours, being a dual 'Best and Fairest' with the Lions, and won the competition's highest individual honour – the AFLW league Best and Fairest in season seven in the second of the AFLW campaigns in the 2022 calendar year.

"Winning a famous accolade like that was pretty mind-blowing," Anderson said.

"While the premiership is certainly the number one aim, on a personal level this was a special.

"There are plenty of people behind the scenes to thank. I had a lot of trust in my S&C (strength and conditioning) coach Matthew Green – and I've seen my fitness base grow over my time as a professional athlete.

"Our senior coach Craig Starcevich has been a massive help and has signed again for seasons nine and 10.

"My mum, Leigh and my dad, Reg have also been wonderful support.

"For the majority of the time, they have followed me to venues around the entire country."

Anderson's message to the next generation of AFLW Indigenous footballers is to enjoy every moment of the journey.

"There will be ups and downs – but also plenty of fun and friendships to cultivate," Anderson said.

"Your best chance of success and of being the best you can become is to do all the work and do extras."



Anderson takes on the Adelaide Crows defence.

Danny Eastwood's view

"The most important thing to do for Australians generally is to accept that Aboriginal people have rights and appreciate that we have a living culture and one that they can be part of"



Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue

Quote



"The march is the protest and our concert is the process of healing, with Indigenous performers presenting their stories and songlines – and inviting others to join in and listen and learn what it means to be connected to Country,"

– Uncle Robbie Bundle, the chief executive of Songlines Victoria.

● See page 28

Unquote

At last some final resolution

For more than 30 years First Nations people have been targeted by an unscrupulous insurance company, which eventually became known as Youpla.

The company, which in the early days was marketed as the Aboriginal Community Benefit Fund, offered various tups of insurance to cover the costs of Sorry Business.

It was the brainchild of UK-born businessman Ron Pattenden, who has so far escaped any type of sanction for creating a company that preyed on Indigenous customers, and was the subject of harsh criticism from the Royal Commission into Banking as various directors took hold of its management over the years.

Youpla was handed a \$1.2 million fine by the Federal Court in September for misrepresenting junk funeral policies, finding it told plan holders they would receive a lump sum payment when in fact they would only be reimbursed for expenses they could prove had been incurred.

The company collapsed in March 2022, with more than 10,000 families losing out.

Understandable, that collapse resulted in much anguish among those people who had been paying into the fund for years, hoping for a dignified end when the time came.

That's why the news last week that the Federal Government was stepping



OUR SAY

up with a \$97 million support package for those impacted by the company's collapse is wonderful news.

As Wangkumara/Barkandji woman Lynda Edwards, financial capability coordinator at Financial Counselling Australia and 2023 NSW Woman of the Year, said, the Federal Government had been allowing Youpla to receive payments via Centrepay, taking money from people's payments before they could even put food on the table.

It was a terrible situation, which hopefully improved regulation of the insurance industry, will prevent into the future.

At least now the thousands of families who were left in the lurch - creating severe harm for individuals, families and communities, will be able to salvage at least a good portion of the premiums they paid.

The initiative will run for two years, and there will also be financial counselling to help people understand the options available to them under the support program.

A solid outcome to a bad situation.

KOORI MAIL 100% ABORIGINAL-OWNED

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

A YARN WITH...



James Markwort
Deniliquin, NSW, a descendant of the Iningai people

Favourite bush tucker?
Kangaroo and crocodile.

Favourite other food?
Steak, especially scotch fillet or rump

Favourite drink?
Cola.

Favourite music?
Rock music is my favourite

Favourite sport?
Rugby league. I barrack for Parramatta Eels.

Favourite holiday destination?
Bali and Thailand.

Favourite movie?
Smoky and the Bandit

What do you like in life?
Being able to do what I want to do.

What don't you like in life?
Rules and regulations that are extreme.

Which Black or Indigenous person would you most like to meet?
Samual Jackson, the actor.

Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire?
Kevin Hart the comedian.

Who or what inspires you?
My dad Ted.

What is your ultimate goal?
To encourage many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to go to uni and follow their dreams.

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people?
Make sure the next generation gets opportunities for education and work.

Kindness is at the heart of Eddie's cartoon series

By LIINA FLYNN

WHEN Wangkathaa man Eddie Betts started writing children's books, he wanted to spread the message to 'live your life with kindness'.

His books exploring First Nations culture and kindness became so popular, that last year, Victorian premier Dan Andrews bought 60,000 copies of his book *My People* – and gave them to kindergartens all over the state.

Now, his deadly books have been turned into an animated children's series called *Eddie's Lil' Homies*, and it's not just on NITV – it's on Netflix as well.

Eddie spoke to the *Koori Mail* about his life journey of being a professional AFL player, to being a role model for younger generations, writing kids books and making an inclusive cartoon for a global audience.

"As a kid, I grew up in a big community where we share the love and bring people together, so I wanted to make a community-minded cartoon," Eddie said.

"It's about kindness, treating people equally and how to overcome issues in the playground – to use your voice and show leadership skills, and work as a team to get a better outcome."

Diversity

In the series, alongside eight-year-old cartoon character Eddie (with his big smile and big heart), is a diverse and inclusive range of characters.

There's Shanti, an Indian Australian and Dex, a Vietnamese Australian who in a wheelchair and plays basketball.

"There's also a non-binary character who always works the Rubik's cube to find a solution," Eddie said.

"I wanted kids to see themselves in this cartoon series. There's also rap music with thumping beats and singing."

The rap songs with messages resonate well with Eddie's two books *My Kind* and *My People*, which he said he wrote in rhyming verse.

The songs are written and performed by Indigenous rappers and composers, including J-Milla and Marlon X Rulla.

"I want to showcase Aboriginal talent, give Blackfella voices opportunities and put it out to the world on Netflix," Eddie said.

"Everything I do is for my people."

"I played AFL for years and I understand the issues that we face in this country."

"I kept getting racially vilified and I knew that we needed to start by educating the younger generation – to get my books



AFL legend Eddie Betts with his young Eddie cartoon character from the new NITV and Netflix series.



Two of the animated characters from *Eddie's Lil' Homies*: Dex and Eddie Junior.

into schools and homes so others can learn about our people.

"I want us to move forward – and to give people opportunities."

Voices

The characters in *Eddie's Lil' Homies* are voiced by some well-known Indigenous actors, including Hunter Page Lockhart and Miah Madden.

But it's the voice behind the character Eddie's little brother, Junior, that holds a special place in his heart.

"My son Billy plays Junior in the cartoon," Eddie said.

"When we talked about ideas for character voices, I was told that they usually get adults to be kids' voices."

"But I wanted a kid's voice, so got a few kid actors and Billy auditioned and won. Then I would sit in the studio with him, listening to him speak."

"Now, I can't watch the series when Junior is talking without giggling – he's awesome and has a lil' lisp."

Family

While Eddie successfully became an author later in life, he was unable to read or write properly until he was in his late

teens.

That made him determined to see his own children get a good education.

"I wanted my kids to be able to read and write from a young age," Eddie said. "What dad does, the kids see."

"I treat people equally and be kind – kindness is the easiest thing to do and that's the way I live my life."

Role model

After a lifetime of playing AFL, Eddie has become an icon of Indigenous football – and a role-model to many.

But Eddie said it's just

something that happened.

"I didn't know I was a role model – I just lived the way I was raised, in community," he said.

"I love to look after young Aboriginal kids and as well as my five kids, I have another kid from a remote community up north who lives with us now."

"My whole life is about making opportunities for young Aboriginal kids to succeed."

"My wife reminds me every day after I stopped playing AFL footy, 'you have a role now to use your voice for healing and generate change for your people'."

"I use my voice to help kids change and help educate them."

Eddie has even established a charitable organisation, the Eddie Betts Foundation, to provide financial assistance, mentorship and opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth.

Bad press

Since he was first drafted into Carlton Football Club, Eddie said he was dedicated to training and becoming the best footballer he could be.

He spent 17 years playing professional AFL, playing for Adelaide Football Club too.

But it wasn't always smooth sailing.

During his early days as a player, Eddie said the media painted him as a 'bad boy' after an incident where he got locked up.

"But I wasn't a bad boy," Eddie said. "I felt like I had made one wrong decision and was painted as a bad boy."

"There were other footy players who did worse things than me – and they were not scrutinised and plastered in the paper like that."

"I was parked as a bad boy the moment I was arrested and I knew I had to straighten up and look at my career. At that moment, I knew I had to train harder and put more focus on footy."

"I knew kids looked up to me and I pushed myself even more, played better footy and always stayed true to my self."

Dream

"I say to kids that if they have a goal they dream of, they can achieve it. Put yourself out there and step into an uncomfortable space. Because no matter where we go in life, it's going to be like this. So we just keep doing it until we become comfortable."

"We don't have to be tough to succeed – we should prepare to fail. But it's about how we learn from failure that makes us grow as a person."

Eddie's Lil' Homies premieres on February 16 on NITV and Netflix.

Her trail still blazes

Aboriginal rights
advocate Dr Lowitja
O'Donoghue dies
at age 91



Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG at the Lowitja Institute launch in 2010.

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are warned that these images include deceased persons.



ABORIGINAL rights trailblazer Lowitja O'Donoghue, who helped inspire some of the greatest changes to Indigenous recognition in Australia's history, has died at home in Adelaide. She was 91.

The Yankunytjatjara woman played a key role in the 1967 referendum, lobbied the Keating government to recognise Indigenous land ownership through the native title laws and advised on the apology to the stolen generation.

Niece Deb Edwards said her aunt died peacefully on Kurna Country in Adelaide with her immediate family by her side.

"Aunty Lowitja dedicated her entire lifetime of work to the rights, health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples," she said.

"We thank and honour her for all that she has done – for all the pathways she created, for all the doors she opened, for all the issues she tackled head on, for all the tables she sat at and for all the arguments she fought and won."

Dr O'Donoghue gained prominence after becoming the first Aboriginal person to train as a nurse at Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1954.

She had been denied the opportunity because of her Indigenous heritage and her successful lobbying was just the beginning of a career

"One of her greatest achievements was lobbying the Keating government to recognise Aboriginal land ownership."

fighting for equality.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese described her as one of the most remarkable leaders the country has known.

"Dr O'Donoghue had an abiding faith in the possibility of a more united and reconciled Australia," he said.

"It was a faith she embodied with her own unceasing efforts to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and to bring about meaningful and lasting reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians."

Indigenous Australians Minister Linda Burney reflected on her experience with Dr O'Donoghue.

"Lowitja's leadership and tenacity has been an inspiration for generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians,



Lowitja O'Donoghue when she was a Charge Sister at Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1959.

including myself," she said.

"I had the great honour and privilege of working with Lowitja when I was appointed to the National Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation in 1997.

"She was a truly extraordinary leader. Lowitja was not just a giant of those of us who knew her, but a giant for our country."

Dr O'Donoghue was among the stolen generation when she was taken from her mother at two and put in a children's home.

As a young woman she became interested in health. She advanced her nursing career by challenging discriminatory decisions.

In the 60s, she joined

Aboriginal rights groups in South Australia before working as a nurse and welfare officer for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in the same state.

1967 referendum

She campaigned for the 1967 referendum which changed the constitution to count Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the population and make laws for them.

Dr O'Donoghue continued her advocacy and was later made a member of the Order of Australia in 1977. She was the founding chairperson of the National Aboriginal Conference, and in 1984 was named Australian of

the Year.

Dr O'Donoghue became the inaugural chairperson of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission in 1990.

One of her greatest achievements was lobbying the Keating government to recognise Aboriginal land ownership through the Native Title Act.

Another was her advising of then prime minister Kevin Rudd's apology to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly the stolen generation, in 2008.

The non-profit Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation was set up in 2022 to continue her legacy.

– AAP



Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue and Pat Anderson AO, co-patrons Lowitja Institute.



Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue addressing United Nations general assembly in Geneva in 1992.



Meeting mother Lily in 1967 with eldest sister Eileen.

Tributes honour a great leader

Reconciliation Australia:

"Dr O'Donoghue was also a member of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation.

"She said at the beginning of the reconciliation process:

'We have a long way to go but there is no turning back.

'For Indigenous Australians, the acid test of reconciliation will be improved health, better housing, education and employment.

'Reconciliation is the way of the future, our shared future in which Australia is united as one people with many rich cultures and a commitment to justice and equity.'

"Her life and her work inspires us all to do better and to keep going."

Lawyer and land rights activist Noel Pearson:

"She was our greatest leader of the modern era, the finale of which was her chairmanship of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission from its inception to the end of the Keating government in 1996.

"There were two ATSICs, one under Lowitja and the other after.

"It failed at the national level after Lowitja's term as chair expired, but it was always a force for good in the regions and communities.

"Without Lowitja's ATSIC we would never have defended Eddie Mabo's great legacy and negotiated the Native Title Act and Indigenous Land Fund."

Central Land Council (CLC):

Central Land Council chief executive Les Turner said:

"Dr O'Donoghue was a tenacious leader who opened many doors for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and we owe her a debt of gratitude because without her we wouldn't have Native Title".

According to former CLC Director David Ross who led what is now the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation at the time, Dr O'Donoghue was known for her directness when dealing with then Prime Minister Paul Keating.

She understood that the High Court had opened a door that could quickly close.

Dr O'Donoghue saw an opportunity to create Native Title laws that would change Australia, and she seized it.



Lowitja with siblings at Colebrook Children Home.



Lowitja's wedding day to Gordon Smart in 1979.



Working at Department of Aboriginal Affairs 1970s.

Shadow systems start to show

There is a change in the air. Can you feel it? We are now at a time in human history where we can be connected by the touch of a button to most people around the world.

Where the systems of oppression and false information are breaking down, as we start to see and feel real life stories outside of the colonial and capitalist propaganda machine.

There is something big on the horizon and I believe that we are being called in as a human collective to see the truth. Our Indigenous peoples of the planet live by the cosmology and have lore that honours the Earth.

In the modern day society we all participate in, there is a marketplace run by machines and laws that protects corporations when they destroy, rape and steal from the Earth. In this modern day world, we are brainwashed to believe we should compete, have power over, steal, cheat and rise as individuals, leaving others behind.

The time is now for us to decide how we will confront the shadow inside of us, the one that is violent and colonial. The part of ourselves that powers over others and has extractive, greedy, individualist behaviours.

The older I get, I see how these systems don't support our more than human kin, the next generations to come, Indigenous peoples, women, land workers and those who are under-resourced. In fact the whole society is set up so only a small percentage thrive.



Ella Noah Bancroft

The veil is lifting and more and more we are starting to see as a collective that society must change. The introduction of AI technology means more and more people lose their jobs and wonder what their purpose is here on this planet.

The more I investigate that, the more I ask the questions: how can I contribute to providing non-chemical food to everyone, assist to clean waterways, improve air quality, shelter, education of holistic health and truth telling; and how do I support my communities to feel strong and connected?

Our systems make no sense for anyone, except maybe 00.1%.

I know the world I want to live in – it's one that embraces the old ways, the Indigenous ways of being, where every community member is valued for their unique

self and what they bring to the community. A world where we honour the earth and her cycle and rely on each other. It's an egalitarian society revival.

When we rely on a machine-like system, then we perpetuate harm that feeds that machine – with genocide, war, mining, greed, destruction, stealing, and slave labor. We are better together and as humans live a better quality of life when we are relying on each other and not on the machine. I know we were not meant to spend life alone and together "many hands make light work".

How do we get to our moral code as a collective? Perhaps it's in owning our shadows, in taking accountability for our own complacency, of our own privilege within this global system.

My hope for us as the collective to see that all children's lives are sacred, that women should be protected and that our earth and our waters need to be healthy in order for future generations to thrive.

Imagine if we extended our mind to see our communities as our relations and not just our nuclear family I want to live in systems that encourage us to rest, to be healthy, to live slowly and to move through the world with presence and power in our spiritual connections to ourselves, our more than human kin and our human community.

Imagine if our health and our commitment to support our community were seen as the most successful thing we could do,

rather than trade our life for invisible material that later shows up in your bank as a digital numbers – or having to bulldoze people in order to get to the top?

Now is the time. We must stand together to protect and care for the most vulnerable amongst us. It's time we raise our voices and speak our truth, it's time we say no to mainstream ideas of colonial violence perpetuated in these global systems. We must bring back sharing, we must bring back human circular transformative justice, we must bring back healthy debating.

The global economy is dire, the resources that uphold this system are finite, the earth is getting warmer, the genocides taking place around the world are no longer silent and now we must come back together, to share stories and belongings, to eat together, to cook, to grow, to raise our children and be back in the commune.

It's time to end cycles of violence that make communities dehumanise others, or entire nations of people based on religion, race, gender or sexuality. It's too expensive to try and be an individual – capitalism has sold all of us a lie – that we must all have our own individual things, keeping us caught in a consumer loop. Imagine if we had more shared libraries, places where people can hire things and return them when they need?

Now is the time to end the cycles of violence and also open our eyes to the fact that modern

day society exists as we know it because of slavery.

Slavery is more common today than when it was previous history. The Asia Pacific region is home to 45.8 million slaves – about half of the world's slaves.

We manage to fool ourselves every day that things are getting better, that the world is improving – but until we destroy these systems, we will only continue to perpetuate harm. Slavery has grown, along with our rapacious appetite for more. We the consumers are responsible. Every time we buy another thing manufactured across the seas, we are contributing to the system. Every time we uphold an economic system based on inequality, we contribute to it.

I do not have the answers, but I have questions and I also know what kind of world I don't want to live in. So I will continue to do the work with my community and help get us to the world we want to live in. I continue to unpack my own issues, colonial programming and violent tendencies that have been passed down through colonial violence to both colonial settlers and my Indigenous heritage. I must feel it all to heal it. I am not ashamed any more to say I feel hatred, vengeance, anger, violence and fear – but now I am going to use those emotions to move me – to move me into action to protect my beautiful soul so it may do its work.

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

Why isn't the gap closed?

Readers will know that the Closing the Gap agenda is not new. In fact, it has been around for over 15 years. And many of you would know that while there have been some improvements – for the most part, they have been small.

Let's go to the numbers. They don't tell the full story – they certainly don't capture the strength and determination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities fighting for change. But they do give an indication of whether things are working or not.

About six months ago, the Productivity Commission reported that only four of the 19 socio-economic outcome targets under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the Agreement) were on track to be met.

Four are getting worse, and for the remainder, there is either no progress or so little progress, that they won't be achieved by 2030.

But there is no reason things should keep going this way. The Productivity Commission's latest review on progress against the Agreement makes it clear to governments where the obstacles lie and that the ball is in their court.

When the National Agreement was signed in 2020, governments acknowledged that they could not keep doing what



Romlie Mokak

they have always done. Together with the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations, they jointly signed up to a radically different way of working to close the gap.

In the Agreement, governments committed not just to targets, but to transforming their agencies to share decision-making with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In doing so, they recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the knowledge and leadership to find solutions and make change for their own communities.

They specifically committed to strengthening the Aboriginal community-controlled sector, transforming themselves as government organisations and sharing access to data and information. These are the Priority Reforms under the Agreement. They are central to influencing the



Natalie Siegal-Brown

direction and speed of change in the targets.

At the heart of these reforms is a central message: to close the gap, governments must share power with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This means that when governments signed the Agreement, they signed up to enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to determine their own solutions – and their own futures.

So, are governments living up to what they themselves committed to?

For nearly two years, the Productivity Commission has dug beneath the words on the pages of the Agreement. We spoke with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (as well as governments and people in the wider community) all over the country to assess whether governments' actions are matching what

they promised.

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of the hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who gave us their time, their honesty and their insights into what needs to change and where governments' blind spots still lie.

We found that while governments have taken thousands of 'actions' towards fulfilling their commitments, most of them are simply re-labelled business as usual.

We found as many as 70% of government actions are padded out with pre-existing programs – and some of the 'new' actions are only vaguely relevant. Some are just small tweaks to old government processes.

So how can we hold governments accountable for making the real change they committed to?

We looked at why governments are still using the same old playbook and what it would take to disrupt the status quo, so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (and indeed, all Australians) can see and feel measurable changes when we conduct our next review in three years.

We have made four recommendations, each containing specific actions that must happen in order to close the gap.

The first recommendation

pervades everything: power needs to be shared. There will be no change unless governments share power with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations to design and implement their own solutions. The first action we call on governments to commit to here, is to amend the National Agreement to make it clear that self-determination is the purpose of the first Priority Reform.

To share power and move away from 'government knows best' thinking, governments need to transform themselves and their organisations. Governments are already committed to doing this in the Agreement, but our review found they have not fully grasped the scale of the change to their systems, culture, operations and ways of working that is required. We recommend governments begin the process of fundamentally rethinking their systems and culture, and propose five actions to make sure that happens.

Knowledge is power and this power must also be shared. That's why we also recommend that governments recognise and support Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Indigenous Data Governance.

Finally, progress is unlikely unless governments

are held accountable for making the changes they promised. That's why our fourth recommendations calls for stronger accountability, including setting up an independent mechanism to support, monitor and report on governments' transformations as promised in the Agreement.

Sharing power is important for its own sake: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a right to determine their future. But it also makes sense from an economic perspective. Governments are allocating money ineffectively when they put it towards programs that disregard the knowledge, priorities and solutions of communities.

To move forward, governments and their organisations need to deeply review and change what they are doing and to share power with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when determining the purpose, design and implementation of 'solutions'. An ever-growing number of extra actions in implementation plans will not get us there.

● Romlie Mokak and Natalie Siegal-Brown are both commissioners with the Australian Government's Productivity Commission.

Aged care gets a new voice



FIRST Nations leader Andrea Kelly has been appointed as the Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner.

Ms Kelly's appointment is a first step in addressing Recommendation 49 of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, which recommended appointing a statutory First Nations Aged Care Commissioner.

This person will ensure culturally safe, tailored and flexible aged care services for First Nations people.

Ms Kelly said she was delighted to accept the role.

"The creation of this role, and that of the permanent First Nations commissioner for aged care will enable the voices of First Nations people to be heard and acted on," she said.

"It is an honour to serve First Nations Elders, their families, friends and community to make sure they can access culturally safe, high quality aged care when and where they need it."

As interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner, Ms Kelly will undertake a range of key functions, expected to include leading public consultations with First Nations stakeholders and communities about the design and functions of the permanent commissioner.

She will contribute to the changes necessary to bring improvements for First Nations people across all tiers of the aged care system.

She will also advocate for and promote culturally safe, aged care for First Nations people across Australia.

Ms Kelly is a proud Warumungu and Larrakia woman, with strong family connections throughout the Northern Territory.

Ms Kelly has 32 years of experience



Warumungu and Larrakia woman Andrea Kelly has been appointed as the Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner.

engaging with First Nations communities and developing public policy for First Nations populations.

She comes to the role from the National Indigenous Australians Agency and is proud of her leadership in the establishment of the Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme.

Federal Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells said improving aged care for First Nations people was a key reform priority, as

well as making sure they have access to culturally safe and tailored aged care services.

"Ms Kelly brings considerable experience to the role of Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner," she said.

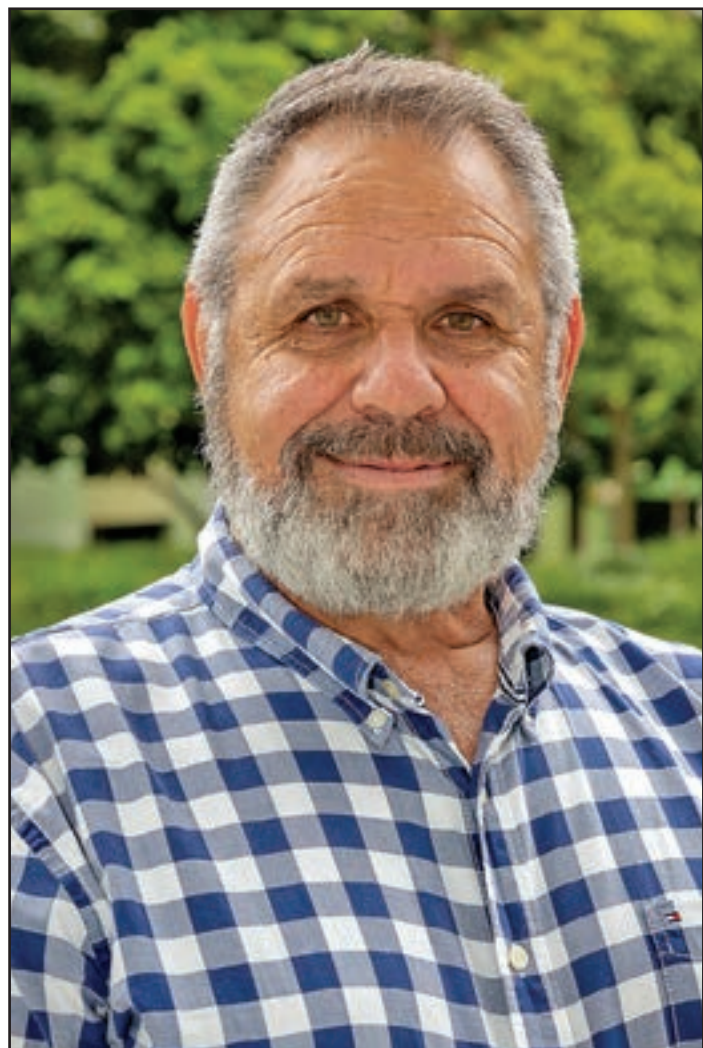
"The Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner will advocate for communities and service providers across Australia to help the reforms we are

undertaking in aged care meet the needs of older First Nations people."

The First Nations Aged Care Commissioner is expected to be appointed in 2025.

Having an interim appointment means the needs of First Nations people will be heard sooner, along with having the opportunity to shape the functions of the permanent role, in line with Closing the Gap principles.

HIV-hepatitis project set to tackle inequity



UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health director Professor James Ward.



DESPITE advancements in effective treatments for HIV and viral hepatitis, the rates of diagnosis are still

higher in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities compared with the non-Indigenous population. But a new initiative is using local Indigenous connections and knowledge to try and address inequities in prevention, treatment and care of the blood-borne diseases.

The Guiding Local Opportunities for Wellbeing (GLOWS) initiative is calling for Indigenous-led solutions to be designed to address the needs of specific communities.

The initiative is created by the Lowitja Institute, the University of Queensland Poche Centre for Indigenous Health and Gilead Sciences Australia.

UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health director Professor James Ward, a Pitjantjatjara and Nukunu man, said the disparity and inequity in the health system for Indigenous people had been accepted for far too long.

"The time has come to change this discourse," he said.

"We now have the science to start to dream of eliminating, as well as drastically improve the lives of people living with, HIV and viral hepatitis but where we often

fail is in the implementation of science at a local level.

"That's why this initiative is so important as it provides a mechanism that will enable communities to drive local, evidenced-based solutions matched to local needs."

In 2022 rates of hepatitis C notifications were seven times greater in Indigenous communities compared with the non-Indigenous population and 1.3 times for HIV.

Prof Ward said, while there had been efforts to try to bring down rates of new cases of hepatitis C in Indigenous communities, they hadn't proved effective.

"Sometimes programs are rolled out at the national level that don't match local needs, sometimes there's additional resources required in communities to, for instance, extract patient management systems data to work out who accesses the service with HIV or viral hepatitis and how often they do that," he said.

"There is a need for others who have been through treatment to help guide the interventions at the local area level, and they differ between urban and regional and remote communities and so what this program offers is opportunities for local communities to drive local solutions for their local needs.

"There's so much to be done in

this space and it's just not the healthcare service barriers or social barriers – there's cultural barriers, there's stigma and discrimination that plays all into this."

Lowitja Institute deputy chief executive Paul Stewart said the program hoped to engage with organisations eager to work with Indigenous people in prisons, injecting drug-users and young people.

"That's where the issues are situated with HIV and viral hepatitis so why wouldn't we want to understand and learn from the Mob in these situations?" he said.

"We want to flip the narrative on the ways in which research has been done in our communities.

"Mob knows what best works for our communities and so, if we can put research back into Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander community hands we hope to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for our Mob." – AAP

The program represents Gilead Sciences' largest commitment to health equity for Indigenous communities globally, with \$US3 million (\$A4.6 million) each to Australia and Canada over three years. In the first year grants will focus on large and medium projects up to \$800,000 and seeding grants and scholarships of \$30,000 and \$25,000.



Kamara Bell-Wykes read a eulogy to Australia Day.



Jason Tamaru plays the yidaki outside Victoria's parliament house.



Young protesters on Swanston Street (and above), made their message clear.



The Humann Family - Nuccunnu Mob.



Dani showing support at the Melbourne protest.



Andrew, Mila and Archie Vella Coolwell representing Gooreng-Gooreng Mob at the march in Naarm.



Alice and Dooka Pepper, Gunnai Kurnai Mob.



Younger speakers took centre stage.



Uncle Gary Foley.



Six-year-old Mikayla Umutau from Gunai Kurnai Mob demands justice now!



Kathleen, Christian and Amerie Terrick from Wurundjeri Mob on the steps of parliament house.



Waka/Bundjalung Elder, Aunty Rieo Ellis flies the flag.

Surviving invasion

Pictures by ALI MC – page 26 and JOSEPH MEYERS – page 27



ACROSS the country, thousands turned out to mark 26 January in their own special way. Whether it was Invasion Day or Survival Day for you, 'Australia Day' had its usual share of controversies. With major supermarkets deciding not to stock Australian flags and other 'Oi-Oi-Oi-type' merchandise, and sporting bodies lining up to suggest that maybe a change of date should be considered, plenty of Mob ignored the chatter and turned out for protests or picnics, gathering to mark the day with friends and family. As usual, the *Koori Mail* published a bunch of photos from across the nation in the last edition, but by deadline had run out of room for more. So here's more. On this page we feature photos from our correspondent ALI MC in Melbourne, Victoria, and on page 27 we feature a selection from JOSEPH MEYERS, who attended the Yabun Festival at Victoria Park in Sydney, NSW.



Warriors of the Aboriginal Resistance (WAR) organisers, Tarneen Onus Browne, left, and Nayuka Gorrie, who also MC'd the event.



Local Aboriginal motorcycle group, Black Death were at the march.



One of the focuses at the Invasion Day march was the ongoing injustice of Aboriginal deaths in custody.



Muggera dancers.



Colleen and Dylah Cook.



Buuja Buuja Butterfly dancers.



Crowd favourite Emily Wurramura.



The Brolga Dance Academy



Mi-Kaisha sang from the heart.



Songwoman and knowledge holder, Auntie Cindy Drummond.



With their debut album *Harmony Blooms*, set for release, February 9, Velvet Trip entertained the crowd.



Djawula dancers



Blak Divas sparkled.



Muggera dancers.



Djawula dancers



A mini-Muggera dancer.



Uncle Frank Yamma.



Tasman Keith.



Miah Wright and Uncle Vic Simms.



Muggera dancers



Proud descendants of the Jabirr Jabirr tribe in the WA Kimberleys, Meanjin-based band Tjaka were deadly.

Festival shares the spirit



The Skin Choir.

By PAUL CONNELLY

Pictures by Paul Connelly (PC) and Amanda Harmon (AH)



THE Share the Spirit Festival this year marked the beginning of the 30-year celebrations of Songlines Victoria.

Held on January 26, with a crowd of almost 6,000 people, this year was the 21st Share the Spirit festival. It was also the fourth held at the Myer Music Bowl in Naarm, after it moved from the Treasury Gardens.

The new venue provided a great place to bring people together. Not as a protest, but as a way of uniting together Indigenous people and allies, in a spirit of love and harmony.

Musician and Songlines Victoria chief executive Uncle Robbie Bundle said "Share the Spirit is not a protest, but a gathering".

"The march is the protest and our concert is the process of healing, with Indigenous performers presenting their stories and songlines – and inviting others to join in and listen and learn what it means to be connected to Country," he said.

Celebrate 30 years

"This year is a particularly important milestone of 30 years. We have been developing connections across the country with groups such as CAAMA in Alice Springs and organisations in other states, to form partnerships which will see Songlines branch out to expand its role across the country. To be more active on a national level, while still maintaining our commitments in Victoria."



Charlie Needs Braces and friends watching on. Picture: PC

Visionary and one of the founders of Songlines Victoria, Richard Frankland, said "it was a struggle for many Indigenous performers to break into what was a predominantly white industry".

"Airplay was difficult on commercial stations and labels were hesitant, along with many venues, who seemed unwilling to take a chance on black performers," he said.

"My first band was actually signed to a label and later was dropped, via a phone call on that same day."

Richard had success with two early bands – Hard Times and the very successful Djaambi. It was from this that three young women – Sally Dastey, Lou Bennet and Amy Saunders (the sister of Richard Frankland) – emerged to form the well-known Indigenous all-female group Tiddas.

"We knew then that if we were going to get airplay and recognition, we had to take control of it ourselves," Richard said.

"We had to be the driving force to bring Mob together and provide a place for them to play and develop their skills, as well as foster a greater recognition of contemporary Aboriginal music as an important cultural art form."

Idea born

"This is where the idea of forming our own organisation was born."

From that time on, Songlines has gone on to support many Indigenous musicians, including Archie Roach, No Fixed Address, Ruby Hunter, David Arden, Kutcha Edwards and in more recent years the Skin Choir, Pirritu, Scott Darlow, Emma Donovan and many more.

Songlines has not only been an annual concert, it has over the years developed many programs to reach out to Mob young and old. It offers workshops, in school and after school programs, music lessons and school holiday camps to develop and showcase Indigenous young people. It also offers a variety of creative performing arts mediums,



Richard Frankland. Picture: PC

including (but not limited to) dance, music and songwriting.

The most successful of these youth programs was the Koorie Pride Youth Festival, which ran for many years.

Biggest line-up

Uncle Robbie said he was especially proud of this year's Share the Spirit festival line up – the biggest ever in its history. The line-up included legendary and ground breaking acts No Fixed Address, Coloured Stone and Uncle Kutcha Edwards and David Arden. It also included emerging performers like Canisha, Yambra and Charlie Needs Braces and an emerging 'mature' group WKYD Folk.

Uncle Robbie said he was "impressed with some of the emerging acts we had this year".

"It was a thrill to have the Mulga Bore Hard Rock Band who have been on a month-long tour of Melbourne, racking up more gigs in a month than some bands do in an entire year," he said.

"We are still on a high from the festival. We have been watching



Canisha. Picture: AH

the videos of the performances as part of our debrief and I am so proud of everyone involved – overall it brought a sense of love and harmony."

The event was capped off with performances from both Uncle Robbie and his band Kindred spirits and Richard Frankland and his band.

They were fitting performances from two of the people behind the success of Songlines.

Uncle Robbie said that the celebrations are not over yet and some amazing gigs are planned for the year ahead as they continue to celebrate 30 years of Songlines Victoria.

Continued on next page...

LEO. PC



Bunna Lawrie. PC



Lee Morgan. PC



Brian Morely WKYD Folk. PC



Continued from previous page...

In the words of Richard Frankland:
"The voice of the artist not only records, but shapes attitudes, plants seeds and facilitates change. The voice of the artist facilitates the voice of others." – Richard Frankland

The full list of performers for Share the Spirit 2024 were:

Coloured Stone, No Fixed Address, Blackfire, David Arden, Kutcha Edwards, Stray Blacks, Robbie Bundle, Yambra, Richard Frankland, Wykd Folk, Yung Warriors, Deans of Soul, Maylene Yinar Slater, Deniece Hudson, Canisha, Monica McDonald, Naretha Williams, Carissa Nyalu, Leonie Whyman, Charlie Woods, Mulga Bore Hard Rock Band, The Merindas and LEO.

Blackfire. AH



Lync from The Deans of Soul. PC



Mulga Bore Hard Rock. AH



The Stray Blacks. AH



MC Shiralee Hood. PC



Naomi Diane. PC



Uncle Robbie Bundle looking on with pride from the Elders area. PC



Djirridjirri. AH



First Nation fashion brands stand on an iconic platform

AUS A COLLABORATION between three First Nations fashion brands has produced a unique fashion collection, following an immersive incubator program.

Over nine months, THE ICONIC x First Nations Fashion and Design (FNFD) Incubator Program took Indigenous designers through workshops, tours, and experiences guided by cultural peers and curated by industry experts and educators.

Now, the careers of Gungganji designer Elverina Johnson (behind the label Pink Fish), Mt. Isa designers Glenda McCulloch, Jaunita Doyle, Dale Bruce and Cheryl Perez (of the label Myrrdah), and Kuranda-based designer Briana Enoch (of label Jarawee), are set to soar sky high.

Online fashion and lifestyle platform THE ICONIC, in partnership with First Nations Fashion + Design (FNFD), has launched the new fashion collection exclusively on their platform.

The participants in last year's incubator program were immersed in a series of four chapters, developed to unlock industry opportunities for First Nations designers. The units covered key aspects of working in the design business, including brand development, merchandising and marketing, providing the designers with the tools to successfully commercialise their brands.

FNFD founder and chair Grace Lillian Lee said the partnership has given the designers a new platform to showcase their work.

Jarawee



Myrrdah



Pink Fish



First Nation fashion brands have produced a unique fashion collection, the outcome of an intensive design business program. *Pictures; Supplied*

"FNFD is thrilled to see the collections launched on THE ICONIC. It is through these initiatives that we can continue to support the self-determination of First Nations peoples within the industry and assist them in further developing skills to grow their businesses," she said.

Each designer in the collection has infused their designs with a distinctive creative vision. Briana Enoch, the owner and creative of Jarawee, ignites the imagination with her bold prints and vibrant colours showcased in her designs.

Elverina Johnson of Pink Fish encapsulates a spirit of boldness, vivid colours, and draws inspiration from the reef, rainforest, and her

upbringing in Far North Queensland.

Myrrdah, the brainchild of four sisters—Glenda, Jaunita, Dale, and Cheryl—features incredible designs inspired by the sunsets, rock faces, clay, and landscape that surrounds their Kalkadoon home in northwest Queensland.

These unique designs were researched, digitised and printed by Epson Australia via Epson digital printing solutions as part of Epson's landmark technology and sustainability agreement to support FNFD as print and projection partner.

The collection of pieces from Myrrdah, Pink Fish and Jarawee are available to buy on THE ICONIC's website, theiconic.com.au/

Proposal to redefine Indigenous Business has Black-cladding in its sights



THE definition of what constitutes an Indigenous business may soon change, following a consultation announced by the Federal Government.

As part of the consultation, the government is considering enhancing the definition from a minimum of 50 per cent ownership to 51 per cent ownership, management and control.

Welcoming the proposed change, Indigenous business organisation, Supply Nation, said the new definition would help combat the practice of 'Black-cladding', where a company establishes a facade of Indigenous ownership to fraudulently win contracts.

Supply Nation chief executive, Kate Russell said her organisation had long advocated for the change.

"One per cent is a small number but can make a big difference.

"Including standards of management and control will only strengthen the Indigenous economy and increase confidence in Indigenous business," she said. "We are very pleased the government has listened to our concerns and is considering this much-needed reform."

Ms Russell said that while Black-cladding was not widespread, any incidence of it was damaging to Indigenous businesses.

"This change would be very welcome because Black-cladding robs genuine Indigenous businesses of opportunities and damages the reputation of the vast majority of our businesses that are doing the right thing", she said.

Ms Russell said Supply Nation would seek to work with the government to ensure any change is implemented smoothly in a way that gives time and support for businesses to make the transition.

"There is very little time to participate in the consultations, so we urge businesses to read the discussion paper, complete the survey and make a submission as soon as possible", she said.

The Federal Government's consultation runs until March 1, 2024. A discussion paper, online survey and details on how to make a submission are available on the National Indigenous Australian Agency (NIAA) website.

Brisbane is the place for business to connect, 2024



FOR the first time ever, Australia's leading event for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, will be held in Brisbane.

Connect 2024 – hosted by Supply Nation – will take place at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on August 28 and 29.

Supply Nation's chief executive, Kate Russell said Connect is the largest annual gathering of First Nations businesses in Australia.

"We expect over 2,500 people to attend the Connect Knowledge Forum, Indigenous Business Tradeshow and Gala Awards Dinner, many from interstate," Ms

Russell said.

Ms Russell said the two-day event would also be attended by the nation's largest mainstream corporations, government departments and international delegates who seek to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and exporters.

"We see enormous potential for Indigenous business growth in the Queensland economy over the coming years and bringing Connect 2024 to Brisbane will help accelerate that growth," she said.

Queensland Minister for Treaty and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Leeanne Enoch, said the state

is home to more than a quarter of all First Nations business owner-managers in Australia.

"It's great to see Supply Nation's Connect 2024 coming to Brisbane next year. Connect 2024 will be an opportunity for the many Queensland First Nations businesses to showcase what they do to the rest of Australia and the world," Ms Enoch said.

Queensland Minister for Employment and Small Business, Di Farmer said that partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned businesses unlocks economic opportunities to build stronger, more resilient businesses and communities.

"The Queensland Government

recognises the importance of economic prosperity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned businesses across Queensland and Connect 2024 will shine a light on that," Ms Farmer said.

Supply Nation has around 75 corporate and government members and more than 1,030 Indigenous suppliers based in Queensland.

At this year's awards, Sunshine Coast woman Mundanara Bayles from BlackCard was named Indigenous Businesswoman of the Year 2023.

"Moving Connect to Brisbane after all these years was a real vote of confidence in Queensland's First Nations economy," Ms Russell said.

Free course supports our ways of living life



DARKINJUNG woman Sarah Corrigan has been armed with the qualifications to start her career and launch her own successful business in Indigenous health care.

Sarah, who lives and works on Awabakal Country, has completed five TAFE courses in Newcastle and said it's the best study-work decision she's made.

"I loved studying at TAFE," Sarah said. "The study is flexible, both face-to-face and online courses are available, and prior learning and experience is recognised, which can cut down on the time it takes to gain a qualification."

"Most Certificate IV courses take 12 months full-time, but when you're building on previous studies along a similar career path, or where you already have relevant skill sets, the time to complete studies is shorter."

"This is great for Mob, particularly mothers and other people with family, community and cultural responsibilities. And it's so good not to have the financial burden of a HECS/HELP debt

when you finish your course."

Sarah completed a Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care, allowing her to register as an Aboriginal Health Practitioner with the Australian Health Practitioners Registration Authority (AHPRA).

She also has Certificate IV qualifications in Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs and in Allied Health Assistance, and an Advanced Diploma in Mental Health.

"After completing my first TAFE course, in Allied Health Assistance, I was able to work in the areas that interested me and use the skills and knowledge I gained through TAFE study," Sarah said. "Then one by one I built on this foundation through other courses and work experience."

"I've used my knowledge and skills, plus the experience I gained in health jobs along the way, to set up and run my own business in First Nations mental health and psychosocial NDIS services."

"I saw gaps in what was available to people for mental health and realised I

had the ability and qualifications to provide specialised services."

"It's about Mob supporting Mob and a Black way of doing things."

"I wanted to help bring about intergenerational change and TAFE gave me the opportunity to pursue that, to work independently, flexibly and clinically."

Sarah's services focus on social and emotional well-being and mental health, supported through the NDIS and Medicare, as well as cultural consultancy across the board, from health to education.

"My approach is through a person-centred framework aimed at social and emotional wellbeing. The demand for my services is solid," said Sarah.

"I now have four casual employees and some are now considering TAFE."

"I recommend TAFE – it gave me an opportunity to create positive change in my family's Songlines, doing something I love."

For more information on fee-free courses, visit yourcareer.gov.au/fee-free-tafe/first-nations



DARKINJUNG woman Sarah Corrigan.

Careers are taking off



With the artwork they created on the program are Jobs to Careers graduates Megan Mason, Renee Radovanovic, Karen Madden, Laura Ferguson, Eric Tueben, Leanne Honeysett and Shaun Jones, with TAFE NSW course coordinator Samantha Mallison and Aboriginal Education and Engagement Coordinator Kewerlee Wright.



AWABAKAL man Shaun Jones is looking forward to a better future after graduating from TAFE's

Careers Aboriginal Development Program recently. The program, run in partnership with TAFE NSW and HealthShare NSW, is geared at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers.

Shaun said as a result of the program, he has developed important skills to expand his career options.

The program has already resulted in over three quarters of participants securing promotion.

"This program has given me the help I need to further my career, and it was a valuable

experience getting to know other Mob from other parts of the state," he said.

"I learned so much about myself through the course, about emotional intelligence and my different personality traits and how I can apply these in the workplace."

"My manager, fellow classmates and teachers have all noted how my self-confidence has grown since completing this course. They have supported me and have had my back all the way through."

Since 2018, there have been 53 graduates of the program with 76% progressing to higher grade roles within or outside the organisation.

The program strengthens the

representation of Aboriginal people in the workforce, while empowering employees to build sustainable careers in the healthcare industry.

As part of the program, participants study Statement of Attainment's in Communication, Customer Service and Team Effectiveness, as well as Critical Thinking, Emotional Intelligence and Personal Development, at TAFE NSW.

While most of the course is delivered online to HealthShare NSW employees across the state, participants come together for a face-to-face block at TAFE NSW Kurri Kurri, where they participated in cultural activities, including a yarnning circle and a weaving workshop.

TAFE NSW Course Coordinator Samantha Mallison says the program has led to excellent employment outcomes for those who have participated.

"It is through industry partnerships like this one with HealthShare NSW that we can make a real difference," she said.

"The results speak for themselves – with so many graduates going into higher roles, we know we are helping to meet the needs of the healthcare industry, while training the workforce of the future."

Aboriginal Workforce Consultant for HealthShare NSW Jacinta Shipley says they are proud to be supporting the growth and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

employees.

"With the support and collaboration with TAFE NSW, we have seen many employees graduate and progress to more senior roles," Ms Shipley said.

"This year's program was delivered virtually and in-person and our participants adapted extremely well to the connected classroom environment. They thoroughly enjoyed meeting face to face, connecting through cultural activities and shared experiences."

"Every person has put in an amazing effort and we are extremely proud of them and look forward to watching them continue to grow and use the skills gained from this program to work towards their future goals."

Deadly Science helps stem the costs as young Mob prepare for high school



WHEN members of Deadly Science visited the Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal

Corporation office (KBH) in Kempsey, they donated 100 calculators to local Aboriginal students, who are preparing for high school.

The students are part of the Kempsey Transition Program, which prepares Aboriginal students for the challenges they will face when entering high school for the first time.

Jo Kelly, from Learning the Macleay, knew that some of these challenges were related to the young people's confidence. But for many, the financial pressures to get the resources they needed were also a strain on them and their families.

So, Jo contacted Corey Tutt and Vince Scott from the organisation Deadly Science

and asked what support they could provide.

Within days, Corey had called his contacts and delivered 100 scientific calculators, worth over \$4,000, to Kinchela Boys Home.

"So many people in our community are struggling financially in the current economic climate, even more so after the Christmas break," Jo said.

"The generous support that Deadly Science has provided will take some pressure off our students and their families, and let them enter high school with the resources that they need to succeed."

Deadly Science is a national organisation that supports Aboriginal young people and their schools with resources and programs in Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics (STEM). Since 2018 Deadly Science has supported over 800 schools



Vince Scott, Sarah Cohen, Geoff Oliver and Corey Tutt (OAM).

Kylie knows the difference a good teacher can make



WHEN her school teacher told her that she was 'deadly', it became the moment that changed Gamilaroi woman Kylie Captain's life and set her on a path to success.

Inspired by her high school teacher, Kylie followed a path of education to overcome adversity, become a teacher and then later, the director of Dream Big Education Wellbeing and Consulting.

"My story is one empowered by education," Kylie said.

"I often say that I live a life of freedom and choice thanks to the difference a teacher made on me, and the opportunities education has provided me."

Kylie's story begins with Ms Cathie Burgess, her Year 11 and 12 Aboriginal Studies teacher, who was the catalyst for change when she saw Kylie's potential during a critical moment in her life.

Dr Burgess was awarded her Doctor of Philosophy in 2008 and continues to work in education.

"I found myself heading down a really negative path, a path of self-destruction where I was just not going anywhere," Kylie said.

"I didn't really have any aspirations, or role models that could show me the way, or be the person I aspired to be."

The seed of possibility

Dr Burgess planted the seed of possibility by recognising Kylie's intelligence and encouraging her to explore her potential.

"Dr Burgess made a difference for me," Kylie said.

"She was the first person to ever tell me that I was smart and that I was deadly."

Dr Burgess not only changed the trajectory of Kylie's life, but ignited her passion for education and desire to be that teacher who makes a difference.



Gamilaroi woman Kylie Captain recalls the teacher who made a difference in her life.

Born and raised on Gadigal Country, Kylie's journey shows the profound impact a dedicated teacher can have on a student's life.

Dr Burgess continues to work closely with Kylie today, even co-writing a book together about the power of education and the difference a teacher can make in a student's life.

Kylie went on to complete a Bachelor of Education, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, earning a place on the Dean's merit list.

Her experience at Western Sydney University not only equipped her with the academic knowledge, but instilled a deep sense of empowerment.

"From a little girl who grew up never feeling good enough or smart enough... to go and smash it at university, it was a big achievement," she said.

"University can seem a little bit foreign – I didn't know anyone in my family or

community that had actually been to university and got a degree.

Breaking cycles

"So for me, I was breaking these cycles and walking into these very foreign places for the first time.

"But it just takes one person, and my kids, nieces, nephews and others can say, well, if Auntie Kylie can do it, then so can I."

Following her degree, Kylie ventured into the teaching profession, initially expecting to stay in the classroom.

However, her journey took an unexpected turn when she was tapped on the shoulder for leadership positions.

"Once I started teaching, I thought maybe I would spend the rest of my life there, but it wasn't to be," Kylie said.

"I was tapped to come out into a leadership position and was going to be for a term, then another term, and then it ended up being six months and then a year."

Despite being out of the classroom for seven years, Kylie's passion for teaching remains unwavering.

She now serves as president of the Aboriginal Studies Association and the director of Dream Big Education Wellbeing and Consulting, channelling her experiences into a consultancy business.

Her focus is on supporting educators nationwide with teacher professional learning and empowering student programs.

"A lot of the work that I do is around relationships," she said.

"It's about empowering our teachers to do what Cathie did for me."

As she continues her journey, Kylie remains committed to empowering teachers and students, fostering cultural understanding and amplifying the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

"I always say to our educators, let's create the brains by teaching them everything they need to know around literacy and numeracy," she said.

"But more importantly, let's make sure that we are creating good humans that have good social skills and big hearts and lots of care and compassion – particularly when learning and acknowledging about our histories and our cultures as well."

She hopes her story will inspire others to consider a career in teaching.

"Anyone who is considering a career in teaching, I always encourage it," she said.

"There is a lot of heart, a lot of pride and lot of joy and purpose in teaching."

"When you get to the end of each day, each week, each term, each year, and see the difference that you've made to these kids – I can't even begin to describe how beautiful it is."

To find out more about a rewarding career in teaching, visit BeThatTeacher.gov.au

TSI artists take over Charlottesville, USA

By JACK WILKIE-JANS



ART from Zenadth Kes/Torres Strait Islands is 'taking over'

Charlottesville, Virginia —the

homelands of the Monacan peoples in the USA. Posited as the first creative endeavour of its magnitude to reach the United States, UKAPALIMIN: ETI KO ETI: RESILIENCE: Stories from the Torres Strait is hosted by Les Yeux du Monde Gallery and features thirteen artists from Zenadth Kes.

The overarching project, Charlottesville Indigenous Art Takeover 2024, is an immense tour of five exhibitions. Forming a collective survey showcasing some of the finest contemporary artworks from Australia, the UKAPALIMIN exhibition is supported by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and sees works from Badu Art Centre, Erub Arts and Moa Arts take up residence in Les Yeux du Monde Gallery, informing overseas audiences about their unique art forms.

Other venues participating in activations include The Fralin Museum of Art, Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection, Second Street Gallery, and the University of Virginia. Across these other venues, works by Yirrkala artists from Baku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre and solo artist, Lisa Waup, will give American audiences the opportunity to look more closely at the Indigenous art movements from Australia.



Artists from Moa Arts were at Les Yeux du Monde Gallery in Virginia, USA, to see their art showcased in UKAPALIMIN: ETI KO ETI: RESILIENCE: Stories from the Torres Strait.

Exhibiting artist and chair of Moa Arts, Solomon Booth recognises that while the USA is no stranger to Indigenous art from this country, there has been a marked underrepresentation of Zenadth Kes works reaching their shores.

"This is the first time Moa, Erub and Badu art centres have come together in this way, to represent the Torres Strait on a

global scale. So, we are looking forward to sharing the work of our Arts collective with a larger international audience, and with it, our stories," Booth said

Visitors to the exhibition will be impressed by the lino-print works from Badu Arts, and the vibrant, one-of-a-kind monoprints from Moa Arts, as well as intricate ghost net sculptures by Erub Arts. Featured artists include: Jimmy

John Thaiday, Lavinia Ketchell, Racy Oui-Pitt, Nancy Naawi, Lizzie Thaiday, Sarah Dawn (Erub Arts); Joseph Au, Laurie Nona, Matilda Nona (Badu Arts); Solomon Booth, David Bosun, Fiona Mosby, Paula Savage (Moa Arts).

UKAPALIMIN: ETI KO ETI: RESILIENCE: Stories from the Torres Strait exhibition and the overarching project, Charlottesville

Indigenous Art Takeover runs until 22 April, 2024.

Jack Wilkie-Jans is a Waanji, Teppathiggi and Tjungundji multidisciplinary artist, arts worker, writer, and arts policy theorist. Of dual Australian and British citizenship, Jack hails from Mapoon, Cape York Peninsula and is currently based in Gimuy/Cairns, Queensland.

Carissa Lee: cultural safety has important role to play

By KIRK PAGE



NYOONGAR actor and academic Carissa Lee is curious about our stories, the way we see ourselves and the way others see us.

Born on Wemba-Wemba Country and based in Naarm Melbourne, Carissa has appeared on screen and stage – in *House Husbands*, *Sammy J* and *Behind the Seams*.

As an actress, Carissa's job is to embody and transform herself into the characters she plays on the stage and screen. It's her passion for cross-cultural collaborations that is her true calling, a role she takes very seriously.

Carissa's stage appearances in Melbourne and South Australia have been a great warm-up for her role in the new ABC children's show *Planet Lulin*, where she plays the character Principal Cruz.

Carissa said the initial idea to pursue an acting career came to her at school where a teacher suggested she look into auditioning at the drama school, and the path was set.

She was keen to give it a go and was successful with her drama-school audition.

"It was then that I moved away from Mount Gambier to begin my studies as an actor," Carissa said.

At drama school, she was exposed to texts of the great playwrights where Carissa began to see a lack of representation and



Nyoongar actor and academic Carissa Lee.

cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) students.

This, she said, started a fire in her belly and after graduating from the acting course, she decided to continue her quest for knowledge, undertaking a PhD course in Indigenous Theatre with the University

of Melbourne.

The course focused on cross-cultural collaborations and ways that First Nations performing artists and non-Indigenous practitioners can work together, an area she said strongly deserved more attention.

"I became quite interested in the idea of cultural safety across performance disciplines and it ended up becoming a much bigger topic than I expected. I thought it was just going to be about theatre but it ended up being about a lot more," Carissa said.

While studying for a PhD, Carissa said she wondered: 'How do we make spaces culturally safe in a way that can also improve representation of First Nations people in the theatre and beyond?'

The answer, she said, was to speak more about this with people who had the experience of being in similar spaces.

"Non-Indigenous people need to yarn with Mob to get a sense of what we need and how best to work safely. And it was just so weird to me that it was so simple – to listen and really hear what the concerns were," she said.

Carissa's desire to share her research and education with others led her to write an academic paper on the subject which she hopes to share someday.

"I'm hoping to share my research in a book. I want to connect on a level outside of the academic speak so I need to make sure it reads in a way everyone can understand.

"I really hate the kind of uniformity that the

institutions make you do with academic writing. I find it really inaccessible and I want everyone to be able to understand it and benefit from it," Carissa said.

While she continues to find ways to make a change from the ground up, audiences and fans of young adult drama can catch her in *Planet Lulin* on ABC TV and iview.

"In the series, we follow a young girl who's going through some weird changes and she discovers that she's part alien, technically," she said.

"You get to see her go on these weird adventures trying to figure that out, who she really is and what that means for her. I play one of the teachers that is in the background.

"Unfortunately, I don't really get to do much magical stuff, but it's very much centred on the kids, and us grown-ups get to just come along for the ride".

The show highlights the importance of acceptance, kindness and empathy, and as a dedicated educator, adored by her students, Carissa's character appears to be a positive influence on the stage and off.

"If you like stuff like *Round the Twist* or *Ferals*, you will definitely enjoy this. It's got puppets and really weird storylines and that kind of style of acting that's a little bit heightened, and I think it's very cool".

Kirk Page is an actor and arts writer based on Bundjalung Country, with Munanjali kinship connections of South East Queensland, Badu Island, Zenadth Kes and settler ancestry.

Rising dancer has Horizon in sight

BY KIRK PAGE



GAMILAROI and Ma'ufanga/ Nuku'alofa Dancer, Daniel Mateo is in the prime of his performing life and says that in another lifetime he could have

become a professional athlete following in the footsteps of his sporting siblings.

Growing up in regional NSW, it was a fateful conversation with a school teacher that encouraged Daniel to audition for the National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA dance college).

The performing arts training college, based in Kariong, New South Wales, has launched the careers of many artists and performers like choreographers Stephen Page and Frances Rings, and singer-songwriter and performer, Christine Anu.

Daniel immersed himself in his studies at NAISDA and after graduating was successful in receiving the Russell Page fellowship with Bangarra Dance Theatre.

The program, created to honour the late dance legend Russel Page, is a stepping stone to a professional career in dance.

The trainee program offers the dancers a career in dance with a chance to dive into the history of the dance company, learn repertoire from previous works, and study the unique style of cultural and contemporary dance developed since Bangarra's beginnings in 1989.

The schedule is gruelling and can be exhausting; rehearsing, travelling and performing eight shows a week.

"When we perform for our audiences, the show has a life of its own. (It's) a total thrill bringing these stories to audiences and a lot of the time we are shedding light on our histories and this brings awareness to who we are," Daniel said.

Shining a spotlight on our stories strengthens our culture and identity and for the dancers, it creates lifelong bonds that can last a lifetime.

"There's an exchange, a coming together, that you cannot experience in any other way," Daniel explained. "We find a way to translate the energy of our sacred places and the deep knowledge and grounding passed on to us."

"Our culture is nuanced. We show this through our contemporary expression as performers and people, but always informed by our culture and who we are.

"This country's true stories haven't been acknowledged or recognised by the broader population and we are doing a part of the work that is important for our people and the next generation.

"We are one people but from different places and we have been here since the beginning," Daniel said.

"When I was growing up in Orange NSW I had never seen a contemporary dance performance.

"I grew up with a family that loved sport, football and tennis.

"My mum grew up playing tennis, my brothers played first grade NRL but I wanted to be a tennis player."

"Dance has a beautiful way of tapping into our identity, emotionally, spiritually and physically. There's this learning that happens, which is beautiful," Daniel says.



"When we perform for our audiences, the show has a life of its own. (It's) a total thrill bringing these stories to audiences and a lot of the time we are shedding light on our histories and this brings awareness to who we are."



Daniel Mateo. Picture: Daniel Boud

This year Daniel will perform in Bangarra Dance Theatre's new double bill *Horizon* a cross-cultural collaboration featuring dance by choreographers Deborah Brown, Sani Townsend and Moss Te Ururangi.

Horizon honours the First Peoples of the Oceania region, connecting stories from the Torres Strait Islands and southern neighbour Aotearoa New Zealand.

The intercultural dance theatre work includes the creative talents of former Bangarra alumni and choreographers Deborah Brown – a proud descendant of the Wakaid Clan and Meriam people and Saibai Island choreographer and dancer Sani Townson.

This creative team will collaborate with Māori choreographer Moss Te Ururangi Patterson to guide the company's award-winning ensemble to honour their mother countries and the spirit that guides them home.

Bangarra Dance Theatre's Artistic Director, Frances Rings says of *Horizon*: "I am especially proud of commissioning our new mainstage work for 2024 – a double bill featuring three incredible First Nations choreographers."

"*Horizon* represents a fresh and dynamic new chapter in Bangarra's artistic and cultural Songline by supporting new Indigenous choreographic voices and building relationships with international First Nations artists to share story, song and dance."

"I believe that opportunities like this, open us to a broader global First Nations perspective on issues that impact our people and country, and the responsibility we carry to give a platform to the uniqueness of our stories through contemporary and cultural expressions," Rings said.

"I'm excited to share this new step in Bangarra's artistic programming with audiences across the Country."

See Bangarra's website for dates and venues of their 2024 performances of *Horizon*, bangarra.com.au/

opinion



Meriam woman Janina Harding heads up the Victorian First People's Art and Design Fair (VFPADF)

Harding leads First Nations art initiative in Vic

Emerging from an initial partnership between Creative Victoria and Melbourne Art Fair is the Victorian First People's Art & Design Fair (VFPADF).

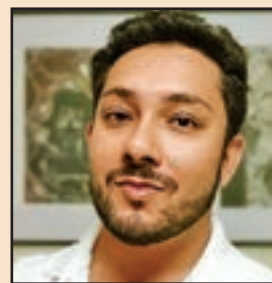
To be launched softly at the Melbourne Art Fair (22-25 February), this new initiative is poised to showcase the talents of Victorian First Nations artists to new audiences and markets. VFPADF is an initiative under the Victorian Government's Creative State 2025 strategy and is driven by the Creative Victoria First Peoples Directions Circle.

At the helm of VFPADF is Meriam woman (of Erub Island in Eastern Zenadth Kes/Torres Strait), Janina Harding; she is a former Artistic Director of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) and one of our foremost arts and Cultural policy thought-leaders. After her eight years at CIAF, Janina returned to Naarm/Melbourne in 2023 where she has strong roots and an impressive portfolio of programs and events for the City of Melbourne behind her.

Complementing her work establishing VFPADF—which is a 'working title' at present—Janina and her Creative Victoria colleagues, face a responsibility to see art centres and cultural workspaces become established. Unlike across Tropical North Queensland, Victoria doesn't yet have a network of Indigenous art centres. Supply and demand—to apply westernised understandings of commerce—dictates that there be production of artworks. Culture dictates that artists have safe spaces to do so, on their lands. Of course, this is an immense undertaking and to see it executed would involve Creative Victoria, a near whole-of-government approach, and enlisting the Commonwealth Government. But, there's most certainly a thirst to see grassroots, community arts development elevated across the state—especially in practices that encroach on schools of 'design'.

Naturally, with VFPADF being in its early phase, there's much to grow and emerge in its story. However, under the leadership of Janina Harding, it's bound to prove an early success and generate waves at the 2024 soft iteration. Soft maybe, but strong! VFPADF is already meeting widespread community aspirations.

Visitors to the Melbourne Art Fair (to be held at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre (February 22-25)) will be treated to a glimpse of the talents VFPADF is anticipated to showcase at the inaugural biennial in 2025. Wemba Wemba and Gunditjmara artist, Dr. Paola Balla, will be the sole featured artist for the fair's soft launch. Her dynamic work(s) will be an installation piece, creating an immersive and interactive experience for audiences to engage with her work and cultural messages.



Jack Wilkie-Jans

event listings

NEW SOUTH WALES

My Sovereign Black Body

A celebration of blackness by queer black artists, curated by Wamba Wamba man, Steven Lindsay Ross.

when: Feb 16 - Apr 13

where: Boomalli Gallery, Flood St Leichhardt

info/bookings: boomalli.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

This touring exhibition combines the Saltwater Freshwater Aboriginal Art Award and contemporary cultural objects exhibition, featuring Aboriginal artists from the Worimi, Biripi, Dunghutti and Gumbaynggirr Nations on the Mid North Coast of NSW.

when: until March 31

where: Glasshouse Regional Gallery, Port Macquarie

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

Yuldea

Bangarra Dance Theatre

when: Feb 22-24

where: Riverside Theatre, Parramatta

info/bookings: For full list of dates and venues for regional NSW tour visit bangarra.com.au

VICTORIA

11th Koorie Art Show and 6th Koorie Art Show Young Mob

when: until Feb 19

where: KHT, Fed Square, Melbourne

info/bookings: exhibitions.koorieheritagetrust.com.au

From the Other Side

Includes Karla Dickens, Naomi Blacklock and Naomi Kantjuriny

when: until Mar 3

where: Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne

info/bookings: acca.melbourne/exhibition/from-the-other-side/

Touring Exhibition: *Layers of Blak*

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

Includes works from leading First Nations artists.

when: until Apr 7

where: NGV International, St Kilda Road, Melbourne



King Stingray to play CYCLONE SURF!



Five-piece Yolŋu surf rock combo, King Stingray are set to play in Sydney early next month. The Yolŋu (Aboriginal people of northeast Arnhem Land) and balanda (non-Indigenous) musicians are known for their unique sound, blending ancient Indigenous melodies with surf, indie and funk. This live show is a celebration of new music with mates Colbey (direct from Hawaii) and Boat Ramp and is presented by Great Southern Nights.

when: March 11, doors open 6pm

where: The Factory Theatre, Victoria Rd, Marrickville

info/bookings: kingstingrayofficial.com/shows-1

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/

Goodbye Aunty Flo

Ilbijerri Theatre

when: Mar 15, 7pm

where: Brimbank Writers and Readers Festival, Bowery Theatre, Princess Street, St Albans

when: March 22, 7pm
where: Gasworks Theatre, Albert Park, Melbourne
info/bookings: No charge, bookings required, visit ilbijerri.com.au/event/goodbye-aunty-flo/

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Emily Kam Ngwarray

when: until April 28

where: National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

info/bookings: nga.gov.au/exhibitions/emily-kam-ngwarray/

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/

Mona Foma

A festival in lutruwita

when: until Mar 2

where: Hobart and Launceston

info/bookings: see the full program at monafoma.net.au/

Mulga Bore Hard Rock

with TISM, Cash Savage and The Last Drinks, andFFLORA x Grace Chia at Mona Foma

when: Mar 2, 3.30-10pm

where: Cataract Gorge Reserve, Launceston

info/bookings: monafoma.net.au/program/artists/mulga-bore-hard-rock

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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

Club Culture is 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 Phoenixx. This full line-up of entertainment by Aboriginal artists and musicians will make this a night you won't want to miss.

when: Feb 16 until late.

where: Club Curious at

Gluttony - Rymill Park

info/bookings: adelaidefringe.com.au/fringetix/club-culture-af2024

Kaurna Day

An immersive and celebratory day of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. A sunrise smoking ceremony kicks off a day full of free music, dance, storytelling, and food.

when: Feb 27

where: Kaurna Learning Circle and Barr Smith Lawns, University of Adelaide

info/bookings: adelaide.edu.au/newsroom/ev

ents/list/2024/02/kaurna-day-tirkanthi-ngutu-taikurrinthe

Dane Simpson: Always Was Always Will Be...Funny

For 60,000 years of laughs, book now!

when: Feb 27 - Mar 2

where: Drama Llama at Rhino Room, Pirie St, Adelaide/Kaurna Country

info/bookings: adelaidefringe.com.au/fringetix/dane-simpson-always-was-always-will-be-funny-af2024

Dusty Feet Mob

once only event!

when: Mar 5-9

where: TAFE SA - Adelaide College of the Arts, Light Square, Adelaide

info/bookings: tickets from australian.guide/sa/event/adelaide/adelaide/dusty-feet-mob/

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Babbarra TEXTA

Works made in TEXTA by artists from Babbarra Women's Centre.

when: until March 2

where: Godinyamayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre, Katherine East, Big River Region.

info/bookings: gyracc.org.au/event/babbarra-texta/

Travelling Film Festival 2024 Darwin

when: Feb 22-25

where: BCC Cinemas, Casuarina, and Alice Springs

when: Feb 23-26

where: Alice Springs Cinema, Alice Springs

info/bookings: Film program for all venues available at sff.org.au/tff/

2023 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (Telstra NATSIAA)

when: until Feb 18, 2024

where: Museum and Art

Gallery Northern Territory(MAGNT), Larrakia Country, Darwin

info/bookings: To enter the virtual gallery, vote for the People's Choice Award or find out more about the physical exhibition, please visit magnt.net.au/natsiaa

QUEENSLAND

How we remember tomorrow

when: opening event

Saturday, Feb 17, exhibition runs until June 15

where: University of Queensland Art Museum, St Lucia, Brisbane

info/bookings: art-museum.uq.edu.au/how-we-remember-tomorrow

First Nations Artisan Markets

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, continuing from last year, is it's final weeks Get along to see the show.

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: 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 highlight artworks from

QAGOMA's Indigenous Australian Art Collection and explore the complex stories of history, culture and place that they tell.

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

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Meeyakba Shane Pickett: Six Seasons

when: until August 25

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

info/bookings: visit.museum.wa.gov.au/boola-bardip/meeyakba-shane-pickett-six-seasons

Perth Festival

when: until Mar 3

where: Perth and suburbs

info/bookings: perthfestival.com.au/

Flewnt's Boorloo Block Party

when: Sat, Feb 24

where: The Rechabite Hall, Northbridge, Yandilup

info/bookings: perthfestival.com.au/events/flewnt-s-boorloo-block-party/

Jintulu: People of the Sun

when: Feb 17 - Apr 27

where: Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, UWA, Crawley/Godroo

info/bookings: perthfestival.com.au/events/jintulu-people-of-the-sun/

Nannup Music Festival

when: Mar 1-4

where: Brockman St, Nannup on Noongar Boodjar

info/bookings: find out about tickets, camping, transport and the huge line-up of performers at nannupmusicfestival.org/

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT



At the careers expo were Adrian, Hannah, Lt. Col. Boniface, Cynthia and Nicholas Aruma.

Expo brings out the force

By ALF WILSON



AUSTRALIAN Defence Force (ADF) members welcomed young and old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander attendees to a career expo at Murray Stadium in Townsville recently.

The expo, held on February 3, attracted 5,000 attendees and featured 120 information stalls staffed by community defence and veteran organisations. They all provided information on careers, education, support, hobbies and training.

At one stall, Umagico Navy cadet Breasia Namok (20), recommended a career in the Australian Defence Forces to young people from communities around the NPA and Torres Strait Islands.

"We have had a lot of people through and it has great being a cadet – which I would recommend to others," Breasia said.

"The ADF is trying to recruit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths for a variety of well-paid careers."

At the expo's Veterans Affairs stall was 31-year-old Mervyn Walker, an Aboriginal

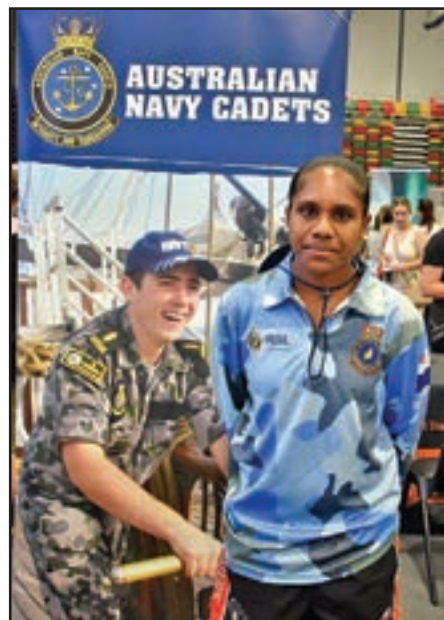


Mervyn Walker at the Veteran Affairs stall.

man from the Mareeba area.

"We provide information to members of Defence and there are many here today," Mervyn said.

Also at the expo was Lt. Col. Boniface Aruma, the new deputy commander of the Australian Army's 3rd Brigade in



Breasia Namok from NPA at the Navy cadet stall.

Townsville. He was there with his wife Cynthia, their four sons and daughter.

He told the *Koori Mail* that he took up the position last October and has served

for 27 years in the PNG Defence.

The Torres Strait Islands are the closest Australian neighbour for PNG and his appointment was a historic for both countries.

"It's a huge boost for the already warm military relationship between Australia and PNG," he said.

Lt. Col. Aruma's daughter Hannah (20) and two of his sons Adrian (16) and Nicholas, (13), came close to a non-venomous snake water python at the Billabong Sanctuary stall. They were safely under the expert guidance of Ranger Ray.

"It was scary at first, but it was great to handle it," Nicholas said.

Members of the Rupertswood Rural Fire Service (RRFS) were also on hand to provide information to attendees of the expo.

"We have recently been to Cairns, Cooktown and Wujal Wujal after Cyclone Jasper to help," RRFS member Jim Besgrove said.

The band of the 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment Band, provided music throughout the event from 9.30am to noon. The nearby car park was packed throughout the duration.

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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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.

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.

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.**



Become a carer with Ngunya Jarjum and keep our kids connected to culture

APPLY NOW

Call 6626 3700 or visit www.ngunya.jarjum.com

THE DIERI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC

IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT OFFICER FULL TIME

(12-Month Fixed Term Contract)

Location: Port Augusta - South Australia

The Dieri Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (TDAC) is looking for an Implementation Project Officer with extensive project skills to ensure the Corporation can deliver culturally appropriate outcomes. The role will support the effectiveness of the CEO's office, and as such will interact with the TDAC Board, Members and External Parties by using initiative and resourcefulness to undertake a wide variety of high-level functions and tasks associated with strategic leadership.

SCOPE:

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate), the Implementation Project Officer role is to lead and facilitate mining company projects, ensuring the delivery of culturally appropriate outcomes in alignment with the goals of The Dieri Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC.

THE IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT OFFICER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Providing support to the TDAC Board of Directors consultation agreements and meetings with Mining Companies.
- Working closely with Mining Company Representatives regarding agreements (new & old), as the main contact person.
- Establishing a Negotiation Team, who will be the go between for the CEO and TDAC Board of Directors.
- Setting the Term of Reference of the Negotiation Team, in line with the requirements from the CEO and TDAC Board of Directors.
- Leading and providing Administrative support to the Negotiation Team, which includes planning and co-ordination of committee members.
- Co-ordinating and scheduling meetings with Mining Companies including logistics & budget estimates.
- Communicating with TDAC members to provide feedback, as part of the consultation process.
- Providing updates to members regarding mining negotiations.
- Calculating budget estimates to support community meetings throughout the negotiation process, (working closely with the Finance Manager).
- Reporting to the CEO and the TDAC Board of Directors regarding recommendations that need to be implemented.
- Providing updates to the CEO and the TDAC Board of Directors on Mining Companies progress of the negotiations process.
- Working closely with the Executive Assistant, by providing reports and updates to the TDAC Board of Directors on Mining Companies progress.
- Working with the Cultural Heritage Project Officer as it relates to work heritage

clearance survey's (when required).

- Working with Mining Companies to deliver Cultural outcomes.
- Development of templates for Community and Social Initiative projects offered by Mining Companies.
- Exploring Community and Social initiatives and projects, by implementing these in line with TDAC objectives.
- Development of a policy and procedure for the process of engagement between TDAC and Mining Companies.

EXPERIENCE, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE:

- Experience in project management and community engagement.
- Strong research, communication (verbal and written), and organisational skills.
- Knowledge of relevant Mining Acts and Industry.
- Knowledge of relevant laws and regulations related to Cultural Heritage preservation.
- Cultural sensitivity and understanding.
- Proficiency in Office Software and Systems (Microsoft Office, Scheduling software, etc.).
- Experience working in a not for profit organisation.

DESIRABLE:

- Experience with the preparation of budget estimates
- Experience working with Aboriginal people and Communities (preferred)
- Must have a current Drivers Licence
- National Police Clearance Check is required

APPLICATIONS CLOSE:

5:00pm on Friday, 1st March 2024.

Please send your Resume and a Cover Letter (no longer than 2 pages) addressing the above criteria to: kirsty.dadleh@dieri.org.au.

For further information or enquiries please contact Kirsty Dadleh, Chief Executive Officer, The Dieri Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC on (08) 8641 0092.

PLEASE NOTE: ONLY SHORT LISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED.

DIERI MEMBERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY!




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 jalichair@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.

THE DIERI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC

CULTURAL HERITAGE PROJECT OFFICER FULL TIME

(12-Months, with a possibility of extension)

Location: Port Augusta - South Australia

The Dieri Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (TDAC) is looking for a Cultural Heritage Project Officer with extensive experience in Aboriginal Cultural knowledge to ensure the Corporation can deliver Culturally appropriate outcomes. The role will support the effectiveness of the CEO's office, and as such will interact with the TDAC Board, Members and External Parties by using initiative and resourcefulness to undertake a wide variety of high-level functions and tasks associated with strategic leadership.

SCOPE:

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate), the Cultural Heritage Project Officer role is to lead and facilitate cultural heritage projects, ensuring the delivery of culturally appropriate outcomes in alignment with the goals and objectives of The Dieri Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC.

THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OFFICER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Implementing the Cultural Heritage Action Plan
- Obtaining and appropriate Storage of Culturally sensitive material.
- Maintaining comprehensive records and database of Cultural Heritage resources.
- Ensuring the proper cataloguing and documentation of artifacts and historical sites are accurately recorded.
- Managing the Keeping Place Database (storage database for Cultural Heritage information)
- Capturing the Dieri Language and co-ordinating Language Workshops for Dieri members.
- Working with Dieri Elders to capture stories
- Identify and list identified Cultural sites – Development of Dieri Cultural Mapping resource.
- Working closely with and providing Administrative support to the Health Country Plan Working Group.
- The Key contact person for the future Ranger Program.
- Working with third parties as it relates to Heritage Survey's and Cultural Clearances (WAC's), including the specialised Anthropologist, Archeologist and WAC Field Crew members.
- Working closely with the Implementation Project Officer for identified Heritage Survey's and Cultural Clearances.
- Working with Mining Companies regarding safe guarding Cultural sites.

EXPERIENCE, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE:

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in Cultural Heritage Management, Archaeology, Anthropology, history, or a related field, would be a plus.
- Knowledge of relevant laws and regulations related to Cultural Heritage preservation.
- Cultural sensitivity and understanding.
- Experience in project management and community engagement.
- Strong research, communication (verbal and written), and organisational skills.
- Proficiency in Office Software and Systems (Microsoft Office, Scheduling software, etc.).
- Experience in a not for profit organization.

DESIRABLE:

- Experience working with Aboriginal people and Communities (preferred)
- Must have a current Drivers Licence
- National Police Clearance Check is required

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 5:00pm on Friday, 1st March 2024.

Please send your Resume and a Cover Letter (no longer than 2 pages) addressing the above criteria to: kirsty.dadleh@dieri.org.au.

For further information or enquiries please contact Kirsty Dadleh, Chief Executive Officer, The Dieri Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC on (08) 8641 0092.

PLEASE NOTE: ONLY SHORT LISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED.

DIERI MEMBERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY!




Mutawintji Local Aboriginal Land Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Mutawintji Local Aboriginal Land Council ("MLALC") is seeking applications from experienced and motivated people interested in a rewarding career in the role of Chief Executive Officer.

MLALC is an Aboriginal membership-based organisation within Broken Hill NSW and surrounding communities.

The Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 ("ALRA") outlines the specific functions of the CEO. The CEO will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the MLALC's affairs in accordance with delegated authorities and will provide an extensive range of assistance and support to the elected Board.

The successful applicant will have knowledge and understanding of the ALRA, the capacity to interpret and implement legislation, the ability to work under pressure, prioritise tasks and meet deadlines, and also highly developed interpersonal, communication, negotiation and consultative skills with experience in developing and maintaining collaborative partnerships and stakeholder relationships.

Organisational management experience is essential together with financial management skills, a current NSW Working with Children Check and a driver's license.

The successful applicant will also have:

- Requisite experience in Indigenous Corporations and/or a not for profit/charitable environment.
- Knowledge, understanding and an appreciation of the cultural, social and economic needs of discrete Aboriginal communities.
- People management and associated skills and experience.
- An understanding of work, health & safety requirements and other laws and requirements pertaining to a Local Aboriginal Land Council.

All applicants must obtain a copy of the recruitment package containing the Position Description and Selection Criteria and address, in writing, the selection criteria for their application to be considered. To obtain a copy of the recruitment package or for further information, please contact the MLALC's Advisor by email: andrew.bowcher@rsm.com.au or on 02 6937 7001.

Applications addressing the selection criteria are to be forwarded to: andrew.bowcher@rsm.com.au or posted to:

The Advisor – Mutawintji Local Aboriginal Land Council
C/- RSM Australia
PO Box 1026
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

Applications close at 4:00pm on Friday 1 March 2024.

THE DIERI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC

FINANCE MANAGER – FULL TIME

(12-Months, with a possibility of extension)

Location: Port Augusta - South Australia

The Dieri Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (TDAC) is looking for a Finance Manager with extensive Financial skills and experience to ensure the Corporation can deliver outcomes. The role will support the effectiveness of the CEO's office, and as such will interact with the TDAC Board, Members and External Parties by using initiative and resourcefulness to undertake a wide variety of high-level functions and tasks associated with strategic leadership.

SCOPE:

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate), the Finance Manager role provides high level Financial services to the CEO.

THE FINANCE MANAGER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Working closely with the Accountant and suppliers regarding payments of invoices and financial matters.
- Working closely with TDAC bank providers.
- Working closely with the TDAC Finance & Budget Sub-committee and at times the Investment Sub-committee.
- Liaising with Auditors to ensure accuracy of accounts, statutory compliance, and sound financial management practices for the organisation.
- Working with the Office Manager and CEO regarding Internal Audit processes which includes policy payments and compliance with ORIC and operational standards/regulations.
- Managing accounts receivable and accounts payable functions, including raising and processing invoices.
- Implementing and development of accounting policies and procedures in line with best practice.
- Following up any outstanding Invoices/Overpayments.
- Oversee the Payroll process to ensure that it is compliant with PAYG, Superannuation.
- Responsible for the taxation obligations of the organisation/external clients by ensuring they are lodged in a timely manner (PAYG, GST, FBT).
- Managing Policy Payments and Approvals.
- Approving Operational Invoices within delegations.
- Supporting the organisation to ensure that general ledger balances have integrity and represent transactions that are complete and accurate.
- General ledger reconciliations by ensuring they are completed in a timely manner and providing assistance as required to prepare these reconciliations.
- Manage and oversee the month-end procedures including, General Ledger reconciliation, roll-overs, journals, fixed asset accounting, cash management and completion of bank reconciliation functions.
- Managing accurate and consistent preparation of budget development and forecasting, identification, and evaluation of budget issues.
- Developing and implementing agreed innovative and appropriate solutions, for Corporations Budgets.
- Working closely with CEO with preparation of budget forecasts.

- Aquittals of monies received from third parties in line with agreements.
- Working with the Implementation Officer to provide Budget Estimates and Actuals for third party works.
- Providing Monthly Financial Reports to the CEO and the TDAC Board of Directors.
- Milestone payments and reporting on financial progress of projects including third party, CEO and Board reporting.
- Calculating and processing payments for TA & Mileage for TDAC board of Directors and TDAC Staff.
- Responsible for hiring and training Finance Officer.
- Any other tasks as delegated by the CEO.

EXPERIENCE, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE:

- Tertiary qualifications in Accounting
- Knowledge and understanding of Financial Compliance
- Minimum 7 years' experience as an Accountant/Team Leader post-qualification.
- Strong knowledge of Accounting Standards.
- Demonstrated highly developed communication skills with the ability to establish and maintain relationships with a broad range of people, and to anticipate needs and act upon them proactively.
- Strong leadership and management skills.
- Excellent organisational and multi-tasking abilities.
- Exceptional communication (verbal and written), and interpersonal skills.
- Proficiency in Office Software and Systems (Microsoft Office, Microsoft Excel, Scheduling software, etc.).
- Knowledge and experience using Accounting Software (Xero)
- Experience working in a not for profit organisation.

DESIRABLE:

- Experience working with Aboriginal people and Communities (preferred)
- Must have a current Drivers Licence
- National Police Clearance Check is required

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 5:00pm on Friday, 1st March 2024.

Please send your Resume and a Cover Letter (no longer than 2 pages) addressing the above criteria to: kirsty.dadleh@dieri.org.au.

For further information or enquiries please contact Kirsty Dadleh, Chief Executive Officer, The Dieri Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC on (08) 8641 0092.

PLEASE NOTE: ONLY SHORT LISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED.



KURUKUNOM



Environmental Water Project Officer

We're seeking an enthusiastic and skilled professional to join our Water for the Environment team.

The Project Officer will undertake the planning, delivering, and monitoring of water for the environment with the aim to rehabilitate and maintain high-value wetlands and river systems mostly within the Cohuna and Gunbower area in collaboration with their team.

This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to understanding the condition and response of wetlands and waterways to water for the environment.

This position will be instrumental in engaging with the local community and Traditional Owners to ensure local expertise and knowledge is incorporated in the planning of water for the environment.

The successful applicant will demonstrate a passion for the environment and collaborating with community, with an understanding of ecological and hydrological processes relevant to wetland and river ecology.

This position is offered on a fixed term basis for a period of up to 18-months and may be undertaken full time or part time. For further information contact us on 03 5448 7124.

For a copy of the Job Description or to submit an application visit the Jobs and Tenders section of our website at www.nccma.vic.gov.au or contact HRManager@nccma.vic.gov.au

Applications will be accepted until COB Wednesday 21 February and should include a covering letter, a current resume, and statement addressing the key selection criteria outlined in the position description.

Connecting rivers, landscapes, people



Project Officer Music Australia

Are you passionate about music and making a lasting impact on the Australian contemporary music sector? Look no further! We are recruiting for a Project Officer to provide high level administrative and project delivery support, contributing to the growth and success of Music Australia.

To obtain further information about this position, please visit our careers page at <https://creative.gov.au/about-us/careers/>.

Applications close on 20 February at 1:00pm.



Company Overview: Our client is recognised as Australia's leading privately owned electrical and communications contracting organisation.

Position Overview:

Our client is currently seeking skilled Electricians to join their team for various projects. You will play a pivotal role in contributing to the success of significant projects, including the RPA Hospital Redevelopment in Camperdown, the Sydney Fish Market in Pyrmont, and the Microsoft Data Centre in Kemps Creek. These projects are anticipated to operate until approximately 2028, 2025, and 2027, respectively.

Responsibilities:

Electrical Installation and Maintenance: Execute electrical installation, maintenance, and repair tasks as per project requirements.

Trade Qualifications: Relevant trade qualifications as an Electrician.

Experience: Proven experience in electrical installations and maintenance projects.

Certifications: Current electrical licenses and certifications.

Key Project Details:

Project 1: RPA Hospital Redevelopment (Camperdown) - Operational until approx. 2028

Electricians Needed: 4-6 positions.

Project 2: Sydney Fish Market (Pyrmont) - Operational until approx. 2025

Electricians Needed: 4-6 positions.

Project 3: Microsoft Data Centre (Kemps Creek) - Operational until approx. 2027

Electricians Needed: 2-4 positions.

Base Salary is 140k plus super, depending on experience

Contact: Murray Hipwell
National Aboriginal Engagement Manager.
0468 389 130.

THE DIERI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC

OFFICE MANAGER – FULL TIME

(12-Months, with a possibility of extension)

Location: Port Augusta - South Australia

The Dieri Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (TDAC) is actively seeking an experienced Office Manager with a proven track record in organisational efficiency to facilitate the achievement of the Corporation's objectives. This pivotal role will play a crucial part in enhancing the CEO's office functionality, necessitating seamless interaction with the TDAC Board, Members, and External Parties. The successful candidate is expected to demonstrate initiative and resourcefulness while undertaking a diverse range of high-level functions associated with strategic leadership.

SCOPE:

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate), the Office Manager role encompasses the provision of high-level operational services to support the CEO.

THE OFFICE MANAGER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Designing and implementing office policies by establishing standards and procedures, measuring results against standards, and making necessary adjustments.
- Completes operational requirements by scheduling and assigning employees; following up on work results.
- Oversees office facilities, ensuring cleanliness, safety, and functionality. Including coordinating maintenance and repairs as needed.
- Working with HR consultant and CEO regarding HR matters.
- Induction of new employees.
- Managing the Administration and reception staff.
- Office Administration and rostering.
- Supporting Staff to achieve accreditation in Certificate III in Business Office Administration.
- Managing policy payment processes, and providing detailed monthly reports regarding progress and highlighting any issues or concerns, to the CEO and TDAC Board of Directors.
- Ensuring Administration and Reception KPI's are being met, this includes;
 - Number of policy payments that have been processed
 - The average wait times in processing applications
 - Highlighting the date of the oldest outstanding policy payments
 - How many outstanding invoices are pending for policy payments
- Organising training for TDAC Staff in line with compliance and personal and professional development.
- Ensure compliance with safety regulations and guidelines eg; WHS compliance.
- Management of TDAC assets including vehicle registration and maintenance.
- Keeping CEO informed by reviewing and analysing special reports; summarising information; identifying trends.

- Working with IT providers on any IT issues and process improvements.
- Working with the Finance Manager and CEO regarding Internal Audit processes which includes policy payments and compliance with ORIC and operational standards/regulations.
- Any other tasks as delegated by the CEO.

EXPERIENCE, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE:

- Proven experience (5+ years) in office management, administration, or a related role.
- Strong leadership and management skills.
- Excellent organisational and multitasking abilities.
- Exceptional communication (verbal and written), and interpersonal skills.
- Proficiency in Office Software and Systems (Microsoft Office, Scheduling software, etc.).
- Customer-focused with a commitment to providing excellent customer service.
- Knowledge of WHS regulations and HR practices, is a plus.

DESIRABLE:

- Experience working with Aboriginal people and Communities (preferred)
- Must have a current Drivers Licence
- National Police Clearance Check is required

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 5:00pm on Friday, 1st March 2024.

Please send your Resume and a Cover Letter (no longer than 2 pages) addressing the above criteria to: kirsty.dadleh@dieri.org.au.

For further information or enquiries please contact Kirsty Dadleh, Chief Executive Officer, The Dieri Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC on (08) 8641 0092.

PLEASE NOTE: ONLY SHORT LISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED.

DIERI MEMBERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY!



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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (Attractive Remuneration Package Negotiable)

The Narrandera Local Aboriginal Land Council (NLALC) is seeking applications from experienced and motivated people interested in a rewarding career undertaking a new and challenging role of Chief Executive Officer.

This position holder will provide an extensive range of assistance and support to the elected Board through the day-to-day management of the NLALC'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, Andrew Bowcher of RSM Australia, by email at andrew.bowcher@rsm.com.au.

Applications can be forwarded to andrew.bowcher@rsm.com.au or marked "Confidential" and posted to:

Attention: Andrew Bowcher
Narrandera Local Aboriginal Land Council
55 Berry Street
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Applications close 6 March 2024

Aboriginal people are encouraged to apply.



ACHAA is Growing Grow with Us

The Aboriginal Culture, Heritage & Arts Association (ACHAA) is the peak body for 22 community-controlled spaces including cultural centres, knowledge centres, language centres, galleries, museums and Keeping Places across NSW. With its expanding membership, programs and services, we are seeking to employ two skilled and talented team members with enthusiasm and passion for NSW Aboriginal arts, culture and heritage to these Identified Positions:

Communications & Engagement Officer

Full-Time, \$65,111/pa (includes leave loading) plus superannuation. You are good with words both written and verbal, probably already using your communication skills on line in social media and websites; a team player who can also work independently organising events and working to competing deadlines; knowledge and/or experience of any components of maintaining, developing and promoting Aboriginal arts, culture and heritage in place-based community venues in NSW highly desirable. Visual flair/design skills highly regarded.

Executive Assistant

Three days (21 Hours) per week, \$34.78/hr, plus superannuation and pro rata leave benefits. Supporting the General Manager, the ACHAA Board and other team members as required, you understand the importance of attention to detail, responding appropriately and in a timely way to requests, working as a part of a team and independently towards competing deadlines. You value contributing to the day to day running and objectives of ACHAA, actually getting satisfaction from filing, data entry and minute taking.

These positions are on-going, funding dependent with annual performance reviews. ACHAA's office is located in The Rocks, Sydney and flexible office/working from home arrangements can be negotiated. For full job descriptions go to:

<https://mqnsw.org.au/sector/jobs/>

Applications close 5pm Friday 1 March 2024.

ACHAA is supported by the Federal Government's Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Scheme (IVAIS) program and the NSW Government through Create NSW.



Temporary Election Staff

Electoral Commission of Queensland

Salary: \$33.13 to \$47.74 per hour

Location: Various locations throughout Queensland

REF: QLD/541659/24

Key Duties: The ECQ is recruiting now for the 2024 local government elections on 16 March.

There are 10,000 casual roles available for work before, on and after election day.

During an election the ECQ recruits Queenslanders from all walks of life for multiple casual temporary election positions. Each position has its own set of tasks, competencies and attributes and all staff are paid for their work and receive training and support.

For more information and to apply, please visit the ECQ Website Working at an Election on <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/elections/working-at-an-election>

Skills/Abilities:

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

Individuals interested in applying for work at elections must meet the following Mandatory requirements:

- Be 16 years of age or over
- Be on the electoral roll
- Political neutrality
- Comply with the ECQ Conflict of Interest Policy.

Enquiries/Application Details:

<https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/elections/working-at-an-election>

Closing Date: Friday, 1 March 2024



Queensland
Government

Narromine Local Aboriginal Land Council



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

(Remuneration Package Negotiable)
Full Time/Permanent (35 Hours)

The Narromine Local Aboriginal Land Council (NLALC) 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 Narromine 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 demonstrable 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. 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 the Narromine Local Aboriginal Land Council office (02) 6889 2340.

Applications can be forwarded to reception@narrominelalc.com or marked "Confidential" and posted to:

The CEO Recruitment Panel
Narromine Local Aboriginal Land Council
13 Burroway Street
NARROMINE NSW 2821

Applications close DATE 08th March 2024

Aboriginal people are encouraged to apply.



DOING THE
MOST GOOD

Uniting



Operations Manager for Western NSW

About the opportunity

Join our dynamic team at Uniting Communities Directorate and take the lead in delivering impactful outcomes across a diverse range of high-quality programs throughout Western NSW. Based in Dubbo, NSW, this permanent full-time position offers a unique opportunity to drive positive change as we deliver our 10-year strategy to grow our impact and disrupt entrenched disadvantage.

As a pivotal member of our senior leadership team, you'll be instrumental in ensuring the successful delivery of contracted outcomes, while championing a culture of excellence and quality. Your role will involve overseeing program operations, strategic planning, budgeting, and reporting, all with a focus on meeting funding requirements and exceeding stakeholder expectations.

Who we are

At Uniting, we're committed to empowering children, young people, and families to thrive in safe and supportive environments.

About You in the role

As the ideal candidate, you'll hold a Bachelor's degree in a relevant field and possess proven financial and program management skills.

Your ability to lead, motivate, and inspire teams, coupled with your cultural sensitivity, will be essential in driving meaningful change.

Additionally, your experience in establishing strategic partnerships and engaging with external stakeholders will be invaluable in supporting our ongoing efforts to deliver culturally appropriate services, particularly for First Nations people. We actively encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates. In return, we offer a supportive work environment, ongoing professional development opportunities, and the chance to be part of a team dedicated to creating positive social impact.

If you're passionate about making a difference and possess the skills and experience we're looking for, we encourage you to apply.

To apply for this exciting opportunity, please visit the Uniting Careers website [Uniting Careers](https://www.uniting.org.au/careers).

If you have any queries, don't hesitate to reach out to Alex Sullivan from Uniting's Talent Acquisition Team asullivan@uniting.org / 0466 801 937

First Nations children and families are overrepresented in the child protection system and our services in Western NSW. Appropriate cultural knowledge and understanding is important to deliver effectively in this role. This is a targeted position and applications from First Nations people are encouraged.

Closing date: 11:55pm Monday 26th February 2024

ExxonMobil

Esso's oil and gas facilities in Bass Strait

Esso Australia Pty Ltd (Esso), a wholly owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil Australia Pty Ltd, is committed to operating and decommissioning its' Bass Strait offshore facilities safely and effectively.

Community Drop-in

If you'd like to know more about the following:

- Pipeline Decommissioning
- Steel Pile Jacket Decommissioning
- Kipper Drilling
- Turrum Drilling
- Geophysical and Geotechnical Environment Plans,

the Esso Consultation Team will be hosting a community drop in at Lakes Entrance:

When: Thursday 29 February 2024

Where: The Bellevue Hotel, Lakes Entrance

Time: Between 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm

There will be maps of the facilities and infrastructure, brochures about the activities, and a friendly consultation team available to answer your questions.

Please email us at consultation@exxonmobil.com to register your attendance.

Contact us by email or phone

If this time doesn't work for you, please feel free to contact us to ask a question, raise a concern or register your interest to be involved by emailing us at consultation@exxonmobil.com or by phone: 03 9261 0244

Please connect us with other interested people

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

To find out more information

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



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

Like to be consulted about these activities?

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

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Notice of applications to register area agreements on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements in Queensland

Notification day: 21 February 2024



QI2023/010 Wangetti Project (Northern Area) ILUA

Description of the agreement area:

The agreement covers an area of about 96 sq km located approx. 10km south of Port Douglas between Wangetti and the Mowbray River

Relevant LGAs: Douglas Shire Council and Mareeba Shire Council

QI2023/011 Wangetti Project (Southern Area) ILUA

Description of the agreement area:

The agreement covers an area of about 11 sq km located on the coastal strip between Palm Cove and Wangetti

Relevant LGAs: Cairns Regional Council and Douglas Shire Council

The agreements contain the following statements:

[Explanatory notes in brackets inserted by the National Native Title Tribunal]

7.1 [The Parties consent to the doing of the Agreed Acts to the extent that they are Future Acts and the validation of any Prior Acts done in, or in relation to, the Agreement Area, to the extent that they were a Future Act and were done invalidly for the purpose of native title]

7.4 Subdivision P of Division 3 of Part 2 of the [Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)] is not intended to apply to the doing of the Agreed Acts.

“Access Tracks” means up to 10m wide corridors, to develop access tracks located within the Agreement Area in areas agreed between the Parties in accordance with the Cultural Heritage Agreement and which the State intends to use for the purposes of [obtaining access for constructing, maintaining, operating, using or repairing the Trail Design and the Associated Infrastructure; and/or for QI2023/010 only, mountain biking or walking track.]

“Agreed Acts” means: (a) the grant of any lease, licence, permit or other authority including re-grant or renewal applying to the Agreement Area that authorises the construction, operation, maintenance, use or repair of the Trail Design and Associated Infrastructure; (b) any Future Acts necessary to give effect to, or incidental to, the construction, operation, maintenance, use or repair of the Trail Design and the Associated Infrastructure; and (c) without limiting paragraphs (a) to (b) of this definition, includes: (i) the grant of a Development Approval; (ii) the grant of a Construction Authority; (iii) the grant of an Operational Authority; (iv) the entry into a Deed of Assignment and Assumption under clause 23; and (v) a variation of this Agreement made under [clause 24 for QI2023/010 or clauses 24 or 25 for QI2023/011];

“Agreed Trail Alignment” means the alignment agreed by the Native Title Party and the State under the Cultural Heritage Agreement and the location on which the Trail will, [for QI2023/010, subject to clause 8], be constructed within the Agreement Area;

“Agreement Area” means the land and waters described in Schedule 1 and depicted in Schedule 2 [of each of the agreements and described and depicted above];

“Associated Infrastructure” means any other amenities and infrastructure necessary for: (a) the construction, maintenance, operation, repair and use of the Trail Design; and (b) the use of the Trail for recreational and commercial purposes.

“Campsite Areas” means the public campgrounds and private campgrounds that are up to 4 hectares in size and are located within the Agreement Area, in areas agreed between the Parties in accordance with the Cultural Heritage Agreement;

“Construction Authority” means a lease, licence, permit, agreement or other authority that authorises the construction, in the Agreement Area, of any of the following: (a) [for QI2023/010, the Trail Design and for QI2023/011 the Trail]; or (b) the Associated Infrastructure;

“Construction Trail Corridor” means the 40m wide corridor that is 20m either side of the [for QI2023/010, the Agreed Trail Alignment and for QI2023/011 the Trail], [for QI2023/010, or a width otherwise agreed between the parties; for QI2023/011, as agreed to by the State and the Native Title Party] in accordance with the Cultural Heritage Agreement;

“Cultural Heritage Agreement” means the executed cultural heritage management agreement between representatives of the Aboriginal Party for the area to which the cultural heritage management agreement applies and the State in the form contained in Schedule 8;

“Djabugay Nation Claim” means the native title determination application QUD692/2016 made to the Federal Court under Part 3 of the [Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)];

“Final Trail Alignment” means up to a 2.5m wide permanent alignment on which the Trail is constructed in accordance with the Cultural Heritage Agreement;

“Native Title Party” means those persons comprising the Registered Native Title Claimant for the Djabugay Nation Claim Group who are either nominated or determined under s 251A(2) of the [Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)] by the Djabugay Nation Claim Group to make the Agreement or, if no persons have been so nominated or determined, such of those persons comprising the Registered Native Title Claimant who execute this Agreement, being a majority of the persons who comprise the Registered Native Title Claimant on behalf of the Djabugay Nation Claim Group;

“Operational Authority” means a lease, licence, permit or other authority that authorises the operation, maintenance, use or repair, in the Agreement Area, of any of the following: (a) the Trail Design; (b) the Associated Infrastructure;

“Prior Act”: (a) means (i) any act done prior to the Execution Date that would have been an Agreed Act if this Agreement had been executed when the act was done; (ii) any Agreed Act done on or after the Execution Date but prior to Registration; and (b) includes (i) any permit issued by the Wet Tropics Management Authority under part 3, division 4 of the Wet Tropics Management Plan, and any works undertaken in the Agreement Area under the authority of the permit prior to Registration; (ii) any lease, agreement, licence, permit or other authority under s 34 of the [Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld)] over the Trail Design, and any works undertaken in the Agreement Area under the authority prior to Registration; (iii) any lease, agreement, licence or permit granted by the Wangetti Aboriginal Land Trust over the ALA Area, and any access or use of the ALA Area for construction purposes for the Trail Design under that permit prior to Registration; (iv) the declaration of the ALA Area as transferrable land and the grant of the ALA Area as Aboriginal land, to the extent the declaration and grant were Future Acts and were not undertaken validly for the purpose of native title; (v) any lease granted over the Reserve Area, and any works undertaken in the Agreement Area under the authority of the lease prior to Registration; and (vi) the giving of a Development Approval by Cairns Regional Council under the Planning Act 2016 (Qld).

“State” means the State of Queensland through the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport and the Department of Environment and Science, and includes: (a) an agent or contractor engaged by the State through those agencies; and (b) any sub-contractor engaged by a contractor mentioned in paragraph (a) above;

“Trail” means up to a 2.5m wide permanent walking and mountain biking track that will be constructed [for QI2023/010, on the Final Trail Alignment; for QI2023/011, in accordance with the Cultural Heritage Agreement];

“Trail Design” means the Trail, Construction Trail Corridor, Campsite Areas and Access Tracks;

Parties to the agreements and their contact address:

State of Queensland acting through the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport and the Department of Environment and Science (State)	PO Box 15168, City East QLD 4002
Bruce Banning, Alfred Gray Jnr, Richard Bing Jnr, Florince Williams, Sydney Gray, Dianne Ambrym, Kathleen Lakatos, William Brim, Astro Brim, Earl Hobbler, George Singleton, Gavin Singleton Jnr and Mercy Baird on their own behalf and on behalf of the Djabugay Nation Claim Group (QUD692/2016) (Native Title Party)	c/- North Queensland Land Council Native Title Representative Body Aboriginal Corporation PO Box 679, Cairns North QLD 4870
Wangetti Aboriginal Land Trust	8 Durian Close, Manoora QLD 4870
Wet Tropics Management Authority	PO Box 2050, Cairns QLD 4870
Cairns Regional Council (LGA)	PO Box 359, Cairns QLD 4870
Douglas Shire Council (LGA)	PO Box 723, Mossman QLD 4873

Responses to an application to register an ILUA—where the application has not been certified:

Any person claiming to hold native title in relation to land or waters in the area covered by any of the agreements may wish, in response to this notice, to make a native title determination application or equivalent application under a law of a state or territory in respect of any part of the area. The application must be made by 21 May 2024. If that application is registered on the Register of Native Title Claims, the registered native title claimants must be a party to the relevant agreement before it can be registered.

Details of the terms of the agreement are not available from the National Native Title Tribunal.

For assistance and further information about these applications, call Sylvia Jagtman on 07 3052 4248 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS

Broadmeadow Place Strategy

City of Newcastle invites Aboriginal persons or organisations who may have an interest or hold knowledge of cultural significance of Aboriginal objects(s) and/or place(s) in the land and waters of the Broadmeadow Regionally Significant Growth Area, identified in the Hunter Regional Plan 2041, to register their interest in participating in the consultation process for the development of the Broadmeadow Place Strategy.

The Place Strategy, outlining a 30-year vision for the area, will help guide future land use and infrastructure investment in the area, including housing, employment opportunities, public spaces and facilities.

The area includes approximately 300 hectares of land, primarily within the suburbs of Broadmeadow and Hamilton North. It also extends along Belford and Tudor Streets.

For more information, including a map of the Broadmeadow precinct, please visit City of Newcastle's project webpage:

<https://haveyoursay.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/broadmeadow-place-strategy>

To register your interest, please respond in writing, with a list of any relevant Aboriginal people/organisations who should be consulted with respect to this project:

City of Newcastle, PO Box 489 Newcastle, NSW 2300 (Attention: Sara Kelly)

or via email: broadmeadow@ncc.nsw.gov.au

The closing date for registration is 28/2/24.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

– Invitation to Register Interest

Optical Fibre Project: Broken Hill to Emmdale, NSW

Ventia Pty Ltd has engaged Australian Heritage Services (AHS) on behalf of Telstra InfraCo (the proponent) to undertake an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for a proposed 297 kilometre optical fibre cable alignment between Broken Hill and Emmdale, NSW (the Project). The Project is within the Broken Hill City Council and the Central Darling Shire Council Local Government Areas and will primarily be parallel to the Barrier Highway with a 45-kilometre section east of Wilcannia following an existing optical fibre cable route across the Barka (Darling River) floodplain.

Aboriginal individuals and groups with cultural knowledge relevant to identifying the significance of Aboriginal objects, places, and values in the project area are invited to express their interest in a community consultation process. The purpose of the consultation is to inform the assessment and assist the Director of Heritage NSW (Department of Planning and Environment) in the consideration and determination of any approvals that may be required for the project.

Please note that details of the Aboriginal people or organisations who register an interest in consultation will be forwarded to Heritage NSW and Menindee, Broken Hill, and Wilcannia Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC). Please advise at the time of registration if you do not wish for your details to be released to the relevant organisations.

Please register your interest to be consulted on the Project by 6 March 2024 by contacting:

Andrew Wilkinson
Australian Heritage Services
GPO Box 2990, Adelaide, SA 5001
Email: admin@australianheritageservices.com.au
Phone: 0417 329 714

For more project information please contact:

Matthew Federici
Stakeholder Engagement Liaison
Ventia Pty Ltd (on behalf of Telstra InfraCo)
167 Cremorne St,
Richmond, VIC 3121
T: 1300 473 619
E: stakeholder.amg@ventia.com

For your advertising needs email: advertising@koorimail.com



Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment: Invitation to Register Interest

Proposed Powerhouse Museum Ultimo Revitalisation

On behalf of Infrastructure NSW (the proponent), Curio Projects (heritage consultants) are commencing Aboriginal community consultation for a proposed development located at Powerhouse Ultimo. The study area is shown below. It is located at 500 Harris Street, Ultimo within the City of Sydney Council LGA.



On 4 December 2023, the NSW Government unveiled the revised concept design scheme for the \$250 million revitalisation to the Powerhouse Museum Ultimo that will deliver new exhibition and public spaces, while retaining the 1988 Wran building. The project will involve:

- Site preparation works, including site services and infrastructure works, tree removal, earthworks, remediation and the erection of site protection hoardings and fencing.
- Demolition of some existing structures on the site.
- Construction and use of a new museum spaces along the Harris Street frontage.
- Alterations to the Wran Building spaces to upgrade the auditorium and exhibition spaces.
- Construction of a new public open spaces.

The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist the proposed applicant in the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) in accordance with the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and to assist the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in their consideration and determination of the application.

Community consultation is being undertaken to assist the assessment of cultural significance of the Powerhouse Ultimo study area. This notification is being undertaken in accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the Heritage NSW guidelines *Aboriginal cultural heritage requirements for proponents 2010*.

Curio Projects invite Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects(s) and/or places in the area to register an interest in a process of community consultation.

The proponent can be contacted via tom@gtkconsulting.com.au but contact via Curio is preferred.

Please note that when you register an interest in this project your details will be forwarded to Heritage NSW and Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless you specify that you would not like your details released.

**Please forward registrations to Curio Projects no later than 5pm
29 February 2024, via phone, email or mail to:**

Rebecca Agius on consultation@curioprospects.com.au or (02) 8014 9800.
Curio Projects, 5 Blackfriars Street, Chippendale NSW 2008

LP1936

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Government of South Australia
Department for Energy and Mining

Proposal to Grant Petroleum Exploration Licences

(Section 29)

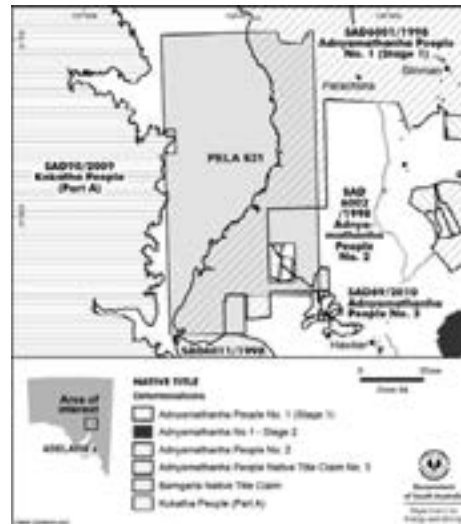
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (COMMONWEALTH)

The State of South Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Energy and Mining, C/- Regulation and Compliance Division, Department for Energy and Mining, Level 4, 11 Waymouth Street, Adelaide SA 5000 has received the following Petroleum Exploration Licence applications (PELAs) under the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000*:

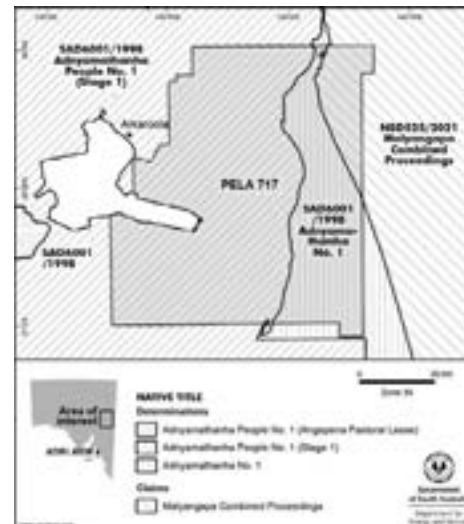
Number: PELA 631	Number: PELA 717	Number: PELA 763
Area: 4,070 km2 approx.	Area: 9,700 km2 approx.	Area: 5,803 km2 approx.
Applicant: Gehyra Exploration Pty Ltd NAVIGAS Pty Ltd	Applicant: H2EX Limited	Applicant: 2H Resources Pty Ltd

Locality: Coordinate descriptions for the application areas are available from the Department for Energy and Mining via the address below. GIS data is also available via the South Australian Resources Information Geoserver (SARIG) at: <https://sarig.pir.sa.gov.au/Map>

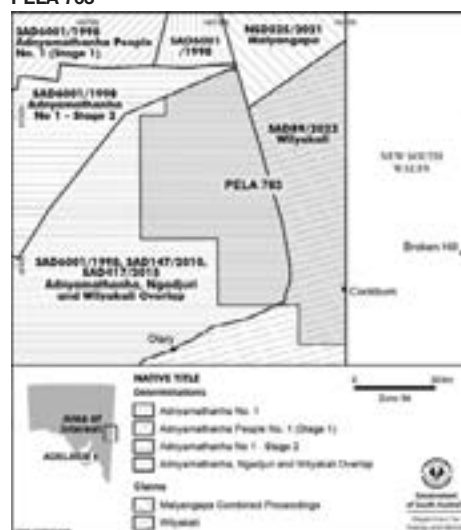
PELA 631



PELA 717



PELA 763



Nature of the acts:

The grant of a Petroleum Exploration Licence pursuant to the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000* authorises the applicant to explore for regulated substances for a term of five (5) years from notification of grant and a right of renewal for a further two (2) five (5) year terms. The *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000* also provides a holder of an Exploration Licence with a right (subject to the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000*) to apply for a Production Licence where a discovery that warrants production is made. Production Licence rights include the right to undertake regulated activities under the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000* to enable regulated substances to be produced, processed, transported and marketed. The act may also include the grant of appropriate Production, Retention or Associated Activities Licences emanating from the issued Exploration Licence pursuant to the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000* or any substituting legislation.

Notification day:

16 February 2024

Native title parties:

Under Section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, persons have until three (3) months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to the area covered by the Exploration Licence application.

The three (3) month period closes on 16 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 the *Native Title Act 1993*. Enquiries regarding becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 14, Commonwealth Law Courts, Queens Square, Sydney, NSW 2000, telephone: (02) 8099 8500. Any negotiations conducted in respect to the Exploration Licences will include matters relating to the conduct of any future production and associated infrastructure and facilities and the issue of the necessary licences or authorisations to undertake these activities (including associated exploration activities) under the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000*.

The Exploration Licences will be granted if, by the end of the period of four (4) months after the notification day (i.e. 16 May 2024) there is no native title party in relation to the area of the Exploration Licences.

For further information about the acts (including spatial data or plans of the PELA areas), contact the A/General Manager Energy Resources Licensing, Regulation and Compliance Division, Department for Energy and Mining, Level 4, 11 Waymouth Street, or email DEM.ERDLicensing@sa.gov.au

<http://energymining.sa.gov.au>

W21589



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Notice of Public Comment

Regia MSS: Proposed Marine Seismic Survey in the Otway Basin

Industry regulator NOPSEMA has now released the Regia environment plan proposal for public comment at: <https://consultation.nopsema.gov.au>

The public comment period provides a further opportunity for community members to raise issues about environmental management matters that have not yet been considered in an environment plan for the proposed activity and is open for 30 days between 25 January and 26 February 2024.

The Regia survey is a three-dimensional (3D) marine seismic survey (MSS) in Commonwealth waters of the Otway Basin. The purpose of the Regia 3D MSS is to collect high-quality geophysical data about rock formations and structures beneath the seabed and assess potential for new oil and gas discoveries. The survey will take a maximum of 90 days to acquire, and may be undertaken in any month except January, February, and March.



Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

**Input sought from
Local Aboriginal Groups or Individuals**

East Coast Heritage and Archaeology is proposing to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a planning proposal at 40 Bruton Lane, and 11175 Summerland Way Casino. As such, ECHA is required to establish an Aboriginal Stakeholder register.

Local Aboriginal groups or individuals who wish to be consulted on the Aboriginal heritage investigation are invited to register their interest in writing, outlining skill and experience in cultural knowledge and ability to communicate results of assessments to the wider Aboriginal community.

Groups and individuals listed on the Register will then be invited to contribute to and comment on the Cultural Heritage Assessment methodology to be undertaken and on the draft final report.

Closing date for registration of interest: 28/2/24

To register your interest, please contact: Suzanne at info@echa.com.au



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 of applications to register area agreements on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements in Queensland

Notification day: 21 February 2024

Relevant LGA: Townsville City Council



**National
Native Title
Tribunal**



Q12023/013 Royal Flying Doctor Service (Qld) – Townsville ILUA

Description of the agreement area:

The agreement area covers about 25.1 ha, located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Townsville International Airport

The agreement contains the following statements:

[Explanatory notes in brackets inserted by the National Native Title Tribunal]

5.1 Statements for Purposes of Section 24EB of the NTA

- (a) Clauses 4.2 (consent to the doing of the Agreed Acts and validation of any Agreed Acts done prior to registration) and 4.3 (consent to Surrender) are statements for the purposes of section 24EB(1)(b) of the NTA.
- (b) For the purposes of section 24EB(1)(c) of the NTA and regulation 7(5)(b) of the Regulations, the Parties acknowledge that Subdivision P of Part 2 Division 3 of the NTA is not intended to apply to the Agreed Acts or the Surrender.
- (c) For the purposes of section 24EB(1)(d) of the NTA, the Surrender is intended to extinguish all Native Title Rights and Interests in the Agreement Area.

‘Agreed Acts’ means any:

- (a) Development Approval; or (b) Regulatory Approval, that is a future act done in the Agreement Area.

‘Agreement Area’ means all the land and waters comprising: Lot 1 on EP836092 comprising 4.94ha; Lot 2 on EP836092 comprising 0.9122ha; Lot 3 on EP836092 comprising 18.10ha; Lot 775 on EP2221 comprising 1.2ha; all located in the Townsville Local Government Area and shown coloured blue on the Queensland Government (Department of Resources) SmartMap and also shown coloured blue on the Survey Plan prepared by Brazier Matti Pty Ltd surveyors, both of which (SmartMap and Survey Plan) form Attachment 1 to this Agreement.

‘Project’ means the development and use of *[a Royal Flying Doctor Service – (RFDS)]* base of operations on the Agreement Area, comprising patient transfer, maintenance and storage facilities, buildings and related infrastructure required to operate the RFDS base.

‘Surrender’ means the surrender to the State of all Native Title Rights and Interests in or over the Agreement Area on the Completion Date by the Native Title Party, and the permanent extinguishment of such Native Title Rights and Interests on the Completion Date.

Parties to Q12023/013 and their contact address:

Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia (Queensland Section) Limited ACN 009 663 478 (Applicant) c/- Corrs Chambers Westgarth GPO Box 9925 Brisbane QLD 4001	Virginia Wyles, Christina George, Brenton Creed, Florence Watson, Lynette Forbes-Beitsch, Pam Petrina Hegarty, Gail Ambrym and Esalyn Ambrym on their own behalf and on behalf of the Native Title Claim Group (Native Title Party) c/- North Queensland Land Council (NQLC) PO Box 679N, Cairns North QLD 4870	State of Queensland acting through the Department of Resources (State) c/- Crown Law State Law Building Level 11, 50 Ann Street Brisbane QLD 4000
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Q12023/014 Toomulla Beach Aquaculture Facility ILUA

Description of the agreement area:

The agreement area covers about 2.2 hectares in the vicinity of Toomulla, about 40 km north west of Townsville

The agreement contains the following statements:

4.4 Subdivision P of Division 3 of Part 2 of the NTA is not intended to apply to any Future Acts for which the Native Title Party has given consent under this ILUA.

7.1 For the purposes of section 24EB(1)(b), the Parties consent to the Agreed Acts.

“Agreed Acts” means:

- (a) the grant of a licence in the ILUA Area by the Chief Executive to the Corporation under s34 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) covering the Existing Access Track as depicted in Schedule 2;
- (b) use, access and maintenance of the Existing Access Track referred to in (a) above;
- (c) construction of a new intersection adjacent to the Bruce Highway, including vegetation clearing and all works associated with construction and maintenance of the intersection and connection to the existing access track, in that part of the ILUA Area as shown in Schedule 2A; (d) the grant of a licence in the ILUA Area by the Chief Executive to the Corporation under s35 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) covering the proposed Water Pipeline as shown in Schedule 3; (e) use, access and maintenance of the proposed Water Pipeline referred to in (d) above.
- “Existing Access Track”** means the track shown in Schedule 2 nominally being 750m in length and 7.5m in width including the area to be cleared for the intersection upgrade adjacent to the Bruce Highway as shown in Schedule 2.
- “Water Pipeline”** means the proposed water pipeline being a 100mm diameter polyethylene pipe which is to be buried a minimum of 900mm under the ground as depicted in Schedule 3.

Parties to Q12023/014 and their contact address:

Tasmanian Lobster Hatchery Pty Ltd (Applicant) c/- Moray & Agnew Lawyers PO Box 7068, Cairns Qld 4870	Virginia Wyles, Christina George, Brenton Creed, Florence Watson, Petrina Pam Hegarty, Gail Ambrym, Esalyn Ambrym on their own behalf and on behalf of the Gurambilbarra Wulgurukaba People (Native Title Group) c/- NQLC, PO Box 679N, Cairns North QLD 4870
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Responses to an application to register an ILUA—where the application has not been certified:

Any person claiming to hold native title in relation to land or waters in the area covered by any of the agreements may wish, in response to this notice, to make a native title determination application or equivalent application under a law of a state or territory in respect of any part of the area. **The application must be made by 21 May 2024.** If that application is registered on the Register of Native Title Claims, the registered native title claimants must be a party to the relevant agreement before it can be registered.

Details of the terms of the agreement are not available from the National Native Title Tribunal.

For assistance and further information about these applications, call Sylvia Jagtman on (07) 3052 4248 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

Preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report for DA 7/2024 at 77-81, 83 and 83A Yarranabbe Rd, Darling Point, 2027

**Public Notice and
Registration of Interest**

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

City Plan heritage have been engaged by Yarranabbe Ventures Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report for Darling Point in Woollahra LGA to inform a Development Application. The site address is 77-81, 83 and 83A Yarranabbe Rd, Darling Point, 2027. The proposed DA and subsequent ancillary works may result in impacts upon Aboriginal objects protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and will therefore require the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report. In accordance with Heritage NSW (2010) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents, individuals or groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to establishing the significance of potential Aboriginal objects and intangible cultural values in the area of the proposed development are invited to register their interest to participate in the heritage consultation and assessment process.

Contact details are as follows:

Dan Maurici
Henroth Group
T: 02 9302 5333

Contact details for the heritage consultant:

Jakub (Chaz) Czastka
City Plan Heritage Pty Ltd
Level 6, 120 Sussex Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000
T: 02 8270 3500
E: chazc@cityplan.com.au

**The registration period closes on
Friday 1 March 2024.**





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	24/1008	NORTHERN STAR RESOURCES LTD	271.96HA	19.6km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 26' S: Long: 120° 52' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	25/381	BLACK CAT (KAL EAST) PTY LTD	720.57HA	35.7km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 55' S: Long: 121° 51' 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: 14 February 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 **14 May 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. **14 June 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 20017



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	16/644	FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD	1BL	29.6km SW'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 39' S: Long: 121° 8' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	25/636	MAJESTIC GOLD MINES PTY LTD	12BL	44km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 58' S: Long: 122° 3' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	29/1254	HAMELIN TANAMI PTY LTD	47BL	123.9km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 16' S: Long: 119° 51' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	30/579	LCT PRECIOUS METALS PTY LTD	14BL	100.4km SW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 30° 1' S: Long: 120° 4' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2185	MANIFEST MINING PTY LTD	6BL	36.3km SE'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 25° 52' S: Long: 118° 59' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	63/2404	MT MALCOLM GOLD HOLDINGS PTY LTD	18BL	105km SE'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 32° 9' S: Long: 120° 15' E	DUNDAS SHIRE
Exploration Licence	63/2405	MT MALCOLM GOLD HOLDINGS PTY LTD	1BL	109.9km SE'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 32° 7' S: Long: 120° 21' E	DUNDAS SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/6578	HPAA PTY. LTD.	51BL	95.8km S'ly of Paynes Find	Lat: 30° 7' S: Long: 117° 48' E	MOUNT MARSHALL SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/6579	HPAA PTY. LTD.	83BL	72km N'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat: 30° 18' S: Long: 118° 28' E	MUKINBUDIN SHIRE, WESTONIA SHIRE, YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/2985	AURUMIN MT DIMER PTY LTD	35BL	104.7km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 20' S: Long: 119° 58' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6703	FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD	191.04HA	18.4km S'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 6' S: Long: 121° 7' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6852	XIAO, Zhiqiang	114.32HA	5.4km NW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 54' S: Long: 121° 7' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5702	COSTANZO, Patrick Natale	122.32HA	5.1km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 24' S: Long: 121° 3' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2769	ARDEA EXPLORATION PTY LTD	191.19HA	32.8km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 45' S: Long: 121° 48' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4728	FORTUNA RESOURCES PTY LTD	16.03HA	10.8km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 41' S: Long: 121° 33' 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: 14 February 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 **14 May 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. **14 June 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 20016

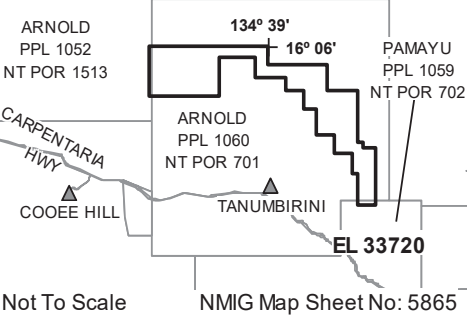
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION LICENCES

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

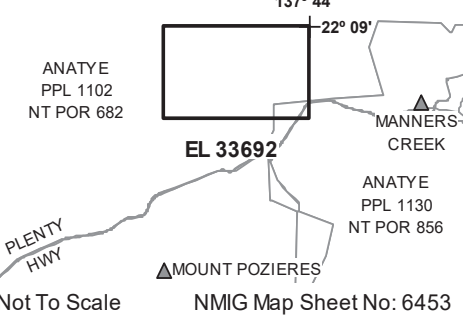
The Honourable Mark Monaghan MLA, the Northern Territory Minister for Mining, C/- Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) of her intent to do an act, namely to grant the following exploration licence applications.

Applications to which this notice applies:

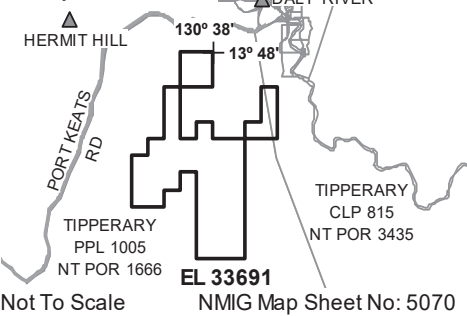
Exploration Licence 33720 sought by BAUDIN RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 618 455 593 over an area of 250 Blocks (825 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the TANUMBIRINI locality.



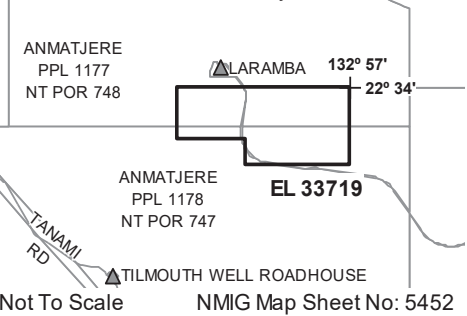
Exploration Licence 33692 sought by GEMPART (NT) PTY LTD, ACN 081 859 896 over an area of 112 Blocks (357 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the TOBERMORY locality.



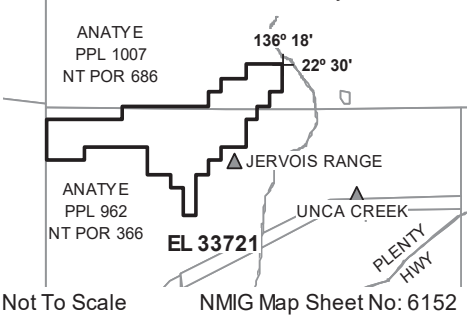
Exploration Licence 33691 sought by MAY DRILLING PTY LTD, ACN 123 393 135 over an area of 45 Blocks (151 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the DALY RIVER locality.



Exploration Licence 33719 sought by REDSTONE METALS PTY LTD, ACN 106 360 678 over an area of 78 Blocks (248 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the NAPPERBY locality.



Exploration Licence 33721 sought by SANDFIRE RESOURCES LIMITED, ACN 105 154 185 over an area of 74 Blocks (235 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the JERVOIS RANGE locality.



Nature of act(s): The grant of an exploration licence under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* authorises the holder to conduct activities in connection with exploration for minerals for a term not exceeding 6 years and to seek renewal(s). The term for which it is intended to grant the mineral exploration licences referred to in this notice commences from the date of grant. Further information about the act may be obtained from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, GPO Box 4550 Darwin NT 0801 or Centrepoint Building 48-50 Smith Street Darwin NT 0800, telephone (08) 8999 5322.

Native Title Parties: Any person who is, or becomes a "native title party" within the meaning of the *Native Title Act 1993* is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2, Division 3, Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993*. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries concerning becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Brisbane QLD 4001, or telephone (07) 3307 5000.

Expedited Procedure: The Northern Territory Government considers that the acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure as defined in section 237 of the *Native Title Act 1993*. The exploration licences referred to in this notice may be granted unless an objection is made by a native title party to the statement that the act is one which attracts the expedited procedure. Such an objection must be made to the National Native Title Tribunal within 4 months of the notification day.

Notification Day: 14 February 2024

For your advertising needs email: advertising@koorimail.com

Cairns to host first women All-Stars

By ALF WILSON



WOMEN footballers will have the chance to represent their communities and Country in far north Queensland at an

Indigenous All-Stars carnival in Cairns later this year.

Organisers are planning to hold the event at Petersen Park, in the Cairns suburb of Edmonton, in the traditional football post-season, October 4-6.

The carnival is certain to attract teams from the Torres Strait and Aboriginal players from the Torres Strait Islands, the Northern Peninsula Area, Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and nearby towns in the region.

But organisers have limited the number of teams to 16 so those wanting to nominate should get in quickly, especially with a juicy prizemoney at stake – \$20,000 for the winning team, and \$5,000 for the runners-up.

Organiser Elia Ware said he had been overwhelmed with the response after sending out 37 fliers about it last week.

"I have already had more than 20 enquiries and it will be popular, I haven't heard of another carnival for women only," he said.

Women's rugby league has gone ahead in leaps and bounds in the past few years with strong club competitions in Cairns, Townsville and Mackay.

Indigenous carnivals around the north also attract women's sides and the quality of football is good and entertaining.

On the representative front, women's teams performed well at the 2023 Foley Shield comp.

At a higher level there is a pathway for talented footballers in the Queensland Cup women's league, and the NRLW.

Mackay Cutters competed well at the 2023 Q-Cup and Cairns' Northern Pride and Townsville's Blackhawks will be admitted in the near future.

Also, five Torres Strait Island players were key members of the North Queensland Cowboys' NRLW side which debuted in 2023 – Tallisha Harden, Jasmine Peters, Tahlulah Tillett, Sareka Mooka and Essay Banu.

It is estimated that about half of the players competing in club women's football in the region are Indigenous.

These are exciting times, and you can bet your bottom dollar that talent scouts at all levels will be at the Edmonton carnival.

*Contact allstars.carnival@gmail.com for more information



The 2024 Survival Day Knockout Reconciliation Carnival final in Cairns between Magun Warriors and Oombunghi Bulldogs was a torrid affair, and everything good about Indigenous rugby league. Pictures: Vilimone Baleilevuka



Magun Warriors Gideon Larry ran almost the full length of the field to score this try.



Voted the carnival's best forward, Oombunghi Bulldogs' Tommy Dodd loses his shirt in this tackle.

Thrills, spills and big hits from January knockout



THE far north Queensland rugby league community converged in Cairns last month for the first Survival Day Knockout Reconciliation Carnival.

It was founded by Noel Underwood and, for the first event, 40 teams had registered.

However, two cyclones in the region in the space of a month, one of them on the eve of the tournament, knocked out the majority of them, mostly from Townsville and Palm Island. That left just six teams standing.

Organisers re-grouped and Underwood and his hard-working committee re-jigged the format so that the six teams played off in a round-robin series of games.

In the final, the Torres Strait's Magun Warriors won a difficult and hard-fought grand final against popular Yarrabah side Oombunghi Bulldogs, 26-16.

"We don't celebrate the day, because it's an important day for us," Underwood had said of 26 January.

"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."

Results

Magun Warriors 26 def. Oombunghi Bulldogs 16

Player of the Final: Gideon Larry (Magun Warriors); Best Forward: Tommy Dodd (Oombunghi Bulldogs); Best Back: Stirling Addo (Magun Warriors); Player of the Carnival: Samukie Gaidan (Magun Warriors)

WBBL experience on show in Alice Springs

By PETER ARGENT



FIVE star players from the Women's Big Bash League will take to the field at the 2024 National Indigenous Cricket Championships (NICC) in Alice Springs later this month.

Indigenous players from three WBBL franchises will make their presence felt at the national tournament, adding experience for their respective teams in Alice Springs.

Tasmania Women's National Cricket League (WNCL) title-winning 'keeper-batter Emma Manix-Geeves and off-spinning all-rounder Ella Hayward will represent Victoria in the NICC.

Hayward plays for the Melbourne Renegades in the WBBL, while Manix-Geeves is a Hobart Hurricane.

Manix-Geeves is in good recent form, having peeled off a pair of half-centuries, including 70 not-out in the WNCL in January.

Hayward compiled a half-century (57*) for Victoria against NSW in December and also took the impressive figures of 4-21 from 6.4 overs against the ACT Meteors last month at the Junction Oval in Melbourne.

The girl that was only a couple of metres away from being the hero in the WBBL|09 grand final, Brisbane Heats' Mikayla Hinkley, will don the Queensland colours in Alice Springs.

Hinkley has also been in strong form recently.

In the WNCL, she top scored with 49 (from 70, with five boundaries) in the Queenslanders' recent and ultimately unsuccessful run-chase against Tasmania. Hinkley, 25, also led the way against

South Australia in the previous hit-out with a neat 50.

Accomplished batter Anika Learoyd and all-rounder Hannah Darlington will play for the pre-tournament favourites, New South Wales.

Both are members of the Sydney Thunder program.

During January, Learoyd was player of the match in the NSW win over Western Australia when she made 91 in a run chase. In this innings she faced 116 deliveries and dispatched 13 boundaries.

In her past two games against the Meteors, Darlington made 39 and 42, and has the figures of 3-56 with the ball in the second encounter.

The 2024 NICC titles will have four days of round-robin cricket.

The top two teams at the end of this series will play in the grand final at Traeger Park, on 27 February.



Sydney Thunder's Anika Learoyd.



Sydney Thunder's Hannah Darlington sends down a ripper. Pictures: Peter Argent

Mixed results in a season that had all the highs, lows

By PETER ARGENT



SIX Indigenous cricketers across five franchises played out in the 59 games of the completed 2023 WBBL season, with one of them one-metre away from grand final glory.

Brisbane Heat (1)
Makilya Hinkley

Forcing her way back into the Heat side in a pinch-hitting role at the end of the innings, Mikayla Hinkley produced her runs at a strikrate of 150.00%. She played eight games, batting four times, with a highest score of 17*. Her almost-six in the grand final against Adelaide would have won the Heat the title.

Hobart Hurricanes (1)
Emma Manix-Geeves

Despite strong form in the WNCL, Emma Manix-Geeves played just seven games for the Hurricanes since making her debut in 2019. While contracted, she didn't appear this season.

Melbourne Renegades (1)
Ella Hayward

The 'Gades had a tough season, finishing at the foot of the ladder with just two wins. This was reflected in Ella Hayward's figures with the ball, grabbing five wickets at 37.20, at 8.45 per over; her best was 2-18.

Sydney Sixers (1)
Ash Gardner

The game's best player, Ash Gardner

started the season with a brilliant 72 (44) and 2-23 with her 'offies' but the Sixers started with a loss, which would prove critical in the wash-up – they missed out on the finals by just one point. Despite being below her absolute best, Gardner made 289 runs at a respectable average of 22.23 and a strike-rate of 111.15. With her world class off-spinners, Gardner took 21 scalps at an average of 18.57, and an economy rate of 7.85. Her best bowling figures were 4-26 in the last minor round against the Thunder. Exceptional in the outfield, Gardner snaffled 10 catches.

Sydney Thunder (2)
Hannah Darlington
Anika Learoyd

Hannah Darlington was the match-winner in the Thunder's brilliant win over the Melbourne Stars (in game #32). Defending just 125, the Thunder kept the Stars to 9-121 with Darlington collecting a career-best 5-10 from her four overs. She claimed 22 wickets across the season at a strong average of 16.59 runs per victim, and an economy rate of 8.29. In the 'Eliminator' final, Darlington also was the pick of the Thunder trundlers with 3-42. Teammate Anika Learoyd had a tough role, generally coming in at the 'death', and asked to 'throw the bat around'. She played 15 games, batted 11 times and made 140 runs at an average of 15.00, with a strikrate of 110.23. Her highest score was 27* against eventual champions, Adelaide Strikers, and she produced a cameo 21 (18) with two boundaries and a six in the Thunder's only other major appearance.



Brisbane Heat's Mikayla Hinkley.



Hobart Hurricane Emma Manix-Geeves.



Melbourne Renegade Ella Hayward.

Giving thanks to the great man himself

AS the All-Stars clash kicks off this weekend, it just feels right to sing out to the man who won the 2001 Dally M Medal winner while at Cronulla and the 2003 NRL premiership with Penrith for how, in 2010, he changed the face of rugby league in 2010 – Preston Campbell.



Kris Flanders

Preston played for the Indigenous Dreamtime team against a NZ Māori team in what was a curtain-raiser to the Australia-v-New Zealand 2008 RLWC match.

I fondly remember being at that game, and it gave me goosebumps.

Two years later, at Preston's urging, the NRL set up the first All-Stars games, featuring an all-Indigenous side.

Between 2010 and 2015 the Indigenous team played against the NRL All-Stars, then a World All-Stars side in 2016. In 2019, the concept went to its superior version yet with the introduction of the Māori teams, men's and women's.

The All-Stars games have been played on the Gold Coast (2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2020), Brisbane (2013, 2016), Newcastle (2017), Melbourne (2019), Townsville (2021), Sydney (2022) and Rotorua (2023). (The game was not played in 2014 and 2018).

Media coverage has been huge right across the playing years.

Playing the game across the Tasman wasn't something Preston would have even thought about all those years ago. But it showed just how much the game had grown, also what it has come to mean to not only for our Mob but also for the Māori and Kiwi Mobs.

Preston knew the importance of embracing and honouring the past.

A wonderful gesture came in 2012 when the All-Stars match-trophy was named after one of the game's official Immortals – the late, great Arthur Beetson.

The man-of-the-match award came from elsewhere. It is called the Preston Campbell Medal, a true honour. It has been presented to some of the great champions of the game including Johnathan Thurston, Nathan Merritt, Ben Barba, George Rose, James Graham and James Fisher-Harris.

Women's All-Stars teams first appeared in 2011 and the introduction of the Māori women in 2019 has cemented the concept further.

The Preston Campbell Foundation, which has a strong cultural component, was established in 2015 off the back of the All-Stars. The education component of the Foundation covers a broad range of topics aimed at supporting local school students in choosing pathways to success. And in 2017, Presto's Café was opened in conjunction with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) which hosts many training and employment opportunities for the community.

Preston was a leader on the field, and is a legend in life. Thank you!

**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.*

Master coach has eye firmly on culture

By KRIS FLANDERS



IT'S not just a phenomena that occurs in outer-space – in Townsville this weekend the 'stars' will collide and guiding one of them will be two-time NRLW premiership coach Ron Griffiths.

He takes the reins as coach of the men's Indigenous All-Stars for the first time.

The astute coach was the architect behind the Newcastle Knights winning back-to-back premierships (2022, 2023).

He says he's looking forward to bringing his knowledge and skills to the All-Stars arena.

"For me it's something that I've always aspired to do," Griffiths said.

"Personally, there's no greater achievement for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island coach than to coach in this game.

"I think I know even more of what my strengths are and being able to self-reflect and see what I can improve on and how I get the best out of my players.

"It's a marvellous spectacle in terms of rugby league and the viewing before the game with the smoking ceremony, the War Cry and the Māori haka.

"They are great pieces of theatre to see, there's been so much growth in this game and everyone is invested to make sure it continues be sustainable and has the right outcomes for Indigenous and Māori people."

Griffiths will coach some of the biggest names in this game, including Josh Addo-Carr, Cody Walker, Latrell Mitchell, Nicho



Two-time premiership-winning coach Ron Griffiths takes charge of the Indigenous All-Stars men's team this weekend. Getty Images

Hynes and young guns Kotoni Staggs, Isaiah Tass and Alofiana Khan-Pereira.

He is excited about what this side can deliver.

"Fans will see a team that's connected, who've enjoyed this experience together," he said.

"They'll see a team that plays with excitement, I don't have to do too much to promote that.

"There's some very talented players in this team, (and) they

will go out there and do what they do best.

"The important thing is connecting them and that's been conducive for best-practice interaction and providing an environment where they feel safe and supported.

"A victory for us will be the effect we can have on people in the community and helping Mob to have a smile."

Gomeroi man Griffiths has

loved being involved with these players, crew and coaching staff in sharing stories about identity, culture and what it means to be a strong Indigenous man.

The All-Stars provides a platform for this and it brings them together as a cohesive unit.

"The whole week leading up to the game is all about having a yarn, connecting, building relationships that will last a lifetime," Griffiths said.

"It's about building each other up and when we all go back to clubland that we've got people we can always rely on if we ever need advice, support, congratulating each other's achievements or helping each other through a tough time.

"There's a big Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island contingent in and around the Townsville area. Plenty of Mob will also make the trek from various parts of the country.

"It's a great place to have it. The last time it was here (2021) was during the COVID-19 pandemic, which meant the community interaction was little to none.

"This is great opportunity to come back and do more with the community, to make sure that the young people here get to see their idols and some of these people live pretty remotely; (it's) a wonderful opportunity to inspire people."

Griffiths isn't expecting anything easy on the park.

"The Māori team will be very formidable," he said.

"It'll be a tough game no doubt – two proud cultures.

"They'll leave everything out there and they always do and this will be no different."



Indigenous All-Star Albert Kelly breaks through the Māori team defence in the 2023 match at Rotorua in Aotearoa-New Zealand. Picture: Joseph Mayers

Players, AFLPA seek a return of the All-Stars match

REMEMBER State of Origin when the might of the 'Big V' of Victoria and the Croweaters (SA) and Sandgropers (WA) played against each other and you wagged school on Tuesdays just to watch it on TV?

How about when the ATSIC Aboriginal-Indigenous All-Stars played at a packed Marrara Oval in Darwin all those years, then at Alice Springs and Perth?

And when the Indigenous All-Stars played against Ireland in the 2013 International Rules series in Ireland?

And the short-lived but fun AFLX series where Eddie Betts and the Deadlys were also deadly?

Well, just recently the AFL made public its recommendations from the 2022 Indigenous and Multicultural Summit and top of the list, among a host of others, was a player-led revival of the All-Stars game.

Paul Vandenburgh, in his new role as the AFL's national Indigenous and multicultural engagement manager, assured me that that was on his priority list, and that he will be working



Shelley Ware

toward making it happen. The year 2025 may have been mentioned.

The AFL All-Stars games were played from 2003-2015 every second year.

An idea floated around was for an AFL Indigenous All-Stars vs. Multicultural All-Stars game.

Happily, the ALFPA is committed to the return of the concept, too, so the pressure is on.

There were over 80 male and female players that joined senior AFL and club officials at the summit held in Geelong in late 2022. The recommendations have only now been made public. The full report and findings are available on the AFL website and

you will see that some of the recommendations have already been implemented.

High among their concerns was cultural safety at their clubs.

Importantly, the players want to see the AFL develop an industry-wide approach for responding to historical racism.

We have certainly seen the bad and the ugly of how not to respond, so let's hope they get this right.

A worrying gap developed at the Next Generation Academy programs before and after Covid.

The gap being that, apart from the standouts, we are seeing less First Nations and players from multicultural backgrounds coming through the ranks.

I think the lack of consistency with the NGAs is a huge part of the problem.

We need our young people in both First Nations and multicultural communities to have a positive relationship with the game; to feel safe there and to want to play.

The All-Stars games, as we have seen in the NRL, brings people together.

It not only connects our players to each other, it connects our communities together, too.

***Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She appears on AFL.com.au's Colour Of Your Jumper.**

Bomber Baird in his element

By JACKSON CLARK



WILLIE Baird had the rare opportunity to experience what it was like inside Essendon VFL's coaching box.

Northern Territorian Baird was an assistant coach for the Bombers' VFLW team when they played in Darwin against the NTFL Women's representative side.

Baird is coach of the NTFL Women's Premier League Tiwi Bombers team, who provided the Essendon Bombers with five players for the match at Marrara Oval.

Baird told *Koori Mail* that he 'couldn't believe' the opportunity he had had to learn from well-established coaches.

"Dean Rioli called me and asked if I'd be interested in an assistant coaching role with the Essendon VFLW on the night, which I couldn't believe because I am a massive Essendon supporter, so it just sort of came together from there," Baird said.

Baird's Bombers lost to the NTFL 2.5 (17) to 1.4 (10) in a low-scoring hard-fought contest played in slippery conditions.

The game was an opportunity for Tiwi Bombers players Jamie-Lee Puautjimi, Kimberly Cunningham, Freda Puruntatameri, Maria Rioli and Glorianna Luta to play for the Essendon team. All five performed admirably in the loss.

Baird said there were a number of key takeaways from the



Willie Baird was called up as an assistant coach with Essendon Football Club's VFLW team when they played the NTFL Women in Darwin recently. Baird is coach of the Tiwi Bombers' Women's Premier League side, who also provided some players for Essendon. Picture: Supplied

experience that will help him along his coaching journey.

"Natalie Wood, the senior coach on the night, just advised me to focus on the things happening in the game, how I can fix them, and to leave a positive note for a player that comes to the interchange," he said.

"She gave me the backline during the game so I made sure that I left something for the interchange players to think about before they went back on the field.

"It was great advice."

Baird wants to continue developing his coaching and influencing younger players.

"Ultimately, I would love to see how far I can go in my career coaching women's football, but for now the Tiwi Bombers remains my main priority," he said.

"Giving these young ladies an opportunity to represent their communities and watching them for two hours showcase their skill

and exciting brand of football puts a smile on my face.

"They are role models back at the Tiwi Islands and if we can continue to grow this team and the whole club more and more young women will want to train hard and be a part of what the Bombers has to offer."

High-flying Ryan grounded; star midfielder Kelly hamstrung



EXCITING West Coast forward and 2018 premiership player Liam Ryan will miss the start of the 2024 AFL season.

Ryan has damaged a hamstring tendon in his right leg and will require surgery.

It is the opposite hamstring to the one he injured, and had subsequent surgery on, in round 3 against Fremantle last season following an awkward landing from a marking contest.

Ryan went down at a recent

training session, continuing the rotten run last year's wooden-spooners have had with injury.

"Unfortunately, Liam has suffered a high-grade hamstring injury with some tendon damage which will require surgery to repair," Eagles football boss Gavin Bell said.

"We are all really disappointed for Liam.

"He had been working hard this pre-season and over the Christmas break to be ready to go when we start playing practice matches.

"We are hopeful he will be available to return in the early rounds of the season.

"The club will provide an update on his return to play timeframe in due course following surgery."

West Coast coach Adam Simpson admitted Ryan's looming absence would hurt the Eagles in their rebuild.

"We need our best players available, not only to help win games, but to help grow our younger list as well," he said.

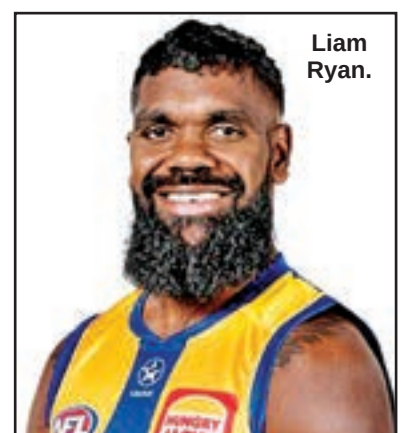
This comes after star midfielder

Tim Kelly sustained a hamstring strain and will miss two-to-three weeks of training in the lead up to the 2024 season.

"Tim felt some tightness during training and subsequent scans have confirmed he has a standard hamstring strain," Bell said.

"While injuries are always disappointing, we are in a game-like conditioning phase currently with a focus on repeat speed training and there is always some risk of injuries as we prepare our players for matches."

— with AAP



Liam Ryan.

What exactly are the Enhanced Games?



IN a nutshell, the Enhanced Games is a new movement emerging out of London, by an Australian, that seeks to create a lucrative event for athletes in which said athletes won't be drug-tested – at all. Organisers have reportedly fielded over a hundred calls from athletes and recently-retired athletes from around the world.

Only one of those, Australian triple Olympic medallist James Magnussen, has publicly declared his intentions to compete.

The Games will be a five-sport event in the fields of athletics, aquatics, gymnastics, combat and strength.

According to the organisation, "the Enhanced Movement believes in the medical and scientific process of elevating humanity to its full potential, through a community of committed athletes" and;

"Backed by the world's top venture capitalists, the Enhanced Games is the Olympics of the future. When 44% of athletes already use performance enhancements, it is time to safely celebrate science. Sports can be safer without drug testing."

Perhaps the key driver for athletes is not so much the 'free-for-all' but the remuneration.

For example, athletes will be rewarded in the millions should they break Olympic and-or world records in their select field. It is this that is perhaps the most damning of the current system.

"The Olympic Games generate substantial revenues almost unparalleled across the sporting world – to the tune of \$7.6b in quadrennial revenue," it said, "yet, these streams of gold don't trickle down to the athletes whose shoulders the Olympics rest upon."

"A 2012 study by former Olympic athletes found that just 6% of the US Olympic Committee's \$795m expense budget actually goes to athletes as cash payments.

"The underpayment of athletes is the core moral failing of the Olympic Movement; it is a vestige of the aristocratic sentiment behind the outdated, unpaid 'amateur' requirement."

"Enhanced will ... share the profits with the athletes, based upon a model devised by the Enhanced Athletes Commission."



A new movement has emerged in world sport in which athletes will not be subjected to performance-enhancing drugs. Picture: Enhanced Games.

Enhanced Games are 'grossly irresponsible'



THE chief of Australian sport's anti-doping agency has slammed the proposed Enhanced Games as "grossly irresponsible" and putting profit before health.

Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) chief executive David Sharpe is accusing Enhanced Games organisers of putting profit before health.

Sharpe has delivered a broad warning to Australian athletes that they risk being frozen out of organised sport if they participate in the Enhanced Games.

"The use of performance-enhancing substances poses an unacceptable health risk to athletes," Sharpe said, who heads the Australian government executive agency which brings together operations of the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority and

the National Integrity of Sport unit.

"And SIA considers the promotion of the use of such substances through the Enhanced Games to be grossly irresponsible."

Australia's dual world champion swimmer and triple Olympic medallist James Magnussen is the first athlete in the world to publicly pledge to compete at the Enhanced Games.

The multi-sport event with no drug testing, founded by Australian entrepreneur Aron D'Souza, has promised Magnussen \$1.54 million if he can break the world 50 metres freestyle record at next year's inaugural Enhanced Games.

Sharpe, while not directly mentioning Magnussen, warned Australian athletes of harsh consequences if they competed at the event.

"Australian athletes have historically demonstrated high levels of integrity and this undermines decades of commitment from Australian athletes and their sports to clean and fair sport," he said.

"Athletes participating in the Enhanced Games may find themselves unable to participate in recognised sporting events in any capacity, including as a coach or administrator and not just as an athlete."

Sharpe also warned Australian athletes that associated in a sport-related context with anyone who uses performance-enhancing drugs broke the world anti-doping code.

"It is critically important that we all ensure the health and well-being of athletes is not jeopardised," he said.

"Profit should not be prioritised over health." – AAP

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Players on the move in the Queensland Cup

By ALF WILSON



THERE is movement at the station ahead of the looming 2024 Queensland Cup premiership season with three star Indigenous players finding new clubs.



Jono Reuben joins Wynnum-Manly ahead of the 2024 Queensland Cup premiership season. Pictures: Supplied

The deadly trio of Julian Christian, Jon Reuben and Gideon Gela-Mosby have each made the switch from their respective clubs to new ones.

Christian has left the Cairns-based Northern Pride to join the Norths Devils, based in Brisbane northern suburbs.

Reuben was with the Devils but has now made the move to Wynnum-Manly.

While Gela-Mosby will be a key member of Edmonton Storm in the strong Cairns and District competition.

The trio have been stars in the Queensland Cup for many years and were also teammates at Erub United which has tasted much success in recent years.

Christian and Reuben were played at Erub United when they lost the 2023 Dan Ropeyarn Memorial NPA Cup final at Bamaga to Boigu side Malu Kiwai.

Christian, 26, told *Koori Mail* that the move was an exciting time for him.

"I had a great time with the Pride during the past two years but I was always going to return down south where I have a daughter," he said.

"I played with the Ipswich Jets for five years and had been in the (North Queensland) Cowboys NRL squad.

"I am looking forward to lining up for Norths Devils; I have already had discussions with the coach and will play fullback, but can be called upon for the halves.

Reuben, 30, was the Queensland Cup's leading try-scorer in 2023 with 20 four-pointers.

He played one NRL game for St George-Illawarra during a long playing career which also saw him line up in the lower grades for the Canberra Raiders, and other Q-Cup clubs.



Julian Christian has ventured south from the Cairns-based Northern Pride to play for Norths Devils this season.



Perth Wildcats' Keanu Pinder has continued his impressive form this season in the NBL. Picture: Perth Wildcats

Pinder and the Wildcats guaranteed top-two spot

AUS KEANU Pinder and the Perth Wildcats fought hard to overcome a plucky Cairns Taipans last week to lock away a top-two NBL finish.

The Taipans put in a spirited showing in Perth last Saturday but, with much to play for, Perth (17-9) secured second spot by scoring 33 of the game's last 39 points, turning a two-point lead into a 29-point win over the last seven minutes.

Pinder was at his damaging best for the Wildcats with 18 points and nine rebounds.

The win guarantees Perth a top-two finish (alongside Melbourne United) ahead of road games this week to Illawarra (Thursday) and Tasmania (Saturday).

In the New Zealand Breakers-Illawarra Hawks match-up, the Breakers' Will McDowell-White put up 16 points in his side's thrilling 88-85 win in Auckland.

A late Will Hickey lob, slammed home by teammate Gary Clark, with just 11 seconds remaining gave the Hawks hope of an upset but the Breakers held on.

The result means New Zealand and Illawarra are equal on points but superior percentage has the Breakers (5th) just ahead of the Hawks (6th) on the league ladder.

This week's round 20 fixtures is the final round of games before the play-off, play-in series begins next week. – with AAP

Daren has Dunn it again

By KRIS FLANDERS



AN all-star event deserves all-star treatment and that's exactly what deadly artist Daren Dunn has delivered ahead of the Indigenous All-Stars game in Townsville this weekend.

When the women's Indigenous team plays against their Māori counterparts on Friday night, Bobbi Law and Jaime Chapman will be wearing football boots personally painted by Dunn.

"I met them at the All-Stars last year in New Zealand and I was impressed with them both, just the way they handled themselves and presented themselves," the proud Gamilaroi man said.

Dunn said working with Law and Chapman was an absolute pleasure. The talented brushman praised both players for their insights, creative minds and communication throughout the entire collaboration with them.

"Bobbi carries that dolphin totem and the praying mantis, from two different tribes," he said. "Jaime is the same as me, with that Gamilaroi side.

"It took about three weeks, the girls were so excited, they were in contact with me all the time.

"The communication with Bobbi and Jaime was probably the best since I've been painting for footy players in my time and that was because I got to have direct contact with them. The respect from them to me was reciprocated."

For good measure, Cronulla star and Dally M medallist Nicho Hynes will also be wearing boots handcrafted by Dunn.

"I never get tired of doing this and I always get that special feeling. I can't stop because new players and Mob keep coming through," Dunn said. "Doing boots for players keeps me grounded, I've been doing this for many years, but it's part of who I am."



Artist Daren Dunn's art will feature on three All-Stars players in Townsville this weekend.

Meet Australia's best cricketer



ASHLEIGH Gardner has taken top honours at the Australian Cricket Awards in Melbourne, winning the prestigious Belinda Clark Award.

At a ceremony which celebrated a remarkable year of achievement for Australian cricket, Gardner added a second Belinda Clark Award to the one she won in 2022.

In an off-the-cuff acceptance speech, the all-rounder delivered a heartfelt tribute to her family and partner Monica for their continued support.

"Firstly, just to thank my cricket family – going away for a lot of the year, it's a lot easier with all of my teammates and all the support staff," she said.

"My family – you obviously know what you mean to me, you're always there. You pretty much come to every single game, whether it's grade cricket or I'm playing for Australia.

"And of course, my partner Mon – you see the good days, you see the bad days but it's people like you that make playing cricket a lot more enjoyable."

Gardner has evolved as a big-hitting batter and part-time bowler to become one of the game's most reliable and lethal weapons with the ball. Her match figures of 12-165 is the second-highest in women's Test cricket history.

She was outstanding in all formats throughout a season in which the Australian women continued their dominance on the international stage winning the ICC Women's Twenty20 World Cup in South Africa, retaining the Women's Ashes, and winning both the One-Day International and T20 International series in India.

A member of both the ICC ODI and T20 Teams of the Year, Gardner was also outstanding in the Australian Women's two Test matches.

Her remarkable 12-wicket haul against England at Trent Bridge, including match-



Ashleigh Gardner won her second Belinda Clark Medal as Australian women's cricket best player. Picture: AAP

winning figures of 8-66 in the second innings, was one of the highlights of the cricket year.

Across all formats, Gardner scored 499 runs at 24.94 with a top score of 65 and

took 56 wickets at 19.39 with best figures of 8-66.

In the award count, Gardner polled 147 votes ahead of runner-up Ellyse Perry (134) with Annabel Sutherland (106) in third



Gardner sends down an off-spinner during the current series with South Africa. Picture: Peter Argent

place.

Gardner's significant contribution off the field was also acknowledged with the Community Impact Award.

She established the Ashleigh Gardner Foundation (AGF) in 2021, its over-arching purpose to create a healthy start to the school day for Indigenous children, believing providing breakfast and unstructured play enhances educational outcomes.

"As a sportsperson in this country, you have obviously got a platform," she said.

"I have always wanted to give back and as a proud Aboriginal woman, I have always wanted to give back to my community. We're still at the start of the journey, hopefully we can have the biggest impact possible." – **with AAP**

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New First Nations sports academy team aims high



THE First Nations Warriors Sports Academy organisation will be taking the all-conquering under-17s rugby union team to the Bangkok International Rugby 10s tournament this weekend.

The youngsters last year won in their division in what was their first appearance at the tournament.

The FNWSA under-17s team brings together 30 First Nations youth from across Australia in the overseas tour.

The organisation's chief aim, however, is more than just the trophy cabinet – it seeks to empower young men through cultural exchange, collaboration, and sport.

The FNWSA is a First Nations-developed, owned and operated organisation.

They run as a small team of dedicated persons – Murris, Goories, Koories

working closely together to help Indigenous youth realise their dreams. It doesn't receive any funding from government; it is solely funded from sponsors and community.

"We want our boys to learn valuable lessons about teamwork, respect, and the power of sport to bridge divides," the FNWSA said in a statement on the eve of its departure to Thailand.

"The week-long program is not just about rugby.

"We will also have nightly cultural yarning circles, mentoring, discussing a code of conduct both on and off the field, and one-on-one sessions on individual personal goals.

"Our goal at the First Nations Warriors Sports Academy is to change the mindset of our youth through cultural exchange and collaboration with other teams.

"We want to build their confidence, while aspiring to be strong, independent men.

"This tournament is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for our young men to come together and raise their esteem using rugby as a platform for positive change."

The Bangkok International Rugby 10s is Asia's biggest social rugby tournament.

It has up to 100 teams and is a mix of sport and fun.

Competition runs for two days, on Saturday and Sunday, February 17-18.

Saturday's morning session begins at 7:30am, the youth tournament from 11am, and Open, Vets, Women's and Touch from 11am-5pm.

Sunday's Cup, Plate and Bowl actions begins at 8am with the youth tournament, and the Open, Vets and Women's competition from 11am-6pm.

There will be a live feed of the young team, plus interviews, through the First Nations Warriors Sports Academy Facebook page.



Isaac Maynard from Bond University is on the look-out for potential Olympic athletes.

Isaac's Games-search



FOR Isaac Maynard, it was graduation-meets-perfect-career-opportunity. The 24-year-old Bond University Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science alumnus is out to make sure as many Indigenous Queensland sporting talents as possible take and make their mark at the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Timing was everything. "As I was preparing to graduate last year, I heard the Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS) was ramping up a statewide athlete talent search and I wanted to work with them on that," the proud Wiradjuri Worimi man from Mudgee said.

"The program takes aspiring athletes aged between 13-23 through a series of physical fitness tests and other challenges and those selected go through a 12-month

development phase to become a QAS supported athlete.

"For the past year it's been running in partnership with Deadly Choices, and that for me is a huge attraction. "I get to see how the Academy is working to unearth sporting talent wherever it is."

Over 4,800 young athletes have taken part in state-wide trials with over 250 athletes currently taking part in the year-long QAS-supported sports programs.

Of these, nine have been fast-tracked into a new QAS talent support program, designed to develop athletes considered genuine medal prospects in LA 2028 and Brisbane 2032.

Maynard says the main priority is improving cultural accessibility of these opportunities for the Indigenous cohort.

"Retention is a problem partly because once the young people go back to community, many are uncontactable and that's

something that needs more attention," he said.

"What I want to do is look at those sorts of barriers and how we can bring about change. "I'd really like to get into communities in the more remote areas that are struggling with the greatest barriers, whether they be technological or otherwise, and see where we can do things better."

Maynard says it's a delicate balance between improving sport opportunity for kids in the most distant areas and what can realistically be provided as sporting pathways.

For him it's about the face-to-face and asking Indigenous youth what they need and want to see happen with their sporting futures.

"In the past a lot of research has been done *on* them and not *with* them and that's an important distinction that we're looking to flip to have things work a lot more collaboratively and much more their way," he said.

"That might include everything from providing access to equipment and facilities to coaching and other forms of mentoring.

"When remote communities are visited a lot of yarning techniques, reciprocal storytelling, are used where we listen closely to what they say and encourage them to tell us about the change they want," Maynard said.

"Storytelling is something our Mobs have done for thousands of years, and it is how we communicate, understand and respect each other.

"And having that collaborative process from start to finish gives the athletes ownership and control over their own knowledges and destinies, and that's vitally important.

"Sport for us is about having a modern-day corroboree where people can get together, share their love of sport, maintain their cultural ties and give their culture the opportunity to thrive."

Enhanced Games a slippery slope?

WHETHER you thought one day we'd arrive at a point in sport where loading up on performance-enhancing substances was, while not necessarily encouraged, nonetheless *not discouraged*. But, in 2024, here we are.

If you've been keeping up with current events (not *A Current Affair* because, ugh!) you would have heard about the Enhanced Games (see our reports on page 48). Now, if you're anything like me, I wouldn't know where to begin to find these substances that so many gym bros can't get enough of – *anabella meteoroids* or something? I value my overall health too much to dabble in such things.

But... and there always is a but... what the organisers for these planned Games have right is the economic return for athletes who do take part.

Non-professional athletes in the 'traditional' Olympic disciplines of track and field are among the most poorest. It's hard to imagine but the very athletes that provide the most memorable and iconic moments are in athletics, yet they earn a fraction of what members of the International Olympic Committee earn.

So, at these Games, if an athlete was to break a world record in their particular discipline, they will stand to receive up \$1.5 million. Now, this is all fine, but what those in the medical profession are worried about is the inclination for, say, a recently retired sportsman to jump back into competing and, with a huge monetary reward they will never have the ability to earn over a lifetime, to juice up on all the bad goodies a body can take (to break that record), and the issues that may bring.

It all leaves one a bit anxious for the athletes. If my child was to come to me and say they're going to compete at the Enhanced Games, I would respect their decision, but worry about the outcome.

It will be fascinating to see how this all plays out in the coming months.



Darren Moncrieff

***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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Jada Whyman won a call-up to the Matildas squad ahead of the AFC Olympic Qualifiers this month. Picture: Getty Images

Jada closing in on Matildas, Olympic debut



EMERGING international Jada Whyman has been called up to represent Australia in the Matildas squad ahead of the Asian Football Confederation round 3 Women's Paris 2024 Olympic Qualifiers.

The Sydney FC goalkeeper is looking to make her international debut after securing 14 caps across both Junior, Youth and Matildas

Under-20 squads.

The 24-year-old was invited to train with the Matildas camp in 2021 and recently was named in the line-up for a friendly two-match series against Canada in December last year.

The Wiradjuri and Yorta Yorta woman has been in good form for the Sky Blues, cementing herself as one of the strongest players on the field in the A-League Women, keeping the most clean sheet this season.

Matildas match schedule

AFC Women's Paris 2024 Olympic Qualifiers – Rd. 3

1st leg: Uzbekistan v Australia – Saturday, February 24

Kick-off: 2pm (local) / 8pm AEDT NSW, ACT, Vic. Tas. / 7.30pm SA / 7pm Qld. / 6.30pm NT / 5pm WA. Venue: Milliy Stadium, Tashkent

2nd leg: Australia v Uzbekistan – Wednesday, February 28

Kick-off: 8pm AEDT NSW, ACT, Vic. Tas. / 7.30pm SA / 7pm Qld. / 6.30pm NT / 5pm WA. Venue: Docklands Stadium, Melbourne

TOWNSVILLE TIEBREAKER



The Indigenous and Māori All-Stars teams will face-off in Townsville this weekend. Picture: Joseph Mayers.

All-Stars face-off to break the 2-2-1 deadlock



THE return of the NRL All-Stars match to Townsville Stadium this weekend will see one of the Indigenous or Māori men's side break the deadlock that has them locked in at two wins-two losses apiece and a famous 10-10 draw at this venue three years ago.

The popular pre-season cultural, traditional and sporting showcase between two First Nations people makes its celebrated return to the far north Queensland capital on Friday, February 16.

The teams, drawn largely from the NRL and NRLW, first met in Melbourne in 2019.

This weekend marks the sixth meeting between the two.

Strong squads for all four teams were announced last week, headlined by Josh Addo-Carr, Latrell Mitchell and Nicho Hynes, and Dallin Watene-Zelezniak, Jahrome Hughes and Joseph Tapine (men's), and Tamika Upton, Taliah Fuimaono and Tallisha Harden, and Kennedy Cherrington, Corban Baxter and Raecene McGregor (women's).

Men (kick-off 7pm)

Indigenous All-Stars: Josh Addo-Carr, Jacob Alick, Bailey Biondi-Odo, Bailey Butler, Josh Curran, Adam Elliott, Jordan Grant, J'maine Hopgood, Nicho Hynes, Josh Kerr, Alofiana Khan-Pereira, Latrell Mitchell, Shaquai Mitchell, Kierran Moseley, Hohepa Puru, Kotoni Staggs, Hamiso

Tabuai-Fidow, Isaiah Tass, Braydon Trindall, Cody Walker. Coach: Ronald Griffiths.

Māori All Stars: Jesse Arthars, Kenny Bromwich, Dane Gagai, Jacob Gagai, Jack Howarth, Jahrome Hughes, Royce Hunt, Te Maire Martin, Trey Mooney, Briton Nikora, Kodi Nikorima, Adam Pompey, Joseph Tapine, Jazz Tevaga, Leo Thompson, Matthew Timoko, Brandon Smith, Dylan Walker, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak, Xavier Willison. Coach: Adam Blair.

Women (kick-off 4.50pm)

Indigenous All-Stars: Shaylee Bent, Jaime Chapman, Kirra Dibb, Quincy Dodd, Monique Donovan, Taliah Fuimaono, Tallisha Harden, Kimberley Hunt, Keilee

Joseph, Grace Kemp, Olivia Kernick, Bobbi Law, Mahalia Murphy, Jasmine Peters, Tommaya Kelly-Sines, Taneka Todhunter, Tamika Upton, Janelle Williams. Coach: Jess Skinner.

Māori All-Stars: Brooke Anderson, Corban Baxter, Annessa Biddle, Destiny Brill, Kennedy Cherrington, Zali Fay, Mya Hill-Moana, Shannon Mato, Kerehitina Matua, Raecene McGregor, Shanice Parker, Rima Pirini Butler, Ashleigh Quinlan, Tiana Raftstrand-Smith, Jasmin Strange, Chante Temara, Zahara Temara, Botille Vette-Welsh. Coach: Keith Hanley.

Kick-off: Women: 4.50; Men: 7pm.
● More with Kris Flanders, Page 46