



Koori Mail

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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Walgett wins back-to-back Knockouts



WALGETT Aboriginal Connection has defied history to win back-to-back titles at Aboriginal rugby league's iconic event. WAC defeated Nanima Common Connections 46-12 to win the 52nd edition of the NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival at Bathurst on Sunday. See page 5, 48 and back page.



Picture: Darren Moncrieff

Murder epidemic plagues territory



INDIGENOUS women are being murdered at a rate of up to seven times the national average, mostly at the hands of intimate partners. Over more than three decades, 455 women were killed by men, with 11 per cent of homicides involving a female offender, a report by the Australian

Women are being killed by partners at an alarming rate

Institute of Criminology shows. The startling statistics also reveal that of the 476 Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander women

murdered between July 1989 and June 2023, almost three-quarters were killed by their current or former intimate partner.

The report used 34 years of homicide data, relating to cases legally defined as murder or manslaughter, to examine how,

when and what factors contributed to the violent deaths.

"Since 2010/11, Indigenous women have experienced a homicide victimisation rate between two and seven times greater than the national homicide rate and between three and nine times greater than the adult female homicide rate," the report says.

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Central Land Council celebrates 50 years of land rights

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Budjerah pays school a visit

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Central Land Council celebrates

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Kirk Page joins as a columnist

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MY FAMILY

Ray Sumner, Adelaide, Sth Australia



Minutes after receiving his premiership medallion at the SANFL Under 18s Grand Final presentation, Ray Sumner was keen to share his triumph with the rest of his family.

In front of the Chappell stand at the iconic Adelaide Oval, Sumner was able to show the proceeds of this special achievement with his parents and siblings.

"It was great to see them so quickly after the euphoria of the win," Sumner said. "It was such a close game.

"We are a close-knit group and it was important to have them involved in this moment with me.

"Dad is originally from Perth and mum is a local girl.

"I'm the oldest of their three children, with all of us have been born and raised in Adelaide."

Sumner confirmed the family heritage is from the Raukkan Misson down in the south east of this state (South Australia), being members of Ngarrindjeri Nation.

He also confirmed Australian Rules

footy is a big part of all of his extended family's lives.

"Seth played his footy at Portland this year; he actually played A grade footy as a 16-year-old this year, getting valuable experience at senior level," Ray Sumner continued.

"Dean junior is an eight-year-old played for the Woodville South Cats.

"It was a special day – as I love the family.

"It's great to celebrate with family on the big stage at Adelaide Oval.

"Dad went through all the grades at Woodville West Torrens and played league footy.

"He spent a couple of seasons in the senior program before going to Port Lincoln – playing at Marble Range.

"My cousins include Byron and Tim Sumner were both on AFL lists and we are all very close."

Ray Sumner is keen to follow in his father and cousin's footsteps and play at the highest level possible.

– By Peter Argent

Younger brother Seth, mother Justin, baby brother Dean junior (cuddling into Seth), Ray Sumner and dad, Dean senior.

SHARE YOUR FAMILY WITH OUR READERS

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

Koori Mail

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OUR CHILDREN

Yimbala Dancer, KJ Bowen, portrays a 'Yig' – a spirit, while the Barefoot Ballerinas hide from the spirits of the night. Both dance groups are directed by Tamara Pearson of the Sacred Creations Dance Troupe.



Young dancers' perform at UMI Arts' 17th family-friendly First Nations festival, Big Talk One Fire (BTOF), at Munro Martin Parklands in Cairns on Saturday, September 7. UMI Arts is Far North Queensland's peak body for arts and culture, and BTOF is a key event on the organisation's calendar. *Picture: Lovegreen Photography. See more pics on pages 30-31*

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Big Talk One Fire festival celebrates culture



LARGE crowds gathered at the lush Munro Martin Parklands in Cairns last month to celebrate the 17th year of Far North Queensland's family-friendly First Nations festival, Big Talk One Fire (BTOF). Story and pictures, pages 30-31.

Racism's impact on children laid bare



A STAGGERING 80 per cent of young people in the Northern Territory have seen or experienced racism but only one per cent were shocked by it, a

report indicates.

NT Children's Commissioner and Larrakia woman Shahleena Musk released her inaugural report, called *It's up to everyone to call it out*, last Thursday after interviewing almost 300 young people about their experiences.



Shahleena Musk.

She said change was needed across the child protection, education and youth detention sectors to begin healing the harmful systems that perpetuate racism.

The report called on Territorians to "change the narrative" by elevating the positive ways young people contribute to society.

It found nearly 40 per cent of racism experienced by children and teens came from their community, and a further 25 per cent from other students at school.

Young people also said politicians and media were responsible for "harmful narratives" about them.

The findings come after the Country Liberal Party's landslide election victory in August was predicated on a platform that included tackling youth crime.

In the NT, 97 per cent of children in detention are Aboriginal.

While the report interviewed a diverse group of children, it highlighted the significant impacts of racism on First Nations young people.

Some reported still being called the "n-word" and being told by their peers that "Aboriginal kids can't be academic".

Ms Musk wrote the report was both "deeply moving yet deeply troubling".

Of 323 experiences of racism, children said, 33 per cent were targeted acts as a result of their ethnicity or race, while 31 per cent were forms of profiling – particularly by security guards and police in shops.

Many young people also described micro-aggressions as "casual racism".

"Children and young people told us that racism in the territory is pervasive and affects many aspects of their lives," Ms Musk wrote.

"The experiences of shame caused by racism can have a profound impact on young people's lives, including their self-esteem, their identity and their hopes for the future." One young person describes their own experience as "it's like half the time we are just existing".

After 28 per cent of children said racism made them sad, Ms Musk said the Northern Territory can no longer allow children and young people's experiences of racism "to be met with silence".

Australia and the NT are signatories to a number of conventions including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the NT Anti-Discrimination Act, which was strengthened under the former Labor government, however gaps in addressing the problem remain.

"While work progresses at a national level on a new National Anti-Racism Framework, there remains a significant gap in addressing racism in the NT," Ms Musk wrote. – AAP

New commissioner established: 'our children deserve it'



A NATIONAL commissioner will be appointed to turn around the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care and youth detention.

The National Commission for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People will begin operations in January.

A First Nations person will be appointed to lead the body, charged with protecting and promoting the rights of Indigenous children and young people across a range of issues. Applications for the role are expected to open this month.

"It has taken some time to get to this point but we have to get this right," said Catherine Liddle, chief executive of the Indigenous children's peak body

SNAICC and chair of the federal government's Safe and Supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group.

"Our children deserve it."

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are almost 11 times more likely to be in out-of-home care than non-Indigenous young people and 29 times more likely to be in youth detention.

Indigenous Australians Minister Malarndirri McCarthy said the rates of over-representation in both systems were unacceptable.

"The national commissioner will focus on working with First Nations people and organisations on evidence-based programs and policies to turn those figures around," she said.

"The national commissioner will be informed by the experiences of Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, whose voices deserve to be heard.

"Their strengths, sense of hope and new ideas will drive systemic change."

Social Services Minister Amanda Rishworth said the establishment of the new commission was a "historic milestone".

"The national commissioner will work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities, commissioners, guardians, advocates, and other stakeholders to provide expert advice," she said.

Their focus will be on "the development and delivery of policies, programs and services to ensure they meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people".

– AAP

School gets a treat with visit from Budjerah

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



THE SCHOOL term ended on a high for students at Mullumbimby High School with Coodjinburra singer Budjerah playing a packed lunchtime show in the school's newly refurbished auditorium last week.

Along with his cousin, guitar player Jarulah, Budjerah not only delivered a short set of his new songs but faced a Q&A from the students afterwards before hanging around to sign autographs for a long line of more than 100 students who all wanted a selfie with the rising star. Then at the end of it all a couple of students even played him a song.

The show was part of the Lunch Out Loud initiative offered by Warner Music. The 2023 winner of the Artist of the Year award at the National Indigenous Music Awards told the *Koori Mail* the concert was an awesome experience.

"I grew up in a very musical family and I believe every kid should have the opportunity to learn about music, experience performances and the arts," he said.

"I often learn a lot myself when performing shows at schools.

"I definitely do think kids are way more creative and innovative than a lot of adults. They don't care as much about the conventions and I can see on Tik Tok and the internet how creative and fun they can be and I want to keep that same creativity as I get older.

Throughout his career Budjerah has



Guygum Roberts with guitarist Jarulah, Budjerah, Rhianna Browning, Taminya Browning and Jinja Jones after the show at Mullumbimby High School.

collaborated with local and international artists including Matt Corby and Ed Sheeran, all of whom have been a big influence on the young singer's career.

"Matt Corby is definitely a big one, he taught me so much about the business. There has been so many incredible

mentors in my life Kylie Minogue, Ed Sheeran and Miss Tina Arena.

"Miss Tina Arena had one of the biggest impacts on me. When we were rehearsing together I kept asking her questions and she finally said to me just shut up and sing. And now when

someone asks me what I do, I know that is what I am here to do, sing.

At the Q&A after his performance the Mullum students got a chance to ask Budjerah about his experience in the music industry and to get some tips about getting into the music industry themselves.

"When I was still in school I started writing musical numbers and playing in restaurants all the time. I learned that the more you perform the better, and with platforms like Tik Tok now there are many ways it can happen. You can't get seen if you don't put yourself out there, so get out and perform, that's my advice."

Organiser Kellie Murphy said the Lunch Out Loud initiative was about bringing artists to schools in a safe and informal environment and Mullumbimby High School had been excited to facilitate the musical connection for their students.

"There's nothing more exciting than discovering a new musician that you become a fan of, but for under 18s it's often hard to find those artists performing at under age venues that are accessible," Ms Murphy said.

"Our school is so grateful Budjerah took the time to share his talent with us. Budjerah sang four beautiful songs, did a Q&A and then spent 40 minutes signing autographs and getting pictures with the students. The students were so appreciative and enthusiastic, the school is very proud of them.

"This was such a treat for the end of a busy term. Apparently Budjerah enjoyed our school so much that he wants to do it all the time now!"

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Milestone birthday celebration brings mixed emotions

Life constantly changes and sometimes you feel like you have a hold of it and then sometimes you feel like you don't. I've had a big change in my life recently, that as a mother is taking a minute to adjust to.

I've spent the last 18 years preparing for it and thought I was ready for it but it's not easy.

My beautiful son Taj tuned 18 and is now an adult.

It's easy to write but it isn't easy to transition through as a parent.

In our house our whole aim has to been to help build a young man who will be strong in self, determination and independence and ready to contribute to the world, when his time came.

Well, we did all that and then it happens.

There is a real sense of loss and heartache in this achievement.

You have been there for your child at every turn and bump in the road that they need you for, then at the strike of midnight they don't need you in the same way.

Of course, it is happening long before that clock strike but even in the celebrations of his



Shelley Ware

18th people would jest "Your work is done" and that is what I will miss – my work!

Now it is loving and supporting in a different way, new boundaries have been set by him and it is so important to respect them even though you have a need to still want to fix

and be the people they need the most.

Experts say this is a time for friends and mentors and how grateful I am for his, as it is so true, they are so important now.

In a few weeks for Taj school is over thankfully, work will begin for him and life will very different for our house.

It is a very exciting time ahead.

The transition of our beautiful boy becoming a young man has held a lot of emotions, happiness, pride to sadness and loss.

I stood at his 18th birthday party, where he was surrounded by his greatest loves and dearest friends and knew he was so blessed in it all.

Taj is a good person with a good heart, strong in his identity and self and I can't wait to see what the world has in store for him. Me? Well this mum may take a minute longer to catch my breath but I stand in gratitude, for what has been and what will be, for our love and connection as mother and son.

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

We love our Knockout

By DARREN MONCRIEFF



THOUSANDS of Aboriginal people from far and wide gathered at Bathurst in Central NSW at the weekend in a celebration of sport, culture and tradition.

The 52nd NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival saw thousands of rugby league football fans converge at the Hereford Street Sports Complex for four days of intense competition.

Teams came from as far as the Riverina, the Tweed Coast, far western NSW, the NSW south coast, the international city of Sydney, and several points in between.

The Koori Knockout – the ‘KO’ – has been a constant on the Koori sports and social calendar since 1971 – except for that one time in 2020, also 2021, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It has bounced back from those cancellations to once again stake its place in the hearts and minds of our people.

The Koori Knockout has also transcended mere sport – it has become a happy reunion of family, friends and loved ones.

And as the large regional centre called Bathurst gears up for another big weekend – this time for a car race – the Koori Knockout offers a big ‘Thank you!’ for hosting us.



The Waterloo Storm boys' junior team competed at the Koori Knockout.



(back, from left) Olivia, Latina, Sarah and (at front) little Mariah from Newcastle.



Lleyton Rose from Gunnedah, Draco from Brewarrina, Robert Tighe from Walgett, Josh Siegwert from Wagga Wagga, Tyrell Dixon from Walgett and Tony Scott from Brewarrina at the Koori KO.



Minata Misi, Ivy Misi and Naomi Misi (and at front) Talia Charles.



Lyle Hoskins from Campbelltown in Sydney carrying little Harlow Hoskins.



Anna-Rose Johnson, Susan Hickey, Sharada Little and Carl Little from Wagga Wagga.



Mia Simon, Madi Rogers, Maddie Peisley and Gabrielle Simon enjoying the Koori Knockout.



Connor Elwood and Keenan Elwood from Bourke.



'JD' King, Jackie King and Kelly Bradshaw from Lismore.



Peppa, Lexi and Tahlia from Bathurst.



Noel Stewart, Edna Stewart from Albury and Trixie Brumm from Cowra.



Kevin Barwick, Zachariah Willie, Cynthia Barwick, Eliana Willie, Imojen Willie-Barwick and Sharlie Willie, from Wellington-Mt Druit.

Mob resilience explored at disaster recovery gathering

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



INDIGENOUS community leaders and disaster resilience experts gathered in Lismore last month for the National Indigenous Disaster Resilience (NIDR) initiative.

The initiative was part of Monash University's Fire to Flourish program which seeks to advance the resilience and recovery of Indigenous communities in the face of increasing disasters.

Hosted in collaboration with Jagun Alliance, Resilient Lismore and *Koori Mail*, the three day NIDR Gathering featured keynotes, plenary sessions, workshops, yarning circles and on-Country activities.

Professor Briony Rogers, Chief Executive Officer of Fire to Flourish said the NIDR Gathering was a wonderful opportunity for attendees to hear and learn from Indigenous leaders, about how Australia's Indigenous peoples experience disasters.

"There is so much knowledge to be gained and by listening deeply we can improve the structures and processes of our emergency management and disaster resilience for everyone."

Lismore was an especially apt location for the NIDR Gathering as it was a central point for emergency support and relief during the region's 2022 flood emergency with the Welcome Reception hosted by the *Koori Mail*.

CEO of the *Koori Mail*, Naomi Moran, said, "The story of the *Koori Mail* during the response to the disaster of the 2022 floods and



Dancers welcome participants to the National Disaster Resilience Gathering. The dance was performed outside the *Koori Mail* building in Lismore, NSW, last month. During flooding in 2022, water reached as high as the 'flames' being projected onto the concrete water pump on the right in the picture, well over the levee wall behind the dancers. *Picture by Jenny Bird.*

our experiences as a First Nations organisation and First Nations community were a good example of what it looks like to support our communities from the Indigenous perspective of Caring for Country and Caring for People.

"It was really important for us to

share our story given the current situation around the continuing displacement of our local indigenous communities, particularly communities like Cabbage Tree Island, where they are seeing ongoing displacement and disconnection from their

traditional homelands because government and other agencies are still trying to figure out how best to house our communities.

"Having the opportunity to share our stories from a Bundjalung perspective in the context of what is actually going in

our communities and to have those conversations on the ground at the gathering when key decision makers from departments, state and federal and leading agencies were in that same space was really important.

● Continued next page



Emily Headlam, Hedy Bryant and Rebecah Watsford from Richmond Landcare Incorporated.



The crew from Yurruungga Aboriginal Corporation, Rhys, Brentyn and Rob.



Men from the Fijian Community of Lismore who sang for the reception attendees, reminding everyone of their dedication to the local community during the floods of 2022.

70th



GodzillaFest

Celebrate 70 years of the Kaiju king

Explore the program





Ash Shannon, Sarah Smith, Professor Briony Rogers, chief executive Officer of Fire to Flourish, Gretel Evans and Inara Waden from Fire To Flourish at Monash University.



Delegates gather at the Lismore showgrounds.



Monica Taylor (Phd Candidate QUT and Community Legal Centres Queensland), Melinda McInturff (Community Resilience Coordinator) and Kate Brady.

● From previous page

"Of course a really beautiful thing for us was inviting the NIDRG delegates to the opening night reception at the *Koori Mail* offices, to the place where it all happened so they could see first hand what it looked for the *Koori Mail* as a business to continue operating, to rebuild, to invite people back into the space to see what First Nations resilience looks like and feels like.

"It was really special to have people see not just who we were prior to the flood but who we have become since the flood."

Writing on Linked Professor Rogers said the keynote by Naomi Moran was a highlight, "a raw account of the 2022 Lismore floods and the inspiring leadership of the *Koori Mail* in supporting the recovery across the whole community."

"I also loved the plenary with Amy Cardinal Christianson from Canada, Litea Biukoto from Fiji and Jamie Ruwhiu from NZ, which reinforced for me the importance of sharing experiences, lessons and ideas from different parts of the world. Also the power of First Nations people, knowledge and culture globally to lead our way through the climate and sustainability crises we're collectively facing, and with that, the need to decolonise our systems."



NIDR participants using fire out on Country. Picture: Gabrielle Connole.



Amy Cardinal Christiansen and Joe Gilchrist, both from The Indigenous Leadership Initiative.



Lismore mayor Steve Krieg with *Koori Mail* CEO Naomi Moran.

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Department of Education



Murder rates alarming in NT

● From page1

“Just under a third of all Indigenous women homicide victims were killed in the Northern Territory and a quarter each in Western Australia and Queensland.”

The remaining 20 per cent were killed in New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria, while there were no Indigenous women found to be murdered in Tasmania or the ACT.

Most women were subjected to horrific deaths with coroners declaring the cause of death in more than 80 per cent of cases as either a stabbing or beating.

The data showed 69 offenders were known to police, and at least two thirds of them had a known history of domestic and family violence offences.

Federal Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus said the statistics represent the terrible and tragic loss of mothers, sisters, daughters and other deeply loved relatives.

“It is not acceptable for losses of this scale to continue,” Mr Dreyfus said.

A Senate inquiry into missing and murdered First Nations women and children tabled a report in August highlighting the

need for accurate data.

Mr Dreyfus said this data would be used to track progress of the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children.

The government is aiming to reduce all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children by at least 50 per cent by 2031.

Labor is yet to accept the proposed recommendations from the Senate inquiry.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Malarndirri McCarthy told parliament at the time that the government needed more time to review the report before responding.

The Albanese government has committed \$4.4 billion in new funding to address the scourge of gender-based violence, provide support for legal service and respond to a rapid review into prevention approaches, including investing in frontline services.

The criminology institute's report was released on the same day a woman was killed in the Northern Territory in what police described as a “domestic violence-related death”.
—AAP



Kicking up sand at Corroboree

The Shalom dancers perform at the event in Townsville. Pictures: Alf Wilson

By ALF WILSON



THE Corroboree event, which was part of the North Australia Festival of Arts in Townsville, proved popular, attracting many local First Nation's men, women and children.

Also numerous non-Indigenous people and visitors from around Australia and overseas.

Held from 26 September to 13 October, NAFA is an annual celebration of arts, culture, inclusion, and community, during which Townsville is transformed with eclectic and vibrant

shows and events, that include comedy, dance, theatre, circus, music, visual arts, cabaret and workshops.

Organized by Big Eye Theatre, Corroboree is a celebration of First Nations dance, art and culture.

Held at Jezzine Barracks Precinct near the Strand on 28 September, it also included Blak art markets, cultural performances, local musicians, food stalls and more.

The *Koori Mail* was there and saw local combined dance group Mala Jina Julbu women and Mala Jina Waran men. The Shalom Christian College youth group also was a highlight.

Pastors Andrew Bollom who co-ordinated the Shalom youths said it

was a great event.

“The kids come from Charters Towers, Palm Island, Mount Isa, Cherbourg, Yarrabah and Murray Island in the Torres Strait. After a special year dancing at the indigenous Allstars Game in Townsville, followed by many NAIDOC events and schools and community visits it was an honour to be invited to the Jezzine Barracks by the Strand for the annual Corroboree.

“The kids loved kicking up the sand and representing their old people, their families, school and church, and community.

“They even got asked to a second set of performances on the night,” Pastor Bollom said.

#RESPECT FOR COUNTRY Yarn up!

What is the role of the Environment Protection Authority?

Who is the Aboriginal Peoples Knowledge Group (APKG) and what role do they play?

Understanding the EPA's proposed Respect for Country legislative reform.

Tell us about environmental issues affecting Country in your community.

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Newcastle – 17 Oct	Queanbeyan – 4 Nov



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The Mala Jina Julbu women and Mala Jina Waran men dancers.



Vicki Tapim and Alana Solomon, aged 10, at the Nesian Charms stall.



Dakota, Melikai and baby Amaya, aged two, laid a blanket on the ground.



Event organiser Ros Sailor with some of the dancers.



Alan Patterson, Florence Onus and Jesse Onus with Amirah Onus-Patterson, aged four.



Sylvester Cook from the Gold Coast.

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Department of Education



The language of reconciliation

By KEIRA JENKINS



THE stories of Elders, young people, business owners and educators are being used to teach Indigenous culture and knowledge at two schools in southeast Queensland.

Binung Ma Na Du: Cultural Stories and Living Histories on Wakka Wakka Country created bilingual resources as part of a language revitalisation project in Murgon and Cherbourg.

Wakka Wakka man and Cherbourg elder Fred Cobbo instigated the project, saying he wanted to highlight positive stories from his community.

"Every time you hear a story about an Aboriginal community, the first thing you hear is negative stuff," he said.

"Look at the real stories in the community, I think this is why the language program came about, we want to look at all of the good stuff and the positive stuff."

With a team of researchers from the University of Queensland, Central Queensland University and Queensland University of Technology, Mr Cobbo worked with community members and Elders to develop resources featuring local histories.

As a chief investigator on the project, he said he could see the difference the resources were making at Cherbourg State School and Murgon State High School.



The Binung Ma Na Du research team: Professor Margaret Kettle from Central Queensland University, Cherbourg Elder Fred Cobbo, University of Queensland associate professor Marnee Shay and University of Queensland professor Grace Sarra. *Picture: University of Queensland*

"It's making a big difference, not only to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, it's actually making a big difference to non-Indigenous kids," he said.

"We've actually got those non-Indigenous kids talking to us in our own language, which I think is a form of reconciliation in itself."

Mr Cobbo said he'd like to see the Binung Ma Na Du project used as a model to revitalise language and develop local resources for schools in communities across the country.

Associate Professor Marnee Shay, from the University of Queensland's School of Education, led the project alongside Mr Cobbo.

Each of the storytellers owns the copyright to their own stories, and the videos are stored on the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council webpage.

Dr Shay, a Ngen'giwumirri woman from the University of Queensland's School of Education, said this meant the community could govern their use into the future.

She said the resources were "rich and needed" but it was uncommon to find localised material to teach Indigenous culture in schools.

"You can't teach language without teaching culture, history and identity," she said.

"Those stories that come from Wakka Wakka Country, from Wakka Wakka people and also historical Elders are absolutely vital in supporting language revitalisation programs, and not just generic Indigenous studies materials, but localised materials."

The project was awarded a University of Queensland Partners in Indigenous Research Excellence Award as part of the university's Research and Innovation Week recently.

Dr Shay attributed the project's success to Mr Cobbo and the communities involved.

"There were so many people that contributed to this project, it was a whole community effort," she said.

"There's dozens of people involved, so I think it's an excellent recognition of Cherbourg and Murgon."

- AAP

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Celebrating story and culture



THE annual celebration of First Nations dance, song and culture, DanceRites 2024, is expected to

welcome nearly 300 performers to the Sydney Opera House Forecourt when it returns on Saturday and Sunday, October 19-20.

Twenty dance groups representing more than 40 nations and clans will take to the Sand Circle to perform in Australia's only national competition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups – with around half of the performers at this year's event making their DanceRites debut.

Demonstrating the richness and diversity of their cultures, each group will showcase their local storytelling and language in the Cultural Dance and Song cycle, competing in heats on Saturday and finals on Sunday.

Many groups will also perform an optional 'Wild Card' dance to demonstrate their unique style.

The competition's prize pool of \$41,000 will be shared between the overall winner, runner-up group and the best Wild Card dance.

Two Rites of Passage awards will also acknowledge outstanding contributions to revitalising cultural knowledge and practices.



Picture Wayne Quilliam

The competition's prize pool of \$41,000 will be shared between the overall winner, runner-up group and the best Wild Card dance.

Groups will be marked on dance skills and engagement with culture, language and song by a judging panel made up of leaders in First Nations dance including; Berthalia Selina Reuben (Peiudu and Samsep, Darnley Island), Gary Lang (Larrakia), Rosealee Pearson (Yolngu, Manggalili, Yirrkala), Sani Townson (Koedal, Dhoeybaw, Samu Saibai Island Zenadth Kes) and Tara Gower (Yawuru).

This year's weekend of free family-friendly events will be hosted by Dauwarbara – Gubbi Gubbi singer-songwriter Naomi Wenitong, also known as one-half

of Shakaya, and Yiman – Ghungalu hip-hop pioneer Shannon Williams aka BrothaBlack.

Special guest performances over the weekend include DanceRites 2023 winners Mui Mui Bumer Gedlam, originally established near Newcastle on Wonnarua land to connect children living away from their homeland with the traditions of the Torres Strait Islands.

Choreographer and songwriter from Mui Mui Bumer Gedlam, Toby Cedar, said he was looking forward to returning for DanceRites 2024, performing last

year's winning dance just before the announcement of this year's winner.

"We are bringing the same team from last year and have been rehearsing and touching up the costumes. Some of the kids have grown taller during the past 12 months so we had to make their Su (grass skirts) larger," he said.

Toby has also composed a couple of new songs, something he does under the guidance of his Elders to make sure they represent his people correctly. Toby choreographs the male dancer's parts and his niece, Beatrice, choreographs the women's dance.

"My songs are always my interpretations of our stories, the stories that connect us all to home.

"As we learned these new songs I have heard our kids starting to meet and greet each other in language. Language is our identity and it has been lost since colonisation and it makes me proud to hear them start to learn our language again off-country.

"Dance Rights came originally from New Zealand. It was a way for Maori to create new Hakas. Rhoda Roberts bought it here, and it's now a part of ongoing development and celebration of First Nations Culture.

"I have worked with five Aboriginal groups helping them create and develop their own dances. I don't write their songs, tell their stories or make up their dances but I can show them how to create their own.

"It's all about self belief, only they can do it and it's amazing to see a shift in their sense of pride when they tell their own stories.

"We can't wait to perform and catch up with the awesome team at Dance Rites, it's a big gathering with all Mob coming together to celebrate.

DanceRites 2019 competitors, Maruku Arts dance group the Anangu Dancers, will also return to showcase some of the most ancient dance and songlines from the Central Desert region; and from the United States, Native Pride Production will make their DanceRites debut, led by two-time world champion Fancy Dancer Larry Yazzie, to share Native American cultural traditions.

DanceRites is free at Sydney Opera House forecourt from Saturday, October 19 to Sunday, October 20. The event will also be broadcast as a livestream on Sydney Opera House and NITV channels. The full schedule, as well as links to the live stream, is available at sydneyoperahouse.com/dancerites#schedule



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AIATSIS appoints new CEO



PROUD Ngemba man from north-west New South Wales Mr Leonard Hill has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) for a term of four years.

Mr Hill has a wealth of experience in Indigenous Affairs, working across Federal and State Governments, as well as Aboriginal Community Organisations over three decades.

Most recently, Mr Hill has been Acting CEO of AIATSIS, where he has provided consistent and reliable leadership through a period of change.

Minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy congratulated Mr Hill on his appointment and



Leonard Hill with Minister McCarthy

said she was looking forward to working with him.

"He brings a wealth of knowledge and a deep commitment to preserving and

celebrating the cultures, histories and languages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"AIATSIS is an incredibly rich resource for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, connecting them to family, culture and identity.

"With Mr Hill at the helm I am confident AIATSIS will continue to serve as a vital link, preserving and sharing knowledge that strengthens the connection to Country and culture for generations to come.

In his interim role Mr Hill has delivered on the Institute's strategic objectives, including expanding its presence outside of Canberra for the first time, with the opening of an AIATSIS office in Alice Springs in Central Australia.

AIATSIS celebrates, educates and inspires people to connect with the rights,

knowledge, cultures and stories of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is Australia's only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led national cultural institution.

Mr Hill thanked the Australian Government and the AIATSIS Council for instilling their trust in him to continue as AIATSIS CEO.

"I proudly walk in the footsteps of those who have come before me and as we celebrate our 60 year anniversary in 2024, I look to the future of this world class organisation and focus my efforts on continuing to tell the story of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia and to create a world in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights, knowledges, cultures and stories are recognised, respected, celebrated and valued," he said.

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Racism complaint lodged by NT Aboriginal police



THREE serving Aboriginal police officers have lodged a complaint against the Northern Territory government and police commissioner, alleging racial discrimination over a 20-year period.

The complaint, lodged with the Australian Human Rights Commission, alleges racial vilification and derision, and an unequal system of pay and promotion.

Sydney-based law firm Levitt Robinson lodged the complaint on the officers' behalf.

"(Aboriginal Community Police Officers) have been subject to racist conduct since their position was invented," lawyer Dana Levitt said. "A lot of them have complained about the treatment to which they were subject or they've seen other community members subject and nothing has been done about it."

But Ms Levitt said these are not historical complaints.

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.

Chelmsford Bridge and Leura Cascades Picnic Area

Written submissions on this listing are invited from any interested person by close of business on 5 November 2024. Enquiries can be made to Sarah Hawkins on (02) 9873 8500.

The Heritage Council is interested in receiving information in writing, by email, telephone or in person from the Aboriginal community or Aboriginal organisations on the potential 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

Make your submission at: haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/chelmsford-bridge

or direct your submission to: Heritage Council of NSW Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124



1800 413 933 | phmss@iaha.com.au | iaha.com.au/puggy-hunter-memorial-scholarship-scheme

Cultural items returned



A COLLECTION of artefacts of significant cultural importance to the Warumungu Community of Tennant Creek in Australia's

Northern Territory have been returned at a formal handover ceremony in London by the Horniman Museum and Gardens.

Initiated by the Warumungu Community with the support of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), the formal request for the Warumungu materials was received in May last year, and the Horniman, according to its Restitution and Repatriation Policy, approved the unconditional return of items, noting the Trustees' 'moral obligation'.

Ceremony

The handover ceremony was attended by Warumungu Elders Cliff Plummer Jabarula and William (Bill) Ah Kit Jakamarra, representatives of AIATSIS and the Horniman Museum, and many distinguished guests.

The artefacts include a Wurtil (water carrier), Ngurrulumuru (pick), Marttans (knives), Murkutu (sheath), Warnanja (axe), Wartilykirri (hooked 'number seven' boomerangs, including one from the Horniman's Handling Collection), and Jalkkaji (spear thrower).

At the request of the Warumungu

community, the items will temporarily be held at AIATSIS in Canberra until the community is ready to receive them on Country. Following their return to Country, they will be permanently housed at the Nyinkka Nyunyu Arts and Cultural Centre in Tennant Creek.

The artefact return is supported by the Australian Government's AIATSIS-led Return of Cultural Heritage (RoCH) program, which works to identify and facilitate the return of cultural heritage material held in overseas collections.

Productive relationships

AIATSIS' approach is grounded in building respectful and productive relationships with both the communities whose material is held abroad and the collecting institutions and collectors who house these materials.

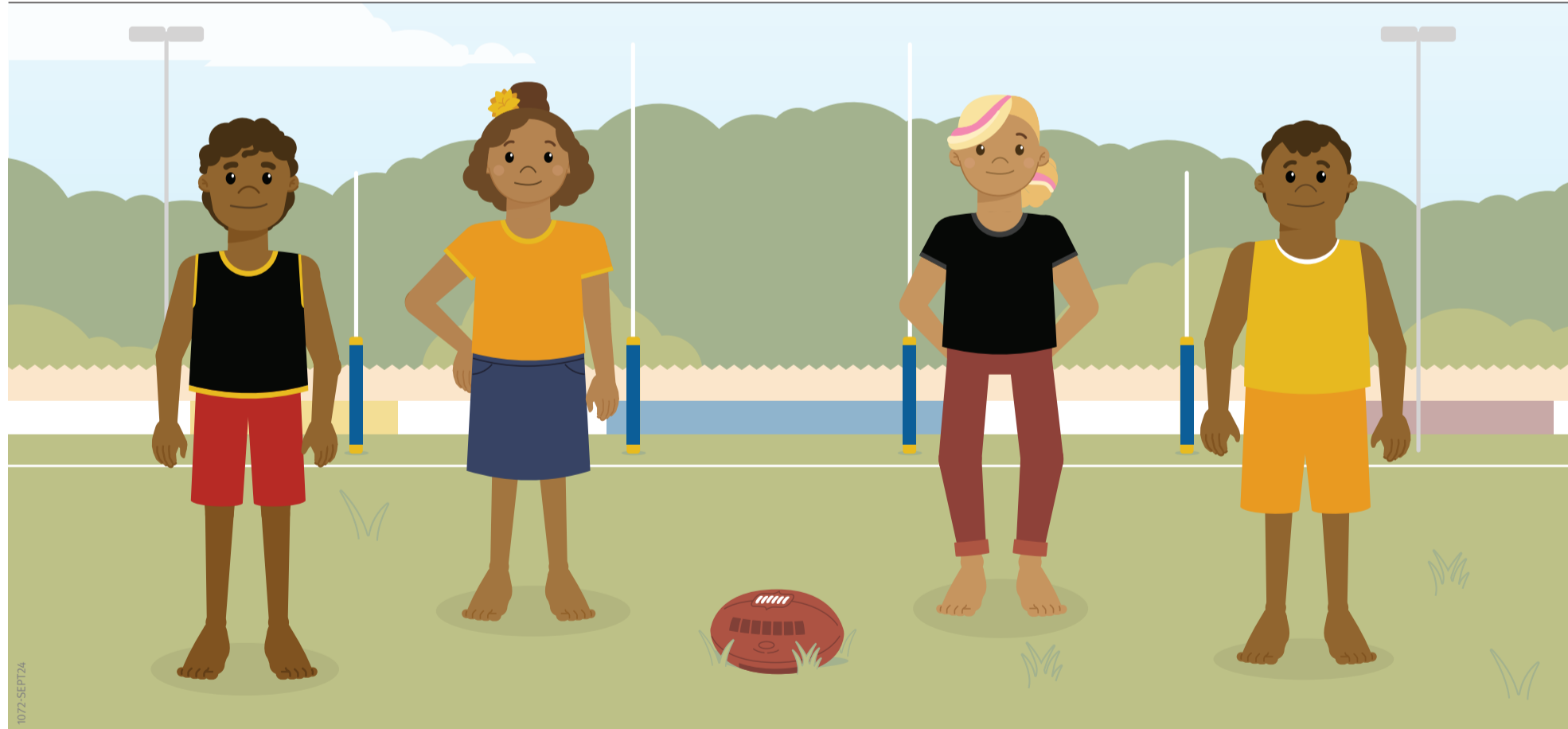
Senior Warumungu Elder, Mr Michael Jones Jampijinpa, spoke to the simple truth of the importance of having items returned.

"Because it's been taken away from here, we would like to see all those things come back to the area where they were collected. They are Warumungu and they need to come back to Warumungu Country. We are happy that they're coming back because all that stuff was taken a long time ago before my time," he said.



Warumungu Elders William Ah Kit Jakamarra and Cliff Plummer Jabarula with a selection of the objects being returned by the Horniman Museum and Gardens, at the formal handover ceremony in London.

Advertisement



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Tiwi Elders offer healing to families of fallen marines



FALLEN but not forgotten; in a sacred ceremony on the shores of Darwin Harbour the lives of three marines have been remembered.

In August 2023, the US marines were killed after a military aircraft crashed over the Tiwi Islands, 80km north of Darwin, during a training exercise.

It grounded the exercise and sent shock waves through both the defence and Tiwi communities, but the tragedy has sparked a unique exchange between foreign allies and one of the oldest living cultures.

On Thursday, September 26, Tiwi Elders gifted the families of the fallen marines skin names – Rakijarrini, Purnalijimirri and Piliyamayuwu – in a ceremony that welcomed the grieving parents into Tiwi culture and kinship, attended by both US marines and Australian troops.

"This sacred ceremony is deeply private, intended for family only, and is considered the most important ceremony in a person's life," said Major Adam White of the Australian Defence Force's northern command.

"We don't use their names, but rather



A sacred Tiwi ceremony was held on the shores of Darwin Harbour a year after a fatal military crash.

big brother, little brother and little sister."

In Tiwi culture death does not exist; instead there is an afterlife.

Pukumani is the name for a Tiwi ceremony that prepares a person to move from the living world into the spiritual.

After the MV-22 Osprey aircraft crashed just inland of the local school on Melville Island, Tiwi Elders began the 12-

month-long ceremony.

Now a year later, that will conclude with families returning to the crash site to place three hand-carved totem poles in the ground, one for each marine.

"This will be the place of their eternal rest," said Mantiyupwi woman Jennifer Ullungura Clancy.

"This is a sad, special occasion for the

family ... and the Tiwi people.

"This is when they say their last goodbyes to their loved ones."

Ms Clancy said the crash impacted everyone in the Tiwi community at the time.

"They can grieve on their own. And then we do it together as well," she said.

"And we are family, like we told them, we are family, (does not matter) what nationality you come from, we are still one, one people, no matter what colour we are, one people."

Lieutenant Colonel Eileen Hall, who has worked as a liaison between Tiwi and the ADF for the past year preparing the ceremony, told reporters that parts of it had never been shared with the military before.

"Earlier this week, we did a spiritual walk across the four bases to prepare older brother, little brother, little sister for their journey," she said.

"We've never done that, and so this week has been about new starts and new journeys and new friendships and new family."

The US Marine Rotational Force was due to leave Darwin on October 3 after completing a six-month deployment in the Northern Territory.



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Studying Torres Strait engagement

By ALF WILSON



A FIVE-year project which will examine how Torres Strait Islanders have historically dealt with outsiders and their influence will be of great interest. When completed the study will better enable Indigenous people to negotiate with governments in the present day.

Associate Professor Sana Nakata, Head of Research at JCU's Indigenous Education and Research Centre, will lead the study.

"During the study we will be talking to people on Thursday island and will visit some of the outer islands. There will also be research workshops for community on TI," Professor Sana Nakata told the *Koori Mail*.

She said the Productivity Commission has again found that federal, state and territory governments have not made any significant gains in improving the life outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"This landmark study addresses a significant gap in our understanding of Torres Strait Islander agency. We'll be examining how Torres Strait Islanders have navigated legal and policy frameworks of governments over the past century and find how Islanders adapted to changes in their region but still managed to preserve parts of their traditional way-of-life," she said.

She said the team will use a combination of extensive archival research interviews, oral histories and community research workshops with Torres Strait Islanders both on the mainland and in the Torres Strait.



Associate Professor Sana Nakata.

"This project will enable us to undertake a comprehensive study that has the potential to empower Indigenous narratives, contribute to cultural

preservation, and inform policy development in ways that can benefit all Indigenous communities," said Associate Professor Nakata.

She said understandings of Torres Strait Island traditions of self-reliance and making their own way in life had been marginalised in modern times.

"Indigenous people are too often represented as either beneficiaries of benevolence or victims of colonisation. By centering Islander perspectives, we can produce a history of political action and change that takes seriously the agency of Islanders in navigating complex conditions.

"This restores Islanders' position as a

people who have always advanced self-determination agendas, on their terms and not others, in order to build futures of our own making," said Associate Professor Nakata.

The five-year project has been funded by a more than \$1.7 million grant from the Australian Research Council's Discovery Indigenous scheme.

Associate Professor Nakata works at JCU Cairns and Townsville campuses and commutes regularly to Melbourne where she lived for 20 years.

"Most people in Melbourne know little about the Torres Strait which has significant importance," she said.

MULLINS, Buddy 15 August 2012

Sacred Tribal Service was conducted at Lot 0512, Town of Sanderson plan(s)80/166, 35 Applegum Drive, Karama, NT 0812. Long-12.3958264 lat 130.9171737. I laid my little brother's remains to rest with a private service with family.

Also, on the 1st September 2024, I laid to rest my Tribal Ancestry remains of a sacred family member also at Lot 0512, Town of Sanderson plan(s)80/166, 35 Applegum Drive, Karama, NT 0812. Long-12.3958264 lat-130.9171737.

In loving memory of my family members.
Pinger (Michael Mullins)

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.

Ballast Point Park, Birchgrove

Written submissions on this listing are invited from any interested person by 17 November 2024. Enquiries to Sarah Hawkins on (02) 9873 8500.

The Heritage Council is interested in receiving information in writing, by email, telephone or in person from the Aboriginal community or Aboriginal organisations on the potential 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

Make your submission at: haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/ballast-reserve

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news

Water insecurity driven by racist policies of the past



LACK of access to safe drinking water is still a reality for many First Nations people living in remote communities.

According to an explainer released by Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE), the extent of the problem is not even clear with an unknown number of people affected Australia wide.

An explainer released on the 17th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) outlines the ongoing challenges to providing safe water to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

One expert who reviewed the explainer, Taylor Hayward, said every state had a different set of challenges.

"There has previously been

no public visibility of this problem with still a lot to uncover. In many cases water insecurity, in remote Aboriginal communities, has been driven by racist policies from the past," he said.

"This is such an avoidable position to be in. We need a reporting structure that brings some transparency."

ATSE's explainer, Closing the Water Gap — Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, found that current water quality statistics did not include any regional and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The threshold of at least 10,000 water connections for national reporting means that these communities across regional and remote Australia, which all comprise fewer than 7,000 residents, are not in the national statistics.

ATSE's CEO Kylie Walker

said safe water for drinking and sanitation was a human right.

"Many of these communities experience significant and ongoing challenges related to adequate and safe drinking water, including issues of water supply security, quality, and asset maintenance and reliability.

"These challenges manifest in poor health outcomes, including heavy metal poisoning, microbial contamination, kidney inflammation and eye infections.

"Australia needs to deliver safe water to all residents. We should be collecting appropriate statistics that reflect the reality of water supply and can inform proper evidence-based responses to this national challenge."

If you are part of a First Nations community living with inadequate or unsafe water send an email to editor@koorimail.com



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Australian Government
National Indigenous Australians Agency

'Black cladding' bad for business



ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander people already face systemic barriers when attempting to get their businesses off the ground and concerns about "black cladding" can exacerbate difficulties, an Indigenous group says.

Black cladding occurs when a non-Indigenous business entity or individual takes unfair advantage of an Indigenous organisation to unfairly gain access to opportunities they would otherwise not be entitled to, according to Indigenous business verifier Supply Nation.

The non-profit organisation's chief executive Kate Russell told a parliamentary inquiry into economic self-determination and opportunity for Indigenous Australians that it was a serious issue.

"But I also believe that it receives an unfair amount of attention," she said.

"The great majority of Indigenous businesses are doing the right thing and I do not want to create a situation where a few bad apples spoil the whole bunch."

Many Indigenous business owners are already at a



Supply Nation's chief executive Katie Russell has warned that worries about 'bad apples' could spoil opportunities for businesses owned by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. *Picture: AAP*

disadvantage because they do not come from a long line of intergenerational wealth or they may not have qualifications like a masters degree due to systemic barriers.

"My concern is that corporate

and government organisations will not engage with Indigenous businesses because they are so afraid of black cladding – they don't want to be burned," Ms Russell said.

For an entity to be registered

on Indigenous Business Direct, the largest national director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, they must be at least 50 per cent owned by Indigenous people, be located in Australia and make the majority

of its revenue from a product or service.

This definition represents more than just Indigenous ownership, instead it allows Indigenous people to get actively involved, Ms Russell said.

Supply Nation also noted there was an unreal expectation on Indigenous businesses to contribute higher than average benefit to the community.

"This expectation happens regularly at the pre-procurement stage and can have a detrimental effect on the First Nations business," the organisation wrote in its submission.

The Coalition of Peaks, which represents more than 80 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations, urged the government to review all policies aimed at improving Indigenous economic development and consider a Productivity Commission evaluation of the Closing the Gap agreement.

It also called on the government to fully fund the Indigenous community-controlled sector as a contributor to employment outcomes and economies in regional and remote areas. **- AAP**



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CLC celebrates fifty years of land rights

By (A)MANDA PARKINSON



LANDING in Vincent Lingiari's palm, was his Country. The red earth passed through Prime Minister Gough

Whitlam's fingertips as he handed back 1,250 square miles of Wave Hill Station to the Gurundji people.

It was 1974, and a watershed moment that sparked a transition of Aboriginal land rights in the nation's colonial history.

As the Central Land Council celebrates 50 years, chairman Warren Williams said he is most proud of the things achieved during the organisation's first decade.

The four land councils were established to bring together witnesses and evidence for the 1973 Woodward Royal Commission, and since, have returned more than half of the Northern Territory to Aboriginal traditional owners.

An effort labelled as "enduring".

After Liberal leader Malcolm Fraser toppled the Whitlam government, he passed the Aboriginal Land Rights Act in 1976.

But the political climate echoing the call of Aboriginal people and a need for self-determination had changed.

"I think Gough Whitlam was a person that, you know, stood out in the community for getting land rights back, he was one of the best prime ministers we had," Mr Williams said.

"Then (Malcolm) Fraser came in and he, sort of, weakened that proposal."

When passing the new laws, the Fraser Liberal government refrained from supporting a national system of land rights.

According to the federal Parliamentary Library, the words "self-determination" were dropped from the government's vocabulary and replaced with "self-management" and "self-sufficiency".

Furthermore, the Fraser government made amendments to the land rights proposal, most notably the provision for some mining sites to go ahead without the consent of Traditional Owners.

Despite the opposition of Mirarr people, the Ranger Uranium Mine – Australia's largest uranium mine in the heart of Kakadu National Park – was exempted from the NT Land Rights Act.

Fifty years on, the Central Land Council is celebrating its past, present and future.

The organisation has fostered nationally renowned leaders,



Ceremonial dancers take part in the Central Land Council's 50th celebration. Picture: Jesse Tyssen

including activist Charlie Perkins, who became the council's first chairman in 1975, and artist Wenten Rubuntja, who was Dr Perkins' deputy.

Land Rights News

A year later, the council published the first edition of *Land Rights News*, now Australia's oldest Aboriginal-owned newspaper.

Reflecting on her father, film and television director Rachel Perkins said it was disappointing that Mr Fraser and successive governments failed to create a national land rights act.

"One of the great tragedies of his (her father's) life was that it didn't come to fruition ... he put years of work into that. And I remember going to protests about it," she said.

She said that, despite the knockbacks, a defining feature of her father's leadership was it came from the grassroots.

"True leadership is bringing your community with you, being a grassroots organiser, knowing the people that are prepared to walk alongside you," she said.

"And he knew everybody. He knew families from right across the country, and his network extended, over decades of life. He understood that our people respect and regard the personal interaction, the personal touch."

She recalled travelling with her father, at the age of six, along the old dirt tracks by car from Alice Springs to Canberra for meetings with politicians.

"He was a radical, he spoke out, he was always ruffling feathers and getting in trouble for calling out racism where he saw it, and demanding that the status quo wasn't enough," Ms Perkins said.

It was that leadership, and the many hands that "make change", Ms Perkins explained, that led to the Warlpiri Kartangarru-Gurindji land claim, which was the Central Land Council's first successful claim in 1978.

In the decade that followed, Aboriginal people displaced by colonisation won back their homelands and with that came the right to infrastructure and water.

"A lot of our people were living on their land well before land rights came," Mr Williams said.

"So they were fighting whilst they were still living on the land, bringing something to their Country, like water, electricity, shelter, that's made it home now."

In 1983, the council hired a young Yawuru man from the Kimberley, Patrick Dodson.

He would go on to become the organisation's first director two years later and eventually a Labor senator for Western Australia.

The council opened offices in seven communities across the red centre, and in 1985 Mr Dodson's work made history when Uluru-Kata Tjuta was handed back to Anangu people. Traditional owners then leased it back to the federal government

for 99 years, making it one of the nation's first co-managed national parks.

Soon after Jakamarra Nelson, who's considered an architect of the organisation's community development programs, joined the board.

After he passed, the council remembered him as "a champion of Aboriginal-led economic development".

Today, the Central Land Council's community development programs are amongst some of the most influential in Australia.

They have helped Aboriginal communities create circular economies on their land through pastoral leases, land conservation, tourism and resources.

Caring for Country

Mr Williams acknowledges that the work of the council – which is made up of 90 men and women from communities across the central desert – has expanded beyond getting land back to "keeping Country strong" with its ranger program.

With 14 groups across the region, it both employs and educates people while helping them to stay on Country.

"The rangers are being taught on the land whose Country that is, the people who are on it and lie within it – it's an education," he said.

"I think it's significant when you learn something from people's land like that, you seem

to spread it out ... you say to people 'we've been to this land here, and it belongs to this group of people'."

Mr Williams described it as a form of organic truth-telling.

In recent years, land councils and their access to up to \$1 billion in federal funding have come under fire from Country Liberal Party senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, who has called for greater "transparency and accountability".

Last year, the federal Labor government earmarked \$665 million in funds, under the NT Land Rights Act, to the newly formed NT Investment Corporation led by Barb Shaw, the current deputy chair of the Central Land Council.

"We are an Aboriginal-led organisation, which is now taking on and having Aboriginal hands control Aboriginal monies that have been locked away in federal treasury in Canberra for decades," she said at the corporation's recent strategy launch.

Ms Perkins reflected that leadership of the Central Land Council is a tough burden to carry.

"I saw my father carry it, and I see what the leaders who put their hands up to go and be part of the land council do just to prove this always was and always will be Aboriginal land," she said.

"It's no easy task, it takes a lifetime of work."

– AAP

'Waste of money': Promise to dump Indigenous position



AUSTRALIA'S First Nations ambassador would be axed on "day one" under a coalition election promise, as Labor stands by the value of Indigenous diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific.

Describing the role as a "waste of money", Opposition Leader Peter Dutton said the nation had higher priorities.

"If it is the case that we win the next election, that position will be abolished on day one, and that money will be spent to help Australians who are struggling at the moment to keep a roof over their head, or to pay their electricity bill," Mr Dutton told 2GB radio.

Ambassador for First Nations People Justin Mohamed has taken nine overseas trips, with taxpayers forking out more than \$100,000 on business class flights, according to *The Daily Telegraph*.

The visits, including to the US, Switzerland, Vanuatu and Dubai, added up to \$350,000.

Mr Dutton said no one could point to what the position had achieved.

"It's the only position of its nature in the world," he said.

"It'll be a very different way of governing if we win the next election. But at the moment, the waste, I think, is just frustrating and annoying people because



Ambassador for First Nations People Justin Mohamed.

they haven't got enough money in their own budget, but they've got the prime minister flying this guy around the world business class, doing I don't know what."

A spokesperson for Foreign Minister Penny Wong defended Mr Mohamed and his team, saying they had delivered results.

"First Nations diplomacy is a powerful element of our engagement with the Pacific given the strong First Nations cultural and historical connections with our region," she said.

"It is one of the ways we are rebuilding our relationship with the Pacific family after

Mr Dutton and the Liberals disrespected Pacific leaders and neglected Pacific priorities over nine long years, leaving a vacuum for other countries to fill.

"The Albanese government will continue doing everything we can to make Australia a partner of choice for the region."

Mr Mohamed has helped secure greater access for Indigenous people to the Human Rights Council, and was essential to delivering a groundbreaking treaty securing formal recognition of First Nations people's genetic resources and traditional knowledge, the spokesperson added.

China's expanding influence in the Indo-Pacific has alarmed Australia and the US.

The move by the Solomon Islands in 2022 to sign a security pact with Beijing, allowing a Chinese police presence in the country, caught Australia off guard.

While Beijing has previously approached Papua New Guinea with a policing deal, its government reaffirmed Australia remained its security partner of choice.

The coalition, when it was last in government, supported Indigenous businesses to expand market access by sponsoring delegates to attend the World Indigenous Business Forum in Canada in 2019.

A federal election must be held by late May 2025.

- AAP

SHAUN MICALLEF'S

ORIGIN ODYSSEY

New Series

SBS ON DEMAND

STREAM FREE

Danny Eastwood's view



A YARN WITH...



Olive-Rose Pearson, aged 19
Newcastle, New South Wales

Favourite bush tucker?
Kup Murri.

Favourite other food?
KFC. The zinger box.

Favourite drink?
Sprite.

Favourite music?
R&B.

Favourite sport?
Volleyball. I like playing it.

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

Favourite holiday destination?
Hammond Island in the Torres Strait.

What's your favourite movie?
Beverly Hills Cop.

What do you like in life?
Freedom.

What don't you like in life?
Negative vibes and negative people.

Which Black or Indigenous person would you most like to meet?
My late grandmother who was also named Olive.

Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire?
My family.

Who or what inspires you?
My work friends who come from as far away as Adelaide, Fiji and Africa.

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people?
Get our young people outdoors to stop them being bored.

Quote



"I learned that the more you perform the better, and with platforms like Tik Tok now there are many ways it can happen. You can't get seen if you don't put yourself out there, so get out and perform, that's my advice."

Coodjinburra singer Budjerah

● See page 4

Unquote

Our children deserve it

The announcement that a national commissioner will be appointed to tackle the rising rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care is welcome.

They will head up a National Commission for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People, which will begin operations in January.

With our children almost 11 times more likely to be in outside care, and 29 times more likely to be in youth detention, such an appointment is well overdue.

Indigenous Australians Minister Malarndirri McCarthy is entirely correct when she says that rates of over-representation in both systems are unacceptable.

"The national commissioner will focus on working with First Nations people and organisations on evidence-based programs and policies to turn those figures around," she said.

"The national commissioner will be informed by the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, whose voices deserve to be heard.

"Their strengths, sense of hope and new ideas will drive systemic change."

That all sounds good but it is also necessary to have a person leading who can advocate beyond



communities. A person who can rock up to the prime minister's office and deliver the tough messages that need to be heard by our political leaders.

The commissioner's influence will hopefully also extend into other areas of society which currently provide roadblocks or impediments to young people. Perhaps they can reignite the push for more justice reinvestment programs, which involves diverting money used to lock people up, into projects and programs that help build a brighter, more positive future for young people.

Let's face it. A lot of children are in tough situations and they need all the support and help they can get.

That is obvious in another report in this edition that says 80 per cent of young people in the Northern Territory have seen or experienced racism but only one per cent were shocked by it.

How sad. A society where children from a young age expect racism as just one of the many challenges they must deal with. Here's hoping this new commission has the clout to change that for the better.

KOORI MAIL 100% ABORIGINAL-OWNED

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

Time to hear the true voices amid the carnage of genocide

As it draws closer to the first anniversary of October 7, I am left mouth open and astonished at our inability as a nation to stop this genocide in Gaza. As a global community I am confused how we haven't been able to make Benjamin Netanyahu accountable for his war crimes and send the real criminal to prison. The global justice system obviously doesn't work and here in our own country we would rather lock up 10-year-olds for stealing some food than take to the streets to imprison a grown man who has killed thousands and thousands of children, women and civilians.

I am astonished at our inability and lack of power to hold the true criminals to account. I feel helpless at the fact that I couldn't save the lives of so many babies and their mothers living on their ancestral lands.

I reflect on how when the pandemic took place it seemed effortless for the entire global politics to band together and stop the trade and halt the very existence of our day-to-day lives, yet when it comes to the genocide in Gaza, our cries and protests fall short and on deaf ears to our so-called



Ella Noah Bancroft

public servants.

Now Israel's insatiable violence has expanded to Lebanon. A ferocious bombing campaign that has left hundreds dead and now 1 million Lebanese people are displaced and hundreds of thousands forced to evacuate. Lebanon first fired at Israel to protest the war in Gaza, demanding a ceasefire there as a condition to end its attacks. When will the bombing stop and when will Israel be reprimanded for its war crimes?

It's hard to fathom what else to write about during these times, when the genocide in the Middle East seems to be one of the loudest and disturbing

conflicts of our time. It's also so disempowering the lack of action that is needed to truly change and shift a system that profits off constant death.

The truth is that our government and the US government want Israel to eradicate both Palestine and Lebanon, it will allow them to have access to the entire coast line, allowing them to use the resources under the soil and expand their trade.

The other existing truth is that it's time for a changing of the tides. It's time for the true voices of the oppressed to be heard, it's time for the global west to shut up and sit down and for the minorities to truly speak.

The truth is that this system is fueled by white supremacy and by the western ideals of individualism and lorelessness. This is what fuels Australia, the US and Israel. The neo-liberal democracy that we all umbrella under, somehow we the populations of these places have been made to believe that we are the first worlds, the lucky countries, the place where dreams are made of but the truth is that our societies are sick and twisted, our societies

applaud greed and the need to grow bigger and bigger, either as individuals, business or economies. Our societies can only thrive if we oppress another group of people or country.

Whatever happened to be humble, being local, being okay with the simple, most basic needs being met? The American dream is built on fast food, convenience and the lands of Native American people being abused and used. The lucky country Australia is only lucky because the colony has managed to mine, rape, pillage and plunder almost every corner of this continent, including our seas. This is not the lucky country, we are the country that has allowed the colony to destroy our rivers, ruin our soils and desertify our country.

I hold my head in shame as I watch the news and listen to the lies that come from the western view. That we are somehow better than those with differing views? That we perceive female liberation as a woman not tied to culture, religion or lore.

That we are somehow protecting ourselves from others who are terrorists? Well, when will our

government and the US government and the Israeli government be held accountable for their ongoing terrorist attacks not only within their own borders but outside as well?

According to the Bank of Israel it is estimated that genocide-related costs for 2023-2025 could amount to \$55.6 billion.

\$55.6 billion dollars, is anyone else shaking their head at this number?

The things we could do with that money, we could solve world hunger, we could bring about equality. We could change the world but you know what they say, war is a money maker.

War fuels countries' economies. So who's making hundreds of billions of dollars per year from war? The military force, companies supplying troops, manufacturing weapon companies and technologies. So who pays them?

Oh it's mostly all paid for with taxes, yep your hard-earned taxes that you give to your terrorist governments, allows the war machine to keep on turning. In some way we all have to take accountability for the blood on our hands, and in some way we have to recognise

that a huge amount of our taxpayers money that contributes to "defence" or as I like to call it "attack".

In Australia's budget, defence funding will hit a record \$55.687 billion for 2024-25. Another way that war is funded is national debt, so if the money isn't there we will go into debt to kill each other and take over lands.

So how? Check out all the lobby groups that keep the hamster wheel going, from all the weapon and technology companies that work very closely with our government officials. So I ask you, do you still think the politicians are working for us, the people? Or are they working for lobbyists and big corporations? The politicians are swayed by these lobbyists, allowing contracts to keep being made between our so-called public servants and these big corporations.

Ultimately we will have to revolt at some point, cause as they always say, the system ain't broke, it's working just as they wanted it.

● **Bundjalung woman, Ella Noah Bancroft, is a regular Koori Mail contributor.**

Kindness or clickbait: how social media influencers are tricking you

I've been reading about the rise of fake, random acts of kindness on social media. This phenomenon involves social media influencers staging heart-warming moments or doing kind things for others to gain likes and attention or stand out online. These gestures may seem spontaneous, sweet, and innocent initially, but they are cleverly orchestrated for maximum impact. These scenarios often involve an unsuspecting person going about their day, minding their own business at the supermarket, or walking down the street when a calculating social-media hustler targets them.

We've all seen it: influencer-types buying a stranger a bunch of flowers, paying for their groceries at the checkout, giving a homeless person a free haircut, or handing beggars large sums of money – all to film and upload their reactions for social media. Instead of viewing these moments as genuine opportunities to do something kind without expecting anything in return, these influencers turn them into public spectacles, seeking attention and self-aggrandisement. Even worse, this behaviour becomes addictive as a steady stream of people are



Adam C Lees

turned into props and reduced to human clickbait for online content.

It's about more than just likes and attention. Some influencers profit from the reactions by generating money through views and clicks as they amass thousands or millions of views on various social-media channels. Others enjoy the ego boost as online popularity soars when their

content goes viral.

Other clout chasers bask in the glory as they are celebrated and held up as role-model citizens. The comments section usually includes praising and admiring their deeds; "You're so kind; the world needs more people like you." Conservatives call this type of behaviour 'virtue signaling'. Usually, these influencers present themselves as empathetic or caring. Still, their acts are more about self-fulfillment than having any meaningful impact on the lives of those they claim to help.

There are also ethical considerations. Often, the targeted person didn't ask for the attention or influencer for help or assistance. And many don't consent to their images or stories being plastered on social media and presumably have no idea that they have gone viral and spotlighted online to boost someone else's image.

In a similar vein, I recently came across an online article during the Special Olympics discussing 'inspiration porn', that is, where people with disabilities are reduced to feel-good stories or memes that exist solely to inspire the non-disabled. The article highlighted that stories, memes,

and online comments like 'You're such an inspiration!' often frame and celebrate disabled athletes as inspirational merely for completing everyday tasks or activities. Those interviewed expressed that such portrayals reduce disabled people to objects of pity or admiration, catering to the emotional needs of non-disabled people while overlooking the broader, systemic issues impacting their lives.

In the context of Indigenous communities, this behaviour manifests as a form of 'poverty porn'. I have seen a growing number of social media posts where influencers and content creators portray Indigenous peoples as 'simple,' 'wise,' or 'disadvantaged', framing their stories as lessons in humility or wisdom that was imparted despite significant hardships. These types of stories also portray Indigenous peoples as downtrodden, resilient survivors but helpless, requiring support or deeper understanding and appreciation by outsiders. It reinforces a belief that Indigenous peoples and communities are stuck in hardship, waiting for someone to advocate and speak on their behalf or worse yet, to rescue them.

Indigenous academic Aileen

Moreton-Robinson has pointed out that Indigenous people are often viewed through a lens of whiteness. Historically, Indigenous voices have rarely been allowed to speak for themselves. The problem with this approach is when others champion their cause or talk on their behalf, Indigenous peoples are intentionally or unintentionally depicted in negative or overly simplistic ways. These representations are part of deeper narratives and powerful discourses that continue to trend and shape how Indigenous people are portrayed today including on social media.

A golden rule of storytelling is that people should tell their own stories to maintain authenticity and avoid misrepresentation. And the best acts of kindness are also discrete and humble, empowering Indigenous people to be genuinely self-determined by empowering them to control their narratives and share their truths. So, before that next social media post, think deeply about the stereotypes you may be perpetuating.

● **Adam C Lees is a Yadhaigana (Cape York), Meriam man, and Director of New Moon Consulting**



Bundjalung and Dunghutti woman Naomi Moran has been appointed to the NSW Treaty Commission following a long-standing relationship with the *Koori Mail*.

Ready to tackle Treaty

By NICK PATON



AFTER almost a decade at the helm of the *Koori Mail* newspaper, CEO Naomi Moran is ready to take on her next challenge, this time as NSW Treaty Commissioner.

Working alongside two other NSW Treaty Commissioners, Naomi will lead a 12-month consultation to hear from Aboriginal people in NSW about their desire for a treaty process.

This will include asking whether Aboriginal communities in NSW want an agreement-making process with government, and if so, what form that process could take.

In announcing her departure this month, Naomi said she is truly humbled by the appointment and is looking forward to connecting, sharing and building with NSW Mob.

"With great responsibility ahead in this new role, which is a first of its kind, I must acknowledge that the work I will carry out is not without the fight, and hard work of those who have come before us," Ms Moran said.

"And I know that I must continue to honour those legacies in my position.

"For those who know of my journey with the *Koori Mail*, you will know that this was a hard decision to make, but I look forward to a new journey where I will continue to work with – and for – our people and communities."

Making the most of opportunities

Naomi's involvement with the *Koori Mail* extends far beyond her long-standing position as general manager and CEO.

A proud Bundjalung and Dunghutti woman, Naomi began her career at the newspaper in 1998 as a receptionist at the age of 14 – an incredible journey spanning more than 25 years.

"I was academic in high school but at the same time I struggled with the school environment," Ms Moran said.

"I was at the top of my English class at the time and excelled in other subject areas – but I still felt like I didn't fit in," she said.

"It felt really isolating at times because I would look around and I'm the only Koori kid in the English class and I couldn't understand where all the other Koori kids were, or why they weren't there with me.

"But my best teachers and educators have always been my family and my community and my Mob," she said.

"And so I knew for a long time that the westernised approach to education wasn't for me, and one day the school received a phone call from the manager of the *Koori Mail* at the time, Steve Gordon, who was offering students a traineeship at the newspaper.

"I jumped at the chance, and so mum drove me up to the *Koori Mail* office for an interview and the very next week I started my first day in the workforce.

"Instantly I knew the day I started that job, from then on, the accountability and responsibility I had to carry for myself was real – and was on me," Ms Moran said.

"Understanding that I was accountable to myself, my family, and community – because I chose to leave what people thought was going to be my supposed education – I made it my responsibility every single day to make the most of every opportunity I was given, and learned every thing I could along the way."

After 10 years being mentored in all aspects of newspaper production at the *Koori Mail*, Naomi took on various roles from 2008 at other Indigenous media organisations, including NITV.

Before returning to the *Koori Mail* as general manager in 2016, Naomi worked with the NRL, supporting the Gold Coast Titans' Indigenous education and employment program.

Naomi said working with the *Koori Mail* over the past 25 years has been 'a great responsibility' and one she has endeavoured to fulfil with integrity at every step of her incredible journey with the newspaper.

"It has been the education I had longed for at a young age, and it was my first entry into the workforce," Ms Moran said.

"Since returning to the *Koori Mail* in 2016 there has been so much to be proud of in what we have achieved," she said.

"That includes building a state-of-the-art podcast studio for recording and sharing Blak stories, increasing First Nations staff and employment in our media sector by providing pathways for our Bundjalung youth through school-based traineeships and cadetships – strengthening our position as Australia's leading Indigenous newspaper – and one of our nation's longest running media organisations."

Matriarch and role model

Naomi's selfless and unwavering leadership shone through during the devastating floods of 2022.

With the *Koori Mail* head office and much of Lismore completely destroyed, Naomi didn't waste a second setting up what would become the region's biggest and most relied upon flood relief hub, fundraising more than \$1 million dollars for local Mob.

Without hesitation, Naomi stopped production on the *Koori Mail* for the first time in its 32-year history to concentrate on supporting the local Aboriginal (and wider) communities impacted by the floods, helping them to rebuild their lives (and homes) with donated items and supplies, equipment, and tens of thousands of meals.

● Continued next page

"The Koori Mail is remarkable, and one of our nation's longest running Blak businesses that operates as a 100% Aboriginal-owned and self-funded company, and will continue to carry on the legacy of being 'The Voice of Indigenous Australia'." – Naomi Moran.



Solua Middleton, Cheree Freeburn and Naomi Moran in the early days at the Yabun festival, Sydney.



Koori Mail flood hub warriors: Kirilly Dawn, Amarina Toby, Ella Noah Bancroft and Naomi Moran.

From receptionist to commissioner

● From previous page

Once Naomi had the community response sorted, she focused on resuming production of the newspaper, and in 2023 completely rebuilt all three floors of the *Koori Mail* offices from the ground up.

"There is no greater time throughout my years working with the *Koori Mail* that I have been more proud of than the rebuild of the *Koori Mail* following the devastation of the 2022 floods," Ms Moran said.

"So many of you played an important role in this experience and I will be forever indebted to your efforts and your kindness to the *Koori Mail* as we sought to recover and rebuild, whilst caring for our communities along the way."

Naomi's decision to repaint the entire *Koori Mail* building in the colours of the Aboriginal flag in 2024 will be seen far and wide as a long lasting legacy to her love of the *Koori Mail*.

"The *Koori Mail* has been an amazing journey of learning, being taught by so many of our Mob and communities right around the nation, and an opportunity to keep gaining knowledge that I will forever be grateful for," Ms Moran said.

"I am so proud of this organisation, and have always been proud to work alongside the amazing staff over the years who tirelessly and so passionately dedicate their time to supporting the stories of our people and communities from around the nation," she said.

"I want to thank the *Koori Mail* directors, lead by Trevor Kapeen, for their fierce support over the years, as I have navigated the general manager and CEO roles.

"Your trust in me to do these roles only made me even more determined to represent the *Koori Mail* well over the years, and I thank you for your whole-hearted blessing to step into this next chapter of my career."

Working for her people

With NSW being home to the largest Aboriginal population in Australia, the NSW Government is delivering on its election commitment to consult with Aboriginal people about their desire for a treaty process, with the appointment of three commissioners to lead a process with Aboriginal people and communities across NSW.

The government has appointed Naomi, former senator Aden Ridgeway and academic Todd Fernando.

The commissioners will engage with Aboriginal communities across metropolitan, rural, regional and remote parts of NSW, before delivering a report on their findings to the government.

"Together with Aden Ridgeway and Dr Todd Fernando, I look forward to walking alongside my fellow commissioners, to engage in deep listening with our



Some of the current *Koori Mail* staff with Naomi at the 2024 Adelaide NAIDOC Ball: (L-R) Sports editor Darren Moncrieff, senior journalist Nick Paton, board chairman Uncle Trevor Kapeen, finance and operations manager Susan Andrews, editor Darren Coyne, journalist and photographer Jillian Mundy.

communities throughout NSW to understand the views of our people and communities on Treaty," Ms Moran said.

Consultation about agreement making aligns directly with NSW's bipartisan commitment to the 2020 Closing the Gap National Agreement.

The Closing the Gap Agreement includes a commitment to formal partnerships and shared decision-making with Aboriginal people to help close the gap faster in areas such as life expectancy, health and education.

The commissioners bring with them experience, expertise and connections to Aboriginal people and communities, and have been appointed for a fixed term of two years following an open, competitive process led by an independent Aboriginal advisory panel.

Over coming months, the commissioners will develop a detailed consultation plan, with consultations to commence in 2025.

"For me, my whole life, there's been this resonating idea that it didn't matter that I didn't have 'the piece of paper' that said I could do the job," Ms Moran said.

"Being appointed as Commissioner, one of the things I just can't shake is that in a world where people have degrees and PhDs – pieces of paper – that say they are now worthy of a role like the one I've been given, I am considered 'uneducated' in the context of westernised education and westernised skills required to do this job," she said.

"But I know in my heart that I just have to trust the process and trust that

everything that I have taken accountability and responsibility for over the past 20 something years, has led to this point – where somebody has acknowledged that my education has been from community and my people.

"Since age 14, since that very first day in the workforce, I've been surrounded by Blak leadership, Blak examples of excellence and success, Blak stories from our communities right around our nation, and Blak voices."

"I come from a mother who has a strong Blak voice, and grandparents and great grandparents that had strong Blak

voices and never gave up – and just got the job done – and so I just have to trust that this is why I have been chosen to do this work now," Ms Moran said.

"Coming into this new role I sincerely hope community understands that I have first been grounded, and centred, and taught by strong Aboriginal mentors," she said.

"I have listened – and learned – from our communities first, from our people first, before undertaking any task or any duty, and so the education I have received in a cultural context is invaluable in my new role as Commissioner."



The *Koori Mail* building is now an icon of Lismore, painted up in the middle of town in a proud display of Blak resilience.

Denials of culture amount to systemic racism



PAT DUDGEON *

Today we would like to share some thoughts about a project we did with the coroners. However, a historical overview is needed.

This is recent history. Australia's systems of government, law-making and law enforcement were imported by the colonisers and remain incompatible with our peoples' ways of knowing, being and doing. These systems discriminate against us in direct and subtle ways. The disproportionately high number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people incarcerated in adult jails or in juvenile detention clearly is evidence of discrimination. The removal of children from their families is now around its highest rate ever: one in 17 Indigenous kids are in out-of-home care, compared to one in 212 across the whole Australian community. There is no possible justification for this disparity.

Even when systems and services are supposed to help us – for example in health-care – they often deny our histories and cultural realities. Australia's health system is built on a Western model of health and Western understandings of illness. These are often the only options, and many have to accept Western models of medical care. These do not recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander beliefs and research has shown that most of these systems are racist either directly or by having unconscious bias. They do not recognise different cultural identities.

Whether or not they are deliberately intended, these denials of culture amount to systemic racism. When we are forced to use systems that are ingrained with racism, we are re-traumatised and our experience of inter-generational dispossession and loss is re-activated.

It is a tragic situation that few of our people are untouched by suicide. Almost all of us have experienced the loss of loved ones, family members, extended family members, friends and irreplaceable members of our communities who have taken their own lives. 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



Back row (l-r): Eliza Kitchener (National Network Specialist, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Centre); Aunty Donna; Tanja Hirvonen (Aboriginal psychologist); Aunty Annette. Front row (l-r): Annabell, Vicki McKenna (Head of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Centre), Aunty Kathy.



Two reports from the CBPATSISP Coronial Responses project – a research report and a report from the lived experience workshop

times as high as other Australian kids.

In this grieving process there are official requirements; within days of a sudden passing, surviving families are required to contact the office of the coroner in their State or Territory. Coroners are responsible for determining the cause of death, liaising with the police, health systems and others including family and friends who can shed light on what was happening for the person at the time.

The coroner is part of the justice system and they do their work through a court. Inquests take place in court rooms and the process is conducted through official letters. All of this can be highly traumatising for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

at a time of deep grief and vulnerability. People might feel intimidated by a setting that resembles a criminal court. The language and concepts used may be very different from ordinary speech. Direct discussion of the person who has passed, and particularly the manner of the passing, is very different from the sensitivities of cultural ways and sorry business.

Last year the Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention conducted research into Indigenous families' experiences of coroners' courts and how the coronial system could become safe and supportive for our people.

We were privileged to convene a workshop of Aboriginal and

Torres Strait family members who had been bereaved by suicide – sometimes recently, sometimes long ago. In partnership with the Black Dog Institute's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Centre, we supported the group to share their experiences of the coronial system, and the group formed a strong bond in this process. It was the first time Indigenous people's perspectives on the coronial system had ever been systematically collected.

The group told us their grief was compounded by their experiences with the coroners' courts. They said they needed support through the coronial process – which can take more than a year – from Indigenous staff with the knowledge and cultural skills to keep them safe. They wanted information brochures and reports they could understand, not in technical or legal jargon. And they asked for the coroners to recognise and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kinship structures, instead of sticking to the Western legal concept of next-of-kin. Most of all, they wanted their loss to be used to prevent further suicides, through research and information sharing.

These ideas have been presented to governments and we are pleased that there is some progress.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander liaison staff are now working in coroners' courts in

most States and Territories, and we have heard that some appointments resulted directly from our reports. Some states are exploring how they could review all coronial findings involving Indigenous people, to identify common experiences and generate new ideas to prevent loss of life. Importantly, there is strong support from many individual coroners.

However, these incremental changes will not be enough to provide a culturally safe response to our people. When a legislated system works adequately for some groups in the Australian community and causes harm to others, that system can be seen as racist and should be modified or replaced.

* 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 part of a series of Koori Mail columns about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention 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.

Gearing up for Giiyong Festival

By MARION WILLIAMS



FOR Alison Simpson, the Giiyong Festival is what Twofold Aboriginal Corporation (TAC) is all about.

Giiyong is the largest multi-arts Aboriginal cultural festival in southern NSW. It brings people together, with families travelling interstate to join the joyous and high-energy celebration of their culture.

Giiyong is held at Jigamy, an Aboriginal-owned property on Thaua country, north of Eden on the Far South Coast.

"There was always a vision from the community for this land when they got it back some 40 years ago after the grounds were literally ripped from the bare hands of Elders, some of whom are living today and some of whom have passed," Ms Simpson, TAC's cultural advisor and co-CEO, said.

"The vision for it was a place for people to come together and share knowledge and understanding. Giiyong is bringing to life what they had envisaged four decades ago," she said.

TAC is a community-controlled Aboriginal organisation that was established in the late 1970s. Over that time, it has provided many different services and programs to the community.

A current focus is a range of care and support services for



Picture: David Rogers Photography

Eden students dance group at the 2023 Giiyong Festival.

Elders that enable them to live at home and contribute to the community.

As a registered housing provider, TAC manages 35 community houses across the Bega Valley for Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC), Bega LALC and the Aboriginal Housing Office. It is social housing that reduces homelessness and other housing issues in the shire's Aboriginal community.

Additionally, it runs some cultural immersion programs for

high school and university students. A camping ground is currently under construction to host the cultural programs. "We are working closely with the Eden LALC on bigger cultural projects like cultural tourism," she said.

The latest addition to their program is a career choice exposure program for young people who have left school and yet to find work. They run it in conjunction with Campbell Page to develop young people's skill sets, capacity, and experience, so



Alison Simpson and Stacey Muscat at the Giiyong Festival in 2023. Picture: Angi High

building their confidence and making them more valuable to employers.

Ms Simpson is a Wiradyuri woman and contemporary visual artist who has lived and worked on Thaua country on and off for 27 years.

Highlights of the Giiyong Festival for Ms Simpson will be "the amazing entertainment with a fantastic line-up" of musical artists, the cultural exchange program with a performance by women from the Pilbara community of Roeburne to share their language and culture, and the festival's wearable arts performance Bidhu ba Gadhu (Mountains and Sea).

Mentors Emma Stewart, Ashweeni Mason and Bee Cruse have been working with local young

women to create wearable art pieces they will display and wear at the festival. In preparation, the young women attended multiple sessions during which knowledge was passed on to them. "It has a foundation of building resilience and cultural identity," Ms Simpson said.

Another highlight for Ms Simpson is her family travelling to be part of the incredible celebration of Aboriginal dance, arts, and culture.

"Family is what this place represents and what Twofold represents," she said. "Family is a huge part of Aboriginal culture and foundational to what we do here to help families and community prosper."

The festival is loud, colourful and brings people together to share the richness and diversity of Aboriginal culture which is alive and strong.

Ms Simpson said everyone is welcome to the festival. "Black or white, it doesn't matter who you are. We are creating a space to enjoy Australian culture."

"It is an amazing opportunity to create positive vibes," she said. "It is just a really wonderful atmosphere."

Get tickets to the festival that runs from 11 am to 8pm on November 9 from <https://events.humanitix.com/giiyong-festival-2024/tickets>, Volunteers can register at www.giiyong.com.au.

Me-Mel • Goat Island

TRANSFER PROJECT

The NSW Government is committed to transferring Me-Mel to Aboriginal ownership, governance and management.

The opportunities this project presents for Aboriginal communities and future generations is significant.

We will be engaging with Aboriginal communities in the coming months to provide further updates.

Scan the QR code or visit our website to learn more about the Me-Mel Goat Island Transfer Project and how you can get involved.

w: environment.nsw.gov.au/me-mel

e: memel.goatland@environment.nsw.gov.au

I am someone and so are you



Kirk Page

A multi-skilled master of none Kirk Page's kinship connections to his Munanjali/Yugembeh, Badu Island (Zenidh Kes), Polish and German ancestry are an inspiration. Growing up on the unceded lands of the Turrbal/Yuggera people in South East Queensland, he left in pursuit of the arts over science and lives to question this fateful moment from 30 years ago.

With a career in the arts sector as a performer across dance, theatre and circus, Kirk is a part-time body for hire, with a vast knowledge of the theatre industry and the fickle state of the arts.

Kirk is a submerging artist touching the edges of irrelevance and partially making peace with the concept of time over knowledge.

He is currently residing in the lush Bundjalung territories of the Northern Rivers and has agreed to contribute his thoughts, stories and experiences as our new, regular columnist with the *Koori Mail*.

As I sit in the office space on the unceded lands of the Bundjalung nation, I am staring at the computer screen waiting, thinking and agonising over words, where to start and what thoughts to follow?

I'm slightly overwhelmed with a gentle layer of anxiety about pulling my thoughts from my head, or how to arrange clear points and to follow them on the page for people to read.

As a storyteller I have spent the majority of my working life as a performer putting myself in front of people. I'm not sure why this is any different but perhaps it's because of the permanence of words on paper versus the ephemeral nature of stage, where we come to immerse ourselves in other people's stories, be they carefully crafted and curated by amazing minds, mouths and hands.

What have I got to say? People who know me would say a lot, but on reflection sitting here by the slow current drifting outside my window the words escape me.

I receive a text from a local arts worker in the region and she invites me to the gallery for a performance here in Lismore –

"Come see Djon Mundine, he is here in town at the Quad Gallery with Karla Dickens and Mitch King" – so I jump at the chance to go and see three really awesome artists doing incredible things regionally and beyond.

I stroll across and through town towards the Quad Gallery, the doors are finally open after the repairs and renovations post flood. As I make my way through the main entrance I'm directed up the stairs to the second level where flood waters lapped reaching their peak two years ago.

The weather 'event' tracing memory of wetlands from the past and destroying everything in its wake – leaving an entire community shook by the stealth and violent brown waters.

I see some familiar faces. The small group leaning against glass and taking in the space – a plastic sheet taped to the polished concrete, a white wall and a besser brick turned on its side.

We sit quietly and I clock the awkward silence in the space as we sit in anticipation, looking down at the polished concrete and the brightness of the gallery

walls, waiting for the artist to appear.

Djon Mundine is a charismatic art curator, writer, speaker, and activist from the Northern Rivers region and a proud Aboriginal man of Bundjalung and Irish (County Cork) descent. He has been an ever present figure in the arts for over three decades – for as long as I can remember, as long as those dreadlocks of his.

A bare chested Djon arrives in the door way, dressed in a red cloth evoking the image of a clansman, a proud Bundjalung man. He gets covered in red ochre while telling us some hard and true facts.

I begin to think of aspects of ceremony and blood letting and the history of violence and the piecemeal attempts to negotiate with the first people of this place from the past and today in the present.

I'm reminded about the importance of coming together – to feel, see, and hear the wisdom of a story told to us about us.

We watch closely. Djon invites us to respond to him, we become part of this scene he is creating.

He asks us to respond to the statement 'You are somebody'

with 'I am somebody'. We call back to him, a call and response, in the space, together. Audience participation makes me want to run away, through the glass walls – but instead I go towards the offer and embrace this something I didn't realise I needed.

Evocative and grounding – this pair of statements, "YOU are someone" and "I am someone". We repeat this like a prayer or a mantra, "You are somebody".

I can feel an opening, a layer of weight lifting off of my shoulders, off my heart and my head. Dead weight ascending up through the roof away from me.

The group continue with the call and answer. Seeing each other and the figure appearing on the gallery wall, an ancestor in real time – a message and a reminder to us all.

Walking into the gallery in Lismore I wasn't sure what to expect – I knew I was going to see Djon Mundine do something in the gallery, I did not expect to have a spiritual moment, a cleanse, a deep acknowledgement or reckoning that spoke to me, all of us, saying, "I am somebody" and "You are someone".

Artist profile



Tibian Wyles: performer, actor, dancer, director, writer.



Tibian on stage performing *Dear Brother* with the Queensland Theatre Company.

Who are you and where do you come from?

My name is Tibian Wyles born and raised in Townsville on Wulgurukaba and Bindal land. My Mobs are Warrgamay, Girramay and Kalkadoon tribes of far North Queensland.

Describe yourself in three words

Funny, observant, loyal

Finish this sentence 'When I was growing up, I wanted to....?'

When I was growing up, I wanted to play for the North Queensland Cowboys in the NRL.

What inspires you?

Family and friends and wanting to give back to them.

If you could go back in time what words of advice

would you have for yourself?

Be kind to yourself. Stay focused on one goal at a time. Finish plan A, don't worry about plan B, because plan B will distract from plan A.

What's your idea of a perfect day/night?

Drive in theatre with my partner, with our favourite food and snacks.

If you could change one thing about the world what would that be?

To have world peace and Unity.

What's next for you?

I'm currently writing for my next show with Shake & Stir Theatre Company that will be premiering in 2025. I have a lot more stories I want to write and put out there. Also want to direct them as well.

Worth a read

A captivating creation story

about believing in yourself and standing up to bullies is the latest offering from Magabala Books and kids author Greg Dreise.



A descendant of the Kamilaroi and Euahlayi people of south-west Queensland and north-west New South Wales, Greg is a gifted storyteller, musician and teacher in the Noosa hinterland, Queensland.

Lethal Lizards is a colourful adventure with sand and tree goannas, blue-tongue lizards, and frill-neck lizards as they learn to believe in themselves and overcome their fears thanks to the help of the great creator, Biamme.

With its uplifting message of resilience, *Lethal Lizards* teaches children to embrace their unique strengths and face challenges head-on.

"To anyone who has been picked on, may you find your courage and your support group. To the people being bullies, respect differences." Author Greg Dreise says.



Opening a can of worms

How are you going? It's the go to of greetings in every social situation and I've been thinking about this – the automatic response that flies out of the pie whole on sighting an acquaintance on isle 5 at ALDI, 'Good thanks, how are you?'

Imagine if we were to answer this question honestly? How many seconds would it take before you see the thought process, the chest rise with a deep breath in, then responding to the question.... 'I am good.'

I know sometimes we are just trying to get to the next thing, doing the daily list of chores or tasks but I wonder in all honesty has this question lost its meaning or is there another way of starting a conversation or have we lost the courage to really open up and connect or are we withholding true moments of vulnerability that could lead to meaningful moments between each other?

From experience it feels like the question is heard, then we process the idea and answer back in a solid single word response – 'Good' or 'Great'.

What if this simple question was used as an opportunity to listen or dive deep into the things

that are really on our minds. A chance to have a moment of connection, or a good old dorry? (If you don't know what this means – ask a friend.)

I'm asking what it would be like to ask someone how they are really going and to hear someone else's perspective for a change – rather than the constant inner workings of our own thoughts and feelings that are usually driven by our own expectations and judgements.

Actual truth

Imagine how many of us take the opportunity to respond honestly with the actual truth?

I am opening a can of worms here which reminds me I need to make an appointment with my therapist ASAP so I can continue to unpick my own list of things to make and do and how to be a better, son, father, creative and friend.

I'm mentioning this phenomena for a few reasons. I love getting into a deep convo with my chosen few friends and family members but I'm also aware of loading up my nearest and dearest with my tiny list of things that seem fairly

insignificant considering the state of the world and the fact that some of us have real problems.

But stay with me. I wonder what it would be like if we were to answer this question truthfully – 'How's it going?'

Now create the image in your mind of watching the eyes glaze over as you prepare for the overshare about the confront of turning 50 or the ego screaming about how irrelevant we feel in our chosen profession or 'industry' or the ever pressing concern about that relationship with the person you've been intimate with since 2021 while struggling to find the grace and gratitude for all of the above – as the world engages in a continuing genocide and clowns become leaders in positions of power.

'I'm great thanks'.

In the meantime you're thinking 'to tell you the truth'..... You skim through the 20 thoughts and hot topics on your mind and feelings about the current state of home and family – politics as we continue to witness performative allyship and disingenuous promises for a more inclusive and respectful future together that just makes me want to vomit in my

own face.

How are you going?

Well, I feel like I've been swallowed by an idiot and spat out by a moron. But you can't say that right? The truth can sometimes be unsettling to say the least.

A dear friend, peer and mentor once shared about the three versions of the truth, offering a way to see the idea of how we could perceive or experience it. It has stuck in my brain ever since – burnt into the dark matter of my DNA ever since my ear met this sage advice and I am reminded of it often in my hour of need or when I am talking to a friend experiencing a crisis.

Let's imagine

Lets imagine there are threeversions of the truth – there is the personal truth which is our immediate experience of the world and our responses to it (as above), there's the communal truth and how we experience the world as a family or a community, in relation to each other.

The third version is the forensic truth, the kind that unfolds in a courtroom where cold hard evidence is presented and

then a jury responds to or translates what the facts are according to the story points presented.

My head hurts even trying to explain this.

In times of emotional challenges I try to sit and observe these three versions of truth and unpick what is the version appearing in front of me at this moment, which one is?

I acknowledge that sometimes we find it difficult to even articulate what the truth is or who is the best person to tell it to? Maybe the question could be how are you listening?

I recognise that there is certain privilege that comes with having a voice and not everyone has this freedom, the real power is in the listening and the skill of hearing what is really going on.

The truth matters and it can hurt sometimes.

But if I could make a wish that would come true, I would ask what it could look like to get better at listening and what kind of actions do we take so that we are ALL heard in a meaningful and respectful way and to have courage in our conversations rather than just paying lip service.

North West Shelf Phase 1 Well Plug and Abandonment and TPA03 Well Intervention

Woodside has led the development of the LNG industry in Australia and today aims to thrive through the global energy transition.

Woodside consults with relevant persons to gather feedback to inform its Commonwealth Environment Plans.

North West Shelf (NWS) Phase 1 Well Plug and Abandonment and TPA03 Well Intervention activities

Woodside plans to permanently plug and abandon five NWS wells that have ceased production. Three of the wells are located in the Angel field tied back to the Angel platform and two wells are located in the Perseus-over-Goodwyn field tied back to the Goodwyn platform. Woodside also proposes to conduct well intervention activities at the TPA03 well in the Tidepole field tied back to the Goodwyn platform, to remediate a valve and restore production from the lower reservoir.

This Environment Plan covers all plug and abandonment and well intervention activities, which are planned to be completed in one drill rig campaign.

Environment that may be affected (EMBA)

The EMBA is the largest geographic area where unplanned activities could potentially have an environmental consequence. The whole EMBA will not be affected.

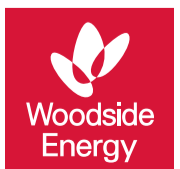
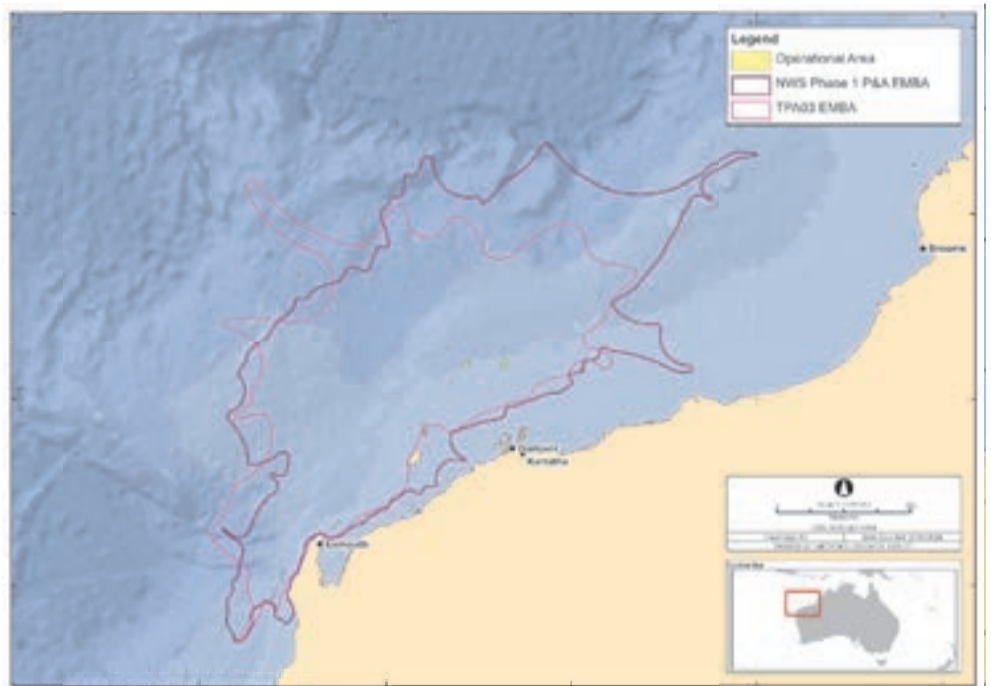
We want to hear from you

If you are an individual, organisation or community group and believe your functions, interests or activities may be impacted by the activities under this Environment Plan, we want to hear from you by **30 October 2024**.

To find out more go to:

www.woodside.com/what-we-do/consultation-activities

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



E: consultation@feedback.woodside.com

Phone: 1800 442 977

woodside.com

National body mooted at sea conference



THE inaugural Australian Sea Country conference, held in Darwin recently, attracted more than 500 delegates from across Australia. Conference hosts, the Aboriginal Sea Company (ASC), led discussions on the establishment of a

First Nations peak body to represent interests in national sea country-related matters. Delegates also focussed on ways to grow First Nations-controlled marine and seafood industry related businesses, including training, employment and small-scale enterprise development.



Ngulmiya of Arnhem Land performs with his son Nayurruyr Nundhirribala at the closing ceremony of the conference.



Marice Lalara and Kenny Mamarika of Dilyimbyaba Designs, from Groote Eylandt in the Gulf of Carpentaria, NT.



Grant Brown, and Wally and Yvonne Stewart, enjoying the waterfront at Darwin.



One of the many panel discussions held throughout the conference.



Brenton Cardona, Andrew Bush, Calvin Dereraux and Jared Copley, all with the Australia Sea Company.



Delegates break for lunch after morning sessions



Cr Danny Chapman, a Walbunga man from the Yuin nation, is a member of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.



Dwayne Wauchope, Wade Couzens and Justin Cunningham, with Buffalo Boat Hire and Tours.



Caroline Olden of Darwin and Anthony Warkins of Nhulunbuy. They both work for the National Indigenous Australians Agency.



Bo Carne, the CEO of the Aboriginal Sea Company and ILSC Secretariat, sums up the conference.



Jennifer Clancy from Wurrumiyanga, a community on the southern coast of Bathurst Island, with Matthew Nagarbin of Croker Island.



Delegates regularly broke off into smaller groups to discuss various issues or listen to expert speakers.



Calvin Deveraux – Chair, Aboriginal Sea Company.



One of the popular Red Flag Dancers performs a dance honouring first contact with Macassan traders.



Brenton Cardona, Clely Yumbulul, Terry Yumbulul (Warramiri Elder) and Vincent Jae Dangurra taking a break from the the plenary sessions.



Debbie Jane Micairan, Britta Decker and Lucy Buckley. Event coordinators with Agentur, kept the conference running smoothly.

Mob up north celebrate with music and dance



LARGE crowds gathered at the lush Munro Martin Parklands in Cairns on Saturday, September 7, to celebrate the 17th year of Far North Queensland's family-friendly First Nations festival, Big Talk One Fire (BTOF).

FNQ homegrown talent, Australian Idol 2023 winner Royston Noell, was the headline act on a program that delivered music, dance, an arts and crafts market and food stalls, kids' crafts, storytelling and workshops.

BTOF is presented by UMI Arts, FNQ's peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture, and supported by Cairns Regional Council and local sponsors.

UMI Arts' artistic director, Lisa Michl Ko-manggén, OAM, says the annual festival plays an integral role in achieving the organisation's mission to preserve, strengthen, maintain, and celebrate the rich diversity of Indigenous arts and culture.

"For the past 17 years, Big Talk has brought people together for a joyful afternoon in beautiful surroundings," Ms Michl Ko-manggén said.

"Always a highlight of Big Talk One Fire is our concert featuring local Indigenous bands, traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural dance and pop-up visual art and markets. We thank everyone from across the city and region who joined us last month in learning about and celebrating the strength and vibrancy of this region's First Nations people, arts and culture," she said.



KapayKuyan Aboriginal Dance Group (Lockhart River) performing at Big Talk One Fire. Pictures: Lovegreen Photography



Gimuy Wallabara Yidinji Elder, Henry Fourmile.



Minister for Tourism and Sport, Michael Healy, addressed the crowd.



The Barefoot Ballerinas and Yimbala Dance performed under the guidance of Tamara Pearson of Sacred Creations Dance Troupe.



Cr Trevor Tim, Cairns Regional Council.



Connie Rovina held a market stall for her Indigenous art business, WidiWorks.



Performers from Studio 21 – Dance fitness, front, joined by Australian Idol 2023 winner, Royston Noell, back row, second from right.



Co-founder of Indigenous cultural education enterprise Wirra Wakka, Trevor Peckham (in black), delivered family-friendly craft workshops.



Yimbala dancer Wesley Bowen prepares to perform.



Young Yimbala dancer, KJ Bowen, poses for an action photo.



Barry Cedric and his band were among the line-up of legendary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island musicians.



Mer Island artist Tatipai Barsa.



KapayKuyan Aboriginal Dance Group (Lockhart River).



Co-owner/operator of Kgari 3 Sisters, Badtjala and Guugu Yimithirr woman, Susan Duliny Reys with her wares.



Fire Justiz aka Herbert Yunkaporta, a proud musician from the Wik Nation of Aurukun, played original songs on acoustic guitar.



Yimbala dancers perform beneath a dusky sky and a sliver of moon.

Regional art centres at the heart of continuing culture

WITH crooks and pirates, prophets and visionaries – be they in hallowed auction houses, car-boot sales with rolls and rolls of canvas stuffed into backpacks, the celebrated and lauded, to the outcast and forgotten, leaders of our people and allies, and pretendians – the journey to what we now celebrate as the ‘contemporary Indigenous art sector/movement’ (sector) has been filled with trials and tribulations to rival the greatest of epics, were it to ever be put to film in a Netflix series.

There has been change. But the now multi-million dollar ‘industry’ was all started in the regions, by our seminal artist-Lorekeepers and our great Storytellers. The ‘Aboriginal art movement’ has its grounding in the Central Desert. Of course, it ‘all’ started 65,000 years ago and continues in more imaginative ways each day. Such is the might of our peoples.

From the Central Desert—of the Arrernte and Larrakia peoples—is Philip Watkins. He grew up in Mparntwe/Alice Springs and has been a steward and leading advocate of Indigenous Art Centres (and their artists, in many ways) for decades. Now also adding the inaugural First Nations Board for Creative Australia to the many feathers in his esteemed cap, Philip is an authority on Cultural Best Practice, arts development and training, and the sector at large. As long-time CEO for Desart—the peak body for Indigenous art centres for much of ‘central Australia’—I speak with Philip about the role of regional art centres in continuing culture.

Jack Wilkie-Jans: Everybody loves an origin story, how did your journey into the arts begin?

Philip Watkins: Arts and culture have always been around me, always surrounding me, particularly as a young boy. Growing up with the watercolourists from the Hermannsburg school, from the early 1970s, these memories are strong with me. The way they engaged with arts practices and tourists was inspiring. Jumping from my childhood, my early career was with Central Australia Aboriginal Media Association in its formative years—it was a really exciting time in (Alice Springs) in the 1980s. The ‘Indigenous art movement’ was taking off—music too! I always wanted to be part of that in different ways. I even started learning screen printing. This moved me to work with Red Letter Press in Naarm/Melbourne. My first big role was as artistic director of Tandanya in (Adelaide) in the 2000s. I’ve now been with Desart for 13 years! All throughout, I’ve been influenced by Cultural people—these people who support me and our sector must be acknowledged.

JW-J: Culture is essential to the way artists create, and what they create. How is cultural best practice, as determined by our people, contributing to a shift in the perception of culture the sector?

PW: Across this continent there’s much diversity within our unique cultures; understanding this is very important in terms of how our art and creative sector is

opinion



Jack Wilkie-Jans



Philip Watkins is CEO for Desart—the peak body for Indigenous art centres for much of central Australia.

recognised by broader audiences and markets. I think that shift is happening, and the recognition is growing. But we have a long way to go in terms of informing Australia and the world about just how diverse our cultural landscape is. In more recent times, we’ve had advances in technology and social media—this helps spread the word—but the perception that First Nations/Aboriginal art is solely Western/Central Desert is being challenged in the best ways. This awareness extends to all art forms and modes of creative practice. Our young people are embracing new technologies and asserting their identities.

JW-J: With the lion’s share of Indigenous art centres across Australia being remotely based, what are some of the most visible challenges facing them (broadly)?

PW: Art centres are places of culture and creativity. They’re places of both community and business, as well as innovation and tradition. Having such a broad remit within communities, and with competing priorities of art centres and their teams and resources, one of the biggest challenges is understanding the centres’ role in context to better implement supports. Art centres are vital to remote and regional economies but also to society in general. Costs come from operating as important hubs that generate independent income for artists through skill-building and connection to employment opportunities. There are many opportunities for wellbeing that art centres provide and which are often not visible—staff help out in almost every way within communities.

JW-J: Being an inaugural member of the First Nations Board for Creative Australia, what changes for the better could we start to see through its establishment?

PW: It’s a real honour to have been appointed co-chair of this new board — this new direction for Creative Australia. There’s an exceptionally knowledgeable cohort involved! New legislative changes are coming, which uphold and protect our agency in terms of addressing the aspirations we have. It’s early days, but we’ll be mapping our priorities and working with communities to do this. Recognition is important to be afforded to this new board, and while Creative Australia isn’t the

only source of support for the arts, we’re certainly leading the way and supporting other organisations and agencies to play a significant role going forward—especially for remote and regional art centres and ventures.

JW-J: While business is booming, as it were, there is still a disparity between First Nations and non-Indigenous arts workers operating across the multi-faceted roles of our sector. What is the value of formal arts worker training programs/opportunities for First Nations peoples?

PW: Our sector, as it relates to art centres, has to operate within a certain framework, as businesses and economic hubs. It’s very important for our Mob to learn the skills to do this work and also have the agency afforded to them as their expertise grows, to manage all facets, roles and responsibilities of art centres. There are a lot of formal commitments, such as protecting Indigenous Cultural & Intellectual Property (ICIP). So, it’s important that formal training be available for staff and emerging staff. It’s crucial we, at the production level, also have an understanding of the market. There are huge opportunities for our people to acquire formal training, but how this happens in a remote context can be challenging. There’s more work to be done though, in supporting training and providing resources for training.

JW-J: Much such training is largely offered through placements and programs but scarcely seen in the curriculums of training institutes such as TAFEs. What could be implemented to see our skilled First Nations arts workforce grow? What about First Nations arts curriculum frameworks in schools?

PW: It’s essential that such a curriculum is developed and provided in early learning, and all levels of education. We see many art centres in remote areas working with schools and holding workshops etc. But there’s plenty of room to scale this up and work more closely with education systems. Informal professional development opportunities are aplenty, but need fiscal support to be a real option. If we don’t explore this space, there’ll always be a reliance on working with ‘outsiders’, and we need to make sure career pathways are there for our own people. Apart from being an artist or arts worker in visual arts, there

are opportunities in all realms of the creative industries that our Mob need to be able to access, in administration or technical operations, for example. Already, we’re missing these opportunities by and large, and the gap is still there. To bridge this and see our Mob engaged, there needs to be massive investment.

JW-J: How do you see a First Nations critical framework better informing the markets of tomorrow about contemporary Indigenous art?

PW: Our own people need to be given space to take up critical discussions of our own peoples’ work. We possess a unique and innate insight into our arts and cultures, and this will help to inform the market’s understanding of who we are, our identities, stories, and histories. It’s important that this insight is conveyed directly to the market by our people—such depth in understanding is otherwise unachievable if you’re non-First Nations. Buyers are asking more questions about works and their origins, wanting to learn more about the artists and their communities. There’s a growing awareness of markets, and this could translate to sales or, more generally, a better understanding of who we, as First Nations peoples, are. In Central Australia, broadly speaking, the visual arts have been a conduit through which the wider world has developed a better perception of who we are—this is the power of the arts and our cultural practices.

JW-J: What are some of the biggest positive changes for First Nations artists you’ve seen come to fruition?

PW: One of the most significant developments in making change, in terms of how markets engage with

artists, has to be the establishment of the Indigenous Art Code. It’s established a framework for ethical and transparent business/market practices. The Australian Government is now working to develop stand-alone ICIP legislation — to protect our rights — recognising we have these rights. This is a great shift being realised today.

JW-J: Are we on the right track?

PW: We are on the right track, but we still have a long way to go! Cultural rights and protections are being explored more thoroughly to recognise and resource our work.

JW-J: Finally, in speaking to the market (of non-Indigenous peoples), how can they better support our artists and be more culturally informed in how they operate?

PW: Generally, my advice would be to say that if you’re buying art or engaging with First Nations creative practitioners (even if that means attending a show or performance), do some research online to find out about what you’re venturing into experiencing. There is a lot of information out there! Ask questions of dealers and gallerists — if you’re buying works this way — to find out about works, artists, their business arrangements etc. Creative Australia has First Nations Protocols outlined—this is a great resource as a guide for folks. The peak bodies that represent Art Centres across different areas of the country also have plenty of information on how to seek to engage with First Nations artists and their communities.

● Jack Wilkie-Jans is a Waanji, Teppathiggi and Tjungundji multidisciplinary artist and writer who contributes a regular Arts column for the Koori Mail.

Ropeyarn takes up artistic lead at CIAF



Long-serving member of the CIAF leadership team, celebrated artist and respected arts worker, Teho Ropeyarn, has been appointed Acting Artistic Director of Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF), commencing this month and effective until January 31, 2025.

Mr Ropeyarn’s appointment follows Francoise Lane’s resignation, after two years at CIAF’s artistic helm that included overseeing this year’s 15th-anniversary milestone program.

Born in Mount Isa in 1988 and hailing from Injinoo in the Cape York Peninsula, Mr Ropeyarn holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts.

Over his career, Mr Ropeyarn has collaborated with more than 100 artists and produced over 30 exhibitions, including notable projects such as the co-curated *Goobalathaldin Dick Roughsey: Stories of this Land* exhibition, which was presented at both the Cairns Art Gallery and GOMA. He also managed the *Big Sculpture* exhibition, CIAF’s first major touring project.

CIAF CEO Dennis Stokes welcomed Mr Ropeyarn’s appointment. “Teho is a valued member of our team who brings his deep passion for First Nations art and culture to the forefront of this celebrated platform,” Mr Stokes said.

“Under his artistic leadership in this interim period, CIAF will continue to build on its reputation for promoting the diverse voices and stories of Queensland’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities,” he said.



Teho Ropeyarn.

New First Nations board for the arts delivers on diversity



FOLLOWING the passing of legislation earlier this year to establish First Nations Arts as a new part of the government's principal arts investment and advisory body, Creative Australia, a First Nations board has been announced.

The board will oversee the work of First Nations Arts within Creative Australia to support and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts, enhance sustainable career pathways for First Nations people in the arts and increase opportunities to grow First Nations audiences. The First Nations Board will also help guide the creation of significant First Nations works and increase their scale and reach.

The ten board members announced, including two co-chairs, deliver broad representation across theatre, visual arts, television, film, dance and governance.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy said that ensuring broad representation and deep expertise in First Nations arts informed the makeup of the board.

"Empowering First Nations artists to lead their own cultural expression is essential for building resilient communities. By investing in First Nations leadership in the arts, we foster authentic storytelling and pathways for future generations," she said.

"This Board is committed to championing First Nations artists and amplifying their voices. By supporting these artists, we ensure that First Nations stories continue to thrive and inspire, enriching our national identity."

The appointees are:

• Rachael Maza AM (co-chair) – a Yidinji



Rhoda Roberts AO and Deborah Mailman AM are among the ten First Nations artists appointed to a new First Nations Board at Creative Australia.

- and Meriam woman and the current artistic director and co-CEO of Ilbijierr Theatre Company.
- Philip Watkins (co-chair) – part of large extended Arrernte and Larrakia families from Alice Springs (Mparntwe). He is currently chief executive director of Desart Incorporated.
- Clint Bracknell (member) – a Noongar song-maker, composer and Professor of Music at the University of Western Australia.
- Pauline Clague (member) – a Yaegl woman from the North Coast of New South Wales. She has worked as a storyteller and producer in film and TV for 25 years.
- Jeanette James (member) – a practising Tasmanian Aboriginal artist and traditional shell necklace stringer whose work is deeply rooted in her Palawa cultural heritage.
- Deborah Mailman AM (member) – an award-winning television and film actor and singer. Ms Mailman has both Aboriginal (Bidjara) and Maori (Ngāti



- Porou and Te Arawa) heritage.
 - Daniel Riley (member) – a Wiradjuri man, originally from Western NSW. He is currently the artistic director of the Australian Dance Theatre in South Australia.
 - Rhoda Roberts AO (member) – a Bundjalung woman, current member of the board of Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute Inc. and Director of MusicNSW. She is also the Elder in Residence at SBS Television.
 - Dennis Stokes (Member) – belongs to the Wardaman, Luritja, and Warramunga peoples of the Northern Territory and the Wagadagam people of the Torres Strait. He is CEO of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.
 - Jared Thomas (member) – a Nukunu person of the Southern Flinders Ranges, he is Research Fellow, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Material Culture and Art at the South Australian Museum.
- The new appointments came into effect on September 9, 2024, and are each for a term of four years.



Blak Douglas during filming for *Blak Douglas vs The Commonwealth*.

Venture behind the scenes with Blak Douglas



A FILM screening at the Byron Bay Film Festival this month documents the preparation of Dhungatti artist Blak Douglas's most emotionally charged work – a portrait of his Indigenous grandmother, which was revealed at the National Gallery of Australia's *Indigenous Art Triennial: Defying Empire*.

In *Blak Douglas vs The Commonwealth*, the artist invites the camera into his studio in the back streets of Redfern and shares intimate moments of an artist at work, and discusses his experience growing up having to prove his Aboriginality to develop his identity as a working artist, and his attempts to reconcile with the intergenerational trauma he witnessed in his father.

For a full story about Blak Douglas and the film, see *The Koori Mail* on October 23.

Blak Douglas vs The Commonwealth screens as part of the Byron Bay Film Festival at the Lennox Head Cultural Centre at 3pm on Sunday, October 27.

Unseen stars in the USA



THE largest exhibition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art ever presented internationally, *The Stars We Do Not See: Australian Indigenous Art*, will make its global premiere on October 18, 2025, at the National Gallery of Art, Washington DC.

The exhibition will then tour venues across the United States and Canada, wrapping up in Toronto in January 2028.

Featuring the undisputed masterpieces from the NGV Collection and curated by the NGV, especially for North American audiences, the exhibition features over 200 works by more than 130 artists.

Through a rich display of iconic masterpieces, including many that have never before left the country, *The Stars We Do Not See* charts watershed moments in Indigenous art, revealing the rich history of creativity in Australia that pre-dates the arrival of Europeans.

Myles Russell-Cook, Senior Curator of Australian and First Nations Art at NGV, who curated *The Stars We Do Not See*, observed the impossibility for any exhibition to "fully capture the diversity and complexity of Australian Indigenous art. Since long before the invention of the written word, First Nations people have transmitted important cultural knowledge through a combination of art, song, dance and story," Mr Russell-Cook said.



Wingu Tingima (Pitjantjatjara) c. 1917–2010 *Minyma Tjuta (Seven Sisters)* 2006 National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Picture: Wingu Tingima/Copyright Agency ©.

"These works represent 65,000 years of culture, sharing the unique and special qualities of First Peoples art in Australia with the world. Both the book and the exhibition represent a significant community effort, which I hope will foster greater connection and understanding of First Peoples culture and art."

Highlighting the diverse and distinct visual iconographies representing more than 250 distinct Indigenous nations, the works are drawn from around the Australian continent, including the Tiwi Islands, Arnhem Land, Far North Queensland, the Torres Strait, the Central Desert, Southwestern

Australia, the Kimberley, the Southeast, and more.

The exhibition's title, *The Stars We Do Not See*, is in part inspired by the late senior Yolŋu artist Gulumbu Yunupingu (1943–2012), who, after her passing, became known as 'Star Lady' for her extensive paintings of the night sky; her intricate works using crosses to represent the stars we can see and a dense network of dots to symbolise the stars we cannot see, the unseen expanse of the universe. Star Lady comes from the northeast community, Yirkala, in Arnhem Land, the region internationally known for its artist's daring work on bark. A selection of



Alec Mingelmanganu Woonambal c. 1910–81 *Wanjina* 1980, NGV, Melbourne. ©The Estate of Alec Mingelmanganu. Licensed by Aboriginal Artists Agency/Copyright Agency

Yunupingu's works will be featured in the exhibition.

The Stars We Do Not See introduces audiences to customary forms and styles in Indigenous Australian art, including the conceptual map paintings of the Central and Western deserts (sometimes colloquially referred to as 'dot paintings'), ochre bark paintings, cultural objects and ambitious experimental weavings, as well as the work of new media artists, who both challenge and build upon tradition with ground-breaking works in neon, video, photography, sound and much more.

Highlight works never-before-

seen in North America include Emily Kam Kngwarray's magnum opus and largest painting, *Anwerlarr Anganenty (Big Yam Dreaming)* 1995. This icon of the NGV Collection measures three by nine metres and represents the underground network of roots and yams. The immense work, drawn in a single, continuous line, highlights the gesture and spontaneity for which Kngwarray's body of work is globally renowned.

Urban-based contemporary artists working in new media are also represented throughout the show, with key works by influential artists such as Brook Andrew, Richard Bell, Reko Rennie, Ricky Maynard, Maree Clarke and Lorraine Connelly-Northey. Highlights include Christian Thompson's *Burdi Burdi (Fire Fire)*, 2021, a four-channel sound installation that explores the loss of First Nations languages, as well as Destiny Deacon's *Snow storm*, 2005, in which found black ragdolls have been placed inside a clear Perspex cube filled with polystyrene balls. The work draws a connection between the concept of 'the white cube' and the way Aboriginal material culture has historically been presented in a clinical, museological environment.

The Stars We Do Not See: Australian Indigenous Art is organised by the National Gallery of Victoria and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, in association with the Denver Art Museum, the Portland Art Museum, the Peabody Essex Museum, and the Royal Ontario Museum.



View of installation *Mok Mok Murrup Yakuwa* by Paola Balla. Picture: Matthew Stanton, 2024

Women take over Sci-Fi with art

VIC ACCLAIMED Wemba-Wemba and Gunditjmarra artist, writer, curator and educator Dr Paola Balla is delivering the annual Hugh D.T. Williamson Lecture with her award-winning film-making cousin Paola Morabito tomorrow night, Thursday, October 10, at The University of Melbourne.

The pair of Paolas will discuss their collaborative process as cousins and creators of *Mok Mok Murrup Yakuwa*, an immersive film installation featured in the current *SCI-FI: Mythologies Transformed* exhibition at Science Gallery Melbourne. Evoking the Wemba Wemba story of Mok Mok, a spiritual woman entity and sovereign goddess played in the film by the artist's mother, Aunty Margie Tang, the work speaks to the power of Country to heal and of matriarchal strength and resistance.

SCI-FI: Mythologies Transformed is an exhibition seeking new visions of the traditionally male-dominated genre of science fiction, running at Science Gallery Melbourne until May 31, 2025. Paola Balla and Paola Morabito will share their thoughts and ideas about the paradigms of sci-fi, opening discussion into the fertile ground of 'mythology' in terms of their collaborative work, *Mok Mok Murrup Yakuwa*, and how it could figure to empower First Nations people in their strength and resistance, reminding everyone how old First Nations sovereignty is.

Matriarchal Strength and Resistance; Mok Mok Murrup Yakuwa, featuring Dr Paola Balla and Paola Morabito is on at the Science Gallery Melbourne, The University of Melbourne, Thursday, October 10, from 6pm.



Emma Donovan.



Miss Kaninna.

First Nations artists sweep 2024 ARIA nominations

AUS NOMINATIONS for the Australian Recording Industry Association Music Awards, the ARIAs, were announced last week, and First Nations artists made up a deadly 19% of the nominees.

Each year, the awards recognise and celebrate Australia's biggest recording artists alongside our most exciting up-and-coming talent.

This year, there are 29 categories, with Emma Donovan and Troy Cassar-Daley nominated in the coveted top category, Best Solo Artist. First Nations hip hop collective 3% continue to impress, with nominations for Best Group and Breakthrough Artist; Jessica Mauboy's album *Yours Forever* received a nomination for Best Pop Release, while Emily Wurramara's recent release, *NARA* (ABC Music/The Orchard) was nominated for Best Adult Contemporary Album, along with Emma Donovan's *Til My Song is Done* (Civilians). Kobe Dee's *Chapter 26* and 3%'s *KILL THE DEAD* (1788 Records/Virgin Music Group) are both up for Best Hip Hop/Rap Release. Miss Kaninna's meteoric rise continues with nominations for Best Soul/R&B Release and Best Independent Release for *Blak Britney* (Soul Has No Tempo), the album also received a nomination for Best Video in the public voted awards; and Troy



First Nations hip hop collective, 3%.

Cassar-Daley's *Between The Fires* (Tarampa Music/Sony Music) was nominated for Best Country Album. Radical Son, Dobby and Christine Anu were all nominated for Best World Music Album.

Winners of the ARIAs will be announced and crowned on Wednesday, November 20, at the iconic Hordern Pavilion on Gadigal land.

The awards will be live-streamed on Stan from 5pm AEST. This will be followed by a presentation on Channel 9 with special performances and moments also available on the ARIAs official YouTube channel at youtube.com/@ARIA.Official.

Revisit the sound of Gurrumul

AUS A NEW album, *Banbirngu – The Orchestral Sessions*, has been announced for release in November, bringing the ethereal voice of Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu, posthumously, to listeners once again.

Gurrumul is one of the most famous Indigenous performers in modern Australian history, leaving behind a rich legacy both musically and culturally since his passing in 2017.

Singing predominantly in his native Yolngu languages, his voice is like no other. His music, characterised by its serene and haunting beauty, has been celebrated by critics and peers alike, earning him multiple ARIA awards and international acclaim.

Banbirngu – The Orchestral Sessions is a reworking of some of Gurrumul's most well-known and beloved songs from over the years. Produced by Michael Hohnen, arranged by Erkki Veltheim, and recorded in Prague by the Prague Metropolitan Orchestra, conducted by Jan

Chalupecký, the new orchestral recordings explore a range of instrumentation from sparse to full orchestral expressions.

Gurrumul's experience with orchestras spanned over ten years, from an early performance at Carnegie Hall in New York to collaborations with most of the symphony orchestras in Australia. He cherished the rich and complex support an orchestra provided, offering a platform for his distinctive voice and nostalgic and captivating style.

The first single from the new album, *Banbirngu*, is deeply rooted in ancestral references, encapsulating themes of birth, life, and the cyclical return to the earth.

As a whole, the record has unique boasting rights of containing some of the most ancient songlines and references from amongst the planet's living cultures.

The single *Banbirngu* is available for streaming now at all platforms and *Banbirngu – The Orchestral Sessions* is available for preorder and presave on digital, vinyl and CD formats at gurrumul-orchestral.lnk.to/TheOrchestralSessions



New release brings back the sound of the late Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu.

Songs to share culture in the 'here and now'

NSW *WOMEN of Song* is an innovative new approach to story-telling and performance, voicing ideas about intergenerational practices, singing on and from Country, commitment to community, and preserving knowledge in song for a live audience.

Developed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander songkeeper Jessie Lloyd (of Mission Songs Project), *Women of Song* is an intimate celebration of the 'here and now' of Indigenous culture.

Lloyd carefully considers the artists for each performance, shaping the program to the location: some performers will be well-known, others are exciting new talent.

Giving their voices, the performers embody the continuation of First Nations cultural practice, using song to stimulate spontaneous conversation on stage and explore the modern-day practices and living heart of the 'world's oldest living culture'. Each conversation and each performance is unique, as the women discuss how their songs preserve the social, cultural, or environmental shifts of community, and deepen connections to Country, genealogy, and custom.

Women of Song is an opportunity to experience First Nations cultural practices in music from the women who practise them: this culture exists in contemporary music, and these First Nations women are leading it.

Women Of Song is on at the Northern Rivers Conservatorium Concert Room, Keen St, Lismore, on Saturday, October 26.

For tickets, visit events.humanitix.com/wos-lismore



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander songkeeper, Jessie Lloyd is the creative force driving the *Women of Song* project.

Tarnanthi takes to digital

SA THE Art Gallery of South Australia's popular Tarnanthi Art Fair, now in its ninth year, is back as a 100% online event.

Following record-breaking sales in 2023, the online art fair will offer local and global audiences the chance to buy works of art, day and night, and connect with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, via an easy-to-use digital platform at www.tarnanthiartfair.com.au with all art centres offering both domestic and international shipping.

This year's fair brings together more than 50 art centres from across Australia, with thousands of works from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists for sale. Works include paintings, ceramics, sculpture, woven objects, jewellery, textiles, clothes and homewares, with prices ranging from under \$50 to more than \$5,000.

Tarnanthi Art Fair operates under the Indigenous Art Code, ensuring the ethical production and sales of works of art by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, with every dollar



Wilma Napangardi Poulson painting *Jurlpu kuja kalu nyinami Yurntumu-wana (Birds that live around Yuendumu)*, 2023. Picture: courtesy Warlukurlangu Artists

from sales delivering economic benefits directly to the artists and their community-run art centres.

The 2024 Tarnanthi Art Fair runs as an online event from 5pm on Friday, October 18, to 9pm on Monday, October 21. For full details and to register for event reminders, visit agsa.sa.gov.au/tarnanthiartfair

event listings

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Lionels: Rachael, Alison and Yurpiya Lionel (exhibition)
when: until October 17
where: Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
info/bookings: shortstgallery.com.au/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

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

to gather, to nourish, to sustain
when: Sep 23 – Oct 25
where: COX Gallery, Kingston, Canberra
info/bookings: coxarchitecture.com.au/perspective/to-gather-to-nourish-to-sustain-jenna-lee-at-the-cox-gallery/

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: until 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/

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Thelma Plum and Miss Kannina
when: Fri, Nov 1
where: Hindley St Music Hall, Adelaide
info/bookings: thelmaplum.com/shows

Who Are We? (exhibition)
when: until Oct 12
where: Adelaide Festival Centre
info/bookings: adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/whats-on/who-are-we

Aging takes centre stage



The premiere season of Western Australian Aboriginal theatre company Yirra Yaakin's new comedy **Operation Boomerang** is proving to be a crowd puller, with opening night, Tuesday, October 8, selling out.

With the tag-line, **"Boomerangs always return home... This time it's no different! Nana is doing a runner from the old folks' home – and she isn't coming back!"**, the play tells the story of the hilarious and heartwarming journey of a determined matriarch escaping her nursing home with a mission to return to Country.

Critically acclaimed and award-winning Dr Lynette Narkle, known for her role in **The Sapphires (2012)**, has come out of retirement to play the lead role in this project, bringing her immense talent and experience to the stage.

The story is developed from playwright Bruce Denny's own experience of placing his mother and other elderly relatives into aged care.

Through his characters, Denny, delves into the spiritual significance of returning to Country at the end of life, reflecting on living and dying with dignity.

Denny's work is both deeply thought-provoking and filled with



Operation Boomerang is a play by Bruce Denny, presented by Yirra Yaakin theatre, premiering in Perth until October 19.

the kind of bold, contemporary humor that will leave audiences aching with laughter.

Operation Boomerang is on from 7pm, Tuesday to Saturday, and 2pm matinee session on Saturdays, at

Subiaco Arts Centre until October 19.

For details and to book, please visit yirrayaakin.com.au/production/operation-boomerang/

OUR MOB/OUR YOUNG MOB (exhibition)
when: until Oct 12
where: The Galleries Adelaide Festival Centre
info/bookings: adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/

TASMANIA

2024 Women's Art Prize Tasmania
when: Oct 18 - Nov 9
where: Moonah Arts Centre, Hobart
info/bookings: womensartprizetas.com.au/

Kobie Dee (Chapter 26 EP Launch) x Miss Kaninna
when: Fri, Oct 18
where: Altar Bar, Hobart
info/bookings: kobiedee.com/shows

ArtStart 2024 – Keep the Fire Burning
 exhibition of Tasmanian school student's art responding to the NAIDOC 2024 theme
when: until Oct 20
where: Art Gallery at Royal Park
info/bookings: qvmag.tas.gov.au/Whats-on/Art-Gallery-at-Royal-Park

immersed milaythina-ti/immersed in country
 installation by mother/daughter pakana artists, Vicki West and Tegan Murray
when: until Oct 27
where: Design Tasmania, Launceston
info/bookings: designtasmania.com.au/programs/immersed-milaythina-ti

NEW SOUTH WALES

Canvas Of Hope
 Exhibition of work from Parklea Correctional Centre
when: until Nov 19
where: St Vincent's hospital, Darlinghurst, Sydney
info/bookings: mtctrains.com.au/parklea-

artists-return-to-st-vincents/

Keep the Fire Burning (exhibition)
when: A special opening event, including a Smoking Ceremony, Welcome to Country, and curator talk, starts at 1.30pm on Oct 12. The exhibition is open Thurs to Sun and runs until Oct 25

where: The Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability, Waverton, North Sydney
info/bookings: northsydney.nsw.gov.au/homepage/192/keep-the-fire-burning

DanceRites (festival of live dance)
when: Oct 19-20
where: Sydney Opera House Forecourt, Sydney
info/bookings: sydneyoperahouse.com/dancerrites

Electric Fields with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (concert)
when: Sat, Oct 19, 7pm
where: Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House
info/bookings: tickets available now at tickets.sydneyphilharmonic.com/9688/9689

Bulgul Artists (exhibition)
when: until Oct 13
where: Kate Owen Gallery, Rozelle, Sydney
info/bookings: kateowengallery.com/shows/showlist.htm

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 (exhibition includes Wyalga (Wolgal, Wolgalu) Wiradjuri artist Aidan Hartshorn)
when: until Jan 27 2025
where: MCA, the Rocks, Gadigal Country/Sydney
info/bookings: mca.com.au/exhibitions/primavera-2024-young-australian-artists/

VICTORIA

Mok Mok Murrup Yakuwa: Matriarchal Strength and Resistance
 Hugh D.T. Williamson Lecture 2024.
when: Oct 10, 6-7pm.
 The installation **Mok Mok Murrup Yakuwa** will be showing as part of **SCI-FI: Mythologies Transformed** at the Science Gallery Melbourne until May 31, 2025
where: Science Gallery Melbourne, The University of Melbourne
info/bookings: melbourne.sciencegallery.com/events-list/matriarchal-strength-resistance

Red Flags (exhibition by Wadawurrung artist Kait James, curated by Aaron Bradbrook)
when: Oct 12 - Feb 23, 2025
where: Warrnambool Art Gallery, Warrnambool
info/bookings: thewag.com.au/exhibition/red-flags

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: until Dec 8

where: Bendigo Art Gallery
info/bookings: koorieheritagetrust.com.au/whats-on/exhibitions/layers-of-blak/

Karen Casey: Let's Shake (exhibition)
when: until November 24
where: Birrarung Building, Fed Square, Melbourne
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/

NORTHERN TERRITORY Desert Mob Exhibition
 Annual showcase of independent community art centres from central Aust.
when: until Oct 20
where: Araluen Arts Centre galleries, Mparntwe/Alice Springs
info/bookings: desertmob.com

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

QUEENSLAND

(re)connection: Culture, Country & People (exhibition)
when: until Jan 11, 2025
where: Mulgrave Gallery, Cairns
info/bookings: cairns.qld.gov.au/experience-cairns/arts-and-culture/arts-venues/mulgrave-gallery

Celebrating NAIDOC (exhibition)
when: until Oct 25

where: Texas Regional Art Gallery, Texas
info/bookings: goondiwindiregion.com.au/venue/texas-regional-art-gallery/

SHINE on Gimuy (light and multi-arts festival)
when: until Oct 13
where: Cairns Esplanade and Salt House, Gimuy/ Cairns City
info/bookings: shineonproductions.au/gimuy

skeletons by Judy Watson (exhibition)
when: until Oct 27
where: Umbrella Studio of Contemporary Arts, Gurambilbarra / Townsville
info/bookings: umbrella.org.au/skeletons

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

TOURING

Waru – journey of the small turtle
 Bangarra dance

NSW Gadigal Country
when: Oct 9-10
where: Sydney Opera House

VIC Bunurong Country
when: Oct 14, two performances
where: Bunjil Place, Narre Warren

Djaara Country
when: Oct 17-18
where: Ulumbarra Theatre, Bendigo

QLD Komubumerris Country
when: Oct 23
where: HOTA, Gold Coast

Tulmur/Yagara Country
when: Oct 25
where: Ipswich Civic Centre

Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng, Taribelang Bunda Country
when: Oct 29
where: Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre

Darumbal Country
when: Oct 31
where: Pilbeam Theatre, Rockhampton

ACT Ngunnawal Country
when: Nov 7-9
where: Canberra Theatre Centre

info/bookings, all venues: Mob Tix available bangarra.com.au

Ensemble Q and William Barton NSW Awabakal and Worimi Country
when: Oct 10
where: Newcastle City Hall, Newcastle

QLD Turrbal and Yuggera Country
when: Oct 12
where: QLD Conservatorium Theatre, Griffith University, Brisbane

info/bookings, all venues: musicaviva.com.au/concert-season/2024/ensemble-q-william-barton/

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT

A career as a surf coach is a swell idea

By MARION WILLIAMS



IT is less than two years since Robbie Townsend set up the Surfing with the Mob Program on Djiringanj Country. With the support of NSW Office of Sport and Surfing NSW, it is now on a sustainable footing.

It means Mr Townsend can run it as part of his role at Bega Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC), opening the door for Aboriginal youth to have a career as a surf coach.

Mr Townsend, a Djiringanj and Ngarigo man, was lucky enough to have a father to take him to the beach some 15 minutes' drive away when he was growing up. "I love surfing and it did a lot for me when I was a kid in Bega."

Mr Townsend worked as an Aboriginal Education Officer at Bega High School for two years before becoming community connector at Bega LALC, designing programs to help close the gap on educational outcomes.

"I work with Year 10 to Year 12 students with the goal of helping them to obtain the HSC and remain culturally and mentally strong," he said.

Surfing with the Mob is one of the programs he has designed to get to know the students and their families.

He said it is a holistic approach to teaching. "I provide all sorts of different things they need for school."

Nationally recognised accreditation

Surfing with the Mob is one of the projects the NSW Office of Sport supports across NSW with First Nations communities.



Surfing with the Mob participants in the Surfing Coach Essentials Course at Pambula Beach on October 1. Picture: NSW Office of Sport

The Office of Sport approached Surfing NSW which resulted in two Surfing NSW coaches travelling to Pambula on October 1.

They ran the Surfing NSW's Surfing Coach Essentials Program that gives aspiring coaches their accreditation to become coaches.

Surfing NSW education and programs manager Adam Seminara said in addition to the course being an entry point for a work opportunity, it gives people the skills and knowledge to save someone in danger in the surf and someone who is suffering from a traumatic bleed or injury. They also incorporated their

Surfers Rescue 24/7 program which teaches rescue techniques using a surfboard.

Seven people took the course on October 1: Mr Townsend, his Bega LALC colleague Anthony Thomas, and five students, including one girl, from Year 9 to Year 12.

"All seven walked away with a nationally recognised first-aid accreditation certificate, a nationally recognised Surf Safety Supervisor accreditation and the Surfer Rescue 24/7 accreditation," Mr Seminara said.

The course to become a surf coach in NSW costs \$410 plus all the other accreditation, so it

costs upward of \$600. "You need that accreditation and that costs money. Thanks to the Office of Sport, we have given them a free accreditation and the skills they need to become a coach," he said.

Mr Townsend said an Elder was watching on, getting around with the kids. She was accompanied by a retired school teacher, who also stayed the whole day and made lunch for the participants. "Just having Elders present is always good, not necessarily doing anything but having them there is important," he said.

He hopes is that the Year 12 student will return to help with

the Surfing with the Mob program and "hopefully we can pay him some money".

The Office of Sport also provided surfboards, wet suits, and a trailer, so that Surfing with the Mob can deliver future programs to First Nations surfers in the region.

Mr Townsend said the equipment and training he received, along with free insurance from Surfing NSW, means the Surfing with the Mob program can now run on its own "which is incredible".

"I will still need grants to keep the cultural aspects of the program running, but I can now run it as part of my job."

Your guide to employment

Welcome to the Koori Mail's Indigenous Job Opportunities section. Each edition we publish scores of employment advertisements from around the nation. To be part of this section, simply give our advertising staff Chris or Stuart a call on (02) 66 222 666, email advertising@koorimail.com or see our website – www.koorimail.com

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First Nations Education Presenter (identified role)

Department: Australian Museum
Location: Employment Type: Sydney Region
Classification: Temporary
Salary: Clerk Grade 3/4
Enquiries: natalie.taylor@australian.museum
I work for NSW Job ref: 0000AQFY
Closing Date: 13 October 2024

About the Role:
The First Nations Education Presenter works as part of the Education Team. This role is offered on a temporary backfill basis. The position is 2 days per week and offered for up to end of June 2026.
You will be required to use your prior experience to provide a wide range of education programs and interpretive services for Australian Museum (AM) visitors.
Education Presenters deliver high quality formal and informal education programs centered on First Nations knowledges and ways of learning. Regular delivery of face-to-face and online education programs is the primary role, for a diverse range of audiences including, preschool, primary, secondary, and tertiary students and teachers.
In addition to First Nations focused programs, the successful candidate for this position will have the opportunity to learn content and deliver a range of educator-led programs that are offered at the AM.



Creative Producer, First Nations (ID)

Department: Australian Museum
Location: Employment Type: Sydney Region
Classification: Temporary
Salary: Clerk Grade 5/6.
Enquiries: narelle.lewis@australian.museum
I work for NSW Job ref: 0000APVZ
Closing Date: 03 November 2024

About the Role:
The Creative Producer, First Nations is a crucial role that sits within the Programming team and works collaboratively with our First Nations Division at the AM. The role is offered on a full-time basis for up to one year. Being of Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander descent, you will be required to use your prior professional and lived experience to produce a suite of programs interpreting the Australian Museum's (AM's) onsite exhibitions and First Nations cultural collections.
Over the next 12 months, the primary focus of this role will be to develop a comprehensive and sustainable First Nations public program. This will involve working on and delivering existing Museum offerings such as Ngalu Warrawi Marri, gallery tours, NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week activities, while also developing new areas to enhance the program such as festivals, workshops, cultural revitalisation, and community engagement.



Cultural Liaison Coordinator

Brisbane Youth Service, Fortitude Valley
\$97,377 - \$101,783 plus superannuation per annum

Full time | 76 hours per week | 5 weeks annual leave (pro-rata)
| Excellent salary packaging benefits

The Opportunity

The Cultural Liaison Coordinator [Identified] will actively lead strategies delivering the BYS Reconciliation Action Plan [RAP] initiatives and measurable actions that support First Nations equality across our organization.

And proactively help develop and guide BYS's First Nations diversity and inclusion strategy and psychosocial wellbeing approaches including training, culturally supported supervision and career development. With an aim of sustaining employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees that support our First Nations workers to feel culturally safe and empowered to grow and thrive at BYS

You will hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, have a current Queensland driver's license and you must hold a current Working with Children Positive Notice (blue card) prior to commencing

How to apply:

Please read through the full Position Description on the BYS website (brisyouth.org), then email your (1) Cover letter addressing the selection criteria along with your (2) CV to the HR team, at hr@brisyouth.org

**For all your advertising needs
email: advertising@koorimail.com**

Senior Community Engagement Coordinator

- 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
- Permanent full-time position
- Salary: \$143,353 – \$160,642 per year plus superannuation
- Location: Sydney, CBD
- Option to work under a 19-day month arrangement

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.

It's an exciting time to join this team as you'll help to shape and contribute to designing new ways of working within the team as they adapt to meet the needs of the organisation and the Community.

You'll deliver high quality engagement and provide advice and guidance to the organisation on engaging with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

To join our team, you'll have:

- a strong commitment to achieving outcomes with and for the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- demonstrated experience in developing and implementing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community engagement
- demonstrated experience in stakeholder management.

For further information about this role or the application process contact Julianne Latham, Service Optimisation Manager on 0418 445 513.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates who require support with their application can contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce team on 0474 882 300 or email at Aboriginalworkforce@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

To apply visit cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/careers

Apply online by 11.59pm, Sunday 27 October



Community Engagement Manager, First Nations

- 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
- Permanent full-time position
- Salary: \$163,771 – \$187,098 per year plus superannuation
- Location: Sydney, CBD
- Option to work under a 19-day month arrangement

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.

It's an exciting time to join us as you'll help design new ways of working that meet the needs of our organisation and local communities.

You'll lead the First Nations Community Engagement team to coordinate high quality engagement strategies and provide advice and guidance about connecting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

To join our team, you'll have:

- a strong desire and commitment to achieving outcomes with and for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- demonstrated experience in developing and coordinating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community engagement
- experience developing and managing a team.

For further information about this role or the application process contact Julianne Latham, Service Optimisation Manager on 0418 445 513.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates who require support with their application can contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce team on 0474 882 300 or email at Aboriginalworkforce@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

To apply visit cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/careers

Apply online by 11.59pm, Sunday 27 October



IndigiGrow Job Opportunities – Nursery Apprentice x 2

Identified Positions

We have an exciting opportunity for 2 young Aboriginal apprentices to join our dedicated IndigiGrow team. IndigiGrow is a 100% Aboriginal owned & run not for profit native plant nursery based in La Perouse & Matraville.

Key Responsibilities:

- Preparation and planting of growing areas including removal of feral plants and weeds
- Maintain and care for stock bushfood and native plants and gardens
- Maintenance and harvesting of native plants
- Learn to propagate and grow native bushfood plant Tubestock and local native plants
- Processing online orders
- Plant delivery
- Assist experienced staff when needed
- Undertake Certificate 3 in Parks & Gardens Training Course

The ideal candidate shall:

- Be willing and motivated to learn about native plants including bushfood plants
- Current driver's licence (preferred) or willingness to obtain a licence
- Be willing to learn communication skills for working with staff and customers
- Be Reliable and Punctual and on time for work and breaks
- Be wanting to contribute to the team as a whole and develop



- individual skills
- Must be willing to undertake a working with children's check and standard Police check
 - Must be willing to undertake other training opportunities inline with work where necessary
 - Listen and learn from experienced horticulturalists
 - Work in a team environment

Some of the benefits are:

- 4-year full-time paid apprenticeship including a 3-month trial period.
- Great team environment with excellent working conditions
- Work in a proud Indigenous organisation caring for country

Salary Range: Covered under Gardening and Landscaping Award Services MA000101. Above award wages with salary starting at \$29,853 for 1st year School age apprentices, and \$45,958 for 1st year Adult apprentices with salary sacrifice options.

To Apply: email peter@firsthandsolutions.org.au with a one page on why you would suit this job plus your resume if you have one or call Peter on 0404 134 655 for further information.

Gilgandra Local Aboriginal Land Council (GLALC)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

(Remuneration Package Negotiable)

Part Time – 30 Hours per week



The Gilgandra Local Aboriginal Land Council (GLALC) is seeking applications from experienced and motivated people interested in a rewarding career undertaking the challenging role of Part-time Chief Executive Officer. Enjoy a work life balance with 6 hour days on offer.

This position holder will provide an extensive range of assistance and support to the elected Board through the day-to-day management of the Gilgandra LALC's affairs in accordance with delegated authorities, the provision of sound and accurate advice and the implementation of the Board's resolutions in a timely and appropriate manner.

The successful applicant will have demonstrable knowledge and understanding of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALRA) (or the ability to rapidly acquire), the capacity to interpret and implement legislation and sound communication skills. Organisational and management experience is essential together with an understanding of accounting practices and principles. A sound knowledge and appreciation of Aboriginal issues would also be required. Financial experience is a must for this position and an understanding of MYOB to provide reports as required.

All applicants must obtain a copy of the recruitment package containing the Position Description and selection criteria and address the selection criteria for their application to be considered. For a recruitment package contact the Contact Officer Eileen Louie (Chairperson), by email: gil.lalc@bigpond.com or on (02) 6847-1477.

Applications can be forwarded to gil.lalc@bigpond.com or marked "Confidential" and posted to:

The CEO Recruitment Panel
Gilgandra Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 163, GILGANDRA NSW 2827

Applications close: **COB Friday 25th October 2024**
Aboriginal people are encouraged to apply.



NSW Police Force

Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer Central North Police District, Bourke

- **Clerk Grade 3/4**
- **Temporary Full-Time up to 12 months**
- **Bourke**
- **\$97,218 pa. Package includes salary (\$79,032 to \$86,539), employer's contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading.**

About the Role

We have an opportunity for an **Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO)** to be part of our **Central North Police District**. The Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer is responsible for providing advice and support to commands in the management of local Aboriginal issues. They assist in establishing and maintaining close personal rapport with Elders, Leaders and the members of the Aboriginal community by developing network contacts to strengthen co-operation and communication and to assist community members in their dealing with local policing issues and their contact with other statutory bodies.

Position is located in a Special Remote Location (Bourke) which attracts a fortnightly payment of a Special Remote Allowance.

Applicants must hold a current driver's licence with no traffic offences recorded on their driving history within the last six (6) months or NSW Police Force Bronze Certification.

Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification as authorised by Part 5, Clause 26 of the Government Sector Employment Rules 2014.

If you identify as a person with disability and require further information on the role or you require specific arrangements to participate in the recruitment process, please contact HR Diversity Team by email at PCC-AEET@police.nsw.gov.au

If you would like assistance with your application, please contact the **NSWPF Aboriginal Employment & Engagement team** at PCC-INCLUSION@police.nsw.gov.au

If you require any further information about this opportunity, please contact the hiring manager **Ainslie Smith** via **(02) 6870 0806**.

Applications can only be submitted electronically via the *I Work for NSW* website iworkfor.nsw.gov.au and search via the job reference number **0000AQQS**

Applications Close: Sunday 20 October 2024, 11:59 pm AEST



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**DOING
THE
MOST
GOOD**



Notice under Section 29 of the Native Title Act 1993, Exploration Licence Number EL9662 (Act 1992)

This notice is given in accordance with the requirements of section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth).

Description of the nature of the act

Pursuant to the *Native Title (Right to Negotiate (Exclusion) – NSW Land) Determination No. 1 of 1996* (Cth), Exploration Licence EL9662 includes a condition to the effect that the holder must not prospect on any land, or waters covered by the licence in relation to which native title exists without the prior written consent of the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992* (the 'Native Title Condition').

The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992* intends to give consent to prospecting on land subject to native title in the licence in accordance with the *Native Title (Right to Negotiate (Inclusion) – NSW Land) Approval No. 1 of 1996* (Cth).

Should consent be granted, the licence holder may apply to renew or transfer the licence prior to it expiring (including partial renewals or partial transfers).

Note: If the consent is granted, it will apply to any renewal, re grant or re-making (including partial renewals or partial transfers) or extension of the term of the licence, which may be valid pursuant to section 24MD(1) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) without a further notification under section 29.

Holder's details

Lode Metals Pty Ltd (ACN 676 165 870) is the holder of Exploration Licence 9662 for Group 1 minerals.

The licence contains a condition that the holder must not prospect on any land or waters on which native title exists without the prior consent of the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*. The licence holder has sought the Minister's consent to conduct prospecting activities in the entire licence area.

Description of area that may be affected

The entire area of Exploration Licence 9662 which covers about 399 units and is situated approximately 37 kilometres east southeast of Guyra, in the State of NSW.

Name and postal address of person by whom the act would be done

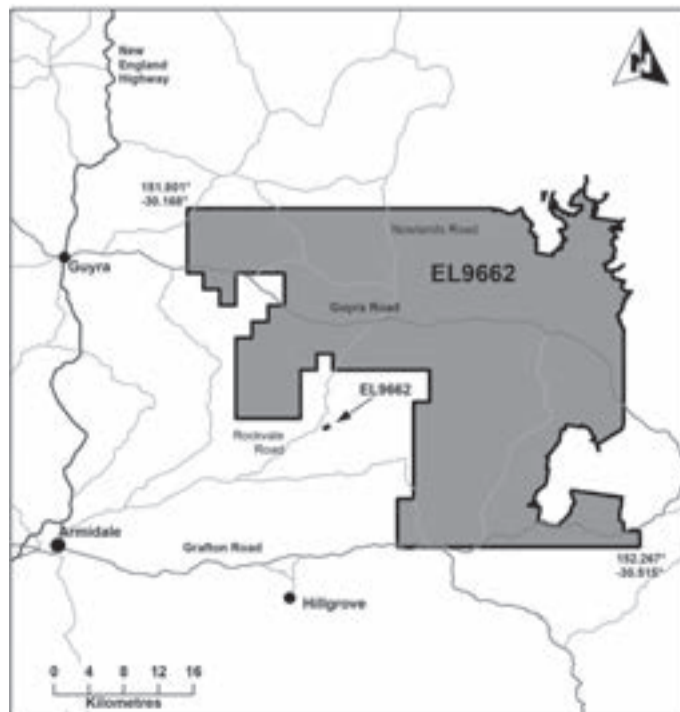
The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*, PO Box 344, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310.

How further information about the act can be obtained

Further information may be obtained from; Assessments and Systems, NSW Resources within the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on (02) 4063 6600 or titles@regional.nsw.gov.au.

Notification Day

For the purposes of section 29(4) of the *Native Title Act 1993* the notification day is 24 October 2024. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice.



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The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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NOTICE INITIATING NEGOTIATIONS WITH NATIVE TITLE PARTIES MINING ACT 1971 (SA) SECTION 63M

TAKE NOTICE that:

1. Valrico Resources Pty Ltd, registered holder of Exploration Licences 7001 and 7003 (**Valrico**); and
2. WRDBD Developments Pty Ltd, registered holder of Exploration Licence 7005 (**WRDBD**), (the **Proponents**) both being wholly owned subsidiaries of Australian Rare Earths Ltd of Level 10, 111 Gawler Place, Adelaide, propose to carry out mining operations of an exploratory nature on the following lands located in the State of South Australia:

WRDBD Developments Pty Ltd proposes to carry out mining operations of an exploratory nature on the land identified below (**WRDBD Land**):

The land located in the State of South Australia, approximately 60 km northeast of Morgan, referred to as **Sturt Vale Area** which is bounded as follows:

Commencing at a point being the intersection of latitude 33°12'S and longitude 139°48'E, then east to longitude 140°07'E, south to latitude 33°26'S, west to longitude 139°59'E, south to latitude 33°41'S, west to longitude 139°54'E, north to latitude 33°27'S, west to longitude 139°48'E, and north to the point of commencement.

(AREA: 995 square kilometres approximately)

being the land which is subject to Exploration Licence 7005, but excluding that part of the land that is subject to the Ngadjuri Nation #2 native title application (Federal Court reference SAD84/2022),

all the within latitudes and longitudes are geodetic and expressed in terms of the Australian Geodetic Datum as defined on p. 4984 of the Commonwealth Gazette number 84 dated October 6, 1966 (**AGD66**).

Valrico proposes to carry out mining operations of an exploratory nature on the land identified below (**Valrico Land**):

1. The land located in the State of South Australia, approximately 65 km east-northeast of Burra, referred to as **Warnes Area** which is bounded as follows:

Commencing at a point being the intersection of latitude 33°27'S and longitude 139°24'E, then east to longitude 139°54'E, south to latitude 33°41'S, west to longitude 139°47'E, south to latitude 33°42'S, west to longitude 139°36'E, north to latitude 33°34'S, west to longitude 139°24'E, and north to the point of commencement.

(AREA: 993 square kilometres approximately)

being the land which is subject to Exploration Licence 7001; and

2. The land located in the State of South Australia, approximately 65 km east-southeast of Burra, referred to as **Bunyang Area** which is bounded as follows:

Commencing at a point being the intersection of latitude 33°41'S and longitude 139°47'E, then east to longitude 139°54'E, south to latitude 34°01'S, west to longitude 139°36'E, north to latitude 33°42'S, east to longitude 139°47'E, and north to the point of commencement but excluding White Dam Conservation Park and areas within the area of the licence that is subject to a mineral tenement or comprised in a private mine including (but not limited to) Mineral Lease 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 5122 and 665 as registered in the Mining Register at the date of the grant of this licence.

(AREA: 992 square kilometres approximately)

being the land which is subject to Exploration Licence 7003,

all the within latitudes and longitudes are geodetic and expressed in terms of the Australian Geodetic Datum as defined on p. 4984 of the Commonwealth Gazette number 84 dated October 6, 1966 (**AGD66**).

The general nature of the proposed mining operations that are to be carried out by Valrico on the land the subject of Exploration Licences 7001, 7003, and by WRDBD on the land the subject of Exploration Licence 7005 is:

Exploratory operations to determine the geology of the Land and presence of mineralisation. Without limiting that general description, those operations may include: reconnaissance; gridding; mapping; aerial and handheld photography; airborne and ground magnetic, electromagnetic, radiometric, seismic, gravity and electrical surveying; soil and other geochemical sampling; water sampling; hydrological studies; hydrogeology surveys; shallow trenching; limited clearing for access and drilling; drilling (including diamond core drilling and other methods); downhole-probing, sampling and radiometric testing of drill core/cuttings; environmental monitoring work (including baseline work, flora/fauna surveys, geotechnical surveys) and establishment of temporary camp/storage sites and access tracks as may be necessary.

The proposed activities are (or will be) authorised by the following exploration authorities under the Mining Act 1971 (SA):

Exploration Licences 7001 and 7003 (including any extension, replacement, renewal, regrant or other dealings with Exploration Licences 7001 and 7003, and any other exploration authority or interest in any exploration authority for the whole or any part of the Valrico Land).

Exploration Licence 7005 (including any extension, replacement, renewal, regrant or other dealings with Exploration Licence 7005, and any other exploration authority or interest in any exploration authority for the whole or any part of the WRDBD Land).

Each of Valrico and WRDBD seek to negotiate native title mining agreements under Part 9B of the Mining Act 1971 (SA) in relation to the Valrico Land and WRDBD Land, respectively.

TAKE NOTICE that if, four (4) months after this notice is given as required by the *Mining Act 1971 (SA)*, there are no persons registered under the law of the State or the Commonwealth as the holders of, or claimants to, native title in whole or part of the Valrico Land or WRDBD Land, the relevant of the **Proponents** (or their successors or assignees) may apply *ex parte* to the Environment, Resources and Development Court for a summary determination authorising entry to the land the subject of their respective exploration licences for the purpose of carrying out mining operations on the Valrico Land and/or WRDBD Land, as applicable, and the conduct of mining operations on that land.

Any person who holds or may hold native title in either the Valrico Land or the WRDBD Land who requires further information regarding this notice is invited to contact the Proponent at:

Australian Rare Earths Limited

c/- FINLAYSONS
L7/43 Franklin Street, Adelaide SA 5000
Telephone: (08) 8235 7835
Contact: Ms Jane Welsh

Public Notice

Consultation for the development of Environment Plans

Beach Energy (Beach) currently supplies natural gas from offshore Victoria to the local market through existing infrastructure, including pipelines and onshore production facilities.

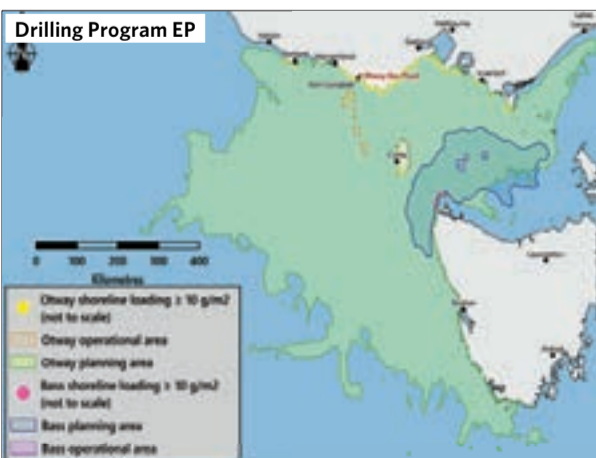
Beach is inviting consultation with relevant persons whose functions, interests or activities may be affected by proposed activities under Environment Plans (EP) for further natural gas development activities.

Drilling EP

As part of its commitment to ongoing local gas production, Beach is proposing to undertake a further phase of drilling operations offshore Victoria. Consultation for activities under the Offshore Gas Victoria (OGV) Drilling and P&A Program EP (Drilling EP) began in June 2023. Beach has now reduced the scope of the activity to be carried out under the Drilling EP.

The original proposal to drill up to 11 wells in the Otway and Bass basins will be modified to a maximum of 5 wells in the Otway Basin only in Commonwealth Waters offshore Port Campbell.

Beach has previously consulted on the Drilling EP from June 2023 to February 2024 and is now carrying out supplementary consultation up to and including 9 December 2024.



Well Completions and Interventions EP

At the commencement of consultation for the OGV Project in June 2023, Beach advised further EPs may be required for activities to complete and connect wells successfully drilled.

Beach is now conducting consultation with relevant persons whose functions, interests or activities may be affected by proposed activities under a Well Completions, Well Interventions and Plugging and Abandonment Activities EP (Well Completions and Interventions EP).

These activities would enable future connection of new gas wells to existing infrastructure, maintain the option to plug and abandon an existing suspended well subject to a further assessment of its viability and enable activities to re-enter up to two existing wells to improve performance.

The Well Completions and Interventions EP consultation is open now and will be conducted up to and including 14 February 2025.

We encourage you to access Beach's additional resources, maps, and project details about the environment plans, which can be accessed via the QR code. We also invite you to contact us if you wish to discuss other consultation options or are seeking further information.



Consultation dates and information

Online consultation hub	engage.beachenergy.com.au Engage Beach, includes information in different formats including maps; diagrams; photos; questions and answers; detailed information sheets.
Dedicated culturally sensitive First Nations information sessions (registration not required)	Portland Yacht Club, 55 Lee Breakwater Road, Portland Tuesday 22 October, 11am to 4pm (AEDT) Tuesday 22 October, 6pm to 8pm (AEDT) Wednesday 23 October, 9am to 12pm (AEDT) Warrnambool RSL, 162 Merri St, Warrnambool Thursday 24 October, 9am to 12pm (AEDT)
Open information sessions (registration not required)	Warrnambool RSL, 162 Merri St, Warrnambool Wednesday 23 October, 3pm to 6pm (AEDT) Port Campbell Surf Lifesaving Club, 1 Cairns St, Port Campbell Thursday 24 October, 3pm to 6pm (AEDT)
Dedicated culturally sensitive First Nations online information sessions (webinars)	Tuesday 12 November, 2.15pm to 3pm (AEDT) Wednesday 13 November, 6pm to 6.45pm (AEDT) Please contact us to register for a webinar.
Open online information sessions (webinars)	Tuesday 12 November, 6pm to 6.45pm (AEDT) Wednesday 13 November, 2.15pm to 3pm (AEDT) Please contact us to register for a webinar.

Environment that may be affected (EMBA)

The maps in this notice show the largest geographic area where operational activities under the Drilling EP or the Well Completions and Interventions EP could potentially have a direct or indirect environmental impact under worst-case scenarios. Within the EMBA, the environment values and sensitivities are defined, potential impacts are assessed, and control measures are developed to mitigate impacts. The EMBA is divided into an operational area for activities defined in the EPs, and a planning area where emergency response plans must be ready for activation in the unlikely event of an accident.

Invitation to consult with Beach

Beach invites consultation with persons and organisations whose functions, interests, or activities may be affected by the activities described in the EPs outlined in this notice. Consultation is an important part of developing EPs as its purpose is to ensure that potential impacts have been identified and appropriate measures adopted as a result of the consultations.

P 1800 797 011

E community@beachenergy.com.au

beachenergy.com.au



READ MORE

For information regarding consultation, please see NOSPEMA's Brochure titled 'Consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans', at consultation.nopsema.gov.au

NOTICE OF WARRABINGA-WIRADJURI #2, #6 AND #7 NATIVE TITLE CLAIMANT GROUP MEETING

9 November 2024, 10:00 am

Club Mudgee, 99 Mortimer Street, Mudgee NSW 2850

The Warrabinga-Wiradjuri #2, Warrabinga-Wiradjuri #6 and Warrabinga-Wiradjuri #7 native title claimant groups ('Warrabinga-Wiradjuri claim groups') made claimant applications in the Federal Court of Australia seeking recognition of their native title rights and interests under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth). The claims are Warrabinga-Wiradjuri #2 (NSD543/2013), Warrabinga-Wiradjuri #6 (NSD1786/2016) and Warrabinga-Wiradjuri #7 (NSD857/2017) (the 'applications').

The current named applicants representing the Warrabinga Wiradjuri claim groups in applications are Wendy Lewis, Mavis Agnew and Martin De Launey.

This notice invites all members of the Warrabinga-Wiradjuri claim groups to attend a meeting at the time and location below:

Date: 9 November 2024

Venue: Club Mudgee, 99 Mortimer Street, Mudgee NSW 2850

Time: 10:30am (registration commencing at 10:00am)

Purpose of the meeting

The meeting is being called so that the claim group may:

1. discuss the status of the applications;
2. discuss update on future acts within the claim area;
3. discuss the update on the anthropological research; and
4. vote for 2025 claimant working group members.

Who may attend the meeting?

This meeting is open all people who are the descendants of the following ancestors:

- Diana Mudgee (Mudgee);
- Jimmy Lambert (Dabee);
- Peggy Lambert (Capertee);
- James Tracker MacDonald (Lahays Creek);
- Thullagumall (Dabee);
- Esther Marks (Mudgee);
- Emily Walker (Sofala);
- Emma Darling Cook (Mudgee); or
- Elizabeth Nash (Mudgee).

All members are welcome to attend. If you are a new attendee, please bring genealogical evidence of connection to apical ancestors listed in this notice or evidence of traditional connection to the land within the application areas.

If you have questions or concerns about attending the meeting, please contact <https://warrabinga.com.au/contact/>. If you have any questions regarding the existing applications, please contact Susanne Rakoczy on (02) 9291 6280 or by email susanne.rakoczy@maddocks.com.au.



Map of external boundaries of Warrabinga's applications



NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION LICENCES

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Honourable Gerard Maley MLA, the Northern Territory Minister for Mining and Energy, C/- Department of Mining and Energy, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) of his intent to do an act, namely to grant the following exploration licence applications.

Applications to which this notice applies:

Exploration Licence 33788 sought by BACCHUS RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 606 340 872 over an area of 2 Blocks (7 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the MCKINLAY RIVER locality.

Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5271

Exploration Licence 33791 sought by BACCHUS RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 606 340 872 over an area of 13 Blocks (44 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the MCKINLAY RIVER locality.

Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5271

Exploration Licence 33886 sought by E79 EXPLORATION PTY LTD, ACN 162 751 386 over an area of 52 Blocks (171 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the SURPRISE CREEK locality.

Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 6263

Exploration Licence 33887 sought by E79 EXPLORATION PTY LTD, ACN 162 751 386 over an area of 38 Blocks (125 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the SURPRISE CREEK locality.

Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 6263

Exploration Licence 33881 sought by ITECH ENERGY PTY LTD, ACN 674 433 151 over an area of 131 Blocks (417 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the REYNOLDS RANGE locality.

Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5453

Exploration Licence 33785 sought by NT MINING OPERATIONS PTY LTD, ACN 136 525 990 over an area of 31 Blocks (104 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the BATCHELOR locality.

Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5171

Exploration Licence 33784 sought by PNX METALS LIMITED, ACN 127 446 271 over an area of 15 Blocks (51 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the BATCHELOR locality.

Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5171

Exploration Licence 33921 sought by THE AUSTRALIAN MINING SERVICE PTY LTD, ACN 625 506 247 over an area of 42 Blocks (133 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the GLEN HELEN locality.

Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5351

Exploration Licence 33931 sought by THE AUSTRALIAN MINING SERVICE PTY LTD, ACN 625 506 247 over an area of 248 Blocks (741 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the MT WEDGE locality.

Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5352

Nature of act(s): The grant of an exploration licence under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* authorises the holder to conduct activities in connection with exploration for minerals for a term not exceeding 6 years and to seek renewal(s). The term for which it is intended to grant the mineral exploration licences referred to in this notice commences from the date of grant. Further information about the act may be obtained from the Department of Mining and Energy, GPO Box 4550 Darwin NT 0801 or Centrepoint Building 48-50 Smith Street Darwin NT 0800, telephone (08) 8999 5322.

Native Title Parties: Any person who is, or becomes a "native title party" within the meaning of the *Native Title Act 1993* is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2, Division 3, Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993*. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries concerning becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Brisbane QLD 4001, or telephone (07) 3307 5000.

Expedited Procedure: The Northern Territory Government considers that the acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure as defined in section 237 of the *Native Title Act 1993*. The exploration licences referred to in this notice may be granted unless an objection is made by a native title party to the statement that the act is one which attracts the expedited procedure. Such an objection must be made to the National Native Title Tribunal within 4 months of the notification day.

Notification Day: 9 October 2024



Community Consultation- decommissioning of oil & gas infrastructure in Bass Strait



Esso Australia Pty Ltd (Esso), a wholly owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil Australia Pty Ltd, is committed to operating and decommissioning its Gippsland and Bass Strait facilities safely and effectively.

After delivering energy to Australia for over 50 years, many of the Bass Strait oil and gas fields are now reaching the end of their productive life. As planning for decommissioning progresses, Esso is focused on safely shutting-down non-producing facilities and ensuring they stay safe throughout the entire decommissioning process.

Community Information Sessions

If you'd like to know more about plans for **Decommissioning of platforms and pipelines in Bass Strait**, the Esso Consultation Team will be hosting a community information and drop-in session at the following locations:

Tuesday 22 October 2024 - Yarram

Yarram Hub
156 Grant Street, Yarram
5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Wednesday, 23 October 2024 - Foster

Manna Gum Community House
33 Station Street, Foster
5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Thursday, 24 October 2024 - Leongatha

South Gippsland Trade Skills Alliance (SGBLLEN)
71 Ogilvy St., Leongatha
5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

A **presentation** about decommissioning activities will be provided at **5.30 pm** for the above locations.

Please **register your attendance** by emailing: consultation@exxonmobil.com

We encourage you to come along and ask questions or to raise any concerns you may have.

If these dates and times don't suit, please contact us at consultation@exxonmobil.com or by phone on 03 9261 0000.

The Esso Consultation Team will also be available to discuss all current activities, including:

- Jack-Up-Rig Well Plug and Abandonment
- Gippsland Basin Geophysical and Geotechnical Investigations
- Kipper - Sub-Sea Drilling
- Turrum Phase 3 Drilling
- South East Australia Carbon Capture & Storage (SEA CCS) Project

Like to be consulted about these activities?

Esso is working to identify and consult with relevant persons [stakeholders] whose functions, interests, or activities may be affected by one or more of Esso's proposed activities.

Please fill in the [Esso Consultation Questionnaire \(sl.doc\)](#) in the Esso Consultation Hub to let us know if you'd like to be consulted or have any questions or feedback.

Please refer to the NOPSEMA brochure [Consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans brochure.pdf](#) (nopsema.gov.au) to understand more about consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans assessed under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2023*. Your feedback and our response will be included in the relevant regulatory application documentation and submitted to the regulator.

Please connect us with other interested people

If there is anyone you know who may be interested in our activities, we encourage you to share this information with them.

To find out more information

For more information about Esso's activities and other projects, please go to the Esso Consultation Hub at:

<https://corporate.exxonmobil.com/locations/australia/our-approach>



Notice of a non-claimant application for determination of native title in New South Wales

Notification day: 23 October 2024



National
Native Title
Tribunal

A 'non-claimant' application has been made to the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) seeking a determination that native title does not exist in the area described below. The Applicant has a non-native title interest in the area, which is set out in their application and summarised below.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), there can be only one determination of native title for an area. Unless there is a relevant native title claim, as defined in section 24FE, over the area described below on or before **22 January 2025**, the area may be subject to protection under section 24FA and **acts may be done which extinguish or otherwise affect native title**.

A person who claims to hold native title rights and interests in this area may wish to file a native title claimant application or become a party to this non-claimant application. These may be the only opportunities to have those rights and interests taken into account in the Federal Court's determination. Any other person may also wish to become a party.

If you want to become a party to this application, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, **on or before 22 January 2025**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **22 January 2025**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.

Applicant's name: Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council
Federal Court File No: NSD1111/2024

Non-native title interest: The applicant is the registered proprietor of Lots 407 and 410 on Deposited Plan 821783, which were transferred in fee simple to the applicant on 15 July 2020 by the Minister administering the *Crown Lands Act 1989* (NSW) on behalf of the State of New South Wales under section 36 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW) following the determination of Aboriginal Land Claim 17669 lodged by the applicant on 20 May 2009

Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks a determination that native title does not exist in the land described as Lot 407 in DP 821783 and Lot 410 in DP 821783, located in the Local Government Area of Goulburn Mulwaree, Parish of Goulburn, County of Argyle, State of New South Wales

Description: The application area covers about 2.4 hectares over Lots 407 and 410 on Deposited Plan 821783 and is located in the vicinity of Goulburn

Relevant LGA: Goulburn Mulwaree Council



For assistance and further information about this application, call Vasile Tiano on 02 8067 2158 or visit www.nntf.gov.au

NOTICE

DJUNGAN PEOPLE NATIVE TITLE AUTHORISATION MEETING

1 November 2024 – Serbian Cultural & Information Centre Cairns Inc.
67 Greenslopes St, Edge Hill QLD 4870

APIX Law Group on behalf of the Directors of the **Nguddaboolgan Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC** publishes this meeting notice.

Date: 1 November 2024
Time: 12:30pm Registration for 1:00pm Start
Place: Serbian Cultural & Information Centre Cairns Inc.
67 Greenslopes St, Edge Hill QLD 4870

Background

The Djungan People have achieved native title recognition, and this proposed informal negotiation claim is to be brought to have any extinguished or interfered native title rights and interests compensated by the State of Queensland.

Native Title Claim Group

The members of the Native Title claim group are those Aboriginal People:

- (a) who are Djungan People on the basis of descent from one of the following persons:
- Tommy and Topsy Wason;
 - John Wason;
 - Dinah [Richards];
 - Jessie Wason;
 - Jack O'Neil and his spouse, Flora Richards;
 - Peter Ray Burns;
 - Jimmy Kingsburra and Lizzie Kingsburra (including the descendants of Joe Sands);
 - Charles James Archer (Senior);
 - Lucy [Burns];
 - Pluto [Brumby];
 - Mollie and her spouse, Bert Gordon; and
 - Mick Richards.

Attendance in Person

Attendance will be in person and only those present will be entitled to participate in decision-making. All persons who attend will be required to respect the meeting group purpose and directions of the chair.

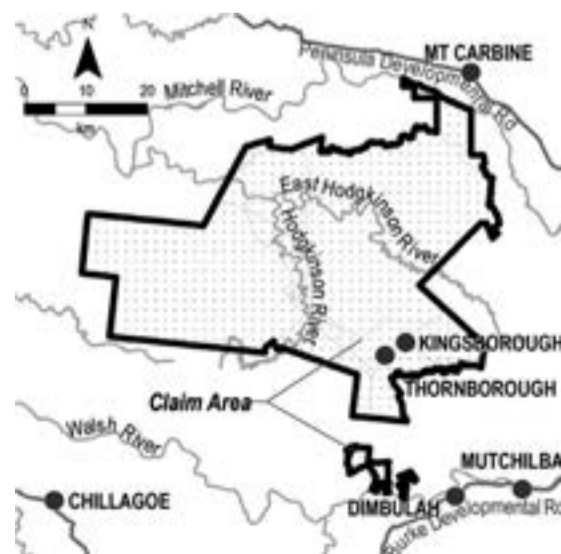
Pre-Registration and Contact

Pre-registration is encouraged by contacting us by email at admin@apixlawgroup.com.au and stating your name, descent identity (including pathway from apical) and contact details.

Agenda for Meeting

- Confirmation meeting notice given and reasonable;
- Confirmation of persons who make up the claim group in attendance and can bind group;
- Discussion and agreement on a decision-making process;
- Discussion and agreement to make a native title compensation claim on informal basis with State of Queensland;
- Appointment of **Nguddaboolgan Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC** to bring the claim; and
- Any other business.
- (Note any proposed settlement requires a further authorisation meeting approval).

Proposed Claim Area



For your advertising needs email: advertising@koorimail.com



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	04/2887	IGO NEWSEARCH PTY LTD	15BL	132.6km NW'ly of Fitzroy Crossing	Lat: 17° 10' S: Long: 124° 54' E	DERBY-WEST KIMBERLEY SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/3668	VOYAGE MINERALS PTY LTD	24BL	39.8km W'ly of Pannawonica	Lat: 21° 34' S: Long: 115° 56' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE, KARRATHA CITY
Exploration Licence	57/1440	AUSTRALIA MINERAL PROSPECTS PTY LTD	9BL	86.1km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 13' S: Long: 119° 24' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE, WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1456	FLEET STREET HOLDINGS PTY LTD	16BL	50.5km SE'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 12' S: Long: 119° 44' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6395	FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD	180.73HA	20km SW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 5' S: Long: 121° 2' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6396	FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD	197.50HA	19.6km SW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 5' S: Long: 121° 2' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	26/4725	MAHONEY, Lyndon Scott	106.74HA	16.9km SE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 48' S: Long: 121° 37' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4759	BJ CAHOOTS PTY LTD	182.70HA	30.7km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 0' S: Long: 121° 54' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY

Nature of the act: Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.

Notification day: 9 October 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 **9 January 2025**. 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. **9 February 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 km²

DMIRS_23424



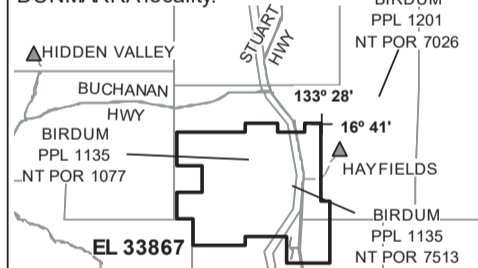
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION LICENCES

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Honourable Gerard Maley MLA, the Northern Territory Minister for Mining and Energy, C/- Department of Mining and Energy, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth)* of his intent to do an act, namely to grant the following exploration licence applications.

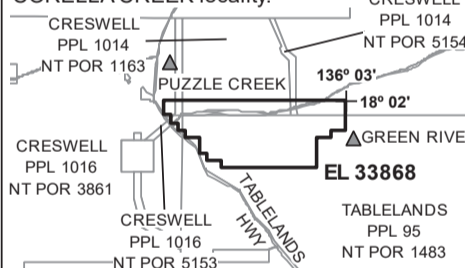
Applications to which this notice applies:

Exploration Licence 33867 sought by BAUDIN RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 618 455 593 over an area of 222 Blocks (730 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the DUNMARRA locality.



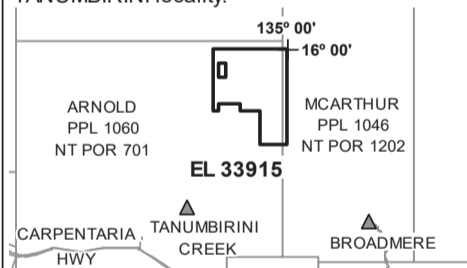
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5564

Exploration Licence 33868 sought by BAUDIN RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 618 455 593 over an area of 177 Blocks (578 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the CORELLA CREEK locality.



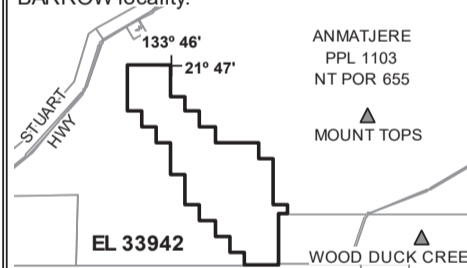
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 6061

Exploration Licence 33915 sought by BAUDIN RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 618 455 593 over an area of 114 Blocks (377 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the TANUMBIRINI locality.



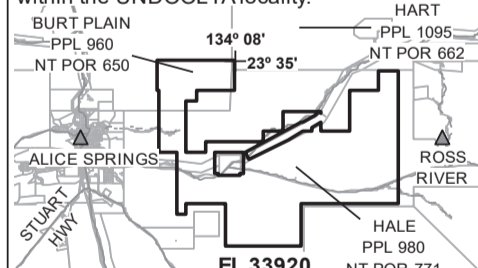
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5865

Exploration Licence 33942 sought by BAUDIN RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 618 455 593 over an area of 61 Blocks (186 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the BARROW locality.



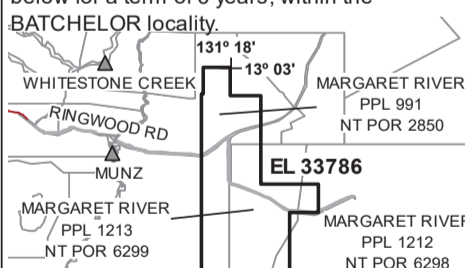
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5654

Exploration Licence 33920 sought by BROKERAGEDIRECT PTY LTD, ACN 629 383 357 over an area of 250 Blocks (763 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the UNDOOLYA locality.



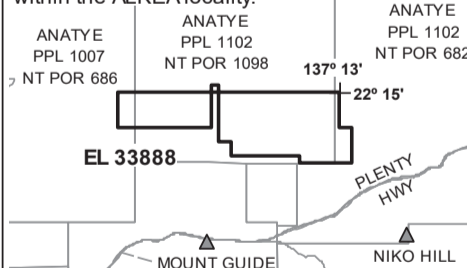
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5750

Exploration Licence 33786 sought by CALATOS PTY LTD ACN 144 618 708 and RMCORPORATE PTY LTD, ACN 113 407 391 over an area of 17 Blocks (57 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the BATCHELOR locality.



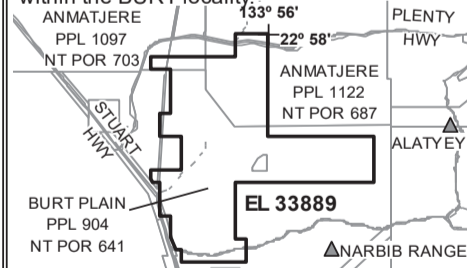
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5171

Exploration Licence 33888 sought by LITCHFIELD MINERALS LIMITED, ACN 612 660 429 over an area of 245 Blocks (779 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the ALKEA locality.



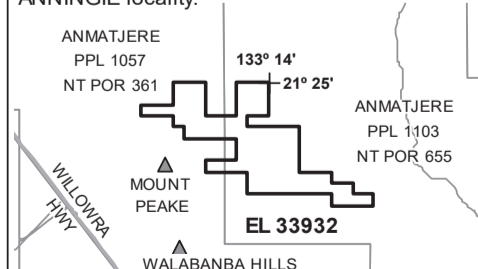
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 6353

Exploration Licence 33889 sought by LITCHFIELD MINERALS LIMITED, ACN 612 660 429 over an area of 194 Blocks (612 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the BURT locality.



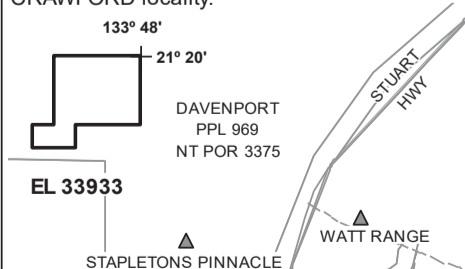
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5651

Exploration Licence 33932 sought by LITHIUM DEVELOPMENTS PTY LTD, ACN 612 245 020 over an area of 82 Blocks (263 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the ANNINGIE locality.



Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5554

Exploration Licence 33933 sought by LITHIUM DEVELOPMENTS PTY LTD, ACN 612 245 020 over an area of 14 Blocks (45 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the CRAWFORD locality.



Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5655

Nature of act(s): The grant of an exploration licence under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* authorises the holder to conduct activities in connection with exploration for minerals for a term not exceeding 6 years and to seek renewal(s). The term for which it is intended to grant the mineral exploration licences referred to in this notice commences from the date of grant. Further information about the act may be obtained from the Department of Mining and Energy, GPO Box 4550 Darwin NT 0801 or Centrepoint Building 48-50 Smith Street Darwin NT 0800, telephone (08) 8999 5322.

Native Title Parties: Any person who is, or becomes a "native title party" within the meaning of the *Native Title Act 1993* is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2, Division 3, Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993*. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries concerning becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Brisbane QLD 4001, or telephone (07) 3307 5000.

Expedited Procedure: The Northern Territory Government considers that the acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure as defined in section 237 of the *Native Title Act 1993*. The exploration licences referred to in this notice may be granted unless an objection is made by a native title party to the statement that the act is one which attracts the expedited procedure. Such an objection must be made to the National Native Title Tribunal within 4 months of the notification day.

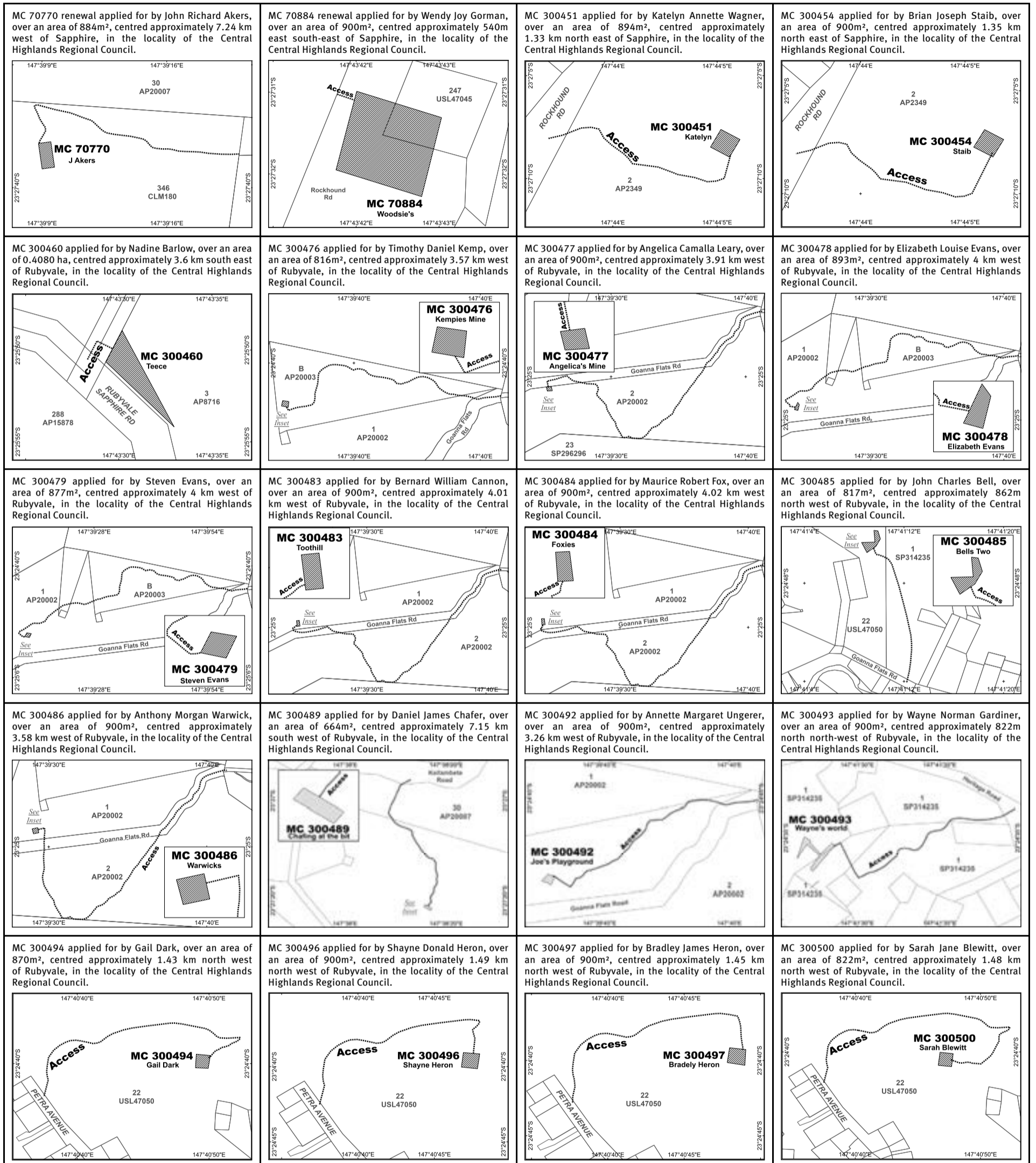
referred to in this notice may be granted unless an objection is made by a native title party to the statement that the act is one which attracts the expedited procedure. Such an objection must be made to the National Native Title Tribunal within 4 months of the notification day.

Notification Day: 9 October 2024

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RENEWAL AND GRANT OF MINING CLAIMS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed renewal and grant of Mining Claim (MC) shown below, subject to provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).



Nature of Act(s): The renewal and grant of Mining Claims 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 Claim includes granting of access as shown above.

Name and Address of person doing Act(s): It is proposed that the Mining Claims be renewed and granted subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) by the Queensland Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

Native Title Parties: Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) any person who is a "native title party" is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed renewal and grant of a 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. 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, Small Scale Mining Assessment Hub, 99 Hospital Road, Emerald, Queensland, 4720. Telephone: (07) 3078 3031 or Email: SSMHub@resources.qld.gov.au.

Notification Day: 23 October 2024.



0 what a star! Kernick delivers

By KRIS FLANDERS



FRESHLY-MINTED Dally M Medal winner Olivia Kernick delivered two sensational tries that bookended the Sydney Roosters' thrilling 32-28 over a brave Cronulla to win the 2024 NRLW Premiership at Olympic Stadium in Sydney on Sunday.

The match was a rollercoaster ride that saw the Roosters outlast the Sharks to win their second NRLW premiership.

The victory capped an incredible few days for Kernick, who was named the Dally M Player of the Year earlier in the week.

She scored the opening try at the 15-minute mark with a typically strong run that left the Sharks defenders clutching.

Late in the second half, at the 66th minute, and with the game in the balance, Kernick collected the Steeden and never looked like being stopped as she crashed over for what would be the match-winner for the Roosters.

Kernick had a blinder in the grand final.

She ran for 170m, the second highest behind teammate Millie Elliott, and completed 37 tackles, the most for her side. Her two tries were pipped only by Roosters' five-eighth Tarryn Aitken, who was awarded the Karyn Murphy Medal as Player of the Match.

The Roosters led by a game-high 24-0 at half-time and the match looked well and truly over.

But the twists were yet to come as the Sharks came roaring back into the contest.

Cronulla's Indigenous All-Star hooker Quincy Dodd scored a try in the 43rd minute and set several others up.

She was involved in everything for the Sharks and made 42 tackles, the most for her team and the game, and gained 50-metres from 9 runs.

Dodd's teammate Rhiannon Byers played the full 70 minutes and her workrate was also high with 39 tackles and she made 27m from 4 hit-ups.

It was a brave effort from Cronulla to come back from 24 points down in what was just their second season in the NRLW. There is better times ahead for the Sharks.

The Roosters, however, have been the form team of the competition in 2024 and rightly deserve this premiership.



Olivia Kernick crosses to score for the Sydney Roosters in the 2024 NRLW grand final against Cronulla at Olympic Stadium in Sydney on Sunday. Pictures: Getty Images



Cronulla's Quincy Dodd reacts to the Roosters scoring a try during the grand final.



The Sydney Roosters celebrate their 2024 NRLW Premiership.



Olivia Kernick is all smiles after scoring for the Roosters.

Ah Chee is Lions' 'Mr September'



Brisbane Lions premiership players Callum Ah Chee (left) and 'King Charles' – a.k.a. Charlie Cameron – celebrate their grand-final triumph at the MCG. Pictures: Peter Argent



Brisbane forward Callum Ah Chee celebrates one of his four goals.



The Lions' Charlie Cameron looks downfield for options during tense moment in the grand final.



Brisbane's Callum Ah Chee (right) and Lachie Neale go the high-five in celebration.



ONCE Brisbane's "jack of all trades", Callum Ah Chee is now a premiership forward and the Lions' own 'Mr September'.

Across 2024, Ah Chee, 26, transformed himself from a utility, often seen running off half-back, into one of the AFL's most dangerous forwards.

That included two goals in the elimination final against Carlton, and three in the preliminary final win over Geelong – including the goal that restored Brisbane's lead late.

In last Saturday's AFL grand final, he capped off his incredible rise with four goals, two direct goal-assists and a third-placed finish in the Norm Smith Medal as Brisbane thrashed Sydney by 60 points, 18.12 (120) to 9.6 (60).

Ah Chee was finally able to relax when he kicked his fourth goal – his favourite of his haul – running onto a long kick over the back, burning off Sydney's defence and sticking a dagger in Swans' hearts.

"I was calling Cal 'Norm' at three-quarter-time when he kicked that goal, I thought he was going to win it (the Norm Smith Medal as best-on)," team-mate Charlie Cameron said.

"Cal's been playing a very selfless role, playing on the best running defender, so to see him get the reward the other way, it's very special.

"We were calling him 'Mr September' all week.

"It's great because he's played half-back, wing, forward, and he told

'Fages' (coach Chris Fagan) that he wanted to play forward so it's great to see him there.

"He's just himself up forward." Ah Chee is modest about his rise.

The West Australian was Gold Coast's pick No.8 in the 2015 AFL draft.

Four seasons and 45 games later, he was traded to the Brisbane Lions.

After five seasons at Brisbane, playing largely defence while popping up wherever else the Lions needed him, Ah Chee told Fagan and his fellow coaches he wanted to play forward.

The rest is history.

"I've been playing forward and that's been my natural position to play," he said.

"The coaches just back me in every week and I'm pretty stoked to be honest.

"To be holding this (medal) around my neck is something I'll remember for the rest of my life."

Ah Chee admits there were times he thought things wouldn't play out this well, but those in his corner, including his wife Laura and their two young children, got him through.

"It's just the people around me who believed in me," he said.

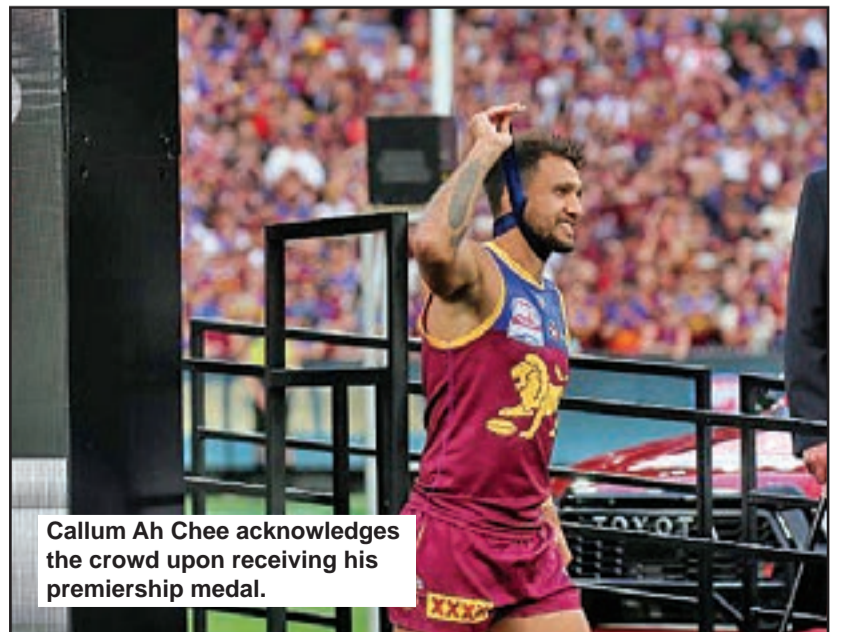
"That's my family – they backed me in. (Brisbane list boss) Dom Ambrosio, he got me here, he drafted me to Gold Coast as well.

"It was good to pay him back a little bit.

"This club' is so special. You're able just to be yourself and we're a tight group, which makes it easier just to come out and play." – AAP



The 2024 grand final was a case of 'third time's the charm' for Charlie Cameron (who had played in the 2017 and 2023 grand finals).



Callum Ah Chee acknowledges the crowd upon receiving his premiership medal.

Awards night shine spotlight

RUGBY League's night of nights, the Dally M Medal, honours the best in the game and pays homage to the player in the NRL and NRLW who were dominant all season. It also pays respect to those who shone in their positions, as well as those who go above and beyond the football field, away from the action and into the community.

We'll highlight our brothers and sisters at the awards.

The best-finisher in the NRL Dally M count was North Queensland star Scott Drinkwater, who compiled 45 votes to finish fifth overall.

Cronulla Sharks' champion Nicho Hynes was presented with the Ken Stephen Medal for his work in the community; due recognition for his mental-health advocacy and working with Indigenous organisations.

Gold Coast and Indigenous All-Stars' flyer Alofiana Khan-Pereira took home the Ken Irvine Medal as the NRL's top try-scorer this season. The Titans' star finished with 24 from 21 appearances. 'AKP' knows exactly where the white line is and has an incredible 44 tries in 44 outings. Outstanding!

Sydney Roosters' Olivia Kernick, Wiradjuri woman, polled 22 points to win the NRLW Dally M. She is a star and one of the most hard-working forwards in the NRLW. The second-rower hasn't missed a game all season and made over 1600m and over 300 tackles. In 2024, she was part of the successful Indigenous All-Star side in Townsville and strong for NSW in the State of Origin series. Kernick also took home the Dally Medal for Second-Rower of the Year.

NRLW Coach of the Year was Scott Prince for his efforts in guiding Brisbane toward a strong season.

Cronulla's Quincy Dodd was named the Sharks' Players' Player of the Year. North Queensland's Bree Chester was named Cowboy of the Year. Parramatta skipper Mahalia Murphy picked up the club's NRLW Community Award. St George-Illawarra's Kimberley Hunt was awarded the Veronica White Medal for her support in the community from her participation in the Healthy Deadly Kids Program and work with the Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service.

The Indigenous Community Award was presented to Jasmine Bond, a driving force in building rugby league in North Queensland. She believes that the game can positively shift behaviours in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island youth and travels long distances across remote areas to promote rugby league and empower the community.

Well done to all those who were recognised for their efforts on the playing field and those inspiring our Mob away from the action too..

***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



Dual Indigenous and Māori All-Star Olivia Kernick was awarded the NRLW Dally M Medal as rugby league's best player in the women's game. Picture: Getty Images

Kernick wins Dally M



SYDNEY Roosters second-rower and dual Indigenous and Māori All-Star Olivia Kernick has capped a tremendous season with her maiden Dally M Medal.

Kernick's sacrifice of temporarily relocating to Sydney has proved worthwhile.

A revelation on the right edge this year for the Roosters, Kernick now calls the Gold Coast home but has traditionally stayed at a childhood home on the Central Coast during NRLW seasons.

But after the Roosters were upset in the semi-finals for the past two seasons, Kernick, with teammates and roommates fellow Central Coast junior Keeley David and Newcastle resident Millie Elliott, all opted to base themselves in Sydney this year.

Fittingly, Elliott and Davis were also named in the NRLW Dally M team of the year. — AAP

Moseley, Norths Devils claim NRL State Championship

By KRIS FLANDERS



THE almost decade-long drought for Queensland rugby league is over after the Norths Devils

hoisted the NRL State Championship trophy in Sydney on Sunday.

Led by three-time Indigenous All-Star and hooker, skipper Kierran Moseley, the Devils won a thrilling decider over the more-fancied Newtown Jets 20-18 at Olympic Stadium.

The annual match pits the NSW Cup and Queensland Cup premiers against each other in a post-season play-off to determine the best state-league club in the country.

A Queensland club last won the championship in 2015 when Ipswich, ironically also the 'Jets', defeated Newcastle.

Moseley led Norths from the front during the 2024 Queensland Cup season, where he played 23 games (for 2 tries) and was busy in defence making over 740 tackles.

He brought that hunger into the State Championship match.

The Devils' attacking flair had been on show throughout 2024 in which they won the 2024 Queensland Cup premiership when they defeated the Redcliffe Dolphins 34-30 (22 September).

For Newtown, Indigenous halfback Niwhai Puru got the Jets flying high with a great try but it his goalkicking that let him down.

Puru, whose brother Hohepa Puru played alongside Moseley for the All-Stars in Townsville in March, had just one successful



Kierran Moseley and the Norths Devils from Queensland raise the NRL State Championship trophy after their win over Newton Jets at Olympic Stadium in Sydney on Sunday. Pictures: Getty Images

conversion from four attempts.

It was telling statistic in the overall wash-up.

The result wasn't the finish the Jets wanted.

Puru was sensational for the 'Bluebags' this year.

He scored 174 points through 76 goals, 5 tries and 2 field goals.

In fact, Puru was a key factor in Newtown's 2024 NSW Cup grand-final win over the North Sydney, the 'Bears' (22 September).

There were some incredible try-saving efforts from the Jets

with hooker Jayden Berrell pulling off a spectacular one while he combined with Puru for another heart-stopping effort.

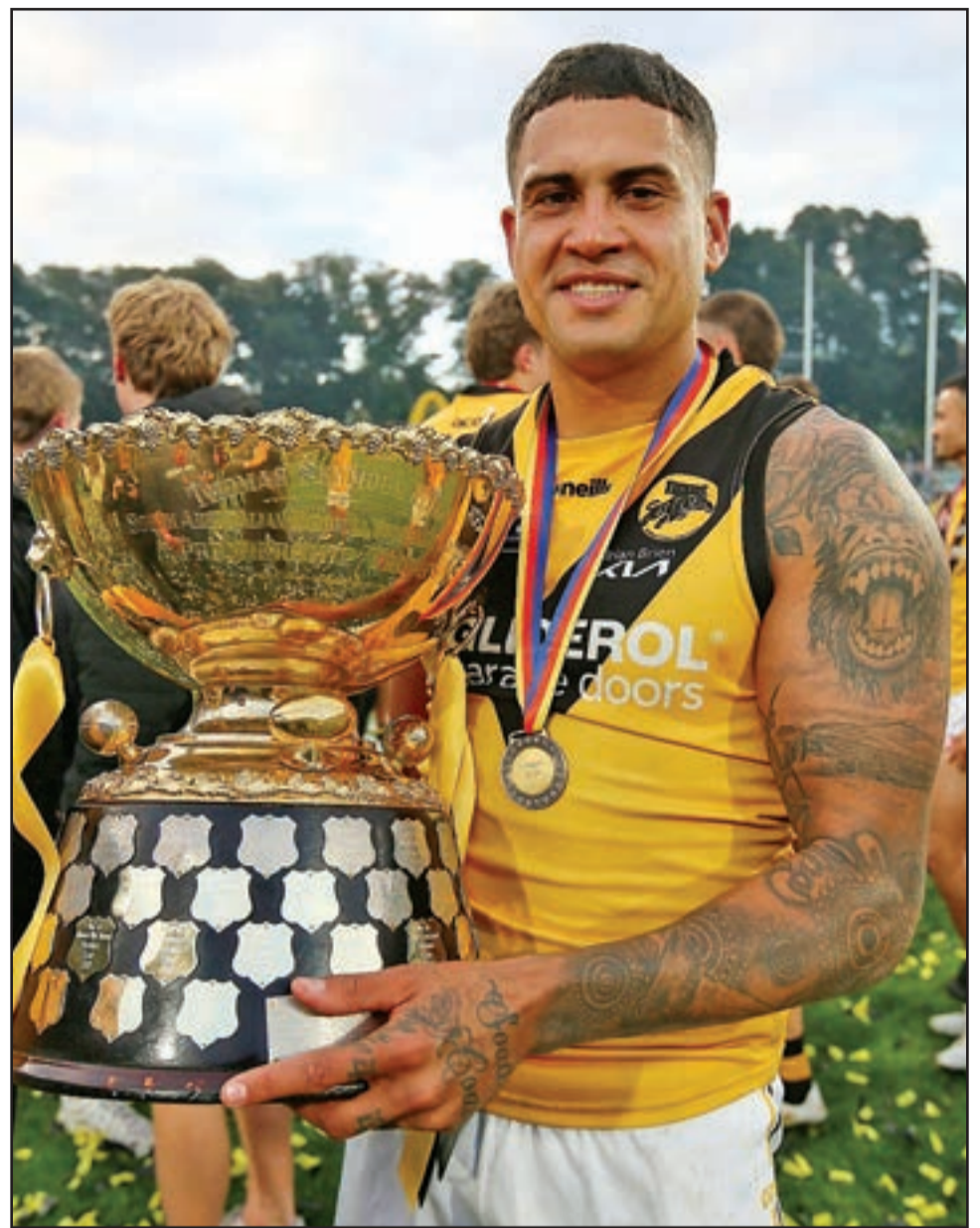
Devils' second-rower Oryn Keeley was the hero for the visitors; he scored two powerful tries that swung the advantage to his side.

Right: The Jets' Niwhai Puru celebrates a try in the match against Norths.





James Bell celebrates the 2024 SANFL Premiership (his second); right: Bell with the spoils of victory. Pictures: Peter Argent



Bell rings loud and true for premiership star

By PETER ARGENT



JAMES BELL was among the star players for Glenelg in the Tigers' thrilling come-from-behind SANFL grand final triumph over Norwood at Adelaide Oval last weekend (22 September).

In front of a big crowd of 35,129 fans, Bell and Glenelg came from four goals down deep in the third quarter to defeat minor premiers Norwood by five points, 12.9 (81) to 11.10 (76).

The emotion by Bell was evident when the final siren sounded.

He had a telling impact in the season-decider and was one of the game's leading possession-winners with 22 touches to go with eight tackles and a pair of clearances.

After the euphoria of being the leading team in 2023, from which they won the premiership from top spot, the 'Bays' had to

do it the hard way this season – from the finals-bound top-5, they finished the season in fourth.

In the elimination final, the Tigers defeated Woodville-West Torrens (5th) comfortably, got over Sturt (2nd) in the first semi-final, before stopping Central District's (3rd) run in the preliminary final.

The grand final was an epic contest between two quality outfits.

This year, Bell played out his second season in the SANFL, both with Glenelg, and was considered unlucky not to win a spot in the SANFL 2024 Team of the Year.

His club had him among their best players in 13 of the 21 games he played.

Bell was one of the leading performers across the entire 2024 SANFL premiership season in which he averaged 18.2 disposals, 5.3 tackles and 4.1 clearances per game.

The 25-year-old played 28 games for Sydney in the AFL from 2018-22.

Proud of his heritage, Bell's Mobs are the Yuin, Dughutti and Dharawal People from the NSW south coast.

He said the past few years have been tough.

"I needed to 'man up' and start looking after me," Bell said in a frank post-grand final conversation with *Koori Mail* Sport.

"It has been a taxing couple of years, including losing a couple of people that were in my corner.

"It helped me put the priorities in the right place.

"That has reflected in my footy.

"There is still that dream to have another crack at AFL footy.

"Hopefully the work I've done and moving away to a new state is noticed."

His coach at Glenelg certainly noticed.

"James has had an outstanding year," Tigers' senior coach Darren Reeves said.

"After being able to settle into Adelaide

life, the opportunity to play as an inside-mid together with a huge pre-season his form week after week was as consistent as any player in the competition.

"He had a goal to be the best two-way runner throughout the finals series and without question he was that. His four finals game were top-shelf with impact both with the ball and equally without the ball with some of his defensive plays and brutal tackling setting the standard for our group.

"James' grand final display was outstanding; together with Corey Lyons (they) really kept us in the contest for large parts of the first half.

"I'm a believer in that you get reward for effort, and he has certainly seen some of that this year.

"One of the great things is the best of him is still yet to come and that is really exciting for the Tigers faithful."

The Brisbane Lions came to play, and win – Congratulations!

Well how about those Lions!? Well, I still say 'Go Bears' but that is fading more and more each year. These Lions-Bears-Lions came to play, and win – and win that grand final they did!

I can just imagine the celebrations rolling on for many weeks, months and potentially years if this team can go back-to-back. Whatever happens, the 21-year premiership drought is now over.

Maybe now the three-peat premiership Brisbane Lions players of 2001-2002-2003 can 'let go' as the last of the club's premiership players because there is a new batch.

And how good is this: the Brisbane Lions AFC are currently

the reigning premiership teams of the AFLM and AFLW!

It was great to see the connection the Brisbane AFLW players have with the men's team; they celebrated the win with a two-point win over Adelaide the day after, saying the men's grand-final win inspired them, too. We even saw Taylor Smith make the 'Big O' shape with her hands in celebration and recognition of Oscar McNerney, the Lions player



Shelley Ware

who missed the grand final due to injury but was there urging the players on and celebrating when they won. Taylor's tribute to him was so good; the AFLW girls clearly love him as he also is their ruck coach. I can just imagine Oscar is feeling the love.

Now, this brings me to an issue I have with the AFL and I say it every year and so here I go again: I firmly believe that if you contributed significantly to getting your team into the grand final and then miss out on playing in that grand final for a range of reasons – like injury – and your team then wins that grand final then you also should get a premiership medal. I still stand by this!

And how good was it to see Charlie Cameron win a

preiership medal for the Lions! His move from the Adelaide Crows to Brisbane was big but it paid off for him. Charlie is all class and on grand final day he played his heart; I couldn't be more happier for him.

I loved that moment when, as the team came together for the premiership photo, Charlie and Callum Ah Chee just looked at each other and had the biggest hug. It was just so good to see our brother-boys shining out there on grand final day. There was just a lot to love about the Lions' grand-final win.

I must mention Will Ashcroft, the youngest-ever player to win the Norm Smith Medal; he scored 14 of a possible 15 votes. Callum was also in discussions after his

efforts, and of course Lachie Neale who was outstanding.

The Swans? They have since come out and owned up to how they just weren't up for it. Well, that kind of didn't need to be said. I mean, 120-60 speaks for itself.

Well then, that's another season done and dusted, and trade week and a draft period to come. Enjoy this moment, Brisbane Lions fans.

The rest of us? We will take stock, look ahead, and imagine what can be possible for the 2025 AFL Premiership season.

***Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She has worked in the AFL industry for over two decades**

Knockout a big hit at Bathurst

By **DARREN MONCRIEFF**



THE juggernaut that is Aboriginal rugby league football's main event is showing no sign of slowing down.

The 52nd instalment* of the NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout

Carnival at Bathurst in Central NSW at the weekend has reaffirmed its sporting and cultural significance within the community.

Organised by the 2023 Koori Knockout-winning team, Walgett Aboriginal Connection, thousands of people from across the state – interstate, even – converged upon Bathurst in support of their teams, and the players in them teams

across five fields.

The WAC connection to Bathurst is the regional centre's location: Wiradjuri Country, from which WAC Mob comes from.

For the wider Australian community, the Koori Knockout means a significant economic boost.

It is estimated that the 20,000 visitors to

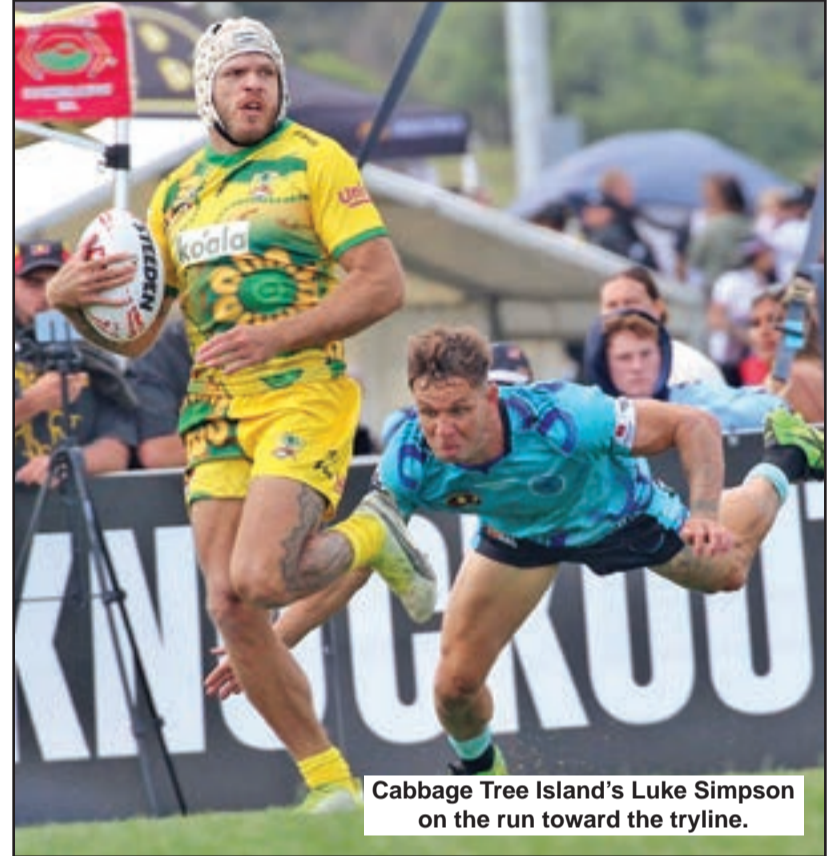
the Knockout at Bathurst will generate around \$2 million to the local economy.

Economics and local tourism aside, the Koori Knockout will forever remain entrenched within the Aboriginal community.

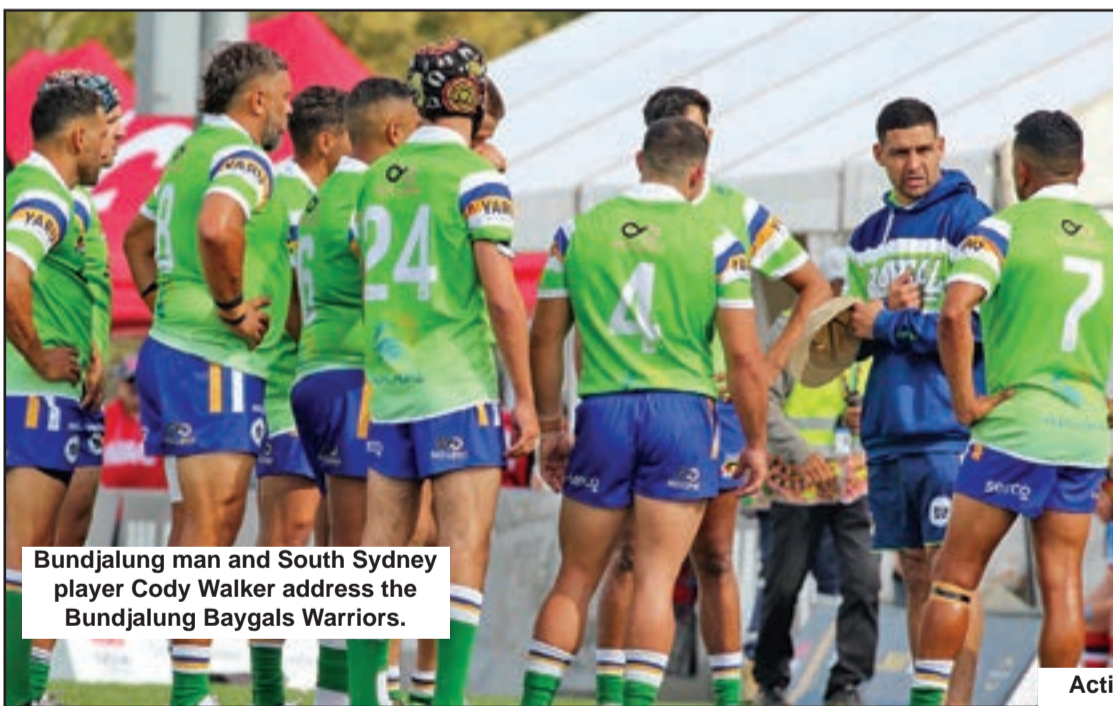
**The 2020 and 2021 Koori Knockouts were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.*



The Griffith Three Ways defence converges upon a La Perouse player at the 52nd NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival at Bathurst in Central NSW at the weekend. Pictures: Darren Moncrieff



Cabbage Tree Island's Luke Simpson on the run toward the tryline.



Bundjalung man and South Sydney player Cody Walker address the Bundjalung Baygals Warriors.



Action from around the grounds at the Koori Knockout.



The 2024 IMP squad that will tackle the NYC Marathon comprises of Della Bedford, Koolyn Briggs, Brooke Carson, Beth Cooper, Pio Kelemete, Angelica Gee, Elle Jarman, Jye Murray, Dakota Manton, Millie Telford, Shannon Stack and Jermaine Stuart.



New York City beckons for new crop of athletes

AUS THE Indigenous Marathon Foundation has announced a 12-person squad to run in the New York City Marathon next month.

The 2024 Indigenous Marathon Project squad – representing a cross-section of the community and from around the country – will tackle one of the world’s most iconic endurance events on Sunday 3 November.

This year marks a significant milestone for the IMP: it is the organisation’s 15th year, an initiative that has brought change to 142 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have graduated through the program.

This year’s squad comprises of role models from across the country who have readied themselves for New York in just five months of training.

Despite many starting with little or no running experience, the new graduates’ determination and resilience has them set for one of the world’s biggest stages.

Final selection for New York was determined by those who have committed to their training

2024 Indigenous Marathon Project Squad

- Della Bedford (Bunuba, Kitja) •
- Koolyn Briggs (Yorta Yorta) •
- Brooke Carson (Cobble Cobble) •
- Beth Cooper (Wiradjuri, Yorta Yorta) •
- Pio Kelemete (Boigu, Tokelauan) •
- Angelica Gee (Wiradjuri) •
- Elle Jarman (Larrakia, Wadjigan, Yawuru, Erub) •
- Jye Murray (Wiradjuri, Ngemba) •
- Dakota Manton (Worimi) •
- Millie Telford (Bundjalung, South Sea Islander) •
- Shannon Stack (Yamatji, Noongar) •
- Jermaine Stuart (Adnyamathanha, Yamatji, Kuyani, Dieri) •

throughout the year, and who successfully completed a 30km test run in Alice Springs.

Their selection, however, extended beyond just running.

Selection into the final marathon squad also hinged upon the completion of their education and leadership component, which gives them the skills and confidence to become impactful role models in their communities when they return from their international achievement.

Weeks out from the marathon, the squad is putting the final

touches to their preparation, working hard to ensure they are in peak physical and mental condition for the marathon.

The weeks ahead will be spent refining endurance, perfecting nutrition, and pushing personal limits in order to be ready for the 42.195km race through the boroughs of New York – all the while remembering their “why” that will guide them to the finish line.

Since inception in 2010, the IMP has not all about running in marathons – it is about personal

growth, leadership, and community impact.

This year’s squad joins a powerful legacy, taking the baton from the 142 IMP graduates who have paved the way, becoming a beacon of strength and hope for their communities.

IMF founder and director, Robert de Castella, said he was proud of the 2024 IMP squad.

“This program is about so much more than running,” he said.

“These young men and women have shown what is possible when you believe in yourself and commit to a purpose greater than yourself.

“They will run on behalf of their families, their communities, and all Australians, proving that anything is possible.

“When they cross the finish line at Central Park, they will forever be marathoners and it will change, inspire and uplift them, their families, and their communities.”

The 2024 squad will begin their journey to New York at the end of October after their training for the gruelling marathon.

Pietsch’s Bledisloe start vs. NZ



DYLAN PIETSCH started on the wing in the second Bledisloe Test with the All Blacks in Wellington last weekend; the 26-year-old’s maiden start in the gold jersey.

The Wallabies, however, let slip the Bledisloe Cup for a 23rd consecutive year in their 13-33 defeat to the All Blacks at Wellington Regional Stadium.

Wiradjuri man Pietsch became the 17th Aboriginal and-or Torres Strait Islander footballer to play for the Wallabies, joining a host of former greats to play for the Australian national rugby union team.

Teammate Josh Flook won the race to fill the void left by Pietsch’s elevation, and that was his fourth appearance in the gold jersey after starting both Tests against Wales in July.

Pietsch’s game time amounted to 62 minutes of the 80-minute game.

Pietsch had played for Australia previously, and that was at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in the Rugby 7s.



Dylan Pietsch in action against the All Blacks in Wellington. Picture: Getty Images

Cramer, Wallaroos defeat Wales



LORI CRAMER and the Wallaroos have sent a message to the rest of the WXV 2 competition following a dominant 37-5 victory over Wales at Cape Town Stadium last weekend (28 September).

The Australians ran away with the contest in the second half, with Cramer’s try at the 70-minute mark putting the game out of reach for the Welsh.

The Wallaroos went into the WXV 2 opener undeterred by the back-to-back defeats that started their Spring Tour ahead of their campaign.

They had lost to both Ireland and Wales in the lead-up matches to the WXV series.

Pinder, Wildcats in mixed start



Keanu Pinder (above and right) has had a mixed start to the 2024-25 NBL season. Pictures: Halim Mellick



KEANU Pinder and the Perth Wildcats have had a mixed start to the 2024-25 NBL season.

At the weekend, Pinder atoned for a somewhat quiet early-season game against Sydney by asserting his presence at both ends of the floor with a double-double against last season's grand finalists Melbourne United.

Perth and Melbourne came into the season with high expectations, and were looking

to hit back from losses against Tasmania and Sydney, respectively.

United took the 12,000 hometown fans out of the game from the start with a 17-2 run late in the opening quarter.

Melbourne scored another 13 straight points in the second term to score a statement 29-point victory, 97-68.

Pinder scored 10 points along with 11 rebounds for the Wildcats on a horror night at home.

Earlier, Pinder and Bryce

Cotton effected a sensational double-act in a combined 55 points and 12 three-pointers in a 106-98 win over South-East Melbourne Phoenix the week before.

Dominant big man Pinder saved the best of his 29-point display for when his team needed it most in the third term, scoring 14 consecutive points – including two threes and a massive dunk – after the Phoenix stormed back to get within a solitary point in front of a sold-out crowd.



'MKB' win hard-fought final at Walgett KO

By MAXINE HICKS



SHOULD we, or shouldn't we? That was the question organisers of the Walgett Rugby League Knockout Carnival asked themselves about this year's planned event at the small western NSW town.

The organisers were the Rose brothers – George, Matt and Trent – who also organised the big NSW Koori Knockout at



Winners of the Walgett Rugby League Knockout Carnival in Walgett – MKB. Picture: Maxine Hicks

Bathurst, just two weeks later. It was a big gamble, and at short notice, but it paid off with a good turnout of men's, women's and junior teams in great weather conditions.

The junior mixed division saw teams represent Moree, Brewarrina, Coonamble, Mungindi, Pilliga and host town Walgett.

Of the women's teams, the Mungindi Hopperetts backed up their win at the Collarenebri KO to win the Walgett KO. The Hopperetts had to work for the win, though, with the 4 Sisters Gingi making them earn

it. Both sides gave nothing away and stood their ground, but it was the girls from Mungindi who won through.

The men's final – between Barwon United and 'MKB' – was a classic. Both were evenly matched, in size and fitness.

In what felt like an eternity, Barwon United, the 'Swans' scored first.

This roused MKB and the second half saw both teams locked level until MKB broke away to score before Barwon replied.

The game was heading to extra-time but

MKB's Jeremy Thurston proved the difference, and guiding his team to a hard-fought win.

Walgett Rugby League KO Carnival – Results

Under-13s: Coonamble Bears

Women's: Mungindi Hopperetts

Men's: MKB

Player of the Day: Alex Ronayne

Player of the Final: Jeremy Thurston

Best Back: Layton Rose



Walgett celebrates back-to-back wins



By DARREN MONCRIEFF



WALGETT Aboriginal Connection has defied history to win back-to-back titles at Aboriginal rugby league's

iconic event. WAC defeated Nanima Common Connections 46-12 to win the 52nd edition of the NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival at Bathurst on Sunday.

In front of a packed crowd on the

renamed WAC Stadium, the red-and-whites put on a clinical display to defeat Nanima CC. The victory puts an end to a recent trend of Koori Knockout hosts losing on the big stage.

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WAC celebrates winning the 2024 NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival at Bathurst on Sunday. Picture: Darren Moncrieff

Bound for the Big Apple

Change-makers ready to conquer gruelling New York City Marathon



THE Indigenous Marathon Foundation has announced a 12-person squad – representing a cross-section of the community and from around the country – for the New York City Marathon next month.

The 2024 Indigenous Marathon Project squad will tackle one of the world's most iconic endurance events head-on on Sunday 3 November.

This year marks a significant milestone: it is the 15th year of the IMP, an initiative that has brought change to the lives of 142 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have graduated through the program.

This year's squad comprises of powerful role models from across the country who have achieved incredible feats in just five short months of training.

Despite many starting with little or no running experience, the squad have demonstrated determination, resilience, and heart as they prepare for one of the world's biggest stages.

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The 12-strong 2024 Indigenous Marathon Project squad in Central Australia recently.



Pio Kelemete of Townsville completes prepares for New York. Pictures: IMF

Brilliant Buckskin wins netball premiership with Gawler Central–P51