



Koori Mail

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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Shining a light on culture



ATTRACTING 45,000 visitors across its 10-day First Nations multi-arts program, the second edition of *Shine on Gimuy* First Nations festival has ended with the lights illuminating the giant sculptural installations lining Cairns Esplanade turned off. *Shine on Gimuy*, led by artistic director Rhoda Roberts AO and guided by a dedicated committee of cultural guides, delivered a refreshing and immersive line-up of illuminated art sculptures, music performances, cultural dance, comedy, conversations and a Blak Market in a celebration of First Nations peoples, arts, and cultures. *Pictures and story, pages 32-33*

Unleashing the dogs of racism



YES campaigner Geoff Scott believes the “dogs of racism” were let off the leash during last year’s acrimonious Voice campaign with sections of Australian society now comfortable expressing their racism.

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GRIEF and hurt are still being felt in First Nations communities one year on from the 2023 Voice referendum but many are still fighting for change. Bridget Cama, co-chair of the Uluru youth dialogue, is one of them.

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AUNTY TJ Tik Tok explains how social media can be used to strengthen our young Mob’s pride in their cultural identity and connection to Country and community, in spite of the racism generated by the no campaign.

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Celebrating 100 years with dance

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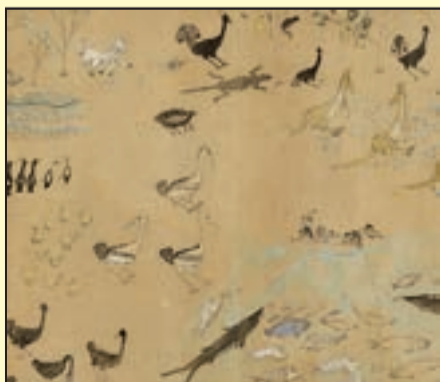
Why Jim is prepared for jail

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Kirk Page shares his thoughts

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Calendar of arts events

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MY FAMILY

Carmel Major (Hughenden, Qld)



I am a proud 56-year-old Wuluwarra Aboriginal woman with descendants from remote Dajarra in Queensland and I now live at Hughenden.

Two of my five sons and 83-year-old father Richard Major live at Hughenden but others are spread around many places including at Woorabinda.

So it is great to catch up with many family members when we travel to watch rugby league carnivals.

Your photographer saw a big Mob of us at the Townsville Sports Reserve where we supported a team which included four granddaughters.

They were Mackayla Major-Oakley, aged 18, Zeckeisha Major-Oakley, 23, Lyndsey Major-Booth, 17, and Jahzmyrn Major-Oakley, 19.

I cheered for them and afterwards it was so wonderful to have a photo taken with myself and their great grandfather Richard.

We all look up to my dad Richard who

worked hard as a drover and railway man before he retired.

Since my mother Jean, who everybody knew as Peeky, died four years ago at age 80, we have rallied around him.

We all met up in Townsville for several days and were going to have a barbecue together at Rows Bay after the footy.

Every minute was quality time with my much loved family.

Because many of us live so far apart at Charters Towers, Cloncurry, Dajarra, Woorabinda and Mount Isa, we take every opportunity to meet up at carnivals.

We have been to Brisbane for the Murri Carnival, to Clermont, Rockhampton and Woorabinda.

Sometimes it means a family member drives out of their way to pick up another for these gatherings.

It is worth the travelling to meet up and spend time with my beautiful family.

Myself Carmel Major with my father Richard Major and granddaughters from left: Mackayla Major-Oakley, Zeckeisha Major-Oakley, Lyndsey Major-Booth and Jahzmyrn Major-Oakley, 19.

SHARE YOUR FAMILY WITH OUR READERS

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

OUR CHILDREN



A group of Anangu 'tjitji' children from Mutitjulu Community, Uluru, took the opportunity to play in the red mud and puddles after floodwater from recent heavy rains had subsided. *Picture: Image protected; proceeds for use go directly to Anangu Families.*

Koori Mail

Postal Address
PO Box 117, Lismore, NSW, 2480
Street Address
11 Molesworth Street, Lismore, 2480
Telephone (02) 66 222 666
www.koorimail.com

STAFF

CEO: Naomi Moran – ceo@koorimail.com
Editor: Darren Coyne – editor@koorimail.com
Newspaper Advertising: advertising@koorimail.com
Job Web Advertising: webads@koorimail.com
Accounts: accounts@koorimail.com
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Pssst... wanna buy a statue?



Rob Braslin with the satirical Facebook marketplace ad which caught the attention of Tasmania Police.

Comedian cops visit for joke post

By JILLIAN MUNDY



WHEN comedian Rob Braslin advertised 'old statue for sale – no feet' on Facebook marketplace he never expected it would be taken seriously, let alone

by the police.

The post featuring a picture of the felled statue of controversial colonial figure William Crowther, an expelled surgeon and for a short time Tasmanian Premier who is best remembered for robbing and mutilating the body of Tasmanian Aboriginal man William Laney (aka King Billy).

In May this year, having been elevated on a pedestal for 135 years in Hobart's Franklin Square, it was sensationally sawn off at the ankles by a trio of, depending on point of view, brazen masked removalists or vandals.

The statue was set to be taken down by the City of Hobart sometime in the future via a bureaucratic process slowed by appeals and complaints. A decision from an appeal was set to be handed down at 10am of the morning Hobart woke to find the heavy bronze laying facedown next to the plinth which, again depending on point of view, had been amended or defaced, with the words 'decolonise' and 'what goes around'.

As the sun rose, police rushed in to take forensic samples from the scene before the City of Hobart carted the statue off on a truck and built a huge wooded crate around the plinth and attached feet.

It was front-page news, social media lit up everything from elation to disgust. A couple of days later a video was posted on Instagram of the felling.

Rob, a Wakka Wakka man and story teller who grew up in Tasmania and is best known as a stand up comedian, saw a photo of the facedown statue and couldn't help himself.

"I mean, Facebook marketplace, that's the real frontier of comedy.

"I wondered if the joke had legs," Rob explained to the *Koori Mail*.

"It's like doing any kind of joke, you throw it out there and see what happens."



A likeness of the body-snatching, body-mutilating surgeon and for a short time Tasmanian Premier, before it was sensationally cut down in May.

He got a mainly pleasing response – laughing emojis from mates and strangers, messages asking the price, a few people appearing to think it was genuine and maybe thought it be worth something, and a few angry responses, people messaging him and calling him a wanker or the like.

"I replied to a couple and asked are you okay to pick it up or can I drop it off for some petrol money – messing with it."

It was hard to consider the anger as anything but racism.

"That's a very specific kind of racist, they know who William Crowther is and care enough about that statue, and still double down. I think if you're the regular run-of-the-mill racist, you probably see what that guy did and go, that was pretty crook, even back in the day it was deemed a heinous act."

He recalls his post being reported, but he took it down months ago anyway before he risked being banned from marketplace, as he wanted to buy and sell stuff on there.

Rob didn't think much of it until he got a call from a police sergeant a few weeks back.

"When the cops call you it's never great news, you've never won anything, nothing good is happening.

"I jumped the gun a bit, I opened with – is this about guns?"

His dad, who used to go hunting, had passed away a few months before.



The feet were all that remained when the Crowther statue was sensationally sawn off during in the night.

Within hours of his dad's passing, police had come to collect his guns.

After Rod clarified his mention of guns, the sergeant asked about his marketplace post.

"I burst out laughing really hard," Rob said.

"I told her I was a comedian."

Rob suspects from the defeated tone in the sergeant's voice his satirical post was probably their only 'lead'.

Koori Mail asked Tasmania police about their enquiries with Rob and if they had any other 'leads'. They simply said 'the police investigation is ongoing'.

Last month the two feet were removed to be joined back to rest of the statue, with the oversight of International Conservation Services from Sydney. Staff will also attempt to remove the spray-painted amendments from the sandstone plinth, which appear to be absorbed into the porous stone. The restoration is to comply with Tasmanian Heritage Council conditions, costing approximately \$65,000, which the City of Hobart said is covered by insurance.

Their long-term plan is to install a new interpretation for the site.

Hobart's Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds is disappointed the statue was toppled when a process including creative communications, planning processes and votes by councillors, to remove it has been underway for over four years. The Aboriginal community had called for its



It seems forensic evidence collected from Tasmania Police has provided no solid leads.

removal for decades.

Reynolds said it had been a painstaking journey and feels work to achieve lasting change has been hijacked.

"A more ceremonial closure of this journey would have offered some more meaningful resolution," she said.

Most Aboriginal people the *Koori Mail* spoke to do not share this view, and the few that do still found the sight of the statue laying facedown and carted off satisfying.

In the meantime, Rob Braslin has been talking a lot about statues and monuments for the upcoming web series called *Go Figure* that he is hosting.

"It's completely unrelated to all this but I guess it shows how in vogue it is to talk about, it's a hot potato topic," he said.

He has travelled the east coast of so-called Australia interviewing locals, mayors and Elders about monuments and statues, including a plaque in the Torres Strait Island claiming Spanish navigator Luis Vaz de Torres was the first to navigate the waters there, the Batman Bridge in Lutruwita/Tasmania named after a murdering colonialist, the Big Banana in Coffs Harbour and the six metre tall Ned Kelly statue in Glenrowan. They also talk about how very few monuments there are to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The 6 x 4 minute episodes of *Go Figure*, will be online in November.

The invitation of Uluru statement remains open

The first anniversary of the failed referendum for recognition and a Voice to Parliament has passed and I watched on as many in our community stood up and said we are "STILL YES".

I was lucky enough to be in the presence of 60+ strong First Nations women for the inaugural Victorian First Nations Women's Breakfast, to mark the anniversary of the devastating defeat of the Voice referendum and launch new advocacy on the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Adjunct Professor and visionary for this event Janine Mohammed said "The referendum was another blow for us, but equally difficult to see its impact on our children. Yet in our hearts, we knew that this wasn't the first nor would it be the last time that they will be hurt so badly by rejection, but this was one part of the movement towards achieving our human rights. The calls of the Uluru Statement remains an invitation"

The title of the powerful



Shelley Ware

gathering was 'Pouring from the heart of the kitchen table'.

The breakfast was held at the Yoorrook Commission hearing room. Yoorrook Commissioner Sue-Anne Hunter and organising committee member said

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have long seen the strength and power of our mothers and aunties, sitting around the kitchen table, supporting each other, holding each other, healing each other, and inspiring each other to action."

We wore our Yes t-shirts that Clothing the Gaps had heat pressed the words STILL on them, those simple words added to our t-shirts had us standing ten-foot tall together.

We heard words from Auntie Jackie Huggins, one of our renowned historians and advocates for our people, she filled the room with joy. She spoke of leadership, resilience and the power of Aboriginal women to drive meaningful change in their communities and across the nation. She inspired and lifted us.

We also heard from Bonnie Dukakis, Chief Executive Office of the Koorie Youth Council, who shared how our youth are coming through strong in self and that their words hold value for what

lays ahead for our people. She encouraged us to trust in their spirits and lift them so they can lead the way in our footsteps while forging their own paths.

"We planned this gathering as a pivotal moment to amplify First Nations women's voices — to build capacity and open doors so they can act on our behalf," said organising committee member Ms Belinda Duarte, CEO of Culture is Life.

We shared stories of our own lived experiences through the failed referendum and those of our children. The organising committee have asked that people who attended share their stories through a QR code, so we can collate them and keep them safe for our children, so they read our words and know our truths. We also encourage you to write, record and speak your lived experiences too, so please do.

We finished the breakfast, listening to our amazing songbird Jessica Hitchcock who sang a song she recently wrote called *Wings of Change*. I can't wait for

her to release it, as the words will resonate in your heart forever.

The silence was deafening from most of mainstream media, in fact pages of mainstream newspapers without a word. I talked about this with some friends and some were shocked, while others not so much. Words that have rung in my ear since, came from a dear friend who said "The silence is violence." How true these words are.

Time after time our people face this violence from mainstream media about matters that relate to our wellbeing and way of life, as they turn their back on the true history of this country once again.

We need to face our shared history front on, so when and hopefully in my lifetime, when we do line up to vote again for recognition and a voice, we don't continue to repeat history, as we did again on October 14th 2023.

● **Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide.**

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State apologises to stolen generation



AN historic apology has been offered to Victoria's stolen generation victims by

Victorian Premier

Jacinta Allan.

Ms Allan made the personal apology on behalf of the state government on Thursday in Melbourne's inner north.

The premier posted a picture online of the smoking ceremony after the event.

"Members of the stolen generations have never received an apology in person from the Victorian government. Until today," she wrote on Facebook.

"On behalf of successive Victorian governments and parliaments, I apologised to those children who were forcibly removed from their families.

"To the babies and children who grew up without knowing who they were. And the mums and dads who were left – sometimes for a lifetime – searching."

Former prime minister Kevin Rudd delivered an historic national apology to the stolen generation in February 2008 following the 1997 Bringing Them Home report.

Ms Allan said the state Labor government had been working with members of the



Premier of Victoria Jacinta Allan.

Victoria's stolen generation since it came to office in 2014, and had listened to their voices.

"The apology is for that stolen generation," she later told reporters in Shepparton.

"The attorney-general and I yesterday were joined by people in their 80s, people in their 50s who were part of that stolen generation who are still experiencing the grief and trauma of being torn away from their family at birth."

Opposition spokesman David Davis criticised the government for not inviting the media to cover the ceremony, declaring the apology should have been delivered in plain sight.

"Like many Victorians, I don't personally accept responsibility for things that

have happened, indeed in many cases, before my family and perhaps your family were here," he said.

"But whatever statements we're going to make on behalf of the Victorian government should be done honestly and transparently."

In February, the Victorian parliament paused to hear Ms Allan offer a formal apology on behalf of the state to victims of historical abuse and neglect in institutional care.

Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Shane Patton also made a series of mea culpas over the force's mistreatment of Indigenous people at the state's truth-telling inquiry in May.

Ms Allan said her government was guided by the lived experiences of stolen generation members when deciding to hold the apology behind closed doors.

"They absolutely deserve the respect to be able to determine the safe, appropriate way that that apology is delivered," the premier said.

The surprise state apology came a year on from the federal Voice to Parliament referendum suffering a resounding defeat.

Victoria recorded the highest 'yes' vote of any state at 45.85 per cent.

– AAP

Spirit of the dance



Photographer JOSEPH MAYERS has once again captured the spirit of the dance at this year's DanceRites event held in Sydney last weekend. Hundreds of people gathered in the forecourt of the Sydney Opera House to watch around 300 performers from around the country strut their stuff. Twenty groups representing more than 40 nations and clans took part, hoping for a share of the \$41,000 prize pool. Check out our next edition for more pictures and results.



Court accepts evidence of human occupation going back 45,000 years



THE Federal Court of Australia has accepted evidence that humans have occupied the area impacted by the Solomon hub mine for up to 45,000 years. An expert report accepted into evidence by the Federal Court of Australia last week agreed that 249 sites within the mine footprint had been subject to consents under the State Aboriginal Heritage Act, which means they

can be destroyed or damaged. More than half of those sites have now been completely destroyed. About 75 per cent of the mine's 400 square kilometre footprint, an area the size of Darwin, extends across the Yindjibarndi native title determination area. Yindjibarndi Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation (YNAC) is suing Fortescue and the WA government for mining at the Solomon hub since 2013 without the consent of YNAC, the prescribed body

corporate. The joint report was produced by YNAC's archaeological experts Professor Peter Veth and Dr Caroline Bird, and Fortescue's expert Mr Douglas Williams. YNAC has exclusive possession native title over the area of the Pilbara mine, which has produced around \$50 billion of iron ore since 2013. The case is being heard by Justice Stephen Burley, who indicated at a hearing last Tuesday

that he was open to admitting new evidence dealing with "social disruption". The respondents have since agreed to admit 230 documents relating to social disruption. The three archaeological experts agreed that "more detailed investigation could have been done to mitigate the loss of some sites". The report indicated that Fortescue may have been able to exploit weaknesses in the WA government's administration of

Aboriginal heritage. The report says at paragraph 15: "Standards of mitigation have varied through time, for a number of reasons, primary of which is the lack of consistent guidance from the regulatory authority (currently, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage)." An additional report on the economic loss to the community by Mr Murray Meaton, was also accepted. All reports can be viewed online.

'Foul play likely' but search to continue



THE family of an Indigenous man missing in remote Queensland say they will

never stop searching after a coroner found he likely died as the result of foul play.

Jeremiah "Jayo" Rivers, 27, went missing from a campsite at Wippo Creek about 1,000km west of Brisbane on October 18, 2021 while on a pig-hunting trip with six other men.

Mr Rivers, originally from Western Australia's East Kimberley region, was never found despite a number of searches and a 2023 inquest into his disappearance.

Coroner Donald MacKenzie last Thursday handed down his inquest findings at Brisbane Coroners Court.

He ruled Mr Rivers, on the balance of probabilities, was dead and was likely met with foul play though Mr MacKenzie could not rule out misadventure.

Mr Rivers' uncle, Digby Rivers, said outside court he wanted to thank the coroner for his findings and bringing to light issues with the police's response.

"We got let down by the Queensland Police from the word go," he said.

"We've done a lot of investigation ourselves, we walked that Country for months ourselves and whatever leads we gave, we got nowhere."

Mr MacKenzie found the police search for Mr Rivers was hindered by his hunting companions waiting 30 hours after he was apparently last seen leaving their campsite to report him missing.

He also accepted expert evidence that the search was



Family members of Indigenous man Jeremiah 'Jayo' Rivers, who was last seen in remote Queensland in 2021, including uncle Digby Rivers (front right) and mother Joanne Rivers (front left) pose for a photograph outside Brisbane Coroners Court in Brisbane on October 17.

extensive, cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and there was nothing that could have been done differently to have led to a better outcome.

Mr MacKenzie found members of the pig-hunting group had shown "incriminating" behaviour after the disappearance and they had given seven different versions of the last time Mr Rivers was seen.

"I accept that they have put forward other reasons for this behaviour," Mr MacKenzie said, referring to allegations at the inquest that the group had been trafficking cannabis to Darwin and were in breach of COVID-19 restrictions at the time.

"But I did not find them to be credible witnesses and suspect they may know more

than they have told police and this court."

The coroner said he did not have grounds to reasonably suspect members of the group had committed a serious offence and therefore could not make any referrals to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

"I am confident that the Queensland Police Service will continue to investigate any and all reasonable leads and lines of inquiry," Mr MacKenzie said.

Digby Rivers said he did not believe his nephew, as a fit young footballer with knowledge of the bush, would have died through accident.

"We always knew that something did happen to them. Somebody has to stand up and be accountable ... I'm

sure one of the other blokes has got a feeling in their heart to come forward and say something," he said.

Due to dismissive language used in one officer's notes about Mr Rivers' disappearance, Mr MacKenzie recommended the Queensland Police consider providing training on trauma-informed communication with Indigenous families when they are concerned about a missing person.

Digby Rivers said the family would keep on going until they got answers about what happened to "one of the best young fellas" they knew.

"We know one thing: we are never going to stop searching ... we are going to push harder and harder to get answers," he said. **-AAP**

Spit hoods to return in youth detention in NT



CONTROVERSIAL restraint devices will again be used in the Northern Territory on children who spit at police and corrections workers. Spit hoods were banned in NT youth detention centres

following a landmark royal commission in 2016 and were subsequently eliminated in South Australia and NSW in all custodial settings.

However, while they were prohibited in youth detention centres, they were only operationally banned by the former Labor government for Territory police.

Police Commissioner Michael Murphy said last week that the ban on the restraints had ended.

"We will be introducing spit (hoods) this week, back into use in the Northern Territory – just in our watch house facilities," he said.

"In the last three months alone, 68 police have been assaulted, 20 counts of spitting, which is absolutely abhorrent, and 40, usually punching or kicking or with weapons," he said.

The Country Liberal Party's suite of crime-based repeals would send a clear message to the public that assaulting frontline workers and police wasn't acceptable, Mr Murphy said.

Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro campaigned hard on law and order before being elected to the top job in August.

She promised to reinstate the use of spit hoods when parliament sat for the first time this week, as well as lower the criminal age of responsibility.

"No other jurisdiction in this country has taken the steps that the previous Labor government did by abandoning young people under the age of 12 and allowing them unfettered to commit crimes against innocent Territorians," she said.

But Labor's former attorney-general, the member for Gowja, Chansey Paech said the opposition was concerned about the sweeping repeals.

"Let's be clear, the CLP is a government that is allergic to evidence," he said.

"They are walking away from the evidence of experts and recommendations from royal commissions."

Corrections Commissioner Matthew Varley confirmed he was also aware the youth justice act would be amended in parliament in the next two weeks to reinstate the use of spit hoods in youth detention facilities.

"Spitting on anyone is unacceptable and can be a distressing experience, including for our workers," he said.

Current policies and training would need to be in line with any amendments Mr Varley said, but his focus would be the ongoing safety of young people, visitors and staff.

The proposed changes have "deeply concerned" Northern Territory children's commissioner and Larrakia woman Shahleena Musk, whose office has long opposed the use of the devices. **-AAP**



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Truth commission could reset nation's identity



ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander people must lead a federal truth-telling process, an inquiry has been told.

To ensure its effectiveness, a truth-telling commission must have cultural authority and allow witnesses to share stories in culturally appropriate ways, Federation of Victorian Traditional Owners chief executive Paul Paton says.

"This is about resetting and restoring this country's history," he told a federal parliamentary inquiry into the Truth and Justice Commission Bill.

"There have been a lot of misinformation, mistruths about the true history of our country and this provides an opportunity to reset that story, reset the relationship and design a way forward, for us to move forward as a country."

National commission

The proposed legislation seeks to establish a national truth and justice commission, which would inquire into historical and ongoing injustices against Indigenous people.

Mr Paton said there was scope for the commission to be a permanent body.

"Colonisation is a continuing, ongoing process and we see that through decisions that are made every day in government," he told the inquiry in Melbourne.

"Until that ceases to occur, then there's still an opportunity to investigate and make recommendations for future decisions and changes to be made."

Victoria's Yoorrook Justice Commission deputy chair Sue-



The Yoorrook Justice Commission did not go far enough, agency chief Muriel Bamblett says.

Anne Hunter said while a Commonwealth truth-telling process could have a wider scope and examine federal policies, it must take into account work done on a state level.

"There could be a more joint approach. We could reach more people. We could get more justice," she told the inquiry.

Yoorrook was established by an agreement between the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and the Victorian government under the Inquiries Act, giving it royal commission powers.

Ms Hunter said it was important to be able to compel government officials to give

evidence to Yoorrook.

"It's been really powerful being able to call the state to the stand," she said.

"We're hearing the truth of systemic injustice, and they're admitting to that, and I think that's really important."

'Hamstrung'

But in other ways, the Yoorrook commission was 'hamstrung' by its powers, said Marcus Stewart, former co-chair of the First People's Assembly of Victoria.

"By giving them the powers of a royal commission we really restricted the length of time they needed to be out in

communities, spending a lot of time out there and having that strong regional footprint," he said.

"Upon reflection you could have looked at a five to 10-year process."

Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency chief executive Muriel Bamblett said the Yoorrook commission had not gone far enough.

"Yoorrook, I think, asked government questions that the government didn't answer or didn't respond. Their responses have been very weak," she told the inquiry.

"I'm really concerned that they're not going to change lives.

"They really did fail to address and to think about historical wrongs way back. They're really more focused on contemporary issues and I think you can't address contemporary issues unless you acknowledge historical wrongs."

Ms Bamblett said a federal truth-telling process needed to examine both historical and contemporary wrongs and it was important to back up the inquiry with action, such as putting redress in place.

"It's important to ensure that the measures outlined in the bill are backed up by government's appetite for change, because we need change," she said. —AAP



Garbage truck rollout



FIFTEEN new garbage trucks will soon be in service at some of Australia's most remote communities in the Torres Strait.

These outer islands are Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) communities and will be shipped to the islands between now and the new year.

City of Gold Coast donated 12 of the vehicles and three were purchased by the council.

Some of the islands which will receive the trucks are Boigu, Dauan, Saibai and Warraber.

Boigu Island is in sight of PNG

and the 300 residents will welcome the truck.

TSIRC CEO James William said the trucks would soon be hard at work regularly picking up community household waste.

"The rollout of the 15 garbage trucks underscores the Torres Strait Island Regional Council's commitment to community health, safety and efficient waste management. We're really excited about this move forward in waste disposal and know it will make a positive difference to our communities. We're looking forward to the new garbage trucks lightening the load for all," James said.

Public notice

Create a living museum – Redfern Terrace

We're seeking Aboriginal artists, architects, filmmakers, sound designers and other creatives to transform Redfern Terrace.

Showcasing contemporary and archival materials, it could be a museum, an artist studio or artwork – somewhere the community can share knowledge and creativity.

This expression of interest is the first stage of a 5-stage development process for Redfern Terrace.

How to apply

• [cityofsydney/redfernterrace](https://cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/redfernterrace)

If you'd like to know more, please contact: Andrew Schaper on 02 9265 9333 or email aschaper@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

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Kawadji Wiimpa dance director Josiah Omeeny leading the dancers on Church Day for the 100th-anniversary celebrations and 2024 Paytham Malkari Dance Festival. Picture Jaz Ford



Kawadji Wiimpa junior dancer Ava giving a thumbs up.

Celebrating 100 years with a dance festival

By CHRISTINE HOWES



THE far northeastern Cape York town of Lockhart River celebrated their 100th anniversary with a week of activities, including the second annual Paytham Malkari Dance Festival, late last month.

Festival organising committee member Wayne Butcher said it was one of the best weeks of his life.

"Everybody embraced a good, happy week of celebrating our history and our culture," he said.

"We had Tuesday to Saturday of good, solid activities and everything fell into place.

"Everyone helped too as well, I think that's the important part, a lot of people volunteered and you just can't thank them enough."

He said the week started with an opening ceremony at the ceremony followed by a march to the community hall and the Lockhart River Kawadji Wiimpa Dancers.

"There was a massive crowd," he said.

"So it was a good way to start off the week and get everyone into that 100-year celebration.

"The next day was Church Day, and that was about the Anglican Church that brought the community together in 1924 at the Old Lockhart Mission, which they ran until 1967 when the state government took over management of the community.

"So Church Day was to remember the role the Anglican Church played in the community, it was the foundation to a lot of our Elders.

"We had a small march around the community, a great church service and some more dancing."

He said one of the highlights of a week of highlights was taking several hundred people 70 kilometres southeast of the community for a celebration out at 'Old Site'.

"Everyone was out there and you could feel the spirit of our old people joining us for the day," he said.

"Some of the Elders spoke about their experience living there, and then after being moved and coming back, some were pretty emotional."

He said then on Friday and Saturday they went into the Festival.

"It was great to see the Pormpuraaw and Bamaga dancers come along," he said.

"We would invite more communities, but accommodation is really restricting us at the moment.

"The festival is always a highlight, the kids just love dancing, you'll never stop them dancing.

"But the atmosphere and the crowd, and it's just one of those things that the dancing culture is something that brings Lockhart community together and you could feel it.

"You could still feel it after – you walk into the shop and everyone's saying good morning and hello, and it's such a wonderful thing that it brings community together.

"Culture is something that

keeps community together and it underpins the principle of a community and what a community is."

Acting Mayor Alistair Bowie said it was special week for the community.

"We love our culture and that's the only time they feel good about themselves when they're expressing the culture," he said.

"It was also great to see the other community's culture and how they share their stories through their dancing."

He said he spent much of his time working behind the scenes with Community Development Services Director Jamie Love.

Mr Love said it all went to plan and people pulled together, "as they do in Lockhart".

"It had a lot of people involved," he said.

"If you looked at the dance festival from last year to this year, you would've seen quite a big difference in regards to the range within the program.

"Overall I think it all worked extremely well, it takes a lot of

work and effort for small remote communities such as Lockhart River to draw the resources to present these types of very important events.

"And I think there are very important events, you can see the change in how much the community really love these dance festivals.

"They tend to walk away with a high, and they were very positive and very happy, and it builds/rebuilds connections with other communities, especially those who come and dance with us."

Bamaga dancers 'Guba Markai' were organised for the second year in a row by Clifford Wasiu.

"It was good last year and it was good this year," he said.

"I came with a big group this year, I had workers, singers and dancers in eight cars – six from home, one from Cairns and two from Weipa."

Pormpuraaw also brought three vehicles for their 1000-kilometre round trip

● Continued next page



Pormpuraaw dancers Les Norman and Syd Bruce Shortjoe with Lockhart River's Kawadji Wiimpa dance director Josiah Omeeny (centre).



Pormpuraaw dancers at the 2024 Paytham Malkari Dance Festival in Lockhart River.



The Kawadji Wiimpa juniors at the 2024 Paytham Malkari Dance Festival in Lockhart River.



All the dancers gathering for the closing ceremony of the 2024 Paytham Malkari Dance Festival in Lockhart River.

● From previous page

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Porpuraaw also brought three vehicles for their 1000-kilometre round trip.

Singer Syd Bruce Shortjoe said for most of them it was their first time on the east coast.

"The sea breeze is different from ours," he said.

"We know families, a lot of our extended clan got intermarried, some are still around, some are gone.

"One of the saddest things, just coming for this 100th anniversary and a lot of memories.

"I enjoyed it, especially when we are all joined together to just dance as one group, it's really

exciting for everyone."

One of several Kawadji Wiimpa dance directors, Lorraine Clarmont, said it was very good.

"Everybody enjoyed themselves, and it's good to see other communities perform with us," she said.

"It went really well, everybody put effort into it, especially the mayor and the council.

"It means a lot to us to dance here, because we started that festival in 1973 in the same spot. "It was really good."



Kawadji Wiimpa dancers at Old Site for the 100th-anniversary celebrations and 2024 Paytham Malkari Dance Festival. Picture Jaz Ford



Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council Community Development Services Director Jamie Love.

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Department of Education



Why Jim is prepared to be jailed

By JILLIAN MUNDY



PAKANA Elder Jim Everett Puralia Meenamatta, who turns 82 today (October 23), says the older he becomes the more

frantic he feels about what he can do to stop the destruction of his Country

As this edition of *Koori Mail* went to press Everett was making plans to be arrested in a bid to draw attention to this destruction, risking 12 months in prison and/or a fine of \$10,100.

"We need to stand up against the destruction to our Country, because that Country of ours holds our law, we're obligated to our law," he says.

"We're destroying our own nest, and by doing that, we're destroying the nest for a whole lot of other life.

"Everything is relational, everything balances out through a natural evolution of life into environmental, relational ecosystems and we're just a part of it, we don't own it, we don't have a dominance over it.

"The western world thinks it can dominate the natural world and use it as it can and will, when really what they're doing is destroying the very life that keeps everybody okay on this planet.

"Earth mother can survive, when she gets too much hurt, she'll shake us off like fleas, she can take millions of years to recover, and if we do such a bad job on her that she does shake us off like fleas, perhaps when she has new life in a couple of million years or more, there won't be any humans here to wreck the place, unless they can put us Aboriginal Mob back without all these other mobs that want to destroy it."

In March this year Everett was arrested on trespass for protesting in a native forest that



Jim Everett Puralia Meenamatta.

was being logged. He was bailed, did not show up to court in June and a warrant was issued. In July he was arrested and bailed again, did not front court in September and as a result has a warrant out for his arrest.

Everett, a poet, film-maker, philosopher and activist who has been campaigning for his people, country and the environment all his adult life, has joined forces with the formidable Bob Brown and his foundation as well as the Wilderness Society and the Grass Roots Action Network.

He plans to keep protesting and getting arrested to draw attention to environmental

destruction.

When he is eventually dragged before a magistrate, Everett plans to express his position on citizenship and jurisdiction, forcing the magistrate to consider it.

Everett does not recognise any colonial authority over him.

"I am not an Australian citizen, and the Australian-British colonial laws that I challenge have no jurisdiction to arrest me for defending my Law in Country from ongoing destruction of our natural world," he explains.

Everett says land rights should be lands' rights and he is over talking about sovereignty.

"Sovereignty is a part of the

history of the Northern Hemisphere.

"They started off with crowns and then sovereigns. They used that as a law to themselves to go and claim other people's country under their sovereignty, but here in this Country, sovereignty has no place. Our law was in Country, so it is preeminent to any law that comes from some other place.

"This country will be much better if the colonisers make an agreement with us, so that it's no longer a colony, and then we can start talking about law and Country instead of sovereignty."

In 2021 the Tasmanian Government, which Everett

considers a democratic party dictatorship, commissioned and published a report on *Pathway to Truth-Telling and Treaty*. It has been criticised for their lack of meaningful action ever since.

Everett's planned arrest comes just weeks after Tasmania's 2024 *State of the Environment Report* was published.

A decade overdue, the scathing report was only released after the Tasmanian government was threatened with legal action to comply with its own laws.

Prepared by the Tasmanian Planning Commission, an independent statutory authority, it brings together the work of individuals and organisations, including government agencies, environmental organisations and leading research bodies.

The majority of environmental indicators reviewed in the report were classified as poor and getting worse, ranging from the deterioration of the state's beaches and rapid loss in native vegetation, to the increase in animals and plants threatened with extinction.

The report reveals deficiencies in the availability of environmental data, calls out the government's environmental mismanagement, and recommends strengthening outdated and ineffective laws. It recommends the Tasmanian government "explore opportunities to collaborate with the Aboriginal community in ways that continue to incorporate Aboriginal knowledge and values into better care of the environment", acknowledging it is 'a critical aspect of maintaining and restoring healthy cultural and ecological landscapes'.

The Tasmanian Planning Commission has had its funding slashed by \$400,000.

Keep an eye out on *Koori Mail* social media for updates on Everett's actions.

New board members for AIATSIS



FOUR new members have been formally appointed to the Council of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS).

This follows the appointment last month of Leonard Hill as the new AIATSIS Chief Executive Officer. Along with the new Councillors, a new Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson have also been appointed:

● Professor Clint Bracknell (Chairperson): A Noongar song-maker, composer and Professor of Music at the University of Western Australia, Professor Bracknell was recently appointed as a member of the First Nations Board for the Arts.

● Michelle Deshong (Deputy Chairperson): A Kuku Yalanji woman, Ms Deshong was appointed by the Queensland Minister for Treaty to the First Nations Treaty Institute Council in April 2024 and was previously CEO of the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute.

AIATSIS is Australia's only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led national cultural institution that promotes knowledge



Professor Clint Bracknell.

and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, traditions, languages and stories.

Minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, congratulated each of the new appointees and said she was looking forward to working with them.



Michelle Deshong.

"AIATSIS is an incredibly valued resource that celebrates and educates Australians about First Nations culture and heritage," Ms McCarthy said.

"This accomplished and committed group of First Nations Australians will help lead AIATSIS to tell the stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Council members are:

● Mr Rodney Dillon: Elder of the Palawa Nation, Mr Dillon is an Indigenous Rights Advisor for Amnesty International, member of various not-for-profit boards, and 2024 Tasmanian Senior Australian of the Year nominee.

● Ms Jayde Geia: An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lawyer whose family are Bwngcolman, Gunggandji and Mualgal, Ms Geia is currently Project Manager of the Aurora Education Foundation.

● Professor Lynette Riley AO: A Wiradjuri and Gamilaroi woman and Chair of Aboriginal Education and Indigenous Studies at the University of Sydney and Co-Chair of the National NAIDOC Committee. Professor Riley was a recipient of the Officer of the Order of Australia in 2023 for her distinguished service to education.

● Mr Mark Yettica-Paulson: A Birrah, Gamilaroi and Bundjalung man, Mr Yettica-Paulson specialises in cultural leadership development through his company, Super Native Unlimited, and through his work for Collaboration for Impact.

The AIATSIS Council members will each serve terms of up to four years.

Family wants inquest to refocus on death of son



THE family of an Indigenous teenager who fatally self-harmed in youth detention wants an inquest to refocus on their son's death after a bid to remove the coroner failed.

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

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

The inquest had sat for about a month in various tranches until WA's Deputy Corrective Services Commissioner Christine Ginbey attempted to have the coroner removed from the case, alleging apprehended bias.

The bid failed and on Tuesday, October 8, Cleveland's mother, Nadene Dodd, and father, Wayne Gentle, called for



Nadene Dodd and Wayne Gentle say the inquest process has been frustrating and hurtful.

accountability over their son's death at a press conference with social justice advocates.

"They want a refocus on their child. They want a refocus on the people that were responsible for their child," youth detention expert Gerry Georgatos told

reporters.

"There was suffering, there was horror, there was trauma, there was psychological injury, there was physical injury, there was death."

Mr Georgatos said Ms Dodd and Mr Gentle wanted answers.

"It's now becoming a year-long process and it's hurting," he said.

"It's frustrating. It's a sea of grief, but a mother and father are not hearing from the people that need to be heard from, and they're seeing a system in denial and culpability in terms of accountability not being addressed by everyone."

Ms Dodd said the process had compounded her family's suffering and pain.

"What about the people that got all the answers and know everything (that happened) in Unit 18?" the quietly spoken mother said.

Mr Gentle said the justice department needed to be held accountable for his son's death.

"I feel lost in this world without my son," he said.

"Because he was my beautiful boy, my beautiful boy.

"They should have done better. That's not a place for kids in a man's prison and that's wrong."

Mr Gentle described Cleveland as a strong boy before his death.

"He'll always be in my heart forever ... me and his mum, nothing in this world will ever take our love away from him and his love from us," he said.

Suicide prevention advocate Megan Krakouer questioned why no Indigenous witnesses had been called to give evidence at the inquest.

"There's so much racism and discrimination," she said.

"There hasn't been any Aboriginal people that have actually taken the stand to speak of the injustices and ways forward.

"There's a huge power imbalance that is happening here."

The inquest has previously heard Cleveland was held in solitary confinement in Unit 18 at Casuarina Prison for more than 22 hours per day before his death.

— AAP

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Breakthrough election result

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



ANNETTE Lawrence was sworn in last week as the first Dunghutti woman elected to Kempsey council and the

importance of the breakthrough moment was not lost on her.

"My grandmother and her brothers were part of the Stolen Generations and reflecting back on that history my election highlights just how far we have come," Ms Lawrence said.

"I have the opportunity to have a voice when the Stolen Generations had none due to all the restrictions placed on Aboriginal people over the years due to colonisation.

"I want to pave the way for other First Nations peoples to put their hand up and represent their community so we can have a voice and contribute to much needed systemic change."

Ms Lawrence has been a

passionate local leader working in her community for more than a decade, particularly around NAIDOC events.

"There are five new councillors and it's been an intense time getting my head around everything," she said.

"After being sworn in it was straight into the induction program then a committee meeting and finally a full council meeting last Tuesday."

"We have a good balance of councillors, a very diverse team ready to move forward and make some good decisions for the whole of our diverse community. Particularly First Nations people.

"Our region in the McCleay Valley takes in so many different communities such as South West Rocks, Crescent Head and Bellbrook as well as Kempsey in general. There are so many groups. We need to recognise that they all have their own Elders, I'm mapping it all out and making sure I am taking on

board everything.

"There hasn't ever been any Aboriginal representations at the local council level and community consultation has not been a priority in the past, nor has it been transparent over the years and my community feels like they haven't been heard.

"One thing I will be putting on the agenda next month is making sure that we have a cultural advisory group so all our Indigenous the communities can have a say.

"Having a cultural advisory group will be a key way to get input from the Elders and other key people in the community to consult on the big issues we are facing such as crime.

"The best way to develop an understanding of trans-generational trauma is to ensure that culturally-informed voices are heard as we look to confront these problems."

Ms Lawrence said it became apparent during this year's voting that a substantial number



Dunghutti councillor Annette Lawrence at the swearing in ceremony at Kempsey Council Chambers.

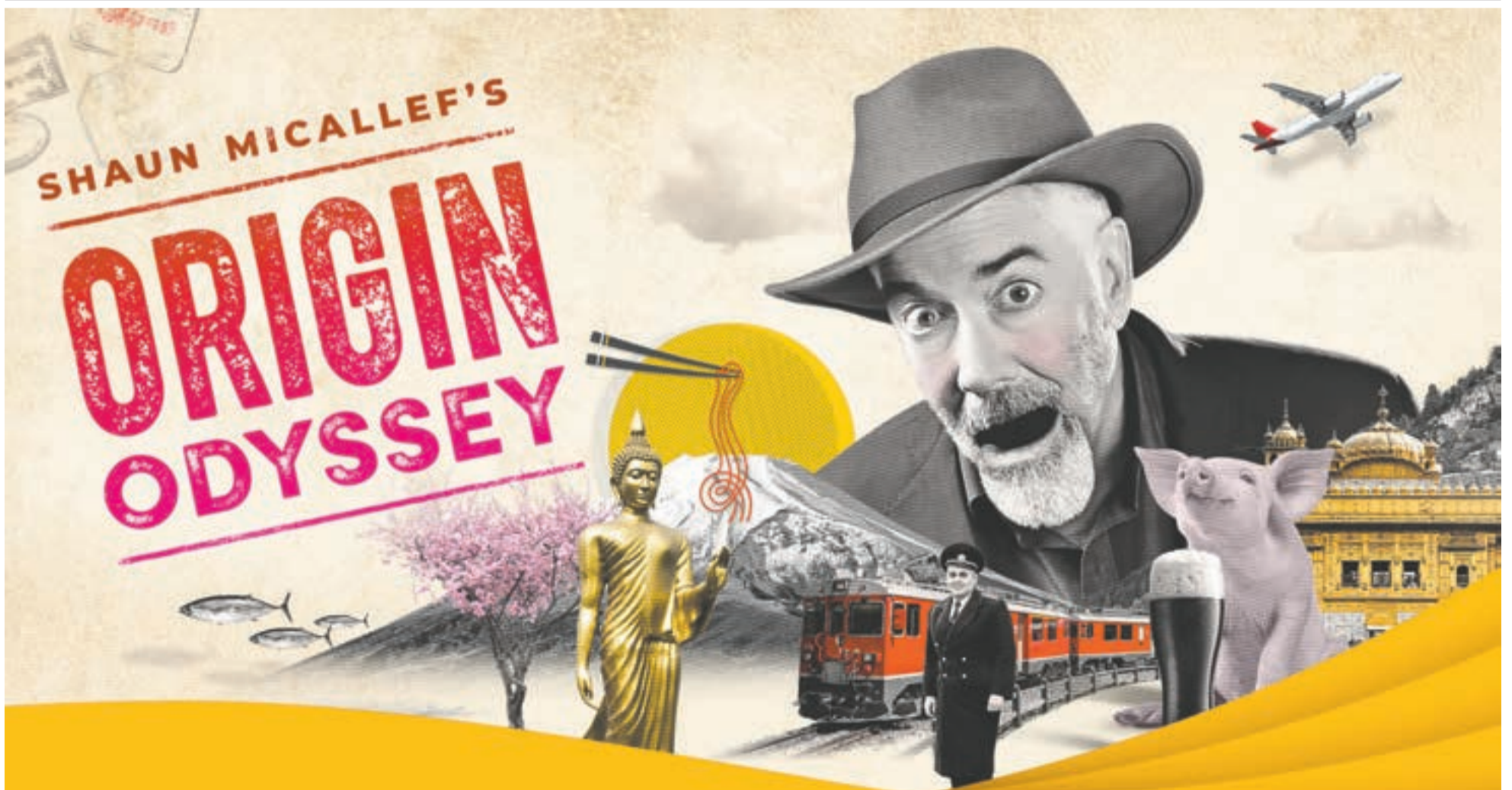
of local Indigenous people did not know how to vote.

"The process of casting a ballot is very complex and I found myself explaining to our Mob how voting works, it can be overwhelming, there may be reading difficulties and there may be some shame attached to that," she said.

"In the future I hope we can

have more Mob sitting in the election space at the polling booths explaining how it all works."

Ms Lawrence narrowly missed out on being elected deputy mayor but represented Kempsey's new mayor Kinne Ring at last weekend's Kinchela Boy's Home 100th Anniversary Gathering.



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First Nations home ownership triples in past twenty years



NEW research shows that not only do First Nations People share the same aspirations as

other Australians when it comes to home ownership, but the number of Indigenous Australian households in home ownership has more than tripled over the last 20 years.

The joint Research by Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) and the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) showed the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households in home ownership has grown from around 46,150 in 2001 to 145,100 in 2021, with the proportion of First Nations households who are homeowners growing rapidly from 33% in 2001 to 41% in 2021.

First Nations Australian homeowners are now the largest single category by tenure type and IBA Chair Eddie Fry, a Dagonman man, said the report would be important information for a variety of groups including



Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) Chair Eddie Fry.

community housing organisations, Indigenous community organisations, banks and commercial lenders, residential housing developers,

local councils and state governments. The impact that each group can make spans from activating Indigenous land for housing development to responsible planning regulations.

“IBA’s primary objective is to partner with Indigenous families to support them into sustainable home ownership that is safe and humane, to enact healthy living practices and secure their wellbeing and provide a place where they prefer to live, to meet their needs and purposes. We will work with any group/institution/entity that will partner with us to underwrite this outcome,” he said.

“Home ownership provides considerable benefits now and into the future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“Today it provides secure housing which ultimately leads to intergenerational wealth and sets an example for others that may not have seen home ownership as an option.

“Owning your home is not the only option and the full spectrum of housing outcomes needs to be addressed for Australia to

address its housing crisis – for our Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

“The research is just the beginning and builds an understanding of the potential business and investment opportunities available to assist the market supply of secure and affordable rental properties to support the transition pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people into home ownership and other great housing outcomes.”

Mr Fry said the IBA required a strong understanding about the pathways into housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“The insights in this report will inform how IBA and others can address the home ownership dilemma for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people,” he said.

The report finds targeted marketing to First Nations people about opportunities into home ownership could increasingly normalise buying a home and adjust stereotypes in the wider community.

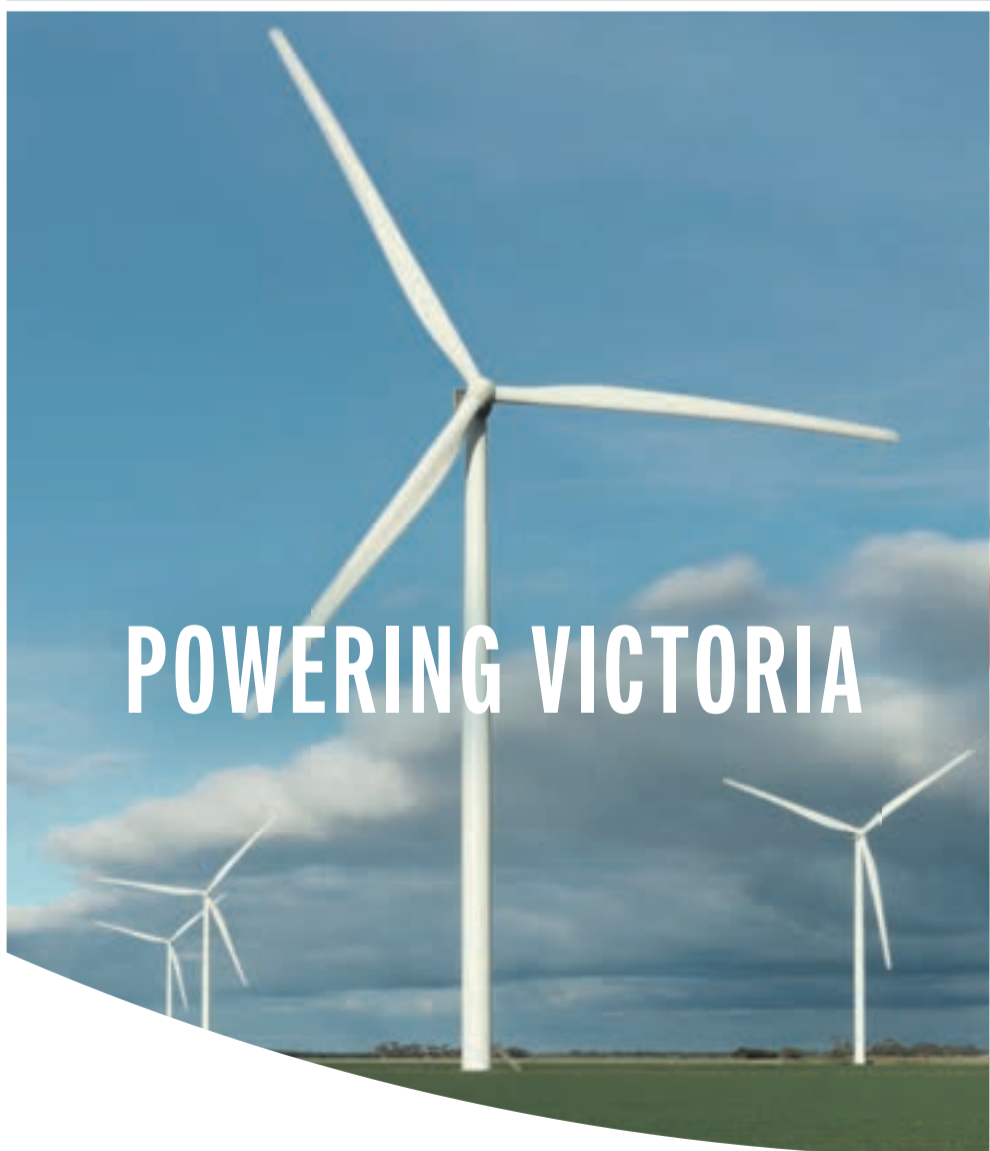
It also found that Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander people affordably entering home ownership have the same characteristics as non-First Nations people, in particular they have higher incomes and higher labour force participation.

Mr Fry said the research confirmed that historical dispossession resulting in disconnections from land, culture and family had affected current housing experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“Exclusionary policies and practices across Australia continue to create barriers and limit the ability for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access housing, education, training, and employment opportunities, leverage assets and grow wealth, and reach economic independence.

“This makes the rise in home ownership for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the last decade more significant. It is a great testament to the strength, tenacity, and resilience of First Nations people to achieve their housing aims and provide for their families.”



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Festival to focus on young leaders



Some of the students who have completed the My Voice, My Journey program. Picture: My Voice, My Journey

By MARION WILLIAMS



THIS year's Giiyong Festival in Thaua Country has a stellar line up of Indigenous musicians including

BARKAA and Kobie Dee. To complement that there will be a future leaders' panel discussion.

Four people aged from 14 to 16 will be interviewed by Nooky and Juanita Scott-Funaki. Rapper and producer Nooky from Nowra also hosts *Blak Out* on national radio station Triple J and founded a social enterprise called We Are Warriors. Ms Scott-Funaki is a Yuin Kamilaroi woman from Bega. She has a degree in media and public relations and is social media producer for ABC Indigenous.

The four interviewees were chosen because they have been identified as future leaders in

their community. They are Falyn Stewart and William Herbert-Scott from Bega, and Shakaya Aldridge and Kayne Woods from Eden.

Yuin Kamilaroi man Dennis Scott is operations manager of Indigenous, Youth and Family Services at Campbell Page in Eden. He said the young people are doing great things in the community. One was nominated in the outstanding young business employee category for the Bega Valley Business Awards this year.

"This year we wanted to have a bit of a focus on youth given the line-up of musicians," Mr Scott said.

He said they will be talking about what youth in the area want to see in the future to better support young people. They will talk about what the community can do and what they as young people can do to

support future youth. Nooky and Ms Scott-Funaki will ask them what changes they would like to make to the community.

"This focus on future leaders is very important because they are the young ones carrying a lot," Mr Scott said.

"They are out there, participating in the community despite everything they have been through – the Black Summer bushfires, COVID, floods – and the day-to-day racism they face."

Because they are attending school and active in their community, a lot of the time they are not seen as needing opportunities and support to grow.

The grassroots program, My Voice, My Journey, has been designed specifically to support this group of young people who seem to be OK but, in reality, carry a lot of intergenerational

trauma, and face many struggles.

All four panellists completed the My Voice, My Journey program this year. The program, which is run in partnership with Campbell Page, supports young Indigenous leaders of the future to talk about and address the hidden challenges they face.

The 12-week program takes them to different places where they meet Elders who share stories and teach them about the history of their culture. It helps build the young people's cultural identity and reminds them of their culture's strength and resilience.

The program also gives them tools and lets them know they are not alone. "It sets them up with mentors, people who have been in the same situation, dealing with the day-to-day stuff while still forging ahead," Mr Scott said. "It teaches them how

strong and resilient they are as individuals."

Unlike previous generations, Mr Scott said today's youth must contend with some pretty vile stuff like racism and violence on social media. "It is a strain on our young people, but they have grown up with that and think it is normal. We have to help them process all that."

He said the work that Campbell Page does with young Koori people is about uplifting them and supporting them through the challenges they face every day.

"We know they are going to face these challenges," Mr Scott said. "We want them to keep their strength and resilience. If we can keep that going, they can go on to do whatever they want."

The Giiyong Festival is on Saturday, November 9, at Jigamy, north of Eden.

"I got an incredible amount of value being part of the Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Business Leadership. It gave me certainty that the way I was doing business was right."

Rachel Woodford, Anawain/Dunghutti/Kamilaroi, MURRA/GCIBL





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Children face jail again



CHILDREN as young as 10 could face jail with the Northern Territory parliament passing

controversial laws to lower the age of criminal responsibility.

After the Territory recently became the first jurisdiction in Australia to raise the age to 12, the incoming government has moved quickly to return it to 10.

The parliament has now passed three changes to youth justice laws that include lowering the age of criminal responsibility along with criminal provisions for ram-raiding and boast-and-post laws.

Under the existing criminal code a person can be charged for ram-raiding a property in the Northern Territory, however the new legislation could have children as young as 10 sentenced to up to 10 years in prison.

Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro said Labor had raised the age of criminal responsibility without having any programs in place to deal with the fact that 10 and 11-year-olds would no longer be



The Northern Territory government has passed controversial laws to once again lower the age of criminal responsibility.

held accountable for their actions.

"We know reverting to a system where it is the judge's discretion around what to do with a 10 and 11-year-old creates much better opportunities for authorities to intervene early in their lives," she said.

The controversial laws have come under scrutiny from

experts across the nation and internationally in recent weeks, but were passed with the government's 17 to seven majority.

All but the member for Fannie Bay, Laurie Zio, spoke to amendments with varying views across the parliament.

Country Liberal Party members spoke about property crimes committed by young

people and the damage to businesses, calling for the specific need to criminalise ram-raiding.

Education Minister Jo Hersey said the behaviour of young people driving cars into businesses was not "fair" to anyone in the community.

"Businesses suffered thousands of dollars in damage from these ram-raids with the

stolen vehicles," she said.

Deputy opposition leader Dheran Young shared the stories of two young people in detention. He read a letter written by an 11-year-old who shared his experiences with his grandmother.

"I'm in a cell. It has a metal toilet. I have a tap that always runs hot," the child wrote according to Mr Young.

"I don't have anyone to talk to in my cell. I can't shower. I miss my mum and dad and Nana and brothers, I love them a lot."

His sentiments were echoed by former attorney-general Chansey Peach, who led the Labor government's charge to raise the age in 2022.

"We're talking about people who are deemed too vulnerable to be of an age to be on social media, they have no place in the criminal justice system," he said.

"I feel sad for Territory children, sad because we have a government who has taken a policy position that says ... in order to help you, we need to criminalise you first."

"Putting children into cells ... that is child abuse." **-AAP**

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Centenary marked at notorious boys home



UNCLE James Michael 'Widdy' Welsh was taken from his family in Coonamble, in central NSW, when he was eight years old.

He was taken hundreds of kilometres away to the Kinchela Aboriginal Boys Home, in Kempsey on the state's mid north coast.

"When we went through those gates, that little child didn't exist anymore," Uncle Widdy said.

"We were given numbers, we were put in a way that we were never allowed to do anything, we were never allowed to ask for anything, never allowed to question anything."

Uncle Widdy's number was '36'.

He is one of hundreds of boys taken from their families and placed at Kinchela between 1924 and 1970.

Stolen Generations

These boys were part of the Stolen Generations – Indigenous children taken from families and community in an attempt to assimilate them into white society.

There are 49 survivors of Kinchela alive today.

Marking 100 years since Kinchela's establishment on Saturday, the survivors are calling for the site to be converted into a museum and healing centre.

Uncle Widdy, now aged 72, didn't want anything to do with



Kinchela Boys Home survivor Michael Welsh.

the Kinchela site at first.

"I, like most of the brothers, just wanted to burn it down or blow it up," he said.

"We didn't want to go back to that place because it was an evil place to us.

"The truth is that would not serve a purpose because it would just hide the trauma that comes from that place."

He wants the Kinchela site to be a place of truth-telling and

healing, where the experiences of the survivors can be honoured.

"They'd flog us, they'd starve us, these are the things that happened there but we didn't have no one to tell," he said.

"That's why I want the structure rebuilt. I want my children to know that place, I want the spiritual world of that place to be settled, to be understood."

Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation, which supports the survivors, is planning to raise \$5 million for the rebuild.

The corporation's chief executive Tiffany McComsey said it is a matter of urgency to fulfil the wishes of survivors, who are all aged in their 70s and 80s.

"If there isn't an investment now in supporting survivor-led

healing solutions, supporting Stolen Generations survivors and their communities, in having these sites returned to them so they can create healing centres, museums, keeping places, that opportunity is going to be lost," she said.

"It's only through their direct experiences of what happened in those places and those sites that this truth can be told."

– AAP

Coroner to probe death of man in custody



A CORONER will investigate the death of an Aboriginal man at Victoria's largest maximum security prison.

Marley Wright, who had a long history of mental health issues and previous suicide attempts, was serving a five-year sentence at Port Phillip Prison for family violence and burglary offences.

He was a proud Gunaai, Gunditjmarra, Djab Wurrung, Yuin, Monero, Tharawal, and Wadawurrung man.

His death was discovered during a routine check on September 4.

CPR was immediately undertaken

and an ambulance was called, but efforts to revive Wright were unsuccessful.

At the time of his death, Wright was being held in the Charlotte unit, where prisoners were separated from each other and placed under lockdown conditions for 23 hours a day.

The Coroners Court of Victoria recently confirmed Detective Acting Sergeant Cassandra Siddle as the coronial investigator and set the delivery of the coronial brief for February 7, 2025.

The court also noted parallel investigations by the Justice Assurance and Review Office and Worksafe Victoria, which they would

seek monthly updates on.

Wright is the 18th First Nations man who has died in custody this year, according to the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service.

His mother Aunty Carol Wright said her son was adored by his family.

"This has hit us all so hard and we are devastated," she said.

Port Phillip Prison, Victoria's largest jail, is expected to close by the end of 2025, with inmates to be moved to other facilities.

The royal commission into deaths in custody, which ran from 1987 to 1991, recommended the removal of hanging points in prisons.

– AAP

Bike-death investigation



WHILE a court will scrutinise the actions of a police sergeant involved in a crash that killed an Indigenous teen, details of the force's own safe driving policy will be kept under wraps.

Benedict Bryant, 46, was behind the wheel when Jai Kalani Wright rode the bike into his unmarked police vehicle in inner-city Sydney on February 19, 2022.

The 16-year-old was thrown off his bike and suffered critical head injuries, dying at Prince Alfred Hospital the following day.

The sergeant was referred to the state Director of Public Prosecutions after an inquest and was hit with one count of dangerous driving occasioning death and a backup count of negligent driving occasioning death.

He appeared at Downing Centre Local Court last Thursday where lawyers for the NSW Police Commissioner successfully applied for non-publication orders over portions of the force's safe driving policy and an interim safe driving report from May 2022.

Crown prosecutors and Bryant's lawyers consented to the orders.

Magistrate Theo Tsavdaridis was handed a certificate clarifying that the charges against the police sergeant would be pursued. The parties will now enter negotiations to discuss whether a plea deal will be struck or any charges dropped.

Bryant has not yet made a plea but his lawyers previously told reporters he would fight the allegations. The matter will return to court on December 12.

At a January inquest into the teenager's death, NSW State Coroner Teresa O'Sullivan heard the bike Jai was riding had been stolen, along with a black Mercedes and a white BMW, on the day of the collision.

CCTV and in-car video footage played to the coroner's court showed an unmarked silver Holden Commodore sedan swing around in front of the bike, which then hit the police car at high speed.

Healing Bundjalung rivers

By STEVIE WAPPET



NESTLED in the tree-soaked plains of the Tweed shire in Bundjalung Country, town folk of Uki and the

surrounds gathered at Uki hall recently for the launch of Jagun Alliance's new program Heal the Rivers.

Local landholders and interested community members yarned with custodians and land management and restoration experts over a cup of tea before taking a seat to listen to ways First Nations land management strategies could promote the health of Yarribi.

Heal the Rivers is a three-year project focused on Indigenous-led catchment restoration in the Brunswick, Tweed, Richmond and Clarence catchments from local Indigenous run organisation Jagun Alliance.

In partnership with the University of Melbourne and Bush Heritage Australia, and funded by the Australian Government, Heal the River hones in on Jagun Alliance's desire to protect and promote the health, resilience and



Local landholders taking part in the Heal the Rivers program.

continuity of our lands and waterways, focusing on how relationships between local landholder, land management and restoration experts and original custodians lay the foundation for a healthy jagun – a healthy Country.

After a Welcome to Country by Kyle Slabb, Oli Costello, Jagun's executive director, spoke on the importance of situating ourselves within our

environment as a first step to land restoration.

He spoke on how "our old people have been adapting to climate change for thousands and thousands of years," and for this reason, how important "more support for First Nations leaderships and more support for our knowledges and practices" would aid in healing our rivers.

The floor then opened to a

yarning circle, and people were invited to speak on their connection to and interest in the project. It was apparent that all shared the desire to make Country healthier.

One local landholder, Beverly Fairley, has spent the last 20 years restoring her great, great grandfather's rainforest that had been obliterated for sugar cane farming, and with it the health of Yarribi and its tributaries. One

example of Bev's dedication is her work removing cat claw, an invasive woody creeper with a tubular root system that kills trees and destroys habitats. Cat claw is notorious for its creeping vine and difficulty to cull.

However, Bev and her sister painstakingly dug out the bulbs of over 61,000 cat claws and removed the vines by hand.

The commitment presented by Bev is just one example of the effort folk of the Tweed are putting in to protect and care for our jagun and its waters.

Heal the Rivers plans to connect more local landholders with Jagun Alliance's Aboriginal Ranger team through cross-sector workshops to share knowledge and identify necessary actions, as well as undertaking community resilience and engagement activities. Heal the Rivers workshops will be held in locations across Durrumbul/Brunswick River catchment, Yarbirri/Tweed River catchment, Baluun/Richmond River catchment, and Birrung/Clarence River catchment.

● Visit Jagun Alliance's website at jagunalliance.org.au for more information and to get involved.

Angel Subsea Infrastructure Removal Environment Plan

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.

Angel Subsea Infrastructure Removal activities

Woodside plans to remove subsea infrastructure which connects three production wells to the Angel platform. These wells have ceased production and the associated infrastructure is no longer required.

This Environment Plan covers the removal of three subsea flowlines, three umbilicals, and associated equipment from the Angel field. Permanent plugs will be installed to preserve fluids within flowlines and umbilicals to as close as practicable to the Angel platform.

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.

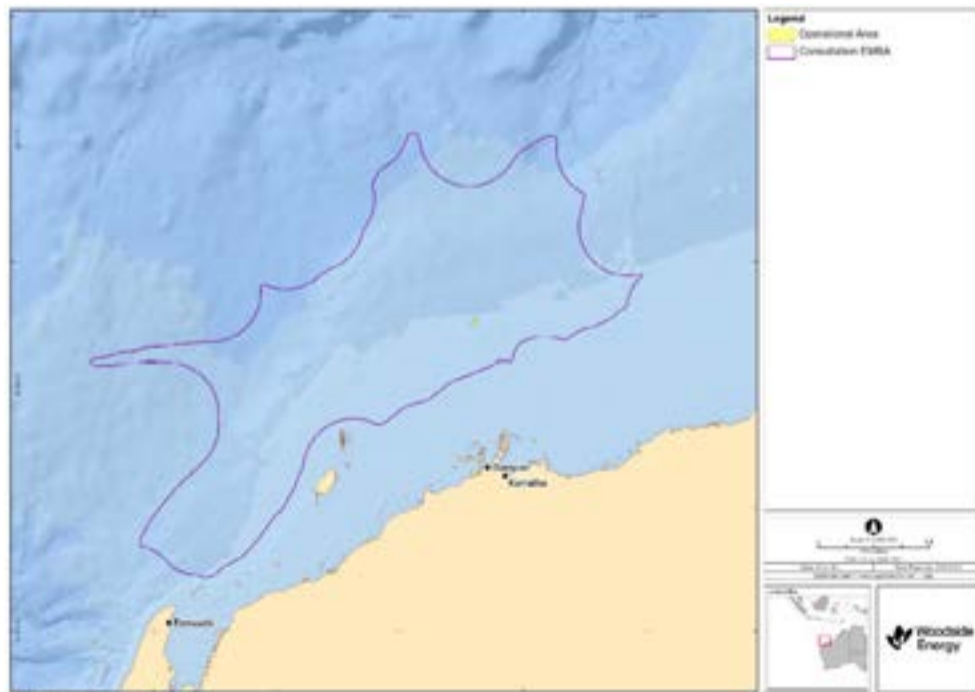
We want to hear from you

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 **1 November 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
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Gunditjmara Mob walk to honour Aunty Euphemia

By PAUL CONNELLY



ALTHOUGH the ominous threat of storms loomed, and dark clouds and freezing winds kept some of the older members of the Gunditjmara Mob at home, the Inaugural Walk to honor Gunditjmara Elder Euphemia Day-nee Lovett saw almost 50 people participate and those who did attend made sure the day was a success. It would seem that Auntie was smiling down as the weather stayed fine until just minutes after the walk concluded, after a week of almost constant rain!

After a trying time of sorry business across Gunditjmara lands in July, the walk was postponed until the end of September. The 5km walk from Condah Mission to Lake Condah to honor Auntie was



Euphemia Day-nee Lovett

organised by granddaughter Keicha Day. "I wanted to do this to commemorate my nan. We have sorry business when someone passes away, we then bury that person and do not intentionally come together. I wanted people to come together

and talk about her, and have a deadly event that was positive and would bring us all together as one family and one Mob, because my grandmother was really good at bringing people together," she told the *Koori Mail*.

"We started the walk at Condah Mission because that was her birthplace and we ended at Lake Condah because that is where she first came when she returned from Yorta Yorta Lands. We all called her GG, one of the nephews called her that, and it kind of stuck, it actually stood for Great Grandmother"

"The day was a very positive day. The overwhelming response from people is that they want to see this as an annual event. I think we have the capacity to make it bigger and remember all of our elders. GG passed away during NAIDOC last year, so this is when we have chosen to have this walk. It is more personal to me, I was her

oldest grandchild, and my other nan Auntie Francis Matthyssen, passed away seven days after my GG in the same facility and they were best friends. So I put all my time energy and love into creating this, because, where do you send what you would have given them, when they pass."

Aunty's strong family ties were evident on the day with her children, grand children and great grand children all taking part. She had six children, 20 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren, and while it was primarily a family gathering, they welcomed anyone to join in.

Two portraits of Auntie with her beloved Lake Condah included in the framed print, were presented to Winda-Mara Corporation to hang in the medical clinics in Hamilton and Heywood, and were accepted by Staycee Charles and Sheree Chaudry.

The event will take place again next year during NAIDOC week.

Trailblazer leaves a fiery legacy

Vale Joyce Caroline Clague (nee Mercy)



PROUD Yaegl/Gumbayngirr/Bundjalung woman Joyce Caroline Clague passed away last month but the trailblazing community activist's voice still rings in our ears.

"You gotta have the fire in your belly, it's important. If I didn't have the fire in my belly I would not have got things done," she famously declared.

Joyce spent all of her life fighting for the rights of her people and helping to create self determination in their lives.

Not only was she influential in promoting the YES vote for the 1967 Constitutional Referendum, in 1996 Joyce was key, along with Della Walker, in beginning the native title claim, known as Yaegl Number 1, which was settled in 2015.

Raised on Ulughundi Island on the Clarence River near Maclean, Joyce's early years as a nurse gave her insight into the needs and injustices she wanted to remedy for her people.

She was drawn to career in nursing following the death of her mother who when sick, was denied admission to the local hospital, instead being forced to stay on the hospital's verandah.

Joyce's husband Colin Clague remembers, "In 1948 Aboriginal people in the Lower Clarence were not allowed into the hospital itself, instead they were accommodated on the open verandahs of the hospital," he said.

"While on the hospital verandah Joyce's mother got drenched in a storm and, we were told, ended up with double pneumonia and died.

"That was definitely something that would have ground into the psyche of a ten-year-old Joyce. In a world of quite intense discrimination, this was one of those things that fired her up."



Joyce Clague

Arriving in Sydney in 1955 to study nursing, Joyce became involved with Rights Activists at Tranby Co-operative for Aborigines. She learned her voice did matter as a fiery and intelligent spokesperson for the Aboriginal Progressive Association and the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (FCAATSI).

During the sixties there were speaking engagements overseas and around Australia and Joyce became the inaugural Welfare Officer at the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs.

She met her lifelong partner Colin at a conference in the Phillipines in 1964. The couple married in 1966 and moved to the Northern Territory for work.

"She was just such an amazing person, the person I fell in love obviously. We never did anything usual or normal, together, we were always out there on the boundaries and the limits," Colin remembered.

As a nurse in the Northern Territory Joyce worked at Dundas House in Darwin and Bradshaw House in Alice Springs, two Receiving Homes for boys and girls requiring temporary accommodation. The



Joyce with husband Colin.

Clagues began fostering and adopting Aboriginal children who needed support outside of business hours.

With her strong affiliations with the peoples of Central Australia, including those from the APY lands to the south, the Arrente, Pintubi and Warlpirri, Joyce helped establish some important organisations and community ventures in central Australia. She was one of the founders of the Institute for Aboriginal Development and helped to negotiate the buying of Willowra Station, a 4,885-square-kilometres pastoral property north west of Alice Springs that became Aboriginal Freehold in 1979.

In her Homelands of the Northern Rivers Joyce served as formation secretary/manager of Nungera Co-operative, founding director of Woolitji Co-op, manager of the Nungera Art Gallery and Nursery, a member of the Council of the Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education, formation chairperson of the Institute for Aboriginal Community Education at the NRCAE and key in the formation of the Yaegl Local Aboriginal Land Council.

In the NSW community and on the national stage, she served as the inaugural

welfare officer at the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs; board member of Aboriginal Arts and Crafts Ltd; a member of the inaugural NSW Women's Advisory Council; an adviser to the Minister for Co-operatives; an assistant to the NSW Ombudsman (in particular for the RCAIDIC and with his inquiry into the Operation Sue police raids in Redfern); the first Aboriginal member of the Australian Museum Trust; deputy chair of the NSW Ministerial Task Force on Aboriginal Culture and Heritage; foundation member of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council; NSW Labour Council member of the ACTU Lend Lease Foundation promoting group training housing developments in NSW Aboriginal communities; and chair of the NSW ALP Aboriginal Affairs Policy Committee.

She worked at the NSW Working Women's Centre and the NSW Breast Cancer Institute lifting participation by older Aboriginal women in screening.

She was to have been appointed a Life Member of the ALP and received the Warrior Award as a founder of the NSW State Land Council.

Internationally Joyce worked on the Program to Combat Racism Commission of the World Council of Churches, UNESCO and WILPF for women rights and Indigenous voices on community development, and the World Peace Assembly in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Joyce said her greatest achievement was, with Colin's help, to have, "endowed our community with four extraordinary women, our daughters, Dr Liesa Clague PhD, Anne Grace Clague, Associate Professor Pauline Clague and Evette Clague, who have also grown our family with the next generations to help place the log on the fire and keep it burning."

As per Joyce's request the family has created a website so that people may add their memories to this remarkable woman's life.

<https://joyceclague.com>

~~He loves me.~~

isolates

humiliates

monitors

manipulates

controls

Control in a relationship is never okay.

If you see a pattern of coercive control, support is available.

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Search , or visit qld.gov.au/coercivecontrol
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**Queensland
Government**

Danny Eastwood's view



A YARN WITH...



Tessa Rose

Actor and dancer who grew up on the Daly River, NT

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

Be an air hostess.

What inspires you?
People's creativity and passion.

If you could go back in time what words of advice would you have for yourself?

Do not under any circumstance stay in a domestic-violence relationship.

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

Being able to catch up with dear friends and colleagues I have known for many years, reminisce, laugh uncontrollably and be silly with knowledge, where I can be me, without judgement.

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

I would truly love for our people, all Indigenous people of the world, to be treated with dignity and grace. For our youth to be given equal opportunities as their counterparts. Whether it be sports, acting, trying to rent a flat, or with employment opportunities.

What's next for you?

I'm at a crossroad. My deep fulfillment and love is acting. But the industry in Australia is still non-inclusive with regards to colour-blind casting. So I am wondering what my future is at the moment.

Describe yourself in three words.
Resilient, broken, giving.

Quote



"The western world thinks it can dominate the natural world and use it as it can and will, when really what they're doing is destroying the very life that keeps everybody okay on this planet."

Pakana Elder Jim Everett
Puralia Meenamatta,
● See page 10

Unquote

Time to get on with the fight

The failure of the referendum just over a year ago has left a legacy of trauma for many who had given their hearts to a yes vote. Sadly, it has also emboldened those Australians who are keen to undermine any progress being made towards reconciliation.

A number of councils and organisations have discontinued Acknowledgement of Country ceremonies, children report an increase in racism and bullying in the schoolyards, and many of our political leaders appear to have moved on.

Prime minister Anthony Albanese has promised that he will continue to engage with Indigenous Australians, but admits that governments of all persuasions 'have not done well-enough up to now'.

So how can we expect real change now?

Professor Megan Davis is correct when she says that the need for a Voice to Parliament remains, whether it be constitutional recognition or statutory.

The problem with statutory laws is of course that they can be changed depending on the whims of whoever is in power.

"Any state-based process whether it is voice, treaty or truth are vulnerable to political shifts, as we've seen with the Northern Territory abandoning truth-telling after their recent election," Professor Davis said. "Without a coordinated national voice, we're stuck with



fragmented approaches that won't deliver the lasting change First Nations people need across the country."

What Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people do have in their favour is patience, and a willingness to fight hard for social justice. While many in Australia appear happy to ignore or white-wash history, First Nations people draw their strength from history.

They are inspired by the ancestors. The warriors of the past live in the hearts and minds of today's warriors. And they will never give up fighting for Country and culture.

It needs to be remembered that while the yes campaign ultimately failed in its quest to win the referendum, more than 6.2 million Australians supported the concept. It's a start.

As prominent yes campaigner Geoff Scott told the *Koori Mail*: "Some people are saying this is the end. But it really is the beginning. We know where we are now and what our starting point is. The corporate and civic leaders who supported the Yes campaign are not going to walk away. The support is still there despite the push back."

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).

Voice vote unleashed the 'dogs of racism'

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



PROMINENT Yes campaigner Geoff Scott believes the "dogs of racism" were let off the

leash during last year's acrimonious Voice campaign with sections of Australian society now comfortable expressing their racism.

Mr Scott, a proud Wiradjuri man from Narromine, has thirty years experience working in Aboriginal Affairs including as Executive Officer to the Referendum Council, and as a key leader throughout the Uluru Dialogue process.

"That's one of the great Australian lies, that racism doesn't exist, but it is everywhere," Mr Scott told the *Koori Mail*.

Like many Indigenous leaders Mr Scott mourns the loss of bipartisanship around the establishment of a Voice to Parliament and the politics that were played around the campaign. He is also angry at the misinformation promoted in sections of the media.

"It was supposed to be a people's campaign but it turned into a politician's campaign and the people were stuck on the sidelines watching the politicians snipe at each other," he said.

"It was misinformation pure and simple from the opposition to create confusion. Their slogan "if you don't know then vote no" was the same campaign they ran during the 1999 Australian Republic campaign. You can go back and look at the pamphlets.

"I'm sure Mr Dutton was hurting after the election loss in 2022 so when the Prime Minister Albanese announced the Voice to Parliament campaign as one of his key planks during his victory speech it became the target of the opposition for the next 18 months."

The Albanese government doesn't escape scrutiny either. According to Mr Scott they were "not on top of their game" during the campaign and other issues distracted voters.

"There were many other things going on at the same time which were colouring the issue such as the wealth tax proposal, which fed into people's insecurities about the cost of living plus the ridiculous idea to spend \$394 million on submarines. They became the topical points relegating the referendum down the order."

Mr Scott said the idea, pushed by some No campaigners and taken up by



Uluru *Statement from the Heart* leader, Wiradjuri man Geoff Scott, talks at a forum at the Garma Festival in northeast Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.

"The push back against the Voice to Parliament was so ferocious that people have become timid. Instead, what we need from leaders is courage and the conviction to make a difference in our kid's lives."

some media commentators, that a group of elites were demanding ordinary Australians' vote Yes was a furphy.

"It was clear that the No campaign were the elites and what got me about the media is that they were allowed to run that line without any push back, or questioning. They were presented as facts and if you keep repeating a lie without push back then people start believing the lies."

But Mr Scott does take heart from the 6.2 million Australians who voted in favour of an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

"I am a bit of a pragmatist. At first I was hoping against hope that we would win but it became very clear it was not going to happen. Since then it has been a time to reflect," he said.

"Nine million people got it

wrong but six million got it right and that's a good base to work from, there are people that care. It's just a shame that it wasn't the other way around.

"People are out there organising, I've been to half a dozen forums in the last week and the energy is there. Especially amongst young people who are standing up and recognising that it is their time.

"Some people are saying this is the end. But it really is the beginning. We know where we are now and what our starting point is. The corporate and civic leaders who supported the Yes campaign are not going to walk away. The support is still there despite the push back."

He also welcomes the work individual state governments are undertaking as they pursue

Truth Telling and Treaty such as the recent appointment of *Koori Mail* CEO, Naomi Moran, along with Aden Ridgeway and Todd Fernando, to head the NSW Treaty Commission.

"We need the campaign to build up again to provide a safe space for people to have those conversations. The Treaty Commission in NSW is one of those safe spaces.

"No-one knows what a treaty is going to look like as we are attempting to do post-contact treaties 250 years after the event when (other countries) did them at the time (of colonisation) and this conversation needs to take place without people feeling threatened or intimidated.

Despite this bright spot Mr Scott worries progress will be slow citing the Queensland Liberal National Party's threat to

discontinue the Truth Telling process in that state should they be elected.

"The No campaign had no solutions, they just wanted nothing to happen. They don't stand for anything they just stand against everything. Every time something new comes up they come out with the same toxicity and venom spewing out of them."

Crucially, Mr Scott does not believe the country has the federal leadership Aboriginal Australians need.

"Albanese should have gone ahead with the Makarrata Commission and not moved away from it. The eastern states should be applauded, they have the strength to stand by their convictions.

"The push back against the Voice to Parliament was so ferocious that people have become timid. Instead, what we need from leaders is courage and the conviction to make a difference in our kids' lives.

"I worry we are going to have to wait another decade while Aboriginal kids fall by the wayside and in ten years time we will be wringing our hands again when we get another Closing the Gap report that tells us nothing has happened.

"Enough is enough."

Still grieving: reflecting on the Voice referendum

By KEIRA JENKINS



GRIEF and hurt are still being felt in First Nations communities one year on from the 2023 Voice referendum but many

are still fighting for change.

Bridget Cama remembers the anticipation she felt as Australians went to the polls to decide whether an Indigenous Voice to Parliament should be enshrined in the constitution.

As the results rolled in she knew there was a possibility the proposal wouldn't succeed but held onto hope until the end of the night.

It was a blow for her and many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when 60 per cent of the votes said 'no'.

"We felt in that moment the country didn't want to include us and we felt rejected," the accomplished Wiradjuri and Fijian woman said.

She is the co-chair of the Uluru youth dialogue, a collective of young people who support the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which calls for voice, treaty and truth for First Nations people.



Bridget Cama.

Reflecting on the process and lead-up to the 2023 referendum, Ms Cama says she and her Uluru Dialogue colleagues did their best to reach everyday Australians but faced the challenges of time, distance and misinformation.

Hard process

"It was a hard process," she says. "This was the first time we were going to a referendum in the age of social media. Misinformation played a large role."

Wrong and misleading commentary surrounding the Voice



John Paul Janke.

referendum was a source of frustration for journalist and presenter John Paul Janke throughout the campaign.

"The lies and misinformation about if the proposal got up then Aboriginal people would take your land and close up beaches ... we saw the same in the 90s during the native-title debate and the Mabo decision and land rights debates of the 70s and 80s," he says.

"To see that misinformation really gain traction and be used as a weapon against ending the status quo, it was quite frustrating to see that play out in Aboriginal

communities but to see it play out also in the wider community."

Mr Janke travelled the country in the lead-up to the ballot as the host of NITV's *The Point* and says there was a diversity of views from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people around the nation.

He and the Point team have continued their overland tour to engage in post-referendum conversations and he says the hurt of the result is still palpable.

"There is a lot of pain and that feeling of rejection, that the nation rejected Aboriginal people in October last year," he says.

"People are still overcoming that pain."

Laura Thompson has seen it reflected in her own work and community too. The Gunditjmarra woman founded streetwear brand and social enterprise Clothing the Gaps, which creates clothing and merchandise aiming to influence social change.

Since the referendum, she says, the organisation has collected the reflections of more than 200 people.

"Mob are still grieving and a lot of them are still, I think, traumatised by the whole year," she says.

"We woke up in a world where you go into a meeting room and look out and think 60 per cent of these people voted that we shouldn't have any say over our lives, and everything changed."

Ms Thompson said Indigenous people have not had a chance to heal from the hurt of the result and experiences of the campaign.

Keep pressure on

A year on, she says it's important to talk about this pain and grief but also to keep pressure on governments to pursue treaty and truth-telling processes.

Ms Cama holds onto the hope she felt on the night of the referendum, saying there were 6.2 million people who voted in favour of a Voice.

As a young Aboriginal woman, she feels responsibility to carry on the fight for constitutional recognition for her Elders, the Indigenous communities who voted 'yes' and for future generations, including her own younger siblings and son.

"We still need recognition, we still need structural reform and we need a seat at the table," she says.

"That doesn't go away because the referendum failed." —AAP



Aust Venice entry an architectural riposte to 'no' vote

An artist's impression of the Australia pavilion planned for the Venice Architecture Biennale. Picture: Australian Institute of Architects

By LIZ HOBDAY



AUSTRALIA'S entry to the Venice Architecture Biennale is a response to the nation's 'no' vote in the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum.

The biennale is known as the "Olympics of

architecture" and in 2025, an Indigenous team will put the Australian referendum result on the world stage in the form of an installation.

The concept for the installation *HOME* is by Dr Michael Mossman, Emily McDaniel and Jack Gillmer-Lilley.

It's designed as a gathering space with the floor covered in sand,

surrounded by a rammed earth wall – an amphitheatre where people can learn about Indigenous culture.

It will be installed using local building materials at the Australia Pavilion in Venice.

The pavilion recently hosted another Indigenous work – *kith and kin* by First Nations artist Archie Moore, curated by Ellie Buttrose.

It won the Golden Lion at the 69th Venice Biennale for contemporary art, the first time an Australian entry has won this prestigious award.

"The bar has been set very high – we feel confident we will offer up an exhibition as compelling as the art biennale," chief executive of the Australian Institute of Architects Dr Cameron Bruhn said.

"It's incredibly timely as we think about the pathway to reconciliation, having had a significant national misstep."

The 2023 referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament returned a 'no' vote of 60 per cent and was rejected by a majority in every state.

Dr Bruhn believes architects should be at the

forefront of making the built environment part of a national reconciliation project. The ideas behind the installation would filter back to building projects in Australia, he said.

The Biennale is being curated by Italian architect, engineer and scholar in urban planning Carlo Ratti.

The pavilion will open in May 2025. —AAP

Closing the Gap is everyone's business



"MUM, why would Australia say no to us having a voice?" my 9-year-old asked.

It was referendum night, and the No votes were coming in across the country on the television broadcasts.

I hugged my daughter and said, "a lot of Australians want us to have a voice, it was just not enough Australians. But hey, we get up tomorrow and we keep going my daughter. There's always another sunrise."

Today marks one year since Australians voted on whether to change the constitution to include an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

I was heartened by the more than six million Australians who voted 'Yes.'

And by the strong 'Yes' vote in remote Indigenous communities, including Wadeye with 92 per cent, Maningrida with 88 per cent and the Tiwi Islands with an 84 per cent 'Yes' vote.

I remain proud that the Albanese government delivered on the prime minister's election-night commitment to the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*, and our promise to First Nations people to take the Voice to a referendum.



Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, Minister for Indigenous Australians

And I respect the wishes of the Australian people and the democratic system that allows us all to have a say and be part of big decisions.

In the 12 months since, I've been moved by the resilience of First Nations people, despite the deep hurt still felt by many.

As a government, we remain committed to the principles of truth-telling and Makarrata.

But as Minister for Indigenous

Australians, I don't want to see Indigenous affairs weaponised, as it was during the referendum campaign.

What we say as political leaders, matters.

I'm determined to move forward so that one day we can be a country where First Nations peoples have the same opportunities for a happy, healthy life as their fellow Australians.

The most recent Closing the Gap data shows we still have a long way to go.

First Nations peoples continue to experience disadvantage characterised by high rates of poor health, poverty, incarceration, and overwhelmingly, a general lack of empowerment.

If we want to end this disadvantage once and for all, we need to work differently.

Since becoming minister, I have been meeting with colleagues across the parliament to seek a bipartisan and multi-party approach to Closing the Gap.

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap is a common accord between us all.

It's a commitment from all Australian governments and the Coalition of Peaks, representing

more than 80 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled peak organisations, and demonstrates a marked shift in the way governments work to drive change for First Nations people.

The National Agreement sets out four Priority Reforms that have been directly informed by First Nations people: ensuring that policies and programs are created and delivered in partnership with First Nations people; building the community-controlled sector; transforming mainstream institutions; and sharing data and information.

If we implement these things well, we can improve life outcomes for First Nations people.

While the latest Closing the Gap data indicated only five of the 19 targets are 'on track', it's heartening to see progress being made in a further five targets in areas such as housing, youth engagement and further education pathways.

Far more needs to be done but I am optimistic that we can make a difference if we back up our commitments with firm action.

Like our new Remote Jobs and Economic Development Program that will create 3,000 new jobs with proper wages and decent

conditions.

Like our 10-year housing agreement, designed to halve overcrowding in Aboriginal communities.

Like our National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People.

Like our commitment to deliver 30 dialysis units for First Nations peoples in regional and remote Australia with end-stage kidney disease.

Like the largest commitment to justice reinvestment ever delivered by the Commonwealth.

Improvements in these areas will change lives.

The morning after the referendum, my husband woke up and announced, "Sunday is Yes day."

True to his word everything the girls asked for, was answered in the affirmative.

How many ice creams, lollies and play rides they had, I lost count.

But the smiles on their faces gave me hope for their future and the future of all First Nations children.

● Originally published in *The Sunday Territorian*, Sunday, October 13, 2024.

'Lasting change' needed one year from referendum defeat



ONE year on from the voice referendum defeat the prime minister says the government is focused on "practical reconciliation".

As supporters of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice to parliament call for structural change, the prime minister says the government is focused on practical reconciliation.

Monday, October 14, marked one year since the referendum, which sought to enshrine an Indigenous voice in the constitution, was defeated.

More than 60 per cent of Australians voted 'no' in the referendum on October 14, 2023, with every state and territory – aside from the ACT – rejecting the proposal to establish a permanent advisory body and constitutional recognition of First Nations people.

Anthony Albanese said it was a disappointing result, but since the referendum the federal government had implemented measures for practical reconciliation.

Speaking on the Gold Coast Mr Albanese pointed to the Commonwealth's \$4 billion remote housing investment, an education deal with the Northern Territory



Prof Megan Davis

and remote jobs plan.

"We'll continue to engage directly with Indigenous Australians," he said.

"I'll continue to engage to make sure that we can do better when it comes to closing the gap because governments of all persuasions have not done well enough up to now."

One of the architects of the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*, Megan Davis, said there was still a need for a voice, whether constitutional or statutory.

Professor Davis said structural change was needed to make a difference in

people's lives, and state-based treaty and truth-telling processes would not be enough.

"Any state-based process whether it is voice, treaty or truth are vulnerable to political shifts, as we've seen with the Northern Territory abandoning truth-telling after their recent election," she said.

"Without a coordinated national voice, we're stuck with fragmented approaches that won't deliver the lasting change First Nations People need across the country."

Prof Davis said once it became clear the referendum was unlikely to win public support, it should have been delayed.

Former Indigenous Australians Minister Linda Burney said the prime minister had listened to what the Indigenous leadership wanted – and waiting for a vote was not on the agenda.

"Any suggestion that the referendum working group would have accepted a delay is false," she told the ABC.

"[The prime minister] did what the Aboriginal leadership asked. It's exactly what happened and you can't rewrite history."

Despite the defeat, Thomas Mayo, who was among the leading 'yes' vote advocates, said constitutional change could still take place down the track.

"There's still a future that includes Indigenous people in the constitution. Sure, in reality it's not going to happen again for a while," he told ABC radio.

"We don't always get things right in a democracy. If we accepted the 'no' answers that we got about equal wages or about our right to vote as Indigenous people ... things would be worse today."

"Because more than 60 per cent of young people voted 'yes' between 18 and 24, that tells me that we've got a future, and what we tried to do last year will be achieved."

Opposition Indigenous Australians spokeswoman Jacinta Nampijinpa Price said supporters of the voice needed to move on.

Speaking in Alice Springs she said she been disappointed with the "lack of action" from the federal government following the referendum.

"The last 12 months have been absolutely disappointing with regard to the lack of action by the Albanese government ... especially after the failure of the Voice, no backup plan to improve the lives of marginalised Indigenous Australians," she said.

By: Keira Jenkins, Andrew Brown and Tess Ikonou, of AAP

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



Mail

The Editor, PO Box 117, Lismore, 2480



Phone

You can reach us on 02 66 222 666



E-mail

The address is: editor@koorimail.com

KEEPING YOUR SAY SHORT AND SWEET

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

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

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

the privacy of individuals mentioned.

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

What type of world are we leaving behind for children?

How often do we think about what we are leaving behind in a non-material sense to the next generation?

How often do we sit and talk and teach the young people how to be in the world and how often do we allow the government to continue to teach them on our behalf?

There is a changing of the tide, there is movement in the air, we can see that the system is flawed. Wars are continuing around the world. The climate crisis is getting bigger. The capitalist and colonial claws grip tight onto the modern day society trying to keep their control but their cover is blown.

It's time for a change.

We cannot expect different outcomes by relying on the western education system. We cannot expect different outcomes when we rely on the colonial government to pass laws and create legislation. We cannot expect to leave the world to the next generation better than the one that came before us if we continue to path the wall to hell with colonial intentions.

We must stand up and create



Ella Noah Bancroft

new ways of being in this world. We have to return to simplicity, not to growth and expansion. To understand each other as humans and not let the system divide us because we all need the rivers, the soil and the air to be clean for us and our future families.

We need to start taking a serious look at the complexity within the system and start to rewrite a narrative.

It's not enough to just Instagram about climate change, we have to encourage ourselves and others to be in relationship with the natural world. To return to building a relationship with the rivers, the soil, the air.

It's time to return. To get off the phone and to get our hands in the soil, to take uninterrupted walks in the bush with the children, to sit by the rivers and seas and give them our full attention.

Country is crying out to us, to return, to become a whole human again. To understand the fullness of what it is to be a being of relation. To move outside of the mind and the thoughts and to dive deep into the body and the emotions and to truly rekindle a love affair with the not so inanimate environment that we have lived with since time immemorial.

I'm not saying we don't need more education on the climate crisis but I do think two key solutions to the climate crisis is to return to a spiritual practice that is earth-centred and to return to right any relationship with Country. When we re-establish a

relationship with Country, when we stop to acknowledge Country, be grateful for Country, to connect with rivers, soils and the big old trees, we slow down and we start to remember the magic of this world.

Nothing makes my heart sing more than the rivers rushing with clean water, when top soil is so moist you sink into it, like you sink into bed at night, when the seas are teaming with life.

We have lost our way.

We have been convinced that disconnection equals success and to be connected is lesser than.

When the colonisers came to this shore, it was the Indigenous that they needed to make "savage" and "animal-like" using derogatory words to make our ancestors status lesser than. Nowadays other words like "dirty hippies" have also included our non-Indigenous brothers and sisters who care for Country and these terms refer to those lesser then in our society.

We are always praising the greedy and pulling down those who want to be in deep connection. They are named as

"lazy" or "free loader", "not contributing to society".

I'm sorry to break the news but this society is damaged and is only killing us and the natural world we love so much. So what are we contributing to when we contribute to this society? The climate crisis? The genocide taking place in the Middle East and other parts of the world? The destruction of our rivers and soil? Contributing to the plastic in the sea, the mining industry?

All these things I don't want to contribute to. I don't see the value in this society that creates so much death. Death of children, death of the world, death of our spirit and soul. I am taking a moment to reflect on the blood on my hands and to sit back and figure out what I truly stand for and what kind of world I really want to pass down to the babies.

The truth is it's not about us, it's about them and it's time we start returning to collecting thinking.

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

Workplace culture reviews provide an illusion of change

In recent weeks, a slew of reports across different sectors have made for uncomfortable reading, exposing the extent of harmful and pervasive toxic workplace cultures, including allegations of racism, bullying and sexual harassment.

These revelations of the widespread nature of issues within Australian workplaces—from media giants like the ABC and Nine Entertainment to parliamentary offices such as Senator Dorinda Cox—follow a series of other high-profile cultural reviews, including Rio Tinto's *Everyday Respect* report in 2022, the *Set the Standard* report (an inquiry into workplace culture in the Australian Parliament undertaken by the Australian Human Rights Commission), and the *Do Better* report, which examined systemic racism within the Collingwood Football Club, both released in 2021.

Last week's release of the *Out in the Open* report, which examined Nine Entertainment's Television News and Current Affairs division, described a workplace where employees constantly



Adam C Lees

feared public humiliation and emotional abuse. One employee said: "Every day I would wake up with this knot in my stomach thinking, am I going to be screamed at, white-anted, or publicly humiliated today, or is it someone else's turn?" Three weeks ago, the ABC's *Listen Loudly, Act Strongly: Independent Review into ABC Systems and Processes in Support of Staff Who Experience Racism* was an explicit acknowledgement of racism in its systems.

In parallel with these independent workplace culture reviews, the Australian Human Rights Commission released an

Anti-Racism Framework: Experiences and Perspectives of Multicultural Australia report in October 2024. Based on nationwide engagements by the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA), this report highlights entrenched systemic racism and bias across multiple sectors, including workplaces. Reflecting experiences like those uncovered at ABC and Nine, employees from multicultural backgrounds spoke of the racism they faced during hiring processes and promotions.

If workplaces are a mini version and reflection of society, then these cultural reviews are like standing in front of a three-way mirror, revealing every dimple, lump and bump, even the ones we'd prefer to ignore. And despite gathering insights from workers across various sectors—mining, government, media, and sports—these workplace culture reviews highlight recurring issues: leadership-driven power abuse, widespread bullying, harassment and racism, cultures that allow these behaviours, a lack of accountability, significant harm to marginalised

groups, and an urgent need for organisational culture reform.

The collective and cumulative workplace experiences of marginalised employees are also a barometer of the depth of the problem, and without genuine, sustained reform, the toxic cultures that harm so many will persist, be ignored or minimised by those in power.

These reports paint a bleak picture of workplace environments. Common threads run through the experiences of First Nations employees, women, the LGBTI+ community, people with disabilities, and those from culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Reading the individual quotes and experiences contained in these reports is impactful and confronting.

Not all workplaces are toxic or dysfunctional, but despite some positive personal and individual experiences, the body of research clearly suggests that the collective and lived experiences of marginalised workers in workplaces across Australia are one of alienation, exclusion, racism, and discrimination. Impacted employees also

report persistent microaggressions, gaslighting behaviours and barriers to career advancement.

Sympathy isn't universal. A quick glance at the comments section on stories about these workplace culture reviews reveals critics dismissing them as "woke" behaviour, pandering to identity politics, with the usual refrain that "I haven't experienced discrimination, so we must all be treated the same." While others dismiss those who spoke up as "snowflakes", branding them as soft and in need of "hardening up", the harmful effects of toxic workplace environments are undeniable, impacting mental health, job performance and overall well-being.

Investors, stakeholders, and the broader public must demand more than just a surface-level acknowledgment of the problem—they must call for substantive reforms and hard actions to dismantle the toxic structures that enable bullying, harassment and racism in the workplace. Without genuine and transparent accountability,

consequences for rotten leadership, these reports risk becoming redundant exercises allowing toxic leaders and cultures to thrive unchecked and leaving the very people most harmed by these environments to continue suffering in silence.

Workplaces can do better. I'm currently working with a client on a cultural safety review commissioned proactively, led by First Nations psychologists. Unlike reactive reviews triggered by public crises, this program identifies and addresses issues at the earliest stage. It prioritises the wellbeing and psychological safety of First Nations employees from the outset, being fully designed and led by First Nations professionals. Our goal is to create a safer, more inclusive environment where employees feel valued and heard, with care and respect as core values, not just reactive fixes.

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

Supporting our young Mob through social media

By AUNTY TJALAMINU MIA

Kaya ngulluk — Kayaan Tjalaminu Mia nijt Ngung ngulkak waarniny quoppadaar Wer ngullup nop, Yok wer-Koollungh

I speak in Noongar language. Here is the English translation:

Kaya everyone – Aunty TJ here

I hope you are doing well, especially our youth.

You've probably heard that the government is thinking about banning social media for young ones. They're still discussing what the age limit should be – perhaps 14 but maybe as old as 16.

The idea is to protect teens from being harmed by social media. It's true that some worra (not good) things happen online. Kids can get bullied by their peers or sometimes targeted by older people who want to exploit them. They can also get distracted from healthy activities, like family time, exercise, homework and sleep. And they can get exposed to biased and untrue information, unrealistic body images, and racism.

As a grandmother and great-grandmother, I do have my concerns about social media, but I also think we need to reflect before we clamp down too hard.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids, online platforms can be a way to connect with Elders and Mob and to get strength from culture.

I want to tell you about my experience with Aunty TJ TikTok, a project developed at the CBPATISIP to support and empower young people.

After the failed referendum last year on the Voice to Parliament, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of all ages experienced an increase in racism. It was like the vote gave the racists in the community encouragement to speak their prejudices out loud. There were reports that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school children were targets of bullying about the result by their peers, making them feel profoundly excluded from Australian society.

A year on from the referendum vote, now is a good time to reflect on what we have achieved with Aunty TJ TikTok series, which aims to strengthen our young Mob's pride in their cultural identity and connection to Country and community, sending warm, supportive video messages that reinforce hope and resilience and promote mental and physical wellbeing for our young people. In these messages I and other Elders, cultural knowledge holders and



Aunty TJ with Mark Nannup and Taleah Ugle, two of the members of the Aboriginal Youth Advisory Group to Aunty TJ TikTok.

healers aim to counter-balance the deficit discourse that young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are often exposed to.

When I say young people I don't only mean children and teenagers. Our videos are also meant for young ones in their 20s and 30s, who are at uni or working and might have families of their own. If they have come through those earlier years safely, then they are walking towards a settled life and towards their own leadership and being Elders in the future. They also need messages of cultural strength and pride.

We have now produced more than 100 TikToks, including interviews with First Nations leaders such as Professor Pat Dudgeon from the CBPATISIP, Joe Williams, the founder of The Enemy Within, and international academics such as Dr Mark Standing Eagle Baez, a descendant of the Mohawk and Pawnee people in the USA, to teach culturally appropriate self-care.

In less than a year we have collected an extraordinary 5,000-plus followers and each video on average is watched more than 5000 times. We have had more than 23,000 likes. That is a lot of positivity to counteract any harmful messaging! And it is just the start because the videos often get shared on other social platforms including Facebook and X. As you might expect we get some racist comments, but overall, I have been overwhelmed by the positive response – not just the numbers but the wonderful, encouraging comments people leave online.

We chose the TikTok video sharing platform because of its popularity with young users.

It was a steep learning curve for me, but these experiences have shown me the power of speaking to our young people in the online spaces where they actually hang out.

That's why I think a social media ban for those in their early teens may not be the best approach. I do not believe a ban would protect young people from racism, because the racists will just find other ways to spread their hate – they always do. But it might stop young people from accessing messages of support and pride in culture, like Aunty TJ TikTok and the other Elders and community members who go online to reach out.

This is my feeling and it is reinforced by research. In August I was at Parliament House in Canberra for a symposium led by Professor Jo Robinson from the youth mental health group Orygen. In a large survey, she found that young people were exposed to dangerous messages on social media promoting suicide as a way out, but that those from groups that are sometimes marginalised – including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and also young ones who identify as LGBTIQSB+ – social media can offer positive connection with peers and role models and the opportunity to discuss self-harm and suicide safely, which they might not be able to do anywhere else.

It is time for the big tech companies, which make so much money from unregulated

social media, to step up with some practical solutions. If they are motivated to help, they will find ways to make it safer for young people to be online.

These companies need a code of ethics, not just about messages and content and age access, but really addressing the role of these platforms in people's lives.

Social media is defining how young people are developing their relationships and some

Elders have told me they are concerned at the amount of time young people spend on their screens, which can pull them away from cultural connections and learning.

We could take a strengths-based approach and start to build a social media world that encourages and empowers young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mob.

So please scan the QR code in the image and have a look what we're doing with Aunty TJ TikTok. And don't forget to comment underneath – we would love to hear what you think.

Yarn Boodawaan; Talk again soon

Aunty Tjalaminu Mia is a Research Fellow at the Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention (CBPATISIP) at the University of Western Australia. She is a Menang Goreng Wadjari Noongar woman. Her connection to Country is lower south-west, Great Southern region, Western Australia. Aunty TJ has worked for over four decades in government departments, local grassroots community services, education and academia, social justice and human rights and the Stolen Generations, focused on healing, empowerment and building capacity for leadership and self-determination. She was awarded the Community Person of the Year WA during NAIDOC Week 2012.

Aunty TJ is on TikTok!
@AuntyTJ

In light of the outcome of the referendum, our newly launched TikTok platform is committed to fostering support and resilience. Aunty TJ is at the heart of it, sharing her cultural strength and wisdom. Additionally, an Aboriginal Youth Advisory Group contributes by sharing ideas, forming a partnership that enhances the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth.

SCAN HERE & FOLLOW

5 Reasons to follow Aunty TJ

- To celebrate Indigenous culture, building a positive sense of identity
- To discover messages of healing and resilience
- To maintain and strengthen connections to Country
- To connect in a culturally aware online space, fostering understanding and support
- To discover the fresh perspectives of Indigenous youth, sparking new insights

The Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention

Pushing back against eye disease



THE prevalence of a highly infectious eye disease among Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander children has declined by 87 per cent, data shows.

Active trachoma among Indigenous children aged five to nine from at-risk communities was 1.8 per cent in 2023, down from 14 per cent in 2007, according to an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report.

A total of 74 Indigenous children were observed with the infection in those communities when they were screened in 2023.

Trachoma can lead to serious health concerns including scarring, in-turned eyelashes on the upper eyelid and blindness, if left untreated.

Most blindness and vision impairment among First Nations people is from preventable or treatable conditions, institute spokesperson Jo Baker said.

"Eye diseases and vision problems are the most common long-term health conditions First Nations people experience, with around one-third reporting long-term eye conditions," she said.

The report, *Eye health measures for Aboriginal and*

Torres Strait Islander people 2024, showed an increase in cataract surgeries among adults.

Cataract is the leading cause of blindness among Indigenous adults and its rate per million, adjusted for age, increased from 7,504 to 9,297.

Median waiting times for cataract surgery fell to 159 days, from the 181 days recorded during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022/23.

Waiting times are still higher than the pre-pandemic 141 days recorded in 2016/17.

The prevalence of bilateral blindness among Indigenous people was 0.3 per cent, and bilateral vision impairment at 10 per cent.

The proportion of Indigenous people who had their eyes checked remained steady over a 10-year period at about 20 per cent, standardised for age.

This compares with 22 to 27 per cent of non-Indigenous Australians having an eye examination over the same period, between 2012/13 and 2022/23.

"Monitoring the eye health of First Nations people and their use of eye health services helps us to better understand prevalence, address barriers and see continued improvement," Ms Baker said.



Children in vulnerable Indigenous communities are less likely to contract a highly infectious eye disease, while more adults are having surgery for cataracts.

Health forum a success



A FORUM in Townsville for First Nations health workers with a theme of "Keeping the passion when working in adversity" was

a great success.

It was the second such forum held by the Townsville Hospital and Health Service (HHS) and was attended by First Nations health workers from the region.

The HHS extends from Richmond and Hughenden, north to Cardwell, south to Home Hill and East to Magnetic Island and Palm Island.

Across 21 facilities there is more than 7,000 staff employed and a lot of patients are Indigenous men, women and children.

Over many years First Nations people who have been patients have told the *Koori Mail* that they feel more at ease when health workers are also Indigenous for cultural reasons.

Townsville is the only HHS in Queensland to offer a forum of this kind to identify the complexities that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples working in health face.

Executive director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Amanda Cooms said the gathering was about getting staff together to share experiences, build resilience, and validate feelings within the community.

"Understanding each other's



Indigenous mental health worker Aunty Dawn Charteris and Joyce Palmer Health Service senior medical officer Dr Robert Blackley.

experiences within the health system inspires us all to look toward our own journeys and contributions. Many staff express a renewed sense of safety and empowerment following on from the forums because they get to hear from those that have come before them and their strategies to overcome adversity. By sharing experiences and connecting with each other, the forum builds a culture of resilience that ultimately benefits the communities we

serve," Ms Cooms said.

Ms Cooms said HHS did not only want to just increase the Indigenous health worker workforce.

"We want to inspire our community members and young people so that we have more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals joining the workforce," she said.

The forum featured speakers including Indigenous mental



The Health workers forum in progress.

health worker Aunty Dawn Charteris and Palm Island's Joyce Palmer Health Service senior medical officer Dr Robert Blackley.

Dr Blackley shared his experience growing up and working on Palm Island and across Australia on programs to improve health outcomes for Indigenous communities.

Profound impact

"We don't know the profound impact that we have on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that come through the health service. It's a little smile that could make all the difference in someone feeling like they're not lost in the system. Health is complicated, and it's scary, and every little bit helps. Whether it's

through administration, helping with travel, health leaders and officers, nurses and health professionals, everybody around the health service doing a little bit makes a difference to patient outcomes," Dr Blackley said.

Dr Blackley explained to attendees the importance of selfcare when working in health.

"You can't help anyone become well unless you're well. Reflect on your own mental and physical health, check in on yourself and others, and take breaks when you need to," Dr Blackley said.

Townsville HHS continues to coordinate these forums to raise the voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and recognise the unique challenges they overcome.

Culturally-safe health service for North Brisbane and Moreton Bay



A NEW culturally-safe health navigation service has begun in North Brisbane and Moreton Bay to support First Nations people better negotiate their health journey.

Community and Oral Health (COH) Nurse Navigator Suzy Warren, a Mitakoodi woman with family in Cloncurry, said the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Nurse Navigation Service supported First Nations people with complex chronic disease and medical conditions who need help navigating health and community services.

"As part of the new service, we advocate for and coordinate culturally appropriate care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their families," she said. "It's about having a yarn to the patients about what they need, then linking them to health services and home supports.

"We visit patients in their home, assist patients to attend health care appointments while other services are identified and put in place.

"We work in partnership with the patient, family/carers, allied health, nursing, and other treating

teams to develop individualised care plans.

"These plans can encompass the physical, social, emotional, spiritual and cultural well-being of the individual and the whole of the community."

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurse Navigation Service aims to improve health equity and address the challenges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have when accessing health services in comparison to other Australians.

Comprehensive

"We link people to disability supports, ongoing therapies and health assessments, and home support after comprehensive health and social assessments," she said.

"We can also assist with My Aged Care and NDIS applications where appropriate, and health education where necessary."

The new navigation service is also about addressing some of the barriers faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander such as the lack of access and distance to healthcare services.

"Cultural understanding of services and staff can also impact the delivery of care," Suzy said.

"First Nations people who have lost some connection

with country, community and kinship circles may also need extra help."

Ms Warren said the service also provided patients with links to GP services.

The new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Nurse Navigation Service is delivered by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurse navigator and Advanced Health Worker Monday to Friday 8.00 am to 4.30 pm.

Suzy said First Nations people in Moreton Bay and North Brisbane can self refer. They can also ask any hospital, non-Government organisation or community health professional, indigenous health liaison officer or GP to refer them by emailing COH-IndigenousNavigation@health.qld.gov.au

To be eligible for the free service the patient must identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and be 18 years of age or over or transitioning from paediatric services.

Other eligibility criteria including having a complex medical and social concern, have high presentation rates to emergency departments and/or at a high risk of deterioration.

The service is delivered through face-to-face visits, through telehealth and/or over the phone.



Nurse navigator Suzy Warren and advanced health worker Lisa Cuthbert.

Community Controlled Health Organisations breed job satisfaction



JOB satisfaction is something we all crave. And when it comes to the health sector it seems Australia's 'most satisfied' general practitioners are working in health services designed and governed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Royal Australian College of GPs *Health of the Nation 2024* report, revealed a marked improvement in job satisfaction, with the 'most satisfied' GPs working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health services, including Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs).

These GPs have the highest job satisfaction, 88% compared to 73% overall, and 68% compared to 44% would recommend general practice as a career.

The ACCCHO doctors also have the best work-life balance and lowest rate of burnout.

Dr Karen Nicholls, Chair of RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, said the



Pat Turner AM, CEO of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

findings will come as no surprise to those working in ACCHOs.

"They are one of the most rewarding places to work as a GP," she said.

"ACCHOs provide high-quality clinical and cultural healthcare designed by the community, for the community.

"We can learn a lot from their approach to designing health

services that deliver what a community really needs, which is what all GPs want to be able to do. We just want to be able to provide the high-quality care our patients deserve.

"The RACGP has an MOU with The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), and together we advocate for better funding for ACCHOs, and equity in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health."

Pat Turner AM, CEO of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation said: "At NACCHO, we are immensely proud of the positive impact our ACCHOs have on both the communities they serve and the health care professionals who work within them.

"The consistently high levels of job satisfaction among GPs working in ACCHOs reflect the strong, culturally grounded care models that are vital to the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"This sense of purpose and connection drives the exceptional

care delivered by these GPs, underscoring the importance of building and supporting a dedicated workforce for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, which remains central to our advocacy efforts."

Dr Higgins said, "I'm thrilled that Australia's most satisfied GPs are working in health services run by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities – the sector has so much expertise and does incredible work.

"The RACGP is working to grow this workforce in urban, regional and remote Australia. We're on track to train a record number of GPs in 2025. And with our new incentives program helping cover relocation costs for registrars, we've got 177 GPs training in rural communities that haven't had a registrar for years, including for Aboriginal health services.

"As president of Australia's peak GP training body, this is an achievement I'm especially proud of. It benefits these communities today, and in the future, because we know GPs who get a taste of rural life are more likely to stay.

"More needs to be done to accelerate the growth in Australia's GP workforce and ensure there are enough GPs in every community. The need for general practice care is skyrocketing due to Australia's ageing and growing population and epidemic of chronic illness. The health department predicts a shortage of 5,560 GPs by 2033 – work to avoid this shortfall must start now.

"We know funding gets results – we're calling for government funding to train a further 100 GPs annually for five years to boost the workforce, and to implement a range of GP attraction and retention initiatives.

"There is no substitute for the quality care you get from a GP who knows you and your history. A strong general practice workforce is essential for a healthy Australia."

The Royal Australian College of GPs *Health of the Nation 2024* report is the only annual report providing insights into general practice care based on a nationwide survey of GPs and GPs in training.

Excellence recognised at Best of Business awards



SOME of Australia's leading small and medium sized businesses have been recognised with Telstra announcing the Indigenous Excellence state winners from its Best of Business Awards.

With a 30-year legacy, Telstra's Best of Business Awards acknowledges Indigenous led, owned and operated businesses succeeding through entrepreneurialism, innovation and inspiring the next generation of all Australians.

The awards support Australian small businesses, celebrating their achievements and the people behind them, while giving them the opportunity to learn from Australia's best business minds.

This year's winners include:

DeadlyScience

DeadlyScience is an education organisation focused on providing STEM learning and resources to regional and remote schools to support the inclusion of Indigenous secondary students. With online and face-to-face learning options, DeadlyScience works with more than 1,700 schools and community organisations across Australia.



Telstra NSW Indigenous Business Excellence Award winner, Deadly Science.



Telstra Queensland Indigenous Business Excellence Award winner Rachael Sarra.

Rachael Sarra

Rachael Sarra, a Goreng Goreng artist, redefines First Nations art through her business Sarra, blending vibrant designs with strategic brand collaborations and public art projects. Her work spans from large-scale installations to award-winning children's book illustrations, all driven by her passion for community and cultural storytelling.

Rainy Day Recruitment

Rainy Day Recruitment, a Supply Nation-certified agency, specialises in placing professionals in IT, engineering and professional service roles. Founded in 2020, it offers personalised recruitment, including permanent placement, temporary staffing and workforce management. The organisation aims to provide a more ethical, transparent and client-focused alternative to traditional recruitment practices.



Telstra South Australian Indigenous Business Excellence Award Winner, Rainy Day Recruitment.



DJAARA

DJAARA is a representative body for the Dja Dja Wurrung People of Central Victoria. The body and its enterprises have enhanced initiatives in environmental care, cultural practices and community development, ensuring the strength and sustainability of Dja Dja Wurrung heritage.

Telstra Victorian Indigenous Business Excellence Award Winner, Djaara Press.



Western Australian Telstra Indigenous Business Excellence Award winners, Nikky Barney-Irvine and Pamela Baldwin from Bunbara.

Bunbara

Founded in 2019, Bunbara is an Indigenous female-owned company that offers integrated solutions in the energy, mining and defence sectors. Bunbara's services include procurement sourcing, supply-chain oversight, engineering assistance and more. With a deep commitment to the community, Bunbara provides university scholarships to Indigenous students and sponsors athletes across various sports, fostering success and empowerment in Indigenous communities.

opinion

Our regional and remote communities deserve to thrive

Remote Australia, with its vast landscapes and sparse populations, is a region rich in potential.

Having grown up in Borroloola, about 1,000 kilometres from Darwin in the Northern Territory, I have experienced first-hand both the challenges and possibilities that exist in remote communities.

For many people living in remote small towns, finding a job can be difficult – and sometimes daunting.

Labour markets are vastly different to those in regional and urban areas.

There is no large shopping centre, no local fast-food chain where young people in the city typically get their first job.

Opportunities are limited and barriers such as availability of jobs, access to training, and capacity of employers are very real.

Removing these barriers is the driving force behind the Albanese Labor Government's approach to reforming remote employment and delivering on our commitment to replace the failed Community Development Program, or CDP.

To do this, we need to remember what a job means.

A job doesn't just put money in someone's pocket, it gives purpose.

Financial security through meaningful employment is key to building strong futures.

I've seen time and time again the impact that a job can have, not just for an individual, but also for their family and their community.

I have experienced this in my own life.

When I was in year 12, my English teacher encouraged me to apply for a cadetship with the ABC in Darwin – something I'd never considered.

That belief in me changed my path.

The cadetship opened doors I didn't know existed, leading to a 16-year career as a journalist, which ultimately gave me the experience and confidence to step into politics.

As Minister for Indigenous Australians, what I want for First Nations people in remote communities is what my teacher gave me – the belief that opportunities exist and are within reach.

I want our young people to hear someone say, 'I think you should go for this job,' just like I heard all those years ago.

The difference today is we need to see these opportunities in remote communities.

The idea that you need to leave home, move to a big city or a regional centre to find work is something we must change.

People deserve the chance to thrive in their own communities – and this is the goal of our Remote Jobs and Economic Development program.

It's no easy task, but it is possible. And we are determined to continue working with First Nations communities to get better outcomes.

In fact, we've already seen remarkable success stories.

Take Lily Lagoon, a resort just outside Kununurra in Western Australia, one of the few Aboriginal-owned and operated tourism and hospitality operations in the Kimberley.

As part of the Government's Remote Jobs trial, they've created 17 new jobs for First Nations people – food and beverage attendants, guest services, kitchen hands, maintenance workers and more.

These jobs have not only provided employment for 17 people but have helped the resort meet the growing demand from tourists.

This is just one example but shows what's possible when we work alongside remote communities to create real, lasting opportunities.

If we are serious about changing employment outcomes in remote Australia, it's about imagining jobs where they haven't existed before.

It's about giving local businesses the means to flourish.

By doing this, we not only change lives, we realise the potential of our people in remote Australia.



Malarndirri McCarthy

Nathalia finds purpose thanks to new strategy on remote jobs



BEING part of a deadly team and making a difference in her community gives Nathalia Rose Imberlong a sense of purpose and pride.

The proud Jaru woman is working as a broadcaster and administration clerk, a role created at Waringarri Media Aboriginal Corporation in Kununurra, Western Australia, through the Federal Government's Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) program.

"I enjoy every moment coming to work as it is delightful and gratifying and I feel satisfaction when others enjoy or are encouraged as much as I am within this industry," said Nathalia.

The RJED program marks the first stage of the Albanese Government's commitment to replace the failed Community Development Program (CDP).

More than 3,100 people across 200 remote communities had their say between April and July this year about the design and delivery of the new program.

The Government heard from remote community members and leaders, job seekers, employers, Community Development Program participants and providers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations, council members and others from within the 60 current CDP regions.

The new RJED will launch later this year with the creation of 3,000 new jobs over the next 3 years, with proper wages and decent conditions.

The RJED New Jobs Program Trial explored new approaches to remote employment and thanks to one such trial Nathalia is now getting to grips with the technical side of things such as learning filming and editing.

The Waringarri Media Aboriginal Corporation operates the East



Nathalia Rose Imberlong getting behind the microphone at Waringarri Media Aboriginal Corporation in Kununurra.

Kimberley's only locally based radio station and media organisation.

The New Jobs Program Trial (NJPT) is one of three remote jobs trials underway helping to create roles in administration, broadcasting, video and social media production. These roles are helping to ensure First Nation voices continue to be the narrators of their own stories.

Minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy said remote communities know what jobs they want and need.

"Listening to these perspectives on the ground is vital to deliver a

successful remote jobs program," Ms McCarthy said.

"The consultation report reiterates the importance of a jobs program that is flexible and caters for cultural needs and the unique circumstances of remote communities.

"This program has the ability to change the narrative around remote employment and show the impact a job can have when it's the right job, with the right purpose in the right place."

Nathalia said her job gives her a purpose to get up every morning, knowing she was doing something she enjoyed and was passionate about.

Government boosts East Arnhem DEAL



DRIVEN by East Arnhem Land Traditional Owners' aspiration for a future where

Yolngu people are self sufficient, the Federal Government has invested \$500,000 in independent not-for-profit Developing East Arnhem Limited (DEAL) to extend its business development function for a further two years.

This doubles the Government's investment to \$1 million over four years, following an initial investment of \$500,000 in Indigenous Advancement Strategy funding.

DEAL's place-based model enables delivery of a range of supports aimed at increasing Yolngu business contribution to job creation and Indigenous



Member for Lingiari, Marion Scrymgour.

empowerment, with a focus on capacity building, development and increasing the contribution of Yolngu businesses to the economy.

Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians,

Malarndirri McCarthy said supporting local Yolngu-owned businesses in East Arnhem will benefit the whole community and create pathways that wouldn't exist otherwise.

"First Nations businesses help shape remote communities by creating jobs, fostering economic empowerment and supporting community aspirations for economic self-determination," Ms McCarthy said.

"Providing business development, particularly in remote Australia, provides direct opportunities for First Nations communities to thrive."

Member for Lingiari, Marion Scrymgour said Indigenous businesses made an important contribution to the Australian economy.

"These include opportunities for employment,

intergenerational wealth transfer, the sharing of Indigenous knowledge and providing culturally sensitive services to local communities and stakeholders," Ms Scrymgour said.

Services available to First Nations businesses include business planning and strategy development, governance, finance and accounting support, assistance in raising capital, and ongoing mentoring support.

A government spokesperson said DEAL's business support function was built from the understanding that strong, secure and sustainable Yolngu-led businesses play a critical role in ensuring that Yolngu are empowered to determine their own futures and create long term positive change for their families and communities.

Leading a high horse to water



Kirk Page

I grew up in Queensland, born in Ipswich the diamond of the west, known traditionally in the Yagara language as Tulmur. In the 80s no one ever called it that, I imagine not many people knew what its original name was. An echo of the erasure that has happened across this wide brown land. A hangover from the colony project drunk with power where generations of families forbidden to speak language endured their fourth-class citizenship.

Not the first time our people were written out of history, excluded – think back when ‘authorities’ wrote the constitution, when they believed we were a dying race and that representation or inclusion in the constitution was just a waste of time and printers ink. You don’t need to look back to far to see how far we haven’t come. But there is a smudge of a silver lining if you look for it.

I drive a lot – visiting the family home in Qld and have noticed that many places from northern NSW and across the border to Qld have Aboriginal names. I wonder what those conversations were like when deciding on these names and who were the trailblazers that reached across the cultural divide to do this reclaiming. Just seeing the words on the street signs gives a sense of comfort of home and this has the real potential to strengthen, preserve and revitalise our family histories and story.

Coming home has complex feelings for a lot of us but I am grateful that I do have a family home to return to as some of us don’t. Home is what you make it – isn’t that what they say? I can

remember as a kid being constantly reminded to say thank you and use your manners – ‘it doesn’t cost anything’ and always respect your Elders.

I’m entering uncle-status apparently and I may be finding it a little confronting. A few weeks ago getting that nod from a younger brother on the street as they say ‘How’s it going Uncle?’ I had to giggle to myself. Am I in my emerging era? I think I am. Time is a beast and I can feel the air changing and I can see it in the eyes of my old people who didn’t seem too old 30 years ago. I have great memories of spending days with the matriarchs of the family when they were in their prime but time has definitely taken its toll on them and the reality of it is like a punch in the face.

Getting older is a privilege and the alternative, I’m not ready for just yet.

Looking back I wish I had taken the time to enjoy the view and those yarns and laughs and late nights out with family. I’m pretty sure that some of those old people said that time goes too fast and thinking about it now I really get it. Is it my turn now to remind the younger ones to enjoy it while you can, cause it doesn’t last and time doesn’t go by so slowly.

Why wasn’t I shaken by two hands really violently and told ‘you are going to get older than 33 and life is going to become very very different when you reach 50, wake up to yourself and get ready for 2024.’ I probably would have ignored it because what would they know?

I have to say that I spent the most of my younger days worrying about the future – I kind

of took the role of the parent at a very young age. This is controversial I know, I come from a place where children should be seen and not heard, so having a voice as a young person wasn’t a thing.

I’m feeling uncomfortable about mentioning this but it’s what has been in my thoughts of late. In the same breathe, the ironic thing is that I fear the day I will get the news of one of the old people dying, it’s a fact of life I know but facts and reality sometimes never align.

Say you’ve grown up in a place that wasn’t safe for you or other family members. Imagine the roles have flipped where the child becomes the parent, the care giver at a very young age, the protector and emotional strength and support for the parent. There are thousands out there that have lived this experience, I know.

So getting back to coming home where there is a natural order and an expectation to play the role of the respectful son or daughter, nephew or cousin..... How do we choose our own well being over the well being of family when the relationships are experiencing pressure or erupting into a hot mess? If I am watching an older person (my parent) drink themselves into oblivion or smoke to the point of them hacking up a lung and I am doing the same thing, I really shouldn’t be judging.

So leading by example may be a way to inspire change or do we just pretend it’s not happening and bury our head in the sand, denial is a loong river.

A parent is meant to show leadership and strength but what

happens when these roles and lines are blurred. Do we continue as children to watch the trauma unfold without addressing it, then repeat it back to our children?

Maybe the answer isn’t so black and white – perhaps the answer is to lead with love and not judgement. My ailing Auntie said to me last weekend at a gathering that I was on my high horse. It seems that I am. Hearing this I was gob-smacked, I listened and looked her back in the eye as she held court staring right through me. Is this a new thought or one she’s been holding onto for a while?

I paused for a minute and tried to break the air and said something like ‘maybe I can get on a smaller horse – with shorter legs? She wasn’t having it – I was really wanting to know what was behind this comment, she is old and probably not feeling so vital, life’s been tough on her and so she seems to be pushing it in my direction and I am happy to take it. What do you say when it is a favourite auntie?

So I took the note but can’t get the idea out of my head, that I am on a high horse. I’m actually scared of horses and after that encounter with Auntie I’m a little scared of her too. I don’t ride horses, I’m more of a bicycle kind of person. It’s good to know what your triggers are though. Being told I am up myself, on a horse is mildly baffling and seeing my beautiful old auntie get so old is also very concerning.

Perhaps next time FB asks what’s on my mind I should just take a photo of my Tumeric latte in the sun with the caption ‘Living the life, all is good’.

Inside the life of termites

A children’s book which takes the readers inside the life of termites has received the Prime Minister’s Literary Award. The \$80,000 prize money is a welcome addition to the local arts community and the Gurindji arts community in the Northern Territory.

The new book titled *Tamarra: A Story of Termites on Gurindji Country* is a source of education and culture for young people, developed through a collaborative partnership between some of the Gurindji community in the NT, the University of Queensland, the School of Languages and Cultures and a microbiologist.

Professor Meakins said the book is a prime example of research translation, written in three languages and illustrated by talented Gurindji artists. This new children’s book is educational and groundbreaking in its creation and research, bringing a unique collaboration for this important intercultural project.



Violet Wadrill, Professor Felicity Meakins and Topsy Dodd Ngarnjal working on book translations.

“Termites are fascinating – to many they’re considered a pest, but for Gurindji people they play an important role in the Northern Territory community and have health benefits

in bush medicine,” Professor Meakins said.

In bringing together vital Gurindji culture and our Western perspectives, this book has emphasised the importance of the reconciliation process, where people show respect and listen to each other, to create something meaningful together,” Professor Meakins said.

Co-author and co-director of Karungkarni art Leah Leaman Namija said the book was special because it was written in the language of their Country and English. A window into the world of the Gurindji its language and culture and the world of the termite.

More than 30 people worked together to create this book including elders, storytellers, artists, scientists and local languages speakers.

The prize money given by the Prime Minister’s Literary Award will go towards producing the Karungkarni people’s next book.



Big Big Love is for new mothers and their bubs. Celebrating motherhood, love and acceptance this children’s picture book captures the unconditional love and acceptance of our mums. This new edition from Magabala books includes teacher-support material linked to the Australian curriculum for those wanting to use the story as a reading and learning tool.

This book offers first-time readers an easy way to begin to identify images and words together in a really beautiful and simple way, a must for bedtime reading.

Author Lisa Fuller’s poetic word flow partnered, with Samantha Campbell’s wonderful illustrations, will wrap readers into a warm embrace, making it an excellent edition to the book collection.

By Lisa Fuller and illustrated by Samantha Campbell.

Flipping the script on monsters

Q & A with JON BELL and KIRK PAGE

Bundjalung and Wiradjuri film maker Jon Bell told the *Koori Mail*, 'There are three words we've traditionally used to describe spirits – Moogai, Wongai and Dogai. We still use Moogai to describe monsters similar to a boogeyman and we also use Dogai to describe white people. I think when white people first arrived, a lot of blackfellas thought they were returned spirits, so today we still use it as a name for white people.'

Perhaps this new film is flipping the script on who is the real monster? *The Moogai* is a new horror film that looks at the inhumane experience of the stolen generations on a young family. It explores the impacts from the policies of the past and the knock-on effect they have to this day.

Who are you and where do you come from?

I am the writer and director of *The Moogai*. I grew up in Casino NSW, I have strong roots here. My dad is Wiradjuri and my mum is Bundjalung and Yaegl with country connections to Yamba, Peak Hill, Wellington, Yass and Sydney.

Describe what it is that you do, your title. Or work description?

I would say that I am a story teller, but I think in a weird way I'm documenting my own existence. As artists we live our lives and interpret that through our practice. I'm like a documentarian – I guess.

How did you become interested in film making + when did you make your first film?

The initial spark was created by watching *Star Wars* as a kid, I got into the performing arts with NAISDA (The National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Association) in Sydney. My cousin Mariaa she got me and my cousin into dance. I did a little bit of music and studied law. I used to make short films with my uncle when I was a kid, then I came back to it later in life, as a writer – I remember that cameras had become cheaper back then and that's when I returned to the idea of film making.

What made you want to bring the story of the 'Moogai' to a mainstream audience and how did that conversation go with creatives, investors and producers?

I started with a meeting having a yarn about this idea, I mentioned that I had something in the horror genre and that was the Moogai. At that time there were plans to make the feature film but we decided to make a short film for proof of concept to get the investors to see the tone and the feel of it. I had made a few short films already – varying from 5 to 10 mins you can achieve a proof of concept in about 15 mins. The



short film had a three-act structure where most short films only have a set up and a pay off. So the short film was a result of breaking the feature film down and making a selection of the best story points, or greatest hits, the most valid points.

How would you describe the character of the Moogai as it's presented in the film to people who haven't heard of it?

It's a creature that is often unseen but it wants to take your children. It doesn't play fair and it has supernatural powers that can be very hard to protect yourself against. It's a real force of nature to be able to beat it and you have to have some experience and know what you're doing culturally.

What kind of protocols did you need to consider when working with the actors in the room and on location and how did you approach the safety element of working with this story on set?

Moogai is a Bundjalung word and there is a lot of cultural material in the story that you will see in the film. We didn't film on Bundjalung Country, we filmed the prologue, the beginning of the story on my dad's Country out near Peak Hill.

My aunt who is a bit like a second mother was there with us during filming and she was there to do protocols and we felt safe. Some of the actors and extras were family including my partner – so it felt like a family thing, a great time together rather than it feeling like work, making a film.

Before filming I spoke with the actors about their emotional and spiritual safety, and a lot talk about the weight of the story and what we wanted to bring to the screen through those characters' journeys. Nothing was taken for granted, things were already in place because of the relationships I had with the actors.



The story of the Moogai has been told to generations of people over time – how much artistic licence did you explore and what do you think people will take away from this film?

I wanted to bring an experience that everyone could connect to. To make it relatable through the common

denominators. You know – white man turning up in suits in a government car and seeing how the matriarchs deal with those situations and those people with the codes that only direct family have, like the whistling to the children to warn them.

I was also aware that not all families have had the same experience – so it was a reveal as well as a connecting to this story



Jon Bell: "*THE MOOGAI* is a horror film that I feel will impact Australian public consciousness in a similar way that *GET OUT* penetrated the American consciousness. The intention is to entertain, but the real power of the story lies in the capacity to linger and provoke conversation. Audiences have flocked to recent intelligent horror films that speak to deeper issues in an entertaining way, and we believe *THE MOOGAI* will engage them in the same way."

in a personal way. Bringing the familiar ways to the screen to show the bonds and the strength of family from those days. It was a real challenge to walk the line of a general story and also to be specific with some of the details.

This film is a tribute to the generations of women that have held families together, in many ways they're the backbone in this film and I hope people can see that strength of family through this story.

What does success look like in relation to making a film or telling the stories?

Seeing a film playing in a theatre is a success to me, I was just a kid with a dream after watching *Star Wars* in the cinema, those films were the beginning of thinking I could do that. I can lay my head down on the pillow at night and say I've ticked that off my list.

When I was growing up I wanted to be....?

I wanted to be a lawyer but I think what I really wanted to do was make an argument for the things I felt strongly about, an advocate maybe. I guess I am doing that but through a different lens with film.

Whats next for you?

Hollywood has always been a destination for me, not necessarily the physical destination, but that kind of film making with a bigger budget and more scope to create, that's always been appealing to me.

● *The Moogai features a stellar cast of actors including, Shari Sebbens, Meyne Wyatt, Tessa Rose, Clarence Ryan and Bella Heathcote. The film will be showing in cinemas from October 31.*

Festival shines light



ATTRACTING 45,000 visitors across its 10-day First Nations multi-arts program, the second edition of *Shine on Gimuy* First Nations

festival has ended with the lights illuminating the giant sculptural installations lining Cairns Esplanade turned off.

Shine on Gimuy, led by artistic director Rhoda Roberts AO and guided by a dedicated committee of cultural guides, delivered a refreshing and immersive line-up of illuminated art sculptures, music performances, cultural dance, comedy, conversations and a Blak Market in a celebration of First Nations peoples, arts, and cultures.

Taking a cue from the 2024 theme, 'Entwined,' the festival program began with a gathering of Tropical North Queensland's First Nations and clans to celebrate kinship, cultures, songs, and dance, showcasing more than 100 artists and performers.

A special *Calling Country* ceremony was hosted by the Gimuy Walabura Yidinji peoples, with cultural dancing performed on a sand circle overlooking Cairns waterfront. The ceremony was attended by over 1,000 people, including the region's Traditional Owners, Elders and civic leaders.

Calling Country also signalled 'turning on the lights' of the event's *Artstory Light Walk* on Gimuy Boulevard, which featured illuminated sculptural installations by artists Merindi Schreiber, Marun Carl Fourmile and Doreen Collins.

Ms Roberts said the magnificent public art installations on display stunningly depicted First Nations peoples' intrinsic social ecology.

"The spatial perceptions of the Indigenous realm – the philosophy and language – and our cultural customs and nuances are all wonderfully entwined," Ms Roberts said.

A satellite program included Queensland Music Festival's (QMF) inaugural *Dream Aloud* concert, presented with Triple J, showcasing the country's leading First Nations artists, including Baker Boy, Bumpy, and King Stingray. The concert, held under the stars in Cairns' Munro Martin Parklands on Saturday, October 5, drew a crowd of 2,000.

Shine On Productions CEO and executive producer of *Shine on Gimuy*, Merryn Hughes, said she is very proud of the Shine On team, who worked throughout the year to deliver another stunning creative event.

"This is an event that, as its name suggests, shines a very bright light on Tropical North Queensland's distinct and diverse First Nations art and culture in the heart of Cairns, Gimuy Country.

"Employing over 50 artists and arts workers, local contractors and suppliers, *Shine on Gimuy* creates new opportunities for Queensland's broader and burgeoning creative industry.

Shine on Gimuy, presented from October 3 to 13 this year, is a multi-arts light festival led by First Nations Peoples and proudly presented by Shine Productions, with support from the Cairns Regional Council, Queensland and federal governments, and many other valued partners.



Shine on Gimuy celebrated culture from the far north earlier this month. Pictures: Lewis Bin Doraho and Shine On Productions



Artistic director of the festival, Rhoda Roberts AO.



Gubaw Goeyga Sagulaw Buway performers from Mabuyag Island, Torres Strait, Fr Leslie and Meriam Sam.



Cassowary, sculpted over 200 hours by Koah artist Jacob McGrath, with artwork by emerging Wujal Wujal artist Doreen Collins, stands ready at the head of this year's exhibition of light installations, the *Artstory Light Walk*.



Kale Murgha.



Mateo Sexton.

on culture up north



A special *Calling Country* ceremony, hosted by the Gimuy Walabura Yidinji peoples and performed on a sand circle overlooking Cairns waterfront, was attended by more than 1,000 people, including the region's Traditional Owners, Elders and civic leaders.



Menmuny Murgha Snr and Menmuny Murgha Jnr.



Dwyane Street, Smacker Neal and Keeble Yeatman (Song Man).



Kane Murgha, Darius Hanna and Menmuny Murgha Jnr (front).



Solomon Patrick.



Patrick Atu.



Frankie Walker Jnr.



Marun Carl Fourmile and Tracy Gray flank Henrietta Fourmile Marrie AM in the centre of the sand circle as she honours her brother, esteemed First Nations artist and advocate Gudjugudju Fourmile, whose passing last month has been deeply felt by arts and Indigenous communities across the far north, and nationally.



Sandy dancers' feet cross the sand circle.



Menmuny Murgha Jnr and Greg Delaney Jnr.



Gubaw Goeyya Sagulaw Buway performers from Mabuyag Island, Torres Strait, (Back, l-r) Richard Sam, Frankie Walker Jnr, William Satrick, Patrick Atu & Repu Kris; (front) Zephania Sam and Solomon Patrick.



William Satrick.

Fishtraps inspire artist

By ALF WILSON



PROUD 64-year-old Aboriginal man Sylvester Cook, who is a descendant of the Anaiwan people and has

connections to the Dughutti and Bundjalung people of NSW, crafts quality fish traps and other items using discarded branches.

Sylvester currently lives in the outback town of Moree in NSW and was in Townsville visiting his son Travis when the *Koori Mail* spoke with him.

"I learnt my art skills when I went to school at Armidale," he said.

His father is an Aboriginal man from Tingha, NSW, and his mum is from Kempsey Burnt Bridge Mission.

"I have seven sons and one daughter who live around Australia," he said.

While Sylvester has been an artist since he was young, he became a skilled fishtrap maker a few years ago.

"I did a course with Dwayne Button and have been making them since. I use old vines, mangroves and branches, and the traps work. It takes about four days to complete one," he said.

Sylvester wants to pass on his craft to young First Nations people and would like to conduct workshops with communities.

He also makes small canoes and boats using discarded palm branches.

On his work desk sits an excellent painting he had finished. "It is about the movement of kangaroos," he said.

Earlier this year, Sylvester won the Grand Prize Art competition in Tamworth, run by Joblink Plus.

"It was called Goanna Dreaming," he said.

I recently saw Sylvester at a community event in Townsville and he had



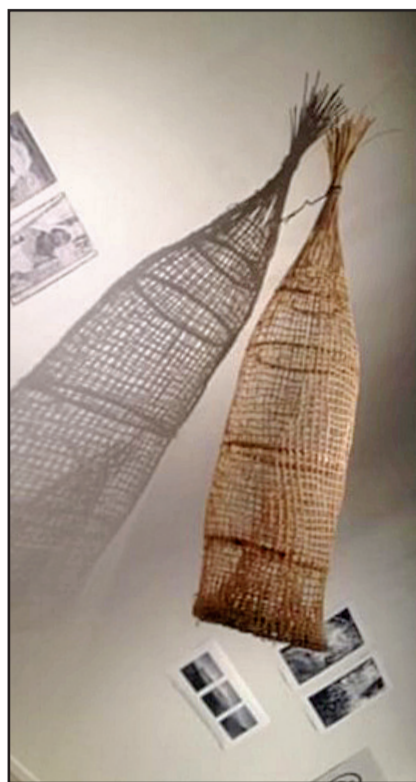
Sylvester Cook with his art.

pictures on his mobile phone of his work.

"Everybody I showed them to loved them," he said.

Sylvester goes on to say, "My personal experience when doing my art is having a cultural connection to land. This can be seen through my paintings of native animals as they also have a spiritual connection to my Country. Within my collection of Aboriginal art are Aboriginal men, I call them my warriors and survivors of this land. I like to paint with acrylic on canvas and board and have been venturing out onto surfboards and engraving. I also have an interest in designing art for family totems, and it's a personal preference as it comes from the heart and soul," he said.

In his heyday, Sylvester was a top rugby league hooker who played his footy



Sylvester's fish traps.

career for Narwan Eels Rugby League Club.

Sylvester also played for other rugby teams throughout NSW, such as South Lismore, Moree Boomerangs and Denman Devils.

"I also started playing rugby league back in 1977 for the Armidale juniors. I commenced my footy in the Koori Knockout with Armidale All Blacks, which is now the legendary Narwan eels," he said.

Sylvester will stay in Townsville for a few more weeks before returning to Moree/Gold Coast, where he will continue with his artwork.

Sylvester said he was "able to give back to community through painting murals, community workshops and exhibitions".



Art on Bundjalung is a market of work by artists who call Bundjalung Country home.

Bundjalung art market: bigger and blaker



THIS year's Art on Bundjalung promises to be bigger and blaker than ever, taking place on the river foreshore in

Dirruwung/Evans Head this

November. Dirruwung, meaning goanna, is the name given to this place by Bundjalung ancestors and is the gathering ground for this year's event.

Since the inaugural market in 2019, Art on Bundjalung has grown in size and reputation, drawing Mob and community from all over the region to yarn, celebrate our creatives, participate in culture and ceremony, and enjoy food together.

This year will be the biggest so far, with over 30 stalls of emerging and established creatives that call Bundjalung Country home, showcasing artworks, prints, ceramics and carvings, textiles and homewares, artefacts, and woven works for purchase. Artists include Dreaming of Country, JPK Artistry, Milbi Designs, Jaana Bulaan, Michael Philip Art, Minnie & Ponnice Creations, Kay Lee Williams, and Art with Nunj.

Drop into cultural workshops hosted by Casino Wake Up Time and Aunty Simone Barker for learning and connecting, grab a feed from the market BBQ, and spread out a mat on the grass to enjoy the cultural program, featuring a stellar line-up, including homegrown Bundjalung talent Mr Rhodes, Gumbaynggirr and Barkindji singer-songwriter Manduway, and rising star ANGEL WHITE. Fashion by leading Bundjalung designers and artists from ANR's textile and design program, Wandjaarii Maalii, will be presented throughout the day and travelling down the coast to the Art on Bundjalung sand circle are Kinship Doobai Dancers and Biren Cultural Group.

Art on Bundjalung 2024 is First Nations-led and first seeded by proud Bundjalung woman Sarah Bolt in her role at Arts Northern Rivers (ANR), in consultation with the Bundjalung community. The event is designed and delivered by ANR First Nations program coordinator Paris Mordecai and Indigenous arts officer Bindimu Currie, together with community, local custodians and the wider ANR team. This year, Art on Bundjalung is proud to be working with Aunty Simone Barker, Traditional Owner, knowledge holder and custodian for the Bundjalung people, in guiding the development of the event for Dirruwung/Evans Head.

"For Art on Bundjalung to come to Bundjalung Country, to Dirruwung, is so fantastic for our community and our artists. We are thrilled to host the market this year," Aunty Simone said.

Exclusive merchandise featuring a design based on an artwork created by Aunty Simone exploring the connection of Bundjalung peoples to Dirruwung will be available for purchase at the event, with all proceeds going to support future markets.

Art on Bundjalung is on Saturday November 16, from 9am to 3pm at Cribb Reserve, Dirruwung/Evans Head. For information visit artonbundjalung.com/

Blak music is alive



BLAKTIVISM returns to Arts Centre Melbourne for the fourth year, bringing together a strong line-up of deadly

First Nations musicians and artists in a celebration of Blak cultures and activism.

Presented by Gaba Musik as part of ALWAYS LIVE, Blaktivism is a platform for reconnecting ancient songs and celebrating continuing culture across the region in a powerful one-night-only special event.

This year's concert will open with a very special performance by the Kulin Nation Songwomen, whose voices will call out in tribute to their matriarchal ancestors.

Proud Yolngu hip-hop artist Baker Boy is the headline act on the music programming for the night. Having captivated the Australian music scene with his infectious hip-hop and deep cultural roots, the 2017 Triple J Unearthed National Indigenous Music Awards (NIMAs) winner is now one of the nation's most electric performers.

Baker Boy will be supported by co-founder of legendary rock band No Fixed Address, Bart Willoughby, renowned Yolngu artist Yirmal, jazz singer Deline Briscoe, rapper Tasman Keith and vocal trio Suga Cane Mamas in a collaborative set. Lending their voices to what is already an extraordinary blend of timbre and tonality, Yung Warriors, Selwyn Burns, Uncle Robbie Thorpe, Brothers in Arms, and Sprigga Mek (PNG) will join the galvanised chorus of an unstoppable movement.

'Holding Koorie Space' is this year's Blaktivism theme, paying tribute to First Nations individuals, families and communities who have fought to retain their Country, culture and voice over the years. Blaktivism is a salute to the bravery of these pioneers, keeping their stories alive through song, ceremony, visual art, dance and creative collaboration.

Blaktivism is on at the Hamer Hall on Friday, November 22, from 7pm. For information and bookings, visit alwayslive.com.au/program/blaktivism



Yolngu hip-hop artist Baker Boy.



Wurundjeri Traditional Custodian Mandy Nicholson is a member of the Kulin Nation Songwomen. Picture: Tiffany Garvie (Gunggari)

ALWAYS LIVE is a celebration of contemporary live music held across Victoria over 17 days. From iconic music venues to picturesque locations throughout the region, the curated program showcases the very best of live contemporary music.

Check the program for dates and venues to see artists, including all-women band from Maningrida, Ripple Effect Band with Amos Roach; father-son Noongar Wongi hip-hop MC duo Flewnt and Inkabee; Kait, Tasman Keith, Deline Briscoe, and Kee'ahn; as well as performances of song, dance and ceremony.

Visit alwayslive.com.au/

Parklea exhibition gives artists a vision for future



An exhibition of artworks by Parklea inmates is showing at St Vincent's Hospital in Darlinghurst, Sydney, following the success of their 2023 debut show.

The exhibition, which opened on September 19, features 32 artworks by 17 inmates with a range of skills and cultural backgrounds, including 11 who are Indigenous.

The exhibition was put together by St Vincent's art curator, Alice McAuliffe, and Parklea's Cultural Adviser, Maryam Suren, with frames for the paintings made by inmates in the cabinet shop under the supervision of overseers Guy Blinman and Mark Ward.

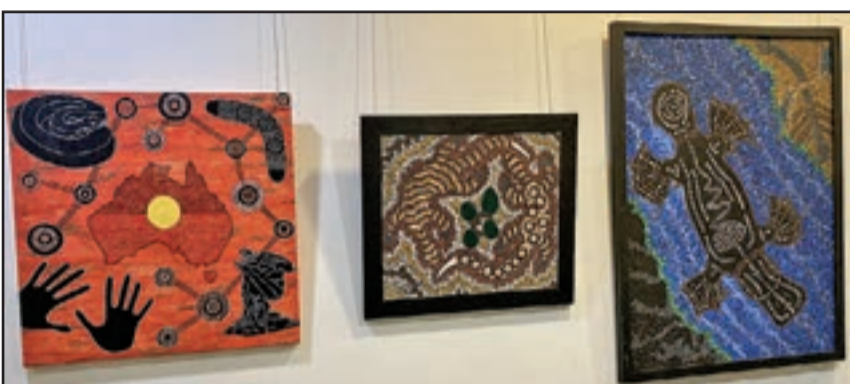
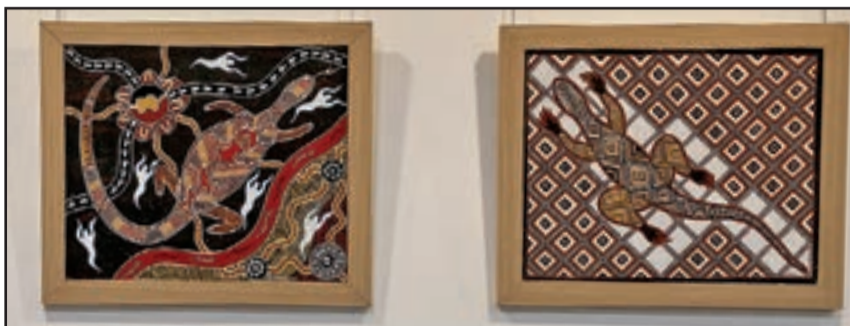
Parklea governor Wayne Taylor said the programs behind the exhibition were important for inmates' mental health and well-being and integral to the prison's education and reducing reoffending strategies.

"We know from the feedback we get from the men who participate in art programs that it has a positive effect on their mental health and provides an outlet for them to express their feelings and creativity.

"It also gives them a sense of pride and improves their self-esteem and for Indigenous inmates it gives them a practical way to connect to their culture.

"This fantastic partnership with St Vincent's enables inmates to showcase their talents in a public forum and will hopefully encourage them to continue with their art once they are released from prison," governor Taylor said.

St Vincent's has been providing care and ministry to inmates for almost 200 years, after five Sisters of Charity sailed



Artworks by Parklea prison inmates are showing at an exhibition at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney (above and right).

from Dublin in 1839, specifically to work with prisoners in the new colony.

Canvas Of Hope: Artworks and stories of inmates inside Parklea Correctional Centre is showing until November 19 in the foyer of the Xavier Building, St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst. Artworks are for sale and inmates receive the majority of the proceeds, which will help them establish a new life when they leave prison.



Vanessa tells her story for change



AT just ten years old, Vanessa Turnbull-Roberts was forcibly removed – stolen – from her family, community and kinship systems. After eight years in various out-of-home care placements, Vanessa fled the system, reconnected with kin and returned to Country for the very first time. Only then did she begin to heal.

Out this month, *Long Yarn Short* is the much-anticipated memoir from proud Bundjalung Widubul-Wiabul woman Vanessa Turnbull Roberts.

In this book, Vanessa embarks on an extraordinary work of truth-telling, exposing the ongoing violence visited on Black children, their families and their communities by the systems that claim to protect them. As a survivor of out-of-home care, a practising lawyer fighting for the freedom of others and now also a mother herself, she takes an unflinching look at the heartache and trauma caused by racist family policing, the shameful rates of child removals and the steady pipeline of First Nations children into the criminal justice system.

As a leading expert in children and young people's rights, Vanessa invites readers to imagine solutions for a better world – a world of support and empowerment, not punishment – and demands that they listen when she says, "We are still here".

Long Yarn Short is published by UQP and is available at good bookshops and online at <https://www.uqp.com.au/books/long-yarn-short>



Blak Douglas seeks truth



BEFORE winning the coveted Archibald Prize in 2022, Dhungatti artist Blak Douglas collaborated with filmmakers to document the preparation of his most emotionally charged work, a portrait of his Indigenous grandmother, revealed at the National Gallery of Australia's *Indigenous Art Triennial: Defying Empire*.

Blak Douglas invites us into his painting studio in the back streets of Redfern, sharing intimate moments of an artist at work and glimpses into his exploration of creativity. With unflinching directness and courage, he discusses his experience growing up having to prove his Aboriginality to forge his identity as a working artist, attempting to reconcile with the intergenerational trauma he witnessed directly in his father and which he personally confronts.

As he prepares paint and canvas, he pores over archival records and family photographs in the search for context and meaning. His compelling narrative transcends the canvas and becomes a catalyst for mining deeper into the past.

At the film's heart we bear witness to the searingly personal revelations Blak Douglas shares about his family history. A painful truth unfolds – his grandmother, torn from her family as a child, was taken away by the Aboriginal Protection Board and forced into servitude. He traces her life back to the haunting rooms of the Cootamundra Girls Home, a lonely property where she was stripped of her name, language, family and culture and moulded into a "domestic". We witness the emotional gravity of this place and the effect it has on Blak Douglas as he comments on the decay and the refusal of those who choose not to acknowledge the



Blak Douglas vs The Commonwealth is an honest documentation of the Dhungatti artist's efforts to trace his grandmother's story, towards making her portrait.

devastating impacts of colonisation.

Deep in the belly of the State Archives, Blak Douglas later unearths the harrowing machinations of a system that deliberately imploded his family and culture in the chilling entries of archival ledgers and registers. With unswerving candour, he reads aloud the fate of his grandmother and her siblings revealed in the indifferent scrawl of historical meeting minutes.

Blak Douglas tells his story, his way, sharing every step of the process with every brushstroke and artistic choice weaving the past into his inimitable style, while negotiating a complex array of emotions that both inform and motivate him. In the studio we witness his powerful resilience as art and identity converge to consolidate his experience into potent commentary on Australian culture with a sense of irony and humour, in works that will become iconic – *Domestic Violets*, *The Lucky Country* and *The Really Bins*.

His work is transported from the back streets of Redfern to the most prestigious art gallery in the land, the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra, to debut as part of a glittering celebration to mark the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum alongside Australia's most important Indigenous artists.

Blak Douglas vs The Commonwealth is a gripping testament to the spirit and transformative power of Blak Douglas' iconic art to heal and address the injustices of the past.

His reflections are powerful, brutally honest and disarming, establishing him as one of the most vital and authentic voices in the Australian arts landscape.

Blak Douglas vs The Commonwealth is showing at the Byron Bay Film Festival Lennox Head Cultural Centre, 3pm Sunday, October 27. For bookings, visit bbff.com.au/blak-douglas-vs-the-commonwealth





Aitkenvale State School, *Our Story* (front detail) 2023. Mixed media. Pictures: Greg Hamblin



Aitkenvale State School, *Yama's Dreaming* (back detail) 2023. Mixed media.



Heatley Secondary College, *New Skin* (front detail) 2023. Mixed media. Picture: Photography Students – Townsville Creative Technologies College.

Young Mob make art to be seen in



PEOPLE, Culture & Country 2024 is an exhibition of collaboratively crafted wearable artworks by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary and secondary school students from across the North Queensland region, showing in Townsville next month.

Now in its seventh iteration, *People, Culture and Country* showcases the vibrant creations developed by the students over several months as part of a project providing support, collaboration and mentorship from teachers, artists,

Elders and Traditional Custodians. Throughout the project, the artists and mentors share cultural knowledge and skills, encouraging the students to develop their designs within the context of current themes affecting their world. The students deepen their understanding of culture, traditions and histories while growing their confidence and identity.

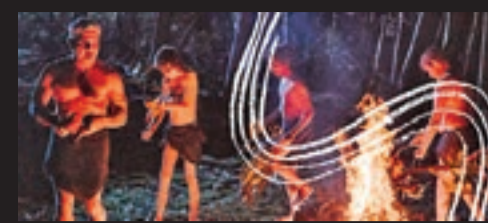
The final exhibition is an opportunity to foster understanding, respect, and cultural appreciation within the broader community.

People, Culture & Country 2024 is showing as part of a powerful exploration of identity, culture, and history, running

alongside Filipino Australian artist Ben Tupas' *Mindanao Story Cycle*, a captivating trilogy of video works that delve into Tupas' personal and cultural journey.

A discussion about *People, Culture & Country 2024: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Project* and the artworks on display will be held with key contributors to the project at Umbrella Arts on Saturday, November 16.

Both exhibitions are showing at Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville from November 1 until December 15. For more information, visit umbrella.org.au/pcc-2024/



Bedtime Stories shares stories of culture from around the continent from October 28 to November 1.

Culture shared in a week of bedtime stories



FIRST Nations not-for-profit collective Common Ground is celebrating five years of *First Nations Bedtime Stories*, an annual week of storytelling shared online that brings Dreaming stories as old as time

into homes and classrooms around Australia.

It's a unique project that engages closely with knowledge holders from communities around the country to capture and share traditional stories, highlighting the importance of story for First Nations' ways of thinking, being and knowing.

Each story is carefully crafted and recorded to be shared online across a week.

Common Ground also works with teachers to develop educational resources to accompany the stories, helping with understanding meaning in each story and strengthening knowledge of First Nations cultures, knowledge and perspectives.

This year, to celebrate the project's success, stories from across the five years from Noongar, Wiradjuri, Nyikina, Warlpiri and Luritja Nations will be shared online over five days, from October 28 to November 1.

To find out more about *First Nations Bedtime Stories* or to sign up to join in on the week of discovery through story, visit firstnationsbedtimestories.com/

Call for truth close to home

With the Queensland Government election on October 26, I think of the day in Gimuy/Cairns, Queensland, when Treaty legislation and a pathway towards Truth-Telling was codified and became law before my eyes in 2023. I think of the enduring and exhaustive (and exhausting) efforts of our old people to bring us to this moment in history. I think of my grandmother and Mapoon.

My grandmother, Jean Aileen Little OAM (formerly married as 'Jean Jans', nee Ling of the King family from the Gulf of Carpentaria—daughter of Amy King), was a nurse, drugs and alcohol rehabilitation specialist, and land rights and health services pioneer from Mapoon, Cape York Peninsula. She was also the Peanut Princess for the Queensland Peanut Board... for anybody who remembers *Woman's Day* magazine from the late 1960s. She is still alive but aged, and she is now a grand dame with advancing dementia — though still imbued with all her native charm, charisma and kindness. She was the first female and First Nations CEO (acting) of Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council (her cousin, Aileen Addo, would

opinion



Jack Wilkie-Jans

become the Shire's first female mayor from 2016 to 2024). Grandma still thinks she has important meetings to go to. To her, her job isn't finished yet.

As we know, in Queensland, Treaty is also not finished yet... It's barely begun, in fact. And already, there are political overtures (by people who should know better, in spite of themselves) to rescind Treaty and Truth-Telling. But even as the state began to turn in this momentous legislative direction, one travesty has never been brought to the revealing light of the public gaze nor to the floor of Parliament in Queensland, in spite of decades of First Nations' allyship grandstanding from both sides of the House: the Burning of Mapoon. The Burning of Mapoon was an



Jean Aileen Little OAM built her Mapoon home down the road from the one in which she was born and which was razed during the Burning of Mapoon.

attempt to displace us for the sake of bauxite mining expansion—in 1963 under the direction of the state's Chief Protector of Aboriginals, Pat Killoran, and the Nicklin government.

My great-grandmother, Amy—also known to me as Sissy Amy—was stolen as a child from Borroloola in the Gulf of Carpentaria and forcibly taken to Mapoon (which was a mission at the time). She had a number of brothers; one went to 'Mitchell River Mission' (Kowanyama) and two to Aurukun (Denny and Eric).

Grandad Denny Bowenda became the chair of the community and a major Wik land-rights proponent. It was he and grandad Eric who gave me my tribal name, which I share with grandad Eric. Sissy Amy stayed in Mapoon, where she grew up and raised her children. However, her family back home were tenacious, we've heard stories of them faring the Gulf and visiting her at the Mapoon Mission via traditional dug-out canoes. As historic Traditional Owners, we have since grown up in and around

Mapoon and call it home. We are now Teppathiggi and Tjungundji. But, we are always also Waanji.

After the burning — which was rumoured to have been observed by Pat Killoran aboard a yacht he had chartered — the community were dispersed to other 'missions' across the Northern Peninsula Area (e.g. New Mapoon) as well as to Waiben/Thursday Island. Waiben is where my grandmother came of age before venturing on to a career in nursing in Meanjin/Brisbane and then to Naarm/Melbourne in the 1960s and 70s.

Our Ling family moved then to Silkwood and Innisfail (south of Gimuy/Cairns) ahead of returning to Mapoon where we've been steadfastly for a number of decades.

There were great efforts by community Elders to return to Mapoon and reclaim homelands.

Since the centenary celebrations of Mapoon in 1991, the township has an annual gathering with the Paanja Festival, and in 2005, Mapoon Shire Council was officially established as a local government—a 'mission' no more.

In the 1990s, grandma Jean built her Mapoon home

down the road from the one in which she was born and which was razed in the burning.

The charred stumps are all that's left of the house. We now consider them sacred, as they remind us of our roots and our history there. Grandma named her home (a simple and lovely makeshift beach batch) 'Waanji Away' in honour of her mother and her old peoples. To this day, Mapoon still hasn't received an official Parliamentary Apology from the Queensland government. For shame, I say.

I'm no doe-eyed idealist. I know an apology will have varied and mostly intangible outcomes, but it would be a first step towards keeping the case for Treaty and Truth-Telling as a meaningful approach to our future — shining a light on the true histories we all now share (black and white) from and across Cape York Peninsula. An apology for the Burning certainly won't change what successes we've made for ourselves — though, I can't help but think about how many Jean Littles, Aileen Addos or Royston Sagigi-Baira Noells (*Australian Idol* winner) we could have had before had we been acknowledged our dues earlier on.

event listings

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mariw Minaral: Alick Tipoti (exhibition presented as part of the 2024 Indian Ocean Craft Triennial) **when:** until Oct 26 **where:** Wanneroo Regional Gallery, Wanneroo Library and Cultural Centre, Wanneroo, Perth **info/bookings:** follow the links at wanneroo.wa.gov.au/wanneroogallery

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

Black Medea (WAAPA's 2024 Aboriginal Performance, written by Wesley Enoch after Euripides) **when:** Nov 7-13 **where:** Enright Studio, Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), Mount Lawley **info/bookings:** waapa.edu.au/performances-and-events/performances/2024/2024-performance

Walking through a Songline (Pop-up digital experience based on part of the National Museum of Australia's exhibition *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters*.) **when:** Nov 13 - Feb 1, 2025 **where:** Wanneroo Regional Gallery, Wanneroo, Perth **info/bookings:** wanneroo.wa.gov.au/wanneroogallery

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

Major show at Bundanon



BAGAN Bariwariganya: echoes of country, an exhibition of new works created by Walbunja/Ngarigo artist Aunty Cheryl Davison, Gweagal/Wandiwandian artist Aunty Julie Freeman, and Wiradyuri/Kamilaroi artist Jonathan Jones, opens at Bundanon on the NSW South Coast, November 2, running until February 9, 2025.

Bundanon guest curator, Jonathan Jones, is a member of the Wiradyuri and Kamilaroi peoples of southeast Australia and is well known for his evocative site-specific installations and interventions into space.

Working across a range of mediums, his work explores and interrogates cultural and historical relationships and ideas from

Indigenous perspectives and traditions. For *Bagan Bariwariganya: echoes of country*, Jones has invited Aunty Cheryl Davison, two significant senior artists and storytellers from the southeast whom he has known for many years, to collaborate on this



Walbunja/Ngarigo artist Aunty Cheryl Davison, Gweagal/Wandiwandian artist Aunty Julie Freeman, and Wiradyuri/Kamilaroi artist Jonathan Jones.

major new project. Both artists' families are deeply rooted in the NSW South Coast with Aunty Julie Freeman having connections from La Perouse to Wreck Bay and Aunty Cheryl from Wallaga Lake to La Perouse. Collectively, their work upholds and maintains Aboriginal values and kinships by celebrating local stories and culture.

This major collaboration between the renowned First Nations artists will feature large-scale installations, a 75-metre-long mural and new paintings, as well as significant cultural objects. The season will also include drawings by 19th-century artist Mickey of Ulladulla. Loaned from key collections across Australia, these works provide a historical anchor to the season.

To mark the opening of this new exhibition season, Bundanon will present a full weekend of celebrations, weaving and printmaking workshops, song and campfire yarns, with free admission Saturday and Sunday, November 2-3. For information visit bundanon.com.au/



Drawing by artist Mickey of Ulladulla c.1888. National Gallery of Australia (owned).

Australia, Acton Peninsula, Canberra **info/bookings:** nma.gov.au/exhibitions/belonging

where: Moonah Arts Centre, Hobart **info/bookings:** womensartprizetas.com.au/

Sydney **info/bookings:** amesyavuz.com/exhibitions/urban-rite/

artist Kait James, curated by Aaron Bradbrook **when:** until Feb 23, 2025 **where:** Warrnambool Art Gallery, Warrnambool **info/bookings:** thewag.com.au/exhibition/red-flags

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/

Pakana Textiles and Upcycling by Rina Designs (artist Bonnie Starick) **when:** until Nov 2 **where:** Sawtooth ARI gallery, Invermay, Launceston **info/bookings:** sawtoothari.com/current-exhibitions

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/

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

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Single Channel touring exhibition of moving image artworks from the NGA collection (from 2000 to 2019) by artists including Tony Albert and a collaboration by Destiny Deacon and Virginia Fraser. **when:** until Jan 24, 2025 **where:** Walkway Gallery, Bordertown **info/bookings:** nga.gov.au/exhibitions/single-channel/

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

Art on Bundjalung (art and craft market) **when:** from 9am, Sat, Nov 16 **where:** Cribb Reserve, Dirruwung/Evans Head **info/bookings:** artonbundjalung.com

Touring Exhibition: Layers of Blak (contemporary jewellery) **when:** until Dec 8 **where:** Bendigo Art Gallery **info/bookings:** korieheritagetrust.com.au/whats-on/exhibitions/layers-of-blak/

Kulata Tjuta: Tirkilpa (exhibition) **when:** Nov 23 - Jul 13, 2025 **where:** Level 1, Gallery 15, National Gallery of Australia **info/bookings:** nga.gov.au/whats-on/

NEW SOUTH WALES **Blak Douglas vs the Commonwealth** (Byron Bay Film Festival) **when:** Sunday, Oct 27 **where:** Lennox Head Cultural Centre, Lennox Head **info/bookings:** bbff.com.au/blak-douglas-vs-the-commonwealth

Miss Kaninna: Dawg in Me Tour **when:** Nov 30 **where:** The Lansdowne Hotel, Sydney **info/bookings:** misskaninna.com/

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/

VICTORIA

Arterial by Na Djinang Circus (performance) **where/when:** Wodonga, Nov 15; Bendigo, Nov 21-22; Geelong, Nov 29-30; Healesville, Dec 7 **info/bookings:** nadjinang.com.au/calendar

Baker Boy headlining Blaktivism **when:** Nov 22 **where:** Hamer Hall, Southbank, Melbourne **info/bookings:** bakerboyofficial.com/

TASMANIA

Apologue Isle: A Cacophony of Yarns **when:** until Nov 29 **where:** Contemporary Arts Tasmania(CAT), North Hobart **info/bookings:** contemporaryarttasmania.org/programs/apologue-isle/

Keep the Fire Burning (exhibition) **when:** Thu - Sun 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

Retrospective: The Art of Reko Rennie **when:** until Jan 27, 2025 **where:** The Ian Potter Centre, NGV Australia, Fed Square **info/bookings:** ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/reko-rennie/

NORTHERN TERRITORY **Two Girls From Amoonguna** (exhibition) **when:** Nov 2 - Jan 27, 2025 **where:** Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs **info/bookings:** araluenartscentre.nt.gov.au/w

2024 Women's Art Prize Tasmania **when:** Oct 18 - Nov 9

Reko Rennie: Urban Rite **when:** until November 9 **where:** Ames Yavuz Gallery, Commonwealth Street,

Red Flags (exhibition by Wadawurrung

hats-on/two-girls-amoonguna

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

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

(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

Janjari by Dr Fiona Foley **when:** until Nov 23 **where:** Court House Gallery, Cairns **info/bookings:** cairns.qld.gov.au/experience-cairns/arts-and-culture/arts-venues/court-house-gallery

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

Thelma Plum on tour **NSW:** Newcastle, Oct 24; Thirroul, Oct 25 and Sydney, Oct 26

SA: Adelaide, Nov 1 Miss Kaninna supporting

WA: Fremantle, Nov 2 Miss Kaninna supporting

VIC: Melbourne, Nov 7 & 8

TAS: Hobart, Nov 9

QLD: Gold Coast, Nov 14; Toowoomba, Nov 15; Brisbane, Nov 16

info/bookings for all states and venues: themaplum.com/shows

Waru - journey of the small turtle

Bangarra dance **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:** bangarra.com.au

Employment

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Public artwork on a tilt

BY CATHERINE HUNT



PUBLIC art is increasingly being seen and sought in cityscapes. As our living spaces evolve, councils are embracing public art as an opportunity to strengthen community identity and create civic legacies, giving local people a continuing connection to the community.

Art in the urban environment is something that seemingly happens around us; artworks appear as if by magic. But it's not magic. From concept to completion, public art projects require coordination and management on many levels, from complying with regulations to sourcing appropriate materials to community engagement. It requires, by necessity, a collaborative approach. It's a lot for artists, who tend to operate independently, to take on.

First Nations artist Shay Tobin has worked on public art projects for many years and knows the challenges all too well.

"With these large-scale projects, which carry on for many years, through many hands, what happens to the artist's original concept – when it gets filtered through the industrial designers, the engineering, the budget and other restrictions – it can end up as something that is far from the original intention," Shay told the *Koori Mail*.

If it makes it to completion at all. Many projects struggle, are held up and ultimately fail because of the complexity and scale of the endeavour.

Award-winning industrial design enterprise Tilt Industrial Design is working to bridge the gap.

Working nationally, Tilt's multi-disciplinary team of specialised designers and engineers work in collaboration with artists and clients to support public art projects to completion.

At the heart of Tilt's process is a genuine curiosity to learn and develop a deep understanding of the artist's concept and practice.

The team from Tilt worked closely with First Nations artists Shay Tobin and Djon Mundine

Designs on Dharug Country

It's the end of Dugara Guwara, one of six seasons in the Dharug seasonal calendar that is at the centre of a new public art project in Western Sydney.

Open throughout the year, Gabrugal Yana, or the walk of the Gabru, is an 11km trail passing through the native bushland of Western Sydney Parklands on Dharug Country.

The trail, created by Dharug artists Djon Mundine and Shay Tobin in collaboration with local Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, is distinguished by a series of naturally standing marker trees, with accompanying wayfinding and signage in the Dharug language.

Shay tells the *Koori Mail* that the project was conceived over time, starting with a gathering of different cultural communities, artists, Elders and others from all around Western Sydney, who stayed on the bushland site – in tents – for around ten days sharing knowledge and generating ideas. There weren't even tracks in the bush at that time.

"One thing that was grounding was the dead marker trees, they were really, already monuments in themselves.

"The arborescent trees looked like artworks already," Shay said.

And so the trees became the canvas. Using a combination of artistic applications including carving, painting, handmade ceramics, and cast bronze objects, the artists created and applied designs to six of the monumental trees, representing the six seasons of the Dharug calendar and depicting the weather, plants and animals that are prevalent during those seasons.

"Each tree depicts one seasonal change: with seasonal change comes the indicator plants and animals, and so each tree had one of the indicators as its theme. You can see that now as you go around the parklands and look at the trees," Shay said.



Gabrugal Yana, Western Sydney Parklands, Dharug Country.



Dharug artist Shay Tobin.

Shay says he hopes that visitors to the parkland will experience the striking, monumental impact of the trees, as the artists did when they first encountered the landscape. And that the story of the seasons, which feature as a theme in much of his recent work, the interconnection of plants and animals represented by the indicator designs, will inform visitors about biodiversity and the Dharug connections between people, culture and Country.

"We are talking about noticing the reality of the ecosystems and environments we live with," he said. "It's an education about the Country on which we live."

OAM, along with other artisans, to develop a unique series of artwork installations on trees at the newly opened 'Gabrugal Yana' bushwalk in Western Sydney Parklands.

Shay says that guidance and support from Tilt helped to realise

the project in very practical ways.

He said they asked important, precise questions and bridged knowledge gaps in terms of materials and design approaches, pushing the project through difficult moments.

Drilling down into the detail of

the project, Tilt team members helped refine the many ideas and concepts that were starting to grow out of control, Shay says, "the scale was just too big".

"I was feeling a bit lost on the project at that stage. The ideas, and the distance between

visualising it and realising it, seemed so big.

"Tilt was able to sit with me and ask direct and concise questions about my sketches, bringing me back to the concept," Shay said.

Tilt also opened up new options as far as materials. Shay was particularly excited to have the opportunity to work with the ancient material, bronze, a material that is not readily accessible.

"Usually bronze is reserved for figures from 'high society', so I thought it was such an interesting opportunity to be able to use that material for an Indigenous artwork," Shay said.

With support from Tilt, Shay was freed up to focus on the creative process, and to think about the underlying implications of the work he was doing.

"One of the difficult truths of being a Dharug artist in Western Sydney is seeing the natural environment completely annihilated in front of your eyes and then being asked to be part of it," he said.

Tilt's artist-first approach gave Shay the space and the freedom to reflect on what it means, as an Indigenous person, to create art in the public space, on land and Country that has been stolen, and what the wider expectations for that are.

"As a Dharug person, you're supposed to be a custodian of the land. How do you interact with the massive machine that is unlistening and unstoppable? That's been a big thing to deal with. We didn't agree with the development.

"It's abhorrent that it's happening. But with that, you need to remember the artmaking process, and the reasons you want to make the art."

For Shay, making public art "educates about the land, Country, and it tells about the contemporary story of Indigenous culture as well as referring to what was here, which is traditional culture.

"As a Dharug person, it's hard to watch and hard to be part of, but also necessary to be part of," he said.

"Coming to understand that is big."

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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Privacy Policy: Budsoar Pty Ltd collects your personal information to assist us in providing the goods or services you have requested, to process your

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who provide prizes for competitions or reader offers. If you would prefer that we do not do this, please write to us at: admin@koorimail.com or phone (02) 66 222 666, or fax (02) 66 222 600. Mail can be sent addressed to General Manager, Budsoar Pty Ltd, PO Box 117, Lismore NSW 2480.

Aboriginal Field Officers

This is an exciting opportunity for 2 Aboriginal Field Officers to join the Parks and Wildlife Service in the stunning location of St Helens on Tasmania's North-East Coast. The positions are offered on a permanent basis.

In this role you will use your practical skills to plan and undertake minor construction works, maintain infrastructure and facilities for the conservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources, including the management and appreciation of Aboriginal heritage values on reserved land.

If you would like to apply your trade skills and work in the great outdoors, please apply via www.jobs.tas.gov.au.



Applications close 30/10/2024 at 11.55pm (AEDT).

For further information, please contact Donna Stanley, Regional Manager North on 0428 151 918.

Applications Invited

Early Childhood Coordination Targeted Communities

Organisations are invited to apply to establish and deliver early childhood coordination in:

- Aurukun
- Kowanyama
- Cherbourg
- Mapoon
- Napranum (via Weipa)
- Woorabinda
- Lockhart River

The initiative will provide practical assistance to support children and families experiencing vulnerability to successfully transition from home to early childhood settings, and on to school. The service will promote children's development, family and child wellbeing, and a sense of belonging as the child takes part in their community.

\$155,000 per annum, per location, is available until 30 June 2026 to provide early childhood coordination services to support successful transitions for children.

Final date for applications: 15 November 2024

Please refer to the Department of Education's website for full details: <https://earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/grants-and-funding>



mackillop.org.au

Cultural Development and Training Lead

(Identified Role)

The Cultural Development and Training Lead will support and contribute to the production, allocation and delivery of learning outcomes with a focus of cultural awareness and competencies. The role is to facilitate, develop, and deliver training sessions, workshops and refreshers.

Benefits

- Active Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)
- Aboriginal Recruitment, Retention & Professional Development Strategy
- Salary packaging
- Employee Assistance Program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Aboriginal and LGBTQIA+ Communities of Practice
- Membership of Ngindaay Guumaldanha - Aboriginal Staff Network



How to apply

If this sounds like you, please scan the QR code or visit our career website, www.mackillop.org.au/positions-available.

For more information contact Jose De La Garna, Training & Development Manager josedelagarna@mackillop.org.au

We believe that cultural safety is everyone's business. Aboriginal people can feel isolated in non-Aboriginal organisations and MacKillop is committed to creating a culturally safe and inclusive workplace, where all workers feel comfortable, supported and respected.

This is a special measure under the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 Section 17 and Section 89 for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander applicants only.

Business Trainee Position

This First Nations identified position will offer the opportunity for learning and development while building confidence in a career with the Mornington Peninsula Shire.



12-months full-time paid work whilst studying



Nationally recognised Certificate IV qualification from TAFE VIC



Practical workplace experience you can take anywhere



Get experience in the growing industry of local council

Apply before Sunday 10 November. Find out more: mormpen.vic.gov.au/traineeoprogram

Work. Learn. Grow. Traineeship Program



Project Manager

- This is an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander targeted position. Preference will be given to applicants of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent.
- The City of Sydney currently holds an exemption under section 126 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 in relation to its targeted recruiting programs. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants will need to demonstrate that they meet the Aboriginality criteria by providing documentation in addition to addressing the selection criteria.
- Permanent full-time position
- Salary: \$124,111 – \$141,051 a year plus superannuation
- Location: Sydney city centre
- 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.

Help us coordinate our economic development strategy with a focus on building capacity and inclusive outcomes for local communities.

You'll be responsible for designing, producing and evaluating economic programs, services, and projects that support priority sectors and places, strengthen local and global connections, and enhance Sydney's economic opportunities and global city reputation in line with Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 directions and targets.

We're looking for someone with:

- tertiary qualifications at a degree level in economics, business, international relations, placemaking, project management, urban planning or a related discipline or equivalent experience
- proven experience working with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander businesses and community-controlled organisations
- strong networks in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations and businesses, local business, industry sectors, international education, hospitality, tech and innovation ecosystems, social enterprises or government and non-government organisations.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander candidates who need support with their application can contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce team on 0474 882 300 or by email at aboriginalworkforce@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

For more information, contact City business manager Kels Bagust, on 0431 830 424 or 02 9265 9333.

To apply visit cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/careers

Apply online by 11.59pm, Wednesday 6 November



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Principal Communications and Engagement Officer - Identified

People and Culture; Corporate

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Salary: \$127,842 to \$136,895 p.a.

Location: Cairns (preferred), negotiable

REF: QLD/597127/24

Key Duties: As the Principal Communications and Engagement Officer, you will:

- work collaboratively with internal and external partners and stakeholders in leading and supporting departmental initiatives
- develop and implement a departmental First Nations Communications and Engagement Strategy, that includes Treaty and Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry elements and the First Nations Futures program of work
- develop, implement and contribute to the communication and engagement, as well as change management components of the First Nations Futures program of work.

Skills/Abilities: What we are looking for (qualifications, registrations, experience) There are some attributes and experience we see as desirable to this role:

- knowledge and/or experience of the Queensland Government's Path to Treaty commitment, including the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry (Inquiry)
- knowledge and understanding of the impacts of colonisation of Queensland's first peoples to lead the department's responses to the Inquiry and Treaty preparedness
- the ability to navigate ambiguity, influence change, and deliver outcomes, especially when faced with obstacles
- analytical, conceptual, and problem-solving skills and the ability to translate this into practical advice and action.

Enquiries: Louise Hunter on Ph: 0436 698 778

Candidates apply for your job on:

<https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au> using the reference number above.

Closing Date: Wednesday, 30 October 2024



Manager First Nations Investment Programs (Identified)

We're thrilled to announce an opportunity to join the Investment and Development team in the First Nations Arts and Culture division. Reporting to the Director First Nations Investment and Development, you will harness your cultural expertise, professional networks, and program management skills to manage the procurement, development and delivery of investment programs aligned to First Nations strategic priorities

For more information, please visit our careers page at <https://creative.gov.au/about-us/careers/>

Applications close on 3 November 2024 at 11pm.



Manager First Nations Development Programs (Identified)

We're thrilled to announce a second opportunity to join the Investment and Development team in the First Nations Arts and Culture division. In this role, you will be at the forefront of shaping development programs that will fuel growth, heighten digital literacy and innovation, and empower First Nations peoples. Your deep understanding of First Nations culture and sensitivity to the cultural needs of Indigenous communities will be invaluable as you collaborate with a diverse range of stakeholders to bring these programs to life.

For more information, please visit our careers page at <https://creative.gov.au/about-us/careers/>

Applications close on 3 November 2024 at 11pm.



Jobs for Mob!

An exciting opportunity exists for an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Clinical Assistant/Allied Health Assistant.

We have two positions available, the permanent position will be based in the inpatient rehabilitation service and the temporary position will be based in the acute wards of Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

These roles will provide therapeutic management to patients with a wide range of diagnoses and will be a highly functioning member of the Allied Health teams for these wards by providing clinical support tasks delegated under the direct or indirect supervision of an Allied Health Professionals.

For more information and to apply: <https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-SC597756>



Senior Advisor, Industry Workforce

Looking to launch a career working with some of Victoria's largest infrastructure projects?

Apply today for the role of the Senior Advisor, Industry Workforce at the Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority. The role, designated to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, will support the accurate, timely and compliant reporting on employment and social enterprise targets.

The position offers a hybrid working model with flexible and on-site working arrangements and cultural and ceremonial leave entitlement.



Scan the QR code to learn more or visit www.careers.vic.gov.au and search Senior Advisor, Industry Workforce.



Aboriginal Cultural Support and Awareness Advisor (2 positions)

Wimmera Area (Horsham) – 1 x position available
South West Area (Warrnambool, Portland or Hamilton) – 1 x position available
\$121,250 - \$132,764 p.a. pro rata (+superannuation)
Fixed Term until 30/06/2025 / Part time (38hrs/fortnight)

The Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Advisor provides advice to and builds awareness of Child Protection practitioners working with Aboriginal children and engages with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and community services organisations to improve outcomes through progression of self-determination reforms for Aboriginal children, families, and communities. While the role does not develop cultural plans, it provides important cultural expertise and guidance which supports child protection practitioners with the cultural planning process, and cultural plan compliance.

This crucial role enables Aboriginal children to remain connected to community, build resilience and support them remaining with family. The role will also focus on area improvement and implementation processes, aligning outcomes to relevant divisional policies and processes.

Contact for further information: Jenna Denniss, jenna.denniss@dffh.vic.gov.au
 Reference number: DFFH/WWD/732249 & 732250

Applications close: Sunday 3 November 2024

Only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People are eligible to apply as these positions are exempt under the SPECIAL MEASURES PROVISION of S12(1) of the *Equal Opportunity Act* (VIC).

For more information about this opportunity, please go to www.careers.vic.gov.au and download a position description to view departmental information, the selection criteria, our pre employment screening requirements and our Diversity and Inclusion commitments.

RS2273



DOING THE MOST GOOD

Notice of a non-claimant application for determination of native title in New South Wales

Notification day: 6 November 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 **5 February 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 5 February 2025**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **5 February 2025**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.



Applicant's name: Council of the City of Ryde
Federal Court File No: NSD514/2024
Non-native title interest: The application is brought by the Council of the City of Ryde (formerly the Ryde City Council). The application includes the whole of Reserve No:1013968, with the exception of Lot 896 in DP48475. The Reserve No:1013968 is generally described as the "Ryde Riverside Reserve"
Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks to obtain 'future act' protection for the land in the Reserve under section 24FA of the *Native Title Act* after the three month notification period, with the effect the Reserve is subject to section 24FA protection, and future acts performed in relation to the Reserve are valid

Description: The application area covers a combined area of about 32.47 ha within the Reserve No:1013968, located north of the Parramatta River in the north western Sydney suburbs of Meadowbank, Melrose Park, Putney and Ryde
Relevant LGA: Council of the City of Ryde

For assistance and further information about this application, call Claire Smith on 08 6317 5333 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Mining Lease	15/1912	AUSIM MINES PTY LTD	38.55HA	10.6km NE'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 53' S: Long: 121° 14' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Mining Lease	16/585	AUSTRALIAN LIVE-STOCK SUPPLIERS PTY LTD	211.85HA	35.3km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 40' S: Long: 120° 55' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Mining Lease	24/1011	DUNCAN, John Maclean	193.74HA	8.8km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 26' S: Long: 121° 2' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	25/386	CARMICHAEL, John Albert	13.57HA	44.9km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 1' S: Long: 122° 5' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	26/870	SILVER LAKE RESOURCES LIMITED	180.74HA	30.5km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 1' S: Long: 121° 55' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	28/389	KURNALPI GOLD PTY LTD	181.44HA	82.1km S'ly of Edjudina	Lat: 30° 33' S: Long: 122° 18' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY

Nature of the act: Grant of mining leases, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of 21 years from notification of grant and a right of renewal for 21 years.

Notification day: 23 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 **23 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. The mining tenements may be granted if, by the end of the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **23 February 2025**), there is no native title party under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) in relation to the area of the mining tenements. For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

DMIRS 23634



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NOTICE OF AN AUTHORISATION MEETING FOR THE EXPIRED CROWN LEASES INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENT



When: **Sunday, 24 November 2024**
 11:00am to 11:30am – Meeting registration*
 11:30am – Meeting opened
 5:00pm – Meeting closed

*Note: In person registration will be open anytime throughout the meeting, but attendees are encouraged to register between 11.00am - 11.30am to allow adequate time for all business to be addressed. To attend by videoconference/telephone we request you register by **5pm Wednesday 20 November 2024**.

Where: **Bay Pavilions – Arts Centre**
 12 Vesper Street
 Batemans Bay NSW 2536

Remote attendance: For those who cannot attend in person due to exceptional circumstances you may be able to attend via videoconference or telephone. To attend by videoconference or telephone we request you contact NTSCORP by **5pm Wednesday, 20 November 2024** so arrangements can be made.

Who should attend: **The meeting is open to:**
 • all members of the native title claim group in the South Coast People native title determination application (NSD1331/2017) ('South Coast Claim Group', 'the Claim Group' and 'South Coast Claim' respectively), being all the descendants of the following apical ancestors:

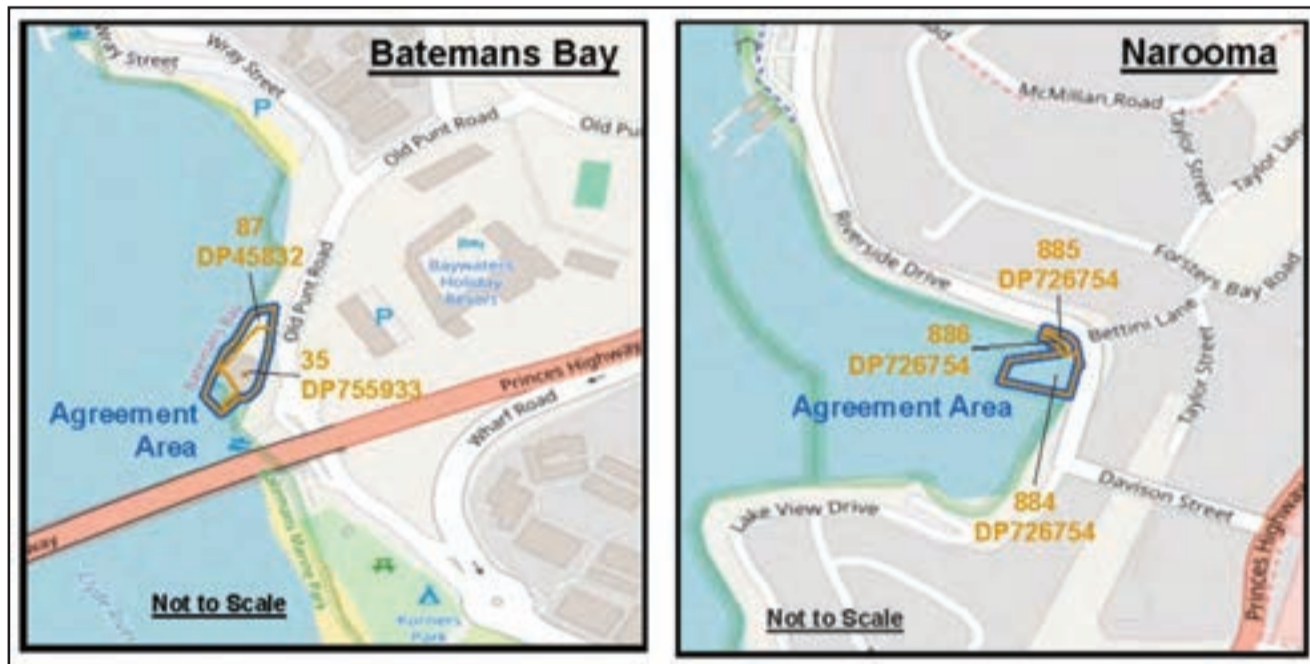
- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
| 1. Mary Ann, mother of Emily and Joseph Johnson | 12. Thomas Golden BROWN | 24. Ellen DEMESTRE | 36. Lucy LYONS | 48. John PITTMAN |
| 2. Charles ADGERY | 13. James BUNDLE | 25. Julia DIXON | 37. Mary Ann LYONS | 49. Mary Ann ROSE |
| 3. Robert ANDY | 14. Jerry BUNGIL | 26. William DIXON | 38. Richard MARSHALL | 50. Minnie ROWLEY |
| 4. Maria BILLYBOY (aka Coomsee Nullanga) | 15. Louisa BURROWS | 27. Jimmy Coombala FRIDAY | 39. Caroline MATHEWS | 51. John SIMS |
| 5. Arthur BLOXSOME | 16. William CAMPBELL | 28. Biddy GILES | 40. Elizabeth MATTHEWS | 52. Sally of Wandandian, spouse of Dan Parsons |
| 6. Richard BOLLOWAY | 17. John CARPENTER | 29. James GOLDING | 41. Annie MCGRATH | 53. Governor STEWART |
| 7. Alick BOND | 18. Johnny CARTER | 30. Patrick HADDIGADDI | 42. Edward MOORE | 54. Mary Ann STEWART |
| 8. Charlotte BOND | 19. Henry CHAPMAN | 31. Jessie JENKINS | 43. MUMBLER | 55. Peter THOMAS |
| 9. Oswald BRIERLEY | 20. Henry COOLEY | 32. Donald JOHNSON | 44. Jenny NIMEBUR | 56. George TIMBERY |
| 10. William BROUGHTON | 21. Tom COOLEY | 33. Annie JOHNSTON | 45. George NIPPLE | 57. Mary TURNER |
| 11. Jane BROWN | 22. Bob CURRAN | 34. Judy KENNY | 46. Margaret Ann NIXON | 58. Edward WALKER |
| | 23. Henry DAVIS | 35. John KERRY | 47. Harry PICKALLA | 59. William WALKER |

and persons adopted and incorporated into the families of those persons in accordance with the South Coast People's traditional laws and customs (and the biological descendants of any such persons).
 AND

• Any other Aboriginal person who asserts native title rights and interests within the proposed Indigenous Land Use Agreement Area which is depicted in the maps in this notice and described in **Annexure A**.

Background

NTSCORP Limited (NTSCORP), the native title service provider for NSW, is convening a meeting to authorise the making of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) in relation to the land and waters identified in bold outline in the maps below and described in Annexure A (*Agreement Area*). The lands and waters which make up the Agreement Area are all within the external boundary of the South Coast Claim. The proposed Indigenous Land Use Agreement is referred to as the '*Expired Crown Leases ILUA*'.



MGJ Investments Pty Ltd (*MGJ Investments*) is the owner of the former 'On the Pier' restaurant in Batemans Bay which was located on Lot 35 DP 755933 and Lot 87 DP 45832. The Lots are located on Old Punt Road, underneath the newly constructed Batemans Bay Bridge. MGJ Investments previously held Special Crown Lease 1971/4 over those lots which has now expired.

Narooma Marina Pty Ltd (*Narooma Marina*) owns and operates a commercial marina located on 30 Riverside Drive, Narooma. Narooma Marina previously held Crown Lease 205517 for Lots 884-886 DP 726754 where the business is located but that lease has also now expired.

The Applicant for the South Coast Claim has negotiated a draft ILUA with MGJ Investments, Narooma Marina and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, NSW which would provide South Coast Peoples' consent to the granting of new Crown leases to MGJ Investments and Narooma Marina over the Agreement Area on certain conditions and in return for compensation being provided to South Coast People.

Agenda for the meeting

- 1) Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country.
- 2) Overview of the negotiation and the proposed terms of the Expired Crown Leases ILUA.
- 3) Confirm the process of decision-making for the purposes of authorising the making of the Expired Crown Leases ILUA.
- 4) Consider and make decisions in relation to the authorisation of the Expired Crown Leases ILUA.
- 5) Any other business

Attending the Meeting

Attending in person

If you wish to attend this meeting, please contact NTSCORP as soon as possible and by no later than **5pm on Thursday, 14 November 2024**, so that all relevant arrangements can be made. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided at the venue.

For those attending the meeting in person, mileage assistance and accommodation may be available in accordance with NTSCORP's meeting assistance policies. If you require accommodation you will need to telephone NTSCORP with confirmed details, by no later than **5pm on Thursday, 14 November 2024**.

Please note if you do not contact NTSCORP by **5pm on Thursday, 14 November 2024** NTSCORP cannot guarantee we will be able to assist with travel and accommodation arrangements — although you would still be more than welcome to attend the meeting.

Attending remotely

NTSCORP will be providing videoconference and telephone attendance arrangements for people who cannot attend due to exceptional circumstances. For those who need to attend by videoconference or telephone, you will still be able to listen, ask questions, and vote on resolutions.

REGISTERING TO ATTEND REMOTELY - In order to attend the meeting by videoconference or telephone, please contact NTSCORP as soon as possible via the details below to register your attendance. We ask that you register before **5pm on Wednesday, 20 November 2024**.

MEETING ACCESS - Once you have registered, NTSCORP will send out details of how to attend the meeting by videoconference or telephone. For those attending the meeting remotely, assistance for telephone or data credit may be available in accordance with NTSCORP's meeting assistance policies. Please contact NTSCORP to discuss.

NTSCORP's contact details: Freecall: 1800 111 844 or (02) 9310 3188

Post: P.O. Box 2105, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012

Email: CFC@ntscorp.com.au

If you have any questions or require further information please do not hesitate to contact NTSCORP and ask for Annika Rotumah, Deputy Manager Community Facilitation or Sandy Chalmers, Deputy Principal Solicitor.

Annexure A

Lands and Waters subject to the proposed Expired Crown Leases ILUA

The following parcels are within the external boundary of the South Coast People Claim and are proposed to be subject to the proposed Expired Crown Leases ILUA. The parcels are described in the form of their Lot number and Deposited Plan (DP) number.

Lot 35 DP 755933	Lot 87 DP 45832	Lot 884 DP 726754	Lot 885 DP 726754	Lot 886 DP 726754
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NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	16/658	FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD	2BL	28km SW'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 39' S: Long: 121° 9' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	24/243	REWARD MINERALS LTD	8BL	22.5km S'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 38' S: Long: 121° 15' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	27/740	EASTERN COOLGARDIE GOLDFIELDS PTY LTD	9BL	28.4km NE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 18' S: Long: 121° 34' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	28/3477	CHALWELL PROSPECTING PTY LTD	16BL	82.9km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 36' S: Long: 122° 19' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	52/4378	CORE VALUE AUSTRALIA NL	13BL	75.4km E'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 25° 28' S: Long: 119° 27' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1453	GATEWAY MINING LIMITED	1BL	65.4km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 25' S: Long: 119° 29' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	59/2704	TRUDUT PTY LTD	44BL	52.4km NE'ly of Yalgoo	Lat: 28° 2' S: Long: 117° 5' E	YALGOO SHIRE
Exploration Licence	59/2900	KALAMAZOO RESOURCES LIMITED	22BL	82.5km NW'ly of Yalgoo	Lat: 27° 49' S: Long: 116° 4' E	MURCHISON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/2969	PARR, Robbie Wayne	2BL	57.5km N'ly of Hyden	Lat: 31° 57' S: Long: 119° 4' E	NAREMBEEN SHIRE, YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3242	DUKETON MINING LIMITED	36BL	139.9km E'ly of Paynes Find	Lat: 29° 36' S: Long: 119° 4' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6912	BLOKE RESOURCES PTY LTD	197.94HA	35.3km NW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 44' S: Long: 120° 53' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6913	NORTHERN STAR (SOUTH KALGOORLIE) PTY LTD	168.14HA	20.8km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 56' S: Long: 121° 26' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3485	BLOKE RESOURCES PTY LTD	198.12HA	35.8km NW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 43' S: Long: 120° 54' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3486	BLOKE RESOURCES PTY LTD	196.63HA	34.9km NW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 43' S: Long: 120° 54' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3487	WHITTARD, James Barry	153.49HA	24.5km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 31' S: Long: 120° 52' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3488	CURRIE, Daniel Reece	25.66HA	34.5km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 39' S: Long: 120° 54' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5754	DUNDAS MINERALS LIMITED	95.02HA	10.8km NW'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 21' S: Long: 121° 15' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5765	RILEY, Wesley Thomas	9.64HA	5.7km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 24' S: Long: 121° 1' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5766	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	132.63HA	6.5km NW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 19' S: Long: 121° 0' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5767	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	26.99HA	10.3km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 22' S: Long: 120° 57' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5775	CUDINI, Benjamin Mark	99.89HA	9.5km NW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 19' S: Long: 120° 58' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5776	RILEY, Wesley Thomas	22.33HA	8.6km NW'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 23' S: Long: 121° 15' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5777	BUNCE, David Paul	92.43HA	11km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 22' S: Long: 120° 56' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5780	MAHONEY, Reece Anthony	121.37HA	14.1km NW'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 19' S: Long: 121° 16' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5784	ERASMUS, Kobus Daniel	98.60HA	9.3km NW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 19' S: Long: 120° 58' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5785	WILTSHIRE, Peter Andrew	194.70HA	14.8km NW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 16' S: Long: 120° 56' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5786	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	47.12HA	7.2km SE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 29' S: Long: 121° 22' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5789	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	2.09HA	5km SE'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 23' S: Long: 121° 6' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5790	MORE, Richard Samuel	25.24HA	5.5km NW'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 24' S: Long: 121° 17' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2827	SKEER, Thomas Wade	140.57HA	35.5km N'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 54' S: Long: 121° 48' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2831-S	SMITH, Michael	9.59HA	28.6km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 44' S: Long: 121° 46' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2832	MURTAGH, Jason Lee	121.29HA	35.8km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 50' S: Long: 121° 49' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2833	MURTAGH, Jason Lee	92.84HA	35.4km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 50' S: Long: 121° 49' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2834	GOLDTIMERS PROSPECTING PTY LTD	120.09HA	36.9km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 52' S: Long: 121° 49' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4347	OPTIMUM RESOURCES PTY LTD	0.81HA	5.5km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 45' S: Long: 121° 31' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4501	OPTIMUM RESOURCES PTY LTD	8.07HA	7.2km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 46' S: Long: 121° 32' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4766	CHANCEUX METALS PTY LTD	193.27HA	22.4km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 121° 30' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4767	CHANCEUX METALS PTY LTD	197.29HA	22.6km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 121° 30' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4768	CHANCEUX METALS PTY LTD	196.87HA	22.7km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 121° 30' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4769	CHANCEUX METALS PTY LTD	196.46HA	22.7km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 121° 30' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4770	CHANCEUX METALS PTY LTD	196.04HA	22.8km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 121° 30' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4771	CHANCEUX METALS PTY LTD	156.11HA	24.8km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 58' S: Long: 121° 31' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4772	CHANCEUX METALS PTY LTD	197.13HA	22.6km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 56' S: Long: 121° 31' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4773	CHANCEUX METALS PTY LTD	147.85HA	24km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 121° 31' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2591	RESOURCE ASSETS PTY LTD	46.11HA	31.7km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 29' S: Long: 121° 39' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2598	FMR INVESTEMENTS PTY LIMITED	88.52HA	24.3km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 24' S: Long: 121° 34' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2599	BOUZIKOS, Aaron Scott O'DONOGHUE, Lisa Terri	155.02HA	39.1km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 21' S: Long: 121° 43' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	30/1145	JANKOWSKI, Michael	185.35HA	58.3km SW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 59' S: Long: 120° 32' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	57/1537	MURTAGH, Jason Lee	60.02HA	6.4km NW'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 56' S: Long: 119° 15' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	77/4615	STRANGE, Vernon Wesley	9.71HA	21.7km S'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 38' S: Long: 119° 34' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	77/4616	STRANGE, Vernon Wesley	10.00HA	22.8km S'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 39' S: Long: 119° 34' E	YILGARN SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of Special Prospecting Licences, which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term up to 4 years from the date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.

Notification day: 23 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 **23 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. **23 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

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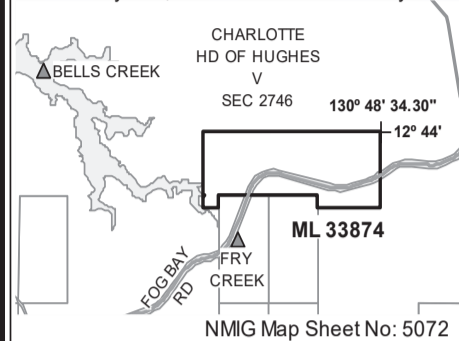
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF MINERAL LEASE

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Honourable Gerard Maley MLA, 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 the intent to do an act namely to grant the following mineral title application.

The application to which this notice applies:

Mineral Lease 33874 sought by LITHIUM PLUS MINERALS LTD, ACN 653 574 219 over an area of 295 Hectares depicted below for a term of 20 years, within the BYNOE locality.



Nature of act(s): The grant of a mineral lease under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* authorises the holder to explore and mine for minerals including (but not limited to) the processing and the removal of minerals from the lease area and the treatment of tailings or other mining material the property of the Crown on the lease area, including any extractive minerals for or in connection with any of the purposes specified in the lease document for a term the Minister thinks fit and to seek renewals. The term for which it is intended to grant the mineral lease 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.

Notification Day: 23 October 2024

NOTICE – OLD BURNT BRIDGE

Take notice that the Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO), as the trustee of a trust known as the Dunghutti Aboriginal Elders Tribal Council Trust (Trust), the terms of which are contained in a trust deed dated 22 October 2001 (Deed) will commence proceedings in the Supreme Court of New South Wales seeking declaratory relief or judicial advice confirming (amongst other things) that various persons are beneficiaries, its power to subdivide the land at Old Burnt Bridge and its power to transfer residential lots to beneficiaries.

If you are a "beneficiary" of the Trust, being either a member of the Dunghutti Aboriginal families listed in Annexure 1 of the Deed, a descendant of those persons, or if you otherwise consider that you have standing to be heard in the proceedings, the AHO invites you to consider whether you wish to be involved in these proceedings or otherwise require further information.

Contact Nicole Dibben
4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150 nicole.dibben@dcj.nsw.gov.au 9851 8726 by 11 November 2024 if you wish to be a defendant in these proceedings.

Brickmakers Creek at Woodward Park, 3 Hoxton Park Road, Liverpool, NSW. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment – Registration of Interest.

Liverpool City Council of 33 Moore Street, Liverpool NSW 2170 has commissioned Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd (Austral) to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Brickmakers Creek at Woodward Park, 3 Hoxton Park Road (Lot 102, DP877139, Lot 3, DP574089, Lot 105, DP877139, Lot 104, DP877139, and parts of Lot 10, DP1159118), Liverpool, NSW 2170. On behalf of the proponent, Austral wishes to consult Aboriginal people to assist with a cultural heritage assessment which may result in an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). Consultation is required to assist the Director General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) in his or her consideration of the application. Consultation will be in accordance with the DPC's Consultation Requirements 2010. Parties with cultural knowledge relevant to the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) are invited to register their interest. More information about the project will be provided after registration.

For more information please contact:
Liverpool City Council
Clare McLay
33 Moore Street Liverpool, NSW 2170
Phone: 02 8711 7354
Email: McLayC@liverpool.nsw.gov.au

To register, please contact
Austral Archaeology,
Jordon Colman, 601 Princes Highway,
Yallah NSW 2530
Phone: 0491 200 285
Email: jordonc@australarch.com.au

Registrations close 06/11/2024.

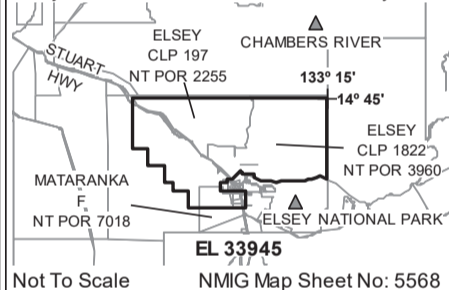
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION LICENCES

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

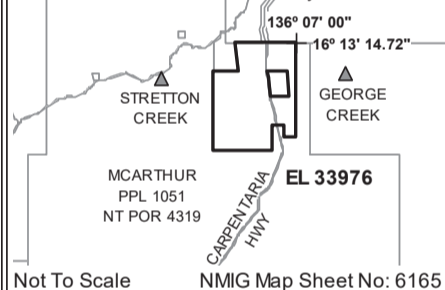
The Honourable Gerard Maley MLA, the Northern Territory Minister for Mining and Energy, C/- Department of Mining and Energy, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) of his intent to do an act, namely to grant the following exploration licence applications.

Applications to which this notice applies:

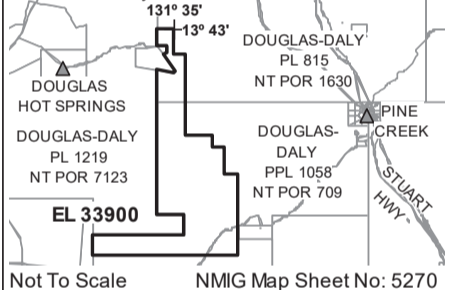
Exploration Licence 33945 sought by GLENN TWOMEY and ORESCOUT EXPLORATION PTY LTD, ACN 679 171 423 over an area of 246 Blocks (807 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the MATARANKA locality.



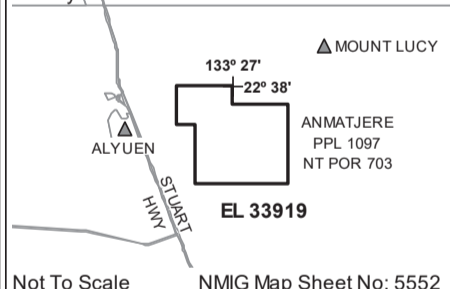
Exploration Licence 33976 sought by CERBERUS RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 0615 192 535 over an area of 57 Blocks (166 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the BORROLOOLA locality.



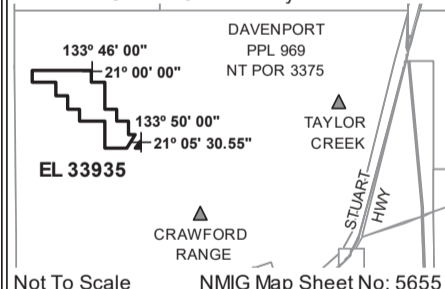
Exploration Licence 33900 sought by GEMPART (NT) PTY LTD, ACN 081 859 896 over an area of 88 Blocks (0235km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the PINE CREEK locality.



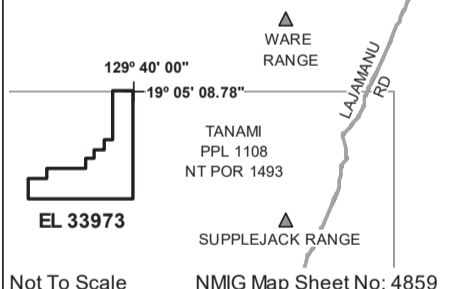
Exploration Licence 33919 sought by GEMPART (NT) PTY LTD, ACN 081 859 896 over an area of 24 Blocks (77 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the AILERON locality.



Exploration Licence 33935 sought by NORTH TENNANT MINERALS PTY LTD, ACN 654 828 912 over an area of 20 Blocks (63 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the CRAWFORD locality.



Exploration Licence 33973 sought by PURE EXPLORATION PTY LTD, ACN 669 443 636 over an area of 53 Blocks (171 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the BREADEN locality.



Nature of act(s): The grant of an exploration licence under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* authorises the holder to conduct activities in connection with exploration for minerals for a term not exceeding 6 years and to seek renewal(s). The term for which it is intended to grant the mineral exploration licences referred to in this notice commences from the date of grant. Further information about the act may be obtained from the Department of 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: 23 October 2024

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.

Gosford Courthouse and Police Station (former), Gosford

Written submissions on this listing are invited from any interested person by 6 November 2024. Enquiries to Nikolas Orr on (02) 9873 8500 or heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au.

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

See more details about the nominated place at: environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/request-a-heritage-listing/nominate-an-item-for-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/comment-on-nominations

Make your submission at: haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/gosford-courthouse

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



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NOTICE TO GRANT AMALGAMATION APPLICATIONS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (Cth) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following amalgamation applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Exploration No.	Applicant	Amalg No	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
21/200	MUSGRAVE MINERALS LIMITED	714316	103.88HA	17.6km S'ly of Cue	Lat: 27° 35' S: Long: 117° 55' E	CUE SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of amalgamation applications which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals.

Notification day: 23 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 the applications. The 3 month period closes on **23 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 the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100.

Expedited procedure: The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each amalgamation application may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **23 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.

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BIRRIAH ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC ICN 8261 NOTICE OF BIRRIAH PEOPLE'S NATIVE TITLE HOLDERS MEETING

All **Birriah People** are invited to a meeting of Birriah People (Native Title Holders). Details are as follows:

- Time:** 1:30pm – 4:30pm
Date: Saturday, 2 November 2024
Place: George Kneipp Auditorium (Building 26), James Cook University
 1 James Cook Dr, Douglas, Townsville QLD 4814
Technology: there will be no teleconference or video conference facilities available.

Birriah People (Native Title Holders) means any person who is a biological or adopted descendant of one or more of the following Birriah apical ancestors:

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Jinnie Tiers; | Peggy Barker; | Nellie Skeen or William (Billy) Skeen Snr; |
| Kuburu, the father of Billy Lightning Banbari; | Sambo Callaghan; | Caroline Roger; or |
| John Smallwood; | Tommy Morgan; | Maggie or her husband Harry Shepherd (Snr) |
| Rosie Schilling; | the mother of Lizzie Limburner; | |

Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of the Meeting is to:

- Consult, and obtain the consent of Birriah People (native title holders), to enter into a native title agreement between the Birriah Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC ICN 8261 and Ravenswood Gold Pty Ltd regarding:
 - the grant of mining leases ML100329 and ML100330;
 - Variation of mining leases ML10170 and ML100144; and
 - Including additional areas into mining lease ML 1682.
 (See map for **Agreement Area**)
- Seek standing instructions from Birriah People regarding the negotiation and execution of future native title agreements under section 31 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), for projects within the Birriah native title determination area.

RSVP Details

To assist with catering and enquire about financial support to attend the meeting, please register your interest by:

Email: admin@parallaxlegal.com.au

Lunch and afternoon tea will be provided to participants at the meeting. Financial support may be available to meet travel and accommodation expenses.

Agreement Area



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**KOKATHA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC ICN 8093
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS FOLLOWED
BY KOKATHA COMMON LAW HOLDERS MEETING**



This notice is to advise the Annual General Meeting of members of Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC ICN 8093 (KAC) and a Kokatha Common Law Holders meeting will take place as follows:

Day 1- Date:	Saturday 16 November 2024
Time:	9:30 am to 4.00 pm KAC Annual General Meeting
	BBQ breakfast supplied by KAC at 8:00am and registration commencing from 8:30am
Place:	West Augusta Football Club, 13 Gardiner Avenue, Port Augusta West SA 5700
Day 2- Date:	Sunday 17 November 2024
Time:	9:30 am to 2.00 pm Kokatha Common Law Holders Meeting
	BBQ breakfast supplied by KAC at 8:00am and registration commencing from 8:30am
Place:	West Augusta Football Club, 13 Gardiner Avenue, Port Augusta West SA 5700

Please note:

- The KAC Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Saturday is for KAC members only**.
- The Kokatha Common Law Holder Meeting on **Sunday is for all KAC members and registered Kokatha Common Law Holders**. To attend this meeting, you must be a KAC member or registered Kokatha Common Law Holder. If you are not a KAC member or registered Kokatha Common Law Holder you will not be admitted.
- Registration closes at 10:30am sharp.

To cater for families, children's activities will be provided on both Saturday and Sunday commencing at 9.30am. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided on both days.

Members must check-in and register upon entry.

Check your details: At registration, please check your details in our registration lists to make sure your name, address and other details are up to date. You can update them on the day and register to receive email and SMS alert messages from KAC.

Code of Conduct

All members attending the AGM must act in accordance with the Code of Conduct. A copy of the Code of Conduct is **enclosed** with this notice. ([Kokatha website](#))

Directors have called the AGM to provide KAC members with the opportunity to:

- o find out about the activities, operations and finances of KAC since the last AGM,
- o ask questions about the processes and finances of KAC,
- o speak about any items on the agenda, and
- o vote on any resolutions proposed.

Proxy

If you are a KAC member and cannot attend the AGM, under the Rules of the Corporation you can appoint a proxy. The person you select as your proxy must also be a member. Your proxy cannot be appointed as a proxy for any more than three (3) members.

Proxy forms must be returned to the Corporation by mail, email at erika.grantham@kokatha.com.au or by dropping them into the KAC Office front desk at 35 Flinders Terrace, Port Augusta or mailbox at **least 48 hours before the start of the AGM by 9:30am Thursday 14 November 2024**. The proxy form must be complete, including the person's signature appointing the proxy. If KAC does not receive your proxy form at least 48 hours before the AGM start time, it cannot be accepted. Proxy forms are included in this package, and the KAC rule book is available at www.kokatha.com.au

Travel assistance

To assist members and registered KAC Common Law Holders to attend the AGM and CLHM, KAC will provide a \$200 gift card and fuel payment. You must be a KAC member or registered Common Law holder to receive this assistance. For fuel assistance please contact Khatija Thomas at the SANTIS Office on 1800 010 360 or email KhatijaT@nativetitlesa.org

AGENDA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE KOKATHA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC

16 November 2024 at West Augusta Football Club, 13 Gardiner Avenue, Port Augusta West SA 5700

Chairperson: Carly Chamberlain

Facilitator: Geoff Deans

Item	Description	Responsible
	PRE-COMMENCEMENT Registration, proxy forms and apologies book – please write apologies in the book to be noted in the minutes.	
1.	CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME - Introduction, quorum, minute's silence and Code of Conduct	Chairperson
2.	PROXY APPOINTMENTS	Chairperson
3.	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - Confirming the minutes of the previous meeting- Matters arising	Chairperson
4.	BOARD REPORT	Chairperson
5.	CEO REPORT	CEO
6.	DIRECTORS' FEES <i>Motion: That in accordance with rule 7.15.1 of the Rule Book, the Directors of the Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, as appointed from time to time, be paid for activities that they undertake in their capacity as Directors at a rate of \$650 per day (or any part thereof).</i> See explanation of the resolution attached .	Director
7.	THE TABLING OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS <i>Motion: That the 2024 Audited Financial Report for Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation and controlled entities be accepted.</i> APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR AND SET THE AUDIT FEE. <i>Motion: That Basso Newman be appointed as auditor for Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation and controlled entities for the 2024-25 financial year.</i>	RSM
8.	KOKATHA PEOPLE NATIVE TITLE COMPENSATION CHARITABLE TRUST REPORT AND RESOLUTION The following special consent resolution is related to the Kokatha People Native Title Compensation Charitable Trust and proposed at the AGM: 8.1 Proposed under 4.5 of the Trust Deed, the members hereby consent to the Trustee applying or appropriating all income accumulated in the Accounting Period ending 30 June 2024 in pursuit of the Trust's Charitable Object.	Director of Trustee
9.	CODE OF CONDUCT <i>Motion: That in accordance with rule 20.1 of the Rule Book, the new Code of Conduct be adopted and will replace the previous Code of Conduct.</i> See explanation of the new Code of Conduct and draft copy attached .	Chairperson
10.	DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION There are four Director positions up for election at the AGM. Enclosed nomination form must be submitted by no later than fourteen days (14 days) before the AGM (5pm Friday 1 November 2024) . Nominees will be given an opportunity to give a 1-2 minutes presentation. <i>Motion: That (insert the names of the four highest vote getters) be appointed as Directors of the Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC Board for a two-year term.</i>	Chairperson
11.	CHC NOMINATIONS Families break into groups and select nominations for the CHC Committee in accordance with rules 15 to 16 of the KAC Rule Book.	Chairperson
12.	MEMBERSHIP REGISTER UPDATE Members to check registration details before departing, ensuring email, mobile phone and address are provided for members to receive correspondence.	Chairperson
13.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Kokatha netball report	Chairperson Kokatha netball representative
14.	CLOSE	Chairperson

AUTHORISED BY THE BOARD OF KOKATHA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC.

ITEM 6 – DIRECTORS' FEES

The Directors' fees paid by KAC are set by the members under rule 7.15.1 of the Rule Book.

The rate for Directors' fees is currently \$450 per day and has not been changed for the last 6 years since the 2018 AGM.

The KAC Board proposes a new rate of \$650 per day (or any part thereof).

Some corporations have rates much higher than the rate that is being proposed but the KAC Board believes that the new rate is an appropriate balance of the use of Corporation funds and acknowledging the work and time commitment required from Directors.

ITEM 9 –NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

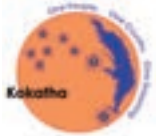
The KAC Board has reviewed the Code of Conduct to make sure that it is fit for purpose and easy to understand.

The KAC Board proposes the **attached** new Code of Conduct as an updated and simpler Code of Conduct for all to follow so that everyone is treated with respect and courtesy.

The purpose of this new Code of Conduct is to ensure that the Corporation and Kokatha People can hold meetings, work together and conduct Kokatha business in a way that is respectful, professional and in the best interests of all.

In accordance with rule 20.1 of the Rule Book, the Code of Conduct will be put to members for approval at the AGM.

**KOKATHA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC ICN 8093
NOTICE OF KOKATHA COMMON LAW HOLDERS' MEETING**



This notice is to advise that a Kokatha Common Law Holders' Meeting will take place as follows:

Date:	Sunday 17 November 2024
Time:	9.30 am to 2.00 pm Kokatha Common Law Holders' Meeting BBQ breakfast supplied by KAC at 8:00am and registration commencing from 8:30am
Place:	West Augusta Football Club, 13 Gardiner Avenue, Port Augusta West, SA 5700

Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (KAC) will be holding the Kokatha Common Law Holders' meeting at 9.30 am on Sunday 17 November 2024 at West Augusta Football Club.

The doors will be open at 8:30am for registration, with registrations closing at 10:30am sharp.

Please note that to attend this meeting you must be a KAC member OR a registered Kokatha Common Law Holder. If you are not a KAC member or registered Kokatha Common Law Holder you will not be allowed in the meeting.

To cater for families, children's activities will be provided on the Sunday commencing at 9.30am. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided on both days.

Check your details: At registration, please check your details on our registration list to make sure your name, address and other details are up to date. You can update them on the day and register to receive email and SMS alert messages from KAC.

The agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

The minutes of the previous Kokatha Common Law Holder meetings are available at www.kokatha.com.au

Travel assistance

To assist registered KAC Common Law Holders attending the meeting, KAC will provide a \$200 gift card and fuel payment. **Please note you must be a registered Common Law Holder to get this assistance.**

For fuel assistance please contact Khatija Thomas at the SANTS Office on 1800 010 360 or email KhatijaT@nativetitlesa.org

NOTE:

No proxies permitted for Common Law Holder meetings.

If you are not a KAC member or a registered Common Law Holder you will not be admitted to the meeting.

Item	Description	Responsible
	PRE-COMMENCEMENT Registration, proxy forms and apologies book – please write apologies in the book to be noted in the minutes.	
1.	CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME - Introduction, quorum, minute's silence and Code of Conduct	Chairperson
2.	CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	Chairperson
3.	GENERAL TRUST UPDATE	Perpetual
4.	BHP COPPER SA UPDATE	BHP representatives
5.	BHP OAK DAM RETENTION LEASE INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENT UPDATE <i>See more information attached – no voting, information session only.</i>	KAC BHP Working Group
6.	NORTHERN WATER UPDATE <i>See more information attached – no voting, information session only.</i>	Office of Northern Water representatives
7.	CLOSE	Chairperson

ITEM 5 - BHP OAK DAM RETENTION LEASE INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENT UPDATE

The KAC BHP Working Group, which is made up of CHC members and KAC Directors, will provide a detailed update about the Indigenous Land Use Agreement for the Oak Dam Retention Lease that is being negotiated with BHP.

There will be no voting about an agreement at the meeting 17 November 2024. The update at the meeting 17 November 2024 will be information only.

The Working Group will provide detailed information about the agreement to Kokatha Common Law Holders before an authorisation meeting is held in 2025.

Copies of the draft agreement will be available at the meeting on 17 November 2024. In addition to information provided on the day, on request KAC, Camatta Lempens (the lawyers for KAC) will make themselves available to Kokatha Common Law Holders in the time before an authorisation meeting to answer questions about the agreement. More information about these opportunities will be provided at the meeting.

Oak Dam is located 65km southeast of the Olympic Dam mine and 45km northwest of Carrapateena mine. BHP has been doing exploration activities with drill rigs at Oak Dam to explore for copper and is looking to obtain a Retention Lease for advanced exploration activities. These activities include constructing a decline (2x 6km deep tunnels), underground drilling from the decline (to reach the copper deposit), an access road and pipeline for water for its advanced exploration activities. To do this they need to have an agreement with the Kokatha as the native title holders. More information about the Oak Dam Retention Lease can be found here: <https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/mining/major-projects-and-mining-activities/developing-projects/oak-dam>

The agreement will be through an Indigenous Land Use Agreement that covers all of BHP's advanced exploration activities under a Retention Lease. A Retention Lease goes for 5 years but can be extended for another 5 years. It does not include mining. If BHP decide to mine at Oak Dam, they will first need a mining agreement with KAC on behalf of the Kokatha People.

Below is a map of the Oak Dam Retention Lease area that the agreement will cover:



ITEM 6 - NORTHERN WATER PROJECT NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

An update will be provided at the Kokatha Common Law Holders' meeting on 17 November 2024 about the Northern Water Project negotiations. This update is information only and there will be no voting about any agreement at the meeting 17 November 2024.

The KAC Board has appointed a committee made up of Directors and CHC members to negotiate an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Office of Northern Water about the pipeline and enabling infrastructure on Kokatha country.

The project is for a sea water desalination plant at Cape Hardy and a pipeline going up to BHP mines (Olympic Dam, Carrapateena & possibly Oak Dam if it becomes a mine – see map below). Approximately 275km of the pipeline is on the Kokatha native title determination area plus 2x pumping stations, storage tanks and substations. The project is currently in the planning and assessment phase before a final decision about going ahead with the project is made by the government. More information about the project is available at: <https://www.northernwater.sa.gov.au/>

This is a government project, and the government needs to have an agreement with the Kokatha native title holders about compensation. The agreement will also include employment and contracting and heritage protection.

The Committee members are: Joyleen Thomas (chair), Jonathon Fatt-Clifton, Andrew Starkey, Leeanne Strangways, Janice Wingfield and Michael Turner, Glen Wingfield and Aaron Thomas.

The Committee will negotiate an in-principal agreement which will then be recommended to the Board and brought back to the Kokatha Common Law Holders for approval likely in 2025.

Below is a map of the project infrastructure on the Kokatha native title determination area.



Simply one word to describe Olivia Kernick's omission from Jillaroos

DISGRACEFUL! That's the only way I feel like I can describe Olivia Kernick's omission from the Jillaroos team for the Pacific Championships.

How a spot in the 21-woman squad could not be found for a player who was weeks ago hailed as the best-and-fairest player in the NRLW this season – the Dally M Medal winner – is totally beyond me and, I suspect, thousands of others.

Long-time rugby league commentator Andrew Voss has called for an investigation into this decision. He's not wrong.

Let's just to put into perspective how totally ludicrous this call has been.

Kernick did not miss a single

match for the Sydney Roosters this NRLW season, including the semi-final and grand final, which they won. In those games, she scored 6 tries, effected 8 line-breaks, 6 line-break assists, got 8 off-loads away and made 337 tackles. The hard-working forward made 1812-running metres, which averages out to be 164m per game.

In rep football, Kernick, started for the Indigenous All Stars in their 26-4 victory against the Māori All-Stars in Townsville earlier this year, in which she played 56



Kris Flanders

minutes, had 6 runs for 47m with 13 tackles.

In the first-ever Women's State of Origin three-game series, Kernick started at lock-forward in Game I where she played 58 minutes and carved out 171m – the highest amount for the game – in which she completed 21 tackles.

In Game II, Kernick started the game again at lock, and of the full 70 minutes she toiled hard for 66 of those. She carted the ball up for 156m, the third highest for the Blues that night, and was also third highest for number of tackles for NSW, with 34.

In the Game III decider, Kernick played for 54 minutes in which she made 129m which was,

again, the third highest for the Blues, win defence she tallied 21 tackles, the third highest again for NSW.

Her non-selection, then, is bizarre.

When quizzed, Jillaroos coach Brad Donald simply replied with, "Liv is probably not too far off, she was on the bench for NSW this year as well and she will be the next one in if something went down". Didn't Brad watch those games? He would have clearly seen that not only did Kernick start on the field for NSW but that she carved up in all three games.

This is not even mentioning her stand-out semi-final and grand-final performances.

It is simply diabolical that the

NRLW's best player and one of the NRLW's best second-rowers is watching the Jillaroos on TV.

Kernick should be out there, showing the rugby league world just how good she is and why she's been awarded so many accolades.

She also is a five-time Jillaroo. The 23-year-old will no doubt win selection in representative football in the years ahead, but this decision was totally incorrect.

Like I said at the top... disgraceful!

***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.**

WAC defies history at Bathurst

By KRIS FLANDERS



WALGETT Aboriginal Connection have defied their own personal demons to win consecutive Koori Knockout championships.

WAC emerged triumphant at the 52nd NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival at Bathurst on the October long-weekend, reversing a trend whereby host teams had failed at defending KO titles.

For Walgett, they have never been able to defend the title.

Bathurst changed that.

Through six tough matches, Walgett proved they're one of the great Knockout sides in the event's history. WAC piled on an incredible 164 points over the weekend; even more impressive, they only let 52 points past them.

WAC stalwart George Rose claimed his personal fifth Koori KO, and said this one was particularly special as the 41-year-old forward looked at the younger players around him proudly wearing the distinctive red-and-white of Walgett.

"Anytime you win the Knockout is special," he said.

"It's a rare achievement; not many people get to experience it.

"For example, William Kennedy was one of our ball-boys back in 2009. Myself and his father were playing together and now he's come full-circle and winning a KO, his first; a huge moment for him.

"Latrell Siegwalt is another young fella who was also a ball-boy for us years ago.

"Every person who pulled on the Walgett jersey did their part.

"We faced some adversity over the weekend, so it was tremendous to see how they overcame that.

"The young blokes who put their hands up when they were called on and when they were tested, backs-against-the-wall stuff, they showed maturity beyond their years.

"It was really special to get the (KO) win and we had so much support there too; there was red-and-white everywhere.

"Our supporters made the trek to get behind us and we felt that.

"The players' families were all there as well which is a huge boost again. They were very vocal and to see the faces of the kids and the elders too and I'm very grateful for that.

"It was a full WAC family effort."



Connections of Walgett Aboriginal Connection celebrate their 2024 Koori Knockout win after defeating Nanima Common Connections in the final, 48-12 at Bathurst.

Picture: Darren Moncrieff

Game 1: WAC def. vs Wellington Wedgetails 42-14

WAC's KO campaign got off to a great start. Rose said the victory over the Wedgetails gave the side plenty of confidence first up. Rose: "The scoreline doesn't do the game justice. We scored a lot of points late, we let in the first try and for a moment, the hoodoo was hanging over us. We shifted the momentum – they had a very strong team – and it was a tough test to start off."

Game 2: WAC def. Toomelah Tigers 20-0

WAC's attack was on the mark; they scored highly for the second game in a row. Rose, however, was more proud that his men kept Toomelah in keeping them to zero. Rose: "They're a side that are attacking geniuses, they made it tough for us, their forwards roughed us up throughout. The McGrady boys were solid too. For us, to be able to keep them

scoreless, was a real confidence booster as well."

Game 3: WAC def. Wiradjuri Aboriginal Rivers 10-8

The first real test for Walgett's title defence came against a side quickly becoming one of those you'd want to avoid. Rose said the close scoreline was clear indication of how tough this match was and for Walgett to get into a grinding arm wrestle would help set them up as they marched on. Rose: "You have to have those type of games to go deep into the Knockout. You look back at those close ones and say that helped get us there. They were one of the favourites to win the KO, one of the best line-ups on paper that you'd ever see. Our players showed a lot of heart and determination to get that win."

Qtr Final: WAC def. Boomerangs Sports Club 22-4

WAC found themselves in a quarter-final showdown and with the belief that they

could defend the KO crown; that thought gathered momentum after this win. Rose said he was impressed with what his boys were delivering at this stage of the competition. Rose: "I thought we were gone, that previous game took a lot out of us. When I saw the Boomerangs play on the Saturday, they were the most impressive side at the Knockout, I was thinking they were going to go all the way – great backline with lots of speed and big mobile forwards that are hard to handle. Our boys managed to find something again, the boys were putting their bodies on the line, tough carries and tough hits. It opened up for us and we took advantage when the opportunities came up."

Semi-Final: WAC def. Blacktown Red Belly Warriors 22-14

Walgett made it to the semis and a clash with a team Rose believes is going to win the Knockout within the next three years. The Red Belly Warriors made the Monday finals for the second year in a row, a great effort for a club that is still so new to Knockout football. Rose: "It's not just the Blacktown men's team, the club as a whole is building to something special, and that's a credit to Rondelle Ryan. Every Blacktown team they brought along made the semi-finals, they've got a lot of talent coming through. We had a lot of ball possession early and were putting so much pressure on them, yet we only led 6-0. Lucky that we were able to get a try right before half-time. They stuck with us and took everything we had, they were there to win it and they are tough."

Final: WAC def. Nanima Common Connection 48-12

An early try for Nanima leader Tyrone Peachey gave Walgett an early fright in the final. However, WAC regrouped and from then on never looked like losing. Walgett piled on the points while shutting down any possible chance of Nanima compiling a comeback. Walgett's experience of playing Koori KO footy on a Monday came through for them and Rose said he was proud of the way WAC played in the final match. Rose: "We limped into the final, we were absolutely busted; the Blacktown semi took so much out of our tank. Our young guys again were able to sense when we needed them and were able to deliver something to get us going and do the big efforts that are required to turn the game around. Watching the boys dig in do that made me so proud."

Flying Boomerangs take centre-stage at footy camp

AUS A HOST of the country's most promising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural boys footballers aged 15-and-under won selection in the 2024 Flying Boomerangs and World Team programs.

Ninety players featured in the Flying Boomerangs and World Team programs in Melbourne at a football and leadership camp earlier this month.

The Flying Boomerangs squad comprises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, while the World Team features footballers with a parent born outside Australia. Both squads feature players from every state and territory.

Players engaged in a range of football and athletic training sessions, as well as cultural and leadership-building activities designed to further enhance their skillset both on and off the field.

The programs played out of Arden Street Oval, Mission Whitten Oval, Trevor Barker Beach Oval and Wesley College, while AFL players Mac Andrew, Jason Johannisen and Buku Kamis held Q&A sessions during the three-day program.

The camp ended with two talent-showcase matches at Tony Sheehan Oval at Bundoora.

"We were excited to have our Flying Boomerangs and World Team squads coming together in Melbourne to take part in our



development program," the AFL's diversity talent programs manager, Narelle Long, said.

"Both squads were stacked with promising young footballers who have the potential to become future stars of our game."

"The Flying Boomerangs and World Team programs offer a great opportunity for these talented young players to take part in a host of football, education, cultural and leadership sessions which will further develop their skills on and off the field."

Many players selected in the Flying Boomerangs and World Team squads will go on to feature in the Indigenous and Multicultural Academies and other talent pathways programs in future years.

The Flying Boomerangs squad features the sons and grandsons

of several AFL greats, including Percy Burgoyne (son of Shaun), Zebedee Farmer (son of Jeff) and Sonni Te Moananui (grandson of Nicky Winmar).

The World Team also features several familiar names, including Mali Lual (brother of Essendon player Luamon) and Cooper Brancatisano (cousin of Gold Coast Suns player Maddy).

The Flying Boomerangs and World Team programs were coached and mentored by a host of current and former AFL and State League players, some of whom have featured as members of the Flying Boomerangs and World Team programs in previous years.

The Flying Boomerangs coaching panel included recently retired AFL star Chad Wingard, Collingwood forward Nathan Kreuger, former AFL players Brendon Ah Chee, Jarrod Lienert and Kyron Hayden and Lachie Edwards.

The World Team was coached by Ali Hammad, Goy Lok, Adam Kaddour, Wally Kaddour, and Sebastian Gargana, with Port Adelaide star defender Aliir Aliir to assist as a mentor.

Flying Boomerangs

Zaine Atkinson-McGuinness (Shepparton United), Keithan Barry (Kalkarindji Eagles), Thomas Bearman (Brighton), Zye Bergles-Brown (Officer), Robert Bonney (Coolbinia), Hensley Bonney-Tucker (Port District), Jai

Brown (Halls Head), Percy Burgoyne (Henley), Owen Campbell (Palmerston Magpies), Talon Chilcott (Tweed-Coolangatta), Ricco Chubb (Darwin Buffaloes), Kobe Collins (Broadview), Charlie Colwell (Manly Bombers), Tjaegan Egan (Kew Comets), Sam English (South Cairns Cutters), Zebedee Farmer (Southport Sharks), Coen Hardy (Cronulla), Jerome Holland (Cairns Eagles), Xavier Little (North Mandurah), Dillon Mallard (Pioneer), Levi McClelland (South Mildura), Jamual Miller (Mundijong Centrals), Kairyce Monaei-Lowah (St Mary's), James Money (North Mandurah), Gus Mourish (Hammond Park), Callum Munns (Bathurst Giants), Franklin Murray-Wright (Corowa Rutherglen), Djayvian Narrier (Upper Swan), Loti Neskovicin (Launceston), Mazlan Patrick (Darwin Buffaloes), Isaac Peris-Coe (Broadview), Nye Petterson (Burnie), Jamarl Rankine (Flinders Park), Lynkoln Richardson (Echuca), Enai Ryder (Palmerston Magpies), Lynkon Ryder (Upper Swan), Jarryn Sambo (Wanderers), Nate Smalpage (Canning Vale), Sonni Te Moananui (East Point), Jordan Toogood (Pennant Hills), Pharrell Trapman (Moore Park Tigers), Curtis Walley (Armadale), Cooper Wanders (South Cairns Cutters), Nickolas Watts (Willaston), Timothy Wommatakimmi (Tiwai Bombers).

'Mad Mondays' no excuse for poor behaviour

AS long as I have known AFL clubs having their 'Mad Monday' or 'Wacky Wednesday' celebrations, venue staff hired to work at these have always been discrete; like a 'What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas' kind of vibe. Those days, thankfully, are over. Personally, I have never been comfortable with these 'events', where it is deemed "acceptable" for players to behave poorly for a day because, you know, 'of all the pressures they face as professional footballers'...



Shelley Ware

I recently watched an interview with NBA great Shaquille O'Neil where he told the story of his father who was very much a speak-when-spoken-to kind of dad. Shaq said that early in his career, after a game he didn't play well in, he blamed his own poor performance on pressure. Upon hearing this, his father would get him up at 5am. He was driven to a bridge, where they sat in their car looking at a tent, from which a man appeared followed by his partner and their children. Shaq's dad then said that playing basketball and blaming your loss and behaviour on pressure isn't acceptable. He said what he was witnessing at that tent was pressure; the pressure those parents were facing, who didn't know where their next meal was coming from, being homeless, with children to care for – that was pressure. The lesson Shaq's dad gave his son will stay with me forever.

I think we excuse poor behaviour in our athletes. It's like we put them in a box and they need to decompress. But we all carry pressure, but you and I don't behave poorly and use 'pressure' as an excuse. It doesn't pass muster in society's eyes.

Honestly, the "terrible mistakes" – as the Giants have labelled their "troubled couples-Mad Monday" celebrations – is a weak excuse. I don't even want to relate what the hideous "terrible mistakes" were.

Quite frankly, the game-bans, sanctions and fines are warranted, as were the penalties imposed upon the club's leadership. We should expect better; and not pass it off to "let them have fun" or "the world's gone mad, can't you take a joke?" sort of thinking. Our kids have immediate access to the internet and these and other poor behaviours are easily found online.

So bravo to the AFL who sanctioned these individuals and for sending a warning to the other clubs.

***Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She has worked in the AFL industry for over two decades**

Bell adds Tigers' B&F to premiership year

By PETER ARGENT

SA IN FOOTBALL, the ultimate accolade in a premiership year is to win your club's best-and-fairest award.

At the Glenelg Football Club in 2024, James Bell did exactly that, tying with Matthew Allen to win the John H. Ellers Medal as the SANFL club's best-and-fairest footballer in the year they won the flag.

Bell, who arrived at the club in 2023, is a back-to-back premiership player.

At Glenelg, the season's awards includes player-votes in any finals that players play in.

Across the SANFL finals series, Bell polled eight votes for his grand-final performance against Norwood; votes that were enough to tie with Allen to for the Tigers' top individual honour.

Bell also now is the first Aboriginal player to win the

award, and just the second Indigenous SANFL league premiership player at the club, following on from when Marlon Motlop won a flag with the club in 2019.

Going into the grand final, Bell was just three votes behind Matt Allen.

As the countdown went on, tension was built and the room erupted when it was revealed both finished on 266 points for the 2024 season.

Bell's acceptance speech was filled with raw emotion and he couldn't hold back the tears.

He spoke on how much the Glenelg Football Club had become his family since his move to Adelaide, especially as he has no immediate family in the city.

Bell also took home the Snouts Louts Award, an award selected by Glenelg fans for a players' passion and dedication, and capturing what it means to be a Tiger on and off the field.



James Bell has capped a stellar year on the football field after adding to his 2024 SANFL premiership medal his club's best-and-fairest award, the John H. Ellers Medal. Picture: Peter Argent

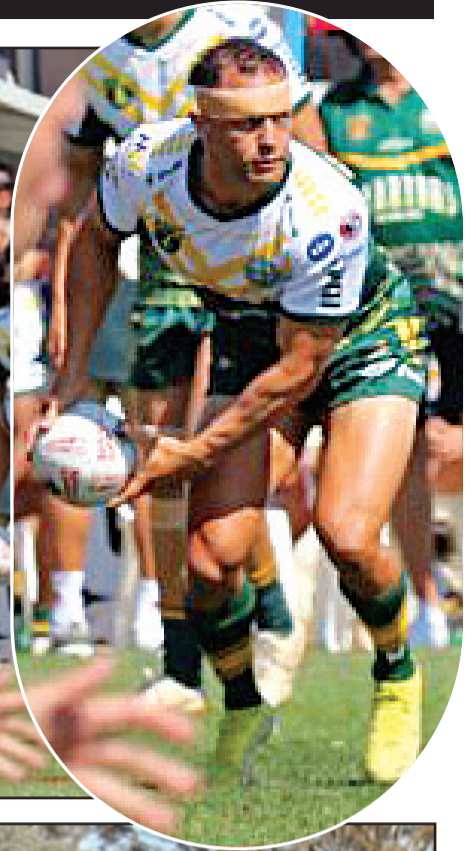
2024 koori knockout—photo gallery



The athleticism on show at the 2024 Koori Knockout was sometimes breathtaking. By sheer force of will, players either muscled their way into a position to score, or contorted themselves in to squeezing through an opponents' defence to score or to put a teammate in the best position to do so. The turnout at the Knockout was impressive, with between 2,000-3,000 people attending each day of the four-day event. Fans certainly got their admission-money's worth, seeing some terrific football on show, catching a glimpse of an NRL star or two, or taking in any of the top contests available across the three fields of play. *Pictures: Darren Moncrieff*



2024 koori knockout-photo gallery



Securing a win at the Koori Knockout is something to savour, as is shown to the left, below and right. The nature of the event is that everything a team has worked hard for must come to an end once that team loses (bottom right); but win, and anything is possible. *Pictures: Darren Moncrieff*



Knockout a sporting tradition

By **DARREN MONCRIEFF**



THE practice of Aboriginal people gathering en masse is not new; our old people, before European settlement, sought out each other for a variety of reasons – a sharing of culture, the strengthening of traditions, the

exchanging of stories, the act of creating connections.

The modern practice of Aboriginal people gathering en masse for sport, however, is relatively new.

Each year, for over 50 years in New South Wales, the Aboriginal community have gathered en masse, primarily around rugby league, in what has

become a celebration and a sporting tradition.

In time, this event, the NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival, has grown from the original seven teams in 1971 to over 100 in 2024.

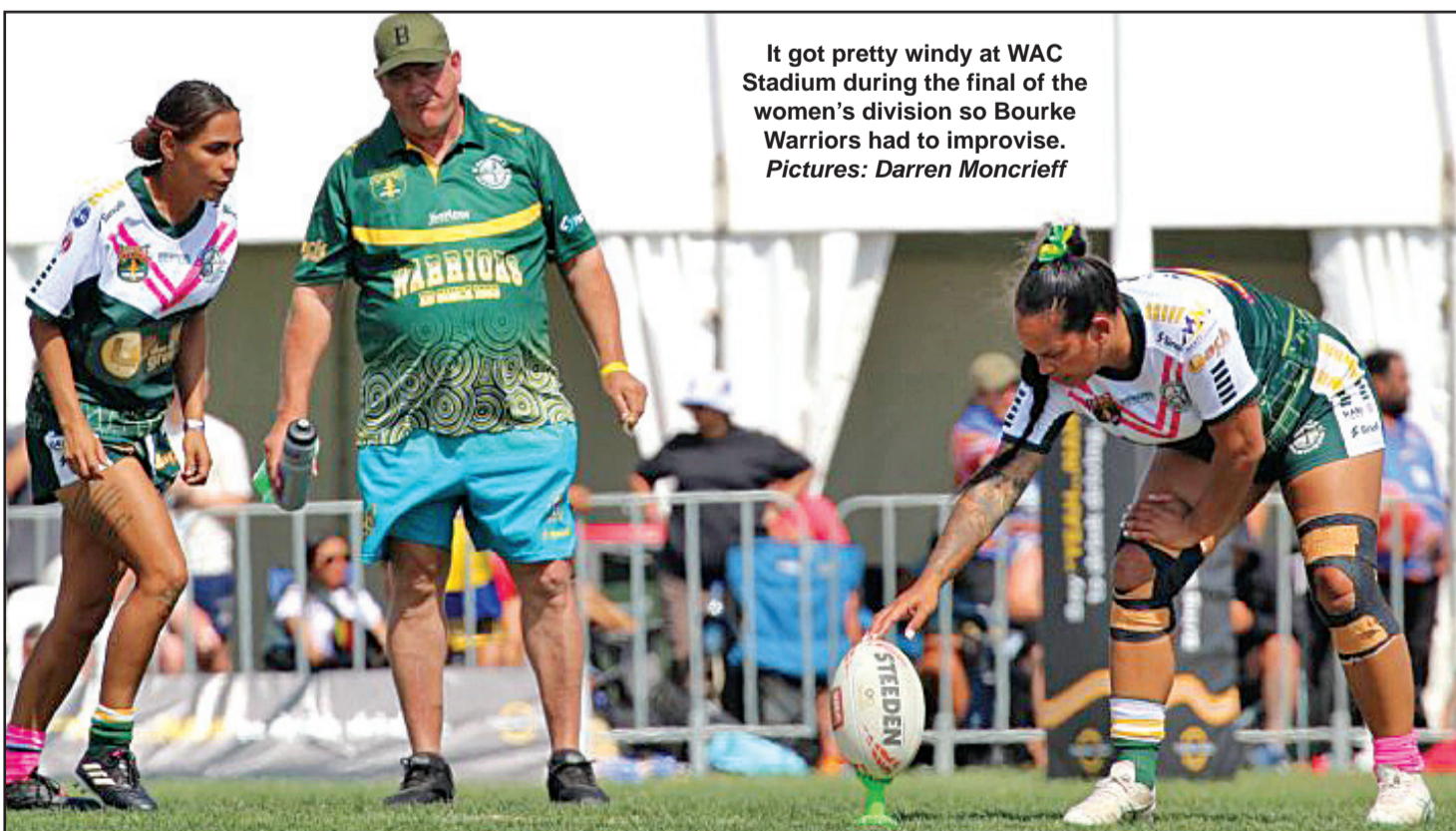
Here, then, is a selection of photos captured over the four days of the 2024 event on Wiradjuri Country at Bathurst.



The Koori Knockout offers an opportunity to capture some incredible moments.



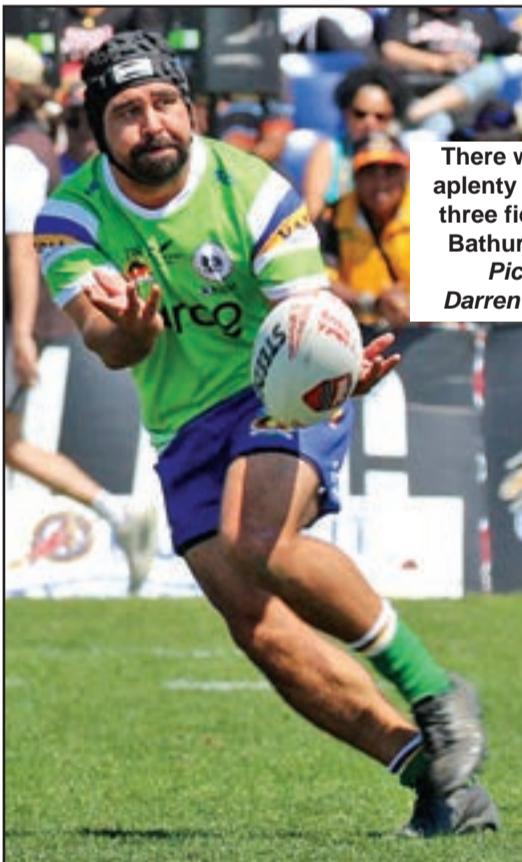
The game offers up-and-comers the chance to shine, while providing seasoned warhorses the chance to go around one more time.



It got pretty windy at WAC Stadium during the final of the women's division so Bourke Warriors had to improvise. Pictures: Darren Moncrieff



2024 koori knockout-photo gallery



There was action aplenty across the three fields at the Bathurst venue.
Pictures:
Darren Moncrieff



Bindi Bindi clean sweep at Indigenous Pacific Cup Netball

By DARREN MONCRIEFF



THE Bindi Bindi under-16 team are champions of junior netball after defeating Aotearoa at the 2024 Indigenous Perth Pacific Cup Netball Tournament in Fremantle.

The junior division Bindi Bindi team, coached by Jayden Councillor, went through the tournament undefeated and in the grand-final beat Aotearoa by 8pts, at the Fremantle Netball Association courts from 5-6 October.

The young team swept all before them at the tournament.

They were one of nine Indigenous teams at the big event.

Last year, organisers of the nine teams included the hard-working trio of Eveanna Cross, Angela Trebell and Berna Ryder who pitched to the netball tournament's organising committee the idea to bring in Indigenous teams, which they readily agreed.

"We are three Aboriginal Yorgas who love netball and what it can bring to the community, whether you are Mob or not," Cross said.

"Last year we had six teams, but this year nine, so that's around 90 Indigenous young netballers."

Jumping on board as sponsor-partners for the nine Indigenous teams were Hixx Equip, a 100% Indigenous-owned heavy diesel mechanic company, Roe Legal Services, Playpoint Indoor Sports, and Wonnil Partners.

"Overall, we had 10 teams for this year but one had to pull out," Cross said.

"But nine teams is 90 players and with adults and families coming down to support that's a lot of people.

"Last year when we decided to do it, we started small.

"This year, we held trials at the Ballajura



The triumphant Bindi Bindi 16s netball team – with coach Jayden Councillor (far left) – after winning the 2024 Indigenous Perth Pacific Cup Netball Tournament in Fremantle.

Indoor Courts where we had a great turnout.

"We had players and their families come from Manduarh, Quairading and Busselton, also Perth; people just wanted to be part of this."

To understand the distances those families travelled for the trials at Ballajura – 14km north of the Perth CBD – Quairading is 164km east of Perth, Busselton is 220km south of Perth, and Mandurah is 70km south of Perth.

The tournament itself was played at Fremantle.

The tournament builds on netball's

growing Indigenous engagement, which has largely been driven from grass-roots level.

This year, the Black Swans First Nations team played in the 2024 Pacific Netball Series in June and the Australian Netball Championships in August, while the Netball Australia First Nations Tournament was held in Melbourne last month.

"Netball is a great sport to play," Cross said.

"I'm 26 now, but when I started to play at my high-school, it was really shame because not a lot of Indigenous people were playing the game.

"Nowadays, we're just giving back to the community."

The winning Bindi Bindi team were comprised of Charlie Ball, Tahlissa Collard, Tiama Collard, Maddison Comeagain, Amaia Graves-Colbung, Lavendah Davis, China Foley, Kylah Hansen, Aamarli Jones, and coach Jayden Councillor.

The nine Indigenous teams (and their divisions) were:

NetSetGo (5-10yrs): Djiti Djitis; 13s: Djindas and Maali; 16s: Bindi Bindi and Kardas; 21s: Djooks and Moorn Magic; Mixed Opens: Noong Starz and Moorditj Mob.

QRL ruling sees Malu Kiwai punted from Bindal Sharks

By ALF WILSON



EMOTIONS ran high at the 39th Bindal Sharks Rugby League Carnival in Townsville when Torres Strait side Malu Kiwai was disqualified after winning at the quarter-final stage.

The Boigu Island team had won their two qualifying-round games the day before the quarter-final and were one of the favourites to take out the competition.

However, after defeating Doogsie Doolan Raiders 20-10 in their quarter-final match, Bindal Sharks officials had the unenviable task of disqualifying the team from the carnival.

It was deemed that Malu Kiwai had fielded a player who was under suspension by the QRL.

As an event enjoying sanction from the QRL, the Bindal Sharks organisations was bound to comply to rugby league body's rules and regulations.

This was the first time that Malu Kiwai had appeared at the popular tournament.

Bindal Sharks president Jenny Pryor said there was no option other than to disqualify Malu Kiwai.



Dramatic scenes at the 39th Bindal Sharks Rugby League Carnival in Townsville when Malu Kiwai was informed of its disqualification. Picture: Alf Wilson

"This is a QRL sanctioned carnival and (after) it was discovered that the player was under suspension, we had to abide by QRL rules," Ms Pryor said.

"Rules are rules."

Koori Mail Sport has made the decision to not name the player in question but it is

understood that he lined up at the Queensland Murri Carnival in southern Queensland prior to the Bindal Sharks tournament.

QRL northern division's Renae Kunst said the decision on the disqualification was not made by the QRL.

"I can confirm that the player in particular was communicated to about being unable to play at the carnival prior to the commencement of the carnival," Ms Kunst said.

The decision has angered supporters. Fred Victor Pabai Snr, a founding member of Malu Kiwai team from the 1980s, said the community was upset and angry over the disqualification.

"(We want) to gather statements to compile a formal complaint about the incident, to settle this matter in the QRL level, or furthermore," he said.

"I call on the honesty and integrity of all leaders of the Bindal Sharks committees and the QRL representatives to be fair to our people."

At the carnival Malu Kiwai enjoyed the largest number of supporters and the club spent a huge amount of money to attend.

As a result of their disqualification, Malu Kiwai's quarter-final opponents Doogsie Doolan Raiders qualified for the grand final, which they lost 33-22 to the Elsie Thompson Memorial team.

Malu Kiwai won the last 2023 Dan Ropayarn Rugby League Carnival at Bamaga.

Redfern All Blacks the Queens of the Koori KO



The Redfern All Blacks women's team celebrate winning the 2024 NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival title at Bathurst on the October long-weekend.

RAB defeat Bourke Warriors to win women's title

By DARREN MONCRIEFF



REDFERN All Blacks' 22-4 win over Bourke Warriors in the final of the women's division at the 2024 Koori Knockout was built on the back of basics, according to coach Shane Phillips.

But the long-time coach and KO stalwart first had to calm his troops before guiding them toward the 2024 NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival title at Bathurst.

RAB scored four tries to one in the final, and converted three of those tries, to run out worthy winners.

"I've been an assistant coach to the men's teams, and we've had a big season (in Sydney), which we didn't win but we played at a high level, so we came here, we're keeping them girls together, keeping our combos, and I tell you what: it's made me proud, it's a big moment," Phillips said after the big game.

RAB looked in control at the outset, their cohesion and match-fitness early was an ominous sign for the plucky Warriors side. But seasoned coach Phillips saw that all was not right.

"They got overwhelmed by the crowd and the moment; they got lost, they panicked," he said.

"We got them in (at half-time) and for the second half got them back into the grind, to do what we've been playing to – to hold the ball, no matter how far down the field we're going, to kick down to the corners, and then defend hard, nothing else, just finish the set... and that's what they did, they ended up scoring.

"We won that game in the last three minutes; one minute to go, and I was celebrating."

The team had earlier been rocked by the passing of one of the player's grandmother, Phillips said.

"One of the girl's Nan's passed away and they pulled together for her; it was just so good they did that for her."

WAC soon to make a decision on 2025 KO location

By DARREN MONCRIEFF



WALGETT Aboriginal Connection, winners of the 2024 Koori Knockout men's division, will soon announce the location of the 2025 event.

The red-and-whites barnstormed their way toward back-to-back titles with a 42-18 win over Nanima Common

Connections at Bathurst over the October long-weekend.

"After the successful 52nd NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival, WAC will aim to make a quick decision on where the 53rd annual event will be held," a WAC spokesman said.

"We plan to make a decision within the next month and let teams know as soon as possible to allow ample time for

teams to prepare for next year."

WAC's move is a welcome one.

Teams had traditionally waited until several months after winning the KO to announce their preferred location.

● How WAC defied history to win back-to-back KOs – Page 44

● The 2024 KO Picture Gallery – Pages 46-49



Jason Gillespie has had his role as coach of the Pakistan cricket team compromised.

Picture: Peter Argent

'Dizzy' left flustered after PCB decision

● From back page



GILLESPIE has coached in Australia – at Sheffield Shield and in the Big Bash League – in England and across the world, but has never had control of a team taken from his grasp

like this.

This bizarre decision was made after Pakistan's humiliating defeat in the First Test (of a three-Test series) against England in Multan, where they were bowled out for 220 in the second innings, after England had declared at 7-823.

Pakistan is noted as one of the most volatile Test cricket countries in the world, with coaches having to deal with several different factions.

The PCB have already swung the axe, with Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah dropped for the Second and Third Tests.

The PCB's decision has been heavily criticised. Former England captain Michael Vaughan called it "stupid".

"This decision to drop a player like Babar could actually be counterproductive to the morale and performance of the team," Vaughan said.

Gillespie may well find the restrictions placed upon him untenable as well.



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Thank you!



National sports award nominations finalised

By **DARREN MONCRIEFF**



ORGANISERS of the revitalised National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sports Awards have finalised nominations for the big event next month.

This year marks the second time the event will be held after last year's return from a 20-year hiatus.

The 2024 nominees represent a cross-section of sport, with individuals, clubs and organisations from around the country and in a variety of disciplines.

Two categories – the Lifetime and Achievement, and Trailblazer – each has singular nominations, given the nature and criteria for both.

The event will be held at the Olympic Room inside the MCG in Narm-Melbourne on Saturday, 16 November.

Organisers also say there are a number of tickets still available.

Seats can be purchased individually, in groups or as a table of 10. The price includes food, drinks, and a night full of pride, celebrations and entertainment.

They are available via the organisation's website – nisf.org.au/natsisa

The awards will be preceded by the National Indigenous Sports Summit on Friday, 15 November, also in Narm-Melbourne.

The summit will seek to address our people's place within sport, with a Q&A session to follow.

The 2024 NATSISA nominees are:

Volunteer of the Year:

Charlie Williams (rugby league) – Justin Downing (Aussie rules) – Kristy Jetta (Aussie rules).

Community Organisation of the Year:

Koorie Basketball Academy (basketball) – Rumbalara Football Netball Club (Aussie rules, netball) – VACSAL (multi-sport).

Team of the Year:

Lloyd McDermott U16 & U18 Girls Rugby 7s (rugby union) – Rumbalara A-Grade Netball Team (netball) – Walgett Aboriginal Connection (rugby league).

Sportsperson with a Disability:

Telaya Blacksmith (athletics) – Archie Graham (tennis) – Amanda Reid (para-cycling).

Official of the Year:

Ali Tucker-Munro (netball) – Jacquie Dover (basketball) – Joshua James (Aussie rules).

Media Representative of the Year:

Bo Dela Cruz (NRL) – Hannah Hollis (NRL) – Eddie Betts (AFL).

Coach of the Year:

Andrew Walker (Aussie rules) – Kerry

Williams (basketball) – Jessica Skinner (rugby league).

Junior Sportsperson of the Year:

Rhani Hagan (touch football) – Telaya Blacksmith (Athletics) – Cody Walker (Aussie rules).

Competition of the Year:

Koori Knockout (rugby league) – SA Aboriginal Football and Netball Carnival (Aussie rules, netball) – Kari Foundation Ella 7s (rugby union).

Sportsperson of the Year:

Amanda Reid (Aus Cycling) – Olivia Kernick (NRLW) – Patrick Mills (NBA). Senior / Elder Sportsperson of the Year: Rieo Ellis (netball) – Tony Lovett (Aussie rules) – Christopher Hume (boxing).

Lifetime Achievement:

Lionel Rose (professional boxer).

Trailblazer of the Year:

Glenn James (senior VFL umpire).

'Dizzy' under the pump as Pakistan falters

By **PETER ARGENT**



ABORIGINAL cricket legend and current Pakistan national team coach Jason 'Dizzy' Gillespie has had unusual restrictions imposed upon him by that nation's administrators.

Gillespie was appointed red-ball coach of the Pakistan national cricket team earlier this year, but his start in world cricket's most difficult job has been tumultuous.

In August, Pakistan lost two Test matches to Bangladesh, and they collapsed in the First Test (of a three-Test series) against England earlier this month.

In response, the Pakistan Cricket Board have gone against cricket convention and will reduce Gillespie's effectiveness as coach by taking away his voice in team selection and even for team strategy. This will also apply to the team's captain, Shan Masood.

The PCB have now installed a revamped selection committee led by former player Aaqid Javid who will now take full control, deciding strategy, choosing the First XI while also interacting with the ground staff about pitch conditions.

● Continued, Page 51



Jason Gillespie has had a tumultuous start as coach of the Pakistan national cricket team – often said to be the toughest gig in world sport. *Picture: Getty Images*

2024 Koori Knockout photo gallery – Pages 50-53