



Koori Mail

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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Standing tall among giants

Elder Jim Everett was the latest person to be arrested in the battle to save the giant trees of Tasmania's Styx Valley. Meanwhile, Hollywood superstar Leonardi DiCaprio has joined the fray, posting online support for those fighting to save the forests. See page 6.

Picture: Jillian Mundy

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Ceremony helps with healing

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Frank Yamma back on stage

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Meet women doing wonders

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Bringing about change

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MY FAMILY

Muriel Morgan (Palm Island)

I was born on my beautiful Palm Island and have hundreds of family members living there and in Townsville, on the mainland across the sea.

Also there are many extended family amongst the Oui, Charles and Bligh families.

They are all very important to me and there is nothing better than seeing them and spending time together.

These days I live in Townsville and visit Palm at least once a month to see hundreds of the relatives living there.

We go across the ocean on a catamaran and see lots of people we know on the trip.

I'm pictured here with my sister Susan Morgan and my cousin Mersane Oui when we were about to vote at Townsville's Garbutt State School in the local Council elections.

I am aged 53, Susan is 51 and Mersane is 54 and we just love each other's company.

Here in Townsville we often have barbecues together and just hang out at my sister's place.

When we go to Palm it is wonderful at big family get togethers, and I go fishing in a small boat.

The waters around there have many fish species including mackerel, coral trout and butter fish which are all good eating.

Especially when we get to enjoy our catch at family gatherings on Palm which is the greatest and most scenic place in the country.

The sea breezes there along the esplanade are the best.



Muriel Morgan (me), my cousin Mersane Oui and sister Susan Morgan, pictured at Townsville's Garbutt State School.

Another thing we like is getting around a family "Yarning Circle" on Palm when we have great talks.

Another passion of our family is rugby league football and we love watching the Palm Island Barracudas take part in Allblacks carnivals.

Many of our relatives line up for the Barracudas.

We all used to cheer on the Butler Bay Bulls when the local Palm comp was held as well and hope it gets going again soon.

But when it comes to the NRL, we don't all follow the same team.

I just love the Cronulla Sharks, Susan goes for the Roosters and I am not sure who Mersane likes.

But on NRL game days we do get into a lot of friendly discussions.

What really excites me about our big family is that the younger generations are coming through and we cherish them all.

Family is the best part of my life.

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



The River Kids dance group, from Mildura Primary School, performed at ChangeFest opening beside the Murray River. For more pictures and story, see page 26.

Koori Mail

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Mulga Bore Hard Rock – Talvin Bird, Aiden Manfong, Niara Tilmouth, Alvin Manfong, Tryell Bird and Kirklen Bird – record at MONA's Frying Pan Studio which features the REDD17 vintage recording console built in 1958 for Abbey Road, and has been used by The Beatles, Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin to name a few, and in more recent times by the likes of Paul Kelly and Courtney Barnett. Pictures: Jillian Mundy.

Rock and rolling along

By JILLIAN MUNDY



A TEENAGE band from central Australia are spreading their contagious and upbeat energy, rocking their way from a tiny remote community in central Australia to KISS's stage, leading festivals around the country, to recording on historic equipment used by legends such as The Beatles and Pink Floyd.

Later this year they will release their first album.

If you haven't heard of them yet, they are Mulga Bore Hard Rock, a six-piece band of brothers and cousins from Akaye, two hours northeast of Alice Springs.

Most band members are still at school, so while they're on their 'Red Earth Tour 24'

educational experiences and curriculum is woven in.

Younger students remaining at Mulga Bore School have been getting bored awaiting their return so have started another band.

"Music is inspiring the younger generations to go to school," says band manager Rebecca McLean who first came across the young rockers when she led them in a 2021 Batchelor Institute media workshop.

"The community and schools in the region are benefitting from the success of Mulga Bore Hard Rock," she said.

"They are coming to put on an annual music festival in neighbouring community of Engawala, aiming for September."

Off stage and outside the classroom Mulga Bore Hard Rock have been recording at



Alvin Manfong with his schoolbook full of original songs and ready to rock n roll.

Hothouse Studio in St Kilda, supported by Songlines Aboriginal Music Co. and MONA's Frypan Studios in Nipaluna/Hobart.

When the band visited Lutruwita/Tasmania earlier this

month to perform at MONA FOMA festival the *Koori Mail* was treated to a live acoustic preview of some tracks – and they sounded deadly!

The upcoming album will feature songs in Anmatyerre and English, including classic rock, well-loved family songs about their home Mulga Bore, a soulful rock ballad, and features high calibre special guests.

Their sound is inspired by glam rock such as KISS, Status Quo and Guns N' Roses, to African-American legends, classic rock and roll from Chuck Berry, Elvis Presley, all the way to AC/DC and country such as Johnny Cash.

Charismatic front man Alvin Manfong, a multi-instrumentalist who started playing guitar when he couldn't get his hand around the neck is hanging out to hear the final mastering of tracks they recorded.

Afterall, he did write most of them – in one of his A4 school books, and has enough ready for a second album.

From Darwin to the Gold Coast will feature on debut album, a song Alvin penned before the KISS gig that shot them to notoriety.

"I was imagining," he told the *Koori Mail*.

He's also looking forward to the rest of his band finishing school, and hoping more of his imaginings, including others he has written about, come to fruition.

"International, stadiums, New York," he exclaims at the thought.

He is encouraging other band members to get song writing too.

The band will play the National Gallery in Canberra on April 12 and Parttjima Festival in Mparntwe/Alice Springs on April 20.



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n e w s

\$4b for remote housing



OVERCROWDING and a severe shortage of homes for Aboriginal Territorians could soon be a thing of the past thanks to a landmark \$4 billion dollar remote housing investment by the Federal and Northern Territory governments.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese made the announcement from the community of Binjari, near Katherine in the Northern Territory on March 12.

While promising 2,700 new homes (270 houses built every year for the next decade) the new long-term agreement also aligns with efforts to grow remote economies.

The announcement is the culmination of 12 months of strong leadership and advocacy from Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory (AHNT) and heralds a once-in-a-generation opportunity to properly address the severe shortage of housing across the 73 remote communities and make critical upgrades to some 398 homelands.

The additional announcement of the Australian Government's \$707 million remote jobs and economic development program will establish 3,000 remote jobs with superannuation and provides a long-term pipeline of work to fuel the long-term sustainability of the Aboriginal-controlled housing sector.

A further \$120 million has been allocated to maintain and upgrade housing and infrastructure on homelands to match the NT's annual investment over the next three years.

AHNT CEO Skye Thompson is confident that AHNT and the land councils have had a strong voice in decision-making to inform the agreement, and particularly that the



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese speaks to local students after touring a newly built community housing unit at Binjari near Katherine, NT, Tuesday, March 12.

investment will include homelands.

"I'm pleased that AHNT and the land councils provided strong guidance and leadership to governments to achieve this commitment, and our member organisations will be thrilled at the prospect of additional long-term funding to redress the long-term neglect of homelands," Ms Thompson said.

"To embed Aboriginal decision-making across the life of the 10-year investment, AHNT will be part of a historic partnership agreement with the Australian and NT governments and land councils to deliver the agreement."

AHNT will work closely with the sector, land councils and governments to ensure the Aboriginal-controlled sector is prioritised to deliver works across the life of the homelands repairs and maintenance program.

The investment also includes a further \$1 million over two years to support AHNT's significant work to date strengthening the Aboriginal-controlled sector under this partnership.

"We will involve and empower Aboriginal people in planning, design and construction as well as maintenance, repairs and tenancy management," Ms Thompson said.

"Our aim is for the whole life cycle of Aboriginal housing to be Aboriginal-led," she said.

"This is not just an investment in housing – it is an investment in people."

The Wilya Janta (Standing Strong) housing collaboration is an innovative Aboriginal not-for-profit cultural consultancy that promotes community agency in the design and construction of culturally and environmentally appropriate homes.

Dr Simon Quilty, CEO of Wilya Janta welcomed the announcement.

"We commend the federal and territory governments, land councils, and housing on this agreement, which will invest urgently-needed funding to fix the longstanding remote housing crisis," Dr Quilty said.

"The current model of community engagement in housing design is failing. Homes in remote communities are overcrowded and overheated, fuelling the social, health, and cultural inequities faced by Aboriginal communities.

"While commendable, this funding will only make a difference if governments are genuinely committed to engaging with community and working on innovative solutions to housing design and evaluation," he said.

The Central Land Council's chief executive Les Turner congratulated the prime minister, saying the announcement is a welcome step towards significantly reducing the rampant overcrowding in Aboriginal communities.

"More than half of the NT's Aboriginal people live in overcrowded houses. This funding boost will move us much closer to achieving the Closing the Gap target of 18%," Mr Turner said.

"This investment goes beyond building much-needed houses. It has the potential to contribute towards closing the gap in health, education, employment and social outcomes as well.

"I look forward to considering the detail of the commitment and working with the NT and Commonwealth governments, Aboriginal Housing NT and the other land councils to develop a genuine 10-year partnership agreement," Mr Turner said.

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Understanding the four levels of racism

March the 21st is International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the same day I am writing this article, pondering about where we as First Nations people have been affected due to racism, throughout this country's history.

I believe it's really important for people to understand the four levels of racism that affect us, as most people in Australia think they are not racist, because they don't engage in interpersonal racism, the face-to-face racism, directed to a First Nations person or people of colour and many think this is the only form of racism. So they are not racist and they are satisfied with this.

Understanding the other three types of racism: internalised racism are internalised stereotypes, values and ideas of First Nations people, perpetuated by the dominant society. Then the systemic/structural racism, what this country is built on, it's the history and culture and the day-to-day life of systems often perpetuated by media that feeds stereotypes, thus impacting people and communities negatively. Then institutional racism where policies, procedures and culture work better for white people and cause harm for First Nations people and people of colour. Rampant in Australia.

We have so far to go with racism, how many times have we heard this?! It is so deeply embedded but it shouldn't be,



Shelley Ware

maybe if we didn't ignore the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 in this country we would be in a better place. Our children would be safer.

For years this country has allowed racism to be a part of it's culture, in our language and in our actions as a country. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need to stand up and say no to racism but actually mean it, start enforcing the Racial Discrimination Act 1975.

I have been saying for years in my keynotes on racism to workplaces and teachers all around Australia, that we need a solid high profile class action, for people to take note, that racism is illegal in this country and these are the consequences, if you don't follow the law.

It's just a fact people respond better in society to consistent consequences, most of the time, fact is that will stop people hurting people.

The AFL world has been shaken recently by a class

action lead by Phil Krakouer for several former players, including his brother James, alleging the AFL failed to protect them from racial abuse on and off the field between 1975 and 2022. Phil Krakouer alleged that he was the victim of verbal and physical abuse for the majority of his 141 games. To say his workplace was culturally unsafe is an understatement.

High profile people have been named and they will have their day in court, the AFL are denying the claims but it seems like so many Australians they took for granted we didn't act upon the Racial Discrimination 1975.

I had to stop taking my son to AFL games when he was little, as the racism in the crowd was so bad I couldn't allow him to be subject to that week after week. People love to yell out racist things when I'm at the football, with intent just for my ears. I've reported people over the years to AFL integrity and they lost their memberships. Is this enough anymore?

Many have said it's unfair and what a disgrace this class action is. Personally I welcome it, people and organisations need to face past racism and acknowledge the past otherwise it will continue to be in our future. We need to act and stop racism in its tracks. Stand strong and beautiful my people.

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

Alfred issues plea to save his rooster

By ALF WILSON



ALBERT Abdul-Rahman, who has a terminal illness, is devastated that authorities have advised him that they are going to take his beloved pet bantam rooster Bozo away from him.

Septuagenarian Albert who has had two legs removed below his knees is confined to a wheelchair and was told by doctors a few months ago that he has a year at most to live and he has two carers.

The 72-year-old Albert, who lives on normally sleepy McAllister Street in the Townsville suburb of Oonoonba, was given Bozo six months ago and it lives in a large cage at his home.

However Albert received a letter from the local council advising they have received a complaint about the noise Bozo makes each morning when it crows doing the traditional "Cock a Doodle Do".

"They have told me that if I don't get rid of Bozo, the police will enforce

bylaws and remove my rooster which I love dearly. I fear they will execute him," Albert told *Koori Mail*.

When I visited Albert on 16 March a carer took Bozo from its large cage and he held the bird.

"I do admit that Bozo does 'Cock a Doodle Do' in the morning but I can't see how it

bothers anybody. What about all the wild birds around here which make lots of noise such as fruit bats, plovers, cockatoos and others?" Albert said.

Albert was weeping as he held Bozo and said the bird was just doing what roosters do.

"When Bozo does the 'Cock a doodle do' he is just saying any HEN WILL DO," Albert said.

Whilst such Council bylaws cover domestic pets they have no control over birds living in the wild which land on private properties.

"I just want to live my remaining days with Bozo here," he said.

Albert said he had asked all nearby neighbours if they had made a complaint about Bozo and each one denied it.

"I think it is just one neighbour and I wish they would let me keep Bozo on compassionate grounds," he said.

A Council spokesman would not comment on Albert's case but pointed out that the bylaw is under the noise restrictions and complaints Environmental Protection Act of 1994.

Over the decades Albert at many events such as NAIDOC celebrations, Survival and Mabo day gatherings, Cultural Fests, on Palm Island where he worked for many years and even at protest marches to support those charged after the 2004 riot on Palm. Not to forget the scores of Allblacks football carnivals he has been at.

He was also a member of the Murri Court for many years.



Albert Abdul-Rahman with Bozo his pet rooster.

NT's top cop outraged by racist certificates



THE Northern Territory's top police officer is outraged by a series of racist awards allegedly handed out by the force's elite tactical response unit.

Former constable Zachary Rolfe tendered the certificates during an inquest into the death of Kumanjaji Walker, attempting to prove the force's ingrained culture of racism.

Mr Rolfe shot Kumanjaji Walker, 19, three times as he resisted being handcuffed while armed with a pair of scissors in Yuendumu, northwest of Alice Springs, on November 9, 2019.

He was acquitted of murder at a five-week trial.

Lawyers spent much of the February inquest session arguing over the legitimacy of "certificates" produced by Mr Rolfe, which aimed to prove Northern Territory Police handed out a racist award at Christmas parties.



Former cop Zachary Rolfe.

Coroner Elisabeth Armitage on Monday made public the three certificates.

The first depicts an Aboriginal flag with the Territory Response Group (TRG) logo in the corner with the words "CAUTION for a RAPE... that's all that needs to be said".

The award appears to be from 2013 and the name of the receiving constable is redacted.

The second certificate from

2012 depicts the TRG logo and an image of a police rescue vehicle chasing Usain Bolt.

The words "Runner up SOOTY AWARD, for outstanding lack of excellence in approaching a stronghold" are printed.

The TRG logo is also on the final 2012 award, depicting a naked man lying on his back and a woman wearing revealing clothing.

The words include "award for outstanding lack of excellence in cooking sausages".

Commissioner Michael Murphy said he was "taking the certificates as true" though they have not been officially verified.

"It's absolutely disgraceful and abhorrent, I won't stand for that type of culture in the Northern Territory police," he said on Monday.

"It's a line in the sand and we need to move forward and do a significant amount of homework to make sure the NT Police is a safe, culturally safe and culturally

competent organisation that Indigenous people want to work with".

He said police are conducting an internal investigation with ICAC about the awards.

In February Mr Murphy admitted the award was racist, whether the certificates were verified or not, but said NT Police does not have a systemic racism problem.

Not acceptable

NT Chief Minister Eva Lawler said the award was "not acceptable", and Police Minister Brent Potter said work would be done to address the issue.

"This has highlighted that we need to act faster, even though the coronial (matter) is ongoing there is work that can be done between myself, the commissioner and the attorney-general," he said

During the inquest, NT Police lawyer Ian Freckelton tendered four statements from senior

officers in the Tactical Response Group who rejected the claims, saying no such award existed.

All four statements referenced the award, believed to be the same called out by Mr Rolfe.

They all said a word in the award title was "made up" and had no connection to Indigenous people.

"This award is presented to people who have displayed an outstanding lack of excellence in the area of personal hygiene or feral behaviour," Superintendent Craig Garland said.

However, the following day Mr Rolfe's lawyers came to court with certificates claiming to be from the recipients of the racist award.

Mr Rolfe requested the identity of the officers not be released, but wrote it on a piece of paper for the lawyers to see.

Dr Freckelton made a successful application to prevent the media publishing the images of the award until investigations took place.

— AAP

Elder arrested while standing up for forests

By JILLIAN MUNDY



WHILE much of Lutruwita (Tasmania) was going gaga over a name and logo for a sports team, Jim Everett was being arrested for trespass while protesting the destruction of native forests.

The eighty-one-year-old Pakana* Elder, activist and artist travelled into the Styx 'Valley of the Giants' where eucalypts grow to near 100 metres – the tallest flowering trees in the world – are threatened by logging.

The *Koori Mail* caught up with him on the eve of his arrest.

"I want to tell the Tasmanian Government you are committing genocide against these forests, committing genocide against our people because we are connected to the forests and we are going to fight you," he said.

"We are Country and Country is us, our First People in Lutruwita/Tasmania understand how we are a part of everything, and have a responsibility and role to protect these ancient forests."

While Jim is grateful for the campaigning, protesting and direct action by individuals and organisations like Bob Brown Foundation, he wants to inspire more Pakana to get involved.

"Here we are leading up to truth telling, leading up to some sort of treaty.

"We don't want them to knock all the forests down and sell crown land off before they get to the point where they know they're going to have to hand land back to us."

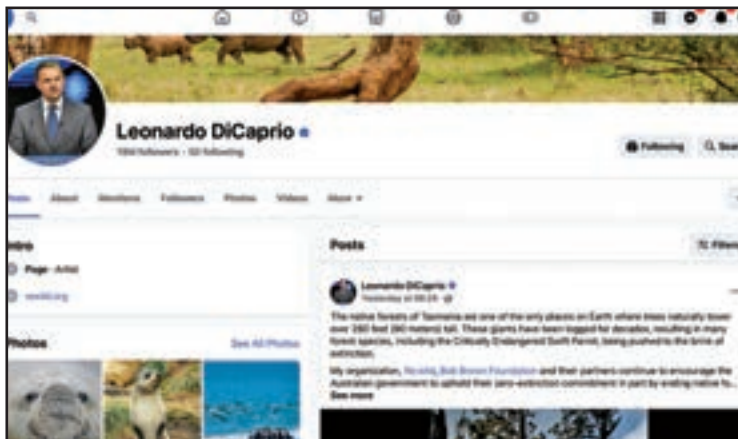
He said government, corporations and big timber companies need to realise they are destroying the ecosystems Tasmania is valued for, and the building industry needs to use alternatives to old growth hardwoods.

"The majority is being wood chipped anyway.

"We're trashing our forests just



Pakana* Elder, activist and artist Jim Everett was arrested and charged with trespass.



A screenshot of Leonardo DiCaprio's Facebook page. The Hollywood superstar has spoken out in support of Tasmania's endangered native forests.

to feed rich people's pockets somewhere over the other side of the globe.

"It's just pillage for profits."

He said it's not a black fella or white fella issue.

"It's everybody, people should think about their grandkids what are we going to leave them, we're

going to leave them fighting to try and save the last big tree?

"It's not just to enjoy the trees but what they produce for clean air.

"It's very important that we do it now before they open slather and take more and more of these giant old-growth native forests."

When *Koori Mail* spoke with Jim in the Styx last week, it was five days before the state election. At the exact same time synchronised events around the state unveiled the name and logo of the Tasmanian ALF team – the Devils, after the Tasmanian Devil.

Native to Tasmania, the shy carnivorous marsupial earned their European name from their ferocious screech, which until about three decades ago, could be heard at night in bushlands across the state, they were also a common sight dead on the side of the roads having been hit by cars.

These days in many parts the night is quieter, Devils are listed as an endangered species, their populations ravaged by 'devil facial tumour disease', being hit by cars and habitat loss, including by forestry operations.

In areas of extensive logging operations, whether plantation or native forest, including old growth, the night is especially quiet, depleted of most native animals.

A cynic might consider

successive Tasmanian government's are proud of extinction – the government logo depicts a stylised extinct Tasmanian Tiger, known colloquially in government offices as 'the dead dog'.

The Pakana Elder's arrest barely rated a mention in local media. But they did get excited when American actor and film producer Leonardo Di Caprio took to social media the same day calling on the Australian government to uphold their zero extinction commitment, in part, by ending native-forest logging.

"For the past 20 years, the logging industry in Tasmania has relied heavily on taxpayer-funded subsidies to remain profitable," Leonardo posted.

"The Tasmanian government, for the first time since 2011, has announced an increase in the amount of native forest available for logging, despite 75% of Australians calling for an end to native forest logging altogether.

"Mainland Australia and Tasmania have one of the worst wildlife extinction rates in the world, partly driven by habitat destruction."

As the *Koori Mail* went to press, vote counting had not finished in Tasmania, the best chance the forests have is if Greens or independents hold the balance of power.

As polls predicted, majority government eluded both the Liberal and Labor parties. It means the party that forms government — in minority — will need to negotiate with others in the parliament.

The Liberal government has vowed to open up 40,000 additional hectares of native forest to logging if re-elected, the Labor party said they would extend logging contracts to 2040 and review available 'resources' including native forests. Logging of native forests in Victoria and Western Australia stopped on January 1 this year.

* Palawa and Pakana both mean 'Tasmanian Aborigine'.

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Crossbench MPs unite over custody deaths



TOO many First Nations children are being removed from their families and too many Indigenous people are dying in custody, according to federal crossbench MPs.

The group, organised by Senator Lidia Thorpe, has called on the Labor government to implement all the recommendations from the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and the 1997 Bringing Them Home report on the Stolen Generations.

"We need the prime minister to take leadership here and stop coming out with all of these reports and the promises of addressing First Nations justice in this country," she said in Canberra last Thursday. "If you can't ... implement the recommendations that will actually save lives."

In an open letter to the prime minister, Indigenous Australians Minister Linda Burney and



Lidia Thorpe and other crossbench MPs want the commission recommendations to be implemented.

Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus, the MPs called for new powers for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner to oversee progress on the recommendations, many of which have not been implemented in the three decades since they

were handed down.

The letter – signed by senators David Pocock, Jacquie Lambie, and Tammy Tyrrell, and lower house MPs Andrew Wilkie, Kylea Tink, Zali Steggall, Monique Ryan, Kate Chaney, Zoe Daniel, Helen Haines, Sophie Scamps and

Allegra Spender – also calls for the new national commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People to oversee implementation of the Bringing them Home report recommendations.

On Friday, health ministers from states and territories will join their federal counterpart Mark Butler for a roundtable with Indigenous health leaders.

"I'm sure one of the agenda items ... will be a discussion about outstanding recommendations from the royal commission, particularly around culturally safe healthcare in prisons," Mr Butler said.

Senator Thorpe said all states and territories should remove hanging points from prisons, which was one of the recommendations.

"I've had young fellas actually demonstrate how it's done," she said.

"Removing hanging points won't only save First People in this country, removing hanging points would save other people also who

are taking their lives in the system.

"Prisoners don't have Medicare, prisoners don't have NDIS, prisoners don't have access to PBS (pharmaceutical benefits scheme) like everybody else, so we have people inside the system there on remand, who haven't been sentenced, who have diabetes and can't access their diabetic medication."

Senator Lambie said hundreds of First Nations people had died in custody since the 1991 royal commission was tabled in parliament.

Closing the Gap data published in March showed rates of Indigenous suicide, adult incarceration and children in out-of-home care getting worse, and no improvement in rates of imprisonment of First Nations children.

Productivity Commission data this year also showed the overall rate of deaths in custody at its highest in more than a decade.

– AAP

The Close the Gap campaign to focus on strength and success



The First People's Disability Network has a gift to the rest of the country: A culture of inclusion and a natural way of being.

Traditional languages don't have a comparable word for disability, Damian Griffis, the head of the network, said at the 2024 Close the Gap campaign launch at Parliament House on Wednesday.

"Disability is heavily labelled, it's a very western construct," he said.

"And you have endless labels: Autism, acquired brain injury, psychosocial disability, intellectual disability.

"Whereas we talk about disability in a much more appropriate way. It tends to be 'brother there can't move around too well', 'cousin's a



Damian Griffis.

bit slower than everyone else' – not said in a negative way, it's just that's what we need to think about."

The Close the Gap campaign is a community response to the framework agreed to by all Australian governments in the National

Agreement on Closing the Gap, a framework designed to address First Nations inequity.

Prepared by Lowitja Institute for the Close the Gap campaign, the report has been released in Canberra ahead of National Close the Gap Day on Thursday.

It provides an opportunity for Indigenous community leaders, campaign members, and parliamentarians to reflect on the year that has been, and to refocus on the tasks ahead in the pursuit of our wellbeing, sovereignty, and self-determination.

Lowitja Institute chair Selwyn Button said the Close the Gap campaign report: Voyage to Voice, Treaty, Truth and Beyond refocuses the narrative on Indigenous peoples' strengths and successes.

"In reflecting on (last year's unsuccessful Voice)

referendum, it doesn't linger on the political party machinations, it's not about the debate that went on," he said.

"This is about focusing on the strength of the things that we know happen in our communities that we see every day and how do we provide that back to the Australian public.

"We won't stop, we are resilient people who have been here for 65,000 years, we will continue to fight and will continue to advocate to improve outcomes."

The report includes nine case studies highlighting the work of First Nations organisations, which have shared their journey and successes.

Campaign co-chair Karl Briscoe said the cause is the pursuit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recognition, rights, justice and equity.

"And though this journey can be difficult, sometimes even painful, it remains a worthy pursuit because embedding social justice benefits us as a nation," he said.

"We are committed to improving life outcomes of First Nations peoples across the country, this is and will continue to be the work of the campaign."

Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney paid tribute to the institute's namesake, the late trailblazer Lowitja O'Donoghue and announced \$3.5 million to honour her legacy.

"History does not always move in a straight line," Ms Burney said, borrowing from Martin Luther King.

"There is progress and there are setbacks, we know that.

"But our history always bends towards justice."

The campaign makes 22 recommendations towards strengthening the cultural, social, and political determinants of health for Indigenous people.

It calls for all governments to deliver the objectives of the Uluru Statement from the Heart by advancing voice, treaty and truth mechanisms in their jurisdictions.

Further recommendations include funding the establishment of a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander coalition on climate and health, and support the First Peoples Disability Network's call for greater inclusion of disability in the national agreement on Closing the Gap.

"We've got an opportunity to change things and show the rest of Australia how you create an inclusive society," Mr Griffis said.

– AAP

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It's time to change focus

By LIINA FLYNN



WHEN AFL icon Nicky Winmar returned to Melbourne's Victoria Park for the Ngarra Jarra

Noun Healing Ceremony last year, 30 years had passed since that powerful moment where he lifted his shirt and proudly pointed to his black skin.

Nicky was responding to the racism he experienced on the football field, and that iconic moment – captured on camera – brought the eyes of Australia to face the issue of racism.

Organiser of that inaugural healing ceremony was former AFL player and coach Nathan Lovett-Murray.

Nathan said bringing Nicky to the field – along with other AFL players who had experienced racism and a Mob of cultural dancers and healers – was a way to reclaim the park and change the focus from racism, to healing.

This year, on April 21, Nathan is organising another community healing event with music, ceremony and culture – this time honouring the Fitzroy Stars and Rumbalara Football Netball Clubs.

"The healing ceremony itself is about going through the process, because a lot of our Mob experience racism," Nathan said.

"We can come together and show solidarity with the sports clubs – and it's an education for everyone about racism, stepping up and calling it out when it happens."

"Awaken our spirits"

Nathan invites everyone to come along to the Ngarra Jarra Noun Healing Ceremony on Sunday, April 21, and spend an afternoon with music acts, cultural dancers and a healing smoking ceremony to "awaken our spirits".

"It's about supporting Indigenous people and understanding our culture – and taking steps to move forward to deal with racism," he said.

"I've played and coached both of these football clubs. I've experienced racism that's been swept under the carpet and as coaches and supporters, we want to call out racism and put a spotlight on it."

Healing ceremony

Nathan said the healing ceremony is held in partnership between Collingwood Football Club and Indigenous Sports Network – and it's going to be an annual event.

Last year's event was so popular that the expected 500 attendees actually grew to 3,000. During the event, Nicky Winmar stood on the playing field, next to one of two ceremonial fires.

As he heard an Elder singing a traditional song, Nicky spontaneously began to dance and others joined him in a corroboree. Nathan said Nicky's



Uncle Ted Wilkes, Nicky Winmar and Uncle Richard Whalley at the 2023 Ngarra Jarra Noun ceremony.



At Victoria Park, Nathan Lovett-Murray and Nicky Winmar call out racism on and off the field.



At this year's ceremony, 11 traditional dance groups will dance in Victoria Park.

spontaneous action had turned the field into a cultural healing space – allowing him to own the space.

"People wanted to talk to Nicky about it afterward," Nathan said. "Nicky said it helped heal the scars and change the focus to healing."

"Other players who were there said the same thing – it took the weight off their shoulders."

"They stood round the ceremonial fire and it became a yarning circle for them to talk about it."

"It's a way of getting bad

energy out and creating a fresh, new mindset."

Change

When it comes to tackling racism, Nathan said change is happening.

"But we are calling out for more," he said. "We have



Some of last year's dancers.

incidents still happening, especially on social media – and we need more people to call it out and not let others get away with it.

"We know what the impacts are on mental health and we know what it leads to. So, we need consequences for racist behaviour. There's still a lot more work to do."

Dancers

Nathan said this year's event will bring 11 Victorian traditional dance groups together for the first time ever.

"They will all do their own dances and then come together and perform," he said. "At the core of the event is the healing smoking ceremony."

"At the free community event, we will also have healing stalls, cultural dance workshops and a community barbecue."

Song woman

Respected song woman Maylene Yinarr will again be taking part in this year's healing ceremony.

Maylene said the Healing Market, a focal point of the event, is "a sacred haven where community meets to foster healing accessibility for all".

"We believe that healing should be inclusive and accessible to everyone, regardless of background or circumstance," Maylene said.

"Through our collaborations, workshops and shared moments, we strengthen our bonds with ourselves, each other, and the land, creating a new narrative of resilience, connection, and collective healing."

"Ceremony is a timeless ritual that we have inherited as First Nations people."

"May we honour this sacred practice, allowing the vibrations to awaken our spirits and lead us towards healing."

Music

Bringing music to the event will be hip hop artist Mau Power, from Thursday Island. Other music acts include the Deans of Soul, Maylene Yinarr, Uncle Johnny Lovett and Nathans' daughter Harmony Lovett-Murray (9).

The Ngarra Jarra Noun Healing Ceremony will be held at Victoria Park, Melbourne on Sunday, April 21, from 2pm to 6pm

Setting the scene with sculpture

By NICK PATON



FOR Nyoongar woman Sharyn Egan, exhibiting at this year's Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe, in Western Australia was 'an honour'.

But what Ms Egan loved most about her art instalment was inviting the public to take part in its creation and watching it come alive and grow bigger each day.

"It's just such an honour to be part of this, and to be working with the public, and the people, and involving everyone in it," Ms Egan said.

"The sculpture itself is more about educating people a little bit about Aboriginal culture without preaching about it or schooling people, and the installation is really just about sharing knowledge about the Balga plant itself."

An acclaimed artist from Western Australia, it's the 7th time Ms Egan has exhibited.

Ms Egan was named as the 2024 Tourism WA Invited Aboriginal Artist – a new Aboriginal Artistic Program to celebrate the 20th Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe.

From March 1-18, her installation 'Balga Boola – Bigsmob Balga', became a major piece of public-engaging participatory art.

For the duration of the 18-day exhibition, Ms Egan led a series of workshops for the visiting public



Nyoongar woman Sharyn Egan was named as the 2024 Tourism WA Invited Aboriginal Artist for Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe.

and school groups, who worked alongside Ms Egan learning traditional weaving techniques.

Her installation grew into a field of Balga trees sprouting the hand-made fronds.

"This artwork invites people to come and be a part of it," Ms Egan said.

"People have absolutely loved taking part, especially making the leaves of the plants, which is just wool wrapped around meadow hay," she said.

"I've loved watching people make their fronds and once it's been placed as part of the exhibition, seeing them come back to find their fronds and taking a picture of it."

Ms Egan said there are up to 30 species of Balga, with the particular

species she focused on as part of the exhibition known to only grow on Nyoongar Country.

"This particular plant is just so useful in terms of what it provides in the way of sustenance, moisture, tools, and glue – it's like a Swiss army knife of the bush," she said.

"I even use the sap and resin of the plants in my paintings."

Ms Egan's works in a variety of mediums including painting, sculptural and woven forms, using traditional and contemporary fibres, oils, ochres, and resins.

Her woven works include traditionally-styled contemporary forms and baskets, as well as sculptural forms, often based on flora and fauna, that has totemic significance for the Nyoongar people.



Sharyn Egan's installation 'Balga Boola – Bigsmob Balga', became a major piece of public-engaging participatory art.

"I like working with community because then people appreciate art a bit more because people can see what goes into it," Ms Egan said.

"When people get involved with this kind of thing, they are grateful that they were allowed to be a part of it, because they come down to the beach and see the installation and say, 'Oh my god, I love that!'"

"Last year, I had the Balga's up on the grassed area, in its natural environment, but this year Bigsmob Balga is on the beach, and it just really works, because it is such a

stark contrast between the white sand and black Balga and the blue of the ocean in the background – it's just stunning!"

"I just love the feeling and the sense of belonging at this place because it belongs to everyone," Ms Egan said.

"It's like coming back to family every year and catching up with everybody like the artists, and site crew, the people behind the scenes that you get to know - and the volunteers, who are absolutely amazing."

Coomaditchie The Art of Place



Coomaditchie: The Art of Place is based on the exhibition commissioned by Wollongong Art Gallery in 2023. Image: Swans of Coomaditchie Lagoon (detail), Allison Day, 2022. Wollongong Art Gallery. Photo © Bernie Fischer. Artwork © the artist



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Justice on the gender agenda for women



THE First Nations Gender Justice Institute embodies what can happen when Indigenous women and girls aim high, talk about their dreams and work together, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner June Oscar says.

After leading seven years of conversations through the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices in the Bunuba language of the Kimberley) project, Ms Oscar launched the Institute on Tuesday, March 19.

The Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute will find its home at the ANU, on Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country (Canberra).

Equality

"Equality is fundamental, we should have equal opportunities to be all of who we are in this world," Ms Oscar said.

During her term as commissioner, Ms Oscar travelled around the nation listening to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls, finding out about their aspirations, hardships, challenges and dreams for the future.

In May 2023, the Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Summit in Canberra brought First Nations women together into an arena of decision-making with a diverse range of private and public stakeholders.

And on Tuesday night Ms Oscar, along with former prime minister Julia Gillard, Indigenous Australians Minister Linda Burney and Australian National University chancellor Julie Bishop, launched the Institute, the culmination of those conversations and aspirations.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner June Oscar.

"Justice is ... about how we self-determine our lives and encompasses living a full and just life across every aspect of existence, including work, education, health, housing, academia, everywhere," Ms Oscar said.

"It's also about our knowledge systems, and our cultural practices.

"For First Nations peoples it's how we have formed and sustained societies since time immemorial."

Ms Gillard, who now chairs the Global Institute for Women's Leadership, said it was important to understand the women's movement had not always been inclusive, either in Australia or other places around the world.

"We want to leave that past behind and to have a present day feminism and women's movement that understands intersectionality, that embraces all voices, that knows that

systems of racism and exclusion compound with gender inequality, sexism and misogyny," she said.

"For too many generations and for too long First Nations Australians and particularly women have been required to tolerate the decision-making of others when their voices haven't been heard, and they haven't been included.

"And the Institute is here to help us change that for the future and that will make everything we want to do for gender equality more effective."

Roadmap

The Institute will work alongside First Nations women, girls, gender-diverse people, researchers, practitioners and non-Indigenous collaborators to develop the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Change Agenda, an overarching generational

roadmap for transformation.

Ms Oscar said the Gender Justice Institute would help foster the understanding of First Nations knowledge and practices.

"So we can create movements, so we can create the structures, so we can create the economies and institutions to heal from trauma, to be empowered and regenerate our societal frameworks," she said.

"This includes things like delivering our maternal health practices, the songs, the practice, the foods, the protocols, the naming.

"All of these ancient knowledge systems that live within women and families and communities and language groups and cultural groups that have sustained lineages from the creation of time to become the world's oldest continuous civilisation on Earth has to represent something." – AAP

Premier to appear for truth-telling



VICTORIAN Premier Jacinta Allan is set to give evidence at Australia's first truth-telling inquiry to investigate injustices against Aboriginal people. The Yoorrook Justice

Commission is holding three weeks of public hearings.

Ms Allan will give evidence on April 29 on land that was previously part of the Coranderrk Aboriginal Mission near Healesville.

It is the first time the premier will appear as a witness at the commission.

Ms Allan's predecessor Daniel Andrews wrote a letter to the commission in April 2023.

Water Minister Harriet Shing is set to appear before the commission in Robinvale, on the Murray River, on April 24.

Yoorrook is Australia's first truth-telling inquiry to investigate injustices against Aboriginal people.

Formal truth-telling processes have been held in more than 30 other countries including Canada, New Zealand and South Africa.

Commissioner Travis Lovett, who is leading Yoorrook's inquiry, said it would focus on Indigenous people's experiences in Australia since colonisation.

"We will hear evidence about how European colonisers illegally and forcibly took First Peoples' land, water and resources and enforced strategic policies depriving them of the ability to practise language, culture and traditions," he said.

"Tens of thousands of years of unbroken connection and deep love for this land almost wiped out seemingly in a blink of the eye."

Commission chair Eleanor Bourke said the hearings were a chance for Victorians to reflect on the past.

"Yoorrook's inquiry into the land, sky and waters goes back to the beginning of colonisation," Professor Bourke said.

"It is an opportunity for all Victorians to learn the truth of Victoria's shared history, as well as the diversity, strength and resistance of First Peoples."

Yoorrook aims to establish an official public record of Indigenous experiences since the start of colonisation and recommend reform and redress.

Its work will also help guide the state's treaty negotiations.

The commission will also implement cutting-edge data sovereignty rules so witnesses can control how and where their evidence is used in the future. – AAP



Recognition of Northern Land Council and Central Land Council as Native Title Representative Bodies

The Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Linda Burney MP, has invited the Northern Land Council (NLC) and Central Land Council (CLC) to apply for further terms as the Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRB) for their respective Northern Territory regions. NTRBs help people to make Native Title claims and agreements. The NLC and CLC are currently the NTRBs for the regions and their current terms expire on 30 June 2024.

People with Native Title interests in the region, and all Aboriginal people living in the region, can make a submission about the NLC or CLC to inform the Minister's decision. Submissions are due by 5PM (ADST), 16 April 2024. Submissions can be made via email to nativetitle@niaa.gov.au or post to Land and Native Title Branch, NIAA, PO Box 2191, Canberra ACT 2600.

The NLC and CLC will be given an opportunity to comment on all submissions.

For more information, visit www.niaa.gov.au or call 1800 079 098.

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Have your say on future plans for Riverwood

Homes NSW is proposing revised planning controls for part of the Riverwood Estate. The revised proposal would deliver approximately 420 new social and private homes.

The revised proposal is now on exhibition and open for community feedback. It includes Homes NSW response to submissions from the 2022 exhibition.

Have your say by 8 April 2024.

To attend an information session or give feedback: scan the QR code, or visit planning.nsw.gov.au/riverwood



LP1867

Songman returns to the stage

By ALI MC



THE legendary Pitjantjatjara songman Frank Yamma recently made a bold

return to stages in Melbourne and Adelaide after an eight-year hiatus.

Performing solo shows in Melbourne and with the Wantok Music family at WOMAD, Yamma told the *Koori Mail* he was happy to be back performing.

"I enjoy what I do," he said.

"Sometimes I sit back with family. Sometimes I grab my guitar and I want to go out again. So I just do a phone call – 'hey organise me a gig there man, it's getting a little bit quiet down here!' Coming over here in Melbourne, it's been a long time – like eight years."

He said his aim of performing is for audiences to 'kulila', the Pitjantjatjara word for listen.

"When you kulila you understand everything," he said. "We always use that word, kulila."

Singing in both English and Pitjantjatjara languages, Yamma's music has always told stories from his own experiences both on Country and in the cities and towns.

He said he liked to "have fun" with the languages



Pitjantjatjara songman Frank Yamma.

heuses in his lyrics.

"I like singing loud, I like singing soft," he said. "The words I can easily translate it to Pitjantjatjara and then translate to English."

"Two different languages –

English and Pitjantjatjara. And that's fun, I have fun with it."

The messages in his songs can also be deeply personal, like that of the haunting ballad *Coolibah* which talks about the impact of grog on his

community.

"It's part of the experience – something that I got through and some other people go through," he said.

Yamma said that the song was originally written as an upbeat rock n roll song.

"When I first wrote it, it was rock n roll, full on. Hard core – a party song," he said.

Yamma described how Wantok music producer David Bridie slowed the song down so the lyrics could shine through.

"The words were still there. And when he slowed down the music – the same chords – it let the music breathe and speak for itself. So people can listen – kulila," he said.

"It's very important to write a song and get the message out there. All these drinkers too can listen when they are hungover and have run out of money. There's a lot of people out there drinking these days, young ones too. So you got to get the message out there all the time."

Yamma's own journey has seen him give up the grog, and he now encourages others to do so.

He said it was important for Mob to understand they come from good families and to remember where their ancestors came from.

"I see My mob. And when

they see me, they get scared because I don't drink," he said.

"I will tell you – 'why are you drinking? You got good family. You don't need to touch that. You grow up good way, you got a good background'."

"That's what's important – to tell them their background, and they will listen."

Along with his return to the stage, Yamma said he was keen to write new songs and create a new album.

His last albums were *Countryman* in 2010 and *Uncle* in 2014, but now as an elder statesman in the music industry, he wants to work with some of his young nephews and pass on the musical torch.

"My plan is to make another album," he said. "Create some rock n roll music for the young fullas. They are looking forward to creating the album. They grew up listening to my music and are playing in the band with me right now. They will be the next generation coming round."

With a new album on the horizon and a renewed commitment to performing, Frank Yamma will continue to encourage audiences both Indigenous and non-Indigenous to 'kulila', or as he translates it: "listen up!"

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Fishy art calls for action

By LIINA FLYNN



WHEN Wik Iiyanh artist Syd Bruce Shortjoe (SBS) walks along the beach, he collects abandoned fishing nets that have washed up on the shore.

These aren't just ordinary fishing nets – Syd calls them 'ghost nets' because of the way they kill marine life.

"Sometimes the rangers bring in dead fish and turtles that have been killed by these nets," Syd told the *Koori Mail*.

"I'm in my 60s now, but when I was a boy walking on Country we saw lots of swordfish and shovel nosed rays, but now they are vanishing because of the fishing nets and pollution."

Syd and other community members from the Pormpuraaw Art Centre then clean the washed up nets and use them to make artworks, representing clan totems.

The creative locals from the Pormpuraaw area in Queensland's Gulf of Carpentaria now have their artworks on display at the World Science Festival in Brisbane.

As a community artist Syd said his art not only tells stories of his bloodlines, it also helps to educate his children and grandchildren about cultural practices and clan totems.

"Mostly we make fishes like rays, swordfish and turtles," Syd said.

"These special fish are a part of our dances and our songlines too."

"The swordfish is one we eat when people are grieving."

"If that fish vanishes, it's like part of my culture is gone."

Syd said while he is a freshwater man, his grandmother is from saltwater Country. His totem is the blue tongue lizard

"When we walk the Country, we only take what we need and share it amongst ourselves," he said.

"I'm worried about the next generations to come – they won't know what that fish looks like in real life. Because of the fishing nets,

maybe they'll only see it in an aquarium."

Making art from the collected fishing nets is one of the ways Syd and other community members are bringing awareness to the growing problem of ghost nets in our oceans.

"The fishing boats just cut the nets and let them drift in the ocean," Syd said.

"They float on the tides and kill more fish, until it reaches the beach. Once we found a dead porpoise too."

"So we recycle the nets and use them to make something beautiful and educate people about this."

Syd said it wasn't just the fishing nets that concerned him – climate change was a worry too.

"Everything is changing – even our water level," he said.

"When I go to the northern parts, the sea level is up to the road now and we have to make a different road. It changes the well water supply too – now it has salt water."

"I tell the kids, this was a good camping place, but everything changes after monsoon – even the

river and beaches.

Bush fires are a problem too.

"We normally do cultural burning on Country earlier," Syd said.

"Our message to government is we have to do something sooner, especially for bushfire – and not wait till June or July to burn."

Syd has already travelled the world with his ghost-net art, playing an important role as an educator about this environmental problem affecting the community.

"I've been to Sri Lanka and Paris as part of art shows and I've spoken at the United Nations about the ghost-net problem," he said.

Now, Syd is in Brisbane continuing the work at the Ghost Nets of Pormpuraaw art exhibition at this year's World Science Festival Brisbane.

The large-scale immersive installation features selected artists from the Pormpuraaw Art and Culture Centre was on display during March at the Queensland Museum.

"I'm worried about the next generations to come – they won't know what that fish looks like in real life."
– Syd Bruce Shortjoe



Wik Iiyanh artist Syd Bruce Shortjoe (pictured above and below) with some of his sculptural artworks on display in the Ghost Nets of Pormpuraaw exhibition.



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Baskets weave life for bats



A TINY, six-gram threatened bat species has been found living in Indigenous hand-woven roosts for the first time, after many of their natural homes were destroyed by bushfires.

The Golden-tipped bats, who typically roost in abandoned nests made by small native birds, were left vulnerable to predators when the Black Summer bushfires destroyed many of their homes.

After the fires, the NSW Government's Saving our Species program worked to 'rebuild' the bats' habitat using First Nations knowledge and support from Gumbaynggirr partners, volunteers and school students. They used traditional weaving skills to make hanging baskets from dried local plant parts.

Two years after the baskets were created, Lamah Coe, an Aboriginal Student Trainee with Saving our Species, found the first pair of bats in their new home during a routine inspection last month.

A second pair of bats was found last week, leading scientists to believe the bat colony is now acclimatised enough to start moving in.

Around 60 baskets were installed in preparation for this moment and in the meantime a range of other native animals have benefited from using the roosts, including scrub wrens, honeyeaters and native rodents.

It's a huge boost for the project which blended Western science and Indigenous cultural practices to produce the roosts, and shared the learning across the community to support the Golden-tipped bat.

Uncle Gary Williams, the project partner at the Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative, coined the phrase and



Alison Williams, Lilly Clegg, Anna Loyd, Alicia Scanlon and volunteers beneath woven roosts.

project name, 'Girrimarrng wiirrilgal bulany ngayanbading', which translates to 'bat nest-type fur sun-like'.

The project is managed by Saving our Species in partnership with the Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative and the Yarrawarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre, both on Gumbaynggirr Country, with support from WIRES National Grants program and the Australian Government's Bushfire Recovery Program.

NSW Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Penny Sharpe said "the discovery of Golden-tipped bats in these carefully woven First Nations 'homes' is a promising sign that our scientists will be able to help the species recover from the

bushfires".

"This project is a perfect example of how the environment can benefit from bringing together First Nations' knowledge, science and the community."

Lamah Coe (17) is a school-based Aboriginal Student Trainee who works one day a week with the Saving our Species program. Lamah, who found the microbats, said "I was excited to find those bats inside the woven roosts".

"I shone the torch from underneath the roost and could see the golden-tipped fur. It was my first time seeing a wild Golden-tipped bat," she said.

Yarrawarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre creative director Alison Williams said "we are



Woven roost installed, with bird entrance visible. Pictures Kristy Pursch



Golden-tipped bat caught at one of the monitoring sites.

moved and very excited that we were able to work towards saving the Golden-tipped bat using cultural knowledge and natural resources".

"This was a wonderful project that brought community, both young and old together," she said.

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Blak Trekkers reach Mt Everest Base Camp



The Blak Trekkers at Everest Base Camp in Nepal. (Supplied by Joshua Creamer)



WHEN Jeremy Donovan was packing for Mount Everest, the top item on his list was his yigi yigi - the Kuku Yalanji word for yidaki or didgeridoo.

And while carrying the iconic instrument at altitude for seven days was difficult, he reckons it was worth it to become the first Aboriginal person to play didge at the famed peak's South Base Camp.

Excitement

"From all of the indications from Sherpa, the traditional people, they'd never seen it and there was such excitement when they first saw the didgeridoo and heard the sound of it," Mr Donovan says.

"They'd never heard anything like it."

Base Camp is easily the most challenging gig he's played.

"The cold air becomes really dense inside the didgeridoo, so that makes it harder to play," he says.

"And then you're overcoming the altitude, you're short on breath anyway, so it means what would usually be quite a simple process became a really complicated issue."

Mr Donovan is one of a dedicated group of friends known as the Blak Trekkers who made the pilgrimage to Everest in the name of raising funds and awareness for Black Dog Institute's First Nations Lived Experience Centre.

Another member, Josh Creamer, lost his brother to suicide on Boxing Day 2022.

Rates of suicide and self-harm are higher for Indigenous



Emma and David Williams in Nepal. (Supplied by Joshua Creamer)

people than other Australians.

"Every step we take is a poignant reminder of the struggles faced by those affected by mental illness," Mr Creamer says.

Mental health

When Kristal Kinsela's best mate David Williams asked her if she wanted to join the trek, she agreed without thinking because she believes Indigenous people find it difficult to speak about mental health.

"Lots of times people who are going through something that's mentally, physically, emotionally or spiritually challenging them are suffering in silence," she says.

"So we put ourselves into a situation like that for seven days to try to inspire others to say, 'You know what, life can be really hard and it can make you want to give up but if look around there are people who will want to support you'."

playing these games in your head, like, 'I can't feel my feet. Oh, my feet are burning, I don't know what to do'."

Ms Kinsela says climbing to Base Camp wasn't something she'd ever envisaged as an Aboriginal girl, growing up in Western Sydney.

"I grew up in housing commission to a single mother; people like me don't go and do Base Camp," she says.

Challenging

"It's like nothing you've ever experienced, I've never done anything so challenging - and I've given birth three times."

For the nine Aboriginal people in the group, connecting with traditional Nepalese people was important.

When they reached Base Camp, they performed a traditional dance accompanied by clapsticks before Mr Donovan, then Mr Williams, played didge.

"Culture was paramount to everything that we were doing," Mr Donovan says.

"We were finding similarities in some of the traditional Buddhist chants, we learned about some of the mandalas that are really steeped in great story."

Resilience

Gamilaraay man Dr Clinton Schultz, from Black Dog Institute, says the Blak Trekkers represent a beacon of hope, resilience and the commitment towards better ways for reconciliation and healing.

"I've struggled through childhood abuse, grappled with destructive coping mechanisms and faced the darkness of frequent suicidal thoughts," he

says. "Overcoming these obstacles was a journey of resilience made possible through connecting to family, culture and Country."

"It has fuelled my passion for helping others facing similar battles."

Mr Donovan has also faced battles with mental health including drug abuse and suicide ideation but was helped through his hard times by a couple of people who were on the trek.

"Part of reaching Base Camp I was overwhelmed because just to have made it out of that really dark period of my life and to have some really amazing people around me, people who helped me to be strong as a father again," he says.

"When I got there, I just really broke down into tears and it was really an emotional experience."

Donations

Blak Trekkers aimed to raise \$50,000 for the First Nations Lived Experience Centre but made that before even hitting the mountain, so they've doubled the target and are still taking donations for the rest of March.

"At Black Dog Institute, we recognise the value lived experience holds to inform and improve social and emotional wellbeing and reduce suicide rates," Dr Schultz says.

"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 and mental wellbeing programs and initiatives."

- AAP

Land returned to Middamia Mob



JUSTICE Burley of the Federal Court of Australia made an on-Country determination recently on Middalya Station recognising the native title rights and interests for the Middamia native title claimants. It was an emotional celebration given almost a 30-year-long legal process for the Middamia families who have connections to the area of Country that sits between the Gnulli and Thudgari determination areas. Pictured are some of the claimants who have been a part of the claim process from the beginning and have given an incredible amount of their knowledge and time towards the claim.

NSW premier accused of bail betrayal



NSW Premier Chris Minns has been accused of betraying Aboriginal children after his government's proposal for tougher bail laws was condemned as punitive and likely to increase the number of Indigenous children behind bars.

In March, the NSW Labor government unveiled plans for tougher bail laws including a temporary, extra test for older children charged with certain serious offences while they are already before the courts.

But on Monday, hundreds of legal practitioners, community workers and academics and dozens of Aboriginal organisations signed an open letter calling on Mr Minns to drop the plans, saying it will lead to more children in detention – particularly Indigenous kids, who are already over-represented in the justice system.

"Overwhelming evidence by youth detention management, children's commissioners, outside experts and young people points to the fact that youth detention does not work and, in fact, aggravates the traumas and behavioural issues that young people experience," their letter says.

The signatories say the government's proposal is a betrayal of Closing the Gap commitments – signed by Mr Minns in February – to work in partnership with Indigenous organisations.

"This is a devastating betrayal of Aboriginal children and other vulnerable groups across NSW," their letter says.

"This is a devastating betrayal of regional communities who want prevention measures not stunts."

Most children in detention in NSW are on remand, meaning they are yet to be charged with an offence.

According to NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research data, more than half of the children in detention (54.8 per cent) in the 2023 September quarter were Aboriginal.

The number of Indigenous young people on remand in NSW rose by 84.4 per cent between September 2021 and September 2023.

NSW Greens spokesperson for justice Sue Higginson said evidence shows that when bail is denied to children they are more likely to be enmeshed in the criminal justice system.

"These bail laws expressly seek to refuse bail to children and will result in worse outcomes for the young people and the broader community," she said in a statement.

"Premier Chris Minns has already copped backlash from his cabinet colleagues in response to this captain's call to jail more young people, and for very good reasons.

"The proposed bail changes and new offences do not address concerns for improved community safety, they actually undermine the investment made by the government to resource the real solutions that will work."

The signatories are calling on the government to withdraw the tougher bail proposals and invest in local communities to support activities that engage at-risk young people.

They also want programs with appropriate referral services and community partnerships between police and Aboriginal-controlled services.

Mr Minns has been asked for comment. – AAP

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.

New faces for NSWALC



TWO new faces will join the NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) following the statewide elections on February, 24.

This year, the nine-person NSWALC Council will include four female councillors – for the first time.

Councillor Diane Randall has been newly elected for the North Coast – and Cr Ray Kelly has been elected for the Sydney/Newcastle Regions and is also the new chair of the NSWALC.

The NSW Electoral Commission declared that incumbents were returned for North Western, Northern, Mid North Coast, Wiradjuri, Western and South Coast Regions. In the Central Region, Grace Toomey was elected unopposed.

Council members for the next season will be Cr Grace Toomey, Cr Peter Smith, Cr Diane Randall, Cr Anne Dennis, Cr Charles Lynch, Cr Ray Kelly, Cr Danny Chapman, Cr Ross Hampton and Cr Leeanne Hampton.

NSWALC chief executive



Cr Ray Kelly has been elected for the Sydney/Newcastle Regions and is also the new chair of the NSWALC.

Yuseph Deen said it is a critical time in Land Rights history in NSW, with the new NSWALC Council setting the direction for the next four years.

The new council will also be responsible for the allocation of the council's resources and making decisions on a range of important issues affecting Aboriginal people in the state.

"NSWALC elections are fundamental to the principles of self-determination and community empowerment," Mr



Councillor Diane Randall has been newly elected for the North Coast.

Deen said.

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

He thanked outgoing councillors, Dallas Donnelly (North Coast) and BJ Duncan (Sydney/Newcastle), for their contributions.

"During his term, Dallas's passion for Aboriginal Culture



Cr Ross Hampton will serve as the deputy chair of NSWALC.

and Heritage was well known. He was a fierce advocate for his local communities and lobbying for better protections for Aboriginal heritage, and our culture and cultural practices.

"BJ really hit the ground running when he filled the Sydney/Newcastle vacancy in October last year. His focus on economic opportunities and Land Rights activation made a huge impression. I wish the departing councillors all the very best and know they will continue to be strong advocates for Land

Rights as we continue the work our Elders began."

Mr Deen acknowledged the record four female members of council, saying "Aboriginal women hold crucial roles across the Land Rights Network, in Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and within our families and communities, so it is particularly pleasing for NSWALC to reach this milestone, especially in NSW Women's Week."

Mr Deen also said that at the close of nominations on January 30, 2024, the NSW Electoral Commission declared the election for the NSWALC Central Region, declaring the election for Grace Toomey.

"Since that time, we have become aware that an application has been lodged with the Land & Environment Court, as the Court of Disputed Returns for the NSWALC Elections, for the election of councillor for the Central Region," he said.

"We want to confirm that Councillor Toomey remains the duly elected councillor for the Central Region until the court rules, and subject to the ruling may remain so afterwards."



Have your say on the Land Acquisition Review

The NSW Government is reviewing how government agencies acquire land for public purposes.

We are looking at the legislation that defines how we can acquire land from a landowner, either compulsorily or by agreement.

We have prepared a discussion paper to prompt feedback and ideas. It outlines ways we could, potentially, improve the legislation and the whole-of-government process for acquiring land.

We want to strike the right balance between landowners' rights and delivering public infrastructure. We welcome your feedback on the review.

Scan the QR code to find out more and have your say by Friday 3 May 2024, 5pm.

You can also register to attend community information sessions online or in:

- Armidale
- Coffs Harbour
- Dubbo
- Shoalhaven
- Singleton
- Sydney
- Wagga Wagga

Visit planning.nsw.gov.au/land-acquisition-review



LP1917

SCARBOROUGH TRUNKLINE OPERATIONS (STATE WATERS) ENVIRONMENT PLAN

For more than 35 years, Woodside has been operating LNG 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 Scarborough Trunkline Operations (State Waters) Environment Plan.

Our activities

Woodside plans to operate the Scarborough trunkline within State waters, transporting dry gas from an offshore Floating Production Unit (FPU) to onshore gas processing facilities, coming ashore at the existing Pluto LNG Plant. The Environment Plan for Scarborough Trunkline Operations (State Waters) covers operation of the Scarborough trunkline including inspection, maintenance, monitoring, and repair (IMMR) activities and associated support vessel operations, as well as contingent activities and emergency response.

The State waters component of the Scarborough trunkline is located about 8 km northeast of Dampier, Western Australia. The earliest commencement date (subject to various contingencies including approvals) is estimated to be the second half of 2025.

We are seeking input from relevant persons whose functions, interests or activities may be affected by trunkline operations in State waters.



We want to hear from you

If you are an individual, organisation or community group whose functions, interests or activities may be impacted by our activities, we would like to hear from you by **24 April 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](https://www.woodside.com)



On the Pink parade

By ALF WILSON



THOUSANDS of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders were among the massive audiences to watch two concerts by entertainer Pink in Townsville. Crowds of more than 30,000 packed into Queensland Country Bank Stadium for the March 21 and 22 concerts.

Many travelled from far away and the hype created by the concerts was amazing with all accommodation booked and businesses doing a roaring trade.

People came from Mackay, Cairns, Mount Isa, Palm Island, Proserpine, Airlie Beach, Doomadgee, Mornington Island,

Tully, Burdekin, Injinoo on the Northern Peninsula Area and Torres Strait islands Horn, Waiben, Mer, Erub, Saibai and Mabuiag.

Annie Tabua and 11-year-old Tehia Tabua had just driven 350km from Cairns for the first concert.

"We are really excited and there are many people wearing pink coloured clothes," Annie said.

Tehanna Fraser was with a group of Palm Islanders who were trying to buy tickets for the second concert.

"We couldn't get any for the first concert," Tehanna said.

Simone Butcher from Doomadgee and Merindi Jacob from Mornington Island were also going to be at the second concert.

Janet Miskin and her niece Nazareth Williams from Horn Island were going to night one.

Zoe Leo from Tully said she had been through two tropical cyclones at her home town and said this was a highlight for her.

"This will be my first Pink concert," Zoe said.

Before each concert hundreds marched the 500 metres from the Cowboys League's Club in the CBD to the stadium, led by a brass band.

More than 150 casual workers were employed each night and they wore pink high-vis outfits. The popcorn and hotdogs were pink, and Johnathan Thurston's statue outside the stadium had pink head gear. The boost to the Townsville economy was enormous and many of the locals and visitors also took the rare opportunity to attend an open day earlier at the RAAF base in Garbutt.



Mackay visitors Cynthia Paskins, Yanthe Punch and Nikita Bickey.



Emily Tapau (Mer), Aleena Kris, 11, Cygnet Sagigi, 13, and Aloysius Sagigi, nine, from Injinoo on the NPA.



Janet Miskin, left, and Nazareth Williams of Horn Island.



Leonie Ketchup holding Louise Ketchup, aged two, and Richard Mosby holding Dennis Cobbo, four.



Adam Jerri with Ketia, seven, and Keticha, seven.



Zoe Leo from Tully.



Juanita Basnight, Priscilla Bann and Lolli John from Airlie Beach and Moranbah.



The march from the Cowboys League's Club to the stadium.

First Nations leaders are

By **CHRISTINE HOWES**
Additional reporting thanks to
Us Mob Radio 4UM-FM



THE vote counting process is ongoing for the Queensland Local Government elections with just a handful of shires finalised and at least one Aboriginal Council – Cherbourg – fully sworn in and operational.

Of the 17 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils across the state, just three have finalised their councillor line-up, including Aurukun and Woorabinda, and four mayors have been declared.

They included Napranum Mayor Roy Chevathen, who has been a mayor and a councillor previously, and Wujal Wujal Mayor Allister Gibson, who has also been a councillor.

Newly elected and declared Torres Shire Council Mayor Elsie Seriat has never been a councillor but said she thought local government was an opportunity.

"I think local government, being grassroots, has always been my aspiration in making a difference for my people," she said.

"I have been a community-driven person and have done a lot of things on grassroots for change in my community and I feel now that this opportunity I have is to have a seat at the table for the real issues for my people, and being able to advocate in that space to make a difference."

Cr Seriat, 39, said she was a direct descendant from Kulukulu of Muralag (Prince of Wales) and the first from her family and clan group to be Mayor.



CEO Chatur Zala swearing in new Cherbourg Mayor Bruce Simpson. Pictures: supplied by Us Mob Radio 4UM-FM

BROWSE STATE WELLHEAD DECOMMISSIONING ENVIRONMENT PLAN

For more than 35 years, Woodside has been 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 Browse State Wellhead Decommissioning Environment Plan (EP).

Our activities

Woodside (as operator for and on behalf of the Browse Joint Venture) is planning to decommission three historical exploration wellheads located in lease area TR/5 in Western Australian State waters, approximately 430 km north of Broome.

The wells were drilled between 1971 and 2006 and were approved for abandonment between 1982 and 2016. The wells remain *in situ* and have been permanently plugged to prevent hydrocarbon release to the environment. Benthic communities have developed on and around the Scott Reef-1 wellhead, which are expected to have become habitat-forming.

Assessment of decommissioning options

Woodside has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of decommissioning options for these wellheads and selected three options:

1. **Leave *in situ*:** Leave the three wellheads *in situ*.
2. **Partial removal:** Remove the two wellheads located in a (currently closed) commercial fishing trawl zone, planned at or below the mudline. Leave the wellhead located in the Scott Reef Lagoon *in situ*.
3. **Removal:** Remove the three wellheads, planned at or below the mudline.

Woodside's assessment concluded that leaving the wellheads *in situ* provides better or equal environmental outcomes when compared with removal of the wellheads. For example, unlike removal activities, leaving the wellheads *in situ* does not involve vessel-based activities and as such does not present a hydrocarbon release risk or cause short-term activity-based disturbance to the seabed. Leaving the wellheads *in situ* also minimises displacement of other marine users that could otherwise be caused by vessel activities associated with removal of the wellheads.

We want to hear from you

Feedback received from relevant interested persons and organisations will be considered in the course of developing the EP.

If you would like to comment on the decommissioning options, or would like additional information, please contact Woodside before **Wednesday, 24 April 2024**.

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



Newly elected Cherbourg councillors Tom Langton, Carla Fisher, Mayor Bruce Simpson, Daniel Weazel and Gordon Wragge.

"In our campaigning, we said we're not the young generation anymore, we're the next generation coming in to take this lead from the legacy and the foundation that's been laid before," she said.

"I'm very confident, the people who voted for me believe I could make a difference in this space, and we've always been advocating for a new approach in all the issues we have in community."

The fourth declared mayor, and one of the few full councils to be finalised across the state, was Cherbourg, who have a new mayor in Bruce Simpson and a mix of old and new in their councillor team.

Cr Simpson – the son of much-loved and long-time former councillor Ada Simpson – said he was excited.

"As elected mayor, I'm excited for the next four years," he said at a swearing-in ceremony in the Council's Chambers last week.

"I've worked really hard to get here. I've had those hard conversations with our Mob.

"I've had those courageous conversations with non-indigenous people at federal, state, and local government, and even grassroots.

"We stand on the shoulders of great pioneers, the five of us and all of us in this room.

"We stand on the knowledge and the cultural pathways that shape who we are.

"I do lead with passion, so you'll probably see me from time to time getting emotional, but that's part and parcel of how we struggled and how we are resilient people.

"And then to have the Elders in the room who really know the changes that need to be done." For their youngest councillor, Carla Fisher, it



Torres Shire Council Mayor Elsie Seriat. Picture: supplied



Cherbourg's youngest councillor Carla Fisher with Elder John Stanley.

was her first time running for council.

"I'm the type of person who will stand up for others," she said.

"I'm all for the people of this community. This is my first time running for council, I'm a quick learner with guidance from Elders, community and family.

"I will do my very best to give my all in office."

Elders, including John Stanley, Ada Simpson and Sandra Morgan, attended the swearing-in ceremony for the mayor and councillors and wished them all the best.

"All the best to everyone," Mrs Simpson said.

Ms Morgan said she had seen progress over the years, from the dirt floors of way back to modern times.

"Being passionate about history, I think this is more history to add to our museum," she said.

The Electoral Commission of Queensland said counting would continue until all available votes have been counted, noting that postal votes were accepted until March 26, 2024.

Declaration of results were made as soon as the outcome was certain, see the ECQ's website at www.ecq.qld.gov.au for results as they come to hand.

making change up north

Mob turn out to vote in Townsville

By ALF WILSON



THOUSANDS of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women cast their votes at the

Townsville local government elections on March 16.

An estimated 16 per cent of the 141,424 registered voters who live around the North Queensland capital are First Nation people, giving them a big say in who would be elected mayor or to one of ten councillor positions.

The *Koori Mail* visited ten of the 50 polling locations which were at schools, sports buildings, even at a park and the law court building.

Garbutt State School is located in a huge suburb with a large number of Aboriginal and TS families and many were there to cast their vote.

Aboriginal men, Michael Mitchell, originally from Charters Towers, and Palm Islander Wes Lenoy, arrived.

"This is a convenient place to vote," Michael said.

Also at Garbutt State were Muriel Morgan, Mersane Oui and Susan Morgan.

The *Koori Mail* was given special permission by the man in charge at the venue to snap a picture of Muriel voting.

At the Aitkenvale PCYC Aboriginal Stan Huen assisted a disabled lady to vote.

Also there were Torres Strait Islanders Malcolm Tamwoy of Mer descent and Darnley Island woman Alma Pilot, who had voted.

"It has been very busy here today and there was a big lineup to vote," Malcolm said.

Elder Francis Tapim had cast his vote just before.

On the other side of town at South Townsville State School, Ellie Joe, from a big



From left after voting at South Townsville State School are Ellie Joe and her sons Brandon, Michael and Sesmo. Pictures: Alf Wilson



Stan Huen ready to vote.

TS family with many relatives living at Kubin Village on Moa Island, was with her sons Brandon, Michael and Sesmo.

"I wanted to vote early as we are heading to the junior rugby league at the Townsville Sports Reserve. We just live not far from here," Ellie said.



Michael Mitchell, left, and Wes Lenoy.

Regina Kerr arrived in her wheelchair being pushed by Cameron D'avis and said she was happy to vote.

There were also booths at Oonoonba, Railway Estate, Hermit Park State Schools, the Annandale Christian College, and a booth at

Corcoran Park where votes were cast in a sporting building. There were times during voting hours when rain fell, which forced voters to use umbrellas or shelter under one of the tents used by volunteers and candidates who handed out fliers.



Regina Kerr pushed in her wheelchair by Cameron D'avis ready to vote.



Malcolm Tamwoy, of Mer Island descent, and Alma Pilot of Darnley Torres Strait descent, after voting.

Muriel Morgan takes time out to cast her vote



Muriel joins voters in the queue at Garbutt State.



Muriel gets advice from polling attendant.

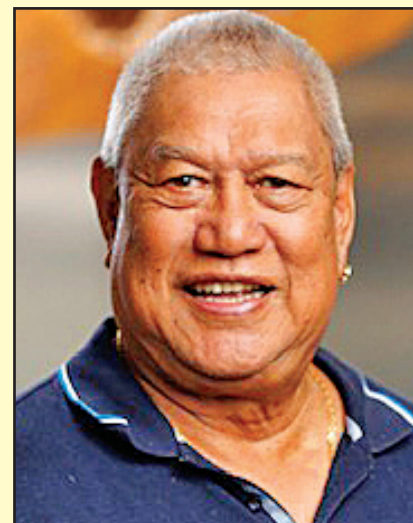


Muriel Morgan casts her vote.

Danny Eastwood's view



A YARN WITH...



Uncle Mick Adams

Perth, WA
Yadhiagana/
Wuthathi/Gurindji

Favourite bush tucker?
Maggie geese.

Favourite saltwater food?
Turtle.

Favourite non-Indigenous food?
Turtle.

Favourite drink?
Green tea. I drink a lot, but trying to cut down.

Favourite music?
Elvis – any rock'n'roll.

Favourite song?
Unchained Melody.

Favourite sport?
Rugby league. I barrack for the Sydney Bulldogs.

Favourite movie?
Notebook which is a love story.

Favourite holiday destination?
Thursday Island – I lived there for six years and Bali.

What do you like in life?
Living and travelling and meeting our people.

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

Which Black or Indigenous person would you most like to meet?
The late and great Muhammad Ali.

Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire?
Noel Gertz and Mark Wenitong.

Who or what inspires you?
My people and young ones who are doing the right thing.

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people?
To sit down with our people and give them a positive outlook.

Quote



“Musicals are bigger than the normal human experience, and sometimes, when we take human experience to the limit, only singing and dancing will do.”

– Wesley Enoch
writer and director of the musical *The Sunshine Club*

● See page 33

Unquote

Standing up for the ancient trees

You would have to be a moron to think more logging in Tasmania's endangered native forests is a good thing. Already other states, Western Australia and Victoria, have seen the light and realised that the logging of native forests is, and should be, a thing of the past.

Really, how many scientific studies which look at the fragile nature of forest ecosystems do we need to realise that our forests should be protected and cherished, rather than destroyed for profit?

Also, we need to look at who profits. It's certainly not the general population ... it is an elite band of business people turning giant trees into matchsticks, and those matchsticks into dollars.

All the time the poor old taxpayer is subsidising the profiteers so that they can remain profitable ... allowing them to afford the necessary lobbyists and politicians to keep their anachronistic industry operating.

It's an obscene display of greed, and a cynical up-yours to future generations who will lose the opportunity to witness the giants in their wild places.

We can only hope that the efforts of people such as Pakana Elder Jim Everett, who we feature on the front page of this edition, shine a spotlight that is seen around the world.

But for that to happen, Uncle Jim said it was imperative that more young Aboriginal people joined the fight.

“Here we are leading up to truth telling,



leading up to some sort of treaty,” he said.

“We don't want them to knock all the forests down and sell crown land off before they get to the point where they know they're going to have to hand land back to us.”

So there you go. A call to arms.

If we are serious about protecting native forests for future generations, the task can't just be left up to the Elders. Everybody has a responsibility. The young and the old because after all, we all benefit from the clean air generated by our giant forest friends.

And if not for us then, how about the flora and fauna that make such places beautiful and unique. Already Tasmania has a shocking record of extinctions (as do other states and Territories), and this hasn't gone unnoticed.

Even American actor Leonardo Di Caprio has taken to social media to call on the Australian government to uphold their zero extinction commitment, in part, by ending native-forest logging.

As he told his 19 million followers: “Mainland Australia and Tasmania have one of the worst wildlife extinction rates in the world, partly driven by habitat destruction.”

Let's hope someone is listening.

KOORI MAIL 100% ABORIGINAL-OWNED

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



International Women's Day is a celebration recognising the achievements of women around the world as well as highlighting the work still to be done towards gender parity. *Koori Mail* writer Sarah Roberts-Field spoke with four deady women about their lives, about what motivates them and who they are inspired by.

Women share important lessons on leadership

Charlene Davison
Go Foundation chief executive officer

Tell us about yourself?

My name is Charlene Davison, I'm a proud Biripi and Gadigal woman. I am 47 years old, a mum of two beautiful children and the chief executive officer at the Goodes O'Loughlin Foundation (GO Foundation).

What did you dream of doing as a little girl?

I always dreamed about being a marine biologist. I love the ocean and have always loved whales, dolphins and turtles in particular and wanted to be in a role where I could see them regularly, be near, in or on the ocean as well working to ensure the ongoing care and protection of our marine wilderness.

However, to be honest, I also knew that I wanted to help people. I grew up with parents who worked tirelessly in our local community of Taree in health and education and improving outcomes for our people. Given this and the exposure I had through them to other amazing Aboriginal people working in the education space, I changed my focus and wanted to be a teacher.

I guess I didn't have a clear path other than wanting to do something that would involve me working with and helping people, in particular my own Mob.

I didn't go straight to university, I did a business administration traineeship when I finished high school which I loved. I started doing my teacher training at the Koori Centre, Sydney University, however, took a change in career direction and in 2018 commenced an Executive Master of Public Administration with the Australian and New Zealand School of Government and the University of NSW, fulfilling my dream of gaining a formal qualification.

Where did you grow up and what was life like for you when you were young?

I grew up in Taree on my mother's Country, Biripi Country, and was surrounded by a loving, caring, strong and connected family and community. I am the eldest of



Charlene Davison.

four siblings and had some extra responsibilities as the eldest to help my mum and dad who worked hard, and I took pride in being a good big sister (still do!).

I had strong women around me, in my mum and Nan and aunties in particular, who all played a role in my upbringing.

My parents were well-known and respected people in our community. My siblings and I were encouraged to play team sports and education was important to our family.

Our parents had high expectations of us which was good, so attendance and participation in all aspects of school was strongly encouraged.

I grew up having a strong sense of belonging within our family and community and our nan in particular was fiercely protective of her grandchildren, given she and her siblings were impacted by forced removal of children practices and policies.

We also had a nan and pop who taught us so much about our culture, and I feel very fortunate to have been brought up with a strong understanding of the importance of Country because of my family's strong

connection to Country back home.

I learnt a lot from my grandfather in particular.

He always spent time with us, taking us fishing, or the boys hunting, and he taught all of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren about Biripi Country, our people, our Elders and ancestors who paved the way before us and for us. He always shared stories from the old days with us and taught us about how different parts of our Country would provide food and resources at different seasons.

Most importantly he taught us how to care for Country. When I think about it, it was a really wonderful upbringing.

Which First Nations women inspire you the most?

So many, but I have to start with my mum, nan and aunties who are all amazing women.

Even though my nan is no longer with us, I think of her and draw on her strength almost every day. She was such a strong woman and shaped all of us.

My mum has been my biggest role model, always working and working hard to

provide for her family, and always there for not just her own children and grandchildren, but so many others.

We always had an open-door policy in our family which started with my nan.

Everyone was welcome at her home, whether it be for a yarn, a bed to sleep in, a cuppa or a feed. Nan's house was the hub. My mum is carrying this on for our family, and ensuring that our family continues to lead with respect, caring, sharing and kindness.

I am also fortunate to have a wonderful network of amazing First Nations women around me who I have so much admiration and respect for and who really do inspire me, including our wonderful chairperson Sonja Stewart, Leila Smith, Karen Mundine, Shelley Reys, Phillipa McDermott, Sherry Ann Toomey, Shantala Prior, Anita Heiss, Jen Mar Young, Kristy Massella, the list goes on!!

And, I have to finish with my 20-year-old daughter who absolutely inspires me every day. She is a proud young Aboriginal woman who is making her mark on the world in everything she does. She is not afraid to speak up on matters that are important to her, especially those that relate to equality, fairness, and social justice. She is kind, open-hearted and open-minded and is so proud of her culture, who she is and where she comes from.

Perhaps she gets that from somewhere and I realise how important role-modelling is in our families and communities!

What do you do, and why are you passionate about it?

I am the Chief Executive Officer at the GO Foundation. I will celebrate three years at GO at the end of March and I absolutely love my job and team.

I have been a long-time supporter of GO and love everything that GO does for our young mob! I have always been passionate about education and working to have an impact and make a difference for my people, particularly our young ones. So when the role of CEO came up and I realised GO was recruiting for their first Aboriginal CEO, I felt a really strong sense of responsibility to apply and throw my experience, knowledge,

qualifications and lived experience into what I knew was going to be a very competitive pool of people. I am glad I did because now nearly 3 years on, I am incredibly proud and honoured to be leading GO and the important work we have ahead of us to empower Indigenous children and young people through education. We might be a small team at GO, but we are impactful.

International Women's Day 2024 campaign theme is 'Count Her In: Invest in Women.' What does this mean for you?

This theme makes me reflect on the work we do at the GO Foundation and the investment we place in women. GO has a target of delivering 60% of our scholarships to young Indigenous girls to help them access greater education and training opportunities.

Our organisation is also led by two proud Aboriginal women, in me and our chairperson and proud Yuin woman Sonja Stewart. Our strong focus and investment in women comes from our founders Adam Goodes and Michael O'Loughlin, who were both raised by single mums who invested in them and their siblings, so it's a real acknowledgment and mark of respect for the important role strong women play in our families and communities

Leila Smith
Aurora Foundation chief executive officer

Tell us about yourself?

I'm Leila Smith. I'm a Wiradjuri woman. I'm 37 years old and the CEO of Aurora Education Foundation.

What is your proudest achievement to date?

When I became the first Indigenous CEO of Aurora four years ago, it was like I had come full circle. I was at the helm of an organisation that I had benefitted from for many years, first as a participant on Aurora's international study tour, and then I studied public policy at Cambridge with the support of a Charlie Perkins Scholarship, which Aurora administers.

I came home and supervised Aurora interns in

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“Women are the backbones of their community, being everything to everyone.”

– Liz Kupsch



Leila Smith.

Continued from page 21.

my role at the Lowitja Institute, and then I did a course at Harvard on non-profit management, supported by a Roberta Sykes Scholarship (also administered by Aurora).

When I started as CEO, other Aurora alumni stepped up with me to take our organisation through its next strategic leap. We knew the power and potential of our programs first hand, and we wanted to see it thrive even more through Indigenous leadership and perspectives. Together, we transformed Aurora into an Indigenous organisation and used our group identity and shared experiences as alumni to drive this change.

Our alumni joined the board and the executive, managed some of our teams and led our Indigenous Data Governance Group. We now have a majority Indigenous board, staff, executive team, and management.

Of course, it's not just the alumni who made this happen; we have a high-performing team of both First Nations and non-Indigenous staff.

One of my proudest achievements to date was to see the Charlie Perkins Scholars, the Roberta Sykes Scholars and the Aurora Study Tour participants step up to support me to embed our alumni values of care, reciprocity, respect and custodianship into Aurora's evolution.

What do you think is the biggest issue you currently face being a First Nations woman in your industry?

To be in the roles I am in today, a CEO and a chair of a board, I've needed to develop a

default approach that starts from being underestimated.

A position where the starting point is often to first change someone's mind so that they realise that I do actually deserve to be there and that I do actually have the skills.

I've done this so much that I have become quite comfortable, and sometimes even amused, by that starting point. It wasn't everywhere, but there were consistent pockets of it. I think a lot of First Nations people experience these low expectations.

Then, a switch happened when I started to take on more leadership positions. It shifted from low expectations to high expectations. And I needed to adapt my approach for this new starting point.

I needed to turn down a lot of opportunities so that I could deliver on my existing commitments.

The pressure felt different. It was no longer a pressure to prove someone wrong; it was a pressure to confirm they were right about me. I think a lot of First Nations women in leadership positions in my industry might feel like this; like we can't let people down – our families, our communities, our teams and our boards.

Of course, society is geared to make us feel like this. Women are supposed to be able to do it all and bring everyone along with them. I think a lot of First Nations women in leadership positions are at risk of burning out for this reason.

International Women's Day 2024 campaign theme is 'Count Her In: Invest in Women.' What does this mean for you?

I connect most strongly with

the first part of the campaign theme for this year's IWD 'Count Her In: Invest in Women'—that is the part about counting her in.

Often when there are initiatives to invest in women, women aren't included enough in the design, scope, delivery, marketing, communication, and evaluation of that initiative—especially First Nations women and young First Nations women. I would like to see more First Nations women included, not as add-ons, but as leaders or at least as genuine decision-making partners before, during and after a 'decision to invest'. After all, what kind of diversity are we working towards if Indigenous women are not represented in equal measure?

Aurora partners with Chief Executive Women (CEW) to provide the CEW Roberta Sykes Scholarships for First Nations executive women.

We support three First Nations women to go to Harvard Business School and Harvard Kennedy School each year. We design the criteria together. We assess the candidates together and we share equal decision-making power.

And it works.

Together, we have supported many outstanding First Nations Indigenous women executives who want to step beyond the immediate opportunities the scholarship presented to think bigger and to look forward. And like the Aurora alumni who used our scholarship opportunity to transform Aurora, the CEW Roberta Sykes Executive Scholars are using these opportunities to build on more than 65,000 years of knowledges, cultures and kinships to be leaders in their fields and create change. **Tell**

Liz Kupsch GO Foundation chairperson

us about yourself?

My name is Liz Kupsch. My Mobs are the Waanyi/Gangalidda and Wankamadla Mobs.

I was born and bred on Kalkadoon Country, and now reside on Turrubul Country. My role is director of First Nations Education for Edmund Rice Education Australia Flexible Schools Ltd. I have been in the education business for three decades and have fifteen-plus years' experience with First Nations education.

What did you dream of doing as a little girl?

I enjoyed maths and I was good at it, and the same for business principles and typing when I went to high school. I thought I would probably do something associated with maths, maybe accounting or an administration-type of role. I also thought I would be a mother at an early age and that I would probably work as a check-out operator at Woolworths.

I was brought up in the country in a small town called Mt Isa and there weren't any women leading companies or in other leadership-type roles when I was growing up.

I also thought I was good at singing, dancing and sports, so anything that was creative or on the performance side of things would have been good, but I didn't know what that could have been. You could definitely say I far outstripped what I thought I was going to be when I was little.

Where did you grow up and

what was it like for you when you were young?

Born and bred on Kalkadoon country – Mt Isa.

It was the best experience being surrounded by extended family and other close and great Aboriginal friends.

Women were seen as the ones who stayed at home and ran their households and brought their children up, this was women's work.

I had some very strong aunties who didn't fit that mould, who I guess were pioneers in breaking out of those traditional types of ideas.

Why is IWD (International Women's Day) important to you?

Women are the backbones of their community, being everything to everyone, being selfless and often putting themselves last. It's important to recognise and acknowledge the integral role that women play in their families and communities. This work is often unpaid or underpaid and unrecognised and done out of love for their families and communities. IWD is an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the pivotal role women play.

Which First Nations women inspire you the most?

My mother has been the most influential and impactful First Nations woman for me. My mother is the matriarch of our very extended family. She has always been very strong in mind, body and spirit, a deep listener, wise, patient, well-read and uncannily intuitive. Along with my mother, I was blessed to have had my many strong and take-no-prisoners aunties and First Nations cousins and friends who helped grow me up through their experiences and



Liz Kupsch.

"You need to do something that aligns with who you are and brings you joy."

— Sonja Stewart

life lessons.

What do you think is the biggest issue you currently face being a First Nations woman in your industry?

Being seen and recognised as a leader. I believe women are the backbone and are the ones who are often standing strong behind the male CEOs of the world, the second in charge, the 2IC.

I believe that we are always the strong, independent ones who keep everything running smoothly because we see things ahead of time and are prepared and organised to deal with them.

I believe the biggest issue for women is that we are often underrated and underestimated.

What do you do, and why are you passionate about it?

Fighting for injustice, tapping into the fire in my belly about social justice, challenging the system, seeing the lights go on when you know that someone has gotten what you've said, that they have come to a deeper, understanding of who they are and what they think, about their own responsibilities and accountabilities as a human being.

There is deep purpose in the work that I do.

I get to fight for what I believe in, not just through my lens as a Waanyi/Gangalidda and Wankamadla wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, cousin, niece and close friend, but as a young girl who came from the country who was one of seven children and the only daughter of two strong First Nations parents who taught us about resilience, self-determination, courage and high-expectations.

The work I do in First Nations education is tightly aligned to my values and ways of being. This type of work also taps into my deep interest in human behaviour, the way people are, how they think, and how those patterns of thinking and responding can help or hinder them.

Provocation:

Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom. — Victor Frankl

What barriers have you faced in your career due to being a woman? Particularly, being a First Nations woman?

Not being seen for your full potential and (the fact) that being a First Nations woman adds another layer of difficulty and complexity on top of being female.

What influence do you strive to have on your female colleagues and the wider business?

Women are special in a way that is different to men.

I believe we need to lean into what that is for each of us; to be who you are and be

confident and own that.

What message do you think is important to young women thinking about a future career?

We all have our own strengths. You are a unique individual which means you are not like any other person who has walked on this earth. Believe in your uniqueness, tap into that uniqueness, own it and be confident in what strength you can bring. You weren't meant to be the same.

What is your proudest achievement to date?

In my personal life: The relationships that I have cultivated and dedicated my time to within my family, family comes first and foremost.

That work is ongoing; deep, minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour, day-by-day, it's infinite and selfless work that continues to re-energise and revitalise what I do each day out in the world.

Professional life: I can't really point to one.

There are many moments that I have been proud of in my career but the common feature in all of them is when I feel I have broken through, when I have opened up a new way of thinking, a new opportunity exists, a new way of interacting, that wasn't there before.

When you have reached somebody, they respond in a way that they don't have control over, those are the moments that I am the most proud of because it's immediate feedback that the work that I have done will go on regardless of me.

Lao Tsu said "If you give a hungry man a fish, you feed him for a day, but if you teach him how to fish, you feed him for a lifetime."

I believe my purpose is to crack open spaces for new and deep learning to occur, to light the social justice flame with the hope that it will grow into a burning fire.

What main change would you like to see for our young First Nations girls in the next generation?

That our young women are confident, proud and doing well in what they have chosen to do, and (that choice) is aligned with their natural gifts. That our young women are holding each other up and celebrating what it is to be part of this group.

What do you love about being a First Nations woman?

That we are strong, resilient, proud, loving, brave, courageous and passionate.

International Women's Day 2024 campaign theme is 'Count Her In: Invest in Women.' What does this mean for you?

Women are the backbone of their families and their communities. Tapping into the potential in women, allowing them to do what they can do, and providing spaces and opportunities for women to



Sonja Stewart.

shine through their potential, is not only a great thing for any company it is great for the whole of society.

Sonja Stewart Go Foundation chairperson

Tell us about yourself?

Sonja Stewart, Yuin, 54. Currently Chairperson of the Goodes O'Loughlin Foundation and looking for my next executive role.

What did you dream of doing as a little girl?

Travelling to different places and meeting people.

Where did you grow up and what was it like for you when you were young?

My family moved around a bit and I remember the long drives, when we moved to Brisbane, back to visit my grandparents, aunts and uncles and feeling very loved. I had two amazing aunts who lived with us too. One for most of my life, who then helped me grow up my children. I lost her and Mum within days of one another.

Why is IWD (International Women's Day) important to you?

This day is important for women all around the world to highlight the many achievements, challenges and future opportunities. It is also my second son's birthday and I

marvel each year at what a deeply respectful and wonderful young man he is.

Which First Nations women inspire you the most?

I get inspired by many Indigenous women who work hard to achieve their aspirations.

I have been fortunate to work with and learn from, some amazing women. When I finished uni my first job had an Aboriginal female chairperson and CEO. Aunty Lowitja and Aunty Pat – well they are legends.

What barriers have you faced in your career due to being a woman? Particularly, being a First Nations woman?

Racism, bias and overcoming perceptions about what can be achieved have been the toughest barriers while also providing valuable learning experiences.

What message do you think is important for young women thinking about a future career?

I strive to share my experience by being open about the opportunities, challenges and choice-making.

As a mother of four children and someone in executive roles, and as chairperson and board director I answer honestly the often asked question – "How do you do it all?"

Given how much time we spend working, you need to do something that aligns with who

you are and brings you joy.

It is also important to let those close to you know about what you hope to achieve and to have support around you to do so.

What is the best advice you've received that has stuck with you?

If you work hard you can be whatever you want to be.

What do you love about being a First Nations woman?

I have just come back from Country and I love the smell of the salt water and looking up at the stars that my ancestors would have looked at.

I love being able to draw upon their wisdom and strength and watching and learning as my children navigate their future paths.

International Women's Day 2024 campaign theme is 'Count Her In: Invest in Women.' What does this mean for you?

The theme this year means a great deal to me as the chairperson of the Goodes O'Loughlin Foundation.

Adam and Michael had such strong role models in their mums, Lisa and Muriel, and that is the reason why we aim to provide 60% of our educational scholarships to young women and girls.

In 2024, we are celebrating 15 years at the GO Foundation with around 1,500 scholarships provided, so a big year all around.

Why is the early birth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies still such a burden?

In my ante-natal clinics I have the great privilege of looking after women from remote Aboriginal communities.

Usually, it's a fairly short and brief friendship. Women come into town for "sit down". That is, wait for their babies to arrive so as to avoid unplanned birth in their communities where resources can be limited. I get to know them at this time.

But sometimes my relationships are lengthy.

Sometimes expectant mothers are in town and away from their families for longer, especially if they have medical conditions that can impact their pregnancies.

I recall one of my patients who was stuck in town for many weeks. She was having her first baby. Unfortunately, she has Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) and at the tender age of 15 she had an operation to repair her heart valve.

Because of this she needed extra care throughout her pregnancy. She was quite sad about being away from home for so long, but our local midwives were able to give her excellent care and support away from home.

Sadly, medical disorders affecting pregnancy outcomes are a real issue for First Nations women. Pregnancy can sometimes be a vulnerable time



Dr Kiarna Brown is a proud First Nations obstetrician and gynaecologist and co-lead of the Top End chapter of the Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Alliance. This Op Ed was written by Dr Brown to mark National Close the Gap Day on 21 March.

for these women, especially for those with pre-existing medical conditions such as diabetes and cardiac conditions like RHD.

Being born too early also remains a huge issue for

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers and babies and one of significant disproportion.

Australia's preterm birth landscape

Preterm birth remains the leading cause of death in children up to five years of age.

The national average rate of preterm birth in Australia has remained relatively constant over the last 10 years. Many of these babies lose their fight for life.

For many First Nations babies, the news gets worse. In 2021, there were almost twice as many preterm live born babies born to First Nations mothers (14%) than to non-Aboriginal mothers (8%).

The biggest discrepancy is in the extremely preterm gestational age. First Nations women in the NT are four times more likely to lose a baby between 20 and 23 weeks gestational age. That is before the baby even gets a chance to survive. This equates to too many mothers walking out of hospital without their babies in their arms. Alarming, First Nations women living in pockets of the Top End experience some of the highest rates of premature birth in the world, on par with disadvantaged groups in low-income countries.

The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work

and age. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources.

The social determinants of health are mostly responsible for health inequities — the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries.

Some such determinants that lead to poor health for my patients include living in overcrowded houses because of a lack of safe and affordable housing.

It can include chronic poor health because of difficulty accessing quality, multidisciplinary health care and resources.

There is little to gain unless we address the root cause of the problem. Babies will continue to be born preterm if we do not address the basic health needs of the mothers growing them.

A workforce and health system that is capable of addressing social determinants of health, including education, social support, cultural pride, housing, transport and financial support leads to health improvements.

A way forward for our mothers and babies

Central to achieving effective change rests in recognising that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status needs to be a high priority.

It is important for all of us to

remain aware and to be always learning and striving for better.

The key ingredients to better constructed services include: services designed with First Nations leadership and governance, continuity of care models that are community based, a First Nations workforce and non-First Nations staff who are trained within a culturally safe framework, a holistic approach to care, and meaningful partnerships between multiple stakeholders.

This is something we can all contribute to. It will take a collaborated effort of Close the Gap. And I look forward to working with the Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Alliance and the Every Week Counts National Preterm Birth Prevention Collaborative on doing just this

And as for my patient... she eventually went home, with a healthy baby who was born at term. This was achieved through good-quality and respectful care.

The Top End Alliance is working with chapters in each Australian state and territory as part of the Every Week Counts National Preterm Birth Prevention Collaborative which has brought together more than 63 Australian maternity hospitals to reduce rates of preterm birth across the country.

'It is time for the government to face the truth: they have given our islands a death sentence'

I come from Saibai island in the Torres Strait. Our island sits between Papua New Guinea and mainland Australia, and has been deeply connected to this Country for thousands of years.

The malu (ocean) vitalises us. When the wind blows, we receive the ocean spray on our faces. It's energising, especially on humid days. Our livelihood is deeply connected to the oceans and the land. We've been taught how to grow food and how to hunt - our culture and spirit is tied to the winds, the stars, the animals. As part of my baptism as a baby, my mother removed my clothes and held me up in the sea breeze to be sprayed, to first be blessed, by the ocean. Malu is sacred to us.

Global heating

Now, global heating is changing everything. The Torres Strait islands are on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Our ancestors have lived in the Torres Strait for thousands of years. There are 17 inhabited islands, and seven of them are now inundated by the power of the rising seas, and the worsening monsoon season.

After more than 40 years



Aunty McRose Elu

of advocating for climate action, it is hard for me to think about the progress we could have made if the people in power acted when we first heard the warning signs, listened to the science and to First Nations peoples, instead of helping greedy people fill their pockets with fossil fuel money.

Now, because of the lies and the inaction, our islands are sinking. Everything is out of balance. Seagrass and corals that sustain the seafood are dying. Once fields of fruits and vegetables are now soaked and full of salt. During king

tides and monsoons the islands are flooding and the shorelines are eroding.

Class action

My community has been forced to take on the Federal Government in court in a class action led by Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul from our Guda Maluyligal nation. The government is on trial for failing its duty of care to stop climate harm to our islands and people.

This case is the first time that anyone in Australia has asked the court to stop the government from causing climate harm. For the first

time in Australian history, we are arguing that the whole of the federal government — not just one minister or agency — has a duty to protect people from climate harm.

Our community brought the case because we are fighting for our very existence and we are not being listened to. We want the Government to hear our voices, and act with integrity to quickly put us on the right path and limit global heating to 1.5 degrees.

For many years I have watched politicians make grand statements about how they care for our communities and livelihoods, but what they are doing is giving our islands a death sentence.

They shake hands with Pacific leaders who face the same fate as us while approving dozens of new fossil-fuel projects.

They throw millions of dollars at sea walls while allowing more coal to be dug from the ground and exported overseas.

They offer refuge to some of our Pacific brothers and sisters, while fighting us in court to keep releasing the very pollution that will force thousands of people across the Pacific and the Torres Strait to become

climate refugees.

If successful, Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul won't just be protecting their communities — they'll be making us all safer from damaging climate change. Because the government will have to act.

Evidence

The evidence given by leading global climate scientists in court last year in Melbourne made it clear: every country's emissions are significant. As former CSIRO Chief Scientist Professor David Karoly told the court, climate change is a global problem but the solution lies with individual governments. If they don't act, they condemn us to the physical and spiritual catastrophe of losing our homelands.

We turned to the courts to have our say, in the hope that the government will finally listen to us more closely, to respect our ways and our ancient wisdom, and fulfill - with integrity - its duty of care to our people, culture, heritage and futures.

In the meantime, I ask government leaders at the highest levels to come to Saibai and Boigu and see for themselves the damage to the islands and how their

band-aid solutions aren't enough.

I dare them to come and feel the breeze, watch the children dance, taste the kaikai and feel in your heart what is at stake if they don't act with integrity.

My hope is that our leaders will listen to our people and listen to our Elders, come with an open mind and an open heart. When leaders act with respect and integrity then we can find a way forward together.

I arrived in Canberra with anger but also with love and care for our communities. If we walk together in one spirit, one mind, one strength and wisdom, we will find a way forward together. I'm confident that is how we will get there.

Aunty McRose Elu is a senior Torres Strait Elder, climate activist, and Queensland Senior Australian of the Year. She was a guest speaker at the 2024 Climate Integrity Summit in Canberra.

(Hearings for Uncle Paul and Uncle Pabai's Australian Climate Case resume on April 29 in Cairns.)

Understanding the rock art of Murujuga

Murujuga, in WA's Pilbara, has seen significant industrial development over the past 60 years.

This development has caused concerns about the potential for industry emissions to accelerate weathering of Murujuga's world-famous petroglyphs.

Meaning 'hip bone sticking out' in Ngarluma, Murujuga refers to the Burrup Peninsula, the Dampier Archipelago and surrounding seascape.

The location provides one of the oldest and most continuous records of human culture, thought and creativity on Earth.

Its petroglyphs, some dating back 65,000 years, form one of the world's most significant and dense rock-art collections.

For Murujuga's Traditional Owners and custodians, the Ngarda-Ngarli, the petroglyphs are not only art but a deep time record of Ngarda-Ngarli interaction with the landscape since the land was soft – the Creation time.

Clearly, it is essential the area's heritage is protected for future generations.

The Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring Program, led by Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) in partnership with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), is the most extensive scientific study to date to examine the impact of industrial air emissions on the engravings that form the rock art and inform future stewardship of the area.

There are many lines of scientific inquiry in the program, encompassing measurement of air quality; rock art and rock condition; spectral (colour) measurements of rock panels; electrochemical and elemental measurements; and analysis of microbial samples from rock surface.

In this article, I focus on just one of these lines of inquiry – that is, the geology of the rocks into which the art is engraved and what makes the colour differential between carved and non-carved surfaces.

There are five rock types at Murujuga on which there are



Professor Stephen van Leeuwen

petroglyphs: granophyre, gabbro, dolorite, basalt, and granite. All have a dark-coloured surface, called patina.

Today's Ngarda-Ngarli's ancestors made the art by carving, scratching and pecking through the patina to expose the lighter-coloured weathered rind of the rock below, thus creating a colour contrast between the engraved area and the surrounding natural surface.

The Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring Program is exploring two possible scenarios in which changes in air quality could trigger microbial growth that would affect this colour contrast.

One scenario is that pollutants would trigger growth of bacteria or fungi that produce pH-lowering (that is, acidity-inducing) compounds that dissolve the patina and thus expose the weathered rind of the surrounding rocks. In this scenario, increased acidity caused by microbial growth, in turn fuelled by pollutants, would make the uncarved areas of a rock panel brighter and thereby reduce the contrast between uncarved and engraved surfaces.

Another possible scenario is that microbial organisms might slowly develop on the carved surfaces and deposit minerals that create patina. If this occurred, then the opposite of the first scenario would occur: the dark patina layer would grow on the engraved area, thus



Rock art featuring engravings of emu footprints in the Murujuga National Park. All Pictures: Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation.



Art conservator Andrew Thorn and ranger Glen Aubrey collect photospectrometry measurements while Curtin Uni researchers Francesca Cary and Stefano Tenuta sample for chemical residues.

making it more similar in colour to the surrounding dark, uncarved surface.

Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation rangers are helping test the second scenario by installing five cubes, one of each of the rock types, with the patina removed, at 30 monitoring stations across Murujuga. The rocks were taken from Murujuga and used in this way with the approval of the Murujuga Circle of Elders.

The rangers flame-sterilise each cube with ethanol and then leave them to gather microbiome on their surfaces.

After six months or more, the rangers and scientists will put sterile water on the surface, use a lightweight rotary tool to grind the surface layer into a wet pulp,

collect this pulp using sterile cotton swabs and submerge the sample, containing DNA of any microbiome that have settled on the cube, into 'DNA/RNA Shield' – a liquid product that stores DNA to allow it to be analysed in a lab.

This way, we hope to learn more about the microbiome on the surfaces of the rocks of Murujuga.

The areas of investigation by the program and its findings to date regarding air quality, spectrometry, rock surface sampling and geochemical measurements are publicly available on MAC and DWER's websites.

It is vital to everyone involved, and most of all Ngarda-Nagarli, that the program is

conducted to the highest possible research standard and that its findings are broadly understood as it progresses.

Professor Stephen van Leeuwen, a Boojarah Wardandi Noongar leader and respected botanical ecologist and research scientist at Curtin University, is the Chair of the Murujuga Rock Art Stakeholder Reference Group.

In addition to supporting the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation as primary decision-maker, the Stakeholder Reference Group provides advice to government on the key strategic issues relating to the protection of the rock art on Murujuga.



Aerial view Murujuga land and sea country.

Bringing about change

By JILLIAN MUNDY



AROUND 500 people from around Australia gathered on Latji Latji (Mildura) Country for ChangeFest last week.

Back for its 6th year, the event brought grassroots communities to philanthropists and policy-makers from all tiers of government together who are passionate about making community-led change.

Across three days they discussed and heard about collectively addressing challenges such as fairness, connection, and resilience and creating communities where everyone belongs.

Speakers included Treasurer Jim Chalmers and Wiradjuur/Kamilaroi/Dharawal journalist, writer and public speaker Stan Grant.

Mr Grant spoke of our shared humanity to create a more just, truthful and fair Australia.

Mr Chalmers said local leaders needed to be listened to and empowered so services meet the needs of communities.

"A national approach alone will never be enough if we're serious about addressing entrenched community disadvantage. To make a meaningful change, we need to work together with state and local governments, as well as the philanthropic and business communities," he said.

Local First Nations hosts treated attendees to entertainment, stories and dances, with most of the catering provided by inclusive social enterprises.



Stan Grant delivered a passionate opening session speech, pictured here with ChangeFest MCs Mark Yettica-Paulson and Shanesha Togo in a following Q&A session.



Local Elders Uncle Peter Peterson, Aunty Janine Wilson, Stan Grant, Aunty Colleen Johnson, Patsy Doolan, Ada Peterson, Hope Kuchel (ChangeFest artist), Aunty Jemmes Handy and Uncle Warren Clark.



Selina Clark and Vera Kennedy Clark from Mildura, and Sanobar Allaqaband from Shepperton enjoying a weaving workshop at ChangeFest.



Colleen Johnson from Mildura and Aunty Faith Green from Logan (Qld).



Barkly Alliance and Backbone Team from communities in and around Tennant Creek in the NT, (standing) Lora Jackson, Valerie Curtis, Lucy McGarry, Dawn Swan, Ben Neade, Cyril Franey, (seated) Dianne Curtis, Mervyn Franey and Graeme Calma.



Barkindji singer/poet Uncle Brian Hunt entertained with his poems at a welcome event.



Gladstone Region Together First Nations Working Group members Majalla Joinbee, Adrian Ghilotti, Sharalee Elijah and Tracy Connolly.



Nyoongar man Leon Turvey who works in Mt Druitt (NSW) and Waka Waka/Gubi Gubi man Trevor (Yubba) Green who works in Logan (Qld) were at the gathering.



Paakantyi didge player Corey Payne and Mutti Mutti/Boonwurrung/Nuleunu/Kokatha/Dhrung dancer Aaron Clarke led a morning movement and connection session.

Keeping young hearts healthy



IN Alice Springs, it's all about the heart. Aboriginal kids in Alice Springs have some of the highest rates of rheumatic heart disease (RHD) in Australia – and possibly the world.

So, when the Deadly Heart Trek recently arrived at the red centre's schools and town camps to address RHD, it brought two teams of 10 doctors and health workers to our kids and communities – to assess the health of the Mob.

The Deadly Heart Trek has already visited 36 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia to address the critical health issue of RHD.

For the doctors, paediatric cardiologists, Aboriginal cultural guides and health workers who make this trek to help, it's a journey of the heart for them too.

In Alice Springs, the Deadly Heart Trek team works with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and the local hospital to undertake heart checks for children, do echocardiographic (echo) screening to detect RHD, do skin checks and promote skin awareness to understand skin sores, scabies and their link to RHD, and educate about RHD.

About RHD

RHD is a preventable disease and if not diagnosed and treated, it can cause heart failure, disability and even death. It starts with a sore throat or skin sore caused by Strep A bacteria and can permanently damage the heart.

Noongar woman and Heart Foundation Aboriginal lead Vicki Wade is part of the Trek delivery team and said "Aboriginal leadership and guidance underpin all we do".

"The Deadly Heart Trek is a culturally safe program with communities' best interests at the centre," Vicki said. "We listen to the traditional owners and community leaders."

"Right now, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, around 10,000 First Nations people are living with RHD or with acute rheumatic fever, the precursor.

"If we don't take serious steps to stop this disease, these numbers will likely double by 2031.

"RHD is not just a health



Dr Ella Huber performs skin checks on Yipiringya school students and below, reads stories about staying healthy.

issue; it is a clear indicator of the broader cultural, social, economic, and environmental issues in communities.

"Our focus is on RHD but holistically we are concentrating on the health of individuals and families, ensuring access to quality healthcare, and empowering communities with the resources and support needed to prevent and manage this disease."

The Trek's visit to 11 schools in Alice Springs allows the team to listen, educate, treat and provide critical early diagnoses for Aboriginal children who can be affected by RHD, a condition disproportionately impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Listening

Other First Nations cultural guides for the Trek include Dharug woman Karen Ile, Arrernte man Greg McAdam and Arrernte woman and registered nurse Kellie Kerin.

Greg said the Trek "shows the importance of working with, and listening to, our people directly; to hearing a voice from the Centre, from the desert".

"I would love our people to have more of an understanding of RHD, taught in a way our Mob learns," he said.

"The Trek is an example of action that works for us,



respects our rights, recognises our unique culture, and involves us directly."

Philanthropic organisation The Snow Foundation provided project management, logistics, community engagement, funding, and communications for the Deadly Heart Trek.

Deadly Hearts Limited board member and paediatric cardiologist Dr Gavin Wheaton said of the 36 communities across the NT, Queensland and Central/APY Lands, the majority of hearts given 2,702 echo scans were healthy.

"However new cases of RHD were found and the burden on average is around 5%," he said.

"The World Heart Federation

considers a community where more than 0.1% of children have RHD, to be a high burden.

The World Health Assembly passed an international resolution in 2018 requiring countries, including Australia (who is a signatory), to prevent and eliminate RHD.

Diagnosed

In December 2021, the AIHW reported that 9,922 Australians were diagnosed with RHD or acute rheumatic fever.

The highest rates were among Indigenous Australians aged 5 to 14.

"The need for action is critical," Dr Wheaton said.

"The cost of implementing the

blueprint to end RHD over the next decade is \$689 million, according to the Telethon Kids Institute's Centre of Research Excellence.

"Whilst the current Government commitment has increased, this must continue."

Right now, around 10,000 people are living with the disease or its precursor, acute rheumatic fever (ARF). The majority are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (9 out of 10, ARF and 8 out of 10, RHD – according to the AIHW).

Without action, this number will almost double within the next decade. Over 650 people will likely die, and 1,300 will need open heart surgery.

Funding boost for Birthing on Country services



BIRTHING on Country is set to get more support thanks to \$5 million in Federal Government funding.

Charles Darwin University's (CDU) Molly Wardaguga Research Centre has received the funding to expand support for Birthing on Country services critical for First Nations mothers and babies.

The funding has been provided as part of the Federal Government's

Medical Research Future Fund which is a long-term investment to support Australian health and medical research and improve the health and wellbeing of Australians.

Evaluation

The CDU Birthing on Country program currently supports Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and other partners to establish and evaluate three demonstration Birthing on Country services in rural (Nowra,

NSW), remote (Alice Springs, NT) and very remote (Galiwin'ku, NT) sites.

This funding will assist with generating high-quality research that demonstrates the positive clinical, economic and social impacts of the service at a societal and family level in diverse geographical areas.

Molly Wardaguga Research Centre Director and Professor of Indigenous Health, Yvette Roe, a proud Njikenawawuru woman, said generating the evidence and expanding the Birthing on

Country program will go a long way in supporting the equity of birthing experiences of First Nations women across Australia.

Solidify

"This funding helps to solidify the work we have been doing with our community partners to test the translation of a clinically and cost-effective service model in an urban setting into geographically diverse locations," Professor Roe said.



Young Roebourne barista Dolly and the Sodexo team outside the Ieramugadu Café and Gallery.



Sodexo team with Yindjibarndi Elder Harry Mills (seated) and NYFL director Kevin Guinness at the Ieramugadu Café and Gallery.

New cafe meets culture



IN Roebourne's newly re-opened Ieramugadu Café and Gallery, locals are learning hospitality skills.

It's the only cafe in the remote community and the old building was in danger of closing without urgent repairs and maintenance.

But, thanks to a partnership with social supermarket Sodexo Australia (Sodexo), the cafe can now remain open.

The Ieramugadu Café is a social enterprise owned and operated by Traditional Owners of Ieramugadu (Roebourne) and run by the Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi Foundation Limited (NYFL).

The café provides a place-based, culturally safe space for locals to pursue a career in hospitality -

When NYFL partnered with Sodexo - a leader in sustainable food, hospitality and facility management services - Sodexo invested more than \$70,000 and 100 hours of labour



Young Roebourne men undertake Barista training at the Ieramugadu Café and Gallery.

to upgrade the café and secure the longevity of the community hub.

NYFL director and Ngarluma woman and NYFL director Josie Samson said "the café gives our Elders a culturally safe space".

"It provides a career and training pathway for our young

people," Josie said.

"For our Mob, having safe space is important for community, and community is everything.

"Many senior Elders from Roebourne enjoy coming into the café, especially when it means supporting their

grandchildren who are training as baristas and learning hospitality skills."

NYFL chief executive Sean-Paul Stephens said the partnership with Sodexo has been key to providing pathways for employment, and improving the liveability of Roebourne.

"Going beyond monetary support and donated goods, Sodexo has embedded themselves in our values of community-led purpose," he said.

"It's an important lesson for other corporates—that listening and being agile is important for the community.

"Sodexo heard what was important, and the next day they had a plan to help."

"They are supporting the community thrive in its own right.

"That is important for self-determination, which is central to NYFL's purpose."

Working together for more than five years, Sodexo and NYFL formalised their partnership with a 2023 Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) which committed Sodexo to provide community training pathways, employment opportunities, knowledge sharing and sustainable business enterprise opportunity.

The café refurbishment saw an upgraded the café's freezer and cold room, kitchen and food prep area, as well as upgraded electricals.

Leveraging its extensive freight network to deliver food and resources to the remote community at no cost, Sodexo also helped to protect the café's supply chain from the impacts of rising inflation and cost of living.

Sodexo Australia managing director Keith Weston said "we are proud to give back to the Roebourne's unique community, recognising barriers to nutritious and affordable food that people typically living in remote locations face every day".

"By upgrading the community-owned Ieramugadu Café and Gallery we commit to the maintenance of the space to provide a place of opportunity for the community now and into future generations."



The NYFL Café and not-for-profit store team with Sodexo team member and food donated to the community.



Roebourne Elders escaping the Pilbara heat in the Ieramugadu Café where their grandchildren are working, thanks to the collaboration between NYFL and Sodexo.

Earth caretakers find common ground



Spirit and Unity owners Maureen and Naomi.



IN Hackam, Adelaide, a new program is planting the seeds to connect families, the environment and culture.

Called Little Mother Earth Caretakers, the program for parents, carers, and children is delivered by local business consultants Spirit and Unity, at Junction's Hackham Community Centre.

Spirit and Unity owners Maureen and Naomi said the program helps create common ground, giving people from all walks of life the chance to learn about, and explore, First Nations culture and natural resources.

Already, 28 people have attended the ongoing program.

Maureen and Naomi said the recent referendum result and the way that people have opposing views in relation to Australia Day, created opportunities to "learn from each other".

"We both understand where Australia is sitting and that makes it so important to find what binds us, rather than another division," Maureen said.

"The earth is everyone's common ground."

Little Mother Earth Caretakers harnesses singing, dancing, music, storytelling, painting, drawing and nature play.

All materials used during the group "are straight from the earth" – or recycled.

Hackham Community Centre team leader Tammy Elvin said community response to the program had been overwhelming.

"It's really beautiful to see so many of our regular



Maureen and Naomi, pictured above and below, working with families.



playgroup families and others who are new to our centre are interested and engaged with this program and each other," Tammy said. "This includes parents and carers of Aboriginal children, who are keen to ensure they – and their kids – are able to connect or reconnect with culture, in a safe and relaxed way."

Guides protect heritage



BUSINESS and investment leaders have taken a pivotal step towards increasing protection of First Nations cultural

heritage. The leaders have committed to new best practice standards as outlined in the new Dhawura Ngilan Business and Investor Guides.

The guides, launched recently by the First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance (FNHPA), were drafted by Heritage Councils across the country to set the course for First Nations heritage over the next decade.

The Dhawura Ngilan Business and Investor Guides outline the steps businesses should take to uphold the principles of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).

They also address the due diligence investors should undertake to manage the legal, financial and reputational risks associated with First Nations cultural heritage destruction.

Current laws empower ministers and government officials as the decision-makers, requiring little to no consultation with First Nations communities.

Yet, international standards, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), make clear that First Nations peoples have the right to be the leaders and decision-makers in relation to their cultural heritage.

Ngalia cultural and community leader and FNHPA co-chair Kado Muir said the commitment heralds a new period in Australia's business relations "to reach



Pictured above: National Native Title Council chief executive Jamie Lowe, Minister Plibersek and National Native Title Council Cultural Heritage director, Rachel Perkins. **Pictured top right:** The Dhawura Ngilan Business and Investor Initiative Guides. **Pictured bottom right:** Ngiyampaa/Yuin/Gumbangirr man Eric Avery violinist performs at the launch of the guides.

beyond legislative standards and implement leading practice for cultural heritage as defined by First Nations peoples".

The guides are inspired by, and take the name from the Dhawura Ngilan vision. Dhawura Ngilan means 'Remembering Country' in the Ngunnawal Language.

PKKP Aboriginal Corporation chair Merle Ashburton said "it's encouraging to see some companies will go beyond legislative compliance," Ms Ashburton, who represents the traditional owners of Juukan

Gorge said the "private sector must not wait for laws to catch-up to community expectations regarding the right of Traditional Owners to Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)".

Now businesses and investors will integrate the Dhawura Ngilan Vision within their operations.

Over the next 12 to 18 months key businesses and investors, including global resources company, BHP, will implement the guides to put the First Nations-led advice into action.

Minister for the Environment

and Water, Tania Plibersek, said the new national cultural heritage legislation was needed due to serious deficiencies in the current legislative framework.

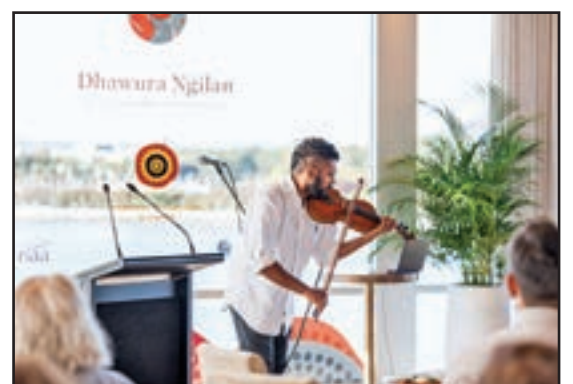
The guides were drafted by Terri Janke & Company, a 100% Indigenous owned and run law firm, in consultation with First Nations, business and investment groups.

BHP is providing \$1.2 million in funding to support the Initiative's workplan. Lendlease, HESTA, KPMG Australia, and Perpetual

are also supporting the work of the initiative.

The FNHPA is a coalition of member organisations representing First Nations Peoples that formed after the shocking destruction by mining giant Rio Tinto of the sacred 46,000-year-old Juukan Gorge Caves in the Pilbara Western Australia.

The coalition members all expressed their outrage at the destruction and vowed to pursue national reforms to prevent this from ever happening again.



Uni honours Kaurna



THE University of Adelaide has marked 150 years with its first-ever Kaurna Day, a free public event dedicated to honouring the traditional custodians of Adelaide and the Adelaide plains, the Kaurna people.

Professor Steve Larkin, the university's Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement), said the connection between the institution and the Kaurna community stretches back decades, marked by the invaluable contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and students.

"The Kaurna community, as well as the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, has enriched the university with their perspectives, experiences, and knowledge," Prof Larkin said.

"Kaurna Day is a tribute to the community's ongoing impact and a commitment to fostering a truly inclusive campus environment."

Professor Peter Høj AC, Vice Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide, said Kaurna Day signifies a long-standing and evolving relationship between the institution and the Kaurna community.

"2024 is the university's milestone 150th year, but the history of the land on which our campuses are located, and the connection of the traditional Kaurna custodians to place is much, much older," he said.

Kaurna Day, held on February 27, featured community stalls, performances by First Nations artists from the Centre of Aboriginal Studies in Music, student presentations, and collaborative information sessions facilitated by Wirltu Yarlū, the Indigenous Engagement branch at the University of Adelaide.

Wirltu Yarlū is also creating a new Indigenous Strategy which will aim to increase the number of First Nations staff and students coming to the university through targeted recruitment, retention, and curriculum development initiatives.

The plan aims to raise cultural competency across the entire university community.

Looking ahead, the university envisions an enduring contribution to the Kaurna people. Collaborating with the Kaurna community on reclaiming and revitalising the endangered Kaurna language, Kaurna Warra, forms a cornerstone of this commitment.

Dr Lewis Yarlupurka O'Brien AO, the oldest living Kaurna Elder at 93, embodies a lifetime of commitment to advocating for Aboriginal Australians and promoting the Kaurna language. This is a magnificent legacy for which Uncle Lewis has been awarded the University of Adelaide's highest honour – a Doctor of the University (honoris causa).

"Preserving our language is preserving our identity and connection to our ancestors. It's not just about words; it's about safeguarding an entire way of life. It's a duty we owe to future generations," he said.

With 109 out of 123 spoken Indigenous languages in Australia listed as endangered, the urgency to safeguard Indigenous languages and the cultural identity they represent has never been greater.

Uncle Lewis, alongside Kaurna Elder Dr Alitya Wallara Rigney (also known as Auntie Alice), and supported by Associate Professor Rob Amery, a linguist, launched efforts in the late 1980s to rescue the critically endangered Kaurna language from the brink of extinction.

"Our collaborative efforts laid the groundwork for the reclamation and revitalisation of Kaurna Warra. In 2002, we formed Kaurna Warra Pintyanthi (KWP) to promote the Kaurna language and provide oversight of and direction for the Kaurna language movement," said Uncle Lewis.

Professor Høj notes that KWP is now hosted by the University of Adelaide and emphasised the institution's longstanding commitment to the Kaurna community.

"We reaffirm our dedication to supporting initiatives that honour and preserve the cultural heritage of the Kaurna people," he said.



(Left to right back) Jamie Hampton, Anna Russo, Professor Richard Logan, Simon Japangardi Fisher, Major 'Moogy' Sumner, Karl Japaljarri Hampton, Professor John Carty, Warren Japanangka Williams, Steven Jungararyi Collins. (Left to right front) Enid Nangala Gallagher, Lynette Nampitjinpa Granites, Alice Napanangka Granites, Valerie Napaljarri Martin, Sebastian Jampitjinpa Watson, Freddy Japanangka Williams, Ned Jampitjinpa Hargraves.



Major 'Moogy' Sumner AM has a yarn with Terese Geraghty and Sarah Tuhoro from Wirltu Yarlū.



Kaurna Elder Uncle Rod O'Brien, The University of Adelaide Cultural Advisor, and Charles Brice, ABC TV South Australian reporter.



Ngarrindjeri and Kaurna artist Brooke Rigney making art.



Ned Jampitjinpa Hargraves.

people in celebrations



Wirrtu Yarlu Committee [r-l]: Uncle Rod O'Brien, Pamela Campusano Vallejos, Deb Bland, Sarah Tuhoro, Tracey Agius, Terese Geraghty and Dr Kam Kaur.



Kaurna Day attendees enjoying the day.



Professor Steve Larkin, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) at University of Adelaide.



Special performance by First Nations artist Marlon Motlop. Anthony Pakpoy and Uncle Eddie Peters make music.



Creative Native provided the food during Kaurna Day.



Karl Japaljarri Hampton and Jamie Hampton at Repatriation of Aboriginal Ancestral Remains Panel.



Kaurna Day smoking ceremony being performed by Robert Taylor.



Emma Holmes and Diana Orozco, Ochre Dawn.



Leesa Ashton from Wirrtu Yarlu doing body art for primary school students at Kaurna Day.

Wonderful WOMADelaide



FIRST Nations artists have once again featured on the stages at Adelaide's World music festival, WOMADelaide. Held on the traditional lands of the Kaurna People, WOMADelaide (World Of Music Arts & Dance) is an iconic open-air festival celebrating cultural discovery in the heart of Adelaide's stunning Botanic Park/Tainmuntilla. Photographer JACK GRIEVE captured some of the action for *Koori Mail*.



Pitjantjatjara elder Uncle Frank Yamma performed with Wantok Sing Sing, a supergroup featuring Melanesian and First Nations artists.



Award-winning Noongar artist Bumpy.



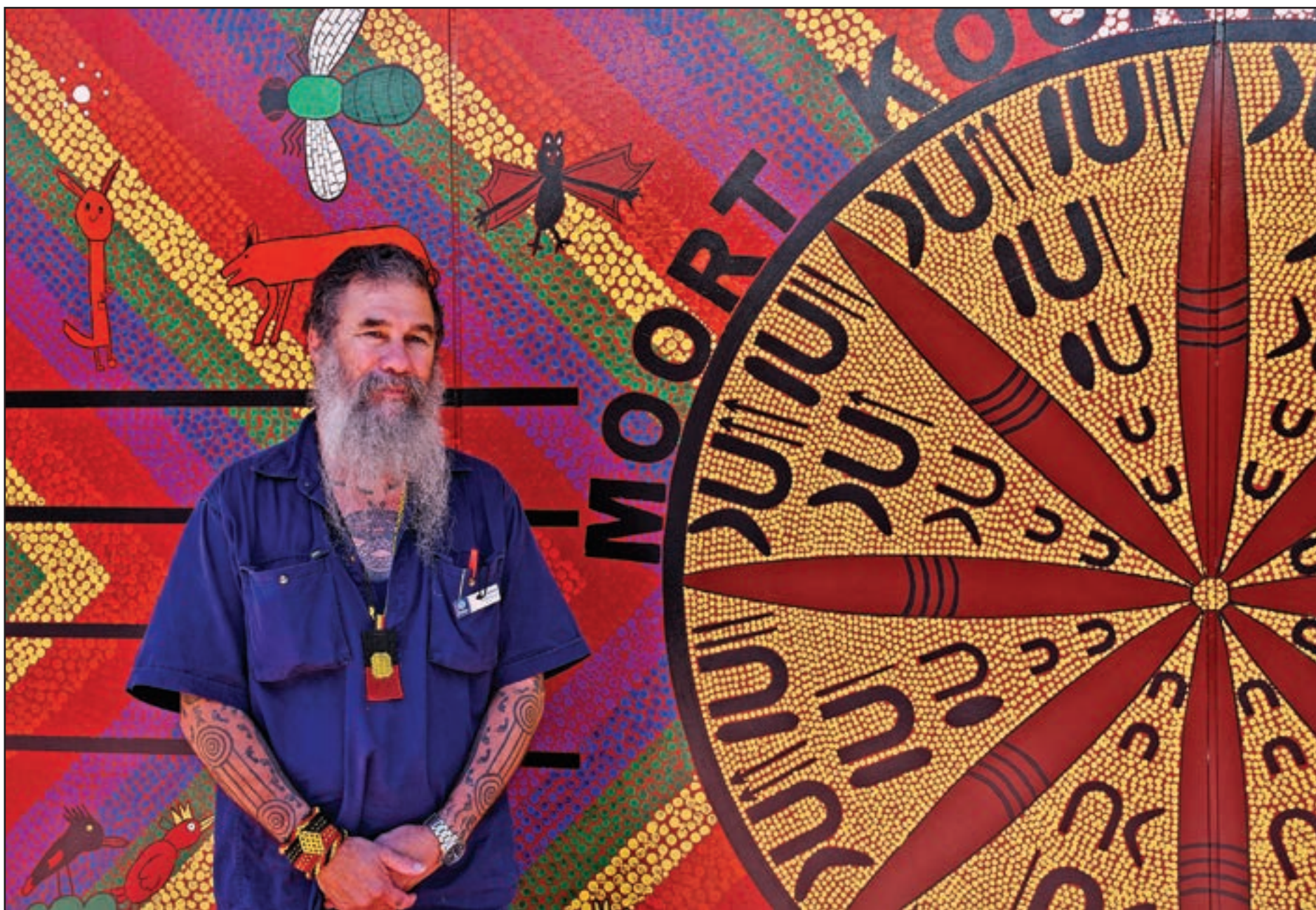
Award-winning singer, songwriter and multi-disciplinary artist Mo'Ju performed at WOMADelaide.



Based in Victor Harbor, SA, Rod Edwards' most recent single *Apmere* is a jazz-infused tale from the heart, a rhythmically driven song tackling the complex subject of pain and healing in First Nations people.



Descended from the Gugu Yalanji and Birrigubba people and the Matabele Zimbabwean people, Dean Brady has music and performance in his DNA, with both his parents being members of the Outback Motown group Banawuru.



Yuggera man Leigh Merrells with his latest art mural at Balga Primary School in Perth.

Leigh combines the art of students into murals

By NICK PATON



A STUNNING new art mural at Balga Primary School in Perth is helping both students and teachers gain a

deeper understanding about Aboriginal culture and heritage, while providing a visual feast of colour and storytelling at the same time.

Titled *Moort Koortkwobakiny*, which translates to 'celebrating families' in local Wadjak Noongar language, the mural is the latest of two art instalments by Yuggera man Leigh Merrells at the school.

Volunteering his time over a nine-week period, the artwork 'created for the children and by the children' was carefully hand-painted by Mr Merrells onto a massive 10-metre long wall space, featuring the students' own designs and includes more than 60,000 dots.

"The best part about creating the mural was seeing the smiles on the kids' faces once I had

finished it," Mr Merrells told the *Koori Mail*.

"Their drawings are just so good, and what I love most is the innocence in the younger kids' pictures, because they are honest, which really shines through in their depictions of the animals," he said.

"It took me about a day and a half to go through all the kids' pictures and choose which ones would work best with the mural design, but the title was easy, because this school is like a big family community – it always has been."

As part of the design process, Mr Merrells engaged students to contribute to the mural by asking them to draw their own depictions of Australian animals.

Mr Merrells then took the students' sketches and skilfully incorporated the drawings into his own mural design.

"At the centre of the mural is a big yellow circle which represents the sun, and inside

the sun are the symbols for family," Mr Merrells said.

"There are eight clap sticks inside the circle for celebrating."

The four straight lines on both sides of the sun represent journey, while the feet on the

"The best part about creating the mural was seeing the smiles on the kids' faces once I had finished it."

outside edge represent walking and celebrating this journey together.

The coloured dotted lines represent the rainbow serpent and the Noongar seasons, which all point to the centre to help families celebrate.

A prolific artist, wood carver and jewellery maker, this is not Mr Merrells' first large-scale mural.

He also has artworks at other Perth schools including Hollywood Primary School, Woodlupine Primary School, ANZAC Terrace Primary School, Hampton Park Primary School,

and East Beechboro Primary School.

But Mr Merrells' dedication to Balga Primary School extends far beyond his latest mural.

Having volunteered at the school since 2017, he has

become a valued member of the Balga Primary School family.

His impact on students' understanding of

Aboriginal culture has been significant, making him a cherished asset to the community.

Mr Merrells said what drives him to show up and volunteer his time at the school relates to an experience he had as a child.

"I was about six years old when I was learning to swim at school, and out of all the kids in the class, I was the only one who was forced to have a shower before I could get in the pool," Mr Merrells said.

"I didn't understand at the time, but it wasn't until I was about 15 that I realised we as

Aboriginal people were classed as 'dirty'," he said.

"For me, that experience sent me completely off the rails, and I'm so thankful for my uncle who helped me to get my life back on track."

"I started working with kids – alongside my uncle – because in my heart, I just know that if I can help make the life of even one child better and more fulfilled, and make a difference, then that's what I've gotta do," Mr Merrells said.

"These kids are of the age where things started to spiral for me, and I know that these years are the formative years of these kids lives, and so what they do now – and what they experience now – is who they will become as young people and then as adults," he said.

"By the time these kids are 6, 7, 8 years old, things are almost set in the way they behave, and so I'm just trying to do my best to make sure their experience is a positive one, so that they can go on and do the same in their community."

Discover the truth veiled behind Dylan Mooney's utopian visions

By JACK WILKIE-JANS



WHEN artist Dylan Mooney creates work, he depicts a utopia—a place of freedom, peace and personal reconciliation.

Behind the gentleness of the imagery in his new work *Eden*, Dylan places his people front and centre — shining a light on the history of his South Sea Islander heritage. It explores the legacy of Blackbirding — or Australia's slave trade, which was the foundation of the country's successful sugar cane industry.

Eden features in the group exhibition *Cane*, now on show at Hervey Bay Regional Gallery.

Family

Dylan, also a Yuwi/Zenadth Kes/Torres Strait Islander man, has connections to Mackay, Central Queensland.

Through his art, Dylan explores themes of sexuality and history — and he relates this to his culture and self-image through dreamscapes and floral features.

Dylan himself is living proof of the incredible contribution of South Sea Islander peoples in today's cultural

awakening.

His work shows how the South Sea Islander legacy is a rich part of our historical and social tapestry.

In fact, Dylan's work echoes my own family's experience — my great, great grandfather was Vanuatuan and was Blackbirded — taken to work in the pearling and fishing industries across the Zenadth Kes homelands.

Cane

In the exhibition *Cane*, a group of national and international artists connect local stories with international perspectives.

The exhibition plays an important historical 'truth-telling' role, making connections between agricultural and labour practices across colonies of the British Empire in the 19th century.

It's also an important part of Hervey Bay Regional Gallery's vision for what it can offer its community.

"In the Wide Bay region, colonisation and indentured labour practices are deeply intertwined," a gallery spokesperson said. "Linking together leading Australian artists with local stories, *Cane* celebrates the enduring spirit and cultural legacy of Australian South Sea Islanders".

Dylan's featured work, *Eden* (2024), is a watercolour and digital print in his

distinctive style.

The work is a celebration of his family and their survival through colonialist agendas and hardship.

Dylan said of his work "As South Sea Islanders began to assimilate into Australian society, religion was used as a tool to indoctrinate them into colonial ways of life, effectively severing ties to culture which was deemed 'pagan' and 'savage' by white people".

"Over time as religion has become a part of contemporary South Sea Islander communities it has provided a sense of purpose and hope," he said.

"Religion, and particularly Christianity, has become a tool for survival and a way forward for Australian South Sea Islanders as they continue to live on alien lands in the face of much adversity."

Dylan's body of work is already impressive for an artist of only twenty-nine. He is a master at drawing techniques, painting, printmaking and digital illustration.

Cane is on show at Hervey Bay Regional Gallery until April 21.

***Eden* by Dylan Mooney.
Picture: courtesy of the artists and
Hervey Bay Regional Gallery**



Sharing love for Country



MY Country is an exhibition of new work by eight emerging First Nations artists from around Australia, produced after a year-long mentorship.

The artists are part of a biennial mentorship program and exhibition series called *Country Road + NGV First Nations Commissions*.

Taking part in this year's exhibition, *My Country*, are Alec Baker and Eric Barney, from Iwantja Arts in Indulkana, South Australia.

They have collaborated on two large colourful paintings, titled *Ngura (Country)*. Barney paints under the cultural mentorship of Baker — a senior lawman and founding Iwantja Arts artist.

The works reflect the beauty of Yankunytjatjara Country in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands depicting rocky hills, waterholes, animal tracks and Tjukurrpa (ancestral stories) of women. The artists are mentored by the first Indigenous artist to be awarded the Archibald Prize, Vincent Namatjira.

Tiwi artist Johnathon World Peace Bush (Jon Jon), has produced a body of work that tells of Tiwi culture, storytelling and history. Mentored by his cousin Pedro Wonaeamirri, their shared ancestry and Country are at the heart of this mentorship. Working out of Jilamara Arts, on Melville Island, Wulirankuwu Country, Jon Jon has created three paintings that depict stories of his and Wonaeamirri's grandfather and



Jan Griffiths is mentored by her mother and senior artist Peggy Griffiths. Pictures: supplied

father's life and subsequent displacement from Murrakupupuni (Country) of Paluwiwanga (Goose Creek). Jon Jon has also created two collaborative works with Wonaeamirri, a tunga (folded stringybark ceremonial basket) made by Wonaeamirri that Jon Jon painted with ochre, along with a video work filmed on Country.

Jan Baljagil Gunjaka Griffiths's work *Tree of knowledge* depicts the native gerdewoon (boab tree) and honours the personal and cultural significance of the gerdewoon as a source of food, water, cultural stories and as a historical site. Griffiths has been mentored by her mother and senior artist Peggy Griffiths Both are Miriwoong women from Kununurra in the East Kimberley, Western Australia,

working out of Waringarri Arts.

For Canberra-based artist and Walgalu and Wiradjuri man Aidan Hartshorn, the commission was an opportunity to pursue new mediums in his practice and build upon his ongoing Masters research into the impact of the Snowy Mountains Scheme on Walgalu Country. Mentored by Nunga (Kurna Miyurna) and Māori (Te Arawa) man James Tylor, Hartshorn has created an installation of diamond-shaped glass shields reflecting traditional Wiradjuri bark shields — each representing one of the dams of the Snowy Hydro.

His work reflects on the implications of the hydroelectricity system on Walgalu Country and cultural sites.



Alec Baker and Eric Barney, from Iwantja Arts in Indulkana, SA.

Gamilaroi weaver and textile artist Sophie Honess has produced three woven rugs titled *Daruka — grass, water, granite*. Over 86,000 wool knots make up Honess's work which represents Daruka, a site of great significance for the artist and her community located on Gamilaroi Country (Tamworth, New South Wales). Honess was mentored by Wiradjuri and Kamilaroi man and contemporary artist, Jonathan Jones.

Boonwurrung and Barkindji man, Mitch Mahoney has created two bark canoes and was guided through proper cultural processes and protocols by Barkindji artist David Doyle.

This included collecting bark for the canoe and healing the tree with mud. Focusing on cultural

revitalisation, the artist has also made a possum skin cloak honouring his mother's culture which he learned over years working with his mentor and aunt Mutti Mutti, Yorta Yorta and Boonwurrung/Wemba Wemba woman Maree Clarke.

Cheryl Rose, a Pataway-based (Burnie, Tasmania) multimedia artist, explores the fragmented stories of her Country, culture and community through a wall-based installation titled *Fragments*. The large-scale work features images of caves at Pinmatik (Rocky Cape) and cultural tools that were historically removed from the site and archived at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Rose has been mentored by Denise Robinson and both are descendants of the Trawlwoolway people.

Brisbane-based Kamilaroi man Warraba Weatherall is mentored by Girramay/ Yidinji / Kuku Yalanji man Tony Albert. His new work builds on his PhD research into the impact of systems of colonial bureaucracy and linguicide on contemporary society. Weatherall has fabricated a custom polyphon (a large disc-operated music player) which plays a musical composition created by translating oppressive archival documents into braille.

NGV director Tony Ellwood said the unique mentorship program is the only one of its kind in Australia.

My Country: Country Road + NGV First Nations Commissions will be on display until August 4 at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Fed Square, Melbourne.



The Sunshine Club will perform with a cast of 11 First Nations artists at the Sydney Coliseum Theatre from April 11 to 20.

The Sunshine Club brings a ray of hope

By LIINA FLYNN



LONG before Facebook and Tinder, there were mixed-race social dance clubs.

According to Wesley Enoch, writer and director of the musical *The Sunshine Club*, dance clubs in the 1940s and 50s were the equivalent of today's social networks.

"That's where business got done, friendships were formed and people met and dated," Wesley said. "And it all took place with dance and song."

With dance and song at the heart of the

matter, it was only natural that Wesley would turn his research about these dance clubs into an uplifting musical production that would become a massive hit for decades.

Wesley told the *Koori Mail* that in 1998, when he was 28 years old, he started researching the role that dance clubs played in the lives of returned Aboriginal servicemen after WWII.

"They went off to war to fight enemies, with ambitions to change the world – but when they returned home, things were the same," he said.

"Aboriginal people still lived on reserves under the Protection Act and



Roxanne MacDonald plays Auntie Faith.

couldn't earn money.

"They had fought for their country, side by side with their white mates, but when they came back, the old racist barriers were still up.

Referendum

"These mixed-race dance clubs became a network for the political movement leading to the 1967 referendum. They were a focal point for Aboriginal soldiers who wanted to keep the fight going – to take the charge for reconciliation to the Government."

Wesley said when he first wrote *The Sunshine Club* in the late 90s, it became an immediate hit. "The theme of reconciliation was at its height and John Howard had just become prime minister," he said.

"Then 20 years later, after last year's referendum, I wanted to bring back this musical as a way to address the cultural amnesia that we have – to remind everyone that reconciliation has been around for a very long time."

So, Wesley got together a new cast for the musical and *The Sunshine Club* began a tour of Australia, from Mount Isa to Cunnamulla. Now the production is headed back to Sydney.

Why a musical?

Wesley said he's always loved musicals.

"They are very theatrical and you have to be optimistic to have a musical in your life," he said.

"Musicals are bigger than the normal

human experience, and sometimes, when we take human experience to the limit, only singing and dancing will do.

"There's a saying I love: If you can't speak it, sing it. If you can't sing it, you dance it.

"Musicals aren't about naturalism – but they contain emotional truth and they look after people's hearts while they tell a story."

So, with the idea to create an uplifting production with a serious, political message, he needed to consider how it ended.

"In the 1950s, it was decades before change happened," Wesley said.

"When we realised you can't have a happy ending, we needed to jump forward in time, to see what our ancestors had accomplished.

"First Nations peoples think in terms of generations – and what's right for our grandchildren.

"The problem with politicians is they only think in four-year cycles.

"Every generation needs to take responsibility for what's happening and take action to change what's wrong."

Sunshine and song

Wesley worked with composer John Rogers to create the songs of *The Sunshine Club*.

"Together, we'd look at the music of the period," he said. "Musicals like *Showboat* were popular and it was the rise of jazz music – where all the rules got turned on their head.

"So we created songs that sounded like they could have been on the radio in the 1940s and would take you on an emotional journey.

"We referred to places, like the Gabba, and mangoes and sugarcane – we evoked a feeling of race and place that is us.

"In the musical, Roxanne MacDonald plays Auntie Faith and she calls the spirits – giving us a sense of our spirituality and cultural perspective.

"As Indigenous people, we can tell stories about ourselves that are fun and light, but have an underlying message.

"We can tell our stories to have influence and make a difference in the world."

The Sunshine Club will perform with a cast of 11 First Nations artists at the Sydney Coliseum Theatre from April 11 to 20.

When art connects to place



FROM The Block in Redfern to the Snowy Mountains region, a new exhibition series connects First Nations artists to 'place' through their art.

Beginning this month at the Museum of Sydney, the three exhibitions will feature colourful artworks, ceramics, paintings, screen prints and video installations.

Whether it's The Block in Redfern, north western NSW, or the Illawarra regions, these works offer personal perspectives and comment on Country that is significant to each artist.

Museums of History NSW chief executive Mary Darwell said the exhibitions include photographs and advocacy documents from the NSW State Archives Collection.

"The addition of documentary evidence adds another layer to these exhibits and their importance to our understanding of the past," she said.

The NSW State Archives Collection, a part of Museums of History NSW, contains more than 14 million items that document the decisions and policies of the NSW Government and their impact on the lives of individuals and communities, from 1788 to today.

Cast in cast out - Recasting fragments of history



Cast in cast out by Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay artist, Dennis Golding.

March 16 until June 16.

Born and raised on Gadigal land, Dennis Golding is a Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay artist. *Cast in*

cast out is a multifaceted artwork inspired by Golding's experiences and childhood memories of growing up in 'The Block' – an Aboriginal

community in the inner Sydney suburb of Redfern. *Cast in cast out* explores the practices of colonial occupation and land ownership through the motif of Victorian-era ironwork panels that were a distinctive feature of houses in the area. The display is accompanied by a 3D-printed replica of one of the panels, allowing visitors to feel its shapes and textures, as well as a film interview in which Golding discusses the genesis of his artworks. It features a new acquisition for Museums of History NSW.

Coomaditchie: The Art of Place
March 30 until August 25

The exhibition is a showcase of paintings, ceramics and screen-prints that all speak to life in and around the settlement of Coomaditchie, in the city of Wollongong.

This exhibition celebrates the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation which provides support and services to the people of Coomaditchie and the broader South Coast of NSW communities.

Also on display are original historical documents and a short film that reveal the social and political narrative of the founding of the current Coomaditchie settlement, which followed a long campaign for housing for local Aboriginal people.

Today, the work of the

Coomaditchie artists can be found all over the Illawarra – in community spaces, buildings, landscapes, streets and galleries. A selection of photographs shows the depth and the beauty of their contributions to the public art landscape. The exhibition offers a glimpse into the political, social and artistic activities of a very special place.

Ngaya (I am), March 16-Aug 25

In *Ngaya (I am)*, artist, Peter Waples-Crowe describes his five-minute video installation as "a cut-and-paste, punked-up look at my Country".

Ngaya (I am) It is a self-portrait of the artist as a queer Ngarigo person from the Snowy Mountains region of NSW and mixes images of people and landscape with song, dance and humour.

The work reinstates the artist in the landscape from which he was removed and asserts the ongoing presence of the Ngarigo people in the land that still holds their stories – despite pervasive Western imagery that would deny their existence, language and connection to Country.

Ngaya (I am) is accompanied by historical photographs of the Snowy Mountains region held in the NSW State Archives Collection. Created to promote tourism, the photographs depict the region through the lens of mid-20th-century officialdom.

Calling all artists

The Lester Prize - Main awards
Seven categories, with a total prize pool of \$115,000
Entries close June 7
For more information or to enter go to lesterprize.com/artists/submit-entry-2/

UMI Arts Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from artists
– *Culture Through Our Eyes*
EOIs are open NOW to First Nations youth in the Cairns region, working in any medium.
Closes April 12
The exhibition will run from May.

– **Freshwater Saltwater 2024**
EOIs are open NOW to established and senior UMI Arts members, working in any medium
Closes May 24
The exhibition will run from July.
For further information on UMI Arts' EOI announcements visit umiarts.com.au/exhibitions/

Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF)

Major round two of the RADF offers support towards projects and programs that create vibrant arts and cultural experiences, including but not limited to performances and exhibitions, new works that extend artists and art forms and community arts and cultural development. The grant is open to individual professional and emerging artists, arts workers and/or cultural workers, project coordinators, collective/artist-run initiatives and groups and incorporated arts and cultural organisations in Cairns or the Cairns region. Applicants can apply for up to \$10,000. Applications open April 8 and can be made online only at cairns.smartygrants.com.au/majorroundtwo
RADF major grant round two closes May 10.

Festivals

Byron Bay Blues Festival

when: Mar 28 – April 1
where: Byron Events Farm, Tyagarah
info/bookings: Dan Sultan plays Thurs and Sat, check bluesfest.com.au/ for program details

Parrtjima – A festival in Light

when: Apr 12-24
where: Mparntwe/Alice Springs
info/bookings: parrtjimaaustralia.com.au/

9th Baiame's Ngunhu Festival

when: April 19-21
Fri 19, 5.30-7pm, Opening Ceremony and Corroboree
Sat 20, 2.30-6pm, Family and Culture Day
Sun, 21, 11am-3pm, Concert and Fish Feast
where: on the banks of the Ba-wun River, Weir Park, Brewarrina
info/bookings: free camping available, for more info visit moogahlin.org/baiamesngunhufestival2024

A footy story that pulls no punches

By ALI MC



37 is a play that pulls no punches. It's an AFL football story set in 2015 when the issue of racism in sports reared its ugly head.

The confrontation was met head-on by Sydney Swans' player Adam Goodes and caused a national debate.

Named after Goodes' jumper number – 37 – the play was written by footy fan Nathan Maynard, a Trawlwoolway man and multidisciplinary artist from Larapuna Country, Lutruwita/Tasmania.

37 follows ten young local football hopefuls as they chase an elusive grand final.

Two First Nations players have been recruited for their skills – Jayma and Sonny, also known as 'the Marngrook cousins, named after the local Indigenous game that inspired AFL.

Despite their talent, Jayma and Sonny are themselves challenged by racism from within their own team, and Maynard's play follows this journey with energy, confrontation and compassion.

Tibian Wyles who plays Sonny told the *Koori Mail* that the issue of racism in sports hasn't gone away.

"I'm an NRL follower. So, in terms of what the show is about, it's mirrored in the thing that's happening now with Ezra Mam," he said. "It's the same kind of thing that happened to Adam Goodes in 2015."

The Warrgamay, Girramay and Kalkadoon actor said racism in sport needed to be eradicated so that there could be more unity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

"The way a lot of people view things, with men's sports, is that everyone needs to toughen up. Everything that's left on the field stays on the field type of thing," he said. "The racial stuff doesn't go under that umbrella."

Wyles is a graduate of The Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts and has a long list of writing and performance credits including *Big Name No Blankets*, *The Sapphires* and *Black Diggers*.

He is also a member of DJUKI MALA, a dance company based in Arnhem Land that has toured globally.

His character Sonny is faced with the decision to keep quiet about the racism, to earn the paychecks from footy that help feed his family, or to challenge the club and possibly lose the coveted position.

He says it is an experience that his family has faced in reality.

"I've never really been in that type of position that Sonny



Ben O'Toole, Ngali Shaw, Thomas Larkin and Eddie Orton, cast members of 37. Picture: Morgan Hancock/AAP Photos)



Ngali Shaw and Tibian Wyles in Melbourne Theatre Company's production of 37. Picture: Pia Johnson

gets put in," he said. "But I do know, a lot of my older brothers have been in that situation. It might not be in terms of sport but in terms of work."

Writer Nathan Maynard has worked as an artist and playwright for more than 25 years. He has taken on bold projects including a recent callout for a non-Indigenous person to donate their future deceased body for an art installation.

37 is similarly confronting, not only in theme but also the dialogue, which includes high levels of swearing and real-life instances of racism that leave audiences reeling.

Wyles told the *Koori Mail* that even as an actor with his extensive experience, he still found the dialogue in the production confronting.

"I'm not going to lie. When I first heard some of the racial slurs in the play that are directed toward blackfullas, me as a blackfulla, I automatically just went to a place of like, 'whoa'," he said.

"You know, I got offended by some of the stuff, but as an actor, we take it on."

He says that while the racism in the play was a challenging aspect of the performance, it was also a truthful representation of many Indigenous peoples' experience, including both his and Wiradjuri, Murawari, Kunja co-star Ngali Shaw, who plays Jayma.

"This is a story that's happened to me, that's happened to a lot of blackfullas," he said.

"This is what happens. Myself and Ngali – the only two blackfullas in the play – can really speak and go yes, this has happened to us multiple times in our lives from a very young age up to now."

He said it was important for non-Indigenous people to be confronted by such racial slurs to get an insight into the Indigenous experience and also for Indigenous people to feel like their experience is being truthfully told.

"Then people learn and also a lot of Indigenous people will feel like if they've experienced that, their stories are told," he said.

Alongside the dialogue, 37

is also spectacular due to the energy brought to the play by the award-winning Noongar director Issac Drandic and choreographer Waangenga Blanco, from the Pajinka Wik and Meriam Mer peoples.

In particular, the representation of the football matches and the high marking that is a feature of AFL are well crafted.

"It brought so much more depth into the show and a lot of physicality into the show too," Wyles said. "The marks and the jumping and kicking – they make really good shapes in the air and so high off the ground. In a way, we try to replicate those."

Wyles said that both Drandic and Maynard have experience as fans of AFL, which helped to bring the performance to life.

"Nathan can tell you himself, he's a big hardcore fan of the game," he said. "But you know, there's a lot of stuff that needs work in the game in terms of the politics of it."

37 will show at Melbourne Theatre Company until April 5 before heading to Brisbane.

event listings

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/

Belonging: Stories from Far North Queensland
when: until March, 2025
where: National Museum of Australia, Acton Peninsula, Canberra
info/bookings: nma.gov.au/exhibitions/belonging

Vincent Namatjira: Australia in colour
when: until July 21
where: Level 1 galleries, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
info/bookings: nga.gov.au/

NORTHERN TERRITORY

52 Actions
 Touring nationally, this exhibition is curated by Artspace, Sydney.
when: until June 2
where: Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory, The Gardens, Darwin
info/bookings: free entry, for more visit magnt.net.au/52-actions

Ngaylu Nyanganyi Ngura Winki (I Can See All Those Places)
 Luritja/Pintupi/Pitjantjatjara artist Kunmanara Carroll (1950 – 2021) based with Ernabella Arts at Pukatja in the APY Lands.
when: until May 12
where: Araluen Arts Centre, Cultural Precinct, Larapinta Dr, Araluen
info/bookings: araluenartscentre.nt.gov.au/

Mulga Bore Hard Rock – Rockin' the Red Earth tour (playing *Parrtjima*)
when: Apr 20, 3.30pm - 10pm
where: The Gathering Ground, Partjima, Alice Springs
info/bookings: full tour dates available at mulgaborehardrock.com/

TASMANIA

Between Waves
 Continues the Yalingwa exhibition series devoted to highlighting the significance of First Nations contemporary art practice of the southeast within a national context.
when: until May 4
where: Plimsoll Gallery, University of Tasmania
info/bookings: utas.edu.au/creative-arts-media/events/art-hobart/2024/march/between-waves

QUEENSLAND

You and Me exhibition
 UMI Arts member's annual group exhibition.
when: until May 10
where: UMI Arts gallery, Manoora, Cairns
info/bookings: allevents.in/o



Vincent Namatjira, Western Aranda people, *Australia in colour*, 2021.
 Picture: Vincent Namatjira/Copyright Agency

National Gallery hosts Namatjira's All Stars

Art Live is a festival-style event created by the National Gallery's Youth Council, celebrating the gallery's exhibition *Vincent Namatjira: Australia in colour*. Combining artists, ideas, exhibitions, music and creative experiences, **Arts Live** is created exclusively for young audiences aged 15 to 25.

Art Live: All Stars at the Gallery
when: April 12, 6-9pm
where: National Gallery of Australia (NGA), Canberra
info/bookings: free entry, booking essential. Live music from 6pm, includes *Mulga Bore Hard Rock* (8.30pm) Visit nga.gov.au/events/art-live/



Mulga Bore Hard Rock

rg/umi-arts/1593000

Eastern Threads

An exhibition of Torres Strait Islander textiles, prints, and paintings from the City of Townsville Art Collection, curated by Gail Mabo.
when: until Apr 14
where: Perc Tucker Regional Gallery
info/bookings: whatson.townsville.qld.gov.au/events/eastern-threads-curated-by-gail-mabo

How we remember tomorrow

when: until June 15
where: University of Queensland Art Museum, St Lucia, Brisbane
info/bookings: art-useum.uq.edu.au/how-we-remember-tomorrow

Seeds and Sovereignty

when: until Sept 8
where: Gallery of Modern Art and Gallery 3.5
info/bookings: free entry, blog.qagoma.qld.gov.au/qagoma-2024-program-announced/

Emma Donovan

Songs, Stories and Soul from family and Country
when: May 2
where: Tank 5, Tanks Arts Centre, Cairns
info/bookings: tickets from tanksartscentre.com/

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

18th Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Inner Sanctum
when: until June 2
where: Art Gallery of South Australia
info/bookings: Free entry,

visit.agsa.sa.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/ and follow the links

Yankunytjatjara Wangka! Keeping Ancestral Voices Alive

when: until March 31
where: South Australian Museum
info/bookings: samuseum.sa.gov.au/event/yankunytjatjara-Wangka

Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize exhibition

Bringing together a rich and diverse survey of works that map the intersection of nature, science, and art.
when: April 12 - June 10
where: South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide
info/bookings: samuseum.sa.gov.au/c/waterhouse

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Martumili Artists and How We Paint - Eight Artists

when: exhibitions run concurrently until Apr 3
where: Galleries 1 and 2, Japinka Aboriginal Art gallery, Fremantle
info/bookings: japingkaaboriginalart.com/

Meeyakba Shane Pickett: Six Seasons

Born in Quairading, Ballardong Country, Meeyakba* Shane Pickett (1957 – 2010) is remembered as one of the 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

MANTANGURU/ From the Sand

when: until Apr 1
where: Earlywork Gallery, South Fremantle
info/bookings: you can view artworks at artitja.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/

Songbird

Yirra Yaakin Theatre Co. An intimate tale of heartbreak, forgiveness, shared memories and sweet melodies.
when: April 23 - May 4
where: Subiaco Arts Centre
info/bookings: see What's On at yirrayaakin.com.au/

VICTORIA

37
 A play by Nathan Maynard Melbourne Theatre Company
when: until April 5
where: The Sumner, Southbank Theatre, Southbank
info/bookings: mtc.com.au/

NGV International Triennial
 Features First Nations artists including Betty Muffler, Aunty Kim Wandin,

Iluwanti Ken, Selinda Davidson, Lehuauakea, Keith Wikmunea, Timo Hogan, Wanapati Yunupingu, Burarra women from Maningrida Community, and Sky Hopinka
when: until Apr 7
where: NGV International, St Kilda Road, Melbourne
info/bookings: ngv.vic.gov.au/triennial/events/

Watercolour Country: 100 Works from Hermannsburg

when: until April 14
where: The Ian Potter Centre, National Gallery of Victoria, Fed Square, Melbourne
info/bookings: ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/watercolour-country/

The Country Road and NGV First Nations Commissions: My Country

A national, biennial mentorship and exhibition program that pairs emerging Australian First Nations artists and designers with one of eight esteemed industry mentors.
when: until Aug 4
where: The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Fed Square
info/bookings: ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/country-road-ngv-first-nations-commissions/

JSXH MVIR: Forever I Live

when: until July 14
where: Koorie Heritage Trust, Birrarung Building, Federation Square
info/bookings:

koorieheritagetrust.com.au

NEW SOUTH WALES

Biennale of Sydney 2024: Ten Thousand Suns
when: until Jun 10
where: venues in Sydney
info/bookings: biennaleofsydney.art/

4th National Indigenous Art Triennial

when: until May 19
where: Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo
info/bookings: NGA exhibition on tour, for details visit nga.gov.au/exhibitions/national-indigenous-art-triennial-ceremony/

Destiny Deacon

An exhibition of new and historic works by the political activist/artist.
when: until April 6
where: Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Paddington
info/bookings: roslynoxley9.com.au/

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

Last week in Port for this touring exhibition.
when: until March 31
where: Glasshouse Regional Gallery, Port Macquarie
info/bookings: saltwaterfreshwater.com.au/contact/

Cast in cast out

Display inspired by Dennis Golding
when: Mar 16 - Aug 4 and

Ngaya (I am)

This video installation explores the multiple identities of queer Ngarigo artist Peter Waples-Crowe, who was adopted and raised in the Illawarra region on the NSW South Coast and later reconnected with his Ngarigo heritage.
when: Mar 16 - Aug 25 and
Coomaditchie: The Art of Place
when: Mar 30 - Aug 25
where: Museum of Sydney, corner of Phillip and Bridge St, Sydney
info/bookings: mhns.wa.au/

Thelma Plum

when: May 29
where: Sydney Opera House
info/bookings: thelmaplum.com/shows

NATIONAL

Jessica Mauboy: Yours Forever tour

when: until May 4
where: touring nationally
info/bookings: tickets selling fast with some venues sold out. For details visit jessicamauboy.com.au/

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT

Welding offers plenty of work opportunities



WHEN Torres Strait Islander John Pilot started working in engineering – it was after a big change in his career.

John is currently one of the First Year mechanical fitting apprentices at Munster Services Group (MSG).

But, after spending the majority of his working life in the warehousing industry doing pick and packing and forklift driving, he decided to follow the engineering career path known as 'welding'. Now he is one of 115 other MSG employees involved in roles such as boilermakers, fabricators, fitters, turners, electricians, engineers and more.

"I chose a career in engineering to gain a different experience and trade in a new line of work," John said,

"I love working hands-on with tools, learning more about the different types of tools used in the industry and how machinery works.

"I enjoy the assembly and disassembly of working machinery parts, learning how they work and the importance of their function.

"It's also great learning about the different networks and site repairs and maintenance in the field."

The engineering career path of welding covers a broad range of jobs and skills - including boiler makers and mechanical fitters.

According to peak welding industry body, Weld Australia, Australia is facing a looming shortage of skilled welders.

Call for a national training network

Weld Australia chief executive Geoff Crittenden said 70,000



Torres Strait Islander John Pilot at work.

additional welders will be needed in the next 10 years.

Geoff said there is a real need for a national network of Indigenous welding schools to skill up and employ the Mob – and close the gap – and that Welding Australia is urging the Federal Government to invest in creating the national network.

"Demand is being driven by defence, infrastructure and resource projects – and exacerbated by supply chain issues promoting growth in local companies," he said.

"The upcoming renewable energy boom will further overheat the market.

"Welding-specific VET training and employment

pathways for Indigenous Australians could help alleviate some of these skills shortages for industry and close the gap for Indigenous Australians."

According to the Productivity Commission's first review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, governments are not adequately delivering on their commitment to the Agreement.

Closing the gap

"A national network of Indigenous Welding Schools could help progress three of the 19 national socio-economic targets outlined in Closing the Gap," Geoff said.

"The initiative not only aligns with the national socio-economic

targets of the Closing the Gap agreement—enhancing education, employment, and community development for Indigenous Australians—but also offers a tangible solution to the pressing need for skilled labour in the welding industry.

"For the past five years, Weld Australia has approached every government, to secure funding to create a national network of Indigenous Welding Schools that use the latest augmented reality and advanced welding systems.

"We have been largely rebuffed by governments of all persuasions."

"Weld Australia has written to the Albanese Government, urging it recognise the value and

necessity of the Indigenous Welding Schools concept.

Indigenous Welding Schools program

"The Indigenous Welding Schools program would be predominantly run by Indigenous educators and trades people who would mesh the practical demands of the welding trade with a culturally appropriate curriculum, pastoral support and employment pathways to deliver gate-ready welders to industry," Geoff said.

"Students would graduate qualified and certified to the internationally recognised welding competency standard ISO 9606.

"The model and technology would be identical to that deployed by Weld Australia in its successful existing programs in over 65 schools. These are the VET Centre of Excellence in seven Corrections Victoria prisons and the NSW Advanced Manufacturing Schools Outreach Program."

John's advice

John said his advice to other First Nations people considering a career in engineering is "that it's interesting and enjoyable as well as challenging".

"There's plenty of ways to expand your qualifications," John said.

"It's an industry that is booming and there is plenty of opportunity for growth and moving up in the engineering industry and once you're qualified there's good money to be earned.

"I encourage anyone who keen to get started in engineering to stick with it. It's well worth it."

For more information about Weld Australia, visit weldaustralia.com.au.

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

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No other newspaper aimed at the Indigenous market can offer this!*

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Murra Mia Aboriginal Corporation
Aboriginal Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Services- Western NSW  **Murra Mia AC**

Tenancy Advocate
Aboriginal Identified Position
Full- Time
Location-Dubbo

Overview of Position: A Tenant Advocate advises Aboriginal tenants of their tenancy rights and responsibilities, works with tenants to mediate tenant landlord disputes.

Murra Mia Aboriginal Corporation provides community education, advocates and mediates with, and on behalf of, Aboriginal Tenants at the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT). Interlinking and liaising with agencies and clients, providing referrals to support services for clients with complex needs, the service is available to Aboriginal renters right across our region in Western NSW, which includes Orana, Far West NSW, Central West NSW.

A Tenancy Advocate will work as part of a team to provide practical supportive and specialist intervention to those who seek assistance from our service.

A Tenancy Advocate will be required to travel frequently to attend client in person meetings and NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal Hearings.

This is an identified position under Section 9A of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977. Male applicants are encouraged to apply.

NOTE: Please forward Resumes to cara.lake@aru.org.au

Enquires: Cara Lake 0418-866-146 or email cara.lake@aru.org.au

Closing date: 10 April 2024

MAKING A DIFFERENCE SO SOUTH AUSTRALIA THRIVES



SUPERVISOR, SENIOR ADVISOR ABORIGINAL PROGRAMS

Department for Correctional Services
Adelaide CBD

Full Time Ongoing Position

Ref no. 580809

AHP3, PO3, ASO6

\$97,022 – \$110,094 pa

For more information and how to apply visit: www.iworkfor.sa.gov.au

Applications close:

11pm 10 April 2024

W22094

IWORKFOR.SA.gov.au



Youth Transition Case Worker
Aboriginal Identified Position

- Located in Canterbury
- Full time 38 hours per week
- Contract to 30th June 2027
- Salary of \$88,288 gross per annum + super + generous salary packaging

Are you a dedicated, passionate Aboriginal case worker with experience in providing holistic trauma informed care for young people on an outreach basis? Want to make a real difference by supporting young people impacted by the criminal justice system? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

- Play a key part in our program, and contribute to long-lasting change for our clients and the community
- Join a diverse and passionate team in a flexible and supportive organisation

We want to hear from people from First Nations backgrounds, including those with lived experience of the criminal justice system and homelessness.

Why work for us?

- Support programs that aim to break entrenched cycles of disadvantage, homelessness and imprisonment
- Be part of a community-based agency that has been delivering effective services in our field for over 70 years
- Join a dedicated, energetic team with a culture of flexibility, trust, integrity and respect
- Additional Wellbeing Leave
- Access the support of Cultural Supervision for First Nations staff

How to apply:

CRC considers being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a genuine occupational qualification as specified under section 14 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW).

Applications will remain open until the position is filled. PLEASE APPLY NOW!

Apply via: <https://www.crcnsw.org.au/about-us/work-with-the-crc/?ja-job=861245>

For more information email recruitment@crcnsw.org.au



Calling: Industrial Electricians for an Accelerated Secondary Systems Technician Development Program

- Opportunities available in Orange, Yass, Wagga Wagga and Tamworth
- Competitive starting salary package: \$122,162.04 (includes 15.5% superannuation)
- Kickstart your career as a Secondary Systems Technician

Are you a qualified Industrial Electrician and looking for an exciting career change? Transgrid is offering comprehensive training and hands-on experience tailored to accelerate your career as a Secondary Systems Technician.

Throughout the development program you will learn the necessary skills required to perform Secondary Systems Technical work at Transgrid, including protection relay and scheme testing, metering accuracy testing, electrical fault finding in a substation environment and an introduction into substation high voltage equipment. The development program is approximately 6 months in duration, and after the successful completion of the training you will be a permanent full-time Grade 1 Secondary System Technician.

Why Transgrid? You will help us make a better power system for Australians that supports a transition to a clean energy future.

For more information and to complete your application,

scan this QR code:



Applications close on Monday 1 April 2024

For any recruitment queries related to this role, please email Kailee Standen, kailee.standen@transgrid.com.au



Careers with Queensland Health

Advanced Health Worker

Cultural Assessment and Liaison Team, Mental Health Service Group, Townsville Hospital and Health Service.

Remuneration package of up to \$97,236 p.a. comprising base salary range of \$80,308 – \$85,223 p.a. (+ applicable allowances/benefits) (HW5), recreational leave loading (17.5%), and employer contribution to superannuation (12.75%). Permanent Full-time position.

Duties/Abilities: In this role you will provide a high level of culturally appropriate guidance and assistance in the assessment and treatment planning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people receiving care from the North Ward Community care Team in Townsville.

The successful applicant must hold a Diploma in either: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care, Mental Health or Alcohol and other Drugs.

Enquiries: Sally Gela 07 4433 9480

Application Kit:

<https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-TV552532>

Closing Date: Monday, 15 April 2024.

You can apply online at www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au

A criminal history check may be conducted on the recommended person for the job.
A non-smoking policy applies to Queensland Government buildings, offices and motor vehicles.



Make a difference in the lives of First Nations people

Multiple opportunities to join Aboriginal Hostels Limited



Scan the QR code to learn more



Community Development Officer Aboriginal Services

Full time temporary up to 3 years

To perform this role, it is essential that the person is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. It is therefore a genuine occupational requirement under Section 14(d) of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

Salary: \$87,559 to \$97,986 per annum (based on 70 hours per fortnight) plus superannuation and a nine-day fortnight.

Appointed salary in this range will be based on skills, qualifications, and experience.

About us

Hornsby Shire is located on Sydney's upper north shore, approximately 25 kilometres north of the CBD. Known as the 'Bushland Shire,' our local government area is characterised by bushland comprising national park, major waterways, natural reserves, and rural landscape. The rest of the Shire combines urban, rural, and open spaces.

Council for many years has had an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee with representatives from the Traditional Owners, the Dharug and GuriNgai Peoples and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples who live, work, study or have a strong commitment to the Hornsby LGA.

About the Role

The primary purpose of this position is to develop and foster effective and strong communication networks between the Hornsby Shire Council, the local Aboriginal community, and the local community services sector.

Responsibilities of this role include;

- Contributing to the development of strategic policies to address the needs of Hornsby Shire's Aboriginal Community.
- Supporting and advocating on community issues
- Collaborating with stakeholders in the development and implementation of meaningful and responsive community development activities.
- Research and prepare grant application for funding projects and community events relevant to the Aboriginal community.
- Facilitating the engagement between Council and Aboriginal stakeholders relating to heritage and environmental matters.
- Support Hornsby Shire Council's Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee.
- Support the facilitating and coordinating of Aboriginal Community activities and events.
- Provide information and education to Hornsby Shire Council and community to raise cultural awareness.

About you

To be successful in this role you will have tertiary qualifications in community development or social science and good research skills or extensive experience in the sector.

You will be a proactive, strategic thinker with well-developed communication and consultation skills.

Benefits of working with us!

We pride ourselves on having a fantastic culture with a genuine appreciation for work-life balance.

Visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/careers and click on "what we offer" to learn about the wonderful benefits available at Hornsby Council.

Please note you must be double vaccinated to work in this position and to attend an interview.

You will be required to have a current Working with Children Check to work in this position.

For information about the position and to apply please visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/careers

Closing Date: 15 April 2024 at 11.30pm

Notice of Election

In 2024 Local Land Services (LLS) will hold 11 elections to fill 34 local board member roles across the state. Each LLS region will elect 3 candidates, with the Western region to elect 4.

How to vote

You may vote in the election if you are 18 or older and an occupier of a rateable holding under the *Local Land Services Act 2013* (or an authorised representative).

To vote you will first need to request an electronic or postal voting pack using one of the options below:

1. Scanning the QR code below
2. Visiting our website
lls.nsw.gov.au/board-recruitment
3. Calling 1300 795 299
4. Visiting your local LLS office.

How to nominate yourself or others

Read the Candidate Election Pack on the LLS website to learn about the role and eligibility requirements.

Scan the QR code to complete a nomination form.



Key dates

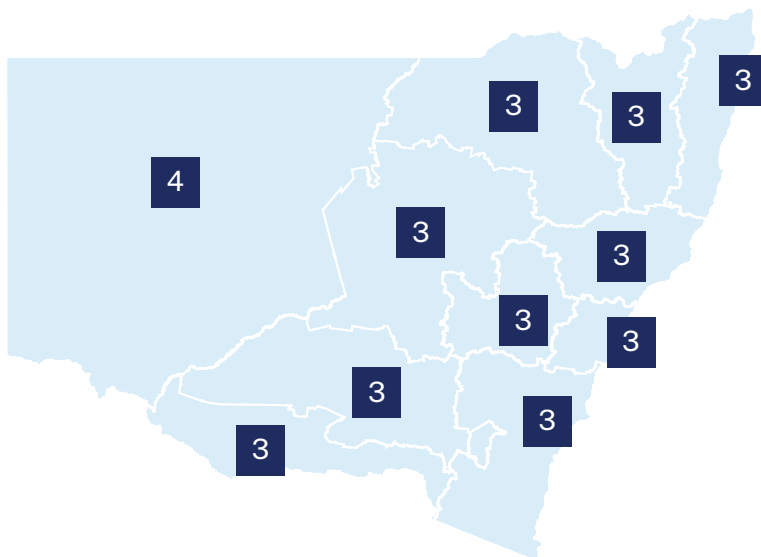
Candidate nominations close **11:59 pm, 14 April.**

Electronic voting pack requests close **5 pm, 12 June.**

Postal voting pack requests close **5 pm, 3 May.**

Voting opens **9 am, 21 May** and closes **5 pm, 14 June.**

The election results will be announced in July.



For more information visit our website or contact the returning officer:

 lls.nsw.gov.au/board-recruitment
 returning.officer@lls.nsw.gov.au



Intern Opportunity at Vivid Property Services!

Join us for one day a week!

Requirements:

- Indigenous Australian
- Good communication skills
- Enthusiastic learner
- Basic Microsoft Office skills

Apply now for diversity at

Please contact
ckolistasi@vividservices.com.au



Coonamble
Local Aboriginal Land Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Full time
(Remuneration Package Negotiable)
Full Time/Permanent (35 Hours)

The Coonamble Local Aboriginal Land Council (NLALC) is seeking applications from experienced and motivated people interested in a rewarding career undertaking the challenging role of full-time Chief Executive Officer.

This position holder will provide an extensive range of assistance and support to the elected Board through the day-to-day management of the Coonamble LALC's affairs in accordance with delegated authorities; the provision of sound and accurate advice and the implementation of the Board's resolutions in a timely and appropriate manner.

The successful applicant will have demonstrable knowledge and understanding of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALRA) (or the ability to rapidly acquire), the capacity to interpret and implement legislation and sound communication skills. Organisational and management experience is essential together with an understanding of accounting practices and principles. A sound knowledge and appreciation of Aboriginal issues would also be required.

All applicants must obtain a copy of the recruitment package containing the Position Description and selection criteria and address the selection criteria for their application to be considered.

For a recruitment package contact the Coonamble LALC office, by email: ceo@coonamblelalc.com.au or on (02) 68222100.

ONLY APPLICATIONS ADDRESSING THE SELECTION CRITERIA ALONG WITH YOUR RESUME WILL BE CONSIDERED

Applications and an up to date copy of your resume can be forwarded to ceo@coonamble.com.au or marked "Confidential" and posted to:

The CEO Recruitment Panel
Coonamble Local Aboriginal Land Council
16 Castlereagh Street
COONAMBLE NSW 2821

Applications close DATE 19th April 2024

Koori Mail Easter Sale Over 20% Off!

Get your Jarjums something deadly
this Easter!

Our Jarjum Hoodies are on sale for \$50.
Available in Black, Charcoal, Royal Blue
and Red, sizes 4-16.

Website: <https://shop.koorimail.com>



CURRICULUM RESOURCES WRITER

Learning areas:
primary and secondary music, maths and HPE; primary general

CONTRACTOR | WFH / LOCATION ANYWHERE | \$70 +GST HOURLY RATE

- Are you ready to write engaging curriculum resources for teachers?
- Do you want to be part of a team that makes a difference in education?
- Are you interested in seeing better outcomes for First Nations people?

ABOUT AUSTRALIANS TOGETHER EDUCATION

We work together respectfully, by listening and learning, to collaboratively create educational resources for all Australians, to increase awareness and understanding of our shared history, its ongoing impact, and help pave the way for meaningful actions.

THE ROLE

As a **Curriculum Resources Writer**, you'll work under the direction of the Product Specialist – Curriculum Resources to contribute to the expanding suite of Australians Together (AT) curriculum resources. You'll be responsible for writing and refining curriculum resources and materials that are aligned with the AT guidelines and that teachers will meet to teachers' and students' needs. To ensure the accuracy and relevance of the resources, a First Nations cultural adviser will share expertise and collaborate with you during the research and writing process.

You'll write curriculum resources that meet AITSL Teaching Standards 1.4 and 2.4 and assist teachers to deliver the Australian Curriculum's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures cross-curriculum priority. You'll be writing for the year levels and learning areas you're most familiar with. In primary years these often have a cross- or inter-disciplinary teaching and learning approach.

YOU ARE:

- **culturally savvy:** you understand the importance of cultural intelligence and intercultural understanding and the place it has in education
- **a writer at heart:** you can organise ideas, express yourself clearly and your sentences make sense!
- **a curriculum expert:** you know what engages students and meets the needs of teachers; you're familiar with the Australian Curriculum and AITSL Standards; you can structure a unit of learning effectively
- **a lover of research:** you love fact finding and assessing sources for quality and relevance
- **detail-oriented:** you have an excellent eye for detail; you're a stickler for spelling and grammar and have an excellent eye for detail; you can plan, juggle and organise your goals and tasks to ensure everything runs smoothly
- **proactive with a can-do attitude:** you're enthusiastic and motivated with a can-do approach; you thrive in a team environment and can work independently when needed; with your great time-management skills, you can plan effectively to get things done
- **a fast learner:** you instinctively adapt to change and challenges while keeping your cool.

Applicants are required to have suitable work-from-home office arrangements.

TO APPLY

Contact careers@australianstogether.org.au if you'd like a detailed job description, or email us your CV and cover letter if you think you're the right fit.

Applications close **Sunday 28th April 2024**.



Country Advocate Researcher, First Nations (ID)

Department: Australian Museum

Location: Employment Type: Sydney Region

Classification: Temporary – Part Time

Salary: Clerk Grade 7/8. Annual salary \$106,025-\$117,363, plus employer's contribution to superannuation (currently 11%) and annual leave loading..

Enquiries: Mariko.Smith@Australian.Museum

I work for NSW Job ref: 0000A18E

Closing Date: 02 April 2024

About the Role:

This role has been established and funded through an AM partnership for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers working in the fields of natural sciences and cultural management of Country in cultural solutions to climate change, land and water health.

This new role is aligned to help the Australian Museum to deliver a core aspect of its Corporate Strategic Plan and Reconciliation Action Plan, and also enhance our commitment to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander employment.

This is an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identified role, fixed term (up to 3 years) part time (3-4 days per week).

We are seeking an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researcher who has an existing specialisation in 'on Country-based' regeneration projects or has researched First Nations-led regeneration initiatives. This research role will undertake an academic research project(s) within the AM's First Nations Division and collaborate with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities in NSW who are using cultural knowledge to find climate solutions.



Communities and Justice



Now Hiring! Aboriginal Residential Centre Assistants

- **Various positions available across Metro Sydney & Cessnock NSW**
- **Full-time employment**
- **Rewarding salary and role**

Join an organisation where your experience and skills are valued! This role is dedicated to improving outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

As part of this role, the successful candidate will aid the residents of the Centres across Campbelltown, Cessnock and Matraville and facilitate effective and efficient implementation of the aims and objectives of the program.

Visit jobs.dcj.nsw.gov.au and quote:

65480 – Aboriginal Residential Centre Assistant – Nunyara – Matraville NSW

65944 – Aboriginal Residential Centre Assistant – ISC – Campbelltown NSW

65943 – Aboriginal Residential Centre Assistant – Miruma – Cessnock NSW

Applications are open for a limited time only.

LP2075

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Australian Government

**Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water**

Murray-Darling Basin Aboriginal Water Entitlements Program Interim Governance positions

We are establishing an interim governance arrangement to support the delivery of the Aboriginal Water Entitlements Program. The interim governance arrangements will support the purchase of \$100 million of water entitlements to increase water ownership for First Nations Peoples in the Murray-Darling Basin.

The interim governance arrangement will be in place until the water purchased can be permanently transferred to the program's enduring water holding arrangement currently being determined with Basin First Nations Peoples.

We're looking for First Nation individuals to join the interim governance directorate and advisory group to support the purchase of water entitlements through the program.

Successful candidates will undertake work that contributes to the management and implementation of a complex and unique water program. They must therefore be diligent and motivated to increase First Nations Peoples water ownership in the Basin and able to work in a highly dynamic environment.

About the Roles

Directorate Role – 2 positions available

The directorate will work with the department to make commercial and water purchasing decisions in the best interest of Basin First Nations.

Directors will be chosen for their expertise and ability to meet technical requirements/criteria. Directors will not speak on behalf of their own Nation or a state or territory government.

Advisory Group role – up to 8 positions available

The advisory group will develop policies, principles and protocols to support decision making by the directorate. They will not represent themselves, their Nation, or a state or territory government.

Candidates will be selected to achieve a mix of skills and expertise, made up of Elders, emerging leaders, a gender balance and representation from the north and south of the Basin.

Applications will be open throughout April 2024

The roles are expected to start from May 2024.

Positions are available to First Nations Peoples with a connection to or understanding of the Basin.

To learn more about the roles and how to apply, visit <https://www.dccew.gov.au/aboriginal-water-entitlements-program/recruitment>

0705KH_4618

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Invitation to Register Interest Optical Fibre Project: Nyngan to Orange, NSW

Ventia Pty Ltd has engaged Australian Heritage Services (AHS) on behalf of Telstra InfraCo (the proponent) to undertake an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for a proposed 298 kilometre optical fibre cable alignment between Nyngan and Orange, NSW (the Project). The Project is within the Bogan Shire Council, Narromine Shire Council, Orange City Council, Dubbo Regional Council, Warren Shire Council, and Cabonne Shire Council Local Government Areas and will primarily be parallel to the Mitchell Highway.

Aboriginal individuals and groups with cultural knowledge relevant to identifying the significance of Aboriginal objects, places, and values in the project area are invited to express their interest in a community consultation process. The purpose of the consultation is to inform the assessment and assist the Director of Heritage NSW (Department of Planning and Environment) in the consideration and determination of any approvals that may be required for the project.

Please note that details of the Aboriginal people or organisations who register an interest in consultation will be forwarded to Heritage NSW and Dubbo, Narromine, Trangie, Warren Macquarie, and Wellington Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC). Please advise

at the time of registration if you do not wish for your details to be released to the relevant organisations.

Please register your interest to be consulted on the Project by **17 April 2024** by contacting:

Andrew Wilkinson
Australian Heritage Services
GPO Box 2990, Adelaide, SA 5001
Email: admin@australianheritageservices.com.au
Phone: 0417 329 714

For more project information please contact:

Matthew Federici
Stakeholder Engagement Liaison
Ventia Pty Ltd (on behalf of Telstra InfraCo)
167 Cremorne St,
Richmond, VIC 3121
Phone: 1300 473 619
Email: stakeholder.amg@ventia.com

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Invitation to Register Interest Optical Fibre Project: Emmdale to Nyngan, NSW

Ventia Pty Ltd has engaged Australian Heritage Services (AHS) on behalf of Telstra InfraCo (the proponent) to undertake an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for a proposed 290 kilometre optical fibre cable alignment between Emmdale and Nyngan, NSW (the Project). The Project is within the Central Darling Shire Council, Bogan Shire Council, and the Cobar Shire Council Local Government Areas and will primarily be parallel to the Barrier Highway.

Aboriginal individuals and groups with cultural knowledge relevant to identifying the significance of Aboriginal objects, places, and values in the project area are invited to express their interest in a community consultation process. The purpose of the consultation is to inform the assessment and assist the Director of Heritage NSW (Department of Planning and Environment) in the consideration and determination of any approvals that may be required for the project.

Please note that details of the Aboriginal people or organisations who register an interest in consultation will be forwarded to Heritage NSW and Wilcannia, Wangaaypuwan, Nyngan, and Cobar Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC). Please advise at the time of

registration if you do not wish for your details to be released to the relevant organisations.

Please register your interest to be consulted on the Project by **17 April 2024** by contacting:

Andrew Wilkinson
Australian Heritage Services
GPO Box 2990, Adelaide, SA 5001
Email: admin@australianheritageservices.com.au
Phone: 0417 329 714

For more project information please contact:

Matthew Federici
Stakeholder Engagement Liaison
Ventia Pty Ltd (on behalf of Telstra InfraCo)
167 Cremorne St,
Richmond, VIC 3121
Phone: 1300 473 619
Email: stakeholder.amg@ventia.com

Public Notice

Alkimos DN1600 Trunk Main from Wanneroo Road to Wanneroo Reservoir

Request for Proposal Number – 7000014200

Opening Date: 10:00am, WST, Tuesday, 2 April 2024

Closing Date: 14:30 hrs (2:30pm), WST, Tuesday, 14 May 2024

Water Corporation is inviting organisations with suitable experience, capability, and capacity to form an Alliance to deliver the Alkimos DN1600 Trunk Main from Wanneroo Road to Wanneroo Reservoir. This project is intended to include design, construction and commissioning.

If you are not a registered Water Corporation supplier or bidder, please complete the online Supplier Registration form available at watercorporation.com.au/suppliers. Please be aware, this may take up to five working days to process.

It is mandatory that all bidders are granted Water Corporation Health Safety and Environment (HSE) Prequalification, at the level nominated in the bid invitation before contract award. This application can be lodged via our website.

Enquiries should be directed to:

Janet Dahl
E: Janet.dahl@watercorporation.com.au

watercorporation.com.au



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SUPPLEMENTARY NOTICE TO THE WONGKUMARA PEOPLE (DEFINED BELOW) IN RELATION TO WONGKUMARA PEOPLE NATIVE TITLE CLAIM QUD851/2018

(“WONGKUMARA CLAIM”) AUTHORISATION MEETING TO BE HELD 17th AND 18th APRIL 2024 AT DUBBO TURF CLUB, DUBBO.

TAKE NOTICE that in addition to the business set out in the Wongkumara Claim Authorisation Meeting Notice published 13 March 2023 which is

1. Approve a draft of the proposed s 87A Orders to be made by the Court recognising Wongkumara People's native title rights and interests in Part A and Part B of the Wongkumara claim area as shown on the map.
2. Authorise the nomination of the Wangkumarra Kawalanyi Aboriginal Corporation ICN 7384 (WKAC) to hold the Native Title on Trust for the Wongkumara people and to be the Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) for those rights and interests in the proposed determination area.
3. Authorise ILUA's with the State of NSW and the State of Queensland in respect of all or parts of the Wongkumara claim area and with Yandruwandha Yawarrawarrka Traditional Land Owners (Aboriginal Corporation) RNTBC (ICN 3840) negotiated as part of the resolution of, or relevant to, the claim.
4. Authorise the outcomes negotiated by the Wongkumara Negotiating Team with the State of NSW providing compensation for areas in NSW, within the Wongkumara determination area, where Native Title has been Extinguished, the Wongkumara Claim Authorisation Meeting will in addition be requested to
5. Authorise the s 47C agreement with the State of NSW over parcels of land where non-exclusive native title can be recognised.
6. Authorise amendments to the Wongkumara Claim Form 1 to align its terms with the proposed consent determination.
7. Authorise such changes or additions as may be needed to complete the documentation for resolution of the Wongkumara Claim by consent.

All other arrangements for the meeting remain unchanged and are

Date: 12:00pm to 4:00pm 17 April 2024 and, if required, 9:30am to 12:30pm 18 April 2024

Venue: Dubbo Turf Club, Merrilea Road, Dubbo NSW 2830.

Only members of the native title claim group will be entitled to participate in the meeting being those persons who fit within the following description proposed for the determination:

The Wongkumara People are the descendants of ancestors who are recognised as having had a connection to the Determination Area in accordance with the laws and customs of the regional society described by Professor A P Elkin as “the Lakes Group”, and who are recognised and accepted by other Wongkumara People as being native title holders. Those ancestors include:

- (a) Charlotte (mother of Jack, Queenie and May Hines, Rosie Jones and Willy Dutton);
- (b) Siblings Polly (mother of Albert Ebsworth, Same and Tommy Burgamar) and Charlie Nockatunga;
- (c) Maggie and Tommy (parents of Nellie Flash and Angelina);
- (d) Kutji (mother of George Dutton);
- (e) Tarella and her children Elizabeth and Harry (Fred) Hartnett;
- (f) Norman Harding;
- (g) Siblings Nellie (mother of Lucy Harding) and Judy (mother of Donald David Gillis);
- (h) Jenny (mother of Alf Barlow); and
- (i) Neddie and Nancy (grandparents of Jimmy Sedeek).

The Wongkumara People include persons who are adopted into the families of the Wongkumara People in accordance with traditional laws and customs, and who are recognised and accepted by other Wongkumara People as being native title holders.

Travel Assistance:

The only assistance provided will be reimbursement of money spent on fuel for motor vehicles or bus tickets for travel to and from Dubbo for this Authorisation Meeting, but only if receipts or invoices as proof expenditure are provided.

Registration

To Register please contact Eddy Neumann Lawyers by

Post: Level 1, 255 Castlereagh Street Sydney NSW 2000,

Email: info@eddyneumann.com.au OR

Phone: 02 9264 9933

Please try to provide the following information by 4pm 10th of April 2024 your Full Name, date of Birth, address, telephone, email and which of the above listed ancestor(s) you are descended from.

Map showing Part A and Part B of claim area



Dated 20/03/2024

For and on behalf of The Applicant Wongkumara Claim

Renotification of a non-claimant application for determination of native title in New South Wales

Notification day: 10 April 2024

Important note: This notice replaces a previous notice which identified a notification date of 27 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 9 July 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 9 July 2024. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After 9 July 2024, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.



Applicant's name: Port Macquarie Tidal Pool Committee Incorporated
Federal Court File No: NSD1559/2023
Non-native title interest: The applicant holds Licence RN642668 under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (NSW) in relation to the whole of the application area
Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks section 24FA protection over the application area in accordance with section 24FC of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth)

Description: The application area covers part of Lot 467 on DP754434, part of Lot 7053 on DP1074173, Lot 7024 on DP1060496, Lot 7064 on DP1060497 and part of Oxley's Beach and South Pacific Ocean, which are located in Port Macquarie, south of Flagstaff Lookout adjacent to the eastern boundary of Pacific Drive totalling approx. 2.5 ha

Relevant LGA: Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

For assistance and further information about this application, call Sylvia Jagtman on 07 3052 4248 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

Notice of applications for determination of native title in the Northern Territory

Notification day: 10 April 2024

These are applications by native title claim groups which are asking the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) to determine that they hold native title in the areas described below.

If you want to become a party to any of these applications, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, on or before 9 July 2024. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After 9 July 2024, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) there can be only one determination of native title for a particular area. If a person with native title rights and interests does not become a party to any of these applications, there may be no other opportunity for the Federal Court, in making its determinations, to take into account those native title rights and interests in relation to the areas concerned.



Application name: Bessie Coleman & Anor on behalf of the Jawoyn Bolmo, Matjba and Wurrkbarbar Group v Northern Territory of Australia (Mary River East Pastoral Lease)
Federal Court File No: NTD10/2023
Date filed: 30 March 2023
Registration test status: The Native Title Registrar has **accepted** this application for registration

Description: The application area covers about 1,352 sq km and is located approximately 8.5 km east of Pine Creek
Relevant LGA: Victoria Daly Region



Application name: Bradley Farrar & Ors and the Northern Territory of Australia (Kewulyi Polygon Claim)
Federal Court File No: NTD27/2023
Date filed: 20 December 2023
Registration test status: The Native Title Registrar has **accepted** this application for registration

Description: The application area covers about 74 sq km and is situated wholly within the Namul Namul Pastoral Lease and located approximately 102 km east of Mataranka
Relevant LGA: Roper Gulf Region

For assistance and further information about these applications, call Huia McGrath on 08 6317 5442 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BARADA KABALBARA YETIMARALA NATIVE TITLE AUTHORISATION MEETING AND INFORMATION SESSION

An authorisation meeting has been called by Queensland South Native Title Services (QSNTS) for the Barada Kabalbara Yetimarala People (BKY People) (described below) in relation to the Barada Kabalbara Yetimarala native title determination applications (QUD13/2019 and QUD15/2019) (the Applications).

The BKY People are any persons who are a descendant of the following apical ancestors (including through adoption or raising up):

- (a) Unnamed Barada Woman (spouse of Johnny and Charlie Budby);
- (b) Lucy and/or Jimmy Barber;
- (c) Kitty (aka Kitty Eaglehawk);
- (d) Yatton Boney;
- (e) Maggie (mother of Jack Mack and Gypsy Tyson); and
- (f) King Boco.

AUTHORISATION MEETING

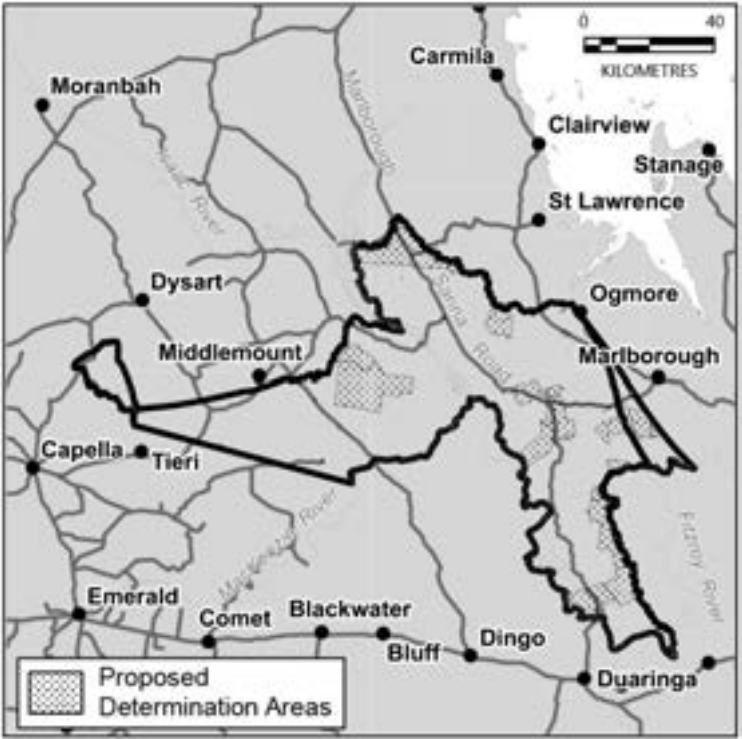
This notice invites all BKY People as described above to attend a native title authorisation meeting at the time, date and location below:

Date: Sunday, 7 April 2024
Venue: Dreamtime Cultural Centre, Rockhampton
Registration: 8:30 am
Time: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

The purpose of the Authorisation Meeting is to consider, and if appropriate, authorise the following:

- The draft section 87 agreements (which sets out the terms of the proposed consent determinations) and draft consent determination orders for the Applications proposed for filing in the Federal Court of Australia. The draft consent determination includes proposed orders dealing with:
 - a. Who the native title holders are;
 - b. The nature of the rights and interests of the native title holders; and
 - c. The land included in the determination and where native title has been excluded;
- To nominate a prescribed body corporate to hold and manage the determined native title under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) for the BKY People's Native Title Determination and potentially to nominate BKY Indigenous Corporation to fulfil that function.

The area covered by the proposed section 87 agreements, which will form the determination area where native title will be recognised in the consent determination, is depicted in the Map below.



INFORMATION SESSION

All BKY People are encouraged to attend the Information Session at the time and location below:

Date: Saturday, 6 April 2024
Venue: Dreamtime Cultural Centre, Rockhampton
Registration: 8:30 am
Time: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

The purpose of the Information Session is to:

- Discuss and settle a code of conduct for the running of the Authorisation Meeting;
- Inform the BKY People about the content and purpose of the proposed section 87 agreements and consent determinations;
- Inform the BKY People about the nomination of a corporation to be the nominated prescribed body corporate for the Applications; and
- Invite BKY People to ask questions that they may have before the Authorisation Meeting.

REGISTERING FOR THE AUTHORISATION MEETING & INFORMATION SESSION

Registration will occur before the Information Session and Authorisation Meeting commence. All BKY People are required to register under the name of the apical ancestor/s through whom they claim to be a BKY Person.

We strongly encourage all BKY People to attend both the Information Session and the Authorisation Meeting so that the BKY People can make informed decisions about a consent determination.

All BKY People are requested to contact QSNTS' First Nations Engagement Unit on Freecall 1800 663 693 to register their attendance.

QSNTS regrets that it is unable to assist with transport to or from, or accommodation for, the Information Session or Authorisation Meeting. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided to participants on the days.



NOTICE OF A NATIVE TITLE CLAIM GROUP AUTHORISATION MEETING FOR THE NGEMBA, NGIYAMPAA, WANGAAYPUWAN AND WAYILWAN PEOPLE NATIVE TITLE CLAIM GROUP (NSD 38/2019)



When:	FRIDAY 19 APRIL 2024 9:00am to 9.30am – Meeting registration* 9:30am – Meeting opened 5:00pm – Meeting closed	SUNDAY 21 APRIL 2024 9:00am to 9.30am – Meeting registration* 9:30am – Meeting opened 5:00pm – Meeting closed
	SATURDAY 20 APRIL 2024 9:00am to 9.30am – Meeting registration* 9:30am – Meeting opened 5:00pm – Meeting closed	MONDAY 22 APRIL 2024 9:00am to 9.30am – Meeting registration* 9:30am – Meeting opened 1:00pm – Meeting closed

***Note:** To attend in person, registration will be open to members anytime throughout the meeting, but members are encouraged to register each day between 9.00am to 9.30am to allow adequate time for all business to be addressed. To attend by videoconference/telephone you must register by **Wednesday 12 April 2024**.

Where:	In person: Gilgandra Services Club, 33 Morris St, Gilgandra NSW 2827
	Remote Access: Contact NTSCORP to register to attend by videoconference or telephone (by Wednesday 12 April 2024 at the latest).
Who should attend:	The meeting is open to all members of the native title claim group in the Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wangaaypuwan and Wayilwan native title determination application (NSD38/2019) (referred to as the “ NNWW Claim Group ” or “ NNWW People ”, and “ NNWW Claim ” respectively), being those Aboriginal persons who are:

(a) the descendants of the following apical ancestors:

1. Caroline Hilt (who was born on the Barwon River around 1847);

2. Thomas Sullivan (who was born in Brewarrina around 1860);

3. Nellie Colless (who was born in Brewarrina around 1868);

4. Billy Coleman (who was born in Cobar in 1840);

5. Mary Ann Allen (who was born in 1844);

6. Moses Biggs (who was born in 1837);

7. Polly Parkes (who was born in 1846);

8. Anne Brandy (who was born in Colane in 1874);

9. Caroline Brandy (who was born on Duck Creek in 1869);

10. Wadna Boe (who was born in 1848)

11. Richard King (who was born in 1827);

12. Jimmy Keewong (who was born in 1849);

13. Kitty Narrangie;

14. Tom Dennis (who was born in Brewarrina in 1864);

15. Winnie Pierce (who was born in Brewarrina in 1878);

16. Jack Dennis (who was born on the Barwon River in around 1855);

17. Kate Baker (who was born in Boorooma in 1874);

18. Francis “Tracker” Williams (who was born in Gundabooka in 1883);

19. William Johnson (who was born in Big Willandra in 1876);

20. Henry Parkes (who was born in 1863);

21. Topsy Harris also known as Topsy Scotty (who was born in Marfield in 1866);

22. Jack Redtank;

23. Thomas Williams also known as Thomas Broughton (who was born in Roto);

24. Maggie Redtank (who was born in Keewong in 1868);

25. Ada Arnott (who was born in Nyngan in 1865);

26. Moses Divine;

27. Jack Smith (who was born in Mossgiel in 1869);

28. Ellen Sprowl also known as Ellen McHughes (who was born in Brewarrina in 1867);

29. Fanny Hippie also known as Fanny Williams;

30. Millie Wells also known as Millie Shearer (who was born in Brewarrina in 1874);

31. Pluto Williams (who was born in Trida/Mossgiel in 1873);

32. Steve Shaw (who was born in Coronga Peak in 1855);
33. Fanny Brown also known as Tiltagara Fanny (who was born in Hillston in 1862);

34. David Brown (who was born on the Macquarie River in 1850);

35. Janey Brown (who was born on the Macquarie River in 1853);

36. Betsy Gwen (who was born in Haddon Rigg near Warren in 1849);

37. Louise Hinton (who was born on the Macquarie River in 1843);

38. Cissy Lee (who was born in 1852);

39. Boorooma Murphy (who was born in Boorooma in 1832);

40. Harry Murphy (who was born in Brewarrina around 1871);

41. Thomas Nixon (who was born in Buttabone in 1843);

42. Colaine Lumpy (who was born in 1864);

43. Charlotte Wilson;

44. Tilly Riley (who was born in 1863); and

45. Geordie Murray (who was born in 1851 in Ivanhoe).

46. George Murray, born at Gundabooka Station, died 1927 at Nyngan;

47. Amy Monica Murray nee Murphy, wife of George Murray, born in Brewarrina, died 1954 at Nyngan;

48. Edward Murphy, born in Cobar, died 1960 at Walgett;

49. Maggie Warraweena nee Murphy, born at Charlton Station on the Bogan River, died 1907 at Brewarrina;

50. Eliza Wilson nee Williams, also known as Eliza Governor, born near Cobar, died 1908 at Byrock;

51. Charlie Kelly, husband of Laura Kelly nee Murray, born 1858;

52. Laura Kelly nee Murray, also known as Norah Murray and Laura Boy, wife of Charlie Kelly, died 1918 at Corinya Station;

53. Jack Shepherd, also known as John Shepherd and Jack Sheppard, born 1855 in Cobar;

54. Harry Shepherd, also known as Harry Sheppard, died 1911 in Brewarrina;

55. Harry Brandy, brother of Caroline Brandy and Anne Brandy, born circa 1869;

56. Jack Simpson, also known as Jack ‘Smart Gui’ Simpson, died 1974 at Brewarrina; and

57. Billy Boney, also known as William Boney and George Boney, born 1852 in Ginghet,

On Saturday 20 April 2024, the NNWW Claim Group will be asked to discuss and consider the Brewarrina Common Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

In the afternoon of Monday 22 April 2024, a general meeting of members of the Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wangaaypuwan, Wayilwan Aboriginal Corporation will be held to consider a request made by the Applicant in the Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wangaaypuwan and Wayilwan People's native title determination application (NSD38/2019) in relation to the Corporation becoming the registered native title body corporate when the proposed consent determination is made by the Federal Court of Australia in June 2024.

Authorisation of Section 87 Agreement and Proposed Consent Determination
At this NNWW Claim Group meeting, the NNWW Claim Group will be asked whether or not they wish to authorise the Applicant in the NNWW Claim to enter into a section 87 Agreement and Consent Determination for the recognition of NNWW People's native title.

The area proposed to be the subject of the proposed Consent Determination includes the land and waters within the external boundary of the NNWW Claim (Federal Court Proceedings NSD38/2019) as registered and as shown in the map below.



Workshop on the proposed rules for the PBC
At the NNWW Claim Group meetings on 2 and 3 March 2024 and 24 – 26 March 2024, the NNWW Claim Group discussed and decided key parts of the proposed Rulebook for the proposed Prescribed Body Corporate.

At this meeting, the NNWW Claim Group will be asked to discuss and decide the content of the proposed Rulebook for the Prescribed Body Corporate rule book, including, importantly:

- the objectives and purpose of the future NNWW People's PBC;
- the powers of the future NNWW People's PBC to conduct business on behalf of NNWW People;
- ways in which the future NNWW People's PBC can make certain decisions about the native title rights and interests of NNWW People;
- the structure of the board of directors of the future NNWW People PBC; and
- the role of a Council of Elders advisory committee in certain decisions to be made by the future NNWW People's PBC.

Agenda for the Meeting
Friday 19 April 2024

1. **Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country.**
2. **Confirm the process of decision-making, including for the purpose of authorising the Applicant for the NNWW Claim to enter into the section 87 Agreement and Consent Determination;**
3. **Consider and make decisions in relation to authorising the Applicant for the NNWW Claim to enter into the proposed section 87 Agreement and Consent Determination recognising NNWW People's native title rights and interests;**
4. **Consider and make a decisions in relation to the artwork to be used for the proposed NNWW Consent Determination invitations and commemorative shirts; and**
5. **Any other business.**

Sunday 21 April 2024 and Monday 22 April 2024

1. **Provide information about and discuss the role of a prescribed body corporate under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth);**
2. **Confirm the decision-making process, including for endorsing the Rulebook for the future NNWW People's PBC and authorising the future NNWW People's PBC to perform the functions of a registered native title body corporate;**
3. **Consider and make decisions in relation to the proposed Rulebook of the future NNWW People's PBC under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth) (CATSI Act) and the Native Title (Prescribed Body Corporate) Regulations 1999 (Cth) (PBC Regulations), including:**
 - a. the objectives and purpose of the future NNWW People's PBC;
 - b. the powers of the future NNWW People's PBC to conduct business on behalf of NNWW People;
 - c. ways in which the future NNWW People's PBC can make certain decisions about the native title rights and interests of NNWW People;
 - d. the structure of the board of directors of the future NNWW People PBC; and
 - e. the role of a Council of Elders advisory committee in certain decisions to be made by the future NNWW People's PBC.
4. **Consider and make decisions in relation to authorising the future NNWW People's PBC to perform the functions of a registered native title body corporate as set out in sections 56 and 57 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) and the Native Title (Prescribed Bodies Corporate) Regulations 1999 (Cth).**
5. **Any other business.**

Attending the Meeting
The NNWW Claim Group Meeting will be held in-person and there will also be the option to participate remotely by telephone or videoconference.

Attending in person
If you wish to attend the NNWW Claim Group Meeting in person, please contact NTSCORP by no later than Wednesday 12 April 2024, so that all relevant arrangements can be made. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided at the venue from Friday 19 April 2024 through until Monday 22 April 2024.

For those attending the NNWW Claim Group Meeting in person, mileage assistance and accommodation may be available in accordance with NTSCORP's meeting assistance policies, as reasonably adjusted to account for COVID-19 related variations. If you require accommodation **you will need to contact NTSCORP by telephone or send an email to CFC@ntscorp.com.au with confirmed details, by no later than Wednesday 12 April 2024.**

Please note if you do not contact NTSCORP by **Wednesday 12 April 2024** to confirm your request for accommodation assistance, NTSCORP cannot guarantee we will be able to assist with travel and accommodation arrangements — although you would still be more than welcome to attend the meeting.

Attending remotely
You may also choose to attend the NNWW Claim Group Meeting by videoconference or telephone. You will still be able to listen, ask questions, and participate in making decisions if you attend remotely. In order to attend the NNWW Claim Group Meeting by videoconference or telephone, members must:

1. **REGISTER** - Call or email NTSCORP to register your attendance.

Please contact NTSCORP as soon as possible by calling the below number or sending an email to CFC@ntscorp.com.au. We request that you register to attend remotely by **5pm on Wednesday 12 April 2024**.

2. **MEETING ACCESS** - Once you have registered, NTSCORP will send out details of how to attend the meeting by videoconference or telephone. Please contact NTSCORP by telephone to discuss.

NTSCORP's contact details:
Freecall 1800 111 844 or (02) 9310 3188
Post: P.O. Box 2105, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012
Email: CFC@ntscorp.com.au
Should you have any queries or simply require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Neville Kim - Manager Community Facilitation or Matilda Vaughan – Senior Solicitor on **Free call 1800 111 844 or (02) 9310 3188**.

NOTICE OF AN AUTHORISATION MEETING FOR THE BREWARRINA COMMON INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENT



When: **SATURDAY 20 APRIL 2024**
9:00am to 9.30am – [Meeting registration*](#)
9:30am – Meeting opened
5:00pm – Meeting closed

***Note:** To attend in person, registration will be open to members anytime throughout the meeting, but members are encouraged to register between 9.00am to 9.30am to allow adequate time for all business to be addressed. To attend by videoconference/telephone you **must** register by **Wednesday 12 April 2024**.

Where: **In person:** **Gilgandra Services Club,**
33 Morris St, Gilgandra NSW 2827
Remote Access: Contact NTSCORP to register to attend by videoconference or telephone (by Wednesday 12 April 2024 at the latest).

Who should attend:

- all members of the native title claim group in the Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wangaaypuwan and Wayilwan native title determination application (NSD38/2019) (referred to as the “NNWW Claim Group” or “NNWW People”, and “NNWW Claim” respectively), being those Aboriginal persons who are:

(a) the descendants of the following apical ancestors:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Caroline Hilt (who was born on the Barwon River around 1847); | Tiltagara Fanny (who was born in Hillston in 1862); |
| 2. Thomas Sullivan (who was born in Brewarrina around 1860); | 34. David Brown (who was born on the Macquarie River in 1850); |
| 3. Nellie Colless (who was born in Brewarrina around 1868); | 35. Janey Brown (who was born on the Macquarie River in 1853); |
| 4. Billy Coleman (who was born in Cobar in 1840); | 36. Betsy Gwen (who was born in Haddon Rigg near Warren in 1849); |
| 5. Mary Ann Allen (who was born in 1844); | 37. Louise Hinton (who was born on the Macquarie River in 1843); |
| 6. Moses Biggs (who was born in 1837); | 38. Cissy Lee (who was born in 1852); |
| 7. Polly Parkes (who was born in 1846); | 39. Boorooma Murphy (who was born in Boorooma in 1832); |
| 8. Anne Brandy (who was born in Colane in 1874); | 40. Harry Murphy (who was born in Brewarrina around 1871); |
| 9. Caroline Brandy (who was born on Duck Creek in 1869); | 41. Thomas Nixon (who was born in Buttabone in 1843); |
| 10. Wadna Boe (who was born in 1848) | 42. Colaine Lumpy (who was born in 1864); |
| 11. Richard King (who was born in 1827); | 43. Charlotte Wilson; |
| 12. Jimmy Keewong (who was born in 1849); | 44. Tilly Riley (who was born in 1863); and |
| 13. Kitty Narrangie; | 45. Geordie Murray (who was born in 1851 in Ivanhoe). |
| 14. Tom Dennis (who was born in Brewarrina in 1864); | 46. George Murray, born at Gundabooka Station, died 1927 at Nyngan; |
| 15. Winnie Pierce (who was born in Brewarrina in 1878); | 47. Amy Monica Murray nee Murphy, wife of George Murray, born in Brewarrina, died 1954 at Nyngan; |
| 16. Jack Dennis (who was born on the Barwon River in around 1855); | 48. Edward Murphy, born in Cobar, died 1960 at Walgett; |
| 17. Kate Baker (who was born in Boorooma in 1874); | 49. Maggie Warraweena nee Murphy, born at Charlton Station on the Bogan River, died 1907 at Brewarrina; |
| 18. Francis “Tracker” Williams (who was born in Gundabooka in 1883); | 50. Eliza Wilson nee Williams, also known as Eliza Governor, born near Cobar, died 1908 at Byrock; |
| 19. William Johnson (who was born in Big Willandra in 1876); | 51. Charlie Kelly, husband of Laura Kelly nee Murray, born 1858; |
| 20. Henry Parkes (who was born in 1863); | 52. Laura Kelly nee Murray, also known as Norah Murray and Laura Boy, wife of Charlie Kelly, died 1918 at Corinya Station; |
| 21. Topsy Harris also known as Topsy Scotty (who was born in Marfield in 1866); | 53. Jack Shepherd, also known as John Shepherd and Jack Sheppard, born 1855 in Cobar; |
| 22. Jack Redtank; | 54. Harry Shepherd, also known as Harry Sheppard, died 1911 in Brewarrina; |
| 23. Thomas Williams also known as Thomas Broughton (who was born in Roto); | 55. Harry Brandy, brother of Caroline Brandy and Anne Brandy, born circa 1869; |
| 24. Maggie Redtank (who was born in Keewong in 1868); | 56. Jack Simpson, also known as Jack ‘Smart Gui’ Simpson, died 1974 at Brewarrina; and |
| 25. Ada Arnett (who was born in Nyngan in 1865); | 57. Billy Boney, also known as William Boney and George Boney, born 1852 in Ginghet, |
| 26. Moses Divine; | |
| 27. Jack Smith (who was born in Mossgiel in 1869); | |
| 28. Ellen Sprowl also known as Ellen McHughes (who was born in Brewarrina in 1867); | |
| 29. Fanny Hippi also known as Fanny Williams; | |
| 30. Millie Wells also known as Millie Shearer (who was born in Brewarrina in 1874); | |
| 31. Pluto Williams (who was born in Trida/Mossgiel in 1873); | |
| 32. Steve Shaw (who was born in Coronga Peak in 1855); | |
| 33. Fanny Brown also known as | |

and

(b) identify as a Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wangaaypuwan or Wayilwan person; and

(c) are recognised as a Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wangaaypuwan or Wayilwan person by Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wangaaypuwan and Wayilwan People in accordance with their traditional law and custom.

- Any other Aboriginal person who asserts native title rights and interests within the Indigenous Land Use Agreement Area as shown in black outline on the map below.

Background

NTSCORP Limited (**NTSCORP**), the native title service provider for NSW, is convening a meeting to authorise the making of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) in relation to land and waters in the Brewarrina Local Government Area, as shown in black outline on the map below.



The Indigenous Land Use Agreement Area includes land and waters which are subject to the Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wangaaypuwan and Wayilwan People native title determination application (NSD38/2019).

The Indigenous Land Use Agreement is proposed to be between NNWW People, Brewarrina Local Aboriginal Land Council, the Minister for Lands and Property as the Minister administering the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (NSW) and the Attorney General of New South Wales as the State Minister for New South

Wales under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

The Agenda for the Meeting:

- Welcome to Country and Introductions;**
- Overview of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement and the negotiation of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement;**
- Confirm the process of decision-making for the purpose of authorising the making of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement;**
- Consider and make decisions in relation to the authorisation of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement; and**
- Any other business.**

Attending the Meeting

The meeting will be held in-person and there will also be the option to participate remotely by telephone or videoconference.

Attending in person

If you wish to attend the Authorisation Meeting in person, please contact NTSCORP by no later than **Wednesday 12 April 2024**, so that all relevant arrangements can be made. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided at the venue.

For those attending the Authorisation Meeting in person, mileage assistance and accommodation may be available in accordance with NTSCORP's meeting assistance policies, as reasonably adjusted to account for COVID-19 related variations. If you require accommodation **you will need to contact NTSCORP by telephone or send an email to CFC@ntscorp.com.au with confirmed details, by no later than Wednesday 12 April 2024.**

Please note if you do not contact NTSCORP by **Wednesday 12 April 2024** to confirm your request for accommodation assistance, NTSCORP cannot guarantee we will be able to assist with travel and accommodation arrangements — although you would still be more than welcome to attend the meeting.

Attending remotely

You may also choose to attend the Authorisation Meeting by videoconference or telephone. You will still be able to listen, ask questions, and participate in making decisions if you attend remotely. In order to attend the Authorisation Meeting by videoconference or telephone, members must:

1. **REGISTER** - Call or email NTSCORP to register your attendance.

Please contact NTSCORP as soon as possible by calling the below number or sending an email to CFC@ntscorp.com.au. We request that you register to attend remotely by 5pm on **Wednesday 12 April 2024**.

2. **MEETING ACCESS** - Once you have registered, NTSCORP will send out details of how to attend the meeting by videoconference or telephone. Please contact NTSCORP by telephone to discuss.

NTSCORP's contact details:

Freecall 1800 111 844 or (02) 9310 3188
Post: P.O. Box 2105, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012
Email: CFC@ntscorp.com.au

Should you have any queries or simply require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Neville Kim - Manager Community Facilitation or Matilda Vaughan – Senior Solicitor on **Free call 1800 111 844 or (02) 9310 3188**.

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Heritage Act 1977

Notice of intention to consider listing on the State Heritage Register

The Heritage Council of NSW maintains the State Heritage Register which is a list of places of particular importance to the people of NSW, including Aboriginal and other heritage.

The Heritage Council is currently considering whether or not to recommend the listing of the following place on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgment of its heritage significance.

Captain Moonlite and James Nesbitt's Graves, Gundagai

Written submissions on this listing are invited from any interested person by 11 April 2024. Enquiries to Dr Damian Tybussek on 0488 188 527.

The Heritage Council is interested in receiving information in writing, by email, telephone or in person from the Aboriginal community or Aboriginal organisations on the potential Aboriginal significance of this place.

Further details on the nominated place can be viewed at: environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/request-a-heritage-listing/nominate-an-item-for-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/comment-on-nominations

Direct submissions to: Heritage Council of NSW Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124 or heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Heritage Act 1977

Notice of intention to consider listing on the State Heritage Register

The Heritage Council of NSW maintains the State Heritage Register which is a list of places of particular importance to the people of NSW, including Aboriginal and other heritage.

The Heritage Council is currently considering whether or not to recommend the listing of the following place on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgment of its heritage significance.

Cooma Gaol, Cooma

Written submissions on this listing are invited from any interested person by 9 April 2024. Enquiries to Meggan Walker on (02) 9873 8500.

The Heritage Council is interested in receiving information in writing, by email, telephone or in person from the Aboriginal community or Aboriginal organisations on the potential Aboriginal significance of this place.

Further details on the nominated place can be viewed at: environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/request-a-heritage-listing/nominate-an-item-for-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/comment-on-nominations

Direct submissions to: Heritage Council of NSW Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124 or heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au



Expressions of interest

Commercial opportunity for the Broken Earth Complex, Broken Hill.

Email questions or expressions of interest to cl.western.region@crownland.nsw.gov.au

More information: crownland.nsw.gov.au/whats-happening/licence-and-lease-opportunities

Open day: 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm Thursday 4 April 2024.

Applications close 30 April 2024.



LEP2016

Aboriginal Community Consultation and Registration of Interest

Indigeco has been engaged by School Infrastructure New South Wales (The proponent) to assist in the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment including Aboriginal Community Consultation for the proposed development of a New high school for Gledswood Hills and Gregory Hills, at 9 Gregory Hills Drive, Gledswood Hills, New South Wales, Lot 2 DP 1262720 (Subject Area).

The development is a State Significant Development (SSD); therefore the development proposal will require an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) in response to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the project. The proposed development includes the construction of a public high school to meet the population growth in the Southwest Sydney area, which includes 51 initial teaching spaces, accommodating up to 1000 students (Stage1), transitioning to 82 teaching spaces, accommodating up to 1500 students (Stage 2).

SINSW can be contacted via **SINSW Community Engagement** Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au

The Proponent is seeking to consult with any Aboriginal persons or groups who may hold cultural knowledge of, or who have the right or interest in Aboriginal cultural heritage of the Subject Area. The purpose of the consultation will be to assist the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in their consideration and determination of the State Significant Development Application:

Please be advised that, as per Section 4.1.6 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (OEH, 2010) the names of Aboriginal persons and groups who register an interest will be forwarded to Heritage NSW and the Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council unless the person or group specifies that they do not want their details released.

All registrations for the project must be received by 5pm on 11th April 2024 and should be directed in writing to:

Ms Rebecca Chalker
Senior Heritage Consultant
Indigeco Pty Ltd
Email: rchalker@tharawal.net.au

Notice of a non-claimant application for determination of native title in the Northern Territory

Notification day: 10 April 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) (the Act), 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 **9 July 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 9 July 2024**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **9 July 2024**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.



Applicant's name: Northern Territory of Australia
Federal Court File No: NTD1/2024
Non-native title interest: The Land is vacant Crown land. The applicant seeks protection under s 24FA of the Act to enable the Crown to grant a Crown lease under the *Crown Lands Act 1992* (NT) over the Land to the Power and Water Corporation for the purposes of construction of the Manton Dam Return To Service which includes the Strauss Water Treatment Plant
Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks a determination that native title does not exist

Description: The application area comprises part of Sections 418 and 2929, designated Section 6246(A) in the Hundred of Strangways, Northern Territory, being about 13.3 ha and located approximately 500 metres northwest of the Stuart Highway and Cox Peninsula Road intersection within the locality of Noonamah
Relevant LGA: Litchfield Municipality

For assistance and further information about this application, call Huia McGrath on 08 6317 5442 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

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NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (Cth) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Mining Lease	15/1905	EASTERN COOLGARDIE GOLDFIELDS PTY LTD	775.71HA	19.3km SW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 6' S: Long: 121° 4' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Mining Lease	24/1009	PRINCE, John Reginald	9.43HA	10.4km SW'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 30' S: Long: 121° 15' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	25/378	MAJESTIC GOLD MINES PTY LTD	185.88HA	38.6km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 54' S: Long: 121° 53' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY

Nature of the act: Grant of mining leases, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of 21 years from notification of grant and a right of renewal for 21 years.

Notification day: 27 March 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 **27 June 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. **27 July 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 20647

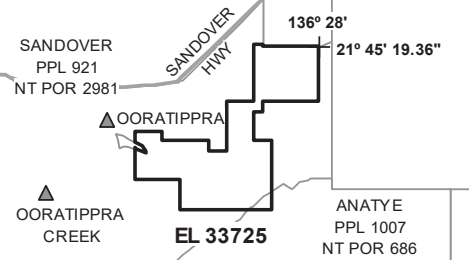
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION LICENCES

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 his intent to do an act, namely to grant the following exploration licence applications.

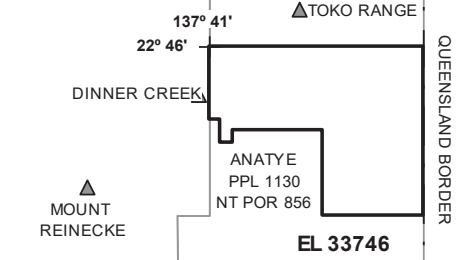
Applications to which this notice applies:

Exploration Licence 33725 sought by CRITICAL NEW AGE MINERALS PTY LTD, ACN 674 060 103 over an area of 146 Blocks (458 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the OORATIPPRA locality.



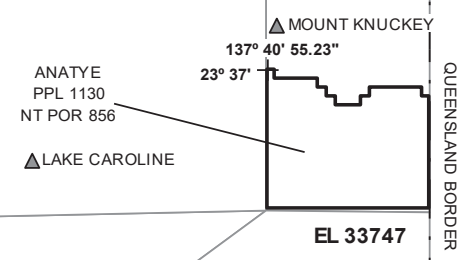
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 6154

Exploration Licence 33746 sought by PLUTONIC LIMITED, ACN 632 991 167 over an area of 196 Blocks (616 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the TOKO locality.



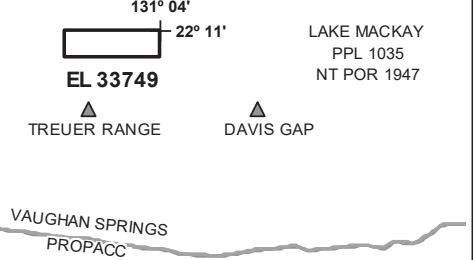
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 6452

Exploration Licence 33747 sought by PLUTONIC LIMITED, ACN 632 991 167 over an area of 245 Blocks (767 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the FIELD RIVER locality.



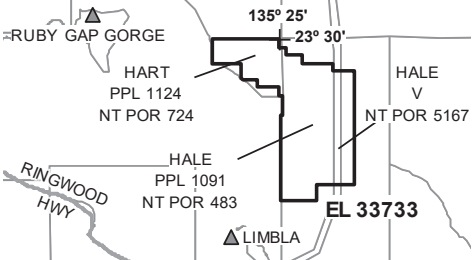
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 6450

Exploration Licence 33749 sought by REDSTONE METALS PTY LTD, ACN 106 360 678 over an area of 4 Blocks (13 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the DOREEN locality.



Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5153

Exploration Licence 33733 sought by SBR METALS (SA) PTY LTD, ACN 674 331 170 over an area of 201 Blocks (627 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the LIMBLA locality.



Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5950

Notification Day: 27 March 2024

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.



NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	15/2056	MANDILLA GOLD PTY LTD	4BL	27.3km S'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 26' S: Long: 121° 34' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/2065	KINGSLAND GOLD PTY LTD	51BL	77km SE'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 48' S: Long: 120° 12' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, DUNDAS SHIRE
Exploration Licence	26/252	ENRIZEN CAPITAL PTY LTD	4BL	26.7km N'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 121° 41' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	29/1258	SUSTAINABLE MINERALS PTY LTD	16BL	31.4km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 28' S: Long: 120° 48' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	30/581	FORRESTANIA RESOURCES LIMITED	15BL	58.1km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 9' S: Long: 120° 30' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1256	REDScope ENTERPRISES PTY LTD	15BL	28.9km SW'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 13' S: Long: 119° 9' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	63/2439	KINGSLAND GOLD PTY LTD	68BL	105.6km SE'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 32° 16' S: Long: 120° 5' E	DUNDAS SHIRE
Exploration Licence	63/2440	KINGSLAND GOLD PTY LTD	48BL	116km SE'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 32° 18' S: Long: 120° 12' E	DUNDAS SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3060	ALTAN RIO MINERALS (AUST) PTY LTD	18BL	55.4km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 46' S: Long: 119° 4' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3062	ALTAN RIO MINERALS (AUST) PTY LTD	10BL	12.7km N'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 6' S: Long: 119° 20' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3131	GOLD GEOLOGICAL CONSULTING PTY LTD	6BL	12.7km E'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 26' S: Long: 119° 37' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3160	DUKETON MINING LIMITED	20BL	145.1km E'ly of Paynes Find	Lat: 29° 38' S: Long: 119° 6' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	20/2491	BURNELL, Ryan	201.82HA	45.1km NE'ly of Cue	Lat: 27° 5' S: Long: 118° 8' E	CUE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5677	GOLDTIMERS PROSPECTING PTY LTD	177.57HA	16.1km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 20' S: Long: 120° 53' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5678	GOLDTIMERS PROSPECTING PTY LTD	177.03HA	15.8km NW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 17' S: Long: 120° 55' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5679	GOLDTIMERS PROSPECTING PTY LTD	160.36HA	15.7km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 19' S: Long: 120° 54' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5713	BONNEY, Derek Neil	183.76HA	5.6km W'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 26' S: Long: 121° 16' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5717	BOWDEN, Graeme Fredrick	15.15HA	4.2km SE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 28' S: Long: 121° 21' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2790	FORTIFY MINING PTY LTD	188.59HA	36.6km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 45' S: Long: 121° 51' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2794	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	175.00HA	23.3km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 44' S: Long: 121° 42' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4720	AUSTRALIA MINERAL PROSPECTS PTY LTD	159.76HA	27.1km N'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 121° 37' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4721	AUSTRALIA MINERAL PROSPECTS PTY LTD	40.29HA	26.1km N'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 58' S: Long: 121° 37' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4722	AUSTRALIA MINERAL PROSPECTS PTY LTD	199.84HA	26.4km SE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 56' S: Long: 121° 37' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4737	NORTON GOLD FIELDS PTY LTD	193.98HA	7.4km W'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 46' S: Long: 121° 23' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2557	BRADLEY, Joseph Robert	62.20HA	48.8km NE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 10' S: Long: 121° 44' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	28/1409	BASTOW, Anthony Brian	26.90HA	74.5km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 30' S: Long: 122° 11' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	57/1533	HEMMETT, Phillip Robert	9.73HA	72.9km SW'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 34' S: Long: 118° 56' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.

Notification day: 27 March 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 **27 June 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. **27 July 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 20646

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New hopes for a new season

It may be early in the 2024 NRL Premiership season but we've already learnt plenty.

Three-peat premiership club, Penrith, will be tough to stop as they look towards an historic fourth title in a row.

Melbourne Storm have started the season well. Is anyone surprised at that, though?

It's been a brilliant start for Nicho Hynes and the Cronulla Sharks. The crafty halfback is in a winning mood and has shown signs that he could repeat his 2022 Dally M Medal-winning form in 2024.

Manly Sea-Eagles may have surprised many pundits with some early success this season. Can they keep the pressure up?

The Roosters have also shown that they're going to be a side that will be hard to handle. They could give the Panthers a run for their money.

It's been an ordinary beginning for premiership contenders, South Sydney. They've got talent galore right across the paddock and on paper they have one of the best rosters in the NRL. But something seems to be a little off at the club.

The beauty is that the 2024 NRL season is still only young. Which means clubs can still build a solid foundation for a top-eight spot, and for other clubs they have time and opportunities to get their seasons back on track, to give their fans some reason to cheer.

Here's to more amazing tries, big hits, crowds going berserk, tipping competitions, State of Origin team predictions, and afternoons in the grandstands or on the couch.

**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.*



Kris Flanders



Footy tourists in the US (from left) Brad Cooke, Anthony Boarer, Matt Lovegrove and Greg Marashlian at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas for the NRL's historic season-opener. Pic: Supplied

Cooke endorses Las Vegas' season-opener

By KRIS FLANDERS



THE 'Voice of the Koori KO' Brad Cooke is in full support of the NRL returning to Las Vegas, but only if

the players' welfare is paramount.

Cooke was one of the more than 40,000 locals and travelling Australians that packed out Allegiant Stadium at Las Vegas for the NRL's historic double-header season-opener.

Round 1 of the 2024 premierships season saw South Sydney, Manly, Brisbane and Sydney Roosters play out at the stadium that is home to the NFL's

Las Vegas Raiders.

Cooke thinks it was an exceptional way to take the game to the American market but said that many factors will be taken into account of the NRL and rugby league in the United States.

"Only time will tell if it is a success," Cooke said of the experiment.

"It is way too early to tell; it will come down to the four clubs to report back after their players have had time to get home and resume the season.

"If they recover OK then they'll endorse it, if not, word will spread and teams might resist the trip."

The NRL is playing the long game in a bid to expose rugby

league to the lucrative US market.

"I understand there's a five-year commitment to play there," Cooke said.

"So if that's the case, I think it will increase interest in the US, and Aussies will keep travelling to see it (because) the 'FOMO' (fear of missing out) on social media was strong."

While at Las Vegas as a sports 'tourist', Cooke put his sports 'hat' on in an effort to understand the locals there.

He was interested to hear the thoughts of Americans generally and local Las Veganites specifically who attended the match, and who are more used to seeing their football played

with helmets and pads.

"They had that usual disbelief about collision without pads," Cooke said.

"The speed of the game, too, and players playing both offence and defensive roles (as opposed to specific offence and defensive teams within the one NFL team).

"Also, there was a five-minute period in game-one where three players had facial cuts, which doesn't happen much in US sports."

Should the NRL return to Las Vegas, which they said they will, Cooke will possibly make the trek again.

"People I met there couldn't believe our commitment to travel this far for sport," he said.

NOTICE of AWABAKAL PEOPLE NATIVE TITLE AUTHORISATION MEETING to authorise the filing of a Native Title Determination Application in the Federal Court Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)

All Awabakal People who are descendants of the following apical ancestors and other Aboriginal persons who according to their traditional laws and customs believe they hold common or group native title rights and interests in the land and waters of the proposed claim area are invited to attend an Authorisation Meeting convened by the Awabakal People.

The Awabakal People:

- Mahrahkah (Known as Molly/Molly Morgan/Maria Morgan)
- Charlotte Preston (Daughter of Molly/Molly Morgan/Maria Morgan)

Note: A mere assertion of descent and/or rights and interests will not by itself be sufficient to gain entry to the meeting or inclusion into the proposed claimant group. Relevant documentation as to the basis upon which descent and/or rights and interests are claimed must (if requested) be produced at the authorisation meeting for review by an Anthropologist.

Date: Saturday, 13th April 2024

Time: 9:00 am Registration and 10:00 am Authorisation Meeting

Venue: Rathmines Theatre

Address: 25 Stilling Street, Rathmines, NSW, 2283.

Purpose of Meeting: To authorise the filing of a Native Title Determination Application (Proposed Claim) in the Federal Court over the land and waters overlapped by Mining Lease Application 643 proposed to be granted to

Centennial Myuna Pty Limited ACN 101 508 981, having an area of about 180 hectares, situated about 6 kilometres east southeast of Awaba, NSW, situated in the Lake Macquarie local government area, as depicted on the map right:

Agenda: will include, but is not limited to:

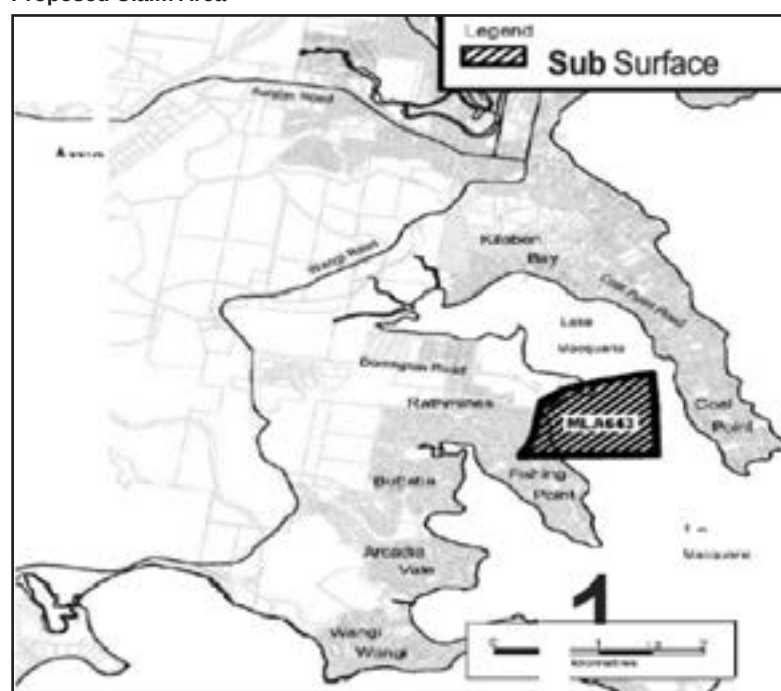
- Decision making process to be used at meeting;
- Presentation about and consideration of Anthropological evidence to support the Proposed Claim;
- Authorisation of a Native Title Determination application being filed in the Federal Court over the claim area;
- Authorising the applicant to make the native title determination application on behalf of the Awabakal and Guringai Peoples and to deal with matters arising in relation to it;
- Clarifying the extent of the authority of the Applicant.

Registering your attendance:

All Awabakal People are invited to contact Peter Leven on (0405) 149 684 or email peterleven@y7mail.com to register their interest in attending the Authorisation Meeting by Monday 8th April 2024.

The Awabakal People regret that due to severe budgetary limitations, they are unable to assist people to meet the costs of attending the meeting, however afternoon tea will be provided to attendees at the meeting.

Proposed Claim Area



Joel Garner best-on in Saints' 34th Top End flag

By JACKSON CLARK



FORMER Port Adelaide player Joel Garner had a day to remember when he was awarded the Chaney Medal as best-on-ground in the 2023-24 NTFL Premier League grand final. Marra man Garner led St Mary's to a memorable 34th senior men's premiership in front of a big crowd at Marrara Oval. Garner was clearly the best player in the Saints' 13-point win over rivals Nightcliff, 5.14 (44) to 3.13 (31), that brought an end to the Top End

football season. Garner belied the wet and muddy conditions to turn in a terrific display. The game was a tough slog for both teams as plenty of rainfall and traffic on the ground throughout the week resulted in challenging conditions. It was an arm-wrestle of a contest earlier in the piece with both sides finding it difficult to kick goals, highlighted by the low scores. Garner had 25 disposals – including 24 kicks – effected seven clearances and put up 10 inside-50s on his way to winning the judges' votes. Saints teammate and

fellow midfielder Nate Paredes said on SEN's *Fridays in the Top End* that Garner was a 'beast' through the midfield. "You don't realise how tall he is but he is a big, tall inside mid and he just clears the ball out of the middle," Paredes said. "When he gets the ball he kicks it 50-60m. Just his leadership too, when you see him run through the contest in the way he does, it just gets everyone up and about. "It was massive to have him, he was a huge help and hopefully we see him back in the green and gold."



Joel Garner was awarded the Chaney Medal as best-on-ground in the 2023-24 NTFL Premier League grand final. Getty Images



Tasmania Devils the 19th AFL team



THE 19th AFL club will be known as the Tasmania Devils and will wear a predominantly dark-green jumper emblazoned with a yellow map of the island state.

The club, which was granted a licence in May to enter the national competition in 2028, unveiled its colours, mascot and inaugural jumper at venues across the state last week. The club chose myrtle green, primrose yellow and rose red – an acknowledgement of the state's rich football history.

"Our football heritage dates back over 150 years; footy is part of the fabric of what it means to be Tasmanian," club chair Grant O'Brien said. "In 1908, our colours were agreed (and) our traditional colours will endure."

The club, which will also field an AFLW team, had to negotiate with American entertainment giant Warner Bros to use the mascot.

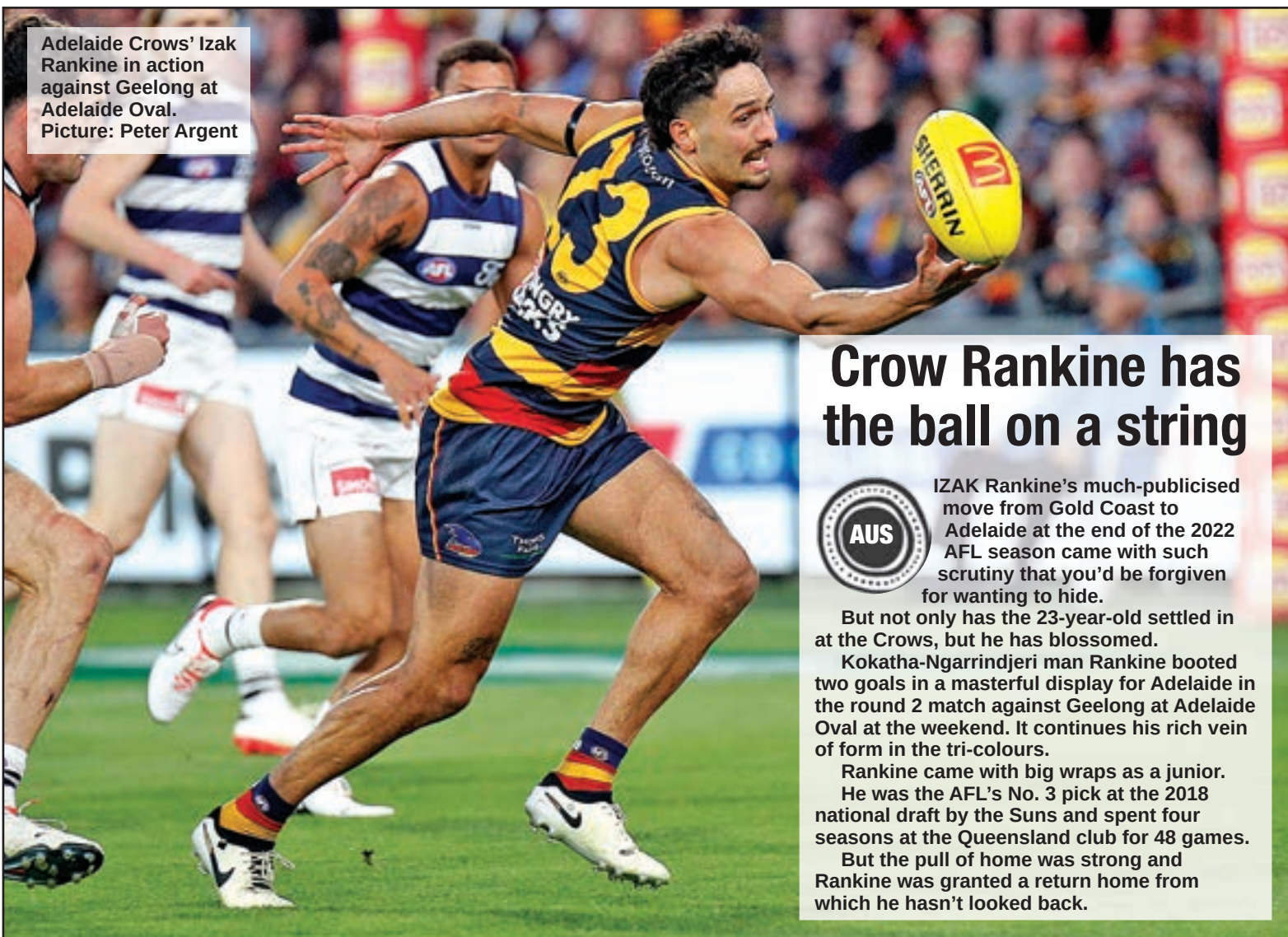
"Our Tasmania Devil is a free-spirited, powerful, and authentic identity," O'Brien said.

"A devil that embraces our past, but fiercely looks to our future."

The launch took place in conjunction with the release of \$10 foundation memberships.

The club's jumper will be predominantly green with a red collar and a yellow map of the island with a red 'T'.

Tasmania has battled for decades for inclusion in the national competition, with club board member Kath McCann telling the Hobart launch the devil army had to fight even harder to ensure the club could be delivered in 2028. – AAP



Adelaide Crows' Izak Rankine in action against Geelong at Adelaide Oval. Picture: Peter Argent

Crow Rankine has the ball on a string



IZAK Rankine's much-publicised move from Gold Coast to Adelaide at the end of the 2022 AFL season came with such scrutiny that you'd be forgiven for wanting to hide.

But not only has the 23-year-old settled in at the Crows, but he has blossomed.

Kokatha-Ngarrindjeri man Rankine booted two goals in a masterful display for Adelaide in the round 2 match against Geelong at Adelaide Oval at the weekend. It continues his rich vein of form in the tri-colours.

Rankine came with big wraps as a junior. He was the AFL's No. 3 pick at the 2018 national draft by the Suns and spent four seasons at the Queensland club for 48 games. But the pull of home was strong and Rankine was granted a return home from which he hasn't looked back.

'Spud's Game' is a strong message of support for our mental-health

AS much as I pillory the AFL (Commission), their support for mental ill-health in the game is commendable. The annual 'Spud's Game' in which St Kilda and Collingwood play raises awareness and much-needed funds for the challenges that those among us face with their mental-health. Spud's Game is in memory of Danny Frawley, who passed away in 2019. Danny had played for both clubs.

There is wide support from across the clubs, and the AFL hierarchy. Pre-game, AFL chief executive was among the big crowd that observed a two-minute silence – a beautiful moment. Artist



Shelley Ware

to his family and friends. Proceeds from the game go to the Danny Frawley Centre for Health and Well-being at St Kilda's

Pete Murray also played 'Better Days'. In the lead-up to the game, memories and stories filled the airways and newspapers about Danny, 'Spud' (his nickname), and what he meant to the football community, and

training base at Moorabbin Oval, which provides daily tailored programs and services toward improving mental-health in the community.

It was a special game, a special moment for a special man whom we lost at the hands of an illness that we are only at the tip of the iceberg of understanding.

St Kilda (AFLW) veteran Steph Chiocci spoke up about her mental-health journey, too. In one 'episode', she thought she was having a stroke but the doctors told her she was having a debilitating panic attack. Steph has been through the journey of finding the right medication, professional help

and self-care. She feels that sharing her story is important so people know that with support of professionals and others around them they don't have to do it alone, but will be surrounded by love.

Spud had the most generous spirit, as does Steph – it is my pleasure to know them both. At the time of his passing, Spud was unwell. It was also at a time when we as a football community we didn't talk about these things. We didn't know that there are those in our community that he needed our help. We lost Spud because he may have thought that way, too. Thankfully, that has changed. Nowadays, we have active

players who take leave from the game to look after their mental-health, and that share that publicly, which is commendable.

We have come a long way as a society on this front. It fills me with pride that players like Steph Chiocci share their healing stories so that that can help others; to take the shame out of saying *I'm not OK*.

*Lifeline 13 11 14; Mensline 1300 78 99 78

*Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She appears on AFL.com.au's Colour Of Your Jumper.



New South Wales celebrate their win over Queensland in the 2024 National Indigenous Cricket Championships at Traeger Park in Mparntwe-Alice Springs – somewhat avenging their loss to the same team at last year's tournament. Pictures: Peter Argent

Blues avenge Maroons in Mparntwe to win nat'l title

By PETER ARGENT



HAVING relinquished the women's National Indigenous Cricket Championship title to Queensland for the first time in history last year, New South Wales made amends in the 2024 grand final at Traeger Park.

The Blues' set the Maroons a challenging 7-121 (20 overs) after having been sent in to bat.

A classy 63 from player of the match Dharmini Chauhan who opened the batting with Sara Darney (11) set the tone of the innings.

Chauhan's 63 came from 51 deliveries that including a quartet of fours and three rope-clearing sixes.

Blues all-rounder Maddison Spence came in at the end and contributed a handy run-a-ball 16*.

Ironically, WBBL-experienced pair Anika Learoyd and Hannah Darlington were both dismissed for single-figure totals.

With ball in hand, NSW got to work.

Queensland lost wickets at regular intervals and after their 20 overs finished their chase 42 runs short at 9-79.

Clodagh Ryall, who played a cheeky lap-shot late in her



The Blues' experienced leaders Kerry Marshall (left) and Julie Muir hold the spoils of victory.

innings, was best for the Maroons and was undefeated on 29, while another young talent, Grace Abdy, reached double figures to score 12.

Aimee Ravot was the most successful of the Blues bowlers with 3-14, while Darlington was brilliant. She allowed just seven runs from her allotted four overs,

which included a maiden and two pivotal wickets. Her spell played a big role in the Blues' victory.

Spence chimed in to take two wickets from her three overs at a cost of 11 runs.

"We were a well-connected unit," NSW captain Julie Muir said, the victory also her 14th NICC title win.



New South Wales all-rounder Dharmini Chauhan was unanimously voted as player of the tournament and final.

"Dharmini (Chauhan) had an amazing week with both bat and ball.

"It was a bit of the 'cream rising to the top' with Hannah Darlington who, after a quiet tournament, was simply stunning in the final (with the ball).

"Callee Black was strong with both bat and ball across the

week, while Maddison Spence in her first tournament was excellent at the bowling crease.

"Our opening bowler Aimee Ravot in just her second year impressed as well.

"The continued growth of the women's game is amazing and it's exciting to watch. Seeing this progression has been exciting."

Sandgropers prevail over Blues in epic cricket finale

By PETER ARGENT



A BRILLIANT batting display by West Australian opener Brock Larance set up Western Australia to win the 2024 NICC at Traeger Park—their fourth in the history of the tournament.

Larance provided a master-class innings which set up the victory over New South Wales.

With partner Clint Hinchliffe, the pair produced a brilliant 107-run opening stand that set up a successful chase-down of the Blues' 6-151.

The Sandgropers made the total in the 17th over with five wickets to spare.

WA captain Jay Collard was mightily impressed.

"That innings of Brock took the game away from NSW; it was one of the best innings I've seen," Collard said.

"He is a fearless player and is capable of playing at higher levels.

"If this was an AFL footy tournament he would be on a list next year.

"(If) Someone could trust his

raw talent he could become another Tim David."

The grand final was full of dramatic momentum swings, and a terrific contest to conclude the 2024 event.

NSW won the toss and batted first.

Openers Pat Rosser and skipper Jack Hartigan got the Blues off to a strong start with a 62-run partnership.

Rosser was the first dismissed; he scored a quick-fire 36 from just 25 deliveries, that included five boundaries and a massive sixer.

Hartigan was next, dismissed for a solid 40 (from 48) that included two boundaries and six.

Blake Smith came in next and he chimed in with 25 (from 24) before a fireworks show from the experienced Ben Patterson.

Patterson smashed 40 from just 18 deliveries faced in which he dispatched three big sixes and three more boundaries.

The Blues' 6-151, then, was a decent total.

The most successful of the WA bowlers was Big Bash League-experienced left-arm unorthodox spinner Hinchliffe.

Hinchliffe, who has played for Perth Scorchers and the Melbourne Stars, and has a first-class fixture to his name, collected 3-32 from his four overs; although Paterson took 16 runs from his final over, which also was the Blues' final over to face.

Then it was time for the WA chase. The partnership between Lawrence and Hinchliffe set up the victory.

Hinchliffe was dismissed for 26 from the first ball of the 10th over before Larance was caught by Patterson on the mid-wicket boundary for a match-winning 87 from just 38 deliveries, in which he crashed a half-a-dozen sixes and a further nine fours to all parts of the ground.

The title was sealed when captain Collard hit the winning runs with a boundary.

"Hitchy (Hinchliffe) had a great week as well in all the disciplines.

"The three of us play premier-grade cricket in Perth – Brock, 'Hinchy' and myself."

This was WA's first NICC title since 2015 and their fourth overall. Their other titles came in 2010 and 2014.



Man of the moment – and the series and the match – WA's Brock Larance acknowledges his teammates after reaching 50 in the final against NSW.



WA's Jay Collard (left) and Jermain Davis snr. with the 2024 National Indigenous Cricket Championship trophy after an epic final with New South Wales at Traeger Park in Mparntwe-Alice Springs. Pictures: Peter Argent



WA's Yagan Walley sends down one of his leg-spinners during the final.



Leading basketball referee Jacqui Dover and Adelaide 36ers coach Scott Ninnis share a lighthearted moment in the final round of the 2023-24 NBL regular-season at Adelaide Entertainment Centre. Picture: Peter Argent

Open communication is key in high-stakes pro sport

By PETER ARGENT



ALL good sports officials (no matter the sport) must have that unique ability to communicate clearly with players and coaches while still applying the rules in a professional manner.

This was evident when Jacqui Dover took charge of the NBL round 20 clash between the Adelaide 36ers and New Zealand Breakers as the 2023-24 season wound down before a hectic finals series.

Dover showed deft skill in handling a tricky situation in the final minutes of the game when the Breakers were making a late charge.

The Breakers and the 36ers were going at it in a frantic final quarter when Dover and the referees determined that a 'time-out' was in order.

The atmosphere at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre was electric. It was during this pivotal moment where Dover showed her class, and skill.

The 50-game referee had the presence of mind to share a joke and some banter with 36ers coach Scott Ninnis. It was a small and brief moment between the pair but it spoke volumes of Dover's emergence as a professional referee.

From the Gold Coast and based in Townsville, Dover graduated to the Queensland Basketball League as a ref before earning a place on the WNBL referee panel ahead of the 2019-20 season.

Fittingly, she made her NBL ref-debut during Indigenous Round in 2021.

Previously, Dover had worked for WNBL club Townsville Fire as a community engagement officer before returning her focus to the whistle and making a career as a referee.

"She has a great attitude and is open to feedback and is a willing learner," former FIBA and NBL referee Scott Butler said.

Butler officiated in over 500 NBL games as a referee and is a dual Olympic veteran of the game. He is also the NBL/WNBL Head of Referees.

"These are important traits to be successful at the elite level," he said.

"Jacqui is a rookie referee who is in the very early stages of her journey as an official in the NBL.

"Jacqui also has a FIBA licence to officiate international games."

The final round of the regular-season was a busy weekend in Adelaide for Dover.

Before taking charge of the 36ers-Breakers NBL game, she refereed the WNBL game between Adelaide Lightning and Melbourne Boomers.

Dover blossoms as topline ref

By PETER ARGENT



JACQUI Dover's professional transition from WNBL basketball to a referee is complete, having recently officiated in her milestone 50th NBL game.

Kunja and Kombumerri woman Dover has a strong knowledge and deep understanding of basketball from years in the game.

She has taken this professionalism to both the WNBL and NBL.

"I was a player first, playing with the Townsville Flames in what is now the NBL1 North mostly as a shooting guard, and a

bench-warmer," Dover said with a laugh, having just warmed down from taking control of an NBL match in Adelaide.

"My mentors when I first got into the role up in Townsville were Kyle Voedvodin and Scott Brown, and I've always appreciated the support of Toni Caldwell and the advice of Scott Butler.

"Toni is a pioneer in the women's officiating space, (and) was always willing to lend an ear when I was looking for a chat."

Dover said there is a definite difference between officiating the NBL and WNBL.

"It's around how the games are executed and the mindset you need as an official controlling the game," she said.

"There are similarities, like post-play, the

pick-and-roll and general shooting (but) the women's game is more disciplined and precise; you need to be on the ball, watching for fouls and other happenings.

"The men's game is a more free-flowing affair, with plenty happening at any point, which keeps you on your toes.

"Having personally come from this game, I like watching the WNBL."

Dover is the first Indigenous woman as a referee in the NBL, a feat she is extremely proud of.

"I also was involved officiating both WNBL and NBL games in this year's Indigenous Round which was pretty special," she said.

"In the longer term, I would like to officiate

at the Olympics – Los Angeles in 2028 and Brisbane in 2032 are on the bucket-list.

"How cool would it be to officiate in an Olympic tournament an hour up the road from where I was born (in Brisbane)?"

Dover is also adapting her position as a role-model for the next generation of officials, advocating for people to become referees, encouraging youth to be involved and maximising the game's exposure whenever she can.

Away from the game, Dover has developed a passion for photography and loves capturing the streetscapes of cities she visits; sports photography is something she would like to pursue in retirement, which is a long way off yet.

Centrals return to Palm Island for 'Turtle Shield'

By ALF WILSON



FORMER NRL star Robert Lui led Townsville A-grade rugby league club Centrals Tigers to Palm Island in a series of pre-season games that held much significance.

The Tigers and Palm Island Barracudas A-grade and reserves teams played against each other in a 'return' match at Barracuda Oval that was 41 years in the making.

In 1983, Centrals visited the island, just off the coast north of Townsville, and played against Palm Island. In a gesture of friendship, Palm Island presented the visitors with a turtle shell which was adorned with decorative art that also had a barracuda and a tiger.

The Tigers were the first mainland club to play an organised fixture on Palm Island when the team was led by the club's current president Kevin Marty.

The turtle shell survives and it was brought out after the games. It was an emotional and happy experience.

Lui is coach of the Tigers in the Townsville & Districts Rugby League competition.



Palm Island Barracudas and Centrals Tigers players post-game, and with the turtle shell that was a gift from the islanders in 1983.

Centrals won the A-grade game, and the Barracudas were narrow victors in the reserves game.

In 1983, Palm Island won by a single point.

The trip was much more than the results on the field; more as a way to open a pathway for regular games for the local community.

"The turtle shell has resulted in a wonderful bond of friendship and goodwill between our club and Palm Island community," Lui said.

"Our trip was about helping young Palm players to have a pathway to regular competition such as their own domestic comp.

"I was impressed with the ability of those

Palm players. It reminded me of when Matty Bowen was shining for the Cowboys in the NRL."

The match was QRL-sanctioned and the trip from the mainland was organised by Telstan Sibley.

Following the game, local man William Charles presented the Central Tigers team with some turtle meat.

Volleyball action heats up in the Straits

By ALF WILSON



VOLLEYBALL is fast growing in popularity in the Torres Strait Islands if recent carnivals are anything to go by. Nine islands-based teams and a large number

of supporters will travel to Warraber Island next month for a big volleyball carnival. It will be held at the Aka Gingin multi-purpose sports venue from 4-7 April and there will be Open men's and women's divisions. Confirmed teams include those from Erub, Poruma, Mer, Masig, Darnley, Murray, Saibai, Yam, Waiben-

Thursday and Kiriri-Hammond island, as well as hosts Warraber; in total, 26 teams – 13 in each division. The event will be hosted by the Warraber Island Sporting Association on behalf of Torres Strait Youth Sports and Recreation Association. Sides have gotten busy with training in preparation

for the big event. Defending champions from last year's carnival is Mawan (women's division) from Warraber, and Urab (men's division) from Poruma. Volleyball is the third most popular sport in the Torres Strait behind rugby league and basketball.



Action from last year's volleyball carnival in the Torres Straits. Picture: Alf Wilson

D'Arcy, WA and the Sheffield Shield final



MITAKOODI man D'Arcy Short and Western Australia were quietly edging toward a third consecutive Sheffield Shield title in the final against Tasmania at the WACA Ground.

WA methodically set Tasmania a monumental run chase to stay alive in the hunt. The Warriors took a 161-run lead on the first innings late on Saturday which meant the Tigers' only hope of stopping the home team was a bunch of quick wickets. Tasmania had a brief glimmer of hope, with first-

innings centurion Sam Whiteman caught behind for eight, but WA steadied throughout the middle session, only losing Short for 38. Short replaced the injured Cameron Bancroft in the starting XI. If WA manage to win their third Shield title in a row, it would be a remarkable achievement given the hurdles they've faced this season – player injuries, off-field pushbike falls leading to hospital stays, among them. WA and Tasmania finished the summer season in first and second place, respectively, each recording a 5-3-2 (win-loss-draw) season.



D'Arcy Short sweeps for WA in the Sheffield Shield. Getty Images

Grants boost for Victorian clubs, athletes



KOORIE athletes, sports clubs and sports organisations across Victoria can tap into the state government's recent round of grant monies – but they need to get in quick before

deadline.

Four-hundred grants totalling more than \$540,000 is earmarked for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, sporting clubs and associations.

The money is from the Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant Program, part of the Victorian Labor Government's work supporting the Koorie community and the sport sector.

The previous round of the program delivered 48 grants to organisations across the state including the Lake Tyers Health and Childrens Services Association which received \$3000 to help the East Gippsland All Blacks football and netball senior teams to play in the VACSAL Statewide Senior Football and Netball Carnival in Torquay.

The First Nations Calisthenics Club in Heidelberg West received \$2500 for six female junior representatives to showcase their talents at Calichamp Tournaments, which took place at different venues across the state.

"We see many of our players travelling great distances to do the club proud, so we are truly grateful to now be in a position to help fund the costs of petrol and accommodation," the club's president Rebecca Taylor said.

"The Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant Program has been a great support to our participants and has enabled our girls to participate in statewide competitions, celebrate culture and remain connected to our communities."

Grants of up to \$2500 for junior teams and \$1500 for senior teams are available for travel and accommodation costs to participate in Victorian or national Aboriginal sporting carnivals and tournaments. Up to \$1000 is available to cover team uniforms and sport equipment.

Eligible individuals can access up to \$250 per person to purchase sporting uniforms and equipment, and up to \$750 for travel and accommodation.

"Every professional athlete embarks on their sporting journey at the grassroots level," Minister for Treaty and First Peoples Natalie Hutchins said.

"This initiative aims not only to empower First Nations athletes to pursue excellence in sports but also harnesses their remarkable talents and contributions to make a positive impact on community sport."

"I invite applications from Aboriginal athletes, sporting clubs, organisations and communities so we can best support their sporting achievements."

*Funding applications are open until Monday, 15 April. For more information or to apply visit sport.vic.gov.au

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Top Shield honours for Boland

By PETER ARGENT



ONE of Australian domestic cricket's true strike-bowlers Scott Boland has won selection in the 2023-24 Sheffield Shield Team of the Tournament.

The honorary team is an 'unofficial' team selected and named on Cricket Australia's official website, cricket.com.au.

Despite playing in six of the 10 Shield matches for Victoria this season, state, Boland finished eighth on the domestic competition's wicket-taker's list.

He was an imposing presence for his

home state.

Boland was preoccupied with Test-squad duties this (summer) season where he was predominately used as a high-class net bowler and drinks-steward, such was the strength of the Australian team in the series against Pakistan and the West Indies.

When he did return to the Shield arena for Victoria, he was among the most consistent bowlers in the national competition.

Boland's miserly economy rate of 2.28 runs per over was also the lowest of all Sheffield Shield bowlers to send down more than 50 overs.

Across the six games for the Bushrangers, Boland nabbed 34 wickets at

an average of just 15.32 with a strike rate of 40 deliveries for every one wicket.

His best return in an innings was 5-41.

The economical seamer was a key part of Australia's World Test Championship final victory over India at The Oval in England before struggling during his two Ashes Tests at Birmingham and Leeds.

Victoria placed fourth in the final standings.

2023-24 Sheffield Shield Team of the Tournament

1. Cameron Bancroft
2. Sam Whiteman (c)
3. Nathan McSweeney

4. Charlie Wakim

5. Ollie Davies

6. Beau Webster

7. Jimmy Peirson (wk)

8. Joel Paris

9. Chris Tremain

10. Scott Boland

11. Corey Rocchiccioli

12th. Ben Manenti

Honourable mentions

Fergus O'Neill, Gabe Bell, Nathan McAndrew, Nic Maddinson.

**Mitakoodi man D'Arcy Short last week played for Western Australia in the Sheffield Shield final against Tasmania. See our next edition – 10 April.*

Durham counting on Ashes hero ahead of Div 1 return



DURHAM Cricket has announced the signing of

Australian international seamer Scott Boland ahead of the club's return to Division 1 in 2024.

Boland will join Durham for the County Championship and Blast (Twenty20) and will be available for the club until the end of July.

A Test debut to remember during the 2021-22 Ashes series saw him return spectacular figures of 6-7 as he ripped through England in just 21 balls, steamrolling the visitors on his home ground in Melbourne.

Since his Test debut,

Boland has gone onto play a further nine times for his country, claiming 35 wickets which includes his career best of 6-7 as he struck 18 times during that Ashes series.

The 34-year-old also claimed five wickets in last summer's World Test Championship Final against India at The Oval, helping Australia to a 209-run win.

A proven seamer on the first-class arena with Victoria, Boland has amassed 349 first-class wickets with a best of 7-31 powering Victoria to a Sheffield Shield win over Western Australia in 2015.

Part of the Melbourne Stars in the Big Bash League, Boland will also feature in Durham's 2024

Blast T20 campaign.

With 75 T20 wickets to his name, Boland has enjoyed short-form success with Hobart Hurricanes and the Stars, earning international selection for Australia in both white-ball formats, while he won IPL selection for Rising Pune Supergiants in 2016.

"I'm very excited to be joining Durham for the upcoming season," Boland said.

"After achieving promotion in 2023 I'm keen to add my skills to an already strong squad and help Durham contend for the Championship in Division 1.

"I'm eager to join a strong bowling group and work alongside some new faces.

"I feel the time is right for me to play county cricket, I've always wanted to and grateful for Durham for giving me the opportunity."

Marcus North, Director of Cricket at Durham said: "Scott is a huge signing for us as we look to challenge in Division 1 next season.

"A proven International quick bowler was something we identified to further strengthen our fast-bowling group.

"Scott is someone who we have been talking to for some time and to have secured the signature of one of the best international bowlers outside of the T20 World Cup shows Durham Cricket's intent moving into 2024."



Scott Boland will join Durham County Cricket Club for the English summer season ahead.
Picture: Getty Images

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Whyman named for Matildas-Mexico friendly



JADA Whyman is on the cusp of on-field action for the Matildas after

having been

named for the Australian women's national soccer-football team versus Mexico.

The Matildas will play Mexico in a friendly to be played in Texas in the United States on Tuesday, 9 April – the countries' first meeting in 13 years.

The match will be the first outing for the team since qualifying for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games last month.

The friendly will also mark the start of Australia's official preparations for the Games.

The squad contains players from 16 different clubs, including three clubs from the A-League Women's competition.

While Whyman has won selection, former No.1 goalkeeper Lydia Williams is still recovering from an

ankle injury, which has kept her out of contention for national selection, and possibly the Olympics.



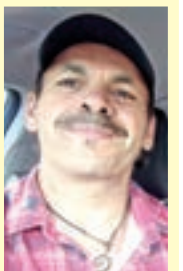
Jada Whyman will join the Matildas when they play Mexico in the United States in April. Picture: Getty Images



Walgett Aboriginal Connection's Windsor Bowie runs the ball up against the Michael Purcell Memorial team in the annual Interstate Challenge match at the Logan Metro Sports Complex in south-east Queensland. The match pits the winners of the Queensland Murri Carnival and the NSW Koori Knockout against each other. Picture: Jacob Grams (QRL)

Socceroos, Matildas need their own place

Is it too much to ask the various layers of government to chip in and build a specific-purpose venue for our national men's and women's soccer-football teams? Surely not. But here we are, in 2024 and several World Cup appearances behind us and *still* the Socceroos and Matildas are, essentially, without a home.



Darren Moncrieff

Last week, the Socceroos were forced to train for their World Cup Qualifier match against Lebanon on a rugby league field, with goalposts and crossbars an added bonus. It wasn't ideal. That they won 2-0 was beside the point. That the Matildas were forced to do the same and not only qualify for the Women's World Cup but finish fourth, is also beside the point. The actual point is that neither of those national teams should have to worry about suitable venues to train at while preparing for world-class opposition.

However, if the soccer-football community were to point some fingers as to why this sorry state of affairs exists, then they must remember that several of those fingers are pointing back at themselves.

Long before the Sydney-based NSWRL (now: NRL) and the Melbourne-based VFL (now: AFL) symbiotically trashed the various state football leagues that underpinned Australian football in this country by putting their interests first, soccer-football had the National Soccer League in 1977, and the Women's National Soccer League in 1996. In effect, soccer-football had the jump-start on rugby league and Aussie rules by decades, with national footprints at a time those codes could only dream of. But where the international game has failed was in agreeing exactly where our national teams ought to be based, and in expert-level lobbying to the various tiers of council, state and federal government to make that happen.

For such a proud sporting nation, this is a shame.

Personally, I would love nothing more for the Socceroos and Matildas to be afforded the same multi-purpose, state-of-the-art facilities that our domestic codes have enjoyed for decades. If we're going to eventually bring a FIFA World Cup trophy home, it at the very least needs a specific location to reside, where we can go to to celebrate a true, national sporting triumph.

WAC win Koori v Murri game

By ALF WILSON



FORMER NRL Dally M medal-winner Ben Barba scored two tries for Walgett Aboriginal

Connection in their defeat of the Michael Purcell Memorial team 42-4 in the 2024 Interstate Challenge match at Logan Metro Sports Complex.

The Interstate Challenge match pits the winners of the NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival and the Arthur Beetson Foundation Murri Carnival in a football showdown to determine the best Indigenous rugby league side in the country.

In an ironic twist, Darwin-born Barba played for both teams when they won their respective carnivals in 2023. For the interstate clash, Barba opted to

play for WAC where he played a dominant role in the big win.

But it was WAC centre Windsor Bowie, who lives at Bamaga in the Northern Peninsula Area in far north Queensland, who was named man of the match.

In the women's Interstate Challenge match, which pits the women's winners from those same carnivals, Queensland side Mungindi scored a nailbiting 20-18 win over Newcastle Yowies.

2024 Interstate Challenge – teams

Michael Purcell Memorial

1. Tyrone Roberts-Davis, 2. Luke Geary, 3. Brett Kelly, 4. Michael Roberts, 5. Dan West-Pes, 6. Shallin Fuller, 7. Wes Conlon (c), 8. Cameron Toulhurst, 9. Craig Garvey, 10.

Dan Shannon, 11. Davin Crampton, 12. Sam Shannon, 13. Robert Kennedy, 14. Jerome Green, 15. Richard Murray, 16. Matthew Bowen, 17. Zac Roberts, 18. Joe Shannon, 19. Brenton Wallace, 20. Samson Link. Standby: Cameron Moran

Walgett AC

1. Chris Woodbridge, 2. Dillon Walford, 3. Grant Green, 4. Windsor Bowie, 5. Matthew Gibuma, 6. Ben Barba, 7. Ben Jones, 8. Tariq Miles, 9. Jayden Connors, 10. Jesse Thompson, 11. Noel Underwood, 12. Joel Thompson, 13. George Kepa, 14. Matt Vessey, 15. Yaza Stephen, 16. Jardine Bobongie, 17. Milton Mossman, 18. Rahkeem Auda, 19. Cameron Dennis, 20. Stanley Anau

Mungindi

1. Daisy Gordon, 2. Kiani

Duckett, 3. Shanelle Lyons, 4. Anna Dingley, 5. Turzah Donovan, 6. Rosie Parsons, 7. Tarnayar Hinch, 8. Janaya Trapman, 9. Lateia Duckett, 10. Nellie Bell, 11. Tegan Gibbs, 12. Cheyenne Baker, 13. Emily Young, 14. Megan Prince, 15. Amelia Harris, 16. Tanisha Dennis, 17. Tia Hinch, 18. Chantelle Orcher, 19. Tia Chapman, 20. Shakiah Riley

Newcastle Yowies

1. Brandi Davis-Welsh, 2. Rikka Lamb, 3. Robyn Draper, 4. Kathryn Niki, 5. Tawana Togo, 6. Tazmyne Luschwitz, 7. Caitlin Moran, 8. Kyra Simon, 9. Tanika Toddhunter, 10. Takiyah Nagas, 11. Ella Koster, 12. Kayla Flemming, 13. Majayda Darcy, 14. Bianca Beale, 15. Kiesha Johnston, 16. Bianca Holt, 17. Janiyah Brown

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Patty Mills has joined Miami Heat after a brief stint at Atlanta.
Picture: Getty Images



Landing on his feet at the Heat

By DARREN MONCRIEFF



ABORIGINAL basketball legend Rick Baldwin has hailed Patty Mills' move to

Miami after the star basketballer landed on his feet at the Heat in his first six games for the NBA franchise.

Mills, now in his 15th season in the world's most ultra-competitive basketball competition, recently found a new home at Miami after an unhappy stint at the Atlanta Hawks.

The 35-year-old played 21-minutes in the Heat's most

recent match with Philadelphia.

His average on-court minutes at the Heat stands at 14 per game, contrasting favourably to the measly 10mins per game in the 19 he played for Atlanta.

Baldwin, a Hall of Famer, championship player and club legend at the Knox Raiders in the former South East Australian Basketball League (now NBL1 South), has hailed Mills' move to America's Sunshine State.

"I think he's found a good home under the coach there, Erik Spoelstra," Baldwin, an avid watcher of the NBA, said.

"Obviously it wasn't working out at Atlanta but he's got an opportunity at Miami where the coach rates him and his value to the team.

"At the Heat, Patty fits into their system.

"And what Patty brings as a teammate is an energy off the bench and that's contagious.

"That's why he's so well-respected because of what he brings."

Mills' time at Atlanta was his most quietest in terms of action on the court in his 15 years in the NBA, which included a championship with San Antonio in 2014.

Mills' move to Miami has

also boosted his Paris Olympic Games preparation for the Australian Boomers.

Mills famously led the Boomers to its first medal (bronze) at the Summer Olympic Games and is key to the national team's chances at the 2024 Paris Games.

His lack of court-time at Atlanta threatened to derail those preparations but those fears have been eased.

"It's like one door closes and another opens up," Baldwin said of Mills.

"When you talk about how someone belongs, well, at Atlanta maybe he didn't fit into the coach's system there, but he belongs in Miami now."



Ally Wilson returns for the Asia Cup gold medal-winning Gangurrus.

Wilson, Hickey win selection for Gangurrus



IN a remarkable development for Indigenous basketball, William Hickey and Ally Wilson will represent Australia at the Asia Cup in Singapore beginning this week.

The pair, both mainstays in the NBL and WNBL respectively, were last week named in the Australian Gangurrus teams ahead of the FIBA 3x3 Asia Cup to be held on the island nation from March 27-31.

The basketball Gangurrus will be among over 43 teams representing more than 20 countries in Singapore.

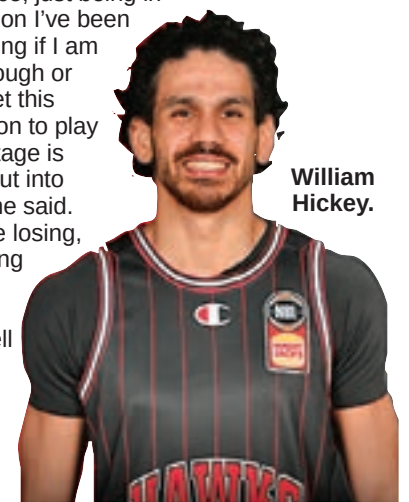
Hickey and Wilson will also have the chance to stake a claim in the Australian teams with the Asia Cup doubling also as preparation for the Olympic Qualifiers in May.

Ngarrindjeri woman Wilson and teammates Anneli Maley, Lauren Mansfield, and Marena Whittle will look to repeat their gold medal-winning performance at last year's Asia Cup.

Wiradjuri and Wiradjuri and Gamilaroi-Gomeri man Hickey will be joined by Todd Blanchfield, James O'Donnell and Josh Davey.

"I am really looking forward to the whole experience, just being in the position I've been questioning if I am good enough or not, to get this recognition to play on this stage is hard to put into words," he said.

"I hate losing, but as long as the team is doing well and I'm contributing in one way or another I believe the results will follow."



William Hickey.

Leading basketball referee off to the United States

By PETER ARGENT



ONE of Australian basketball's leading referees will shift base to the game's epicentre in May to further develop her game.

Kunja and Kombumerri woman Jacqui Dover will move to the United States in May to

undertake training and development as a referee. Her aim is a spot on the roster in the G-League, which is the NBA development league.

"I'm off to the trials in May to see if I can be picked up the G-League, the development league where the NBA officials come from," Dover said.

"Naturally, the longer term dream is to be a referee in the

NBA."

This will be Dover's second stint in the US.

In her first stint there, she came under the tuition of some of the best in the game.

"During the development program in New York City, I received to tuition from Monti McCutchen, a highly rated NBA finals referee who is currently working as the Head

of Referee Training and Development at the NBA," Dover said.

"We also officiated in games during the pre-season for the development league (G-League).

"Naturally being a part of that program has been a highlight."

Dover recently reached a milestone as a referee when

she took control of her 50th NBL game, when the Adelaide 36ers hosted the New Zealand Breakers in the penultimate round of the 2023-24 NBL season.

Dover was last year named the National Sports Official of the Year at the revived National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sports Awards.

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