



Koori Mail

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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'This Saltwater woman from Borroloola, of the Yanyuwa Garrawa people, will go to Government House tomorrow to be sworn into the Federal Cabinet. I'll take the place of my friend and mentor Linda Burney.

It's been an extraordinary journey and a wonderful privilege to walk beside both her and former Senator Pat Dodson for the last eight years. Thankyou to the Prime Minister – who I know shares the strong vision to close the gap.'

– Minister McCarthy



Northern Territory senator Malarndirri McCarthy replaces Linda Burney as Minister for Indigenous Australians. Picture: AAP

Passing the baton

NT Senator Malarndirri McCarthy takes on the Indigenous Australians portfolio



NORTHERN Territory senator Malarndirri McCarthy has been elevated to the federal cabinet and will take on the Indigenous Australians portfolio, becoming only the second Indigenous woman to do so after direct predecessor Linda Burney. Ms Burney announced last

week she was planning to retire at the next federal election, due by May, 2025.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced his new-look cabinet on Sunday in Canberra.

Senator McCarthy was set to be sworn in as a minister on Monday, and delivered a message to her supporters via social media on Sunday, giving

particular thanks to Ms Burney and former senator Pat Dodson.

"It's been an extraordinary journey and a wonderful privilege to walk beside both her and former Senator Pat Dodson for the last eight years," she said.

'Great' appointment

Her appointment was welcomed by the chair of the

Healing Foundation, Steve Larkin, who described it as a 'great appointment'.

"Minister McCarthy deeply understands the Stolen Generations experience, its pervasive impact across the generations, and the importance of acting urgently to support elderly survivors,"

"The Healing Foundation congratulates Minister McCarthy

on becoming the new Minister for Indigenous Australians.

"We look forward to working with her and her team on the complex challenges facing Stolen Generations survivors including trauma-informed aged care and barriers to accessing historical and family records."

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MY FAMILY

Elizabeth Baluz, Townsville, QLD



Back from left are members of the Baluz family: Shana and daughter Dorothy, myself grandmother Elizabeth and grandchildren Bokeem and front, Zepeneisa and baby Jerziah in pram.

As a family we do lots of things together and I really enjoyed attending the Townsville Show with my daughters and grandchildren.

It was so wonderful that three generations could all be together for what was a great and happy family time.

There were tens of thousands of people there and your photographer caught up with us on the big family day in early July.

We walked around and checked out sideshow alley, rides, exhibition halls and entertainment action at the centre of the showgrounds, and caught up with lots of friends.

I really miss my mother Dorothy senior who passed away and we had lived in the same house in Cranbrook suburb with her for 27 years.

She was born on Badu island in the Torres Strait and was a role model for myself and the young girls when they were growing up.

Although we have lived in Townsville, I have many relatives as far away as the Torres Strait, NPA – especially at Bamaga and some on Palm Island and at Lockhart River.

Over the years myself and the children have attended many events such as NAIDOC celebrations, an open tourist day on Palm Island, Cultural Fests and Allblacks rugby league carnivals such as the Bindal Sharks one in Townsville.

We love traditional food and at one Palm Island event we cooked damper and had a food stall.

Our specialty is syrup and banana leaf damper. We also got lots of compliments on a pork dish and rice as well as chicken and rice.

It is just so good being a grandmother and being with the young ones as they grow up and spending as much time as possible together.

– As told to Alf Wilson

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

Koori Mail

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OUR CHILDREN



Young Mob Amaya Sandy, Porsha-Rae Dempsey, Aiyannah Watkins and Amahlia Namok at this year's NAIDOC Week rally in Thuringowa. More pictures, 30-31

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'Australia remains a crime scene', Elder tells genocide hearing

By ALI MC



THE Supreme Court of Victoria recently heard a groundbreaking case in which Uncle Robbie Thorpe brought

charges of genocide against King Charles the Third.

Thorpe, a Krautungalung Elder known for decades of activism, argues that the denial of First Nations' sovereignty and ongoing injustices are a continuation of colonial genocide.

The case was first brought to the magistrate's court, where it was dismissed on the grounds that cases of genocide cannot be heard in that forum. Thorpe then took the matter to the Supreme Court which gave Thorpe an opportunity to state his case on the legal record.

"We're dealing with a Crown which has no proper jurisdiction over our people," he told the court.

"Australia remains a crime scene until there is consent."

Thorpe also argued that "the proof of the genocide is continuing – the removal of our children is worse than it ever was. The incarceration rates – not just men but women and children as well."

The Genocide Convention was introduced into international law in 1948 and incorporated into Australian domestic law in 2002.

The Convention lists crimes that constitute genocide, including killing members of the group, causing serious mental harm and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Thorpe argues that massacres, the Stolen Generations and the ongoing incarceration and child removals in the state of Victoria constitute genocide against First Nations peoples, according to the Convention.

This is what he seeks to



Robbie Thorpe Elders and supporters outside the supreme court before the trial.

prove in a court of law.

However, complicating the issue is the 'Attorney-General's fiat'; the requirement that Commonwealth Attorney General needs to 'sign off' on any cases of genocide brought before the courts.

As Thorpe asserts, the Attorney General is highly unlikely to sign off a case of genocide and this prevents First Nations' peoples bringing such cases into the domestic courts.

Travesty

"It's a travesty what they do here – they prevent Aboriginal people from accessing these proceedings," he told the judge. "Our people have suffered enough."

Senator Lidia Thorpe recently introduced a Bill to Federal Parliament that seeks to overturn this legal block, so cases of genocide can be heard in both domestic and international courts.

Uncle Robbie Thorpe told the *Koori Mail* that his aspiration is to have his case heard in the International Criminal Court.

"The main point is International Criminal Court. We're never going to see justice in these courts," he said.

"We've started to build the

foundation of evidence for us to get to where we really want to be. I think they're starting to waiver and recognise that they need to do something about it in a real way."

This is not the first time Thorpe has attempted to have genocide charges heard in the

legal system.

In 1997, he brought similar charges against the Commonwealth of Australia and in 1999 against then-premier of Victoria Jeff Kennett.

Often, such cases have been referred to as 'vexatious' or 'frivolous', meaning a waste of the court's time.

Yet in his recent appearance at the Supreme Court he told the judge his arguments were indeed not vexatious or frivolous.

Real issue

"It's a real issue – genocide here. The evidence is there – look at our jail rates, look at the removal of our children," he said. "We want it to stop today."

He also extended an invitation for the judge to visit Camp Sovereignty, a permanent camp established in Melbourne's 'King's Domain' at the botanical gardens.

Thorpe explained that it was an opportunity to better understand Aboriginal law and sit around the fire.

"I ask you your honour, how much do you know about the law of this land? Not the law of England - the law of this land," he said. "Come and step onto the land. Come and see what the law of the land is about."

The Supreme Court will decide on the case within the coming weeks.



Elders and supporters outside the supreme court before the trial.

Treaty talks to begin



AUSTRALIA'S first treaty negotiations between the Victorian government and The First Peoples' Assembly are on track to begin in four months.

The assembly has formally told the state's independent Treaty Authority it is ready to start talks.

Discussions are likely to get under way in November following community consultation, co-chair Rueben Berg said.

"Treaty is not something we enter into lightly, you want to make sure you're actually got the things in place to negotiate properly a treaty," he told reporters.

Details of the treaty are yet to be agreed but Mr Berg said it would focus on structural reforms that provide advice directly to government.

"Through treaty, we want to make sure we put decision-making back in the hands of First Peoples," he said.

"Decisions about Mob should be made by mob.

"We also know government needs to be held more accountable for the activities they're taking about First Peoples, that's also what treaty will deliver."

Discussions

The Assembly's declaration it's ready to start discussions was entered into the Negotiation Database and a copy presented to the Treaty Authority at a recent ceremony.

The authority acts as an independent umpire that ensures parties uphold certain standards.

The Treaty Negotiation Framework allows Traditional Owners to form delegations to negotiate treaties that reflect priorities and aspirations of a specific area, while the assembly will negotiate a statewide treaty for structural reforms.

Assembly co-chair Ngarra Murray said they would continue gathering feedback from communities across Victoria,

including engagement with Traditional Owner groups and Aboriginal controlled community organisations.

"We're really excited about bringing all their aspirations and all their hopes and dreams into this moment," Ms Murray said.

Victoria's opposition withdrew its support for treaty in January, citing concerns about cultural heritage laws.

Mr Berg said he was open to further conversations with all sides of politics.

– AAP



More pictures next edition

Barkaa performs to a delighted crowd at the Ceduna Foreshore Hotel Motel after gale-force winds forced organisers to relocate some of the entertainment. Photo: Jack Fenby

Koori Mail

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Yabaardu: ‘The festival to be at’

It's always wonderful to watch your people shine bright and this year's Yabaardu Festival at the Koonibba Football Club grounds in Ceduna, South Australia, was one of those moments in which my people did just that. Yabaardu means all/everyone coming together and it is a special time where the community and surrounding communities come together to celebrate blak excellence through music and culture.

I thought last year's Yabaardu where King Stingray headlined was impressive and would be hard to beat but I think this year's was just as good. Yabaardu brought a huge line up with local acts like A. Ware & Jusst, Warren Milera and Iwantja, including headliners Dan Sultan, Barkaa and Kobie Dee. People of Ceduna's social media pages were seriously buzzing with excitement, every single cousin of mine posted a photo with Dan Sultan, on the day he entered town, which was pretty special to see him out and about getting to know everyone.

Unfortunately, this year's weather brought cyclonic winds of up to 150kph, which left organisers with having to cancel the headliners or push them forward but the quick thinking team of organisers from the Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation, Far West Partnerships and Balya Productions moved Yabaardu to the Ceduna



Shelley Ware

Foreshore Hotel Motel. They were only too proud and happy to support Yabaardu in getting everyone together to share in the magic these headliners were bringing to town.

It looked like everyone in Ceduna crammed into the Ceduna Foreshore front bar and enjoyed the headliners and the amazing DJ Sarz who had everyone dancing into the night. Everyone of all ages was singing along and loving being that up close and personal with an intimate performance by Barkaa and Dan Sultan.

My cousin Wayne Miller, one of the organisers, who was also this year's SA Premiers NAIDOC Award winner for his outstanding commitment to the community of Ceduna and surrounding communities. Yes, a proud cousin brag but you would be exhausted if I listed all of ways he cares and helps our people. Wayne is one who creates change and positive spaces for

all but is also busy with his head down dodging accolades, so it was lovely to see him awarded such a high-profile award this NAIDOC. It was very well deserved.

He is the chief executive of the Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation and said: "It was great to see that even with bad weather the festival continues to gain momentum, having over 2,300 people through the gates. Thanks to the team and the support staff who worked hard to change the schedule multiple times to prevent this year's event from being cancelled due to the forecasted damaging winds."

Another behind the scenes superstar of Yabaardu was festival director Letisha Ackland who was this year's SA NAIDOC Person of the Year. Along with her team from Balya Productions they make the seamless magic happen for community, even in damaging winds. She said: "Such a great festival and on such beautiful Country, there's a lot of history on that place and I'm proud to be a small part of something really beautiful there."

Dan Sultan left a simple message for everyone: "We had a great time! Thank you for having us." What a great time had by all. Can't wait for what the organisers have up their sleeve next year. In its third year Yabaardu is seriously becoming the festival to be at.

Cultural fishing ruling welcomed as it shifts the onus of proof onto Fisheries

By MARION WILLIAMS



A NSW Court of Appeal ruling is both good news and bad news for Aboriginal cultural fishers. On the

positive side, instead of Aboriginal fishers having to prove they have native title rights, prosecutors acting for the NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) now must prove that the Aboriginal fishers are outside of their native title rights.

However, the ruling also states that the fishers are not protected under section 211 of the Native Title Act if there is any commercial activity such as selling their catch for money.

The judgment was made on July 8 in the NSW Court of Criminal Appeal regarding Walbunja man Keith Nye who was arrested in 2017 and convicted in 2022 under the NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994.

Public interest lawyer Kathryn Ridge of Ridge & Associates has been following the decades-long legal wrangle for several years and has represented South Coast cultural fishers in court.

She said the recent ruling is very useful in that it sets out very clearly who bears the onus of proof when it comes to the fishing being within native title and that is the State.

"That is very important, because if the fishing is a valid exercise of native title, there is no justification for any enforcement activity."

Native title barrister John Waters SC said the ruling by the highest criminal court in the state binds magistrates, district courts and lower courts to follow the same direction. "I think it will affect the way Fisheries laws are administered. They will be less



Danny Chapman, NSW Local Aboriginal Land Council Southern region councillor, with Senator David Shoebridge at Parliament House in Canberra in May. *Picture: Afterglow*

capable of bullying and targeting," Mr Waters said.

Ms Ridge said the South Coast Aboriginal Fishing Rights Group has always maintained that Fisheries enforcement activity should be focused on those cases where it is clear it is outside of Native Title, namely there was clear evidence of some wrongdoing. "Instead, Fisheries has put everybody to the burden of proof which is a very costly exercise."

Danny Chapman of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council said they have spent so much time, money and resources over the last 30 years proving cultural fishers' connection to Country. "It has cost us millions of dollars and thousands of man hours."

Mr Chapman said the same

result is about to be achieved through a settlement between the Crown and the Native Title claimants on connection to Country.

That will end the need for the onerous task of proving connection to Country. "They will have the proof there. That will be agreed by the State in the very near future."

Not protected

The July 8 ruling also states any commercial fishing is outside of the protection of section 211 of the Native Title Act.

Ms Ridge said that should not be taken by NSW Fisheries as the end of that argument.

"The Native Title claim is registered, and the State did not oppose the registration of a right

to fish for any purpose, including commercial."

Mr Chapman said this part of the ruling would not make Mr Nye's appeal any easier.

"I have been fighting these cases for over 30 years. I think they will continue to prosecute."

He said while there is plenty of evidence of barter being part of their laws and customs, Section 211 does not include provision for a cultural fisher's catch to be sold to enable their family to make a living, unlike in Canada and other settler colonies.

In the meantime, Ms Ridge said the ruling on the onus of proof "is a good decision for Aboriginal people who are fishing and there is no commercial activity".



Kathryn Ridge of Ridge & Associates has represented South Coast cultural fishers in court. *Picture: Supplied.*

Million-strong Mob



THE population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia has reached one million.

Australian Bureau of Statistics data released on Wednesday projected the population of Indigenous people had increased by more than 50,000 since June 2021, when there were 983,700 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, based on census data.

Indigenous people make up 3.8 per cent of the total Australian population.

By 2031, the Indigenous population is expected to reach almost 1.2 million.

In June 2021 40.8 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people lived in major cities, while 43.8 per cent lived in regional areas.

About 15 per cent lived in remote

or very remote regions.

"We are projecting a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in major cities, and a smaller proportion living in remote and very remote Australia," the bureau's head of demography statistics Beidar Cho said.

Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria are expected to see the fastest population growth among Indigenous people.

The rates of population across these jurisdictions are predicted to sit between two and 2.4 per cent.

The high rates of growth are due to relatively large cohorts of Indigenous people moving into peak child-bearing age, and assumed interstate migration, particularly to Queensland and Victoria.

Ms Cho said population growth

will continue up to 2031 in most Indigenous regions, which are geographical areas based on historical boundaries.

"Perth in Western Australia is projected to be the fastest growing Indigenous region (growing by between 2.7 and 2.8 per cent on average annually over the next 10 years) followed by Brisbane in Queensland (between 2.6 and 2.8 per cent)," she said.

In 2021, the median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was 24, compared to 38.9 for non-Indigenous Australians.

A third of the Indigenous population are children 14 and younger, while people over 65 represent about five per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The proportion of people aged over 65 is expected to increase to about seven per cent by 2031.

Telstra art awards to be announced



THE 2024 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA), presented on Larrakia Country, will be held on the lawns of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) on

Friday, August 9. The 2024 Telstra NATSIAA celebrates the diverse practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists from around the country.

This year's awards ceremony will not only announce the winners of the 2024 Telstra NATSIAA but will also feature world-class performances from some of Australia's most exciting emerging and established female artists. Telstra NATSIAA is Australia's longest running and most prestigious Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art award. This year, 72 finalists from across Australia have been selected from a total of 238 entries.

The 72 finalists in the 2024 Telstra NATSIAA are eligible to win one of the following categories: Telstra Art Award - \$100,000, Telstra General Painting Award - \$15,000, Telstra Bark Painting Award - \$15,000, Telstra Work on Paper Award - \$15,000, Wandjuk Marika 3D Memorial Award (sponsored by Telstra) - \$15,000 and Telstra Emerging Artist Award - \$15,000.

Jabiluka uranium mine lease rejected



THE rejection of a 10-year lease renewal bid on the Jabiluka uranium mine is being heralded by

Traditional Owners as the end of a decades-long fight.

A decision to not renew the Northern Territory's Jabiluka uranium mine lease has ended an intense, decades-long fight against industry giants, Traditional Owners say.

Energy Resources Australia (ERA), a subsidiary of Rio Tinto, had applied for a 10-year lease renewal on the Jabiluka uranium mine, which the company previously held for 42 years, but was knocked back last Friday.

Mirarr senior Traditional Owner

Yvonne Margarula said the decision ensured the area's future would be protected.

"We have always said no to this mine, government and mining companies told us they would mine it but we stayed strong and said no," Ms Margarula said.

Very happy

"Today I feel very happy that Jabiluka will be safe forever.

"Protecting Country is very important for my family and for me."

Corben Mudjandi, who is also a Mirarr Traditional Owner, said the update marked a new major era for the site.

"This day will go down in history as the day the Mirarr finally stopped Jabiluka," he said.

"It is great day for the Mirarr people, for Kakadu, the Northern Territory and for Australia."

"This proves that people standing strong for Country can win.

"We look forward to welcoming all Australians to share our cultural heritage for decades to come."

Mining minister Mark Monaghan said the decision not to renew was based partially on advice from the federal government.

"We have gone through a thorough process to ensure that all stakeholder views have been considered in this decision," he said.

"The federal government advice, along with the wishes of the Mirarr people, were critical to

this process and outcome."

The Northern Territory government declared special reserve status over the Jabiluka area, which is in the surrounds of Kakadu National Park, in May.

This prevents any future applications for the grant of a mineral title over the Jabiluka area once the current lease ceases on August 11.

Disappointing: ERA

An ERA spokesman said the lease decision was 'disappointing' and left the development of the site in the hands of future governments.

"Under ERA's lease arrangements, Jabiluka cannot be developed without the consent of the Mirarr Traditional Owners," he

said. "That development veto lapses once the lease expires."

The Australian Conservation Foundation welcomed the decision, calling it a 'huge win' for Traditional Owners.

"This decision allows a line to be drawn under the divisive era of uranium mining in Kakadu," a statement read.

"This is a responsible decision that ends the threat that has hovered over this very special place for four decades."

Mirarr people have long opposed any mining in the area, holding protests in the late 1990s and early 2000s when more than 5,000 people travelled to Kakadu to prevent uranium mining at Jabiluka.

- AAP



Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney at a press conference in Sydney at which she announced her plan to retire.

Linda Burney to retire at the next federal election



OUTGOING minister Linda Burney has left a legacy as a trailblazer for Indigenous people

across the nation, advocates say.

Ms Burney, who served as Indigenous Australians Minister, will step down at the next federal poll, due by May 2025, with the government to announce a pre-election reshuffle.

Ms Burney was the first Indigenous person in the NSW parliament, the first Indigenous

woman in the House of Representatives and the first to hold the Indigenous Affairs portfolio.

"But I won't be the last – to me, that is progress and it's time to hand the baton on," she told reporters on Thursday.

On the failed Referendum for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, Ms Burney said there were silver linings in millions voting 'yes'.

She gave her all to reconciliation.

"I was in Redfern in 1993 when Paul Keating made his

Redfern speech, on the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 2000 for the walk for reconciliation," she said.

"I was in the chamber when Kevin Rudd made his apology on behalf of the Australian people in 2008.

"I've seen a lot, and let me tell you that progress doesn't always move in a straight line but with every passing generation, the arc bends a little bit more towards justice.

"I've done my bit and the time for the new generation is now."

Her work in the portfolio left a legacy for Indigenous people to

follow, the chair of First Nations organisation Children's Ground, William Tilmouth said.

"She has shown strength, dignity and commitment to our people and in her efforts towards improving First Nations justice," he said.

"Being the first to break down political barriers is not easy – it is trailblazing."

Opposition spokeswoman Jacinta Nampijinpa Price said Ms Burney 'has been driven by a burning desire to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians'.

Ms Burney had a tumultuous

time in politics following the death of her 33-year-old son Binni Kirkbright-Burney in 2017.

"I have been through more than my fair share of life's ups and downs but I think I've done it with kindness, grace, resilience, intelligence and integrity," she said.

It was announced on Sunday that NT Senator Malarndirri McCarthy would take over from Ms Burney. Ged Kearney was named assistant minister for Indigenous health on top of her assistant aged care and health ministries.

- AAP

Sharing ancient culture

By MARION WILLIAMS



JORDAN Nye readily admits it is a big job. He is on a mission to share his people's ancient culture with

Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike. Mr Nye is on his own cultural journey but educating as many people as possible along the way has become his purpose in life.

He believes the timing is right. He pointed to the 1967 referendum when Aboriginal people were included in the Australian constitution. "That wasn't a long time ago but now there are big shifts coming and it is time for us as a nation to embrace and share our ancient culture."

His mission started while working on Walbunja Country around Mogo. He could see a big gap between First Nations and Second Nations people and that many sacred sites were being desecrated through development because of a lack of understanding and knowledge about place. "I wanted to provide a safe place for people to come and learn, not just about culture, but also our significant sites and places," Mr Nye said.

He developed youth programs because "they are our next leaders, so I know our future is going to be better". He also ran tours with older community members which helped build on his knowledge "because they want to keep culture strong too". Then came cultural tours and cultural consultancy for organisations. "Our organisations want to change as well."

In March 2022 he founded Muladha Gamara as a business because he wanted to do more and reach a bigger audience.

"If you cleanse and heal one part of Country, it won't affect all Country, just like if you focus on only one part of the community," Mr Nye said. "You must do the whole community and then it starts to ripple out. I want to shift the lens through all these different parts of the community."

Mr Nye comes from a very strong fishing family and that connection to the ocean helped



Jordan Nye with his younger sisters Jamara Nye (left) and Emma Sproates (right). Pictures: supplied

them keep their traditional way of living. Adding to that, his grandfather spoke language. "As a young fella I thought they were made up words until I was in my 20s and started learning language and I recognised some of the words."

Dance and ceremony came to Mr Nye later in life, but he felt there was a piece missing. That pushed him to find out more about his cultural identity. He sat with Elders and knowledge holders and built his knowledge. That enabled him to share and educate not only his family but also his community. "There is still a lot more to learn but I have found my purpose."

Mr Nye's desire to share culture has led to a string of different jobs to understand how to bring about change. These include working in Aboriginal health, the federal government's mental health department, local

government and as Aboriginal Education Officer at Moruya High School.

At Muladha Gamara he works with three siblings and a friend. It was their dance performances that really helped the business grow. "Dance was our way of reaching community in a big way."

"Culture doesn't see colour. It sees a spirit and every person has a spirit. I feel like it is getting to the time people want to share our culture and we can contribute to society in a beautiful way," Mr Nye said.

He encourages people of all backgrounds to learn and embrace culture and to ask questions. "Every person has spirit and if you strip it back far enough, we all once lived with Country at one time no matter what religion or race so we have that genetic memory and we can all connect."



Jordan Nye is in demand in Eurobodalla shire and beyond for smoking ceremonies, dance performances and speaking at schools.



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The Box lifts the lid on social inequity

By JILLIAN MUNDY



ESSENTIAL and timely – a new play from acclaimed Pakana playwright and director Nathan

Maynard and collaborator Rob Braslin is powerful theatre.

The Box, which opened to a full house in Launceston last week, provokes audiences to check their privileges.

Set in the fictional public housing suburb of Bowendale, the moving script draws audiences into the home of sole parent Mandy Maslin on the eve of her eldest son's prison release, highlighting the painful truths of poverty and intergenerational trauma.

The Box explores the monumental role mothers have holding their families together, the courage it takes for many to persist and survive, let alone have the luxury to think 'outside the box'.

A tragedy of Shakespearean proportions, with its perfect pace, spot on wit, energy and empathy *The Box* is generous and considerate of its audience.

It is authentic, harrowing and heartfelt – the language is real, the pain is real and so is the hope.

With a single set, with dynamic lighting and just a few props, including a shopping trolley and a pipe, it places on stage lives and voices of people most often deliberately excluded from public story telling.

"This story needs to be told because theatre is not a safe



The Box writers Nathan Maynard and Rob Braslin on set, with the cast Corey Saylor-Brunskill, Nelson Clay, Harrison Collis Oates and Carrie McLean.

space for people from housing commission areas," Nathan says.

"It's never going to be a safe space until we see ourselves onstage."

For Rob, a Wakka Wakka man and story teller who grew up in Tasmania who is best known as a stand-up comedian, it was his first experience writing a full length theatrical work. He said working with Nathan, who co-wrote and directed, was educational and his excitement infectious.

They both grew up in public housing suburbs, and both only a

generation or two removed from government assimilation policies. Nathan in Rocherlea on the outskirts of Launceston and Rob in Clarendon Vale, on the outskirts on Hobart.

In their immediate families they know too well some of the tragedies and social and health issues portrayed in *The Box*, as do some of the actors.

Rob likens *The Box* to a handshake between 'regular theatre goers' and people in public housing, or frowned upon by society or only heard about in news stories on crime or poverty.

In his own life, Rob has met people who have told him he is one of the 'good ones'.

"The trifecta – I'm a good Aborigine, a good bogan and a good Braslin.

"They're saying when I know someone they're ok."

But if he had his time again, Rob would still choose Clarendon Vale.

"It has given me sense of perspective.

"When you're broke and you're down and out, people in these poorer sort of neighbourhoods have been through it so they'll

help you out in a heart beat.

"When my mum and dad passed away, our neighbours were (right) there, there's a beautiful thing that happens," Rob said.

"We touch on it in this play, that kid who's always at your house because his house might be a little bit rougher and tougher than yours and they get informally adopted.

"Growing up, we had those fellas, some of them in their 40s and 50s still rocking up because they didn't have anywhere else to go.

"And mum and dad welcomed them in because they've been doing it for their whole life – since they were kids.

"The people who have the least will give the most.

"We didn't know we were poor, like a lot of families, you don't realise until you see how the other half live.

"Ignorance used to be bliss, things that you think are normal, people on drugs or calling in at three o'clock in the morning trying to sell you a lawnmower."

While *The Box* has some Tasmanian sayings and symbolism, with a few tweaks it could transcend location and era. It may be just the right replacement or companion for the Shakespeare taught in classrooms, which depending on teaching style, has induced yawns and disengagement, and even used as punishment, across the continent for decades.

The Box presented by Mudlark Theatre, is in Pataway/Burnie tonight and tomorrow July 31 - August 1, and Nipaluna/Hobart next week, August 7 - 8, 2024.

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Watchdog clears APY art centre



AN Aboriginal arts centre has been cleared of breaching consumer laws, over allegations non-Indigenous arts

workers meddled with indigenous art

The allegations against the APY Art Centre Collective were first published in *The Australian* newspaper in 2023, sending shockwaves through the Aboriginal art industry.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has investigated the collective and found no breaches of consumer law, Deputy Chair Catriona Lowe said in a statement issued last Friday.

The art centre collective has welcomed the findings, saying the accusations were unfair and incorrect.

"White Hands on Black Art is a false story and now we are vindicated," it said in a statement.

"The findings prove what we have always known, that there

is no doubt that the integrity and honesty of our artists and their work is of the highest professional standard."

The collective works with artists from the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands that spread across the northern part of South Australia.

The First-Nations owned organisation markets the artworks of more than 500 Anangu artists through galleries in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney.

But the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations has directed the collective to clean up its books, the agency revealed Friday.

It will investigate one allegation raised in a separate probe into the accusations of interference.

Other allegations made against the collective lacked evidence, or fell outside the agency's purview, it said.

"It is important that procedural fairness is afforded and any investigation or

possible regulatory action is not compromised," the office said in a statement.

The corporate watchdog said media coverage of the allegations had prompted important discussions on the cultural and social issues around Aboriginal art and the management of community art studios.

"These broader cultural issues fall outside the provisions of the Australian Consumer Law and the ACCC's enforcement powers," the deputy chair said.

Proposed federal legislation to protect Indigenous cultural and intellectual property may be a more suitable way to address these issues in future, she said.

An investigation by the National Gallery of Australia, which was forced to put its *Ngura Pulka – Epic Country* exhibition on hold after the initial allegations aired, determined the APY artists had exercised effective control over the creation of their paintings.

– AAP

Keeping kids out of prison

By KEIRA JENKINS



MORE culturally appropriate programs are needed to keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander children out of the youth justice system, research has found.

With First Nations children 20 times more likely to be incarcerated across the country than non-Indigenous young people, University of Queensland School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work PhD candidate Lorelle Holland believes addressing the disparity will take a holistic and 'decolonised' approach.

"If we actually stop looking at the negatives and the offending and the behaviour and try to heal, that's also part of decolonising," she said.

"When you talk about decolonising, to me, it's re-imagining a society that's actually willing to acknowledge past atrocities and maybe why situations are what they are."

The research focused on Indigenous children aged 10-18 participating in diversion programs aimed at keeping them out of the justice system.

They included residential remand and bail support initiatives, homelessness services

and help for those appearing before specialist Indigenous courts.

Ms Holland said only 10 of the 31 diversion programs assessed in the study addressed factors like Indigenous connection to land, culture, spirituality, family and community.

"It's because there's no dialogue with community when they establish the programs, and they need to do better," the Mandandanji woman said.

Complex needs

But Ms Holland said the most highly commended programs assessed by researchers addressed the complex needs of Indigenous children by supporting their social and emotional wellbeing, which led to a decline in offending behaviours.

"The best and most culturally appropriate are the ones that are Indigenous-led, place-based and actually look at a holistic family focus over the life course," she said.

The programs were examined through an Indigenous perspective of health and wellbeing, analysing their effectiveness in keeping First Nations youth out of detention.

"We can't target children in isolation to their families and community," Ms Holland said.

"The Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing is that

we don't leave people behind, we're a collective culture and bring everybody together."

The study findings appear in *First Nations Health and Wellbeing – the Lowitja Journal*.

Their publication follows the unveiling of a new \$130 million youth detention centre in Darwin.

Darwin centre

As youth crime continues to dominate debate in the lead-up to the Northern Territory election, Chief Minister Eva Lawler has declared the 'purpose-built' facility her government's 'common sense solution' to the issue.

The 44-bed centre will open in October, sits metres from the Darwin Adult Correctional Centre and boasts "work-readiness" training facilities alongside a school, health clinic and "state-of-the-art security features".

It also has a three-by-two-metre room with padded walls the government says is a "low-stimulation room" despite the 1987-91 Aboriginal deaths in custody royal commission recommending such cells cease being used for at-risk people.

"The young people that come here will be on a pathway to turn their lives around and to improve their lives, to get an education, to get training and to not find themselves having to come back to this facility," Ms Lawler said.

– AAP



Investment in culturally appropriate diversion programs is needed to prevent the incarceration of Indigenous children, a study has found.



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Rhoda Roberts AO, one of Australia's artistic and cultural treasures wants to share the story of her cousin Frank.

Celebrating the first Aboriginal Olympian



AUSTRALIA is a sports mad country and First Nations athletes have always punched well above their weight when it comes to racking up sporting achievements on the national and world stage.

So it's hard to believe the story of Francis 'Frank' Roberts, Australia's first Aboriginal Boxing Olympian, isn't already the stuff of legend.

Raised at Cubawee, a self-managed Aboriginal settlement just outside Lismore, Frank was a proud Widjabul Wia-bal and Githabul man and member of the Fighting Roberts Family of Lismore and cousin of Rhoda Roberts AO, one of Australia's artistic and cultural treasures. To set the record straight regarding her cousin, Rhonda, a proud Widjabul Wia-bul woman of

the Bundjalung nation, will take to the stage for five shows of personal storytelling in Lismore and Byron Bay to share the story, *'My Cousin Frank'*.

She is also inviting the audience to be part of the creative process as these shows form part of the development of *'FIRST ABORIGINAL OLYMPIAN'* – a new NORPA production coming to the stage in 2025.

"This show is to promote what we are doing next year and to give audiences a bit of background about Lismore and the fact that we produced the first Aboriginal Olympian, which is something to be proud of in the same way Bowral is proud of being the birthplace of Don Bradman. I think it's just extraordinary that Cubawee produced our first Aboriginal boxing Olympian," said Rhoda.

Northern Rivers based director/choreographer Kirk Page is working with Rhoda to bring the fighting spirit of Frank Roberts and her Mob to life in the telling, as she recalls a family's journey from the tumultuous era of dispersal and silence to navigating a world controlled by government policy.

"My role in staging this storytelling project was to ensure the essence of Frank's journey and the Roberts family's spirit were vividly conveyed. What attracts me to this story is its profound significance and emotional depth. It's a story that needs to be told," said Kirk.

Born in 1945, Francis grew up at Cubawee and was living with Rhoda's grandparents and winning local boxing tournaments from an early age.

● Continued next page

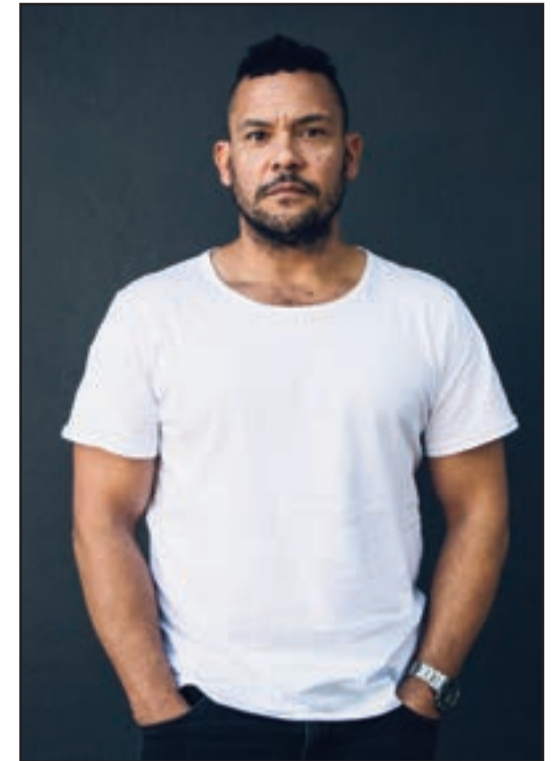
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Still from *Celestial Emu*, 2023. Directed by Olivia Costa. Commissioned by Powerhouse.



Tokyo 1964 Olympics: Left to Right: Tony Barber-Light (Middle Weight), Athol McQueen (heavy weight) and Francis Roberts (Welter Weight). Photo courtesy of Athol McQueen



Director/Choreographer Kirk Page

● From previous page

"My Uncle, who was also called Frank, recognised young Frank's talent and took him to Sydney where he began training with Allen Daley. It wasn't long before he won the state and national titles and within 18 months Frank was selected for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics team," Rhoda said.

"There is a long history of great boxers right across the Bundjalung nation and since the 1800s my family has produced boxers in

every weight division."

During the time of the Aborigines Protection Act, which ran from 1909-1969, the money earned by Aboriginal people working for farmers or as domestic servants was often paid directly to The Aborigines Protection Board leading to widespread wage theft. But for Aboriginal men, boxing, either with a circus or a travelling boxing show, offered a way out.

"Fighters got paid in cash, it was a way of making money for your family and getting out of

poverty," Rhoda said.

First Nations athletes often carry a huge weight of national pride and expectation of success on behalf of Australia while continuing to deal with disrespect and racism in their own lives.

"There is an expectation that athletes like Frank will be representatives not only of Australia but Aboriginal Australians as well. It's a huge cultural load they carry," Rhoda said.

"Frank carried that weight of expectations. He was invited to

dine with the Emperor of Japan and perform on the world stage but later in 1964 after returning from Tokyo, Lismore City Council decided to bulldoze Cubawee, the place he grew up.

Cultural load

Rhoda said even after the Olympics, Francis continued to carry that burden.

"Later when he was working at Armidale University as a groundsman Uncle Frank was often called in to lecture theatres

to speak about the situation facing Aboriginal people across the whole country.

"Frank was just one of those quiet achievers, just getting on with it for the next generation."

My Cousin Frank will play in Lismore at 2pm and 7.30pm on Saturday, August 24 at the Star Court Theatre. Then in Byron Bay at 7.30pm on Friday, August 30 and 2pm and 7.30pm on Saturday, August 31 at the Byron Theatre.

For bookings go to: www.norpa.org.au

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Elder reflects on a lifetime

By KEIRA JENKINS



UNCLE Basil (Mulla) Sumner started the motorcycle club Black Death to hold a spotlight to Aboriginal deaths in custody.

"People think (the group) is an evil, sinister type of thing, but it's not, this is for black deaths in custody," he said.

"The colours I put on, I wanted right in the face of the government and the police so they could see it loud and clear."

It's an issue close to the Ngarrindjeri Elder's heart and forms part of his story told through a new documentary, *There I was, here I am*.

He features along with Kaurna-Narungga woman Aunty Frances Chantrill and Ngarrindjeri-Narungga man Uncle Craig Dodd.

As a young person, Uncle Mulla was in and out of prison, experiencing homelessness and struggling with addiction.

"I remember when I was in jail, when I think about it, it really was all Aboriginal people in jail, just for minor things," he said.

"When public drunkenness was a crime in South Australia, that's what we'd get picked up for.

"Before 1967 it was illegal for Aboriginal people to even have a bottle in their house, or carrying a bottle on them... it was a crime to be in possession of alcohol and I lived through those days."

Uncle Mulla was born at



Uncle Basil (Mulla) Sumner's story is told in a new documentary.

Raukken, known then as Point McLeay Mission, about 80 kilometres southeast of Adelaide.

Now 75, reflecting on his life, Uncle Mulla said the roots of many of his struggles grew from the policy of assimilation, which attempted to erase the identity and presence of Aboriginal people.

"To get to this age, I think I'm pretty lucky," he said.

"Before all of this, I was heavily involved in drugs and

alcohol, finished up a lot in jails.

"I blame it all on the assimilation, it disintegrated my family with us kids finishing up in (children's) homes."

Drying out

Uncle Mulla has now been sober for decades, saying he started 'drying out' in 1978.

A passionate advocate for his people's health and wellbeing, Uncle Mulla was the chair of the state's biggest Aboriginal health

organisation, Nunkawarrin Yunti, for 20 years, and at the head of the Aboriginal Sobriety Group for 30.

Uncle Mulla said it was important to him to get his story, his culture and language out there for everyone to see.

"It's important we get our word out there," he said.

"To share the knowledge that we have and to show that we've got our own culture and we are different."

The documentary *There I was, here I am* was launched in front of 300 Elders and carers in Adelaide.

It was developed by Aboriginal Community Services and funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

The documentary will be used as a starting point for a digital record-keeping project, preserving Elders' histories through oral storytelling.

— AAP



Australian Government Classification Board

The Classification Board is an independent statutory body established to make classification decisions that reflect Australian community standards and provide consumer advice about the content of films, computer games and certain publications.

Position Vacant – Director

Applications are invited for the position of Director of the Classification Board. This is a full-time role for an initial fixed term of 2 years, located in Surry Hills, New South Wales.

In March 2023, the Australian Government announced a two-stage process of reform to modernise the National Classification Scheme. The Director will need to actively demonstrate a commitment to the Government's reform agenda and lead the Board through a change process, while continuing to oversee the Board's existing statutory responsibilities.

While prior classification experience is not required, the successful candidate must demonstrate a broad understanding of current and emerging classification issues, be familiar with contemporary media and technology, including issues relating to the film, computer game and/or publishing industries. Previous regulatory experience is highly desirable.

The Board supports workplace diversity and values the contribution of people from diverse backgrounds. We encourage applications from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disability, people with cultural and linguistic diversity, and LGBTIQ people.

All applicants must first obtain an Information Pack (which contains position requirements, selection criteria, contact details and address for applications) by emailing classification.board@omerapartners.com.

All applications close 11:59pm on Sunday, 11 August 2024

www.infrastructure.gov.au

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The Aboriginal Advisory Group seeks members with diverse backgrounds, skills, and experiences in cultural preservation, sustainable development and community engagement. Please note this is a remunerated role.

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'Blatant lie': NT minister was misled on jail before teen died



WESTERN Australia's justice department told "blatant and grievous" lies about a trouble-plagued youth detention facility before transferring children to it, an inquest has been told.

Cleveland Dodd was found unresponsive inside a cell in the youth wing of a high-security adult prison in the early hours of October 12, 2023.

The 16-year-old Indigenous boy was taken to hospital in a critical condition and died a week later, causing outrage and grief in the community.

The Perth inquest into his death had been told Casuarina Prison's Unit 18 was established with little planning in July 2022 as the agency struggled to cope with a small disruptive cohort of young detainees at Banksia Hill Youth Detention Facility.

Counsel assisting Anthony Crocker last Friday read from a series of letters the agency sent to detainees, their families and stakeholders, and the briefing it provided to the corrections minister, seeking approval for Unit 18. The briefing was an essential document



The death of Indigenous teen Cleveland Dodd sparked an outpouring of community grief.

that enabled the government to legally establish the unit.

It also laid out how the 'circuit breaker' facility would work and stated it would be suitable for youth detainees and comply with state law.

Former Department of Justice director general Adam Tomison conceded the document he signed contained a series of 'grievous lies' that led to the unit being created.

He also agreed the minister should not have been misled and if

the government knew the truth it would not have approved Unit 18.

"I accept responsibility as head of the agency," he said.

The briefing stated Unit 18 would have a full suite of services available for detainees, including therapeutic programs, cultural support, and dedicated spaces for health services, education and recreation.

In reality, Unit 18 had few of these and detainees were held in solitary confinement for up to 23

hours per day, often in cells that did not have furniture or running water.

The briefing also said detainees would spend more than nine hours per day outside their cells and there would be up to 120 visitor appointments available five days per week, which was not possible due to ongoing staffing issues.

Dr Tomison agreed it was a 'blatant lie' and the people who prepared the document had 'lied to the minister'.

He told Coroner Philip Urquhart that 'it looked pretty good' when he approved the document in July 2022.

The department sent letters about its plans for Unit 18 to detainees, their families and stakeholders.

The letters also made 'sloppy' false claims about the services that Unit 18 would have.

Mr Crocker said the conduct was 'much more egregious' because the letters were written by senior staff who knew the services could not be provided.

"It is simply wrong, misleading, deceptive to describe it as a full suite of programs," he said.

Dr Tomison conceded it was an 'appalling state of affairs' for the agency to write letters containing

'untruths'.

He also agreed with Mr Crocker that it was 'incomprehensible the department would lie to people'.

The letter to detainees said 'you will have everything you need' in upbeat language, as it spruiked family visits and telephone privileges.

It was far from accurate and in reality, children as young as 14 were handcuffed and transported in a vehicle with blackened windows through a maximum-security prison to a room with no privacy to meet their families or lawyers.

Another letter told detainees' families their loved ones had been 'selected' for a new facility with 'focused interventions' for young people with 'complex needs'.

Mr Crocker said this was not true and the cohort sent to Unit 18 were identified by the union representing Banksia Hill's staff.

Mr Urquhart said it was 'one thing to paint a rosy picture' for stakeholders, detainees and their guardians, 'but quite another to continue with that rosy and false picture ... for a minister'.

Asked how he felt about the revelations, Dr Tomison said he was embarrassed and had failed.

- AAP



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Environmental Water Advisory Group for the Murrumbidgee Valley Seeking Applications for Chairperson

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is seeking community applications for chairperson of the Murrumbidgee Environmental Water Advisory Group (EWAG).

The Murrumbidgee EWAG provides advice to the Department on the use of water for the environment in the Murrumbidgee valley for water-dependent ecosystems. The suitable applicant will ensure that processes for generating, evaluating and discussing advice are robust, and that established EWAG Terms of Reference, codes of conduct and other protocols are followed. The chairperson should make best use of the committee's knowledge, skills and experience to assist environmental water managers with annual watering priorities, adaptive management and implementation of the NSW environmental watering program.

Specific capabilities include maintaining impartiality for robust and respectful debate, effective communication, supporting an inclusive and collaborative approach, managing conflicts of interest, skilled facilitation, acknowledging Aboriginal people, their culture and communities, group leadership and decision making.

The successful applicant will be appointed for a term of up to three years. The EWAG may meet up to four times a year (in varying regional locations) with additional field trips conducted on occasion. This is a non-salaried position. Chairs will be compensated for their time and expenses, in line with NSW Government guidelines.

Further information, the position description and application form are available at: environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/water-for-the-environment/murrumbidgee/environmental-water-advisory-group/chairperson

Applications due COB: Monday 19 August 2024.

The Department is committed to the principles of Equal Employment Opportunity, Work Health and Safety, Cultural Diversity and Ethical Work Practices and encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds. If you require access to information via a different process, please email ewag@environment.nsw.gov.au.

LP2424

news

Ex-deputy mayor jailed for theft from Aboriginal trust



A FORMER deputy mayor and hotelier will spend at least two years and nine months behind bars for stealing millions of dollars from an Aboriginal charitable trust.

Thomas Graham Greenaway, 73, was convicted of 33 counts of stealing money and property from the Yugunga-Nya people in Western Australia while he was trustee. All told, Greenaway stole \$2,909,303.33 in 33 transactions between 2013 and 2017, with more than \$2 million used to prop up the failing Freemason's Hotel in Geraldton.

He was sentenced on Tuesday, July 16, after a retrial in May in the Perth District Court, to five years and nine months' imprisonment, eligible for parole after serving three years and nine months, backdated to July 2023 due to time already served.

Judge Michael John Bowden said Greenaway had stolen

from vulnerable people.

"They trusted you and you clearly breached that trust," he said.

"Whether you thought that because of the royalties that they were receiving increased from some \$72,000 to around about \$3.8 million and they had plenty of money, I don't know, but certainly, you took money away from people who were entitled to it."

The court was told Greenaway, who has previously worked as a financial planner and was on the Geraldton Council as deputy mayor and councillor for 15 years, was appointed trustee of the Yugunga-Nya People's Trust in 2004.

His service was described as "capable" with investments from mining royalties made to benefit the community, including housing in Meekatharra and a business to employ Indigenous people.

Greenaway channelled the stolen funds into his unprofitable hotel business, which started to experience

financial troubles in 2013 after a failed restaurant venture, superannuation and wage claim difficulties, a general downturn in the economy and competition from newer venues.

"Your involvement in the Freemasons Hotel has ended up in a disastrous position for you," Judge Bowden said.

"However, when you look at your conduct, it was deliberately dishonest over a long period of time."

Judge Bowden acknowledged Greenaway had returned about \$700,000 to the trust and ordered him to repay \$2,179,533.58.

The Yugunga-Nya people hail from WA's Mid West region, including the towns of Meekatharra and Cue.

The discretionary trust was formed in 2004 to hold native title income made from agreements on Yugunga-Nya Country.

Its purpose is to benefit the community by helping those suffering from poverty and sickness and boosting education and culture.

Happy ending for Bozo the rooster

By ALF WILSON



THERE has been a happy ending for septuagenarian Albert Abdul-Rahman whose beloved pet bantam rooster Bozo has been saved from "death row".

The threat to remove Bozo which would have resulted in his possible execution emerged in March, after a complaint was made by an unknown resident about Bozo's loud traditional "Cock a Doodle Do" noise early in the mornings.

Double amputee Albert, who suffers from a terminal illness, is confined to a wheelchair and has a carer who was devastated.

That was reported in a *Koori Mail* story after which Albert received great community support especially from the Indigenous community in his bid to save Bozo.

People who read the article wanted to know about the fate of Bozo.

The 72-year-old Albert lives on normally sleepy McAllister Street in the Townsville suburb of Oonoonba and was given Bozo early this year and it had lived in a large cage at his home.

"They told me that if I don't get rid of Bozo, the police will enforce the bylaws and remove my rooster which I love dearly. I fear they will execute him," Albert said.

Albert advised the *Koori Mail* last week that Bozo has been taken away to live a happy and long life on a rural property at Blackwater in central Queensland.

"They (authorities) were due to come and pick Bozo up. I am so happy that Bozo was saved from death row. Now he can Cock a Doodle Do as much as he wants and won't bother anybody.



Albert Abdul-Rahman with his beloved pet bantam rooster Bozo.

And Bozo was in a wonderful big comfortable enclosure and had his own harem – two female bantam wives," Albert said.

There has been another positive development in Albert's life.

He has had both legs removed below the knee and was told in February 2023 by doctors that because of his terminal illness, he had less than 12 months to live.

"It is now 17 months since then and I am still alive and doing well," he said.

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Turning pain into power

I'm an alchemist. I turn my words into wisdom. I'm an alchemist and I'm building my kingdom with my own two hands. My pain is my power...

By ALI MC



Singer/songwriter Carissa Nyalua has just released a brooding, powerful new single *Alchemist*, the first song off her forthcoming album.

"*Alchemist* is about turning that pain or those difficult times into your strengths and into power, rather than seeing those hard times as negative," she told the *Koori Mail*.

"Because we need those really difficult times to grow. For me, it was about empowering myself and seeing how far I've come through my journey and hoping that it will empower other people."

The song charts new musical and lyrical territory for the Yorta Yorta Dja Dja Wurrung musician, who has made a name singing stripped back acoustic songs.

Alchemist, however, presents her new music with a full backing band, a decision, Nyalu told the *Koori Mail*, that was made in the studio.

"I started writing the songs how I usually do with acoustic guitar," she said.

"And the songs developed into a lot more than that. We turned it into a bit of

a rock album, which is completely different to what I normally do."

The fittingly titled song heralds not just a change in musical direction, but in lyrical theme as well.

Along with roles as a musician and mother, Nyalu – who is based on the Mornington Peninsula – is also involved in caring for Country and advocating for First Nations cultures and languages.

One of her first songs was titled *Wanyarra*, which means water in Dja Dja Wurrung language, and was written for her love of song for water, sky Country and the land.

Her grandmother was part of the Stolen Generations, and Nyalu said that writing songs inclusive of language and family stories was part of her healing, especially at live shows.

"Most of my music, or all of it, is really inspired by culture and Country and language," she said. "Sharing that culture and language, I absolutely love those gigs and that is a huge part of me and a huge part of my healing."

However, the forthcoming album is more deeply personal in nature.

"I was at a point where there's so much more to me as a person and my life experiences than just that side of me," she said.

Nyalu explained that, as a First Nations musician, she has experienced being "put in a box", with an expectation to only sing cultural songs.

"For a while I felt, as an artist, put in a bit of a box, that expectation to sing about certain things, which I'm also

really passionate about," she said. "But there's a lot of life experiences that have shaped me that I don't often share, which is a lot more personal."

She said that a recent, life changing experience occurred where she fell sick and ended up in hospital. This experience shaped the songwriting process which has led to this new batch of songs.

"When I got out of hospital all of these stories started coming out of me that I've been holding in," she said.

"I just wrote and wrote, and that's just what came out. It was really easy, and I wrote a whole album, and the energy was a lot different, and my producer could feel that."

As well as releasing the new music online over the coming months, Nyalu also plans to form a band and perform the songs on the road.

"I do have a few people to potentially form a band to play them, but at the moment, I feel like I just need to get them out into the world. I've been holding on to them for a while now," she said.

Since releasing her music, Nyalu has performed on festival stages alongside John Butler, Dan Sultan and Uncle Archie Roach, supported the likes of Liz Stringer and Ash Grunwald, and collaborated in the studio with Pirritu and Ganga Giri.

Alchemist is the first single to be released by Carissa Nyalu from her new material and can be found online at all streaming platforms.



Carissa Nyalu. Photo: Amy Sayle Photography



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A thermal-imaging drone surveys thick vegetation searching for koalas.



A drone located 52 koalas in Flinders Swamp QYAC while experienced koala spotters struggled to find koalas in Minjerribah's thick vegetation.



Djarra Delaney is WWF-Australia's Indigenous Land Management Specialist and also a Quandamooka Traditional Owner.

Protecting koalas from wildfires using drones



ANCIENT knowledge, drone technology and artificial intelligence (AI) are coming together

to help Indigenous rangers from Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) step up efforts to save a unique population of koalas from the threat of wildfires.

The koalas on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) are Australia's only naturally occurring island koalas and have been isolated for about 8,000 years. They have low levels of chlamydia, a disease devastating many mainland populations.

Quandamooka woman Kiah Morgan has recently obtained her drone licence and completed cultural fire training. She said the coming together of technology, Traditional Owners and looking after the environment was important.

"We know the ways of the animals but having this technology will advance our research. We need more women out caring for Country. So having women doing drone work and the cultural burns is a good step. It will bring younger generations in to be more involved," she said.

The genetically distinct Minjerribah koalas are threatened by the intense wildfires suffered since the loss of Indigenous cultural burning. In 2014, 70% of the island burned. More wildfires followed in 2018 and 2019. These fires burned so hot that flames exploded up into the canopy leaving koalas with no chance of survival.

But a \$600,000 "Fireproofing Koalas" project led by QYAC will



Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation environmental specialist Dan Carter and drone survey and cultural fire trainee Kiah Morgan, who recently obtained her drone licence.

use the ancient Indigenous cultural burning methods to reduce the dangerous fuel loads threatening koalas and other wildlife.

The World Wide Fund for Nature – Australia and WWF – Denmark are collaborating with QYAC on the unique project with funding support from Danish not-for-profit the QATO Foundation.

Before fuel reduction burns, QYAC rangers will locate koalas using a thermal-imaging drone, equipped with Artificial Intelligence to identify koalas. Six Quandamooka rangers recently completed training and are now licensed drone operators.

Knowing koala locations allows the rangers to plan burns that minimise risk to the iconic

marsupials. Precautions include watering down vegetation around koala-occupied trees and even having water bomber aircraft on standby for big operations.

The cultural burning guidelines for koalas developed by QYAC can be utilised across the entire koala range of Eastern Australia.

Kenneth Geipel and Lucas de Paula, co-founders of Danish drone software company Robotto, flew out to Minjerribah to work with QYAC to gather data to train the AI to automatically recognise koalas.

Drone flights to locate koalas are critical to QYAC's plans. On-ground searches are slow, labour-intensive and in thick vegetation, even experienced

koala spotters can struggle to detect a single koala. Drones are much faster, can cover up to 50 hectares per hour, and are far more accurate.

In Minjerribah's Flinders Swamp, a drone search over two nights located 52 koalas, while an on-ground search in a nearby area found only one. In addition to protecting koalas, the project will also enable the first comprehensive assessment of koala numbers on the island.

QYAC's chief drone pilot Ryan Kucirek said: "To me combining cultural fire and koala drone surveys is everything. It enables the best protection for our wildlife. And the burns bring life back into the ground".

Djarra Delaney is WWF – Australia's Indigenous Land

Management Specialist and also a Quandamooka Traditional Owner.

"It's a very exciting project for WWF – Australia and WWF – Denmark to be a part of to regenerate nature. We want to see traditional knowledge being used to care for koalas while bringing in cutting-edge technology to assist. Koalas are a special animal for Quandamooka people. We have a custodial responsibility to make sure they're happy, healthy and thriving," he said.

Robotto co-founder Kenneth Geipel said: "This project has been very rewarding for me personally. I really enjoy seeing state-of-the-art technologies such as autonomous drones and artificial intelligence crossing over to ancient practices."

At a recent Koala Forum held on the island, QYAC warned that reducing the dangerous fuel load wouldn't happen overnight. They cited the loss of cultural burning leading to a thick shrubby understory covering much of Minjerribah that heightens fire danger.

QYAC Community Land & Sea Manager Darren Burns told the audience this thick understory had to be manually reduced before a burn could be considered.

"You try to do a cultural burn like a tribal Aboriginal would have done 200 years ago you're going to have the same result as a kid walking around with a box of matches, it just goes boom. So we can't really do cultural burns yet. We've got to do something in between, we've got to do manual reduction first. We're actually out there mowing this bush down," he said.



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NITV to give Australians a ‘front row seat’ at Garma festival



THE National Indigenous Television (NITV) is planning comprehensive coverage of the 24th annual Garma festival, taking place from August 2-5 in Gulkula, northeast Arnhem Land, Northern Territory. With coverage also featuring across the SBS network, NITV and SBS are promising unparalleled access for all Australians to the agenda-setting dialogue and the celebration of the cultural, artistic and ceremonial traditions of the Yolŋu people, across the four-day event.

This year, Australia’s largest political Indigenous gathering is taking place ahead of an impending federal election, upcoming state and territory elections, and is the first major political forum focused on Indigenous affairs since the Referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

Coverage on NITV and across the SBS network will give Australians a front-row seat to the critical conversations centred in the lived experience of First Nations peoples taking place, as



John Paul Janke.

political leaders, policy makers, corporate leaders and community representatives look to the future.

Director of Indigenous Content at SBS Tanya Denning-Orman, a proud Birri and Guugu Yimidhirr woman, said the network was looking forward to the festival.

“We can’t wait to be back on the ground at Gulkula, red dirt between our toes, on the beautiful and sacred land of the Yolŋu people,” she said.

“Following the Referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, and as Australia looks ahead to federal, state and



Nat Ahmat.

territory elections, NITV and SBS will provide unparalleled access to the critical conversations at Garma that influence political discourse, policy agendas, and commitments towards Indigenous affairs in Australia.

“Whether it’s insights and ideas discussed in key forums, or the sounds and movement of the daily bungul, our comprehensive coverage – led by NITV and featuring across the SBS network – will give Australians an immersive experience across four days of yarning, dancing and listening, at Australia’s most



The flags flying at Garma.

significant Indigenous political and cultural event. “NITV is proud to partner with the Yothu Yindi Foundation to continue bringing Garma to Mob across the continent, as we’ve been doing for more than a decade. Through our coverage across the SBS network, we’re connecting the oldest living continuous culture with the newest Australians, and are excited to continue exploring more ways to engage more Australians.”

Denise Bowden, CEO of the Yothu Yindi Foundation, added: “NITV has played an important role in sharing Garma with its audiences over many years, and has been a long-standing Official Supporter of the event. We look

forward to continuing to work together to reach more Australians, as NITV and the wider SBS network expands and deepens its coverage, and gives communities wherever they are in Australia, an opportunity to explore the unique experience of Garma.”

Daily live coverage, updates and highlights across NITV’s platforms will be presented by NITV’s Indigenous News and Current Affairs team including Head of Indigenous News and Current Affairs, Natalie Ahmat, SBS National Indigenous Affairs Editor and host of *The Point: Road Trip*, John Paul Janke, NITV news presenter and senior producer, Michael Rennie.

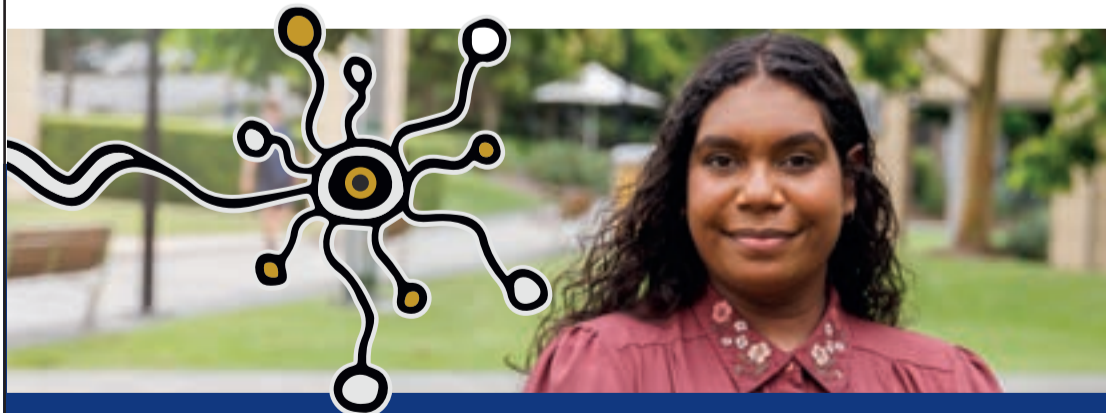


Stand for your community

This September, the NSW Government is calling on people from all backgrounds to stand for election to their local council. NSW needs more candidates who identify as Aboriginal to represent their communities.

Your council does more than just look after roads, rates and rubbish. It plays a vital role in your local community and councillors’ decisions affect your daily life. More diversity on councils leads to better representation for your community.

You, or someone you know, could help make life better in your community. No formal qualifications are required and training is available for elected councillors.



Nominations open on 5 August and close 14 August 2024.

Local government elections are on 14 September 2024.

Visit the Office of Local Government’s website for more information.

olg.nsw.gov.au



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- Confidence in communicating and sharing your lived experiences to build knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Traditional Owner communities and culture.
- An interest in environment, climate change or water, engagement, finance, governance or business operations, and/or strategy.

How can I apply?

- Applications can be in any form that you think best shows your skill and why you are suited to the position – this could include your resume and a cover letter or send us a short video.
- Contact us via peopleandculture@srw.com.au to talk further or submit an application via Careers@srw.com.au
- Keen for more information about SRW? Find out more at www.srw.com.au.
- This is an Aboriginal Designated Position, classified under ‘special measures’ of section 12 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010. Only Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander First Nations people are eligible to apply.

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Women take on leadership positions in Arnhem Land



THE Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA) has appointed Matjarra Garrawurra as its first female chairperson.

Matjarra Garrawurra said she was committed to continuing the long-serving chairperson Rev Dr D. Gondarra's legacy of leadership, vision and dedication to the Yolŋu communities.

She said her focus would be on sustaining ALPA's mission to improve life outcomes and promote self-determination for Indigenous Australians.

"I have watched this man in many leadership roles, and I served under him as an ALPA director," Ms Garrawurra said.

"I am not entering in this position with only my own thoughts. I will carry on his vision and his legacy. His guidance will help me. He was a role model in business, church and a cultural leader."

Additionally, Elizabeth Ganygulpa Dhurrkay has been appointed as the acting deputy chairperson until December.

Elizabeth is also the chairperson of Manapan Furniture and will use this leadership to support Mrs Garrawurra.

Matjarra Garrawurra expressed her gratitude and vision for the future.

"I am honoured to be appointed as ALPA's first female chairperson. I am committed to upholding the values and vision of our long-serving chairperson, Mr Djiniyini Gondarra, as well as the late Mr Wunungmurra, and to continue working towards the betterment of First Nations communities.

ALPA's CEO, Alastair King, praised the appointments, saying Matjarra Garrawurra and Elizabeth Ganygulpa Dhurrkay bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion to their roles.

"Their leadership will undoubtedly strengthen our efforts in delivering positive outcomes for the Yolŋu communities and beyond," Mr King said.

"We are confident that Matjarra's vision and dedication will enhance ALPA's efforts in creating sustainable opportunities and positive outcomes for our people."



Matjarra Garrawurra and Elizabeth Ganygulpa Dhurrkay.

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Danny Eastwood's view



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Charlie Nogar

Townsville, aged 37, with descendants from Cloncurry

Favourite bush tucker? Turtle

Favourite other food? Pho, Vietnamese soup.

Favourite drink? Coca Cola.

Saltwater food? Coral trout.

Favourite music? R&B.

Favourite sport? Tennis. Big fan of Rafael Nadal.

Favourite read? Fiction, but not sci-fi or murder.

Favourite holiday destination? Japan. Tokyo and Osaka

Favourite movie? Gone in sixty seconds.

What do you like in life? Our people's culture.

What don't you like in life? Lazy people at work.

Which person would you most like to meet? Elvis Presley. His songs soothe people

Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire? My late grandfather and grandmother

Who or what inspires you? God. I am a Christian.

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people? Take away the word shame.

Quote



"I've seen a lot, and let me tell you that progress doesn't always move in a straight line but with every passing generation, the arc bends a little bit more towards justice. I've done my bit and the time for the new generation is now."

– Former Minister for Indigenous Australians, Linda Burney

● See page 6

Unquote

Big job ahead for McCarthy

Yanyuwa woman Senator Malarndirri McCarthy has a big job ahead of her, having taken over from Linda Burney as the Minister for Indigenous Australians on Monday.

But already she has shown that she is up to the challenge.

The former television journalist and NT government minister has built a solid reputation during her time in territory and federal parliaments, speaking out on issues such as domestic violence and alcohol abuse in the NT.

Senator McCarthy served as assistant minister to Ms Burney for the first two years of Labor's term, and played a prominent public role in the failed Yes campaign for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

She becomes the second woman, the second NT senator and the third First Nations person to ever take on the role.

Now, with Linda Burney retiring at the next election, expected by May 2025, Ms McCarthy will have the chance to stamp her own imprint on the important portfolio.

With her track record of advocating for those doing it tough, and those that have been subjected to the horrors of the Stolen Generations, it can be expected that she will prove herself more than worthy of pushing forward with an agenda to improve the fortunes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Following the announcement on Sunday, The Healing Foundation, which advocates on behalf of the Stolen Generations, described her as a 'great appointment'.

The Healing Foundation's CEO Shannan Dodson said she was encouraged to be working with another strong Aboriginal woman 'who comprehends the complexities of intergenerational trauma'.

"Minister McCarthy understands the ongoing impact of these damaging policies on our communities across the country, and The Healing Foundation is keen to work with her on how we continue to see justice and recognition for aging survivors," Ms Dodson said.

With the referendum now behind us, Minister McCarthy will also be expected to help chart the course forward to ensure that reconciliation remains on track. Of course, that course will involve important discussions surrounding truth-telling, and a possible treaty, but as yet the government has been quiet on its plans.

Let's hope Minister McCarthy shakes her cabinet colleagues into action.

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

Hitting the right note

By CHRISTIAN MORROW

Award-winning First Nations soprano, Nina Korbe, is set to perform in Victorian Opera's new production of Puccini's *La Rondine* (The Swallow), this month at Melbourne's iconic Palais Theatre. She also made her Opera Australia debut as Maria in *West Side Story* earlier this year. Fiercely passionate about the representation of Indigenous artists in the creative industries, Nina is a proud Koa, Kuku Yalanji, Wakka Wakka woman, actively involved in the championing of Indigenous voices. She sits on the board for Queensland Youth Orchestra's Reconciliation Action Plan as a First Nations Representative while also working with QSO on their First Nations Advisory Board. She is also an advisor to the Australian Music Foundation.

Since starting her studies at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, she has amassed an impressive range of achievements here in Australia and overseas and has performed with many of the country's leading ensembles including Opera Queensland, Camerata, Queensland Ballet, Southern Cross Soloists and the Goldner String Quartet.

Inspired by the work of many First Nations Australians trailblazing paths in the arts such as Deborah Cheetham and Leah Purcell, Nina has begun her own project to increase access to the arts for Aboriginal students.

Nina is currently working closely with the staff and students at Cherbourg State School to establish an excursion program in collaboration with Queensland Youth Orchestra which will allow students of Cherbourg State School the chance to visit Brisbane for an evening of culturally safe and immersive exposure to classical music.

Nina has strong family ties to Cherbourg Mission which sits on Wakka Wakka Country and she is grateful for the support of her Elders in this initiative and wishes to acknowledge her family who still call Cherbourg home.

Ahead of her performance for the Victorian Opera, the *Koori Mail* caught up with Nina for a Q&A.

Koori Mail: Can you remember the moment you decided to pursue a career as an opera singer?

Nina Korbe: I vividly remember in Grade Five walking across my school campus thinking that I wanted to study music and realising to do that I needed to go to the Queensland Conservatorium to study music. I was fortunate enough to eventually study there and I remember one very pivotal moment in 2016 when I was taking part in the regional scholars program of Opera Australia. We were doing a tour of the Sydney Opera House and there was a production of *La Boheme* taking place and the



Nina Korbe will perform in Victorian Opera's new production of Puccini's *La Rondine* (The Swallow).

cover (or understudy) for Musetta was rehearsing to go on stage that night and asked us to be her audience. There is a video somewhere, of me sitting in that little audience just beaming up at the stage at Julie Lee Goodwin as she sang thinking, 'Oh my gosh this is what I want to be doing.'

KM: Did you face challenges as an Indigenous woman once you'd made the decision to go forward with a career in classical music?

NK: In terms of making the decision and going forward with it I didn't have any hesitation regarding my ability or being confident that I could step into that space. What I did come across were questions from my peers at high school and then at

university. I got comments such as, 'Oh! you're doing so well for an Aboriginal girl' or 'You're only getting these opportunities because you're Aboriginal' and 'You're taking opportunities from other people'.

Being the stubborn creature I am, those remarks got my back up so I said to myself, 'OK if this is what you think of me, let's take (my First Nations status) out of the equation'. So when I enrolled at the Conservatorium in Brisbane I did declare that I was a First Nations student but I wasn't particularly vocal about the fact until my fourth year. My thinking was, if they believe the only reason I am getting these opportunities is because I am Aboriginal let's take it out of the equation and see how well I do, and in the end I did really well. (Nina received her Bachelor of

Music, with Distinction, from the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University and went on to graduate with a Master of Arts in Performance, with Distinction, from the Royal Academy of Music in London.)

(Since then) I have spent a lot of time speaking with my family and my aunts and uncles about that particular choice because obviously there is an element of shame attached to the decision I made.

But my family absolutely assured me I did what I had to in order to keep myself culturally safe during that time. I am now standing in my strength with my family and with my community saying, yes I am a First Nations performer but that doesn't detract from my ability as a performer, it just sits hand-in-hand with who I am as an artist.

KM: You have very strong ties with Cherbourg State High School, a place that is freighted with meaning and history for many Indigenous people and your family in particular?

NK: Absolutely, Cherbourg is where my family were originally moved to. If we trace all the way back up to my Koa family line, that's my family out in Winton, there were three sisters taken from Koa and scattered to the East Coast with two of them eventually ending up in Cherbourg. That's where my grandmother and my great grandmother were and I still have family there in Cherbourg. When I visit I go and see the ration sheds and the dormitories that still stand there. It's heart-breaking because you see all these faces and names and they are my family's faces and names. Any First Nations person working in the Reconciliation space is not just doing it for the sake of it, you are helping your family, your doing it for your community, there is such a load of history there.

KM: Is it rewarding to be working with Cherbourg State High School, it sounds as though you are really making a connection?

NK: It's incredibly rewarding to do this work. It's also heart-breaking at times because I go out and I spend time with the students at the school and without fail I leave wishing I could give more. Every single time there is a part of me saying I should stop the music and just focus on helping these students. But I know the work I do as a musician enables me to help the students even more, so I do my best to give as much as I can.

KM: What advice would you give Aboriginal students aspiring to a life in the creative industries, specifically classical music?

NK: In practical terms, reach out to those of us in the industry who are already doing it. I'm sure I speak for other established First Nations artists and those in the industry when I say, if I get a call from an aspiring student saying, 'I'm another one coming through, can I catch up for a coffee and a yarn then most of us would say yes, we are always willing to give time to help the one's coming up behind us. From a cultural point of view I'd say to them 'Our culture is steeped in story telling and the sharing of our culture and that's what we get to do as musicians, particularly in the classical arts. Plus, there is also a deep tradition within the Western Classical world which creates a beautiful space for collaboration between the two art forms. How lucky are we that that in our culture and in our blood we are naturally story tellers and performers? So don't shy away from that part of yourself and always bring that element of your culture into the Western Classical sphere, it's so beautiful.

Award-winner Barry proud to be a leader in health



By TANGIORA HINAKI



BARRY Tullock is a Wiluna Martu man who has worked in the health sector for 26 years.

He was thrilled to be recognised for his work during NAIDOC 2024.

Barry received the 'Aboriginal Employee Of The Year Award' and the 'Aboriginal Leader in Health Award.'

"The one that I got that I was proud of was the 'Leader in Health' award," Mr Tullock explained.

"The decision came from executives, and I was very proud of that – they could see something in me to be voted for that special award."

"I guess it's a passion," Mr Tullock said.

"If you've got a passion for your people and want to see better outcomes, you know, and it's not about, you know, the high-paid jobs, it's about how we have to keep rolling on and trying to, you know, make things better."

Mr Tullock believes NAIDOC should be celebrated daily and spoke to Ngaarda Media's Marion Cheedy about his passion for the job.

"Things are progressing with health for our people, and we've come a long way," Mr Tullock said.

"I'd like to see better health outcomes for our people and everyone living a healthy lifestyle," he said.

"We just have to have changes to, you know, our people going back to what they lived on – you know, the healthy stuff like bushtucker."

Barry Tullock took home the Aboriginal Employee Of The Year Award and the Aboriginal Leader in Health Award during this year's NAIDOC week.

Pilbara bushfires inspired artwork



BY ASAD KHAN



THE winners of the 2024 Cossack Art Awards were announced at a special event last weekend.

The event, held on July 20, was sponsored by a number of entities, including the City of Karratha, Rio Tinto and Fortescue.

Allery Sandy, a proud Yindjibarndi Elder and an accomplished painter from Roebourne, won an award in the best overall category.

She said her artwork showcases the bushfires and their impact on the Country.

"My artwork represents

when the big bushfire came through not only in the Pilbara but right across the Kimberley as well, and that gave me an idea of painting that style now," Ms Sandy said.

"I know the bushfire comes and clear that Country."

Family

Ms Sandy said art brings the whole family together, and she loves being together and painting.

"That's all that matters most in my life, being close to family and just helping each other, encouraging each other and just walking together and just making the best we can in our lives and just seeing our kids are now great-grandchildren

grow up and just supporting them in any ways we can," she said.

Ellen Grochowski, a science teacher from Dampier who is passionate about the arts, was another participant in the Cossack Art Awards.

She said the Cossack Art Awards are her highlight of the year, and this was the fourth one she attended.

Ms Grochowski said the awards are very welcoming, and nobody tells you that you cannot enter the competition.

She said her daughter inspires her artwork, which includes everything she likes.

"I really encourage everyone to have a go," Ms Grochowski said.

These articles were reproduced with permission from Ngaarda Media. Ngaarda Media was created by the Yindjibarndi community for all Aboriginal people of the Pilbara region. They are the only licensed Aboriginal broadcaster in the 500,000 square kilometre region and the collective voice of more than 30 language groups of Traditional Owners.

Browning: in the oldest tradition of story telling

By CATHERINE HUNT



DANIEL Browning is a seasoned storyteller. A descendant of the Bundjalung and Kullilli peoples of far northern New South Wales and southwestern Queensland, Daniel has worked as a journalist with the ABC since 1994, presenting programs about arts and culture in Australia.

He is ABC Editor of Indigenous Radio and currently hosts *The Art Show* on Radio National where his distinct, measured voice combined with his knowledge and experience has earned the respect of his peers, and of readers and listeners who, over the years, have scanned a page or tuned in to follow his trusted critical analysis.

Daniel will be discussing his work, telling stories at the Byron Writers Festival this weekend, following the successful launch last year of his book, *Close to the Subject: Selected Works*, published by Magabala Books.

The debut book chronicles Daniel's career since 2007, presenting selections from his work as a journalist, radio broadcaster, critic and interviewer.

Human stories

Daniel says he is drawn to tell "the unremembered story, the story that has escaped Australia's notice."

"Usually black-fella stories that talk about our ingenuity, our history, our love for each other, our enduring sense of family... about our bonds with each other."

They are the human stories that are not told and, Daniel tells the *Koori Mail*, it is not an accident that they are not told.

"It's not in the interest of mainstream Australia to tell those stories. Part of the reason I'm compelled (to write these stories) is because if we don't do it no one will."

"You have been wanting to change the record. The record, as it stands doesn't reflect our contribution to this country," he said. "We know that there is so much that hasn't been said, there's so much that hasn't been documented."

Close to the Subject is an eclectic collection, revisiting conversations with the late singer-songwriter Archie Roach, author of *Rabbit Proof Fence* Doris Pilkington and contemporary artist and political activist, and founding member of proppaNOW, Vernon Ah Kee, alongside essays and previously unpublished poetry, memoir, art writing and a play script.

Tying threads

When the suggestion of publishing a book was broached



Daniel Browning is the author of *Close to the Subject: Selected Works*, published in 2023 by Magabala Books (pictured right). Daniel joins an impressive line-up of First Nations writers at the Byron Writers Festival.

by leading Indigenous publishing house Magabala Books, Daniel wasn't sure if he had a book in him, that one big story you feel you have to tell. As it turned out, the collected works were a way to tie together the threads of his work to date, and to reflect on writing and story.

"I'm interested in what we call history, public history, oral history, our lived experience. Most of my work is concerned with contemporary art," he said.

"In an artwork, you can read so much about a person's own history, their community history, their sense of themselves, their place in the world."

"I'm also drawn to history as a discipline, as a way to disrupt the history that's been told."

"It's a work of archaeology. You're drilling into a deliberate forgetting and a deliberate suppression of history," he said.

On the trail of a couple of good yarns

Close to the Subject is Daniel's first book, but speaking with him, it's clearly not his last.

There are two stories Daniel says "sing out to him" and won't let him go. They are both stories about Aboriginal men who left the shores of Australia at around the time of Federation, travelling to Europe where, Daniel says, "they returned the colonial gaze."

He spent decades working on uncovering the men's stories, including a trip to Europe, where he started to dig into the colonial archive, "which is pretty much everywhere and everything over there," he observed. He realised both of these stories needed to

be told and that there were interesting parallels to be drawn between the two men's lives.

Having captured Daniel's imagination, the men's stories formed the basis of two award-winning podcasts that are transcribed in the collection, *Fernando's Ghost* and *Cast Among Strangers*.

"Both are all about agency and what we think of as power and colonialism," Daniel said. "Think of the shock of a black-fella who goes to Europe to confront colonialism where it sits."

"The challenge that those lives represent is an extraordinary one and one that we should know about."

Daniel was struck by the difference at that time, between these men's lives and the lives of Aboriginal people in Australia.

The men's stories stand as a stark contrast to the way Aboriginal people were living and portrayed in their own country.

"They were deliberate, empowered actors in history. And while they were there (in Europe), our Mobs back in Australia were being confined to missions and reserves under the control of the state."

Daniel's research shows how these men and their stories put the lie to the image of a subjugated minority.

"History likes to tell you we were a subjugated, disempowered minority, but that's not the case. That's not how it was experienced – we remained what we always were, sovereign subjects, and not subjects of the Crown, but sovereign human subjects."

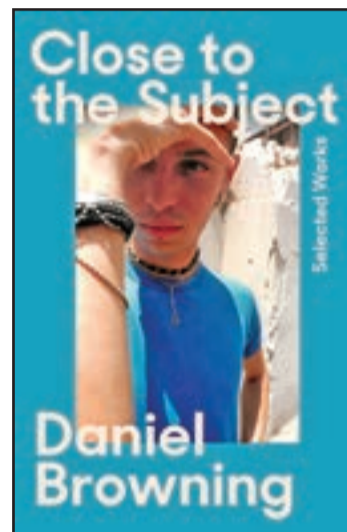
These stories are fascinating, perhaps because they are yet to be told. Uncovering the detail, Daniel seeks to reveal the false narrative of Australian history. These are stories he will continue to develop.

Tell your story

The practice of story-telling has been going on for millennia, we know it as integral to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

"Stories are embedded within us," Daniel says.

"We don't often think about this, but if you accept that we are the oldest living, continuous culture on earth, then you have to accept that we are the oldest



storytelling tradition."

It's something to draw on when self-doubt, or worse, other people's criticism or judgement, discourages you from telling your story.

"People may try to tell you that you can't tell a story, that you aren't a good story-teller or a good journalist – I've certainly had that said – but know that your story-telling tradition is the oldest on earth, so you have within you a tradition and a lineage of story telling that is as ancient as the rocks. Don't let anyone diminish your role in telling stories," he said.

Daniel is a Saltwater Goorie from Fingal, on the far north coast of NSW. He grew up in Tweed Heads and is currently living and working on Arakwal Country.

Daniel Browning will speak at two sessions at Byron Writers Festival: *Close to the Subject*, in conversation with Rhianna Patrick, on Sunday, August 11 from 12.45pm, and *Always Will Be*, a discussion with Mykaela Saunders, on Friday, August 9.

Fully subsidised MobTix are available for the festival, supported by The Vasudhara Fund. Please call 02 6685 5115 for details.

First Nations writers to take centre stage



IN keeping with this year's NAIDOC theme 'Keep the fire burning! Blak, Loud and Proud', First Nations writers will be centre stage at this year's Byron Writers Festival.

The festival features an impressive line-up of brilliant Indigenous writers and storytellers, with a large contingent of local Bundjalung voices joining the festival to discuss everything from politics, history, creativity, the environment, and family.

The stories of Australia's eminent and emerging First Nations writers will be at the forefront of the festival held on Arakwal Bumberbin Country of the Bundjalung Nation, where stories have been told for thousands of years.

The Byron Writers Festival is on at the Bangalow Showground from August 9 to 11.

For the full line-up, program times and venues, visit the Byron Writers Festival website at byronwritersfestival.com/festival

The true cost of artificial intelligence

We are rapidly moving into the future and along with new technology, smart technology and renewable technology we also have artificial intelligence (AI) being introduced. I can't seem to keep up with the rate in which the world is moving and now I am being asked to rely on technology to make our society even more productive than it already is? We must remove the wool from our eyes to see that productivity is the thing that is killing us, our more than human kin and the next generations to come

I wonder if as a society we have stopped to see if all good intentions path the way to hell, as if we continue with the colonial capitalist system and mindset, there won't be any resources left for the next generations. The waters will be undrinkable and the soil unable to grow food and medicine for nourishment.

I hear people talking about how AI is going to make our life easier, how we will have more time and space to just be and the computers will do our jobs, but have we stopped to think that robots taking over the slave labor that capitalism has relied on for so long might not



Ella Noah Bancroft

be a great alternative? Perhaps the system just has to go rather than getting a whole new workforce that doesn't have emotions?

Everyone is talking about the convenience that will come from having AI, but has anyone stopped to think about the fact that the rapid growth that AI is expanding could be detrimental to the health of the planet and the people.

In a time of climate disasters and unseasonal weather, a time where we as individuals are expected to curb our energy consumption, we are introducing AI which is extremely data-driven and heavily dependent on computing

power. So what does that mean? AI uses a huge amount of data and this directly translates to enormously high power consumption. Is this truly the time we need to speed up productivity and speed up energy consumption? Are the powers that be really listening to us when we take the streets for climate protests? Are us civilians smart enough to see how the technological future could be our ultimate downfall?

As the world becomes more and more hungry for AI technology have we truly stopped to ask what is the true cost of it? What is the actual energy consumption of the AI industry? There is no avoiding it, this technological future will escalate carbon emissions.

The energy required to sustain AI's rise and the technological future that will allow for productivity to continue to be the value of success will eat through our resources faster than any other invention created on a mass scale. It's estimated that the energy required to run AI tasks is already accelerating with an annual growth rate between 26% and 36%.

This means that by 2028 the AI

industry could be using more power than the entire country of Iceland used in 2021.

Not only does AI use a lot of energy, it also is using precious minerals and resources in the making of smart robots.

Lithium has been shown to be a key component in AI development and its impacts on countries and the people in South Africa are being felt, its depleting water resources and draining wetlands.

The process of production, consumption and disposal in the AI life cycle comes at a great cost to our planet. It uses vast amounts of energy, it requires using scarce resources and I believe it's only going to further ruin our planet and ensure the climate crisis is only going to get worse.

Am I the only one who saw *Terminator*? All sci-fi films have predicted post-apocalyptic worlds that look like death and destruction has rained upon the magically colourful earth that the creator gifted us.

Some say that AI is the green solution, I would say that AI is good for one thing, the economy and most of the time what is good for the economy is not good for the

planet of the people who live on it. Is it really about saving the planet or is it about saving the economy?

Also who is programming the AI? Colonial and capitalist minds? If so they will program the robots the way they have programmed us to believe more is better, individualism is success and greed is rewarded.

There are huge environmental costs of the current data-driven communication systems that are involved in operating AI and it's time we start asking more questions and demanding a different way of living in the world that is not just continuing to destroy the future of our planet.

Perhaps returning to the lore of nature, to the understanding of how to be in harmony and in cyclical living is more the answer, perhaps we have to build a society that is women and family centred, that values community care, earth based skills and one that values life over death, because what's good for the economy seems to be what's bad for the planet.

● Ella Noah Bancroft is a Bundjalung woman and a regular contributor to the *Koori Mail*.

Riding in cars with Pygmies

As the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on August 9 approaches, I feel deeply connected to this year's theme, 'Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact.'

Starting in 2008, my six years in Africa as an Environment and Community Specialist for BHP Billiton Exploration were a lifetime opportunity. I experienced firsthand the continent's diverse cultures, landscapes, and chequered and complex histories; my passion for travel and photography took me to 32 of the 54 countries for work and holidays.

Living in Angola, Zambia, Gabon, Ethiopia, and eventually Tanzania, a key part of my role involved community engagement. As a member of reconnaissance teams, I frequently engaged with traditional leaders, chiefs, royal establishments, municipal authorities, and community stakeholders in remote areas. We aimed to seek their support and consent for our exploration activities and environmental and regulatory approvals and learn from their invaluable local knowledge.

I documented my African adventures extensively, capturing thousands of images – from the Dogon people in Mali to the Himba in the Namib Desert, the Touaregs in the Sahara, the nomadic Wodaabe and Fulani peoples in the Sahel regions of Niger, and the remote tribes of the Omo Valley in Ethiopia.

One particularly memorable experience was visiting and hunting with the Ba'Aka Pygmy community in



Adam C Lees

the Central African Republic (CAR) during a weeklong getaway. Riding in a Toyota Hilux, we later walked and navigated the thick forest basin, weaving through the towering canopies. Equipped with machetes and nets intricately woven from vines, we ventured deep into the humid, balmy forest, swatting away persistent midgies.

We crossed wide rivers and navigated dense forests filled with mist, ancient trees towering above us. To top it all off, I saw the endangered populations of Western Lowland Gorillas, including majestic silverbacks and forest elephants, at the Dzanga-Sangha Reserve. Today, this experience is off-limits as the country has been in civil war since 2012, and travel alerts warn people not to visit due to ongoing risks and instability.

This wasn't my first engagement with a Pygmy community. A Pygmy community also lived on the outskirts of Franceville in Gabon, where BHP Billiton was exploring for manganese and where I worked for a time. My colleagues quickly



Adam captured thousands of images during his six years in Africa. This is one of them.

discovered, to their humiliation, that the local Pygmies were phenomenal soccer players. Every Saturday, the expat and local Gabonese employees often got their asses handed to them in friendly matches, turning the usually boisterous exploration team unusually silent, with only the sound of crickets filling the air after their defeats.

Today, the Indigenous Pygmy population is between 600,000 and 1.5 million, spanning several Central African countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, and Cameroon. They are among the most vulnerable forest-dependent communities, with their lifestyle, cultural and spiritual identity intricately linked to the forest massifs that form 60 per cent of the Congo Basin forests.

Pygmy communities have long faced severe

discrimination, resulting in political, economic, and social marginalisation. Historically, they have been mythologised for their height and regarded as cultural curiosities. During the Congo Free State period and the early 20th century, Pygmy children were captured and displayed in zoos and world fairs. The continued violence against their communities, including genocides and forced removals in the name of conservation, has been spotlighted by the United Nations and civil society groups, who have called for the protection of their rights and interests.

Returning to this year's theme, we needn't look beyond Australia for examples of uncontacted Indigenous communities impacted by modern activities. The book *Cleared Out* by Peter Johnson, Sue Davenport and Yuwali documents the events

surrounding the first contact in 1964 between Aboriginal women and children in the Western Desert and non-Indigenous patrol officers from the Woomera Rocket Range. Additionally, the last uncontacted Indigenous peoples in Australia, known as the Pintupi Nine, made contact with the 'outside world' in 1984.

These ongoing historical accounts serve as cautionary tales for what may lie ahead for other uncontacted tribes facing modern encroachments.

Recent events highlight the impact of the relentless march of development on Indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation.

Their existence is not merely a lifestyle choice but the continuation of cultures that have thrived for millennia.

Recently, media stories revealed the uncontacted Mashco Piro tribe in the

Peruvian Amazon, just kilometres from logging concessions. Similarly, in Indonesia, the uncontacted Hongana Manyawa tribe risks the destruction of their rainforest home, displacement and disease because of activities associated with the world's largest nickel mine. This encounter reinforces the ethical dilemma of decarbonisation, as nickel, a critical mineral for renewable energy technologies, poses a significant threat to neighbouring Indigenous communities and has sparked calls by civil society organisations for immediate government intervention.

Having worked on exploration projects in Africa, I never encountered communities that opposed development, as many viewed it as a pathway to better opportunities.

However, every group was determined to retain their traditional way of life as much as possible. My experiences highlighted their enduring connection to the environment and the importance of upholding their culture and ways of life against disruptive external pressures. This year's International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples theme challenges us to protect our cultures and traditions while navigating the complexities of our rapidly evolving world.

● Adam C Lees is a Yadhagana (Cape York), Meriam man, and director of New Moon Consulting. He has over twenty years of global experience in the resources and energy sector.

Respecting our Elders

By NICK PATON



AS part of this year's NAIDOC week celebrations, a series of luncheons were held at various locations in and around Boorloo/Perth in Western Australia to honour local Elders and the impact they continue to make in their communities. Held annually, the Elders luncheons in Bindjareb (Mandurah), Collie, Bunbury, Narrogin and Katanning are delivered by the South West Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS).

The luncheons are provided in communities that SWAMS deliver several services to, including medical clinics, NDIS Services, and many other community programs.

SWAMS CEO Lesley Nelson attended the Bunbury Elders luncheon at the Mantra Bunbury Lighthouse Hotel. She said the Elders luncheons provided by SWAMS are a highlight of NAIDOC week.

"We deeply respect our Elders and they play a vital role in our communities and our moort (families)," Ms Nelson told the *Koori Mail*.

"They are our loved ones, but they are also keepers of knowledge, teachers and leaders," she said.

"These lunches are a chance to thank them, away from their often busy day-to-day lives of looking after family members and friends."

Ms Nelson said this year's NAIDOC theme, 'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud' resonates deeply with her and is a powerful reminder of the strength, resilience, and unwavering spirit that defines Aboriginal people.

"NAIDOC Week is a time for celebration, reflection, and culture," Ms Nelson said.

"This year, the call is to keep our cultural fires burning brightly, it is a call to celebrate our past and the new journey ahead."

Ms Nelson said Elders haven't always had the recognition they deserve for being knowledge holders, and are often all-round moorditj (strong and resilient) people in the wider community.

"This is a chance to perhaps belatedly thank them for their strength and courage," Ms Nelson said.

"And we are always told that these lunches are such a lovely way for Elders to meet up and yarn about their families and lives once a year."

Ms Nelson said this year, the call is to keep our cultural fires burning brightly, it is a call to celebrate our past – and the new journey ahead.

She said by embracing these stories and using them as a strong foundation, we can overcome any obstacle or barrier and create opportunities.

"Our history is filled with stories of triumph, innovation, and perseverance," Ms Nelson said.

"NAIDOC Week celebrates our ability to achieve anything if we approach challenges from a place of positive empowerment," she said.

"It is a time for everyone to come together, to attend events and share yarns."



SWAMS CEO Lesley Nelson, Eddie Frain and his wife Cindy Smith-Narkle.



Yvonne Garlett and Gloria "Nora" Dann.



Doug Hill, SWAMS Community Liaison Officer William "Bill" Turner and Chris Collard.

Fifty-cent commemoration coin issued



DURING NAIDOC Week 2024 The Royal Australian Mint released a special collectible coin celebrating the

50th anniversary of National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee.

The coin's design was the result of a collaboration between the National Indigenous Australians Agency, the NAIDOC committee, the Royal Australian Mint and Dagoman, Wardaman, and Gurindji woman, Cortney Glass, winner of the 2024 National NAIDOC Coin Design competition.

Ms Glass, said it was overwhelming being at the mint for the production of the coin.

"I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the National Indigenous Australians Agency, the NAIDOC committee and the Royal Australian Mint on this significant milestone and project," she said.

"As a girl originally from the

small country town of Katherine, Northern Territory, being the artist behind a special collectible coin is beyond my wildest dreams. This experience is truly an honour, and I am profoundly thankful for it."

Co-chair of the National NAIDOC Committee Aunty (Dr) Lynette Riley, said the committee had worked tirelessly to bring the coin to life and it was a special keepsake of this significant milestone.

"Fifty years of NAIDOC being co-ordinated by an all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee is significant in the recognition and empowerment of Indigenous people to control the messages, through the themes we want Australia to focus on and learn about through our directions," Dr Riley said.

"The coin image selected by Cortney epitomises what NAIDOC is about, through the listing of all the themes from 1972, surrounded by artwork which emphasises culture as our foundation for who

we are; and the ongoing struggles in fighting for Indigenous rights and that this is done in solidarity.

"In producing this coin, we wish to celebrate and pay homage to all our people who have worked tirelessly over the past 50 years to ensure NAIDOC is a celebration of our people and our cultures, locally, state-wide, and nationally. Our Elders, who first established NAIDOC, would be very proud of them all."

Assistant Minister for Treasury Andrew Leigh said that the mint had a strong history of celebrating Australia's Indigenous heritage and storytelling on coins.

"The design symbolises the care, strength and rich culture of our many Indigenous communities. The strong '50' at the centre of the coin highlights the strong history of the National NAIDOC Committee, while the gathering of the 10 individuals in blue at the bottom of the coin represents the coming together of the committee in collaboration."



Cortney Glass, winner of the 2024 National NAIDOC Coin Design competition. Picture: Jillian Mundy

Townsville turns out for NAIDOC

By ALF WILSON



HUNDREDS of men, women and children attended the Townsville NAIDOC opening event held at the Jezzine Barracks Precinct near the Strand on Sunday, July 7.

They were treated to a free breakfast, entertainment by Aboriginal Wulgurukaba Dance Group, the Komet TS Art and Cultural Dancers, and music and singing by the Trevor Prior and Sons Second Generation Band.

Wulgurukaba Walkabouts members did the smoking ceremony with William Mabo starting the fire.

Guest speakers highlighted what the theme of "Keep the Fire Burning Blak Loud and Proud" meant to them.

Elder Aunty Dorothy Savage who is a member of the hard working

organising committee gave an emotional speech.

"Our children must keep the fire burning and it is up to families to educate them. The voice of our people has never been bigger," Aunty Dorothy said.

Another committee member Anthony Wotton spoke about what the theme meant for youth.

At the completion of the event Ashley Saltner jnr raised the Aboriginal flag, Rick Phineasa the TS flag and Kristian Price the Australian flag.

As the flags flew high above everybody at the event was invited to join in for a photo shoot.

This was the first of many events in Townsville followed by an art display at Willows Shopping Centre, a corporate breakfast on July 11, and a huge Deadly Day Out the following afternoon at Riverway.



Many of those at the event had a photo snapped after the flag raising.



Priscilla Huen from Charters Towers watched the event.



Rick Phineasa ready to raise the TS flag.



From left are Ben Gertz, Janine Gertz and Letitia Murgha.



Komet TS Dancer and Art Group perform.



Lionel Lenoy and daughter Jennifer Lenoy.



Members of the Trevor Prior and Sons Next Generation Band are Trevor Prior jnr, Trevor Prior snr and Luke Prior.



From left are NAIDOC committee members Jenny Wyles, Letitia Henaway, Dorothy Savage, Eddie Savage and Anthony Wotton.

Celebrating our Elders

By ALF WILSON



ELDERS were treated to a morning tea to show how special they are during the huge NAIDOC celebrations in Charters Towers.

It was hosted by the Warringnu Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation on Wednesday, July 10, at Shirll's Centre which is part of their Boundary Street building.

The 40 guests, mostly Elders, were treated to a feast including a large NAIDOC cake baked locally.

Koori Mail spoke to numerous elders there including 86-year-old Fay Mitchell who said she loved it. "I really enjoy meeting

everybody here," Fay said.

Keith McKean will celebrate his 80th birthday in August and said he had been coming to events for 30 years.

"I went to the flag raising on Sunday," he said.

Warringnu manager Leah Mathie said Charters Towers community is so grateful for the N.I.A.A funding for the 'Keep the Fire Burning Blak Loud and Proud'.

"Without it we wouldn't have been able to hold all our celebratory NAIDOC events for our community to celebrate and acknowledging our Elders past, present and emerging bring our community together in unity and representing 2024 NAIDOC theme BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD," Leah said.



Back row from left are Tonya Gilligan, Zyrine Anderson, Lillian Davidson, Robyn Kennedy. Front: Janeen Kennedey, Eva Masso and Lizzy Allingham.



Staff from Warringnu: Lillian Davidson, Tonya Gilligan, Renee Jacks, Leanne Bawden, Leah Mathie, Janeen Kennedy, Kerrie Ward, Kenny Kennedy, Gloria Santo and Zyrine Anderson.



Warringnu manager Leah Mathie, left, with Gloria Santo.



Sharmayne Moore, back, with Keith McKean and Natalie White.



Enjoying the Elders event lunch.



Elders cutting cake Lil Anderson, Dell Miller, Fay Mitchel, Sadie McLean and Patricia Dallachy.



Lilly Anderson, Isobel Baira, aged eight, and Sarabiah Galligan.

Language remains a

By JILLIAN MUNDY



GENERATIONS of families turned out for the Tasmanian Aboriginal Child Care Association (TACCA) Family NAIDOC event in Launceston to wrap up NAIDOC week.

Held on the Sunday at the end of NAIDOC week, the event is an anticipated fixture on Launceston's NAIDOC calendar.

During the week TACCA children attend the local flag raising, do cultural activities and decorate their room with the NAIDOC theme ready for the event.

This year, like many years before, dozens braved the cold snap and short daylight hours to catch up, enjoy a big feed and join in activities on offer, including a book launch.

The book *tapilti katina*, meaning going to the beach, features images of TACCA children in a story about a cultural excursion to the beach and gathering shells, kelp and driftwood.

It is in palawa kani, the language of Tasmanian Aborigines and includes a song that generations of Aboriginal children have sung since the palawa kani Language Program began over 30 years ago.

Produced in a collaboration between the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) and TACCA as part of an International Decade of Indigenous Languages' Early Childhood Partnership Pilot Project, the book is one of a series of resources aimed at increasing rates of palawa kani spoken, sung and written in Aboriginal Early Childhood Centres and palawa families.

There is an audio book version voiced by Kawanji Greaves and Skye Cox who began learning palawa kani at TACCA when they were children. Now young adults, they are working for the palawa kani program. Kawanji, who was there to help launch the book, said it is a job he loves.

When he was too old to attend TACCA, he continued learning palawa kani through Aboriginal community youth programs, and was selected to voice a character in the Logie winning animated television series *Little J & Big Cuz* that was screened on NITV and ABC.

Hanging out and talking with the families, who TACCA director Michelle Mallett refers to as 'TACCA families', an affection for child care centre is obvious.

"It just blows me away how special TACCA is to people," says Michelle.

Established in 1983, she is thinking it won't be long until there are three generations in families who have attended TACCA.

It was started by a steering committee of Aboriginal women, including Michelle's grandmother Molly Mallett, and also Val Tiffin, who is now 86 and still on the board today.

"Apparently they had meetings in the house I lived in as a kid, I remember going there when it opened, I was 10," she said.

Back in 1983, unlike most child care centres, all the children were together in one big room rather than separated into age groups. It was by necessity because of the premises more so than plan, but it worked so well that it was



Brothers Mathius, CJ and Cassius Everett opened the day with a dance.



Jade, Zarmaliya, Bourbon and Zeddehah Hodges and Zayden Maher.

carried across to their new premises when they moved in 2013.

"Siblings get to stay together, cousins, little babies get to have the older children interacting with them all the time," Michelle explains.

"Children of all different ages interact together, the older kids really look out for the little ones – it's really beautiful.

"When we have a new baby, the older kids just absolutely love it.

"And we might have a child that's an only child or we've had kids that are born a bit later in life and all their cousins are older and to come here and be around children of all different ages is really important.

"It's beautiful."

Michelle began working at TACCA in 1995, an era of record unemployment. She began in a union traineeship for long-term unemployed, then on the CDEP program and over the years worked her way up to assistant director and now director.

Her three, now nearly all grown up, children went there, as have the majority of Aboriginal children in Launceston.

"I reckon just about everybody in

Launceston knows somebody who has come to TACCA," she said.

Now in her early 50s, despite the industry being hard work and not very well recognised, including low pay rates, she could not imagine working anywhere else.

"I just love it. "I think when I first started, what really hit me was that the feeling of family.

"If you come in here you'll be made to feel very welcome.

"It's really important that everybody feels like that, because we have so many parents who have said they have anxiety and things like that and say they can't go anywhere, but look forward to dropping their child off here because they know somebody's going to have a bit of a yarn with them.

"It's really humbling and you don't (always) realise the impact that we have on people's lives."

TACCA is licensed to have 32 children between 0 and 5, at any one time in care. There are always between 40 to 50 families enrolled.

While half the staff are Aboriginal and Aboriginal families are preferred for enrolment, TACCA is also open to non-Aboriginal families.



Four-year-old Amelia Brasher paints shells and teeny-weeny canvases until sunset.



TACCA staff made up special NAIDOC gift bags for the children.



'TACCA Mum' Cecillia Wheatley delivers a welcome.

core value of TACCA



Young TACCA artists posed for the *Koori Mail* momentarily with their blazing 2024 NAIDOC theme display.



Three generations – Tania Webb, Maple Porteous and former 'TACCA kid' Alixandre Webb.



Rowan Dahlvid with his Uncle Cooper Lynch.



Brothers Fletcher and Miach Selby and Lucy Oliver stringing shells and kelp.



Kamil Okeny enjoying the family day.



Lucy Gardner and Brady Scott with their twins Tamatea and Laymina Scott.



Palawa friends enjoying the family day – Mason Langley, Rubi Dobson, Felix Waiss, Nate Langley and Xavier Dobson.



Palawa women, TACCA director Michelle Mallet and assistant director Jennifer Fojtu.



Daisy Allan and Kawanji Greaves launched the new palawa kani book and are pictured reading the story about going to the beach and collecting resources.



TACCA parents Nic (also board member) and Leo Lynch with TACCA educators, sisters Tereza Loone and Kayla Foggo.

March in Thuringowa

Story and pictures
by
ALF WILSON



MORE than 2,000 men, women and children took part in the NAIDOC street march and family day in Thuringowa on Friday, July 12.

Whilst the majority were either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders, there were also several hundred non-Indigenous people.

They gathered near the Kirwan State High for the march and at 10am sharp commenced their 1km walk along Thuringowa Drive led by a police escort.

The usually busy main street was closed off on one side and the marchers walked slowly in their 300 metre-long line, filling from the footpath to the outside of the median strip.

Some of the participants were being pushed along in wheelchairs, young children were in prams, or on their parent's shoulders.

Dancers were at the front and Coralie Cassady rode her trusty pushbike near the front.

"It is so good to see all of these people here on this day," Coralie said.

Aboriginal and TS flags and many banners were prominent during the 30-minute walk.

The *Koori Mail* was there and spoke to numerous people who were enthusiastic about the popular event.

Romana Shepherd was there with a group from the Townsville City Libraries.

A number of workers representing the Townsville Correctional Centre marched and carried a huge banner.

Rick Phineasa said he was happy to walk after he had attended the local flag-raising ceremony six days before, and Doug Pitt said it was an honour to march.

Nicole Ross of Aboriginal and Darnley descent was happy with the massive turnout.

Lots of spectators snapped pics of the walkers at the intersection of Thuringowa Drive and Ross River Road.

Afterwards, the marchers and others gathered at idyllic Riverway for a Deadly Day Out family event.

Connoisseurs of fine food enjoyed a liberal sprinkling of traditional TS and Aboriginal food.

The venue on the banks of the freshwater reaches of Ross River was packed.

The week-long events were organised by the Townsville NAIDOC committee.



Families joined the NAIDOC march which was followed by the Deadly Day Out family event.



Sisters Inside is an independent community organisation based in Queensland, which advocates for the rights of women and girls in prison.



Coralie Cassady on her bike near the front of the march.



Queensland Corrective Services marched for NAIDOC.



Rick Phineasa ready to march.



Romana Shepherd, left, and the team from City Libraries.



Doug Pitt during the march.

Uncle Jim Everett-puralia meenamatta honoured

By JILLIAN MUNDY



THE main Lutruwita/Tasmania NAIDOC Ball and Awards, held in Nipaluna/Hobart, was touted as the biggest ball of them all.

Almost 300 turned out for the glamorous get-together – the biggest attendance ever, with the exception of National NAIDOC Balls held in Lutruwita.

There was a big feed, lucky door prizes and a surprise performance from Miss Kininna – ball-goers who had seen the Lutruwita born and raised Yorta Yorta/Kalkadoon/Yirendali artist grow up and then witness her star rise over the last few years were delighted to see her back home and flocked to the dance floor.

Uncle Jim Everett-puralia meenamatta was named Aborigine of the Year, recognising a lifetime of activism, contributions to the struggle, his community and the arts, his inspiration and encouragement to younger generations, academic achievement – he graduated with a Master in Aboriginal Philosophy this year, and his current sovereignty and forest protection campaigns, for which he currently has a warrant and faces arrest.

Amidst a standing ovation, the 82-year-old was clearly overcome by emotion and lost for words.

"It is a big honour," he said.

"I take it as responsibility, I've been with great comrades in this struggle, they are still doing it and I carry this for all of us who have carried it this far."

While he was not nominated to align with the 2024 NAIDOC theme, he is without doubt a shining example of 'Keep the Fire Burning – Blak, Loud and Proud'.

There were three special achievement awards.

One went to John Gardner for his years of voluntary work, dedication and ingenuity bringing to life his mum Furley Gardner's vision for a golf course on Cape Barren Island. The course, transformed from a couple of deserted cow paddocks on returned Aboriginal Land to the island's social hub, celebrated its 10th anniversary last year.

Another went to Carleeta Thomas for outstanding achievements in Aboriginal tourism, sharing palawa history and culture with the world.

A role model for her community and always there to offer support, whether it be rallies, cooking with Palawa Kipli food stall or helping out behind the scenes, Carleeta is the longest serving guide on the iconic multi-award-winning Wukalina Walk, which just last week made it onto *Time* magazine's world's 2024 greatest places list.

Maggie Blenden was awarded for her chosen profession of law, voluntary work and public



Aborigine of the Year – Uncle Jim Everett-puralia meenamatta.



Dayne Langdon, Tanya Langdon, Jamie Langdon, Jacqui Langdon and Haylee Rainbird. Pictures: Jillian Mundy



Best dressed awards went to Colin Hughes, Ruth Langford, Bonnie Everett and Kulai Sculthorpe.



Miss Kaninna's surprise visit back home did not disappoint – she gave an intimate performance with a big concert feel.



Newlyweds Phillip and Shiralee Jones, and Phillip's sister Linda Jones.



Maggie Blenden (centre) is congratulated by those around her as she is announced a special achievement award winner.



Jamie-Lee Burgess-Maynard, Shannon Evans and Kellie Arnott.

speaking for her community. She works in legal and human rights spaces, advocating against the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system, violence against Aboriginal women and limited

human rights protections in Australia. She is the co-founder of Naarm Law Students community-led legal education by youth for youth, gives practical support to Uncle Jim Everett's current campaigns and sits on



Carleeta Thomas was presented her special achievement award from Aunty Loueen Triffitt.

committees including the Global Institute for Women's Leadership's Youth Committee.

The Lutruwita NAIDOC Ball rotates between Pataway/Burnie, Launceston and Nipaluna. It is due to be in Pataway next year.



Special achievement award winner John Gardner. (file photo – Jillian Mundy)

Top health carers celebrate at



NATIONAL NAIDOC Week 2024 was celebrated by the Orange Medical Service at a Blak Tie Ball on Saturday, July 13, at Banksia Orange, NSW, acknowledging 20 years of the Orange Aboriginal Medical Service (OAMS) delivering continuous quality community care. This year's NAIDOC Week theme: **Keep the Fires Burning! Blak Loud and Proud** was the focus of renowned journalist, author, moral philosopher, thinker, film maker and communicator, Wiradjuri, Kamilaroi and Dharawal man Stan Grant's keynote address. Around 340 guests attended the event including OAMS staff, family and friends as well as representatives from Charles Sturt University, the Sax Institute, Orange Local Aboriginal Lands Council, University of Sydney, Warriors JRLFC, Orange Hawkes RLFC, peak Aboriginal organisations, local MPs, businesses and community supporters.



Jamie Newman, Orange Aboriginal Medical Service (OAMS), Stan Grant, Nicole Turner, Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) and Interim AH&MR CEO Kim Merritt.



Brook Hinks, Joa Lawrence, Alana Cantrill and Josh Cantrill.



Sharon McLeod and Dr McLeod.



Dillon Bell and Caitlin Tom.



Liam Downey, Tracey Downey, Deb Rawlins, Tom Do and Lucy Nguyen,



Brett Bell, Tenesha Bell and OAMS founding board member, Ralene Bell.



Dave and Anne-Marie Mepham.



OAMS board members Ben Kemp, Annette Steele, Abbey Wright, Alisha Agland and Dan Casson with Stan Grant.



Siara Jawai, Janay Apps, Jessica Lees, Maya Green, Carli Godfrey and Ekala French.



Caleb Lewis, Cazim Kadic, Matt Scott and Matty Fuller.

Black Tie Ball in their honour



The Orange Hawks RLFC.



Dr Isobel Pye and Alex McAlpine. The Warriors RLFC.



Mick Madden, Laura Kelly and Stephen Sykes.



Mogo Big Day Out fires

By MARION WILLIAMS



MOGO's Big Day Out for NAIDOC saw people connecting to Country, culture and each other. Around 3,000 people from up and down the Far South

Coast came for a yarn, cultural workshops, performances by local musicians and a free feed.

Gamilaroi man, champion oyster shucker and master of ceremonies Gerard 'Doody' Dennis revved up the crowd on July 13 with his lively banter and Walbunja woman Aunty June Cooper gave the Welcome to Country.

"This is Country, this is family, this is what it is all about," Aunty June said. "We have walked this land for years, our parents and our grandparents. It is where we grew up."

Highlights included performances by the Warigal Warriors and Djaadjawan Dancers and a fiercely competed dance-off for kids.

Rob Chewying of Joonga Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation invited people to fill in a survey to help develop a Sea Country Management Plan for Walbunja Country. It started with a workshop at Kioloa on Yuin Country last year. More than 30 South Coast Aboriginal community members participated, along with four community researchers and a University of Wollongong research team. They gathered further input on community aspirations at a community event in Bermagui and may conduct the survey once or twice more.

"We are having a fantastic response to it," Walbunja man Mr Chewying said.

"It is giving Indigenous people the opportunity to speak out about their Sea Country and empower them to have a say in their resources."

The plan is for Walbunja Country but "further down the track if anyone wants to use our model, they are welcome".

Soozie Gillies had a marquee to promote the 'We Breathe – Tackling Indigenous Smoking' project. It educates people about the toxic chemicals in cigarettes and vapes and supports those



One of the highlights of the Mogo Big Day Out was the kids dance off.

trying to quit. The Palawa woman said there are historical reasons why Aboriginal communities have higher smoking rates. "We used to be paid in tobacco. If you are surrounded by it, people think it is normal."

Fire in her belly

Aunty Vivienne Mason made a thought-provoking address at the NSW Far South Coast PCYC's NAIDOC event at Narooma Leisure Centre on July 9.

In the 1950s Aunty Vivienne's grandmother, Muriel Stewart OAM, was a member of the first National Aborigine Day Observance Committee (NADOC), alongside Charlie Perkins, Tom Williams and Rob Riley. She also helped establish Australia's first Aboriginal medical service (in Redfern) and was NSW's first female Aboriginal Justice of the Peace.

"That is where I got my fire from," Aunty Vivienne said, speaking to this year's NAIDOC theme.

"Smoke is part of culture and fire is part of us. Fire is not just smoke. It is our spirit

so when people say keep the fire burning, it is within us to keep it going for the betterment of our Mob," Aunty Vivienne said. "You never stop striving to make things better."

Well-known Walbunja people include Peter Kirby, the first Indigenous Australian to win a gold medal at the Paralympics, Marcie Ella Duncan, the first Aboriginal scholarship holder at the Australian Institute of Sport and first to represent Australia in netball, rugby league player Steve Ella, violinist Eric Avery, opera singer Deborah Cheetham and Jimmy Little.

"We have a lot of people we can look up to and remember their fight," Aunty Vivienne said.

"They had fire in their belly, and it has not died out in any of us."

She said Narooma was pretty dull these days compared with when her children were growing up.

"Young kids have to get that fire back in their belly. It is like the Olympic torch – you have to pass it down through kids."



Aunty June Russell gave the Welcome to Country at the Mogo Big Day Out. Pictures: Marion Williams



Gerard 'Doody' Dennis was the master of ceremonies at the Mogo Big Day Out on July 13.



Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation (RivMed) staff.

NAIDOC celebrations are reason to focus on health



Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation (RivMed) hosted their annual

community NAIDOC celebrations on Tuesday, July 9, with an appearance from RivMed's deadly superhero Supercuz.

Welcoming a record number of people from the Wagga Wagga region, the community participated in a smoking ceremony, enjoyed traditional dances, engaged with local service providers, and shared a delicious bbq lunch and bushtucker from Uncle Michael Lyons from Sandhills Artefacts.

RivMed CEO Peta Larsen said the event was a valuable opportunity for health providers and services to celebrate the enduring strength and vitality of First Nations cultures.

"This event offered more than just entertainment," Ms Larsen said.

"Over 35 stalls provided opportunities for community to engage with service providers from employment to health and aged care,

"RivMed is proud to play a leading role in connecting community to services to strengthen the wellbeing of First Nations peoples, and access to cultural practices and traditions.

"As an organisation, NAIDOC Week is a time for RivMed to reflect, celebrate, and recommit ourselves to providing culturally safe holistic health and well-being services," she said.

Member for Riverina, Michael McCormack MP, joined in the celebrations and said it was a great chance to catch up with many eminent Indigenous



Luca Hutchinson and Emily Thomas (Ashmont Dancers).



Peter Little from the Ashmont Dance Group and DJ Honeysett perform the smoking ceremony.



Maxine Honeysett, Peta Larsen, Bernard Higgins and Simone Sherriff (CEO and board directors).



Supercuz turned up to entertain the kids.

locals.

"It was a pleasure to join the celebrations of the strength, resilience and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at the RivMed NAIDOC Week celebrations," Mr McCormack said.

"These services make such a

difference in our community," he said.

RivMed also facilitated satellite NAIDOC events, including a vibrant school holiday program and cultural activities at the Wagga Wagga Marketplace.

The organisation's impact in

the community continued to be celebrated, with Deputy Chairperson Maxine Honeysett recognised at the 2024 Wagga Wagga NAIDOC Ball and Awards, where she received the People's Choice Award.

The 2024 NAIDOC Week theme "Keep the fire burning!

Blak, loud and proud" celebrated the unyielding spirit of First Nations communities and called for solidarity in amplifying the voices that have long been silenced.

RivMed were proud to facilitate and lead NAIDOC celebrations in Wagga Wagga.

Electric Fields joins the orchestra



MULTI-award-winning Australian electronic music duo Electric Fields will join forces with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House for one night only in September.

The duo of Zaachariaha Fielding (vocals) and Michael Ross (keyboard and producer) created history at the Eurovision Song Contest in Sweden earlier this year, by singing lyrics in Fielding's Yankunytjatjara language. It was the first time that a song included an Aboriginal language at the international competition.

Electric Fields' sound is a captivating fusion of vibrant traditional culture with pop, soul and electronica. The original compositions and traditional inma have brought breathtaking moments of beauty and power to audiences across Australia and around the world.

With their evocative works

reimagined for orchestra by composer Alex Turley (arranger for Genesis Owusu, Ngairie and more), this collaboration with the Sydney Symphony will showcase Electric Fields' awe-inspiring music on a grand scale.

Electric Fields with the Sydney

Electric Fields is performing with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in September.

Symphony Orchestra is on at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall on Saturday, October 19, at 7pm. Tickets are available from the Sydney Symphony Orchestra Box Office on (02) 8215 4600 or through the SSO website sydneyssymphony.com/



Adelaide promotes creative practice



Adelaide Festival Centre's **OUR MOB** exhibition opens at the centre's theatre foyer galleries on August 3. The unique

exhibition of art by First Nations artists is held annually, following a call for artist submissions earlier in the year.

This year, the exhibition will feature four main components: **OUR MOB**: Art by South Australian Aboriginal Artists, **OUR YOUNG MOB**: Art by Aboriginal Artists 18 years and under, Trevor Nickolls **OUR MOB** Award supported by Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation solo exhibition by Samantha Gollan and the Don Dunstan Foundation Prize solo exhibition, by 2023's Emerging Artist Award recipient, Lesley Coulthard.

Alongside The **OUR MOB** and **OUR YOUNG MOB** exhibitions will be a second presentation of *defi-Nations* celebrating the diversity and nuance of First languages through the accessible and inclusive vehicle of poetry. This year's *defi-Nations* will feature an all-new line-up of writers from across Australia.

OUR WORDS and **OUR YOUNG WORDS** are the centre's regular literary events, coinciding with the annual art exhibition. **OUR WORDS** invites audiences to engage with First Nations writers through a series of panels and talks, while **OUR YOUNG WORDS** provides a hands-on opportunity for young people and families to explore the world of book illustration.

This year's **OUR WORDS** program, on Saturday, September 21, will weave worlds together, take audiences



Cedric Varcoe, winner of Our Mob 2023 Country Arts SA Professional Development initiative. Picture: Trentino Priori

behind the curtain of theatre making and celebrate award-winning fiction with First Nations poets, writers, creatives and thought leaders from across the state, country and globe.

Featured speakers include acclaimed international artists Leanne Betasamosake Simpson and Joy Harjo and their renowned poetic collaborators Natalie Harkin and Ali Cobby Eckermann, in the panel *Woven*. This gathering is hosted by editor Anne-Marie Te Whiu and celebrates the powerful gift of Indigenous reciprocity within the *Woven* anthology.

Writer and academic, Dr Eugenia Flynn, will be joined by Stella Prize-winning author, Alexis Wright, to talk about

literary greats and award-winning words in the panel *Praised*. In the final panel *Staged*, accomplished screen and stage writer, Tracey Rigney will speak with emerging South Australian playwrights Sonya Rankine, Jannali Jones and Kyron Weetra about the creative process and the art of telling a story on stage.

This year, **OUR YOUNG WORDS** includes workshops with Charmaine Ledden-Lewis, exploring the world of book-making and the importance of diversity and inclusion being represented in picture books, and an art workshop for children aged 5-12 with Adnyamathanha, Narungga, Wangkangurru Yarluyandi artist Iteka Ukarla

Sanderson-Bromley. The art workshop is an opportunity for kids to create their own original artwork and learn about First Nations culture and identity. Workshops with Charmaine Ledden-Lewis, Visual Literacy – A Picture Tells a Thousand Words will be held at Adelaide Festival Centre's Art Space on September 22, and Painting and Culture with Iteka will be held on Saturday, September 28 and October 12, also at the centre's Arts Space. Tickets for both events are available now, limited places.

For more information about First Nation events at Adelaide Festival Centre, visit adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/ and follow the links.

Opportunities for creatives

The Fisher's Ghost Art Award (NSW)

The annual art award and exhibition boasts \$60,000 in prize money to be won across five major categories, with three additional awards, including the Aboriginal Art Award, valued at \$1,000. The art award coincides with Campbelltown's ten-day festival of Fisher's Ghost, celebrating a famous ghost. The Open category, acquisitive to the Campbelltown City Council Art Collection, is valued at \$50,000 and has been won in previous years by leading Australian artists including Robert Fielding, (Western Arrente and Yankunytjatjara descent) and photographer Michael Cook (Bidjara heritage).

Artists of varying levels of ability are invited to enter works employing a variety of mediums and styles. Entries close Monday, August 26.

For information or to apply visit c-a-c.com.au/fishers-ghost-art-award-2024/

2025 Faber Writing Scholarships (NATIONAL)

Allen and Unwin's Faber Writing Academy offers scholarships for the prestigious Writing A Novel program. One scholarship will be awarded for each location in which the program operates: Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and online. Applicants need to complete an online application form and provide an example of their writing, up to 1,000 words of prose.

For information or to apply visit faberwritingacademy.com.au/faber-writing-scholarships/

The Visual Arts Fellowship Emerging (VAFE) (NSW)

The fellowship supports NSW visual arts practitioners in the early stages of their career to challenge and expand their practice. Up to six applicants will be shortlisted to participate in the fellowship exhibition at Artspace, Sydney in July 2025. At the exhibition opening, the fellowship of \$30,000 will be awarded to one successful emerging visual artist to undertake a self-directed professional development program. Applicants must be emerging artists, over 18, who reside in NSW and meet the ABN requirements. For information visit nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/2025-visual-arts-fellowship-emerging

Creative Futures Fund (NATIONAL)

An initiative of the National Cultural Policy – Revive, the Creative Futures Fund is designed to support the creation and sharing of Australian stories and new ways for people to engage with them. The fund is not a traditional grants program instead, it aims to be flexible and adaptive to meet the needs of the sector.

In its first year, (2024/25) the fund will prioritise applications that support genuine innovation for artists, audiences and communities and from organisations demonstrating robust partnerships with artists and creative workers of calibre.

Expressions of Interest are open now and close August 6, 2024.

For more information visit creative.gov.au/investment-and-development/creative-futures-fund/

Redland Art Award (NATIONAL)

The Redland Art Award is a biennial contemporary painting competition open to all Australian artists. Artists are invited to enter up to three painted 2D works for consideration.

The 2024 award features five prizes, including an acquisitive first prize of \$20,000, a second prize of \$6,000, third prize of \$3,000, the Meredith Foxton People's Choice award of \$1,000 and a RAMP Members' Choice award of \$500. An exhibition of finalists' artwork will be held on Quandamooka Country at the Redland Art Gallery in Cleveland from December 8, 2024, to January 28, 2025.

Entries close Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 3pm AEST. For more information and entry form visit shorturl.at/wYrcl

Performing arts at the heart of cultural feast



QUEENSLAND Performing Arts Centre's (QPAC) annual festival of First Nations arts and culture, Clancestry, is back. Since 2013, the iconic event celebrating identity and connection has provided a platform for established and emerging First Nations artists to share their stories, perspectives and talents.

Opening concert

Heading up the Clancestry 2024 program is *Warriors*, a night of inspiring music delivered by First Nations musicians Andrew Gurruwiwi Band, J-MILLA, Jungaji and Radical Son. The concert, which is on tonight, July 31, aims to raise awareness of First Nations men's mental health, focusing the powerful combination of music and storytelling as the performers share their own mental health journeys.

Mob Music

For Mob who love music, BENNYGOLD will host three nights of jam-packed jams on Clancestry's Mob Music stage, from Aug 1-3. Enjoy the vibes as the sun goes down with the sounds of deadly First Nations artists including hip hop artist JK-47, Blak pop star Miss Kaninna, alt-rock band Selve, Papua New Guinea-born singer Kaiti, psychedelic band Velvet Trip, and proud Pidadram, Manbarra and Palawa woman (and granddaughter to Dr Eddie Mabo), Kristal West.

For the kids

A host of fun and free activities has been planned to keep the kids entertained on Saturday, August 3. From face painting and arts and crafts to songs, stories and dance workshops, there are cultural activities for every curious and creative member of the family.

Theatre creatives

During Clancestry, QPAC will be supporting the ongoing creative development of two works: *Eat Slay Zombie* by Alinta McGrady and *Growing Back* by SOLCHLD. The creative developments will culminate in a live reading of *Eat Slay Zombie* on Friday, August 2,



QPAC's annual festival of First Nations art and culture, Clancestry, opens tonight with *Warriors*, a night of inspiring music and story.

and a performance of the developing work *Growing Back* on Thursday, August 1. Both performances are open to the public.

Tickets are free but capacity is limited so book now.

Bangarra

Indigenous dance company Bangarra will present their double-bill *Horizon* from Aug 8-17 at QPAC's Playhouse.

Converse

A curated series of talks centred around First Nations concerns, *Clancestry Conversations 2024* is on Saturday, August 3. At 11.30am, *Straight from the Strait – Where the Story Begins* shares the stories of the aunties and uncles behind the production of the TSI musical stage show, while at 1.30pm members of the organisation Link-Up (QLD), will discuss their important work reconnecting members of the Stolen Generations.

For all Clancestry program information and bookings visit QPAC's website at qpac.com.au/



Kaartdijin – (Knowledge) by Courtney Garlett from her debut exhibition *Djilba Wildflower* showing in Boulder WA. Courtney blends traditional symbols and forms with modern materials to tell the stories of Country. Picture: M. Ellen Burns.

Courtney debuts with colours of Country



Ballardong Noongar artist Courtney Garlett's debut exhibition *Djilba Wildflower* is showing at Artgold Gallery in Boulder, WA for one more week.

The exhibition captures the essence of culture and family heritage through her vibrant art.

Courtney says she turned to art because she wanted to keep her family's stories and memories alive.

Growing up in a small country town in WA's wheatbelt, Courtney had always been interested in the arts and learned about traditional symbols and storytelling from her dad and his family, who were living at Djurin Mission then.

"We would often go out there on weekends, where we would immerse ourselves in culture through art and stories," Courtney says in her exhibition artist's statement.

"Continuing to learn more and with the guidance of my family, creating stories using sacred symbols through my painting is something I feel a strong connection with."

Courtney says she is honoured to continue in the tradition of her Elders and ancestors, telling story through art, and is passionate about sharing the beauty of her culture through her work.

Artgold Gallery is located in Boulder, a suburb of Kalgoorlie in the Western Australian Goldfields, 597 kilometres east of Perth. Dedicated to promoting and supporting arts and culture in the WA Goldfields, the small, not-for-profit arts organisation hosts various events, exhibitions and workshops throughout the year, serving as the Regional Arts Network hub.

Djilba Wildflower is showing at Artgold Gallery, Boulder, WA until August 8. For information visit artgold.net.au/whatson

Capital boasts a wealth of culture



FOLLOWING a successful international tour of the Asia Pacific region, the National Gallery of Australia will present *Ever Present: First Peoples Art of Australia* – an exhibition celebrating First Nations art and providing a visual dialogue of Australia's complex histories.

The exhibition of over 150 works of art by First Nations artists is drawn from the national collection and the Wesfarmers Collection of Australian Art and has toured the Art Gallery of Western Australia, National Gallery, Singapore and Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki.

Ever Present is a survey of historical and contemporary works by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists from different cultural groups across Australia. With renowned artists such as Albert Namatjira (Arrarnta people), Emily Kam Ngwarray (Anmatyerr people) and Mabel Juli (Gija people) displayed alongside contemporary artists like Richard Bell (Kamilaroi, Kooma, Jiman and Goreng Goreng people) Karla Dickens (Wiradjuri people) and Tony Albert (Girramay/Yidinji/Kuku-Yalanji people) – this presentation is a testament to the breadth of First Nations art.

National Gallery curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, Tina Baum, a descendant of the Gulumirgin (Larrakia)/Wardaman/Karajarri peoples, said "To understand the richness, diversity and depth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture would take many generations, many lifetimes, but to appreciate it only takes a moment. Together, the artists and their works powerfully reinforce that we always have been and always will be ever present."



Various works, installation view, *Ever Present: First Peoples Art of Australia*, National Gallery Singapore, 2022. Picture: Joseph Nair, Memphis West Pictures.

The exhibition has been made possible due to the generous support of the National Gallery of Australia's Indigenous Arts Partner Wesfarmers Arts – who for over a decade, have taken a leading role in supporting the

National Gallery to celebrate, share and elevate Australia's First Peoples' art and cultures.

"*Ever Present* includes some of the most important contemporary and historical art produced in Australia, celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and their central role in defining Australia and our national identity," Wesfarmers chairman Michael Chaney AO said.

"We are thrilled that the exhibition will soon be displayed at the National Gallery in Canberra for the enjoyment of all Australians," Chaney said.

Ever Present is free to visit and on display at the National Gallery in Kamberri/Canberra from August 31, 2024 to October 2025.

Aboriginal artists showing in Kempsey



Nyinanambu Yapang – Our Way, an exhibition of paintings, weavings and carvings by six Aboriginal artists from the Mid-North Coast of New South Wales, is at the Coolamon Arts Gallery in Kempsey until October.

The exhibition comprises almost thirty new contemporary artworks from Sandy Abigall, Leah Brown, Michelle Dundas, Aunty Jaluka Rose Quinlin, Freeda Roberts and Gai Southwell revealing each artist's knowledge and deep connection to their culture and Country.

Coolamon Aboriginal Arts Hub was established in 2022 to support Aboriginal artists of varying skill levels in creating, promoting, exhibiting, and selling their work.

The hub, which works with communities across NSW, is managed by Annecto, a non-profit aged care and disability provider, and led and overseen by an Elders steering committee.

Nyinanambu Yapang – Our Way is on at the Coolamon Arts Gallery, Smith St, Kempsey until Friday, October 11, 2024. Not in Kempsey? The exhibition is also available for viewing and sales online at coolamon.org.au



Lightning Ridge Blue Opal Patch Bowl by Gai Southwell.

JUTE delivers important road safety message to remote students as they Dare To Dream



STUDENTS attending regional and remote schools in North Queensland are in for a treat as JUTE Theatre Company prepares to take its

Dare to Dream program on the road again, with their award-winning show, *Back on Track*.

Dare to Dream was established in 2016 and is designed to immerse students in an exciting environment that develops leadership, confidence, teamwork, acting, and creative performance skills.

The program works to create, develop, produce and tour meaningful and message-driven stories made for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audiences by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. The all-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cast and crew are key to the program's success.

JUTE Theatre Company's Creative Producer, Monica Stevens, said Dare to Dream aimed to inspire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to express themselves and their aspirations through theatre, and the latest tour continues in that tradition.

"Embracing the heuristic spirit of JUTE's residency program, *Back on Track* is a culmination of everything Dare to Dream stands for, primarily the positive impact



Actors Shahnee Hunter and Sheyan Walker perform in JUTE Theatre Company's Dare to Dream tour of the award-winning play *Back on Track*.

theatre can make on the lives of young people in remote centres.

"Dare to Dream is a program about people and organisations working together to influence change," said Ms Stevens.

Back on Track is written by Isaac Drandic and features actors Shahnee Hunter and Sheyan Walker with music by

David Hudson and costumes and sets by Cairns artist Hayley Gillespie.

It is the story of a young boy who lives with his grandmother following a road tragedy that killed his mum and dad. The young boy, who harbours a dream of being a world champion moto-x rider like internationally renowned Australian First

Nations rider Chad Reed, is working hard to attain his goal but almost comes a cropper when he has a riding accident. While battered and bruised, his life is spared thanks to his excellent sense of wearing a safety helmet.

Back on Track was first presented in 2021, and again in 2022 and 2023, winning the Community Wellbeing and Diversity Award at the Planning Institute of Australia's Awards for Planning Excellence, in 2022.

From mid-July, Dare to Dream will tour *Back on Track* over more than 4,000kms to schools in Abergowrie, Cairns, Townsville, Charters Towers, Innisfail, Rockhampton, Yeppoon, and Winton.

Travelling to all regional and remote locations in a twin-cab ute with the set, props and luggage in the back, the Dare to Dream theatre touring program has touched and transformed the lives of over 20,000 young people in regional and remote communities of Far North Queensland.

JUTE Theatre Company is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and the Department of Transport and Main Roads' Community Road Safety Grants Scheme. Energy Queensland is also a sponsor of the program. For more information about the tour visit jute.com.au

The runway gets tropical

CELEBRATING its ninth year, Country to Couture is recognised as the foremost First Nations fashion event in the country. It's a stellar showcase of the very best designs, designers and models in the First Nations' fashion industry. With wearable art and other schools of fashion emerging from the broader contemporary Indigenous art sector, *Country to Couture* has been the cornerstone event for many a career.

Since 2016, *Country to Couture* (C2C) has been presented alongside the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair (DAAF), through a partnership between Indigenous Fashion Projects and fashion house, Country Road, and supported by the Northern Territory Government.

In 2024, C2C is celebrating a remarkable number of designers from the state of Queensland. Samala Cronin and her new label, MumRed, as well as the collaboration between Yalanji Arts (Mossman Gorge) and fashion luminary, Linda Jackson AO, are two such stand-out designers presenting their collections at the event this year.

They are in incredible company, delivering at C2C alongside fellow Queensland designers and fashion labels Delvene Cockatoo-Collins, Magpie Goose in collaboration with Ewyenper Atwatye, Blak Sand by Salt Water Murriss, and Northern Peninsula Area Art Centre. (A special shout out to Naarm sista Tahnee Edwards of Gammin Threads, one of the designers presenting at C2C from further south).

I also want to acknowledge the Queensland-based First Nations designers shortlisted for this year's *National Indigenous Fashion Awards* (NIFAs). Another feature of the DAAF program, the NIFAs

opinion



Jack Wilkie Jans

shortlist includes Queenslanders Samala Cronin, Philomena Yeatman and Yarrabah Arts and Cultural Precinct, Simone Arnol, Briana Enoch, and Cheryl Creed. Oh my, so many deadly names and good friends being celebrated—and, most marvellously, not for the first (or last) time.

Samala is a Woppaburra woman whose grandmother's Country is the Keppel Islands, east of Yeppoon. Her label, MumRed, launched in 2023 to great acclaim and much support. MumRed embodies a "fusion of heritage, artistry and activism—with a commitment to preserving culture and identity—making it a symbol of empowerment and inspiration".

MumRed's collections are synonymous with sustainable fashion, traditional weaving, bold prints, bespoke gowns, and a limited range of fine, hand-made accessories. Everything is made with love and care and shared with the world via the passion of MumRed's founder and chief designer, Samala.

"My childhood was a kaleidoscope of culture and colour—I was raised in the grassroots of our cultural revival



Makarr (Fish Trap) print by Vanessa Cannon and *Kurranji (Cassowary)* print by Karen Shuan on linen-cotton. Models: Enrique and Latavia Gibson. Picture: Alison George Catseye Productions 2024.

and political resistance of the 1990s—travelling, protesting, practising song and dance, and making our dance gear. Some of my earliest memories are making our dance skirts, rubbing hair rope, weaving and working with feathers," Samala Cronin said.

"Fashion is culture! All over the world, there are dress codes for what is appropriate. But colonisation had robbed us as First Nations people of cultural expression through our traditional adornments, due to what it has historically deemed 'appropriate'.

"I established MumRed to celebrate our survival, reclaim our cultural expression, and introduce modern silhouettes made from traditional materials into the mainstream fashion industry so that our authentic beauty is celebrated as widely as it should be," Samala said.

"Our cultural expression is our

identity. To be truly heard, I believe we need to be seen".

The collaboration between Yalanji Arts and Linda Jackson is a secret I have been itching to tell for many months now. I've been doing some consultancy for the art centre and have known the centre's manager, Sabine Hoeng, for a number of years, and while the secret was safe with me, I'm thrilled to finally be able to talk about it. I've known Linda for a number of years also, and her impact on the Australian fashion industry, along with friend and fashion business partner, Jenny Kee AO, is internationally recognised — she is a colourful figure in our Tropical North Queensland art scene.

Linda is known for her bold-pattern designs and sculptural, art-deco-inspired garments, while Yalanji Arts is one of the most sought-after art centres in terms of its fine textiles and fabrics—

reflective of the tropical Mossman Gorge rainforest and endemic totemic species. The match is one made in heaven.

Speaking about how the collaboration got started Yalanji Arts manager, Sabine Hoeng, said "By sheer accident, I bumped into Linda Jackson at an art exhibition in Port Douglas in October last year. Knowing that she had worked with Yalanji Arts in the past, I invited her to the art centre to reconnect with the artists. Plus I am also a huge fan of her fashion/textile art creations since the 1980s.

"During her visit, I asked her if she would like to collaborate with our artists on a couple of textile projects including the *Country to Couture Fashion Show*. And luckily, she said 'yes'."

"My first real connection with Indigenous fashion was via Utopia Batik, Tiwi Designs and Bima Wear in the early 1980s," Linda Jackson said. "It's fantastic now, to see young designers and artists stepping out into the fashion world with such confidence."

"It was so special to be with Yalanji models Enrique Gibson and Latavia Gibson in their rainforest and to wrap them up in the latest printed sarongs for the unique photo shoot in the rainforest," Jackson said.

The Indigenous Fashion Project's *National Indigenous Fashion Awards* will be held in Garramilla/Darwin on August 7, the day after *Country to Couture*, which has two shows, on August 6.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: www.ifp.org.au

● Jack Wilkie-Jans is a Waanji, Teppathiggi and Tjungundji multidisciplinary artist and writer who contributes a regular Arts column for the Koori Mail.

event listings

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair (DAAF)
when: Aug 6-11
where: Darwin Convention Centre, Larrakia Country.
info/bookings: daaf.com.au/

Country to Couture
when: Aug 6
where: Darwin Convention Centre, Larrakia Country.
info/bookings: ifp.org.au/events/country-to-couture/

National Indigenous Fashion Awards (NIFAs)
when: Aug 7
where: Deckchair Cinema, Darwin, Larrakia Country.
info/bookings: ifp.org.au/nifa/

No Name, No Blankets
 Presented by Ilbijri Theatre (music/theatre)
when: Aug 7-8
where: Darwin Amphitheatre, The Gardens, Darwin
info/bookings: ilbijri.com.au/event/big-name-no-blankets/

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards Ceremony 2024 (NATSIAAs)
when: award ceremony, Aug 9; exhibition showing until Jan 27, 2025
where: Museum and Art Gallery of NT (MAGNT)
info/bookings: magnt.net.au/natsiaa-finalists

National Indigenous Music Awards (NIMAs)
when: Aug 10
where: Darwin Amphitheatre, Darwin
info/bookings: tickets on sale now at nima.musicnt.com.au/event-details/

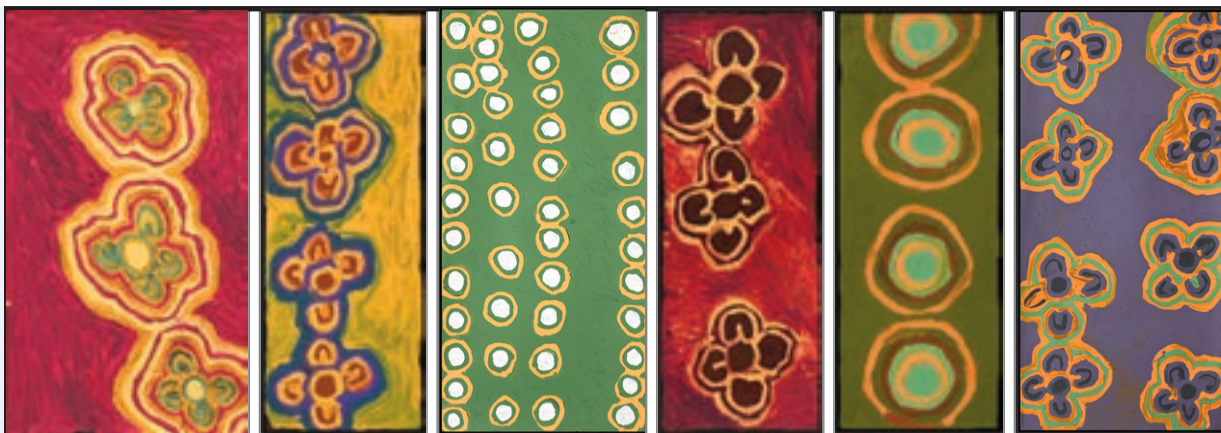
GROUND SWELL Araluen at 40
 (major survey of permanent collection)
when: until Aug 11
where: Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs
info/bookings: araluenartscentre.nt.gov.au/

Desert Song
 (festival)
when: Sep 17-22
where: various locations, Alice Springs
info/bookings: desertsong.com.au/

QUEENSLAND

mudunama kundana wandaraba jarribirri: Judy Watson
when: until Aug 11
where: Gallery 3 (Kenneth and Yasuko Myer Gallery), Gallery 4 & Watermall, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
info/bookings: qagoma.qld.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/

Dusk of Nations
 (exhibition)
when: Until Dec 14
where: Level 3, University



Biddy Napanangka Timms is showing new paintings of her Jukurpa (Dreaming) at an exhibition in Sydney.

New work, new style from artist Biddy Napanangka Timms



AN exhibition by artist Biddy Timms, skin name Napanangka, opens this weekend at Cooee Art Leven in Sydney, bringing work from the Warlpiri-

Lajamanu, almost 600 kms from Katherine. She has been using ochre and oils to paint people's bodies for much of her life, starting to paint her Jukurpa (Dreaming) on canvas in 2007, following the re-opening of Warnayaka.

In this latest exhibition, *Her Meditations*, the recognisable, busy style of finely dot-detailed brushwork developed across Napanangka's near-twenty year career, has been replaced with strong, deliberate strokes, and thick lines and paint, indicating an evolution to a more meditative approach to telling her story.

descended artist to audiences on the east coast and uncovering an evolution in her painting technique. Napanangka works with not-for-profit art centre Warnayaka in

of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane
info/bookings: art-museum.uq.edu.au/dusk-nations

Clancestry
when: from July 31
where: Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC), Brisbane
info/bookings: qpac.com.au/whats-on/clancestry

Warriors (Clancestry)
when: Jul 31, 7pm
where: Concert Hall, Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC), Brisbane
info/bookings: qpac.com.au/whats-on/2024/clancestry-warriors

Horizon (Clancestry)
 Bangarra dance
when: August 8-17
where: The Playhouse, QPAC, Brisbane/Meandjin Country
info/bookings: bangarra.com.au

Seeds and Sovereignty
 (exhibition)
when: until Aug 18
where: GOMA and Gallery 3.5, Brisbane
info/bookings: free entry, blog.qagoma.qld.gov.au/qa-goma-2024-program-announced/

TASMANIA

Artrage 2023
 Exhibition of works by year 11& 12 Tasmanian students
when: until Sep 14
where: Upper Gallery, Level 2, Devonport Regional Gallery, Devonport
info/bookings: paranapleartscentre.com.au/events/artrage-2023/

The Visitors
 Play by Jane Harrison
when: Aug 1-3, a post-show Q&A event with playwright Jane Harrison

is free for ticket holders on Friday, Aug 2.
where: Theatre Royal, Hobart
info/bookings: Bookings at theatroyal.com.au/shows/visitors

and
when: Aug 6, 7.30pm
where: Frankston Arts Centre, Frankston
info/bookings: artscentre.frankston.vic.gov.au/Home

The Box
 by Nathan Maynard and Rob Braslin. Presented by Mudlark Theatre
when: Jul 31 - Aug 1
where: Town Hall, Burnie Arts Centre, Burnie
info/bookings: tickets.burniearts.net/Event s/The-Box

and
when: Aug 7-8 (3 performances)
where: Studio Theatre, Theatre Royal, Hobart
info/bookings: theatroyal.com.au/shows/box

2024 Women's Art Prize Tasmania
when: Aug 3 - Sep 22
where: Devonport Regional Gallery, Devonport
info/bookings: womensartprizetas.com.au/

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Djilba Wildflower
 (exhibition)
when: until Aug 8
where: Artgold Gallery, Boulder
info/bookings: artgold.net.au/whatson

Fire and Water and Epenarra Artists - Pammy & Magdalene Foster
 (exhibition)
when: until Aug 20
where: Gallery 1 & 2 Japingka Aboriginal Art Gallery, Fremantle
info/bookings: /japingkaaboriginalart.com/exhibitions/

Meeyakba Shane Pickett: Six Seasons
 A preeminent WA landscape artist and 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/bo-olabardip/meeyakba-shane-pickett-six-seasons

Revealed 2024
 (exhibition)
when: until Aug 4
where: Fremantle Arts Centre
info/bookings: fac.org.au/

Pila Nguru: Art and Song from the Spinifex People
when: until Nov 10
where: Museum of Geraldton, Batavia Coast Marina, Geraldton
info/bookings: free entry, for more visit.museum.wa.gov.au/geraldton

VICTORIA

The Country Road + NGV First Nations Commissions: My Country
when: until Aug 4
where: The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Fed Square
info/bookings: ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/co-untry-road-ngv-first-nations-commissions/

Touring Exhibition: Layers of Blak
when: until Aug 25
where: Gippsland Art Gallery, Foster St, Sale
info/bookings: koorieheritagetrust.com.au/whats-on/exhibitions/layers-of-blak/

Horizon
 Bangarra dance.
when: Aug 28 - Sept 7
where: Arts Centre Melbourne/Wurundjeri

Country
info/bookings: bangarra.com.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

OUR MOB
 (exhibition)
when: Aug 3 - Oct 12
where: The Galleries Adelaide Festival Centre
info/bookings: adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/

NEW SOUTH WALES

Yagu, Gadigal Dulumi, Gadi Yuwing Ngubadi
 transl. *today, the Gadigal give you for no expected return, Gadi truth and love.* (exhibition by Konstantina)
when: until Aug 1
where: Parliament House, Macquarie St
info/bookings: cooeart.com.au/exhibitions

Barbara McGrady Ngiyaningy Maran Yaliwaunga Ngaara-li (Our Ancestors Are Always Watching)
 (photography)
when: until Oct 13
where: Campbelltown Arts Centre, Campbelltown
info/bookings: c-a-c.com.au/

Nganampa Ngura Inmatjara: Our Country, Our Song
 Exhibition of recent works from APY Lands and Coober Pedy
when: until Oct 13
where: Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Wagga Wagga
info/bookings: waggaartgallery.com.au/whats-on/current-exhibitions/ourcountry_oursong

Longstanding
 (exhibition)
when: until Aug 17.
where: Lone Goat Gallery, Byron Bay
info/bookings: lonegoatgallery.com/exhibiti

ons/longstanding)

The Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes 2024
when: until Sep 8
where: Naala Nura, lower level 2, AGNSW, Sydney
info/bookings: artgallery.nsw.gov.au/

Her Meditations: Biddy Napanangka Timms
when: Aug 3-24
where: Cooee Art Leven Gallery, Redfern
info/bookings: cooeart.com.au/

Inspire
 (exhibition)
when: Aug 8 - Oct 5
where: Boomalli, Leichhardt, Sydney
info/bookings: boomalli.com.au

Alchemy
 (exhibition)
when: until Aug 11
where: Powerhouse Castle Hill, Green Rd, Castle Hill
info/bookings: powerhouse.com.au/program/alchemy#overview

Cast in cast out
 Display inspired by Dennis Golding
when: until Aug 4 and

Ngaya (I am)
 (video installation)
when: until Aug 25 and

Coomaditchie: The Art of Place
when: until Aug 25
where: Museum of Sydney, corner of Phillip and Bridge St, Sydney
info/bookings: mhns.wa/

Saltwater Freshwater Arts Exhibition 2023
when: Aug 10 - Sep 23
where: Nulla Nulla Gallery, Kempsey
info/bookings: visit saltwaterfreshwater.com.au/ and follow links to 'Art award and exhibition.'

Byron Writers Festival
when: Aug 9-11
where: Bangalow Showgrounds, Bangalow
info/bookings: byronwritersfestival.com/

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Ngulagambilhanha (On Returning): Jessika Spencer
 (photographic exhibition)
when: until Aug 3
where: Manuka Arts Centre, Griffith
info/bookings: photoaccess.org.au/

Ever Present: First Peoples Art of Australia
when: Aug 31, 2024 - Oct 2025
where: Level 1, Gallery 1-6, National Gallery of Australia
info/bookings: Free with ticket, for more visit nga.gov.au/exhibitions/ever-present/

Belonging: Stories from Far North Queensland
when: until Mar, 2025
where: National Museum of Australia, Acton Peninsula, Canberra
info/bookings: nma.gov.au/exhibitions/belonging

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT

Deadly young women are pushing the boundaries



YOUNG Kailan Rainbow, 17, and Jazmyne Jensen, 18, are two young First Nations women on a

pathway to great careers in male dominated industries because of a program which has enabled them to gain skills in the automotive industry. Townsville based "On Common Country" was awarded \$240,000 under the Queensland Government's Indigenous Workforce and Skills Development Grant (IWSGD) program's 2022-23 funding round to assist 40 Indigenous job seekers to gain skills for employment in a range of occupations within the automotive sector.

On Common Country is a Townsville based Indigenous-owned and operated organisation empowering Indigenous Australians through greater economic participation and employment opportunities – and with funding from the Queensland Government.

On Common Country's project is delivered in collaboration with Motor Trades Association of Queensland and Townsville employers such as Mike Carney Toyota, Carmichael Ford, Pickering's Group and AMA Collision (AMA Group Ltd) who provide work experience opportunities.

As at July 17, 40 First Nations participants have been assisted by the program. Of these 23 are currently employed, two have entered further training, while the remaining participants will receive ongoing support through On Common Country to find employment or further education and training.

Both Kailan Rainbow and Jazmyne Jensen are terrific role models for young women interested in learning a trade and demonstrate to young people that simply 'having a go' results in success.



From left are Jazmyne Jensen, On Common Country's Gayle de la Cruz and Kailan Rainbow (right).

Kailan, who is a Kurltjar First Nations person from Normanton, commenced with AMA Collisions (part of AMA Group Ltd) as their initial First Nations panel beater apprentice.

Jazmyne is working as a spray-painting apprentice with Gemini Townsville (part of AMA Group Ltd) and is the initial First Nations female apprentice the business has employed.

Kailan originally came to the east coast to attend boarding school at NRL Cowboys House in Townsville and then Rockhampton Grammar.

With Kailan missing home and her family, her parents made the move to Townsville so she and her brother could access opportunities available in a larger town.

Kailan was then connected with On Common Country and commenced the program in September 2023.

Unsure of what work she wanted to do, Kailan tried a few different work placements with AMA Collision before deciding she felt most comfortable on the workshop floor.

"My boss, Soren, let me take turns everywhere – admin, parts,

spray painting, mechanics, and panel. He let me choose whatever I wanted, and I had more fun doing panel," Kailan said.

AMA collision site manager, Soren Moke, says Kailan hasn't missed a beat since she started and helps out with whatever is needed.

Kailan is a female panel beater apprentice and the first, First Nations female apprentice for AMA Group North Queensland. She's now looking to gain further skills – increasing her future employment prospects.

"I'm hoping I can continue to do this work as a qualified tradesman, anywhere. I might even get a trade-in spray painting and go back and do another apprenticeship," Kailan said.

Jazmyne commenced the On Common Country – Motor Traders Association program during the third intake in May 2024.

She attended Charters Towers High School and moved to Townsville at the end of 2023.

When she joined the On Common Country, her unwavering commitment to the program stood out – with 100 per

cent attendance during induction and work experience placements.

Jazmyne's dedication quickly saw her offered a job as a spray-painting apprentice with Gemini Townsville (part of AMA Group Ltd).

"With spray painting, I enjoy seeing the end result and the progress you make as you get better at it," Jazmyne said.

Jazmyne says she has learned more from the On Common Country program than she did while she was at school, and the program gave her the confidence to talk to employers.

Her great track record continues, with 100 per cent attendance in the workplace since commencing in May 2024.

Gayle de la Cruz, Executive Officer – Strategy, on Common Country described the program as life-changing.

"OCC is proud of the work and effort Jazmyne has put into the program and her determination to get through her apprenticeship and set a positive path for herself despite the obstacles she has faced. OCC will continue to mentor Jazmyne – we wish her well in all that she does. I think the point of difference with our

program is that it's about a job. That's the feedback we get from young people – this is not just training, it's not just a piece of paper, we get a job. And so that's what makes the difference. We do get very close to the families and their circumstances. All of the participants have a story and have overcome some significant barriers to be here. The partnership and the genuine relationship we have with our employers is gold. We can ring up now and say can you take Jazmyne for a week's work experience? It exposes young people to that opportunity and helps them understand what work means – getting out of bed, getting dressed and getting there. We help with food, we pick people up, we drop them off, even though they're working. Can you come pick me up or take me home today? That support is what it's all about," Gayle de la Cruz said.

Minister for Training and Skills Development and Gubbi Gubbi man Lance McCallum said one of the best ways to ease cost-of-living pressures is with a good job.

"Hearing the moving stories of each individual that has worked so hard to make it to where they are now is a consistent reminder of how programs like On Common Country have the ability to change lives for Mob and create a larger ripple effect for the wider Queensland community," he said.

Participants undertake a customised motor trades work preparation training program which includes job preparation, industry orientation and three weeks of work experience. Importantly, the program also includes wrap-around support involving mentoring, a personal development plan, health and safety support, drivers licence assistance, personal budgeting, PPE, transport assistance, employer onboarding and post-program support.

Your guide to employment

Welcome to the Koori Mail's Indigenous Job Opportunities section. Each edition we publish scores of employment advertisements from around the nation. To be part of this section, simply give our advertising staff Chris or Stuart a call on (02) 66 222 666, email advertising@koorimail.com or see our website – www.koorimail.com

*Koori Mail – Our ABC audit means our readership is guaranteed.
No other newspaper aimed at the Indigenous market can offer this!*

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who provide prizes for competitions or reader offers. If you would prefer that we do not do this, please write to us at: admin@koorimail.com or phone (02) 66 222 666, or fax (02) 66 222 600. Mail can be sent addressed to General Manager, Budsoar Pty Ltd, PO Box 117, Lismore NSW 2480.



ADVERTISING MANAGER Full-Time Based in Lismore, NSW

The Koori Mail - Australia's leading independent fortnightly national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander newspaper - based on Bundjalung country in Northern NSW, is seeking a strong applicant for the role of Advertising and Production Manager.

This role oversees the incoming print advertising of the Koori Mail each fortnight, and supports the overall production of the Koori Mail (print ready), each edition.

The role requires a strong focus on communication skills, high level client liaison, ability to work to deadlines, and initiative to support strategy and ideas to generate ongoing advertising opportunities.

About the Role:

- Managing the Print Advertising Sales of the Koori Mail including incoming bookings, quotes, design proofs and approvals.
- Supporting new advertising leads
- Supporting Koori Mail Advertising and Editorial Production files and assets ready for print

About You:

- Do you have experience working in advertising sales for newspaper print advertising, and account management?
- Do you have excellent communication and people skills?
- Are you an organised worker with a focus on attention to detail?
- Can you work to deadlines?
- Do you have an understanding of working with an Indigenous organisation, and an understanding of the Koori Mail brand and purpose?
- Are you a creative thinker, with a willingness to respectfully share ideas, opinions and feedback?
- Can you work both as part of a team, and unsupervised/independently when required?

Required experience or similar:

- Experienced MAC User
- Experience with Quark Express, or similar (InDesign).
- Familiarity with Adobe Acrobat, Photoshop.

To apply, please email a cover letter to CEO@koorimail.com outlining your interest in the role, including a copy of your Resume/CV.

For more information please contact Naomi Moran, CEO, Koori Mail on 0499 991 625.



Aboriginal Corporation

has a range of exciting roles
on offer across
Bundjalung Country

follow the QR
code to see
them all!



First Nations Youth Mental Health Clinician

- Assist to deliver high quality client outcomes/services.
- Highly competitive sector remuneration and salary packaging benefits.

This is a key clinical position working with young people, focused on their health and wellbeing in the East Gippsland and Wellington regions.

Relationships Australia Victoria (RAV) is a secular, community-based, not-for-profit organisation with no religious affiliations who have been providing services to the Victorian community for 75 years. Our vision is for "positive, respectful, safe and fulfilling relationships for all Australians".

First Nations Youth Mental Health Clinician. Reporting to the Manager Youth Mental Health Services, you will be part of a multidisciplinary team to support the social and emotional wellbeing of First Nations and non-Aboriginal young people with mental health concerns. You will use a young person-centred approach to complete culturally appropriate biopsychosocial mental health assessments, risk assessments and managing risk presentations.

We are seeking a part-time candidate to work at our Bairnsdale centre, with outreach to our Sale Centre. The role is part-time for four (4) days per week, including a Tuesday afternoon/evening shift.

This role is an Aboriginal designated position, classified under the Equal Opportunity Act (2010) Section 12 - Special Measures. Only Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are eligible to apply.

For further information about the position, how to apply and the position description please visit www.rav.org.au/careers.

Applications close on 21 August 2024.

MAKING A
DIFFERENCE SO
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
THRIVES



ABORIGINAL WITNESS ASSISTANCE OFFICER

Attorney-General's Department
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
Adelaide

Full Time, up to 12 months

Ref No: 608417

\$97,022- \$105,495 (ASO6/PO3)

Provide Aboriginal victims and witnesses with access to culturally appropriate case management support during their involvement with the prosecution process.

Engage in ongoing dialogue and consultation with representatives of the Aboriginal community, Aboriginal service providers and SAPOL to ensure that culturally appropriate processes are implemented for ODPP prosecutions involving Aboriginal victims and witnesses.

Consult with ODPP staff to strengthen understanding of cultural considerations for Aboriginal victims and witnesses and inform processes and approach to working with members of the Aboriginal community.

For further information please visit iworkfor.sa.gov.au and search for reference number 608417.

Applications close:
11.30pm Sunday 18 August 2024

IWORKFOR.SA.gov.au



Mildura Rural City Council

Aboriginal Liaison Officer (Identified)

Full Time Position

Salary: Band 6 ranging from \$90,876 to \$98,943 per annum

Applications close: 4pm, Thursday 8 August 2024

For position descriptions and details on how to apply go to mildura.vic.gov.au/employment or call Human Resources on (03) 5018 8197.

Information Sessions in relation to this opportunity are scheduled to occur at Deakin Avenue Council Office on the following dates:

- 5:30pm, Monday 29 July 2024
- 12:30pm, Friday 2 August 2024

The filling of this vacancy is intended to constitute a special measure under section 12 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010. This vacancy is only available to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people. Applicants will be required to provide a Confirmation of Aboriginality. Please follow this link for further information: aiatsis.gov.au/family-history/you-start/proof-aboriginality

Mildura Rural City Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply for all advertised positions.

MARTIN HAWSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

South Western Sydney
Local Health District



Senior Aboriginal Health Worker – Male Identified

Location: New Street Services Liverpool
Employment Status: Permanent Full-Time

Classification: Aboriginal Health Worker

Remuneration: \$90,593 to \$93,972 pa

Enquiries: Michelle Scheidel on (02) 9794 0620 or Michelle.Scheidel@health.nsw.gov.au

In this role Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised by section 14(d) of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1997.

Stepping Up aims to assist Aboriginal job applicants by providing information about applying for roles in NSW Health organisations.

For more information, please visit:
steppingup.health.nsw.gov.au

Closing Date: 18 August 2024

Applications must be lodged electronically at jobs.health.nsw.gov.au Search for Job Ref Number: REQ506595

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Roper Gulf Regional Council is seeking an experienced, engaged and culturally aware CEO to lead the organisation in alignment with community needs and expectations.

Visit www.leadingroles.com.au to download the Executive Information Package and apply.

Applications close 5pm Monday 12 August 2024.



Case Worker

Part Time position – 21 hours a week

We are seeking a committed and enthusiastic Case Worker to join our Waminda family within our case management team. In this role, you will deliver strength-based and holistic case management to Aboriginal women and their families, providing practical wrap around case management support, advocacy, education, information and referrals.

Salary in accordance with the new modern Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award (SCHADS) – Level 4.

Case Worker

Full Time position – 35 hours a week

We are looking for an Experienced Family & Domestic Violence Case Worker to join our Waminda family. In this position you will walk alongside Aboriginal women and women with Aboriginal children, who have been affected by family and domestic violence, providing wrap around case management support

Salary is in accordance with the new modern Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award (SCHADS) – Level 5.

Trainee Case Worker

Full Time position – 35 hours a week

We are looking for a Trainee Family & Domestic Violence Case Worker to join our Waminda family. You will be supported by senior caseworkers to learn the fundamentals of case management and provide program support. We encourage women of all ages to apply for this position. Salary is in accordance with the new modern Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award (SCHADS) – Level 3

Identify as a Female of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. (An applicant's gender and race is a genuine occupational qualification under section 14(d) and 31 of the Anti-discrimination Act 1977 (NSW))

To apply for the position, please request an application package via peopleandculture@waminda.org.au

Applications close Friday 2nd August 2024

Waminda supports the wellbeing of its staff through the Staff Wellbeing Framework and encourages personal and professional development.



waminda.org.au

strong women. strong community. strong culture



Communications Support Officer

- Full-time permanent role based in Fitzroy Melbourne
- Salary range of TRP \$78,114 to \$85,926 AUD

Are you an early career communicator? Join the Australian Volunteers Program as our new **Communications Support Officer!**

The Australian Volunteers Program supports skilled Australian volunteers to work alongside organisations to sustainably strengthen the capacity of people, organisations and communities in various countries across the Pacific, Asia and Africa. The program is an Australian Government funded initiative and is managed by Australian Volunteers International (AVI). AVI is an Australian not-for-profit organisation committed to achieving economic and social development outcomes.

The Communications Support Office role provides administrative and logistical assistance across the Public Diplomacy team to enable the delivery of a range of communication and stakeholder engagement activities. The role reports directly to the Communications Manager.

Experience supporting a range of communications activities, including email marketing, social media and website content; Excellent oral and written communications skills, including ability to write engaging and accurate communications; Experience supporting promotion and delivery of events (in-person and online), working with external suppliers and vendors; Excellent organizational, time management skills and keen attention to detail; strong administrative and project coordination skills; open and constructive communicator and team member. Preferably would have experience using Adobe Suite, use of relevant tools and applications such as mailing systems (e.g. Mailchimp), event platforms (e.g. Eventbrite or Humanitix), content design tools (e.g. Canva) and website content management systems.

Application Procedure: For a full outline of the position and applicant requirements please visit the AVI website www.avi.org.au/careers

Applications Close: 18 August 2024



Endorsed Midwife

Full Time Position – 35 Hours Per Week

Calling all Endorsed Midwives looking to work in Waminda Birthing on Country Program!

If you value being nurtured whilst nurturing others, enjoy a healthy work life balance and working within a model of care that centres the woman and Aboriginal families then this role is for you.

Waminda's Birthing on Country program is seeking an Endorsed Midwife to join the Minga Gudjaga Midwifery Group Practice team to provide continuity of midwifery care, including in hospital labour and birth primary midwifery care then postpartum care within the woman's home for up to six weeks.

You will join a dynamic and highly skilled midwifery, child and family health team and will work in a midwifery buddy system, with 2 allocated days off per week.

Waminda supports the wellbeing of its staff through the Staff Wellbeing Framework and encourages personal and professional development.

Salary is in accordance with the Nurses Award – Level 2.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Applicants Encouraged to apply.

General Practitioner

Full Time position – 35 hours a week

Are you ready to be a part of the Waminda family? We're seeking someone with experience working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, dedicated to supporting and empowering women and their Aboriginal families to make informed health decisions. As a General Practitioner, you'll provide comprehensive, flexible and holistic services tailored to the needs of our community.

Salary is in accordance with the Medical Practitioners Award – Career Medical Practitioner

Only female applicants to apply. (An applicant's gender and race is a genuine occupational qualification under section 14(d) and 31 of the Anti-discrimination Act 1977 (NSW))

To apply for the positions, please request an application package via peopleandculture@waminda.org.au

Applications close Friday 2nd August 2024.



waminda.org.au

strong women. strong community. strong culture



13 11 14



Seeking Teachers at Fulham Correctional Centre!

Bendigo Kangan Institute is looking for **Mumgu-Dhal and Indigenous Art Teachers** to join its Corrections Education Teams at Fulham Correctional Centre and Loddon Mallee Region. **You must have:**

- Experience working with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders.
- TAE40111 or TAE40116 (including TAEASS501 and TAELLN411) or Certificate IV in Training and Assessment
- Excellent communication skills
- Problem solving skills
- Able to work in a team and autonomously
- Competent in Windows Software applications

If you're interested (or have any queries); send your resume to Kerry Henry at khenry@kangan.edu.au subject 'Corrections Indigenous Teaching Positions'

NOTE: BKI reserves the right to withdraw this advertised position at any stage.

**For all your advertising needs
email: advertising@koorimail.com**



Notice under Section 29 of the Native Title Act 1993 Exploration Licence Number EL6588 (Act 1992)

This notice is given in accordance with the requirements of section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth).

Description of the nature of the act

Pursuant to the *Native Title (Right to Negotiate (Exclusion) – NSW Land) Determination No. 1 of 1996* (Cth), Exploration Licence EL6588 includes a condition to the effect that the holder must not prospect on any land or waters covered by the licence in relation to which native title exists without the prior written consent of the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992* (the 'Native Title Condition').

The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992* intends to give consent to prospecting on land subject to native title in the licence in accordance with the *Native Title (Right to Negotiate (Inclusion) – NSW Land) Approval No. 1 of 1996* (Cth).

Should consent be granted, the licence holder may apply to renew or transfer the licence prior to it expiring (including partial renewals or partial transfers).

Note: If the consent is granted, it will apply to any renewal, re grant or re-making (including partial renewals or partial transfers) or extension of the term of the licence, which may be valid pursuant to section 24MD(1) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) without a further notification under section 29.

Holder's details

Gold and Copper Resources Pty Limited (ACN 124 534 863) is the holder of Exploration Licence 6588 for Group 1 minerals.

The licence contains a condition that the holder must not prospect on any land or waters on which native title exists without the prior consent of the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*. The licence holder has sought the Minister's consent to conduct prospecting activities in the entire licence area.

Description of area that may be affected

The entire area of Exploration Licence 6588 which covers about 24 units and is situated approximately 13 kilometres southwest of Orange, in the State of NSW.

Name and postal address of person by whom the act would be done

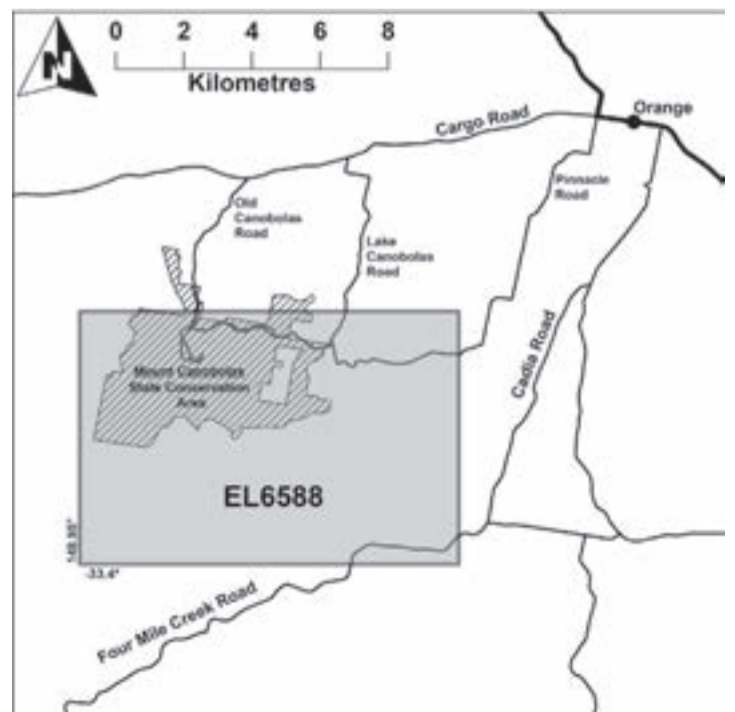
The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*, PO Box 344, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310.

How further information about the act can be obtained

Further information may be obtained from; Assessments and Systems, NSW Resources within the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (02) 4063 6600 or titles@regional.nsw.gov.au.

Notification Day

For the purposes of section 29(4) of the *Native Title Act 1993* the notification day is 15 August 2024. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice.



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carergateway.gov.au
1800 422 737
Monday–Friday 8am–5pm
Emergency respite available 24/7

Notice of a non-claimant application for determination of native title in Queensland

Notification day: 14 August 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 **13 November 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 13 November 2024**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **13 November 2024**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.



Applicant's name: Todd TBA Property Pty Ltd ACN 665 768 267
Federal Court File No: QUD339/2024
Non-native title interest: The applicant is the Registered Lessee of Lot 4281 on Crown Plan PH362
Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks a determination that native title does not exist

Description: The application area covers about 276 sq km comprising Lot 4281 on Crown Plan PH362 and is located about 14 km south east of Jundah
Relevant LGA: Barcoo Shire Council

For assistance and further information about this application, call Sylvia Jagtman on 07 3052 4248 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



TREATY AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE TREATY AUTHORITY

Throughout the Treaty process, the Treaty Authority will make public notifications to ensure the public is aware of important milestones and events.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

The Treaty Authority gives notice:

- under clause 18.3(a) of the Treaty Negotiation Framework, that the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria has been entered onto the Negotiations Database as the First Peoples' Representative Body for the purposes of Statewide Treaty negotiations; and
- under clause 18.4(a) of the Treaty Negotiation Framework, that the Comment and Dispute Period is underway and will end on 17 September 2024. During this period, First Peoples may comment on, or raise a dispute about, whether the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria meets the Minimum Standards to be the First Peoples' Representative Body.

For more information and to see the full Public Notice please visit treatyauthority.au.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BEEHIVE MULTI-WELL DRILLING

EOG Resources Australia Block WA-488 Pty Ltd (EOG) is planning to drill up to three exploratory wells in Commonwealth marine waters in permit area WA-488-P, with each subsequent well after the first depending on finding sufficient hydrocarbons. The Multi-Well drilling activity is located in the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf, a minimum of 77 kms off the Western Australian coastline and around 300 kms southwest of Darwin.

The activity is currently expected to take place between January 2025 and December 2029 across one or more drilling campaigns. Each well is expected to take 55 to 150 days to drill.

Although the Multi-Well Drilling Program covers up to three wells, at this time EOG plans to drill one single exploration well at Beehive, which could be drilled under the Beehive-1 Exploration Drilling environmental plan or the Beehive Multi-Well Drilling environmental plan, depending on project timing and objectives at the time.

To assist you in making your assessment, the current Environment Plan (EP) can be found via EOG's website. EOG is committed to continued open engagement to keep our stakeholders informed. You can access the website with the link below for the most up to date project information at any time.

<https://www.eogresources.com/australia> or QR Code



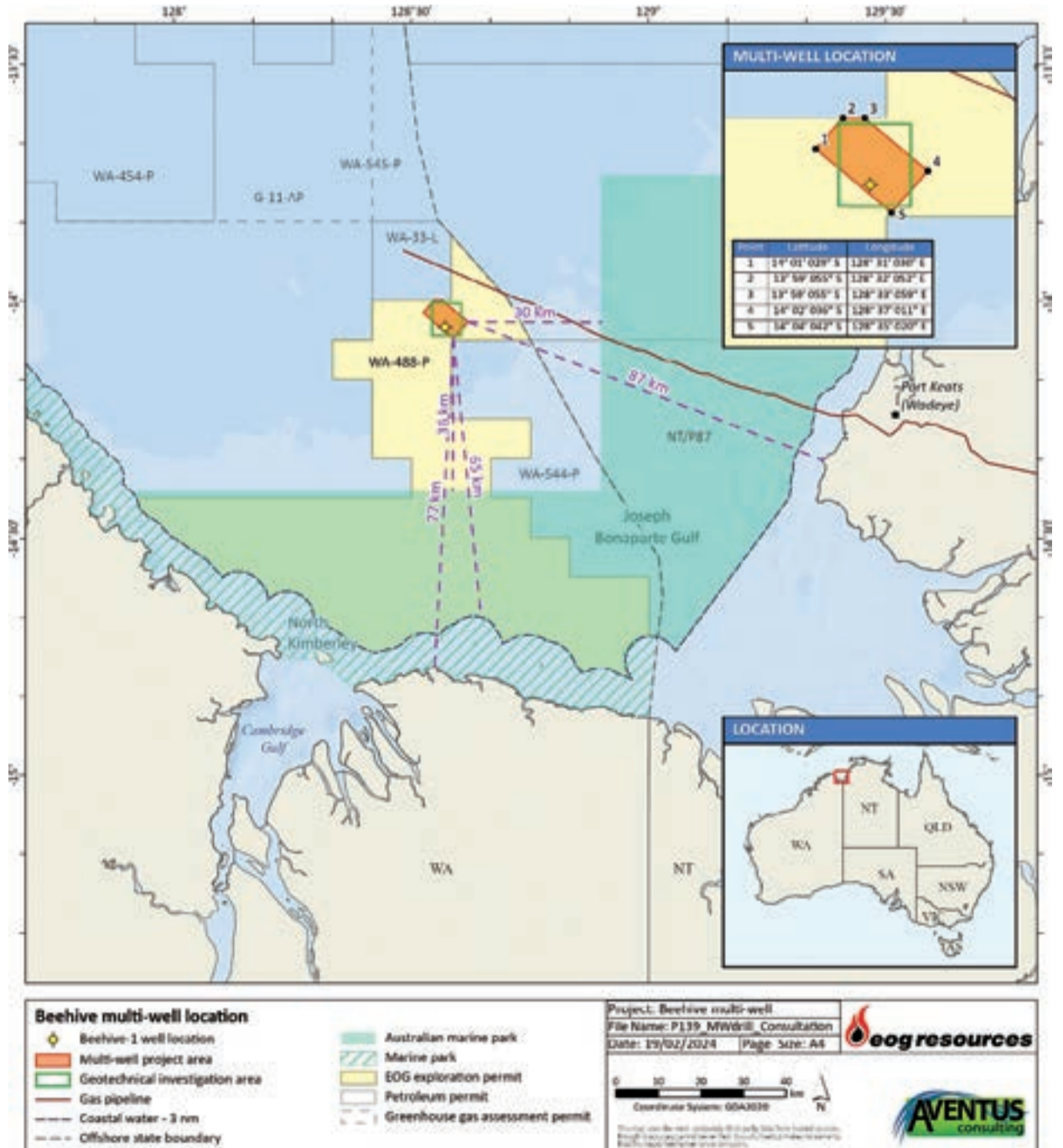
The EP can also be found on the NOPSEMA website here:

Beehive Multi-Well Drilling:
<https://consultation.nopsema.gov.au/environment-division/7892/>

EOG is looking to gather information about the social, economic and cultural features near the EOG project area and requests feedback on the functions, activities, and interests in or around the project area that may be affected by our proposed activities. We will assess the merits of any objections or claims made and provide a response outlining our assessment of merit and any actions taken to mitigate the impact.

For further information, please contact us at:

Email: australia@eogresources.com
 Local Consultant Representative
 Phone: **0472 519 027**
 Mail: EOG Resources Australia Block WA-488 Pty Ltd.
 c/o Xenith Consulting, Level 31, 10 Eagle Street,
 BRISBANE QLD 4000





NOTICE TO GRANT AMALGAMATION APPLICATIONS

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 Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following amalgamation applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Exploration No.	Applicant	Amalg No	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
57/1057	GATEWAY PROJECTS WA PTY LTD	700929	126.08HA	48.4km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 34' S: Long: 119° 27' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
57/1145	GATEWAY MINING LIMITED	675861	60.14HA	97.2km SW'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 27° 7' S: Long: 119° 26' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE, WILUNA SHIRE
57/1145	GATEWAY MINING LIMITED	675863	199.05HA	84.8km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 14' S: Long: 119° 28' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE, WILUNA SHIRE
57/1147	GATEWAY MINING LIMITED	675864	180.92HA	84.5km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 14' S: Long: 119° 26' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE, WILUNA SHIRE
57/1224	SANDSTONE OPERATIONS PTY LTD	703881	78.03HA	8.9km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 54' S: Long: 119° 19' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE

Nature of the act : Grant of amalgamation applications which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals.

Notification day: 31 July 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 the applications. The 3 month period closes on **31 October 2024**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993 (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 amalgamation application may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **30 November 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 Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

DMIRS_22431

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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 Energy, 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	15/1910	LUKAH MINING PTY LTD	38.95HA	37km S'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 31' S: Long: 121° 33' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Mining Lease	16/583	KENT, Timothy Ernest	10.00HA	31.8km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 28' S: Long: 120° 45' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Mining Lease	16/584	KENT, Timothy Ernest	9.37HA	31.9km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 28' S: Long: 120° 44' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Mining Lease	24/1004	BLACK MOUNTAIN GOLD LIMITED	261.32HA	11.7km NW'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 21' S: Long: 121° 15' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY

Nature of the act: Grant of mining leases, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of 21 years from notification of grant and a right of renewal for 21 years.

Notification day: 31 July 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 **31 October 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. **30 November 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 Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

DMIRS 22429



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 Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	16/648	WEST AUSTRALIAN PROSPECTORS PTY LTD	36BL	46.2km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 30' S: Long: 120° 36' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	16/649	WEST AUSTRALIAN PROSPECTORS PTY LTD	47BL	48.9km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 17' S: Long: 120° 33' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	25/656	LITHIUM WA INVESTMENTS PTY LTD	15BL	62.3km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 56' S: Long: 122° 14' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	28/3454	AUSTRALIA MINERAL PROSPECTS PTY LTD	15BL	76.9km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 38' S: Long: 122° 15' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	29/1144	RESOURCE ASSETS PTY LTD	1BL	123.2km SE'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 56' S: Long: 119° 56' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	30/570	VIKING MINES LIMITED	55BL	35.8km W'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 46' S: Long: 120° 40' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1411	FORTUNA BATTERY MINERALS PTY LTD	10BL	97.1km SW'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 46' S: Long: 118° 50' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1412	MAJESTIC GOLD MINES PTY LTD	10BL	77.3km SW'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 32' S: Long: 118° 49' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1421	GUM CREEK GOLD MINES PTY LTD	7BL	62.9km NE'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 29' S: Long: 119° 36' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1441	GATEWAY MINING LIMITED	2BL	81.6km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 16' S: Long: 119° 27' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3093	XANTIPPE SX PTY LTD	2BL	59.4km S'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 32° 0' S: Long: 119° 33' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3134	FALCON METALS (WA) PTY LTD	46BL	140.3km NE'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat: 29° 53' S: Long: 119° 3' E	MENZIES SHIRE, YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3217	STALLION LITHIUM PTY LTD	22BL	25km SE'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 39' S: Long: 119° 37' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3219	AUSTIN MINERALS PTY LTD	3BL	105.3km NE'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 23' S: Long: 119° 50' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	25/2814	JENKINS, Lloyd Robert	176.86HA	52.4km E'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 5' S: Long: 122° 12' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2816-S	MCKAY, Glenn Michael	9.90HA	34.9km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 56' S: Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4752	COSTANZO, Patrick Natale	28.11HA	8.2km W'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 44' S: Long: 121° 23' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4753	FLUCK, Travis John	9.28HA	32.7km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 0' S: Long: 121° 55' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4755-S	BRANCH, Ian Robert	9.96HA	33.8km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4756-S	BRANCH, Ian Robert	9.96HA	34.6km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 56' S: Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	51/3401-S	PEARCE, Mitchell Hamish	9.97HA	38.3km SE'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 25° 49' S: Long: 119° 2' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	52/1687-S	PEARCE, Mitchell Hamish	9.99HA	53.3km E'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 25° 37' S: Long: 119° 15' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of Special Prospecting Licences, which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term up to 4 years from the date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.

Notification day: 31 July 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 **31 October 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. **30 November 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 Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

* - 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km²

DMIRS 22428

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Hardin, Chapman lead a new crop

By KRIS FLANDERS



LEADERSHIP with experience – that’s what North Queensland co-captain Tallisha Harden is bringing to the Cowboys in the 2024 NRLW premiership season now underway.

Harden is one of more than 30 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women across the 10 NRLW teams this season (see below).

She brings a wealth of experience to the Cowboys, and the game, having played 27 matches in the NRLW from her and the league’s debut in 2018.

Harden is a premiership winner and is a seven-time Indigenous All Star and Australia and Queensland representative.

The versatile forward can play as prop, second-rower and lock.

To once again lead the Cowboys is a wonderful accolade – personally and professionally.

“As a leader I’m hoping I can bring the calm,” she said.

“I’m not the loudest leader, but when things get frantic or hectic, I’m hoping my presence and voice can help a little to steer the ship and be calm.

“I’m really excited for the new season. “We finished ninth last year which

wasn’t the plan but it gave us so much to work on over the off-season, especially our fitness!

“We are feeling a lot fitter as a team and a lot of our girls who made their debut last year now have a bit more experience, and a few more game ‘scars’ which I think will set them up for a big 2024.”

The Cowboys enjoy the highest Indigenous representation in the NRLW this season.

Now 32, and a ‘veteran’, Harden said she is pleased to be playing alongside the next generation of Indigenous stars.

“I love seeing the girls come through and be able to represent their families and

communities,” she said.

“A lot of our girls are still only young and I know they will be the future leaders of our club and I’m happy to do my part to mentor them on their journey.”

Last season, Gold Coast came close to winning the NRLW premiership but were pipped by Newcastle.

The Titans looked the goods after three tries from boom winger Jaime Chapman, however the Knights, led by Chapman’s fellow Indigenous All-Star Tamika Upton, came home strong. The loss hit the Titans hard but Chapman believes the club has the talent to go some way to erase that memory. ● **Continued next page**

By KRIS FLANDERS

BRISBANE (1) Keilee Joseph

Keilee Joseph is a 2022 NRLW premiership winner and the hard-working forward is a great signing for the Broncos. The two-time NRLW Second-Rower of the Year is a hard-running and bruising tackle-machine. The 22-year-old has played 22 games (3 tries) and she will add to those tallies this season. One of the game’s toughest forwards.

CANBERRA (4) Tommaya Kelly-Sines Grace Kemp Shakiah Tungai Relna Wuruki-Hosea

Tommaya Kelly-Sines will play her third season of NRLW footy. The bustling prop will be hard to handle for opposition defence. The three-time Indigenous All-Star is from Kempsey in NSW and will be aiming to add to her 11 previous games.

Grace Kemp was a successful rugby union player before making the switch to league last season with Canberra. The 23-year-old played 9 games for the Raiders in 2023 and will make plenty of yards at prop. Kemp earlier this year pulled on the Indigenous All-Stars jersey.

Shakiah Tungai is heading into her sixth NRLW season in which she’s played 19 games (7 tries). The speedy winger will be one of the best attacking weapons for the ‘Green Machine’.

Relna Wuruki-Hosea from Badu Island in the Torres Strait is making her NRLW debut this. The flashy centre is just 18 and played for Brisbane Tigers in the QRL Under-19s

before playing for Queensland in the Under-19s in Origin.

CRONULLA (4) Rhiannon Byers Nakiah Davis-Welsh Quincy Dodd Jada Taylor

Rhiannon Byers is a former Australian Rugby 7s star who was a hard-running forward when she made the switch to league. Byers made her NRLW debut for the Sharks last year but was tragically cut short when she broke her wrist in the opening round. With better luck she will be a big part of the Cronulla pack in 2024.

Nakiah Davis-Welsh is a World Cup-winning Jillaroo and NSW representative. She brings plenty of experience to the Sharks after making her long awaited NRLW debut last year with Parramatta.

Quincy Dodd is one of the best and skilful hookers in the game. Dodd has played 5 NRLW seasons with the Roosters and Dragons before linking with the Sharks. She’s played for NSW and the Indigenous All-Stars and will easily add to her 27 matches; she can find the tryline, no worries, with 8 to her name going into 2024.

Jada Taylor is an electric fullback and is embarking on her third NRLW season. She’s the Sharks Indigenous Programs Coordinator and has played for the Indigenous All-Stars and junior NSW rep honours again this year.

GOLD COAST (3) Shaylee Bent Jaime Chapman Tahlia Fuimaono

Shaylee Bent is one of the most

experienced forwards in the NRLW. She’s played 30 matches going into the new year (4 tries) and is a tough second-rower who can play plenty of minutes, will take the football up all day and makes plenty of tackles.

Jaime Chapman is one of the best young talents in the NRLW. She has speed galore and can find tries from anywhere on the field as a long-range scoring specialist. Fresh from a solid State of Origin series for NSW, ‘Chappo’ has made 23 appearances with 16 four-pointers and helped the Titans to the grand final last season (where they went agonisingly close to winning the premiership). If the Titans can go one better expect it to have a lot to do with this brilliant centre/winger.

Injury restricted Tahlia Fuimaono to just one game last season. The crafty five-eighth enters her fourth NRLW campaign and if she can stay free of injuries this year will play a big role for the Gold Coast.

NEWCASTLE (2) Tamika Upton Caitlan Johnston-Green

What more can you say about Tamika Upton? She’s done it all in the game – a four-time premiership winner, a Dally M winner, Indigenous All-Star, and a triumphant historic series win for Queensland. Upton is one of the game’s superstars and she enters her sixth NRLW season where she already has 27 matches (19 tries). If the Knights can defend their title and make it three-in-a-row, it could be because Upton leads Newcastle around again.

Caitlan Johnston-Green is one of the most damaging forwards in the game with her ‘old-school’ style of play. She would run

through a brick wall and is just as hard in defence. The 23-year-old has won two titles with the Knights, represented NSW in State of Origin, is an Australian Jillaroo and Indigenous All-Star. She plays her final season with Newcastle after signing with Cronulla from 2025. She will want another premiership before departing.

NORTH QUEENSLAND (11) Essay Banu Krystal Blackwell Bree Chester Kirra Dibb (c) Tallisha Harden (c) Shellie Long Sareka Mooka Jasmine Peters Shaniah Power Libby Surha Tahlulah Tillett

Essay Banu is of Torres Strait Island and Papua New Guinea descent and has represented both PNG and the Indigenous All-Stars. The tough prop made her debut with the Cowboys last year and will surely add to her solo appearance this year.

Krystal Blackwell played with the Cowboys last year for 7 games (1 try). The 21-year-old can cover many positions in the backline and the fullback was recently part of the successful Mackay Cutters side.

Bree Chester begins her second season with the Cowboys after her debut year last season. The second-rower/lock played 8 games and scored 2 tries. She is a 2023 Indigenous All-Star and will be striving to keep her spot on the Cowboys pack this season.

Kirra Dibb takes the reins once again as a co-captain of the Townsville-based club. This is Dibb’s sixth season (27 games) after ● **Continued next page**



Tommaya Kelly-Sines.



North Queensland Cowboys' Shellie Long. Pictures: Getty Images



Tallisha Harden.

of next-generation NRLW players

● From previous page

"As a group we've accepted what happened last year," Chapman said.

"You know, we made the grand final, and it was a successful season, but we are a new team; we are solely focused on the 2024 season.

"Obviously, the heartache of losing the 'GF' has made us all hungrier to turn our fortunes around.

"They say you have to lose one to win one and I think we can be on track to do that this year."

The speedster said it was a tough pre-season but the challenge was taken

head-on by the Titans.

Chapman said the club is in a good position at the moment and there's a lot of positivity throughout the coaching staff and playing group.

"We're so excited about the new season," she said.

"It was a successful year last year and considering how we started and to where we ended up, it's a great time to be involved with this club.

"We are forming strong connections.

"We've had a great pre-season, we've suffered a few injuries and we've also had some new girls come in and they've gelled really well into the system and fitting into

our football family.

"It's been really positive; we are feeling very strong and fit."

Chapman heads into the NRLW season fresh from a solid State of Origin series for NSW. Despite the 2-1 series loss there, she is ready to rip in.

"I feel really prepared," she said.

"Coming out of Origin and the level of football that was played throughout the series has given my confidence a huge boost.

"Obviously the heart is still a bit sore from the result, but you have to switch into NRLW mode now and focus on my job and the Titans."



Jaime Chapman.



Rhiannon Byers.

● From previous page

the Knights, where she won a premiership in 2022. The playmaking five-eighth who represented NSW, Australia and the Indigenous All-Stars will play a major role for the Cowboys. Dibb is also a handy goalkicker and has booted 45 goals heading into 2024.

Tallisha Harden joins Dibb as co-captain and is one of the most experienced and decorated players in the women's game. The prop sets out on her seventh NRLW season. A premiership winner in 2020 with Brisbane, Harden has done it all in the game, with rep honours for Queensland, Australia and the Indigenous All-Stars on 7 occasions. She is an inspiration to her side and to young Indigenous females.

Shellie Long made her NRLW debut last year and has played 8 matches (1 try). The classy centre is a strong defender and recently helped Mackay Cutters to win the 2024 QRL Women's Premiership title. She had also represented her PNG heritage.

At just 20-years-old, Sareka Mooka is a hard-running and tackling prop who played 6 games and scored a try in her inaugural NRLW season with the Cowboys. The Indigenous All-Star repped Australia for the PM's XIII and also for PNG.

Jasmine Peters had her best year with the Cowboys last year where she played 9 matches (3 tries). Her tally going into 2024 is 17 games for 7 tries. The fleet-footed centre is a three-time Indigenous All-Star and is one of the go-to players in attack for the Cowboys.

Shaniah Power has played with the Roosters, the Warriors and Gold Coast previously before linking with the Cowboys last year. Power has now played 18 NRLW matches and crossed for 6 tries. The second-rower/prop has played 4 games for



Parramatta Eels' Kimberley Hunt. Pictures: Getty Images

the Indigenous All-Stars and 4 for Queensland at Origin level. A rough and tumble forward she adds spark to the Cowboys pack.

Libby Surha is a bright young star who's played for the PM's XIII in 2022 and a Queensland Under-19s rep in 2023. She made her NRLW debut last year and scored a try before injuring her shoulder, which kept her out for the rest of the year. The local Mackay girl should add to her tally of matches this season.

Tahlulah Tillett will form a 'deadly' halves combination with Dibb for the Cowboys in 2024. The crafty and skilful halfback is still new to NRLW footy with 4 games for the Knights in 2021 and 6 games for the Cowboys last year. A Cairns junior, it was her dream to play for North Queensland. Tillett is almost an incredible hard-worker in the community having won the NRL's Veronica White Medal at last year's Dally M Awards.

PARRAMATTA (5)
Monique Donovan
Kate Fallon
Mia Middleton
Mahalia Murphy (c)
Taneka Todhunter

Monique Donovan made a great start to her NRLW career last year at Parramatta with an impressive 3 tries from her 6 matches. Donovan played for the

Indigenous All-Stars earlier this year, her second appearance. The winger could form a formidable combination with fellow Eels centre, Rosie Kelly. Donovan will also be a great attacking weapon.

Kate Fallon is a versatile rookie who can cover several positions in the backline. She represented NSW Origin Under-19s team in 2023 and the First Nations Gems side at the 2023 Women's National Championships. *Fallon was recently stood down by the NRL after she was charged with assault occasioning actual body harm

Mia Middleton kicked off her NRLW career with the Cowboys last season before signing on to play with the Eels this year. 'Middo' played 4 games and should add more to that tally with her new club. The 21-year-old is a talented upcoming centre and was an Indigenous All-Star in 2023.

Mahalia Murphy will captain the Eels for 2024. While this is just her third NRLW season – 2020 with the Dragons, and 2023 with the Eels – Murphy has been a champion Australian rugby union star in the 7s game and the 15-a-side format. The former Australian Jillaroo has also played for NSW (2015) and is a two-time Indigenous All-Star. The skipper can play in both the backline and the forward pack. She is a true leader on and off the field.

Taneka Todhunter made her NRLW debut last year and played 4 games. The young prop has junior representation honours with NSW, played for the PM's XIII



Tameka Todhunter.

last year and made her Indigenous All-Stars debut this year.

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (1)

Olivia Kernick

Olivia Kernick is fresh from playing a huge series for NSW in State of Origin where the strong and speedy second-rower was great for the Blues. She makes her fourth NRLW a season with the Roosters where she's played 23 games for 7 tries. A 2021 premiership winner, Kernick claimed the 2022 Dally M Second-Rower of the Year award. She also has the distinction of having played for both the Indigenous and Māori All-Stars. Kernick will once again be one of the major players and leaders in the forward pack for the proud club.

ST. GEORGE-ILLAWARRA (2)

Kimberley Hunt
Bobbi Law

Kimberley Hunt had a wonderful NRLW debut last season with Parramatta scoring 5 tries from 7 matches. The classy centre/winger is 31 but makes her much younger opposition look silly in defence. She certainly knows her way too the tryline and coach Jamie Soward jumped at the chance to sign Hunt to a one-year deal.

Bobbi Law is into her sixth NRLW season after stints with the Roosters and the Knights. The centre has played 18 games with 5 tries going into 2024. The 27-year-old is a premiership winner with Newcastle in 2022 and is also a three-time Indigenous All-Star and PM's XIII rep. Law will be an integral part of the Dragons backline.

WESTS TIGERS (0)

NRLW is scoring tries, converting goals in all the right places

JUST when you thought the 2024 rugby league season couldn't get any better, it does! 'Real Power. Real Passion' – that's how the game is promoting the latest edition of the NRLW season, and they're not wrong.

Since the first season in 2018 the women's game has gone above and beyond expectations. It is a competition that excites everyone – players, fans, media, sponsors. It is also inspiring young female rugby league players across the country.

This year 10 teams will play 9

rounds into mid-September before the finals: Brisbane, Canberra, Cronulla, Gold Coast, Newcastle, North Queensland, Parramatta, St George-Illawarra, Sydney Roosters and Wests Tigers.

Of the 10 clubs, three will be skipped by Indigenous sisters. Parramatta will be led by dual-international, Mahalia Murphy, while North Queensland will have NRLW premiership winners, Kirra



Kris Flanders

Dibb and veteran Tallisha Harden as co-captains. How good is that?

Murphy, Dibb and Harden are wonderful leaders, both on and off the field. There's a reason why their respective coaches wanted to put the coveted (c) next to their names – they have leadership qualities. They are also brilliant footballers, and incredibly passionate about working in their local area and giving back to the rugby league community.

There are other Indigenous sisters who are among the biggest and best names in the game, like Tamika Upton (Newcastle), Jaime

Chapman (Gold Coast), Keilee Joseph (Brisbane), and Quincy Dodd (Cronulla).

Also, two Indigenous All-Stars and NRL players in Scott Prince (Brisbane) and Jamie Soward (Dragons) will again take up their positions as coaches.

Brisbane won the first three titles (2018-2020), the Roosters in 2021 before Newcastle won the last two, with our very own Ron Griffiths in charge as coach. The Knights are aiming to emulate the Broncos three-peat of the past by winning another title this season, this time without Ron, who is

coaching in the NSW Cup.

All games will be televised on the Nine Network, Foxtel and Kayo which is a huge step forward when it first started. The NRLW will also expand in 2025, with the Warriors returning, and the Canterbury Bulldogs coming in.

Women's rugby league is on the right path.

***Kris Flanders is a proud Gumbaynggirr man who has 25 years' experience in Indigenous media with ICAM, Living Black and as sports presenter on NITV**

Relna joins Raiders from Badu

By ALF WILSON



RISING rugby league player Relna Wuruki-Hosea has signed with Canberra Raiders for the 2024 NRLW premiership season.

Wuruki-Hosea is from Badu Island in the Torres Strait.

She played for Queensland against NSW in last week's Under-19 State of Origin game (won by the Blues, 46-4).

Wuruki-Hosea, 18, grew up on Badu and is a genuine prospect in rugby league. She left her island home to attend high school in southern Queensland.

The outstanding back will be looking forward to making an impact in the new season with the Raiders as part of the 25-woman squad. Her impressive career includes having represented Queensland in the Under-17 and Under-19 sides.

This season Wuruki-Hosea won the Weapon of the Year award while playing for Brisbane Tigers in the QRL Under-19s.

She was also part of the Queensland Sapphires team at the recent Women's National Championships on the Gold Coast, scoring five tries during the tournament.

"It means so much to me," Wuruki-Hosea said of her signing at the Raiders.

"It feels like all the hard work and sacrifices I made to just continue footy, down here without family or anything, has paid off.

"It's going to mean a lot to my family and my home. My family is so proud.

"I feel like with some of the girls and boys from further up north, with me coming into the NRLW system, it will just show them that whatever they want to do they can. It is possible if you put your mind to it and focus on it. It's also hard work.

"I feel like it will mean a lot to the Torres Strait."

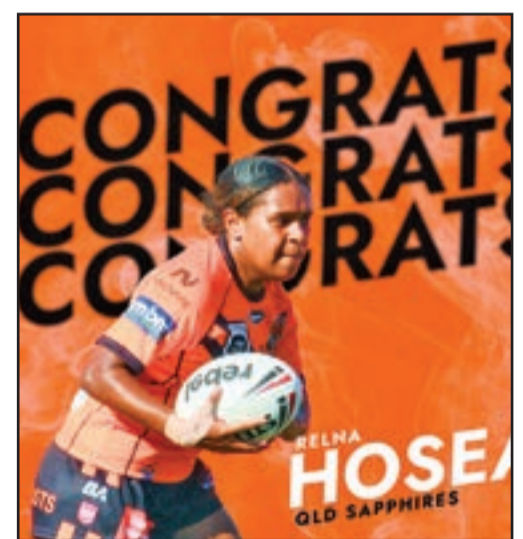


Badu Island's Relna Wuruki-Hosea has joined Canberra Raiders. Picture: QRL



Above: Relna Wuruki-Hosea a fully-fledged Raider. Picture: Canberra Raiders

Below: How the Brisbane Tigers celebrated Wuruki-Hosea's selection for Queensland Under-19s. Picture: Brisbane Tigers



State of Origin

GAME III
NSW 14 def. Queensland 4
Wednesday, 17 July
Lang Park, Brisbane

NSW win the series 2-1

NEW SOUTH WALES
Bradman Best

Made a wonderful return to the Origin arena. Scored a 64th-minute try that put NSW in front, which inspired the Blues side. Best made 156m, the fourth highest for the Blues, from his 13 runs. The powerful and speedy centre busted the line 6 times and had 1 off-load. In defence, he made 14

tackles. Was one of the Blues' best in a famous NSW win **8/10**

Connor Watson

The brilliant utility player saw action for 16 minutes from the bench. He played in all three games and can savour his first Origin series win. With limited time, Watson made a solid 41m from 7 runs, busted the line on 1 occasion and produced 2 off-loads, also made 6 tackles. Was generally busy with his limited time on the field **5/10**

QUEENSLAND
Selwyn Cobbo

Returned on the wing and made 90m from 13 runs, busted the line 4 times and made 4 tackles. While he didn't get many attacking

chances but was solid for the Maroons and safe under pressure **6/10**

Reuben Cotter

Another strong showing from Cotter, the prop playing 66 minutes. He made 94m from his 11 runs, the second-highest from the Queensland forwards. The workaholic also made an impressive 52 tackles, the second-highest for the Maroons **6/10**

Dane Gagai

Another who made a comeback to Origin footy, Gagai produced 135m from 19 runs, the fourth highest for the Maroons. He broke 7 tackles during those runs. In defence, he made 26 tackles, but he missed 4 – one of those on Best when he scored for NSW **6/10**

Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow

The Blues did their homework on 'the Hammer' and gave him little room to move, blunting his blistering pace. Despite this, 'HTF' made the third-highest total of run metres, with 137 from his 17 runs. He busted 4 tackles and produced a line-break assist and had 19 tackles to his name **6/10**

Reece Walsh

Playing the full 80 minutes, the fullback was one of the best for the Queenslanders. His 153m was the second-highest for the side from 20 carries. He produced 8 tackles. Played through a troublesome leg injury, Walsh was dangerous all game **7.5/10**

– Kris Flanders

'No confirmation' on All-Stars

By **DARREN MONCRIEFF**



THE AFL is in an apparent 'holding pattern' on the Indigenous All-Stars.

Plans to revive the concept match seem to be going nowhere, if the response to questions put to the league is anything to go by.

The representative match, which Aboriginal Aussie rules

players pioneered as standalone games in the 1980s and '90s, has been in mothballs since 2015.

In recent weeks, talk at the AFL Commission and in football circles generally surrounding the game's return have grown.

Those talks earmarked Adelaide or Melbourne as potential host cities.

Following the 2022 Indigenous players' summit, the more than 80 Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander men and women currently in the AFL and AFLW put to the league's Commission their desire for the game to return to the football calendar.

The league had said the game would return in February this year. But late last year, in December, the AFL said it would hold off, citing unworkable logistics.

In an answer to questions put to the AFL by the *Koori Mail*, an AFL spokesperson said:

"At this stage there is no confirmation on whether an Indigenous All Stars match will be held next year.

"There has been a lot of great discussion internally about what this could potentially look like, but nothing has been confirmed."

The representative game has a rich history. A team of Aboriginal and Tiwi Islands players from the WAFL, SANFL and VFL played Richmond at Mildura in 1983.

In 1994, an AFL-level Aboriginal, Tiwi and Torres Strait team played against Collingwood in Darwin.

And in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2013 and 2015 AFL Indigenous All-Stars teams played against other AFL clubs in Darwin, Alice Springs and Perth.

The scheduled 2011 game was abandoned due to localised flooding from a rain-bearing depression across the Top End.



Richmond's Shai Bolton (right) eyes off a way around Port Adelaide's Jase Burgoyne (7) in round 19 of the AFL. Bolton is enjoying a stellar run, but is his time at Tigerland up? *Picture: Peter Argent*

Tiger Bolton at the top of his game

A prospect from Alberton emerges

By **PETER ARGENT**



AFL draft prospect Rome Burgoyne has become the seventh member of his family, across three generations, to don the famous Port Adelaide 'Prison Bar' guernsey in the SANFL.

Rome made his debut in round 13 (7 July, vs. North Adelaide) and collected 15 disposals. He follows in the footsteps of older siblings Jase and Trent, and that of his father, Peter, who played for the club in both the SANFL and AFL.

Peter played 30 SANFL league games for the Magpies, including the 1998 premiership win over Sturt, before a distinguished career in the black, white and teal in the AFL, which included the 2004 premiership.

Peter Burgoyne Snr (grandfather) played a handful of league games for Port Adelaide in the 1970s.



Rome Burgoyne.

Picture: Peter Argent

COMMENT

By **PETER ARGENT**



SHAI Bolton is one of the most valuable commodities in the AFL at the moment and it is this fact that

his coach at Richmond, first-year mentor, Adem Yze, has had to hose down speculation about the 25-year-old's future at Tigerland.

While Bolton has four years left on his current contract, the Tigers are way off from contention and will likely spend the next couple of seasons at the foot of the premiership table.

A Nyoongar man, Bolton is related to the Pickett and Krakouer (maternal) families.

His dad is former Fremantle player Darren Bolton.

Bolton's resumé suggests he would be a significant asset for a

team that approaching its premiership window.

The dual premiership hybrid forward/midfielder is a game-changer with true 'X'-factor, capable of taking a screamer or kicking a freakish goal, while also working hard at ground level.

He is a proven match-winner and would complement a strong midfield.

In 2018, Bolton won both the VFL goal and mark of the year

and his AFL mark of year in 2021 is one of the signature moments in recent years.

While all the talk at Richmond is about veteran Dustin Martin potentially moving to the Gold Coast to join his former premiership coach Damien Hardwick in the Suns, Bolton is in the middle-stages of a blossoming career that would have a minimum of five to seven years left at AFL level.

Time to innovate and finally include players' names on guernseys

HAVING players' names on the back of guernseys in the AFL is something I would love to see. I personally believe this would make for a greater fan-connection, more so than what numbers currently do.

Having players' names on the back of playing kits is standard practice in top-level, elite sports around the world – soccer in the EPL, gridiron in the NFL, the NBA, etc – and I just would love to see it here. Yes, we play on larger grounds than your soccers, your rugbys and your basketballs but I honestly believe we can

make it work here.

This has been trialled before in the AFLM – in round 5 in 2014. Now, I don't remember much, but I do remember this. Vividly.

A team that agrees with me is GWS – the Giants. Recently, the Giants put a



Shelley Ware

submission to the AFL for players' names to be added on the back of their jumpers on a permanent basis. They did this by themselves and were hopeful it would be accepted, and that other clubs would follow. Unfortunately for them, the AFL blocked their proposal. Why? Because the AFL likes everything to look the same and they didn't want to break the uniformity between the clubs.

The AFL believes that this is good *in theory* but in practice it is that some names do not fit on the cut of the jumper properly, that

some names would appear small and hard to read.

They were also worried that people at the game and those watching on TV would have a different experience of connecting and reading the names. Easy solution here for me: change the cut, or just have a go and see what happens, and stop controlling unnecessary things that won't hurt anyone.

The Giants remain disappointed. They are in a competitive market.

The club was also hopeful of having players' names on their

AFLW guernseys, too.

Maybe people power will be the change here.

I would love to see the AFL relax on this rigid uniformity for a minute, and think about the future generation's connection to AFLM and ALFW players in the future.

I love it in all the other sports and would love to see it in the AFL. Would you?

***Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She has worked in the AFL industry for over two decades**

Coaching camp a national first



A NEW high-performance camp for Indigenous athletes and coaches next week will bring together the best brains in the business.

The National Indigenous Performance Camp at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra from 3-6 August is the first major performance pathway event for athletes and coaches from all Australian states and territories.

The camp will include 26 athletes aged 15-17 from across Australia in a four-day live-in camp.

The young athletes have been identified through high-performance coaches with community engagement provided by Indigenous Basketball Australia, Binar, Hoops4Health, ABA and the Koorie Academy.

The four-day live-in camp is headed by two of the country's more qualified coach educators, in Kerry Williams, and Peter Lonergan.

Camp mentors include WNBL player Abby Cubillo, former NBA player Nate Jawai, and former NBL player Tyson

Demos who, between them, bring extensive basketball experience.

In addition, NBL/WNBL referee Jacqui Dover returns from the NBA Referee Development Program to lend her expertise to the camp.

Camp organiser and Indigenous Lead at Basketball Australia, Pauly Vandenberg, is delighted with the response from across Australia.

"We've had this idea for a while where we wanted to bring young Indigenous athletes to Canberra for an intensive live-in camp to experience the best in coaching, mentoring and facilities," Vandenberg said.

"Through the work of so many community organisations we have our inaugural camp ready to go and 26 kids who are about to have a life-altering experience.

"Together, with Sami Rioli, the driving force behind all of the organisation required for a camp of this size, we are beyond excited for what we know is going to be an incredible four days of learning, fun and growth."

Williams is passionate about putting back into his community and providing Indigenous athletes with pathways for success.

Williams played for and is now assistant coach at the Cairns Taipans in the NBL.

He was called up for national duties with the Australian Boomers during the 2021 FIBA qualifying window.

"Investing in these young athletes is what it's all about, we certainly didn't have these opportunities when I was coming up through the ranks so to be a part of this is really special to me," Williams said.

"There are so many talented Indigenous athletes across the country and to be able to bring them together with so many great mentors and coaches is an experience they will take with them for the rest of their lives.

"Make no mistake, this isn't a holiday; we will be working everyone hard and there will be some great performance outcomes achieved."

Squads

Girls

Lucy Aherne (Tas.), Millie Baker (Tas.),

Tilly Baldwin (Vic.), Cheyanne Bobongie (Qld.), Taryn Bond (Qld.), Sienna Gerardi (WA), Taneesa Hampton (NT), Mya Moke (Qld.), Leah Pearson-Pitt (Qld.), Jema Sebasio (Qld.), Millie Sutcliffe (NSW), Ayvah Rioli (WA), Hunter Vandenberg (SA).

Boys

Harry Blyth (Tas.), Josh Boyle (NSW), Aaron Briggs (WA), Cooper Crowe (NSW), Nathan Harding (Vic.), Noah Kirk (Qld.), Farren Langmaid (Vic.), Nate Langmaid (Vic.), Keenan Lawrence-Williams (Qld.), Zachary McDowell-White (Qld.), Locky McGlade (WA), Zemes Pilot (SA), Brian Ramsay (NT).

Coaches/Staff

Kerry Williams (head coach), Peter Lonergan (GM Centre of Excellence and Performance Pathway), Isaiah Walley-Stack (development coach), Kylie Duggan (development coach), Mahaela Jackson (coach), Tyson Demos (coach), Nate Jawai (mentor/coach), Abby Cubillo (mentor/coach), Sam Rioli (staff), Pauly Vandenberg (staff), Jacqui Dover (mentor/referee).



Running, walking and hurdling all in the name of fun at the Mparntwe Social Running and Walking Club recently.

Running, and walking for fun in Mparntwe



THE Mparntwe Social Running and Walking Club in collaboration with the Alice Springs NAIDOC Committee held a Fun Run in Alice Springs recently.

The event attracted well over 200 participants, with a focus on children and families and promoting healthy lifestyles through running, walking and fitness.

This was the organisation's biggest event to date. It included rides, bouncy castles, barbecue, fruit, obstacle courses and a run-walk (laps) around the nearby oval.

Supporting the worthy event were Alice Springs Athletics, Alice Springs Running and Walking Club, Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation, Sports Power Alice Springs, Yeperenye Shopping Centre, and the Indigenous Marathon Foundation.



Pioneer Knights' David Pearson looks to off-load in the match against Mulga Tigers during the latest round (Saturday, 27 July) of the 2024 Zenadth Kes Rugby League Island Cup premierships season, based on Waiben-Thursday Island in the Torres Strait. Picture: Darren Moncrieff

Torres Strait Island football heads into finals



AUSTRALIA'S northernmost football competition, the 2024 Zenadth Kes Rugby League Island Cup, is

heading into a finals series where the race for the coveted premierships is wide open.

At the weekend, Waiben-based Pioneer Knights defeated the strong Mulga Tigers, from Badu Island, 28-24 at Ken Brown Memorial Oval; the winners, whose players are drawn mostly from Rosehill on Waiben, clawing back a 6-18 half-time deficit.

In the early game, Suburbs reversed a slow start (12-16 at half-time) to defeat the Roosters, 38-26.

Of the four teams, Suburbs, from Tamwoy Town on Waiben, are emerging as slight favourites to take out the title.



Maurice Longbottom (left) and Taliqa Clancy (right) in action for Australia at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. Pictures: Getty Images



Meeting our Olympians in Paris



AUSTRALIA punches way above its weight in world sport, and at the Paris Olympic Games, our team make up 5% of all athletes (470 total), yet are just 0.3% of the world's population (26 million).

By sheer weight of numbers then, it stands to reason that Australia would feature at the top in terms of medals. Already, we have claimed several gold medals and silver and bronze.

Among that almost 500-strong team are the 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander athletes at the top of their game.

Calab Law (debut) (athletics)

An indigenous athlete from the Wakka Wakka tribe, near Cherbourg in Queensland, Calab Law grew up idolising Cathy Freeman. Following an exceptional 2022 season, where he won bronze at the World Under-20 Championships, Law has matured into Australia's best senior 200m runner. In April 2024, he won the national 200m title and he has become a regular on the third leg of the Australian 4x100m relay team.

Patty Mills (basketball)

Patty Mills got his first taste of Olympic action in 2008 where he led an Australian Boomers team in scoring (14.2 points per game). At the London Games in 2012, Mills led in points per game (21.2), bettering the exploits of basketball immortals Kevin Durant, Manu Ginobili and Pau Gasol. In the dying embers of the bronze medal match at the 2016 Rio Games, Mills and the Boomers came so close to claiming bronze but were denied by Spain. At the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, and as the first Indigenous



Patty Mills celebrates the Boomers' victory against Spain in Paris.

Australian to carry the flag at an Opening Ceremony, Mills averaged more than 21.2ppg to be among the top three scorers of all international players in London, Rio and Tokyo, from which the Boomers claimed an historic bronze medal.

Ally Wilson (debut) (3x3 basketball)

Following the WNBL 2016-17 season, Ally Wilson was invited to try out for the Australian 3x3 squad, which she took up in 2022. It was an instant spark. Her Commonwealth Games debut in

Birmingham made her the first Indigenous Australian to compete for Australia in basketball at a Commonwealth Games where she won bronze. Bronze came again the following year, this time at the FIBA 3x3 World Cup in Austria, then gold at the 2024 FIBA 3x3 Asia Cup.

Taliqa Clancy (beach volleyball)

Taliqa Clancy was inspired to pursue her own Olympic dreams after witnessing Cathy Freeman's historic triumph at the 2000 Sydney Olympics Games. She achieved at the Tokyo Games and is doing so again in Paris.

Callum Peters (debut) (boxing)

Callum Peters took up boxing to improve his fitness. He is coached by his father, Bradley, and booked his ticket to Paris by winning gold at the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Brooke Peris (hockey)

The 2014 Northern Territory Athlete of the Year, Brooke Peris made her Olympic debut in Rio. The Darwin-born forward is the cousin of former Olympic Hockeyroo gold medallist, Olympic athlete and Australian Senator Nova Peris, the first Indigenous athlete to win an Olympic gold medal at the Atlanta 1996 Games, and a big influence in Brooke's sporting career.

Mariah Williams (hockey)

Mariah Williams won her first international cap in April 2013 at 17. She quickly climbed through the ranks, gaining her first regular fixture in the Australian team in 2015 when she competed in every major international tournament, including winning gold in the Oceania Cup. The Rio 2016 Olympics were her maiden Games and an impressive highlight in her career.

Maurice Longbottom (Rugby 7s)

Maurice Longbottom is a former South Sydney Rabbitohs junior. In 2018, he was a member of the Australian 7s squad that placed fifth at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and also played in the Rugby 7s World Cup in San Francisco that year.

Conor Nicholas (debut) (sailing)

Conor Nicholas got into sailing as a five-year-old and puts his success in the sport down to his family. He started out sailing Pelican dinghies at South of Perth Yacht Club, before moving on to lasers. He scored his first event victory at Sail Fremantle in 2011. In 2013, Conor won the bronze medal at the Laser Youth World Championships. After a break from the sport for a couple of seasons, Conor teamed up with Nia Jerwood to compete in the mixed 470 category, with good results starting to come in 2023.

Abbey Connor (debut) (swimming)

Rising star Abbey Connor was just 15 when she broke a 200m butterfly age record set by Michelle Ford in 1978, lowering the mark to 2:12.60 in 2021. A year later, she was selected for the World Junior Open Water Championships in the Seychelles. Freestyle and butterfly specialist, Abbey was still at school when she debuted at the 2022 World Championships in Hungary and then went on to the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. She booked her ticket to her first Olympics in Paris when she finished second in the 200m butterfly at the Australian trials in Brisbane in June, in a time of 2:06.82 after clocking a PB in her heat swim.

Firebirds cut our Diamond

...but star-shooter Wallam finds support from national coach Marinkovich

By DARREN MONCRIEFF

AUS AUSTRALIAN Diamonds coach Stacey Marinkovich has moved to reassure Donnell Wallam of her place with the national netball team after the Nyoongar woman was axed by the struggling Queensland Firebirds.

Wallam was on a one-year contract with the Firebirds and that has since expired. The Queensland franchise has opted to not offer another. The club announced the shock news last Friday (26 July).

During the 2024 season, Wallam landed 556 goals, second only to West Coast Fever's Jhaniele Fowler-Nembhard.

After making her debut in 2022, she established herself as a big name in the sport across three seasons, during which she netted 1744 goals.

"The Queensland Firebirds announce today that, having been offered a one-year contract for 2024, Donnell Wallam and Remi Kamo will not be offered a contract at the Firebirds in 2025," chief executive of Netball Queensland and the Queensland



Donnell Wallam. Picture: Supplied

Firebirds Kate Davies said. "On behalf of the Queensland Firebirds, (we'd) like to sincerely thank Donnell and Remi for their contribution to the club, and for providing many memorable moments for our fans."

Diamonds coach Marinkovich, however, remains committed to the star shooter, who is a contracted Diamonds squad member.

The Diamonds have a three-match series against England on home soil in September.

"Donnell's not a cookie-cutter shooter; she provides an entertainment element to her game which fans have gravitated towards," Marinkovich said.

"Her presence on court epitomises the Super Netball competition with her flair and energy.

"Donnell made her Super Netball debut just three seasons ago, and I don't believe she has reached her ceiling.

"She's continued to show incredible variation and growth in her game this year.

"She's had a strong (2024) season – she's ranked second in the competition for goals scored and offensive rebounds.

"We can't wait to see what excitement and flair Donnell can bring the Australian Diamonds 2024-25 squad.

"We have made a commitment to Donnell, like we do with all our Diamonds,

to provide the support and resources to ensure she reaches her potential and maximises selection opportunities."

Wallam was Firebird No. 105 and her contribution to the club went beyond the court.

She was named the 2023 NAIDOC Sportserson of the Year after her breakout debut season, which ended with an unforgettable match-winning debut for the Australian Diamonds against England.

Wallam played a key role in integrating her people's culture and rituals into the everyday practices of the Firebirds club culture.

"This is simply a recruitment decision based on game style and strategy into the future and I know Donnell will continue to shine wherever her future lies," Davies said.

"There is no doubt Donnell is a quality player and her Diamonds selection for 2024 supports that."

Wallam must now wait until 5 August before being able to hold formal talks and a possible contract offer with potential suitors.

Rose, No Limit on the hunt for new opponent

AUS BOXING promoter and Aboriginal NRL great George Rose is on the hunt for someone to meet Tim Tszyu in the ring.

Tszyu was left in limbo after American Erickson Lubin pulled out of the pair's scheduled world title eliminator in Australia in September.

Rose, who promotes Tszyu through his No Limit Boxing company, is now awaiting an update from the IBF on who they will mandate to fight Tszyu in an eliminator for the world title.

He remains optimistic of the fight taking place in Australia on 22 September as planned.

It is the third time Lubin has avoided a fight with Tszyu after turning down the chance last year before the Australian took on Brian Mendoza on the Gold Coast instead.

Tszyu is currently in training camp in Vegas. – with AAP



No Limit Boxing promoter, and former Indigenous All-Star, George Rose (centre) with the Tszyu brothers Tim (right) and Nikita (left) at a recent promotion. Picture: Getty Images

Dann, MSI lands first-time partnership with historic SCG

AUS CLINT Dann's dream of infusing cricket with a regular reminder of the sports' Aboriginal history took a big step forward recently.

The Nyoongar-Yamaji man's creation, Middle Stump Initiative, has partnered with the Sydney Cricket Ground that will see a middle-stump adorned with traditional Aboriginal art (as pictured) used at the historic venue for non-first-class matches.

These include the annual SCG Multicultural Cup and SCG XI fixtures. The partnership will see Gadigal artist Konstantina (Kate Constantine) create a Sydney Cricket Ground-specific stump, which will be unveiled this summer.

The union was brought about by Dann, a former Perth-grade cricketer.

It is also the organisation's first with a major ground in Australia.

"The Sydney Cricket Ground is known around the world and we are honoured to work with Kate to bring a Gadigal Middle Stump to life,"

Dann said. "Kate's artwork will continue the Middle Stump Initiative's aim of promoting cultural diversity and inclusivity in the world of cricket, highlighting the SCG's deep connection to Gadigal Country."

Konstantina, known for her ability to merge traditional and modern artistic interpretations of her culture, expressed her excitement about the project.

"It is a privilege to create a piece that not only represents the SCG's importance in sport but also pays homage to the venue's Gadigal heritage," she

said. "This artwork aims to capture the spirit of the land and the game, celebrating both in a way that resonates with everyone who loves cricket and respects our Gadigal cultural roots."

Chief executive of the SCG and Venues NSW Kerrie Mather said: "This partnership represents a fusion of sport, art, and culture.

"We are delighted to collaborate with Kate and bring the good work of Clint and the Middle Stump Initiative to the Sydney Cricket Ground."





The Koorie Basketball Academy All-Stars team – three in a row!



Mara Lovett-Murray is airborne in this lay-up
Picture: Darcy Scales



Renata Laureano-Lovett.



Mikali Harrison.

Koorie Academy's 3rd Treaty Cup



THE Koorie Basketball Academy's third annual Treaty Cup last weekend was a celebration of community and sport.

Gunaikurnai man and Koorie Basketball Academy chief executive, Ricky Baldwin, said the event's growth highlighted how basketball unites community, culture, and sport.

"It was great to bring community together at the start of NAIDOC Week and watching all the Mob have a fun day with lots of giveaways with our free raffle," he said.

"This was the biggest game to date.

"It's growing every year and it's special to watch everyone enjoy the day, with basketball the vehicle to unite Mob.

"As it was also the start of Naidoc Week, we also wanted to 'keep the fire burning – Blak Loud & Proud'."

Wurundjeri woman Aunty Julie Coombes delivered a warm Welcome to Country, and Ash Dargan performed on the didgeridoo. Wemba Wemba woman Breanna Lee Wilson sang three songs, energising the crowd, especially with her performance of Yothu Yindi's *Treaty*.

The Treaty Cup on the court tipped off with the Deadly Little Dribblers clinic for young ones (4-10 year olds).

A warm-up drill was next with KBA kids showcasing some of their skills.

The main event was the All-Stars game with the KBA All-Stars facing Team Treaty.

The game featured former NBL and WNBL stars, Hall of Fame coach Brian Kerle, and the father-son duo Alister and Will Thorpe, who featured for Team Treaty.

AFL premiership player Matty Stokes suited up for KBA while Yoorrook Justice Commissioner Travis Lovett playing for Team Treaty.

The KBA team won, securing their third consecutive Treaty Cup victory – like the Chicago Bulls: a threepeat!

Jida Cooper, a coach at the KBA, was

named MVP for the All-Stars, while Mara Lovett-Murray earned the MVP for Team Treaty.

Special mention must go to Wundarra Thomas, a two-time Treaty Cup MVP who was selected to go to Paris to represent Australia and Mob at the World 1 on1 competition in the lead-up to the Olympics. World 1 on 1 is ran by the JORDAN brand, Jumpman23.

The Koorie Academy Community Awards, named in honour of Mary Helen Darby, who recently returned to dreaming, for Outstanding Commitment to Community was presented to Aunty Jill Gallagher and Aunty Evajo Edwards. – Contributed



Bianca Baldwin.



Team Treaty.



Wundarra Thomas.



NBL1 play-off series heating up across the country

By **DARREN MONCRIEFF**



A SCORE of Aboriginal and Torres Strait basketballers are fighting for on-court supremacy this month and next as the play-offs in the trans-national five-conference NBL1 competition heats up.

NBL1 is the semi-professional reconfigured basketball competition borne from the disparate state leagues across the country that consists of five conferences – NBL1 North, NBL1 South, NBL1 East, NBL1 West and NBL1 Central.

In Darwin, in NBL1 North, former NBA and NBL star Nate Jawai and teammate Verle Williams have led the Darwin Salties to a home semi-finals berth for the first time.

Across in Perth, Nes'eya Parker-Williams and the Rockingham Flames led the NBL1 West women's division with just two losses the entire season. Parker-Williams also played in all the Flames' 20 games this season.

North of the Western Australian capital, Johnny Narkle and the Geraldton Buccaneers dominated the men's division and who, like the Flames, dropped just two games this season. Narkle played 12 of the Buccs' 22 games in 2024.

In Adelaide, the Fejo girls, Jasmin and Renai and the Central District Lions were just a few percentage points away from



landing the No.1 ladder position in NBL1 Central. That honour went to the Sturt Sabres.

In the Victorian Goldfields, rising NBL star William Hickey and the Ballarat Miners launched their NBL1 South play-off campaign from third place.

Jess McDowell-White and the Northside Wizards in NBL1 North completed an incredible season, having dropped just the one game in 2024 to lead the league there.

Jess' brother in the men's division, Kobe McDowell-White and the Southern Districts Spartans also had a good year, having

reached the July play-offs, too.

Further north in the Sunshine State, Indiah Bowyer and the Townsville Flames finished third, and present a credible threat to the Wizards and second-placed Rockhampton Cyclones.

After the play-offs is the NBL1 National Finals series which consist of the five Conference champion teams (men's and women's) and the winners from the previous season.

The five NBL1 conferences hold 145 men's and women's teams across the length and breadth of Australia, including Tasmania, whose respective seasons run alongside each other.

In 2022, NBL1 became the first sports league to have a team in every Australian state and territory.

MEET OUR OLYMPIANS



CALAB LAW – Athletics.



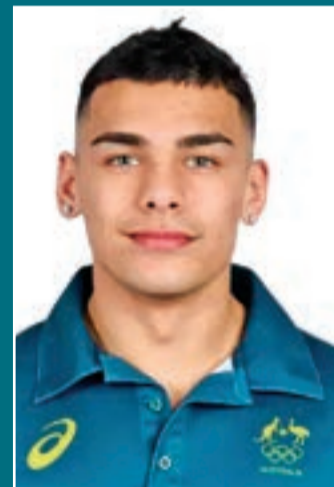
PATTY MILLS – Basketball.



ALLY WILSON – 3x3 Basketball.



TALIQUA CLANCY – B. V'ball.



CALLUM PETERS – Boxing.

Athletics – Basketball – Beach Volleyball – Boxing – Hockey – Rugby 7s – Sailing – Swimming



THEY may carry the hopes of an entire country, but Country – and community – is what will carry the 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander athletes through the most intense sporting environment of their careers.

The 10 Indigenous athletes who will compete at the 2024

Paris Olympic Games won selection into the Australian team after several months of training, trials, heats and hit-outs.

The 10 athletes here also represent a welcome gender parity.

The athletes will compete across eight disciplines; two of which – sailing and swimming – will welcome their

first Indigenous athletes.

Of the 10 athletes, one – Patty Mills – will set the record for the most Olympics by an Indigenous athlete, with 5 – 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020, 2024.

At the opposite end of that spectrum will be five athletes who will make their Games debut – Abbey Connor, Calab Law, Conor Nicholas, Callum Peters and Ally Wilson.

Incidentally, Wilson's sport – 3x3 basketball – will also be making its Olympic debut.

In the middle of that, three athletes are making their return to the Olympic arena – beach volleyballer Taliqua Clancy, and Hockeyroos pair Brooke Peris and Mariah Williams.

There is one athlete, however, whose presence at

the Games hangs in the balance.

Matildas stalwart Lydia Williams was named as a reserve in the Australian squad, which means, while she is with the team in Paris, her Olympic selection will only be official if she is called up to the squad proper.

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BROOKE PERIS – Hockey.



MARIAH WILLIAMS – Hockey.



MAURICE LONGBOTTOM – 7s.



CONOR NICHOLAS – Sailing.



ABBEY CONNOR – Swimming.