



# Koori Mail

*The Voice of Indigenous Australia*

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## Noongar culture on display in Croatia



Picture: Jana Jurcevic



SHOWCASING Western Australian and Noongar culture on a global stage, The Phil Walleystack Indigenous Arts Foundation has just returned from a global gig in Croatia as part of the 3rd International Folklore Festival Split. In a performance titled 'Kaya Croatia', it was the first time Australia has been represented at the festival and the first time Noongar culture has been promoted in Croatia. Pictured are Derek Nannup, Rickeeta Walley, Isaiah Walley-Stack, Robyn Smith Walley and Rodney Garlett. Full story, pages 12-13.

# Stolen wages win



MINNIE McDonald says a \$202 million stolen wages settlement in the Northern Territory is "about all the people who were working everywhere and never got paid". As lead applicant in the NT case, Ms McDonald remembers working on outback stations from a young age where she and others survived on 'bush tucker and a bit of bread'. They were paid little or no wages from 1933 to 1971 as they were subject to Commonwealth wage control legislation.

● Full story, page 14

## 'Shameful' theft of Indigenous pay in Northern Territory to finally be repaid



Lead applicant Minnie McDonald and lawyer Harry Tilse.

**Lion-hearted Noongar boxer goes the distance, sport p50**

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# MY FAMILY Relna Wuruki-Hosea, (Canberra, ACT)



Family is so important to me but since I moved to Canberra some months ago I haven't seen many from my home Badu Island in the Torres Strait even though they support me daily by phone or on social media.

It was great when my mother Melisa, brother Sam and cousin Tennile, made the long trip here from Badu to pay me a surprise visit.

They had to catch four connecting flights to see me make my NRLW competition debut for the Canberra Raiders.

Mum and my brother were flown down by the Raiders Club.

Given that I hadn't seen family on Badu since moving away from home and family for eight months it was a nice gesture.

Tennile surprised me at the local shopping centre, in Westfield Belconnen.

I signed with the Raiders on 15 April and was nervous and couldn't believe it and it didn't seem real at all.

I was surprised and so overwhelmed when my mum arrived...

"That was because I thought she was arriving later that night and I tried to do the maths on flights from home to see if I was right but I wasn't and I didn't know.

I felt so happy, so fulfilled, so grateful and it did hit me that all the hard work has finally paid off, all the sweat and tears had finally worked out.

Especially as mum had been doing most of the things physically, emotionally and mentally all by herself.

All I did was focus on school and footy, I was away from home and I couldn't be there to support her every time she would be down but she did it and she should be proud of herself as well, not just me.

My struggles was doing everything on my own here, all the hard stuff on my own and dealing with it while the family was all the way up home.

When I dropped I had to pick my own self up and keep going, they kept me going by just being on the phone with me, listening to me and giving me good advice and words.

For that I'm grateful, all I needed was that to make me keep going, I didn't need mum to stress and come down for me, I made it easier and did everything on my own and I enjoyed doing that.

Missing family was also a big struggle especially nan and pop knowing they're growing old and I just wanted to be there with everyone all the time but I couldn't.

L to R: Relna Wuruki-Hosea, cousin Tennile Nona, brother Sam Hosea, local Tirhana Kawat, and mum Melisa Hosea.

## SHARE YOUR FAMILY WITH OUR READERS

If you would like to see your family featured in the 'My Family' section of the Koori Mail, email a high-resolution digital photo to editor@kooirmail.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.

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# OUR CHILDREN



Several hundred children from very young to primary-school age travelled from Palm Island to Townsville to watch a junior side compete in a rugby league grand final. Many cheered the side known as the Barracudas and a lot held little flags to show they are proud of their Aboriginal community. The majority has come across the high seas from Palm on a ferry in a trip which takes 90 minutes. Pic: Alf Wilson

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Indigenous choir Marliya will be performing to their first international audience in October when they take their *Spinifex Gum* show to London. (Picture AAP)

# London performance to be 'a great experiment'

By KEIRA JENKINS



HAILING from far north Queensland, 16 Indigenous girls and young women are taking the stories of Western Australia's Pilbara region to the United Kingdom.

The Marliya choir will be joined by members of Australia's national children's choir, Gondwana Voices, as well as the UK's Farnham Youth Choir and Royal Scottish National Orchestra Youth Chorus when they perform *Spinifex Gum* at the Barbican Centre in London.

Marliya is made up of children who were also members of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's choir.

*Spinifex Gum*, which will be performed in both Yindjibarndi and English, was composed by the Cat Empire's Felix Riebl and Ollie McGill with Yindjibarndi Traditional Owners from the Pilbara.

The songs explore the political, social and environmental issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia,



*Spinifex Gum* performs in both Yindjibarndi and English

including incarceration, deaths in custody and land rights.

Yindjibarndi man Michael Woodley was one of the collaborators on the first *Spinifex Gum* project, sharing his stories, cultural knowledge and language with Riebl and the choir.

"He started to involve me in the project with our language and translating and teaching him and the other crew about how to speak and pronounce our language and that's how it started," he said.

"One project became two, and

then another ... we've put together three albums of *Spinifex Gum* now."

*Spinifex Gum* premiered in Adelaide in 2018 and has since been performed at every major arts festival across Australia.

The London performance will be the Marliya choir's first before an international audience.

Marliya chorister Stephanie Paul said that while she's excited to be performing at the Barbican, it's also nerve-wracking.

"To be going and sharing these

stories and the real lived experiences and injustices that our people face ... on a world-renowned stage is just really special," she said.

"I feel a big sense of responsibility."

Mr Woodley will travel to London with the choir as a cultural custodian, supporting and guiding the young singers during the tour.

He said it's exciting but surreal for the stories and language of his Yindjibarndi people to be performed at the Barbican.

"To have our language go to the place where our country's identity, from a colonial point of view, was indoctrinated from ... and for the choir to sing about our language and stories, it's an honour and a privilege," he said.

*Spinifex Gum* combines music, stories and language with dance and visuals, and is conducted by Lyn Williams and choreographed by Deborah Brown.

Ms Williams said it would be a 'great experiment' to see how an international audience would react to the show, which draws such emotion from Australian audiences.

"There are themes of sisterhood and togetherness and working together, which are universal and then there are themes which relate more directly to First Nations issues," she said.

"They always get a standing ovation (from Australian audiences) but we don't know whether that will happen in the UK, we don't know whether they'll connect quite as directly and emotionally to the material in the songs."

But Ms Williams said the girls and young women in the choir always share the important stories of the Pilbara in an extraordinary performance.

"They perform so well because they really believe in what they're singing ... that's what elevates them to this incredible standard that they reach, which astounds everybody," she said.

"They want to do an incredibly good job of telling these stories because the world needs to hear these stories."

Marliya will perform *Spinifex Gum* at London's Barbican Hall on October 6.

- AAP



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# Book asks, 'what should we do next?'

We are so close to the first anniversary of the failed referendum this October 14th 2024 and I've heard many people asking "Where are our leaders?" and thinking they have been silent. It's a valid feeling one I'm not dismissing. I do believe they needed and deserved a break from the toll the referendum would have taken on their souls, so I don't begrudge any one time to heal from that day.

A leader I admired throughout the Referendum campaign was Thomas Mayo and he gave everything he had, he travelled Australia speaking to groups all day long. He wrote a handbook 'The Voice to Parliament' with Kerry O'Brien that I sent to my family and friends. It was a brilliant resource.

Thomas Mayo has done it again, he has released a book called *Always Was Always Will Be* for people whether they voted 'Yes' or 'No' but have asked the question: What should we do next? It is beyond brilliant!

I had the pleasure of hosting the launch of Thomas' book in Naarm where 260 people filled The Wheelers Centre, eager to hear from Thomas and have the question What should we do next? answered.

Thomas invited three brilliant speakers in Rebecca McCann, Megan Baulch and Uncle Charles



## Shelley Ware

Pakana to speak of their thoughts of the book, three people he was impressed by through the referendum campaign.

Their speeches were enlightening and empowering filled with hope and desire to continue the campaign for justice and recognition.

The book itself is written in three parts: Part One talks to hope, resilience and motivations, filled with beautiful stories of family, people and moments we can draw strength from. Part 2 is about learning from the past, it is full of truth telling – we all know how important that is. Part 3: What next? Understanding what we are up against and 23 practical ways we can continue to go forward with the hope and strength needed.

There is a formula to achieve justice and recognition that



Megan Baulch, Rebecca McCann, Thomas Mayo, me and Uncle Charles Pakana at the launch.

makes pure sense – People Power + organisations acting + good government policies x consistency + justice and recognition. This is broken down for people to understand and utilise in their everyday, from today.

It's a brilliant book that I would

highly recommend to people who are wavering in hope, wondering what to do next, as we continue to live in the no of before.

Those that stood against the Yes have given us no direction and answers, just silence, moved on or made further damaging statements.

This book *Always Was Always Will Be* by Thomas Mayo is a practical guide to moving forward and has a list of brilliant resources to help everyone continue their own self education. I highly recommend *Always Was Always Will Be* by Thomas Mayo buy it for yourself and pass it on.

# Koori Mail

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# Local focus is best when school starts



LISTENING to those who live and work in remote communities is the most important thing when it comes to removing the barriers children and young people sometimes face in getting the most out of school.

Remotely based teams from Murrup, an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation, came together in Naarm recently to share their experiences and ideas when it comes to designing programs to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in getting to school and thriving once they are there.

Murrup CEO Shellee Strickland said the organisation's place-based programs took a holistic approach to supporting children and young people and their families.

"We must address factors impacting children and young people in the home, at school and in the community, and at a systemic level if we're going to see them thrive in their education journey and beyond," she said.

NAPLAN results released this week demonstrate that students in remote and very remote areas are still lagging behind the national average across all learning outcomes and each sampled year level.

Ms Strickland said the key to addressing this persistent gap was listening to those who lived



Murrup's Wurrumiyanga program coordinator Gerarda Puruntatameri brought Tiwi culture to Naarm as part of the week.

and worked in remote communities, and then combining local knowledge and wisdom with best-practice methodology.

"Where most service providers in our four partner communities are fly in fly out, or delivered by people who aren't local, we exclusively employ local people to deliver our programs," Ms Strickland said.

"Our staff live their work every day and offer that lived experience and consistency to the delivery of our programs. So, they are the experts in what their communities need, and what's going to work to support their children and young people."

Murrup supports First Nations children, young people and their families in four remote communities offering place-based programs co-designed

with the communities in Galiwin'ku and Wurrumiyanga in the Northern Territory, and Woorabinda and Palm Island in Queensland.

Murrup Chair Professor Larissa Behrendt said Murrup was well-placed to play a key role in providing solutions to some of the challenges facing Murrup's four partner communities.

"I am very excited to lead the organisation through its next iteration. We've reflected on who we are, what's been important about what we've done in the past and how we move forward into the future," Professor Behrendt said. "There's never been a more important time to keep our culture strong, help our communities to stay resilient and invest in our children and their education."

# Record marks three years of ceremony



A FLASH mob of didgeridoo and clapstick players has set a new world record for the largest ensemble of clapsticks as Indigenous custodians celebrated three years of reoccupation of their homelands.

The record was broken in Brisbane on Sunday September 1, when 221 people gathered in King George Square playing clapsticks joined by 173 people playing the didgeridoo simultaneously.

The crowd had also attempted to break the record for the largest ensemble of didgeridoo players set by 238 players in 2006 in the UK.

While the didgeridoo record wasn't broken, organiser and didgeridoo player Gurritydula Gaba Wunggu said it means there is a chance for another group to take up the challenge.

But to Mr Wunggu, who travelled more than 1000km from his home in central Queensland, the event is about more than setting a record.

It's about marking three years of reoccupation of country and continuing the fight to protect sacred water sources.

The Wangan and Jagalingou man has been camping on the Adani's mining lease in central Queensland for three years, holding a ceremony called Waddananggu (the talking).

A fire has been kept burning within a bora ring since the beginning of the camp, just one kilometre away from the Carmichael coal mine.

"Today is a chance to celebrate all we have achieved together at Waddananggu and bring our fight to save our sacred Doongmabulla springs to the heart of Magandjin/Brisbane," Mr Wunggu said.

Adani's mine has poisoned and depleted the water from the sacred Doongmabulla springs, he said.

"Water sources like Doongmabulla all over the country are being destroyed because our governments are failing to stand up to greedy mining companies and protect the water.

"Which is why today we came together – tribes from all corners of the nation – to raise our voices together to heal the water and protect Country."

Mr Wunggu said the event is a chance to celebrate the achievement of continuing ceremony for three years but



A flash mob of didgeridoo and clapstick players has broken a world record in Brisbane, to mark three years of occupation at a central Queensland mining lease.

also to draw attention to his fight against Adani and its subsidiary Bravus.

"We haven't stopped fighting because we can't stop fighting," he said.

In a statement, Bravus Mining said the Waddananggu camp was unauthorised, and organised by anti-fossil-fuel

lobbyists.

"(The camp) is used as the centrepiece of a public relations campaign that is dishonest, deceptive and marginalises the cultural authority of the Wangan and Jagalingou people," a spokesperson said.

The mining company said it was proud to work with Wangan and Jagalingou traditional owners through its Indigenous Land Use Agreement, Cultural Heritage Management Plan and Indigenous Participation Plan.

—AAP

# Ban on kids being placed in hotels despite carer shortage



ATTEMPTS to recruit more foster carers have not kept pace with their exodus as a program shuttling vulnerable children

through motels, hotels and caravan parks at huge taxpayer expense comes to an end.

The use of these types of unaccredited emergency accommodation in NSW – in the absence of foster-care arrangements – has been slammed in multiple reports as recently as August.

About half of the children in NSW's emergency care arrangements are Indigenous.

Examples of children not being properly fed or clothed have been highlighted, while other criticisms

include the lack of properly trained staff and the annual costs of up to \$2 million per child.

Families Minister Kate Washington told a budget estimates hearing that alternative care formed part of an increasing reliance on costly emergency arrangements the government would try to end.

For-profit providers and labour-hire companies involved in the system were not required to meet safe-care standards and faced limited oversight.

Accredited carers will continue providing other types of emergency accommodation under a revised system that will include a ban on alternative-care arrangements by February.

That time will allow for the safe relocation of 39 children still in the

system, by reuniting them with their parents or placing them in an intensive, therapeutic-care environment.

Some 100 children have already been shifted out of the system since November.

The use of accredited emergency accommodation would also be reduced over time, Ms Washington said.

## Foster carers needed

But more foster parents were needed despite almost 200 emergency carers being recruited so far, she said.

Opposition families spokeswoman Natasha Maclaren-Jones said the Department of Communities and Justice lost almost 800 carers in the year to June while hundreds more left the

wider non-government system.

Ms Washington said that exodus came from the former coalition government leaving behind a broken child-protection system that did not support or value foster carers.

Adopt Change chief executive Renee Leigh Carter said the incoming ban on alternate care was a relief, but she called for more support for the sector.

"Our top priority is to see children and young people placed in stable homes, where they can receive the support and care they need to experience a positive childhood and heal over time," she said.

The Advocate for Children and Young People recently found children felt unsafe, unsupported and disconnected in the

temporary arrangements, with health and schooling often affected. One boy likened himself to 'a doggy in the pound ... moving from cage to cage', while girls raised concern about their risk of abuse.

In a 2022 court case, two brothers' near-perfect school attendance plummeted after a care agency receiving \$2600 a day regularly dropped them off late and failed to properly feed and clothe them.

The 'last resort' placements have cost about \$500 million in the past six years.

Hotels and motels have also been used for out-of-home-care placements in Victoria, where a children's advocate in 2019 found such instability harms children and young people.

—AAP

# Carers of Country connect at forum



National Indigenous Australians Agency chief executive Jody Broun delivers the opening address at the Land and Water Management Forum in Darwin. Picture Charlie Bliss

As over 600 Indigenous people gathered on Larrakia Country for the First Nations Land and Water Management Forum Dangkal Gwo'yal-wa 2024, it's time to recognise a fundamental truth – in a world grappling with climate change challenges and ecological collapse, Indigenous leadership offers the clarity and direction desperately required to steer a clear path forward.

It is no coincidence that Indigenous peoples are the custodians of most of the world's remaining ecosystems rich in biodiversity, water and carbon storage, with customary knowledge systems deeply rooted in millennia of sustainable practices. For generations, the world's Indigenous peoples have passed down knowledge, honed by a deep, reciprocal relationship with the land, waters, sky and all living and non-living beings that continue to occupy our Country.

We hold the wisdom and expertise to restore ecosystems, protect biodiversity, and heal what has been broken. Yet, our voices are often sidelined in favour of short-term and unsustainable practices that only accelerate nature's demise. If we are serious about addressing the



**Joe Morrison**

climate and nature crisis, Indigenous leadership must be at the forefront. Across Australia, we have witnessed in our lifetime the degradation of Australia's unique natural and cultural assets, whilst at the same time we have also witnessed the rise of the Caring for Country movement. This is a movement created by Indigenous leaders to reconnect our ancestral practices with our obligations to care for our Country and all those who now call Australia their home.

The strength of Caring for

Country lies in our ability to connect both people and nature as one, not as separate entities. By taking such an approach – those Indigenous people who live and breathe the Country every day have taken it upon themselves to be guardians of the national estate on behalf of all Australians. This is best known as the thousands of Indigenous rangers across the nation, the increasing number of Indigenous Protected Areas and the growing recognition that Indigenous people are best placed to manage Australia's land and waters into the future.

The significance of Dangkal Gwo'yal-wa 2024 transcended beyond the exchange of techniques and strategies – it was as much about nurturing the bonds that keep our cultures alive, ensuring that the wisdom of our ancestors and Elders endure, and that the curiosity and energy of our young people are harnessed for the future.

The knowledge of our Elders, the stories embedded in our lands, and the practices that have sustained our cultures for millennia are undoubtedly at risk.

There is a dire need to create spaces where Indigenous people can share, learn, and pass on

knowledge and practice while also tapping into the ingenuity and drive of the next generation. Only by bridging these generations can we ensure that what should never be lost endures for all humanity.

This forum was a crucial moment for us to unite.

It was a space for us to share our knowledge, stories, and strategies for protecting and managing Country, but we need more than dialogue. We need a commitment to ongoing, well-resourced Indigenous-led forums like this that enable our communities to continually amplify our voices, advance our goals, and strategise together for the future. Consistent resourcing for national sector-wide Indigenous land and water management forums is not just necessary – it's vital for the future of Australia's natural and cultural resources. These gatherings empower Indigenous rangers and communities to collectively drive the direction of the sector and ensure that our collective leadership remains central.

The Caring for Country movement is more than a ranger workforce – it is the beating heart of land and water management

in this country. It should be recognised as such, with a seat at the decision-making table and the resources to match. Empowering our Indigenous land and water managers will be the driving force to ensure that decision-making sits with those who know Country best and for those whose ancestors managed these resources and in most instances, will be their future generations that have to live with decisions we make today.

The path forward is clear. If we are to create a sustainable future for everyone, Indigenous land and water management must be embraced as the powerful solution it is. This means recognising our leadership by committing to ongoing forums where our voices are heard, establishing an Indigenous-led peak body to lead our sector, and committing to meaningful partnerships where Indigenous knowledge is not just acknowledged but actively supported. The sector stands ready to lead – the question is whether others are ready to listen and follow.

**Joe Morrison is the chief executive officer of the Indigenous Land and Sea**

# Teen dies in detention



AN Indigenous teenager has died in a troubled facility, the second person to lose their life in youth detention in less than a year.

The death led Western Australia Premier Roger Cook to admit the youth detention system is "not good enough" and needs improving.

Custodial staff found the 17-year-old boy in his cell at the Banksia Hill Youth Detention Centre in Perth about 10pm on Thursday, August 29.

"This is a horrible, horrible event," Mr Cook said on Friday.

"Clearly, a failure has taken place because someone has lost their life and we will now undertake the very important task of understanding the circumstances that preceded his death."

Corrective Services Commissioner Brad Royce said the teenager was taken into custody at the facility on Tuesday.

"He came in intoxicated (with drugs and alcohol) ... he went into our intensive supervision unit," he said.

"In that unit, we have full monitoring and we keep an eye on young people." Mr Royce said the boy was provided with health care and clinical support.

"It was around his health and not around any mental health or self-harm issues," he said.

He said the teen was checked by staff 10 times through the night.

"On the 11th occasion, just prior to 10pm, he was found unresponsive," Mr Royce said.

"Sadly, we couldn't revive the young man."

"I've reviewed the footage and I'm satisfied that their actions around what they're doing and the way they called for support were appropriate."

Mr Cook said Banksia Hill was a 'very complex and challenging environment'.

"The system's not good enough. We need to continue to improve it," he said.

Mr Royce said significant reforms had taken place in recent months. "What we need to spend more time on and will take generational change is the young people themselves, because when they come to me I have very short periods with them and they come with such trauma and such history, that the challenge is significant," he said.

The boy's death is the second in WA youth detention in recorded history. It follows the death of 16-year-old Cleveland Dodd in October 2023.

Cleveland died after self-harming in his cell at Unit 18, a Banksia Hill annexe site inside the adult correctional facility Casuarina Prison.

His death is the subject of a coronial inquest that has heard evidence about a slew of systemic failures that preceded the incident.

An internal investigation is under way into the latest death and police are preparing a report for the coroner.

Banksia Hill has been the site of numerous riots in recent years, including an incident in May 2023 that lasted more than 12 hours and involved 47 detainees, with estimates the damage bill would be about \$30 million.

Opposition spokesman for corrective services Peter Collier said the state's most vulnerable juveniles needed rehabilitation not punitive justice.

He called for Corrective Services Minister Paul Papalia to stand down and a change of culture at Banksia Hill, including "empathetic" leadership.

WA Commissioner for Children and Young People Jacqueline McGowan-Jones said the government "must do better".

Amnesty International has repeatedly called for the closure of the facility because conditions in it pose a 'serious and unacceptable risk to the safety of detained children'.

—AAP

# Business hub established to counter 'black-cladding'

By JILLIAN MUNDY



THE Palawa Business Hub set up to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Lutruwita/Tasmania to grow, create and thrive in their own businesses, has been launched.

Having witnessed the success of Indigenous businesses around the country, and recognising Lutruwita was a bit isolated not having an Indigenous procurement policy, Marrawah Law Founder and Principal Solicitor, Leah Brown, was inspired to establish the hub.

"The Indigenous business economy is worth \$16 billion and we need to be a part of it, this is how we change the social outcomes for our community, not just relying on government, we're doing it for ourselves," Leah says.

"It can create such huge impact for our community.

"It's intergenerational wealth, not welfare.

"I look at my own business and how many of my family I'm able to employ and improve our socio economic status through business — I'm like, let's multiply this.

"This hub will change the lives of many First Nations people"

Leah says some business owners can be a bit shame about coming forward.

"I didn't take myself seriously as a business owner when I first started out," she said.

Leah heads up the nation's leading independent First Nations legal and advisory firm, with offices around the continent.

"Some of us don't even realise we're in business, but people want to buy from you — I sure do.

"And not just individuals, government want to buy from you, big business want to buy from you.

The hub's Business Development Manager Sara Maynard encouraged individuals, government or corporates to spend dollars with Aboriginal businesses regardless of whether procurement policies exist.

"We know that supporting Aboriginal businesses, you just don't support one person, you support our families, you support our community, and you support the growing economy in the state."

The hub is a single point of contact for First Nations businesses, entrepreneurs



Business owners listed on the Palawa Business Hub directory at the event – Sarah Wilcox (Cooee Tunapri), Tye Mansell (Automatic Music Co), Kurt Styles (Hobart House Painter), Alan Mansell (Black Ant Art) and Takira Simon-Brown (Palawa Artz).



Dewayne Everettsmith from Mina Nina, Tasmanian Aboriginal Cultural Safety Training and Consultancy, welcomed the crowd and sang.

and community leaders to access business advice and support to start-up, sustain or grow their businesses.

Their Aboriginal Business Directory, the first of its kind in Lutruwita, has 40 businesses listed and is expected to grow rapidly.

To avoid 'black cladding' which has made headlines around the country recently, Leah explained the Palawa Business Hub operates with a high degree due diligence ensuring businesses are genuinely owned and operated by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



The women behind the Palawa Business Hub, Leah Brown and Sara Maynard, at the hub's launch.

Both Leah and Sara are Palawa women who have grown up and live in their community.

The initiative is the first community led and run business hub in the country, it received kickstart funding from the Commonwealth National Indigenous Australian Agency.

"Projects like this align with the prime minister's recent commitments to ensuring government investment drives engagement between businesses and Aboriginal people by lifting investment in Aboriginal businesses and employers to

maximise local jobs and long-term benefit.

"It also aligns with the Tasmanian Government's 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, focussed on job creation and the Buy Local Policy,"

The hub will assist Aboriginal business owners and entrepreneurs to connect with business support services, capacity building and peer mentoring, learn about government procurement, access economic opportunities and participate in information, educational and networking events.

With over 150 Aboriginal community members and friends, politicians from all parties, listed business owner, and other supporters attending, the launch at the Theatre Royal in Nipaluna/Hobart, the event was a buzz of excitement.

It showcased several Palawa businesses – catering from Palawa Kipli, welcome and song from Dewayne Everettsmith and a new website going live featuring artworks and branding from Janice Ross, Bianca Templar and Bonnie Starick.

There are already over a dozen upcoming events listed on the website including business legal health checks and hub expos across the state.

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CREATIVE VICTORIA

# New album traces a journey of growth

By JILLIAN MUNDY



EMILY Wurramara's long-awaited second studio album *NARA* is out in the world.

Meaning 'nothing' in the Anindilyakwa language, Wurramara likens *NARA* to a rebirth.

Available digitally, it has also been released on stunning limited edition ox-blood red vinyl.

"People see blood as 'eew', but it's so sacred," said Emily when she spoke with *Koori Mail* at her recent Sunday arvo in-store performance and signing at Suffragette Records in Hobart.

"Our mothers really bleed for us to come into this world, so I wanted to make it red, you've got to feel all this and it's like a rebirth for me, and that's going to feel painful, but also visually beautiful.

"It hurt a lot because each track is so vulnerable."

The multi-award-winning Lutruwita/Tasmania-based artist, activist, author and proud Warnindhilyagwa woman who hails from Groote Eylandt and Milyakburra/Bickerton Island is a prolific songwriter.

From around 120 songs written over fourteen years, *NARA* showcases twelve.

They trace a journey of growth, and highs and lows –



from winning accolades and performing internationally, losing her home and material possessions in a fire, becoming a mother, mental health struggles to finding herself in a peaceful place in life.

"It was when I had nothing, I realised I had everything," she said reflecting on the house fire and the album's title.

While *NARA* is intensely personal, it's effortlessly relatable and deep, at times meditative or cheeky.

Wurramara hopes listeners feel safe and seen, especially Mob and Blak women who so often are portrayed as too much, too angry or too loud.

## Take the power

"I'm hoping that people take back that power of vulnerability within themselves and explore it and understand that is so powerful when you're moving through things and how much strength it takes to be yourself."

The first track promoted from

the album is *STFAFM*, an acronym for 'stay the fuck away from me', sung in full on the catchy number, it celebrates healthy boundaries – the strength and power in saying 'no'.

"Sometimes you just want to scream that to the world," she explained.

Two or three years ago, feeling overwhelmed by life and responsibilities Wurramara returned home to Milyakburra to refresh.

"A lot of people were

humbugging me throughout that time, I was like, can you just stay the fuck away from me.

"I remember sitting on the beach, we were camping, we had no phone service, and it was amazing, it was the best thing."

*STFAFM* doubles as a 'little protest song' to the music industry - Wurramara has deflected demands to sing in language only.

"I felt like I was a big tick for a lot of boxes, and I was put in really unsafe spaces, like a token.

"Well. No. Singing in language is actually a privilege for you fellas to hear, it's not your right, you want me, it's on my terms."

Wurramara has collaborated with family, community, friends and fellow artists on several tracks, in film clips and other creative pursuits captured as part of *NARA* so far.

While her debut album *Milyakburra* (2018) leaned heavily into folk, blues and roots, *NARA* transverses other genres too, there's flavours of country, ethereal and electro-dance. You can buy *NARA* on vinyl at all good record stores or digitally on the usual sites, and hear Wurramara live on her national tour which kicks off at the opening night of Desert Festival in Mparntwe/Alice Springs on 27 September. Check out her social media or <https://linktr.ee/EmilyWurramaragi> for further dates.

# Battle over 'the age' rages on in the Territory and Victoria



IN THE midst of National Child Protection Week, Indigenous, justice and children's safety advocacy groups

around have condemned the newly elected Northern Territory Government's decision to reduce the age of criminal responsibility from 12 back down to just 10 years of age.

This follows hard on the heels of the Victorian Labor Government's decision last month to maintain the age of criminal responsibility at 12 years instead of raising it to 14 years as promised.

Both governments have cited fears over community safety and youth crime for their decisions to reduce and maintain the current ages of criminal responsibility.

In a statement the Uluru Dialogue slammed the newly elected Country Liberal Party's (CLP) plans to lower the age in the Territory saying, "This is yet another instance where voices of First Nations Peoples have been overlooked."

Based out of University of NSW, the Uluru Dialogue is urging new Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro to reconsider its approach and "listen to the wisdom and leadership of First Nations peoples, who have long called for policies that address the systemic issues underlying the challenges in our communities."

The group said despite a call for a more compassionate policy from

National Children's Commissioner, Anne Hollonds, the NT Chief Minister was promising a hard stance on youth justice following her appointment.

Writing in *The Guardian* newspaper Ms Hollonds said, "Between the newly elected Northern Territory government's plan to lower the age of criminal responsibility from 12 to 10, the Queensland opposition's pledge to sentence serious child offenders as adults if it wins next month's state election and (the recent) tragic death in youth detention of a teenager in Western Australia, our nation's failures to protect our most vulnerable children have again been laid bare.

## Tough on crime

"Decades of research have emphatically found that being 'tough on crime' with kids is not the answer. That's because there are common threads for kids who get into trouble: poverty, homelessness, violence and abuse, health and mental health issues, disabilities and learning problems, dropping out early from school and – for many First Nations and migrant families – systemic racism and intergenerational trauma. For most, these are disadvantages from birth."

North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) principal lawyer Jared Sharp told SBS News his organisation sees the decision

to reduce the age of criminal responsibility as a disaster for the Northern Territory and for young Aboriginal kids in particular.

"We will see 10-year-olds in prison, and this is not the way for any civilised society to be going forward."

## Rely on research

Mr Sharp said when it comes to locking up children, governments need to rely on research rather than popular politics.

"Only 12 months ago, [the age] was increased from 10 to 12, we haven't seen any evaluations or reviews," he said.

This comes after the Human Rights Law Centre denounced Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan for breaking a promise last month to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14 years by 2027.

Indigenous organisations including the Yoorook Justice Commission are among many lining up to condemn the Victorian Government's back flip saying it will disproportionately affect young Indigenous Victorians.

Monique Hurley, Associate Legal Director at the Human Rights Law Centre, accused the Allan government of caving in to police and conservative media.

"No child should ever grow up in a prison. Premier Allan breaking the promise to raise the age to 14 by 2027 is a heartless move which will break children's lives and cause avoidable lifelong harm," she said.

"Instead of listening to the abundance of expert evidence from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, medical, child development, youth, legal and human rights groups on what works to help children and make the community safe, the Allan Government has yet again chosen a knee-jerk response that will continue to pipeline children into youth prisons."

The change to the age of criminal responsibility from just 10 to 14 year of age was part of a package of measures in the Youth Justice Bill including enhanced provisions on sentencing, cautions and diversions and a statement of guiding youth justice principles.

## Yoorook condemns

Victoria's truth telling body, Yoorook condemned the decision saying Aboriginal children and young people would be hit hard as they are over-represented in Victoria's youth justice system and 10.6 times more likely to be imprisoned than non-Indigenous children.

"We cannot underestimate the tsunami of disappointment that this announcement will create for First Peoples communities," Chair of Yoorook, Professor Eleanor Bourke, said.

"Victoria's current laws not only exacerbate existing inequalities; they fail to address the root causes of offending behaviour – poverty, trauma, and lack of access to

support services. Yoorook calls on the government to urgently reconsider its decision."

As it currently stands the age for criminal responsibility in NSW, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia stands at 10. In the Northern Territory and Victoria it stands at 12. In the ACT it will rise to 14 by 2026 and in Tasmania it will be 14 by the end of this year.

At the announcement of the decision Victorian police commissioner, Shane Patton, told *The Guardian* he was pleased with the decision. The Victorian Government also said it would change the Bail Act, so that a person would be remanded if there was an "unacceptable risk" that they could commit offences such as aggravated burglary, carjacking, dangerous driving or family violence.

## Boot camps

As well as reducing the age of criminal responsibility to 10 years in the Northern Territory, Ms Finocchiaro said she wanted to introduce "boot camps" among mandatory diversionary programs for young offenders. She told *The Guardian* "It's not just about dealing with young people or offenders once they're already committing crimes. This is about making sure we give kids every opportunity in life to succeed, and that's why our focus on getting kids to school is a very important part of our plan to reduce crime."



# Death to go unpunished



NO charges will be laid over the death of an Indigenous woman in prison after Victoria's

workplace safety watchdog determined there was not enough evidence for a prosecution.

Veronica Nelson, 37, died alone in her cell at Dame Phyllis Frost Centre in January 2020 after being arrested for breaching bail and suspicion of shoplifting.

The Gunditjmarra, Dja Dja Wurrung, Wiradjuri and Yorta Yorta woman became severely ill from opioid withdrawal and begged for help 49 times but was knocked back by prison guards and healthcare staff in the 36 hours before her death.

## Investigation

WorkSafe Victoria began an investigation in May 2022 into whether any occupational health and safety rules had been breached by the Department of Justice or prison operator Correct Care Australasia.

After more than two years, the regulator said there was insufficient evidence of any breaches through failures in the



Aunty Donna Nelson (right) hugs a supporter during a rally supporting bail reform at Victorian Parliament in Melbourne.

prison systems and processes in relation to staff training or work instructions.

"After carefully considering an extensive amount of evidence, including material from the coronial inquest, WorkSafe has determined not to take further action on this matter at this time," a spokesman said.

"WorkSafe acknowledges the ongoing pain and trauma Ms

Nelson's tragic loss has caused her family, friends and community."

The decision not to prosecute those responsible for her daughter's death has left Aunty Donna Nelson heartbroken.

"I can't express to you the pain of seeing the people responsible for my daughter's death walk away unpunished," she said in a statement.

"What good is coronial

process, the pain and heartache that we have to go through, if they just let these people walk?

"They're killing our children and not holding anyone to account."

Aunty Donna's lawyer Ali Besiroglu questioned what it would take for there to be accountability over an Aboriginal death in custody, saying Ms Nelson's case should be decided by a judge and jury.

"If there was ever a case with overwhelming and unquestionable evidence of gross negligence and risk to health and safety, this was it," Mr Besiroglu said.

"Summarily dismissing a prosecution under the guise of 'insufficient evidence' offends the very core of the rule of law – that no person is above the law.

"Veronica Nelson paid with her life for her petty offences. She deserved much more than a justice system designed to let her perpetrators walk free with impunity."

Coroner Simon McGregor in January 2023 declared Ms Nelson's death in January 2020 was preventable, called for bail law reform and found corrections had failed to provide her with adequate health care.

He handed down 39 recommendations, including an urgent review of the state's bail act – widely known as the toughest in the country.

The findings sparked changes to the state's bail laws designed to make it easier for lower-level offenders to get bail.

But even then, WorkSafe will not begin a prosecution if there is no reasonable prospect of conviction.

– AAP



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Fourteen-year-old Arwyn Mason wrote two of the Dhurga language songs and created two of the dances for *Baranguba*. Picture: Scott Baker.



Some of the Djaadjawan Dancers who perform in *Baranguba*: Sharon Mason, Aunty Vivian Mason and Arwyn Mason. Picture: Scott Baker

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# Theatre weaves story-telling

By MARION WILLIAMS



A HYBRID theatre experience that blends First Nations and European storytelling, cultural

dance, animation and video projections will be the highlight of the Eurobodalla's River of Art Festival on Yuin country.

Walbunja woman Sharon Mason brought the idea to creative director Scott Baker. Working with award-winning animator Duncan Irving and Ms Mason's multi-generational dance group from the Yuin Nation, the Djaadjawan Dancers, *Baranguba* production will premiere at the River of Art Festival on October 4.

The story centres on a tragedy that happened off the coast of Narooma sometime between 1820 and 1860. The story was handed down the traditional way among the Aboriginal community. However, someone, unidentified, told the story to an author, Reginald Barlow, who recounted it in the *Moruya Examiner* newspaper in 1892. He called the article Wagonga: From an Aboriginal Tradition.

"There are parts of it where he is full of admiration for the people of Narooma going out in these bark canoes and doing this sea journey from the mainland to Baranguba," Ms Mason said.

Mr Irving said he was surprised that the article was published while Ms Mason said any other author would have

probably called the article Blacks go out on canoes.

What initially appealed to Mr Baker is that there is a European version and a version handed down through stories. "It is this interesting intersection between the culture of oral storytelling and the European way of writing it down."

His interest only deepened after speaking with Ms Mason's mother, Aunty Vivian Mason. "Reading Reginald Barlow's article and listening to how Aunty Vivienne tells the story you can see direct linkages between the story and the wording," Mr Baker said. "Reginald Barlow was told the early story so there is a beautiful intersect between the two different story-telling methods."

The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal funded the creative development of two scenes to see if they could combine animation, video projections and dance.

Visumotus Interactive supported them with the motion tracking and motion capture technology and applying that to the graphics and animation.

"It was a real experiment, capturing the dancers' movements and having an interactive component and using technology to have images on the screen reflecting the dancers' movements," Mr Irving said.

That got them funding from Create NSW to do the whole production, with the support of the River of Art.

They enlisted the help of producer Sam Martin from

Candelo in the Bega Valley. He brought his mobile recording studio to record the songs and narrative.

Mr Baker said the production highlighted the talent and skill in the region, while access to the Bay Pavilions' state-of-the-art theatre space allowed them to set a high bar for the production standards.

It was always Ms Mason's dream to be involved in the first Aboriginal production at the Yuin Theatre in the Bay Pavilions. "That is a big buzz for me too," she said, along with her 14-year-old daughter Arwyn creating two of the production's dances and two songs in Dhurga language.

Ms Mason and her niece Ashweeni gathered all their old stories together to show them in a different way with animation. "It is moving with the times in different forms," Ms Mason said. "We don't do that down here so let's do it and get the story out there."

She is so proud and happy to have her mother involved, working alongside two of her granddaughters and one great-granddaughter.

Ms Mason wants the production to give an understanding of her people and their strength. "Hopefully people will be able to connect with local Koori people and make it a better space by learning about our culture and the places we come from and the special areas."

The River of Art Festival runs from September 27 to 7 October and extends from Durras to Bermagui.

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# Landmark move by NT Labor



AFTER a crushing defeat, Territory Labor has appointed the first Aboriginal woman to lead a major party in the nation's history.

Member for Arnhem, Nunggubuyu woman, Selena Uibo, has taken up the top job alongside an almost entirely Aboriginal caucus.

Labor has also appointed Member for Daly, Yaegl man, Dheran Young, as the deputy opposition leader, who first snatched a seat in parliament during the 2021 Daly by-election.

"I'm very proud...the territory is one third Aboriginal population... that make up the width and the breadth of the territory," Ms Uibo said.

"You know, being the first is an honour and a privilege, and it's quite exciting, not without being naive to the huge challenge that is ahead."

The two will lead up to three others in opposition, including former Attorney General and deputy leader Chansey Paech and likely former Chief Minister Natasha Fyles whose seat will undergo a recount on Wednesday.

Ms Uibo was first elected in 2016 under the former chief minister Micheal Gunner and hails from the bush electorate that



Northern Territory opposition leader Selena Uibo (left) and Northern Territory deputy opposition leader Dheran Young during a press conference near parliament house in Darwin,

takes in remote sections of the territory north and west of Katherine.

The party will now undergo a crucial post-mortem of its election campaign in conjunction with Federal Labor, who will need to understand the pressure points before their own election.

"We always knew that trying to go for a third term of government was going to be difficult. It's not just difficult in Australia. It's difficult the world over," Ms Uibo said.

As the former housing minister, Ms Uibo is conscious of the work federal politics play in the

Northern Territory, signing the \$4 billion NT Remote Housing partnership deal and working across several mining and renewables portfolios in the past four years.

However she said she hoped the federal government would give the "territory more voice".

Traditionally Labor has held the seats in northern Darwin, however in this election all but one seat will be from remote and regional parts of the NT.

Newly-elected chief minister Lia Finocchiaro flew to to Canberra last week to meet with

the federal government in her first formal delegation.

## Legal experts issue warning

Meanwhile, Legal experts warn new NT Government's punitive agenda will backfire and increase crime

The peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services congratulated incoming NT Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro for the Country Liberal Party's clear victory but warned that she is already on a path to make crime worse in the Northern Territory.

"The new Chief Minister has been elected on a platform to reduce crime but her punitive agenda will do the exact opposite," Karly Warner, Chair of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS) said.

"Law and order posturing about punishment, power and control has never worked before and it won't work now.

"If the stated agenda of the new government proceeds, it will backfire. Chief Minister Finocchiaro will preside over a more dangerous Northern Territory in the months and years ahead.

"The responsibility of governments is to do everything possible to prevent crime, not look

tough in response.

"We are extremely concerned that the proven programs that actually work to keep young people engaged in the community and prevent crime, which have never been properly supported or funded anyway, will now be even further deprioritised.

"Putting 10-year-old children in jail, bringing back spit hoods and increasing incarceration won't stop crime – it will perpetuate the cycle of trauma, violence and government neglect that led us here in the first place. We need to support young people, and their families and communities, not harm them.

"Keeping kids locked up leads to horrific outcomes not only for them but for their communities and families. Instead, we need early intervention and diversionary programs led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations.

"Our sincere hope and appeal to Chief Minister Finocchiaro is for the new government to pause, sit down with us and local communities and properly understand the things that increase crime, and what can be done to prevent crime, before locking up our children and creating a more dangerous Northern Territory." Ms Warner said.

– With AAP

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# Noongar dancers shine



Derek Nannup performing at the festival in Croatia. (Pictures supplied)



**SHOWCASING** Western Australian and Noongar culture on a global stage,

The Phil Walleystack Indigenous Arts Foundation has just returned from a global gig in Croatia as part of the 3rd International Folklore Festival Split. In a performance titled 'Kaya Croatia', it was the first time Australia has been represented at the festival and the first time Noongar culture has been promoted in Croatia.

Well received by the Europeans, the Croatian Government rolled out the red carpet for the crew and projected the Australian and Aboriginal Flags onto the City's water fountain in Zagreb.

The group, made up of five Western Australian locals, performed five times at the festival, and performed at the Australian Ambassador's residence.

The festival, organised by the Folklore Ensemble Unity, Split in collaboration with the Split-Dalmatia County, featured seven international groups with the main goal of the festival to preserve and showcase the richness and heritage of folk culture from different countries, as well as to establish cooperation and exchange experiences among groups from Croatia and abroad.

### Honour

Indigenous Arts Foundation CEO Phil Walleystack said, "It was an honour and a privilege to be able to promote our Noongar culture on a world stage like that. It is so important for young Aboriginal people to travel overseas to share our culture because they get to experience the true value of our culture by people who have never seen it before, rather than those who might take it for granted."

● Continued next page

## Ageing Well Community and Research Grants Now Open

Incorporated, non-profit organisations working with older people, are invited to apply for **Grants for Seniors** and **Positive Ageing Fellowship Grants**. Local governments and Aboriginal and Outback Communities are invited to apply for **Age Friendly SA Grants**. Researchers and research organisations are invited to apply for **Impact Research Grants**.

### Grants for Seniors

Grants of up to \$5,000 for equipment or materials that stimulate activity and social engagement for older people, and grants of up to \$10,000 for seniors' cultural, social, educational, or ageing well projects. Grants for Seniors will also support community activities during South Australia's Week of Ageing Well from 1 – 7 October 2025.

### Positive Ageing Fellowship Grants

One-off ageing specific grants of up to \$40,000 for capability building projects to support older South Australians to age well and contribute to delivering South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020-2025.

### Age Friendly SA Grants

One-off grants for local governments and Aboriginal and Outback Communities of up to \$40,000 and up to \$60,000 for partnerships of at least three local governments for projects aligning with the Age Friendly SA Strategy key priorities.

### Impact Research Grants for Ageing Well

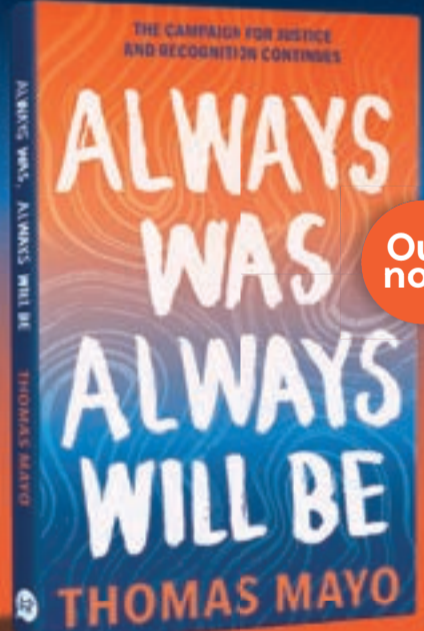
Seed Grants of up to \$25,000 are available for two projects of up to 12 months duration, and a Major Research Grant of \$100,000 for a project up to 24 months duration under the Strategic Research Agenda for Ageing Well.

**Applications for all grants are due by 5.00pm on Friday 22 November 2024.**

Find guidelines, eligibility, and how to apply at [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/communitygrants](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/communitygrants) or contact South Australia's Office for Ageing Well at [ageingcommunitygrants@sa.gov.au](mailto:ageingcommunitygrants@sa.gov.au) or by phone 08 8204 2420.



Government of South Australia



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We're seeking applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to join an expert working group. In partnership with government agencies, the working group will guide the development of new laws on Indigenous cultural and intellectual property (ICIP) rights. This includes addressing the harm caused by fake art, merchandise and souvenirs.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate experience with ICIP or a proven ability to engage with a range of stakeholders and represent the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This is a paid opportunity for 2 years with a possible option to extend for 1-year.

Applications close at **2.00pm (AEST) on 20 September 2024.**

**For more information, criteria and how to apply visit: [www.arts.gov.au/icip-expert-group](http://www.arts.gov.au/icip-expert-group)**

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# at Croatian folk festival

● From previous page

Festival organisers, Folklore Ensemble Jedinstvo Split, said of the performance, "Among the excellent ensembles from Uruguay, Ukraine, Romania, Georgia, Mexico and Southern Macedonia, we as organisers were particularly impressed by the group KAYA DANCERS from Perth.

"With their original performances inspired by their millennial heritage, they left over 20,000 visitors breathless. With energetic, but at the same time gentle dance movements accompanied by the phenomenal voice of its lead singer, the audience was especially delighted by the performances of Mr Isaiah Walley-Stack on the archaic instrument didgeridoo."

The trip was made possible thanks to a grant from the Australian government's Cultural Diplomacy Grants Program. The Phil Walleystack Indigenous Arts Foundation also received funding and logistics

support from the Western Australian Croatian Chamber of Commerce, who also had two representatives attend to support the group, as well as fundraising events in partnership with the local Croatian community.

The Phil Walleystack Indigenous Arts Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation which identifies and develops Indigenous talent for the Australian community to enjoy. Established by Phil Walleystack in 2020, the foundation seeks to give Aboriginal youth pathways to education, training and career opportunities in the arts. For more information, to donate to the foundation or to subscribe to their newsletter visit <https://indigenousartsfoundation.org/>

The Phil Walleystack Indigenous Arts Foundation has upcoming Yarning Singing concerts and Arts Workshops at the Margaret River Heart in September and the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre in November. Tickets available via venue websites.



Isaiah Walley-Stack plays the didgeridoo.



Rickeeta Walley performs.



Rodney Garlett on stage in Croatia.

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# NT stolen-wages case settled



THE Federal Government will pay up to \$202 million compensation to thousands of

Indigenous workers whose wages were stolen while working in the Northern Territory last century.

The payout is part of the settlement of a class action on behalf of workers and their families who were subject to Commonwealth wage control legislation between 1933 to 1971.

The Western Australian government settled a similar case last year for stolen wages in that state, agreeing to pay out \$165 million while an action against the Queensland government resulted in compensation totalling \$190 million in 2019.

## Minnie McDonald

Lead applicant in the NT case, Minnie McDonald, remembers working on stations from a young age.

She said the class action was about all the people who never got paid.

"It was hard when we were growing up. We lived in the bush and didn't have any school.

"When I was young I started working on stations. I was working with my family – my father, my mother and my brothers were on the station. I later met my husband when



Lead applicant Minnie McDonald.

working on stations. We had nothing and had to live on bush tucker and a bit of bread.

"A lot of those people we worked with are gone now.

"This is about all the people who were working everywhere and never got paid nothing."

## Minister McCarthy

Indigenous Australians minister Malarndirri McCarthy said she hoped the settlement would bring closure to First Nations people who were impacted by the wage control legislation.

"This is a significant step

towards fixing the wrongs of the past and I acknowledge Minnie McDonald and every First Nations person involved in bringing this class action forward to seek redress and healing," she said.

"The NT historical wages class action concerns a deeply regrettable and shameful chapter in Australian history."

The government has also agreed to contribute to legal costs and administration.

The settlement is subject to approval by the Federal Court and eligible workers and their families will need to register to



Lawyer Sarah Thompson

receive compensation.

Shine Lawyers, who represented Ms McDonald during the class action, said they have proposed conducting an outreach program throughout the Territory to assist with registration.

A registration process will likely commence in October 2024 subject to court orders.

Lawyer Sarah Thompson said she and the team were grateful to Ms McDonald and other witnesses who shared their stories during the proceedings.

"Today is a step forward for the many thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people we represent across the Northern Territory," she said.

"This settlement cannot correct the past, but it acknowledges the suffering of these workers and their descendants, who have experienced disadvantage because of the Commonwealth legislation in place over many decades which controlled their wages."

"We are grateful to the lead

applicant, Minnie McDonald, and the witnesses who had the courage to share their stories with the court during the evidence preservation hearings throughout the Northern Territory last year. It is our hope that a greater understanding of the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Northern Territory during the Stolen Wages era is a legacy of this class action.

"We acknowledge the Commonwealth Government's efforts in seeking to right a historical wrong and work towards reconciliation with the Northern Territory's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population through this settlement."

Shaun Bonétt, Chairman of Litigation Lending Services (LLS) (which financially supported the class action), said: "This landmark resolution stands as a testament to the power of justice and the resilience of the human spirit. It represents more than just compensation; it is a crucial step toward healing and reconciliation for the First Nations people of the Northern Territory. Importantly it underscores the essential role of litigation funding in enabling access to justice for those who might otherwise be silenced, and it reinforces LLS's commitment to supporting the pursuit of fairness and accountability in all corners of our democratic society."



## Funding available for co-designed project

Funding is open to an Aboriginal organisation looking to make a positive change and improve overall wellbeing in community.

Applications close 27 September.

Scan the QR code to learn more



# Public prosecutions staff gather



FIRST Nations staff from prosecutors' offices across Australia came together this month on Dharug Country for a historic national gathering to advance justice and foster collaboration.

Lauren Davies, the NSW ODPP's First Nations Project Officer, praised the gathering saying, "Not only were we able to meet and yarn with the incredible speakers, but the biggest highlight of the two days was the ability to connect with other First Nations staff across Australia."

Hosted by the NSW Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) at their Parramatta office,



First Nations staff from the NSW ODPP, I-r: solicitor Zachary Wone, First Nations Project Officer Lauren Davies, and Crown Solicitor Damian Beaufils.

attendees came from NSW, the Northern Territory, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and

the Commonwealth DPP, and included prosecutors, paralegals, interns, witness support offices and

administrative officers.

Damian Beaufils, Australia's only First Nations Crown Prosecutor, was instrumental in organising the gathering, along with First Nations solicitor Zachary Wone, who also works at the NSW ODPP.

"It's important to create a safe space for First Nations people who work in prosecution agencies to share their experiences, support each other and discuss opportunities for improvements in the criminal justice system so that it can better meet the unique needs of First Nations victims, witnesses and accused," Mr Beaufils said.

Jarra Somerville, a Legal Officer at the ODPP in Western Australia, said convening the gathering was

"essential for advancing justice and empowering First Nations staff".

"By fostering dialogue and collaboration, we address unique challenges, enhance cultural competency, and drive systemic improvements that benefit both the justice system and the communities we serve," she said.

The event began with a Welcome to Country by Aunty Leanne King, followed by a welcome by the NSW DPP, Sally Dowling SC.

Over the two days, First Nations attendees met with Ms Dowling, Justice Louise Taylor of the ACT Supreme Court, and NSW District Court Judges Warwick Hunt and Sophia Beckett, and others involved in the justice system.

## Call to resource family-violence organisations



THE national peak body for the Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service (FVPLS) has welcomed the release of the Federal Government's Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches' report and called for an immediate

investment to bolster grossly under-resourced services in First Nations communities.

"We don't need more reviews; we need to empower our communities to give effect to these recommendations. We call on government to respond to these recommendations and deliver a plan of action," First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence (FNAAFV) CEO, Kerry Staines said.

"The Rapid Review reflects the sentiments of the The National Legal Assistance Partnership released in May that highlighted the critical underfunding of the FVPLS sector, as well as many of the recommendations made in the Murdered and Missing Women's report released earlier this month.

"With several successive reports echoing each other, our call is for immediate action and investment, and to transition funding from non-indigenous services to our Aboriginal Community Controlled (ACCO) services," Ms Staines said.

"We note and support the recommendations made in the report, namely its recognition of the vital role played by ACCO legal assistance services that work tirelessly to reduce the risk of domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFSV) in our communities.

"We are particularly pleased to see recognition of the importance of place-based/community-based solutions in addressing DFSV, as FVPLS' are the only specialist DFSV service providers that provide both legal and non-legal supports in community to our First Nations women and children," Ms Staines said.

"We call on the government to invest in us to lead a national inter-sectoral framework that will identify where sectors can work together in collaboration to achieve greater impact," she said.

"Our calls extend to increased sustainable funding for our sector to allow us to meet current unmet demand and expand to all geographical areas to provide support to communities in regions where our services are spread thin, or non-existent."

The Federal Government's Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches report was commissioned at the meeting of National Cabinet on gender-based violence in May. The Rapid Review highlighted a number of areas of priority including:

- Responding to children and young people's experiences of domestic, family and sexual violence.
- Engaging with men and boys in violence prevention, including meeting them where they are at.
- Better understanding pathways into perpetration to improve targeting of early intervention initiatives, with the aim of preventing violence from occurring.

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# Resilience gathering to be held in Lismore



ON the eve of the 2024 fire season and in the wake of the disastrous 2022 North Coast floods a major gathering of leaders in the field of disaster resilience is set to take place on at Lismore Showgrounds on Bundjalung Country.

The National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Gathering from September 24-26 will be a multi-day, immersive event showcasing Indigenous leadership and excellence in disaster resilience, emergency management, community recovery and Caring for Country.

Natural disasters such as fire and flood impact First Nations people at a greater rate than non-indigenous people. Since 2019, more than 60% of Local Government Areas that experience disaster events have an Indigenous population higher than the national average.

The purpose of the NIDR Gathering is to enhance the resilience of Indigenous communities in the face of increasing disasters and is a

keystone initiative of Monash University's flagship Fire to Flourish program.

Senior program coordinator Lucy Connole said the Gathering will bring together representatives from disaster resilience and emergency management sectors, government, researchers, non-government organisations, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, Indigenous ranger groups, Native Title groups, and other land and water management organisations to build awareness, share knowledge, connect and support an Indigenous-led conversation on disaster resilience.

### Speakers

Keynote Speakers include *Koori Mail* CEO Naomi Moran; CEO of We Al-li, Associate Professor Carlie Atkinson; and Fire Research Scientist, Dr Amy Cardinal Christianson.

Ms Moran is a Nyangbal/Arakwal woman of the Bundjalung nation, and Dunghutti from the mid-north coast of NSW. She is co-chair of First Nations Media Australia

and was appointed to the Federal Government's newly established First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group.

Associate Professor Atkinson is a Bundjalung and Yiman woman, and an international leader in intergenerational trauma and strengths-based healing. We Al-li designs and delivers culturally informed, trauma integrated healing approaches. She is also founder of the Northern Rivers Community Healing Hub.

Dr Christianson is Métis and grew up in Treaty 8 territory in northern Alberta, Canada. Amy works with Indigenous Nations across Canada on fire stewardship practices such as like cultural burning and collaborates with Indigenous peoples from around the world on decolonising land management.

Across the three days participants will be invited to join keynote addresses, panel discussions, workshops and a choice of participating in a range of on-Country activities.

**For event details and tickets go to:**  
[events.humanitix.com/nidr-gathering-2024](https://events.humanitix.com/nidr-gathering-2024)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing is at the centre of consideration for our new Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) strategy – wellbeing of Country, culture & community.

Find out more.



1800 107 107 [iba.gov.au](https://iba.gov.au)    



## Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme

Seeks to recognise the harm and trauma caused to Stolen Generations survivors who were removed from family or community in the NT, ACT or the Jervis Bay Territory.

Find out more at [territoriesredress.gov.au](https://territoriesredress.gov.au) or call [1800 566 111](tel:1800566111)



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**Edwina**

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# Taking a trip down memory lane

By ALI MC



KUTCHA Edwards' voice booms deep into the empty hall; the bar is yet to open and the stage lights yet to shine.

The famed Gershwin Room – a live music venue in St Kilda's Esplanade Hotel – has seen a plethora of Australian music legends perform, not least the Mutti Mutti Songman himself in his old band Black Fire.

"People would enter the Gershwin Room knowing that Black Fire were going to sing specifically about injustice," he tells the *Koori Mail*.

"In those days, the catch cry was 'give us back our land'. So rather than going on marches we'd do that on stage where you had an audience that felt the same."

Featured in a new SBS series called 'Great Australian Walks', Uncle Kutcha shares stories from the iconic venue known as 'the Espy' as he wanders the Melbourne foreshore.

However, for Uncle Kutcha, the story of his musical career started long before he would rub shoulders with icons such as Crowded House drummer Paul Hester and Seekers' folk singer Judith Durham.

Instead, his journey started in similar fashion to Uncle Archie Roach and Auntie Ruby Hunter; in the public parks around Fitzroy and St Kilda.

Just down the road from the Esplanade Hotel is the Cleve Gardens, a meeting point for Mob where many from the Stolen Generations – like Uncle Kutcha – would reconnect with lost family members.

Twenty-eight years sober, Uncle Kutcha

recalled those days, where the stolen children would discover relatives who'd been scattered around the state and separated by government policy.

"In those days, I didn't know me. I didn't understand my responsibility. And when you are removed from your family, your people, your community, your land, your language, your culture, you search," he said.

"You felt safe when you drank in the parks. Didn't matter where it was. There was no judgment from each other. They just knew – leave them alone. They're struggling."

In the early 1980s, First Nations musicians would take Australia's music scene by the scruff of the neck and force audiences to pay attention to these stories.

## Righteous anger

The righteous anger of Bart Willoughby and No Fixed Address in *We Have Survived* would cut through the airwaves, as featured in the 1981 film *Wrong Side of the Road*.

It was a song that would inspire Uncle Kutcha.

"It's not about the song, it's about the lyrics and the intent behind it," he says.

"We have survived the white man's world and the horror and the torment of it all, 'we have survived.' And so that resonated, and songs like that resonated."

He recalled Bart Willoughby being refused gigs at venues, once publicans realised they had unknowingly booked an Aboriginal band over the phone.

"And so Bart would play an acoustic set in the car park and people would come out and understand what he was about," Uncle

Kutcha says. "He is the legend that he is."

In 1993, Uncle Kutcha also met Yothu Yindi singer and Yolngu community leader Dr Mandawuy Yunupingu, not long after he had won the Australian of the Year Award.

He recalled the life changing encounter at the hotel.

"He said, 'grab that box there'. I grabbed the box, put it on his bed. He said 'you can open it.' So I opened it, and there was the Australian of the Year award," he remembers.

"And he said – 'if I can receive this, anybody can.' And that's the thing that has been instilled in me – I would rather be doing the work than to be seen to be doing the work."

Uncle Kutcha continues to tour and to share his story on stages not only in Australia but around the world.

Most recently, he performed at the Sydney Opera House, the Desert Harmony Festival in Tennant Creek, and with Melbourne band Cash Savage and the Last Drinks. His songs include deeply personal stories such as the heartbreaking *Mrs Edwards*, a tribute to his mother's struggle, and *Singing Up Country*, which highlights his connection to his family, his ancestors and his land.

Sitting on the stage of the empty Gershwin Room, he told the *Koori Mail* his mission is to continue to inspire his people.

"You're trying to drop that pebble in the imaginary pond to create the ripple," he says. "I get up here to inspire my people and tell my truth and tell talk about my journey. That's why I do what I do."

**Uncle Kutcha Edwards' episode of Great Australian Walks airs on Thursday, September 26, on SBS.**



Mutti Mutti songman Kutcha Edwards.

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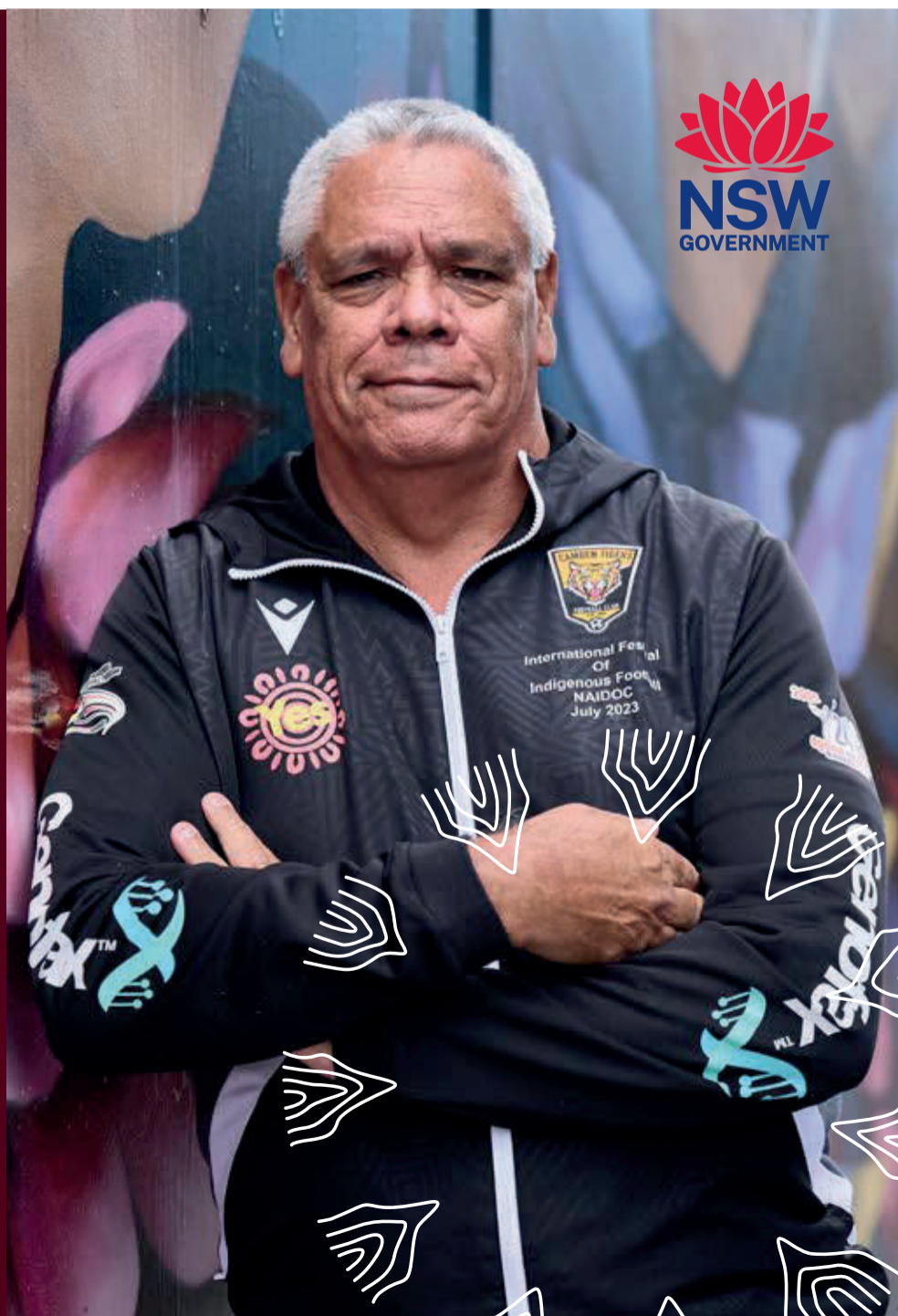
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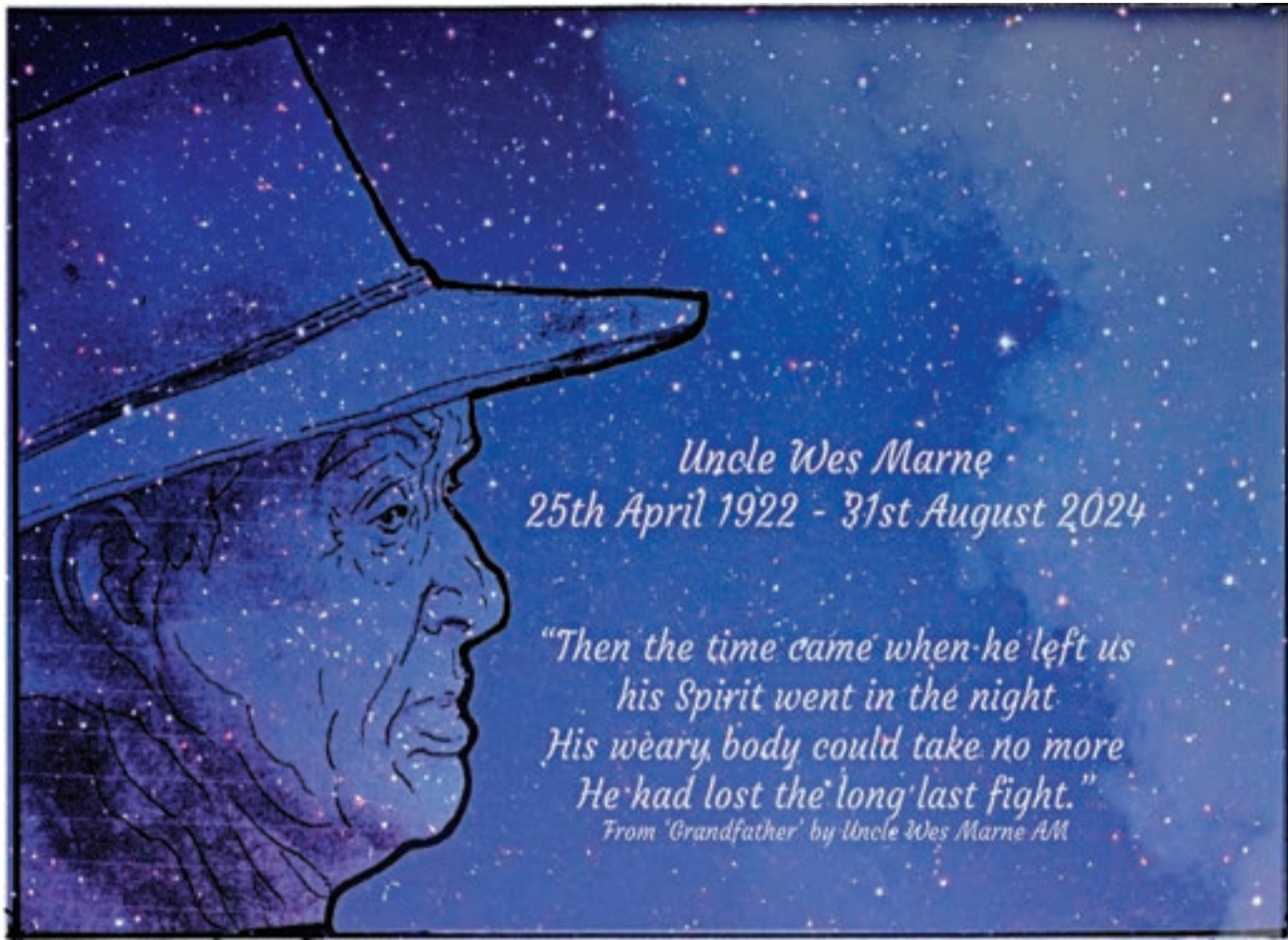


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Danny Eastwood's view



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Ravenswood, Qld.  
A Birri Gubba Birriah man

**Favourite bush tucker?**  
Kangaroo

**Favourite other food?**  
Dumplings.

**Saltwater food?**  
Clam shells

**Favourite drink?**  
Orange juice.

**Favourite music?**  
R & B.

**Favourite sport?**  
Rugby League. I barrack for the Broncos, and in rugby union, I'm a Queensland Reds fan.

**Favourite holiday destination?**  
Bali and Thailand.

**Favourite movie?**  
Stargate.

**What do you like in life?**  
Love living life at Ravenswood on Country. I also like gold prospecting but haven't found any yet.

**What don't you like in life?**  
Negativity and when my food plate is empty.

**Which people would you most like to meet?**  
My great grandchildren but they haven't been born yet.

**Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire?**  
Fred Hollows and good storytellers.

**Who or what inspires you?**  
My family members who live from the Torres Strait to Brisbane.

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

**What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people?**  
Improve their general health such as eyesight and hearing.

Quote



**"We hold the wisdom and expertise to restore ecosystems, protect biodiversity, and heal what has been broken. Yet, our voices are often sidelined in favour of short-term and unsustainable practices that only accelerate nature's demise."**

*– Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation chief executive officer Joe Morrisson*

● See page 6

Unquote

Locking up kids is wrong

IT'S SAD but true that in the brutal art of politics, and getting elected, you can't go wrong flogging the old 'tough on crime' agenda.

When it comes to putting the frighteners on the electorate and harvesting votes, a policy of lock 'em up and throw away the key works like a charm and we've just watched it pay off big time for the new Country Liberal Party in the recent Northern Territory Elections.

Meanwhile in Victoria, the Allan Labor Government has caved in to pressure from police and conservative media to back-track on raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years, leaving it stuck at 12 years.

It's a real heartbreaker when you realise the ones set to cop the brunt of these short term policies are our young First Nations children.

Cruelly, it even looks like the new NT First Minister Lia Finocchiaro and her government are going to knock the age of criminal responsibility from 12 years back down to 10 years.

These policies fly in the face of every piece of expert advice available in the land.

As we say in our story on page 8, everyone from the National Children's Commissioner, The Uluru Dialogue, The North Australian Aboriginal Justice



Agency, The Human Rights Law Centre, and Yoorook, Victoria's Truth Telling body, have slammed these decisions. And those were just the experts we could fit into the story.

When you boil it down to basics, locking up kids doesn't work, it either starts them on a cycle of incarceration, or perpetuates a cycle of offending and incarceration, that will come back to bite everyone.

None of us wants to see lawlessness on our street, everyone deserves to feel safe, but there is no quick-fix.

We have such a long way to travel and we have no choice but to travel together.

It will take time and resources, good faith and patience on all sides, truth telling, love and a belief in our shared future to remedy this situation.

Federal, state and territory governments need to trust and empower our Aboriginal leaders and they need to listen.

It's almost like we need a Voice to Parliament.

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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).

# Neil Morris: called to follow where the music takes him

By CATHERINE HUNT



YORTA Yorta man, Neil Morris, is an artist who wears a lot of hats – he is a poet, a dancer, an actor, a broadcaster, a community-based activist, and perhaps, most recognisably, a musician: readers will likely know Morris's music through his rap-based music project, DRMGNOW.

Recently, he has taken on a new role, as First Nations Curator for the Melbourne Recital Hall (MRH), where he is putting his experience as an Indigenous artist to work in a new way.

Morris shies away from the designation 'First Nations Curator', a title that has never-the-less been bestowed on him in recognition of the wealth of his musical experience.

Talking to the *Koori Mail*, Morris explains he feels more that he is a First Nations man curating a series of performances, rather than a curator of First Nations music. It might sound like wordplay, but it's an important distinction. It's about who he is speaking for.

## Heritage

Morris was born and raised on Yorta Yorta Country by his mother, a Yorta Yorta woman who was also raised on her Country.

He says he feels honoured to belong to a people who have held on to their cultural identity, overcoming removal and displacement through struggle and resistance, and surviving to eventually reclaim their Country in their own right.

Displaced into the Cummeragunja Mission, a settlement on the New South Wales side of the Murray River, on the Victorian border near Barmah, Morris's Yorta Yorta forebears 'walked off' the mission in what is thought to be the first uprising of its kind in the country.

Cummeragunja is reported to have been a productive farm in its early history, however, at the beginning of the 20th century, the NSW Aboriginal Protection Board began exercising greater control over the station – and the people – providing workers with inadequate and unhealthy rations, removing children who were then forced into domestic labour, and taking any funds that had previously been put towards self-sufficiency.

By the 1930's the residents were facing terrible living conditions, restrictions, and introduced illnesses like tuberculosis, all overseen by the Board.

The 'walk off', in 1939, is one of the main reasons that the Yorta Yorta people have a



Yorta Yorta man, Neil Morris. Picture: Multi Cultural Arts Victoria

strong, continuing culture today.

"My great-great-grandmother was actually the midwife on the mission at the time they walked off, so it's quite powerful to think of that and everything that she'd experienced – especially the connection to the babies at the time (1930s onwards). They are some of the remaining Elders that are still with us, as well as many that have gone."

It's a powerful continuity that Morris feels deeply.

"I'm still unpacking how powerful that has been, for me. It's the reason I was born and raised here, and my mother.

"This isn't the experience that every Mob has, not to mention our Stolen Generation that continues to this day, but also the complete devastation of culture experienced by so many.

## Work with Melbourne Recital Hall

Morris's work with the MHR began in 2022, where he was tasked with First Nations programming for *Sanctuary*, the venue's winter offering billed as 'a sonic exploration of reflective, thoughtful and meditative music.'

With "a strong desire to give to the world," which was still emerging from COVID lockdowns, it was a chance for Morris to platform music and

artists that challenge musical orthodoxy, on a big concert stage. The program, which ran over two days, included a performance of Jaadwa songwriter and composer, James Howard's exploration of the intersections of Country, culture, politics and identity, *Ancestral Redux*, as well as a concert showcasing the diversity and scope of contemporary Australian music, featuring the eclectic music style of hip-hop and jazz artist, Lady Lash (Kokatha and Greek heritage), alongside other big names bending the rules and crossing boundaries in music, Paul Grabowsky, Zoe Knighton, Nick Tsiavos.

From doing that work, one thing led to another and Morris was invited to continue more First Nations programming with the organisation.

## Future/Present

Morris settled on the title Future/Present for his current curatorial project with the Melbourne Recital Hall. It speaks to the place he feels Indigenous people inherently occupy, and challenges a commonly held misunderstanding that Indigenous culture is situated in the past.

Instead, for Morris, the on-

going nature of Indigenous cultural expression is tied to the future.

He is deeply thoughtful about the responsibility of the curatorial role, and cautious about the limitations of representing something as generalised as the notion of 'Indigenous' music.

"It was an opportunity for me to put out some of my ideas in the world, as far as curation, and to find what my contribution could be to that, in a world where people are doing so many different things in music. Not trying to do everything ... but trying to do justice to what I feel is the best thing I can practically bring forward."

Earlier this year, Morris's curatorship brought Alaskan Indigenous electro-soul performer, Ya Tseen, to audiences in Australia and in August, *Minyerra*, Morris's ongoing experimental music project was also performed under the same program. There is further programming planned for *Future/Present* in 2025, yet to be announced.

## Making music

Morris reflects on the way the mainstream art world's uptake of Indigenous art is providing visibility, but at the same time, and perhaps on the strength of

that, Indigenous music and musicians are also pushing the boundary-pushers, going out and beyond that which is comfortable and familiar. It is one of the challenges faced by all composers, to create new, original sound, while still reaching people musically and on an emotional level.

"We've come to a place where Indigenous artists can be fairly and squarely in the mainstream. From certain perspectives, people are coming to see how the art we make is still connected to the ways our people have been doing things for the longest time.

"I feel when we go to more 'experimental' music, or left of field, it's less celebrated. We're still in a phase where the recognition of that as valuable and vital, is not quite there yet."

"My own project *Minyerra*, is very much geared around pushing the experimental, of celebrating something different and genre-less."

## Minyerra

The genesis of *Minyerra* goes back to 2007-8. Growing up, listening to hip hop was foundational for Morris. Then, in his post-teen years, he was drawn to other music. With Jimmy Hendrix as one of his key influences, outside of hip hop, perhaps not surprisingly, Morris learned to play the guitar.

He started to explore the possibilities, bought a loop-pedal, started singing in Yorta Yorta language for the first time, in loops, laying down guitar and a bit of synth.

He was enjoying the feeling of making music that wasn't in line with any particular genre, "creating whatever was calling me."

The work features intricate sound collages, atmospheric textures, ethereal electronica, pulsing rhythmic voicings and percussion. Morris uses analog synthesis, creating sound electronically, while honouring the deep-rooted song patterns and vocal structures of his Indigenous heritage and his inherent ties to Country.

It is a project that continues to unfold. Morris describes the inspiration for the work as "following the journey of committing to the creation in itself, and honouring that path,"

*Minyerra* started to take shape as a clearly identified project, with the first performances of the work presented around 2019, and building from that.

Morris is also working on new music towards an album from his project DRMGNOW

With a considered and thoughtful approach to his work, and a deep commitment to follow the path that he is called to, Neil Morris is a musician to watch out for.

# Action to address Elder abuse in communities

By TANGIORA HINAKI



ELDER abuse remains a pressing issue across both regional and urban Australia, affecting countless

older individuals within our communities.

Defined as any act causing harm to an older person by someone they know and trust, often a family member, Elder abuse manifests in various forms, including physical, emotional, sexual abuse, neglect, and social isolation.

Despite efforts to address this issue, it continues to persist, highlighting the need for increased awareness and action.

"It's a big problem, just like all family violence," said community advocate Uncle Charlie King.

## Central focus

The topic will be a central focus at an upcoming yarning circle, where strategies for identifying and addressing Elder abuse within families will be discussed.

At the heart of this discussion is the cultural distinction between the terms 'senior' and 'Elder'.

In many cultures, a senior is defined by age, while in First Nations communities, an Elder is someone recognised for their wisdom.

"We've been talking to Elders about how we can make more of the seniors become Elders to have that wisdom and knowledge," shared Uncle Charlie.

This wisdom is crucial in identifying signs of abuse, such



Yalmay Yunupingu and Charlie King are part of a new campaign to fight Elder abuse. They say community resources play a vital role in supporting victims of Elder abuse. However, accessing the right help can be challenging, especially in remote areas.

as malnutrition, poor hygiene, untreated medical issues, and unexplained injuries.

The yarning circle aims to equip families with the tools to recognise these signs and develop strategies to prevent and address elder abuse.

## Supporting victims

Community resources play a vital role in supporting victims of elder abuse.

However, accessing the right help can be challenging,

especially in remote areas.

"If anyone feels unsafe or is in a life-threatening situation, they should call the police," emphasised the advocate, who also highlighted the importance of knowing local resources.

In one Western Australian community, a witness recounted seeing a young person exploit their elderly relative at a post office, a stark reminder of the financial abuse that can occur unnoticed.

"We can't rely on Elders to

report abuse because they often feel shame, guilt, or fear of retaliation," Uncle Charlie noted, underscoring the need for bystanders to take action.

Preventing Elder abuse requires a collective effort, especially from family members and neighbours who may be the first to notice signs of mistreatment.

While intervening can be daunting, it is crucial to address these issues head-on.

"We don't want to be innocent

bystanders," Uncle Charlie urged, suggesting that community spaces, like post offices, should display numbers for reporting Elder abuse.

Additionally, a gentle approach, such as distracting the abuser, can sometimes de-escalate situations.

"Not everything is foolproof, but we have to try," he added.

The message is clear: protecting our Elders is a responsibility we all share, and it's time to take a stand.

# The vital role of yarning circles for better men's mental health

By CASSIE ARIUU



A YARNING circle is a culturally significant practice that brings people

together to engage in open, respectful conversation.

Levi Thorne, a Wuraji and Yamatji Man from the Midwest spoke about the importance of the male yarning circle.

"We get the men together, and we yarn about how to be a healthy Yamatji men. Also, we speak on domestic violence and the gender roles that both males and females play in relationships," he said.

A key feature of the yarning circle approach is its emphasis

on collective decision-making.

Rather than imposing a top-down agenda, decisions about the direction of the sessions are made collaboratively.

Participants are encouraged to voice their preferences and agree on the topics and activities, ensuring everyone has a stake in the process.

"At the start we started off in a room environment and then we decided to take it outdoors get around the fire pit," Mr Thorne said.

"And also while we're yarning we're doing activities, whether it be fishing, whether it be just hanging out of the beach having a BBQ or around the campfire, you know doing a camp oven," he said.

"That's how I got the men

engaged to start opening up about their life stories."

In a world where mental health issues are often stigmatised or overlooked, the yarning circle stands out as a beacon of hope and healing.

## Meaningful steps

For Aboriginal men in the Midwest and beyond, these gatherings are a tribute to cultural traditions and a meaningful step towards building a healthier, more connected community.

"I think we need to get over that shame factor and build the courage to go up and have a yarn with someone for me," Mr Thorne said.

"To get out and talk to someone really does help."



Wuraji and Yamatji man Levi Thorne.

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# WA Govt has lost its social conscience

## Children have a right to respect

The Labor government has completely lost its way and in turn, its social conscience, in relation to its approach and attitude to young people in detention in Western Australia.

The litany of dismissive and punitive comments about the behaviour of young people in juvenile detention before and after the tragic loss of two young lives in Unit 18 and Banksia Hill Detention Centre brings this fact into sharp relief.

It began with former Premier Mark McGowan describing young people at Banksia Hill as 'terrorists' after a series of disturbances at the centre. I'm not sure what the political aims of the young detainees were, but there is a fair chance that they'd had a gutful of being unlawfully locked-up all day, every day.

After Master Dodd died, Premier Roger Cook referred to Unit 18 as a 'necessary evil'. Spare me. Since when has a detention centre for young people run by the state been a 'necessary evil'? Who on earth is the premier listening to, because that sort of language does not fit with the Roger Cook I know, at least

before he became premier.

Not far behind the premier is the former Minister for Corrective Services, Bill Johnson, who said, in reference to Master Dodd's death, that 'these things happen'. Tell that to the family of Master Dodd. To any fair-minded observer, Mr Johnson's comments reveal a breathtaking lack of sensitivity and empathy which borders on the pathological. Then on the same day that a second boy died in detention, Corrective Services Minister Paul Papalia had the gall to say 'we know these kids are challenged'. Not a skerrick of empathy there either, but rather a continuation of this government's cold-hearted rhetoric, demonising young people detained at Banksia Hill and Unit 18.

This government bangs a drum around providing 'safe conditions for staff'. That's all well and good, but with two young people dead in its centres in less than 12 months, where is the recognition that the safety of young people in its care, should be an equally high, if not higher priority?

If this government had a conscience, this issue should be above politics.

As we move towards the next state election in early 2025, the dive to the bottom on law and order must stop.

More fundamentally, politicians on both sides of the fence need to grow up and openly acknowledge their true responsibilities; if a young person has to be locked up, common humanity and decency requires that they be looked after, kept safe and that everything is done to ensure that they do not die in state care.

The price of breaking the law should only be the loss of liberty, not the loss of life. These tragic and avoidable deaths must never be repeated.

Government must commit to transformative change, underpinned by proper social conscience, that seems to have disappeared into the ether in recent times.

**Wayne Nannup**  
CEO, Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd.

# NSW Labor abandons Closing the Gap targets as the number of children in remand soar

During Budget Estimates it was revealed that the rates of First Nations children and young people on remand in the 12 months since June 2023 have increased by 43%. Of that figure, 29.8% of First Nations people are on remand for car theft, while 21.1% for break and enter. These figures reveal that not only are more First Nations children and young people coming into contact with the justice system since June last year, but that these young people are in remand due to the highly controversial changes to the bail laws that were rushed through the Parliament in April this year.

Under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (Target 11), the NSW Government is committed to

reducing the rate of young First Nations people in detention by at least 30 percent.

We knew these laws were wrong when they were strong-armed through Parliament in April, but to see this soaring increase of young First Nations people in prison just months later, is absolutely devastating and damning.

First Nations people are already grossly overrepresented in the criminal justice system and we know the catastrophic impacts of this fact.

Now shock-jock law-making has made certain that even more First Nations kids will be thrown into prison and it's Premier Chris Minns and the Attorney General Michale Daley who have done this.,

This is what political failure looks like.

The increase in children and young people behind bars is worse than predicted, and it's only half the story. The reality is that the majority of the children and young people locked up are likely there because they were denied bail under the changes NSW Labor rushed through NSW Parliament earlier this year.

We know that once a child or young person comes into contact with the criminal justice system their lives are irreversibly changed for the worse. These young, vulnerable people who need protection and care will more than likely cycle through our prison system for decades at an enormous emotional cost to themselves, their families and

our communities.

NSW Labor is shattering any chance this state has of meeting our Closing the Gap targets.

It is farcical for this Government to stand up and say they are committed to reducing youth incarceration rates on one hand, and on the other, legislate punitive law-and-order responses to lock away First Nations children and young people.

Under these laws these children have been targeted and rounded up like lambs to the slaughter. It is sickening how calculated the effects of these laws are, and this data reveals this in black and white.

**Federal Greens MP and spokesperson for justice Sue Higginson**

All Territory children have the right to be treated with respect, dignity and care. This includes children who have been in trouble with the law and those at risk of contact with the youth justice system – the human rights of these children are not negotiable. Children in contact with the youth justice system are among some of the most vulnerable members of our community. They require meaningful, community led responses that help them stay connected to family, education, community and culture to help them reach their full potential.

I acknowledge there is serious concern across our community regarding crime and community safety. However, this does not permit the use of ineffective youth justice responses that will cause further harm to children and more likely reinforce the very behaviours we are seeking to change.

I am deeply concerned about the proposed changes to lower the age of criminal responsibility and re-introduction of spit hoods.

The human rights of children must be respected. I have written to the incoming chief minister seeking a meeting to discuss their proposed positions and the impact these will have on vulnerable children. As required by my statutory responsibilities, it is my expectation that the incoming government would seek advice on the potential implications of any policy or legislative reform that relates to vulnerable children.

In June 2023, the Office of the Children's Commissioner published a position paper on the use of spit hoods and restraint chairs on children. All the evidence demonstrates the significant risks of using spit hoods on vulnerable people, including children and young people.

Irrespective of whether these devices are called spit hoods or spit guards, they are proven to cause irreparable harm and must not be used on children.

We must acknowledge the children who are in contact with the youth justice system have often experienced significant trauma, may be living with disability and have serious mental health needs. A punitive criminal justice response is not the answer, we must instead focus on the health and developmental needs of these very vulnerable children.

The Office of the Children's Commissioner has consistently supported the well-established evidence on the need to raise the age of criminal responsibility. This is consistent with neuroscience, international human rights standards and recommendations from legal, medical and child rights experts in Australia and internationally.

Evidence based decision making underpins meaningful and effective youth justice reform. I look forward to meeting with the incoming government to ensure the rights and best interests of Territory children are respected and upheld.

**Shahleena Musk, NT Children's Commissioner**

The Koori Mail welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Preference will be given to submissions of interest to Indigenous Australians. Please include your town and State of residence, and daytime telephone number for checking purposes. Items may be edited and reproduced.



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## KEEPING YOUR SAY SHORT AND SWEET

A BIG thanks to all of our readers for sending letters, poems and other feedback; we love hearing from you.

You can help us by keeping your letters to 400 words or less and poems generally no more than 25 medium-length lines. This will increase your chances of being published.

Even if sent via email, all letters and poems must be accompanied by the author's full name, home town/city and state/territory, and a contact number so we can verify content. After that, we're happy to withhold names and addresses upon request. We will publish 'Looking For' letters as long as they do not breach

the privacy of individuals mentioned.

And we're happy to consider photos alongside letters – as long as they're of a high enough resolution and standard, and as long as copyright requirements are met. We accept no responsibility for returning original photos, so please send copies instead. – EDITOR

# Western appetites killing nations

So here we sit in the predicament of fighting for genocides to cease across the globe as we sit under a system and structure of illegal occupation here in Australia.

It is now September and more than 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the 7th of October took place. We have watched it from our phones, from our computer, from our televisions. The death toll keeps rising, the bombs keep dropping and children keep being murdered. Have we actually become desensitised to it now? Are we in information overload? What can we truly do to stop an illegal occupation on the other side of the world while participating in the one that we live under here in so-called Australia.

I sit back and think about the "Lucky Country" known as Australia and all the beings that have had to die for our luckiness to occur. When will our participation in a system that thrives off death cease? When will we stop looking or blaming other countries and start doing the hard work here in this country? I often wish Australians had more of a French attitude, but we are too complacent, with one of the largest middle class countries in the world, the majority is too comfortable. The French have a culture of taking to the streets,



**Ella Noah Bancroft**

protesting and demanding change from their government. We might protest but it's so orderly and polite that makes me a bit sick, obviously we inherited that from our British influence. I'm sick of being polite, it's time for a revolution. It truly couldn't be more the time for one. So what's stopping us? The majority have good lives in Australia.

So in theory we want a system change but in truth, we enjoy that we are privileged even if it means we are lucky on the backs of blood and bones of babies. We can definitely take to the streets to ask for a ceasefire and to demand the stopping of children being murdered but what are we truly ready to give up in order to do so? This is the question I ask myself

as I sit back and think about driving my car around, the computer I type on to do this article, the gold that drips from my ears or the food I eat. To really revolutionise our system we have to be willing to give up comfort. To give up something and to return to something much more simple.

I started to look into other genocides or as mainstream media would say "Wars" across the world and I started to see similarities. What I began to see was that these places where genocides are taking place, the countries are full of finite resources. Resources that the west uses every day to have our "Lucky Countries". Then I reflected on our own Country here and how the genocide took place to our Indigenous people and how the Country has been mined, old growth forest destroyed, water ways redirected or poisoned and soil degraded and I realised pretty quickly all this death is so that a few can live very comfortable. But is it really healthy for us or country to try and keep "advancing" our societies through technology? Here's what I discovered about a few of the genocides taking place across the world.

Gaza has gas, Sudan has gold, Congo has cobalt, West Papua has crude oil, Haiti has limestone. Afgan has copper. Now if you look into what most of the things are

used for you will start to see they are all crucial components to tech and "advancement" of our civilisation... It's time to take accountability, we cannot just protest ceasefire unless we are really willing to take a step back and revolt against the onslaught of propaganda shoving techno futures down our throats. We have to see that fighting for people and the planet means we have to really stop participating in this system of oppression that allows us to be the "Lucky Country" because we have indirectly murdered millions of living beings to become that. It's time that the western world looks at our insatiable appetite to consume and our delusion in celebrating people who are greedy or others would say wealthy. We have to redirect our attention not just to blaming other governments but actually making choices to not consume things that are indirectly destroying other's lands, cultures, families and communities.

It's time to realise that the insatiable appetite of the western world is killing other nations. So then the question comes: are we really wanting a ceasefire, do we really want to see the end of war across the globe or is it all just for social clout and capital, another way for us to be the good guys and someone else to be the bad guys? It's actually time we take accountability for the system we

participate in, the system that is murdering humans and the planet.

Genocide and suffering is a direct result of the western imperial consumer capitalist system.

Remember what system you support and how and maybe moving forward we need to be having more conversations about the darkness of this country and the system we live under and maybe we need to mature as a country and start truly talking the truth. The truth is that every participation in this system fuels the war. In 2020, Australian investment in Israel totalled nearly \$1.6 billion. The truth is our tax paying money is contributing to the genocide.

Since the Albanese Government came to power, collectively over \$3.25 million in 'arms and ammunition' was sold to Israel. This definition does not cover the bulk of military goods Australia exports directly to Israel or through third countries. So what are you willing to give up?

And remember it wouldn't be any different with any other party that conducts themselves under this western imperial consumer capitalist system, they are just two wings to a bird within the two-party system.

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

## Another inquiry? Just add it to the pile

Last month, the Senate Inquiry into Murdered First Nations Women and Children wrapped up after two years. It included sixteen hearings and over 80 submissions. The 227-page inquiry report highlighted ongoing patterns of systemic failures across Australia, noting that First Nations women and children remain disproportionately affected by violence. Still, their cases are often mishandled and ignored by authorities. A lack of accurate statistics on the murdered and missing was also called out.

The report made ten critical recommendations, including a review of police practices, ongoing and sustainable funding for family violence prevention services and balanced and better media coverage of these cases. Importantly, the report called for the full implementation of recommendations from previous inquiries, such as the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and the landmark Bringing Them Home Report following the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC)-led National Inquiry into the Removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families.

No sooner had this report been released than the predictable cycle seen



**Adam C Lees**

after most Commonwealth inquiries began with advocates, community groups, and families promptly condemning it as inadequate and toothless, arguing that the recommendations didn't go far enough. This pattern of disappointment has become all too familiar.

The perennial Commonwealth inquiry process often feels like a well-rehearsed spectacle, like something from a series of Lady Bird Books for Grown-Ups. Terms of Reference are issued. Then, the public, including community and interest groups, civil society organisations and corporations, make

submissions. There's usually media coverage as they lead into the grand finale: public hearings. Everyone gets their say, whether they have something to add or just enjoy hearing their voice. Then comes the pièce de résistance: the interim or final report – usually a carefully crafted document replete with recommendations, ensuring the inquiry hasn't been a complete waste of time and that there seems to be something substantial and voluminous to show for all those years of waiting and bureaucratic churning.

Then, as soon as the final report is released, as is frequently the case, those recommendations are ignored, at least, or poorly implemented at best. These reports gather dust on a shelf or become a doorstop. And then, another Inquiry begins.

As a cynical public, we're left wondering if these inquiries are more about the performance of politicians being seen as doing something rather than delivering tangible outcomes. Take, for example, the 2020 Commonwealth Inquiry into the destruction of the Juukan Gorge rock shelters in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Its interim report, 'Never Again,' was tabled in December 2020, followed

by the final report and recommendations, 'A Way Forward,' in October 2021. Several years on, we still need to achieve strengthened and harmonised national cultural heritage reforms and protections. Western Australia has already repealed its new Heritage Act, reverting to the original and outdated 1972 legislative protections.

Over the years, there's been a parade of parliamentary inquiries, hearings and reports, all probing and promising to address important First Nations issues – the most prominent being the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (1991). Some inquiries have dealt with social justice and human rights considerations. In contrast, others, like the Select Committee on the Aboriginal Flag (2020) and the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment (Economic Empowerment) Bill (2021), focused on protecting Indigenous rights and interests.

The Inquiry into Missing and Murdered First Nations Women and Children (2022-2024) ran concurrently with hearings to support economic outcomes, including the Inquiry into Workforce Development in Northern Australia and Better

Corporate engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers. Other inquiries, such as those on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2023), the Voice to Parliament and its referendum (2023), sought to enshrine self-determination and guarantee a minimum standard of rights for First Nations Australians.

Now, the latest public hearings include the Protecting the Spirit of Sea Country Bill (2023) and the Truth and Justice Commission Bill (2024), which also aim to enhance protections, embed the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) principles and promote truth-telling.

The recent, tragic suicide of a 17-year-old young man at the Banksia Prison in Western Australia is a painful reminder of the ongoing neglect and failure faced by First Nations youth in custody. It has sparked calls for yet another inquiry—a coronial inquest—which will likely repeat what we've heard from countless other investigations. This heartbreaking event highlights the lack of action following the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, which underscored the urgent need for better care and

support for Indigenous detainees.

Despite all the submissions, public hearings, and interim and final reports with recommendations, incidents like this continue to expose the deep flaws in our justice and parliamentary systems, where vulnerable young people are left at risk and calls for reform are unanswered. It's not just about the endless reports or repetitive inquiries—it's about lives that continue to be lost and ignored despite all the recommendations that continue to be ignored.

And like gluttons for punishment, we continue to put our faith in these tokenistic processes, hoping they'll deliver something more or better next time. I say no more inquiries as a form of political theatre! What we need is real reform. It's time to act, listen to First Nations voices, deliver tangible outcomes and honour the work done over the decades.

Until that happens, these inquiries will continue to waste time, money, and hope.

**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.**





The Australian cohort at the World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference in the USA included Aunty Tjalaminu Mia, UWA Honours student Mark Nannup and Aunty Roma Winmar, with youth selected for the Fullaship program via Culture is Life

# Suicide linked to ongoing impacts of colonisation

**W**orld Suicide Prevention Day on September 10 is an important time to reflect on the impact of suicide on our Indigenous communities, in Australia and other colonised countries, and the things we can do to prevent it.

The suicide rate among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults is double that of other Australians, and suicide is the leading cause of death among our children – four times as high as other Australian kids. For mainstream Australia suicide rates are showing signs of stabilising after rising in the 2000s and 2010s; for us, the number of people who take their own lives continues to climb.

In Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, that includes extended families, losing loved ones to suicide is not exceptional – it is tragically commonplace. Suicide leaves far too many of our families and communities in a deep grief from which they can never really recover – especially as it is so often the young ones who are lost.

In mainstream Australia, people usually think of suicide as being connected to mental illness – like severe depression or an anxiety disorder. Those issues can affect our people too, but the evidence shows



**Prof Pat Dudgeon**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander are more likely to take their life when they experience an extremely stressful situation, like the breakdown of a relationship, being subject to racist abuse, or being in prison – our people are 15 times more likely to be incarcerated than non-Indigenous adults, and the number continues to increase despite a Closing the Gap target to bring it down by at least 15% by 2031. These factors are all inter related.

Mental health services are important but Western approaches are not the main solution to suicide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We do not experience

our mental health in isolation; our concept of social and emotional wellbeing encompasses much more: mind, body, spirit and connection to Country, kinship, community and culture. This is all in the context of our history and the social and political reality in which we are living.

Indigenous suicides have been linked to lasting impacts of colonisation, intergenerational trauma, grief, loss and social and economic disadvantage at individual, family and community levels. An effective suicide prevention response needs to acknowledge all these elements and re-empower our people with pride in our strength and resilience.

We know that strong community and cultural connections promote social and emotional wellbeing and protect against suicide, and we know that services and programs developed and led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are essential.

Programs like Culture Care Connect, developed by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and adapted for local communities by individual ACCHOs, foster those strengths at the same time as providing immediate support at times of

crisis. We are starting to see meaningful funds re-directed away from government and mainstream non-government organisation (NGO) suicide prevention services, and towards our own organisations where it can be used to address our self-determined priorities. This is very important and we need this transition to continue and accelerate so we can make progress towards Outcome 14 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap – that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing and its related target: significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards zero.

Indigenous suicide is a global concern. Sadly, our situation in Australia is not unique. Indigenous peoples in the USA, Canada, New Zealand and other nations also experience high rates of suicide linked to their histories and present circumstances. With support from the Anika Foundation, the CBPATSISP was pleased to send five young people and Elders to the World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference in July, hosted by the Seneca Nation in the USA. These gatherings allow us to share our

knowledge and strengths, and learn how others are bringing together culture and community to protect against suicide.

These are just some of the many conversations we need to have to make real progress against this unjust and unacceptable loss of Indigenous lives. On World Suicide Prevention Day we offer respect to those who have passed and our hearts go out to the bereaved loved ones. This strengthens our resolve to commit to change and renewal.

**Professor Pat Dudgeon is a Bardi woman from the Kimberley region of Western Australia. She is a psychologist and Director of the Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention (CBPATSISP) at the University of Western Australia.**

**This is the first in a series of *Koori Mail* columns about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention to be contributed by authors from the CBPATSISP, which was established in 2017 to develop and share evidence about effective suicide prevention approaches for Indigenous people and communities.**

# Dance returns after 100

Story and pictures  
by ALF WILSON



IT was an emotional event when more than 1,000 men, women and children attended the opening night of the Pop Up North Queensland Festival (PUNQ). *Gundil Released* is a new dance work, highlighting and reclaiming a site of cultural significance for the Wulgurukaba people.

It was performed in August at Townsville's Strand Park, the site of lagoons that had been a meeting place and hunting ground for Aboriginal people before the city was settled by whites in the 1860s.

The event revisited the history of the lagoons, telling how, having been polluted post-European settlement, they were then filled in.

*Gundil Released*, a Big Eye Theatre production created in collaboration with Traditional Owners, Gurambilbarra Wulgurukaba, was a free event starting at 5:30 p.m.

The highlight was the Gundil (brolga) dance performed by the Wulgurukaba people for the first time on this site in over 100 years.

Aunty Ros Sailor from Big Eye Theatre gave an emotional speech and described the performance of the Gundil dance as a special moment.

"This used to be a place where many trees were, and after the white settlers came, they cut them down and used them for the first houses around here, or for firewood.

"For this dance to be danced here tonight is a special moment for the Wulgurukaba people, bringing their stories to the forefront to share with the whole of Townsville," Aunty Ros said.

A campfire was lit and a smoking ceremony performed by the Wulgurukaba

Walkabouts dancers before the dance commenced.

Earlier, there had been performances by the Komet Torres Strait Island Art and Cultural Group, and singing by Urupan's Tom Neliman on guitar and accompanied by Ron O'Leary's of Ronion.

A speech by Vicki Saylor about her Waymaker exhibition celebrating North Queensland Elders was applauded.

There were also a number of Black Arts Market and food stalls and delicacies by Big Edie's Kai Kai and Bina's Kitchen. Both did a roaring trade as members of the crowd, including many non-Indigenous people, sampled traditional dishes.

Ashley Saltner jnr conducted the Welcome to Country just after 6pm and people of all ages, including entire families, sat and watched on chairs, on blankets on the ground or standing up.

There were also numerous babies in prams and some Elders who were in wheelchairs.

The *Koori Mail* was there and spoke to hundreds, including many from out of town.

These included Wiruungga Dunggiirr from the Sunshine Coast and William Luta, who described himself as a "Murri from Cloncurry".

"This is a wonderful event for everybody," William said.

PUNQ was held over two weeks, including events in the Hinchinbrook area on Warrgamay, Nywaigi and Bandjin land, and in Charters Towers on Gudjal Country, also at Magnetic Island across Cleveland Bay from Townsville.

The festival attracted many visitors from around Australia and overseas who got to enjoy the wonders of First Nations culture.

Pop Up North Queensland Festival (PUNQ) was held from August 1 - 18, 2024.



Guitar duo Urupan's Tom Nelliman (left) and Ron O'Leary's of Ronion entertained the large audience.



Gail Mabo.



Wulgurukaba Walkabouts Dancers do the smoking ceremony.



Wiruungga Dunggiirr from the Sunshine Coast.



Vicki Saylor.



Amelia Marshall at her stall.



Organiser Aunty Ros Sailor.



Tyler Tapim with son Mathias, aged 18 months.



Torres Strait Komet Dance, Art and Cultural Group.

# years in step with truth



The Wulgurukaba and Big Eye Theatre dancers.



Charmaine Koroi and Aicey Day in front of the giant broлга.



Gibson Billy from Masig.



Peter Santo.



From left are Francis Tapim and Ali Day with Agnes Tapim in the wheelchair.



Trevor Prior.



Elsie Lui.



William Mabo prepares to perform in the makeshift dressing-tent-room.



Angie Akee.



Edith Mareko and Josephine Lui.



William Luta from Cloncurry.



From left are Chris Rollason, David Jaques and Ben Gertz.



Amelia Marshall at her stall.



At the Bina's Kitchen food stall are from left Evelyn Billy, Zillah Billy and Charmaine Thompson.

# Indigenous business

Pictures by  
CHRISTIAN MORROW



DELEGATES were all business at last week's Supply Nation Connect 2024 gathering at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on the lands of the Turrbal and Jagera peoples in Meanjin.

The event brought together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, corporate and government organisations to foster strategic opportunities and celebrate the success of the sector.

Supply Nation's verification process ensures that all businesses listed on their database, Indigenous Business Direct (IBD), are not only Indigenous owned but are regularly audited for changes in company structure.

The *Koori Mail* was there to document the occasion and celebrate the strength of the Indigenous business sector.



The team from the Woolworths Group.



Indigenous Allied Health Australia senior policy officer, Rachel Doolan and social worker, Dr Stephen Corporal.



Redstone Facilities Manager, Stacey Thomasz and director Ryan Thomas.



Blackaroo Industries director of marketing, Robbie Allison; Blackrock Industries managing director, Steven Fordham; and Project Zero managing director Aron Kurzydlo.



WEConnect International regional director-South East Asia, North Asia and Oceania, Mrinalini Venkatchalam; Amazon supplier diversity program manager, La Toy Brooks Harris; and Amazon Australia supplier diversity- program manager, Jen Washington.



Christine Ross Consultancy managing director, Christine Ross; NT Indigenous Business Network consultant, Stephen Cardona; and Tanyah Nasir Consulting Service founder/director, Tanyah Nasir.



NBN manager of First Nations delivery, Ty Taniora; *Koori Mail* CEO and member of the First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group, Naomi Moran; and NBN regional area manager, Ben Reynolds.



Songlines Art Culture Education co-founder and lead educator, Clare Schoeller; and co-founder and principal artist, Russell Brown.

# making connections



Supply Nation Indigenous business officer, Kiana Taylor; and Supply Nation portfolio lead, Katya Barbaro.



Supply Nation attendees Kristal Kinsela, Sharon Gray, Emma Williams, Katherine Dunn and Kelly Marr.



Three Sisters Consulting matriarch, Sarah Hopkins-Herr; Canadian Consulate General Sydney acting Canadian Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner, Sarah Quigley; Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council CEO, Cassandra Dorrington; CAMSC COO, Christina Rodrigues; Consulate General of Canada Sydney Trade Commissioner, Mark Stephenson; Consul General of Canada Sydney acting Consul General and Senior Trade Commissioner, Ms Doris Dunon; and Canadian Australian Chamber of Commerce CEO, Melissa Wharton.



Indigenous Business Australia communications associate, Eric Kalolo; and Indigenous Business Australia manager, digital communications and content, Katie Hoskins.



Blakbone Sisterhood CEO, Jaynaya Winmar; Following In Their Footsteps managing director, Nicole Brown; and Kinaway Chamber of Commerce CEO Donald Betts.



Ochre Dawn Client Relations manager, Diana Orosco; Ochre Dawn CEO, Rebecca Wessels; Ochre Dawn Client Relations manager, Shannon Meers; and Ochre Dawn Client Relations manager, Emma Holmes.



TATSIPCA principal project officer, Carla Dorman; The Dreaming Collective owner, Carly Forrest; and The Dreaming Collective consultant, Holly Johnson.



Kmart Group Indigenous employment advisor Queensland, Brendon Ah Chee; Munda Wines founder Pauly Vandenbergh; and CPB Contractors administrator procurement, Nakia Cockatoo.



NSW Education senior program officer, Laycombe Reilly; NSW Department of Education school infrastructure senior programs officer- First Nations, Will Twomey; Transport for NSW senior manager Aboriginal engagement – West, Daniel Ah-See; and NSW Department of Education senior program officer FMC team Southern NSW AMU, Allan Hall.



Jabil Commercial Diving national operations manager, Jase Swain; and Alkira Fuel's Trot Carroll.



AEMEE CEO, Jyi Lawton; with Indigenous Business Australia Indigenous manager, direct investments, Ami Shah; executive director, products and markets, Faysal Fassi; senior manager, cashflow finance, Alex Fernandez; and policy manager, business solutions, Fang Vista.

Pictures continued from pages 28-29



Luke Penrith Arts and Design owner, Luke Penrith; and Lend Lease Construction P/L First Nations and social procurement lead, Ben Leslie.



Edison, the albino Darwin python with the team from Biodiversity Australia P/L including managing director, Steve Noy; project administrator, Tiffany Sieuwerts; animal handler, Sandy Dickinson; and corporate services manager, Chantal Linares.



Killara Services head of business transformation, Justine Burgess; CEO Max Newman; general manager, Josh Rieck; and regional manager west, Dall'Armi.



Alliance ICT, Makafalani Kama; and Indigeco directors Priscilla Mason and Todd Mason.



Dilin Duma Centre for Indigenous Business leadership, University of Melbourne, project manager Brooke Murray-Noble; post doctoral research fellow, Admiral Manganda; and research manager, Dinah Hippolyte-Blake.



Ethan Indigenous project manager, David Fernando; program director, Troy Thorne; managing director, David Liddiard; technical analyst, Louise Rooke; and technology cadet Kade Wallace.



Sandvik First Nations and community engagement lead, Shaniah Satour; and EY Cultural Capability leader, Deanella Mack.



Black Wattle Professional Services owner, Melanie Syron; LNA owner, Armanda Ahovelo; and LNA director, Angeline Blitner.



Ineco general manager, Natasha Lumley; recruitment team leader, Hayley Coombs; and senior engagement manager, Bj Jordan.



Department of Justice and Attorney General director, Jennie Toonen; principal project office, Zamira Tyson; and business manager, Nerida Mead.

# Momentum building on back of good health of Indigenous business sector

By KEIRA JENKINS



INDIGENOUS businesses are in a great position to harness opportunities presented by the

2032 Olympic Games, as the sector records "very healthy" growth.

Indigenous business owners have been told to be poised to harness momentum and opportunities presented by Brisbane's 2032 Olympic Games and other major events.

Indigenous businesses, corporate and government organisations came together on Wednesday to discuss the state of the Indigenous business sector at the Supply Nation Connect

knowledge forum in Brisbane.

It's "very healthy", according to the director of Dilin Duwa Centre for Indigenous Business leadership at the University of Melbourne, Michelle Evans.

"You are just smashing it out of the park," she told business leaders at the forum on Wednesday.

"The Indigenous business sector is growing at the rate of 8.29 per cent year-on-year.

"That's for over 10 years and in comparison to the non-Indigenous business sector which grows at about three per cent each year."

Queensland First Nations Tourism Council deputy chair Cameron Costello said businesses must make the most of momentum building across

governments and industry to engage with First Nations people on major projects.

Mr Costello is a member of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Legacy Committee and said businesses were in a great position to harness the opportunities the event would present.

"Two key things are leadership and legacy at the moment and there's growing awareness of putting and empowering First Nations voice and seats at the table," he said.

"The opportunities around 2032 and we can see the potential there ... there's momentum and excitement around that.

"We're in a great position but one where we have to mobilise

collectively as an industry."

Supply Nation, a directory of Indigenous businesses across the country, celebrated 15 years since its establishment.

The directory holds more than 5000 Indigenous businesses. But the sector still faces challenges, such as access to capital as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander entrepreneurs kickstart their businesses

Carol Vale co-founded her consultancy firm, Murawin, a decade ago and said after her own journey starting in business it was important to her to support others trying to do the same.

"I've always tried to bring other women along - Indigenous women first and foremost - but other women too," she said.

"For every five or 10 per cent

that came into Murawin I could put aside into a bucket called the morning sky initiative ... I would use that to provide small grants, small loans to women businesses so they can go and start."

Ms Evans said she believed the Indigenous business sector would continue to grow, and businesses would create intergenerational wealth for First Nations people.

"Our people are business owners, job creators, innovators and exporters, custodians and entrepreneurs," she said.

"We're going to see business people starting to hand their businesses on to the next generation, we're going to see live intergenerational wealth transfer in our community.

- AAP

# Supplier Diversity Awards

## Winners announced



SUPPLY Nation, which provides Australia's leading database of verified Indigenous

businesses, announced the winners of its annual Supplier Diversity Awards at a gala dinner on August 29 in Meanjin/Brisbane.

The awards honour and recognise businesses, government agencies, not-for-profit organisations and individuals making a significant contribution to supplier diversity and excellence in driving a prosperous and vibrant Indigenous business sector.

The winners were announced on Thursday 29 August in Meanjin, as part of Connect 2024, the largest national Indigenous business event.

Connect 2024, held for the first time in Meanjin on the lands of the Turrbal and Jagera peoples at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, saw over two hundred businesses exhibiting at the Indigenous Business Tradeshow with more than 3500 participants travelling from all over Australia and overseas to attend the two-day event.

Supply Nation's Chief Executive Officer Kate Russell said the Supplier Diversity Awards were a way to support and recognise excellence amongst businesses that are committed to diversified procurement policies and the benefits of working with Indigenous businesses.

"Despite ongoing challenges including the outcome of last year's referendum, Indigenous businesses remain resilient, optimistic, and committed to their values, and this is driving growth and success. The Supplier Diversity Awards honour organisations and individuals that are making a positive difference to prosperity and their communities, and that is something worth celebrating," Ms Russell said.

A Supply Nation verified Indigenous businesses and members sponsor each category of the Supplier Diversity Awards, with the Dean Jarrett Award for Outstanding Impact, recognising one individual for significant and long-lasting contribution to the sector.



Supplier Diversity Advocate of the Year sponsored by AusIndustry – Amanda Inman – Laing O'Rourke. Amanda also received the Dr Dean Jarrett Award recognising outstanding impact, sponsored by UGL.



Corporate Member of the Year sponsored by Ethan Indigenous – Laing O'Rourke.



Certified Supplier of the Year sponsored by Telstra – Killara Services.



Government Member of the Year sponsored by Laing O'Rourke – Transport for New South Wales.



Registered Supplier of the Year sponsored by BP – Printing with Purpose.



Procurement Professional of the Year sponsored Killara Services – Ryan Sims – Laing O'Rourke



Indigenous Businesswoman of the Year sponsored by Westpac – Carol Vale – Murawin.



Sam Tjengala Reuben Award Recognising Young Entrepreneur of the Year sponsored by EY – Jasmine Newman – Killara Services.



Supplier Diversity Partnership of the Year sponsored by ANZ – Kooya Fleet Solutions and Telstra.



Indigenous Exporter of the Year sponsored by Austrade – Elephant in the Room Consulting.

# Dhurga language program is a product of community



Picture: Marion Williams

Dancers from Narooma High School performed at the launch of the Dhurga language package for early learning services in the Eurobodalla shire on Thursday, August 29.

By MARION WILLIAMS



FROM beginning to end Narooma Preschool's development of a Dhurga language program has been a community affair. Many different parts of the community came together to make it a reality. Narooma Preschool then shared the program with the other 20 early learning services across the Eurobodalla shire on Yuin Country.

In 2022 the NSW Department of Education notified early learning services that in 2024 it would become mandatory to provide true historical and cultural learning experiences for children that were respectful within their community context. Narooma Preschool's director and nominated supervisor Kathy Phipps had last year to consider

how to add that to the curriculum.

Ms Phipps did not want to buy any of the off-the-shelf oral language and literacy programs.

"It had to be authentic, and I couldn't find anything Yuin-based," Ms Phipps said. "At the preschool we use *Good Literature* books. I used the same concept for this."

Three books by Aboriginal authors – *Mad Magpie*, *The Toast Tree* and *A Home for Bilby* – had long been popular with Narooma Preschool's children. To those Ms Phipps wanted to add five Dreamtime stories. She learnt she needed the permission of a knowledge holder. Ms Phipps met with teachers Patricia Ellis OAM and Kerry Boyenga. The sisters, with their brother Waive Donovan, wrote the *Dhurga Dictionary and Learners' Grammar Book*. The two teachers did more than give their permission. "They said they

would love to be part of it," Ms Phipps said.

In May 2023 she secured a \$100,000 grant from the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts. With this she approached local Yuin artist Natalie Bateman to make storyboards to help tell the stories.

One storyboard has a photograph of Barunguba Montague Island, and another has a photograph from the bushfires. Ms Bateman layered artwork over the photographs. The storyboards are versatile and can be used to tell a range of stories. Ms Phipps wanted artefacts too and asked Yuin craftsman Eddie Moore to help.

He and his daughters Ella and Alyssa Moore, the *Gadhu Craft Girls*, made spears, boomerangs, coolamons and other artefacts for

the children to see, touch, talk about and interact with.

"We have also made a few props so we can tell the stories with the children," Ms Phipps said. "The children need pictures but also things to hang on to."

Narooma Men's Shed made wooden animal shapes to help tell the stories written by the three Aboriginal authors. Talia Moreton-Stewart, a Yuin educator at Narooma Preschool, then made patterns which the Men's Shed etched into the timber.

Meanwhile Narooma Preschool's six educators completed a two-hour, weekly Dhurga language course at TAFE for six months. The TAFE contributed to the project by waiving the course fees. They are all now confident teaching Dhurga.

Ms Phipps had 20 baskets made, filled each one with the storyboards, artefacts and props,

and gifted them to Eurobodalla's other early learning services. Her staff members will offer support as the other early learning services implement the resources. They also gifted cultural tours with Ms Ellis as they found many educators struggled to connect with culture, Elders and knowledge holders in the local area.

She said children want to connect with each other. "Language connects us to culture. For each of us, language provides us with our identity and connects us to culture and to Country."

"That is why the traditional stories are so important. By having photographs from today, overlaying the traditional stories brings something from the past into the present and the future. That is what language and culture do for all our children in our local context."



Some of the artefacts made by Yuin craftsman Eddie Moore and his daughters, the *Gadhu Craft Girls*.



One of the storyboards painted by local Yuin artist Natalie Bateman.



Some of the props made by the Narooma Men's Shed. They etched the wooden animal shapes with patterns made by Narooma Preschool educator Talia Moreton-Stewart. In the background are the baskets that Narooma Preschool gifted to other learning services.



# First Nations artists light the FUSE with a Welcome



DAREBIN City's multi-arts Spring celebration, FUSE Festival, is back, on September 14 - 22,

transforming the city into a dynamic hub of creativity. The annual festival provides a platform for local artists, designers and performers to showcase their creativity across Darebin's streets, parks, theatres, galleries and public spaces.

The festival will open with *Ganbu Gulin*, meaning 'one Mob' in the Woi-Wurrung language, an inclusive celebration held each year to formally welcome new citizens and residents to Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Country.

Co-presented by FUSE and the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, the program is curated by FUSE curator-in-residence, Yorta Yorta winyarr\*, Allara Briggs Pattison.

Allara is a storyteller, composer, director, producer, musician and sound designer.

As a Yorta Yorta person, and a visitor to the Wurundjeri Country she lives on, Allara has been consulting and collaborating with Wurundjeri Council, people and artists, in her curatorial capacity, "to support a border vision of acknowledgement and respect, while also working out my responsibilities as a guest here," she tells the *Koori Mail*.

This year's theme is Gugung Murrup, meaning 'Grandmother Spirit' in Woi-Wurrung language. Decided through a collaboration with Wurundjeri artist and traditional custodian for Naarm, Mandy Nicholson, who helped with the translation, Allara says the theme is about "respecting and sharing our love for our land, that Country is our wise teacher. As a theme, 'Grand Mother Spirit' gives us something to connect back to intuitively, our grandmothers and Country, learning from the wisdom of Country and connecting to it with respect and love."

The opening event will feature a Welcome to Country and a smoking ceremony. The Welcome will be delivered by Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung leader Uncle Bill Nicholson, who has worked closely with Darebin Council to create this alternative to the January 26 citizenship ceremony.

Mayor Susan Newton will also address the gathering, acknowledging the new citizens on behalf of the Darebin council

There will be dance and song from Djirri Djirri Dancers, musical performances by MpathSoul, Alice Skye, Allara Briggs Pattison, and featuring Djirri Djirri founder Mandy Nicholson, who will be performing for the first time with a string ensemble.

Allara has specially commissioned new arrangements of the artists' songs by Aaron Wyatt, artistic director of Ensemble Dutala, the



Multi-talented musician and artist, Yorta Yorta woman, Allara Briggs Pattison, has curated a program of First Nations culture for the city of Darebin's FUSE Festival's annual Welcoming ceremony, *Ganbu Gulin*.

First Nations string quintet that will accompany the performances.

"All of us, as songwomen involved in the event, are committed to continuing our song cycles, which are a really important part of passing on and understanding our way of being and knowing," Allara said, speaking about the role of music and song in continuing culture.

"As Aboriginal musicians, we are doing that. Sure, we're using contemporary elements, but it's still the same thing that we've done for generations, which is why it is important to come together with food and knowledge, sharing and storytelling and dance and having a ceremonial welcome.

Following the performances is a panel discussion, Food for Thought: First Nations Food Justice, a (continuing) conversation about rights to

native foods held in the context of rights over living on and caring for Country, as well as the value placed on First Nations food knowledges, developed over thousands of years. The connection of food and Country for culture will be illustrated at *Ganbu Gulin* by a special planting and a damper offering, made with native grain from Black Duck Foods, prepared and cooked on the fire by Allara's mother, Yorta Yorta educator and author Sue Briggs.

Bundoora Park Farm, the new site for the event and planting, is a place of significance for Wurundjeri people, and the Kulin Nation, in terms of truth-telling.

The heritage village, with its old colonial buildings that disturbingly memorialise the past, offers a chance at reinvention.

"It's about trying to create opportunities to decolonise

spaces like this, and the significance of bringing an event and culture back into a space that has a very colonial energy."

Plantings and a mini-tour of Country led by Bill Nicholson during the festival are a step towards that.

Putting together the program for *Ganbu Gulin*: Gugung Murrup, Allara has carefully woven together the different threads that connect Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people to their Country: language, art, food, plants and ceremony, knowledges shared through storytelling. It's all there for visitors to connect with.

*Ganbu Gulin: Gugung Murrup* is on at Bundoora Park Farm – Heritage Village on Saturday 14th September

For information about *Ganbu Gulin: Gugung Murrup* and Darebin FUSE festival, visit [fusedarebin.com.au/](http://fusedarebin.com.au/)



Barkandji artist, Zena Cumpston.

## Plant knowledge makes a *Return to the heart of culture*

Barkandji woman, Zena Cumpston, is presenting, *Return*, an exhibition of her work, at FUSE festival this year. The exhibition is a celebration of the plant knowledge of southeastern Aboriginal peoples, with a particular focus on the cultural landscape of the Darebin area and the plants of Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Country.

"I wanted to make a show that empowered the community that I live in (Darebin) to think about Aboriginal plant use in the area over time and to, hopefully, help people to feel empowered to be custodians in the place that they call home," she told the *Koori Mail*.

Zena says that although, as a Barkandji woman, she is not a Traditional Custodian of the southeastern Victorian Country she lives on, taking a custodial role in the more general sense is the right way to look after Country and bolster biodiversity.

It's something she encourages us all to do.

"The more people learn about what they can do in their own backyards and other spaces, the more they can connect and care about Country"

Featuring artworks, performances and workshops, the exhibition includes both Indigenous and non-Indigenous guest collaborators aimed at engaging diverse audiences with Indigenous knowledge, plants of place and the deep knowledge of Country embedded within them.

*Return* will provide opportunities for learning, art making, conversation and empowering actions in backyards, balconies and nature strips to support biodiversity and embrace the shared responsibility to act as custodians of the lands we call home.

Visitors to the exhibition will be gifted a take-home resource to enable them to bolster biodiversity at home.

You can read more about Zena's passion for plant knowledge and culture in the next edition of the *Koori Mail*.

*Return* is showing at Eastmint Gallery, Northcote Victoria from September 19 – 22. Entry is free.

# Contemporary art win emerges



Emerging First Nations artist, Alfred Lowe, has been announced the winner of the MA Art Prize at the opening of Australasian art fair, Sydney Contemporary. The acquisitive prize, valued at \$10,000, was established to celebrate and platform emerging and early-career artists in Australia, and is supported by Principal Partner, MA Financial Group.

Alfred Lowe is an Arrernte person from Snake Well in the Central Desert, north of Alice Springs, who now lives and works in Adelaide, practising at APY Studio. Working with clay and ceramics, Lowe explores themes of Country using organic forms and textures informed by his intimate knowledge of the central desert landscape. The winning work, *All dressed up I, 2024*, sees a large-scale vessel created using hand-built stoneware with sgraffito and raffia.

Lowe is deeply influenced by his lived experience growing up in Central Australia, fuelling an interest in politics and racial justice, and in particular how culture and identity are navigated and manifested in modern times.

"I am thrilled to be the



Arrernte artist Alfred Lowe has been announced the winner of the MA Art Prize for his work, *All dressed up I, 2024*, at the opening of Sydney Contemporary. Lowe's work was presented at Sabbia Gallery as part of the prodigious art fair.

recipient of the 2024 MA Art Prize. Sydney Contemporary is a gathering of the country's best artists and galleries and I look forward to this event every year, so to be recognised here is very special," said Lowe, reflecting on the win.

"My work, *All dressed up I* is a joyful celebration of love, defiance

and what it means to present yourself to the world. The work holds space unapologetically and dares you to try to ignore it."

## At the fair

Sydney Contemporary was established in 2013, attracting 25,000 visitors at each edition and recording over \$121 million in

art sales since its launch. The Fair is considered a leading meeting place for the art world, and critical to the growth of the art market in Australia. Presented by Carriageworks in Redfern from September 5-8, this year's fair showcased work in 86 galleries from more than 400 artists from Australia and around the world,

alongside a dynamic program of installations, performances and talks.

First Nations artists were strongly represented, with exhibitions from celebrated Wiradjuri and Ngannawal artist Brook Andrew, never before seen works from Nyapanyapa Yunupingu's estate; a captivating series of artworks by The Tennant Creek Brio, an artist collective working on Warumungu Country that includes contemporary artists from both Northern Central Australia and Melbourne (Clifford Thompson Japaljarri, Fabian Brown Japaljarri and Rupert Betheras) and a curated presentation of new works by renowned contemporary female artists, including senior Yolngu artists from North East Arnhem Land Dhopiya Yunupingu and Naminapu Maymuru-White, and Lindy Lee; to name but a few.

*Work on Paper* by the late Indigenous artist Emily Kame Kngwarreye, presented at Utopia Art Sydney, proved to be a top attraction of the fair. The large, untitled, 1992 work, with a \$3.35 million price tag, is set to be the highest-earning painting by a female Australian artist if it sells. Kngwarreye already holds the auction record of \$2.1 million for her 1994 work, *Earth's Creation I*.

## First Nation film festival tells story of activism



THE Shoalhaven community on the NSW South Coast is gearing up to make history with its inaugural First Nations Film Festival. This trailblazing event aims to celebrate the diversity and creativity of Indigenous filmmakers from across Australia, highlighting the courage and resilience of storytellers, some of whom originate from the South Coast itself.

The festival is set to feature a diverse array of works by local filmmakers, including the recent short film, *Be A Proud Voice For Country*, made by students from Vincentia High School and the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Yuin Elder, Uncle Gerry Moore OAM, has been an integral part of the festival's development since its conceptual stage and remains a strong supporter of the event.

"It's important to get the stories from right throughout our Yuin Nation, and the Dharawal Nation, to teach people," he told the *Koori Mail*.

The program was created to tell the story of Aboriginal activism, resilience and courage, showing how film has been used through time, to promote Aboriginal voices, particularly in the decades prior to the Mabo and Wik decisions, when activism was actively discouraged.

Highlights of the festival include what is thought to be the very first recording, filmed in 1933, of Aboriginal leader, Jo Anderson – King Burruga, calling for respect, representation and justice for Aboriginal people.

Also showing is *Ablaze*, the story of Yorta Yorta and Wiradjuri man, Bill Onus, who in the 1940s, was one of the first Aboriginal film-makers to use film to campaign for equality in the face of forces that were seeking to destroy Aboriginal language, voices and communities.

This film was hidden away and never shown. It is only because his grandson



Yuin Elder, Uncle Gerry Moore OAM, and First Nations Film Festival organiser, Julienne Mckay.

more recently found the film and used it to weave the story of activism, and the role of film and story-telling, that audiences can see these images today.

*My Survival As An Aboriginal* was made by Essie Coffey, a Murrawarri woman and the first Aboriginal woman filmmaker, in 1978. Essie's film showed Australia and the world the atrocities and hardships committed against Aboriginal people – but did so in a way that gave hope to future generations by stressing the importance of culture and connection to Country.

The local community are on-board, with one local Elder describing the idea for a First Nations film festival as "...the most magical way to bring the community together..."

Uncle Gerry hopes that with support from film-lovers, the festival will grow.

"We want to find ways to support these young film makers and encourage them to show their work off, and it will hopefully lead to showcasing new stories and storytellers," he said.

The Shoalhaven First Nations Film Festival is showing at Huskisson Pictures, Huskisson, from September 20-22.

For detail visit [snff.wordpress.com/](http://snff.wordpress.com/) and tickets visit [trybooking.com/1245432](http://trybooking.com/1245432)

## Colina Wymarra shares *Bloodlines* and more



Acclaimed Remote Artist Award winner, Colina Wymarra, is showing solo exhibitions at two locations in Brisbane this September. *Bloodlines* is an exploration of Wymarras rich

Gudang/Yadhaykenu (Cape York) and Dauareb/Komet (Mer Island in the Torres Strait) heritage, while *Seasonal Bloodlines*, offers a unique perspective through the lens of seasonal changes in her cultural heritage.

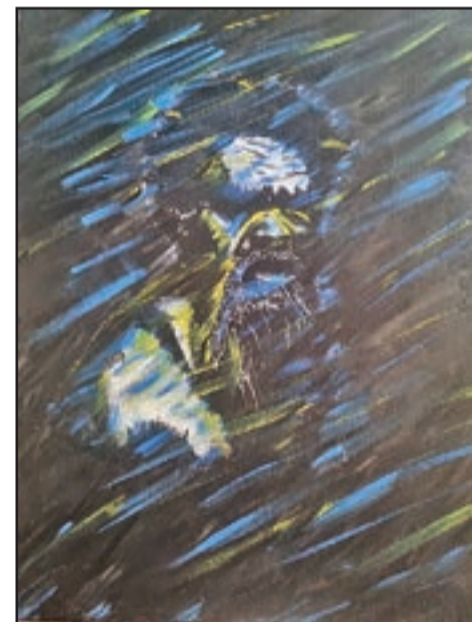
Wymarra's work is a powerful narrative that challenges mainstream depictions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories. Through her use of acrylic on canvas and ceramics, she takes visitors on an artistic journey that celebrates the complexity and beauty of her identity.

The exhibitions are more than an artistic display; they are a personal homage to her parents, Kaunur Wymarra (née Maza) and Ted Wymarra, who profoundly influenced her work. While the pieces are not direct portraits, they encapsulate her parents' spirits, represented through their family and tribal totems, offering a deeply personal connection to her heritage.

"I wanted to show the observer who I am and how richly intricate my identity is. The stories of my people have been fragmented and 'whitewashed' throughout time. I hope this exhibition will take you through a journey of the celebrated identity of my people and... me," said Wymarra.

Wymarra connects deeply with the teachings of her grandparents, uncles, aunts, and parents, whose stories have imparted a profound understanding of the seasons and the lore that governs them.

"My seasons are guided by the wisdom of my ancestors, who taught me the importance of respect and preservation," says Wymarra. "These stories from my bloodlines encapsulate my spirit and guide my art. I hope to take visitors on a journey through my cultural seasons, from the far east of the Torres Strait (Mer Island) to the tip of Cape



York." Born on Thursday Island, Wymarra's artistic journey began at the age of nine, inspired by the works of Albert Namatjira. Her work has gained recognition across Australia, with previous exhibitions at UMI Arts in Cairns and representation by the Gab Titui Cultural Centre on Thursday Island. Additionally, one of her pieces will be featured in an upcoming book by international publishing house Simon & Schuster later this year.

Both exhibitions offer a unique opportunity to experience Wymarra's powerful storytelling through art. Her pieces are a testament to her dedication to sharing the stories of her people with audiences around the world.

*Bloodlines* is on at the Judith Wright Centre in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley until September 20 and *Seasonal Bloodlines*, is showing at The Atrium, University of Queensland, until September 16.

# Art work in pursuit of good cultural practice

**F**iona Hamilton is a Trawlwulwuy woman from Lutruwita, now called Tasmania. She is a powerhouse across many fields, making her mark in arts and cultural heritage spaces. For decades, she has been a force to be reckoned with – dare you do our or her peoples wrong!

She is a strong political figure, addressing matters specific to her peoples, and a natural mentor: with experience and knowledge in the fisheries industry, she has been a generous teacher for my work sitting on the Cape York Special Fisheries Working Group – and it's just *one* field in which Fiona gives much appreciated guidance.

An artist and arts worker, Fiona's work (of art) speaks to Country and its sentience; as an administrator, she is an example of how to affect meaningful change which would see First Nations' stewardship reign over what is our contemporary Indigenous art sector.

Towards the end of 2021, Fiona took the lead of the Indigenous Art Centre Alliance (IACA)—the peak body for recognised (code for 'funded') Indigenous art centres across Tropical North Queensland (TNQ) – bringing her wealth of experience working with well-respected Aboriginal corporations, government and other organisations, to the the tropical north.

Fiona and I were working in arts administrative roles in TNQ, under the IACA umbrella, at the same time. We've both since moved on to other ventures, but I learned a great deal from her.

We're kindred wind spirits, with fire in our bellies.

I would come to learn of another connection: Fiona was instrumental, for a period, in working with the Western Cape Communities Coexistence Agreement (WCCCA), based in Weipa, near my Homelands of Mapoon where I grew up.

It was my grandmother, Jean Little OAM nee Ling, amongst others, who established this 'treaty' and royalties agreement with Rio Tinto (previously Comalco), who have a large-scale mining lease across many parts of the Western Cape of Cape York Peninsula.

I recently spoke with Fiona about her work for change in Tasmania/Lutruwita:

**Jack Wilkie-Jans:** Can you tell us about truth-telling and treaty and what is happening or not happening, in this space, in Tasmania?

**Fiona Hamilton:** In my homelands, Lutruwita, my people have been demanding a treaty with the Tasmanian government since the early invasion of our lands. The government did negotiate a treaty with my people but brutally reneged on it (1800s) and we've been pursuing our rights to a treaty ever since. The Tasmanian government more recently raised the possibility of returning to treaty with Palawa/Pakana peoples and appointed its own advisory body of six Tasmanian Aboriginal people to provide them with advice and recommendations on what that process might look like.

However, this process has isolated a good number of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are not represented on, or by, that group. This has led to a great deal of frustration amongst Tasmanian Aboriginal people and a lack of transparency and communication from the advisory group on where they are at with this process.

If truth-telling and treaty are to be successful in Lutruwita, then the process must be inclusive of all Tasmanian Aboriginal people, who were failed when the colonial Tasmanian government 'treated' with us, but ultimately broke their promises.

**JW-J:** How grave are the threats to you and your people, in Lutruwita/Tasmania, from the colonialists there?

**FH:** My people now live our lives constantly pushing up against the confines of the colony, and all that brings upon us. I think most readers would understand that to be living within a colony that is on an island comes with additional complexities. We can talk all about

## opinion



**Jack Wilkie-Jans**

the Closing The Gap measures. However, what I see as the great strength and courage of my people is to continue to push for our rights and to demand the truth of how our lands were stolen from us, how our way of life was impacted, how the genocide of my people was attempted, and how the impacts of the colonial project are still keenly felt today.

The truth-telling process must precede any making of treaties with my people in Lutruwita, because it is the truth-telling process that identifies the impacts of colonialism that treaty must ameliorate. There's still a hell of a lot of racism and downright bigotry experienced by Tasmanian Aboriginal people and this continues to be a major threat. Particularly when brutes, within Tasmania, who hold hatred and contempt for Tasmanian Aboriginal people, are politically powerful and aligned.

**JW-J:** What, or who, first got you involved in the Indigenous art sector?

**FH:** I've been a practising artist since I was a teenager, and one of my earliest memories of seeing practising artists (cultural practitioners) was when the Mornington Islander Dancers visited Lutruwita in the late 1970s/early 1980s. I've always been involved in writing, creative production, dance, visual arts, theatre...

Additionally, I've worked in Cultural Heritage for over thirty years – which is quite a natural alignment to the arts – to me the inspiration for continuing to work in the arts is that my people fight on so many fronts. So, many times, having some kind of cultural and creative practice protects our cultural and spiritual health and identity.

**JW-J:** Can you tell us a bit about your practice as an artist? What inspires your art-making? What are you saying through your work?

**FH:** I only make art when I have something I want to say. And I don't feel I need to say a lot all of the time.

Art gives you a voice that nobody can take away. Unless, of course, your art is stolen.

The thing I also love about art is that there are so many ways to tell a story that is unique to you, and also to your people and your Country.

**JW-J:** Some of your more recent work focuses on reassessing and redefining the concept of 'Welcome to Country' as a contemporised, routine protocol exercise. Where have we gone wrong on this front, and, who do you feel it's truly serving?

**FH:** This is very concerning because our peoples have mostly known Welcomes to Country as truly important exchanges of Lore and protocol within Sovereignty.

What does it mean then, to welcome somebody to Country if they do not accept our Sovereignty, and have little to no intention of abiding by our Lore?



Trawlwulwuy artist/arts worker Fiona Hamilton.

I wonder what it is that non-Indigenous peoples understand a 'Welcome to Country' to mean, to them. Because it certainly isn't a golden ticket to continue to usurp our Sovereignty, occupy our lands, or impact our peoples with impunity?

**JW-J:** How does the practice of Welcoming to Country, such as we know it today, differ from old ways (in as much as you are allowed to share with the public)?

**KH:** Obviously, the ceremonies weren't called 'Welcome to Country'.

Most Mobs who I've spent time with have ceremonies and protocols that support the bringing of people from outside (your) lands, into (your) lands for particular purposes, such as hunting, marriage, trade and passage/travel.

It's during these ceremonies that the 'Terms and Conditions' of said visit, like the length of the visit, are discussed and ratified. Ceremonies are held to support that.

They weren't paid-by-the-hour ceremonies and the ceremonial elements of bringing people into/onto (your) land could last many days, weeks or even months (in some areas and at times) and could continue long after the visitors had left.

Even though some think of the 'Welcome to Country' as a modern construct, it's actually a system of ceremonies that are deeply embedded in our way of being, and affirming our Sovereignty.

**JW-J:** What's one message you have for our readers, who may be struggling with the weight of recent, contemporised colonialist agendas?

**FH:** Remember to take rest and time with family and time on Country. As I'm getting older, I'm realising just how important Homelands movements are to our peoples because it's almost impossible to decolonise when you're within the colonial structure.

The only thing you can really do, to truly decolonise, is to cede and not participate. The colony can only have jurisdiction over you if you think it does.

**JW-J:** Overall, what's driving you these days? What's next for Fiona Hamilton?

**FH:** More and more, when I think about what ceding from the colony looks like to me, how to achieve a Homelands movement when my Homelands are occupied, is to look towards Sea Country. So now, I live on the ocean and maybe that's enough.

For now, until my Homelands are returned to my peoples.

## Opportunities

### The Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Art



The Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Art 2025 (NPCA) is calling for entries from artists across Australia, working in any medium.

The biennial acquisitive prize is open to emerging and established artists and offers a \$31,000 prize pool, allocated across four categories:

Open Prize: \$20,000

Local Prize: \$10,000

Mayor's Award: \$500

People's Choice Award: \$500

Entries close October 30, 2024.

For more information about the prize and how to apply please visit [nillumbik.vic.gov.au/](http://nillumbik.vic.gov.au/) and search '2025 art prize'

### Last days to enter Koori Mail Art Award (Deadline extended)



THE closing date for the Koori Mail Indigenous Art Award has been extended until September 15, 2024.

The art award celebrates the incredible talent and creativity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. It attracts entries from established, mid-career and emerging artists working across various mediums and is open to artists in every state and territory.

First Nations curator, writer and cultural heritage researcher, Rebecca Ray, has been announced as the guest judge for the award.

Rebecca is a Meriam woman descended from the Torres Strait Islands. She has extensive curatorial experience working across grassroots communities, remote art centres, universities and galleries at regional and national levels. Rebecca is currently Curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collections and Exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney.

For more information and to enter the art award, visit [lismoregallery.org/koori-mail-indigenous-art-award](http://lismoregallery.org/koori-mail-indigenous-art-award)

### 49th Katherine Prize Artist call-out



ENTRIES are now open for the longest running visual art award in the Northern Territory, the 49th Katherine Prize, which returns to

Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts & Culture Centre, Friday, November 1.

The prize is open to Northern Territory residents and artworks must relate to the NT, in terms of concept, subject matter or materials.

There are three awards: Julie and Geoffrey Newton Major Award (\$5,000)

Katherine Town Council Award (\$2,000)

People's Choice Award (\$500)

Entry forms are available online at [gyracc.org.au/whats-on/](http://gyracc.org.au/whats-on/) and must be received by 5pm, Friday, October 4, 2024.

event listings

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**Bold, Brilliant, Beguiling**  
An exhibition introducing emerging artist Isaac Lane, supported by established First Nations artists Bugai Whyoulter, Katjarra Butler, and Janice Stanley  
**when:** until Sep 15  
**where:** Artitja Fine Art Gallery, Terrace Greenhouse, South Fremantle  
**info/bookings:** artitja.com.au/latest-exhibition/

**Sonya Edney – Burringurrah Dreaming** (exhibition)  
**when:** until Sep 30  
**where:** Gallery 1, Japingka Aboriginal Art Gallery, Fremantle  
**info/bookings:** japingkaaboriginalart.com/exhibitions/

**The Indian Ocean Craft Triennial**  
Exhibition of international craft artists and groups from six Indian Ocean countries  
**when:** until Oct 27  
**where:** Fremantle Arts Centre  
**info/bookings:** free entry, visit fac.org.au/whats-on/post/iota24-indian-ocean-craft-triennial/

**Pila Nguru: Art and Song from the Spinifex People** (exhibition)  
**when:** until Nov 10  
**where:** Museum of Geraldton, Batavia Coast Marina, Geraldton  
**info/bookings:** free entry, for more visit.museum.wa.gov.au/geraldton

**The Lester Prize** (exhibition)  
**when:** until Oct 27  
**where:** WA Museum Boola Bardip, Perth  
**info/bookings:** visit.museum.wa.gov.au/boolabardip

**Ensemble Q and William Barton** (concert)  
**when:** Sep 30  
**where:** Perth Concert Hall, Whadjuk Noongar  
**info/bookings:** musicaviva.com.au/concert-season/2024/ensemble-q-william-barton/

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**Belonging: Stories from Far North Queensland** (exhibition)  
**when:** until Mar, 2025  
**where:** National Museum of Australia, Acton Peninsula, Canberra  
**info/bookings:** nma.gov.au/exhibitions/belonging

**Ever Present: First Peoples Art of Australia** (exhibition)  
**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/

Namatjira shows *King Dingo*



Showing at Ames Yavuz's Commonwealth Street gallery, Namatjira's new series, *King Dingo*, depicting a dingo dressed in royal regalia, is imbued with the artist's signature biting and irreverent wit, presenting subversive portraits that are an unapologetic celebration of Aboriginal leadership. The series is influenced by Namatjira's ongoing research and engagement with his great-grandfather Albert Namatjira's work as well as his own recent plein air painting expeditions on Country. "These new paintings are about a reversal of colonial power and ownership. King Dingo represents Aboriginal strength, pride and resilience, and respect for Country, culture, and Indigenous leadership past and present. Long live the king!" Namatjira said. Namatjira also presents a video work adapted from his recent façade commission projected onto the National Gallery of Australia, which illuminated the building's exterior during the 2024 Enlighten Festival. Titled *Indigenous All Stars*, this work highlights Namatjira's Indigenous heroes and brings to life through animation great historical and contemporary leaders, including Eddie Koiki Mabo, Vincent Lingiari, Albert Namatjira, Adam Goodes, Cathy Freeman, Nicky Winmar, and the Tjilpi (senior men and Elders) from his community. This work is accompanied by an original score created in collaboration with Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara guitarist-composer Jeremy Whiskey, also from Indulkana.



**Vincent Namatjira: King Dingo**  
**when:** until Oct 5  
**where:** Ames Yavuz Gallery 114 Commonwealth Street  
**info:** amesyavuz.com/exhibitions/king-dingo/

**Ensemble Q and William Barton**  
**when:** Oct 5  
**where:** Llewellyn Hall, School of Music Australian National University, Canberra, Ngunnawal Country  
**info/bookings:** musicaviva.com.au/concert-season/2024/ensemble-q-william-barton/

QUEENSLAND

**Bloodlines** (exhibition)  
**when:** until Sep 20  
**where:** Judith Wright Art Centre, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane  
**info/bookings:** arts.qld.gov.au/judith-wright-centre-brisbane/whats-on

**The Dream Weaver: Guardians of Grace**  
Designs of Grace Lillian Lee presented by Brisbane Festival and Brisbane Powerhouse  
**when:** Aug 30 - Sep 21  
**where:** Stores Studio, Brisbane Powerhouse, New Farm  
**info/bookings:** brisbanefestival.com.au/whats-on/2024/dream-weaver

**Dear Brother**  
**when:** Sept 7-28  
**where:** Bille Brown Theatre, (Queensland Theatre), South Brisbane  
**info/bookings:** Tickets to some sessions selling fast. Check the website. queenslandtheatre.com.au/plays/dear-brother

**skeletons by Judy Watson**  
**when:** Sep 13 - Oct 27  
**where:** Umbrella Studio of Contemporary Arts, Gurambilbarra / Townsville  
**info/bookings:** umbrella.org.au/skeletons

**Big Name, No Blankets**  
Ilbijerri Theatre  
**when:** Sep 20-21  
**where:** Concert Hall,

Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC), Brisbane  
**info/bookings:** qpac.com.au/whats-on

**Dusk of Nations** (exhibition)  
**when:** until Dec 14  
**where:** Level 3, University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane  
**info/bookings:** art-museum.uq.edu.au/dusk-nations

**Baker Boy at Dream Aloud** (music festival)  
**when:** Sat, Oct 5, from 1.30pm - 10pm  
**where:** Munro Martin Parklands, Cairns  
**info/bookings:** tickets available now at bakerboyofficial.com/

VICTORIA

**Thelma Plum (Triple J's One Night Stand 2024)**  
**when:** Sep 14  
**where:** Friendly Societies Park, Hyland St, Warrnambool  
**info/bookings:** thelmaplum.com/shows

**Spirit of the Animals** (exhibition)  
**when:** until Nov 24  
**where:** Koorie Heritage Trust KHT, Birrarung Building, Fed Square  
**info/bookings:** kht.org.au/whats-on/#exhibitions

**Touring Exhibition: Layers of Blak** (contemporary jewellery)  
**when:** Sep 14 - Dec 8  
**where:** Bendigo Art Gallery  
**info/bookings:** koorieheritagetrust.com.au/hats-on/exhibitions/layers-of-blak/

**Ensemble Q and William Barton**  
**when:** Oct 8  
**where:** Elisabeth Murdoch

Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre, Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung Country  
**info/bookings:** musicaviva.com.au/concert-season/2024/ensemble-q-william-barton/

**Karen Casey: Let's Shake** (exhibition)  
**when:** until November 24  
**where:** Birrarung Building, Fed Square  
**info/bookings:** kht.org.au/whats-on/exhibitions/karen-casey/

**Baker Boy headlining Blaktivism**  
**when:** Nov 22  
**where:** Hamer Hall, Southbank, Melbourne  
**info/bookings:** bakerboyofficial.com/

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**Ensemble Q and William Barton**  
**when:** Oct 3  
**where:** Adelaide Town Hall, Karna Country  
**info/bookings:** musicaviva.com.au/concert-season/2024/ensemble-q-william-barton/

**OUR MOB/OUR YOUNG MOB** (exhibition)  
**when:** until Oct 12  
**where:** The Galleries Adelaide Festival Centre  
**info/bookings:** adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/

**Who Are We?** Iteka Ukarla Sanderson-Bromley & Temaana Yundu Sanderson-Bromley in collaboration with First Nations secondary students  
**when:** until Oct 12  
**where:** Adelaide Festival Centre  
**info/bookings:** adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/whats-on/who-are-we

**Binygurr Wirrpanda** (exhibition)

**when:** Sep 12 - Oct 5  
**where:** Hugo Michell Gallery, Beulah Park, Karna Land  
**info/bookings:** hugomichellgallery.com/

NORTHERN TERRITORY

**National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards 2024 (NATSIAAs)**  
**when:** until Jan 27, 2025  
**where:** Museum and Art Gallery of NT (MAGNT)  
**info/bookings:** magnt.net.au/natsiaa-finalists

**Desert Song Festival**  
**when:** Sep 17-22  
**where:** various venues in Alice Springs  
**info/bookings:** desertsong.com.au/

NEW SOUTH WALES

**Mia Boe: The Aboriginal Robot** (exhibition)  
**when:** until Sep 14  
**where:** Roslyn Oxley Gallery, Paddington, Sydney  
**info/bookings:** roslynoxley9.com.au/exhibitions

**Bulgul Artists** (exhibition)  
**when:** Sep 14 - Oct 13  
**where:** Kate Owen Gallery, Rozelle, Sydney  
**info/bookings:** kateowengallery.com/shows/showlist.htm

**Shoalhaven First Nations Film Festival**  
**when:** Sep 20  
**where:** Huskisson Pictures, Huskisson  
**info/bookings:** shoalhaven.com/event/shoalhaven-first-nations-film-festival/

**Saltwater Freshwater Arts Exhibition 2023** (touring exhibition)  
**when:** until Sep 22  
**where:** Nulla Nulla Gallery, Kempsey  
**info/bookings:** visit

saltwaterfreshwater.com.au/ and follow links in drop-down menu to 'Art award and exhibition.'  
**Inspire** (exhibition)  
**when:** until Oct 5  
**where:** Boomalli, Leichhardt, Sydney.  
**info/bookings:** boomalli.com.au/

**Barbara McGrady Ngiyaningy Maran Yaliwaunga Ngaara-li (Our Ancestors Are Always Watching)** (photography)  
**when:** until Oct 13  
**where:** Campbelltown Arts Centre  
**info/bookings:** c-a-c.com.au/

**Primavera: Young Australian Artists**  
**when:** until Jan 27 2025  
**where:** MCA, the Rocks, Gadigal Country/Sydney  
**info/bookings:** mca.com.au/exhibitions/primavera-2024-young-australian-artists/

**Ensemble Q & William Barton**  
**when:** Oct 7  
**where:** Sydney City Recital Hall, Gadigal Country and

**when:** Oct 10  
**where:** Newcastle City Hall, Awabakal and Worimi Country  
**info/bookings:** musicaviva.com.au/concert-season/2024/ensemble-q-william-barton/

**Waru – journey of the small turtle**  
Bangarra dance  
**when:** Oct 9-10  
**where:** Sydney Opera House, Gadigal Country  
**info/bookings:** bangarra.com.au

**DanceRites**  
**when:** Oct 10 - 20  
**where:** Sydney Opera House Forecourt  
**info/bookings:** sydneyoperahouse.com/dancerites

**Electric Fields with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra**  
**when:** Sat, Oct 19, 7pm  
**where:** Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House  
**info/bookings:** tickets available now at tickets.sydneyphilharmonic.com/9688/9689

TASMANIA

**Artrage 2023**  
works by year 11 and 12 Tasmanian students  
**when:** until Sep 14  
**where:** Upper Gallery, Level 2, Devonport Regional Gallery, Devonport  
**info/bookings:** paranapleartscentre.com.au/events/artrage-2023/

**REX GREENO: Memories through Sea Stories**  
**when:** until Sep 14  
**where:** Devonport Regional Gallery, Devonport  
**info/bookings:** paranapleartscentre.com.au/

**2024 Women's Art Prize Tasmania**  
**when:** until Sep 22  
**where:** Devonport Regional Gallery, Devonport  
**info/bookings:** exhibition will show in Hobart, Oct-Nov. For more info visit womensartprizetas.com.au/

# Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT



On the beach Jason Gray, Tracy Gray, Spencer Brown and Lisa Little.

## Mud crabs on the menu



AFTER a lifetime of fishing, First Nations mud fisher Spencer Brown, who owns On-Country Seafood together with members of the Giangurra Aboriginal Community, has finally been able to get into the commercial mud-crab industry, thanks in part to a partnership with Longreach Maris, which helped him secure a quota.

Qantas Super and Longreach Maris also successfully supported an Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) grant funding application to purchase a new commercial fishing vessel for On-Country Seafood, which was delivered in May 2023.

Mr Brown said the initiative has played a critical role in getting

his mud-crab business going.

"I grew up learning to fish from Elders who would catch prawns and crabs to eat and to exchange for necessities, like flour and oil. Pretty soon I became interested in diving, and I worked on small pearl farms and catching aquarium fish. Moving to mud crab fishing seemed like a natural transition, but the upfront costs were huge."

Mr Brown said he was contacted by Longreach Maris, whose staff assisted him in applying for fishing permits and the ILSC grant.

"Without the partnership, we wouldn't have gotten anywhere because the up-front costs were so high," he said.

Now that On-Country Seafood is up and running, Mr Brown's goal is to employ other Aboriginal

people and ensure they can also access the industry.

"I went into this so I could break the cycle of unemployment in my community. A lot of people here have been unemployed for a very long time, but they can fish and they do fish every day, just not commercially. If we can employ them to do something they already do as part of their way of life, then it will lead to long-term self-determination," he said.

Qantas Super, a \$9 billion corporate fund, and Australian asset manager Longreach Maris partnered to support First Nations mud-crab fishers in North Queensland through their Longreach Maris' First Nations Fishing Initiative.

Qantas Super and Longreach Maris have also invested in

Individual Transferrable Quotas (ITQ), which provide a share of the fish catch or fishing effort allowed in a fishery to an individual fisher.

Qantas Super chief investment officer Andrew Spence said the fund's investment in ITQs, managed by Longreach Maris, will preferentially provide First Nations fishers with long-term and secure access to valuable fishing quota.

"We are committed to innovation regarding impact investing and are proud to be a founding member of the First Nations Fishing Initiative," Mr Spence said.

Longreach Maris chief investment officer Dr Andrew Rado said despite having a long cultural history of fishing, First Nations peoples had, for the most

part, been excluded from the wild-caught seafood industry due to limited access to fishing quota.

"The First Nations Fishing Initiative provides First Nations fishers the opportunity to participate in Australia's sustainable wild-caught seafood industry in a meaningful way," Dr Rado said.

In addition to mud-crab fishers in North Queensland, the First Nations Fishing Initiative is also supporting First Nations abalone divers in Tasmania.

Longreach Maris recently released its Reconciliation Action Plan to include more First Nations fishers into the wild-caught seafood industry, and in turn help contribute to key UN Sustainable Development Goals, Closing the Gap targets and National Fisheries Plan priorities.

## 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](mailto:advertising@koorimail.com) or see our website – [www.koorimail.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

Want to develop your career in community services?

## ABORIGINAL CHILD SPECIALIST ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICE CASE WORKER

We are recruiting for a skilled case worker to provide expert advice and case consultation to Child Protection about culturally appropriate intervention.



- Full time, 12 month contract position
- Supportive culture
- Innovative, growing organisation

Applicants must identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Person.

Applications close  
Tuesday 17 September 2024

More info:  
W: [njernda.com.au](http://njernda.com.au)  
E: [jobs@njernda.com](mailto:jobs@njernda.com)  
P: (03) 5481 0610

**Njernda**  
Aboriginal Corporation  
ECHUCA, VIC



## Lifeline

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## Alison Bush Memorial Trust Fund Scholarship



The Alison Bush Memorial Trust Fund Scholarship was established in 2010 in tribute to one of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital's longest serving and most influential midwives.

### About Alison Bush AO

Sister Bush, as she was affectionately known, died in October, 2010, at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, her workplace and second home since 1969.

In her role as an Aboriginal Liaison Midwife at RPA, Sister Bush worked as a 'cultural broker', helping to ensure Aboriginal women and babies were cared for in a culturally respectful, safe and secure way. Sister Bush provided expert input into policy and service delivery at a local, state and national level. During her career, Sister Bush delivered more than 1000 babies. In 1999, Sister Bush became an Officer of the Order of Australia, and in 2002 received the Centenary of Federation medal. One of her proudest achievements was becoming the first, and only, midwife and nurse to be made an honorary fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists.

### About the scholarship

The purpose of the scholarship is to provide opportunities through clinical placements in Sydney Local Health District for the purpose of updating knowledge and skills of clinicians providing or supporting maternity care.

Clinical placements will take place at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital's Women and Babies unit, a major tertiary referral centre serving the inner Sydney population as well as patients referred for specialty services from across the state.

RPA Women and Babies provide care for all women and their babies, including those with increased chances of complications during their pregnancy, birth or after birth. Services include antenatal, midwifery (including MGP, MAPS and Birth Centre) and postnatal services; Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Department of Obstetric Ultrasound and Fetal Medicine and a Fertility service.

RPA enjoys close links with Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service and provides shared obstetric care for their patients.

Observational placements of two to three weeks duration will be negotiated to provide either general experience or experience within a specialty service to build on areas of clinical interest. The scholarship will cover costs for travel, food and accommodation during the placement. Other financial support in the form of educational tools, texts and DVD resources or attendance at relevant professional conferences or short courses will also be considered, to the value of \$5,000.

### Eligibility

Applications are invited from medical and midwifery clinicians with an Aboriginal background as defined by the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 who are currently working in Aboriginal communities. This is an identified Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander opportunity.

Preference will be given to those working in communities greater than 200 kilometres from the nearest tertiary obstetric centre.

### Application process

Applications are now sought from interested clinicians who meet the scholarship criteria. Applications should include the application form and a covering note including details of the type of support required.

Applications close 30 November and 30 June each year. Placement timing to be negotiated.

### More information and applications to:

RPA Women and Babies  
**Jacinta Selby**  
Principal Midwifery Manager  
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital  
Missenden Road, Camperdown  
NSW 2050  
Phone: 02 9515 8356  
Email: [jacinta.selby@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jacinta.selby@health.nsw.gov.au)

SB19102



Sydney  
Local Health District

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Archives Cadet

- This is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identified position which is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised under section 14(d) of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977
- Part-time term contract position (21.75 hours per week up to 6 years)
- Salary: \$28,576 - \$41,670 a year plus superannuation (pro-rata)
- Location: inner-city

### Caring for our city, creating a future for all

Our people are passionate about their communities and connected to their teams. They're motivated by our genuine commitment to diversity and inclusion, and our clear, compelling plan for our global city: Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision.

Be part of a purpose-led organisation, with care at its core. You'll make a difference by acting in the best interests of our communities and city. Be better together with collaborative and inclusive partnerships. Embrace possibilities and be open to new ideas and creating bold solutions.

The archives team is looking for a passionate and committed cadet to join the team for up to 6 years. Our archives date from 1842.

You'll work part-time while being supported to complete a university qualification in information management (archives or library management) or a related discipline (data management, museums management). We'll fund the university qualification. Conditions apply.

In the role, you'll identify, label and review archives by or about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures and histories. Speaking with determination about acquiring and managing material, you'll help foster self-determination, ensure appropriate access and meet community and cultural protocols.

This could be your next role if you:

- want to work in a supportive organisation with a strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employee network
- have a passion for history and supporting and respecting the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- have an interest in managing archives by or about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- would like to obtain a university qualification in information management or a related discipline
- enjoy working in a busy team where every day brings new challenges and learning opportunities
- have sound technical skills, including the use of Microsoft Word and Excel
- pay strong attention to detail and are a skilled organiser.

For further information contact: Janet Villata, City Archivist, Data and Information Management Services on 02 9265 9525.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates who need support with their application can contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce team on 0474 882 300 or by email at [Aboriginalworkforce@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Aboriginalworkforce@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au).

To apply visit  
[cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/careers](http://cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/careers)

**CITY OF SYDNEY**

Apply online  
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### Fulham Correctional Centre

Fulham Correctional Centre is part of The GEO Group Australia Pty Ltd (GEO). GEO is the leading provider of privately managed correctional services in NSW and Victoria.

The **Aboriginal Wellbeing Officer (AWO)** is responsible for the provision of pre and post-release services that support and promote health, wellbeing, traditional needs and 'healing' of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners, their families and the broader Aboriginal community.

The AWO also provides individual support to Aboriginal prisoners at times of crisis, provides education in relation to cultural heritage and identity, and support prisoners with issues related to family reconnection and community reintegration.

The AWO will identify as an Aboriginal Australian and ideally have a background in social work, welfare or community services.

For any enquiries, please contact the Human Resources Team on (03) 5142 3830 or via email FulhamHR@geogroup.com.au

Applicants must apply via the below website.

**Applications close:** Midnight, Tuesday 1st October 2024

To apply, visit us via our careers website  
[www.geogroup.com.au](http://www.geogroup.com.au)  
 Equal Opportunity Employer



#### About Us

Mornington Peninsula Shire is Victoria's destination municipality, characterised by unique townships, highly productive agriculture, world renowned landscapes, tourist regions, and areas of national and international conservation significance within a vital Green Wedge. The Shire is responsible for a broad range of infrastructure and community services that support the wellbeing and prosperity of our diverse community. With approximately 900 employees, it is a busy and vibrant workplace.

#### What's on Offer

This is an *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Identified Position*, classified under 'special measures' of section 12 of the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*. Only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are eligible to apply.

- \* Work Life Balance –We offer a hybrid working model, flexible working arrangements and generous leave provisions including cultural leave.
- \* Culture – We recognise the significant responsibility to enable self-determination, be accountable to Traditional Owners and provide opportunities to strengthen First Peoples' connection to Country and we are committed to creating a culturally safe environment, where individuals feel safe, valued, and able to celebrate their culture, and spiritual and belief systems.
- \* Leadership – Contribute to the strategic outcomes delivered by Mornington Peninsula Shire with an organisation who focuses on our people and the community.
- \* Opportunity – Temporary role from 20th September 2024 – 31st May 2025. Full time with ability to negotiate workdays, flexible working conditions, working across the Mornington Peninsula Shire. Band 6A - \$94,764.83 per annum (excl. super).

#### About the Role

As the Reconciliation Inclusion Officer, you will strategically coordinate and embed a whole of council and community approach to Reconciliation and self-determination on the Mornington Peninsula, supporting a shared vision, understanding and ownership of actions.

This is a key role in the Community Inclusion Team that will provide support across the organisation to implement and embed Council's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). As well as actively build, maintain, and support strong, trusted, consultative, collaborative, and sustainable working relationships with Traditional Owners, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community members, community organisations and community members in progressing Reconciliation on the Peninsula.

Reporting to the Team Leader Community Inclusion the core responsibilities include:

- Embed Council's RAP, ensuring a whole of council and community approach to its implementation.
- Convene and coordinate the Reconciliation Advisory Committee and its internal working group responsible for the development, implementation, and monitoring of the RAP.
- Develop and maintain strong, consultative, collaborative, and sustainable relationships between Council, the Bunurong Land Council, and Indigenous residents.
- Provide strategic advice on issues related to Reconciliation, and commitments, opportunities, and challenges for the First Nations community more broadly

#### About You

This is an *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Identified Position*, classified under 'special measures' of section 12 of the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*. Only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are eligible to apply.

- Experience working with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people and developing an organisation-wide Reconciliation Action Plan or relevant community projects.
- Experience leading community consultation.
- Competency and understanding of Aboriginal community engagement and cultural protocols.
- Knowledge and understanding of the current policy environment influencing and impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

#### How to Apply

If this role sounds like you, click 'Apply'.

The Mornington Peninsula Shire is committed to creating a diverse and safe environment. We are proud to be an equal opportunity and Child Safe employer. We encourage applications from First Nations people, culturally and linguistically diverse people, people with disabilities, neurodiverse people, and people of all genders, sexualities, and age groups.

Mornington Peninsula Shire undertakes a variety of employment screening checks. This includes employment references, Working with Children Checks and National Police Checks.

Applicants must have valid Australian work rights.

For further information about the role, you can download the Position Description and apply via our website [www.morpen.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Careers-Volunteering/Current-Vacancies](http://www.morpen.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Careers-Volunteering/Current-Vacancies).

For a confidential discussion about this opportunity, please contact: Liz Orlov, Team Leader Community Inclusion, 03 5950 3345

**Applications Close: 6pm, Friday 20 September 2024.**



### Grade 3 Speech Pathologist – Adults

Goulburn Valley Health, Shepparton, VIC

Relocation Incentives up to \$11,500

Permanent Part Time

32 hours per fortnight

**Closing date: 01/10/2024**

Reference: 1264

Contact: Sam Heriz 03 5832 3750

Apply online through GV Health's Careers page!

#### About the Company

First Languages Australia (FLA) is the national peak body focused on strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. We connect language communities nationwide, providing resources, skills, and knowledge to help preserve and revive their languages. Our goal is a future where these communities have full control over their languages and can use them according to their preference.

FLA is at an exciting stage, preparing a plan to strengthen the First Nations languages sector. Over the next two years, FLA will be consulting with communities across Australia to help shape the legislative framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

FLA are currently recruiting for two roles to help achieve this plan. Both positions are a fixed-term contract for 2 years and offers the opportunity to contribute to a pivotal initiative that will shape the future of First Nations languages across Australia.



#### Administration Officer

The Administration Officer will play a key role in coordinating nationwide consultations, meetings and workshops, managing logistics, and communicating with stakeholders. This role requires proactive engagement with communities and meticulous planning to ensure the success of these consultations as well as regular interstate travel.

#### Legislation Policy Advisor

As part of the same initiative, the Legislation Policy Advisor will be critical in shaping the legislative framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. This role involves engaging with communities, researching existing policies, and drafting strategic recommendations to influence future legislative measures based on the feedback received from the consultations and workshops. The position requires regular interstate travel, providing a unique opportunity to contribute to the future of First Nations languages.

#### Apply now

If you're excited about either of these roles, apply now with your cover letter and resume. For inquiries, contact FLA's HR Partner, Amy Smith, at 0431 569 933 or [amy.smith@effectivehr.com.au](mailto:amy.smith@effectivehr.com.au) or visit <https://www.firstlanguages.org.au/>.

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#### Heritage Council of NSW

##### Heritage Act 1977

##### Notice of intention to consider listing on the State Heritage Register

The Heritage Council of NSW maintains the State Heritage Register which is a list of places of particular importance to the people of NSW, including Aboriginal and other heritage.

The Heritage Council is currently considering whether or not to recommend the listing of the following place on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgment of its heritage significance.

##### Lansdowne, Goulburn (Amendment)

Written submissions on this listing are invited from any interested person by 10 November 2024. Enquiries to Dr Damian Tybussek on 0488 188 527.

The Heritage Council is interested in receiving information in writing, by email, telephone or in person from the Aboriginal community or Aboriginal organisations on the potential Aboriginal significance of this place.

**See more details about the nominated place at:** [environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/request-a-heritage-listing/nominate-an-item-for-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/comment-on-nominations](http://environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/request-a-heritage-listing/nominate-an-item-for-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/comment-on-nominations)

**Make your submission at:** [nsw.gov.au/have-your-say](http://nsw.gov.au/have-your-say)

or direct your submission to:  
 Heritage Council of NSW  
 Locked Bag 5020  
 Parramatta NSW 2124

#### 301 and 301b Samantha Riley Dr, Kellyville – ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT INVITATION TO REGISTER AN INTEREST

Artefact Heritage, on behalf of Level 33 (the proponent), is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHAR) of the property known as 301 and 301b Samantha Riley Drive, Kellyville NSW. The proposal includes the construction of two basement car parks. Artefact Heritage have been engaged to prepare an ACHAR to support an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application for the proposal.

The contact details for the proponent are:  
 Claudine Malanum  
 Assistant Development Officer  
[Level33.claudine@level33.com.au](mailto:Level33.claudine@level33.com.au)

The study area is located within The Hills Shire Local Government Area (LGA) and boundaries of Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) and comprises of Lot 3 / DP 1253073 and Lot 4 / DP 1253073. We are inviting registrations of interest in the project from Aboriginal groups and individuals who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the locality of the project.

Please note that the consultation guidelines require us to provide details of Registered Aboriginal Parties to Heritage NSW and the Deerubbin LALC. In your response could you please advise if you would not like your details to be provided.

Please register your interest in the project by end of day on 18 September 2024 by contacting:

Aboriginal Heritage Consultation  
 Artefact Heritage  
 Suite 56, Jones Bay Wharf, 26-32 Pirrama Road, Pyrmont NSW 2009  
[consultation@artefact.net.au](mailto:consultation@artefact.net.au)



## NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service is hiring!

- Senior Project Officer Aboriginal Identified, Clerk Grade 9/10
- Ongoing full-time role, located in Sydney (Paramatta) or regional location

**Primary Purpose of the role:** Join a supportive and high-performing team as a Senior Project Officer working closely with NPWS Senior Executives, where you will be able to make a difference to the organisational culture. You will have a particular role in actively supporting the well-being and professional development of NPWS Aboriginal workforce. You are a confident and highly skilled communicator who can design and deliver innovative projects that will continue to advance cultural competency of staff and establish mechanisms supporting cultural safety across a large, diverse and geographically dispersed organisation. You have the ability to identify and mitigate risks to successfully meet the team's strategic goals, and you are adaptable and flexible in managing competing priorities in a demanding and complex work environment. We offer flexibility in work arrangements, diverse and fulfilling assignments, and prioritise work/life balance and wellbeing with initiatives like flex leave and access to support programs.

**Total Remuneration packages:** Salary relative to experience (\$120,859 to \$133,183) plus superannuation and annual leave loading.

**Applications Close: 18 September 2024 at 11:55pm**

**Enquiries:** Alex Lassalle 0474 975 399 or via alex.lassalle@environment.nsw.gov.au.

To apply, please visit [iworkfor.nsw.gov.au](http://iworkfor.nsw.gov.au) and search reference number **538157**



## Heritage Council of NSW

### Heritage Act 1977

#### Notice of intention to consider listing on the State Heritage Register

The Heritage Council of NSW is considering whether to recommend the precinct below for listing on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgment of its heritage significance.

#### Berrys Bay Precinct (Carradah Park), Waverton

Written submissions on this listing are invited from any interested person by close of business 6 November 2024. Enquiries to Stuart Read on (02) 9873 8500.

**See more details about the nominated place at:** [environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/request-a-heritage-listing/nominate-an-item-for-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/comment-on-nominations](http://environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/request-a-heritage-listing/nominate-an-item-for-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/comment-on-nominations)

**Make your submission at:** [haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/berrysbay](http://haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/berrysbay)

or direct your submission to:  
Heritage Council of NSW  
Locked Bag 5020  
Parramatta NSW 2124



## Heritage Council of NSW

### Heritage Act 1977

#### Notice of intention to consider listing on the State Heritage Register

The Heritage Council of NSW maintains the State Heritage Register which is a list of places of particular importance to the people of NSW, including Aboriginal and other heritage.

The Heritage Council is currently considering whether or not to recommend the listing of the following place on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgment of its heritage significance.

#### Lansdowne, Goulburn (Amendment)

Written submissions on this listing are invited from any interested person by 10 November 2024. Enquiries to Dr Damian Tybussek on 0488 188 527.

The Heritage Council is interested in receiving information in writing, by email, telephone or in person from the Aboriginal community or Aboriginal organisations on the potential Aboriginal significance of this place.

**See more details about the nominated place at:** [environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/request-a-heritage-listing/nominate-an-item-for-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/comment-on-nominations](http://environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/request-a-heritage-listing/nominate-an-item-for-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/comment-on-nominations)

**Make your submission at:** [nsw.gov.au/have-your-say](http://nsw.gov.au/have-your-say)

or direct your submission to:  
Heritage Council of NSW  
Locked Bag 5020  
Parramatta NSW 2124



## 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	15/2097	CHALCO RESOURCES PTY LTD	21BL	74.6km SW'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 43' S: Long: 121° 9' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	26/263	ENRIZEN CAPITAL PTY LTD	4BL	26.7km N'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 121° 41' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	28/3467	CHALWELL PROSPECTING PTY LTD	38BL	73.1km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 39' S: Long: 122° 13' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	29/1279	IDA HOLMES PTY LTD	32BL	71.7km W'ly of Leonora	Lat: 28° 53' S: Long: 120° 35' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2232	CRAWFORD, Jackson	3BL	42.2km SE'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 25° 48' S: Long: 119° 6' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2239	BROWN, Lachlan James	1BL	86.8km W'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 26° 49' S: Long: 119° 23' E	WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	52/4364	STANIFER PTY LTD	6BL	117.6km E'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 25° 24' S: Long: 119° 52' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	63/2481	RIO TINTO EXPLORATION PTY LIMITED	70BL	101km W'ly of Norseman	Lat: 32° 5' S: Long: 120° 42' E	DUNDAS SHIRE
Exploration Licence	74/813	JUPITER METALS GROUP PTY LTD	19BL	89km N'ly of Ravensthorpe	Lat: 32° 46' S: Long: 120° 0' E	DUNDAS SHIRE, KONDININ SHIRE, LAKE GRACE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3000	AURUMIN MT DIMER PTY LTD	27BL	102.5km NE'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 29' S: Long: 119° 57' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3178	FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD	1BL	35.8km S'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 46' S: Long: 119° 36' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3228	FLEET STREET HOLDINGS PTY LTD	18BL	76.5km NE'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat: 30° 29' S: Long: 118° 50' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3229	DUKETON MINING LIMITED	20BL	129.4km E'ly of Paynes Find	Lat: 29° 13' S: Long: 119° 0' E	MENZIES SHIRE, SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	80/6065	HJH RESOURCES PTY LTD	127BL	107.7km S'ly of Wyndham	Lat: 16° 25' S: Long: 127° 50' E	WYNDHAM-EAST KIMBERLEY SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6883-S	DAHDAI, Fadi	9.30HA	14.7km SW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 2' S: Long: 121° 3' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3457	LITTLE RIPPER GOLD INC	187.78HA	21.4km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 32' S: Long: 120° 58' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3458	LITTLE RIPPER GOLD INC	152.07HA	21.3km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 32' S: Long: 120° 58' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3462	STEWART, Sharon Eileen	9.72HA	34.4km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 38' S: Long: 120° 54' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5757	PANZICH, Adin Kim	9.11HA	10.8km SE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 31' S: Long: 121° 24' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5761	FRIELING, Ronald	79.48HA	14km NW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 17' S: Long: 120° 56' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5762	FRIELING, Ronald	159.97HA	12.9km W'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 24' S: Long: 121° 11' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5763	FRIELING, Ronald	117.26HA	12.7km W'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 27' S: Long: 121° 11' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2819	HOOPER, William Raymond	7.95HA	45.3km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 1' S: Long: 122° 5' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2821	MCKAY, Glenn Michael	9.98HA	36.4km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 55' S: Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2824	COMPLETE PROSPECTING PTY LTD	139.07HA	37km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 55' S: Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2826	BONNEY, Derek Neil	111.03HA	34.4km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 3' S: Long: 121° 59' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY

**Nature of the act:** Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of Special Prospecting Licences, which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term up to 4 years from the date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.

#### Notification day: 11 September 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 **11 December 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. **11 January 2025**), 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 km<sup>2</sup>

DMIRS 23046



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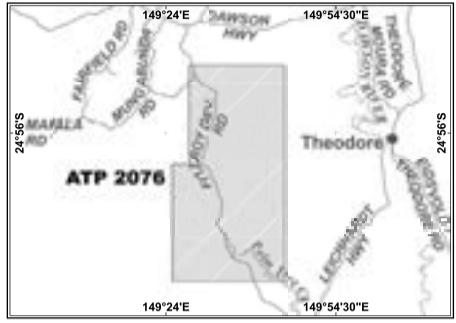


# NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF AN AUTHORITY TO PROSPECT

## NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Resources, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed grant of an Authority to Prospect (ATP) shown below under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* (Qld).

ATP 2076 applied for by Tri-Star Stonecroft Pty Ltd ACN 109 391 415, over an area of 652 Sub-blocks (2024 km<sup>2</sup>), approx. 50 km west of Theodore, in the localities of Banana Shire Council and Central Highlands Regional Council.



**Nature of Act(s):** The grant of an Authority to Prospect under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* (Qld) authorises the holder to explore for petroleum for a maximum term not exceeding six (6) years with the possibility of renewals for terms not exceeding six (6) years. Under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* (Qld) a holder of an Authority to Prospect may apply for a Petroleum Lease over land that is the subject of the Authority to Prospect. A Petroleum Lease entitles the holder to undertake regulated activities in order to develop and produce commercial quantities of petroleum.

**Name and address of person doing Act(s):** It is proposed that the Authority to Prospect be granted under *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* (Qld) by the Minister for Resources and Critical Mineral, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

**Native Title Parties:** Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) any person who is a "native title party" is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed grant of an Authority to Prospect. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act*

1993 (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after the Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: 1300 720 980 or Email: [nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au](mailto:nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au). Enquiries in relation to the registration of a native title determination application may be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Brisbane Registry, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

**Further Information:** May be obtained from the Department of Resources, Petroleum Assessment Hub, Level 4, 1 William Street, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3199 8119 or Email: [petroleumhub@resources.qld.gov.au](mailto:petroleumhub@resources.qld.gov.au).

**Notification Day: 25 September 2024**

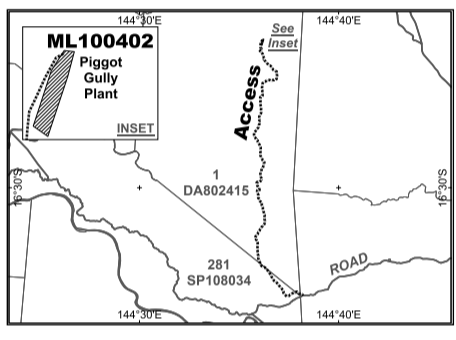


# NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF A MINING LEASE

## NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed grant of Mining Lease (ML) shown below, subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

ML 100402 applied for by Dennis Ronald Fitzgerald, over an area of 5.81 ha, centred approximately 111 kms North West of Mareeba, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.



**Nature of Act(s):** The grant of a Mining Lease under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) authorises the holder to mine and carry out associated activities subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) for a term not exceeding ten (10) years, with the possibility of renewals for terms not exceeding ten (10) years. The grant of the Mining Lease includes the granting of access as shown.

**Name and address of person doing acts:** It is proposed that the Mining Lease be granted subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) by the Queensland Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

**Native Title Parties:** Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) any person who is a "native title party" is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed grant of the Mining Lease. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after the Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title

determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: 1300 720 980 or Email: [nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au](mailto:nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au). Enquiries in relation to the registration of a native title determination application may be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Brisbane Registry, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

**Further Information:** May be obtained from the Department of Resources, Mineral Assessment Hub, Level 9, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders Street, Townsville, Qld, 4810. Telephone: (07) 4447 9230 or Email: [MineralHub@resources.qld.gov.au](mailto:MineralHub@resources.qld.gov.au).

**Notification Day: 25 September 2024**

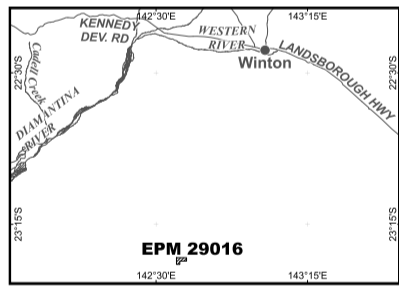


# NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION PERMIT FOR MINERALS AND MINING CLAIM

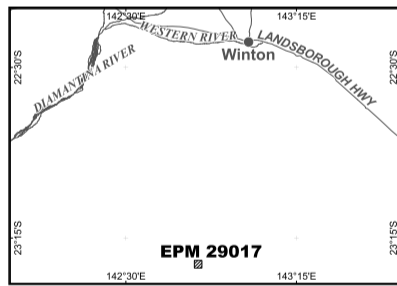
## NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals (EPM) and Mining Claim (MC) shown below, subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

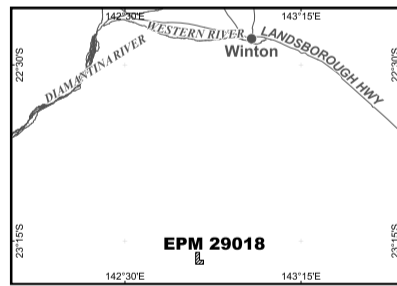
EPM 29016 applied for by Michelle Valerie Morris, over an area of 4 sub-blocks (13 km<sup>2</sup>), centred approximately 124 km south southwest of Winton, in the locality of Winton Shire Council.



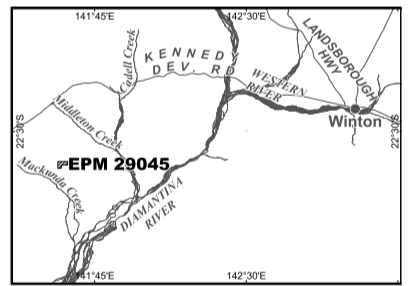
EPM 29017 applied for by Michelle Valerie Morris, over an area of 4 sub-blocks (13 km<sup>2</sup>), centred approximately 110 km south southwest of Winton, in the locality of Winton Shire Council.



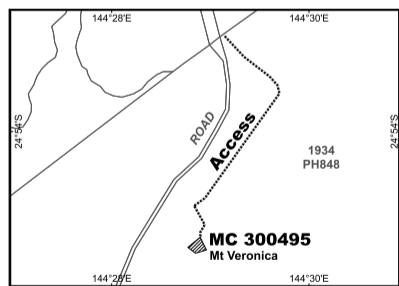
EPM 29018 applied for by Travis Philip De Santi Jackson, over an area of 4 sub-blocks (13 km<sup>2</sup>), centred approximately 106 km south southwest of Winton, in the locality of Winton Shire Council.



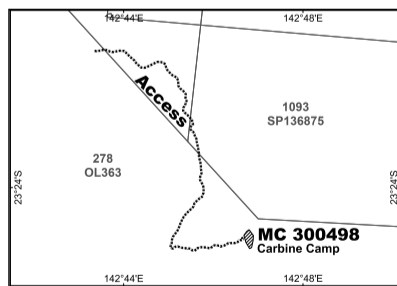
EPM 29045 applied for by Australian Indigenous Security Service Pty Ltd, ACN 122 200 622, over an area of 4 sub-blocks (13 km<sup>2</sup>), centred approximately 152 km west southwest of Winton, in the locality of Winton Shire Council.



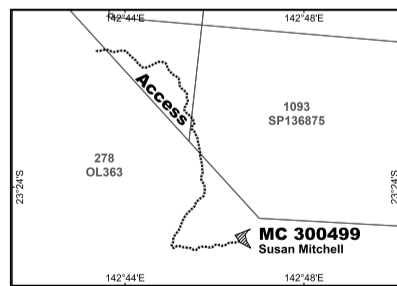
MC 300495 applied for by Raymond Michael Bauer over an area of 4.95 ha, centred approximately 73 km south of Isisford, in the locality of Longreach Regional Council.



MC 300498 applied for by Martin Gerard Mitchell, over an area of 17.68 ha, centred approximately 117 km south southwest of Winton, in the locality of Winton Shire Council.



MC 300499 applied for by Susan Jane Mitchell, over an area of 17.32 ha, centred approximately 117 km south southwest of Winton, in the locality of Winton Shire Council.



**Nature of Act(s):** The grant of Exploration Permit for Minerals 29016, 29017, and 29018 under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) authorises the holder to explore for minerals subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) for a term not exceeding two (2) years with the possibility of renewal for a term not exceeding two (2) years. The grant of Exploration Permit for Minerals 29045 under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) authorises the holder to explore for minerals subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) for a term not exceeding five (5) years with the possibility of renewal for a term not exceeding five (5) years. The grant of a Mining Claim under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) authorises the holder to mine and carry out associated activities subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld), for a term not exceeding ten (10) years, with the possibility of renewals for a term not exceeding ten (10) years. The grant of the Mining Claim includes the granting of access as shown above.

**Name and Address of person doing Act(s):** It is proposed that the Exploration Permit for Minerals and Mining Claim be granted subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) by the Queensland Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

**Native Title Parties:** Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) any person who is a "native title party" is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals and

Mining Claim. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after the Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland 4000. Telephone: 1300 720 980 or Email: [nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au](mailto:nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au). Enquiries in relation to the registration of a native title determination application may be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Brisbane Registry, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland 4000, Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

**Further information:** May be obtained from the Department of Resources, Mining Registrar, Mineral Assessment Hub, Level 9, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders Street, Townsville, Queensland, 4810. Telephone: (07) 4447 9230 or Email: [MineralHub@resources.qld.gov.au](mailto:MineralHub@resources.qld.gov.au) or from the Mining Registrar, Small Scale Mining Hub, PO Box 275, Emerald, Queensland, 4720. Telephone: (07) 3078 3031 or Email: [SSMHub@resources.qld.gov.au](mailto:SSMHub@resources.qld.gov.au).

**Notification Day: 25 September 2024**





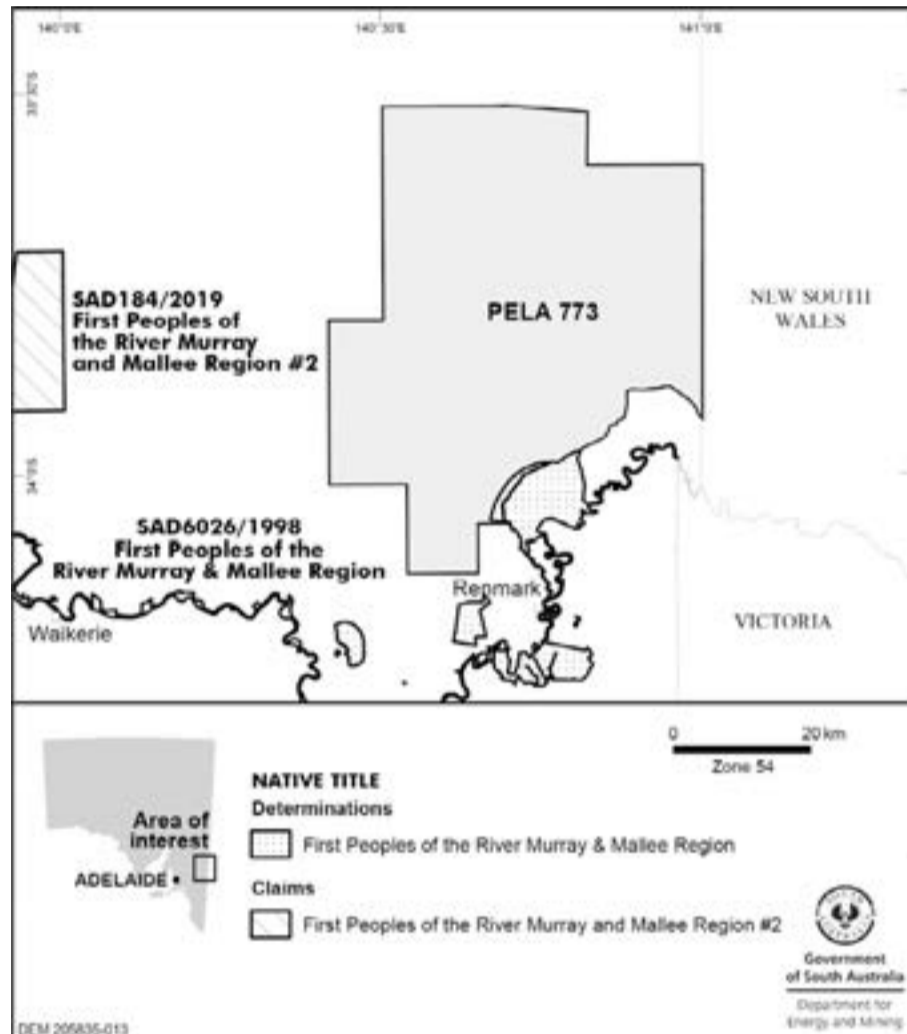
# Proposal to Grant Petroleum Exploration Licence

(Section 29)  
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (COMMONWEALTH)

The State of South Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Energy and Mining, C/- the Regulation and Compliance Division, Department for Energy and Mining, Level 4, 11 Waymouth Street, Adelaide SA 5000 has received the following Petroleum Exploration Licence application (PELA) under the *Energy Resources Act 2000*:

- Number:** PELA 773  
**Area:** 2,508 km<sup>2</sup> approx.  
**Applicant:** Achilles Energy Pty Ltd  
**Locality:** Coordinate descriptions for the application areas are available from the Department for Energy and Mining via the address below. GIS data is also available via the South Australian Resources Information Geoserver (SARIG) at: <https://sarig.pir.sa.gov.au/Map>

## PELA 773



### Nature of the acts:

The grant of a Petroleum Exploration Licence pursuant to the *Energy Resources Act 2000* authorises the applicant to explore for regulated substances for a term of five (5) years from notification of grant and a right of renewal for a further two (2) five (5) year terms. The *Energy Resources Act 2000* also provides a holder of an Exploration Licence with a right (subject to the *Energy Resources Act 2000*) to apply for a Production Licence where a discovery that warrants production is made. Production Licence rights include the right to undertake regulated activities under the *Energy Resources Act 2000* to enable regulated substances to be produced, processed, transported and marketed. The act may also include the grant of appropriate Production, Retention or Associated Activities Licences emanating from the issued Exploration Licence pursuant to the *Energy Resources Act 2000* or any substituting legislation.

### Notification day:

13 September 2024

### Native title parties:

Under Section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, persons have until three (3) months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to the area covered by the Exploration Licence application.

The three (3) month period closes on 13 December 2024. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993*. Enquiries regarding becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 14, Commonwealth Law Courts, Queens Square, Sydney, NSW 2000, telephone: (02) 8099 8500. Any negotiations conducted in respect to the Exploration Licences will include matters relating to the conduct of any future production and associated infrastructure and facilities and the issue of the necessary licences or authorisations to undertake these activities (including associated exploration activities) under the *Energy Resources Act 2000*.

The Exploration Licence will be granted if, by the end of the period of four (4) months after the notification day (i.e. 13 January 2025) there is no native title party in relation to the area of the Exploration Licence.

For further information about the acts (including spatial data or plans of the PELA areas), contact the A/General Manager Energy Resources Licensing, Regulation and Compliance Division, Department for Energy and Mining, Level 4, 11 Waymouth Street, or email DEM.ERDLicensing@sa.gov.au



## Notice under Section 26C of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* Proposed Request for Commonwealth Minister to determine an approved opal or gem mining area

This notice is given in accordance with section 26C(5) of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*.

### Description of the nature of the act

The NSW Attorney General, as the State Minister for native title in NSW, is intending to make a request to the Commonwealth Attorney General, as the Commonwealth Minister for native title, to determine that the area described below within the White Cliffs Mineral Claims District is an approved opal or gem mining area under section 26C of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*.

If an approved opal or gem mining area determination is made under section 26C of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, the right to negotiate provisions under the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* will not apply to individual grants for exploring or prospecting, mining or puddling in respect of opals or gems, under the *Mining Act 1992 (NSW)* in the area.

In an approved opal or gem mining area, future grants to authorise exploring or prospecting, mining or puddling for opals or gems would be permitted for a period of no more than 5 years (and if a renewal is allowed, for a period of no longer than 5 years for each renewal), in an area:

- for mining or puddling for opal or gems, no larger than 5 hectares; or
- for exploration or prospecting for opals or gems no larger than 500 hectares.

### Description of area

The request applies to all areas where native title has been determined to exist, as described in *Barkandji Traditional Owners #8 (Part A) v Attorney-General of New South Wales [2015] FCA 604*, within the White Cliffs Mineral Claims District area (approximately 200 kilometres northeast of Broken Hill), being the land parcels described in the table on the following page. An indicative map also appears below.

### Submissions Invited

Submissions are invited about the intended request, in particular about the area covered by the request (as described above) and about processes for the identification and protection of any area or site within that area of particular significance to native title holders in accordance with their traditional laws and customs.

**Note:** All submissions received will be considered by the NSW Attorney General before a request is made to the Commonwealth Attorney General.

### How further information about the proposed request can be obtained

Further information may be obtained from: NSW Resources, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on (02) 4063 6600 or sent Attention: Jamie Tripodi Executive Director Assessment & Systems via [titles@regional.nsw.gov.au](mailto:titles@regional.nsw.gov.au).

### To make a submission

Submissions must be made in writing to the Native Title Legal team in the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure at [native.title@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:native.title@dpie.nsw.gov.au) by **11 October 2024**. No late submissions will be considered, unless agreed in writing prior to the due date for submissions.



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## Notice under Section 26C of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) Proposed Request for Commonwealth Minister to determine an approved opal or gem mining area (Land Parcels)

LOT NO	SECTION NO	DEPOSITED PLAN NO	LOT NO	SECTION NO	DEPOSITED PLAN NO	LOT NO	SECTION NO	DEPOSITED PLAN NO	LOT NO	SECTION NO	DEPOSITED PLAN NO	LOT NO	SECTION NO	DEPOSITED PLAN NO	LOT NO	SECTION NO	DEPOSITED PLAN NO
1		34992	188		757488	249		757488	5	6	759084	22		1297338	34		1297340
365		44260	189		757488	250		757488	6	1	759084	23		1297338	35		1297340
366		722942	190		757488	251		757488	6	6	759084	24		1297338	36		1297340
367		722942	191		757488	252		757488	7	1	759084	25		1297338	37		1297340
5275		722957	192		757488	253		757488	7	6	759084	26		1297338	38		1297340
5		757488	193		757488	254		757488	8	1	759084	27		1297338	1		1297342
17		757488	194		757488	255		757488	8	6	759084	28		1297338	2		1297342
20		757488	195		757488	256		757488	9	1	759084	29		1297338	3		1297342
36		757488	196		757488	257		757488	10	1	759084	30		1297338	4		1297342
37		757488	197		757488	258		757488	11	1	759084	31		1297338	5		1297342
38		757488	198		757488	259		757488	12	1	759084	32		1297338	6		1297342
39		757488	203		757488	260		757488	13	1	759084	33		1297338	7		1297342
50		757488	204		757488	261		757488	496		760224	34		1297338	8		1297342
52		757488	205		757488	262		757488	496		760225	35		1297338	9		1297342
67		757488	206		757488	263		757488	4420		766863	36		1297338	10		1297342
70		757488	208		757488	264		757488	1		914623	37		1297338	11		1297342
71		757488	210		757488	265		757488	1		914628	38		1297338	12		1297342
72		757488	211		757488	266		757488	6923		1027237	39		1297338	13		1297342
78		757488	213		757488	267		757488	7305		1177785	40		1297338	14		1297342
86		757488	214		757488	268		757488	7306		1177785	41		1297338	15		1297342
89		757488	215		757488	269		757488	7307		1178643	1		1297340	16		1297342
90		757488	216		757488	270		757488	7308		1178643	2		1297340	17		1297342
91		757488	217		757488	271		757488	7301		1178687	3		1297340	18		1297342
94		757488	218		757488	272		757488	7302		1178687	4		1297340	19		1297342
103		757488	219		757488	273		757488	7301		1178815	5		1297340	20		1297342
104		757488	220		757488	274		757488	7317		1181686	6		1297340	21		1297342
106		757488	221		757488	275		757488	1		1182315	7		1297340	22		1297342
107		757488	222		757488	276		757488	5		1182315	8		1297340	23		1297342
108		757488	223		757488	278		757488	6		1182315	9		1297340	24		1297342
122		757488	224		757488	279		757488	7		1182315	10		1297340	25		1297342
123		757488	225		757488	280		757488	8		1182315	11		1297340	26		1297342
131		757488	226		757488	281		757488	794		1219109	12		1297340	27		1297342
134		757488	227		757488	282		757488	1		1297338	13		1297340	28		1297342
135		757488	228		757488	283		757488	2		1297338	14		1297340	29		1297342
141		757488	229		757488	284		757488	3		1297338	15		1297340	30		1297342
146		757488	230		757488	285		757488	4		1297338	16		1297340	31		1297342
147		757488	231		757488	286		757488	5		1297338	17		1297340	32		1297342
153		757488	232		757488	287		757488	6		1297338	18		1297340	33		1297342
154		757488	233		757488	289		757488	7		1297338	19		1297340	34		1297342
155		757488	234		757488	293		757488	8		1297338	20		1297340	35		1297342
156		757488	235		757488	294		757488	9		1297338	21		1297340	36		1297342
157		757488	236		757488	296		757488	10		1297338	22		1297340	37		1297342
159		757488	237		757488	297		757488	11		1297338	23		1297340	38		1297342
160		757488	238		757488	298		757488	12		1297338	24		1297340	39		1297342
161		757488	239		757488	299		757488	13		1297338	25		1297340	40		1297342
165		757488	241		757488	300		757488	14		1297338	26		1297340	41		1297342
168		757488	242		757488	362		757488	15		1297338	27		1297340	42		1297342
171		757488	243		757488	1	5	759084	16		1297338	28		1297340	43		1297342
176		757488	244		757488	1	6	759084	17		1297338	29		1297340	44		1297342
177		757488	245		757488	2	1	759084	18		1297338	30		1297340			
182		757488	246		757488	2	6	759084	19		1297338	31		1297340			
183		757488	247		757488	3	6	759084	20		1297338	32		1297340			
186		757488	248		757488	4	6	759084	21		1297338	33		1297340			

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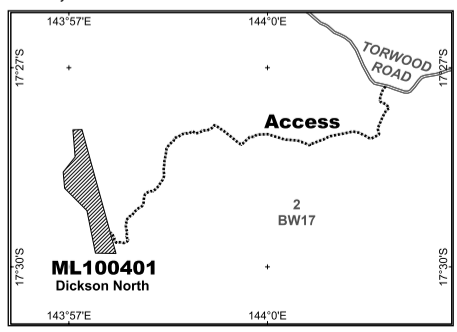


## NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF A MINING LEASE

### NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed grant of Mining Lease (ML) shown below under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

ML 100401 applied for by DRAGON METALS PTY LTD, ACN 143 929 579, over an area of 189.86 ha, centred approximately 70 km south-west of Chillagoe, in the locality of Mareeba Shire Council.



**Nature of Act(s):** The grant of a Mining Lease under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) authorises the holder to mine and carry out associated activities subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) for a term not exceeding fifteen (15) years, with the possibility of renewals for terms not exceeding fifteen (15) years.

**Name and address of person doing acts:** It is proposed that the Mining Lease be granted subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) by the Queensland Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

**Native Title Parties:** Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) any person who is a "native title party" is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed grant of Mining Lease. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after the Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane

Registry, Level 6, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: 1300 720 980 or Email: [nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au](mailto:nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au). Enquiries in relation to the registration of a native title determination application may be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Brisbane Registry, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

**Further Information:** May be obtained from the Department of Resources, Mineral Assessment Hub, Level 9, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders Street, Townsville, Qld, 4810. Telephone: (07) 4447 9230 or Email: [MineralHub@resources.qld.gov.au](mailto:MineralHub@resources.qld.gov.au).

**Notification Day: 18 September 2024**



# Badu's Mulga Tigers premiers

By DARREN MONCRIEFF



MULGA Tigers Rugby League Football Club executed what their coach called the "perfect gameplan" to effect a stunning victory over Suburbs 18-10 to win the 2024 Zenadth Kes Rugby League Island Rooster Cup premiership at Waiben-Thursdays Island recently.

In front of massive and colourful crowd of around 1200 people in blustery conditions at Ken Brown Memorial Oval, the men from Badu Island held their line, and nerve, to blunt Suburbs' potent attack, while working to counterpunch through the Rats' defence for four tries, and to take island club football's most coveted trophy back to Badu.

Mulga were the only team in the four-team ZKRL competition this year not from Waiben. They joined Suburbs, Roosters and Pioneer Knights in the first club-football competition in the Torres Strait after a four-year hiatus.

It was in the grand final where Mulga's Zengrey Nona stood taller than nearby Green Hill – the fortified outpost overlooking the islands and waters of the Straits – for the entire 80 minutes. He was rightly judged man-of-the-match.

"It's an unbelievable moment," Nona said, soaking up the enormity of it all immediately after the match.

"It's been a long seven years to come up with that win.

"It means a lot, not just to me, but for the



Mulga Tigers premiership-winning coach Robert Yorkston.

team, the community back home and the fans, near and far, and we're just thankful for the support.

"We just had to turn up for each other right through to that last moment.

"The crowd, not just from ours, but Suburbs fans, and the team, their welcome to us, they been there right through from the start; they been 'fire' right through.

"We had to stop their big boys; they got really big troops, their forward pack and got good backs as well, who can be unstoppable but we had to pull together as a team."

Tigers coach Robbert Yorkston said his pre-game plan for Suburbs was simple, yet it



Best-on-ground Zengrey Nona (right) and local league official Terry Abednego.

proved to be highly effective.

"We had a plan and we executed that 100 per cent!" the happy coach said.

"We talked about using 'wedges' through the middle. We knew they'd get tired and then we played 'overs', that's when you go through the middle, then you go 'one-two pass', then you go 'over', and that's when you score tries out wide.

"We bring it on, we bring the (opposition) team in, then we went wide.

"Our defence was so strong, we practised defence for the last week.

"We had a few guys hurt in the first half but they dug deep."

There were several hard-luck stories for the grand final. Yorkston revealed he had to overlook some players for selection. At game's end, several of those players came forward with big smiles to join their happy teammates in celebration.

"I made a choice today to leave a couple of people out," Yorkston said.

"I said, 'No, I'm gonna go with big forwards' and I knew that would play a part because it was windy and I know, not too much passes be gonna go wide, they gonna go to the middle.

"I'm very happy.

"And number 13 (Zengrey Nona), unbelievable, 80 minutes.

"Look how much tackles he did, look how much rucks he did, unbelievable – Zengrey Nona!"

The premiership victory was satisfying for the coach and former player.

"I coached a lot of teams but this the best victory I ever had, for the Mulga boys, for the people of Badu," he said.

"This is the best.

"I played for Mulga, I captained Mulga, I won for Mulga on carnivals and I coached them and this one of the best wins for the boys, for the Mulga team, and for the supporters that travelled by dinghy – there's only probably a couple of dogs walking around Badu today!"

While there were around 1200 people at the game, a peak of 545 people watched it live online.



Mulga Tigers RLFC celebrate winning the 2024 Zenadth Kes Rugby League Island Rooster Cup premiership at Waiben-Thursdays Island recently. Pictures: Darren Moncrieff



Mulga Tigers and Suburbs players get up close and personal.



Fans were out in full support at the grand final.



Suburbs' Oscar Valentine breaks through.



Suburbs fans had the best banners.



The grand final attracted a big crowd who were out in force and in full voice.



Mulga Tigers' Kyle Kris thwarts the Suburbs defence during the 2024 Zenadth Kes Rugby League Island Rooster Cup grand final at Waiben-Thursday Island recently. Pictures: Darren Moncrieff

# Island grand final for the ages

By DARREN MONCRIEFF



TO watch the first half and much of the second of the recent Zenadth Kes Rugby League grand final on Waiben-Thursday Island was to be reminded of an old football cliché – an immovable object against an irresistible force.

Mulga Tigers, the immovable object; Suburbs, the irresistible force.

Suburbs, the standard-bearer throughout the entire season.

Mulga Tigers, building strong foundations for this very moment.

The atmosphere at the ground was electric, the big grand-final crowd riding each tackle, each play, each hit as if they, too, were out on the field.

With neither team giving away

an inch, Suburbs looked to gain an advantage when Tigers forward Kyle Kris being sent to the 10-minute sin-bin for an indiscretion at the 20min mark of the first half, leaving his team a man short. But that advantage was snuffed out four minutes later when big Suburbs forward Oscar Valentine was sent to the 'bin, too.

Not long after this, the first score! Suburbs' Matatia Dorante somehow breached the Mulga defence, found a gap and crossed the line. But the conversion attempt into the strong wind prevented the extras. Suburbs led 4-0.

Eight minutes later, Mulga replied when Mauga Nona rewarded his Tiger team's workrate with a try to even the scores; this conversion, too, was unsuccessful. Scores even at 4-4.

It was around this time that the Tigers' gameplan had its best execution.

Lively Suburbs fullback Barwoo Fisher had the ball and saw space. The athletic No. 1 slid sideways to get there but, reading his mind, and movement, two Tiger defenders closed in on him fast. They gangtackled Fisher, dragged him over the line and won the ball back for their team. The awe and applause that followed was everything good about this game. This also blunted Suburbs' momentum.

It took a piece of individual brilliance from the Tigers' Darua Laza to put Mulga in front. Reading the play and watching the ball like a hawk, Laza positioned himself perfectly to intercept a Suburbs pass. To the absolute delight of half the fans at

the ground, the No. 5 ran three-quarters of the field to score just as the half-time siren sounded; the successful conversion this time giving the Tigers a 10-4 lead at the break.

After all that excitement, the resumption of play returned to a defensive stalemate, neither side giving away much territory at all. And Kris was back on the field, as was Valentine.

But as bodies began to tire, mistakes crept in.

The game ebbed and flowed, and tempers rose. Players had to be pulled apart – twice.

Again, Kris was told to cool his jets for a second stint on the sidelines. But anything Mulga could do Suburbs could do better, right, because from the incident that Kris got sent, the Rats' had two players follow him, Ricky

Macri and Nathan Pabai.

The effect of three players heading to the sin-bin at the same time opened up the play.

Tiger Belano Lui found space first and he took it to score; teammate Bert Whap followed suit not long after, with Mulga now racing out to a 16-4 lead. The Tigers' Zengrey Nona finally got a conversion and the Tigers were now 18-4.

When Suburbs' enforcer George Gabey had to come off with what looked like a serious leg injury, the team from Tamwoy Town looked to be in trouble.

A try to Suburbs' Jarrod Laifoo, and conversion by Manuifua Nona, gave the Rats a glimmer of hope but it was too late. Mulga held out to record a memorable grand final triumph, 18-10.



Suburbs' Ricky Macri stops the Mulga Tigers attack with this strong tackle.



The pre-game respect by and for both teams was apparent.

# Nambucca Roosters rule the roost

By KRIS FLANDERS



DROUGHT-breakers – that’s how the Nambucca Roosters RLFC of 2024 will forever be known as.

The tight-knit family club has won the NSW Country Rugby League Group 2 premiership after 28 long years.

The Nambucca side defeated Woolgoolga 31-12 at Coffs Harbour International Stadium last Sunday (1 September).

The last time Nambucca won the Group 2 competition was in 1996.

The side was led by then captain/coach and local icon Brett Davis.

Brett’s son, Tyrone Roberts-Davis, added to the family football history as captain of the 2024 side in which he also scored a try in the grand final and kicked five-from-five conversions in the Roosters’ long-awaited triumph.

Current coach, Warwick Jones, and trainer Geoff Batten, were part of that successful 1996 team, too. And their sons, Logan Jones and Toby Batten, played in the 2024 grand final side.

“That was just sort of sinking in during the week, to tell the truth,” Warwick Jones said.

“Just realising that my son is in this one, my nephew (Toby Batten), and then his dad, my brother-in-law (Geoff).

“Then of course we’ve got Brett Davis too, and then Tyrone and Greg.

“And all the rest of the team, they deserve it too; they’re brothers.”

The football club is a local lifeline in the beachside and river town.

As the Nambucca Valley Rams, the community have also produced Koori Knockout-winning teams (1996 and 1997).

More recently, the place has provided many players who’ve played in recent KOs through the Gumbaynggirr Descendants side.

The Roosters were clinical in the grand final. They scored five tries through Tyrone Roberts-Davis, Dane Saunders, William Baker, Jay Melrose and Group 2 leading tryscorer, Logan Jones.

It was a remarkable turnaround



The Nambucca Roosters RLFC celebrate their 2024 Group 2 rugby league premiership at Coffs Harbour after defeating Woolgoolga in the grand final. Pictures: supplied



Roosters player Khan Jarrett celebrates his team’s premiership with family.



The Roosters’ Tyrone Roberts-Davis powers his way through the Woolgoolga defence to the try-line.

for the NSW mid-north coast club.

In 2018, they folded and remained in limbo for three seasons before returning in 2022 where they picked up the wooden-spoon.

Much of their success this season can be attributed to many local stars who returned to play league in Nambucca: Roberts-Davis and Logan Jones spent time

with NRL clubs recently, while strike centre Willie Baker returned after playing with Moree, and Jay Melrose played on the Gold Coast.

Coach Warwick Jones said it was great having that experience come back to the Nambucca club.

“They had to go and experience the world and I think they saw the

position of the club and the opportunity (there),” he said.

“While they were probably always going to come back at some stage, it’s sort of propelled them to come back a little quicker.”

The Roosters have been tough all season and only dropped two games from their 12 matches. They finished the regular home-

and-away season as minor premiers.

Their attack was spot-on in the decider and the game was all but over at halftime as the Roosters led 24-0.

Earlier in the day, the Nambucca Roosters’ under-18 side won the premiership when they defeated Macksville 30-16.

## All roads leading to Bathurst ahead of the 2024 Koori Knockout

It is hard to believe but the annual Koori Knockout is almost upon us. We are just weeks away from one of the biggest and greatest rugby league tournaments in the country.

Mob from all over NSW, and beyond, will descend on Bathurst in western NSW to find out which deadly rugby league club is the best. It’s going to be a huge sporting event with over 60 men’s teams including defending champions Walgett.

Can WAC win it again?

Or will it be one of the strong teams from the Newcastle area – the All Blacks or the Yowies?

Sydney teams will also be aiming to bring it back to ‘big smoke’ with sides like the Redfern All Blacks and La Perouse Panthers always a threat.

Or will this year’s KO go to a team looking to etch their name in the history books, like Griffith Three Ways, seen hovering around the finals but without luck recently?

Or can the KO get back to NSW coastline with sides like Cabbage Tree Island, Tweed

Connexions and Bundjalung Baygal Warriors winning through?

The last time the Koori Knockout was held at Bathurst was in 2011. It’s great to see the KO returning to a smaller country town given the past few years the KO has been played in Sydney and Dubbo on several occasions.

Given the overall sheer size of the KO these days, small towns just don’t have the grounds, accommodations or the facilities to properly host the KO so Bathurst is a good choice.

The women’s division should be a highlight. Our sisters are so talented and many times they

provide a lot of the highlights from the event. They play the game hard and fast. The physicality they bring to the game also means it’s a must-watch competition.

Then there’s the up-and-comers, the next generation in the junior divisions, who will keep the Koori Knockout fires burning for years to come.

This time it means there will be several lead-up knockout tournaments around the state.

Walgett hosts a great competition; the Kids In Care Cup is hosted by the Illawarra Titans; and western Sydney also has a top event hosted by the

Blacktown Red Belly Warriors.

There are many more regional knockout tournaments too.

If you do get to Bathurst for the KO, take some time out to just watch the crowd, and people milling about, the happiness, people with smiles on their faces, the excitement that is felt by our Elders as they watch and cheer on their respective teams. You can’t beat that feeling, if you could bottle it you would.

**\*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.**



Kris Flanders

# Let the age-old debate of the MCG as grand-final host continue

It feels like this time every year there is someone, somewhere who challenges where the AFLM grand final should be held. The MCG has pretty much been the home of the AFLM grand final since inception, but should we just stick to tradition or is it time to challenge that concept?

NSW Premier Chris Minns has thrown the challenge out and I think his has merit. He has put forward that with the success of the Sydney teams and half of this year's top eight being non-Victorian teams he thinks that this was enough to take the grand final

elsewhere; by 'elsewhere', he means "NSW". Mr Minns maybe getting ahead of himself, but his is not a bad suggestion.

Home-ground advantage is huge and I can imagine Sydney or the Giants being in a grand final at the SCG



Shelley Ware

and having their fans fill that stadium – that would be something.

It is proven that a home-ground game advantage is a thing, that it helps a team win by something like 16 per cent.

On the flipside, it also means that when Victorian teams like Collingwood, Essendon, Hawthorn and Carlton get into the grand final (at the MCG) they have a home-ground advantage and so have a better chance of winning; that is, if the other team is non-Victorian.

In the AFLW, the venue for the grand final is determined by

whichever team is the highest-ranked team to make it through.

I don't see why this shouldn't also happen for the AFLM.

When the Crows won through in the AFLW, I loved travelling to Adelaide for the grand final and really enjoyed Adelaide Oval as the venue which seemed to bring a freshness to the game itself.

The AFL itself will stand to lose millions if the AFLM grand final is not at the MCG which, to be honest, would prohibit the league from taking the game away from there.

In saying that, I do like your

thinking Chris Minns.

I grew up in South Australia and have a lot of pride in how the state can celebrate the game itself.

And so the debate continues – the traditionalists, the accountants and state premiers having their say about where best to play the AFLM grand final.

I have a feeling this debate will continue for years to come.

**\*Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She has worked in the AFL industry for over two decades**

# Tiwi Hawk relishing move into midfield

By JACKSON CLARK



HAWTHORN young gun Mattea Breed is relishing a move into the midfield after earlier starring in her club's pre-season and early-round games of the 2024 AFLW premiership season.

In the match against Sydney, the Tiwi woman was injected into the midfield and produced an excellent performance in the Hawks' big 49-point win over the Swans at the SCG.

Breed utilised her strength and reading of the play to finish the contest with 18 disposals and an impressive 12 clearances, and she's continued that impressive form in the season proper.

The 22-year-old said she was happy with her game but conceded that there will still be areas to improve on.

"It's definitely been a bit of a journey and a little bit to wrap my head around but I definitely felt like it came together," she said.

"There's still parts to work on, but I really enjoyed it and really love the group that I'm in the midfield with. I look forward to more games to come."

Breed made her AFLW debut last year and featured in eight games in a variety of roles. She started the season in the forward-line before moving down back and even pinch-hitting in the ruck on occasion.

The Northern Territorian became the

third Indigenous footballer to play for the Hawks' AFLW team after Kaitlyn Ashmore and Janet Baird.

Looking comfortable as a pure midfielder, Breed said she enjoyed the 'unreal' experience of playing at the iconic SCG.

"To soak in the opportunity to play at a stadium like this – (there is) a lot of history, a nice open field, so we get to play to our strengths," she said.

"I think we've been a good pressure team for a little while now but it's nice to be able to keep that pressure and work on other areas of our game to really improve and take it to the next level.

"They're (Sydney) a high-pressure team as well but I feel like we came out firing and set the tone early and really dominated in that area."

The Hawks finished 14th on the AFLW ladder last season. In the club's opening-round clash against Carlton, Hawthorn won by 38 points, 9.12 (66) to 4.4 (28).

Breed was recruited to the Hawks with pick four in the supplementary draft after plying her trade with North Adelaide in the SANFLW.

A powerful and athletic player, Breed was an outstanding junior footballer and won consecutive NTFL Under-18 best-and-fairest awards in 2016-17 and 2017-18.

She made her senior debut the following season and claimed the NTFL's Rising Star award.



Tiwi woman Mattea Breed is grabbing the chance to play in the midfield with both hands for Hawthorn in the 2024 AFLW Premiership season. *Picture: Getty Images*

# Stengle, Humphries influential in Cats' emphatic win

By PETER ARGENT



ALL-AUSTRALIAN (2022) Tyson Stengle and Lawson Humphries, who was playing in just his 10th AFL game and first final, were

outstanding contributors in Geelong's emphatic victory over Port Adelaide last weekend.

Stengle kicked four goals in the Cats' big 84-point win over Port, 20.18 (138) to 7.12 (44), last Friday night at Adelaide Oval.

Humphries made his AFL debut in round 16 against Essendon at the MCG.

At the end of 2023, he was playing in the WAFL reserves for Swan Districts.

He is now in contention to play in an AFL preliminary final.

The Cats earned that right, and a week off, after their qualifying final over Port.

Geelong finished the regular season third on the AFL ladder; Port finished second, with Sydney first.

The heritage-listed Adelaide Oval scoreboard told a sorry tale for the hosts, with Port Adelaide enduring yet another finals loss under Ken Hinkley.

Along with his 20 disposals, Humphries recorded 486-metres gained off half-back from where he picked-off five intercept possessions in what was a stellar display.

The 21-year-old played with incredible

dash and composure even after enduring a crunching tackle in the opening minute of the contest.

He played with a maturity of a senior player, using the ball constructively and was a key part of a fugal defence.

It has been a whirlwind rise to AFL ranks for Humphries.

He was the Rising Star nominee in round 18 for his performance against Collingwood at the MCG where he secured 23 possessions in the Cats' 20-point win.

Geelong drafted Humphries with pick No.63 in last year's national draft.

Stengle was his usual, dangerous self around goals and presented the Port defence with a night-long headache.



Tyson Stengle (left) and Lawson Humphries. *Picture: Peter Argent*



The South West Sydney Academy of Sport's Indigenous talent ID day drew over 60 kids at Minto for a big day of sport and activity. *Pictures: supplied*

# Talent ID the next generation

By KRIS FLANDERS

**NSW** FIND them and nurture them – that's the overarching goal for the South West Sydney Academy of Sport's Indigenous talent identification day recently held at Minto, in the city's southwest.

The day brought over 60 kids, aged from 12-18 from surrounding places including Campbelltown, Liverpool, Camden and Wollondilly for a big day of sports events, fun, culture, sports education and training.

"Typically we see students come from every council area that we service," SWSAS's sport programs manager Catarina Di Ramio said.

"Our largest participators are Campbelltown and Liverpool. This difference in geography is great, we often see students from different schools become great mates as they progress through the academy."

Sports available on the day were basketball, netball, touch footy and AFL football and each had rotating skill sessions and games. The young participants were treated to morning tea, lunch and a gym t-shirt.

"Each academy coach and support staff member, as well as external representatives, were provided with a sheet outlining major technical and character-based attributes that aligned with the academy's expectations," Di Ramio said. "Athletes names were not



Youth had access to top-level mentoring at the talent ID day.

listed but rather a column was left blank for numbers (athletes wore corresponding numbers on the day).

"We used a rating system from 1-5, with "1" being foundational and "5" being expert. Representatives and coaching staff were asked to provide a score in each column which would then be used to form the athletes' final score.

"They were also encouraged to write in the notes section to support their rating.

By quantifying their skill set, this allowed us to assess the final selection."

Di Ramio said talent ID days like this were important to find youth with talent and make sure they get support, help moving forward and aren't lost along the way.

"The network that we sit within RASi (Regional Academies of Sport Incorporated) identified a major need to hold these talent identification days for

local Indigenous athletes due to low participation levels at the grassroots level," Di Ramio said. "It is heavily supported by UAA Insurance, and holding this day opens up more opportunities for local Indigenous students to become more involved in sport.

"Program coordinator Brodee Mate dedicates so much of her time toward the IAP program.

"Being an Indigenous woman herself and a world-class Australian athletics star, she is able to bestow a wealth of personal experience to these athletes. She actively continues to seek opportunities for the athletes to participate in year-round establishing a supportive environment for them to develop."

There were 40 youngsters who impressed on the day, who now have an invitation to join the SWSAS Indigenous Athletes Program.

"Invitations are typically sent to both the athlete and their school liaison officer about a week after the event," Di Ramio said. "The Indigenous Athlete Program runs from October to January and includes regular training sessions designed to help athletes further develop cores skills – like passing, catching, speed, agility and change of direction in a squad training environment.

"Participants will also have access to a supervised strength and conditioning program and an introduction to sports education."



The youth who took part in the SWSAS's talent ID day played a variety of sports, including basketball, netball, touch footy and AFL football.





Telaya Blacksmith competes in the Womens 400m T20 heats at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games at Stade de France. Picture: AAP



Samantha Schmidt in action in the discus event in Paris. Picture: Getty Images

# Blacksmith, Schmidt share special moment

**OS** FIELD events dominated last Friday's competition at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, and there was one particular moment that two athletes will long remember.

Aboriginal women Samantha Schmidt (discus, F38) and Telaya Blacksmith (long jump, F20) were both trackside for their respective events and were there at the same time.

It was a special moment to have

Schmidt, a Gubbi Gubbi woman, and Blacksmith, a Warlpiri woman, compete on the same night.

The pair are among the 16 known First Nations athletes to represent Australia at a Paralympic Games since the first, Kevin Coombs (five Paralympics from 1960 Rome).

They were joined in Paris by Ruby Storm (swimming, S14) and Amanda Reid (cycling, C1-3) in Paris.

Schmidt, who was fifth at the 2023

Paris World Championships and sixth at the Tokyo Paralympics, finished seventh in Paris with a season best 33.05m.

But she hurt her left shoulder in that throw and fouled the next two rounds.

It was a game of numbers for Blacksmith.

She eclipsed her Personal Best by one centimetre (5.21m) with her second jump, but then she missed eighth spot for the final three leaps by the same margin.

## Reid, Aussies end with equal-best medal haul



AUSTRALIA has wrapped up its Paris 2024 campaign ranked fifth in the Para-cycling events with a total of 11 medals: five on the track and six in the road events.

The team's four gold and four silver medals equalled their haul in Tokyo but they claimed two fewer bronze medals here in Paris.

Amanda Reid, the 500m time trial gold medallist from the velodrome, was the third Australian in action on the final day, contesting four laps (56.8km) of the same circuit in the women's C1-3 road race.

"That hurt, a lot," she said after completing the distance and finishing 13th, 18:14 seconds behind Keiko Sugiura, who claimed Japan's first Paris 2024 cycling gold medal.

Reid said her fourth Paralympic Games had been one to remember.

"It's just been an experience and a half," she said.

"Walking away with the gold in the 500 metres again is pretty cool and then to top it off, with road, just for some fun, although it wasn't so much fun, but I just really enjoyed my campaign this time around.

"Now I'm looking to a well-earned rest and then I'll hopefully get back into it again after that."

## Storm secures silver in 4x100 Mixed Relay

**OS** RUBY STORM and the Australian 4x100m Mixed Relay team have secured silver in the final of their S14 event in Paris.

The Aussies' time of 3:46.37s was 3.32sec off the pace behind winners Great Britain (3:43.05s), and a fraction ahead of Brazil (3:47.49s).

Storm's 50m time was 29.16s and her completed 100m was 1.01.15s.

Earlier, in Heat 1 of the Women's 100m Butterfly, Storm placed fifth, while in Heat 2 of the Women's 200m Backstroke, Storm was edged out of third by a fraction of a second to place fourth.



Ruby Storm (second from left) with (from left) Jack Ireland, Madeleine McTernan and Benjamin Hance after winning silver in the Mixed 4x100m Freestyle Relay.



Paralympic gold medallist Amanda Reid. Pictures: Getty Images

# 'This is not the last of me'

## Winwood upbeat as bid for boxing history falls short

**AUS** ALEX WINWOOD has fallen short in his bid to create Australian boxing history, but he won over a legion of new fans during his lion-hearted loss to WBA minimum-weight champion Thammanoon Niyomtrong in Perth (7 September).

Winwood, fighting for just the fifth time professionally, was aiming to become the fastest Australian male to win a boxing world title.

But Niyomtrong's experience and steely defence proved too hard to overcome, with the Thai star winning by unanimous decision, 114-112, 114-112, 113-113 at a near-capacity Perth Superdome.

The result means Jeff Fenech still holds the Australian record of being the fastest male to win a world title after taking just seven professional bouts to snare the IBF bantamweight world title in 1985.

Niyomtrong entered the bout with a perfect 24-0 record and 11 successful title defences since 2016.

But the Thai star hadn't fought since July 2022 – a break of more than two years that the Winwood camp felt would play heavily in their favour.

But it wasn't to be for Winwood, who got knocked down several times during the bout, and looked gone for all money in the seventh before bravely fighting on right until the end.

"I will be back. I dared to be great, against the longest reigning world champion," Winwood said after the loss.

"My idea is to come back. Watch me be

Alex Winwood takes a shot at Thammanoon Niyomtrong during the WBA World minimum-weight championship title fight in Perth last Saturday night. Picture: AAP Photos



great again. Give me another shot.

"I thought it was a really hard fight. I got knocked down a couple of times, and that was the decision that swayed it all.

"If you get knocked down, the points get taken from you. But I still boxed like a champion for 12 rounds.

"This is not the last of me."

Winwood had the better of the opening two rounds, with his lightning-quick left jab causing Niyomtrong some problems.

But it was the fourth round that proved to be the first significant turning point.

First, Winwood was left with a bloodied nose after copping a series of big blows.

And late in the round he was sent to the

canvas after copping another big punch.

Winwood managed to see out the round, but the odds were well and truly stacked against him from that point.

Niyomtrong showed his full array of weaponry in the seventh.

A vicious series of blows knocked Winwood to the canvas midway through the round, with the Australian needing almost eight counts to regain his composure.

It was a fight for survival for the rest of the round for Winwood, who was clearly dazed and struggling to see clearly as he copped blow after blow.

Somehow he made it to the bell despite his defences flailing, and he kept his opponent at bay in the eighth to give himself a chance.

Winwood was knocked down to the canvas again in the ninth, but it wasn't as damaging as the blows he received in the seventh round.

The 27-year-old bravely fought on, and even landed some decent blows of his own in the 10th.

It all came down to the 12th round, with Winwood knowing he needed a knockout to walk away with an unlikely victory.

Winwood gave it everything he had, unleashing a series of huge swings, but Niyomtrong was too smart to fall into the trap.

"He dared to be great. He gave you guys a thrilling fight," former boxing champion Danny Green said of Winwood.

– AAP



Matt Garlett (left) in action with Francisco Da Silva. Picture: AAP Photos

## Blackfulla undercard at Winwood title fight

**AUS** IT was a proper Blackfulla undercard last weekend when Alex Winwood met Thammanoon Niyomtrong for a shot at the title at Perth Superdome in Perth on Saturday night.

Aboriginal boxers on the Winwood-Niyomtrong undercard included Matt Garlett, Blake Minto and Dylan Winter.

Super-featherweight Garlett, back in the ring after a six-year hiatus, picked up where he left off with a unanimous points decision going his way in his bout with Francisco Da Silva.

Minto, fighting out of the super-lightweight division, bested Steve Gago, also with a unanimous points decision.

Winter, however, came unstuck in his light-heavyweight bout with Lewis Clarke.

## Koskela to rep in First Nations netball

By ALF WILSON



Shakira Koskela won selection to represent Queensland in netball.



SHAKIRA KOSKELA will represent Queensland at Netball Australia's inaugural First

Nations Tournament this week in Melbourne.

The First Nations team is made up of players from each of the Australian states and territories.

The Wirangu woman, a wing attack, said being named in the team was still a bit surreal.

"Most of the team is in south-east Queensland, which makes practising and being able to come together as a team difficult," Koskela said.

"(But) I never thought I would be in the position to represent my state and I am very excited to get to Melbourne and play alongside some of the best netball players in Queensland, while taking on some of the best players from across the country.

"My goal is to prove myself at the tournament and get the attention of someone at the Black Swans.

"I hope my story can help to inspire First Nations kids to chase their dreams and to not give up."

# Trehwella defeats spirited Jensen for fourth pro win

By DARREN MONCRIEFF

**AUS** DHARRINGARRA Trehwella has secured his fourth consecutive professional victory after defeating Calvin Jensen over six rounds in Sydney last week. Trehwella took control from the start and landed telling blows on Jensen that had him on the backfoot for much of the bout between the two welterweights (66kg).

The proud Koori man, from south-western Sydney, cornered the spirited Jensen in the first

round and let fly with a flurry of body shots and head-hits that had the crowd rising to its feet.

Orthodox Trehwella kept up the pressure and was on the frontfoot for the majority of the six-round bout.

In a unanimous decision, the three judges each scored the fight at 58-56, 58-56, 58-56 in the 22-year-old's favour.

The win builds on Trehwella's previous victories in the ring as a pro.

He defeated Johnny Weetra (UD) in March, Thailand's Sornram Taehirun (TKO) in Bangkok in January, and Brent

Walton (UD) in Newcastle in November last year.

The Trehwella-Jensen bout was on the undercard to the Nikita Tszyu-Koen Mazoudier 10-round main event, won by Tszyu.

Tszyu, his more well-known brother Tim Tszyu, and Trehwella fight under the management of No Limit Boxing, whose chief executive is George Rose, the NRL premiership player with Manly, Koori Knockout championship winner with Walgett BAC, and a six-time Indigenous All-Star representative (2010-2015) and 2015 Preston Campbell Medal winner.



Dharringarra Trehwella is building on an impressive professional record after defeating Calvin Jensen in Sydney last week.



Rocky Savage (right) lands a body shot on Sam Shearsmith in the heavyweight final that Savage won by a points decision at Burdell near Townsville recently.



Savage (left) and Shearsmith trade blows in their bout at Burdell.



Referee Greven Breadsell raises Savage's hand as the winner.

# Savage lands new heavyweight title belt

By ALF WILSON

**TSI** THE Torres Strait has a new state champion after Rocky Savage won the heavyweight title at the SABL Queensland amateur boxing tournament at Burdell on Sunday, Sept. 1.

Savage was one of several boxers and officials from around Queensland who converged on Burdell near Townsville for the popular

tournament.

Boxing fans were treated to a range of fights in several divisions. All up there were 25 bouts.

Weighing in at 108kg, Savage defeated Sam Shearsmith in the final by points. Earlier, the big man qualified for the final after beating Robert Maxwell by unanimous points decision over four rounds.

"It was the toughest fight I have ever been in," Savage

said after the bout with Shearsmith.

"We both landed some heavy punches; I ended up with a bruised eye."

Savage has many ties at Masig, Waiben-Thursday Island, St Pauls, Erub and Stephen islands.

A few weeks ago, Savage had taken out the heavyweight division at Melville's Pioneer Farm near Townsville.

"Since that story was in *Koori Mail Sport* there has

been an incredible amount of interest in my boxing from around the islands," Savage said.

"People are always on social media wanting news on any bouts I have."

As an unexpected bonus from this heavyweight title win, Savage also took out the senior boxer of the tournament award.

Bouts from the tournament were livestreamed online and there reportedly several viewers from the Torres Strait.



Savage joins his trainer Gonzo Hooper with the spoils of victory.



## Golden Girl Reid goes back-to-back on Paris track



**AMANDA REID** has overcome a difficult preparation to successfully defend her Paralympic Games title with a commanding performance in the C1-3 500m time trial at the Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines Velodrome, south-west of Paris.

In Tokyo, the proud

Wemba Wemba and Guring-gai woman became the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman to win a cycling medal at the Paralympic Games.

Now, she has gone back-to-back to add a second gold to her collection.

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Main and above: Amanda Reid on her way to gold medal triumph in Paris. Pictures: Getty Images



# Latrell OK for KO

## Souths star plans to play with Biripi Countrymen

By **DARREN MONCRIEFF**



**ONE** of rugby league's biggest names has confirmed his availability for

Aboriginal sport's main event that gets underway in less than a month.

Latrell Mitchell last week announced he will pull together a team to represent his people, and birthplace, Taree, at the 52nd NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival.

The Koori Knockout this year will be played at Bathurst, Country for Wiradjuri, in the Central Tablelands of NSW, and

home of motorsport's Bathurst 1000.

Bathurst was chosen as host by the winners of last year's Koori Knockout, Walgett Aboriginal Connections.

It will be played at the Hereford Street Sports Complex from 4-7 October.

Mitchell is a two-time NRL premiership player, Indigenous All-Star, NSW Origin and Kangaroos representative and among the most high-profile figures in rugby league and Aboriginal sport.

At last year's Koori Knockout at Tuggerah he played for Newcastle Yowies, and in 2022 at Nowra he turned out for Walgett

AC.

This year, he's returning home and playing for Country, and is on the lookout for players to join him.

"I'm gonna go back home and give back, it's been a few years," Mitchell said when asked of his plans for the Koori Knockout.

"I want to get a good team together, (we) need some forwards, some 'frontys', so anyone that's looking to play..."

"Big Shaq (Mitchell-brother), hopefully he's ready to go by then, get him back and ready to play.

"We got Liam Simon (my cousin), got a few cousins out there, and J'maine Hopgood, too, but we need some more."



Latrell Mitchell has confirmed he will play at the 2024 Koori Knockout in October. Picture: Getty Images