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It's a long way to the top but this Mob are on a roll

By SARAH ROBERTS-FIELD



ELEVEN Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have flown into Kathmandu today (February 28) to tackle Earth's highest mountain.

The Blak Trekkers – Dr Clinton Schultz, David and Emma Williams, Kristal Kinsela, Kevin O'Brien, Kyel Dancey, Jeremy Donovan, Joshua Creamer, Elliot Wilson, Jyi Lawton and Jeremy Thomason – are a dedicated group of friends who will spend seven days in early March walking to Everest South Base Camp in Nepal.

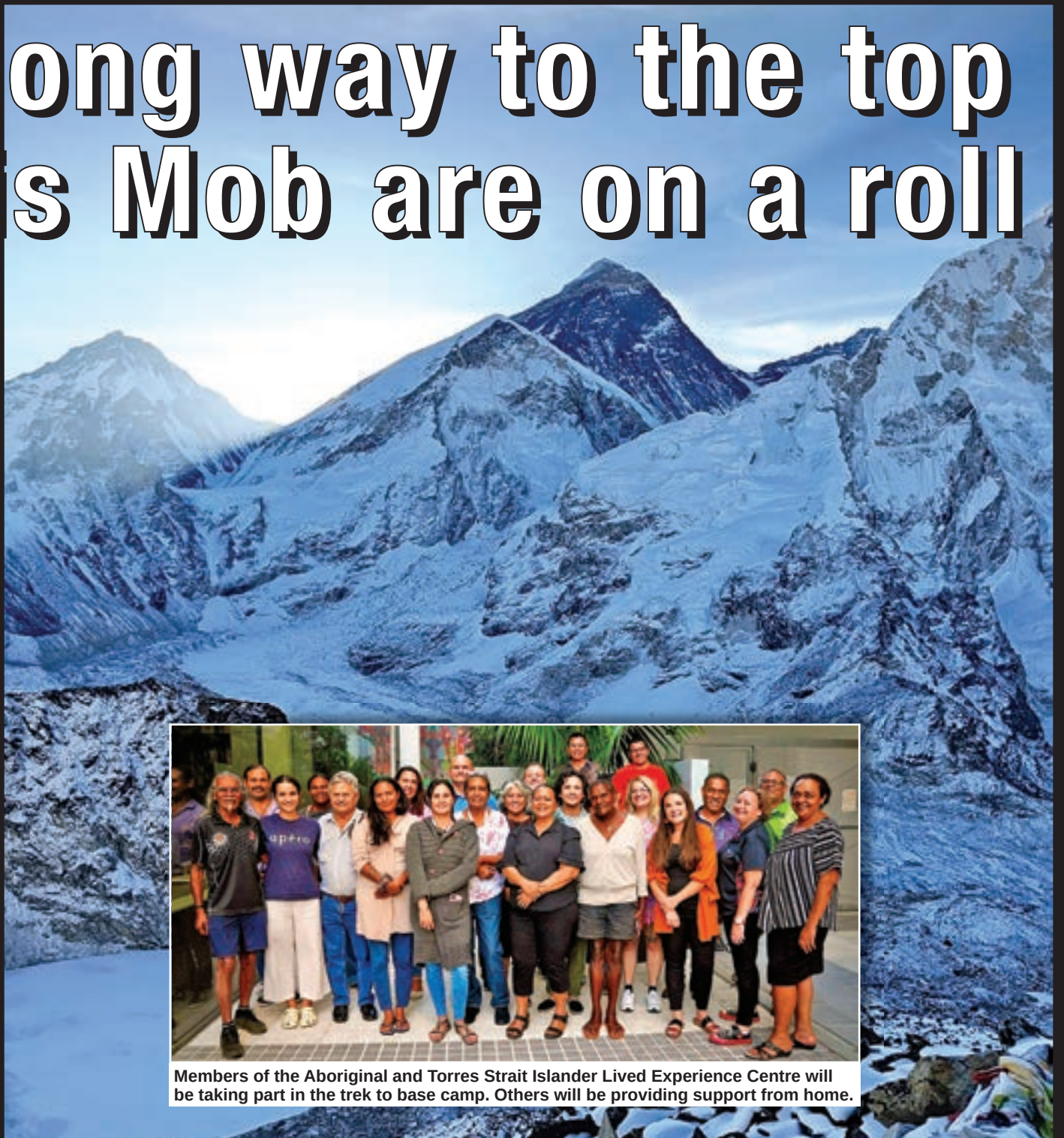
The trek on the south side is one of the most popular routes in the Himalayas, with close to 40,000 people trekking there annually from Lukla Airport. The airport became famous globally in 2010 when it was rated the most dangerous airport in the world for more than 20 years. Trekkers usually fly from Kathmandu to Lukla to save time and energy before beginning the trek to the base camp.

First of its kind

The mission of the Blak Trekkers is to raise \$50,000 for Black Dog Institute's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Centre – the first of its kind in Australia and internationally.

The *Koori Mail* spoke with Dr Schultz, a Gamilaroi man who is the director of First Nations Strategy and Partnerships at Black Dog Institute.

● Continued, page 5



Members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Centre will be taking part in the trek to base camp. Others will be providing support from home.

Kumanjayi's killer back on the stand



NT teenager's shooting death examined, page 7

INSIDE



Lifetime of music honoured

PAGE 11



Ferry provides vital link

PAGE 18



Season preview of AFL

PAGE 46-47



Season preview of NRL

PAGES 48-49

MY FAMILY

Noel Cannon, Palm Island



Yvonne Cannon, Zeruah Cannon, Clinton Cannon, Camelia Cannon, Noel Cannon Snr, Lolene Cannon, Colleen Cannon.

I was the oldest member of four generations of my family to be able to travel from Palm Island to Townsville to watch the Indigenous Allstars game against the Maori men and women's teams. I am aged 75 and with me were two daughters, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren. We all love rugby league and what better way to spend time together than with some of my loved ones at such big games. It was raining just before the match when your *Koori Mail* photographer saw us in the Townsville CBD near where some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander craft stalls were set up. The photographer told us he doubted if there would be four generations of any other family at the matches. That was less than 1km from the Queensland Country Bank Stadium ground where the games were played. We didn't have an umbrella or raincoats there but still posed for a family pic for the

Koori Mail and were just having a good time in Townsville where we also have many relatives. I love life on Palm Island and am a committed Christian who has been heavily involved in the local church. Having a big family on Palm is great and we do get to spend lots of time together which is just so pleasing. It has been so good to see my children, grandchildren and now great grandchildren growing up. Over the years there has been many wonderful events on Palm Island such as the Spring Fair, the 100th anniversary celebrations in 2018, football carnivals and other things. I enjoy living life on Palm Island and having such a great big family is great. It was good that the Allstars games were in Townsville which is a ferry or plane trip away from Palm Island. I am looking forward to many more family times together.

SHARE YOUR FAMILY WITH OUR READERS

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

OUR CHILDREN



Chisholm Catholic Primary Bligh Park student Amelia Gale enjoyed making art with (left to right) La-Tayah Toman, Isla TeHaara and Quinn Duncan, at a recent cultural immersion day. She was one of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from four Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD) schools who came to the day at Bede Polding College Windsor, NSW.

Koori Mail

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Canisha isn't scared to shine

By ALI MC



WITH her debut EP *Don't Be Scared* just released, Naarm (Melbourne) based singer

Canisha looks set for a bright future as she prepares for a performance with Jessica Mauboy at the upcoming Treaty Day Out.

New EP

The album's six songs that blend soul, funk and pop have been released on First Nations record label Bad Apples Music.

The Trawlwoolway and Wiradjuri artist told the *Koori Mail* that she started her musical journey in 2021 busking on the streets of Naarm.

"I started busking in 2021 in lockdown," she said. "I just decided to buy some busking equipment, because I had a lot of time. And I was singing a lot and I was learning guitar."

Canisha said that while she had the desire to busk, at first, she didn't have the confidence.

"I used to sit on the ground when I first started because I was too scared to look at all the people," she said.

However, after getting into a program with Music Victoria, Canisha was then able to connect with Merinda's singer Candice Lorrae who mentored her and produced her first three songs – and her career was launched.

"She was amazing," Canisha said. "The first time I ever wrote a song, first time I ever went to the studio – and it just all skyrocketed from there."

In 2022, Canisha performed alongside Briggs and other First Nations Artists at the Bad Apples House Party.

It opened many doors and secured her gigs at St Kilda Music Festival, Music for Mob at



Pictured above: Canisha performs live at Kindred for her EP launch and is set to perform with Jessica Mauboy at the upcoming Treaty Day Out. Pictured below left and right: Jessica Mauboy and Mo'Ju performing at First and Forever Festival will both be at Treaty Day Out. Pictures: Mick Harvey.



the Brunswick Music Festival and Yirramboi.

Canisha, who was also a 2023 recipient of the Singing our Futures music program, run by



the Archie Roach Foundation, will be at Treaty Day Out. During this program Canisha wrote a song with soul artist Bumpy and performed at the BIGSOUND

Music Festival in Brisbane.

When *Don't Be Scared* was launched at Kindred Studio, Canisha performed with a full backing band and support

singers.

The EP cover features a photograph of her as a child, with the singer saying she chose that image to reflect the title of the recording.

"What would I tell that kid if I could travel back in time? I would tell her 'don't be scared'," she said.

"Don't be scared about growing up, you're going to go through good times and bad, but you'll learn to navigate it all."

"My album is just being a kid growing up. And I think everyone can relate to a lot of my songs as well."

Canisha recently performed on the main stage at St Kilda Festival, making the leap from the smaller stage she performed at last year.

"Last year I performed at St Kilda Festival, my first ever music festival and I played on this tiny little stage in Acland Street," she said.

"Twelve months later, I'm playing main stage. I think about the comparison and how much I've grown and I don't even believe it myself."

Treaty Day Out

Canisha is also excited to be performing alongside the likes of Mo'Ju, Electric Fields and Jessica Mauboy at the Ballarat Treaty Day Out.

"Jessica Mauboy was my favourite artist growing up. I still can't believe that I'm playing on the same stage as her," she said. "I'm really excited about it."

Canisha's debut EP is available online through Bad Apples Music or via www.canisha.com.au

Treaty Day Out will be held on Wadawurrung Country on Saturday, March 2, and features Jessica Mauboy, Electric Fields, Mo'Ju, 3%, Scott Darlow, Blackfire, Brolga, Madi Colville-Walker, Jada Weazel and Canisha.

Inquest leads to charges



A COURT decision to lay criminal charges on the police officer whose unmarked police car collided with and killed Dunghutti teenager Jai Kalani Wright has been welcomed by Jai's family and lawyers.

The teenager died two years ago after the police officer's car collided with the trail bike that Jai was riding.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) charged the officer with dangerous driving occasioning death and negligent driving occasioning death.

The charges came about after a coronial inquest into Jai's death was paused by State Coroner Teresa O'Sullivan, who referred the matter to the ODPP.

Jai died on February 20, 2022 after the collision the previous day. He was 16 years old.

Jai's parents Lachlan Wright and Kylie Aloua said "we are emotional and relieved that charges have been laid".

"It's been two years without our vibrant,



Pictured left: Dunghutti teenager Jai Wright. Pictured right: Family and friends of Jai welcome the court decision to lay criminal charges on the police officer whose car collided with and killed Jai two year ago.

beautiful son beside us. He was funny, witty, and loved by so many people," they said.

"We ask our community and all of Jai's supporters to hold back on comments about the case for now while the legal process plays out."

"Thank you to everyone for your support

over these two tough years."

Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) chief executive Karly Warne said "the Aboriginal Legal Service welcomes this important step towards accountability."

"We are proud to stand with Jai's family."

"It is devastating to see the death of a

child, a proud Dunghutti young man," she said. "The loss of Jai has rippled through our communities."

"Jai is one of at least 558 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have died in custody and police operations since the Royal Commission that was meant to stop this national shame."



Get a feel for eel at Lake Bolac



MAKING a musical instrument out of eel is just one of the unusual activities in store at the 14th Lake Bolac Eel Festival this March.

Buluk (Lake Bolac), in the Western District of Victoria, is sacred to the First Nations people of the area who would traditionally host a large gathering of clans for the eel season when the eels began their migration from the lake to the sea to spawn.

This time was known as kuyang (eel) season. At Buluk, the Aboriginal clans harvested the eels, traded and held ceremonies, prior to colonial invasion.

While the Lake Bolac Eel Festival we know today attracts people from all walks of life, it began in 2005 when Warumpi Band member Neil Murray (from Lake Bolac), proposed a walk from Framlingham Aboriginal Reserve and Forest, back to the Country from which their ancestors had been removed.

The walk would emulate the traditional journey to Buluk for the eel harvest gatherings – and it became known as the Healing Walk. It also sparked the idea to create a festival to revive the



Eel skins hung out to dry. Picture: Don.

idea of a celebratory gathering by the lake during the traditional eel harvest. And so the Lake Bolac Eel Festival began.

This year, the festival is held from March 22 to 23 and the program offers music and cultural offerings for all ages.

Festival chair Rachel Taylor said a key feature of the event is the festival forum which explores the festival theme 'Song, Story, Dance: Ceremony and Celebration'.

If you want to learn more about eels, eels will be the hot topic for Tasmanian eel expert, Malcolm Johnson and Budj Bim Cultural Landscape Heritage Park Ranger Tyson Lovett-Murray. Deakin University's Dr Rod Giblett will also examine the environmental history of the Hopkins River.

The event kicks off with the art auction and dinner in the Lake Bolac Memorial Hall, where regional artists have provided 30

works for auction.

"The art auction is a really fun night where you can meet the artists involved and make new friends in the area," Rachel said. "At \$33 a head, it includes dinner by Castlemaine's Murnong Mamas and is served by RMIT students."

"The following day sees the festival proper kick-off with a Welcome to Country and music performances, workshops, information stalls with food stalls

to keep you going into the night."

The music program includes Brett Clarke, Seal Prince and the Roof Rats, Tim Scanlan, Bruce Watson, Skyglass, Gabby Steel Band, Andy Alberts Band and Neil Murray.

A community forum will feature an Indigenous dance presentation by musician and cultural warrior Brett Clarke, with Elder Aunty Adeline Thomas presenting the women's perspective.

Wergaia/Wamba Wamba Elder and Yoorrook Justice Commission chair Prof. Eleanor Bourke will also present information about the commission as the first formal truth-telling process into historical and ongoing injustices experienced by Victorian First Peoples.

Other festival workshops include Indigenous basket weaving, easy ukulele, carving a butter spreader and making botanical headbands and masks

Rachel said volunteers are a vital part of the festival, and are asked to contribute a minimum of four hours before the festival or two hours of work on festival days, in order to receive a complementary ticket to attend the festival proper.

● Visit eelfestival.org.au

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Spotlight on hospital care



RICKY Hampson Jr was a protector, a big brother known as "Dougie" who always looked for

ways to bring his family joy.

"Dougie was our firstborn, he was always happy," his father Rick Hampson Sr recalled.

"There was something special about him, he was there for everybody – the younger people, the older people. "He was amazing."

But when the 36-year-old needed his own protector in August 2021, the Hampson family believe he was tragically let down.

An inquest will this week examine the death of the Kamilaroi-Dunghutti man, who died of perforated duodenal ulcers less than 24 hours after being discharged from Dubbo Hospital in western NSW.

Mr Hampson Jr went to the emergency department in extreme pain on August 14 after feeling a tearing sensation in his abdomen and hearing a popping sound while walking on the street.

He was quickly sedated and slept on-and-off for 18 hours, before being discharged with painkillers and a direction to



An inquest this week will examine the death of Ricky Hampson Jr.

drink water.

His friends have told the Hampson family it took him five hours to make the short trip back to where he was staying, with some saying he was seen lying down at a bus shelter in pain.

He made it back to the house, but could not be woken on the morning of August 16.

Mr Hampson Sr believes race was one of several factors that stopped his son getting appropriate care.

The family say hospital staff also dismissed Mr Hampson Jr because he admitted using cannabis and his records listed

his next of kin as a jail he'd left the year before.

"It's heartbreaking ... it's not humane, he desperately needed life-saving treatment," Mr Hampson Sr said.

"It's destroyed us as a family."

A spokeswoman for Western NSW Local Health District said it would not comment while the case was before the coroner.

"We offer our sincere condolences to the family of Ricky Hampson Jr," the spokeswoman said.

The case has been compared to that of Naomi Williams, a Wiradjuri woman who died of septicaemia in 2016 after presenting to hospital in Tumut at least 18 times in seven months.

Experts told the inquest into Ms Williams' death there was evidence of a link between Aboriginality and less treatment, with data showing Indigenous patients receive 30 per cent fewer procedures.

Deputy State Coroner Harriet Grahame found the treatment of the 27-year-old pregnant woman was "consistent with a pattern" and recommended the health district boost its Aboriginal workforce.

– AAP

Getting trippy with sons of blues

By SARAH ROBERTS-FIELD



VELVET Trip is the unforgettable name of rising Sydney blues-psychedelic music duo Zeppelin Hamilton and Clayton Allen, who have just released their highly-anticipated debut album *Harmony Blooms*.

Zeppelin, a Wiradjuri man, is a multi-instrumentalist, actor, model, and producer who grew up on the beautiful Bundjalung Country in Byron Bay, Northern NSW.

In his youth, Zeppelin experienced the soul of blues all around him as musicians like Ironing Board Sam, who collaborated with Jimi Hendrix, and Blues Hall-of-Famer Ardie Dean regularly visited the Hamilton family home, sharing their knowledge, influencing and inspiring the youngster.

Hitchhiking

Zeppelin, always an avid guitarist, worked at Subway in Ballina, NSW as a teen and would hitchhike to his workplace, eventually saving enough money to move to Gadigal Country (Sydney) with his Stratocaster at 20 years old.

During a party one night in the city, Velvet Trip was born. The band has been experiencing a continual rise in success ever since, and it's not hard to see why.

Their *Harmony Blooms* album is an immersive listen that doesn't let up. Ethereal and profound lyricism, up-tempo neo-psych jams, never-ending layers of vocals, buoyed by guitars that sway between funky and fiery, groovy bass lines and spacey synths. With nods to Air, Khruangbin, Tame Impala, and Steve Lacey – this album is a technicolour experience that transports you to another world.

Positive thinking

"When I started writing the album, I was going through a lot of stuff, and Clay had been too. It was right at the start of COVID, lockdowns were happening, and I had just broken my hand (from a skateboarding accident)," Zeppelin told the *Koori Mail*.

"There was a lot of head noise, I initially felt like the easy way out of it would be to write about all the negative things happening, but then I didn't want to do that because there was already so much of that around.

"I tried as much as I could to create this positive world around me. I was going into our home studio that we had set up in our garage, and rather than sit there focusing



Zeppelin Hamilton and Clayton Allen are Velvet Trip. Below: The pair playing with friends at Yabun festival recently.



on all the negatives, I wanted to create this different world and project positivity.

"If not for myself, then for anybody else down the line. If I were going to spend all this time, I would try to do that instead of being in that dark space," he said.

Injury

The skateboarding accident had left Zeppelin unable to play guitar. A friend then gifted him a keyboard, and the artist began recording one-handed and singing directly

into his laptop. As he recovered, the duo purchased microphones and started producing the album, using instruments they had lying around.

It took nearly four years to complete, with the seeds first being planted while Zeppelin was in Europe after the band had toured their 2019 EP *Velvet Trip & The Six Moon Skies* in Australia.

Agency

Velvet Trip signed with the prestigious

booking agency Cult Artists and has graced stages at events like SXSW Sydney and Lost Paradise Festival.

They've also performed at sold-out theatres across Australia alongside Parcels and have shared the spotlight with Wiradjuri poet Jazz Money at the Sydney Opera House.

Among so many achievements already, their 2023 accomplishments included a feature on the ABC program *Going Country* with Emily Wurramara, selection for Mushroom Group's 'First Nations Pathway Program,' and recognition as a Triple J Unearthed 'Feature Artist of the Week'.

Zeppelin and Clayton are individually highly sought-after session musicians, collaborating with artists such as Julia Jacklin, Dan Sultan, Faye Webster, Middle Kids and Emily Wurramara.

Velvet Trip have announced an Australian tour supporting their new album, including two appearances at this year's Byron Bay Bluesfest on Friday, March 29, and Saturday, March 30.

Be sure to catch them if you can and take a trip into another world!

Mob climb to base camp

By SARAH ROBERTS-FIELD

From page 1

"This Lived Experience Centre will be the conduit that links networks together to mobilise, amplify and enable the right people to have a seat at the table to deliver culturally focused and safe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led suicide prevention, mental wellbeing programs and initiatives," Dr Schultz said.

"We all have our own experiences, personally or within our families, of suicide.

"I'm good friends with Josh Creamer. He did the trek last year as part of a healing journey for himself when he lost his younger brother to suicide in 2022.

"While he was over there, he realised he'd love to share that experience and his learnings with his close friends. He contacted a few of us on his arrival back, and



Dr Clinton Schultz.

we were all thinking, 'We'd love to do it with you, and if we're going to do it, let's make it for a good cause, make it worthy,' he said.

Healing journey

Dr Schultz opened up about his own journey with disturbed social and emotional well-being from his

early childhood through to adulthood.

It left him in severe dark places during his life where he had to go through a healing journey of his own to recover from such experiences.

He didn't know who to turn to or what to do during those times.

"Having had a resource like the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Centre to turn to, to network or to get some resources on how to cope or where to go, would have been really beneficial for me at the time," he said.

"We know that in a lot of our communities there just isn't the mental health support that's required, but what we do have is a lot of lived experience.

"We've got a lot of people who are willing to open up, share and help each other. The more we can bolster that as a resource, the better it can be for our

communities."

The trek will be a healing journey for all involved and it's something they can't entirely train for, but have done so in the best way they can.

They'll be experiencing temperatures close to -30 °C and altitudes that do not exist in Australia.

Training

"There's not much we can do in particular to train for this," Dr Schultz said.

"We don't have mountains that are that high where you experience the strains on your lung capacity that we are going to.

"The inevitable will be what it is when we get there. I think that's part of the challenge for us all is to face those unknowns."

Dr Schultz said that he would try and immerse himself into the Nepalese culture as much as possible during this time.

"Being a very strong lore and cultural man myself, I want to experience that," he said.

"I don't want only to view it as a tourist. I'm hoping to have good conversations with Nepalese people and with the Sherpas, to get a better understanding of what the mountains mean to them and not just the benefits but some of the negatives this level of tourism and level of interest is having, which has been increasing over the last few years in Everest."

The Blak Trekkers represent a beacon of hope, resilience, and commitment towards better ways for reconciliation and healing. At the end of their seven-day journey, the team will charter a helicopter to experience the magnificent sight of the Himalayas.

For more information and to support this cause, visit the Blak Trekkers fundraising page at www.teamblackdog.org.au/fundraisers/joshuacreamer

NT land council referred to integrity body by minister



A NORTHERN Territory land council has been referred to a federal integrity unit after allegations of royalty misuse and misconduct.

Indigenous Affairs Minister Linda Burney has referred the Anindilyakwa Land Council on Groote Eylandt to the National Indigenous Australians Agency integrity body, which has the power to refer to enforcement agencies.

"I expect strong governance and accountability from all land councils," she said in a statement late on Friday.

"I have asked NIAA's integrity group to examine these concerning reports and take appropriate action, including investigation or referral to relevant Commonwealth and Territory agencies."

Audit

An Australian National Audit Office report released in May 2023 found 50 per cent of the 2021/22 mining royalties paid to Anindilyakwa Land Council were invested into Winchelsea Mining, directed by the council's chair and CEO.

A petition from the Anindilyakwa people and traditional owners of Groote Eylandt was tabled in parliament in February, signed by 235 residents, almost 16 per cent of the island's 1,400 Indigenous adult population.

"We the Anindilyakwa people and traditional owners and extended families of the Groote Archipelago ask for clarity into the findings of the auditor general report," the petition reads.



Mark Hewitt is the chief executive of Anindilyakwa Land Council.

"Members of the ALC executive and board of directors may not have acted in their employed and elected roles in good faith for the governance of the people of the Groote Archipelago.

"We call for an independent investigation into potential gross misconduct of terms of employment of the ALC executive and elected positions of the board of directors, in order to restore good faith in the ALC's ability to govern the people of the Groote Archipelago in their best interests and without prejudice."

The audit found risks of conflict of interest were high as Winchelsea is co-directed by ALC CEO Mark Hewitt and chair Tony Wurramarrba.

The 2023 audit also found the



Anindilyakwa Land Council chairperson Tony Wurramarrba.

council finance committee approved 99 per cent of the funding requests from Mr Hewitt, compared with 53 per cent of other requests.

"The (audit) observed disproportionate benefit to the entities with which the CEO is associated," the report reads.

Groote-based Aboriginal corporations do not have the opportunity to present funding applications in person, the report found.

The Centre for Public Integrity's Geoffrey Watson said the findings of the audit must be referred to the National Anti-Corruption Commission.

"To see that land council royalties have been misused in the way identified by the audit is heartbreaking," he said.

"The conflict of interest is not going to be managed if the people are still in those positions, and the same exorbitant funds are being paid to corporate entities associated with people closely connected with the management of the land council."

Mr Hewitt fronted a senate

estimates hearing on February 16 and said since the audit, the council had adopted 10 of the report's 15 recommendations.

He said he was not the owner of the Winchelsea Mine, though is listed as director, secretary and chief executive, while shareholding is split between Anindilyakwa Advancement Aboriginal Corporation and a Chinese mining company.

Mr Hewitt's wife is also the land council's major investment and development co-ordinator, chief operations officer of Groote Holdings Aboriginal Corporation, and chief executive assistant of Winchelsea.

The land council's own internal audit committee, responsible for overseeing the implementation of the recommendations, was also found to have conflicts of interest.

Mr Hewitt said the council was working to ensure the council audit committee chair was independent and undertaking all mandatory functions.

The ALC audit committee chair is the founder of Enmark Consulting, to which the council paid \$896,056 in consultancy fees between 2014/15 and 2021/22.

The committee charter requires each member to provide annual declarations of "any material or personal interests that would preclude them from being members".

The chair and other members have never made a declaration.

Ms Burney said she has asked the ALC for regular updates about the implementation of the national audit office recommendations.

- AAP

Indigenous energy rights recognised



FIRST Nations must be at the heart of Australia's renewable energy plans to share jobs and prosperity, avoid project delays and generate affordable

sustainable power, experts say.

The first comprehensive national guide, which includes all ten of the independent First Nations Clean Energy Network's best practice principles, has been launched by the Clean Energy Council.

Network co-chair Chris Croker said Australia had a history of land acquisition and resource extraction at any cost, which had damaged families and communities, and land and waters.

So the principles are "common sense" and the guide presents another opportunity to reset relationships, with the clean energy industry leading the way, said Mr Croker, a Luritja man from Central Australia.

The federal government's First Nations Clean Energy Strategy was likely to provide for "serious investment" in the May budget, and implementation soon after that, he said.

"Lessons from Canada have



Co-chair of the First Nations Clean Energy Network Chris Croker,

demonstrated the sound social and business logic for engaging with First Nations communities," Mr Croker said.

"Project delay, cost and risk is significantly reduced and community support, social licence and reputation is massively increased."

Proponents know the industry must consult on details at each stage of a

project, and acknowledge they must do better at sharing the benefits with local workers and contractors.

"The rights, interests and aspirations of First Nations peoples must be front and centre to achieve a just clean energy transformation," network co-chair and Yorta Yorta descendant Karrina Nolan said.

To do so would minimise risks, costs and delays for renewable energy projects being planned, developed and operated on country, Ms Nolan said.

"And it's something which must be done in partnership with industry. This guide can help with that," she said.

Offshore wind pioneer and Oceanex CEO Andy Evans said the general lack of knowledge and respect for traditional owners was "embarrassing" in Australia compared to other countries such as New Zealand.

"We've been engaging in a number of areas we're in, talking about employment and business opportunities and obviously cultural heritage and respect is critical," Mr Evans said.

"Indigenous communities are great

about wanting not handouts but opportunities, because they want to skill up their people," he said.

Glen Brennan, who leads KPMG's Indigenous Services and co-authored the guide, said it marked a "significant milestone" for energy, emissions reduction and the environment.

"First Nations communities have an intrinsic relationship with the natural environment and understanding of sustainable land cultivation and management through traditional knowledge and practices," the Gomeroi man from Narrabri in NSW said.

Meaningful engagement, obtaining consent, partnerships, equity and ownership opportunities would be critical in the renewable energy sector, he said.

Industry council chief executive Kane Thornton said the sector had identified the need for stronger engagement and relationships with First Nations peoples.

With proper practices in place, First Nations Australians can be heard and will play a crucial role in the economic shift under way, he said.

-AAP

Shooting 'within Zach Rolfe's training'

—AAP (Thursday, February 22)



A NORTHERN Territory police sergeant in charge of the tactical unit involved in an Indigenous teenager's death has told an inquest the officer who shot him acted appropriately.

The inquest into Kumanjayi Walker's death resumed last Thursday in Alice Springs, more than 18 months after it began.

Zachary Rolfe shot the 19-year-old three times while on duty in the remote community of Yuendumu in November 2019 but was acquitted of murder in a five-week trial.

Mr Rolfe was deployed to find Mr Walker as part of an Immediate Response Team based in Alice Springs and run by Sergeant Lee Bauwens.

The lawyer for Mr Walker's family, Andrew Boe, asked Sgt Bauwens if he had seen the police body-worn footage of the incident.

"Did you pay close attention to whether or not constable Rolfe conducted himself in line with what you believe to be appropriate policing?" Mr Boe asked.

"I did not see anything that was inappropriate or outside of training," Sgt Bauwens responded.

He said Mr Rolfe was a "dedicated police officer" who was "good at his job".

Sgt Bauwens was on medical leave the day Mr Walker was killed and had no involvement in the decision to deploy the team.

The officer said a "high proportion" of response team "targets" were Indigenous people in remote Aboriginal communities and town camps.

"When going through the selection criteria, you did not include anywhere the cross-cultural capacity of clients," Mr Boe suggested.

Sgt Bauwens said while it was not part of the selection criteria, most general duties officers in Alice Springs had experience with Indigenous people.

Mr Boe asked if a lesson to be taken from the fatal arrest attempt would be that response team deployments into those communities "need members if not a leader" with experience policing them.

Sgt Bauwens said it could be considered but there could be viability issues.

He earlier told the inquest he was unaware of complaints about Mr Rolfe's use of excessive force or his declining mental health.

"There had been a number of complaints about unjustified use of force ... (and) a perception among people within the Alice Springs Police Station that Mr Rolfe was developing a bit of a reputation for the use of force," counsel assisting Patrick Coleridge said.

Mr Coleridge referenced an arrest in 2018 where Mr Rolfe allegedly punched an Aboriginal man's head, grabbed his hair and slung him to the ground, rendering him unconscious with cuts that needed 16 stitches.

Mr Rolfe then allegedly asked a detective to scratch his face so he could blame the victim to justify his use of force.

Local Court Judge Greg Borchers found Mr Rolfe had lied to conceal his "unlawful" use of force.

Mr Coleridge said Southern Crime Command investigated potential allegations of perjury.

"All of that was occurring against the backdrop of the decline of Mr Rolfe's mental health and his transition onto medication," the counsel said.

"Do you accept that if that information had been presented to whoever was responsible for making the decision, there is every chance that Zach Rolfe would not have been deployed to Yuendumu on November 9, 2019?"

Sgt Bauwens said he was unable to "say yes or no". He also told the inquest he did not know about Mr Rolfe's declining mental health, despite receiving a text in early 2019 saying: "Hey brother, sorry I've been slack lately, I'm burnt out as f***".

Mr Rolfe was diagnosed with depressive disorder and prescribed anti-depressants a month before Mr Walker's death.

Sgt Bauwens said if he knew he would have escalated the issue and sought help for Mr Rolfe.

Rolfe recorded 46 use-of-force incidents as cop

—AAP (Friday, February 22)



A NORTHERN Territory police officer who shot dead an Indigenous teenager recorded more use-of-force incidents than a randomised sample of his fellow graduates, an inquest has been told.

The inquest into Kumanjayi Walker's death resumed on Thursday in Alice Springs, more than 18 months after it began.

Zachary Rolfe shot the 19-year-old three times while on duty in the remote Northern Territory community of Yuendumu in November 2019, but was acquitted of murder after a five-week trial.

Mr Rolfe was deployed to find Mr Walker as part of an Immediate Response Team based in Alice Springs, run by team officer-in-charge Sergeant Lee Bauwens.

Counsel assisting the coroner Patrick Coleridge asked Sgt Bauwens on Friday whether he knew about the 46 use-of-force incidents recorded against Mr Rolfe between 2016 and 2019.

"If 46 use-of-force incidents between 2016 and 2019 isn't many, what would a large number of use-of-force incidents be?" Mr Coleridge asked.

"Ten or 11 a year or something like that and that's just putting any use of force ... around stabilising or a minor use of force."

The NT Police survey recorded Mr Rolfe had the highest rate of use-of-force incidents among randomised members of his 2016 police college graduating class.

Sgt Bauwens said use-of-force incidents would not have concerned him as the response team officer in charge.

"We do not look at their record and how many use of forces they had, that wasn't part of the criteria," he told the inquest.

"Use of force complaints these days can be frivolous."



Ex-cop Zachary Rolfe.

The former officer in charge earlier told the inquest he was unaware of complaints about Mr Rolfe's use of excessive force or his declining mental health.

He had told the inquest on Thursday Mr Rolfe's fatal shooting of the teenager was "appropriate policing".

The lawyer for Mr Walker's family, Andrew Boe, asked Sgt Bauwens if he had seen the police bodyworn footage of the incident.

"Did you pay close attention to whether or not constable Rolfe conducted himself in line with what you believe to be appropriate policing?" Mr Boe asked.

"I did not see anything that was inappropriate or outside of training," Sgt Bauwens responded.

Sgt Bauwens was on medical leave the



Kumanjayi Walker.

day Mr Walker was killed and had no involvement in the decision to deploy the team.

The former officer in charge was also shown a racist text message he sent to Mr Rolfe relating to an arrest he had made.

"Mr Rolfe had evidently chased that individual and you said 'these bush c***s aren't used to people going after them', do you accept that the word c***s is a racist term?" Mr Coleridge asked.

He accepted that as a senior NT Police officer, he should have "led by example".

Mr Rolfe was set to testify on Monday when the inquest continued, after losing several court challenges to avoid giving evidence, including asking coroner Elisabeth Armitage to step aside due to bias.



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Third Sector

New case to stop mining

Groundbreaking human rights case launches to protect the sacred Doongmabulla Springs



A NEW court case will see the Nagana Yarrbayn Wangan & Jagalingou (W&J) cultural custodians take the

Queensland government to the Supreme Court to prevent the destruction of the sacred Doongmabulla Springs.

W&J senior cultural custodian Adrian Burragubba is one of the custodians behind new a litigation case aimed at stopping the Carmichael coal mine.

Mr Burragubba said that the government has failed to act to protect the Doongmabulla Springs consistently with the Environmental Protection Act.

"Reports provided to the government reveal Adani's Carmichael Mine has consistently exceeded its environmental limits that were imposed to protect the springs," Mr Burragubba said.

"Imminent threat"

"The open cut mining poses an imminent threat of permanent and irreversible harm to the Doongmabulla Springs which are a significant sacred site of Wangan and Jagalingou ancestor dreaming, Mundagutta (the Rainbow Serpent)."

The new case will be directed



Uncle Adrian Burragubba (centre) with lawyers and other supporters outside Brisbane Supreme Court.

specifically at protecting the Doongmabulla Springs using human rights and environmental protection laws.

"Working with scientists, we have identified threats of serious environmental harm to the Doongmabulla Springs complex, the site of immense spiritual, cultural, and environmental value

for us," he said.

"Our connection to Country depends on the conservation, maintenance, and protection of this significant sacred site.

"If water extraction and pollution from the Adani mine are allowed to continue, the springs will be destroyed forever, permanently breaking our spiritual

connection to our Ancestors and Creation stories.

"In failing to act to stop the harmful impacts of Adani's mine, the Queensland government has allowed the threats to multiply and in so doing, they have denied us of our cultural rights that are protected by human rights laws."

W&J cultural custodian

Murrawah Johnson said "this is about our water".

"The evidence of harm being done by this project, with the license of the state, shows what we have been warning about," she said.

"Careless"

"The Government's refusal to address this means that it is not just careless but callous about our cultural rights. There is no way for them to deny that they have heard our concerns about the need to protect our water and our ancient culture; or seen the evidence of harm.

"As custodians, we are the ones who understand Country and had the foresight to recognise the threats to our water.

"The environmental approval should not have been given", she said.

Ms Johnson is the First Nations lead for Youth Verdict, whose legal team successfully led the cultural rights action in the Waratah Coal land court case.

Ms Johnson's legal team will also support the W&J cultural custodians in their case and seek a Supreme Court order to force the government to protect Doongmabulla, safeguard cultural heritage and defend human rights.

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The case against the Carmichael mine so far

- In April 2021, cultural custodians first raised the alarm on the threat to Doongmabulla Springs with the Queensland Minister for Environment and Science.

- On November 23, 2023, lawyers acting for Mr Burragubba and the Cultural Custodians issued a letter to the Minister for Environment and Science, Leanne Linard. They requested the Minister "urgently exercise her available statutory powers" under the Environmental Protection Act "to prevent any further open cut mining activity", until she can be "satisfied with sufficient scientific certainty that there is not, and is no threat of, environmental harm to the Springs from that activity".

- On March 2, 2023, DESI issued an Environmental Protection Order (EPO) to Adani that prevents it from underground mining.

The EPO was issued following Adani's submission of its numerical groundwater modelling report, which predicted unauthorised impacts to the Springs from underground mining, based on the current mine plan.

The EPO does not specifically restrict continued open cut mining or dewatering.

DESI appears to have

"Adani's submission of its numerical groundwater modelling report... predicted unauthorised impacts to the Springs from underground mining, based on the current mine plan."

taken the view that the extent of harm from open cut mining activities remains unknown.

The argument

Lawyers for the Cultural Custodians will argue that DESI has sufficient material already to be aware that the environmentally relevant activities (ERAs) of Adani are causing, or are likely to cause, environmental harm to the Doongmabulla Springs.

"The Environmental Authority does not authorise environmental harm to the Springs, and none of the Conditions can be taken as authorising such harm.

"The Minister and DESI must act but have failed to do so."

Experts report

The Cultural Custodians have commissioned two environmental science reports, prepared by independent experts, Professor Matthew Currell and Professor Adrian Werner, to review the evidence.

The Minister and Department have received these reports.

These expert reports demonstrate that a considerable number of exceedances for groundwater levels, groundwater quality, and spring water quality have occurred since the mine was approved and de-watering commenced in 2019.

Mr Burragubba said the evidence shows that Adani is consistently breaching its Environmental Conditions without any effective regulatory intervention by the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI).

"Contravention of those Conditions provides a statutory basis for, and requires, action. There is an imminent threat of permanent and irreversible harm to the springs and their associated cultural values."

Man escapes jailtime for Old Parliament House fire



A MAN involved in a blaze at Old Parliament House that caused millions of dollars in damage has been sentenced to an 18-month suspended prison sentence but a longer than usual good behaviour bond.

Bruce Shillingsworth Jr, 32, was found guilty of aiding and abetting arson for his role in a fire that caused \$5.2 million in damages at the historic building in December 2021.

Donning a traditional purple headdress and a kangaroo pelt, Shillingsworth was also sentenced last Friday for assaulting a frontline community service provider, property damage and obstructing a territory official in the ACT Supreme Court last Friday.

Sentence

Justice David Mossop sentenced him to three years and six months good behaviour



Bruce Shillingsworth Jr outside court.

and fined him \$8,000 to be paid within three years for his role in the fire.

He was also fined \$200 for defacing public property and \$100 for assaulting a frontline officer, both to be paid within a year, and received 12 months good behaviour for obstructing a territory official.

"A fine is appropriate notwithstanding his modest

financial circumstances," Justice Mossop told the court.

Shillingsworth's circumstances were taken into account, with him being the sole carer of four young children, having a limited criminal history and engaging in community service work.

He was found guilty of the offences following his help in facilitating Nicholas Reed

starting the fire that grew to be 1.5 metres high on the doors of Old Parliament House.

Reed was sentenced in September last year to 23 months in prison to be suspended after eight months if he agreed to a two-year good behaviour bond after a jury found him guilty of arson.

Hot coals

Reed was found to have shovelled hot coals from a small fire on the steps of Old Parliament House to the portico and gathered and brought back numerous bundles of sticks.

"(Shillingsworth's) culpability is significant but less than that of the principal offender," Justice Mossop said during sentencing.

Shillingsworth was found to have instructed protesters to paint over CCTV cameras and create a line of people linking arms to block officials from putting out the fire.

He was also found guilty of pushing a police officer.

"The assault was a very minor one, lasting only a very short period of time, it's of a low range of objective seriousness," Justice Mossop said.

The Indigenous activist saw Old Parliament House as a "legitimate target" and indicated going through the doors would be symbolic of taking on the Australian government for grievances over First Nations treatment, the court heard.

Shillingsworth argued it wasn't his intention to burn down the doors or harm frontline staff, although Justice Mossop said he expressed little remorse for the damage.

If he was incarcerated, the cycle of inter-generational trauma would begin for his four children and result in "more anger and frustration towards the system", Shillingsworth argued ahead of sentencing.

Restitution for the damage was no longer sought, as there was no capacity for it to be paid, the court was told.

- AAP

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Evolve Communities co-directors Carla Rogers and Aunty Munya Andrews took home the Building Communities award at the 2024 Telstra Best of Business Awards.



Indigenous-led Eather Group took home the national Indigenous Excellence award.

Business awards recognise impacts

By NICK PATON



EVOLVE communities and Eather Group were thrilled to be named as major winners at the 2024 Telstra Best of Business Awards earlier this month, each recognised for their individual impact on community and their ability to make the world a kinder place.

Led by co-directors Bardi Elder Aunty Munya Andrews and Carla Rogers, Evolve Communities took home the national Building Communities award for small and medium-sized businesses making a positive impact in their communities, while Eather Group won the Indigenous Excellence category.

Both winning businesses were selected from more than 22,000 nominations of businesses nationwide, taking to the stage to accept their awards at a special gala ceremony in Sydney on February 8.

So proud

"I just felt so proud," Aunty Munya told the *Koori Mail*.

"Winning this award really just makes me want to encourage as many Aboriginal people as possible to get into business so that they can realise their full potential and destiny without having to rely on anyone else," she said.

"I feel very much endorsed as a professional business woman and entrepreneur, so it's wonderful to be acknowledged and recognised in this way."

Aunty Munya said to be in the company of such amazing finalists, and being chosen, reinforces just how special the award is.

"And that an Indigenous business can rise above the rest and take home such a prestigious award, as we have," she said.

Based on the South Coast of NSW, Evolve Communities is a trusted provider of cultural awareness training and allyship accreditation.

Whether in person or online, Evolve Communities offers core programs that are facilitated by an Indigenous and non-Indigenous team, modelling the perfect example of allyship.

The judges were impressed by the scale of Evolve Communities' impact, noting that by holding equality at the core, Evolve Communities is tackling the most divisive issue in Australia with a unique model that promotes respect and inclusivity for all.

The businesses 'no blame, no guilt, no shame' philosophy ensures programs and workshops remain refreshing and forward focused.

As a non-Indigenous Community Engagement Specialist, Churchill Fellow and Ally, Carla Rogers said winning this award stems back to her childhood.

"Even as a child, I would often find myself out in the bush, and talking to the Ancestors, trying to figure out where I stood on Country, craving an Aboriginal friend who I could talk to about these things, because I didn't know any Aboriginal people at the time," Ms Rogers said.

"I was always so confused with the history of Australia I was taught, with everything being whitewashed at school, and never really learning the real truth about Aboriginal people," she said.

"But at the same time I wasn't alone.

"I knew there were other people out there like me, allies, who were intrigued and wanted to get to know more about Aboriginal communities, but just didn't know how to go about it."

Ms Rogers said she has always been interested in the functionality of communities and how communities can be created where there is a sense of belonging and where people feel valued.

"So from a young age, even though I didn't realise at the time, I've had a real drive for allyship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous, which has led to my career in this area," Ms Rogers said.

"And when I finally made that connection and started to work with Aboriginal communities as an Ally, I could see just how important the values of kinship and family and community really are to Aboriginal people's ways of being."

Sustainable

Eather Group is an Indigenous-led business offering sustainable solutions to traditional issues in the civil, construction and waste-to-resource industries.

Taking home the Indigenous Excellence award, the vision of Esther Group is to create a circular economy in the infrastructure sector, sourcing, transporting and re-purposing material for projects, to care for our Country while developing workforce equity and diversity.

The judges credited the team's focus on Country, community and culture which has seen them drive disruption in the entrenched construction industry and building a company that is as vibrant in its culture as it is strong in its financials.

The judges added that Eather Group is a fabulous example of a bootstrapped family business which is driving a positive impact for its people and the communities they operate in.

Call for Expressions of Interest

TAFE Institute Board Directors

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The Minister for Skills and TAFE, the Hon. Gayle Tierney MP, is pleased to invite applications for part-time positions on TAFE Boards.

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- Financial management
- Strategic thinking and innovation
- Community and industry engagement
- Strategic risk management and audit

Board directors are eligible for remuneration in accordance with the Appointment and Remuneration Guidelines published by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that government boards and committees reflect the rich diversity of the Victorian community. Applications are welcome from people of all ages (in particular young people), genders, LGBTIQ+ people, Aboriginal people, people with disability, and Victorians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Applications from people living in communities or regions where TAFE institutes are located are strongly encouraged to apply.

We will provide adjustments to the recruitment process upon request. Should you require assistance with your application, please contact HESBoards@davidsonwp.com.

Deadline for submissions: 11:59pm Sunday 10th March 2024.

Applications should be lodged via <https://www.davidsonwp.com/HES-Boards>.

'Rusty' recognised for a lifetime of sharing music

By JILLIAN MUNDY



WHEN Pitjantjatjara man Russell 'Rusty' Smith was inducted into the South Australian

Music Hall of Fame late last year he was hugely honoured and humbled, but he didn't want it to be about him.

The singer, songwriter, yidaki/didge player and guitarist instead arranged to receive the accolade at a community music festival in his hometown.

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

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

"If I can give them a foot up that's what I do, it was about the community not me."

Rusty grew up on Umeewarra Mission on the outskirts of the Port Augusta.

"It's where it started, the mission kids, we sang every night and I learnt to play guitar there."

At the same time he was fronting the mission choir singing church songs, he was discovering rock and roll on a radio he and the other children nicked from the missionaries.

"I mean Aretha Franklin started at church, you've got to start somewhere," he said with a chuckle.

"I'd think I can write a song, they were shit songs that I wrote.

"I can write some serious songs now."

If the missionaries had had their way Rusty reckons he would have been a panel beater or machinist, or maybe a footballer – but none of these were his cup of tea.

One night, he snuck out from his foster home to see Tommy and Phil Emmanuel.

No turning back

There was no turning back – music was where it was at.

"I said no buggar this I don't want to walk around with two bung knees and my fingers busted up playing football, I could sing, I could play.

"Growing up on Umeewarra Mission, I had a limited idea of who we are as a people, but I had an opportunity to start creating music and songs.

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

"Music is ingrained in us through corroboree, through ceremony, it has been passed down from generation to generation, and music for me has been that.

"I have learned to be a song-



Russell 'Rusty' Smith at Umeewarra Mission on the outskirts of Port Augusta, behind him is the dorm where he spent most of his childhood. Pictures: Jillian Mundy.



Russell Smith helped young pizza-box percussionists Logan Anderson and Laz Wilton conquer their stage fright.

man and writing contemporary music is a form of passing knowledge on."

A master of the yidaki, Smith has performed with big names in Australian music, including the late Archie Roach, Paul Kelly, Goanna, Tommy Emmanuel and Amy Shark.

He has worked alongside the legendary late Sixto Rodriguez, international composers and played yidaki for private audiences including the late Nelson Mandela and Muhammed Ali, to mega crowds at the AFL grandfinal.

He is frontman and founding member of indie-rock band Brolga (formerly The Brolga Boys), who have been playing together for more than 20 years, with varying line ups.

But the biggest honour has been touring with Archie Roach in Australia and overseas in his final years – playing didge and helping care for him.

"I was blessed, that was the one job I had to do and I did it, and then to go back and finish my record, and I did that.

"And what a great mentor to have.

"He just told me things about

the music industry, he showed me how to be professional on stage, when I toured with him, I sat and watched him, I sat and learnt."

Rusty would help Uncle Archie in and out of his wheelchair for each performance.

"It was heartbreaking, but it was an honour to do it, that has really humbled me.

"The one man that taught us how to play music, he taught a generation of musicians to be who they are.

"He opened big doors."

Opportunity

Russell takes every opportunity to open doors for other First Nations people -

whether it be sitting beside primary school aged pizza-box percussionists with a bout of stage fright at the Umeewarra Downtown Festival, stage managing teenage band Mulga Bore Hard Rock when they opened for KISS or being involved in community initiatives and events where he lives on Tamborine Mountain in South East Queensland and the local cops call him a community role model.

"You've got to pass it on,



Stanley 'Stano' Baxter presented Russell with the Hall of Fame Medal at the Umeewarra Downtown Festival.

they're the next generation of musicians, if you can't pass the baton down as a professional musician, you're not doing your job, I learned that from Archie."

Rusty, who turns 60 next week, has spent years working in the philanthropic sector, was a Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair board member, has a long association with the Michael Long Foundation and Long Walk and is setting up Iwara Tjuta, a foundation to provide educational opportunities for Aboriginal youth.

"I didn't have a good start in life, I learnt the hard way, kids today don't need to, they shouldn't be starting hard."

He's also a dedicated father and husband, learning to be a chef and is passionate about feeding people, driven by not getting his fill as a kid, and Brolga finally recorded an album that was launched last year.

"We're getting there as they say."

The self-titled album available on Apple Music and Spotify, has tracks about family, history,

understanding, reconciliation and country.

"My ambition is to share songs that tell some of the things that are important to me as an Aboriginal person," Rusty explained.

Keen to tour

Through years of hard work and working in all kinds of positions in the music industry he has surrounded himself with a professional crew and great musicians and is keen to tour, including to Antarctica.

At the induction last year SA Hall of Fame director Enrico Morena declared Rusty 'a role model not just for South Australia or his Mob but for the whole of Australia'.

● You can see Brolga, which includes includes Dave Mudie, Bones Sloane, Phil Ceberano, Matty Vehl and Lee 'Sonnyboy' Morgan, play on Wadawurrung Country at City Oval Ballarat this Saturday, March 2, at the Treaty Day Out.



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

 We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land where we live and work and their continuing connection to land, water, sea and community. We pay respects to Australia's First Peoples, to their unique and diverse cultures, and to Elders past, present and future.

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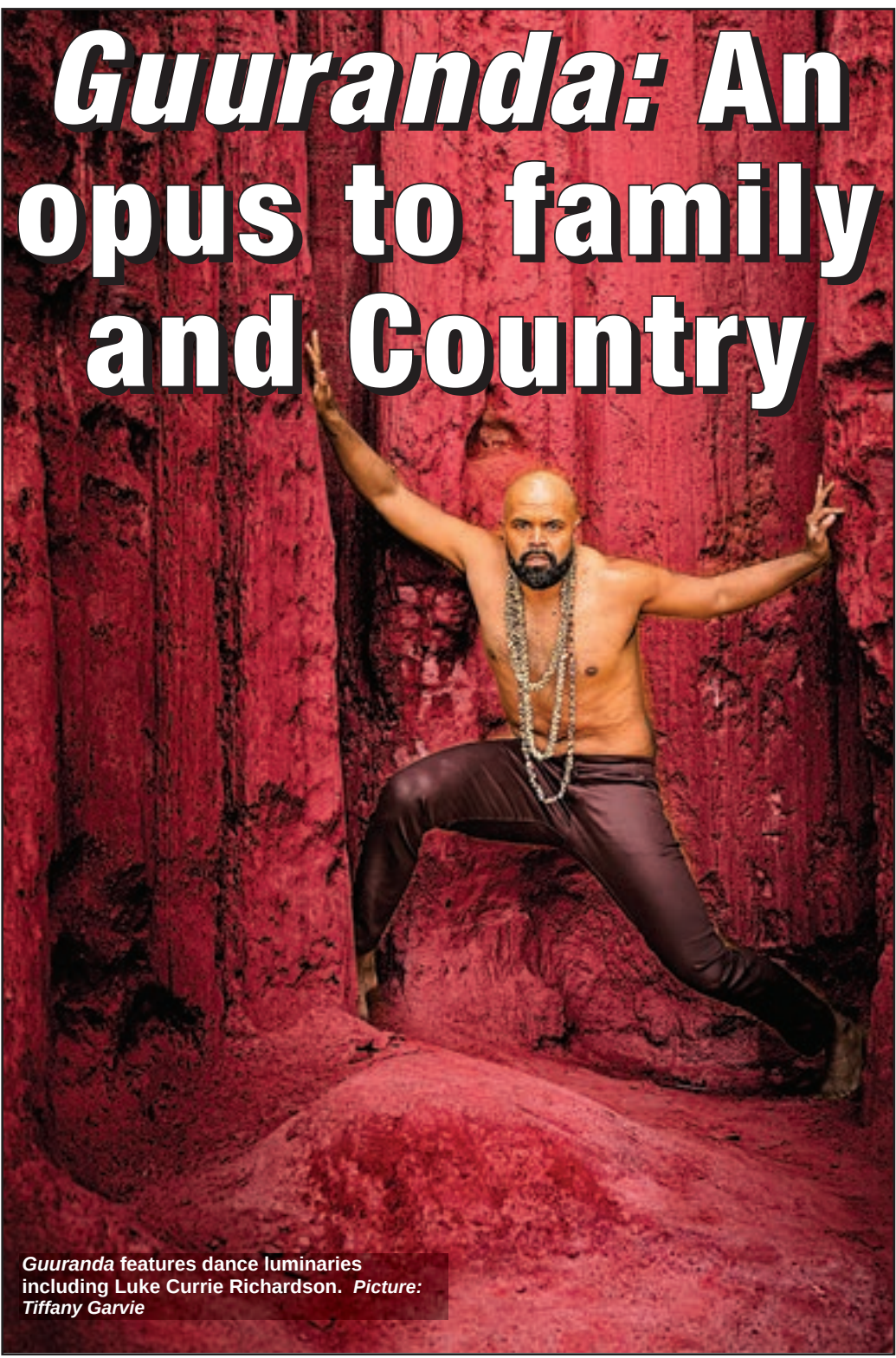
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Guuranda: An opus to family and Country



Guuranda features dance luminaries including Luke Currie Richardson. Picture: Tiffany Garvie

By ALI MC

 THERE'S video, there's dance and puppetry – and it's all sung in Narungga language. The brand-new multimedia show *Guuranda* is a monumental new theatre work telling Narungga Creation stories of South Australia's Yorke Peninsula – and it's set to open at the Adelaide Festival.

Narungga/ Kurna director Jacob Boehme told the *Koori Mail* the work was developed in close consultation with a large cast of Elders and family members

"It's my opus to family and to Country," he said.

The seeds of the show were planted at a community consultation five years ago.

"One of the aspirations that came out of that was the desire to have our stories presented on a main stage in a major festival within the next five years," Boehme said. "Which gave me my marching orders to get cracking."

Taking its title from the Narungga language name for the Yorke Peninsula, *Guuranda* tells of three distinct creation stories from the area. It features songwoman Sonya Rankine and songman Warren Milera, along with artwork by visual artist Kylie O'Loughlin.

"We went on a huge walking across Country with Kylie," Boehme said. "And then we commissioned her to paint a series of 12 paintings in response to those dreaming sites where the stories happen."

Uniquely, the show also features thirty members of the Narungga family choir, comprised of Boehme's relatives.

"We started a family choir," he said. "We've been re-learning our language, and now they're singing these stories for everyone else to hear."

While many of his family members already spoke some Narungga, he said the choir was a way to keep the family connected with the language, especially for those who grew up off Country.

"There's a lot of us cousins that were all born and raised on Kulin Country because our parents or our grandparents moved over from South Australia during the exemption years," he said.

He was referring to the time when 'exemption certificates' forced First Nations peoples to deny their Aboriginality.

"There's a whole generation of us that have been born and raised here, off Country but have connections because we go back and forth," he said.

"But we've all grown up in families where in Narungga language was spoken. It's been a broken language, but we've always had Narungga mixed in with English. This project has got us back in touch with learning more about the language."

Boehme explained how the choir recorded songs in a studio, which were then featured in *Guuranda* as a multi-media projection.

"Because they're not used to live performance – and I wouldn't dare inflict that on them – we worked the family up to perform in front of a camera and then they are projected into the space," he said.

Boehme said that the aim of *Guuranda* is for audiences to understand that such creation stories are not myths from the past, but relevant stories that everyone can learn from in the present.

He said he hoped the message audiences would take away from the show is that "we, as a family and as a culture and as a community, are strong – that our culture is beautiful."

"These stories are a reminder of our relationship and responsibility to this Country and we do have a responsibility to this Country," he said. "The best legacy that we could leave to future generations, is a land that they can continue to walk on."

Guuranda runs from Thursday, February 29 to Sunday, March 3 at Her Majesty's Theatre, Adelaide.

Breaking the juvenile crime cycle



A PROGRAM that sends First Nations juvenile offenders to regional areas rather than detention centres will be expanded by the Queensland government.

The on-Country initiative is already on trial in the state, relocating Indigenous children to work on the land and learn life skills in a bid to break the cycle of offending.

As pressure on the juvenile detention system grows amid a youth crime outcry, Premier Steven Miles confirmed the relocation sentencing program will be expanded across the state.

Mr Miles and Youth Justice Minister Di Farmer made the announcement on Wednesday in Townsville, one of three locations where the program is being trialled.

Ms Farmer said the on-country program was voluntary.

"I need to be really clear on this - this is not an alternative to detention," she said.

"If a young person needs to

be in detention that's where they'll go. This will never be an alternative to that."

The government is seeking expressions of interest from First Nations organisations to deliver the expanded Intensive On Country Trial for Indigenous Children.

"There isn't one simple solution to stopping all youth offending, but evidence tells us that on-Country programs have had some real success," Mr Miles said.

Interventions

"This program will provide First Nations young people with on-Country experiences and culturally informed interventions, while also providing connection and an opportunity to change offending behaviour."

It will expand on the current program trial in Townsville, Cairns and Mount Isa that began in 2020.

The program involves camps, cultural activities, mentoring and intensive case work support. Family and in-home support is also provided.

Indigenous children are

taught practical life skills from cooking and cleaning to budgeting, getting bank accounts and finding accommodation.

The state government said data indicated young people who participated in on-Country programs were less likely to reoffend (58 per cent) compared with those who had not (64 per cent).

The Katter Australian Party (KAP) has been advocating relocation sentencing in Queensland since 2017.

KAP state members said the government's announcement on Wednesday had a "striking resemblance" to their relocation policy. However, they believed it lacked their policy's key components – making the program mandatory with fixed terms, having it in a remote location and offering "intensive rehabilitation".

"On Country 2.0 will be a waste of time if kids see it as an extended school excursion," KAP leader Robbie Katter said.

KAP deputy leader Nick Dametto said it was disappointing only First Nations offenders were eligible. – AAP

History awards now open



NOMINATIONS are now open for the NSW Premier's History Awards 2024. Administered by State Library and Create NSW, a total of \$85,000 in prize money is on offer over six categories.

Categories are the: Australian History Prize, General History Prize, New South Wales Community and Regional History Prize, Young People's History Prize, Digital History Prize and The Anzac Memorial Trustees' Military History Prize.

The Awards acknowledge the contribution of historical research to our culture and communities, and to society at large. Past

winners have included Rachel Perkins and Warwick Thornton.

Works incorporating Aboriginal Dreaming stories must be published or produced with the participation and permission of the traditional owners of the stories.

To be eligible, submitted works must be first published, broadcast, screened or made publicly available between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024 and be commercially available within this period. A discounted early-bird entry fee applies and entries close April 3.

Guidelines and nomination forms are available at sl.nsw.gov.au/awards/nsw-premiers-history-awards.

WA employment grants



TRAINING and employment grants for Aboriginal people in Western Australia are now open for applications.

The State Government Aboriginal Employment Enabling Program (AEEP) grants will provide funds to organisations to develop and implement innovative solutions that address the barriers Aboriginal people face in engaging in the workforce – and help achieve positive training and employment outcomes.

The \$1.35 million in state government funding will provide targeted and practical training and employment support to Aboriginal people in the Kimberley and the Goldfields-Esperance regions.

Opportunities

The grants program will provide funding for activities, services or projects that support Aboriginal people to engage in training and employment opportunities; employers to improve their cultural competency; and organisations, including Aboriginal Community

Controlled Organisations, to build their capability to help Aboriginal people accessing employment and/or training, or employers recruiting and retaining Aboriginal employees.

Following extensive research, analysis of workforce participation data and stakeholder consultation, the Kimberley and the Goldfields-Esperance regions have been chosen as pilot regions for the grants program.

Applications close March 22. For more information, email AEEP.Grants@dtwd.wa.gov.au or visit tenders.wa.gov.au

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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- ▶ Broken Hill

CONTACT: ctgprojects@alc.org.au | 9689 4467
www.alc.org.au/nsw-capo

SCAN FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER

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.

Express your interest by 18 March by filling out a short form. Successful candidates will receive support to develop a full proposal and costing for their idea.

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



NSW Environmental Trust Protecting Our Places Grants

Grants are available for Aboriginal community groups and organisations throughout NSW for projects that assist Aboriginal communities in protecting, conserving, and restoring cultural landscapes and waterways that are of importance to local Aboriginal communities.

Grants of up to \$80,000 over three years are available.

The Trust will provide project management capacity-building training and mentoring to funded grantees to assist in the successful delivery of their environmental project.

Applications now open.

Applications close at 5 pm on 2 April 2024.

Contact the Trust for further information about the grants, please visit environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au or contact the Trust on (02) 8837 6093 or email info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au

Register for our information session via Eventbrite.



Ask your mob, your way,

RUOK?



STRONGER TOGETHER

ruok.org.au/strongertogether

Aurukun honours top citizens



KOOLKAN Aurukun State School principal Baressa Frazer was awarded the Aurukun Citizen of the Year and Police Liaison Officer Chantelle Walmbeng was

awarded Junior Citizen of the Year at a ceremony in the community on February 17.

Aurukun Mayor Keri Tamwoy said the annual Aurukun Shire Council awards recognised people who had shown community leadership for the Wik, Wik Waya and Kugu people.

"I congratulate Baressa and Chantelle who are outstanding role models for the youth of Aurukun and are determined that our younger generation will have a better future on their homelands," Mayor Tamwoy said.

"Baressa is a strong, elegant and passionate Wik woman who is a tireless advocate for Aurukun's children.

"She has returned to her community to lead local education as the principal of Koolkan Aurukun State School where she connects teachers and employees to culture and community.

Passion

"Her passion and knowledge of culture, language and community is invaluable, and she teaches both children and adults with a gentle strength.

"Baressa has researched, designed and is implementing a Wik pedagogy at Koolkan Aurukun State School, collaborating with the Language Group, Elders and the APN Rangers to bring this theory into action.

"The work is monumental and is creating



Koolkan Aurukun State School principal Baressa Frazer.

a pathway for Aurukun students to successfully learn while keeping their culture alive.

"Chantelle was an active founding member of the PCYC Kang Kang Youth Leadership team where she volunteered her time and was a part of many community initiatives.

"She became the Police Liaison Officer for PCYC Aurukun in March 2023 while

completing Year 12, becoming the youngest PLO in Queensland.

"In this role Chantelle has demonstrated a commitment to learn and shows up every day for work on time.

"In her free time she has been attending Koolkan Aurukun State School to assist in the mornings and to support the young people of Aurukun in achieving an education.



Aurukun's Young Citizen of the Year Chantelle Walmbeng receives her award from Deputy Mayor Craig Koomeeta.

"The young leader is speaking at the Say NO to Domestic Violence conference in Cairns this month about her life experiences and the support to reduce domestic violence in the community.

"Chantelle's leadership and willingness to take on new challenges such as the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award will ensure she is a force for change in the Aurukun community for years to come."

PLUTO FACILITY OPERATIONS ENVIRONMENT PLAN

For more than 35 years, Woodside has been developing and operating LNG and oil projects in Australia. Our focus is the safety, reliability, efficiency and environmental performance of our operations and activities.

Woodside consults so that feedback from relevant persons is considered and used to inform the revision of the Pluto Facility Operations Environment Plan.

Our activities

The Pluto facility is a not-normally-crewed facility that has been in production since 2012 and is located offshore in Commonwealth waters approximately 160 km north west of Dampier.

Woodside plans to continue producing wet gas and condensate from the Pluto, Xena and Pyxis reservoirs and is submitting a five-year revision to the operational Environment Plan. The Environment Plan for the Pluto facility will cover routine operations and integrate drilling, subsea installation, commissioning (drilling and tieback) and production from the Xena-03 well into the existing Pluto production systems.

We are seeking input from relevant persons whose functions, interests or activities may be affected by continued operations.

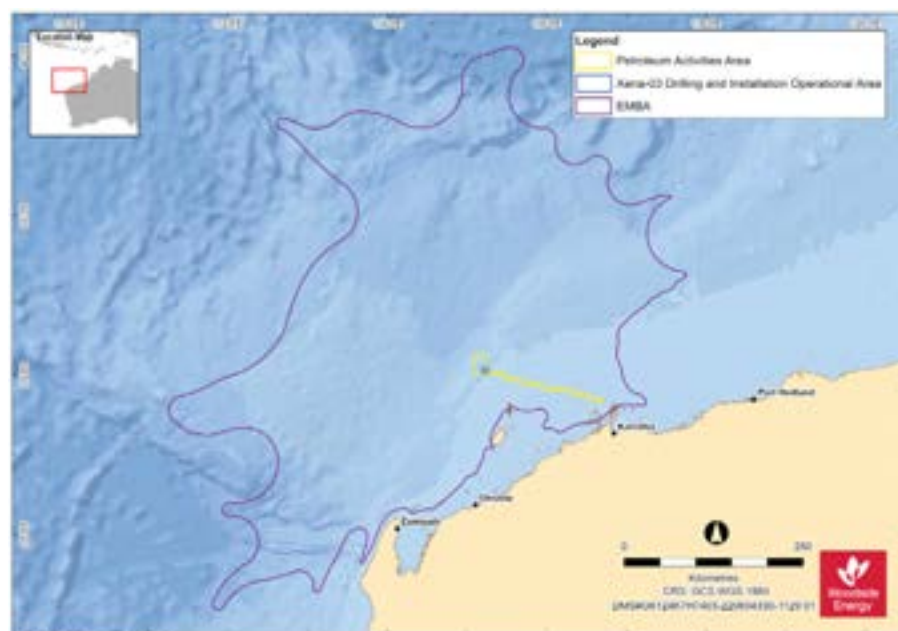
The environment that may be affected (EMBA)

The EMBA is the largest area where activities could potentially have a direct or indirect impact. The broadest extent of the EMBA takes into consideration planned and unplanned activities, and for this Environmental Plan, is determined by modelling a highly unlikely event of a hydrocarbon release to the environment.

The EMBA represents the merged area of many possible modelled paths that a highly unlikely hydrocarbon release could travel if left unmitigated and depending on the weather and ocean conditions at the time of the release. This means in the highly unlikely event a hydrocarbon release does occur, the whole EMBA will not be affected.

We want to hear from you

If you are an individual, organisation or community group and believe your functions, interests or activities may be impacted by our activities, we would like to hear from you by **Wednesday, 29 March 2024**.



Want to know more or provide input?

A feedback form and more information can be found at:
www.woodside.com/what-we-do/consultation-activities

You can also subscribe via our website to receive future information on upcoming activities.

E: Feedback@woodside.com
Toll free: 1800 442 977
woodside.com



Ceduna housing struggle



UP to 250 Aboriginal people are in danger of being forced

into homelessness in the Ceduna Aboriginal Homelands.

The Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation (CAC) is calling for urgent government intervention to prevent the crisis happening, particularly in light of the national discussions on the Australian housing predicament.

The Ceduna Aboriginal Homelands was established in the late 1990s through state and commonwealth funds, which provided eight family groups with agriculture opportunities and housing.

A lack of funding to maintain the housing stocks and ageing infrastructure is forcing the current crisis, with many families facing the likelihood of homelessness.

"The homelands we have been supporting is the result of 20 years of neglect," CAC chief executive Wayne Miller said.

"Some of the houses are falling around the residents and it's forcing them into homelessness. However, there is no alternative housing as the current local housing crisis has a wait list of up to 10 years."

Mr Miller said several of the family groups have found their own solutions to their housing problems and embarked on small economic initiatives over the many years – such as share-farming – but they have been unable to keep up with the rising costs of living, ageing infrastructure and statutory costs.

He also said the corporation was disturbed to uncover that the Ceduna Homelands appears to have been left off important initiatives like SA's Closing the Gap and the SA Housing Trust housing agenda.

"It seems those who live on the homelands are the forgotten people," he said.

"I am concerned about the lack of efforts to invest in new housing in Ceduna to prevent the rough sleeping that is continuing to occur.

"This was a key highlight of the 2011 Coronial inquest and recently *The Guardian* again identified the correlation between rough sleeping, homelessness and violence and death-related incidents.

"We don't want to have to wait for another Inquest to tell us what we already know.

"It's not good enough to say there isn't enough supply when we have houses in the community sitting vacant and homelands housing just needing an investment of funds to bring them up to proper living standards.

"These are easy solutions to prevent what is about to unfold."

Mr Miller said he has called for an urgent meeting with Minister for Human Services, Nat Cook, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Kyam Maher, the Minister for Regional Development, Geoff Brock and others to discuss the issues.

"I invited the ministers to come and see firsthand what is happening here," he said.

"It's not just the homelessness but the spiralling social decay that may result from that I am concerned with.

"The Ceduna community doesn't need any further issues. Better engagement with our people can prevent overcrowding and homelessness.

"I'm hoping that the government will see the urgency here and partner with us and invest in our solutions."



Wayne Miller, chief executive of Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation.

Dubbo hospital renamed



THE former Lourdes Hospital in Dubbo has been renamed Walanmarra, which translates to 'make strong' in Wiradjuri language, as part of its incorporation into Dubbo Health Service. Walanmarra will be a place for rehabilitation, aged care and palliative care.

Dubbo Health Service collaborated with the Western NSW Local Health District Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing team, and the local community Aboriginal Wayfinding Working Party to develop the new name.

Services provided at Walanmarra

include inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, transitional aged care programs (TACP), as well as palliative care.

Inpatient Allied Health services include Occupational Therapy, Speech Pathology, Dietetics, Physiotherapy and Social Work.

Rehabilitation

Walanmarra also provides outpatient rehabilitation services and specialist medical outpatient clinics.

"It is wonderful to see the Wiradjuri language coming to life in the community through this renaming," NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, David

Harris said.

"The Wiradjuri people are the largest Aboriginal nation in NSW and it is fitting that we acknowledge the ongoing custodians of the land in this way.

"All residents of NSW should have great pride in the strength and diversity of Aboriginal languages and cultures of our state which this Government is committed to preserving."

Dubbo Health Service General Manager, Debbie Bickerton, said "Walanmarra or 'make strong' is of particular significance to the inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services we provide."

LET'S RESTORE OUR RIVERS



The Murray-Darling rivers support communities, farms and the environment, with benefits flowing through to our whole nation.

They're also an area of significant cultural importance to First Nations people.

But water is being overused, and the next drought is only a matter of time.

We have to make sure there's enough water, otherwise the rivers may run dry.

Find out how the Australian Government's plan will restore the Murray-Darling rivers at murraydarling.gov.au



Australian Government

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.

Protecting children and young people



A NEW National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People is set to be established by the Federal Government.

The Australian Children's Commissioners Guardians and Advocates (ACCGA) group said the new appointment will send a powerful message to families and communities and is "a turning point for children and families

across Australia".

ACCGA spokesperson WA Commissioner for Children and Young People, Jacqueline McGowan-Jones said ACCGA had long campaigned for the establishment of this 'critical' role.

Advocate

"The National Commissioner will have the power to advocate for policy change and drive much-needed discussion and engagement around issues that impact First Nations children and

young people," Ms McGowan-Jones said.

"Too many of our children and young people suffer from over-representation in the youth justice and out-of-home care systems, are disengaged from education or facing significant health and mental health challenges.

"It is critical that we reverse this appalling situation before we lose another generation.

"This appointment will ensure First Nations children and young people are better supported to live

the life they deserve and that families are strengthened by solutions designed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Campaign for change

"So much work has gone on behind the scenes to make this appointment a reality and I would like to thank my ACCGA colleagues for continuing to campaign for change that will benefit our children and young people now and for future generations."

ACCGA is a collective group dedicated to safeguarding the rights and wellbeing of children and young people across the nation. Other key supporters in spearheading the campaign advocating for the establishment of the new role are Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC), and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Safe and Supported Leadership Group – many of whom are First Nations commissioners, guardians and advocates.



Have your say on how to improve the rules managing coastal floodplain drainage works in NSW

The NSW Government is committed to improving the regulatory framework and water quality impacts associated with coastal floodplain drainage and has released an options report for consultation.

The Coastal Floodplain Drainage Project Options Report lays out six proposals to address the complexity, time and costs involved with the approvals process and reduce the impact of agricultural drainage works on downstream water quality, aquatic ecosystems, communities and industries.

We want to hear your feedback on the proposed options.

Complete our survey by 11.59 pm, Sunday 21 April 2024.

Visit water.nsw.gov.au/coastal-floodplain-drainage



SB1372

Funeral to honour the legacy of O'Donoghue



THE legacy of Aboriginal rights trailblazer Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue, who helped inspire some of the greatest changes to Indigenous recognition in Australia's history, will be honoured at a state funeral.

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.

She died on February 4 aged 91 on Kurna Country in Adelaide with her immediate family by her side.

South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas announced Dr O'Donoghue would be honoured at a state funeral on March 8.

"Through her lifelong work, Dr O'Donoghue has made an incredible contribution to the betterment of our country and people," Mr Malinauskas said Tuesday.

"(She) leaves a legacy of strong advocacy, passion and dedication."

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 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 after her death.

She was a member of the stolen generation, taken from her mother at two and put in a children's home.

In the 60s, she joined Aboriginal rights groups in South Australia



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

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

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 advising then prime minister Kevin Rudd on the 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.

The state funeral will take place at 1pm at St Peter's Cathedral, on Kurna Country in North Adelaide.

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.



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CONNECTIONS





The Jardine River Ferry.

Ferry is a vital link to remote regions

By ALF WILSON



THE ferry across the Jardine River heading towards the Northern Peninsula Area centres of Bamaga, Injinoo, New Mapoon, Umagico and

Seisia is a part of an important road link to those remote Indigenous communities.

It is operated by the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC) and Aboriginal staff mainly control it.

NPARC Chief Executive Officer Kate Gallaway has told the *Koori Mail* that crossing times for the Jardine Ferry during 2024 as from May 1 to October 31 will be from 7am until 6pm, and between November 1 to April 30 from 8am until 5pm.

"Council cannot operate the ferry out of hours due to operational reasons for staff and public safety which includes managing high risk of fatigue, night-time driving hazards, nocturnal wildlife movement and road conditions," Kate said..

"A number of staff are required on site to operate the vessel safely and in accordance with compliance requirements. This does not impact on people who need to access the ferry in case of emergency by contacting 000."

"Travellers are encouraged to plan their road trips ahead to ensure they arrive during opening hours or be prepared to camp at the Jardine

River Campsite.

"During the NPA region's busy tourism period between the months of May to October the Jardine Ferry can have significant delays due to the large volume of travellers enroute to the tip of Cape York. All vehicles must make sure to arrive at the ferry by 4pm to ensure a timely crossing of the Jardine River and avoid missing the ferry closing time," she said.

Wet season

During the wet season which generally occurs between the months of November and April, the regions can experience heavy rainfall, sometimes causing flooding and or land slips, which can isolate communities, industries and travellers.

As a result of this flooding, roads can be cut off or washed away.

Roads that have been flooded must be carefully managed. To do this, road closures, load restrictions and traffic management may be implemented to protect the road asset and balance access for communities and industries.

Main Roads provides regular updates to RACQ about road conditions on the network in Queensland.

The road is mainly red dirt with lots of corrugations and during dry periods it is regularly graded.

When it is closed freight and supplies are delivered to the communities by sea and to a lesser degree by planes.



Crossing times for the Jardine Ferry during 2024 as from May 1 to October 31 will be from 7am until 6pm, and between November 1 to April 30 from 8am until 5pm. Pictures by Michael Namok (Northern Peninsula Regional Council).



Australian Government
Australian Heritage Council

Australian Heritage Council – Expressions of Interest invited to fill vacancies

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, on behalf of the Minister for the Environment and Water, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, is seeking to appoint new members of the Australian Heritage Council (the council) to fill anticipated vacancies from 23 June 2024, in accordance with the *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003* (the AHC Act).

The council plays an important role in the Australian Government's protection of natural, cultural and Indigenous heritage by providing independent advice to the minister on the assessment, listing and promotion of National and Commonwealth Heritage places.

Appointments to the council are made by the minister under the AHC Act. Under the AHC Act, in appointing members, the minister must ensure that:

- the chair has substantial experience or expertise concerning heritage
- two members have substantial experience or expertise concerning natural heritage
- two members have substantial experience or expertise concerning historic heritage
- two members are Indigenous persons with substantial experience or expertise concerning Indigenous heritage, at least one of whom represents the interests of Indigenous people
- applicants are not employees of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

Expressions of interest are invited for the appointments of the chair, two historic heritage members and two Indigenous heritage members. The successful applicants will be highly collaborative and have significant standings in their relevant fields.

The council meets face-to-face at least four times a year and virtually as required. Further information about the council is available on the department's website.

Appointments are part-time. Remuneration for members of the council is determined under www.remtribunal.gov.au/part-time-offices. The current per annum remuneration, effective 8 June 2023, for the position of chair is \$82,960 and for the member positions is \$37,340.

To Apply:

- Interested applicants will need to submit a summary CV (2–3 pages) with the contact details of two referees, a statement of interest (approx. 1500 words) including details of relevant experience or expertise.
- Completed applications will need to be submitted via the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water recruitment system, dcceew.gov.au/about/jobs/apply, by **11.30 pm (AEDT) Sunday 17 March 2024**.
- Please email the Australian Heritage Council Secretariat at AHC.Secretariat@dcceew.gov.au if you require further information. Please note, by applying for this position you agree to the department's Privacy Policy and a job-specific privacy statement within the Candidate Information Package.

2991KL_4750

Space for First Nations musicians to perform

By PAUL CONNELLY



THE weekly Blak Stage open Mic at the Retreat Hotel in Naarm (Melbourne) is about to enter its 5th year and shows no signs of slowing up.

Event creator Troy Benjamin from Deadly Events said it grew out of a need for a place for First Nations performers to play on equal footing with other musicians.

"The idea grew in my mind after Share the Spirit and working with the NAIDOC Committee, and I noticed that a lot of blackfella artists were not getting a lot of opportunity outside of these key events," Troy said.

"Over several years this kept repeating itself. I kept having to tell Mob no you can't play at this or that event and it shattered me, so I thought I would create a stage for Mob to be able to get up and perform.

"The Retreat Hotel has been very supportive from the start and that support has never waned. They have never given up on the event, even when at times we struggled through COVID and cold winters with very few people coming along."

From the first Blak Stage Open Mic night, the event has now grown to a well attended evening every Tuesday and will soon celebrate its 5th birthday.

More recently the event started featuring a guest artist as a drawcard to promote the event, with the most recent Summer Series featuring well known First Nation artists such as the Bart Willoughby Band, Kiwat Kennell, Canisha, Charlie Needs Braces, Uncle Kutcha Edwards, The Deans of Soul and many more.

This series was supported and assisted with funding from Songlines Aboriginal Music and that was matched with equal funding from the Retreat Hotel.

Songlines general manager Brad Brown told the *Koori Mail*: "These events saw larger crowds attend and though a spot was being taken from open mic board, it gave the regular unknown performers a chance to perform in front of a larger audience."

"We were involved in the summer series as a sponsor and we will be continuing that sponsorship into the future with the upcoming Autumn Series," Brad said.

"It is a really fun night, it is not about just going to the pub and getting drunk, it is about the music and people getting together. It is an open mic and we have had other cultures turn and tell us they love the idea and want to be included. We have had people from all over the world play on this stage, it is not just for Mob, it is open to everyone, we don't close the doors or create barriers, and from this others are learning about Aboriginal Culture. For a Tuesday night it can be really hard to get people along, however we have been well supported by the community."

The event looks set to continue to provide a safe and enjoyable space for performers into the future, as Troy points out: "Our Autumn series will launch on the 5th of March and we have an amazing lineup planned, more details will be released soon, just keep following Deadly Events on Facebook for more details," Troy said.

"We would love to see more musos and fans of music come along and support this incredible event."

Blak Stage runs every Tuesday evening from 7.30pm to 10.30pm at the Retreat Hotel in Brunswick. BYO instruments.



Wykdfolk featuring Brian Morely and Aleks Stojilovic.



LEO aka Leonie Whyman.



Brad Brown Songlines Aboriginal Music general manager.



Musician Teddy Chessells plays a tune.

Danny Eastwood's view



A YARN WITH...



Fred Nardoo Palm Island (Bwngcolman man, 23)

Favourite bush tucker?
Berries.

Best saltwater food?
Mud crabs, turtle and dugong.

Favourite non-Indigenous food?

Pizza Hawaiian.

Favourite other food?
Steak, especially rib fillet or rump.

Favourite drink?
Pasito.

Favourite music?
R&B and 2Pac.

Favourite sport?
Rugby league. I follow the Cowboys.

Favourite holiday destination?
Islands around Palm.

Favourite movie?
The Avengers and *Spider Man*.

What do you like in life?
Spending as much time with family and friends.

What don't you like in life?
Police who don't treat my people well.

Which Black or Indigenous person would you most like to meet?
Rhiannon the musician.

Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire?
All Elders on Palm Island.

Who or what inspires you?
My children – one is on the way.

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people?
Try and ensure the younger ones get a good education.

Quote



“The inevitable will be what it is when we get there. I think that’s part of the challenge for us all is to face those unknowns.”

– Gamilaroi man and director of the First Nations Strategy and Partnerships at Black Dog Institute, Dr Clinton Schultz

● See page 1

Unquote

Keeping the Black Dog at bay

The term ‘black dog’ has long been a metaphor that describes a state of depression characterised by sadness or a lack of will to partake in activities you once enjoyed. It’s that feeling that you get when you feel stuck, unable to overcome whatever issues or pressures that you are facing.

No-one is immune from it, but there are resources available to help those going through such times.

There’s also people that we can look up to for inspiration, like those featured on our front page, who have set out on a journey to climb to the South Base Camp of Mt Everest in Nepal.

Of course the journey itself is impressive enough, but also is their mission to raise \$50,000 for the Black Dog Institute’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Centre – the first of its kind in Australia and internationally.

As Dr Clinton Schultz, who heads up the centre, explained: “This Lived Experience Centre will be the conduit that links networks together to mobilise, amplify and enable the right people to have a seat at the table to deliver culturally focused and safe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led suicide prevention, mental wellbeing programs and initiatives”.

“We all have our own experiences, personally or within our families, of suicide,” he said.



It’s a worthy aim, and one that most people could relate to as it would be rare to find any family, or group of people, who have not been impacted by trauma and depression at some stage in their lives.

There’s no arguing that life can be really tough and sometimes just having someone to have a yarn with can make all the difference. Support from others who might have experienced similar experiences can also make a real difference.

And remember. Not everyone has to climb the highest mountain to make a difference ... but when they do, it’s great to support such endeavours and wish them all the best on their journey up those steep, icy paths.

Only by supporting each other – and contributing where we can to further research into mental illness – can we ever hope to achieve community-wide health, happiness and prosperity.

And while at times it might seem to be a long way to the top, always remember every journey starts with first steps.

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

'Black of all trades' has bright ideas on writing

By LIINA FLYNN

WHEN Muruwari woman Jane Harrison wrote *The Visitors* she didn't know that her play about the landing of the First Fleet in Sydney Harbour would also be turned into an opera.

But, the 'black of all trades' – as she calls herself – embraced the challenge and took on writing the libretto (words) – for the unique opera with a First Nations cast.

"The music was so lovely and the Indigenous singers weren't all opera singers," Jane told the *Koori Mail*.

"So Christopher Sainsbury, an Indigenous man, wrote the music for their voices. – and the singers all honour the story deeply in how they tell it.

The Visitors

"When I started writing *The Visitors* in 2011, I was interested in writing a play about the 2007 NT intervention.

"I was horrified at how it problematised Aboriginal men and I wanted to write about how cultural, strong, wise and funny family Aboriginal men are.

"My idea started with seven Aboriginal men – and over a few productions of the play, it grew to include women as well.

"I also wanted to write about January 26, as a lot of Australians don't know the true history and I wanted to educate them.

"The first production of the play was in 2020 at the Sydney Festival, then last year, Moogahlin Theatre brought it back for five weeks to the Sydney Opera House."

Jane said if you missed seeing *The Visitors* last year, the show will be touring around regional Australia throughout 2024.

Blak & Bright

As well as being a playwright, Jane has also taken on being the artistic director of a major event – the Blak & Bright First Nations literary festival.

Held in Naarm from March 13 to 17, the festival has a name similar to that of the black&write! Indigenous writing fellowships.

Jane herself was the recipient of one of the black&write! fellowships early in her career, receiving mentorship and the opportunity to be published.

"We both operate in the same literature space and so I asked the black&write! organisation if we could use the name Blak & Bright," Jane said.

"Now we can drive attention to each other's great work."

Jane's journey

Jane said her own journey to become a successful playwright took years of writing and persistence.

Jane grew up in Melbourne with her fine-artist mother, and



Top: Muruwari woman and playwright Jane Harrison. **Bottom:** Scenes from Harrison's play *The Visitors*. **Pictures:** supplied.

said she has "arts in the blood".

"I'm not a good artist, but mum could draw beautifully and make prints," she said.

Her mother's father William 'Deucem' Smith was a famous sheep shearer who could 'deuce' or out-shear all his competitors.

"There's even a Smith Street named after him now – he was the first Aboriginal man to be inducted into the shearers hall of fame," Jane said.

"I never got to meet him but I always followed my own career path and did what I love to do, not what I 'should' be doing.

"As a single mother, I've always had to work, even while I was writing on the side.

"I worked in advertising as a

copywriter at first. Then I saw a tiny ad in the paper looking for a writer at Ilbjerri Theatre. That's when I started writing *Stolen* and took six years to get to the stage – I'd almost given up on it.

"Now, my day job is Blak & Bright, but I also have two plays and an adult fiction novel on the go.

"I'm also a procrastinator and need deadlines.

"It took me 16 years to write my first adult novel.

"When I entered it in the black&write! prize, the first year I wasn't considered. They said do another draft.

"I remember writing it while I was freezing cold in Wilsons Prom, but got it finished".

Then her book *Becoming Kirrali Lewis* won the State Library of Queensland 2014 black&write! Indigenous Writing Fellowship.

Call to action

The Blak & Bright festival theme this year is Blak Futures Now, which Jane said is a powerful call to action, emphasising the significance of First Nations narratives in literature, and optimism for the future.

"With Blak & Bright, we want to create opportunities and invite First Nations people to support their peers and be inspired," she said.

Jane said one of the ways

Blak & Bright mentors First Nations writers is through a facilitated online group session where people can practise writing or work on their own projects.

"And we invite everyone to come to our Pitch Blak event at the festival, where aspiring writers get to pitch to publishers.

"It's like a speed dating event and your pitch could be as simple as having an idea.

"For anyone who needs to think it through more, we produce tips for writers on our website and help people elevate their story pitch.

"Publishers are commercial and look for unique stories that win awards – and you need to make sure you know your audience before pitching it to a publisher.

"If you have a story to tell, find a way to tell it – whether it's spoken word or a play.

"We also don't have to stick to just one format. We are blacks of all trades and can do anything we set our minds on."

Young writers

Held at the Wheeler Centre this year's Blak & Bright festival offers panels, performances and workshops, as well as opportunities for young writers through the Yung, Blak & Bold event.

Jane said one of the guests will be non-binary drag performer and storyteller, Stone Motherless Cold.

"We try to be as diverse as possible – storytelling comes in many forms," she said.

"We also have the Susie Anderson poetry collection and a series of conversation panels where people get to explore their craft, inspirations and read work out loud."

Line-up

Other storymakers, artists and writers at the event include screen icon Leah Purcell, ABC journalist Daniel Browning, queer writer Elijah Money, author Gary Lonesborough, actor and theatre maker Nazaree Dickerson, speculative fiction writer John Morrissey and actor and activist Tamala Shelton.

The Through Our Lens event will see six renowned writers share 12 images that define their stories – images of family, Country, working lives, and the places and people that influence them.

Get involved

Jane said she invites any aspiring writers who want to get involved to "spark a conversation and get in touch with her."

"I'm always happy to look at people's work, and keep in mind that we start inviting people to present at the festival about six months before the event."

To find out more about Blak & Bright, visit blakandbright.com.au/2024



Gold Diary award winners at the Careertrackers gala awards in Naarm.



Meanjin awards MCs Ann-Maree Long and Matty Mills.

CareerTrackers awards



THE annual gala awards of CareerTrackers took place across six locations this year.

Held in Naarm (Melbourne), Meanjin (Brisbane), Warrane (Sydney), Tarndanya (Adelaide) and Boorloo (Perth), the awards celebrated the hard work, educational and workplace achievements of First Nations university students.

CareerTrackers is an internship program that supports First Nations university students and links them with employers in paid internships.

This year's theme, The Future is First Nations, rang true with over 42 awards given to students. Keynote addresses at the gala from students and alumni inspired audiences with stories of resilience and achievement.

CareerTrackers chief executive and Wotjobaluk woman Taryn Marks travelled around the country to hear the stories and feedback from those in the CareerTrackers community.

Ms Marks said "from Meanjin to

Boorloo we express our thanks and gratitude to the Elders for welcoming the CareerTrackers community to their Country and joining in the celebration".

As well as students, interns and their family members, alumni of the program attended, many of whom have gone on to have leadership roles in some of Australia's top corporate companies.

CareerTrackers corporate partners were also honoured with BUPA winning the Partnering for Excellence Award.

Naarm Gala Awards MC Cameron James said "CareerTrackers gave me the opportunity to learn from those within corporate Australia and prepared me for the challenges of running my business Blufire, as well as getting up in front of a large group of people".

Mr James said the gala with Mob "is always special and it gives me goosebumps when I think about it".

This year, a new award for the High School Program, the Future Leaders Awards, was won by up-and-coming CareerTrackers talent Molly West and Alex Lara.



Naarm gala crowd shot.

Naarm gala awards night



Held at the Melbourne Convention Centre with more than 300 attendees, the crowd in Naarm enjoyed a night of networking, posing for glamorous pictures and eating delicious food.

To set the gala off with a bang, an MC team of Dani Gower and Cameron James gave a polished and entertaining double act.

Then an Intern of the Year speech was delivered by an emotional employer and a whole stage full of Gold Diary winners (given to all students with a distinction average throughout the year).

Pictured below: MCs Cameron James and Dani Gower.



Award winner Tallula Harradine-Hodge and CareerTrackers CEO Taryn Marks.



Community Spirit Award Winner Kanisha Wills receives her award at Naarm gala.



Nathan May entertains the crowd at the Tarndanya gala awards night before setting off on his European tour 'Yawuru and Marridjabin clans'.

Tarndanya



In Adelaide, CareerTrackers alumni Malachi Murljadic took on the MCing task. Using inspiration from his own time as a

CareerTrackers intern and his own life and family, he entertained the crowd at Tarndanya's National Wine Centre. The crowd were lucky to catch Nathan May playing guitar before heading off on his European tour.

Pictured left: Proud Kunja Man and CareerTrackers alumni Malachi Murljadic gives an address at the Tarndanya awards.





Pictured above, left: Future Leader Award winner Molly West and community Spirit Award winner Tiarnee Lester at the Boorloo gala awards. Pictured above, centre: Networking on the harbour at the Warrane gala.

The house was packed at the Warrane gala awards night.

celebrate blak excellence



Songwoman Baringa Barambah Meeanjinu delivers the Meanjin Welcome to Country.



MCs Ann-Maree Long and Matty Mills at the Meanjin awards nights.



CareerTrackers CEO Taryn Marks.



Ngaire Pakai speaking.



Student keynote speaker Indi McKeown.

Meanjin gala



The Meanjin gala was held in the Brisbane City Hall ballroom. CareerTrackers director and Gomerol woman Carrie Sailor said that in her time at the CareerTrackers program “I have seen and heard the incredible stories and true impact that the students of this program make. I have seen the full ecosystem it takes to support our students, make the journey from high school and university through to becoming CareerTrackers alumni, joining a proud cohort now in its thousands within the program that is now 14 years old”.

She then addressed the crowd, and said “when I look around the room at your faces I am beyond proud... this is the generation that will lead my children to a better future.”

“I am thankful that my job is to support this community to do great things. And I feel empowered because the strength of our ancestors and this very community in this room keeps me focused and keeps that fire in my belly alight.”



Ann-Maree Long and her mum, Auntie Barb Pershouse.

Warrane



In the picturesque location of Doltone House on Sydney Harbour, more than 600 people enjoyed seafood and drinks before attending the

awards ceremony. The awards were co-hosted by NITV’s Matty Mills and Badtjala woman CareerTrackers’ Ann-Maree Long. Ann-Maree’s mother Badtjala woman Auntie Barb Pershouse also attended and had woven earrings and baskets for the winners. The night finished with a video by Yuin man Jordan Mlotkowski profiling the CareerTrackers interns at SBS, including another talented weaver and a gala keynote speaker, proud Wiradjuri and Maori woman Ngaire Pakai.

Boorloo



The inspiration of strong mums were a feature in many of the winner’s acceptance speeches in Perth.

Yamitji man Cobain Lawrance was keynote speaker and thanked his mum in the audience.

Noongar Elder Dr Roma Yibiyung Winmar, a passionate advocate for education, delivered the Welcome to Country and spoke about the importance of education in her life and her role as Elder in Residence at Edith Cowan University.



CEO’s award winner Lori Wilkinson.



Student keynote speaker Cobain Lawrance and Dr Roma Yibiyung Winma.



MCs Sharlene Baloch and IJ McKenna of the Sovereign Podcast.

Battle to save Country continues

It's 2024 and *FernGully: The Last Rainforest* (1992 movie) is still as poignant and relevant as ever.

It's 2024 and we, the tree people, are still in a battle with the corporations and the developers to stop destruction of our wetlands, our sacred sites and to stop murdering our old ancient ancestors also known as the trees of our existence and our more than human kin.

FernGully and *Avatar* are stories crafted to give us empathy as a human audience. To reflect the harm caused by the colonial and capitalist systems that disregard life. We currently live in a death economy, an economy that thrives of death and destruction and we the people must rise and say enough is enough.

We as the human species must start to shift our gaze beyond the human-centric structures of the colony.

We are calling on you to help us protect our natural homelands not just for us but for those to come. When will we rise to the front line in the revolution where we wake up to knowing that our country is our kin and it needs us more than ever, then we remember our purpose here?

I'm in it for the fight for the right for our next generations to have a home, to have clean water, to be able to bask in the magic of retracing the steps of our



Ella Noah Bancroft

ancestors and building relationship with trees, rocks and soils that have existed since time immemorial in the same place.

Here on Bundjalung and around this country there is development and mining that is continuously ruining our songlines and hurting our ancestors.

The biggest myth in Bundjalung with developers is that they are attempting to create "affordable" housing yet when I go to the developers' sites to see the prices of houses in these so-called affordable estates, houses start at \$1.5 million. Who can afford that?

Right now on Bundjalung Country we are trying to stop our precious Wallum from being

turned into luxury housing, as if West Byron was bad enough, now we are literally begging them to not develop on the river bank where some of our old ancient Scribbly Gums have been homed there for 400 years.

From West Byron to Wallum, there has been no community consent, in fact we have been pushing back on these developers for a long time but yet they persist and they win when we work within the confinements of a capitalist system, where the money always wins.

The issues with developers in this region is that they do not know the land, they do not work with the land but they cover her and make bad decisions. They do not understand the cycles of our six seasons and unfortunately they are not thinking about the health of the people, the planet and our more than human kin.

On Feb 8, 2024, Byron Shire Council meeting, the subdivision certificate was issued for Wallum Brunswick Heads, which means destruction of our kinship systems.

This was passed recently and now there is a plea to the community to assist in the Community Action to Save Wallum.

Wallum is a place of deep cultural and ecological significance, 'Wallum' also constitutes a significant part of the mere 1% remaining Wallum

Heathland in Byron Shire - the only representation of this ecological community in Brunswick Heads.

Wallum hosts a matrix of unique soil that has built up over the years including organic deposition of unique plant matter and bushfire ash. This is the lifesource to the more than human kin world who inhabit this strip of land and we are calling to demand a stop to the bulldozers. It's 2024 and we have council and governing bodies deciding to decimate and destroy our kin.

In amongst Wallum are Scribbly Gums which are believed to be 300-400 years old, and they will be uprooted and destroyed if this development goes ahead. How much more damage are we willing as a nation to let capitalism destroy the very thing that made this country so rich, its natural resources. These trees took all these years to grow, the soil has become rich and the habitat is one of the last for our more endangered species to exist within. There has to be a stop, one when we say enough is enough. These koalas need homes too and we need to push back on council, state and federal decisions that continue the construction and deforestation of our lands.

Wallum, along with so many other under-threat places, is a host to an astounding number of threatened species of flora and

fauna. Species Including: Koala, Wallum Sedge Frog, Wallum Froglet, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Eastern Grass Owl, Grey-Headed Flying Fox, White-Throated Needle-tail, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Collard Kingfisher and so many more.

The power now sits with us the people, we need to write letters to our local, state and federal representatives, we must take to the streets and protest, we must divert funds and educate ourselves on where our money goes and how it continues to prop up the elite. We must put pressure on councils to give over crown land so we can build sustainable communities together.

I wonder about our future, I wonder about our society, one where we place our children in front of screens to listen to stories like *Fern Gully* that talk of the evils of the bulldozers and the destruction of our natural world and then we put them to bed and go about our day. I wonder when we will all take up our role as custodians, claim back our roles to protect water, the soil, the trees and all other living beings.

I wonder what will become of us if we don't take back our power.

https://www.savewallum.com/@save_wallum

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

Red noses can save bubs

Red Nose Day has been around since 1988. It became a day where we would wear a red nose – or in my case, put a red nose on the front of my car – literally a day to get silly for a serious cause.

Red Nose Day is all about fundraising and raising awareness about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome (SUIDS). It's also about how to sleep safe and how Red Nose Australia supports bereaved parents.

My heart and soul goes out to families and communities who are affected personally by SIDS and SUIDS. I am aware that many of you reading this bear a heartache – and for that, I am sorry. I write this as I want you to know we can work together to prevent – and to heal together – with the help of community and Red Nose Australia.

First Nations people are seven times more likely to lose a baby to SIDS or SUIDS, than a non-Aboriginal person in this country.

The messaging on how to sleep bubs safely is simply not getting out to communities.

So, Red Nose Australia has worked closely with community and consults us about our needs as a community. It's recently launched First Nations resources, that are culturally safe – in an effort to change these statistics.

Skye Stewart is an Aboriginal midwife and chairs the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander initiative working group. She's also the author of *Jiba Pepeny (Star Baby)*, a bereavement support resource for mob. She and her team have worked closely with communities to co-design and get these resources right.

On the Red Nose website, you can join a yarnning session with Skye to learn more about keeping our babies safe as they grow,



Shelley Ware

sleep and play.

When the book was being co-designed in Borroloola NT, an Elder realised that the messaging of safe sleeping, safe wrapping, the importance of tummy time, cot to bed and more was not being heard throughout her community.

She took it upon herself to read the brochures out in two local languages over the radio. This kind of initiative and care for others in your community, changes and saves lives.

We can all play a role in spreading these culturally safe, First Nations resources that are available now on the Red Nose Australia website with our own community in a way that best suits their needs.

Ngarrindjeri woman Emma Stenhouse is the bereaved mother of Asha and is chair of the Red Nose Aboriginal and Torres Strait

**RED
NOSE
DAY**

Red Nose Day in Australia is held on August 9, however there are numerous events in the lead up. Safe Sleep Week runs from March 4-10 and other events follow around the country. For details of an event near you, or to become involved go to rednose.org.au

Islander Initiatives working group. She hopes "community continues to be led by our own, with respectful and important information available to them, no matter where they are. These resources are going Australia-wide, to remote, rural and regional communities to support families in safe sleeping and bereavement".

Our families and bubs need us, Red Nose Australia is leading the way, they want to see real change in our statistics, for our people to heal well and especially our bubs, so they sleep safely and grow strong.

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



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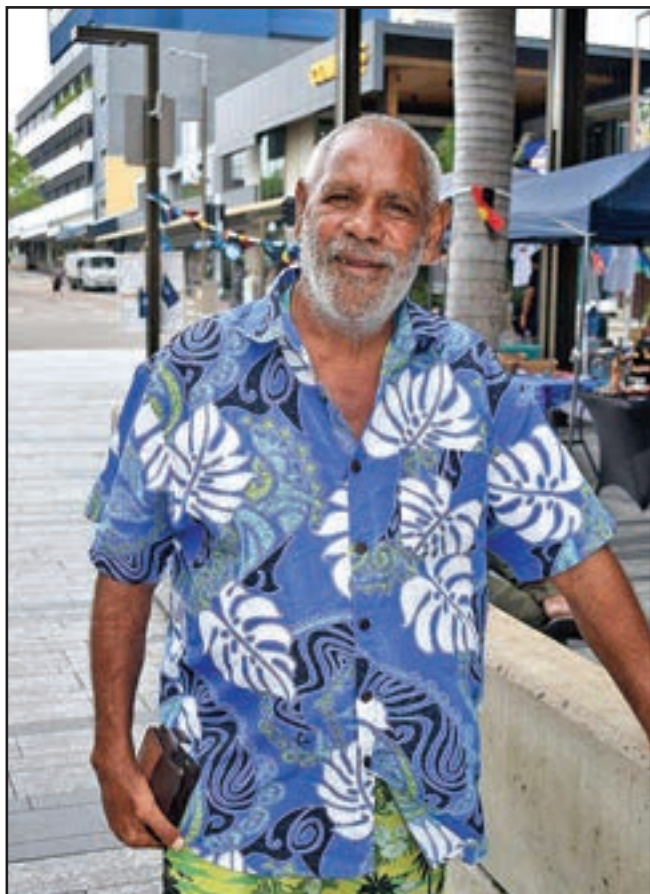
Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.



From left are Danielle Somerville, Adie Marou snr, Adie Marou jnr and Tisharlah Marou.



Rosalind Sailor in the CBD before heading to the game with her art and craft.



Lincoln Poynter was going to buy a ticket to the game.



Michael Sailor, left, with John Phillips.

All-stars match draws the fans

Story and pictures by
ALF WILSON



PROUD Aboriginal man Brian Callope travelled all the way from Alice Springs and was amongst thousands of visitors attending the Indigenous versus Maori Allstars games in Townsville.

More than 20,000 people attended the February 16 event at Queensland Country Bank Stadium and the *Koori Mail* spoke to many just before action commenced.

I yarned to visitors from Mount Isa, Brisbane, Yarrabah, Palm Island, Rockhampton, Cairns, the Torres Strait, Cape York, Hope Vale, the NT and even some from NSW.

Brian was with his best mate Nga Iwi Ormsby who was barracking for the Maori team.

"I couldn't get here quick enough from Alice Springs and this is the first time I have been to one of these. This is so deadly. I have family also at Weipa and Old Mapoon and they will be watching on television," Brian said.

Four generations of 75-year-old Palm Island Elder Noel Cannon's family were there and loved the family time as well as the games.

"I have with me from Palm two daughters, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren and we all love football," Noel said.

A Cairns family which included Joe Addo, grandfather of champion Aboriginal NRL player Josh Addo-Carr, was there.

Mount Isa rugby league identity Steven Body was



From Alice Springs to see the game was Brian Callope, right, with mate and Maori supporter Nga Iwi Ormsby.

delighted to travel the 900km from the western mining town with three of his boys.

To welcome the many visitors on the day there were Aboriginal and TS craft and art stalls as well as entertainment in the Townsville CBD.

The games were a massive boost for the local economy with accommodation booked out, and lots of spending at cafes, hotels, restaurants and other businesses. Some of the visitors were billeted with local family and friends.



Singer Ronion entertained passers-by in the CBD before the game.



From Yarrabah are Jahrahn Neal-Yeatman and Rohannie Yeatman.



From left are Cairns family Britney Parry, baby Frederick Parry, Marie Tabuai, Joe Addo, and Kenlock Savo.



Brisbane couple John MacKellar and Amanda Peers.



Romana Shepherd and Chase Connolly.



Marita Budden, Amelia Marshall and Sabrina Toby were selling craft in the CBD.



Mount Isa visitor Beven Von Senden.



From left are NRL official Danny Allende, former Cowboys player Ray Thompson and Noel Gertz.



From Rockhampton were Latrell Smith and Reggi Yasso.



Mount Isa visitors, from left are Steven Body, Denzel Body, Blake Body, Braydon Body and Jordan Pattinson-Kyle.



Ry Doo from Townsville.



Martha Marr from Palm Island was off to the game.

New program is treating Mob in remote communities on-Country

By ALF WILSON



FIRST Nations peoples are one of the major at-risk groups for Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD)

and Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF), meaning early access to an echocardiogram is vital for residents in the Torres Strait and Cape York regions.

More than 900 people in the Torres Strait, Cape York and Northern Peninsula Area were able to undergo heart scans in their home communities last year due to a pioneering program helping to tackle ARF and RHD.

The on-Country sonography service has really evolved and expanded which is good for residents in these remote communities who previously had to travel to Cairns or Townsville.

The figures were released as Queensland Health marks Cardiac Research Month during February raising awareness for heart health and highlighting the need for research funding.

During 2023, the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service delivered echocardiograms to children and adults in 22 communities across the region.

The program is expected to expand to 28 communities this year.

The Torres and Cape HHS recorded 28 cases of ARF and 28 cases of RHD during 2023, compared with 25 ARF and 64 RHD in 2022.

To date, in 2024 there have been four cases of ARF and one case of RHD.

Torres and Cape HHS Acting Director of Nursing Clinical Coordination Frank Grainer said the Combined Cardiac Service – a joint project between the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service and the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health



Torres and Cape HHS cardiac sonographer Sheena Foskett. Picture: Queensland Health

Services – was launched in 2019 after being identified as a high need service.

"Sadly this is due to the overwhelming burden of chronic disease and RHD for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The on-Country sonography service has really evolved and expanded and to be able to deliver this service in communities and closer to home for our residents, it is saving people's lives," he said.

Torres and Cape HHS cardiac sonographer Sheena Foskett said more than a third of the echocardiograms she performed during 2023 were on people with RHD.

"Rheumatic heart disease is a disease of poverty and disadvantage. It was essentially eliminated in the non-Indigenous Australian population decades ago and shouldn't exist in a prosperous country like Australia. RHD is most commonly diagnosed in

children and young adults and is a diagnosis they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. I believe everyone should be entitled to the same access to services no matter where they live which is why I am so passionate about delivering this on-Country program," she said.

Torres and Cape HHS Executive Director of Medical Services Dr Marlow Coates said once people with ARF or RHD were identified they could receive treatment to prevent it from causing long-term cardiac damage such as heart failure and strokes.

"Once diagnosed with ARF or RHD, patients require regular scans to ensure appropriate ongoing management and it's important that they turn up to their scheduled appointments for these scans," he said.

Dr Coates said that having an on-Country service to deliver these scans is a huge benefit and highlights the dedication to bringing services closer to home.

"Acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease are often not recognised by the community as a big problem, but as a health service we are focused on both preventative and treatment measures. Acute rheumatic fever is a disease caused by the Streptococcus A bacteria group (strep) which causes throat and skin infections and can lead to inflammation in the joints, brain, and heart. The infection can be spread from person to person by large respiratory droplets, for example via sneezing, or direct contact with people infected by the bacteria, and can progress into rheumatic heart disease," Dr Coates said.

Dr Coates said parents and carers of children should be aware of the signs of ARF, including sore throat, sore joints, fever, or skin sores, and seek treatment.

WA begins roll-out of Aboriginal Health Practitioner appointments



THE first two specialist Aboriginal Health Practitioners (AHP) have joined WA Health and have begun working at Rockingham General Hospital.

The appointments within the South Metropolitan Health Service mark the start of the roll-out of AHPs across the public health system in Western Australia.

The two AHPs support Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people who present to Rockingham General Hospital's emergency department with acute and urgent illness and injury.

The AHP role is an important addition to highly skilled multi-disciplinary teams that provide quality clinical care to patients across Western Australia. AHPs can provide clinical and primary healthcare, as well as case management and care planning.

The appointments also mark further progress on a Sustainable Health Review recommendation, involving a government commitment of \$3.6 million to establish the role in WA Health.

The investment is supported by a state-wide consultation process, led by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer.

AHPs are now nationally accredited and registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

WA Health is working closely with Aboriginal community-controlled health services and Aboriginal registered training organisations to increase the number of AHPs to continue to grow this important speciality in the workforce.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Dr Tony Buti said "Aboriginal Western Australians experience a significant gap in life expectancy compared to other Australians.

"The Cook Government continues to look at ways we can help address this gap.

"It is important our emergency departments are places where First Nations people feel comfortable and supported and the new AHP role will greatly assist with this."

Jawun funded to research Closing the Gap in health



CQUNIVERSITY'S Jawun Research Centre has secured \$5 million in federal government funding to conduct research that aims to advance work on Closing the Gap (CtG) targets.

Project lead and Jawun researcher Janya McCalman said CQUniversity was one of 110 successful entities to be funded through the Albanese Government's Medical Research

Future Fund (MRFF). She will co-lead the project with CQUniversity Project Officer Ruth Fagan.

"Australia's CtG targets represent the social, cultural and environmental determinants of First Nations' health," Prof McCalman explained.

"The Productivity Commission recently warned that progress to implement the reform commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap has been insufficient and 'weak'. Australia is failing to meet the CtG

targets - of the 15 targets for which national data are available, 11 are improving but only four are currently on track," she said.

"This funding will allow us to partner with four community coalitions in remote and regional Queensland to co-design, implement and evaluate a collective impact approach to achieve the four reforms underpinning the CtG targets: sharing power, supporting Indigenous data sovereignty, improving partnerships with

governments, and enhancing the cultural competence of government strategies.

The Yarrabah, Woorabinda, Doomadgee and Cairns community coalitions will prioritise, co-design and share locally-led implementation strategies, and these will then be evaluated to determine impact."

"We'll work with, and across community coalitions, to prospectively develop, coordinate and evaluate systems improvements using a common

agenda, shared measurements of process and impact, mutually reinforcing activities, and communication and knowledge plans. In doing so, this interdisciplinary research will demonstrate how health policy and intra- and inter-community practice can be transformed."

Prof McCalman said new knowledge would be translated to inform further community change processes and impacts on the reform areas and CtG targets.

Aunty Mary shares the life-saving value of taking control of your own heart health



WHEN Ngemba woman Aunty Mary Waites signed up for a research trial to reduce the risk of stroke and cardiovascular disease (CVD) in First Nations people, she had no idea one of the lives it would save would be so close to her.

Aunty Mary (55) is from Brewarrina and received a smartwatch to monitor for risk factors at her weekly women's group. When she returned home, she mentioned to her husband that she had her blood pressure checked at the local Aboriginal Medical Centre, prompting him to do the same.

"When Lindsay had his test done there was an abnormal reading, so we saw a doctor and eventually travelled to Dubbo Hospital for more tests," Aunty Mary said.

Those tests revealed Lindsay had two and a half-blocked arteries. He was promptly booked in for surgery at Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, with the surgery revealing another one and a half arteries were also blocked.

"Lindsay had no symptoms or pain, the only reason we found out about this was because he had a simple 30-second check done," Aunty Mary said.

"I would encourage all our people to get tested. It's just a few seconds that could save your life".

Aunty Mary's message echoes that of Aboriginal health experts at the Heart Research Institute, which is running a pilot study encouraging people to take a greater role in their own health care.



Ngemba woman Aunty Mary Waites. Picture: Naya Jeffries

Bundjalung Elder Uncle Boe Rambaldini is an Associate Professor with the Djurali Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research and said Aboriginal people were more likely to suffer cardiac problems like heart disease and stroke.

It's due to the prevalence of atrial fibrillation (AF), a leading cause of stroke, or an irregular heartbeat, with too many people falling through the cracks in the

health system

"Aboriginal people experience higher levels of AF at an earlier age than the general population, and research shows we are also experiencing catastrophic strokes at a much younger age," Ass Prof Rambaldini said.

"We want to close the gap when it comes to health care, and we can do this by helping Aboriginal people be more actively involved in their own health.

Checking for AF is one simple way."

He said the ultimate goal is for every Aboriginal person to be checked for AF every time they step into a health clinic.

"It's a pulse test that takes 30 seconds. It should be part of routine care.

"Life-saving screening is available for people over 65, but that's often too late for Aboriginal people who need to be screened from age 55 years," he said.

Djurali Centre leader Ass Prof Carmen Parter said the Djurali Centre joined HRI in December 2023, after a 10-year partnership, to further collaborate on world-leading research into CVD and Aboriginal peoples.

"Djurali being at the Heart Research Institute is about the heart, and also about the spirit," Ass Prof Parter said.

"Everything about Aboriginal health is about heart and spirit, and so there's a beautiful alignment.

"CVD is a major killer of Aboriginal people. Being part of the Heart Research Institute, which has experts in CVD, combined with our deep, trusted community connections and leading Aboriginal researchers, can only be a good thing for Aboriginal health."

The Djurali Centre is piloting wearable technology for AF detection for Aboriginal people in primary care.

AF claims the lives of six Australians every day, and the estimated cost of AF on the national economy is more than 1.25 billion dollars through medical costs, the cost of long-term care for those with a stroke-related disability, and lost productivity.

Can social media help to support men's well-being?



CAN social media help improve the mental well-being of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men? This

question is the focus of a new research project, led by Flinders Institute for Mental Health and Wellbeing.

The project explores whether harnessing the positivity of social media and private forums will help Indigenous young men to explore their mental health, by offering them a culturally safe space to discuss sensitive topics, relieve feelings of isolation and loneliness, and develop skills and strategies to help them cope during challenging times.

Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics reveals that the suicide rate among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males is twice that of non-Indigenous people. These health disparities can be fuelled by systemic inequities, including educational disadvantage and cultural dislocation.

Project lead research Professor James Smith from the Flinders University College of Medicine and Public Health said:

"Few digital health promotion programs are tailored towards the unique health, social and cultural



National project coordinator Jason Bonson is keen to see if a social media can help mental well-being through a new project Young Black Men in the Northern Territory.

needs of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males".

"This is despite their disproportionate experience of mental health concerns, suicide ideation and suicide," he said.

YBMenNT

A new program, Young Black Men in the Northern Territory, (YBMenNT) has received valuable funding support from Movember to design and trial an online social and emotional wellbeing health promotion program in collaboration with young Indigenous men.

National project coordinator –

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male Health, Jason Bonson, said "mental health is a tough subject for a lot of men to talk about".

"We want to provide an online program for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men that can be delivered through a private social media group such as Facebook or Instagram that aims to encourage positive and open discussions about mental health, cultural identity and progressive concepts of manhood and masculinities," he said.

YBMen project

"By using a private forum on social media, we can offer a space where young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men can talk in comfort and confidence about issues that they might not feel comfortable discussing anywhere, or to anyone, else."

YBMenNT has been adapted for young men in the Northern Territory from the YBMen project – originally developed in the US to transform gender norms, enrich mental health and engage in social support for young Black men.

"By collaborating with community-led organisations, we have created a program that is socially relevant and relatable in

order to engage young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in discussions about mental health literacy, help-seeking, progressive concepts of manhood and masculinities and their emerging cultural identities," Mr Bonson said.

"We believe in investing in programs that tackle unique issues through innovative approaches, particularly those that demonstrate that they work and can be scaled for broader impact."

Movember

Mental health and suicide prevention program, Movember director Ivy Lim-Carter, said "Movember continues to focus on the importance of building and strengthening relationships and feelings of belongingness to address the adverse effects of social isolation and loneliness on mental health".

"YBMenNT's aim to foster social connection and interaction that can greatly improve mental health and well-being outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and their communities fits directly with the goals of the Social Connections program," she said.

The adapted program will facilitate online discussions that are culturally sensitive, age-appropriate and gender-specific using YouTube

videos, song lyrics, and current news headlines.

Group members can use the private forum to respond with their ideas, thoughts, perceptions, and challenges related to mental health, manhood, and social support.

The program will be delivered to young Indigenous men (15 to 25 years old) in the Greater Darwin area through weekly sessions.

Outcomes

"The outcomes of our project will help us to identify the best approaches to sustainably maintain and potentially scale up the YBMenNT program over the longer-term," Prof Smith said.

"Our approach has significant potential to enhance the health and educational outcomes of young Indigenous males both nationally and globally. It will also provide world-first comparative data with other diverse groups of young men of colour," he adds.

This project includes collaboration across the Northern Territory and South Australia and with key researchers affiliated with the Flinders Institute for Mental Health and Wellbeing. This project also involves partnerships with the University of Tasmania, University of Sunshine Coast, and the University of Queensland.

Indigenous perspective on science and tech council



YUIN/Wandandian/ Ngarigo man and Charles Darwin University (CDU) Professor Reuben Bolt will join a council of experts to offer advice to government on science and technology issues facing Australia.

Prof Bolt is the first person of Aboriginal heritage to be appointed to the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) and will offer advice to the prime minister and cabinet.

The NSTC provides scientific and technological advice for government policies and priorities, and is chaired by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and co-chaired by Minister for Industry and Science, Ed Husic.

Prof Bolt is CDU deputy vice-chancellor

First Nations leadership and he joins the NSTC alongside new members Professor Mahananda Dasgupt and Professor Mark Hutchinson.

On the council, Australia's chief scientist Dr Cathy Foley serves as executive officer.

Prof Bolt said it was an honour to bring his experience to the NSTC, and to help facilitate more First Nations knowledge and wisdom into science and technology more broadly.

"It is important we look to how western knowledge and Indigenous knowledge can come together to make change, particularly with the challenges Australia and the world are currently facing," he said.

"There is a lot of wisdom and traditional knowledge in our communities and our scholars.

"However, the key is to find the ways that this knowledge and wisdom can be heard by the right people, at the right time, particularly those that have the power to influence change for the betterment of our communities.

"The Science and Technology Council is an exemplar forum that can progress this work".

Prof Bolt was the first person of First Nations heritage to graduate with a PhD at the University of Sydney's Faculty of Health Sciences.

He has more than 25 years experience in higher education spanning teaching, research, and leadership on Indigenous issues, and he has a passion for making a difference in First Nations communities, particularly in the Northern Territory.



CDU Professor Reuben Bolt is the first Aboriginal man to join the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC).



Nhulunbuy man Tyrelle Berryman has been working on a Netflix series after studying at TAFE. Picture: supplied by TAFE

Fee-free courses mean jobs for Mob



FIRST Nations screen and media student Tyrelle Berryman has always had a passion for television and media. Now, as a result of studying at TAFE, he's worked on a Netflix series and he's set to keep working in the media industry

Tyrelle started studying fee-free TAFE courses through Batchelor Institute in Darwin, Northern Territory.

The Nhulunbuy man gained skills quickly and was soon able to interview celebrities, learn the behind-the-scenes creation of television series and travel to other parts of Australia.

Now, he has learned everything he needs to know about the use of cameras and how to edit videos, as well as how to manage talent.

At fee-free TAFE, Tyrelle completed a Certificate III and is now studying a Certificate IV in Screen and Media. Studying with him are 11 other First Nations students.

He said his knowledge from TAFE, along with the network connections being made, is setting him up for a successful career in the media industry.

His advice to other First Nations people thinking about study is to go ahead, and "pursue your interests in TAFE studies".

"You further your imagination,

knowledge and future when you complete these courses," he said.

"There's an opportunity, be inspired and grab it.

"I started study when a mate suggested I enrol in TAFE here at Batchelor. There is value in ongoing professional development and study, it opens doors of opportunity for Mob across Australia."

Netflix

"The course gave me an opportunity to gain practical hands-on experience working on an upcoming Netflix series," he said.

"I started out working with the location crew on the outdoor scenes, recently

stepping into an assistant director role and managing actors.

"I've also enjoyed the opportunity to interview First Nations music celebrities such as Budjera and Thelma Plum, as well as gain strong media networks at conferences such as CONVERGE, where I was recently a participant on a youth panel discussion."

Fee-free TAFE is a joint initiative of the Australian, State and Territory governments, providing tuition-free courses to students wanting to train, re-train or upskill.

Search for fee-free TAFE to learn about eligibility, what courses are available in your area and how to enrol.

Mr Collinson rewarded by work inspiring young Mob



KUNGARAKAN man Joseph Collinson remembers going through his schooling life without seeing any male Indigenous teachers, while he was growing up on Larrakia Country in Darwin.

Changing the status quo became Joseph's mission and he embarked on a learning journey to become a primary school teacher.

Now, he is the only Indigenous staff member at the school he teaches at.

"I want to be a role model and a mentor to the next generation of Australians," Joseph said.

He hopes to bridge the gap and encourage more First Nations peoples to consider a career in teaching.

That's why he became part of the 'Be That Teacher' campaign – a joint Australian, state and territory government initiative that shows the value and importance of teachers.

Joseph said it was his own mentor who helped inspire him to take up a career in teaching.

"Through primary school, there was one teacher who would go out of his way to kick the football with us," Joseph said.

"Thinking back to what he did – he took that time to gain those relationships and take particular interest in what we were doing."

Joseph's teacher may not have known the depth of his influence, but his legacy lives on in the classroom today.

"Thinking about that teacher, I often think about the impact it had on me and the teacher I am today," Joseph said.

Joseph also credits his sister for recognising his ability to relate to and teach students when he worked at a vacation care centre during his final years of high school.

She encouraged Joseph to enrol in a Bachelor of Education (Primary) degree which she was also studying at

the time. The two supported each other through to graduation and both are now teachers in their home communities.

As a teacher, Joseph discovered the profound impact he could have on young minds – an impact that extends from the classroom.

"The role is much more than just teaching," Joseph said.

"It's not about A to Zs.

"It is about them growing as human beings.

"It is about mentoring and guiding (students) throughout all areas of their life.

"My role is not just for them to grow academically, but it's socially, emotionally".

Joseph initiated a conversation with his school principal about developing an Aboriginal-designed shirt for the senior students at his school – and it was encouraged and supported.

Joseph and excited senior students then collaborated to produce a design that was representative of their schooling journey, a saltwater crocodile swimming upstream, symbolising their experiences of learning and growing as people.

The shirt was so well received it will now be the official shirt for senior students for the next 10 years, something that Joseph and his students are very proud to have been a part of.

"Being able to be that role model, leader, that students could really look



Kungarakkan man Joseph Collinson is inspiring a new generation, as a teacher.

up to... it's something I am very proud of," Joseph said.

"Hopefully I'm inspiring lots of young Indigenous students to go into this profession because it is definitely one of the most rewarding you could get."

To find out more about a rewarding career in teaching, visit BeThatTeacher.gov.au

'Permanent' status for teachers is a win for students



SCHOOLS are set to get more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teaching and support staff in permanent roles – allowing Aboriginal students to benefit from the increased stability and connection.

NSW Department of Education Secretary Murat Dizdar said 182 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander staff have accepted permanent employment under the plan to move temporary staff into permanent roles.

This includes 90 Aboriginal Education Officers, 33 teachers, two Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers and 57 people in other support roles.

"Our students cannot be what they cannot see," Mr Dizdar said.

"For our Aboriginal students, having Aboriginal leaders in their school as role models opens their eyes to the vast world of post-school opportunities.

"We want all our schools to be safe and inclusive environments that celebrate the strength of our vibrant, diverse and multicultural communities."

Research shows Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander educators and support staff play a key role in ensuring Aboriginal students feel culturally safe in their schools.

As well as supporting their students in the key areas of learning, culture and community, Indigenous teachers and support staff are role models for post-school transition and pathways.

Mr Dizdar said the department was committed to ensuring every student can learn, grow and belong at school through its NSW Plan for Public Education.

"A permanent position provides our Aboriginal educators and support staff with financial security and allows them to remain in their school as strong cultural support for our students," he said.

"This stability and connection will help drive improved outcomes for our Aboriginal students."

There are 2,843 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander staff employed in NSW public schools.

Schools with an eligible Aboriginal Education Officer and all schools involved in the Connected Communities Strategy (a state government approach that positions schools as important community hubs), were included in the first round of the 'temporary to permanent' scheme.

The move is geared at supporting Aboriginal students in the public education system.

First Nations have a voice in alternative education



ALTERNATIVE school education is in good hands as Waanyi-Gangalidda/Wankamadla woman Elizabeth (Liz) Kupsch takes the reins as the inaugural director of First Nations education at EREA Flexible Schools.

EREA Flexible Schools is the largest national network of alternative schools in Australia – and Liz, as part of the National Leadership Team – will bring a First Nations voice to all organisational decisions.

She will support the implementation of the organisation's First Nations Education Framework while working to foster cultural change and continuous improvement.

Ms Kupsch said she was looking forward to the challenge in what is a pivotal time for our nation.

"We know that as a country we need to



Inaugural director of First Nations education at EREA Flexible Schools, Waanyi-Gangalidda/Wankamadla woman Elizabeth (Liz) Kupsch.

do better in creating a culturally safe and inclusive environment for our young people to thrive," she said.

"For me, this role is about empowering

our educators to deliver a culturally safe and inclusive learning environment that is fully inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.

"This process starts by listening to our First Nations community and implementing their ideas around truth-telling and embedding those into the fabric of what we teach at Flexis.

"If we do this, we can create an environment where our young people can thrive both inside and outside of our school gates."

Liz has previously held several senior leadership positions with organisations such as Reconciliation Australia, Brisbane Catholic Education, Stronger Smarter Institute, CSIRO and Education Queensland.

A newly created role, the Director of First Nations Education will provide strategic

leadership, oversight and advice through building relationships with First Nations peoples, communities, and stakeholders.

EREA Flexible Schools chief executive Dr Matt Hawkins said with her qualifications in education and Indigenous leadership, Liz is perfect for the newly created role.

"Over 30% of our young people identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and we have a long history of being influenced by and integrating Indigenous perspectives, cultures and histories into our approach to education and learning," he said.

"Liz brings deep knowledge, skills and understandings of how First Nations students experience education – and how systems can and have enhanced or inhibited their life outcomes."

For more information about EREA Flexible Schools, visit ereafsn.edu.au/

Imogen builds her own creative business from an unlikely start



WHEN First Nations student Imogen Clarence started painting three years ago, she never imagined the success that would follow.

Imogen (22) is a Bond University Bachelor of Business and Social Science student. A proud Kamilaroi woman who grew up in Bigambul Country in Goondiwindi, things really started to happen for her when she moved to the Gold Coast, immersing herself in her culture within the Bond Indigenous community.

"At the end of 2021 the Office of Engagement at Bond ran an art competition to design an Indigenous print for their new merchandise," Imogen said.

"I was fortunate enough to have my work recognised, winning the competition.

"This was the beginning of my journey discovering a passion for Indigenous art, my culture and establishing ImiBelle Art.

Connection

"Growing up I had limited connection with my culture, but after moving to the Gold Coast I have had the privilege to spend time with some local Elders in the First Nations Centre at Bond and discover how amazing and special my culture is," she said.

Imogen also completed the Business Model Execution subject in which she and her team raised \$10,000 for Indigenous and mental health charities with native animal-themed car air fresheners



Kamilaroi woman Imogen Clarence.

decorated with her art.

Imogen graduated at the end of 2023 and today she is working two days a week for Indigenous Innovation Ventures at Varsity Lakes to help inspire young Indigenous people through youth leadership programs and non-traditional career pathways.

It's there she uses her artistic skills and newly acquired business smarts to help empower Indigenous entrepreneurs and change futures.

Every other day of the week she can be found working on her own art, loving every moment of the creative process.

Imogen says she appreciates the importance of getting the business side of what she is doing absolutely right.

"When you have your own business, you think about it all

the time, and even if you love what you are doing as much as I do, it can be very draining – you can wear yourself out getting nowhere fast," she said.

"About 80% of what I do is trying to work out how to make money from my art and people don't see a lot of that.

"I'm always looking for competitions I can enter, attending events, and I'm always on social media because nowadays social media is everything.

"I have to be constantly out there, keeping up with the art community, the people that support me and the people that I want to support me in the future."

Imogen says one thing to be wary of when starting out, is 'imposter syndrome'.

"I used to look at artists around me who have 100,000 followers on social media and their art on buses and in public

places – and I would wonder how I could possibly measure up to them," she said.

"But then I realised, that if you can watch the people who are doing good things around you, it helps so much more.

"I look at what they've done and what they are doing, and I set my sights on doing it better than them.

"It's not easy, but it's the best way to become a success in whatever you are doing and whatever field you are in."

Hot tips

Imogen's hot tips for the First Nations people starting their careers are to make plenty of time to work on your business; shake off your imposter syndrome; and look at what successful people are doing and do it better. To find out more about Imogen and her artwork, visit marumaliaboriginalart.com/blank-1



Bidjara man Jyi Lawton has been appointed chief executive at AEMEE (Aboriginal Enterprises in Mining, Energy and Exploration).

New chief takes reins at Aboriginal Enterprises in Mining Energy and Exploration (AEMEE)



JYI Lawton, a Bidjara man and former chief executive of Indigenous radio station Triple-A, has been appointed as the new chief executive of AEMEE (Aboriginal Enterprises in Mining, Energy and Exploration).

AEMEE was established in 2005 to promote Aboriginal economic development, build the capacity of Indigenous enterprises and help create relationships with community, industry and government.

AEMEE chairperson Derek Flucker congratulated Jyi on his appointment, saying it was an important time for Indigenous businesses operating in the resources sector.

"AEMEE is a powerful vehicle in enabling and connecting Indigenous businesses to opportunities and we look forward to working with Jyi to lead the organisation forward," Mr Flucker said.

Jyi has a background with senior positions in both state and federal government, as well as leadership of Indigenous Business Australia's national business program.

Jyi said there was potential for Indigenous businesses to not only participate but lead in the resources sector and the transition to renewables.

"As a longtime participant in the AEMEE family for over seven years, I have engaged in events like the annual conference and have witnessed the positive outcomes and opportunities that AEMEE brings to the Indigenous business sector," he said.

"Our ancestral connection to the land and its resources, passed down through generations, presents opportunities for Traditional Owners and Indigenous businesses to not only participate in but also lead the activities that shape our country.

"The shift towards renewable energy sources presents an exciting new avenue for our community to engage in, showcasing our long-standing expertise as global leaders in sustainability for millennia.

"I am eager to cultivate new opportunities, strengthen partnerships, and establish pathways within the sector to benefit Indigenous businesses and further our collective growth and success".

Jyi will be joining AEMEE executive assistant and events Rachel Daniels, in supporting Indigenous businesses and advancing the interests of the growing sector.

New role shows deadly business strong in Qld



QUEENSLAND Indigenous Business Network (QIBN) has appointed Donisha Duff as its first chief executive officer.

Hailing from Thursday Island, Ms Duff has family links to Badu, Moa and Mabuag Islands and the Wuthathi people of eastern Cape York.

Her appointment is a significant milestone in the support and growth of First Nations-owned small businesses in Queensland.

She brings over 25 years of experience in the Indigenous health and community sectors, including more than 15 years in the community-controlled sector.

Her previous role as chief operating officer at the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (UIH) has positioned her as community leader.

Recently, she was recognised for her exceptional community service with a Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2024 Australia Day honours list.

QIBN, a newly established and independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation, is designed to serve as



Donisha Duff.

a powerful and united voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses across Queensland.

Under Ms Duff's leadership, QIBN will focus on promoting the interests of Indigenous entrepreneurs, driving economic development, fostering strategic partnerships and advocating for critical support and resources.

Ms Duff said she was looking forward to collaborating with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses in Queensland

and beyond.

"My goal is to elevate the presence of Indigenous businesses not just locally, but on a global stage," she said.

"This is about making a real and tangible step forward for us in the business community. I truly want to build a strong and inclusive community of First Nations business owners who can collaborate, partner and learn from each other moving forward."

QIBN's co-chair Shane Kennelly said Ms Duff's appointment, signalled a pivotal step for QIBN and Indigenous business prosperity in Queensland.

"Donisha is an outstanding choice to lead QIBN, bringing a proven track record in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisational management, leadership, policy and stakeholder engagement," he said.

"Her calibre and experience will navigate QIBN through this exciting new chapter."

QIBN aims to empower Indigenous businesses through the development of services such as regional hubs and business mentoring, facilitating access to procurement markets and advocating for their needs at various industry and government levels.



Installation view of Dhopiya Yunupingu's *Djarritjarri --The Woven Cloth* at Sullivan+Strumpf Naarm/Melbourne. Picture: Alberto Zimmerman.

Dhopiya Yunupingu returns



AFTER a sell-out commercial gallery debut in Sydney last year, renowned Yolŋu artist Dhopiya Yunupingu returns in 2024 with her standout exhibition *Djarritjarri -- The Woven Cloth*, this time in Naarm/Melbourne.

The youngest of the famous seven Yunupingu sisters from the Gumatj clan in north-east Arnhem Land, Dhopiya Yunupingu's works on bark, ceramic vessels and larrakitj (memorial poles) are inspired by the long history of trade between the Yolŋu and the seafaring Makassans of south-west Sulawesi, Indonesia.

Her new exhibition speaks to the significance of the fabric Galiku, a yellow cotton material steeped in history and symbolism that has been in use for centuries.

Traditionally used in the making of Yolŋu flags and sails, Galiku is still

worn today for dancing and special ceremonies and occasions.

Key to the Gumatj identity, the material is an ongoing acknowledgement of the seafaring Makassans whose centuries-old visits and settlements came to define the economy and society of Yolŋu.

"Our dance and song celebrate the north wind which brings those boats carrying our family back to us," Ms Yunupingu said.

"It sings the wind which snatches at the flags, makes them climb and fly, and then frays them and finally whips them away as it becomes the cyclone."

Born in 1950 in Nhulunbuy in north-east Arnhem Land, Dhopiya Yunupingu hails from one of the country's most distinguished and influential First Nations families.

Her father Dr Mungurawuy Yunupingu is regarded as one of the great Yolŋu leaders in politics and the arts and her siblings include

Australians of the Year, Galarwuy and Mandawuy, and celebrated artists Gulumbu, Barrupu, Nyapanyapa, Djerrkju and Djakanu Yunupingu.

She currently lives in Yirrkala, in the Northern Territory.

In early 2022, following the passing of her sisters Nyapanyapa and Djerrkju and her late husband, Dhopiya began painting at Buku Larrngay Mulka on bark, ceramic vessels and larrakitj.

Mostly focussed on using a figurative style, Yunupingu's work quickly caught the attention of visitors and her first body of work titled *Mangatharra to Marege -- South Western Sulawesi to North East Arnhemland* was shown at Sullivan+Strumpf, Sydney, in 2023.

Djarritjarri -- the woven cloth runs until Saturday, March 9, 2024, at Sullivan+Strumpf Naarm/Melbourne. For further information visit sullivanstrumpf.com/exhibitions/djarritjarri-the-woven-cloth.



Dhopiya Yunupingu. Picture: Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre.

Lucas Proudfoot delivers lively musical show with his friends



BIG and little kids are invited to join award-winning First Nations performer and musician, Lucas Proudfoot, as he leads an interactive journey around Pelican Bay, meeting characters such as Elder Aunty May and cheeky friends Ned and Sis, as well as some magical animal friends along the way.

Proudfoot and Friends is an interactive, sing-along adventure for children from three to seven years featuring state-of-the-art digital puppeteering and choreographed animated projections.

Proudfoot said his musical comedy for children is inspired by his experience of performing in schools around the country. He has been touring for 14 years and in that time has met thousands of kids and their families whose stories he loves to hear. He said they inspire him to create more entertainment for young audiences, like *Proudfoot and Friends*, which "centres on universal themes of caring for Country and for each other, delivered through music, movement, and humour."

"I also have a strong focus on



Lucas Proudfoot has created an interactive new show for kids.

numeracy and literacy along with rhythm and rhyme, which supports children's early language development as they learn to recognise and respond to sound patterns," the ambassador for the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation said.

"My two daughters, who are now four and eight years old, love stories being read to them in a rhythm and rhyme way, allowing them to more easily connect with the story."

Taking storytelling to the next level, the show champions the use of state-of-the-art digital puppetry using gesture-control programming, which Proudfoot says sets his show apart from

other early childhood productions.

"The show is truly a unique offering because the animated characters who appear on-screen can interact with me as well as the audience," he said.

"This is all via digital puppeteering tech which is controlled in 'real-time' backstage. Our technical director, Freddy Komp is a master with this, having more than 300 cues to deliver throughout each performance."

A member of the Tweed Coast Bundjalung/South Sea Islander Community, Proudfoot is a former professional surfer and rock musician and has been a special guest on Australia's favourite children's program *Play School*

(ABC TV), where he performed four original songs as part of the program's 'Music in Me' series.

Minister for the Arts Leeanne Enoch referred to Proudfoot as an inspiring First Nations artist creating child-centred performances that focus on important values such as respect for Country, flora and fauna, friendship, and family.

"Lucas' passion and talent for sharing Indigenous stories with young audiences and their families is evident in his exciting stage musical featuring original songs, local First Nations dancers, digital puppets and choreographed animated projections," Minister Enoch said. She said the investment in Proudfoot Productions by the Queensland government through Arts Queensland, to create *Proudfoot and Friends*, helped to "deliver on the priorities of the Creative Together 2020-2030 roadmap including supporting a strong and sustainable sector, elevating First Nations arts, sharing our stories and celebrating our storytellers," the Minister said.

Proudfoot and Friends is on at Queensland Performing Arts Centre's (QPAC) Cremorne Theatre from March 8-10. Tickets are on sale now via qpac.com.au

Young artists called to enter Cairns Crazy Creatures exhibition



ARTISTIC kindergarten and primary school-aged kids living in Far

North Queensland are invited to enter an artwork in the Cairns Children's Festival exhibition, *Crazy Creatures*.

Curated by Sorami Ochi, this is an exciting opportunity for young artists to have their work exhibited at an art gallery and receive public recognition for their skills and creativity.

Interested artists are asked to create an original artwork that represents a creature. It could be a 'never before seen' creature or a unique interpretation of an animal.

Applications are open now and close, April 1. For information or to register your child to enter, please go to cairns.qld.gov.au/experience-cairns/events/cairns-childrens-festival and follow links to the Young Artist Call-Out.

The exhibition will be shown at the Court House Gallery in Cairns May 2-May 18.

MVIR lives on in the memory of his art

By ALI MC



A RETROSPECTIVE exhibition featuring works of the late artist Josh Muir will be opening at the Koorie Heritage Trust on Saturday, March 9.

Muir was born and raised on Wadawurrung Country (Ballarat, Victoria) and passed away unexpectedly in 2022, at the age of 30.

The title of the exhibition is taken from an artwork – *Forever I Live* (2015) – and is a reference to the ongoing legacy that continues in Josh's artwork.

Koorie Heritage Trust chief executive Tom Mosby told the *Koori Mail* "It's both a commemoration of Josh and a celebration of his work and his ambition".

"When he passed away, it was a big thing for us as an organisation," he said.

"That's when we thought – let's look at putting on a retrospective of Josh looking at the work that he had produced over the course of his artistic career."

During his short yet prolific career, Josh produced a vast range of paintings and digital artworks that were characterised by a blend of vibrant street art and cultural iconography.

Josh had a long association with the Koorie Heritage Trust, first exhibiting at the renowned institution in 2013.

In 2015, Muir won the youth award in the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA). Then in 2016, he produced an animated projection on the façade of the National Gallery of Victoria for *White Night Melbourne*.

In 2017, Muir was one of eight artists – and the only First Nations artist – selected for the Melbourne Art Trams project – and in 2018 he held his first solo exhibition *Josh X Muir* at the Koorie Heritage Trust.

"We developed a really close personal relationship and professional as well. And so over the years, this culminated in an exhibition that we did with him in 2018," Mosby said.

"As a young kid – and a young country kid as well – he was able to develop a very distinct art style coming out of that street art aesthetic."

While Muir's work maintains the tradition of storytelling from his cultural identity as a Gunditjmarra, Yorta Yorta and Barkindji man, it also draws on his personal experience with mental health, cultural identity, addiction, grief and loss.

Throughout his career, Muir had commented on the important role art played in an ongoing process of healing for him.

"It's a real testament to Josh, as an artist, and the fact that he was able to actually express his Aboriginality, his connection to culture, connection to Country in a very distinct style,"



Forever I Live, 2015, digital print on aluminium, by Josh Muir Gunditjmarra, Yorta Yorta and Barkindji artist. Pictures: supplied by Koorie Heritage Trust



We Will Survive, 2015, digital print on aluminium, by Josh Muir. Collection of Koorie Heritage Trust

Mosby said.

"It's personal storytelling that also brings in a lot of Victorian Aboriginal motifs, whether it's the ancestral crow figure or Bunjul, the ancestral eagle."

JXSH MVIR: *Forever I Live* is co-curated by Josh's partner Shanaya Sheridan, his mother Justine Berg and the team at the Koorie Heritage Trust.

Mosby said the title of the exhibition reflected Josh Muir's

enduring legacy as an artist, father and community member.

"Which is why the title of the exhibition is *Josh Muir, Forever I Live*, even though he has passed, he will actually continue to live through his artworks," he said.

JXSH MVIR: *Forever I Live* runs from March 9 until July 14 at Koorie Heritage Trust, Birrarung Building, Federation Square, Naarm/Melbourne. Info at koorieheritagetrust.com.au/

Artists embrace the intersection of tech and tradition

A COLLECTIVE of contemporary First Nations artists in Gimuy/Cairns, Queensland, are pushing further boundaries into the design and digital art spaces.

IndigeDesignLabs was founded in 2020 by Kanolu and Gungarri man, Leigh Harris, and already with a string of high-profile clients and artistic pursuits, appears poised to fill gaps in the contemporary Indigenous art sector—and beyond.

IndigeDesignLabs is emerging as a leader in terms of its forays into the frontiers of cultural arts practices. Part of their approach to art-making, with digital media as an informed tool of artistic and cultural expression, incorporates artificial intelligence (AI).

Founder Leigh Harris told the *Koori Mail* that IndigeDesignLabs members and various programme participants train in utilising technology in their practice.

"Far North Queensland has a storied history of artistic leadership. We continue this tradition by offering a learning platform that diverges from traditional art, guiding young individuals into the creative industries. Our goal is to empower these budding creatives with the skills they need to thrive", Harris said.

One of the major concerns with AI is to do with copyright and the protections of any AI-generated or aided imagery. Naturally, this begs questions around the protections of Indigenous cultural and intellectual property in AI artworks. However, the way IndigeDesignLabs works is one where AI is serviceable to the artist and doesn't encroach on their sovereignty.

"We're guiding the next generation of creators on the integration of AI and generative technology into their creative endeavours. A key lesson emphasises that AI and technology should never be misinterpreted or utilised as a replacement for our knowledge—a principle underscored by a notable experiment conducted during our *I Am Here* exhibition," Harris said.

As a collective of First Nations creatives, IndigeDesignLabs' emphasis on education and training is similarly impressive in



Jack Wilkie-Jans

terms of its arts platform and practice. IndigeDesignLabs also work in training emerging practitioners in the various schools of design, providing practical, hands-on experience in applying the skills and techniques being taught.

"IndigeDesignLabs excels in creating real-world opportunities for young designers. Going beyond traditional learning, we actively collaborate with clients on authentic projects, enabling creatives to take pride in seeing their collaborative efforts come to life", Tarquin Singleton (Mentor) said.

IndigeDesignLabs ought to be further congratulated on this particular emphasis on engagement, simply due to the disparity between the booming intrigue and commercial success of contemporary Indigenous art from the region, and the lack of skilled arts workers and artists in more cutting-edge emerging practices. Furthermore, IndigeDesignLabs is leading the way for Indigenous design collaboration in the corporate sense, in tandem with up-skilling First Nations creatives in visual arts-adjacent ventures.

"IndigeDesignLabs surpasses traditional boundaries in canvas, homewares, and garments. We aspire to cultivate the next wave of First Nations creatives, proficient in seamlessly blending design, technology, and culture. Our mission is to equip them with the skills to thrive in the dynamic creative industries," IndigeDesignLabs mentor, Sheree Jacobs said.

If you want to see for yourself part of what IndigeDesignLabs is all about—and if you're lucky enough to be in Gimuy/Cairns—they have an exhibition, *I Am Here*, at the Courthouse Gallery (Gimuy's latest council-run gallery spaces) until March 2.

Curated by First Nations powerhouse Peggy Lane, the exhibition features sixteen Elders' portraits infused with artificial intelligence. For more information about the exhibition, enter I AM HERE in the search menu at cairns.qld.gov.au/

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.



IndigeDesignLabs founder, Leigh Harris.

Moli's adventure inspires new book



WHEN Moli the pig got stuck under a van, it inspired a new children's picture book sequel from author Karen Manbulloo.

Moli bin git stak (Moli gets stuck) is a new bi-lingual book based on the true adventures of a real-life pig called Moli.

Written in Kriol and English, it is the first time an Indigenous Literacy Foundation picture book has had a sequel.

Set on a hot day in Kalano, central Australia, Moli is looking for shade and takes shelter under a local van, but ends up getting stuck. Will she manage to get free?

Author Karen Manbulloo said, "I was so happy that when I wrote the book, I didn't know that from the first book I wrote that Moli had become famous.

"Little kids at schools still ask me questions. Is she real?" she said.

"Yes she's real and if you want to go and visit her you can visit her at Kalano with my brother and his family.

"This is my second book and I think I'm the first one (published by ILF) to write a second book – I just want to continue on writing books.

"It's really important to me to share the Kriol language to help our Indigenous children. It's really important for our little ones and when they get older, they might, you know, do something like write a book too."



Karen Manbulloo's first book, *Moli the Pig*, is about real pig Moli, pictured with Karen, resting in the shade. Picture: Josie Lardy, IDF

The author lives in the remote community of Binjari which is southwest of Katherine where Kriol is the dominant language spoken in community.

When her first book, *Moli the Pig*, was published in 2017, it was the first time her grandchildren read a book in their own language.

ILF publishing editor Cindy Manfong, who grew up in the

Katherine region said "I remember when the first *Moli* book came out and people from community would share their stories of visiting Moli".

"A lot of people are really excited about the second book as well," she said.

Karen said Moli went under the car and she couldn't find her way out.

"She's really big now. So, what



Moli bin git stak (Moli got stuck) by Karen Manbulloo is published by the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

happened was my brother and his kid had to dig him out of there, so she could find her way out," she said.

"They had to dig that dirt on the right-hand side and left-hand side and even the middle part as well so she could freely get out of the car.

"And even when she got out – she went back under the car again. I'd been there for a couple of months last year and she hasn't done it again."

Moli now lies out under the shady tree or even out on the verandah.

Karen came to live in Binjari from Rockhole Community in 1999 with her first son.

"Now I have another three kids," she said.

"We've all lived here since then. All my kids are now adults and have kids of their own. I like to go fishing, hunting, camping and shopping.

"I love being surrounded by my kids and my family. We come together to tell stories and talk about the olden days and what life was like when I was little. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else but Binjari."

Karen's books also give English readers a chance to learn some words in Kriol and are ideal for young ages 3+. A reading by the author can be accessed by the QR code on the back cover of the book.

To buy *Moli bin git stak*, visit shop.ilf.org.au/ or your local bookshop.

National Gallery opens door for nights of enlightenment



DISCOVER art after dark at the National Gallery of Australia during Canberra's Enlighten 2024, the annual festival that transforms the nation's capital into a mesmerising canvas of lights, colour and creativity.

Enlighten Up Late will run from March 1 to 11 at the National Gallery, which will remain open until 9pm daily, providing an opportunity for visitors to explore the diverse collection and exhibitions, including showcases of two of the nation's most celebrated artists with the survey exhibition *Vincent Namatjira: Australia in Colour*, and self-titled retrospective *Emily Kam Kngwarray*.

Furthering a festival atmosphere, the gallery will present live music, kids and family activities and food every Friday and Saturday night during the Enlighten festival. Enlighten Up Late visitors will be entertained by deady performers including Thelma Plum, Jem Cassar-Daley, Dan Sultan and Briggs, from 5.30pm to 8pm.

Heroes brought to life

To celebrate the launch of *Vincent Namatjira: Australia in Colour*, which runs until July 21, the National Gallery has commissioned a new projection and sound-based work by Namatjira to illuminate the building's exterior from 8pm every night, during Enlighten Up Late.

Titled *Indigenous All Stars*, the composite work brings the Western Aranda artist's heroes to life, with depictions of great



Portraits of Vincent Namatjira's heroes, painted by the artist, will be projected onto the facade of the National Gallery of Australia as part of this year's Enlighten festival and as a celebration of the gallery's exhibition *Vincent Namatjira: Australia in Colour*, which runs at the gallery until July 21. Picture: Iwantja Arts, Vincent Namatjira/Copyright Agency

historical and political leaders including Eddie Koiki Mabo, Vincent Lingiari and Albert Namatjira, sporting stars Adam Goodes, Cathy Freeman, Nicky Winmar and the Tjilpi (senior men/Elders) from Namatjira's home on the APY Lands of South Australia, all beamed onto the gallery's facade.

National Gallery deputy director Adam Lindsay said *Indigenous All Stars* reveals Namatjira "as a celebrated portraitist and a

satirical chronicler of Australian history and identity."

For Namatjira, his focus on his heroes is purposeful.

"Part of making things equal in this country is a greater acknowledgement and recognition of Aboriginal excellence past and present – our heroes, leaders, visionaries and trailblazers," he said.

The projection is accompanied by an

original score created by Vincent Namatjira in collaboration with Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara guitarist-composer Jeremy Whiskey, also from Indulkana.

Entry is free.

Chance to see the best

The National Gallery's retrospective of internationally acclaimed senior Anmatyerr woman, Emily Kam Kngwarray, brings together the most important pieces from her life's work, uncovering an evolution in her art practice, from batik textiles to monumental paintings on canvas.

This extensive showcase of Kngwarray's opus builds on the National Gallery's *Know My Name* initiative which celebrates the work of all women artists, revealing and recording their contribution to Australia's cultural life.

Tickets are available via the gallery's website.

Keen to engage visitors in the magic of making art during the Enlighten festival, the gallery will facilitate activities for kids and creatives to coincide with the exhibitions. Anangu artist Elizabeth Close will be on hand to help kids get creative at the Emily Kam Kngwarray Art Cart and at the Vincent Namatjira All Stars Studio visitors can create a trading card of their own hero.

Enlighten Up Late at the gallery is presented by the National Gallery in association with Canberra Theatre Centre. For more details about Enlighten Up Late at the National Gallery of Australia visit nga.gov.au/events/enlighten-up-late/

event listings

VICTORIA

Dhapiya Yunupingu
Djarritjarri - The Woven Cloth
when: until Mar 9
where: Sullivan+Strumpf gallery, Naarm/Melbourne
info/bookings:
sullivanstrumpf.com/exhibitions/djarritjarri-the-woven-cloth

JSXH MVIR: Forever I Live
when: March 9 - July 14
where: Koorie Heritage Trust, Birrarung Building, Federation Square
info/bookings:
koorieheritagetrust.com.au

Touring Exhibition: *Layers of Blak*

This exhibition is the outcome of KHT's Blak Design program. Each artist presents a range of contemporary jewellery grounded in their connection to culture, Country and family
when: until Mar 10
where: Art Gallery of Ballarat
info/bookings: more dates later in the year, see koorieheritagetrust.com.au/w-hats-on/exhibitions/layers-of-blak/

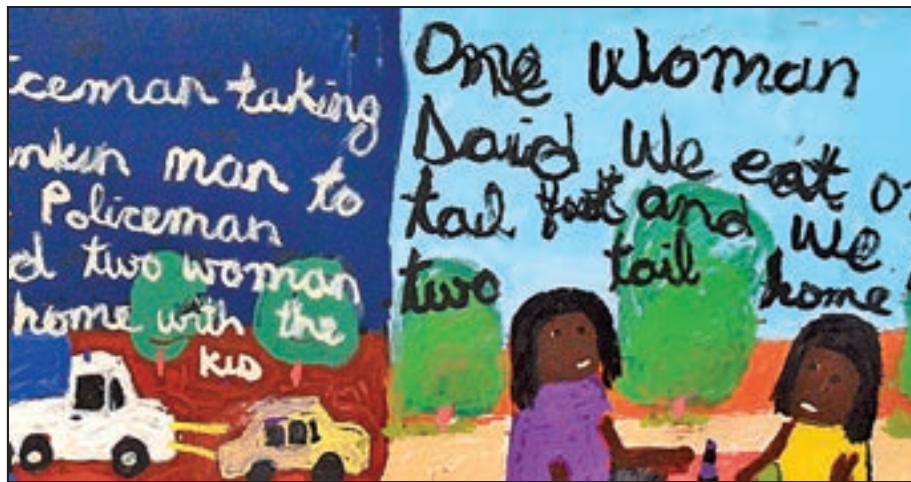
From the Other Side exhibition
when: until Mar 3
where: Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne
info/bookings:
acca.melbourne/exhibition/from-the-other-side/

NGV International Triennial
Features First Nations artists including Betty Muffler, Aunty Kim Wandin, Iluvanti Ken, Selinda Davidson, Lehuauakea, Keith Wikmunea, Timo Hogan, Wanapati Yunupingu, Burarra women from Maningrida Community, and Sky Hopinka
when: until Apr 7
where: NGV International, St Kilda Road, Melbourne
info/bookings:
ngv.vic.gov.au/triennial/events/

Watercolour Country: 100 Works from Hermannsburg
when: until April 14
where: The Ian Potter Centre, National Gallery of Victoria, Fed Square, Melbourne
info/bookings:
ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/watercolour-country/

Goodbye Aunty Flo
Ilbijerri Theatre
when: Mar 15, 7pm
where: Brimbank Writers and Readers Festival, Bowery Theatre, Princess Street, St Albans, and
when: March 22, 7pm
where: Gasworks Theatre, Albert Park, Melbourne
info/bookings: No charge, bookings required, visit ilbijerri.com.au/event/goodbye-aunty-flo/

Jessica Mauboy: Yours Forever tour
when: Mar 16, 7.30pm
where: Palais Theatre, St



Town Camp artists paint their stories



ALICE Springs Town Camps are home to two incredible community-run art centres, which have become renowned for their vibrant and captivating artworks and soft sculptures. Tangentyere Artists is an Aboriginal-owned, not-for-profit enterprise, established in 2005 to combat problems with 'carpetbagging', and to provide Town Camp artists with professional and career development opportunities. The art centre serves as a hub for arts activities across the Town Camps in Alice.

Located at Larapinta Town Camp, Yarrenyty Arltere Artists are proud of their international renown. The centre, which interacts with Tangentyere Artists, is its own local community hub, providing a culturally safe environment in which people can work, have access to services and

plan for the future.

New works from artists at both centres are showing at an exhibition, *Town Camp, Bush Camp* at the Short St Gallery, in Broome, Western Australia, until March 14. The artworks are visually stunning, representing connection to land and Country, to spirituality and to each other.

Through their work, the artists tell of their lived experience, sharing powerful historical narratives about the resilience of Aboriginal people in the face of adversity.

The artworks not only captivate the eye but serve as a reminder of the rich cultural identity that exists within Alice Springs Town Camps, highlighting important social issues faced by these communities.

Town Camp, Bush Camp is showing until March 14.

For further information, or to see the artworks online, please go to shortstgallery.com.au/exhibitions/

Kilda
info/bookings: tickets selling fast from jessicamauboy.com.au/#Tour-1

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:
monafoma.net.au/

Mulga Bore Hard Rock
with TISM, Cash Savage and The Last Drinks, and FFLORA 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

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/

Vincent Namatjira: Indigenous All Stars (Enlighten Up Late)
when: Mar 1-11, evenings.
where: National Gallery of Australia
info/bookings: check the website for details at nga.gov.au/events/enlighten-up-late/

QUEENSLAND

How we remember tomorrow exhibition
when: until June 15
where: University of Queensland Art Museum, St Lucia, Brisbane
info/bookings: art-museum.uq.edu.au/how-we-remember-tomorrow

I am Here by Indigenous Design Labs
when: until Mar 2
where: Court House Gallery, Cairns
info/bookings:
indigedesignlabs.com.au/

Velvet Trip
Blues/psychedelic band, see page 5 for story
when: Mar 15
where: Stranded Bar, Fortitude Valley, Meanjin/Brisbane
info/bookings:
velvettripband.com/

Tjaka (band)
perform at *Fairy Tales Up Late*
when: Mar 16, 6-10.30pm -

where: Maiwar Green Stage, GOMA's Fairy Tales exhibition, Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane.
info/bookings: Proud descendants of the Jabirr Jabirr tribe in the Western Australian Kimberley, Tjaka are a Meanjin/Brisbane based band. Tickets at qagoma.qld.gov.au/event/fairy-tales-up-late

Seeds and Sovereignty
when: March 2-Sept 8
where: Gallery of Modern Art and Gallery 3.5
info/bookings: free entry, blog.qagoma.qld.gov.au/qagoma-2024-program-announced/

NEW SOUTH WALES

My Sovereign Black Body
A celebration of blackness by queer black artists, curated by Wamba Wamba man, Steven Lindsay Ross.
when: until Apr 13
where: Boomalli Gallery, Flood St Leichhardt
info/bookings:
boomalli.com.au/

Saltwater Freshwater Arts Exhibition 2023
Features 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:
saltwaterfreshwater.com.au/contact/

Yuldea on tour
Bangarra Dance Theatre's Yuldea returns, awakening the earth and sky worlds to tell the story of the Anangu people of the Great Victorian Desert.

when: tour runs from March 1 - 20

where: touring venues on Country of the Dharug, Djarkinjung, Wiradjuri and Kamilaroi people, and the Yuin Nation.

info/bookings:
bangarra.com.au

Dan Sultan
when: March 10
where: Newcastle Civic Centre NSW, Newcastle
info/bookings:
songkick.com/concerts/41605869-dan-sultan-at-newcastle-civic-centre-nsw

King Stingray's Cyclone Surf tour
when: Mar 11, doors 6pm
where: The Factory Theatre, Marrickville
info/bookings:
kingstingrayofficial.com/shows-1

Velvet Trip
Blues/psychedelic band, see page 5 for story
when: Mar 16
where: Mary's Underground, Circular Quay, Sydney
info/bookings:
velvettripband.com/

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Babbarra TEXTA
Works made in TEXTA by artists from Babbarra Women's Centre.
when: until March 2
where: Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre, Katherine East, Big River Region.
info/bookings:
gyracc.org.au/event/babbarra-texta/

Ngaylu Nyanganyi Ngura Winki (I Can See All Those Places) Kunmanara Carroll (1950 - 2021)
when: until May 12
where: Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
info/bookings:
araluenartscentre.nt.gov.au/

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Meeyakba Shane Pickett: Six Seasons
See works by one of WA's pre-eminent landscape artists and foremost Nyoongar artists of his generation.
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/

Jintulu: People of the Sun
when: until April 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/

'Ngapa William Cooper'
Concert of musical storytelling; tells the true story of the support of Jewish people in Nazi Germany by the Australian Aborigines League, also featuring two works by Stephen Pigram performed by the Australian String Quartet.
when: Sun, Mar 3
where: Perth Concert Hall, St George's Toe, Perth/Dyeedyallalup
info/bookings:
perthfestival.com.au/events/ngapa-william-cooper/

MANTANGURU/ From the Sand

when: Mar 9 - Apr 1
where: Earlywork Gallery, South Fremantle
info/bookings: you can view artworks at artitja.com.au/

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide Fringe
when: until Mar 17
where: venues around South Australia
info/bookings: see the full festival program at adelaidefringe.com.au/

Dane Simpson: Always Was Always Will Be... Funny
For 60,000 years of laughs, book now!
when: until Mar 2
where: Drama Llama at Rhino Room, Pirie St, Adelaide/Kaurna Country
info/bookings:
adelaidefringe.com.au/fringe/ix/dane-simpson-always-was-always-will-be-funny-af2024

Create4Adelaide
when: until Mar 17
where: Bicentennial Conservatory, Adelaide Botanic Garden, Kaurna Country/Adelaide
info/bookings:
adelaidefestival.com.au/events/create4adelaide/

Dusty Feet Mob
when: Mar 5-9
where: TAFE SA - Adelaide College of the Arts, Light Square, Adelaide
info/bookings: once only event, tickets from australias.guide/sa/event/adelaide/adelaide/dusty-feet-mob/

Nathan May
when: Mar 16, 7.30pm
where: Bar at William Creek Hotel, Oodnadatta Track, William Creek, Arabana Country
info/bookings: tickets from adelaidefringe.com.au/fringe/ix/nathan-may-af2024

Yankunytjatjara Wangka! Keeping Ancestral Voices Alive
when: until March 31
where: South Australian Museum
info/bookings:
samuseum.sa.gov.au/event/yankunytjatjara-wangka

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT



Ambulance Victoria paramedics Michelle Crilly and Keyanna Hood.

Dynamic duo hit the roads to save lives



WHEN Aboriginal Ambulance Victoria (AV) paramedics Michelle Crilly and Keyanna Hood

worked together on their first on-road shift, it was the first time Michelle had worked on shift with another Aboriginal paramedic.

"Keyanna is a close friend of mine and it's great to have had the opportunity to work

alongside her," Michelle said.

"It was super exciting to work alongside another Aboriginal paramedic for the first time in my career."

The pair met at university where they were completing their paramedic studies, just before entering the Ambulance Victoria cadet program eight years ago.

Now qualified paramedics, Michelle is based at Epping branch and Keyanna at North

Melbourne, following a few years at Bairnsdale branch.

Michelle said providing these opportunities to paramedics of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background ensures a comfortable environment and cultural safety.

"Being around our people and community makes us feel comfortable, safe and protected," she said.

"We're both proud to show people from our communities,

especially young Aboriginal kids, they can become a paramedic too – you can't be what you can't see.

Opportunities

"It shows our community that there are Aboriginal paramedics on the road and if they call an ambulance, they have the chance to be cared for by an Aboriginal paramedic."

She said these opportunities are an example of what AV is

committed to through its Reconciliation Action Plan.

"We want to create more opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to become paramedics and support them through their journey," she said.

"I'm excited to be working towards creating an ambulance service that offers strong pathways and opportunities to staff from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background."

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.
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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.

Allowances to support expenses and a professional casework team ready to support you – enquire with us today... Info packs available.

*All carers and their adult household members must have a valid cleared WWCC and submit paperwork required by the agency. Applicants undergo an assessment process and will be registered on the NSW carer register if successful. All carers are required to abide by the Ngunya Jarjum Code of Conduct.

Restoration - provide a safe and nurturing home while parents are supported to work towards their Jarjum returning home or an alternative kinship placement is identified through family finding.

Kinship or foster care - care for a Jarjum long term while maintaining connections with their mob and meeting all their needs working with the case work team and family members.



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APPLY NOW

Call 6626 3700 or visit www.ngunya.jarjum.com

Manager, Caring for Country (709740)

About the role
This is an exciting opportunity to play a key role in the design, implementation and delivery of joint land management initiatives that are informed through respectful relationships with Tasmanian Aboriginal people. This pivotal role will support NRE Tas in delivering on its strategic priority of placing Tasmanian Aboriginal people at the heart of managing land and sea Country.

Hours per fortnight
73.50 (minimum 58.80 hours, by negotiation)

Location
Launceston, Ulverstone or Hobart, Tasmania (to be negotiated).

Salary
\$136,605.00 to \$145,825.00 pro rata, per annum + super

Essential Requirements
Aboriginality. The Head of the State Service has determined that this is an Aboriginal identified position and that the person nominated for this position is to meet the Tasmanian Government's eligibility requirements in accordance with Employment Direction No. 10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment in the State Service before taking up the appointment, promotion or transfer.

Desirable Requirements
Relevant tertiary or equivalent professional expertise.
A current motor vehicle driver's licence.

How to apply
To apply, please provide a Short Form Application which is a 1-2 page covering letter outlining your experience, skills and knowledge as they relate to the Statement of Duties, and a copy of your current Resumé/CV.
Please note that we do not require a separate statement addressing the selection criteria.
Please apply online: www.jobs.tas.gov.au
Refer to the 'Statement of Duties' and 'Advice to Applicants' documents for further information.
If you are unable to submit your application online, please contact Recruitment@nre.tas.gov.au.

Closing Date
Applications close 14 March 2024 at 11.55pm.

For more information on the position please contact:

Alice Holeywell-Jones
Director (Landscape Programs)
Alice.Holeywell-Jones@parks.tas.gov.au
0419 826 385

Justin Febey
Regional Compliance Officer
Justin.Febey@parks.tas.gov.au
0407 567 901





Chief Executive Officer (Identified)

Triple A
West End, Brisbane QLD
Full time, 3-year fixed term contract
Salary Negotiable

Brisbane Indigenous Media Association (Triple A) is a community-controlled multimedia organisation that seeks a CEO with strong business, engagement, leadership and industry knowledge to drive the key strategic intent of our service.

We're looking for an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander CEO who will continue to drive excellence and deliver a connected, responsive and progressive agenda.

This is an exciting opportunity to lead a dynamic Indigenous media organisation. It's a unique opportunity to use your leadership skills in a highly regarded community-controlled organisation with a positive workplace culture and inspirational team, working to give First Nations people a voice and have our stories told our way.

You'll be working with a supportive Board and leading a committed team to elevate First Nations culture, stories and talent. This is an Identified role for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander candidates.

Triple A has a rich and proud history over 30 years, broadcasting since 1993 on 98.9FM, and now globally through digital and streaming networks. Triple A plays a pivotal role in the local, national, and global country music scene.

Position Description available from amanda@businessgovernance.com.au

Please submit a 2-page response to the position description and your CV of no more than 4 pages.

Applications close Weds 6 March 2024.



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.

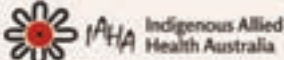
Project 2: Sydney Fish Market (Pyrmont) - Operational until approx. 2025
Electricians Needed: 4-6 positions.

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.





Work with IAHA!

IAHA IS LOOKING FOR DEADLY PEOPLE

IAHA is a national, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisation. If you'd like to work on innovative and exciting programs and initiatives which makes a difference; join the team.



Multiple roles across various levels



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Competitive pay and excellent benefits

If you're an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person seeking a change, we'd love to hear from you.

VISIT IAHA.COM.AU/WORKWITHUS FOR MORE INFORMATION AND EMAIL YOUR EO! TO PAUL@IAHA.COM.AU BY 3 MARCH 2024

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www.koorimail.com









Generalist Solicitor

An exciting opportunity exists at Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre to join our team as a Generalist Solicitor in our Nowra Office

This position requires energetic and enthusiastic person who can join our busy team at our community legal centre.

The successful applicants will be required to have strengths and capabilities in relation to the provision of legal advice, technology, outcomes, personal skills and workplace relationships. You will have a friendly and outgoing personality, be self-motivated, have great communications skills, show initiative, be able to deal with clients in a fast-paced environment and have an interest in social justice.

This is a full time position and is located in our Nowra office.

Shoalcoast CLC is an equal opportunity employer. If you are successful in this role, you will have:-

- access to salary sacrifice packaging benefits available for NFP organisations
- 5 weeks annual leave per year plus leave loading
- access to flexible working arrangements
- access to monthly supervision with a professional counsellor
- continued training and professional development opportunities

Phone 4422 9529 or email emma@shoalcoast.org.au for an information pack.

This information pack will contain a role description (including required strengths and capabilities for the role) and how to apply for the role.

Closing Date is 8 March 2024



RAP OFFICER-FACILITATOR (2-3 DAYS PER WEEK)

We currently have an opportunity for a RAP Officer-Facilitator to join the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The role can be based in Sydney, NSW or another state. This position is for 2 to 3 days per week or equivalent with a job share arrangement possible and days and hours negotiable.

The key purpose of this role is to engage with Indigenous communities and support our stakeholders to achieve our commitments in our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan. Support and mentoring will be provided.

This is a designated position for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples.

For more information about the role please email hr@sosj.org.au. Applications, which need to include a cover letter outlining your suitability for this role and a CV (resume), should be submitted by 21 March 2024.



Tauondi Aboriginal College EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION DELIVERY

Tauondi Aboriginal College is seeking a visionary and result driven leader, Executive Director of Education Delivery. Since 1973, Tauondi Aboriginal College has been supporting students with a culturally rich and responsive learning environment and providing positive outcomes through high quality training and employment services. Managed by Aboriginal people for the benefit of Aboriginal people in South Australia, Tauondi is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation leading the way in delivering training, social and emotional wellbeing programs, cultural services and employment services.

The Executive Director of Education Delivery is a key leadership position charged with overseeing and enhancing the quality and effectiveness of educational and support services offered by Tauondi Aboriginal College. Reporting directly to the Board of Directors, this role involves developing and implementing strategies to ensure the delivery of high-quality services aligned with regulatory standards.

The Executive Director of Education Delivery will lead efforts to assess, improve, and innovate educational programs, student support services, and community engagement initiatives. Collaboration with external partners is crucial to fostering a holistic approach to service delivery. The position requires a visionary leader with a background in education, program development, and a commitment to promoting culturally responsive practices. Cultural responsiveness is woven into the fabric of this role, promoting practices that respect the diverse community we serve, and leading the charge in enhancing cultural competency and safety among staff to create an inclusive environment.

For more detailed information about the position, please visit <https://tauondi.sa.edu.au/ed>.

How to apply:

To discuss before applying please contact Tadashi on 08 8240 0300. To apply, please email your cover letter, resume and a portfolio showcasing relevant experience to thr@tauondi.sa.edu.au

Applications for this role will close on Friday 15 March 2024.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.



Assistant Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement – Executive Level 1

*(Affirmative Measure, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Employment Provision)*

The National Archives of Australia has a new leadership position for a motivated and enthusiastic candidate to join our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement team. The team is responsible for the strategic and operational implementation of National Archives' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander initiatives. This new role enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to connect to and access the national archival collection, services, resources, and employment. The Assistant Director Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement leads and manages staff responsible for developing and delivering policy and initiatives of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy, and Implementation Plan.

This ongoing position is in located in our office at Parkes within the Parliamentary triangle, Canberra on Ngunnawal country.

What the National Archives has to offer:

- An inclusive working environment where the experiences and unique perspectives of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples are recognised and valued members of the Australian Public Service (APS).
- A genuine commitment to the career development of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander employees.
- Diverse staff networks, including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employee network; Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group; Diversity and Inclusion network, LGBTIQ+ network, Disability, and carers network.
- Flexible working arrangements, 15.4% employer contribution to superannuation, leave, and access to cultural leave.

About You:

This is a leadership role within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement section and includes.

- Lead and manage a team to deliver programs of work in line with National Archives strategic directions, change agenda and policies.
- Manage financial and staffing resources, planning, and reporting according to National Archives' policies and guidelines.
- Provide expert advice, recommend strategic directions, and manage complex or sensitive projects relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement with National Archives.
- Coordinate, monitor and review National Archives' access Memorandum of Understanding with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander link-up and other organisation signatories and Aboriginal Advisory Groups.
- Represent National Archives and build and maintain productive relationships engaging collaboratively with internal and external key stakeholders.
- Promote and apply the principles of APS Values, Code of Conduct, workplace diversity, work health and safety and participative management within a work and team environment.
- Implement, promote and apply the National Archives' Vision, Mission and Commitments as expressed in Strategy 2030 and Our Values.

Please note, this is an Affirmative Measures Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander vacancy.

For more information and to submit your application, please visit our website <https://careers.naa.gov.au/en/listing/> or contact Phyllis Williams, Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement at phylli



Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- Permanent full-time position
- 38 hours per week
- Location in Ballina, NSW
- Salary range negotiable from \$100,00 - \$130,000, plus relevant entitlements and superannuation
- This is an identified Aboriginal Position. An applicant's race is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised under Section 14(d) of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977

Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council is looking for a strong leader who has demonstrated experience in leading and managing organisations, holds a high level of commitment to land rights and social, cultural, and economic justice for Aboriginal people.

Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council is within the Bundjalung nation in northern NSW and is one of the largest land owners in the Ballina, Byron and Richmond Valley Local Government Areas.

The role will lead Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council and the local community through one of the most significant times in its history. To ensure the return of our community back into permanent homes after the flood in 2022. The role will oversee capital infrastructure projects, the protection and advocacy of our Culture and various programs and business initiatives.

To find out more about this role and if you are interested, please email jalicair@outlook.com to register for an information session, request a job package to apply for this role or arrange a time to discuss this opportunity.

Applications close on Sunday 3 March 2024 at 5pm.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER WALHALLOW VILLAGE, QUIRINDI & COLEDALE (TAMWORTH), NSW

About us

First established in 1993 in Walhallow Village (Caroona), the Walhallow Aboriginal Corporation is one of the longest running and most successful Aboriginal Medical Services in Australia. Over that time, it has grown substantially and now also provides services in Quirindi and Coledale (Tamworth). We are a multi-disciplinary service working with and within our communities to provide high standards of care.

The role

Reporting to the Board of Directors, this executive role will focus on the overall strategic direction and management of the organisation to ensure the achievement of the established strategic goals.

Your key objectives include:

- ensuring that the organisation is a leader in delivering efficient and effective business operations, risk management and financial performance;
- ensuring compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and funding requirements;
- establishment of core organisational values and ensuring these values are reflected in all aspects of the organisation and communicated to all stakeholders;
- creating, implementing and maintaining high quality and service performance standards and developing systems to build key relationships and improve operational efficiency;
- leading, developing and growing staffing cohort ensuring appropriate training, skills development and mentoring and promoting a strong team working environment to ensure clients receive the highest quality service;
- Implementing and driving organisational culture and innovation;
- managing all functions within the organisation and providing direction and guidance to the organisation as a whole; and
- managing the operational and strategic decision-making process and provide authoritative advice to the Board of Directors in relation to operational matters and organisational performance.

About you

You will be in an executive level role with extensive experience in management at a senior leadership level, preferably with an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation. You will need demonstrated knowledge and understanding of health issues impacting upon the health status of Aboriginal communities as well as:

- Post Graduate Tertiary qualification in Health, Management, Finance or similar discipline
- Demonstrated knowledge of strategic planning and achievement of strategic objectives
- Demonstrated experience in ensuring an effective management system, policy and procedure framework and financial system for an organisation
- Demonstrated ability to lead and develop a team at a senior level
- Exceptional communication skills to work effectively and positively with a wide variety of external stakeholders, community members and internal staff
- Current valid Driver's license, minimum of Class "c" or equivalent

Appointment to this position will be subject to a National Criminal History Record Check clearance and Working with Children Check. Two reference checks will be required including one recent supervisor.

We offer an excellent range of benefits including:

- \$170,000 salary range plus super
- Company vehicle with private use
- Non-profit status with salary sacrifice available to reduce tax and increase your take home pay
- An opportunity to shape the organisation and really make a difference to the communities we serve

To obtain a copy of the Candidate Application Package, contact Kelli Dragos, Abundance Human Resources at kelli.dragos@abundancehr.com.au or 0419 419 554.

The closing date for this role is 9.00am on Thursday, 14 March 2024.

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your way,**

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ruok.org.au/strongertogether

ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE

Walhallow Aboriginal Corporation is keen to hear from suitably skilled and experienced people interested in being employed to work at its Quirindi and Coledale (Tamworth) clinics.



In joining our Aboriginal Medical Service you can potentially reap the benefits of a “green-change” while also making a genuine contribution to Closing the Gap initiatives.

The Walhallow Aboriginal Corporation provides Aboriginal Medical Services in Quirindi, Coledale (Tamworth) and surrounding localities. We are a multi-disciplinary service working with and within our communities to provide high standards of care.

Do you want to:

- Make a difference in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Tamworth - Quirindi?
- Work as part of an experienced team to lead and support the delivery of high- quality services?
- Provide day-to-day leadership ensuring clinical nursing practice and patient care is consistent with all applicable standards and procedures?
- Have a positive impact on the organisation and the community?

Current vacancies:

General Practitioner - Quirindi

Practice Nurse – Coledale

Senior Practice Nurse – Quirindi

Closing dates:

23 March 2024

15 March 2024

15 March 2024

Please see our ads on Seek – search keyword “Walhallow”.

For further information please call
Practice Manager Katy Brett on 0418 233 085

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged
to apply for these positions.



NSW Police Force

Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (Identified role)
Central North Police District, Brewarrina

- Clerk Grade 3/4
- Ongoing Full-time
- \$97,218 pa. Package includes salary (\$79,032 to \$86,539), employer’s contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading.

About the Role

We have an opportunity for an **Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO)** to be part of our Central North Police District team. The Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer is responsible for providing advice and support to commands in the management of local Aboriginal issues. They assist in establishing and maintaining close personal rapport with Elders, Leaders, and the members of the Aboriginal community by developing network contacts to strengthen co-operation and communication and to assist community members in their dealing with local policing issues and their contact with other statutory bodies.

The candidate will receive a fortnightly payment of special remote allowance since Brewarrina is in a special remote location.

Applicants for this role must be of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification as authorised by Part 5, Clause 26 of the Government Sector Employment Rules 2014.

- A Working With Children Check (WWCC) is a prerequisite for this role; and
- Applicants must hold a current driver’s licence with no traffic offences recorded on their driving history within the last six (6) months

How to Apply

If you identify as a person with disability and require further information on the role or you require specific arrangements to participate in the recruitment process, please contact HR Diversity Team by email at **PCC-INCLUSION@police.nsw.gov.au**

If you would like assistance with your application or have any enquiries, please contact the NSWPF Aboriginal Employment & Engagement team at **PCC-AEET@police.nsw.gov.au**

Applications Close: Sunday 10 March 2024, 11:59 pm AEST

If you require any further information about this opportunity, please contact the hiring manager **Ainslie Smith via (02) 6870 0806**.

Applications can only be submitted electronically via the *I Work for NSW* website **iworkfor.nsw.gov.au** and search via the job reference number **A0000AH1T**



LP1990



DOING
THE
MOST
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NOTICE OF DANGGAN BALUN PEOPLE
NATIVE TITLE AUTHORISATION MEETINGS

The Danggan Balun People have a native title claimant application in the Federal Court of Australia (QUD331/2017) (**Danggan Balun Claim**) seeking recognition of their native title rights and interests under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

The current native title claim group for the Danggan Balun Claim are those persons who are descendants of the following apical ancestors and who identify and are recognised under the traditional laws and customs of the native title claim group as being affiliated (including by adoption) to country within the Application area:

1. Sarah Warri/Warru Clarke;
2. George *Daramlee* Drumley;
3. Jack Slab/Slabb Snr (husband of Lizzie *Waggil* Slabb & father of Charlotte, Frank, John/Jack Jnr, Olive & Victor);
4. Kitty Blow (wife of Joseph Blow & mother of Frank Blow & Hughie Blow);
5. *Bilin Bilin* aka Bilinba Jackey aka Jackey Jackey aka John “Johnny” Logan (father of Emily Logan & Johnny Logan);
6. Kipper Tommy Andrews (father of Lizzie Malay (nee Tommie));
7. Billy *Terribah/Didiba* Andrews;
8. Julia Sandy (wife of Arthur Ford);
9. Kitty Sandy, the mother of Arthur Ford;
10. Mary Ann Sandy nee Mitchell (mother of Mary Ann Drumley (nee Sandy), Ida Bell (nee Sandy), Janet Sandy, Norman Sandy Snr & Lindsay Sandy);
11. William “Billy” Mitchell and his wife, Lizzie Sandy;
12. Unnamed mother of Matilda “Mittie” Fogarty (nee Sandy) and Lizzie (mother of William “Billy” Stanley Brown Jnr);
13. *Coolum* (husband of Nancy Culham (nee Coolwell) & father of Joseph “Joe”, Maude, Lucy & Lena);
14. Unnamed mother of Nancy Culham (nee Coolwell) (wife of *Coolum* & mother of Joseph “Joe”, Maude, Lucy & Lena);
15. Yarry (father of Frederick “Fred” Yarrie/Yarry);
16. Jennie, mother of Joseph Coolwell (husband of Polly Allen/Dalton & father of Alice Edwards (nee Coolwell), Alfred Coolwell Jnr, Eva, Edward, Rose, Campbell, Michael & Andrew);
17. Polly Allen/Dalton (wife of Joseph Coolwell & mother of Eva, Edward, Rose, Campbell, Michael & Andrew);
18. Unnamed mother of Elizabeth Tomes/ Clark nee Wheeler;
19. Jim Edwards Snr (husband of Topsy (of Ipswich) & father of Jimmy Edwards Jnr);
20. William Williams (Snr);
21. *Bullum Bullum* aka John Allen;
22. Alice/Alison Parsons nee Moree, mother of Thomas Parsons;
23. John “Johnny” Bungaree / Bungary (father of Norman Sandy Snr, Lindsay Sandy and Stella Bungera/Bungary).

(the Danggan Balun Claim Group).



AUTHORISATION MEETING #1

This notice invites all members of the Danggan Balun Claim Group, as described above, to attend Authorisation Meeting #1 at the time and location below:

Date: Saturday 23 March 2024

Venue: Beenleigh Events Centre, Kent St, Beenleigh QLD 4207

Time: 9:30am (registration commencing at 9:00am)

The purpose of Authorisation Meeting #1 is to:

1. Receive information about the Danggan Balun Claim and possible amendments to the Danggan Balun Claim;
2. Consider whether to amend the Danggan Balun Claim by removing one or both of the following apical ancestors listed at Schedule A to the Danggan Balun Claim application and to authorise any such amendment/s:
 - a) Kitty Sandy, the mother of Arthur Ford; and/or
 - b) John “Johnny” Bungaree / Bungary (father of Norman Sandy Snr, Lindsay Sandy and Stella Bungera/Bungary);

If any amendments to the Danggan Balun Claim are authorised as per item 2 above, a second authorisation meeting (Authorisation Meeting #2) will be held following the close of Authorisation Meeting #1. Otherwise, Authorisation Meeting #2 will not proceed.

AUTHORISATION MEETING #2

This notice invites all members of Danggan Balun Claim Group as amended in accordance with the decisions made at Authorisation Meeting #1 (Amended Danggan Balun Claim Group), to attend Authorisation Meeting #2 at the time and location below:

Date: Saturday 23 March 2024

Venue: Beenleigh Events Centre, Kent St, Beenleigh QLD 4207

Time: Immediately following the close of Authorisation Meeting #2

The purpose of Authorisation Meeting #2 is for the Amended Danggan Balun Claim Group to authorise persons to be (or continue to be) the Applicant for the Danggan Balun Claim (as amended in accordance with the outcome of Authorisation Meeting #1), to make the application and to deal with all matters arising in relation to the Danggan Balun Claim.

To assist meeting participants to make informed decisions, information and legal advice relevant to the matters to be decided at the Authorisation Meetings will be provided at the commencement of each meeting.

Please contact First Nations Engagement Advisor of QSNTS, Franceine Bain, on Free Call **(07) 3224 1200** to register your intention to attend the Authorisation Meetings.

QSNTS is unable to assist individuals with transport to or from the Authorisation Meetings. However, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided to attendees on the day.





Notice of Public Comment

Eureka 3D MSS: Proposed Marine Seismic Survey

Industry regulator NOPSEMA has now released the Eureka 3D MSS 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 22nd February and 22nd March 2024.

The Eureka survey is a three-dimensional (3D) marine seismic survey (MSS) in Commonwealth waters of the Northern Perth Basin over exploration permit WA-481-P. The purpose of the Eureka 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 40 days to acquire and may be undertaken in February and March of either 2025 or 2026.



PUBLIC NOTICE

NATIVE TITLE AUTHORISATION MEETING



South Australian Native Title Services Ltd (SANTS) invites all **Nauo** people (as described below) to attend a native title authorisation meeting in relation to the Nauo 2 native title application.

Date: 14 March 2024
Venue: MALLEE PARK FOOTBALL CLUB, SEATON AVENUE, PORT LINCOLN, 5606
Time: 10:00 am – 2:00pm

Who may attend the authorisation meeting

The meeting is open to all Nauo people who are the claimants in the Nauo #2 native title claim who are descendants (including by traditional adoption) of any of the following ancestors and who identify as Nauo and are recognised by the other claimants under those traditional laws and customs as having rights and interests in the Determination Areas:

- Topsy Ahang;
- Mother of Elizabeth Anderson;
- Mary, mother of Henry Weetra; and
- Frederick Milerah

Purposes of Nauo 2 Authorisation meeting

The meeting will be conducted in two parts in order to:

- To consider and pass resolutions authorising the terms of a consent determination for Nauo 2;
- To consider and pass resolutions authorising the Nauo 2 Settlement ILUA (Indigenous Land Use Agreement) with the State Government .

Registering for the meeting

All Nauo people are invited to contact Sam or Khatija at SANTS to register to attend the authorisation meeting on 1800 010 360 or email at samuelt@nativetitlesa.org or khatijat@nativetitlesa.org.

Limited assistance including accommodation and transport will be available for the meeting in accordance with SANTS Policy and lunch and refreshments will be available during the morning.



Notice of a non-claimant application for determination of native title in Queensland

Notification day: 13 March 2024



National Native Title Tribunal

A ‘non-claimant’ application has been made to the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) seeking a determination that native title does not exist in the area described below. The Applicant has a non-native title interest in the area, which is set out in their application and summarised below.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), there can be only one determination of native title for an area. Unless there is a relevant native title claim, as defined in section 24FE, over the area described below on or before **12 June 2024**, the area may be subject to protection under section 24FA and **acts may be done which extinguish or otherwise affect native title**.

A person who claims to hold native title rights and interests in this area may wish to file a native title claimant application or become a party to this non-claimant application. These may be the only opportunities to have those rights and interests taken into account in the Federal Court’s determination. Any other person may also wish to become a party.

If you want to become a party to this application, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, **on or before 12 June 2024**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **12 June 2024**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.



Applicant’s name: Peter Rayment Whip
Federal Court File No: QUD555/2023

Non-native title interest: The Applicant is the Registered Lessee of Lot 5 Crown Plan PL66, Title Reference 17663147 and has applied to convert the property to freehold

Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks a determination that native title does not exist

Description: The application area covers about 70 sq km over Lot 5 on Crown Plan PL66 and is located approximately 46 km north of Aramac

Relevant LGA: Barcaldine Regional Council

For assistance and further information about this application, call Megan Harris on 07 3052 4921 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

Notice of a non-claimant application for determination of native title in New South Wales

Notification day: 13 March 2024



National Native Title Tribunal

A ‘non-claimant’ application has been made to the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) seeking a determination that native title does not exist in the area described below. The Applicant has a non-native title interest in the area, which is set out in their application and summarised below.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), there can be only one determination of native title for an area. Unless there is a relevant native title claim, as defined in section 24FE, over the area described below on or before **12 June 2024**, the area may be subject to protection under section 24FA and **acts may be done which extinguish or otherwise affect native title**.

A person who claims to hold native title rights and interests in this area may wish to file a native title claimant application or become a party to this non-claimant application. These may be the only opportunities to have those rights and interests taken into account in the Federal Court’s determination. Any other person may also wish to become a party.

If you want to become a party to this application, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, **on or before 12 June 2024**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **12 June 2024**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.



Applicant’s name: Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council
Federal Court File No: NSD31/2024

Non-native title interest: The applicant holds an estate in fee simple in relation to the areas comprising the application area but, pursuant to s 36(9) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW), the applicant’s interest is subject to any native title rights and interests that existed in relation to the land and waters immediately prior to its transfer to the applicant

Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks a determination that native title does not exist

Description: application area covers a combined area of about 1 sq km and is located approximately 5.5 km south of Eden in the vicinity of Brierly Point

Relevant LGA: Bega Valley Shire Council

For assistance and further information about this application, call Vasile Tiano on 02 8067 2158 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



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	21/172	MUSGRAVE MINERALS LIMITED	465.80HA	18.2km S'ly of Cue	Lat: 27° 35' S : Long: 117° 55' E	CUE SHIRE
Mining Lease	28/387	NORTHERN STAR (CAROSUE DAM) PTY LTD	204.79HA	74.3km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 31' S : Long: 122° 11' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	28/396	NORTHERN STAR (CAROSUE DAM) PTY LTD	1426.54HA	74.2km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 34' S : Long: 122° 12' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	57/663	SANDSTONE EXPLORATION PTY LTD	880.10HA	6.3km SE'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 1' S : Long: 119° 20' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Mining Lease	57/666	CLATWORTHY, Mark Roy	79.88HA	56.5km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 30' S : Long: 119° 28' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of mining leases, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of 21 years from notification of grant and a right of renewal for 21 years.

Notification day: 28 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 **28 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. **28 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 20247



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National Native Title Tribunal

Notice of a non-claimant application for determination of native title in New South Wales

Notification day: 13 March 2024

A 'non-claimant' application has been made to the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) seeking a determination that native title does not exist in the area described below. The Applicant has a non-native title interest in the area, which is set out in their application and summarised below.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), there can be only one determination of native title for an area. Unless there is a relevant native title claim, as defined in section 24FE, over the area described below on or before **12 June 2024**, the area may be subject to protection under section 24FA and **acts may be done which extinguish or otherwise affect native title**.

A person who claims to hold native title rights and interests in this area may wish to file a native title claimant application or become a party to this non-claimant application. These may be the only opportunities to have those rights and interests taken into account in the Federal Court's determination. Any other person may also wish to become a party.

If you want to become a party to this application, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, **on or before 12 June 2024**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **12 June 2024**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.

Applicant's name: Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council
Federal Court File No: NSD1505/2023
Non-native title interest: The applicant holds an estate in fee simple in relation to the areas comprising the application area but, pursuant to section 36(9) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW), the applicant's interest is subject to any native title rights and interests which existed in relation to the land immediately prior to its transfer to the applicant
Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks a determination that native title does not exist

Relevant LGAs: Cessnock and Newcastle City Councils
Description: The application area covers a combined area of about 0.45 ha over Lots 100 on DP1189336, 2414 on DP755247 and 7301 on DP1154500 and is located in the Hunter Region about 3.5 km, 7 km and 29 km respectively, west of Newcastle





For assistance and further information about this application, call Megan Harris on 07 3052 4921 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

For all your advertising needs email: advertising@koorimail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEEHIVE GEOTECHNICAL ASSESSMENT

EOG Resources Australia Block WA-488 Pty Ltd (EOG) is planning to undertake geotechnical investigations in Commonwealth marine waters within permit area WA-488-P. The geotechnical investigations will take place in the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf, within a 50 km² area off the Western Australian coastline and are in relation to the Beehive-1 exploration drilling project and the Beehive multi-well drilling (both described below).

The geotechnical activity is planned to take place over a 2-week period between January 2024 and no later than December 2025. An Environment Plan (EP) for the activity was approved by NOPSEMA (National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority) on January 29, 2024, with activity timing contingent on equipment availability.

BEEHIVE -1 EXPLORATION DRILLING

EOG Resources Australia Block WA-488 Pty Ltd (EOG) is planning to drill an exploration well known as Beehive-1 in Commonwealth marine waters in permit area WA-488-P. Beehive-1 is located in the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf, approximately 83 km's off the Western Australian coastline and approximately 294 km's southwest of Darwin.

Drilling of the single Beehive-1 exploration well, is planned to take place over a 55 to 100 day period between January 2024 and no later than December 2025. An EP for the activity is currently under assessment with NOPSEMA (National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority) with activity timing contingent on the receipt of EP acceptance, rig and equipment availability.

BEEHIVE MULTI-WELL DRILLING

EOG Resources Australia Block WA-488 Pty Ltd (EOG) is planning to drill up to three exploratory wells in Commonwealth marine waters in permit area WA-488-P, with each subsequent well after the first depending on finding sufficient hydrocarbons. The Multi-Well drilling activity is located in the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf, a minimum of 77 kms off the Western Australian coastline and around 300 kms southwest of Darwin.

The activity is currently expected to take place between January 2025 and December 2029 across one or more drilling campaigns. Each well is expected to take 55 to 150 days to drill. A draft EP is currently being developed. We will provide a link to such EP when it is available to allow you to provide your feedback.

Although the Multi-Well Drilling Program covers up to three wells, at this time EOG plans to drill one single exploration well at Beehive, which could be drilled under the Beehive-1 Exploration Drilling environmental plan or the Beehive Multi-Well Drilling environmental plan, depending on project timing and objectives at the time.

To assist you in making your assessment, the current EPs can be found via EOG's website. EOG is committed to continued open engagement to keep our stakeholders informed. You can access the website with the link below for the most up to date project information at any time.

<https://www.eogresources.com/australia> or QR Code

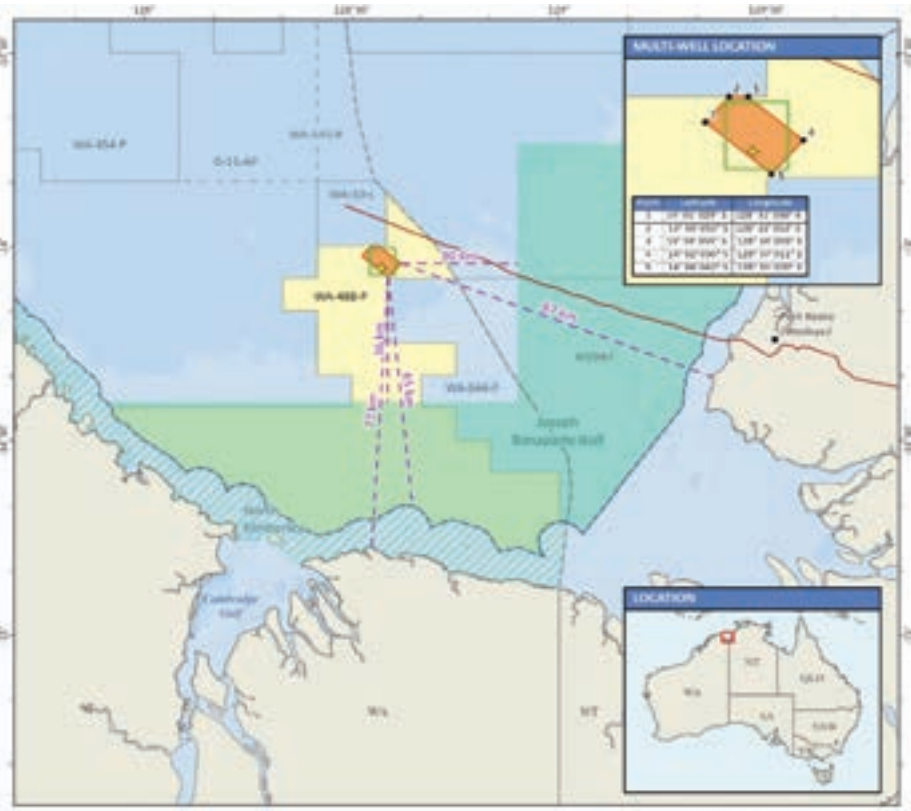



A version can also be found on the NOPSEMA website here:

Geotechnical Assessment: https://info.nopsema.gov.au/environment_plans/605/show_public
 Beehive-1 Exploration Drilling: https://info.nopsema.gov.au/environment_plans/643/show_public
 Beehive Multi-Well Drilling: To be provided when draft is available.

EOG is looking to gather information about the social, economic and cultural features near the EOG project area and requests feedback on the functions, activities, and interests in or around the project area that may be affected by our proposed activities. We will assess the merits of any objections or claims made and provide a response outlining our assessment of merit and any actions taken to mitigate the impact.

For further information, please contact us at:
 Email: australia@eogresources.com
 Local Consultant Representative Phone: **0472 519 027**



Beehive multi-well location

- Section 1 well location
- Multi-well project area
- Geotechnical investigation area
- Gas pipeline
- Coastal waters - 3 nm
- Offshore state boundary

Legend

- Australian marine park
- Marine park
- EOG exploration permit
- Petroleum permit
- Greenhouse gas assessment permit

Project: Beehive multi-well
File Name: P1189336-2414-7301-Consolidation
Date: 16/01/2024 **Page:** 50 of 64

eog resources

AVENTUS

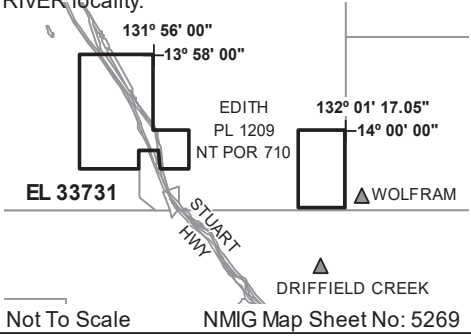
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION LICENCES

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

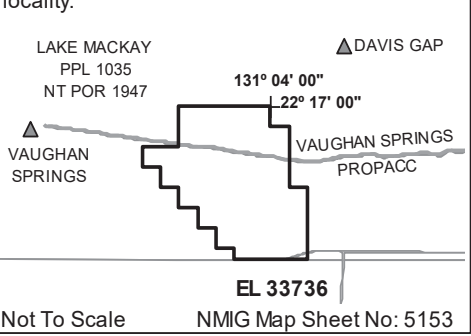
The Honourable Mark Monaghan MLA, the Northern Territory Minister for Mining, C/- Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) of her intent to do an act, namely to grant the following exploration licence applications.

Applications to which this notice applies:

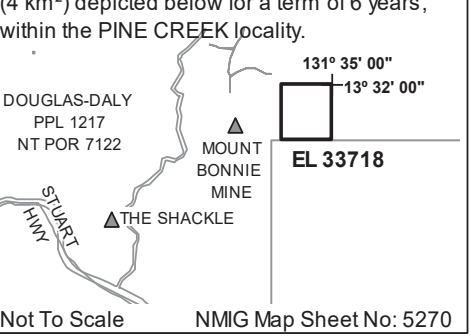
Exploration Licence 33731 sought by BACCHUS RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 606 340 872 over an area of 11 Blocks (31 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the FERGUSON RIVER locality.



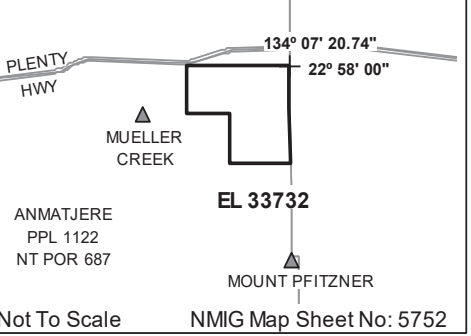
Exploration Licence 33736 sought by NORTH WEST IRON PTY LTD, ACN 633 113 934 over an area of 48 Blocks (147 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the DOREEN locality.



Exploration Licence 33718 sought by NT MINING OPERATIONS PTY LTD, ACN 136 525 990 and PNX METALS LIMITED, ACN 127 446 271 over an area of 1 Block (4 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the PINE CREEK locality.



Exploration Licence 33732 sought by WILUNA WEST GOLD PTY LTD, ACN 116 550 111 over an area of 5 Blocks (12 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the ALCOOTA locality.



Nature of act(s): The grant of an exploration licence under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* authorises the holder to conduct activities in connection with exploration for minerals for a term not exceeding 6 years and to seek renewal(s). The term for which it is intended to grant the mineral exploration licences referred to in this notice commences from the date of grant. Further information about the act may be obtained from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, GPO Box 4550 Darwin NT 0801 or Centrepont Building 48-50 Smith Street Darwin NT 0800, telephone (08) 8999 5322.

Native Title Parties: Any person who is, or becomes a "native title party" within the meaning of the *Native Title Act 1993* is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2, Division 3, Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993*. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries concerning becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Brisbane QLD 4001, or telephone (07) 3307 5000.

Expedited Procedure: The Northern Territory Government considers that the acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure as defined in section 237 of the *Native Title Act 1993*. The exploration licences referred to in this notice may be granted unless an objection is made by a native title party to the statement that the act is one which attracts the expedited procedure. Such an objection must be made to the National Native Title Tribunal within 4 months of the notification day.

Notification Day: 28 February 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
Exploration Licence	08/3540	RED HILL MINERALS LIMITED	35BL	46.4km SW'ly of Pannawonica	Lat: 21° 55' S : Long: 115° 59' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	26/229	YANDAL RESOURCES LIMITED	5BL	10.9km W'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 42' S : Long: 121° 21' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	30/576	FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD	7BL	52.2km W'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 46' S : Long: 120° 30' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3886	COSMO METALS LIMITED	70BL	119.4km NE'ly of Laverton	Lat: 27° 37' S : Long: 122° 52' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	53/2319	WILUNA WEST GOLD PTY LTD	2BL	39.9km SW'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 26° 50' S : Long: 119° 55' E	WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	63/2438	KINGSLAND GOLD PTY LTD	51BL	97.7km SE'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 32° 6' S : Long: 120° 11' E	DUNDAS SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3129	DUKETON MINING LIMITED	20BL	41.4km SE'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat: 31° 10' S : Long: 118° 31' E	MERREDIN SHIRE, NUNGARIN SHIRE, WESTONIA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3139	FLYNN GOLD LIMITED	2BL	80.3km S'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 32° 8' S : Long: 119° 49' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3141	FLYNN GOLD LIMITED	1BL	88.1km E'ly of Hyden	Lat: 32° 13' S : Long: 119° 48' E	KONDININ SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3179	YILGARN IRON PTY LTD	5BL	153.5km W'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 37' S : Long: 119° 27' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3180	YILGARN IRON PTY LTD	7BL	159.5km W'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 39' S : Long: 119° 23' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3181	POLARIS METALS PTY LTD	1BL	120.1km N'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 9' S : Long: 119° 7' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3182	POLARIS METALS PTY LTD	4BL	122.7km NE'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat: 30° 6' S : Long: 119° 5' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3184	POLARIS METALS PTY LTD	20BL	143km NE'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat: 29° 56' S : Long: 119° 10' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3185	POLARIS METALS PTY LTD	7BL	129.7km N'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 3' S : Long: 119° 17' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6862	SAUNDERS, Liliane Maria	6.26HA	19.6km S'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 22' S : Long: 121° 35' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	20/2504	WILLIAMS, Adam Merrick Driver	176.28HA	34.4km NE'ly of Cue	Lat: 27° 11' S : Long: 118° 6' E	CUE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	20/2505	WILLIAMS, Adam Merrick Driver	176.65HA	32.3km NE'ly of Cue	Lat: 27° 12' S : Long: 118° 5' E	CUE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	20/2506	WILLIAMS, Adam Merrick Driver	160.82HA	33.1km NE'ly of Cue	Lat: 27° 12' S : Long: 118° 5' E	CUE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5716	HESPERIAN RESOURCES PTY LTD	199.50HA	16.8km SE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 33' S : Long: 121° 26' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2780	COSTANZO, Patrick Natale	194.28HA	38.2km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 44' S : Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2782	COSTANZO, Patrick Natale	198.53HA	38.4km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 42' S : Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2783	COSTANZO, Patrick Natale	121.28HA	35.9km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 44' S : Long: 121° 50' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4729	BELRES PTY LTD	197.01HA	7.3km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 48' S : Long: 121° 28' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
		BUCKLE, Paul Stephen				
		FLEMING, Sean David				
Prospecting Licence	28/1407	BASTOW, Anthony Brian	179.66HA	75.2km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 35' S : Long: 122° 13' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	28/1414-S	BRANCH, Ian Robert	9.51HA	60km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 30' S : Long: 122° 1' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	28/1415-S	BRANCH, Ian Robert	9.85HA	60km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 30' S : Long: 122° 2' 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 Special Prospecting Licences, which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term up to 4 years from the date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.

Notification day: 28 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 **28 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. **28 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 20246

For your advertising needs email: advertising@koorimail.com

Notice of applications to register area agreements on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements in Northern Territory

Notification day: 6 March 2024



DI2023/005 Coomalie ILUA
Description of the agreement area:
The agreement area covers a combined area of about 5.4 sq km and is located about 11 km north east of Batchelor
Relevant LGA: Coomalie Community Government Council

The agreement contains the following statements:
3. FUTURE ACTS
3.1 Conditions to consent
(a) It is a condition to the Native Title Group's consent in clause 3.2 below that:
(i) the Exchange Block Grant occur; and
(ii) the grant of a fee simple estate to PWC over the ILUA Area is made subject to an easement in favour of the Land Trust over that part of the ILUA Area depicted in yellow on the map at Attachment C.
(b) For the avoidance of doubt, the consent and validation described in clause 3.2 will only take effect on and from the date that all conditions in clause 3.1(a) have been met.

3.2 Consent and Validation
(a) The Native Title Group consents to the doing of the Agreed Acts and agrees to the validation of any Prior Acts.
"Agreed Acts" means:
(i) pursuant to the *Crown Lands Act 1992* (NT), the grant in the name of the Territory of an estate in fee simple to PWC over the ILUA Area, subject to an easement in favour of the Land Trust over that part of the ILUA Area depicted in yellow on the map at Annexure C;
(ii) all acts reasonably necessary or incidental to affecting the grant referred to in (a)(i) above, including but not limited to: title change; subdivision; planning approval; consolidation; connection of services; and survey; and
(iii) the Prior Acts,
to the extent that such matters constitute or amount to Future Acts;
"Exchange Block Grant" means the grant under the ALRA of the Exchange Area as Aboriginal Land vested in the Finnis River Aboriginal Land Trust;
"ILUA Area" means Section 200 Hundred of Howard and that part of Section 2950 Hundred of Goyder depicted in red on the plan at Annexure B;
"Land Trust" means the Finnis River Aboriginal Land Trust;
"Prior Acts" means any of those things done by the Northern Territory prior to the date on which this Agreement is registered on the ILUA Register which fall within scope of the definition of "Agreed Acts" as defined in clause 1.1 (a)(ii).

Parties to the agreement and their contact addresses:

Northern Territory of Australia, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (the Territory) c/- Solicitor for the Northern Territory, GPO Box 1722, Darwin NT 0801	Northern Land Council (the NLC) GPO Box 1222, Darwin NT 0801
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DI2023/006 Ooraminna Oaks - Access Road
Description of the agreement area:
The agreement area covers about 3.4 ha and is located approximately 32 km south of Alice Springs
Relevant LGA: MacDonnell Regional Council

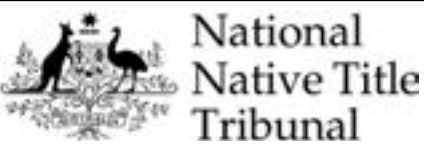
The agreement contains the following statements:
[Explanatory notes in brackets inserted by the National Native Title Tribunal]
8.1 Project and associated Project rights
(a) The Parties consent and agree to the doing of the Agreed Acts and the validation of the Prior Acts.
(b) The Land Council on behalf of the Native Title Holders consent and agree under clause 8.1(a) in consideration of the Monetary Payment.
8.2 Requisite consent
The Parties acknowledge that the consents in this clause 8 constitute consent of the Parties to the doing of the Agreed Acts for the purposes of section 24EB(1)(b)(i) and section 24EBA(1)(a)(i) of the

NTA and regulations 7(5)(a) and 7(5)(d) of the ILUA Regulations.
8.3 No objection
The Land Council agrees that it will not, challenge or object to the Agreed Acts, including their validity, or do, or omit to do, any act that may prevent or delay the Agreed Acts.
Access Road means the proposed road accessing the Ooraminna Oaks Development from the Maryvale Road, which traverses NT Portion 4259 in the ILUA Area, described in Schedule 1 and in Schedule 2 (Map of ILUA Area). *[Please note Schedule 2 is not included in this notice].*
Agreed Acts means:
(a) the grant of the Project Rights; and
(b) all acts necessary, in connection with the Project, including all activities conducted or authorised under any Project Right; and
(c) the Prior Acts,
to the extent that such matters constitute or amount to Future Acts, whether on or after the Commencement Date.
Commencement Date means the date this Agreement is executed by the last of the Parties to execute it.
ILUA Area means the area to which this Agreement applies, being the land as described in Schedule 1 (Description of ILUA Area). *[Please note Schedule 1 is not included in this notice].*
Monetary Payment means the payment that Developer agrees to provide in accordance with clause 9.1(a).
Project means all activities, works and operations to develop, construct, use, and operate and maintain the Access Road in the ILUA Area and to facilitate the opening of the Access Road as set out in Recital B.
Project Rights means all approvals, authorisations, authorities, certificates, consents, declarations, directions, easements, leases, licences, notices, permits, renewals, rights, tenures or titles:
(a) from any Government Agency; and
(b) for the carrying out of the Project in the ILUA Area.

Parties to the agreement and their contact addresses:

Janice Eleanor Hayes as Trustee for the Jabill Family Trust (Developer) PO Box 1395, Alice Springs NT 0871	Central Land Council (Land Council) 27 Stuart Highway, Alice Springs NT 0870
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Objections to the registration of an ILUA where the application for registration has been certified:
These two applications for registration of indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs) have been certified by the Northern Land Council (for DI2023/005) and the Central Land Council (for DI2023/006), the representative bodies for the area concerned. The area covered by each agreement is shown in the respective maps. Any person claiming to hold native title to any part of the areas covered by any of the agreements may object in writing within the notice period to the registration of the agreements if they think that the applications to register the ILUAs have not been properly certified. If you wish to object to the registration of any of the agreements (and you hold or claim to hold native title in any part of the areas covered by the agreements) you may only object for one reason: in your view, the applications to register the ILUAs have not been properly certified, as stated in section 203BE(5)(a), (b) and (c) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). You must make this objection in writing and send it to the **Native Title Registrar, National Native Title Tribunal, PO Box 2528, St Georges Terrace Post Shop, Perth WA 6831** by **6 June 2024**. Generally, procedural fairness will require that the material you provide is given to certain other persons or organisations for comment. It may also be taken into account in the registration of other ILUAs and claimant applications and thus be provided to relevant persons or organisations for comment.
Details of the terms of the agreement are not available from the National Native Title Tribunal.
For assistance and further information about DI2023/005, call Huia McGrath on 08 6317 5442. For assistance and further information about DI2023/006, call Claire Smith on 08 6317 5333, or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



KYBURRA MUNDA YALGA
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
RNTBC ICN7581
NOTICE OF 2023 AGM AND
CHAPMAN FAMILY ILUA MEETING

1. The Kyburra Munda Yalga AGM will be held on Saturday, 16 March 2024 from 9:00am to 12:00pm at the Bowen State High School, Argyle Park Road, Bowen QLD 4805.
 2. Following the AGM a meeting of the JURU COMMON LAW NATIVE TITLE HOLDERS will be held from 1:00pm to 4:00pm to consider, and if appropriate to do so, authorise and consent to Kyburra Munda Yalga entering into an ILUA with Russell Trevor Chapman, Helen Dorothy Chapman, Simon Kenneth Chapman, Shona Maree Chapman, Darren James Walker and Kylie Marie Walker (the "Chapman Family").
- To obtain a formal Notice and an agenda for both meetings, please contact Saylor Legal on 07 4431-0074 or by sending an email to admin@saylorlegal.com.au or jurupeoplernntbc@outlook.com.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION –
PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES
REFORM FOR KEY SERVICES

Queensland Public Trustee is proposing to reform its fees and charges for the key service areas of financial management, deceased estates and trust administration. The objective of the proposed reform is to adjust fees and simplify fee structures to make them easier to understand.
Have your say
Public consultation on the Queensland Public Trustee's Proposed Fees and Charges Reform is open for comment up to 3 April 2024.
Visit www.pt.qld.gov.au to
• read the consultation paper
• submit your feedback via formal written submission.



M1-1072





Esso's oil and gas facilities in Bass Strait



An ExxonMobil Brand

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.

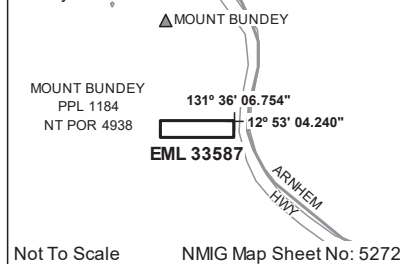
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF AN EXTRACTIVE MINERAL LEASE

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(s) namely to grant the following extractive mineral lease application.

The application to which this notice applies:

Extractive Mineral Lease 33587 sought by OSTOJIC GROUP PTY LTD, ACN 009 629 805 over an area of 16 Hectares depicted below for a term of 10 years, within the MARY RIVER locality.



Nature of act(s): The grant of an extractive mineral lease under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* authorises the holder to extract or remove (whether by quarrying or other means) from, on or below the natural surface of the land, extractive mineral(s) for a term not exceeding 10 years and to seek renewal(s). The term for which it is intended to grant the extractive mineral lease/s 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 5213.

Native Title Parties: Any person who is, or becomes a "native title party" within the meaning of the *Native Title Act 1993* is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2, Division 3, Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993*. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries concerning becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Brisbane QLD 4001, or telephone (07) 3307 5000.

Notification Day: 28 February 2024

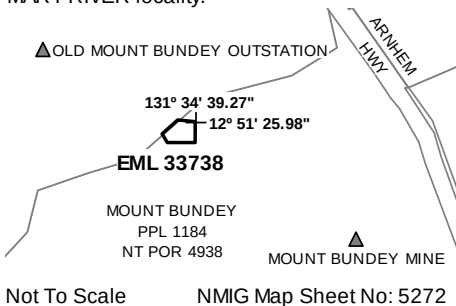
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF AN EXTRACTIVE MINERAL LEASE

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

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The application to which this notice applies:

Extractive Mineral Lease 33738 sought by MOUSELLIS & SONS PTY. LTD., ACN 009 654 791 over an area of 4 Hectares depicted below for a term of 10 years, within the MARY RIVER locality.



Nature of act(s): The grant of an extractive mineral lease under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* authorises the holder to extract or remove (whether by quarrying or other means) from, on or below the natural surface of the land, extractive mineral(s) for a term not exceeding 10 years and to seek renewal(s). The term for which it is intended to grant the extractive mineral lease/s 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 5213.

Native Title Parties: Any person who is, or becomes a "native title party" within the meaning of the *Native Title Act 1993* is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2, Division 3, Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993*. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries concerning becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Brisbane QLD 4001, or telephone (07) 3307 5000.

Notification Day: 28 February 2024

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RENEWAL AND GRANT OF MINING LEASES

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed renewal of Mining Lease (ML) 20312, and the grant of ML 100376 subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

Nature of Act(s): The renewal of Mining Lease 20312 under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) authorises the holder to mine and carry out associated activities subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) for a term not exceeding twenty (20) years with the possibility of renewals for terms not exceeding twenty (20) years. The grant of Mining Lease 100376 under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) authorises the holder to mine and carry out associated activities subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) for a term not exceeding ten (10) years with the possibility of renewals for terms not exceeding ten (10) years.

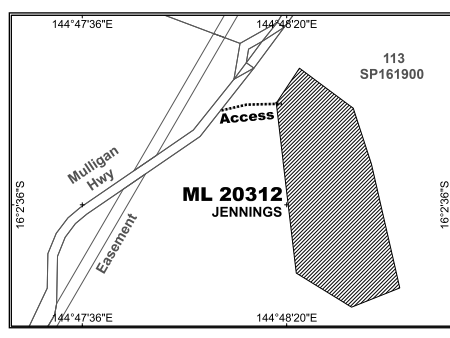
Name and Address of person doing Act(s): It is proposed that the Mining Leases be renewed and granted subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) by the Queensland Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

Native Title Parties: Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) any person who is a "native title party" is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed renewal and grant of the Mining Leases. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after the Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: 1300 720 980 or Email: nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au. Enquiries in relation to the registration of a native title determination application may be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Brisbane Registry, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

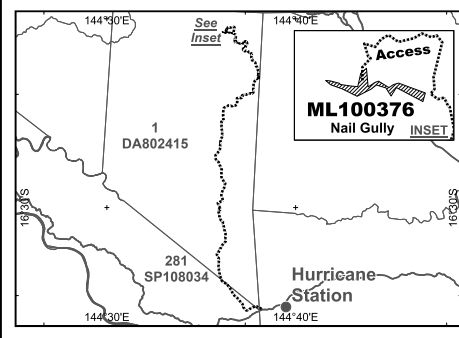
Further Information: May be obtained from the Department of Resources, Mineral Assessment Hub, Level 9, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders Street, Townsville, Qld, 4810. Telephone: (07) 4447 9230 or Email: MineralHub@resources.qld.gov.au.

Notification Day: 13 March 2024

ML 20312 renewal applied for by Edmund Henry Jennings, over an area of 78.5549 ha centred approximately 8 kms northeast of the Palmer River Roadhouse, in the locality of the Cook Shire Council.



ML 100376 grant applied for by Dennis Ronald Fitzgerald, over an area of 7.3960 ha centred approximately 60 kms northwest of Mount Carbine, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.



Veterans, rookies, seasoned



A NEW year and a new season full of possibilities await the 74 First Nations AFL footballers from across the 18 clubs. From premiership heroes to stars injured and unable to get on the track, long-time *Koori Mail* football writer, photojournalist, and Croweater, **PETER ARGENT** runs the rule through them all...

ADELAIDE (2)

Wayne Milera
Izak Rankine

Expect further improvement and impact from the mercurial Izak Rankine after his impressive first season in the Crows' tri-colours, where he kicked 36 goals and laid 64 tackles in 20 games. Wayne Milera had a season of growth last year where he played a career-high 22 games following the frustrations of 2020 and 2021; he should emerge as a senior player in Adelaide's defence this year.

BRISBANE (3)

Callum Ah Chee
Charlie Cameron
Keidean Coleman

The Lions, football's bridesmaids in 2023, will be looking for a consistent season from Callum Ah Chee, who played 12 games last year. Keidean Coleman is entering his fifth season, having played 64 games, and he is one of the AFL's up-and-coming creative half-backs in the AFL with his impressive decision-making and skill execution. Turning 30 during this campaign, the electric Charlie Cameron has kicked upwards of 50 goals in the past three seasons. Expect another big year from him.

CARLTON (3)

Jack Martin
Jesse Motlop
Zac Williams

Carlton will be looking for a bigger impact on the scoreboard from Jesse Motlop, the youngster kicking 24 goals from 21 games last winter. The second-generation Motlop is entering his third AFL season. The enigmatic Jack Martin hasn't had a 20-game season since he was at the Suns in 2017; he enters his 10th campaign this year. Zac Williams missed all of 2023 with a season ending pre-season injury. Now 29, the Blues will be hoping Williams can return to the form he showed at the Giants.

COLLINGWOOD (4)

Josh Eyre
Bobby Hill
Ash Johnson
Nathan Kreuger

Josh Eyre, who was selected during the pre-season supplementary selection period this month, has another chance with the reigning premiers, although he recently suffered a hamstring tendon tear. A tall utility, Eyre was elevated to Essendon's VFL list in 2022 having been a part of the club's Next Generation



GWS Giants' Toby Bedford will be looking to build upon an outstanding season last year. Pictures: Peter Argent

Academy. A prized recruit for Collingwood in 2023, Bobby Hill delivered when it counted most, with a four-goal Norm Smith Medal-winning grand final performance. High-marking forward with the ability to excite, Ash Johnson played 15 games in the 'Pies premiership season, but none in the finals. Athletic big man from South Australia, Nathan Kreuger needs a big year after just nine games in five seasons and various injury problems.

ESSENDON (4)

Alwyn Davey Jnr
Jayden Davey
Jade Gresham
Tex Wanganeen

Alwyn Davey Jnr played 10 games in his debut season last year and will be looking to build on that. His twin brother Jayden spent 2023 on the sidelines after suffering a knee injury that required a reconstruction, his second; he, too, will be looking to take steps forward on the field this year. Jade Gresham joins the Bombers after 136 games and eight seasons at the Saints; he will be looking for a new lease of footy life. The son of 1993 Brownlow Medallist, Gavin, Tex Wanganeen didn't play a senior

game in 2023 and will need to have some impact this year.

FREMANTLE (3)

Alex Pearce
Michael Walters
Conrad Williams

Second-year skipper Alex Pearce is a 28-year-old key defender who played all 23 games last year, constantly matching up on the opposition's best forwards and locking them down. Now 33 and in the veteran stages of an outstanding career, Michael Waters is among the elite small forwards across the past decade. He has played 222 games kicking 348 goals with 33 of those coming in 2023. Appearing in five WAFL league games towards the end of last season, Conrad Williams joins Freo as a NGA graduate.

GEELONG (4)

Mitchell Edwards
Lawson Humphries
Brandan Parfitt
Tyson Stengle

A developing 205cm ruckman who loves flying for a big mark, expect Mitchell Edwards to develop in the VFL during the upcoming campaign. Lawson Humphries is a WAFL Colts and



The boy from Bute, Port Adelaide's Lachlan Jones enters his fourth season in the AFL.



Hawthorn's Jarman Impey enters his seventh AFL season in 2024, all at the Hawks.

reserves premiership player at Swan Districts, and played impressively at league level in 2023. He is a skilful 20-year-old on-baller who shows great versatility as well. A strong-bodied midfielder who wins plenty of the footy, Brandan Parfitt struggled with injury in 2023 and will be looking to return to the good form from a couple of years ago. After an All-Australian campaign in 2022, and a premiership, small forward Tyson Stengle kicked 27 goals from 19 games last year; in form, he perfectly compliments the Cats' forward-line 'bigs'.

GOLD COAST (6)

Jy Farrar
Joel Jeffery
Lloyd Johnston
Sean Lemmens
Ben Long
Malcolm Rosas Jnr

Jy Farrar extended his contract to the end of 2025. He found form in defence at the end of last winter and will be looking to increase his consistency as well. Joel Jeffery, the son of football great Russell Jeffery, added seven games in his third season at the Suns; he needs to find consistency this season. Lloyd Johnston is a speedy defender who earned his

debut late in 2023. He also played in the Suns' 2023 VFL premiership-winning side. Sean Lemmens is an unsung hero at the Suns – outside the club, at least. He debuted in 2014 and should chalk up his 150th game early this season. Ben Long is in his second season at the Suns after six at the Saints. He will be looking to give plenty of rebound from the back half for Gold Coast. With lightning quick speed, an elite ability to find the goals and a ruthless tenacity to pressure opposition defenders, Malcolm Rosas Jnr is developing into an elite small forward.

GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY (1)

Toby Bedford

Toby Bedford was outstanding for the Giants in 2023 with his explosive pace as they charged deep into the finals and who were a straight kick away from a second grand final appearance. He adds an important dynamic to the club's forward structures. Bedford laid a massive 97 tackles in just 19 games last year; just as important, the coaching staff will like more impact on the scoreboard from him.

● Continued on next page...

pros with a shot at the title

● From page opposite

HAWTHORNE (3)

Karl Amon
Jarman Impey
Chad Wingard

Karl Amon is a classy and skilful distributor of the ball and is a high disposal winner; he hits targets regularly. Jarman Impey, from Shepparton, is now a 172-game veteran in his seventh season at the club and will give plenty of drive from defence. Chad Wingard was delisted – while injured – and later re-selected by the Hawks as a rookie; he isn't expected to play this season. An interesting footnote with this trio is that they all began their AFL careers at Port Adelaide.

MELBOURNE (3)

Steven May
Shane McAdam
Kysaiah Pickett

A dependable and constant presence in the Demons back six, Steven May is a 216-game veteran of the AFL, with a premiership and dual All-Australian honours. Shane McAdam, the medium forward from Halls Creek, will be looked upon as a key avenue to goal this year. He played 50 games for the Crows across four campaigns. Kysaiah Pickett, with a rich family history in the game, is a certified star of the competition. With the ability to play midfield minutes as well as up forward, he also had an impressive 93 tackles last season.

NORTH MELBOURNE (3)

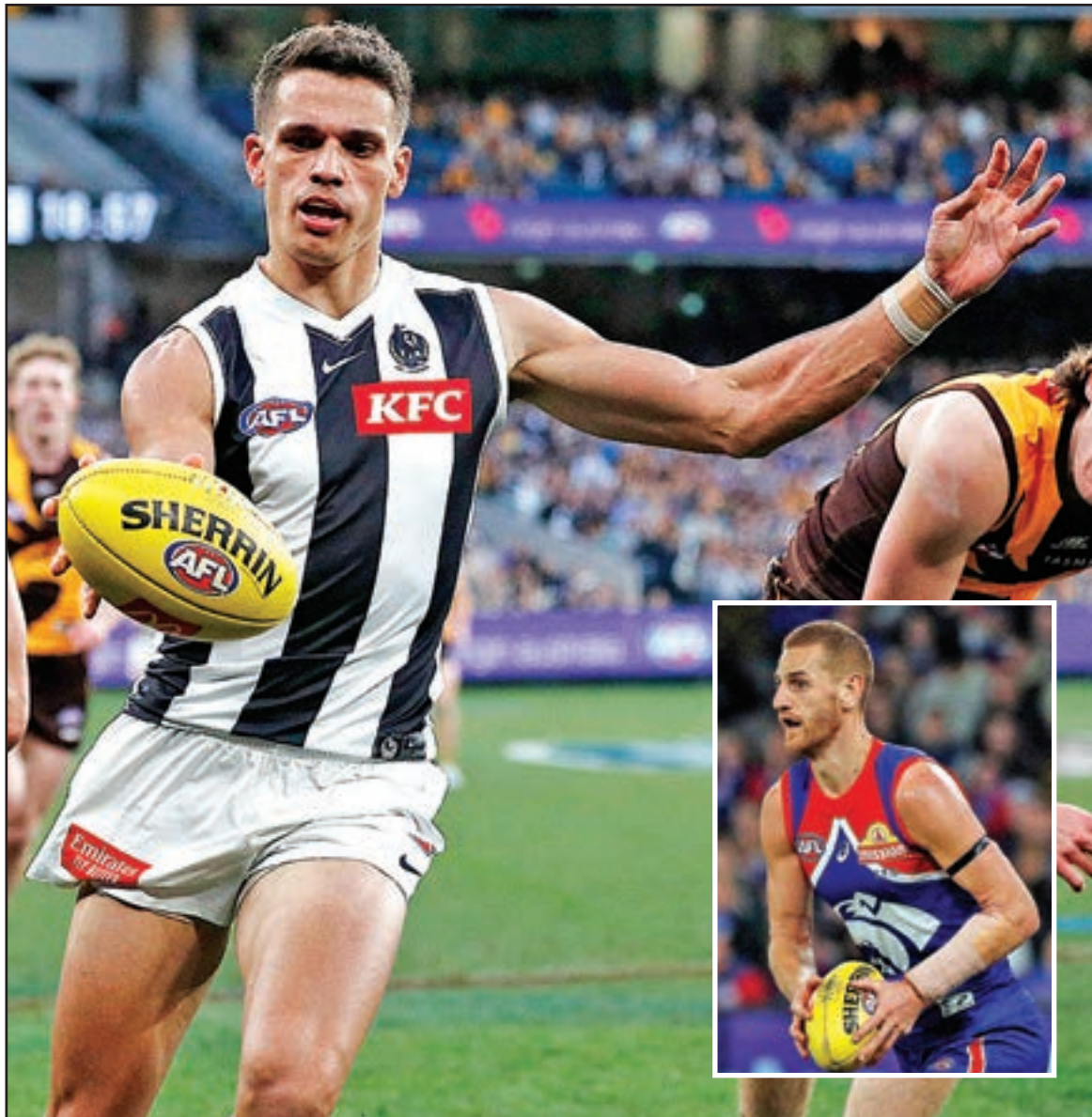
Robert Hansen Jnr
Jy Simpkin
Tarryn Thomas*

North Melbourne selected West Australian small forward Robert Hansen Jnr with pick No.2 in last year's mid-season rookie draft. Late in the season, he earned selection to play two games. With 134 games to his credit, plus a host of personal accolades, Jy Simpkin is one of the unheralded superstars of the competition. He is averaging upwards of 20 possessions a game across his entire AFL career since it began in 2017. Tarryn Thomas played 12 games in 2023 and the Kangas coaching staff will be looking for more from the Tasmanian this year.

PORT ADELAIDE (7)

Jase Burgoyne
Jeremy Finlayson
Jason Horne-Francis
Lachlan Jones
Quinton Narkle
Sam Powell-Pepper
Willie Rioli

Jase Burgoyne is now in his third season at AFL level with the coaching staff looking for organic growth this year from the young running defender. Now 28, Jeremy Finlayson is in his third season at Alberton and will play a big role as a forward/ruck. Jason Horne-Francis is emerging as an elite footballer. The AFL's third Aboriginal No.1 national draft selection (behind Des Headland and Jamarra Ugle-Hagan), Horne-Francis is key to the Port engine-



Collingwood's high-marking forward Ash Johnson has the ability to excite and he will be hoping to add to the 15 games he played last year. Inset: Western Bulldogs' Liam Jones. Pictures: Peter Argent

room. Entering his fourth season, the Power faithful will be looking for a big year from the boy from Bute, Lachlan Jones, with his versatility and attack on the ball. After being secured mid-season, highly skilled Quinton Narkle played three games late in the 2023 campaign and will be looking to force his way into the midfield rotations. Sam Powell-Pepper, now part of Port's leadership group, played all 25 games in 2023 and is proving to be a key player of the team's forward structures. After productive first season at the Power, which included 31 goals from 19 games, Willie Rioli, 28, is at the peak of his powers.

RICHMOND (6)

Shai Bolton
Matthew Coulthard
Rhyan Mansell
Marlion Pickett
Daniel Rioli
Maurice Rioli Jnr

Shai Bolton placed third in the Jack Dyer Medal and second in the club's goal-kicking list. He was impressive last season and is one of the marquee players in the league. Matthew Coulthard had an amazing journey from local football to the AFL (via the 2023 mid-season rookie draft) 12 months earlier. Rhyan Mansell is a tough nut from Tasmania in defence (and won a premiership with Woodville-West Torrens) who has played 32 AFL games. Now 32 and having played in a pair of flags, Marlion Pickett penned a

one-year deal for this season. A durable type, he needs to play 22 games to reach the 100-match milestone in what would be a remarkable achievement. Triple-premiership player Daniel Rioli is now a 160-game, eight-season veteran; he is noted for his ability to read the play and distribute the ball. In his fourth season at the Tigers, and the son of club legend Maurice Rioli Snr, Maurice Jnr will be looking to reproduce what he delivered in the 2022 campaign after a quiet 2023.

ST KILDA (6)

Lance Collard
Liam Henry
Bradley Hill
Isaac Keeler
Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera
Marcus Windhager

Rookie Lance Collard will add goal-kicking acumen and attacking flair in his rookie season. Brad Hill, in his fifth season at Moorabbin, has played 82 games with the Saints, and 233 across his career that started at the Hawks and also included Fremantle. He has exceptional speed and endurance. Liam Henry became a Saint in the trade period after a deal with Fremantle. He has already impressed in the pre-season – he played 43 games in four years at the Dockers. The tall Isaac Keeler is expected to grow into a key-position role this year after a senior season in the VFL. Smooth-moving half-back Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera averaged an

elite 23.5 possessions a game across 24 matches last year. Marcus Windhager had a strong 2023 season where he won a Rising Star nomination and won the club's Best Emerging Player award. He is among a group of exciting young Indigenous players at the club.

SYDNEY (3)

Joel Hamling
Indhi Kirk
Cooper Vickery

Joel Hamling joins his fourth AFL club, having previously been at Geelong, the Western Bulldogs as a 2016 premiership player and Fremantle – but he has played just six games in the past four years (91 in total). Indhi Kirk is the son of Swans legend and 2005 premiership player Brett Kirk; Kirk junior has been is a Swans Category B rookie from the club's academy program. Cooper Vickery was a Hawthorn NGA player before being picked up by the Swans.

WEST COAST (5)

Tyler Brockman
Tyrell Dewar
Jamaine Jones
Tim Kelly
Liam Ryan

Tyler Brockman got his wish to be traded home to Perth after playing 26 games in three years at the Hawks, including 15 last season. West Coast Naitanui Academy product Tyrell Dewar is a natural and classy forward who



Port Adelaide hard man Sam Powell-Pepper.

spent the 2023 season in the WAFL. Half-back Jamaine Jones was in strong form for the opening 10 games of the 2023 season before suffering a significant ankle injury. He has played 55 senior games. The club's 2023 John Worsfold Medal winner, Tim Kelly is a ball-magnet who averaged over 28 disposals a game last year. He gives the midfield grunt and ball-winning ability. Among the long list of injuries at the Eagles last year, high-leaping Liam Ryan only played three games. At 27 the game-breaking 2018 premiership player is looking for a big winter and to excite the Eagles faithful, and to give them hope.

WESTERN BULLDOGS (4)

Arthur Jones
Liam Jones
Jamarra Ugle-Hagan
Ryley Sanders

The 2020 No. 1 draft pick, Jamarra Ugle-Hagan will be looking to build upon a strong 2023 campaign where he kicked 35 goals from 23 appearances as a key forward. Tasmanian Ryley Saunders possesses the ability to play both inside and outside and he is expected to have an impact early in his debut season. Liam Jones is in his second year – and second stint – back at 'the Kennel' – and after seven years at Carlton. He is among the leadership group and has now played 179 games in the top tier. Western Australian draftee Arthur Jones is developing into a cult hero at the Bulldogs; he played his first 13 games at AFL level last year and is noted for his goal celebrations.

* Late last week, Tarryn Thomas was axed by North Melbourne and the AFL. See our report on page 54.

Big year ahead for premiers,

By KRIS FLANDERS



FANS rejoice! The 2024 NRL premiership season is upon us. This season, there are 51

Indigenous players in the Top 30 throughout the 17 clubs, some of those the biggest, and best names, in the game. Let's take a look at them all, and see what is possible for the new season ahead...

BRISBANE (4)
Selwyn Cobbo
Ezra Mam
Kotoni Staggs
Reece Walsh

Selwyn Cobbo had a cracking 2023 where he played State of Origin representative football for Queensland, and for Australia. With 49 games and 37 tries Cobbo is one of the best runners in the game and Brisbane fans will do plenty of standing and cheering for the lad. Ezra Mam almost single-handedly delivered the Broncos a premiership in last year's decider and the Broncos faithful will be hoping he plays like that every week. Mam loves scoring tries and has 24 to his name already. He will bring up his 50th game this season, too. Kotoni Staggs had a breakout season in 2023 and ended the year in Kangaroos colours. With 100 NRL games, he brings experience, and excitement, to the team. Reece Walsh is one of the best young stars in the game. He debuted for Queensland in State of Origin last season and is likely to be there again. An attacking weapon, Walsh is a legitimate match-winner.

CANBERRA (4)
Jamal Fogarty
Sebastian Kris
Hohepa Puru
Xavier Savage

Jamal Fogarty only missed one game in 2023 and this year he will be the main actor for the club. Fogarty was the club's best points-scorer for the second consecutive year and is likely to make that three in a row. He keeps getting better under coach Ricky Stuart. Sebastian Kris is embarking on his fifth NRL season and he, too, like Fogarty, has gotten better each year. He is also a prolific try-scorer with 32 from 65 appearances. Hohepa Puru made his NRL debut last year with two matches and this year made his Indigenous All-Stars debut in Townsville; he's a talented lock with a big future. Xavier Savage played just one match in 2023 after suffering a fractured jaw. The winger/fullback will be hoping to stay injury-free and add to his 23 games (and nine tries).

CANTERBURY-BULLDOGS (4)
Josh Addo-Carr
Bailey Biondi-Odo
Josh Curran
Blake Taaffe

Josh Addo-Carr will play his ninth season this year. A fan favourite at Belmore, the 'Foxx' has bulked up over the off-season



Canberra Raiders' Jamal Fogarty was the club's best points-scorer in 2023 and he is key to the team's fortunes this year. Pictures: Getty Images



Brisbane Ezra Mam (centre) celebrates with teammates.

with size and muscle. The speed is still there, though, and this will make him a great attacking option for the Dogs, and experience, with 164 games. Bailey Biondi-Odo made his Indigenous All-Stars debut earlier this month and had a top game. 'BBO' is a good young halfback and could be a top utility for the Dogs. Josh Curran is a brilliant new face for the Bulldogs. A tough and hardworking forward, Curran is looking to be in the starting 13 this season. You can't miss this lad with his long locks and Indigenous-designed headgear. He's a big buy for the club, too. Blake Taaffe is another big signing for Canterbury. The 24-year-old is aiming to make the fullback spot his own and become a regular first-grader.

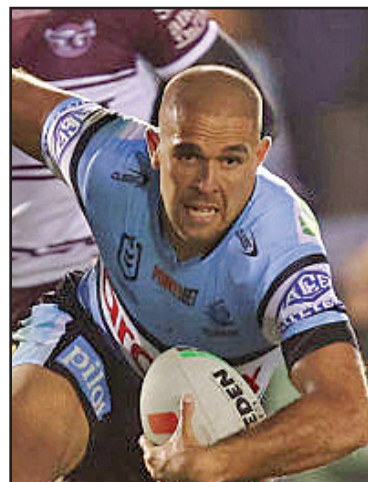
CRONULLA (5)
Nicho Hynes
William Kennedy
Niwhai Puru
Jesse Ramien
Braydon Trindall

Nicho Hynes is the main man at Cronulla – the Dally M winner is vital to this team with his goal-kicking and general playmaking skills. He is on 82 games and

could celebrate his 100-game milestone in 2024. William Kennedy is heading into his sixth season and the speedy fullback has gotten better and more confident with each passing year. That should continue this season. Niwhai Puru, the twin brother of Canberra's Hohepa, is a talented halfback who will add plenty of depth for the Sharks this year. Jesse Ramien, a robust centre with speed and size, has 122 games behind him and 47 tries. In his eighth season now, Ramien will be called on to bring all of that experience to the park. Braydon Trindall started 2024 in great style, starring for the Indigenous All-Stars in Townsville where he won the Preston Campbell Medal for man-of-the-match. He will form a deadly halves combination with Hynes.

THE DOLPHINS (3)
Josh Kerr
Edrick Lee
Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow

Josh Kerr made a mid-season switch from the Dragons to The Dolphins last year. A tough forward, he could well make himself a starting prop each week.



Cronulla's Will Kennedy.

With 76 games to his name, Kerr is a top signing for the newly established club. Edrick Lee played just one match for The Dolphins last season. If he stays injury-free, he should bring up his 150-game milestone – the tall and classy winger with speed and size is just what the club needs. Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow is a fan-favourite at the new club and is the sole reason why fans celebrate tries with the 'Phins Up' salute – because he started it all. Rest assured he will be doing that try celebration plenty of times in 2024. He is a great finisher and now that he has a regular starting spot at fullback he will be hard to stop.

GOLD COAST (5)
Jacob Alick
Jayden Campbell
David Fifita
Brian Kelly
Alofiana Khan-Pereira

Jacob Alick was named in the Indigenous All-Stars side but unfortunately he had to pull out before the match. The solid second-rower played four matches in his debut NRL season. Jayden Campbell has made the



Titan Alofiana Khan-Pereira.

fullback spot his own. The son of rugby league great Preston Campbell, the youngster will bring up his 50th game in 2024; he is a fleet-footed star and a key member of the Gold Coast attack. David Fifita enters his seventh season in 2024. At 186cm and 115kg he is one of the biggest in the game. He will use that incredible size and speed to trample the opposition and, for a forward, he certainly knows where the tryline is – the big man will soon enough have 50 tries to his name. Brian Kelly is a reliable centre who gets the job done. Underrated by some (but not by his club), coach Des Hasler will have big plans for Kelly. On 146 games, Kelly will reach that 150-game milestone early. Alofiana Khan-Pereira made his Indigenous All-Stars debut earlier this month where he scored a try. The flashy winger had an enormous NRL debut year playing 23 games and crossed for 20 tries. He has a huge future and is sure to be in more Titans highlights this season.

MANLY (2)
Zac Fulton
Jason Saab

At 199cm, Jason Saab is one of the tallest players in the game and will be on the end of many attacking high kicks this season. He's also one of the fastest players in the game and his strikrate is incredible with 51 tries from 69 games. Zac Fulton made his NRL debut last year and the forward will be aiming to add to his lone match. Zac is the grandson of club legend and league Immortal, Bob Fulton. The lock made his Indigenous All-Stars debut this year, too. The young Fulton has the talent to continue the family legacy at Manly.

● Continued next page

try-scorers, milestone men

● From previous page

MELBOURNE (2) Ammaron Gudgeon Reimis Smith

Ammaron Gudgeon has come through the Storm's First Nations pathways program. A talented fullback/centre, Gudgeon will be aiming to crack the top 17 this year and kickstart his NRL career. Reimis Smith is embarking on his eighth season and the classy winger should bring up his 50th try early in the season. A mainstay of the Storm backline in recent years, Smith is a reliable player for coach Craig Bellamy.

NEWCASTLE (5) Bradman Best Adam Elliott Dane Gagai Dylan Lucas Ryan Rivett

Bradman Best was brilliant for Newcastle and was rewarded for his efforts with a NSW State of Origin jersey in Game III in 2023. Best is blessed with speed and size and the hard-running centre is tough to stop. Adam Elliott is one of those passionate forwards who'd run through a brick wall for his club. He will be wearing the red and blue until the end of the 2025 season. The lock loves taking the ball up and tackles anything that moves. Dane Gagai has (almost) done it all in the game but a premiership would cap it all. He's played 268 games and has scored 77 tries. Gagai is loved by the club and has Life Membership at the Knights. Dylan Lucas made a great start to his NRL career last season in his seven matches. He is versatile and can play in the centres and in the second-row. Ryan Rivett is a rising halfback and played his first NRL game last year. He will be aiming for more matches.

NORTH QUEENSLAND (4) Reuben Cotter Scott Drinkwater Zac Laybutt Jamayne Taunoa-Brown

Reuben Cotter is a machine – he's like the Terminator and, one man short of Arnold Schwarzenegger, you just can't stop him! He has a huge motor and can play a full 80 minutes with big runs and, like the Knights' Adam Elliott, will tackle anything that moves. He should play Origin again for the Maroons this year. Scott Drinkwater has become a match-winner for the Cowboys. He collected the Paul Bowman Medal as the best for the club last year and the fullback will be at the Cowboys until the end of 2027; he is highly regarded there. Zac Laybutt made a top start to his NRL career in 2023 and played four games in which he scored three tries. Incidentally, Zac's brother, Kyle, is a former Cowboy and Indigenous All-Star. Jamayne Taunoa-Brown is a big bustling prop forward heading in toward his fifth season at the elite level. 'JTB' has now played 67 matches and will be aiming to play a regular starting role in a tough Cowboys pack.

PARRAMATTA (1) J'maine Hopgood

J'maine Hopgood played 24 games for Parramatta last season – the most in a season in his NRL career overall – after just nine at Penrith. He is now a regular starting player and the hardworking lock is a huge tick for the Eels pack.

PENRITH (3) Jordan Grant Daine Laurie Tyrone Peachey

Jordan Grant is a Penrith junior and comes back to the 'Mountain Men' after seven games with Melbourne. He is a big forward who recently made his Indigenous All-Stars debut. Daine Laurie also returns to the club where it all started for him. He played three games for the Panthers in 2020 before playing 49 more for Wests Tigers. He will have a battle on his hands to crack a hot Panthers backline, though. Tyrone Peachey returned to the Panthers last season and is a great utility player who can cover spots in the backs and the forwards. The 'Peach' has played 207 games for 60 tries.

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (1) Connor Watson

Connor Watson missed the entire 2023 season with a serious knee injury. One of the best utilities in the game, Watson can cover positions across the park in the forwards and the backs. He is an experienced player with 125 NRL games under his belt. An injury-free Watson would be a big plus for the Roosters this season.

SOUTH SYDNEY (8) Jacob Gagai Alex Johnston Latrell Mitchell Shaquai Mitchell Tyrone Munro Isaiah Tass Cody Walker Jack Wighton

Jacob Gagai, brother of Newcastle's Dane, is a late starter to NRL ranks and should make his debut this year. What more can be said about Alex Johnston that hasn't been said already? The try-scoring machine and one of the best finishers in the history of the game is approaching try No. 200. Latrell Mitchell is unstoppable on his day. He is a match-winner who can score tries and is a top goalkicker. He is so important to Souths' grand-final aspirations, too. His brother, Shaquai, has played 14 matches and the hard-running prop is an important cog in the Rabbitohs' forward machine. Tyrone Munro made one of the best starts in the NRL in recent memory – he played three games and scored as many tries. He will bring some of that good 'Moree Madness' to Souths in 2024. Isaiah Tass made a great combination with winger Alex Johnston in 2023 and is a quick centre who played his best football last year; he will only get better as he looks to add to his 12 tries and 39 games. The top-gun for Souths Cody Walker is on the verge of a big milestone double as



North Queensland's Jamayne Taunoa-Brown is heading in toward his fifth season at the elite level and will be looking at a regular starting role in a tough Cowboys pack. Pictures: Getty Images

he sits on 191 games and 91 tries. In the off-season, the Bunnies added another superstar to their ranks in Jack Wighton, who brings plenty of experience and skill to the club. He is likely to play in the centres but can also revert to five-eighth if required. The 31-year-old is a proven match-winner who has played 242 games and scored 75 tries. It will be interesting to see how he goes in the red and green.

ST GEORGE-ILLAWARRA (2) Jack Bird Tyrell Sloan

Jack Bird played under new Dragons coach Shane Flanagan at Cronulla when they won the grand final in 2016. On his day, Bird, who will bring up his 150th-game milestone this season, can be brilliant with an ability to play in the backline and get tough in the forwards. Tyrell Sloan is a local Dragons junior and last year played the most games of his NRL career. With 36 total games under his belt, Sloan needs to find consistency because he can change a game

WESTS TIGERS (3) Jahreem Bula Brent Naden Jayden Sullivan

Jahreem Bula is likely to



Parramatta's J'maine Hopgood.

benefit from new coach Benji Marshall's presence at the club. Bula burst onto the scene in 2023 and was one of the Tigers' best. He made 18 appearances in his debut season with five tries and the livewire fullback is integral to any success the Tigers may achieve this season. Centre/winger Brent Naden is a prolific try-scorer who has crossed for 32 tries from 62 games. The

speedster will be aiming for good game-time and could fit well in Marshall's new era at the Tigers. Jayden Sullivan left St George-Illawarra for a regular starting position at five-eighth for the Tigers and is on a four-year deal. He is an exciting young star and could prove to be a huge signing for the club.

WARRIORS (0)

Las Vegas double-header opens up plenty of possibilities for the NRL

WITH the NRL season kicking off this weekend in Las Vegas, talk about expanding rugby league has returned – selling it overseas or just taking the game to another level. If we are talking about NRL expansion then, where should any new team(s) come from?

The success of The Dolphins last season, their first, has shown that bringing in new sides can work. The Dolphins fanbase came out in support in great numbers at their traditional home at Redcliffe and at Lang Park in Brisbane. Also, expect more success from The Dolphins this season.

In the NRL, Queensland's teams – The Dolphins, Brisbane, Gold Coast and North Queensland – are among the league's top performers, which is great for the game. Local talent in the Maroon state have established pathways to continue that sustained level of

success.

Obviously, NSW has a number of NRL teams – Penrith, Canterbury, St George-Illawarra, Wests Tigers, Parramatta, Manly, the Roosters and Cronulla.

Canberra – the Raiders – is in the ACT, while the Knights take in Newcastle and the NSW Hunter Valley region.

Melbourne has been the huge success story for the NRL. When they were brought into the competition in 1998, they won the premiership a year later, and several more since. The Storm has become one of the game's true powerhouse clubs. They have Victoria covered and are beginning



Kris Flanders

to have some local talent coming through the Storm Academy.

The international 'flavour' of the NRL is via the Warriors out of New Zealand, giving young players and rugby league lovers there a team to aspire to.

It maybe with a sense of nostalgia for me but I would definitely love to see the North Sydney Bears make a comeback to the NRL. Of course, the Bears have been trying to return for many years now and club legend Greg Florine has been instrumental with this. The club has great support and many old-school fans would love to see the red and black colours in the game. But they couldn't return as 'North Sydney'; the group that is pushing to get them back have stated that it would be a team from out of the NSW Central Coast – the Central Coast Bears sounds good. That region covers a huge populational

area of NSW and rugby league is the top sport in that region.

The Central Coast is also a growing region and support for their own NRL club would be enormous. This would fill in the 'blanks' between Manly (Sea-Eagles), on Sydney's northern beaches, to Newcastle (Knights) to the north.

In 1995, the NRL introduced three new sides and one of those was the Western Reds that played out of Perth. I personally would like to see an elite rugby league club come back in the west again. The Reds had a decent following in WA. There are a lot of ex-pats from NSW who grew up on rugby league who live in WA. There is a lower level rugby league competition run by the WARL and the ARL in Perth.

I went to a game at the WACA – the Reds home ground – in 1996 and was surprised by the support

there. Many of those fans were upset when the league dumped them from the competition. Perth has since hosted several NRL games and State of Origin (2019, 2022). WA will again host Origin in 2025 and 2028.

Why WA? Remember when they said that Melbourne Storm wouldn't work in Victoria, given the huge following the AFL has there? Of course, WA is a much bigger state, but not everyone wants to play just one particular sport either. You only have to point out the success enjoyed by the Sydney Swans and Greater Western Sydney Giants in NSW to see this in action.

**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.*

The All-Stars that inspired the veterans

By KRIS FLANDERS



'INSPIRED' was how All-Star duo Tallisha Harden and Mahalia Murphy felt about their time in camp and of the brilliant 26-4 victory over their Māori counterparts in Townsville.

Harden and Murphy were left in awe at the talent and the professional outlook of their younger Indigenous All-Stars teammates when they spent a week in far north Queensland.

The pair believe the women's game and the Indigenous All-Stars team is in safe hands for many years to come.

"It makes me very proud to see the young talent we have in the game at the moment," Harden said.

"Players like Quincy (Dodd), Jaime (Chapman), Shaylee (Bent) have come a long way.

"They will end up with something like 10 to 15 All-Stars games by the time they're finished, (and) some of the debutants are ridiculously skillful."

Murphy, who last played for the All-Stars in 2015, was equally effusive.

"Back from when I last played, the skill levels and the confidence within the women players has grown massively," she said.

"There are so much more pathways today, more games through the year, (the players are) more knowledgeable, and you can see that in the performances.

"Years ago, teams would sometimes rely on just one player, but now everyone knows their role and you can rely on everyone.

"I'm thrilled that I got to play alongside Tamika (Upton). I've watched her many times and have admired at how skilful and naturally talented she is."

Harden, 31, has achieved virtually everything there is to achieve in the game, from winning NRLW premierships, State of Origin series, to Australian representative duties. She is also acutely aware that every All-Stars match could be her last. Which is why she takes pride and joy at being in-camp with her sisters.

"I missed the last two games so being back was everything I could have hoped for and more, really," she said.

"It was such an amazing week, from



Mahalia Murphy last played for the Indigenous All-Stars in 2015. Picture: supplied

start to finish.

"It was a culturally safe place for us to express ourselves and to be who we are.

"One of the speakers summed it up best by saying that a lot of the time, for our kids in the community, that hope for them looks different; that some kids get lots of opportunities and have access to resources but that many of them don't take it, so being able to meet their idols means a lot to them and a lot to us at the same time too."

For Murphy, a rugby league and rugby union international, Townsville was a welcome return within the All-Stars fold.

She overcame a calf strain to take her place in the side in which she played strongly.

"I feel like the time has gone really quickly, though it's been nearly 10 years," she said.

"Coming back to (rugby) league last year, I had those hopes of getting back into the Indigenous All-Stars jersey. When I got the call I was stoked because I know there's a lot of talented girls to pick from and striving to get there themselves.

"It's a special game that only happens once a year. I try to represent my family and culture in every game I play but to do that under the Indigenous All-Stars banner, and with my sisters, was something to soak up."

Apart from the game itself, the All-Stars' Unity Dance alongside the Miriki Performing Arts, the Dabul Women's Dance Group and



Komet Torres Strait Islander Art & Culture Group was a particular highlight.

Harden said she felt privileged to be part of that.

"I loved that," she said.

"We worked really hard on it and to be involved with those dancers who added their flare and culture to it.

"It's really gained traction and you can see that we love doing it and are passionate about it. There were really positive comments about the dance and people enjoyed it.

"And mixing with the Māori women, too, is always authentic, there's a lot of mutual respect and love for each other.

"Obviously come game-time, that gets pushed aside until the final whistle."

On the scoreboard, it appeared the 26-4 win was a comprehensive victory for the Indigenous women, however there were huge chunks of the match where the Māori team had more possession. But thanks largely to the enormous defensive efforts and some sparkling attack, the Indigenous side played a near-perfect game.

"They do say defence wins games," Murphy said.

"To keep a great team like that to just one try was an enormous effort from us.

"It said a lot about our spirit to be there for each other particularly when you're tired.

"When we had the ball it was exciting, obviously Jaime Chapman doing her thing, being that big and the fast girl that she is, and Kimmy Hunt doing her job, too, with a double – it was a whole team effort.

"Even though it was pouring rain up there you could still hear the crowd and we feed off the atmosphere they built."

Harden has played under many top coaches in her career but she gave special mention and thanks to Jess Skinner, the first-time head coach.

"Jess was sensational," she said.

"She's got such knowledge of the game and has really crafted and honed her skills into a great leader.

"She got us together over the week leading into the game and we gelled so well.

"All the girls really wanted to play strong and tough for her.

"I think we repaid Jess for all her work with that performance."



Peter Burgoyne – Port Adelaide Football Club Hall of Fame inductee. Picture: Peter Argent

Hall of Fame honours for Port star Burgoyne

By PETER ARGENT



PORT Adelaide 2004 premiership player Peter Burgoyne was honoured with induction into the AFL club's Hall of Fame last week.

Burgoyne played 276 AFL games in a stellar career at the club, and a SANFL league flag with the Magpies in 1998.

After moving south from the Northern Territory in 1995, Burgoyne was part of Port Adelaide's 1996 SANFL seconds premiership side while also playing in the league side in his first year.

He said the club's supporters were what kept him at Alberton.

"Playing at Port Adelaide, what kept me here were the supporters and the people," he said at the William Magarey Room at Adelaide Oval; the event also doubling as the Port Adelaide's 2024 AFL season launch.

"The people of Port Adelaide are real. They love their players through thick and thin. There were a few times I could have left but I couldn't leave the supporters."

But Burgoyne reserved unconditional love and praise to his mum.

"I really want to dedicate this honour to my mum," he said.

"The last 12 months has been very hard for us – mum has been through cancer. My dad has had enough praise over the years, but mum was the one when we were growing up that disciplined us. She kept us in line.

"Dad was soft-hearted but mum came from a tough upbringing, and if it wasn't for mum and her toughness, myself and my brother (Shaun) would probably not have got to where we are.

"Mum is the backbone of the family."

Burgoyne was named a Legend in the Northern Territory Football Hall of Fame.

In 2004, he was named in the 1904-2005 Australian Football

Indigenous Team of the Century.

Burgoyne was a creative, fast and skilful half-forward who could also play through the midfield.

In 1997 he was selected as part of the Port Adelaide's inaugural AFL squad.

Once he broke into the AFL line-up, he became an important contributor to the club's success in the early 2000s, winning two pre-season premierships in 2001 and 2002.

Burgoyne won a Showdown Medal in 2003 and was Port Adelaide's Best Finals Player in 2007.

In 1999 and 2003, he played for Australia in the International Rules Series (vs. Ireland).

Tassie bid not over the line

LAST year the question of what state or city would get the new and 19th AFL team was answered – and it was Tasmania, and not before time.

The list of proposals presented to the AFL Commission from the bid team was what got the bid over the line. Incidentally, the bid would have been in trouble if, at the time, there was a new government in power.

The one big promise to the AFL was that a new stadium would be built in Hobart. The housing crisis (which is Australia-wide, to be fair) has become a big issue there, and it has turned local people off the idea of building a new stadium, particularly at a cost of \$750 million, which many believe could be spent elsewhere.

If you travelled to Hobart like I did last year, there were 'YES' and 'NO' stickers on cars everywhere – but that was not for the Voice referendum, it was for the stadium. According to the local ABC, funding for the stadium still has not passed parliament for approval. It looks like there were promises made that potentially couldn't be kept.

In the past week, the stadium question has become the hot-topic issue, and Tasmanian politics has become unsettled over it. As a response, new-ish AFL boss Andrew Dillon said: "We've been really clear on saying that the licence that we have for the 19th team in Tasmania, which will be an amazing thing for Tasmania, (is) that we do need to have a stadium in Hobart, at Macquarie Point, (seating) at least 23,000 people, with a roof, because that was a pivotal part of the business case."

What would this mean, then, if the Tassie parliament put an indefinite halt to the building of a new stadium? Or that it won't be built in time for the proposed 2028 start of the new team?

What this may mean for the Northern Territory is the next question. The government there has had serious conversations with the AFL about being the home for the 19th team. And if the Tassie bid does fail, then the NT's bid must have their ducks in a row, so to speak, and not bring unrealistic promises to the table, should they make a presentation to the AFL.

We will find out soon enough about all of this because Tasmania is gearing up the state election next month. So, watch this space.

Tribute to a champion

I want to pay tribute to Melbourne premiership player Angus Brayshaw who, following medical advice, has stepped away from football and into retirement.

'Gus' was contracted to play until 2028 but it became obvious he had suffered one too many head knocks. Many in the AFL community are shocked at the news. Personally, I am shocked it took this long.

At least now he can focus on his long-term health and, at the very least, set an example of a player listening to sound medical advice.

***Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She appears on AFL.com.au's Colour Of Your Jumper.**



Shelley Ware

Jeffrey happy at AFL double-up in Darwin

By JACKSON CLARK



EXCITING Gold Coast forward Joel Jeffrey said the club is excited to return to Darwin in 2024.

The Suns are fixtured to play two consecutive AFL premiership matches at Marrara Oval this year – against North Melbourne on May 11, and against Geelong on May 16.

"The boys love it, having been there the past two seasons now," Jeffrey said.

"Some of the boys are already chatting about it, they love it – (things like) walking around the city with thongs on. Some of them complain about the hot weather

but it's pretty hot down here at the moment!"

Jeffrey is one of a handful of Suns players from the Northern Territory. The others are Ben Long, Malcolm Rosas Jnr, Lloyd Johnston, Sandy Brock and Will Rowlands.

Fellow teammates James Tsitas and Sam Clohesy have both lived in Darwin and played in the Northern Territory Football League, while Jy Farrar also has



Joel Jeffrey.

family links to the Territory.

Jeffrey said he has formed a strong bond with the other Territory players at the Suns.

"We are a tight group around the club and also outside the club, we catch up all the time," he said.

"It's good for us to stay tight because it's how it has always been back home; we continue that which makes living away from home so much more comfortable."

Emma, Tas win; Hinkley heroic



Queensland's Mikayla Hinkley works the ball toward the on-side while Tasmania's Emma Manix-Geeves keeps a close watch during the 2023-24 WNCL final. Picture: Getty Images



WICKET-KEEPER
Emma Manix-Geeves has shared in Tasmania's third consecutive

national cricket title and the coveted Ruth Preddey Cup at the weekend.

The palawa woman was there at the end when the Tiger women chased down Queensland's 248 from their allotted 50 overs in the final of the 2023-24 Women's National Cricket League at Bellerive Oval in nipaluna-Hobart.

Manix-Geeves came to the crease when the fourth wicket fell, joining Nicola Carey and anchoring an innings that saw Carey hit 111 (from 135) which saw the hosts win with 14 balls to spare.

Perennial battlers in the 50-over competition for their first 10 seasons after joining in 2010-11, Tasmania only won their first title in 2022 before

backing it up with two more.

The Fire had a sniff when the Tigers' Heather Graham was bowled, and Naomi Stalenberg was caught three balls later for a duck.

At that point, Tasmania needed 67 runs from 68 balls with six wickets in hand, but Carey and Manix-Geeves ensured there would be no late jitters.

"I felt scratchy but Heather and 'EMG' made my life so much easier," Carey said.

Queensland won the toss and elected to bat in perfect sunny conditions and posted what was a fairly competitive total.

Kunja woman Mikayla Hinkley for Queensland came in at fourth drop with the Fire at a precarious 3-115.

But the star all-rounder steadied the ship and knocked out a handy 33 (from 64) in a 41-run partnership with Charli Knott – who top-scored for the

Fire with 73 (from 61) – before being trapped leg-before in the 36th over.

"Tassie have not been at their best this season but have found a way to grind out victories from tough positions," noted the match commentators ahead of the game.

"Queensland have been a formidable team this season and have earned their spot in this final, managing to defeat every team in the competition... except for Tasmania."

Both Manix-Geeves and Hinkley have represented their people at the National Indigenous Cricket Championships.

Scoreboard
Queensland 7-248 (50.0)
Tasmania 4-249 (47.4)

Tasmania win by 6 wickets with 14 balls remaining

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Bad Break for star NZ 'baller



TOP-TALENT
Will McDowell-White suffered a season-ending shoulder injury that has

ruled him out entirely of the NBL finals series.

McDowell-White's New Zealand Breakers travel to Sydney this week for a sudden-death NBL play-in qualifier after a disastrous 76-70 defeat to the Adelaide 36ers at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre in the last game of the regular season.

The Breakers could have climbed as high as fourth and earned a double chance for the play-in tournament.

The costly loss was compounded by the injury to McDowell-White after he dislocated his left shoulder.

McDowell-White was one of only two New Zealand scorers in double figures against the Sixers, contributing 14 points, before his untimely injury.

– with AAP



New Zealand Breakers star Will McDowell-White. Picture: Peter Argent

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Outside the box

Brad Hardman (in the Westside Boxing t-shirt) is delivering a boxing program that is having tangible outcomes for school-aged youth. *Picture: supplied*

By KRIS FLANDERS



CHANGING lives. Saving lives – this is the noble aim of what a new boxing program for young people on the NSW Central Coast is setting out to achieve.

The Ngaruki Gulgul Central School is where education is done different.

The target audience there is students who have struggled in mainstream schooling. Its unique style of education is aimed at Years 9-12 with vocational qualifications and benevolent relief to students and families in need.

Since 2014, the school has provided education that 'thinks outside the box' and where students are made to feel engaged, supported and to be at a place that's safe and where they can fit in.

Case manager at the school is Lee Trethowan who said the boxing program that started there in November last year has been a success in presenting students with goals, building self-confidence and helping them make better lifestyle choices.

"It all started off with one young boy really, who had issues happening outside school and couldn't be at home," Trethowan said.

"School was his safe place but then he got suspended and I thought he might be at-risk. I spoke to Brad (Hardman) and I knew that the young fella was keen on boxing. I said (to Brad) 'Could you connect with him and maybe train him?' Brad thought it was a great idea.

"I then approached our principal and said 'Could we make this into a regular outreach program for students in our school?' And it has just taken off from there.

"Brad has such a great rapport with the

students and they respect him and they listen to him. He doesn't talk down to them, they're on the same level and wavelength.

"There's no pressure with the boxing either and that makes it more motivational for them, the physical activities are allowing them to open up when they want to."

The boxing program has been a great vehicle for at-risk youth, delivering positive and lasting messages and to lead healthier lives.

The youth are discovering that the disciplines they're using at the gym could also be applied in everyday life.

Brad Hardman has grown up with boxing and has trained some great young fighters during his coaching time.

"We started with just one fella and now we've got up to 10 and it's growing and there's interest in it from other students now, too," he said of the program he's delivering.

"They've gotten right into and are so committed; they're saying things like 'Why can't we do it on weekends as well?'"

"Boxing is a great release, you hit that bag and lose some of that pent-up frustrations, you're using up energy but at the same time gaining skills and strength, mentally and physically being better.

"They're putting the hard yards in and they're reaping the positive rewards now."

Ngaruki Gulgul in the local Darkinjung language means 'standing strong' – the youth involved in the boxing program are doing that every day.

Hardman has taken the group on field trips to Sydney, and visited the Jeff Fenech

and Kostya Tsyzu gyms, and to restaurants where they've experienced different foods and cultures.

Ngaruki Gulgul Central School principal Andrea Cingi has noticed big changes in her students in a small amount of time.

"The success has been for the young students, the community and the school," Cingi said.

"The success is around the connections and belonging and they're forming

healthy relationships, they're moving away from toxic relationships and scenarios.

"Initially, I didn't think boxing could have such an impact but it's given them such a huge outlet in a good way.

"Their (school) attendance is increasing, they view their school-life in a different manner now.

"When they started they'd have their hoodies right over their faces, (with) little eye contact, and slouched over, but through the boxing program they've found confidence.

"They're also paying more attention to things like personal hygiene, what foods they're eating – they have so much better self-esteem and belief in themselves now."

On school mornings, Hardman and Trethowan pick up eager students at 5am for training, a workout and various boxing exercises before a shower and a healthy breakfast that's provided.

It all started out slowly.

"The young man this boxing program started with is an excellent boxer," Cingi said.

"He's got the skills, (and) this is where he should be and needs to be, he doesn't miss

a session and he's passionate about boxing.

"He even said when he gets famous he's not going to forget any one of us here.

"You know, some days are still tough at school but he finds a way through now. He is focussed and because he's doing so well at boxing he's inspiring others to be their best version too."

Hardman understands and connects with teens who are struggling to find themselves, and connect with people who are doing it tough.

On one field trip to western Sydney the former footballer and boxer took the crew to Windsor – to the site where he almost lost his life in a horrific car accident.

That joyride cost one of his mate's their life. Hardman had to have a leg amputated. He spoke to the teens about making better decisions and life choices and what the ultimate consequences might be.

"I told them my story and about the accident and how it started off as some thoughtless fun that ended so badly," he said.

"I showed them photos of the car and how broken up it was, and about the aftermath and what happened to me and what happened to my mates. I think it really stuck with them and it resonated with them. All the way home they asked me questions.

"The next day at training, one of the boys said he got a phone call early in the morning (from his mates) and they said they had a car to go for a drive in.

"He went out to the front yard, but then thought about my story and something clicked in his head. He went back to bed.

"This young fella later found out that those mates went out and ended up in hospital after they crashed that car."

Changing lives. Saving lives.

"Boxing is a great release."



Wiradjuri-Yorta Yorta woman Jada Whyman is one of three goalkeepers at the Matildas. Pictures: Getty Images

Jada, Matildas bound for Paris

By DARREN MONCRIEFF



THE Matildas are three goals, 90-minutes and a sold-out Docklands Stadium away from qualifying for the 2024 Paris Olympics when they play Uzbekistan this week.

The beloved national women's soccer-football team play the second-leg of their Olympic qualifying match with Uzbekistan in Melbourne (Wednesday, 28 February).

The match follows the first-leg qualifier at Milliy Stadium in the Central Asian nation's capital, Tashkent, on Sunday night (local time).

The Matildas delivered a 12-minute masterclass when they hammered in three goals early in the second half to win 3-0 and take an unassailable lead into Melbourne.

Emerging goalkeeper, Wiradjuri-Yorta Yorta woman Jada Whyman is one of three custodians on national duties for the Matildas.

While Mackenzie Arnold kept for all 90 minutes at Tashkent (plus injury-time), it is expected Whyman could see some minutes on the field in Melbourne, given the Matildas' commanding position, and at home in front of a sell-out Docklands Stadium which seats 53,359 people.

The crowd at Milliy Stadium on Sunday numbered around 2500 at the 33,834-seat venue, although it was a frosty 2°C and there was snow.

Should they qualify for the Olympics, the Matildas will take an 18-player squad to Paris.



Whyman's locker in the changeroom at Milliy Stadium featured the Aboriginal flag

Super news with pay increase on the cards



AUSTRALIA'S premier women's rugby union players could be paid more than

\$70,000 in 2024 after Rugby Australia took another step towards the code becoming full-time professional for females.

Tier-1-contracted players could receive up to \$72,458, plus potential further payments from their Super Rugby clubs, following a more than 28 per cent increase from RA.

In announcing it had increased investment in women's rugby for a second successive year, RA pledged more than \$3 million in additional funding, more tier-

one contracts for Wallaroos and higher player payments.

The number of tier-one-contracted players has increased from 15 to 23, with the \$72,458 a year in RA payments for Wallaroos and Super Rugby Women's participation up from a maximum \$56,000 in 2023.

The code also aims to implement a world-class high-performance system for the 15-a-side women's game.

The uplift comes on the back of a promising season for the Wallaroos in 2023, capped by a third-place finish at World Rugby's inaugural WXV global tournament in New Zealand last November.

With the women's 2029 Rugby World Cup to be held at

home, RA is eager to build a lasting legacy as it embarks on the runway towards this marquee event.

The governing body's chief executive Phil Waugh concedes the code still has a "lot of work to do" to close the gap with the men's game.

"We're coming from a long way behind," Waugh said.

"We've got to be pretty responsible with the speed at which we grow and invest right across the game.

"Not just in women's sport but, if you look at some of the salaries some of our athletes are getting in the men's game, will that gap close? Yes.

"We still have a lot of work to do, but the increase in our commitment over the last two



Players like Reds and Wallaroos prop Maddy Schuck are in line to receive a well-deserved pay increase.

years shows our determination to continue pushing forward."

— AAP



The Indigenous All-Stars women celebrate their comprehensive victory in Townsville. Picture: Joseph Mayers Photography

All-Stars deliver a footy masterclass



TWO stunning breakaway tries by powerhouse centre Jaime Chapman and a kicking masterclass from Kirra Dibb have lifted the Indigenous women to a 26-4

thrashing of the Māori All-Stars in Townsville.

Twice slicing through the Māori line and running half the field to score, Chapman's contributions helped the Indigenous side cash in on their dominance in the sixth instalment of the annual cultural and sporting representative match.

But it was No.7 Dibb who picked up the Trish Hina Medal for best afield, taking control of the territory battle via her kicking game while icing the match with a delicate grubber that allowed winger Kimberley Hunt to score her second try.

Errors ruined any momentum the Māori side was able to find, as they completed just 46 per cent of their sets in the first half in falling into a 16-0 hole.

Chapman quickly snuffed any thoughts of a comeback, charging 60 metres to put her side 22-0 clear early in the second half.

Reigning Dally M medallist Tamika

Upton got the show on the road early, her clever grubber finding teammate Shaylee Bent for the game's first points.

Dibb finished with 253m kicking, with a stunning 40-20 in the first half helping her side take over early.

Rain produced greasy conditions at Townsville Stadium but it didn't excuse the Māori poor ball security. They finished with a shocking completion rate of 48 per cent.

The result continued the win-loss pattern between the sides, who've alternated victories in the six years the format has been running. — AAP

Aussie quick Boland nabs Victorian Sheffield Shield record

By PETER ARGENT



VICTORIAN and Australian Test fast bowler Scott Boland has surpassed former quick Paul Reiffel as Victoria's greatest Sheffield Shield wicket-taker.

With the first of his three first-innings wickets against New South Wales at the SCG last week, Boland took over the title as Victoria's four-day-cricket's most productive bowler.

When he finished the day's play with 3-47, Boland's career-total scalps for Victoria landed at 321, ahead of Reiffel, who played 35 Tests for Australia between 1992-98, on 318.

Boland has played over 100 first-class matches, which includes tour and Test matches for Australia, in a career that began in November of 2011 (vs. WA at the MCG).

His best innings figures was 7-31, and his best match aggregate was 9-72.

Boland is only the second male Aboriginal cricketer to have played Test cricket for Australia – behind the great Jason Gillespie – when he famously nabbed 6-7 in his debut in the Boxing Day Ashes Test at the MCG in the summer of 2021-22.



Israeli Govt Super Bowl ad beyond the pale

PROPAGANDA comes in many forms. It can be subtle, barely discernible; it can be bombastic and everywhere all at once. When used by countries and nation-states it is a form of subjective nationalism. When used in sport, it comes in the form of 'clandestine nationalism'. Countries, and nation-states, have forever used sport to further their political-social agendas. And if you think what we do here in Australian sport is not propaganda, then think again.



Darren Moncrieff

The United States however, takes this form of 'not-so-clandestine' nationalism to another level. The hand-on-heart national-anthem-fighter-jet formations and to hell with anyone who doesn't conform is old news in the Land of the 'Free' (sic). But it was an eye-opener to say the least when watching the NFL Super Bowl last week. Contrary to popular belief, a football match does in fact break out during the Super Bowl – huge, if true! This alludes to the 'celebrated' multi-million-dollar ads created specifically to air during the Super Bowl – with a viewership of almost 125,000 million in the US alone – during breaks in play.

Not to miss an opportunity, the Israeli government – yes, the Israeli government – produced an advertisement to be played during the 2024 Super Bowl. The ad, at a reported cost of \$7 million was entirely designed to do one of two things: to tug at the heartstrings, and to influence public opinion about the war they are openly waging against the Palestinians.

Notwithstanding the criminality of this war, the fact a sports organisation such as the NFL can accept this ad, from a foreign government no less, sets a disturbing precedent. It leaves a sour taste in one's mouth and the NFL complicit. Despite Israel and by extension the NFL's best efforts, mounting opposition against this war across the globe shows that people are refusing to drink the Kool Aid.

Propaganda for the military complex / The same gun that shot Lil Terry / Out west the same gun that shot some Samir in the West Bank / We all think the Super Bowl's the best thing / Go, Beyoncé, go / Watch the fighter jet fly high / War machine gets glamorised / We play the game to pass the time. – Namesake by the artist Noname.

***Darren Moncrieff is a Wadjarri-Thakarril/Yinggarda man from Kuwinyardu (Carnarvon) in WA.**

'All-Star' trio honoured

By ALF WILSON



THREE Indigenous football legends from yesteryear were honoured in Townsville last week for their role in a ground-breaking tour to New Zealand in 1973.

Francis Tapim, Pat Mara and Dale Henaway were members of the first nationally-representative Indigenous rugby league team that toured New Zealand in 1973.

Last week in Townsville, the trio were honoured by the 2024 Indigenous All-Stars teams during a week of special events in the far north Queensland city.

The trio reminisced about the 1973 visit and the subsequent 50-year reunion at Rotorua last year when the All-Stars game went there. They were welcomed at Auckland on their arrival and the following day were hosted by the Indigenous All-Stars players in Rotorua.

"It was good that our trip is still being recognised after all these years," Tapim said.

Mara said vision of the tour brought back memories from more than five decades ago.

"We laughed and yarned, but we also thought about our former team members who have passed away, or couldn't be here



Francis Tapim (left), Dale Henaway and Pat Mara in Townsville last week.

because they are sick," he said.

Tapim has fond memories of the 1973 tour when he and Mara lined up as backline centres, while Henaway was a second-row forward.

The 1973 team played 11 games against Māori combinations and they won nine.

"A total of 40 players toured in 1973 and the ones who were still alive travelled to New

Zealand," Tapim said.

"We met other players (former teammates) from Brisbane, WA, New South Wales and the Northern Territory, and other places."

The three were gifted sportsmen in their heydays. Tapim and Mara were also stars for Townsville's Garbutt Football Club – the Magpies – in Aussie rules.



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EMMA, TIGERS WINNERS AT LUTRUWITA



Emma Manix-Geeves. Getty Images



NUMBER 1 wicket-keeper Emma Manix-Geeves and Lutruwita-Tasmania have won a third consecutive Women's National Cricket League title after defeating a gallant Queensland in nipaluna-Hobart at the weekend. ● More, Page 52

Thomas out of AFL footy



TARRYN Thomas faces a mountain of work and a re-set of his behaviour toward women if he is ever to set foot back in the AFL

following his suspension from football last week.

The AFL has said Thomas was found guilty of several breaches of the AFL Rule 2.3(a) (Conduct Unbecoming). As such, he has been suspended for 18 games, and suspended from football – at any level – until 22 July 2024.

As a result of these findings, the North Melbourne Football Club has de-listed Thomas and terminated his contract, effectively ending his football career.

“Thomas will no longer be a North Melbourne player and will not be eligible to play at all in the 2024 AFL Premiership season,” the league said in a statement.

“Before returning to football at any level Thomas must have undertaken and-or be satisfactorily progressing with a behavioural change program.

“In respect of the behavioural change program, that needs to be approved in advance by the AFL;

“Thomas and-or the provider of the behavioural change program will need to report to the AFL on the adherence and progress with the program; and,

“Thomas will personally bear the cost of the behavioural change program.

“After being alerted by a complaint through the AFL portal in late January, Thomas was interviewed by the AFL Integrity Unit on 29 January.

“It was ultimately determined by the AFL that Thomas had engaged in multiple acts of misconduct including threatening a woman via direct messages multiple times.

“In determining the sanction, the AFL took into account the evidence over a period of time which included Thomas engaging in misconduct while he was undertaking education in 2023 to deal with similar behaviours from earlier that year.”



The Indigenous All-Stars celebrate victory in Townsville. Picture: Joseph Mayers Photography

All-Stars deliver on defence to break deadlock



ONE of the best defensive performances where attacking football was the original default setting has delivered Australia's First Nations rugby league team the Indigenous All-Stars a solid 22-14 victory over their Māori counterparts in Townsville.

Far from the free-flowing attacking football fans at Townsville Stadium were perhaps hoping for in the annual pre-season representative match, gutsy goal-line defensive

work earned the Indigenous side their victory as they withstood a Māori barrage in wet, humid and slippery conditions.

Two tries in 10 minutes by winger Josh Addo-Carr got his side an early lead, but it was the playmaking of teammate and five-eighth Braydon Trindall that saw him win the Preston Campbell Medal for best afield.

Indigenous All-Stars captain Latrell Mitchell said his side showed an unexpected element of their game.

“With our arsenal in attack, we’ve got the best attacking

team in the world, but we showed that we can defend as well,” he said.

“That was the best defensive performance I’ve ever seen.

“The boys played footy and had fun – that was my clearest message: play simple and back your abilities, be proud of who you are and ‘Bob’s your uncle’.”

The Māori side dominated territory, were tackled 51 times inside the opposition 20m and ran for nearly 300m more, but they lacked precision deep in attack.

They scored inside the first

four minutes for a 6-0 lead but wouldn’t cross again until the final minute of the contest.

Perhaps the ultimate moment of defensive desperation came when Māori prop Xavier Willison looked clean through to score late in the third term but was dragged down by the much smaller Bailey Biondi-Odo, who was on debut.

The Indigenous team is now 3-2 from six games against Māori since 2019 – the teams played out a 10-10 draw in 2021, incidentally in Townsville.

● More All-Stars, Page 54