



Koori Mail

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS NEWSPAPER – 100% ABORIGINAL-OWNED 100% SELF-FUNDING

EDITION 841

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024

PUBLISHED SINCE 1991

Phone: (02) 66 222 666

www.koorimail.com

Recommended price \$2.99 (GST-inclusive)



Christmas at the South Pole

By JILLIAN MUNDY

WHILE Mr and Mrs Claus are believed to be making Christmas preparations in the North Pole, Palawa man Lewan Lehman and his Antarctic 'family' are definitely preparing in the South Pole.

The 31-year-old carpenter is part of the summer crew at the Australian Antarctic Program's Casey Research Station.

● Full story, page 7

Palawa carpenter Lewan Lehman in Antarctica where researchers are preparing to study changes in the Earth's climate and atmosphere over the past million years. Lewan and the rest of the summer crew are preparing for Christmas as far away from the North Pole as you can get while still being on planet Earth. Picture: Gordon Hutcheon.

Frontline Warriors



AS the country prepares to celebrate Christmas and the holiday season, spare a thought for our First Nations warriors who are out there fighting for change. From Tasmania to the Torres Strait, and across to the 'wild' west, battles are being fought to protect Country, and to preserve history and culture. **See pages 18-19.**



Jim Everett Puralia-Meenematta of Lutruwita/Tasmania talked to media about his obligation to protect forests, then walked away from the 'colonial court' just minutes before he was scheduled to appear. "This is not just an Aboriginal issue, this is everybody's issue. We've got to protect these forests, we're going to protect our waters and our seas," he said.



THE Torres Strait Islands are experiencing sea-level rise at twice the global average, with Boigu Island projected to be uninhabitable by 2050. Faced with this devastating reality, Uncle Pabai Pabai, a Traditional Owner of Boigu Island, joined forces with Uncle Paul Kabai, a Traditional Owner of Sabai Island in the Torres Strait, to highlight their dilemma.



THE WA government has approved an extension until 2070 of North West Shelf, the centrepiece of Woodside's Burrup Hub, which critics say will make it the most polluting gas project in the Southern Hemisphere. Murujuga Traditional Custodian Raelene Cooper says extending the project will cause irreversible damage to ancient rock art.

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Archie and Ruby tribute unveiled

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Memories of Rex Greeno

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MY FAMILY

Ezra Noble, Palm Island, Qld



From left are Ezra Noble (me), Darren Murphy, Gayleen Wilson and Nathaniel Walsh.

I have hundreds of family and extended family on Palm Island and on mainland Townsville and look forward to spending as much time with them as I can over Christmas and into the new year.

My partner Gayleen Wilson and I have been together for a long time and our close relatives are members of the Ketchup, Robertson, Murphy and Walsh families.

When the Koori Mail saw us we were sitting in the Townsville CBD chilling out and waiting for others to come along.

Soon after my cousin Nathaniel Walsh and nephew Darren Murphy arrived and we yarned as we sat on the concrete seats and saw many others walking past or riding on e-scooters.

Nathaniel had with him a football jersey in memory of a late and great Palm islander Stumbo Walsh and we enjoyed looking at it.

Stumbo had been a great player and later official of the Palm island Barracudas and has a memorial team named in his honour at carnivals.

Another friend Shane Robertson was nearby and talking to us.

We all follow rugby league and I barrack for the Sydney Bulldogs, Gayleen follows the premiers the Penrith Panthers, and Shane loves the Broncos.

We all will be following with interest the Christmas Cup footy comp on Palm island on the coming weekend.

If we can't get over there we will be getting scores especially for teams which our family members are in.

One thing we can't wait for is Christmas dinner and I am looking forward to having a good feed of pork and ham.

There will be lots of delicious things on the menu at the place where we will have dinner.

Another family enjoyment is having barbecues along the scenic Townsville Strand with the ocean in the background.

We want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and good health.

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



Bundjalung jarjum Jalu Toby enjoys the Christmas decorations at the South Lismore Post Office.

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

Cultural Lead: Rhoda Roberts – rhoda@koorimail.com
Editor: Darren Coyne – editor@koorimail.com
Newspaper Advertising: advertising@koorimail.com
Job Web Advertising: webads@koorimail.com
Accounts: accounts@koorimail.com

Subscriptions: subs@koorimail.com
Advertising Format
Page Size: 38cm deep x 26cm wide
7 columns per page
Single column size 35mm • 2.5mm space between columns

Advertising Deadlines
Bookings 5pm on the Wednesday prior to publication.
Material 5pm Thursday prior to publication.

Koori Mail on The Web: www.koorimail.com
Complete details of editorial and jobs advertised in the Koori Mail can be accessed through the State Library of NSW's INFOKOORI service.

INFOKOORI site address
<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/infokoori>
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Breaking taboos and beating odds

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



WALMATJARRI Elder Kankawa Nagarra has been awarded the 2024 Australian Music Prize for her newly released album *Wirlmarni*.

The seventy-eight-year-old blues musician, teacher, human rights and environmental activist bested the likes of Nick Cave, Amyl and the Sniffers and The Dirty Three to win the \$50,000 award for an album of bluesy gospel inflected songs Kankawa says are about truth-telling.

Drenched in a sense of place – that place being near her home in the Western Kimberly of Western Australia, the album was recorded by her friend and fellow musician Darren Hanlon.

Now in its 20th year, the Australian Music Prize is considered the country's most prestigious music award and is determined by a panel of musicians, critics and industry figures. Previous winners have included King Stingray and Courtney Barnett.

Overwhelmed

"Well, I'm so overwhelmed by the award to tell you the truth, because I wasn't expecting it," Kankawa said.

"I'd call it a miracle because we don't even know who nominated the album. I'm so thrilled the judges have given me this honour."

Across the album's twelve tracks Kankawa moves effortlessly between languages and styles with the sounds of the landscape, wildlife and family ever-present.

"Yes it's very stripped down, there's a guitar and me and the noises from the environment around me and family, the little ones and the community here," she said.

Kankawa sees herself primarily as a lyricist, a storyteller and the album's haunting title track, *Wirlmarni* refers to the story tellers in her Mob that came before her.

"*Wirlmarni* is the word for disappear in Walmatjarri, which is one of my languages, and it tells the story of our storytellers, the old people who have disappeared and who have taken their stories with them," she said.



Kankawa Nagarra has won Australia's biggest music prize.

"It's a question, the song is a question. Where have they gone? Where have they disappeared to?"

Kankawa also teaches children at her local school about lyric writing in language.

"I put lyrics into music with the children. They need to write in language and then we put the music into it. It's a way of encouraging language speaking and singing so the children become much more familiar with how easy it is to roll into using language."

Inspiration

Drawing inspiration from American women blues pioneers such as Sister Rosetta Tharpe and Jesse Mae Hemphill, both renowned guitar players, Kankawa still had to overcome cultural taboos before she finally laid her hands on a guitar.

"There was a traditional taboo that women and girls weren't allowed to touch men's musical instruments, you know, the clap sticks, the boomerang or any instruments that men play in traditional songs," she said.

"The taboo included the guitar. Women were discouraged because, as you can see, it's a men's instrument.

Anything to do with wood was men's business because they were the ones who touched those things.

Of course Kankawa now owns a few guitars.

"I've got a beautiful Cole Clark with me at the moment. She needs fixing but I'm using her anyway."

She encourages other women and girls to take up the instrument and start telling their own stories.

"Yes, that's what I would like, especially in my area in the Kimberley there aren't very many women who are picking up the guitar.

As a lyricist Kankawa has a deep well-spring of experience and near tragedy to draw upon, "I have had a tumultuous life, more or less and my life was almost ended at the time of my birth because of tribal conflicts."

Close call

In a 2022 she told *Koori Mail* editor Darren Coyne she was nearly killed on the day her 15-year-old mother gave birth to her 'out bush' in the Kimberley under a Bauhinia tree.

Her 18-year-old father was the pastoralist's son, and 'because there was a bit of colour in me' the father's grandmother wanted to smash

Kankawa's head in with a rock.

"She wanted to put me out of my misery more or less because they didn't like coloured babies born in that era," Kankawa said.

"But someone shielded me. It was God's plan for me not to be destroyed."

According to her record company it wasn't until many years later her musical journey truly began when she stopped to listen to a busker outside a shop in Derby, Western Australia.

It was the first time she'd heard the blues, and through that she found a medium to express all her thoughts and feelings, and it inspired her to turn these into songs. The empathy of her message extends from those she sees struggling around her to the entire planet being ravaged for profit.

"*Wirlmarji* is an example for my people who follow, to the children who look up to me and hopefully this will boost the morale of my people, and we can look forward to great things in the future," Kankawa said.

"All in all the album is about truth telling and the advancement of Australian music as well as the advancement of us – the Indigenous people of Australia."

Accused murderers plead not guilty



FOUR people accused of murdering an Indigenous teenager have formally pleaded not guilty to the

charges.

Cassius Turvey, a 15-year-old Noongar Yamatji boy, died in a Perth hospital 10 days after an incident as he walked home from school with friends on October 13, 2022.

Brodie Lee Palmer, 29, Mitchell Colin Forth, 26, Jack Steven James Brearley, 23, and Aleesha Louise Gilmore, 22, pleaded not guilty in the WA Supreme Court on Monday. Chief Justice Peter Quinlan will

preside over the high-profile trial that is scheduled to start on February 10, with the matter returning to court for pre-trial hearings on January 30 and 31.

The group was also arraigned over several other charges they are facing at the trial.

Brearley, Forth and another man named Ethan Robert MacKenzie, 20, pleaded not guilty to unlawfully detaining and assaulting another boy on October 9, 2022. MacKenzie will stand trial at the same time as the other accused. Gilmore denied unlawfully detaining the same teen on that day.

Brearley, Forth, Gilmore and MacKenzie denied unlawfully

detaining a third person on that day. Forth pleaded guilty to stealing a hat and crutches on October 13, 2022. Brearley and Palmer denied the stealing charge. Brearley, Palmer, Forth and Gilmore also denied assaulting another person on that day.

Cassius has been remembered as a loving son and a role model to his friends. He had started his own lawn-mowing business and was invited at the age of 11 to deliver an acknowledgement of country at WA's parliament.

Palmer, Forth, Brearley and Gilmore previously pleaded not guilty to murdering Cassius in a lesser court in 2023. All remain in custody. -AAP



Sharing the joy with others at Christmas

By KRIS FLANDERS



CHRISTMAS is supposed to be a time for giving and making lasting memories, but

for many families it can be a difficult time of the year. The costs of living and other financial barriers can make Christmas a real struggle.

But Lachlan Skinner and One Mob Radio in Coffs Harbour on the NSW mid-north coast are doing their best to make sure that there are plenty of happy faces come Christmas Day.

"I heard some stories and they made me very emotional, just to think that there was going to be some kids that miss out on Christmas and miss out on opening presents," Skinner said.

"That struck a chord with me and the right thing to do was try to make a difference with the platform we have at the radio station and support our local community."

Skinner said the support from the local community has been overwhelming, and showed the love, resilience

and heartfelt thoughts people have for one another by donating gifts for One Mob Radio's Christmas Drive.

"Too often we hear stories of some communities drifting apart or sad things happening to people but this is a beautiful situation," Skinner said.

"We put a call out to the community for assistance and had a really great response from them straight away. The reward for people is to be able to put a present under somebody's tree and bring a smile to someone's face. It's a great way to end the year."

While those who sent in the gifts may not see the joy and smiles on the faces of the kids and their families, they will know in their hearts that they've done something special.

Skinner said making the day memorable for families doing it tough was what it was all about.

"It's a beautiful thing to know that people are taking time out of their day to go shopping for others and contributing; it's about coming together and supporting one another," he said.

One Mob Radio has been on the airwaves for four years and continues to thrive, grow and be an integral part of Coffs Harbour and the surrounding areas.

Skinner is presenter and producer and believes the station is there for the people.

"The radio station is just one part of One Mob Radio, the other side, the most important side, is the community," he said.

"We have always listened to them and we've responded. We have also been involved in events, raising funds, raising awareness of different issues.

"It's also introduced community into radio, the media and pathways for them to be involved.

"The feedback is always positive and the community connects and engages with us and I'm very proud to be in this position.

"I guess I'm a bit of a 'jack-of-all-trades' at the station but I never envisaged getting to this point, or One Mob Radio getting to this point.

"I have to pinch myself every day."



Lachlan Skinner with sister and fellow One Mob Radio presenter Noelene at the studios.

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Reflecting on the year that was

At the end of the year, it is important to reflect on the year that was and how we want to move forward into the next one. We are all currently in celebration and wrap up mode and to be honest all a little exhausted. We still need to take stock as too often we can forget to properly celebrate the little and big wins, mourn our losses and gather ourselves together to let go of what needs to be left behind.

Personally, I have had a better year, there has been a lot of healing after last year losing my mum and my husband's mum to serious illnesses, as well as too many other significant people in our lives.

The year started in quite a fog from the loss, it was hard to see which way was up as navigating the failed referendum was still hard for me and many of you too.

I was tired of doing the percentage of how many people in a room voted no when I entered and just how culturally unsafe I was when I stayed there. So, I had to change my mindset. I have, and the healing around that has been all for the better. I know many of you reading have put the same energy into self-reflecting and healing yourself this year too, it keeps you well in mind, body and spirit. When I think of the year our



Shelley's view

people have had as a community, I feel the strength and I see the joy in the pages of this very newspaper every edition. We have come together, risen and strengthened our commitment to our wellbeing, our joy and our futures. I feel strong from you all. We still have some work to do in so many areas but I see more and more we are taking control ourselves to bring wellness to places and people that still need it.

This Christmas we have too many of our babies that will spend this Christmas in adult jails alone and frightened. We must continue to stand together and fight with the raise the age campaign and so we can be a part of their healing and

rehabilitate our young people, who need extra love not rejection. Please take a moment on Christmas day as you sit down to eat your lunch with your loves and think of these children and fill the spirit that surrounds them with your love.

As I get older I see the truth in the saying 'hurt people hurt people' and I have felt for many a reason that lateral violence is out of control within our community. I hope that the people who see fit to continually bully others within our community take stock of their behaviour and see the harm it causes. I hope their hurt heals in them. If they don't take time to self-reflect as let's be honest not all people are capable of this, I hope as a community we stand with a gentle strength against the lateral violence we see and we don't let it be our normal moving forward.

Please take some time to reflect on your year and be kind to yourself, not every year is perfect, not every year is full of joy, but every year has wins and love shared that keeps our souls strong. So, look for the good and the beauty in your year and celebrate it hard. You deserve to be celebrated.

● Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu women from Adelaide, SA.

Coroner calls for urgent closure of youth jail



THE troubled youth wing of an adult prison where an Indigenous teenager fatally self-harmed should be closed "as a matter of urgency", a coroner has told a court.

More funding should be provided for training corrections staff and the prison watchdog's powers should be beefed up, with coroner Philip Urquhart also calling for the justice department to be stripped of its role overseeing young people.

Cleveland Dodd was found unresponsive inside a cell in Unit 18, a youth wing of the high-security adult facility Casuarina Prison in Perth, 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.

Inquest

It also led to an expedited inquest in early April this year, which sat for 34 days, with the final evidence being heard on Wednesday before Mr Urquhart delivered his provisional recommendations.

The coroner indicated he would call for Unit 18's policies and procedures to be overhauled and that trauma-informed culturally appropriate care be implemented at a proposed new youth detention centre.

Mr Urquhart said he would also potentially recommend more caseworkers and mental health workers be employed in youth detention centres, that the health department take responsibility for detainees with mental health issues and that support be provided to help detainees transition into the community.

He said staff should also work shorter shifts and wear more relaxed uniforms and that if Unit 18 was to remain open



Cleveland Dodd's mother, Nadene Dodd, and father, Wayne Gentle. Picture: AAP.

detainees shouldn't be held there for any longer than six weeks, with two months in between stays and increased access to lawyers.

"It is not appropriate that a cell block in a maximum security adult prison should be used long term as a youth detention facility," Mr Urquhart said.

The long-running inquest also heard from Cleveland's heartbroken mother Nadene Dodd, who described conditions in "the hellhole of Unit 18".

"I thought my son was safe ... and that he would leave detention, rehabilitated ... better not worse off," she said in a statement read to the court by a friend.

"My boy never stood a chance of regaining consciousness after he was found ... His mind and his spirit died in that cell, not in the hospital."

Ms Dodd said images shown to her of Cleveland "surrounded by uneaten plates of food cannot be unseen".

"The concrete box in which he took his last breaths was barren and filthy," she said.

"My son didn't deserve to be treated the way that he was treated. My son didn't deserve to die.

"Institutional abuse of children is unacceptable."

Ms Dodd said governments must be held to a higher not a lower standard.

"It breaks my heart to know that from the moment he was transferred to Unit 18, Cleveland never got the chance to go outside, to feel the sun on his skin, to breathe in fresh air, to look at the sky," she said.

"Instead, he spent his time locked down for almost 24 hours a day, day in and day out, for weeks on end.

"He lost the will to live inside a state-run facility where he was supposed to be kept safe."

Ms Dodd said the West Australian government "sent my boy to Unit 18 and kept him there long after they knew the conditions were unliveable, inhumane, disgusting".

Ms Dodd said she would not let Cleveland's short life be meaningless.

"His legacy will be to highlight the many ways in which the system failed him and to bring about real reforms," she said.

"To ensure no child has to endure what he did in Unit 18."

Ms Dodd said the justice department and corrective services personnel responsible for youth justice must be held to account.

The case will return to court in June for closing submissions ahead of the coroner's final findings and recommendations.

'Distressing result' as grandmother jailed in Japan



THE jailing of an Australian grandmother in Japan is "really distressing" for her family, the federal government has acknowledged as it committed to doing all it could

to help her.

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler made the promise a day after Donna Nelson, 58, from Perth, was sentenced to six years for smuggling methamphetamine into Tokyo in January 2023. Her legal team has indicated they plan to appeal, noting that the two years she's already served will count toward her overall sentence.

Japanese officials uncovered about 2kg of methamphetamine in a false bottom in a suitcase she was carrying as checked luggage and the court accepted her testimony that she was tricked as part of an online romance scam.

Nelson told the court she was carrying the case for a man she met online in 2020, who said he was the Nigerian owner of a fashion business, but she did not know that drugs were hidden inside it.

She was supposed to meet him in Japan but he did not turn up, prosecutors said, with the court finding that he paid for her travel to Japan and asked her to collect dress samples from an acquaintance during a stopover in Laos.

She was ordered to pay a fine equivalent to \$A10,000 on top of her sentence after being found guilty of breaking drug and customs laws in the Chiba District Court.

Mr Butler said the Australian government would continue to provide support to the 58-year-old Indigenous woman and her family as they decided on their next steps.

"This will obviously be a really distressing result for Ms Nelson and for her family and friends," he said.

"Our government, through the usual consular pathways, has been providing support to Ms Nelson and the usual sort of consular assistance that you'd expect in a case like this."

Nelson's family members, some of whom attended the trial, said they were disappointed and devastated by the verdict. They maintain she was "duped" and have described her as the victim of a crime, not a criminal. "We will never stop fighting for our mum," her family said in a statement.

"And we will keep fighting until we can bring her home."

-AAP

TAFE NSW NSW



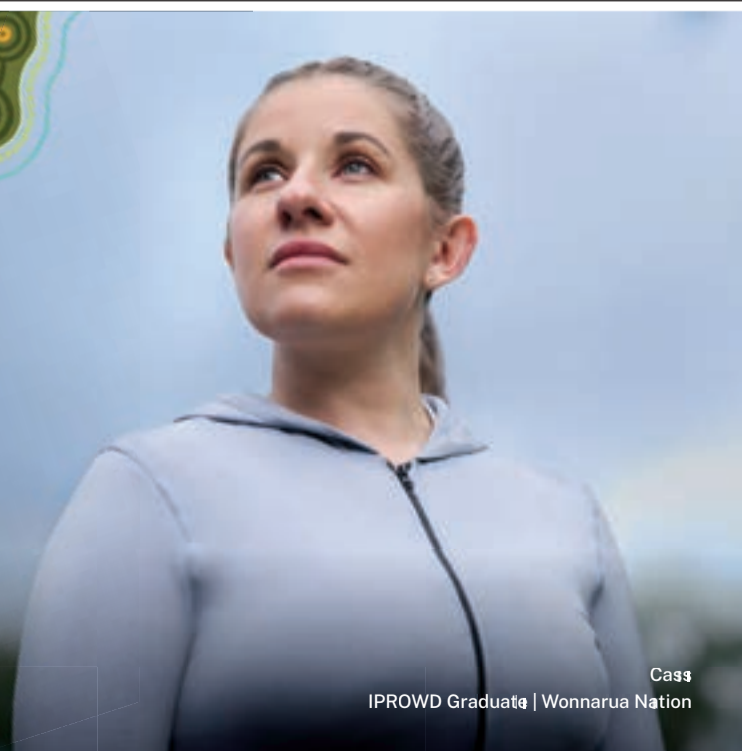
"I wanted to help bridge the gap between community and law enforcement."

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Cass
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‘We want an arrest’: new push over exhumed teen’s death



THE family of a talented Indigenous teenager who died unexpectedly still don't know what their painful decision to exhume his body has achieved.

Lewis “Buddy” Kelly had just bought a car and was set to travel overseas to play tennis when found dead on railway tracks outside Kempsey in northern NSW in December 1983.

No autopsy, no blood-alcohol readings and few witness statements were taken before his death was marked down as accidental self-harm related to drunkenness.

After campaigning by aggrieved relatives, the 16-year-old's grave was exhumed in 2020.

But the family say they have been left in the dark about what the autopsy showed.

“It's been four years since our family made the impossible decision to have our Buddy exhumed and more than 41 years since he was taken from us and denied his life,” younger sister Monica Kelly said.

“We need answers and we need them urgently.”

In a meeting with a court last Thursday, the family was told the Crown Solicitor's Office was reviewing material gathered during the coroner's



Family member Monica Kelly speaks to the media during a community rally outside the NSW Coroners Court calling for justice surrounding the 1983 death of Lewis “Buddy” Kelly, in Sydney, last Thursday.

investigation. That included fresh evidence recently handed to police and the coroner – which the family believes can kickstart more than just a fresh inquest.

“We want an arrest,” Ms Kelly said.

“And with the information that has been received, that can happen.

“Even though it's 41 years, we still suffer. For them to not call or send us updates in recent years is unprofessional for a government department.”

Her brother was a very active sportsman who was going to travel to play tennis in America in January 1984.

Buddy had just got his L-plates, bought

himself a car and scored an apprenticeship as a glazier.

It makes the original finding that he drunkenly wandered onto train tracks and laid down in the path of a train on New Year's Eve impossible for loved ones to believe.

“He had a family that loved him ... he had everything going for him,” Ms Kelly said.

Greens Senator David Shoebridge and state MP Sue Higgs recently wrote to the coroner highlighting concerns about communication with the family.

They urged the information that came to light in recent weeks be “urgently investigated”.

“Buddy's death is shrouded in suspicion and state failure, there should be protocols in place for dealing with this now and providing the family with the support they need and deserve, as is the case for deaths in custody,” Ms Higgs said last Thursday.

The NSW Coroners Court said it had not decided whether to reopen the case but could not comment further on the investigation.

“The court's Aboriginal Coronial Information and Support Program and the court registry have been available to the Kelly family,” a spokesperson said.

– AAP

Top tips to avoid driving tired



Get a good night's sleep.



Avoid driving after midnight.



Pull over for a break in a safe place.



Plan to take regular rest breaks.



Arrange to share the driving.



Take a nap, 20 minutes works best.



Don't trust your tired self
testyourtiredself.com.au



South Pole celebrations

By JILLIAN MUNDY



WHILE Mr and Mrs Claus are believed to be making Christmas preparations in the North Pole, Palawa man Lewan Lehman and his Antarctic 'family' are definitely preparing in the South Pole.

The 31-year-old carpenter is part of the summer crew at the Australian Antarctic Program's Casey Research Station.

Rather than reindeers and dark nights, there are friendly Adélie penguins and 24 hours of daylight.

It's the adventure of a lifetime and Lewan is glad he took a chance and applied for a carpentry position, making it through a nine month application and assessment process.

He hopes having a story in the *Koori Mail* might invoke inspiration in readers.

"Take that chance, go for what you want to, there's no harm in trying something that you're afraid to do, or nervous of doing," said Lewan.

"Not just Antarctica, anything, that's why I make little videos and put on Instagram and Facebook – I want to show people what it's like down here and how amazing it is, and how lucky I am to be able to do these things.

"It is a job, but I'm working in this amazing landscape.

"Flying into Antarctica, it's insane, it's ice everywhere, if it's a white sky you can't tell the difference between sky and ice," said Lewan on a video call with the *Koori Mail* last week.

"I wake up every morning, I have to pinch myself, I look out and there is icebergs and whatnot.

"I feel like I'm on a different planet."

He's impressed with the incredible people, opportunities, training on offer, investment in employees, exploring the area, the extensive recreational facilities and how non-research employees are briefed on fascinating scientific research when they arrive and at weekly talks.



Palawa man Lewan Lehman is spending Christmas in Antarctica.,

The Australian Antarctic Division is gearing up to lead 'Million Year Ice Core' – one of the most ambitious and challenging international Antarctic scientific projects ever – a quest to drill an ice core containing a million-year record of Earth's climate and atmospheric history and place current changes in climate and greenhouse gas concentrations into a deeper context.

It aims to help solve a long-standing mystery about the timing of past ice ages – why, almost one million years ago, the cycle between colder glacial and warmer interglacial periods every 41,000 years, changed to every 100,000 years.

Trace chemicals and particles trapped in ice layers provide data on past temperatures, frequency and intensity of volcanic

eruptions, sea ice extent, dustiness and wind patterns. Air pockets trapped as bubbles in the ice are pristine samples of past atmospheric concentrations revealing carbon dioxide, methane, oxygen and other gas levels.

The team to expect to drill about 150 metres per week, taking 6.5 to 8.5 tonnes of ice core a year.

A 500-tonne convoy will travel 1,200km inland from Casey Research Station to the drill site. The cores will be transported back to Casey to be transported by ship to the Australian Antarctic Division laboratory in Lutruwita/Tasmania.

It will take four to five years to drill to the base of the 3,000-metre thick ice sheet

Back at station, at the moment, summer solstice and



Lewan's South Pole 'Santa' workshop. Pictures: Gordon Hutcheon.



Supplies are brought in on the ice-breaker, *Nuyina*, pronounced noy-ye-nah, which means 'southern lights' in palawa kani.

Christmas approaches.

"Temperatures are a balmy -3 to -10," said Lewan speaking like a true born and bred Tasmanian.

"You can go outside and wear your shorts when it's sunny day, the sun is pretty intense,"

However, station Christmas celebrations will be delayed until resupply from *RSV Nuyina* is complete – all hands will be on deck for the two-week operation which will no doubt include unloading festive food and booze.

The event, likely to be in the New Year, will include a big formal dinner, drinks and Secret Santa – crew were advised before they headed to the iciest continent on the planet to pack their best threads and spend up on a \$20 gift.

Lewan has been there since late November and says it feels like one big family.

There is a focus on team building and making the station feel like home – after all there

really is no getting away from your workmates!

Workers take turns making a presentation about themselves. Lewan talked about his parents, grandparents and Aboriginal heritage.

Speaking with the *Koori Mail* he could draw parallels to ancestors' lives in Lutruwita/Tasmania before invasion – cut off from the rest of the continent and the world after sea levels rose about 12,000 years ago.

"Our ancestors back in the day, they were in their own world and working as a community with what they had as best they could. Down here I suppose it's a lot like that, obviously a different era, but we're all working together. It's a massive community mindset here."

It will be Lewan's first Christmas away from home – "Merry Christmas, mum, dad, family and friends, I miss you all, love you all, hope you have a couple, because I will be!"

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Blooms of Growth artwork by proud Samsep woman, Alysha Menzel.



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Associate Professor, Sydney Medical School

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Leadership for good

Food with a serve of opportunity

By MARION WILLIAMS



RODNEY Kelly has come up with a great idea to provide for the community's vulnerable people during disasters while creating opportunities for youth at the same time.

Helped by a grant from Monash University's Fire to Flourish research project, the Djiringanj man has built a food trailer.

"We will work with the Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) in times of disaster," Mr Kelly said.

"We want our food trailer to be used by those communities, so they have a constant and reliable source of food in those times of need, especially vulnerable communities."

The idea came to Mr Kelly during the 2019/20 Black Summer bushfires. He was aware of the work of KhalsaAid, a UK-based international not-for-profit that supports people affected by natural and man-made disasters.

"I knew them and got them to come down from Canberra with food," he said.

"I just wanted to do what I could for the community going through the bushfires."

In December he will start by giving free dinners to communities at Wallaga Lake, Narooma and Moruya, working with the LALCs there.

Mr Kelly saw he could also create opportunities for the community's youth by training them to work in the food trailer



Rodney Kelly with his his food trailer.

and going to events like local festivals and NAIDOC celebrations to sell food.

He is starting with Year 10 to Year 12 students at Narooma High School.

"We will have a day in the school getting the kids into the food trailer and see who likes doing it and who wants to put their name down for work in the holidays or when there is an event," Mr Kelly said.

His daughter is in Year 12 at Narooma High School, and she will be a familiar

face working alongside the other students.

The students will get involved with the initial free feeds being organised with the LALCs.

"That will give us the opportunity to fine tune things inside the trailer and get the young kids comfortable serving their own family and others, so putting them straight out into the community."

Mr Kelly will have the food trailer open in time for the summer break.

The idea is to give the students work

experience so they can go on to get work in cafes, as well as earn some money throughout the year by working at events and gatherings.

There will be different menus according to the type of event, ranging from fish and chips to food made with traditional ingredients that are locally sourced.

Mr Kelly said food like abalone will be included "to introduce people to the things that we grew up on, good healthy stuff from the sea and land".

He will take the trailer to different locations and employ students from each area to give as many kids as possible the experience.

Barb Rix, Indigenous facilitator at Fire to Flourish Eurobodalla, said that Mr Kelly and his wife, Belinda, are very active volunteers who do a lot of community events and fundraising.

"Usually, they don't go for grants but because they knew us, they felt more comfortable looking at it," Ms Rix said.

She said when Fire to Flourish reviewed Mr Kelly's grant application it was clear he was not asking for enough money and twice asked him to apply for more.

"People like Rodney do great things but usually don't get a look in with traditional grant funding."

Mr Kelly said working with people like Fire to Flourish gave people like him opportunities to go for grants:

"I am looking forward to getting out in the community, putting on free feeds and getting these young kids working."

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NSW GOVERNMENT

TOWARDS ZERO

Keeping language alive

By MARION WILLIAMS



COLONISATION heavily impacted language in south-east NSW. Across the region, groups and individuals are working to revive their language. At Giiyong Festival on November 9, speakers discussing language revival were optimistic that fluency would be attained.

The four speakers discussed why reviving language is important, how learning, speaking, and sharing language has made a difference to their lives, and the biggest challenges to keeping language alive today. The festival was presented by Twofold Aboriginal Corporation, South East Arts and Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Language is strong

A recurring theme was the power of language and it being central to their people's identity.

Wiradjuri man Darren Wighton from Condobolin in central western NSW is working with Charles Sturt University to revitalise Wiradyuri language and culture.

He said his people's identity is linked to language and Country. "Language gives you place and meaning, and it gives you purpose. It isn't just for communication."

Walbunja Elder Aunty Vivian Mason has been researching and revitalising the Dhurga language for 30 years. She said when she writes down their Dreamtime stories and translates them into songs, the spirits and the old people come to her.

"Culture is coming out and the spirits are dancing with us," Aunty Vivian said. "Language is a pretty powerful tool."

Challenges

Djiringanj Elder Aunty Ellen Munday is involved with The Yarn in Djiringanj project being run by Bega Local Aboriginal Land Council. She said that language was passed down orally. "We don't have a written language."

Aunty Vivian made the point that sign language was, and still is, used daily and it is a common language that Kooris use everywhere.

Jacob Chant-Morris is language consultant and creative director at Gadhungal Marring in Nowra which offers



Wiradjuri man Darren Wighton.

cultural education. He said a lot of language was documented by linguists, but university academics cannot dictate the spelling or pronunciation of words. "We are the authority because the words were written down, often very badly."

Mr Wighton urged people to use technology to record language and warned against complacency. "You lose whatever you don't use."

Listen and learn

Aunty Vivian and Aunty Ellen said young people who want to learn language must first listen and then start asking questions, including about local history. "Keep learning," Aunty Vivian said. "I am nearly 80 and I am still learning."

After completing a two-year language course, Mr Wighton "has a deeper understanding of who we are and how deep the connections are". Learning language taught him to think how a Wiradjuri man should think, namely, thinking ahead for future generations.

"Our young people are fast paced but they must take time to learn and listen," he said. "Language makes you go slow, be patient and be respectful. You have to learn it properly so you can pass it on."

He said learning language is the biggest

thing that young people can do to deepen their identity.

"Language, that is who you are," Aunty Ellen said. "Language is part of our cultural identity."

Building fluency

Aunty Vivian will keep pushing language. Already "the kids know a lot of words" which is a big step that makes her happy.

Aunty Ellen said her goal is to share knowledge and stories so the young people of the south east know their language and culture, ensuring it won't pass away.

"We have the oldest culture on earth," she said. "I want to believe that our culture is as strong as ever and will still be here for thousands of years to come."

Mr Wighton believes fluency will be attained. "Language is in us."

For Mr Chant-Morris, it is time for him to step up. "There is no excuse now. Our Elders had it much harder."

"I am going to kick down as many doors and break down as many barriers to make it easier for the next generation."

"Language is magic. I think when you speak language, Country understands you. It wakes up Country and the ancestors."



Djiringanj Elder Aunty Ellen Munday.



Walbunja Elder Aunty Vivian Mason.



Jacob Chant-Morris.

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

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Free wi-fi



REMOTE communities across the country will have free public wi-fi available under a federal government plan aimed at ensuring digital inclusion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Twenty-three communities in the Northern Territory, South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia have signed up for the \$20 million program, which Indigenous Australians Minister Malarndirri McCarthy said was an important step in "narrowing the digital divide".

"Free and reliable wi-fi is a gamechanger for remote First Nations communities – opening up

new social and economic opportunities and better access to important services," she said.

"Importantly, this program is being designed and delivered in close consultation with communities."

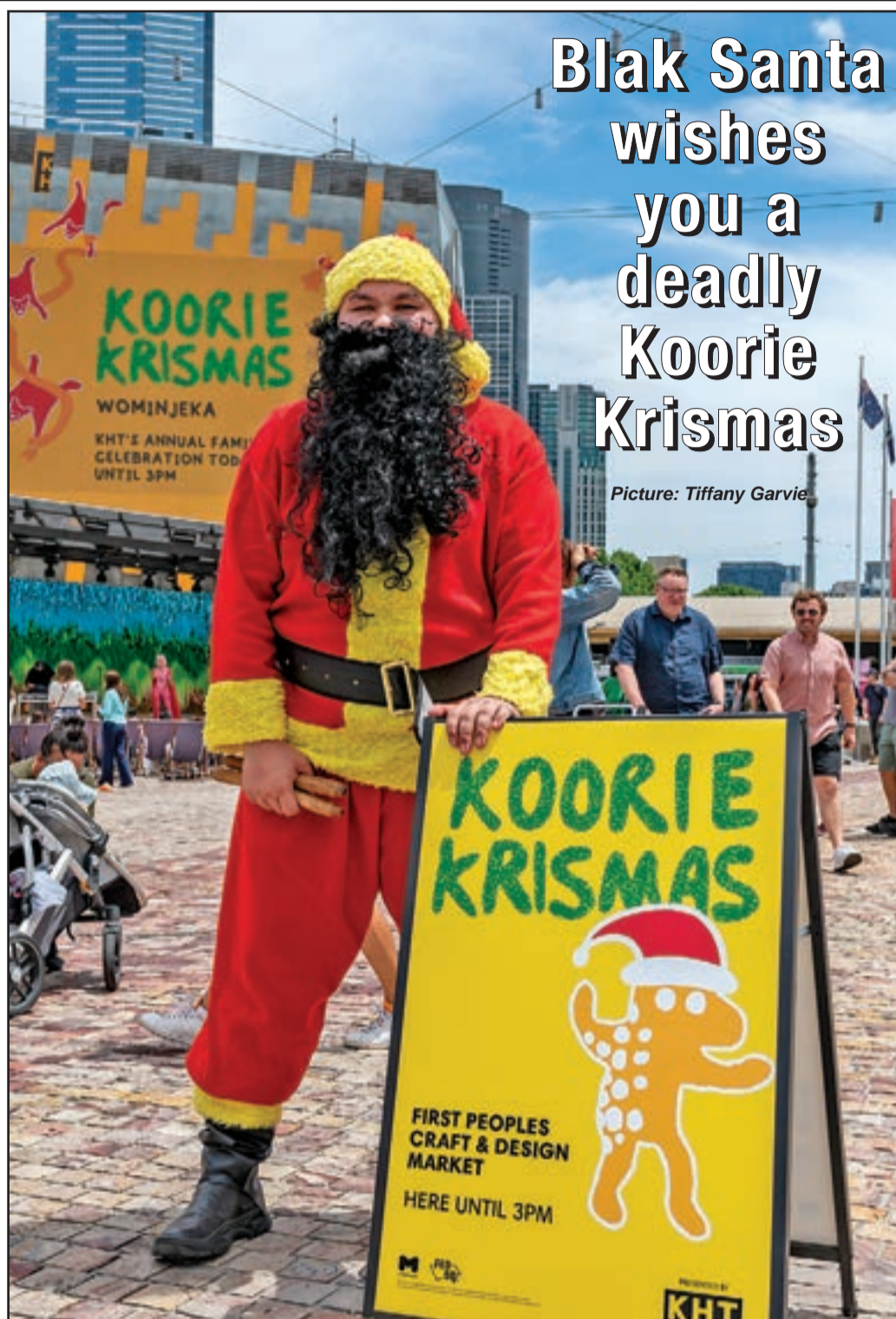
Communications Minister Michelle Rowland said more communities would be part of the program.

"Digital connectivity is essential for all Australians, whether they live in a city of millions or a remote community of less than 100 people," she said.

The government has also promised a First Nations digital support hub, a network of digital mentors and improved national data collection to support digital inclusion.

Blak Santa wishes you a deadly Koorie Krismas

Picture: Tiffany Garvie



KOORIE Klaus made a trip to Naarm/Melbourne last Saturday, bringing his special magic to a family day at Fed Square as part of Koorie Krismas.

Organised by Koorie Heritage Trust, the family day included free live music, DJs, dance performances, workshops, and a First People's market with lots of ideas for presents.

Artists and creators included Clothing The Gaps; Haus of Dizzy & Haus of Ziggy

Lee; Ilan Style; Kevin Williams; Kinya Lerrk Pty Ltd; Mabu Mabu; Mana Dreaming; Marbeangrook Designs; N'Dene Riley; Wiimpatja Nhuungku Designs and Wunyun Yulaa-li.

On the Fed Square stage, MCed by Lady Lash, performers included the Djirri Djirri Dancers, music from the Pirritu Duo, and poetry and storytelling by Barry Gilson. The beats kept coming with DJ sets from ENOKiCurry, Randals Dad, DJ PGZ, and Cerulean, as well as performances by the Ngargee Dancers.

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Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund Applications invited

Applications for grants and loans from the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund are invited for projects that will:

- enhance, maintain and protect Aboriginal cultural fishing, or
- promote economic opportunities for Aboriginal communities associated with the fisheries resource.

\$500,000 is available in total this funding round.

For closing dates, information on eligibility, funding categories, the assessment process and how to apply, please visit the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development website: dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aboriginal-fishing/AFTF.



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'We are not



Judge Elisabeth Armitage hands down her findings into the DV-related killings of four Aboriginal women.

With nine Aboriginal women killed in six months across the Northern Territory, experts are trying to pin down causes of the shocking domestic violence rate.

By AMANDA PARKINSON



"It cannot be normal that men hurt us women."

Edna's grief ricocheted through the coroner's court, as the long-running inquest into the death of her sister Ngegyo Ragurk and three other women who were killed by their partners came to a close.

"Everyone must do more from the start, not just after women get hurt or killed," she wrote in closing submissions in November last year.

Since then, another 10 Aboriginal women have been killed in the Northern Territory by their partners.

In her findings, the coroner called the lethality of domestic violence in the Northern Territory a national shame.

Judge Elisabeth Armitage handed down 245 pages of findings in late November, into the killings of Kumanjayi Haywood, Ngegyo Ragurk, Miss Yunupingu and Kumarn Rubuntja.

She found that since 2000, 86 women had been killed in the Northern Territory, where domestic homicide rates are seven times the national average.

More than 90 per cent were Aboriginal.

Some 40 per cent of domestic and family-related assaults in the NT involved weapons, more than in any other jurisdiction, and domestic violence accounted for up to 80 per cent of police call-outs.

Yet, the crisis services trying to prevent and respond received just \$70 million over two years in the NT government's 2024/25 budget; only \$180 million has been allocated over the next five years.

Ms Armitage used her findings on the four deaths to acknowledge the "horrifying reality of domestic violence" by highlighting the killings of 68 other women.

After a warning of the graphic details, the coroner recounted the callous beatings with sticks, a shovel and steel bars, and the way women were kicked and stomped on with steel cap boots, burnt, choked and run over with vehicles.

These women were all killed before the four women Ms Armitage investigated. In most cases the men were known to police and had prior convictions of domestic violence.

"The time for urgent action is now," she wrote.

Domestic, family and sexual-violence researcher Dr Chay Brown, who was born and raised in Alice Springs, says the lethality of violence in the Territory is underpinned by racism.

"There is an apathy about violence against women in general but nowhere near what we see against Aboriginal women," she says.

"And that comes from racism.

"It comes from looking at Aboriginal people as though they're subhuman because if any of these deaths were of white women we would 100 per cent see a very different response."

The World Health Organisation says domestic violence is an outcome of unhealthy interactions among individuals, relationships, communities and societal factors.

In recent months three women have been killed by domestic violence in the big rivers region, three hours south of Darwin, where Dr Brown explains, homelessness in the region is 30 times the national average.

Productivity Commission data shows the Northern Territory has some of the highest rates of Aboriginal child removal, Aboriginal incarceration, homelessness, poor health outcomes and alcohol addiction.

Dr Brown says all of those risk factors accumulate and make it more likely someone is going to experience or use violence.

"The strongest risk factor, the one with the highest correlation with experience and perpetration of violence, is prior exposure to violence," she says.

"We've got these high rates because all of these things disproportionately exist in the NT."

Dr Brown believes the NT has created a culture that "allows violence to occur" and insufficient accountability from communities and the judicial system continues to perpetuate it.

When sentencing Billy Badwana for killing his wife in October 2002, Justice Trevor Riley said "the courts have repeatedly stated that violence towards women and children... is not to be tolerated and that the court must do what it can to protect such vulnerable people."



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● Continued next page

invisible women'

● From previous page

Mr Badwana pleaded guilty to one count of aggravated dangerous act after he stomped on his "lover" so hard he perforated her bladder, ultimately killing her. He was sentenced to a non-parole period of two years and three months.

The severity to which the courts must consider domestic violence when sentencing men is repeated in almost all 68 cases.

Last year, Justice Jenny Blokland sentenced Nathan Swan to a non-parole period of six-and-a-half years for the stabbing manslaughter of his partner Kwementyaye McCormack.

"You are clearly a man who engages in domestic violence against his partners, and you clearly pose a significant risk of committing further acts of violence against women in the future," she wrote.

"I consider your prospects of rehabilitation to be poor at best."

The coronial inquiry heard evidence from Corrections Commissioner Matthew Varley that prison programs were underdeveloped, underdelivered and only available to sentenced prisoners. Prisoners awaiting trial on remand, do not have access to programs.

Currently, Territory courts take up to three years to hear a case, meaning many men on remand never access help or rehabilitative programs before serving their sentence.

Top End Women's Legal Service Caitlin Weatherby-Fells believes the system is failing to provide hope or change.

"There is often a gap between victim survivors' expectation of the justice system and the justice system facilitating a rehabilitative response," she said.

"Knowing the realities of the current capacity of the Darwin Correctional Centre and that prisoners sometimes have a quick exit without there being any opportunity for change ... we just end up seeing the same cycle of violence again and again."

Ms Weatherby-Fells said specialist legal services have seen an almost 25 per cent increase in demand, yet funding is piece-meal and without long-term commitments.

"The frontline service providers, including health, legal, crisis accommodation, we're all getting to levels of just responding because we do not have adequate resources for anything else," she said.

"And because of that, our turn-away numbers are increasing ... so we feel like we are failing even more than perhaps we felt even six months ago."

And for Aboriginal women it further erodes trust.

"Why would you trust a system which has intervened in your family and caused such destruction over such a long standing period of time?" she said.

Ms Armitage considers her findings were neither "radical or new" but rather what the sector already knew must happen.

She called on state and federal governments to deliver funding without delay, which could be used to increase men's behaviour change programs and specialist court services.

She encouraged prisons to deliver the programs to prisoners on remand and serving sentences of less than six months.

With police receiving more than 100 domestic violence calls a day, Ms Armitage urged a specialist and adequately-funded response model, bringing police and social workers together.

"The plague of domestic violence homicides that relentlessly courses through our community in the Northern Territory is our horror and our national shame," she wrote.

"The number of domestic violence deaths in the Northern Territory is truly shocking.

"The grief and trauma across our communities flowing from this traumatic loss of life is inexhaustible."

In the words of Kumarn Rubuntja's friend and colleague, Shirleen Campbell, Aboriginal women are not just numbers. "We are not invisible women."



LEFT: Jesse Tyssen (left) and Shirleen Campbell speaking at a domestic and family violence rally in Alice Springs.



RIGHT: Domestic and Family Violence researcher Dr Chay Brown gave evidence.

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Queensland
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Grants now open for \$707 million remote-jobs program



THE first round of grants for a new federal government remote-jobs program worth \$707 million and designed to create 3,000 jobs are open.

The Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) program aims to create much needed jobs in remote areas with real pay and decent conditions, including superannuation and leave entitlements.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Senator Malarndirri McCarthy said that creating jobs and economic opportunity in remote communities was a powerful way to Close the Gap in employment outcomes for First Nations people.

"Remote communities have long been asking for opportunities to create locally funded jobs that empower residents," she said.

"I'd like to thank the First Nations Reference Group for providing valuable input in the development of our remote jobs program.

"I encourage all employers in remote communities to consider applying for a grant under this program, and for local communities and job seekers to come together to talk about their aspirations for jobs and economic empowerment in their community."

Eligible employers in remote areas can apply for grants to employ local job seekers and according to the federal government the new jobs will be identified by communities and provide meaningful work for employees and employers.

Employers can also apply for funding through the program for equipment, infrastructure and costs to support the jobs they'd like to create. This could pay for things like uniforms, on-the-job training, insurances or operating expenses.

Developed in consultation with the First Nations Reference Group, the RJED program was tested through community consultations and modelled through job trials in more than 300 communities across the country with many participants endorsing the program including:

In remote Queensland, **Taneeka Palmer**, a Bwgcolman woman with Kaanju and Erub/Kalkadoon heritage, was one of 20 new community service workers with Palm Island's Community Council. She is passionate about developing leadership and community development skills.

"I feel confident in this role, thanks to a huge support system behind me, that continues to help me witness and experience the greater purpose of the role for myself, my peers and my



Joseph Shannon's role has hit the right note with the budding musician.



Patrick Harry enjoys working on Country.

community," Taneeka said. In remote Western Australia, **Patrick Harry**, a Warmun man from the East Kimberley. After three years of unemployment he embraced one of 10 farm and livestock roles at Glen Hill Pastoral Aboriginal Corporation.

"Working on my own Country means everything to me. This project isn't just a job for me, it's a way to rebuild my confidence, provide for my family, and show my kids and grandkids that hard work pays off," said the grandfather of seven.

In remote South Australia, **Richard Lennon-Lawrie**, a Mirning man, is thriving in his role as a full-time ranger with Far West Coast Investments, learning and working on Country.

"Now that we're full-time, we can do more of the office-based jobs as well – like reporting, maintenance on cars, we can organise our own day trips, doing our own surveys and patrols," said Richard.

In remote Northern Territory, Warlpiri man **Joseph Shannon**



Richard Lennon-Lawrie is loving his new job as a ranger.

from Tennant Creek has been passionate about music for as long as he can remember and is now a casual team member at Winanjikari Music Centre, through Barkly Regional Arts.

"I feel great, happy, something to do every day. I like coming to work, learning to set up the PA system. I'm always learning something new and also getting to play music," he said.

The first grant round will run until February, ahead of a second grant round opening.

The RJED program is the first step in replacing the Community Development Program (CDP), with the second stage being the design and delivery of a new remote employment service to support people who are currently looking for work or may need help to get job-ready, with the skills and resources they need.

For information go to: www.niaa.gov.au/remote-jobs



Taneeka Palmer loves working with her community.

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Nominate before 14 March 2025 by visiting trainingawards.nsw.gov.au



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Lowitja Institute appoints new chairperson



LOWITJA Institute, Australia's only national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled health research institute, has

appointed Craig Ritchie as the new chairperson of the Lowitja Institute Board of Directors.

A Dhunghutti man with connections to the Biripi and Gringai nations, Mr Ritchie is an independent advisor and researcher who until August 2023 was the chief executive officer at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS).

Chief Executive Officer Paul Stewart congratulated Mr Ritchie on his new appointment.

"Craig brings enormous experience and expertise to the Lowitja Institute. He has made a substantial contribution to the effectiveness of the Lowitja Institute board and to our work generally; and he is well-positioned to continue those efforts in the role of chairperson," Mr Stewart said.

Mr Ritchie has served on the Lowitja Institute board with distinction since December 14, 2018, and has extensive experience in the community health sector, including as former chief executive officer of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health



Craig Ritchie.

Organisation (NACCHO).

Prior to joining AIATSIS in 2016, Mr Ritchie worked in other senior roles in the Department of Education and Training heading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander higher education, higher education access and participation for people from low socio-economic backgrounds, and international student mobility, as well as founding director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health in the ACT Government.

At the Institute's AGM our members also endorsed the appointment of Michael Graham, a proud Dja Dja Wurrung and Wiradjuri man, as an incoming board director. Michael has worked in the community controlled sector for the past 20 years and is the chief executive officer at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service.

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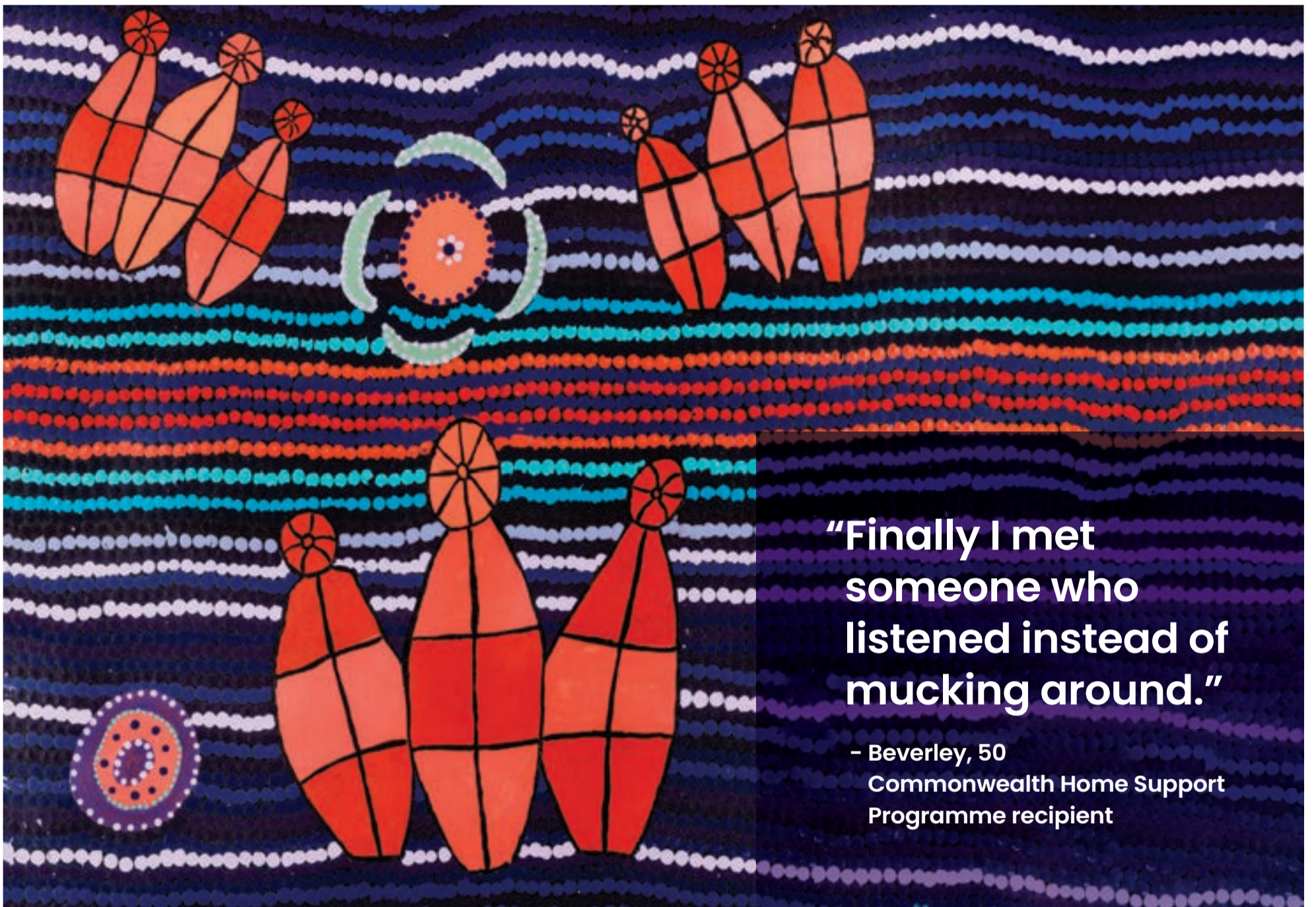
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Applicants should demonstrate at least ten years' experience in their field of expertise and/or completion of the Australian Institute of Company Directors course.

Deadline for submissions: 11.59pm Sunday 2 February 2025

For more information and an application pack:
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/GoverningBoardEOI

Enquiries: health.governingboardEOI@sa.gov.au



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Elder refuses to attend court

By JILLIAN MUNDY



LAST week, for a third time, Jim Everett Puralia-Meenematta did not front court to face trespass charges.

He says the court had no jurisdiction over him and he has a right to protect his Country.

In March and then in August the 82-year-old Palawa leader was arrested protesting the logging of native forests. He did not turn up to court either time, warrants were issued and he was bailed to appear in court again last Wednesday. (Dec 11)

Instead, Everett held a press conference outside the Hobart Magistrates Court minutes before his scheduled appearance, then walked in the opposite direction.

"I'm here to sort of thumb me nose at it, to say - if you're really serious about taking this issue on, then come and talk to us, tell the truth, we've never made any agreements to be citizens," Everett told media and supporters.

"I have a right to protect my Country, because our law is in Country.

Stop logging

"The most important thing is that they need to stop logging the old growth forests and the native forests, because they are a very important part of who we are.

"We are country, and country is us."

In his absence, Magistrate Chris Webster charged Everett with two counts of failing to appear and one count of driving without a licence, fining him \$300 plus \$78 court costs.

Everett will pay the fine for driving on an expired licence, which was an oversight on his part, as it is a 'social' laws he supports. He has no intention of paying the rest.

Webster adjourned the trespass charges to January 28, 2025, when they will be heard 'ex parte' meaning it will go ahead even whether Everett is there or not.

Palawa present in the court last week believe the magistrate



Jim Everett Puralia-Meenematta walks away from the 'colonial court' just minutes before he was scheduled to appear.



Above: A native Tasmanian forest as nature intended. Right: A section of native Tasmanian forest after logging – 85% of the product coming out of native forest is broken down into woodchips for export to Asia. (Pictures: Bob Brown Foundation).

understood Everett's stance was jurisdictional.

"I have an obligation to protect our country, because that's us, that's our law, that's who we are," said Everett who is prepared to be arrested again.

Everybody's issue

"This is not just an Aboriginal issue, this is everybody's issue," he said. "We've got to protect these forests, we're going to protect our waters and our seas.

"The colonial administration is

into destroying this country just for profits for the corporations."

His actions come as the Tasmanian government plan to open up previously reserved forests for logging – several are home to threatened species such as the Tasmanian devil, wedge-tailed eagle, giant freshwater crayfish and swift parrot.

Condemnation

The same day as Everett's press conference and no-show at court, a collective of sixteen

conservation, research and community groups including the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, Wilderness Society Tasmania, Australia Institute Tasmania, Bob Brown Foundation and Environment Tasmania released a joint statement condemning the plans.

"Documents obtained via 'Right to Information' (RTI) revealed that in 2022, the Tasmanian government and Forestry Tasmania discussed the transfer of high-conservation-value forests

for transfer to the Permanent Timber Production Zone. During this year's election, this intention was echoed by the Liberal Party in an election promise to deliver 39,000ha of forest to loggers," it reads. "Forests that were promised protection and are now imminently threatened."

They said 88% to be destroyed are over 80 years in age, are in critical water catchments for local communities and communities had campaigned for years to have them protected.

Forest ecologist Dr Jen Sanger found in preliminary calculations the logging of those reserves would create as much carbon emissions as the entire domestic aviation industry of the whole of Australia does annually.

The tall eucalypt forests of Tasmania are some of the most carbon-dense forests in the world and are referred to as the Amazon of Australia.

"At the moment, native forest logging is the highest emitting sector in the state," Sanger said.

Greens Senator Nick McKim explained that between 2010 and 2013 forest industry was paid \$121 million to exit from logging a range of forests, including those revealed to be earmarked for destruction.

Giant scam

"For the industry to take the money and then go back in, at the behest of Eric Abetz, and now take more public subsidies, is perpetrating a giant scam on the Tasmanian and Australian taxpayers," he said.

There must be approval from both houses of the Tasmanian parliament for the planned logging to proceed.

The collective is calling to protect all of those reserves permanently and end native forest logging entirely.

Yorta Yorta activist Ruth Langford, who has been working alongside Everett, said the colonial government is forcing people to join the frontline and predicts mass arrests.

"We will not back down, it is too important, the very water that gives us life is being desecrated – we have to protect it."

No agreement made to become citizens

A FEW weeks earlier, leader of the Tasmanian Greens, Dr Rosalie Woodruff, questioned Tasmanian Premier Jeremy Rockliff on Aboriginal citizenship on behalf of Jim Everett Puralia-Meenematta.

"The Palawa First Nation of Lutruwita/Tasmania have never ceded our rights under law and Country, translated as 'sovereignty' in English. The doctrine of terra nullius is long dead. The Palawa never made any citizenship agreements with the colony of Van Diemen's Land, nor its government of Tasmania, nor the federated states of colonial Australia, nor of the colonising British to become Australian citizens, and neither have we made any such citizenship agreement with the Commonwealth Government of Australia

to become citizens of colonial Australia," she began.

"Given these truths, Premier, will you, on behalf of the Tasmanian government, either provide evidence to the contrary that the Palawa ceded their rights or otherwise acknowledge that Palawa are not citizens of Australia?"

Premier Rockliff took the question on notice then went on to speak about conversations he has had with Aboriginal groups and affirmed a commitment to closing the gap and reconciliation.

Everett believes the citizenship issue is important for Australia.

"If everything's going to be based on assumptions in Aboriginal Affairs, then the foundation is unsound, and after a while we get wobbly like that – that's not a vision for Australia at all."



A collective of sixteen conservation, research, community groups and politicians condemn the Tasmanian government's plans to wind back the protection of 39,000ha of native forests.

On a mission to save their island homes

By NICK PATON



THE Torres Strait Islands are experiencing sea level rise at twice the global average, with Boigu Island projected to be uninhabitable by 2050.

Faced with this devastating reality, Uncle Pabai Pabai, a Traditional Owner of Boigu Island, joined forces with Uncle Paul Kabai, a Traditional Owner of Sabai Island from the Torres Strait, and took the Australian government to court over climate inaction and negligence – and failing to prevent climate change harms in the Torres Strait.

Filed in October 2021, the Australian Climate Case seeks court orders requiring the federal government to implement emissions reductions in line with the best available science, which is a 74% cut this decade.

As part of the landmark case, Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul recently embarked on the 'Unnatural Disasters Tour', connecting the Torres Strait and the Northern Rivers in NSW with stories of disasters, hope, and power, and calling for climate justice to protect communities ahead of the verdict ruling in the Federal Court next year.

"We know what's happening up our way in terms of how climate change is affecting our homelands, so we wanted to see how climate change is affecting places on the mainland too," Uncle Paul told the *Koori Mail*.

"We are flood victims, because



Uncle Pabai Pabai and Uncle Paul Kabai from the Torres Strait islands of Boigu and Saibai visited the *Koori Mail* head office and parts of the Northern Rivers earlier this month as part of their Unnatural Disasters Tour.

flooding is happening all the time on our islands, and we wanted to hear from people on the mainland who have also experienced flooding of their homes and communities," he said.

"We are talking to all sorts of people as part of this tour and we are gathering ideas about how we might be able to stop the gas industry – which is contributing to the flooding of our islands.

The case

The Australian Climate Case builds on the successful Urgenda Foundation precedent from the Netherlands and if successful, could force the Australian government to implement real climate action to reduce emissions, protect vulnerable communities nationwide, prevent Torres Strait Islanders from becoming climate refugees, and recognise their duty of care to all

Australians facing climate threats.

As community leaders from the Guda Maluligal nation, Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul are seeking orders from the court that require the federal government to take steps to prevent this harm to their communities, including cutting greenhouse gas emissions in line with the best available science.

"We are standing together with communities from all over Australia to send a strong message to the Australian Government – that we can't wait any more years for strong climate action," Uncle Paul said.

"And we haven't just spoken to the victims of floods, we have also spoken to bushfire victims to gain their support for our cause."

With Torres Strait communities already facing regular flooding of homes, gardens, and sacred sites, similarly, Northern Rivers communities in NSW have faced

unprecedented natural disasters intensified by climate change.

The Unnatural Disasters Tour invited local residents to share their own climate impact stories as part of the growing network of Climate Witnesses supporting the Australian Climate Case.

Participants were also asked to show their support for the Uncles and Torres Strait Islander communities by signing the Mura Kalmel Sipa Pledge, which means 'Together We Stand' in Kala Kawa Ya (KKY) language.

"When our homes and islands are under water, where are we meant to go?," Uncle Pabai said.

"We belong to the land and so we can't just pick everything up and take it with us when the islands soon become inhabitable," he said.

"That's why we want as many people to sign the pledge as possible – to show their support for us, so the government can see there's a huge amount of people who want to see change."

Use your voice

Uncle Pabai said the more people who stand up and use their voice – the stronger their fight will be.

"For example, if you have one stick, you can easily snap it. Two sticks will be a little hard, but could still break. Three sticks, harder again. But 4 or 5 held together – almost impossible. If we have many voices, the Government will be forced to listen."

Homes in the Torres Strait are set to disappear beneath the rising seas, which could see

people there become Australia's first climate change refugees.

For people from Zenadth Kes, the impacts of climate change won't only force them from their island homes, but sever their connection to thousands of years of culture and deep spiritual connection passed down generation by generation, connection to land, sea, winds and sky and community.

"Where we are from the weather is becoming more and more unpredictable," Uncle Pabai said.

"The season patterns have changed significantly and so have the coming and going of the tides," he said.

"Unlike the mainland of Australia, we don't have mountains or big hills on our islands, they are mostly flat, so when the sea starts rising into our communities, we have nowhere to go."

The Australian government currently has a 2050 'net zero' emissions target, which experts say will not be enough to prevent disaster in the Torres Strait.

In fact, leading climate scientists on the Climate Targets Panel calculate that Australia's greenhouse emissions need to be reduced by 74% by 2030 and to net zero by 2035 to keep global heating to below 1.5°C – and avert the destruction of Torres Strait Islander communities.

● To sign the Mura Kalmel Sipa Pledge visit <https://australianclimatecase.org.au/>

Fighting to preserve ancient rock art

By NICK PATON



REJECTING a record number of community appeals, the WA government has approved an extension until 2070 of North West Shelf, the centrepiece of Woodside's

Burrup Hub, which will make it the most polluting gas project in the Southern Hemisphere.

But according to Murujuga Traditional Custodian Raelene Cooper, extending the project will cause irreversible damage to UNESCO World Heritage-nominated Murujuga rock art and petroglyphs.

"This is such a special place and it is really unbelievable to me that Woodside is allowed to destroy it," Ms Cooper said.

Murujuga is my Country and it holds my songlines – the rock art is sacred to my people," she said.

"This project is going to wreck all that with toxic emissions if the government lets them. Tanya Plibersek is supposed to be the Water and Environment Minister. She must not allow Woodside to keep pumping out their



Murdudhunera woman Raelene Cooper, a Murujuga Traditional Custodian, says the extension of the North West Shelf, the centrepiece of Woodside's Burrup Hub in Western Australia, is government-supported genocide.

acid gas all over my cultural heritage until 2070 – or it will all be gone."

"My family's stories are carved in the rocks at Murujuga, but Woodside isn't just threatening our cultural heritage – they're threatening our living songlines and environment. Woodside is getting Browse gas to feed the Burrup Hub from under a pristine coral reef that endangered sea snakes, whales and turtles rely on for their habitat. Woodside's Burrup Hub extension threatens all of that, as well as the rock art

right here."

The decision from the WA government now shifts the onus to federal environment minister Tanya Plibersek to decide the Albanese government's response to Woodside's Burrup Hub, the primary testing ground for climate and cultural heritage in the country.

The WA government's decision means there is an increased threat of the Kimberley being opened up to fracking and unlocks the prospect of Scott Reef being destroyed for Woodside's Browse gas proposal, which the WA Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has already found against due to the unacceptable risks the project poses to endangered whales, turtles and other marine life and the potential for a catastrophic oil spill.

"Once the toxic gas has eroded our sacred sites, the knowledge and identity of who we are as traditional custodians will be lost and gone forever. It saddens me, and it makes me angry. But this isn't just about the survival of my culture, it's about the survival of all people," Ms Cooper said.

"The same toxic gas destroying my rock

art is also causing destruction for our planet. It is heartbreaking that any government would allow this to continue."

With overwhelming evidence of the impact this project would have on ancient rock art and the climate, and profound community opposition for gas exports to be extended to 2070, minister Plibersek has the opportunity to make the right call and deliver on the Albanese government's climate commitments – while protecting globally significant Aboriginal culture.

"Murujuga is a healing place," Ms Cooper said.

"This rock art is tens of thousands of years old. It could be wiped out within decades if Woodside's Burrup Hub gets the go-ahead. We belong to this place, and Woodside is destroying it in front of our eyes," she said.

"I am fighting Woodside for my old people and my family. What sort of legacy does Tanya Plibersek want to leave for her own children? We won't allow irreversible damage to our sacred sites. North West Shelf until 2070 would be Woodside and government-supported genocide.

Danny Eastwood's view



A YARN WITH...



David Baira

Palm Island, Queensland

Quote



“Our ancestors back in the day, they were in their own world and working as a community with what they had as best they could. Down here I suppose it's a lot like that, obviously a different era, but we're all working together. It's a massive community mindset here.”

– Palawa carpenter Lewan Lehman, in Antarctica

● See page 7

Unquote

Dutton's false flag is a fail

THE primary defining feature of modern conservative figures (as distinct from leaders) such as Trump, Farage and Dutton is their willingness to threaten democracy even as they claim to be saving democracy, to create division even as they claim to be unifying our nation and to promote distraction in the absence of any real policy solutions... on anything.

The announcement by Peter Dutton that, should he become prime minister, he will not stand in front of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags (both of which are official Australian flags anyway) ticks all three of the conservative boxes above.

With no articulated policies to address Closing the Gap targets, the housing crisis, the need for action on climate change or violence against women, issues that affect all Australians most particularly First Nations people, Mr Dutton's 'false flag' interview on a late night conservative media channel is text book conservative distraction.

In other words, the emperor has no clothes and standing naked, lacking any real vision for Australia's future, Mr Dutton has chosen to wrap himself in the flag ... and build some nuclear reactors.



In the wake of the Voice referendum defeat last year Mr Dutton obviously feels on safe political ground when he punches downward on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

But despite his best efforts to distract the electorate Mr Dutton may have started a long-overdue conversation about colonialism in general and our flag in particular.

You just know it's time for a new flag when conservatives start wrapping themselves in the old 'false flag'.

Should we still be waving around that old colonial relic, with the Union Jack occupying territory in the corner and dangling its apron strings off to a redundant monarchy that teeters in a distant Brexitised Britain?

Isn't it time we replaced our flag with one that truly represents all Australians, most especially First Nations people, who never ceded this land in the first place?

Favourite bush tucker? Possom.

Favourite other food? Snapper fish.

Favourite drink? Lemonade and Coca Cola.

Favourite music? Reggae.

Favourite sport? Rugby League. I used to play for the local Barracudas.

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

Favourite holiday destination? My home on Palm Island when I am on work holidays. There's plenty to do here.

Favourite movie? Action films.

What do you like in life? Watching football.

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

Which Black or Indigenous person would you most like to meet? My descendants.

Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire? All my family from here and the mainland.

Who or what inspires you? Seeing our people succeed.

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people? Encourage young people to be educated and get a job. I still work even though I am aged over 70.

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

Tony 'Mr Everywhere' enjoys meteoric rise

By NICK PATON

TONY Armstrong has seen a meteoric rise in the television industry, casually popping up here, there, and everywhere.

His shooting star has flung him to the far reaches of Australian media to become one of the country's most influential and sought-after presenters.

And just like a magical wizard, you never know where Tony's going to suddenly appear next.

A proud Gamilaroi man from rural NSW, Tony's journey through AFL with Adelaide, Collingwood and Sydney, notably alongside his childhood inspiration Adam Goodes, is just the beginning of his remarkable story.

Breaking new ground in 2019, Tony became the first Indigenous person to provide live commentary for Aussie Rules Football on commercial radio.

"It always feels weird doing things for the first time, especially if you're Blak," Tony told the *Koori Mail*.

"This was just such a proud moment for me and is something I think I will look back on fondly in the future," he said.

"When I'm old and in the rocking chair, with all the grannies around, is probably when I'll open up more about this experience, but for the moment, what I will say, is that this experience was a massive learning curve."

Charisma

Following his commercial radio experience, Tony's talent and infectious charisma earned him coveted spots on the *Marrgrook Footy Show*, and as a regular panellist on *The Colour of Your Jumper*.

In 2020 Tony expanded his media footprint, co-hosting the Indigenous comedy football chat show, *Yokayi Footy*, which aired on NITV, SBS On Demand, and AFL channels.

Simultaneously, Tony co-hosted ABC Melbourne's breakfast radio program alongside Sammy J.

Later that year, Tony joined the ABC family, presenting sports news on the ABC News channel, providing commentary for *Grandstand AFL* on ABC Sport, and hosting the 2020 summer series of *Offsiders*.

In 2021, the ABC proudly announced Tony as the full-time sports presenter on *News Breakfast*.

"A lot of stuff has really blossomed from my time on *ABC News Breakfast*," Tony said.

"At that point in my career I hadn't had much, if any,



Gamilaroi man Tony Armstrong has quickly become one of Australia's most sought-after television personalities, eating up each opportunity that comes his way.

experience in TV at all," he said.

"But I knew I just had to give it a crack and give it my best, and so a lot of what I'm doing now has snowballed from there."

Tony's television credits extend beyond sports, including hosting Tony Armstrong's *Extra-Ordinary Things*, *Monday's Experts*, *Great Australian Stuff* and *A Dog's World* with Tony Armstrong for the ABC.

He has made regular appearances on *The Weekly* with Charlie Pickering, *The Yearly*, *The Project*, and *Fox Footy*.

Additionally, Tony has been a guest on several *Play School* specials and lends his voice to Mr Flip on ABC Kids *Reef School*.

Tony has also brought to life the character of Max in Oscar winner Adam Elliott's latest feature film *Memoir of a Snail*.

Tony earned the prestigious Bert Newton Award for Most

Popular Presenter at the 2023 Logie Awards, recognising his exceptional contributions to both *ABC News Breakfast* and *A Dog's World with Tony Armstrong*.

This remarkable achievement swiftly followed his win of the Graham Kennedy Award for Most Popular New Talent at the 2022 Logie Awards.

Logie nomination

In 2024, Tony has continued to shine, being nominated for a Gold Logie at the 2024 Logie Awards for his outstanding work across the ABC, further solidifying his status as a beloved figure in Australian television.

In addition to his television endeavours, Tony has also made waves in the podcasting world.

His award-winning podcast, *The Pool Room*, stormed onto the scene in its first year,

winning the title of Best Sports Podcast for 2023 at the Australian Podcast Awards.

With three successful seasons to date, the podcast continues to captivate audiences with its insightful content, telling the strangest and most interesting sport stories of all time.

"The best part about the podcast is that it's about 10 minutes or so of just the most obscure stories in sport," Tony said.

"One of my favourite yarns on the podcast is of this Japanese marathon runner who went missing in the middle of a marathon in the Swedish Olympics," he said.

"One minute he was part of the race, and then the next – he has completely vanished!"

"The strangest thing though, is he reappeared about 30 years later as if nothing had even happen."

"These are the types of

stories I like to think of as 'pub ammo', where you can build up your ammunition of stories from the podcast to impress your mates down at the pub on the weekend."

Beyond his accomplishments in media, Tony is also a gifted writer and creator.

He released his first children's book, *George the Wizard*, which has been well received since its publication in 2024 through Hachette Australia.

"I have always loved reading," Tony said.

"And even though I know I'm probably not at the level where I can write a 40,000-word novel, I have always loved writing too," he said.

"Writing can be so difficult though, so I thought working on a children's book would be a great place to start."

Writing

Tony said writing his first children's book wasn't easy, but with some help from the publisher, he was able to bring it to life.

"The only thing I was a little bit worried about, is that it was kind of expected I was going to write a story about an 'Indigenous footballer kid', who against all the odds overcame something," Tony said.

"We have all seen and read that rhetoric a million times over, and so I guess at the end of the day, I really just wanted to write about wizards!"

In addition to his literary success, Tony is currently developing an exciting slate of television projects that promise to captivate audiences nationwide, recently wrapping up *Eat The Invaders*, a new six-part series on ABC TV.

The series follows Tony to the frontlines of the invasive species war to witness the impact they're having on our ecology, while uncovering their fascinating historical backstories and testing just how edible they are at the same time.

Tony said the new series is a 'must see' for every Australian.

"This is a show which highlights some of the invasive species found here in Australia and the impact they can have on our precious biodiversity," Tony said.

"The name of the show is intentionally provocative, because as we know, the ultimate invader is the white fella, but the series takes a look at some of the decisions colonists made back in the day, especially in regards to what kind of plants and animals they brought here."

Eat The Invaders airs on Tuesday January 7 at 8.30pm on ABC TV and ABC iview.

Families of missing men protest in Roebourne

BY ASAD KHAN



ON Friday, November 30, the Bring Them Home campaign organised a protest in Roebourne, Western Australia – the hometown of missing man Clinton Lockyer.

This event was part of a broader push for action on the disappearances of Indigenous men in the Pilbara region.

Last week, families of the missing men travelled to Canberra to rally outside Parliament House with the support of Gwenda Stanley, a Gomeri woman and the caretaker of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy.

Their demands for answers and justice resonated through the halls of Parliament as they met with Independent Senator Lidia Thorpe, a proud Gundiṯjmarra and Gunnai woman, and Greens Senator Dorinda Cox, a proud Yamatji woman.

Senator Cox expressed her frustration and sorrow in a two-minute statement to Parliament, highlighting the ongoing burden placed on grieving families.

"It is shameful that loved ones are rallying, funding private investigations, and traveling across the country in



A large crowd moves down a street in Roebourne as part of a rally for missing Indigenous men in Western Australia. BELOW: Michelle Julian, the mother of missing Western Australian man Clinton Lockyer, spoke at the rally.

the midst of their grief, pleading for help," Senator Cox said.

The Roebourne protest drew significant local attention, with Clinton Lockyer's family joined by relatives of other missing men.

Michelle Julian, Clinton's mother, spoke emotionally about the anguish of not knowing what happened to her

son and called for greater efforts in the search.

"Let's bring them home," Ms Julian said.

"Hopefully, people who have answers—who know where our missing sons are—will speak up," she said.

"This has gone on for too long. The years and the heartache of not knowing what

happened to our sons haunts us."

The campaign underscores a deep-seated frustration within the affected families, who feel that critical resources are not being utilised effectively.

Their collective voice calls for action to address the disappearances and to bring their loved ones home.



Artist program to launch

By ASAD KHAN and CASSANDRA ARIUU



THE Nannup Music Festival has unveiled an innovative initiative for 2025, the Remote Aboriginal Artist Development Program, designed to empower and elevate Aboriginal musicians from remote communities in Western Australia.

This groundbreaking program, supported by the Western Australian Government's Contemporary Music Fund, aims to provide professional development opportunities to selected artists over a two-year period.

Festival Director Phaedra Watts highlighted the program's inspiration and goals in a recent interview.

"This was inspired from working with quite a few bands each year and finding the challenges of getting people from remote areas to the festival," Ms Watts said.

"This program is about

supporting artists to be seen and heard if they're choosing to do so."

Each year, the program will select one remote community band or artist to participate in an all-expenses-paid recording and performance journey.

The selected artist will collaborate with award-winning producer James Newhouse during a four-day recording session in Western Australia's South-West region.

Their journey will culminate in a debut performance at the Nannup Music Festival, a premier event that showcases over 100 acts from local, national, and international scenes.

"The recording opportunity, other than the live performance at the festival, is something that can be taken away and used in so many ways to get their music seen and heard far away," she said.

An Indigenous-led committee will oversee the selection process, considering factors such as readiness to travel,

enthusiasm for recording, and the unique stories behind each band.

In the second year of their involvement, artists will work with student publicists to release their music, returning to the festival to celebrate their debut release and mentor the next cohort of participants.

The Family Shoveller Band, a renowned act from the Bidyadanga Community with recent performances in Italy and at the iconic Bush Bands Bash in Alice Springs, will serve as the program's inaugural mentors.

Their involvement underscores the festival's commitment to fostering a culture of collaboration, mentorship, and professional growth within Aboriginal communities.

This initiative solidifies the Nannup Music Festival's dedication to amplifying Aboriginal voices, providing platforms for cultural expression, and creating sustainable pathways for remote artists to thrive in the music industry.



The Family Shoveller Band will serve as the Aboriginal Artist Development Program's inaugural mentors at the 2025 Nannup Music Festival.

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

Australia Day decision devastating for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation is devastated by the recent decision of the City of Greater Geelong to reinstate Australia Day "celebrations" in 2025.

26 January is a day of great heaviness and sorrow for Wadawurrung People as it represents the date when Europeans settled in this country and commenced the decimation of our Ancestors, Country and Culture.

And so in May 2023, we applauded the council's decision to cease the recognition and celebration of January 26 as 'Australia Day'.

It is beyond belief that the

council this week voted to recognise and celebrate Australia Day with events and citizenship ceremonies, with no consultation prior to the vote.

The backflip by the council is a bewildering step backwards and one that has caused great hurt to First Peoples, and many allies within our community.

Many Australians are ready to learn the truth about what has happened since European Settlement by acknowledging that genocide and colonisation are a large part of the history of this nation and have been since 1788. They understand that January 26 is not a day for celebration.

The true history of this land encompasses tens of thousands

of years and thousands of generations of Wadawurrung and other First Nations peoples.

We denounce the decision making and actions of seven of the City of Greater Geelong councillors to recognise 'Australia Day', as tabled on December 10, 2024. It is important to acknowledge that four councillors put forward and supported an alternative motion restating council's support for the May 2023 adoptions.

We are devastated by Council's divisive decision that continues to compound the generational impacts of colonisation on First Nations peoples. It is incomprehensible, after taking a step forward in

2023, to then take ten steps back.

This decision adds to the cumulative impact of lifetimes of trauma and harm to the First People of this land through the colonisation of what is now known as Australia.

We ask council to reconsider this decision and koling wada ngitj – walk forward together – with us. We invite the community to walk with us and show their support by attending Pilk Purriyn, a truth-telling and traditional ceremony event, conducted by Wadawurrung Traditional Owners on Sunday, January 26.

Greg Robinson, chair of Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

Note. Pilk Purriyn is a sunrise service, hosted and led by Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, with the support of partner organisations, which features Traditional Welcome, Smoking and Dance Ceremonies and personal reflections from Elders and Wadawurrung Family.

Admission is free however attendees are encouraged to register their attendance to assist with event planning. More information and registration details can be found here: www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Pilk-Purriyn

Queensland Bills a major step backwards for the rights of First Nations people

The decision to repeal the Path to Treaty legislation without consulting First Nations people was a divisive and unilateral decision to deny our people the chance to share their stories to help accurately convey our state's history. It was deeply disrespectful and harmful to our communities, to our senior Elders who carry the trauma of their lived experience of colonisation and deserve to be heard, and to the many people who put in years of work to make it a reality.

I want to emphasise that this is not just a missed opportunity for us, it is a missed opportunity for all Queenslanders. The hearings that took place this year demonstrated the benefits truth-telling has for everyone by fostering unity, understanding, respect, dignity and wellbeing for all.

Including First Nations People in decisions that affect them and ensuring that those with lived experience are heard is foundational to effective policy-making.

If the Queensland government sees such little value in shared decision-making and in hearing the truth about the First Nations inequality, the measures where reinvested Path to Treaty funds are to be directed are doomed to fail. We cannot be any clearer about this.

The Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024, which was introduced on Thursday 28 November and will be debated at the next sitting on 10 December, further demonstrates that the Queensland Government is not listening to First

Nations people.

Communities and organisations have strongly opposed the 'adult crime, adult time' policy. As freely admitted by the Queensland government in the bill's compatibility statement, the proposed legislation is not compliant with Queensland's human rights obligations, and will lead to sentences for children that are more punitive than necessary to achieve community safety.

In short, the proposed legislation is retrograde, introducing a raft of measures—such as mandatory sentencing and removing detention as a last resort—which are harmful, disproportionate and which the overwhelming body of evidence tells us will not keep the community safe.

The real culprits of youth crime are disadvantage, despair and desperation—caused by generations of failed government policy. Instead of admitting their mistakes and investing in intensive social supports, health and education the Queensland Government is making children pay the price for all those who have failed them.

I strongly urge the government to reconsider and instead provide the help children and their families urgently need that will prevent children from committing crime in the first place."

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Ms Katie Kiss



Commissioner Kiss is a proud Kaanju and Biri/Widi woman who grew up in Rockhampton on the lands of the Darumbal People. She was previously the Executive Director of the Interim Truth and Treaty Body supporting Queensland's Path to Treaty.

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

Creating a vision for a better, braver new world in 2025

As the end of the year is fast approaching, it's time for a reflection on where we are, as a country, as a species, and as a society. It's time to really think about effective solutions moving into 2025. How to vision a better world for the future.

Most of the time in my opinion piece I talk about the destructive nature of colonisation and capitalism. Well, that's all well and good and I'm sure most people can feel the heavy weight of the system on their beings but what are the solutions to these systems?

What are we calling forth in 2025?

If the deep values of a capitalist society is dominance and aggression, with a distaste for feminine traits, such as being vulnerable and kind, then we are going to end up with a world with bullies on top and kind carers on the bottom.

This is a system that values competition, hoarding, individualism, extraction and greed, so we need to create a society that is opposed to that. One that values all beings here on earth and one that isn't constructed to serve the most aggressive or dominant.

It's time for a change. A system change can only be achieved if we



Ella Noah Bancroft

shift the mindset of each other, to see that we live in a deeply alive world, that is full of magic and is waiting for us to explore and participate with it. This world of magic I speak of is the natural world, our rivers, our oceans, Country and more than human kin.

Currently the majority of people are participating in the capitalist system. They are participating in consumption and slavery. Slave to their jobs to pay their mortgages and then a compulsion to consume due to feeling imprisoned, stressed or trapped.

How do we get back to our role as custodians and protectors and carers of each other and the earth? The value system has to

change. I envision a world where many people can buy land together, and construct community gardens and energy systems that are sustainable and benefit the planet. I envision a world where products are made for a purpose, where we think about the design and how to compost products once we are finished with them.

I envision a world where the streets are lit by glowing mushrooms at night, where fires reinstate its place back into the relationship with the human species in the west, one where the rivers are clean to swim in and even to drink. One where we walk more, slow down and have more spaciousness to thrive rather than the struggle to survive. I envision a world where we heal our insecurities as humans on an individual level and collectively. I envision a world where children are safe and cared for and where they are the greatest priority. A world where we return to a shared economy and the care economy.

I envision a world of peace and security for all, where conflicts cease to exist through war and instead get resolved through mediation

Maintaining peace and security is crucial to preventing poverty and high numbers of refugees and asylum seekers.

A world where every bit of food that is grown is eaten and not wasted, a way to feed the world and combat global famine.

I envision a world where we find our common story as humans who have been disconnected, where we allow many truths to exist and where division melts away rather than the ice caps in Antarctica.

A world with people power, not corporate power.

I know sometimes these visions can sound like fantasy and unattainable but all good ideas have to start with a seed, a spoken word of their existence, a thought. Could we really create that? A utopia? A place where people return to a deeper understanding of emotional, physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.

And mostly I pray and see a world where not one single bit of new clothing was made but yet we take all the clothes created in the world and return it to the hands of the artisans so they may craft us something new.

In this current system, wealth is valued by how much you can exploit another human being's labour, other species, or the land. Human labour is the key to capitalism.

A modern-day form of slave

labour that takes place offshore.

We have converted everything into a commodity to be bought and sold. Everything.

That's why trying to hold on to this type of society is not a good idea. We have to shift the mindset of success away from the economic wealth of a country. There are genocides taking place all over the world due to resource wars, people being displaced, killed and used as labour. Mining other lands for precious minerals is not renewable yet the renewable movement will make us believe we are heading in a different direction. Renewables is still walking the path to hell with good intentions. We ultimately need a new system, not try and continue to make the old one work.

Come and vision with me. What do you see? Better yet how do you want to feel in this new world? What is the feeling you want for 2025? Let's make 2025 intentions about how we want to feel both individually and as a collective and then let's actively make the changes we need to feel that. Goodbye 2024, hello brave new world.

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

Reflecting on our treatment

It's not often that a question from a stranger prompts you to reflect so deeply on your home country, but that's what happened in Palau, a small Pacific Island nation located in Micronesia when a local driver asked me last week: "How does Australia treat Aboriginal people?"

Driving down the thin, coconut-palm-fringed road in a Toyota HiAce, the bluntness of his first question threw me. It seemed simple enough, but the answer wasn't straightforward. I found myself scrambling for a response. I try not to speak negatively about Australia when I travel. However, given the recent comments by federal opposition leader Peter Dutton, who stated that he would not stand in front of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at official events if elected prime minister, it was difficult to be neutral or hold back.

I explained that the treatment of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders is complex and varies depending on the perspective. Some of us lead successful lives, are



Adam C Lees

well-educated, live comfortably and make our mark and contributions in various fields, which leads to them being treated well. I also highlighted our people's resilience and collective desire for self-determination. I told the driver it was impossible to ignore the lingering impacts of colonisation and the harsh realities many still

face, including racism in its many forms, which means that Australia does not have a good track record in treating Indigenous people well or with respect.

Continuing our brief yarn, I explained that if you take a balanced view of human rights in Australia, you will encounter disturbing statistics and poor outcomes. Children as young as ten are being locked up, and a large percentage of the adult population is incarcerated. Our health indicators place us at the bottom of the scale, and Indigenous Australians lag in other key areas. I spoke about the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in terms of quality of life. Most of us know these grim statistics personally and by heart. However, they are usually unknown and shock those outside the country who still associate Australia as the 'lucky country' that gives everyone a 'fair go'.

The driver's question was clear, and I couldn't dodge it. So, I gave him a straight answer: on the whole, Indigenous Australians are still treated

poorly. Drawing from the Indigenous Voice referendum experience in 2023, I told him that, overall, Indigenous Australians are still treated shabbily, and many Australians are unwilling to face our shared history. Regrettably, some politicians still exploit these issues for their own gain. We actively resist assimilationist policies and challenge the myth of equality, while the reality for many Indigenous Australians remains far from it.

Our 20-minute taxi journey felt like an episode of James Corden's *Carpool Karaoke*. We covered a wide range of subjects. I learned a little bit about Palauan culture, and of the similarities with Palau regarding how colonisation has impacted our respective lives.

It turns out there are some striking similarities. Like Indigenous Australians, Palauans also face challenges tied to colonisation. Both groups are dealing with health disparities and lifestyle diseases like diabetes. These shared challenges

have led to innovative responses in both communities, highlighting a proactive approach to improving well-being. Recently, a presidential decree in Palau gave public servants the green light to finish work an hour earlier, at 4pm, to encourage exercise and healthier lifestyles.

Palau's colonial history is just as complex as Australia's. Over the years, it has been colonised by Spain, Germany, Japan and the United States. Their Indigenous people were pushed to the margins and arguably out. Today, Palau maintains its sovereignty through a Compact of Free Association with the US, signed in 1986 and renewed in 2009. This agreement provides Palau with financial aid and security support while the US maintains a military presence in the region.

Like Torres Strait Islanders, I learned that more Palauans now live overseas than in Palau, and many grow up far from their family, traditions and culture.

But despite all of the negative colonial impacts, I

was told there's been a strong resurgence in Palauan culture, with people holding on to their traditions and reclaiming their identity and sovereignty, much like we, as Indigenous Australians, do today. Both groups are dealing with the long-term impacts of colonisation. We continue to assert our rights, especially as we push for greater recognition and the ability to be genuinely self-determined.

In the end, the chance encounter and yarn with the driver in Palau was more than a simple chat – it reminded me of the common struggles Indigenous peoples face worldwide. Although our societies and practices are unique, we face almost identical cultural concerns and barriers. We are united in our fight for recognition and self-determination, pushing forward one step at a time.

● 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.

Caring for Country: Old ways, new beginnings



Auntie Tjalaminu Mia

Kaya Brothers and Sisters – all our Mobs. I hope you are traveling well.

I have been asked to share my thoughts about Caring for Country, as a Noongar Elder and avid supporter of the old ways of our peoples – two-way learning that enables our older generations to share their voices and cultural knowledge with our younger generations. This includes cultural knowledge about the environment in our Countries; our places of cultural belonging as First Peoples.

You are aware of growing concerns about the condition of the planet, which is causing catastrophic outcomes for people and their communities. We are experiencing droughts, constant bush or wildfires, and floods including some islands in the South China Sea and Pacific regions shrinking in size from sea levels rising.

People are now regularly experiencing natural disasters that in the past would never have happened in a person's whole lifetime. These disasters cause devastation and trauma for families and whole communities and people often have no immediate recourse to deal with the outcomes financially, let alone socially or emotionally. That causes further mental anguish and physical health problems

At the 2024 APEC Summit held in November in Peru, Prime Minister Albanese re-committed to achieving Australia's emissions reduction targets by 2030 which includes focusing also on Australia as a global leader in renewable or green energy initiatives and practices.

Governments and industry are working alongside scientists, environmentalists, ecologists, biologists and meteorologists to develop urgent solutions to these climate disasters. These experts have been working in turn with our Elders and cultural knowledge holders who know about bush tucker production for people, and nurturing and protecting animals, birds, bees, waterways and trees that play a vital role in our ecosystems.

But our natural world is being



Auntie Denise Wald and her granddaughter Mila.

affected by climate change, with some waterways turning to salt, plants withering away and dying and first creatures facing extinction. We are running out of time to find and implement solutions, which adds to people's stress and mental health issues.

As First Peoples of Country we have known for generations and to this present time, that Country was becoming sick and has been for a long time. We understand via our Elders, who shared their cultural knowledge and wisdom, that we all have cultural obligations and responsibilities to care for our individual places of belonging – the Gnaark Boodjar or Mother Country. Otherwise we people – the carers of Country – will also get sick, which is already happening in front of our eyes.

Where our Elders' voices once fell on deaf ears, they are now in some instances being valued, which is a good thing. First Nations knowledges are starting to be a major focus in conferences, research papers and podcasts, though still not enough in my estimation. I feel there needs to be more ways of

disseminating the importance of First Nations environmental knowledge so non-Indigenous people too can understand and support our people's initiatives to Care for Country.

At the recent Social and Emotional Wellbeing Gathering held in Tarndanya (Adelaide, South Australia), an Elder Women's Yarning Circle shared what they are doing collectively, as well as in their individual Countries (Central Desert region). Though they live a fair way away from each other, they have established a cultural sharing group, where they work hard to reconnect their communities at all ages and levels to Country, in the hope of rejuvenating cultural practices in their people's daily lives, especially with their young people. There are now several published books and media resources in both their language and English.

The non-Indigenous writer/author and environmental activist Tim Winton's latest book, *Juice*, talks to environmental issues and the changes he has noticed in south-west regional

Western Australia – my Moort's (family - Menang Goreng Wadjari) Country.

In this Country, there is an Aboriginal Rangers Program, which our Elders are supporting by sharing Stories passed down the generations. This helps our young brothers and sisters employed in the program as they are trained to Care for Country both culturally and through mainstream education. They are versed in gathering and documenting information and applying research processes, resulting in important data collection for government environmental reporting.

Just recently the Aboriginal Rangers found several petrified tree trunks under beach sand in my Country, that were carbon dated at six to seven thousand years old. These finds have added credibility to the cultural knowledge of my ancestors' Stories of Place, that where there are now pristine beaches in some parts of Noongar Country, there was once a fresh waterway and ecosystem with animal life. The landscape has changed over millennia, but this

cultural knowledge can still aid our young people in their work of caring for Country.

My workplace, the Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention at the University of WA, recently hosted First Nations people from Canada, the USA, Aotearoa/New Zealand and Australia, for public lectures and events focused on connections between people, Country and mental and physical health. There is now a consensus to continue this important discussion and develop research papers very soon.

I would also like to share that I recently visited Larrakia country (Darwin) for the Elders' Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program workshop at Danila Dilba Health Service. I heard many insightful Stories about Elders sharing cultural knowledge with their younger generations, including the young artist Mila, the granddaughter of Elder Auntie Denise Wald. Mila and Auntie Denise painted a Story of Country together, which will soon be printed on T-shirts. The painting is a wonderful representation of knowledge Mila's grandmother is passing down to her, as well as aligning her with her place of belonging.

I do highly value, as a proud First Nations yorga (woman), the wealth of cultural knowledge my mummy shared with me whilst she was still with us, especially Stories of her and her grandmother (my great-grandmother Emily Farmer – nee Coyne) walking country. I'll never forget these words they shared down the generations in my family:"We all need to watch how we treat our land because ... country can't live without people and people can't live without country"....

These words are honest and very, very true!!!

It is nearing the Christmas holidays – only a few weeks to go. My family is yarning around 'going country' as I am sure is happening with all our Mobs, planning to get out of the city to freedom – open spaces, and to re-connect with their countries - places of belonging. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas with your families – happy times ahead!

Yarn Boodawaan (talk again)
- Auntie Tj

Auntie Tjalaminu Mia is a Menang Goreng Wadjari Elder, from the South-West and Great Southern region of Western Australia.

This column is one of a series contributed by the Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention at the University of WA.

Indigenous wine brand surges in sales



AUSTRALIA'S first Indigenous-owned wine brand Mt Yengo Wines has seen a tenfold surge in growth the last three months with expansion into Coles Liquor, Carnival Cruises, both China and the US as well as partnering with leading winemakers O'Leary Walker Wines.

Co-owner Wayne Quilliam, a proud Palawa man and one of Australia's most pre-eminent artists, is attributing the rapid growth to people wanting a more unique offering of an Indigenous brand that also promotes First Nations art and culture.

"We wanted to bring a wine brand that promoted our unique and premium range as well highlighting our Indigenous art and culture, which plays a vital role in who we are," Associate Professor Quilliam said.

"We have been working with one of the country's leading winemakers David O'Leary and Nick and Jack Walker from the O'Leary Walker Winery for nearly five years, crafting our premium range of wines which are served in some of Australia's best restaurants including Rockpool Sydney and Midden by Mark Olive at the Opera House.

"In a major coup we have also signed a deal to see these premium wines served on Carnival Cruises, including P&O and Princess Cruises, with more than 1,200 cases sold in the last six weeks alone. This is something we are very proud of, with very few Australian brands given this opportunity to supply cruise ships in Australia.

"We also have three new wines launched into Vintage Cellars and First Choice Liquor (Coles Liquor) as well as



Co-owner Wayne Quilliam in among the vines. Right: The finished product.

supplied to major corporates including KPMG, E&Y, Macquarie Group, Deloitte and PwC.

"Our people are proud to see an Indigenous brand thriving in this space. We want our wine to be a celebration of diversity, unity, and the remarkable resilience of Indigenous culture," Quilliam said.

Mt Yengo Wines export opportunities are also on the rise, already in the US for more than four years and finalising distribution into China in January with further plans in 2025 to expand the brand to the UK and parts of Europe.

The latest Export Report from Wine

Australia shows wine exports are at their highest levels of both volume and value since August 2021.

Mt Yengo Wines also has a philanthropic vision, with a portion of money from the sale of each bottle going to the National Indigenous Culinary Institute (NICI) to support young Indigenous chefs and a royalty to the artist whose work is on the bottle.

"We've proudly given just over \$40,000 in the last 12 months, half going to support the National Indigenous Culinary Institute and as our rapid growth continues we are looking at upwards of \$100,000 next year," Quilliam said.



New era for Girringun



GIRRINGUN Aboriginal Corporation has begun a new era with the appointment of a new chief executive officer

and a sharpened focus on its self-determination initiative, Process Unite.

Whitney Rassip has become only the second CEO in Girringun's 30-year history while Phil Rist will now focus on the Process Unite initiative on behalf of Girringun's senior Elders. The appointments were formalised by the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation's Board.

Whitney Rassip, a Djiru Traditional Owner, began her career with Girringun in 2013 as a ranger, with the blessing and support of her Djiru Elders.

She quickly rose through the organisation and in 2018 was appointed the Girringun Region Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) co-ordinator, overseeing cultural and natural resource management planning for 1.2 million hectares of Wet Tropics and Great Barrier Reef world heritage areas, as well as the Mungalla Station IPA and Yabullum IPA.

Whitney was appointed acting CEO 18 months ago and for a time shared the role with Chris Muriata, the Ranger Coordinator, in a move to release Phil Rist to focus more time on Process Unite.

"I don't believe I chose this path, but rather that this path chose me,"



Phil Rist, Joyce Wallis and Whitney Rassip at the recent Process Unite senior Elders Forum at Blencoe Falls.

Whitney said of her time with Girringun.

"I've always said that Girringun has helped change my life for the better. I will always be grateful to my Elders and am honoured to be following the footsteps of my ancestors in seeking a better future for all nine Traditional Owner member groups of Girringun," she said.

"We now have an important task ahead of us, to maximise the opportunity to seek self-determination for our Mob and continue to ensure our Country is looked after by Traditional Owners who understand our culture and our community," she said.

"First Nation perspectives are critical to the sustainable future of this part of the world.

"My vision is to continue to honour the legacy of our founding Elder's whilst creating new opportunities as we navigate into the future, acknowledging that the landscape has changed and embracing it to support the aspirations of all nine Traditional Owner member groups of Girringun.

Phil Rist, a Nywaigi Elder, who was appointed the first Girringun CEO in 1996 at the request of the Senior Elders, said the organisation has become a part of his DNA.

In his time as CEO Phil has

overseen many ground-breaking and historic initiatives for Girringun including the establishment of Australia's first ever Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement (TUMRA), Australia's largest IPA, the establishment of the Junior Rangers Program and recognition of Girringun's achievements with a finalist position in the Indigenous Governance Awards.

His next task is to realise the aspirations of those Elders who want a return to the unified approach which achieved these ground-breaking initiatives.

"Girringun was one of the first community-run Indigenous land and sea management centres in north Queensland and it still operates successfully.

"Our efforts to unite and seek a better future for ourselves and our children pre-dated Native Title," he said.

Process Unite aims to create systemic change and a culturally led way forward for self-determination by Girringun's nine Traditional Owner member groups; the Bandjin, Djiru, Girramay, Gulngay, Gugu Badhun, Jirral, Nywaigi, Warrgamay and Warungu peoples of Northern Queensland.

"The ultimate goal of Process Unite is to change the short term, cap in hand funding trickle from government agencies to First Nations organisations in Australia," Phil said.

"Our on-ground knowledge means that we are much better

placed to achieve true social equity with meaningful resolution towards Closing the Gap socio-economic priorities.

"We want to negotiate a just settlement compensation through the precedent set by the Timber Creek Judgement in 2019, which awarded compensation for both economic and cultural loss, including interest.

"The recent Process Unite senior Elders Forum held at Blencoe Falls, has given us the mandate through a Statement of Cultural Authority, to do this."

Girringun Board Chair, and Warrgamay/Bandjin Traditional Owner, Joyce Wallis, said the appointment of Whitney was testament to the strength of the organisation and quality of staff who have come through the ranks of Girringun.

"It is so important to the longevity of organisations such as Girringun, that we have Traditional Owners from the region who can step up to lead us into the future," she said.

"It is equally important that we are able to support Phil Rist as he leads the Process Unite initiative which will create a sustainable future for all Traditional Owners in the Girringun region.

"I want to personally acknowledge the incredible legacy that Phil has left us, and we are grateful that he will continue to be able to mentor Whitney as she settles into the CEO position."

Doctor recognised for remote health work



ABORIGINAL doctor Lorraine Anderson from the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services

was awarded the prestigious title of Medicare Champion at the Stronger Medicare Awards Ceremony at Parliament House recently.

A descendant of the Palawa people, Dr Anderson is a specialist general practitioner and serves as the medical director at KAMS in the Kimberley region of WA. The award recognises her exceptional contributions to primary health care, particularly in remote Western Australia.

"I've had many years in the primary health care field, and it is a great honour to have received this award," she said. "In particular, it's meaningful to recognise the never-ending hard work that goes into this job, especially in the remote health sector – by everyone, not just myself."

KAMS is a regional, member-based, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service, providing over half of the primary health care services in the region, predominantly to Aboriginal patients.

KAMS CEO Vicki O'Donnell Dr Anderson's dedication to providing comprehensive



Aboriginal doctor Lorraine Anderson from the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services.

primary health care to Kimberley Aboriginal people and communities was inspiring."

"Dr Anderson's recognition is a proud moment for Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services and the broader Aboriginal Community Controlled Health

Service sector.

Holistic health

"This award also highlights the vital importance of delivering holistic health and wellbeing outcomes to Aboriginal people, centred around Aboriginal

cultures and knowledge.

"Her work continues to create significant, positive changes in Aboriginal health and wellbeing. KAMS is incredibly proud to see her recognised as a Medicare Champion."

As part of Medicare's 40th

anniversary, the Stronger Medicare Awards were established to celebrate the outstanding health professionals and teams who work tirelessly to deliver quality care and innovative solutions in primary health care settings nationwide.

Research to help kids with cancer



A FIRST of its kind research program at The Kids Research Institute

Australia aims to develop new strategies to better treat First Nations children with cancer.

First Nations children with cancer have much worse outcomes and poorer tolerance to current therapies, with very little understanding as to why.

The new program, led by Kamilaroi woman Dr Jessica Buck on Whadjuk Noongar Country at the Institute's WA Kids Cancer Centre, will aid in the future development of life-saving and life-altering treatments for First Nations children with cancer.

Dr Buck said First Nations children experienced severe side effects from current cancer therapies and worse outcomes. Five-year survival rates are lower for First Nations kids. This is particularly the case in the Northern Territory, where five-year survival is 38% for First Nations children compared to 79% for non-First Nation's children.

Cancer treatments are tough on all children. They are especially tough on First Nations kids. Tolerance to treatment impacts their outcome and affects their long-

term quality of life.

The Kids Director of First Nations Strategy and Leadership Associate Professor Glenn Pearson said he was excited to see the impact of this world leading program on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

"This is an entirely new area of research, with the potential to reshape how we understand and treat cancer in First Nations children," Associate Professor Pearson said. "By building a robust evidence base, we can implement tangible and strategic treatments to improve survival rates and quality of life."

Engagement

Engaging closely with First Nations communities to understand the questions they have, the research they want undertaken, and to ensure therapy is delivered appropriately is a priority for the new program.

Menang Goreng Elder Aunty Averil Williams said that through this program, communities and mob would be more informed.

"They will have a better understanding. It's like when my little girl was diagnosed with leukaemia. I said I want to know what's going to happen. I want to know what's the treatment. All of those things,

and that's what I see this project as being," she said.

"People can be properly informed and have a better understanding of what it's all about, then encourage people to ask the questions of what, why, how."

Dr Buck said it was important to support these children while they are in hospital and support the families, particularly those from remote communities.

"The program is First Nations-led to ensure the research is culturally safe, it will build capacity of First Nations researchers and students and it will deliver measurable outcomes for First Nations communities.

"While we recognise that there is no quick fix that will close the gap in survival outcomes and quality of life after cancer for First Nations children, this body of work is a first step and will deliver tangible outcomes."

Dr Buck's vision for the program goes beyond research – she hopes to empower First Nations communities, transform care, and ultimately ensure that every child has the best chance to thrive after cancer.

The program is actively recruiting Elders and community members to join its advisory group



Dr Daniel Hunt has been named Indigenous Doctor of the Year.

Top honour for Dr Hunt



DOCTOR Daniel Hunt is a Jaru and Indijbardi man and is the acting CEO of Derbal Yerrigan Health Service.

Dr Hunt studied medicine and dentistry at the University of Western Australia.

He has been working in the space of Aboriginal health for 8 years.

His main focus is STIs and blood-borne viruses and clinical governance.

Dr Hunt aims to improve the

health and wellbeing of Indigenous Australians.

The Australian Indigenous Doctors Association recently awarded Dr Daniel Hunt the 2024 Indigenous Doctor of the Year.

Dr Hunt said he was very proud of his achievements.

"I'm very proud to be respected in a space with other Indigenous doctors and receiving the award at the Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Conference.

"This was humbling to be in the presence of black excellence," he said.

Four decades of education



TAFE NSW Eora marked its 40th anniversary in 2024

honouring four decades of empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through cultural arts, creativity, and connection.

Located on the land of Gadigal People of the Eora Nation in Darlington, the campus offers a vibrant and inclusive space fostering belonging and community.

Current Certificate III in Aboriginal Cultural Arts students Liz Brancato and Tahlia Sullivan described their time at Eora as life changing.

For Liz Brancato, studying at Eora has sparked a journey of reconnection to her Aboriginal cultural heritage.

"From the first day I attended, the sense of spirituality and community in this building is extremely strong," Ms Brancato said.

"With all our teachers, we can share our personal experiences and our life journeys. It's not just about the art, it's a journey of development of our cultural identity and the courses here facilitate that.

"I was brought up being told to 'be careful who you tell you're Aboriginal to, or you won't get ahead in life'. Now, I have nothing to hide. I'm proud of my culture and identity. I grew up most of my life not having an identity,

and I wanted to know who I am. Now, coming to TAFE NSW Eora I feel like I belong somewhere. I found myself. Eora is not just a building, it's a community."

Tahlia Sullivan, who recently learned of her Aboriginal heritage, said it's been an emotional journey.

"I wanted to learn more about my Aboriginal heritage," Ms Sullivan said. "So, at first, I enrolled in Aboriginal Studies at university but it was so academic. I wanted a spiritual connection.

"I learnt about TAFE NSW Eora while sitting on my couch and an ad popped up on my social media. I just went. Now, I don't want to leave.

"Eora has helped me step into the community and discover my culture. Here, it's not just about learning; it's about belonging and realising how alive Aboriginal culture is. I'd love to teach Aboriginal cultural arts one day and inspire others."

Eora Centre, as it was first known, was established by Aboriginal playwright and screenwriter Bob Merritt as a centre for excellence in visual and performing arts and Aboriginal studies.

These days Eora offers state-of-the-art facilities including a theatre, video and photography studio, gallery, audio recording equipment, and a fine arts studio.

TAFE NSW Eora has nurtured hundreds of students, including

renowned alumni like artist Harry Wedge, actor Trisha Morton-Thomas, singer-songwriter Emma Donovan, photographer Mervyn Bishop, artist Debra Beal, and Australian soprano, actor, composer and playwright Deborah Cheetham.

For over four decades, TAFE NSW Eora has profoundly impacted hundreds of lives, reconnecting students with their cultural heritage, guiding them towards careers in creative pursuits and professional success.

TAFE NSW Eora Visual Arts Teacher Gene Kelaher said TAFE NSW Eora has played a big part in his journey from being a student to now working as a visual arts teacher.

"I came to TAFE NSW Eora as a student during a tough time in my life," he said. "Someone recommended the Certificate III in Aboriginal Cultural Arts and it changed everything. I discovered a passion for learning and continued through to the Certificate IV, which led me to work as a Cultural Educator at the Australian Museum.

"Eora provides a culturally safe space for many Aboriginal students to explore and deepen their understanding of their cultural knowledge. It's also a fantastic pathway to enter the creative arts industry and work as professional artists, curators, and cultural arts administrators."



Eora students Liz Brancato and Talia Sullivan.

Professor added to women's honour roll



PROFESSOR Julie Andrews, the first and only Victorian-descended Aboriginal female professor in a

Victorian university, has been inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women as a Trailblazer in 2024.

Professor Andrews, Academic Director of Indigenous Research at La Trobe, has been regarded as a trailblazer by the Yorta Yorta community since she studied at the university in the 1990s.

The highly respected First Nations scholar's contribution to Indigenous higher education and research culminated with the establishment of the Gabra Biik Wurruwila Wutja Indigenous Research Centre at La Trobe University.

Professor Andrews has made a huge contribution to documenting Victorian Indigenous history, forging links with Indigenous communities and mentoring several Indigenous research students in their education and research journey. For the past 20 years Professor Andrews has taught thousands of students across La Trobe's campuses.



Professor Julie Andrews, the first and only Victorian-descended Aboriginal female professor in a Victorian university.

La Trobe Vice-Chancellor Professor Theo Farrell said Professor Andrews' trailblazing achievements in Indigenous education and research continue to have long-lasting impacts not only on La Trobe University but on Professor Andrews' family, the Yorta Yorta community, the wider

Victorian Indigenous community and other Victorian universities.

Trailblazer

"Professor Andrews is a role model for the entire community," Professor Farrell said.

"Her combined attributes of Aboriginality, Traditional Owner

status, academic expertise, family networks and community connections have opened a door for meaningful partnerships across communities and paved the way for others to follow in her footsteps."

Professor Andrews is La Trobe University's most cited Aboriginal

Studies researcher and has received more than \$6 million in external funding. Among many career highlights Professor Andrews was responsible for the development of an Indigenous academic framework for La Trobe University which has led to the development of a unique First Nations curriculum.

In 2012, she developed the first subject at La Trobe with completely First Nations content and delivered by First Nations lecturers, which continues to be taught today.

Professor Andrews also created the first On Country immersion subject for a Victorian university (Encountering Aboriginal Victoria – Parallel Systems of Knowledge). This was the first of its kind in Victoria and a unique immersion program within the local Aboriginal community at Shepparton and the Barmah Forest Area.

She also founded and is currently leading La Trobe's first Indigenous Research Centre called Gabra Biik, Wurruwila Wutja (Clever Country, Clever People) developed as part of La Trobe's Indigenous Research Strategy 2022-2030.

Jasmin is on a mission to serve



JASMIN Briggs, a Gamilaroi woman from Warialda in North-West NSW, is on a mission to improve healthcare access for Aboriginal people in rural NSW.

Motivated by personal losses and community healthcare challenges, the seventeen-year-old is completing her Certificate III in Health Services Assistance at TAFE NSW. Her goal is to become a doctor and serve her community.

"Growing up, my community had only one medical clinic, with the nearest alternative an hour's drive away," Ms Briggs said.

"TAFE NSW has ignited my healthcare journey, and inspired me to strive towards becoming a doctor, ensuring Aboriginal people in my community receive the healthcare they deserve."

Following her TAFE traineeship, Jasmin is set to qualify for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship at the University of New England and will join their



Jasmin Briggs, a Gamilaroi woman from Warialda in North-West NSW.

Country Doctor Program, bringing her closer to her dream.

Her journey highlights the importance of culturally responsive health services and

the potential of young Aboriginal leaders. More than seven million Australians, or nearly 30 per cent of the population, face limited healthcare access in rural

areas, with Aboriginal people experiencing up to a 6.8-year life expectancy gap.

Health professionals and services that honour Aboriginal

cultural identity are crucial for improving treatment participation and Jasmin's story is a beacon of hope in addressing this disparity.

Jasmin has already achieved significant recognition, including being a finalist in the 2024 New England Training Awards for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year and a winner of the Zonta 2024 Achievement Award for Young Indigenous Women (AAYIW).

Alongside her high achievements and career drive, TAFE NSW has helped Jasmin start her career in health and work towards her dream by equipping her with real-world experience and practical skills.

Martin Bower, Ms Briggs' teacher and career advisor at Warialda High School, said it was clear early on Jasmin's career would be in healthcare, serving her community after her TAFE NSW traineeship.

"I'm proud to see her dedication to her patients and her ambition to advance in medicine."

Natalie named QUT alumni of the year



YOUTH justice advocate and proud Gamilaraay woman, Natalie Lewis, has been

awarded a 2024 QUT Outstanding Indigenous Australian Alumnus Award.

In acknowledging the award Ms Lewis paid tribute to her mother as a strong role model.

"Receiving this award means that my mum knew what she was talking about when she emphasised the importance of education and the opportunities it presents to you and the obligations then that you have. Recognition of that and affirmation of that lesson is probably what means most."

Ms Lewis' career spans more than 25 years across youth justice, child and family services, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs providing direct service, program and policy development, and organisational leadership in both Australia and the United States. Most recently, she was appointed the commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC).

"My role as commissioner is to advocate for the rights and best interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland and to provide oversight and promote accountability for those services and systems that interact in the lives of our kids," she said.

"What I enjoy most is that



Gamilaraay woman Natalie Lewis.

our work always starts and ends with the people who are most impacted.

"There is always an aspect of engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. That is central to my role, so those interactions are the ones that I treasure. They're the ones that remind me of why the work is important."

Ms Lewis' leadership has led to significant reform in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child protection and family services sectors.

"It means lots of different things to be an Aboriginal woman in this space. I think there's an obligation that is not just about your job title. We have to be reminded every single day about who's needs and interests should be served. For me, that is always Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children," she said.

Her dedication to the cause is further exemplified by her role as member of the Australian Child Rights Task Force and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group for the

successor plan to the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020.

Previously, Ms Lewis was CEO of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP) and held appointments on the Queensland First Children and Families Board and the Joint Ministerial Council for Closing the Gap. She also served for more than eight years on the National Executive of SNAICC – National Voice for our Children, and co-chairs Family Matters: Strong Communities, Strong Culture, Stronger Children, the national campaign to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in statutory child protection systems.

"I hope that my legacy is one where the new narrative about our children is about their capability, their strength, their sovereignty, their connection to culture – and not just a strength personally, but an asset to this country," Ms Lewis said.

History books to be led by Aboriginals



LA TROBE University and the University of Melbourne have begun a million-dollar project to compile a four-volume collection of key documents

that tell the story of Australian history from an Aboriginal perspective, which will be sent to remote community schools across Australia and will eventually be in every school and public library.

The Ngura Ninti project, meaning "knowing home", will be accessible to Aboriginal communities as well as academics and the wider community. It aims to change the way Australians understand the history of their land.

This project is the first of its kind in Australia. No previous Aboriginal-focused documentary collection has ever been produced to this scale.

La Trobe Pro Vice Chancellor (Indigenous) Associate Professor Michael Donovan said the project would provide a record of Aboriginal people's past policies, activism, and events.

"It will empower Aboriginal communities with historical knowledge that may have been lost through generations, placing the Aboriginal voice and understanding at the forefront, and to educate non-Indigenous Australians about the country's history before and after colonisation," Associate Professor Donovan said.

The project is co-led by University of Melbourne Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) Professor Barry Judd, La Trobe University Associate Professor Katherine Ellinghaus and La Trobe Emeritus Professor Richard Broome.

Professor Judd said a team of regional editors would consult with Indigenous communities so they could be in control of choosing documents, ensuring Aboriginal leadership and direction of the project.

"We want Aboriginal Australians to be in control of the historical narratives they share about their communities," Professor Judd said.

"This is the first documentary collection that asked Aboriginal people and communities to select the documents they would find useful or appropriate."

Associate Professor Ellinghaus said the landmark documentary project would respond to the critical need and public desire for truth telling about the experiences, lives, and actions of Indigenous Australians since British invasion 250 years ago.

"Australia is a nation where two beginnings, two histories, and two knowledges about the past have existed separately," Associate Professor Ellinghaus said.

"This project will allow communities to document their history about what life was like before and after British colonisation."

Ngura Ninti's team of three general and eight regional editors, six of which are Indigenous, include scholars with expertise in Indigenous Studies and historians with skills in archives and historical documents. The project will be published by Routledge.

Minsmere Pty Ltd has committed to providing \$1 million for the project, and a further \$290,318 was granted by the Australian Research Council.

Taking time to find the right path



DOCTOR T'kido 'TK' Titasey almost gave up on his medical degree, but a strong connection to his hometown Naghir Island in the Torres Strait gave him the inspiration he needed to give it another try.

The University of Queensland Medical School student recently graduated as with a Doctor of Medicine, but his university journey has been anything but straight forward.

Born in Atherton and raised on Naghir Island in the Torres Strait, Dr Titasey had his heart set on studying medicine from a young age.

"Growing up in the Torres Strait I was exposed to many health inequalities, and I naturally gravitated towards wanting to help people in our community," Dr Titasey said.

"I also come from a really nurturing family who go above and beyond to look after our people – I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for them, and I feel obligated to give back."

After graduating high school, T'kido found the transition to university difficult.

"I originally started studying medicine back in 2013 at James Cook University (JCU), but I was young and immature and still needed to find my way," he said.

"I was obsessed with becoming a doctor but didn't have any idea on the work that was required to succeed.

"I wasn't overly successful in progressing through the degree, so I dropped out and took a few years off, travelling and working in hospitality."

While he gained some valuable life experience during those years, Dr Titasey knew he was destined to work in healthcare.

"Years later, I decided to compromise and gave a Bachelor of Nursing Science a try," he said.

"It took me some time to find my feet, but I grew to absolutely love it."

T'kido graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing Science from JCU in 2018 and



Doctor T'kido 'TK' Titasey consulting with a patient.

became a fully qualified nurse, working in interventional cardiology, cardio-thoracic surgery and emergency nursing.

But his desire to pursue medicine still lay at the back of his mind.

"I was working at Townsville Community Hospital where a lot of Indigenous people had cardiovascular issues, and I really wanted to understand why the number of Indigenous patients was so disproportionately high compared to those who were non-Indigenous," he said.

"This was when I realised that I was ready to take the next step and pursue my career in medicine again."

Although he found it challenging to return to university as a mature-aged student, T'kido said UQ's medicine degree incorporated both theoretical and practical components that were integral to his success.

"UQ provided me with so many tools to get me through my time at university," he said.

"I was very lucky to have a mentor in Honorary Associate Professor Linda Selvey, who supported me through understanding certain concepts, especially when it came to research.

"Dr Selvey also played an integral role in assisting me with the decision making through medicine."

Honorary Associate Professor Linda Selvey taught T'kido during his first year of medicine, but it wasn't until she heard his story that she approached him about being his mentor.

"TK was a keynote speaker at the student NAIDOC ball, where he discussed the challenges he faced during his time at university, and his determination to give medicine a second go really inspired me," Dr Selvey said.

"I got in touch with him after that and offered to be his mentor.

"Occasionally I would give advice, but mainly it was about me listening to him as he worked out his career path."

Dr Selvey said she was proud of Dr Titasey and all he had achieved.

"Students like TK give me hope for the future of medicine, because he is incredibly capable and incredibly passionate, and those are the sorts of people you trust when you are in need of medical care," she said.

Reconnecting

The most rewarding part of the four-year degree for Dr Titasey was returning home to Thursday Island.

"It was amazing to be back on Country, reconnecting with my family members," he said.

"My last block of placement was spent in the Thursday Island Hospital, which was a great place to get exposure as a medicine student.

"Anything and everything could walk through the doors of emergency, from bacterial infections, to traumas, to paediatrics – it really tested my knowledge and consolidated a lot of the theoretical skills I had developed over the past four years."

After graduation, Dr Titasey hopes to return to the Torres Strait and work full time as a doctor.

"Being here in my community for placement really created a strong desire for me to come back and practice here," he said.

"As a doctor, you're in a place of privilege and power and you can make a fair bit of change, so why not come back and inspire other Torres Strait Islanders to pursue their dreams."

He said although it was unconventional, he wouldn't change anything about his journey.

"It has been a lot of hard work, but once I found what we call the 'ginnar' – or the process – it became easier," Dr Titasey said.

Bright futures beckon

By ALF WILSON



FOUR young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths have excelled at Townsville schools and look set for bright

futures.

Marina Aruba from Boigu Island, Kentaro Sabatino (Waiben), Tahliyah Jawai (Napranum) and Mungubudkija Mungu Toby (Mornington Island) are emerging leaders.

They live at NRL Cowboys House in Townsville where they are boarding and attend local high schools.

Pimlico State High School's Marina Aruba was named Year 11 First Nations Captain alongside Kentaro Sabatino who came through an extensive selection process involving around 50 students to be named Pimlico's 2025 First Nations Ambassador.

While Tahliyah Jawai will take the role of First Nations Captain at Kirwan State High School next year.

Mungubudkija Toby has been named School Captain of Heatley



Marina Aruba and Kentaro Sabatino.

Secondary College for 2025 making him the first NRL Cowboys House student to achieve the honour since the unique, culturally-safe boarding house opened in 2019.

NRL Cowboys House, managed by Cowboys Community Foundation, is removing distance as a barrier to quality secondary education by providing a home-away-from-home for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from remote communities that do not offer secondary schooling to Year 12.

Mungu has a quiet, humble exterior but underneath possesses a fierce determination which has seen him emerge as a leader amongst his peers.

The 17-year-old said he was a little surprised but excited to take on the role and hoped his family and community were proud.

"I originally applied to be vice-captain, so I was very surprised when I was named school captain. "Being a leader of a high school is a big responsibility and I'm sure I'll have plenty of extra duties to take on next year, but hopefully I'll grow



Mungu Toby.

into it across the year. Since coming to NRL Cowboys House I've definitely become more social than I used to be, more talkative and confident, so I'm looking forward to the next challenge," he said.

NRL Cowboys House Head of Boys Campus Jonathon Cini said Mungu's mum was originally unsure how her son would fair at boarding school due to his quiet nature, but he had thrived since coming to the House in Year 9.

"Mungu is softly spoken but not shy. We are extremely proud to have Mungu represent NRL Cowboys House, his Mornington Island community, and his family as



Tahliyah Jawai.

School Captain of Heatley Secondary College. His leadership qualities and dedication to everything he undertakes make him an excellent role model and we know he will give it his all, just as he does with everything else. Mungu knows what he wants, he's culturally proud, patient, a good friend and his commitment is unquestionable. On top of his leadership at school, Mungu is passionate about the art of boxing and trains up to five times a week at Hawks Boxing Club. He had his first bout this year and has gone on to have three more including his first victory in the Main Junior Bout in October," Jonathon said.

Pristine Palau: A journey through Indigenous knowledge and nature

By ADAM C LEES



ON my first morning in Palau, I was jolted awake, not by my usual irritating iPhone alarm but by the sounds of fish shoals thrashing and churning through the water just outside my hotel room. Then, the birds joined in, filling the air with a chorus of calls. The last time I'd experienced anything as close to this was when I visited the island of Niue, where the locals complained bitterly about the constant slapping of whale tails against the water at all hours of the night. "Those bloody whales are so irritating, they keep us awake," my friend Peleni had said then.

Nestled in the western Pacific, the Micronesian country of Palau is a tropical haven where the stunning turquoise waters meet pristine shores, and its unique Indigenous cultural heritage thrives amid its natural beauty. An archipelago of more than 500 islands and renowned globally for its world-class diving and untouched, world heritage-listed landscapes, Palau is gradually expanding its tourism focus towards showcasing the Indigenous and traditional knowledge that has safeguarded its environment and culture for millennia.

Palau is now even more accessible to Australians with the recent launch of QANTAS's weekly, direct service from Brisbane. I met with Palau Visitors Authority (PVA) representatives Katarina Mad (State and Community Manager) and Kiruu Kanai (Digital Marketing Representative) to discuss their strategy for incorporating Indigenous and traditional offerings into their tourism experiences.

The PVA has been working with local communities to develop tailored tourism experiences highlighting the island's sixteen states' traditions, stories, and practices. This shift towards cultural and land-based tourism has been well received. "Each of Palau's states has its governance, culture, and traditions that they are eager to share," Katarina said. "We've been working closely with local communities to help them develop tourism products that highlight their unique heritage."

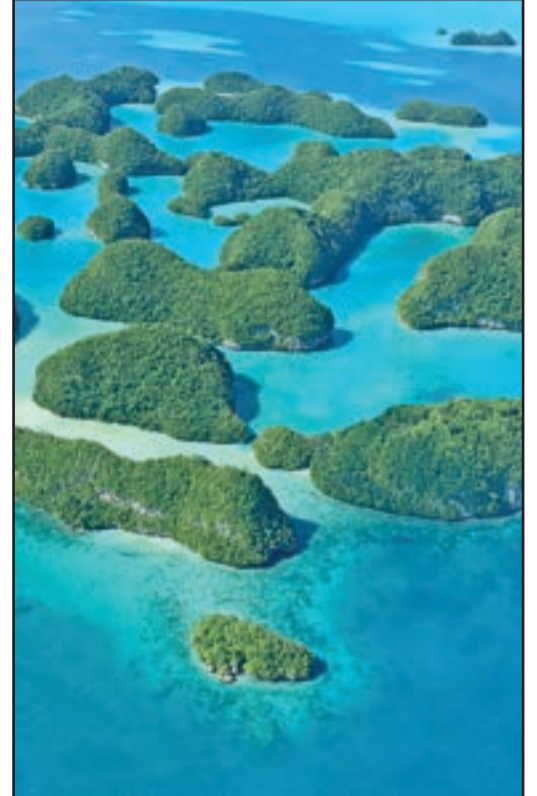
One example is Airai state, where a local knowledge holder is the last woman in Palau who knows how to make traditional Palauan grass skirts.

"This knowledge was passed down through her family, and it was once the family's main source of income. She is sharing this knowledge with visitors, who can learn the craft firsthand. It's a way of keeping local traditions alive," Kiruu said.

In addition to traditional crafts, Palau is home to ancient stories like our Dreamtime stories. One



A turtle hiding on a reef in Palau. Picture: PT Hirschfield.



Palau is becoming known for its many islands. Picture: Adam Lees



Miss Belau Dee-Raya Antonio, a Palau local.

such tale is a local version of Romeo and Juliet, which visitors can hear through storytelling sessions led by the community. These cultural products invite visitors to engage with the island's history and immerse themselves in Palau's continuous culture.

Tourism products also help Palauans gain a deeper understanding of their own culture.

"During a recent trip to Airai, I had the chance to walk along a traditional path once lined with men's houses. As we explored the area, our guide pointed out a local almond tree, and we stopped to talk about its role as a traditional food source.

"The local people are proud to share their culture, and it's not just for international visitors," Kiruu said.

"We also invite fellow Palauans to experience these activities and to feel connected to their culture."

Palau's focus on environmental sustainability is another pillar of its tourism strategy. The Palau International Coral Reef Centre engages

young students in marine biodiversity and conservation efforts so the island's youth actively protect their natural heritage. The PVA pointed to partnerships with resorts like the Palau Pacific Resort, which allows guests to participate in tree-planting excursions.

I asked Katarina and Kirru what distinguishes Palau from other Pacific destinations, such as Bali or Fiji. They said Palau offers an immersive experience "where visitors can disconnect from the busyness of everyday life and reconnect with nature".

"You will not be spending money shopping here in Palau, but you are spending money to create memories in paradise. We pride ourselves on promoting our brand of Pristine Palau – we are proud of our island and the things we have done to maintain it. Palau is the place to come and be disconnected and to recharge."

The best benefit of visiting Palau is the chance for a digital detox—Australian phones don't roam here, making it the perfect place to go off the grid

The PVA highlights that a key



An underwater paradise. Picture: PT Hirschfield.



Traditional mens meeting huts.

aspect of maintaining Palau's environment is its commitment to environmental protection. For example, Palau has banned the import of sunscreens with harmful chemicals that damage coral reefs while offering a locally made alternative crafted by the community.

"Our approach to banning certain sunscreens with chemicals that harm the reefs has created opportunities for the community to make their own brand of local sunscreen protection products," Katarina said.

As more flights make it easier to access Palau, the Visitors Authority is optimistic about the growth of cultural tourism. "We

are excited to welcome more Australian visitors and offer them a range of experiences that include Palauan culture and our natural world," they added.

Palau is a place where the past and present coexist and where every visitor can take away memories and a deeper appreciation of the island's unique cultural heritage values. Unlike other popular tourist destinations, there are no bogans to be found here - not that I saw, anyway. Whether exploring the coral reefs, learning traditional crafts, or engaging with local stories, Palau is an incredible destination that should not be missed if you ever get the chance.

Family and friends turn

BY PAUL CONNELLY



“ATHERTON Gardens will always be a place for me and my family. Fond and treasured memories of a bygone era for old parkies like myself. It’s only fitting my brother’s statue, and dear Ruby, find its permanent place there for all my people and the community to share. We as a family feel both a sense of sadness and excitement as we celebrate two legends and so much loved members of the Roach and Hunter family.”

Auntie Myrtle Evans, Archie Roach’s sister, spoke those words to the gathered crowd of family, friends, colleagues and fans who came together on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung lands, to celebrate the unveiling of the statue of Uncle Archie Roach AM AC and Auntie Ruby Hunter.

The bronze statue, beautifully created by local Fitzroy artist Darien Pullen, is set in a newly landscaped space on Gertrude Street, Fitzroy. Designed by Melbourne-based architect Jefa Greenaway and landscape architect Paul Herzich, it pays tribute to Archie and Ruby’s connection with the area, its rich Aboriginal history and its significance to the Stolen Generation.

Speaking of his sculpture, artist Darien Pullen said “I want to thank the extended family of Roach and Hunter families for trusting me with this job.

“I know how important it is to you, and I hope I have done you proud. I wanted to ensure that I respected the family and your culture,” he said.

“I want to say a special thank you to Auntie Myrtle, who made my day when she said it was grouse.

“This was not a one-man job. I sculptured the statue, and my job was really over once the clay was finished, and it was handed over to Meridian Sculpture, also a Fitzroy business, where it was cast in parts and welded together, and grinded and contoured to what we have today.”

Wurundjeri/Woi-wurrung Elder Uncle Colin Hunter Jr, who conducted the Welcome to Country, said the idea came from a conversation with Uncle before he passed.

“So when council approached us to apply for the grant to see this become a reality, we were very happy to lend our support. My partner Charlie and I set about organising a bunch of consultations or conversations with the CEOs of the local Aboriginal-controlled organisations who provided support for this project.

“From there, we formed the working groups and made sure we had both families involved.

“I have seen a lot of statues in my life, and I don’t think I have ever seen a statue that represents two people as powerfully as this does.”

A sentiment echoed throughout the day along with the words ‘beautiful and deadly!’

Addressing the crowd, the Minister for Treaty and (continued)



Auntie Roslyn Richards, Uncle Jeffrey Hunter (Ruby’s brother), Letitia Roach, Sylvia Roach, Jaynaya Roach and Uncle Wally Richards (Ruby’s brother). Picture: Paul Connelly (PC)



Dr Lou Bennett (TIDDAS). Pic PC



Amy Saunders (TIDDAS), Craig Pilkington, Amos Roach, Bart Willoughby, Teddy Chessells, Sam Anning and Stephen Magnusson. Picture: Mick Harvey (MH)



Nola Lauch. Pic PC



Sculptor artist Darien Pullen, Tracey Evans and Auntie Myrtle Evans. Pic: MH



Singer Pirritu, Linc from The Deans of Soul and former member of Uncle Archie’s band Craig Pilkington. Pic: PC

out for Archie and Ruby



The veiled statue. Pic: PC



Tracey Briggs and Amos Roach. Pic: PC



Eban and Wesley Roach Pic: PC



Uncle Colin Hunter jnr. Pic: MH



Bart Willoughby. Pic: PC



Gavin Brown, Alister Thorpe jnr, Lisa Thorpe, and Brad Brown. Pic: PC



Dancer Zellenach Djab Mara from the Murrundaya Yepengna Dance Troupe. Pic: MH



Evette Herder Peltanggi Roach with proud dad Amos Roach watching on as his son thanks everyone for coming out for the celebration. Pic: MH

(continued) First Peoples Natalie Hutchins said: "Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter were legendary musicians and leaders in the Aboriginal community, and this stunning public artwork is a wonderful tribute to their achievements."

The streets of Fitzroy were where Archie and Ruby called home for many years, and in his address to those gathered, the Mayor of Yarra, Stephen Jolly, spoke to this, as well as addressing the significance of the contribution they and other First Nations peoples have made to Fitzroy and wider communities.

"Fitzroy, and particularly Atherton Gardens Estate, has long been a meeting place for indigenous people in the whole of this city.

"It has been the birthplace of Aboriginal-controlled community services, the centre of social and political activism and resistance. Smith Street, near here, is the only street in Melbourne you can walk down 24/7 and be guaranteed to meet an Aboriginal person, and that is going to stay like that, at least if we have anything to say or do about it," Mr Jolly said, to the roar from the crowd.

Amos and Eban Roach were

there with their children on the day and it was a day of joy, tinged with sadness, but they were nonetheless proud.

"We've had so much loss the last couple of years. We needed something happy and some joy to celebrate. We wanted to get everyone together for some happiness and joy."

"The family feels very honoured by this memorial, and the artist has respectfully represented them in this sculpture," Amos Roach said.

After the completed ceremonies, the day was turned over to the musicians – many of

whom had the privilege of performing with Archie and Ruby – who took those gathered on a curated journey of their favourite songs.

With the assistance of Archie's Band, including Craig Pilkington, Sam Anning and Craig Magnusson, with special guest Bart Willoughby on drums, well-known Indigenous artists such as Kutcha Edwards, and former TIDDAS members, Dr Lou Bennett and Amy Saunders (shoutout to Sally Dastey who could not make it), Nola Lauch, Fred Leone, and others, including many family members, took to the

stage, and sang out the songs of Uncle Archie and Aunty Ruby, with Neil Murray and Shane Howard also joining the incredible lineup on the day.

"I was not actually on the list to play, that was a total surprise to me," Amy Saunders said. "That song *Sista Brother* has always been a favourite of mine ever since the early 90s. Mossy (Amos) invited me, and the moment he started singing that song, I just couldn't resist."

"My sister took me to Melbourne when I was ten, in 1977, a year after my brother died, and the first place she took me was to the park, to meet all the parkies, and seeing this statue, I have one word, beautiful!"

There was a sense of sadness in the crowd when the music finally came to an end. It seemed that everyone just wanted the music to continue... this is not the end, though. The legacy left behind in the Archie Roach Foundation, along with the Ruby Hunter Award to support emerging First Peoples female artists, is ensuring that new and emerging First Nations musicians will have the same and possibly even greater opportunities than Uncle and Aunty had themselves. The launch of the Singing Our Futures mentor program two years ago has ensured this path is secure.

AND NOW THEY HAVE A STATUE

Now, this bronze statue of Archie and Ruby will further stand as a testament and memorial to their dedication to their music, each other, their family and their Mob.

As Mayor Stephen Jolly said: "Archie and Ruby, and others who lived there were called 'Parkies', first as an insult, but later, as a badge of honour."

"I can't tell you how incredibly proud we are that this statue is here, not only in Fitzroy but in this Atherton Gardens Public Housing estate. Hopefully, it will stand guard over this estate for many hundreds of years to come," Mr Jolly said.

The statue is located in Atherton Gardens on Gertrude Street, Fitzroy Melbourne, just a short walk from Charcoal Lane.

For those considering a puppy for Christmas

We've all been there, scrolling through social media, mindlessly clicking through a feed, when BAM, an adorable puppy face pops up needing a home and some loving.

Big eyes, floppy ears, and that little face that says, 'Take me home and let me snuggle on your couch forever', then suddenly, you're thinking, I need a four legged fur baby.

It's easy to get swept up in the cute factor. You imagine blissful walks in the park, or the beach, endless puppy cuddles. But here's the hard truth, a dog is not a gift. It's a massive commitment.

Doggies are adorable. How can anyone resist that wiggle tail, the deep looking into the soul and all of the cuddles? But hold on, it's easy to get distracted by all of these lovely aspects and the dopamine supply but then reality starts to set in.

The thought of having a puppy as a fluffy little accessory to your life, is not what it seems. You tell yourself, 'I can definitely juggle a dog, my job, my social life, and trips to see family interstate but the truth may be a different story.

These sentient beings all deserve the best and whether it be the cute little pup that cost a few pay packets or a pooch looking for a new home, they're living,

breathing creatures that depend on you for everything and there's the chewing, the toilet training accidents, and the midnight bathroom breaks that promise to interrupt that well needed sleep.

If you think you can casually roll out of bed, toss on your sweatpants, and take your puppy to the dog park for a cute Instagram photo shoot, think again. The 3am potty run, your puppy will wake you up at odd hours with that all too familiar whimper, like some sort of tiny alarm clock designed to destroy your sleep schedule. You'll stumble out of bed, bug eyed, praying that your neighbours don't think you're the one barking at three in the morning.

Everyone loves the idea of a perfectly well behaved dog, but reality check, the first few months (or maybe years) will involve a lot of training, patience, and learning how to communicate with your pup and don't even think of going away for work or holidays without having a committed and generous co parent to share custody with.

So why bother, right? Why take on the responsibility, the time, the money, and the inevitable mess? Because, at the end of the day, a dog isn't just a companion—it's a lifelong friend. The days

when you're feeling down or lonely? Your puppy will be there, wagging their tail and looking up at you like you're the best thing to happen to them.

It's those moments that make it all worthwhile. The wet nosed kisses after a long day. The way they curl up next to you as if to say, 'I'm here. Always', is this why we do it?

I would say we want more than just a cute puppy to share our home with, is it replacing the unconditional love that's almost impossible to find, are we looking for the unconditional love of our canine mates that we cant find in our human counterparts?

If you're anything like me and considering getting a dog (or if you already have one in mind), it's important to remember that it's not just about the adorable puppy photos or the fluffy cuddles. It's about being ready for the responsibility, for the long term commitment, and for the privilege of being someones's everything.

This part makes me mildly anxious as I am well aware that I am not great when people need something from me, it sends me into a small spiralling, a trigger of sorts but maybe if I was to just step outside myself for a minute the rewards could be bigger

than me?

I may be in total denial of the reality of it all and instead can only see the vision of puppy cuddles, long undisturbed walks on the beach and soft meaningful connections on the couch watching crime dramas on Netflix.

I saw a great dane puppy named Theo and he was adorable but on face value there is no clue on how much pee he has laid on the lounge room rug this week or the amount of shoes, electric chords and furniture it has chewed during the night while being liberated from its training crate.

Some say that having a dog is a little bit like having a child. I can totally understand this comparison, although the dogs grow at a much greater rate. The connection between homo sapiens and their dog is a tale longer than time apparently, having a four- legged mate seems like the perfect solution to company and unconditional love. Despite the challenges, the love and companionship are worth it, I am imagining I am still on the fence when it comes to getting a dog, maybe the idea is enough right now, or perhaps I can put the word out to all and sundry and become a dog minder, just for the holidays for a test run?



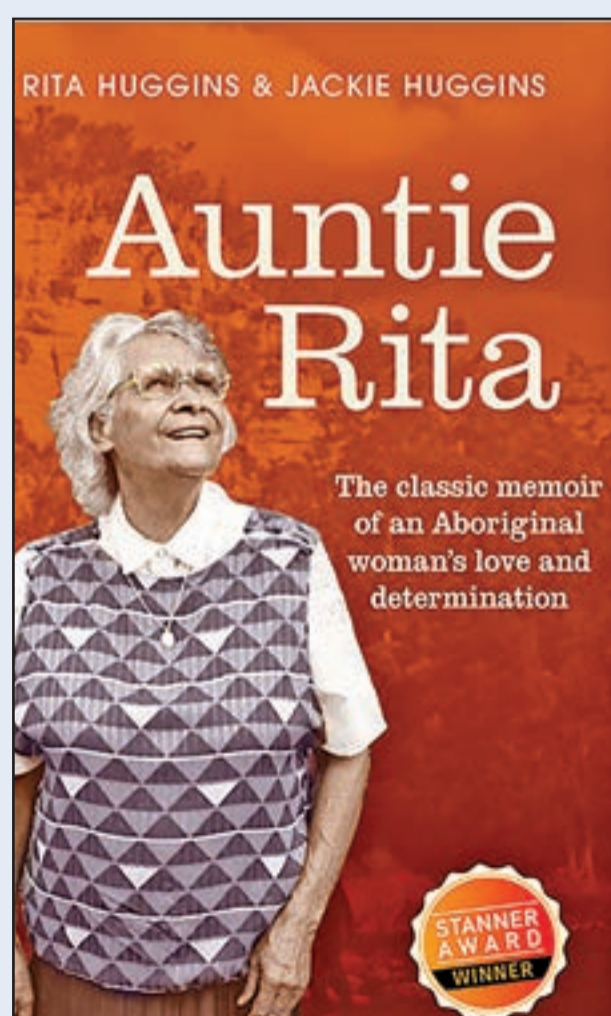
Kirk Page

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

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

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

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

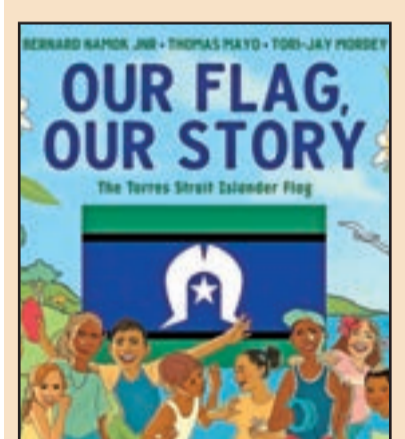


Reflections of Auntie Rita

Auntie Rita, written by Rita and her daughter Jackie Huggins, is a revised edition of the bestselling and award-winning memoir of Aboriginal woman Rita Huggins first published in 1994. Rita Huggins was born on Bidjara/Bidyara Country at Carnarvon Gorge in central Queensland. As a child in the 1920s, she met white men for the first time: troopers who forced her family into cattle trucks and drove them south to Barambah, an Aboriginal Reserve now known as Cherbourg.

There were some happy times, but the only way out of Cherbourg for Aboriginal people was work. Rita worked as a housekeeper all over Queensland before meeting and marrying Jack Huggins. After Jack's untimely death, Rita struggled with grief and the challenges of being a

single parent to three young children, and caring for extended family and community. As the 1960s unfolded, Rita watched the rise of First Nations activism — the 1967 Referendum, the Freedom Rides, new Aboriginal political organisations — and knew she wanted to make something better for herself, her family and for all Indigenous people. She joined Queensland's One People of Australia League and was an active member till her death in 1996. In *Auntie Rita*, Rita's words — interspersed with reflections from her daughter Jackie — reveal a life shaped by personal tragedy, the dramatic changes of the twentieth century and personal resilience. This moving memoir has been enjoyed by readers around the world since it was first published in 1994.



Our Flag, Our Story: The Torres Strait Islander Flag
By Bernard Namok Jnr & Thomas Mayo Illustrated by Tori-Jay Mordey

The story of the Torres Strait Islander flag is shared in this new children's book through the words of Bernard Namok Jnr and Thomas Mayo with beautifully illustrated images by Tori-Jay Mordey. *Our Flag, Our Story* is a wonderful introduction to the ideas behind the design of the flag, a symbol of unity, shared identity and pride for all Torres Strait Islanders. Bernard Amok Jnr is the son of the late Bernard Namok — the designer of the Torres Strait flag. Bernard says it's an honour to be acknowledging his father through the telling of how the flag came to be, and to continue this family legacy. In this new book, readers young and old will hear the story of the flag and the elements embedded into its design. It's a must for all young readers.

Exploring Redfern's place as a birthplace of activism

During the 1970s, the National Black Theatre Redfern became a central hub for artistic expression, activism, and community engagement. The inner city community on Gadigal country was home to pioneering Indigenous artists, activists, and theatre makers.

Redfern is more than just a suburb—it's a cultural touchstone, a birthplace of activism and art.

Sydney Festival's Blak Out program returns to Belvoir St Theatre in January 2025 to take a deep dive into the history (and future) of First Nations theatre.

Curated by Wiradjuri actor and Redfern resident Angeline Penrith (Wayside Bride), Redfern Renaissance is a series of workshops, discussion panels and performances celebrating the history of National Black Theatre, which operated in Redfern from 1972-1977. The company left a long legacy of activism, self-determination and radical re-thinking of Blak futures through the arts.

Jacky by Declan Furber Gillick and directed by Mark Wilson will have its stage debut in Sydney in the Upstairs Theatre at Belvoir, along with excerpts from two classic productions: *The Cake Man* by Robert Merritt and *Here Comes the N****r* by Gerry Bostock – a work that has never been published in full and to this day can only be found in excerpts.

Redfern Renaissance will reckon with the indelible mark these two works made on Black theatre and its audiences of the time.

The event will celebrate the impact and legacy that continues today inspired by the Black Theatre Redfern legacy of the 1970s.

Koori Mail spoke with Wiradjuri and Yin actor and Redfern local Angeline Penrith about Redfern Renaissance, a love letter to her home that promises to be a celebration of culture, art, and history.

Who are you and where are you from?

My name is Angelina Penrith and I am a Wiradjuri and Yin woman and resident of Redfern NSW.

When did you become interested in acting – how did this come about?

I was a child performer – growing up. I originally started out as a singer with my sister. We lived with the Doolan family as kids, I was about 12 there in Sydney and they had a band called the Black Rose at the time.



Wiradjuri Yin actor and Redfern resident Angeline Penrith.

Shan Doolan wrote a song for his daughter Dizzy Doolan and he asked me and my sister to sing it in the room one day. Then one day I remember mum calling out for us to come downstairs at home to meet someone from the Black Out program, we recorded this song and we called ourselves the Rosette's. We were one of the first ever Aboriginal youth groups to be played on RAGE ABC and the same age I think as Jimmy Barnes' kids who were in the group the Tin Lids at the time, so that's how the acting and performing came about.

How did you come to be a part of Sydney Festival 2025 Redfern Renaissance a tribute to this country's Black Theatre Legacy?

I guess it came out of a sadness I felt on how the place has changed so much. I am a Redfern resident, third generation and Robert Merritt is my uncle and he wrote a play called the *Cake Man* which is based on my family who lived on Erambie mission in Cowra NSW. I approached Belvoir St Theatre and Sydney festival with the idea of looking into these plays from that era of the Black Theatre in the 1970s. I was inspired to look into these works sparked by the gentrification of Redfern and it feels like the black history and the communities rich history has

been whitewashed, people forget the achievements of this community, the land rights movements, the development of the Aboriginal Medical Service and housing which was established here by those Aboriginal people.

How does it feel to be heading this wonderful event and what have some of the challenges been for you?

I work at Belvoir street Theatre as the community liaison officer and I suggested this and through self determination I pitched the idea to the festival and they said yes right away, it's also one part of a bigger vision in the future which is to get a space for us to gather and connect and work in honour of those people who did so much work and achieved incredible things in this community. This event is honouring some of the writers of the two productions from the Black theatre, honourable mention to Paul Coe, a founding member, Gary Foley, a founding member, Jack Charles and Bob Maza also a founding member, with Lousie Corpus, Euphemia Bostock and Marcia Langton who were all involved in activism and some of the pioneers of Blak Theatre Redfern. There is nothing here in Redfern to acknowledge that strong history

of those groundbreaking pioneers of the time, so I am honouring them through this small action of bringing excerpts of those plays to audiences here during the Sydney Festival 2025 in January. Hopefully this uplifts our community who are in the midst of total gentrification. This community was like a Black utopia in the sense that Mob from all over came together and worked together and within a five year period (1972 -1977) changed the face of black Australia. People think that blacfkellas can't get along, can't get stuff done, but when you think of Redfern this was a place where people come together to create change and I want to remind people that we can achieve anything and that's why I think the whitewashing happened. We proved in this community that if you want to do something you can achieve it.

What are some of the challenges of this project?

A lot of the community have passed on now so that is a challenge in terms of hearing those stories and the gentrification caused a lot of people to move elsewhere. This area was a working class area. It was a very political time in the world during the 70s, the people here were very self-educated and took the philosophies of the

Black Panther movement and this movement was the beginnings of us pushing against a system designed to oppress us. We never called ourselves black as we were a product of the assimilation policies of the day. Being radical and just claiming our blackness and telling people about the injustices through theatre, was life changing, and a powerful foundation for our truth telling.

Do you think the plays written in the seventies are as relevant as they were back then?

Yes I do think they are relevant, it wasn't that long ago that we were living under the Act and racism was rampant on all levels. We live in a time where communities have been shattered in the name of progress and the rise of middle class Blak Australia is separating Mob, and a lot of us are too concerned with keeping up with the Jones's, there's good and bad to all of it, but we need to maintain balance for our Mob. Stories can be powerful and show us who we are and where we come from and those stories are as relevant now as they were then, there is still so much work to do, the work isn't done just yet.

Redfern became a star of its own during the TV series 'Redfern Now' how do you think that series changed the way people think about Redfern and its community?

I don't think the series represented my community and I feel like it was a part of the gentrification of the place. We are rough and raw and edgy and you wouldn't find another community like it because of its location. I think it was a bit of a watered down version of the home that I know. The neighbourhood never really benefited from the series to be honest.

What do you think audiences will get from the Redfern Renaissance at Sydney Festival 2025?

You wouldn't have Blak arts without Black Theatre Redfern, those days of the 1970s redefined activism, on our terms and was the beginnings of our truth telling and self determination, this community is infamous not just locally but world wide. If you want to come see and hear some real staunch and unapologetically Blak yarns and history, come and see the Redfern Renaissance event at Belvoir Street Theatre running over two weekends from January 18 at 5:30pm and the following weekend January 25 at 5:30pm.

Ready for invaders on the menu?

By NICK PATON



AUSTRALIA is home to one of the most biodiverse environments in the world.

But if things don't change soon, entire ecosystems will remain at risk of being completely destroyed by the invasive plants and animals brought here by the colonising forces.

Bringing with them pests like cane toads, camels, carp and deer, it's the introduction of rabbits and cats that have driven many of our native plants and animals to the brink of extinction.

But what if decolonising our way of thinking could help turn Australia's issue of invasive plants and animals into a culinary opportunity?

Eat The Invaders, a new six-part series on ABC TV hosted by Tony Armstrong, goes to the frontlines of the invasive species war to witness the impact they're having on our ecology, while uncovering their fascinating historical backstories and testing just how edible they are at the same time.

Tony told the *Koori Mail* the new series is a 'must see' for every Australian.

"This is a show that highlights some of the invasive species found here in Australia and the impact they can have on our precious biodiversity," Tony said.

"The name of the show is intentionally provocative because, as we know, the ultimate invader is the white fella,



Tony Armstrong is host of a new six-part TV series, *Eat The Invaders*, alongside Museum of Old and New Art (Mona) artist and curator Kirsha Kaechele and Mona head chef Vince Trim.

but the series takes a look at some of the decisions colonists made back in the day, especially in regards to what kind of plants and animals they brought here."

Inspired by Tasmania's Museum of Old and New Art (Mona) artist and curator Kirsha Kaechele's 2019 *'Eat the Problem'* cookbook and accompanying exhibition, Tony, along with scientists, land carers, and Mona head chef Vince Trim, will attempt to turn unwanted ecological trash into desirable culinary treasure.

"It's not so much about catching and cooking the

neighbour's cat, but rather about educating cat owners," Tony said.

"The cat owner needs to really question what their cat is getting up to when they aren't watching – like attacking native birds – and then putting in measures to be a better cat owner, so this doesn't happen so often."

Back at Mona, Kirsha and Vince have spent years exploring the idea of transforming invasive trash into high-end cuisine and will invite Tony and a special guest to an end-of-episode feast to test whether we humans could be helping save our environment by eating an invader.

Tony also consults with invasion biologists Professor Andrew Lowe and Professor Phill Cassey, who will assess the pros and cons of creating a potential market for each invasive species before returning to Mona to meet his guests for the feast.

Together, they will experience an immersive art event at Mona, discussing the species while they digest it with all their senses.

"We rely so hugely on certain types of meat in this country – like beef and poultry – but these industries also do massive damage to the environment," Tony said.

"So, what if we could take the pressure off these industries, and rely on some of the other sources of protein we have in abundance here in Australia, like rabbit?"

But as Tony discovers, if the idea of eating cat and rabbit on a regular basis is going to gain any traction, he's going to have to help Australia overcome the cultural taboos around what animals we value as food.

As part of the series, Tony meets people who show him how different cultures value these problem pests – making camel stew with a Nigerian cook, taking part in a fish course with two carp-loving celebrity chefs, and visiting a remote Australian community where eating cat is far from taboo.

Tony even sets up a taste test with the Australian public, inviting willing participants to road-test new proteins.

"Generally, the response of participants was really positive; everyone loved it," Tony said.

"A huge part of the show is about challenging people's perception of the things they eat," he said.

"It's about challenging the perception of, 'why is it ok to eat a cow and not a cat', like, what's the difference?"

If Tony can get the Aussie public on board, it could mean a revolution in our eating habits, which will take pressure off our industrial meat systems and our threatened biodiversity.

Eat The Invaders airs on Tuesday, January 7, at 8.30pm on ABC TV and ABC iview.

Not chickens, just eagles



TARRAWARRA Museum of Art has announced the title and full artist list for the highly anticipated TarraWarra Biennial 2025, curated by Yorta Yorta woman, writer and curator Kimberley Moulton.

Presented from March 29 to July 20, 2025, the exhibition titled *We Are Eagles* features newly commissioned works by 22 artists who centre on practices that challenge and confront mainstream narratives, observing the connections of land, object and memory.

Inaugurated in 2006, the TarraWarra Biennial was established to identify new trends in contemporary Australian art through an experimental curatorial platform.

The ninth TarraWarra Biennial's title *We Are Eagles*, is derived from a speech given at the 1938 Day of Mourning—the seminal south-eastern First Nations political movement held January 26, on the 150th anniversary of the colonisation of Australia—where activist and change agent Pastor Sir Doug Nicholls KCVO OBE called for equal rights and an end to colonial oppression, stating "we do not want chicken-feed ... we are not chickens; we are eagles."

Anchored in this sentiment and an important political moment in the nation's history, *We Are Eagles* shares cross-cultural knowledge and stories through a network of regenerative practice that disrupts the colonial narrative. Connecting across cultures, beyond borders and through waterways, Sky Country and stars, to the totemic eagle and more-than-human connections, the exhibition shares the multiplicity of ways to connect to history, ancestral knowledge, and expansive futures.

We are Eagles is on at TarraWarra Museum of Art, in Healesville/Wurundjeri Country Victoria, from March 29 until July 20. For information, visit twma.com.au/



Wurneet Buath (River Reed) Vessel #1 2023 and Wurneet Buath (River Reed) Vessel #6, blown murrini and incalmo glass by Maree Clarke. Courtesy of the artist and Vivien Anderson Gallery.



Walawuru Tjukurpa – Story of the Eagles 2024, by Iluwanti Ken, acrylic on Belgian linen. Courtesy of the artist and Tjala Arts, Amata.



Installation view, *Moorina Bonini: Wanyarra (Active) Code-Switching*, MADA Gallery, Monash University, 2023. Courtesy of the artist. Picture: Andrew Curtis



Alex Newman and LaLa Ambrym examine acrylic on canvas works by Connie Rovina (*Palm Cockatoo and Stone Curlew*) and Gaylee De Bree (*Bush Plums at Reddens, Gathering on My Country, Tracks at Machans Beach and Wugar Daray (Sunset)*), hung from left to right, at the opening of UMI Arts' *The Summer Show*.



Erick Kasukulu and Paul Mathews examine Gaylee de Bree's *Hummingbirds* (left and centre) and Jinneecka Don's *Freedom Beach* and *Wugar Daray (Sunset)*, linocut prints created by both artists in 2024.



Gimuy Walubara Yidinji Elder Henry Fourmile, who conducted a smoking ceremony at the opening of *The Summer Show*, and UMI Arts' Board Director Connie Rovina in discussion.

Summer on show



AFFORDABLE and Portable. That's the theme for *The Summer Show 2024*, showing until February 20 at UMI Arts in Cairns.

The peak body for the arts in far north Queensland holds the member's showcase each year to complete the exhibition season. Exhibiting artists, supporters, and the public attended a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony performed by Gimuy Walubara Yidinji Elder Henry Fourmile at a special opening event on November 22.

The exhibition is timely in the lead-up to Christmas, featuring 41 collectible and gift-worthy artworks by 12 emerging and established artists from the far north: Jinneecka Don, Shirley Collins, Gaylee de Bree, Kevin Edmondstone, Dorothy Edwards, Shane Gibson, Melanie Hava, Marilyn Kepple, Ethel Larry, Anzak Newman, Connie Rovina and Michelle Yeatman.

Artists drew inspiration from the far northern summer, demonstrating techniques in a range of mediums, including ceramics and polymer bead jewellery, to create pieces that capture the energy, colour and story of the tropical north.

Artworks shown at UMI Arts *The Summer Show 2024* are available for purchase.

For more information about *The Summer Show*, visit umiarts.com.au



Anzak Newman grew up in Bamaga and has family ties to Saibai and Badu Islands in the western Torres Strait region. *Warrior Within*, acrylic paint on MDF boards (with carved lines) pictured, depicts his ancestral connections.



Expert ceramicist Michelle Yeatman with a piece from her *Jilgi* series, inspired by the sea shore. Pictures: Colyn Huber Lovegreen Photography



Wik Mungkan/Wik liyanh artists Marilyn Kepple stands in front of her paintings, *File Snake I*, 2024, left, and *Jabiru*, 2024, bottom right, the bright palette fast becoming a signature of her work.



KukuThaypan and Widi artist Connie Rovina, Yidinji artist Kevin Edmondstone and Guggandji artist Michelle Yeatman are dressed to compliment Yeatman's glazed ceramic series, *Charcoal*. Picture: Pip Miller



Exhibiting for the first time, Warrable Kulkalgau Ya artist Ethel Larry stands with her acrylic on canvas with glitter work, *Zagul, Glinting and Stingrays*. Ethel was born on Thursday Island but grew up and learned the traditions of nearby Sue Island. Picture: Pip Miller

Western Desert Country in full colour



FLOURISHING, an exhibition featuring award-winning paintings by acclaimed

Luritja artist Alison Nampitjinpa Anderson held at Studio 29 in Cairns, comes to a close this week.

Anderson is a prominent Aboriginal Australian artist whose work is deeply rooted in the cultural heritage of the Western Desert and the early Papunya art movement.

She was born in 1958 in a sandy riverbed outside Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji), in central Australia, and her life and artistic journey have been intrinsically linked to the rich traditions of her people.

Masters

Anderson grew up under the strict tutelage of the Papunya masters, who taught her to paint and passed on the songs and traditions of which she is now the senior law woman and custodian of these sacred and essential traditions.

Flourishing has been enjoyed by visitors to the

gallery since the exhibition opened on November 22. Journalist Isabella Guzman-Gonzalez was at the opening, where Anderson spoke to the gathering about her work and life.

Extraordinary

"*Flourishing* is an extraordinary exhibition," Ms Guzman-Gonzalez said.

"The attention to detail, the colours, and the intricacy of Alison's work capture you immediately.

"I remember walking in and falling in love with some of the pieces immediately, but what's even more special is hearing Alison talk about her work, where it comes from, its history and what it means.

"As a non-Indigenous person, a lot of meaning can be lost. I can observe the paintings and see beauty, see details but not read what each figure means, what the colours reflect and what message she wanted to transmit, but hearing from the artist herself what the stories are, the beauty of culture and Country that inspires her and

has made her a storyteller through art gives the exhibition a whole new meaning, one more powerful, this is not just beautiful art, this is a book on culture and ancient tradition, every trace has a meaning, represents something, someone, a whole community.

Strong connection

"She said to me, 'I'm nothing without the painting, and the painting is nothing without me'. I thought that was extremely powerful; how she connected with her art, her ancestors, her stories and her Country, I could listen to her talk for hours.

"She's a gifted artist and most importantly, she wants to teach non-Indigenous people the value of the oldest culture in the world, always paying tribute to Country, family and those who came before her, Ms Guzman-Gonzalez said.

Flourishing by Luritja artist Alison Nampitjinpa Anderson was presented by Studio 29 in Cairns in collaboration with Broome's Short Street Gallery.



Alison Anderson discusses one of her intricately detailed works depicting her Western Desert homelands with journalist Isabella Guzman-Gonzalez.

Greeno makes a record

By JILLIAN MUNDY



MEMORIES Through Sea Stories by Rex Greeno is a detailed and engaging record, mainly drawings, of culture, cultural revival, family, seacraft and bygone eras.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Elder artist, canoe builder and retired fisherman hopes visitors to the exhibition will learn a bit about history and Aboriginal people.

"Our people have been here for 50,000 years. They had a family life, they lived in communes, they worked together, they met together, they hunted together," Greeno explained.

"I depict them to be the way they are, family-oriented people, not black savages eating bloody half-cooked kangaroos – I read that quote somewhere, that got my dander up – I said bloody oath no, I'm going to go and do my drawings, and I hope that people can see a little bit from my side."

Greeno was born and raised on Flinders Island in 1942, the largest of the Furneaux Islands, predominantly living a life off the land and sea until government regulation came in and changed things.

Memories Through Sea Stories showcases detailed depictions of fishing boats and sailing ships that worked, visited or were wrecked around those islands.

It was also around these islands where Rex had a forty-year career as a fisherman and started drawing.

He knew some of those boats intimately, others from stories straight out the mouths of old seamen who sailed them before the aviation era, another because his grandfather's house was just about completely built from materials salvaged from its wreck.

"I never smoked or drank, when the wind was blowing 50 or 60 knots, it got a bit boring



Rex Greeno was gobsmacked and emotional when he walked in and saw the exhibition of a lifetime, and more of his memories hung.

those days, I just sat in the wheelhouse and I started drawing then, but I always dreamt that I'd build my own fishing boat, so I started planning a fishing boat, that just led to other things.

"We didn't have cameras, and if we did, the salt air would ruin them," he explained.

He took up drawing again after a major operation in 2018.

"When I get down, I just start drawing things, but I've run out of boats to draw now. I just love drawing. I'm not very popular, sometimes getting up at one or two o'clock in the morning and going drawing."

There are also drawings of Tasmanian Aboriginal people pre-invasion informed by knowledge passed onto Greeno by his grandfather and uncles and documentation by Europeans, and many from his own

memory – gathering traditional tucker such as swan eggs and shellfish, hunting, the Cape Barren Island yakka gum industry and muttonbirding on Babel Island.

"These ships and other little traders used to take all the people out to Babel, offload all their gear and their spare mutton bird barrels, and building gear to repair their little factories; that's the only way they got to Babel, but that'll never be any more."

Jim Everett, a mate and himself an ole seaman who at times worked the same waters and as a deckhand for the Greeno family, previewed the exhibition with the *Koori Mail*.

"All these drawings are telling a history that otherwise wouldn't be here, for future generations to look back and understand the boats that were around the islands during

that period," he said.

Everett has written the foreword in the catalogue, which will be launched in February at the Wooden Boat Festival in Nipaluna/Hobart.

"This is an amazing and honest 'arts library' that Rex has created. This art by Rex Greeno, a highly respected Pakana Elder who will leave his legacy for our future generations of Pakana, and the stories that are shared with all who embrace his work and memories of old," he says in his foreword.

Greeno considers his drawing of Sydney Cove, shipwrecked on Preservation Island, as one of his most important drawings.

"Only for the Sydney Cove getting wrecked, finding all these millions of seals, I wouldn't be here today, Jim wouldn't be here, because these people would have been rounded up by (George Augustus) Robinson, but the sealers took their (Aboriginal) wives (and slaves) up in the mountains, hid them."

Greeno's Aboriginal lineage comes from a union between a daughter of Aboriginal Chief Mannelargenna and sealer Tom Sydney.

At the centre of the exhibition are four canoes – a paper bark and a reed canoe by Greeno, a driftwood canoe sculpture by his son Dean, and a small model paperback canoe by his grandson Greeno.

With his knowledge of the sea, passionate fascination with watercraft of all shapes, sizes, design and eras, reading extensively and experimenting with collecting and processing various natural materials and ways of constructing the canoes, Greeno has been at the forefront of reviving the canoe building of his ancestors.

His canoes are in public and private collections throughout Australia.

There is also a display of traditional wooden tools by Greeno in the exhibition.

Memories Through Sea Stories will be at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery until

Ancient dialogue weaves a contemporary conversation

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



ANCIENT and contemporary Aboriginal woven art will meet when the *Bulaan Buruugaa Ngali* Exhibition tours three galleries on Bundjalung lands on the Northern Rivers of NSW starting this month and continuing throughout 2025.

Presented by Arts Northern Rivers and curated by Kylie Caldwell, the reclamation project will see ancestral woven objects stand alongside newly commissioned contemporary works in three major regional galleries – Grafton, Tweed and Lismore.

This is the first time the nine ancestral woven objects, held in the Australian Museum collection, return to Country for exhibition. They will stand alongside ten newly commissioned works by contemporary Bundjalung, Yaegl, Gumbaynggirr and Kamilaroi (Gamilaroi) artists, who have all drawn from their great-grandmothers' wisdom to breathe new life into ancient weaving traditions.

The Elders and weavers include: Bindimu, Casino Wake Up Time, Janelle Duncan, Madeleine Grace Richey, Lauren Jarrett, Tania Marlowe, Bianca Monaghan, Krystal Randall, Rhoda Roberts AO, Kyra Togo and Margaret Torrens.

Maddy Richey is a Kamilaroi artist from Grafton, Bundjalung Country, whose work is profoundly influenced by her childhood, Country, and emotional connections.

"I was very, very grateful to be included in this exhibition. There are many very experienced weavers, Elders and aunts from the Bundjalung nation who I really admire exhibiting," she said.

"Working with the likes of Kylie Caldwell and Auntie Rhoda Roberts and the women from the Casino Wake Up Time Weaving Group was a space and time I was happy to be a part of. It was a time of learning. Over a couple of years now we've been catching up and talking and forming the exhibition. The whole process has been one of connection and learning.

"I'm a Kamilaroi artist and I've lived on Bundjalung Country since I was two years old so I have always felt connected and welcomed in the community. For me to now be respected and welcomed into that space by the likes of Kylie, Auntie Rhoda and all the other women is very special."

Madeleine said her work, *Yinarr-gal warranggal guurama-li* (Gamilaraay for strong women resisting), was representative of connectedness between Aboriginal nations and references the relationships and



Bundjalung weaver, Madeleine Richey.



Bundjalung weaver, Kyra Togo. Pictures: K Holmes



Bundjalung weaver, Janelle Duncan.



Bundjalung weaver, Lauren Jarrett.

"We have returned full circle, to the old ways where once our grandmothers gathered, under the trees, weaving. As we lay back with our children, under the dappled shade, we are reminded that every leaf, and every star is an ancestor."

– practising weaver Rhoda Roberts

the communication between Mobs, prior to colonisation. "They worked together, they found ways to support and ensure their neighbours' survival. I believe this to remain true

today and wanted to express these feelings about our strong women, our togetherness, our commitment to support and uplift each other," she said. "*Yinarr-gal warranggal*

guurama-li is a piece I have thought of for a long time, and comes from a place of deep love and passion for all women and their strength, particularly in homage to my mother, aunts

and grandmothers who have stood strong and allowed us to continue to speak our language and exist as strong, resisting and nurturing cultural women today."

Curator and artist Kylie Caldwell said the exhibition was a unique showcase of ancient and contemporary women's woven practices with each weaver's story interconnected in one way or another.

"They all have a strong appreciation and respect for renewing and continuing our ancient woven cultural practices. We are fortunate with this exhibition to share a union with the past and with the present that leads to tomorrow," she said.

"Nine of our timeless, intricately woven Bundjalung ancestral bags will be featured alongside weavers' new works.

"The Bundjalung bags will be home for a while; conversing, sharing, informing, inspiring, affirming and connecting to their homelands. This is an exciting homecoming, one that weaves our history into the present."

Arts and cultural leader Rhoda Roberts AO is a practising weaver as well as festival director, curator, writer, performer and broadcaster. She is also the new Cultural Lead at the *Koori Mail*.

Rhoda together with Kylie Caldwell, wrote and compiled the book *Bulaan Buruugaa Ngali ... we weave together* preserving weaving practices of Bundjalung women, that became a catalyst for the touring exhibition.

Rhoda's work in the exhibition, *Continuous Persistence*, is made of Lomandra grass harvested on Country.

"Weaving is more than art, it's an essence of the circular rhythm that can be continuous and has been crafted from the provisions of Country," she said.

"We have returned full circle, to the old ways where once our grandmothers gathered, under the trees, weaving. As we lay back with our children, under the dappled shade we are reminded that every leaf, and every star is an ancestor."

Bulaan Buruugaa Ngali Exhibition and book is a community-informed development project that seeks to share and retell the history of First Nation weaving artistry. It is an ongoing part of the reclamation of age-old women's weaving knowledge and practices that will be shared across three regional galleries.

Bulaan Buruugaa Ngali Exhibition

Grafton Regional Gallery
December 21, 2024 - February 9, 2025

Tweed Regional Gallery
February 22, 2025 until April 27, 2025

Lismore Regional Gallery
September 12, 2025 until November 9, 2025

Christmas story shared in dance

Story and pics by
ALF WILSON



YOUNG dancers from many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities will entertain tens of thousands of people at the unique Christmas event

Stable at Riverway in Townsville from December 19 to 22. They are members of the Shalom Indigenous Dancers with youths from many communities such as Palm Island, Mount Mornington Island, Yarrabah, Cherbourg, Torres Strait NPA and Cape York.

Thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander men, women and children will be at the event.

There will be a Yarning Circle and food stalls including some with Kai Kai food.

Elders and disabled people will be well catered for on the first night and everybody is welcome.

The launch for the popular event was held on December 2 and more than 40,000 people will be at the event at idyllic Riverway which is located beside the fresh water reaches of Ross River.

It has taken months of preparation by volunteers from the Combined Churches



The Shalom dancers have been rehearsing for the Christmas event.

of Townsville and this will be the 24th iteration of the event, which had been held for many years at Strand Park on the other side of town near the sea.

There will be a lifelike town of Bethlehem with Roman soldiers, lots of animals, craftspeople from the Bible, shepherds, Three Wise Men, stall bringing visitors the Christmas story.

The ever-popular Baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph will be in their stable and the crowds look forward to meeting them.

One popular attraction will be the Melville's Stable Express which is a mini train with carriages which takes passengers for a drive around the Riverway complex.



In the Yarning Circle from left are Joshua and Nathasha Lane, and Chris and Shirley Congoo.



Baby Jesus, Joseph and Mary in the stable.

Flagging questions of national identity

THINKING about flags (national flags and flags of cultural identity), their symbolism and the ways that they are purposeful for varying causes is clearly complicated, not just in terms of the given recent political ructions; we've been debating their philosophical functions for more than a moment.

On the one hand, flags are important markers of identity and unity. They represent a group or cohort that comes together in terms of ideology, experience or other commonalities. On the other hand, they can be divisive, as markers of 'unity' they can be exclusionary.

Flags are banners—they're rallying points, symbols of convergence, of commonality.

As material objects, they have no agency. Instead, they are imbued with meaning by the people who unite under them or by those they exclude, so the question always has been what that 'commonality' actually looks like, ergo, who has the right to wave them and to claim what they're perceived to stand for?

The anonymous British street artist Banksy once declared, "People who enjoy waving flags don't deserve to have one" (2003). I don't have an issue with flags per se, and I can see the value in them as singular representations of national identity and statehood. It's the position of those rallying under flags that is the concern.

We've seen the recent populist stance unfurled by opposition leader Peter Dutton in the last few



Jack Wilkie-Jans

weeks, announcing his intention, if he were to become PM, to drop the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags from the background of official speeches.

This race-baiting comes under a nationalist banner, where the nation's 'unity' has already been declared by the dominant culture in society.

When flags are used to represent singular and homogenised notions of 'national identity', whether intentionally or not, difference is sacrificed; it's an approach that lends itself to culture wars and wilful historical ignorance/revisionism.

However, Dutton's rejection of the 'Aboriginal' and 'Torres Strait Islander' flags as being representative of the Australian Commonwealth is, technically, not wrong. These flags are not the state flags of Australia.

Plain and simple. Why are we so outraged at Dutton's intention to discontinue featuring these flags as backdrops

to press calls and official proceedings?

Is it because of racism, an attempt to make our people invisible to the national psyche? (— what states can get away with doing to 'unseen' peoples can be shocking, as we well know)

Is it that it's a blatantly engineered slide back into the White Australia modus operandi? Yes, yes and yes.

Only a fool, racist or denialist sycophant could be so oblivious as not to be able to separate the fact of the single flag that represents the nation from Dutton's underlying motivations in rejecting the First Nations' flags.

But remember, we were also split when the Aboriginal flag, designed by Luritja artist Harold Bundoo Thomas, was acquired formally by the government as a copyright-protected design in 2022.

My question is, now, without Treaty, why would we want to be represented by 'our' flags in this place and context, their presence bringing some kind of unsanctioned legitimacy to the Australian Commonwealth? We know that the do-gooders of politics can be just as harmful to our people as the overt racists, inserting themselves and acting on our behalf. First Nations peoples (by a consensus) never consented to the use of our flags and other visual representations of our people and cultures as national identifiers in this way. My view is that if the Australian Commonwealth want amalgamation or, as they call it,

Reconciliation, then they should Treaty with us.

We need to come together in an understanding of our flags' functions — as the banners under which we rally.

We are peoples brought together by kinship and Songlines, but we are unique First Nations and cultures — many, not one. We even had split schools of thought around the meaning and impact of our collective and discrete concept of Sovereignty when it came to having a seat at the table and inclusion in Australia's constitution in 2023.

Our response to Peter Dutton should be considered an opportunity for us to think about what our flags mean to us and if we have any learnings when it comes to our identity(ies).

What does this mean for Australia's 'national identity' that after 250+ years, we have no collective sense of who we are as blak and white fellas? Is there even such a thing as an Australian society? Margaret Thatcher once declared there was no such thing as 'society'. I once wrote about this, tongue-in-cheek, on Australia Day for SBS Australia back in 2019. So, why are conservatives in Australia so obsessed now with collectivism and 'society', when Thatcher herself posited this is not the focus of the state or state political/official representatives?

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

Opportunities at The Powerhouse First Nations Right of Reply Photography Commission



Expressions of Interest are now open for a major photography commission opportunity, presenting emerging and established photographers with support

to develop major works for inclusion in the foundational programs of Powerhouse Parramatta.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander photographers are invited to respond to and engage with the Powerhouse Collection. This major commission aims to critically explore, challenge and reframe narratives surrounding applied arts and sciences through the lens of First Nations perspectives. Expressions of Interest will be accepted until 5pm, Friday, January 17, 2025. For more information visit powerhouse.com.au/opportunity

galang residency (Paris)

Applications are open for the third year of the prestigious galang residency, a program that supports two Australia-based First Nations creatives to undertake work in Paris through three-month residencies from June – August and July – September 2025.

The fully supported residency hosted by the Cité internationale des arts is aimed at First Nations creatives working across disciplines including but not limited to visual arts, weaving, performance, poetry, dance and music.

Applications are open until 5pm AEDT, January 31, 2025. For information on application requirements and how to submit, visit powerhouse.com.au/galang-residency

event listings

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Two Girls From Amoonguna (exhibition)
when: until Jan 27, 2025
where: Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs
info/bookings: araluenartscentre.nt.gov.au/whats-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

Steel Life: Greenbush Art Group
when: until Feb 9, 2025
where: Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs
info/bookings: araluenartscentre.nt.gov.au/whats-on/steel-life-greenbush-art-group

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Belonging: Stories from Far North Queensland (exhibition)
when: until Mar, 2025
where: National Museum of Australia, Acton Peninsula, Canberra
info/bookings: nma.gov.au/exhibitions/belonging

Kulata Tjuta: Tirkilpa (exhibition)
when: until Jul 13, 2025
where: Level 1, Gallery 15, National Gallery of Australia, Parkes, Canberra
info/bookings: nga.gov.au/whats-on/

Ever Present: First Peoples Art of Australia (exhibition)
when: until Aug, 2025
where: Level 1, Gallery 1-6, National Gallery of Australia
info/bookings: Free with ticket, for more visit nga.gov.au/exhibitions/ever-present/

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Radical Textiles
when: until Mar 30, 2025
where: AGSA, North Terrace, Adelaide
info/bookings: agsa.sa.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/radical-textiles/

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/

Sovereign Acts/Love Praxis
when: Feb 17- Apr 11, 2025
where: FUMA Gallery, Flinders University, Bedford Park, Adelaide

NARA on tour

VICTORIA
Fri Feb 7 – Workers Club, Naarm/Melbourne, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country
Sat Feb 8 – Treaty Day Out, Gunaikurnai Country
Sat Feb 15 – Riverboats Music Festival, Yorta Yorta Country

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Sun Feb 16 – Perth Festival, Whadjuk Noongar Country

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Fri Mar 7 and Mon Mar 10 – WOMADelaide, Kurna Yerta

NEW SOUTH WALES
Fri Mar 21 – Music Lounge (Great Southern Nights), Wollongong, Dharawal Country
Sat Mar 22 – Belco Arts Centre, Canberra, Ngunnawal Country

Wurramara makes 'herstory'



Lutruwita/Tasmania-based singer/songwriter, Emily Wurramara, a proud Warnindhilyagwa woman, hailing from Groote Eylandt and Milyakburra/ Bickerton Island, has made history as the first Indigenous woman to win an ARIA for Best Adult Contemporary Album for her 2024 album, *NARA*. Titled with the Anindilyakwa word meaning 'nothing', the self-described rebirth album is steeped in love for community, tracing intense highs and lows – from winning accolades and

taking her music across the world, losing her house in a fire, giving birth to her daughter and struggling with her mental health – to her ultimate arrival at peace in the knowledge that "It was when I had nothing, I realised I had everything"
 Tour dates have been announced for February and March 2025 across VIC, WA, SA, NSW and ACT in support of Wurramara's multi-award-winning album *NARA* (out now via ABC Music).

See above or visit linktr.ee/EmilyWurramaragigs for details.

info/bookings: flinders.edu.au/museum-of-art/exhibitions

Big Name, No Blankets Adelaide Festival
when: Mar 14-16
where: Her Majesty's Theatre, Adelaide
info/bookings: ilbijerri.com.au/event/big-name-no-blankets/

Saltbush Country – Tarnanthi on tour
when: until Jan 26, 2025
where: Signal Point Experience Centre, Goolwa/Ngarrindjeri Country
info/bookings: agsa.sa.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/#touring

TASMANIA
luna rrala – strong women
when: Jan 17 - Feb 18, 2025
where: Bett Gallery, nipaluna/Hobart
info/bookings: bettgallery.com.au/exhibitions/

Rex Greeno: Memories through Sea Stories (exhibition)
when: until Apr 27, 2025
where: Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
info/bookings: follow the links at tmag.tas.gov.au/

NEW SOUTH WALES
Krystal Rivvers Sienna Tour Sydney band
when: 7pm, Dec 21
where: Oxford Art Factory, Darlinghurst and
when: 7pm, Dec 29
where: The Northern Hotel, Byron Bay

info: krystalrivvers.com/tour

Lost Paradise (music festival)
when: Dec 28 - Jan 1
where: Glenworth Valley
info/bookings: For First Nations programming and more, visit lostparadise.com.au/

3rd Bankstown Biennale: Same Same Different (exhibition)
when: until Feb 1
where: Bankstown Arts Centre, Sydney
info/bookings: bankstownartscentre.com.au/whats/3rd-bankstown-biennale-same-samedifferent

2024 Koori Mail Indigenous Art Award
when: until Feb 2, 2025
where: Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore
info/bookings: lismoregallery.org/

bagan bariwariganyan: echoes of country
when: until Feb 9, 2025
where: Bundanon Art Museum, Illaroo
info/bookings: bundanon.com.au/bagan-bariwariganyan-echoes-of-country/

QUEENSLAND
Woodford Music Festival Top line-up, including First Nations artists J-MILLA, Miss Kannina, Baker Boy, Dan Sultan, Ziggy Ramo, King Stingray, Yothu Yindi, Kristal West, Frank Yamma, Kankawa Nagarra, Tjaka and more.
when: Dec 27 - Jan 1
where: Jinibara Country,

Woodford
info/bookings: woodfordfolkfestival.com/programme/

(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

rhythm wRites (a genre-defying installation by Bigambul artist Dr Leah King-Smith)
when: until Mar 9, 2025
where: QUT Art Museum
info/bookings: artmuseum.qut.edu.au/whats-on/exhibitions

VICTORIA
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-spective-the-art-of-reko-rennie/

JXSH MVIR Forever (touring exhibition)
when: until Feb 2
where: Art Gallery of Ballarat, Ballarat
info/bookings: kht.org.au/whats-on/exhibitions/

Red Flags (exhibition by Wadawurrung 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

12th Koorie Art Show and 7th Young Mob
when: until Feb 23, 2025
where: Birrarung Building, Fed Square
info/bookings: kht.org.au/whats-on/exhibitions/the-12th-koorie-art-show-2024/

The Wet Circa Cairns
when: Sat, Mar 15, 2025
where: The Round, Nunawading, Melbourne
info/bookings: theround.com.au/

TarraWarra Biennial 2025: We Are Eagles curated by Yorta Yorta woman Kimberley Moulton
when: Mar 29 - Jul 20, 2025
where: TarraWarra Museum of Art, Healesville, Wurundjeri Country
info/bookings: twma.com.au/

Treaty (an exhibition exploring the past, present and future of treaty with Victoria's First Peoples)
when: until Oct 27, 2025
where: South Rotunda, The Gateway
info/bookings: free, no booking required. Details at slv.vic.gov.au/treaty

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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: until Feb 1, 2025
where: Wanneroo Regional Gallery, Wanneroo, Perth
info/bookings: wanneroo.wa.gov.au/wanneroogallery

Art of Belonging: Spinifex People, Native Title and Beyond
when: until Apr 28, 2025
where: WA Museum, Boola Bardip, Perth Cultural Centre
info/bookings: visit.museum.wa.gov.au/boolabardip

Big Name, No Blankets (Ilbijerri on tour) Perth Festival
when: Feb 27 - Mar 1
where: The Regal Theatre, Subiaco
info/bookings: ilbijerri.com.au/event/big-name-no-blankets/

2025

Bangarra Dance
The Light Inside
when/where: Feb, Dharawal Country (NSW); Mar, Kurna Country (SA); and Oct, Djaara Country (VIC)
For information and bookings, visit: bangarra.com.au/

illume
 Touring nationally from June 4
For information and bookings visit: bangarra.com.au/productio ns/illume/

Parttjima
– A festival in Light
when: April 4-13, 2025
where: Alice Springs Desert Park, Mparntwe, NT
info/bookings: parttjimaaustralia.com.au

Barunga Festival
 Music line-up announced: Gamilaraay musician Thelma Plum, J-MILLA x Yung Milla, N.E. Arnhem Land band East Journey, emerging rap artist Jawoyn/Larrakia/TSI woman Kootsie Don and Yolngu Songman and East Journey frontman Rrawun Maymuru
when: June 7-10
where: Barunga Festival
info/bookings: barungafestival.com.au/music/

TOURING

BARKAA VIC
– Geelong Beyond the Valley Barunah Plains, Hesse, Dec 28, 2024 - Jan 1, 2025
 For info, visit beyondthevalley.com.au/

– at WILDLANDS festival QLD – Meanjin/Brisbane Brisbane Showgrounds, Tue, Dec 31, 2024

WA – Joondalup Boorloo/Perth HBF Arena Parklands, Perth, Sat, Jan 4, 2025

SA – Tarntarnya/Adelaide Ellis Park, Adelaide, Sun, Jan 5, 2025
 For info, visit wildlandsfestival.com.au/

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT



The 2024 cohort of graduates from the Aboriginal Employment Strategy is one of the largest to date.

On the road to success



THE Aboriginal Employment Strategy (AES) hosted the graduation of 46 First Nations

trainees and apprentices. The 2024 cohort is one of the largest to date, with participants from across New South Wales and Queensland.

The graduation ceremony, held on Eora Nation at the Sofitel, Sydney, brought together 32 full-time trainees and 13 school-based trainees and

apprentices from urban, regional and rural parts of NSW and Queensland to celebrate their success.

The AES Trainee and Apprentice Graduate Program plays a pivotal role in creating pathways into ongoing employment.

Through its tailored, job-ready supports, AES ensures that graduates are equipped with the skills and experience necessary to excel in their chosen careers. AES is committed to providing

comprehensive support that goes beyond just securing employment and an industry recognised qualification — it offers career progression, mentoring, and coaching, giving participants the tools they need to thrive in the workforce.

More than a job

"We know that a job is more than just a job, it's a stepping stone toward self-determination and a brighter future for both our graduates and their communities, managing director

Kristy Masella said.

"This year's graduates embody the excellence of First Nations culture, each one demonstrating remarkable dedication and resilience.

"We are incredibly proud to be part of their journey and to celebrate their achievements as they take the next step in shaping their futures."

The AES works with over 550 employers nationally, including industry leaders and respected cultural organisations such as Tamworth Aboriginal Medical

Service, Dalaigur Preschool and Children's Services, St George Bank, Westpac, NAB and Coastline Credit Union.

The dedication of these employers helps create a greater social impact by meeting community needs and offering opportunities for growth.

As a licensed group-training company, the AES is now in its second decade of operations. Over this time, the AES have supported more than 2,750 young people through their traineeship program.

Your guide to employment

Welcome to the Koori Mail's Indigenous Job Opportunities section. Each edition we publish employment advertisements from around the nation. To be part of this section, simply give our advertising staff a call on (02) 66 222 666, email advertising@koorimail.com or see our website – www.koorimail.com

*Koori Mail – Our ABC audit means our readership is guaranteed.
No other newspaper aimed at the Indigenous market can offer this!*

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Condobolin Aboriginal Health Service CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The CEO is accountable to the Board of Directors and is responsible for the day-to-day operations and leadership of the service. The CEO provides overall control and direction for the management of financial and human resources. The CEO ensures the activities of CAHS are consistent with the priorities and directions of CAHS policy framework set down by the Board. The CEO ensures the services of CAHS are of high quality and responsive to the changing needs of the client communities and funding environment.

Key Candidate Requirements

The Board of CAHS seeks to appoint a CEO with the following core technical competencies:

- Business Management – extensive experience in a senior management role within a primary health care/ dental/SEWB/ Mental Health Organisation.
- Operational Management – Strategic approach to operational day-to-day operational management with a vision to drive the Organisations excellence as a Rural/ Remote Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service.
- Financial Management – manage the financial affairs of the organization, including budgeting, financial management and reporting to ensure compliance with legal and funding obligations.
- Staff Management – develop and build on a team that is committed to a productive working culture within the policies and procedures of CAHS.
- Aboriginal Ways of Working – manage the affairs of CAHS in a manner consistent with the principles of Aboriginal Community Control.
- External Relations and Representation – cultivate strategic alliances and positive relationships to effectively represent and advocate for CAHS.
- Tertiary qualifications in business, finance, clinical or community services disciplines (or equivalent experience)

Additional Requirements

- Provide services and programs that are of value and adhere to recognized quality standards.
- provide a comprehensive range of client-focused programs and services in a safe structured environment.
- ensure that programs have a high level of community confidence.
- outcomes of CAHS programs and services are reported to the Board and relevant funding areas.
- Partnerships are maintained and developed.
- funding opportunities are maximised.

Selection Criteria

Application for appointment to the role of CEO will be assessed based on the suitability and background and fit to the key candidate requirements. (listed above). **Positions closes: 17 January, 2025.**

Please send your Cover Letter expressing your interest, Selection Criteria Responses and Resume to:

chairperson@condoahs.com.au
PO Box 321, Condobolin, NSW 2877.

Communications Manager



- Part-time permanent role (0.6 – 0.8 FTE)
- \$106,432 per annum pro rata, plus 15.4% superannuation
- Naarm/Melbourne location with working from home flexibility
- Community-minded not-for-profit

The Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF) is a proud champion of community media – Australia's largest independent media sector. We distribute funding to strengthen over 450 community media organisations in Australia - connecting people across the country, including over five million people who tune into their community-owned and operated radio stations every week.

The CBF is seeking a Communications Manager to join our dynamic and creative team. Are you passionate about applying your communications and management skills to promote positive change within the community broadcasting ecosystem?

The Role

In this senior communications role, you will be responsible for managing the CBF's strategic communications activities - ensuring all CBF communications reflect the brand and values of the organisation and are aligned with the CBF Strategic Plan and Roadmap 2033 priorities.

You will manage and implement the CBF's communications plan to promote the work of the organisation, provide information about our grants and build broader awareness and understanding of the sector. Your responsibilities will include:

- Working closely with the CEO, Executive Officer, Grants Support Team and Policy Team to provide communications leadership and strategic advice across the organisation
- Producing and distributing high-quality, timely and accessible content for internal and external channels and stakeholders
- Managing the Communications Co-ordinator and the CBF website

What we're looking for

- Demonstrated experience in planning, implementing and managing strategic communications including brand and content strategies
- Excellent communication, interpersonal and team-work skills
- Excellent planning, organisational and problem-solving skills
- Creative, strategic and analytical thinker with flexible, hands-on approach
- Relevant experience working within an NFP or campaign-focused organisation

To apply or for more information about this role, visit: www.cbf.org.au

Senior Manager Aboriginal Water Reform

Identified position for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

The Senior Manager, Aboriginal Water Reform identifies emerging risks and opportunities, and shapes future settings for increasing Traditional Owner involvement in water management and access to water. The role leads and coordinates water portfolio preparedness to deliver on government commitments and support Aboriginal self-determination. As part of this, the position will lead critical policy and program reforms to enable restorative water justice and equip the water portfolio for Treaty readiness.

This role requires a person with understanding and experience in Aboriginal stakeholder engagement, Aboriginal water policy and government commitments and legislative obligations to Aboriginal people in Victoria. A strong understanding of Victoria's entitlement and planning frameworks and experience in previous policy reforms such as the creation of Environmental Water Holder and environmental water arrangements is desirable.

For more information please contact Deb Brown Executive Director, Water Sector Strategy and Partnerships deb.brown@deeca.vic.gov.au or on 0427 473 482.

Details can be found on the Koori Mail website: <https://koorimail.com/current-jobs-ads-and-general-web-ads/>

Closing Date for applications 22 January 2025



Senior Manager Aboriginal Water Unit

Designated position for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

The Senior Manager will lead the Aboriginal Water Unit (AWU) to deliver government commitments to recognise and manage for Aboriginal values of water. This includes delivery of the Aboriginal Water Program, which works to better include Aboriginal people in the way water is managed in Victoria and to reconnect communities to water for cultural, economic, customary and spiritual purposes, and acting as a key point of contact within the Water and Catchments Group for Traditional Owners to progress their self-determined water priorities. As part of this, the position will build effective relationships across the Department, across the water sector and other government agencies and with Traditional Owner groups and peak Aboriginal bodies.

For more information please contact Deb Brown Executive Director, Water Sector Strategy and Partnerships deb.brown@deeca.vic.gov.au or on 0427 473 482.

Details can be found on the Koori Mail website: <https://koorimail.com/current-jobs-ads-and-general-web-ads/>

Closing Date for applications 22 January 2025



Senior Manager Self-Determination Support – Water

Identified position for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

The Senior Manager leads a small team to coordinate and support Aboriginal self-determination in the water sector. This will include co-ordinating Water and Catchments implementation of, and reporting on key commitments that relate to First Peoples water interests including Commonwealth Closing the Gap targets related to water, the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010, Yoorrook Justice Commission recommendations, Treaty and DEECA's Aboriginal Self-determination Strategy - Pupangarli Marnmarnepu.

The position will build effective relationships across the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), in particular with the First Peoples Self-Determination division, across the water sector, with other government agencies and with peak Aboriginal bodies and Traditional Owner groups.

For more information please contact Deb Brown Executive Director, Water Sector Strategy and Partnerships deb.brown@deeca.vic.gov.au or on 0427 473 482.

Details can be found on the Koori Mail website: <https://koorimail.com/current-jobs-ads-and-general-web-ads/>

Closing Date for applications 22 January 2025



Cultural Liaison Officer

Full Time Limited Term (12 months)

\$84,567 – \$97,899 per annum plus 11.5% super

Location: Negotiable across SRW major offices of Maffra, Mitcham and Werribee

Applications close Sunday, 5 January 2025

Southern Rural Water is seeking a Cultural Liaison Officer to work with us to help build and nurture partnerships with Traditional Owner Corporations across our service area.

As the Cultural Liaison Officer, you will play an important role in returning water to the Traditional Custodians through water licensing.

You will work within a team that assesses, processes and determines water licences guided by The Water Act 1989. You will help establish processes and ways of working that ensure we meet our legal obligations, whilst ensuring a culturally sensitive approach to water licensing.

As the Cultural Liaison Officer, some of your responsibilities will include:

- Help build strong relationships with Traditional Owner Corporations and Aboriginal communities to support water return initiatives.
- Act as a central contact for Traditional Owner Corporations, facilitating open and respectful communication, preparing informative information to assist knowledge sharing and addressing any concerns or issues that arise.
- Work with decision makers at SRW to ensure process and timelines meet the needs of individual Traditional Owner Corporations.
- Organise and participate in meetings, workshops, and events with Traditional Owner Corporations and relevant stakeholders to advance water return projects.

About you

The successful candidate for this position will be able to demonstrate some of the desired experience and abilities below.

- Experience working with Aboriginal communities, professionally or community-based volunteer setting.
- An understanding of the water cycle, how water flows through Country and how it is used to support Country, the environment, irrigated agriculture, and commercial uses.
- An ability to communicate effectively with people from a variety of backgrounds in both verbal and written forms.
- Knowledge of legislation and current policy such as Sustainable Water Strategies, is preferred but not essential.

To apply Contact us via peopleandculture@srw.com.au to talk further or submit an application via Careers at srw.com.au

Aboriginal Case Manager Tweed Heads



**Would you like to make a real difference in people's lives?
If so, come and join the team at Momentum Collective.**

This position will provide Specialist Homelessness Services Domestic and Family Violence program/s to First Nations people and to deliver quality person-centred services with compassion and dignity.

Here at Momentum we are known to provide a culturally safe environment and provide career development and mentoring opportunities for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees.

Momentum Collective is committed to creating social change and inclusive opportunities for everyone. We promote diversity when recruiting our team and are guided by our core values of trust and respect, wellbeing, innovation, working well together and being gracious. We respect the special place our nation's first people hold in our communities and value the differences in everyone.

To apply: please call Cindy on 0417228384 or email recruitment@mymomentum.org.au

For all your advertising needs email: advertising@koorimail.com

Wednesday 15th Jan. is our first edition back in 2025. Deadline: Wednesday 8th Jan.



YANDHARRA BUSH CAFE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Mingaan Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation are excited to announce the Yandharra Bush Café, a new business in the Lithgow area focused on creating employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal people across the region, contributing towards Closing the Gap.

Our unique Bush Café specialises in native foods and provides a culturally safe and supportive space for Aboriginal people to work and develop skills in hospitality. If you have experience in or would like to gain qualifications in hospitality while working in an Aboriginal led and owned business, we would love to hear from you.

We are looking for people that are self-motivated, well presented, reliable and able to work in a team. Candidates with experience and qualifications in safe food handling & preparation, cooking, and barista skills are highly desirable.

If you are interested in working with us in a culturally supportive space and have a passion for unique food, superb coffee, and community, please email your expression of interest to mingaanprograms@gmail.com

Closing date: 30 January 2025

COB: 17:00



Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Permanent full-time position
38 hours per week
Location in Ballina, NSW
Nyangbul Bundjalung Jargoan

Salary range negotiable from \$100,00 - \$140,000, plus entitlements and superannuation.

This is an identified Aboriginal Position. An applicant's race is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised under Section 14(d) of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977

Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council is looking for a strong leader who has demonstrated experience in leading and managing organisations, holds a high level of commitment to land rights and social, cultural, and economic justice for Aboriginal people.

The role will lead Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council and the local community through one of the most significant times in its history. To ensure the return of our community back into permanent homes after the flood in 2022. The role will oversee capital infrastructure projects, the protection and advocacy of our Culture and various programs and business initiatives.

To find out more about this role and if you are interested, please email officemanager@jalilalc.com.au to register for an information session, request a job package to apply for this role or arrange a time to discuss this opportunity.

Applications close on Friday 14th February 2025 at 5pm.



Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council AGED CARE SERVICES CO-ORDINATOR Permanent Part-Time position 32 hours per week Location in Ballina, NSW Nyangbul Bundjalung Jargoan

Salary rate \$35 - \$37 per/hr plus entitlements and superannuation. This is an identified Aboriginal Position. An applicant's race is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised under Section 14(d) of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977

In this position you will be coordinating services for Aboriginal aged people that have Home Care Packages.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

- Hold a Certificate 111 in Aged Care or currently completing.
- Experience in working with aged people, completing assessments and care plans.
- Understanding the Aged Care Quality Standards
- Experience in supporting and supervising staff
- Experience in the use of computer systems
- Sound verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to work in a flexible manner within a changing workplace environment.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality in all areas of the service.
- Ability to follow work practices, policies, and procedures. Strong understanding of Work, Health, and Safety requirements Driver's License

For further information email officemanager@jalilalc.com.au and forward your application, resume, qualification certificates, and the names and contact details of two work related referees.

Applications close on Sunday 2 February 2025 at 5pm.



Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council AGED CARE SERVICES SUPPORT WORKER Part-Time positions Location in Ballina, NSW Nyangbul Bundjalung Jargoan

Salary rate \$30.61 - \$31.24 per/hr plus entitlements and superannuation.

This is an identified Aboriginal Position. An applicant's race is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised under Section 14(d) of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977

In this position you will be providing support for Aboriginal aged people that have Home Care Packages.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

- Hold a Certificate 111 in Aged Care, or equivalent or currently completing.
- Experience in working with aged people
- Understanding of the Aged Care Quality Standards
- Good verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to work in a flexible manner within a changing workplace environment.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality in all areas of the service.
- Ability to follow work practices, policies, and procedures.
- Understanding of Work, Health, and Safety requirements
- Driver's License

For further information email officemanager@jalilalc.com.au and forward your application, resume, qualification certificates, and the names and contact details of two work related referees.

Applications close on Sunday 2 February 2025 at 5pm.



Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council ON-COUNTRY MANAGER 4 YEAR TERM (1.FTE) Location in Ballina and Wardell, NSW Nyangbul Bundjalung Jargoan



SALARY PACKAGE negotiable starting \$110K plus Superannuation and Vehicle This is an identified Aboriginal Position. An applicant's race is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised under Section 14(d) of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977

JALI LALC On-Country Manager will be responsible for the day-to-day management, coordination and development of all Ranger activities including at the Ngunya Jargoan Indigenous Protected Area:

- Support the integration of Indigenous ecological and cultural knowledge with contemporary protected area management practices;
- Develop, protect, promote and manage the Ngunya Jargoan IPA;
- Support Indigenous interests to develop cooperative management arrangements with partners and stakeholders.
- Support the use of fire as a land management tool.

Role Functions

- Manage, Coordinate & Development of the Jali Ranger team to work on Jali LALC lands and associated budgets meeting funding requirements.
- Implement annual scope of works, managing staff and supporting staff and Ranger professional development.
- Manage community and stakeholder consultations.
- Implement, review and update the IPA Plan of Management.
- Report, monitoring and evaluation for continuous improvement on Jali LALC biodiversity and cultural preservation targets.
- Submit funding application reports and seek further funding.
- Ensure WHS, Fair Work Act and employee safety is a priority.
- Establish fee for service practices for cultural tourism associated with Jali LALC lands.

For further information email officemanager@jalilalc.com.au and forward your application, resume, qualification certificates, and the names and contact details of two work related referees.

Applications close on Sunday 2 February 2025 at 5pm.



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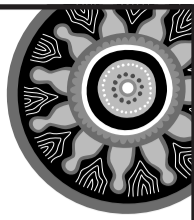
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Manager Casework (HCEA Strategy Unit)

- Location – Parramatta
- Employment type – Talent Pool
- Clerk Grade 9 – \$120,859 to \$124,258 pa plus superannuation

The Department of Communities and Justice acknowledges lived experience and how it contributes to the valuable work we do with the community.

We strongly encourage and support applications from people who are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait islander descent.

About the role

As Manager Casework of the Carer and Permanency Assessment Team, you will lead a team of Caseworkers to undertake high-quality and culturally appropriate carer and permanency assessments.

Two Manager Casework positions will be established to oversee two teams of Caseworkers. Casework positions will be located across the state to support state-wide service provision for children and young people, carers and families.

The role of the teams will be to undertake carer and permanency assessments for districts across the state. The team will provide high quality assessments about the quality of relationships a child is developing with their care giver, family and culture to support decisions about children's safety wellbeing and permanency.

This will include assessments for carer authorisations, re-authorisations, adoption and guardianship.

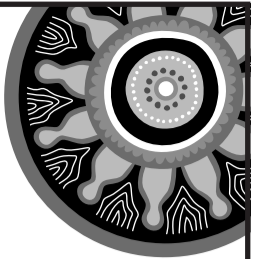
A further small team will also be involved in the assessment, authorisation and support of carer applicants in the general pool of carers.

Closing Date: 11:59pm Sunday 5 January 2025

For any enquiries regarding the role please contact the hiring manager Kimberley Jordan on 0419 816 041 or at kimberley.jordan@dcj.nsw.gov.au

To apply please visit jobs.dcj.nsw.gov.au and search 71450

LT0107



Caseworker – HCEA Strategy Unit

- Location – NSW Statewide (flexible locations, including positions based at 6 Parramatta Square)
- Employment type – Ongoing Vacancies
- Clerk Grade 4/7 – \$83,957 to \$109,194 pa plus superannuation & annual leave loading
- Opportunities for learning, development, and internal career progression
- Generous leave entitlements including Flex Leave

The Department of Communities and Justice acknowledges lived experience and how it contributes to the valuable work we do with the community.

We strongly encourage and support applications from people who are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait islander descent. While all applications are welcome, once we have determined through merit-based assessment which candidates meet the pre-established standards of the role, we will select the candidate who is also of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait islander descent.

About the Role

The Carer and Permanency Assessment Team is a newly created team within the HCEA Strategy Unit, as is the Recruitment, Authorisation and Carer support team.

The HCEA Strategy Unit is made up of multiple teams who work together to achieve a reduction of the number of children and young people in HCEAs, scrutinise and reduce the costs associated with these arrangements and reduce the number of vacancies across the funded service system.

In addition, the project teams are working to increase placement supply and implement strategies to achieve stability within current out of home care (OOHC) placements.

Your role

One of the key principles guiding out-of-home care in NSW is that children's safety and wellbeing benefit from stable, permanent placements.

As Caseworker you will part of a dedicated team that undertakes and completes high quality and culturally responsive carer placement assessments and permanency assessments for children and young people in OOHC.

The team will provide high quality assessments about the quality of relationships a child is developing with their caregiver, family and culture to support decisions about children's safety wellbeing and permanency.

These assessments will include carer authorisations, re-authorisations, and adoption and guardianship assessments. Casework positions will be located across the state to support state-wide service provision for children and young people, carers and families. A small team will also be involved in the assessment, authorisation and support of carer applicants in the general pool of carers.

Closing date: 11:59pm Monday 6 January 2025

For any enquiries regarding the role please contact Gemma Millar on 0474 768 200 or at gemma.millar@dcj.nsw.gov.au

Visit jobs.dcj.nsw.gov.au and search for Reference Number 70455 or via the direct link <https://jobs.dcj.nsw.gov.au/job-invite/70455/>

JS0124

ATTENTION STUDENTS FOR AGED CARE INDUSTRY

Are you interested in learning about how to look after our elderly community members?

Get a Certificate 3 in Aged Care?

Upgrade your Aged Care skill level?

Courses start on Monday 3rd February 2025 in Sydney or if there are sufficient numbers in your local community.

SEND YOUR INTEREST EMAIL TO: ROBERT@WISDOMCOLLEGE.EDU.AU

Principal Practice Leader (First Nations) (Identified)

Executive Office; Executive; Office Of The Public Guardian

Department of Justice and Attorney-General (Office Of The Public Guardian)

Salary: \$129,089 - \$138,273 per annum

Location: Brisbane, Ipswich, Cairns or Townsville

Job Reference: QLD/607678/24

Key Duties:

The Principal Frontline Operations and Practice Leader (First Nations) will lead the development of practice guidance and tools to support the delivery of high-level services to OPG's First Nations clients. The role will also lead projects that contribute to the development of OPG staff's cultural capability so that First Nations Queenslanders receive services that are culturally safe and responsive.

Skills/Abilities:

Ability to work across a diverse range of business units to develop front line practices that are culturally safe and appropriate, which reflect a contemporary approach to working with First Nations clients and communities. An understanding of, or ability to rapidly acquire an understanding of legislation relevant to the Public Guardian's functions.

Enquiries: Melissa Sullivan – 07 3738 9383

To apply please visit www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au

Closing Date: Friday, 3rd January 2025

M15139V2



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Careers with Queensland Health

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker - Advanced

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services - Cairns

Salary: Permanent Full Time \$77,877 - \$100,227 per annum

Duties/Abilities: The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker - Advanced is expected to work at an advanced level with minimal supervision, with full accountabilities and delegation of a Health Worker Cluster Coordinator to provide culturally safe and effective health service delivery and program management to all clients that focuses on taking basic observations, triaging, reducing FTA's and confirming patient appointments under the direct or indirect supervision of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Cluster Coordinator and Nursing Director Medicine 1, which supports the delivery of an efficient and effective Gen Med Clinics.

- To be self-directed and show initiative under the guidance of the Team Leader and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Cluster Coordinator / Manager.
- Maintain professional standard of Health Worker Scope of Practice in the delivery of safe patient care under direction of Health Worker Cluster Coordinator/Manager and Nursing Director Medicine 1.
- Provide administration support by ringing Sullivan Nicolades and QML to obtain patient blood results for Doctors prior to Outpatient Clinics in a timely manner.
- Deliver advanced health education, promotion according to the needs of the clients in a confidential and non-judgemental manner using culturally acceptable strategies when required.
- Establish and maintain a communication network between health service providers by attending meetings, liaising with other teams, Aboriginal Medical services and other providers to improve outpatient clinics.
- Promote healthy team functioning by effective communication and participation in all aspects of the Service, whilst acknowledging the importance of a respectful workplace.
- Ensure the provision of quality, cost-effective care by participating in quality improvement and evidence-based practice activities.

Enquiries: Norma Solomon - 0477 736 567

Application Kit:

CAH608616 <https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-CAH608616>

Closing Date: Monday, 6 January 2025

You can apply online at www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au

A criminal history check may be conducted on the recommended person for the job. A non-smoking policy applies to Queensland Government buildings, offices and motor vehicles.



OFFSHORE GAS DRILLING CONSULTATION



Emperor Energy is an Australian explorer searching for new gas supplies in the Bass Strait to help improve the current and projected shortage of gas in eastern Australia.

While drilling activities will be focussed around 40kms offshore Marlo, oil spill modelling suggests in the unlikely event of a loss of well control, coastal and marine areas off southern NSW, east and south-east Victoria, and north-east Tasmania could be affected.

If you are an individual or organisation that has functions, interests or activities in these areas, please contact us at stakeholder@emperorenergy.com.au and we will send you further information that will help you determine how you may be affected.

You can then advise how you would like us to consult with you to mitigate any potential impacts and risks from our proposed activities

For more information, please download our information sheet from the following link or via the QR code: <https://emperorenergy.com.au/exploration-well-environment-plan-stakeholder-consultation/>



Government of Western Australia
Department of Training and Workforce Development

Help shape the strategic direction of training in Western Australia

The Minister for Training and Workforce Development is looking for people with effective leadership and strategic thinking skills and the ability to work collegiately within the TAFE sector to help shape training to meet future industry and community needs throughout Western Australia.

If you have these skills, knowledge of vocational education and training, experience in community and industry engagement, and a record of service to industry or the community, express your interest now.

Under the *Vocational Education and Training Act 1996*, Governing Councils play a key role in the strategic management of TAFE Colleges within the Western Australian Government policy framework.

Expressions of interest for membership of the following TAFE College Governing Councils are invited.

- North Metropolitan TAFE
- South Metropolitan TAFE
- North Regional TAFE
- Central Regional TAFE
- South Regional TAFE

Expressions of interest are also sought for the:

- Deputy Chairperson position at North Regional TAFE.

Members of Governing Councils are remunerated for their services.

The State Government is committed to increasing the representation of women on Government boards and committees and supports diversity in the appointment to boards and committees.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and people from culturally diverse backgrounds are warmly invited to apply.

Please send a brief curriculum vitae of no more than two pages using the approved proforma by [14 February 2025](mailto:TAFEGoverningCouncils@dtwd.wa.gov.au) by email at: TAFEGoverningCouncils@dtwd.wa.gov.au

The curriculum vitae proforma and further information about Governing Council membership and the application process is available at www.dtwd.wa.gov.au

Note: Recommended applicants will be asked to consent to a criminal record check. Applicants with a convictions record are not automatically precluded from appointment to the Governing Council. Each case will be considered on its merits.

DTWD_24100

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment: Invitation to Register Interest

96 Anzac Avenue, West Ryde

On behalf of Scion (the proponent), Curio Projects (heritage consultants) are commencing a program of Aboriginal community consultation for a planning proposal relating to the site located at 96 Anzac Avenue, West Ryde (the site). The site is situated within the City of Ryde Local Government Area

The planning proposal seeks to rezone the site to increase the maximum building height from 15.5m to 49.5m and increase the maximum floor space ratio from 1.25:1 to 4:1. A future detailed development on the site would demolish the existing structures on site, undertake bulk excavation to accommodate basement car parking, and deliver a 14 storey mixed use development with ground level non-residential uses, and above ground residential apartments.



Figure 1: Ariel view of the study area, 96 Anzac Avenue, West Ryde (outlined in blue). Source: SIX Maps.

The purpose of this community consultation with Aboriginal people is to aid in the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) in accordance with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

Community consultation is being undertaken to assist the assessment of cultural significance of the study area. This notification is being undertaken in accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Aboriginal cultural heritage requirements for proponents 2010.

Curio Projects invite Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects(s) and/or places in the area to register an interest in a process of community consultation.

Please note that when you register an interest in this project your details will be forwarded to Heritage NSW and Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless you specify that you would not like your details released.

Please forward registrations to Curio Projects no later than 1 January 2025 via phone, email or mail to:

Daisy Cutcliffe
consultation@curioprojects.com.au - (02) 8014 9800
Curio Projects - Suite 3.01/Level 3 249 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

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NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO GRANT PETROLEUM SPECIAL PROSPECTING AUTHORITY

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 Petroleum Special Prospecting Authority application/s applied for under section 105 of the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967 (WA)*:

TITLE TYPE	APPLICATION NUMBER**	APPLICANT	CO-ORDINATES	AREA	SHIRE
Special Prospecting Authority	STP-SPA-0111	ESHW Pty Ltd	NW Corner: Lat: 25°29'55.45"S Long: 114°30'4.87"E SE Corner: Lat: 27°44'55.47"S Long :115°30'5.87"E	26052.84km ²	MURCHISON SHIRE, CARNARVON SHIRE, SHARK BAY SHIRE, UPPER GASCOYNE SHIRE, NORTHAMPTON SHIRE

Nature of the act: The grant of a petroleum special prospecting authority will authorise the holder to explore for petroleum and to carry on such operations and execute such works as are necessary in accordance with the conditions to which the special prospecting authority is subject too, for a term of 6 months from the date of the grant.

Notification day: 18 December 2024

Native title parties: Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until three months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The three month period closes on **18 March 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 authority may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **18 April 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 authority 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.

** - A technical description of the boundaries of the proposed petroleum special prospecting authority area can be provided on request.

DMIRS_24437



NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO RENEW MINING LEASE

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 renew the following mining lease under section 78(2) of the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Mining Lease	29/2	MT IDA GOLD PTY LTD	383.14HA	86km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 5' 54" S; Long: 120° 27' 45" E	MENZIES SHIRE

Nature of the act: The renewal of mining lease, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of up to 21 years.

Notification day: 18 December 2024

Native title parties: Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until three months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to the notice. The three month period closes on **18 March 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 lease may be renewed if, by the end of the period of four months after the notification day (i.e. **18 April 2025**), there is no native title party under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* in relation to the area of the application for renewal.

For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the application for renewal), contact the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

DMIRS 24440



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	25/388	MIRAMAR (GOLDFIELDS) PTY LTD	696.54HA	41km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 48' S; Long: 121° 53' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	27/518	YANDAL RESOURCES LIMITED	197.35HA	17.4km NE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 21' S; Long: 121° 28' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	27/522	YANDAL RESOURCES LIMITED	121.91HA	19.5km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 25' S; Long: 121° 31' 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: 18 December 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 **18 March 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. **18 April 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 24439



Notice under Section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, Exploration Licence Number 9712 (Act 1992)

This notice is given in accordance with the requirements of Section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*.

Description of the nature of the act

Pursuant to the *Native Title (Right to Negotiate (Exclusion) – NSW Land) Determination No. 1 of 1996 (Cth)*, Exploration Licence 9712 includes a condition to the effect that the holder must not prospect on any land or waters covered by the licence in relation to which native title exists without the prior written consent of the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992* (the 'Native Title Condition').

The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992* intends to give consent to prospecting on land subject to native title in the licence in accordance with the *Native Title (Right to Negotiate (Inclusion) – NSW Land) Approval No. 1 of 1996 (Cth)*.

Should consent be granted, the licence holder may apply to renew or transfer the licence prior to it expiring (including partial renewals or partial transfers).

Note: If the consent is granted, it will apply to any renewal, re grant or re-making (including partial renewals or partial transfers) or extension of the term of the licence, which may be valid pursuant to section 24MD(1) of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* without a further notification under section 29.

Holder's details

Right Resources Pty Ltd (ACN 649 632 744) is the holder of Exploration Licence 9712 for Group 1 minerals.

The licence contains a condition that the holder must not prospect on any land or waters on which native title exists without the prior consent of the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*. The licence holder has sought the Minister's consent to conduct prospecting activities in the entire licence area.

Description of area that may be affected

The entire area of Exploration Licence 9712 which covers about 99 units and is situated approximately 16 kilometres east northeast of Tumburumba, in the State of NSW

Name and postal address of person by whom the act would be done

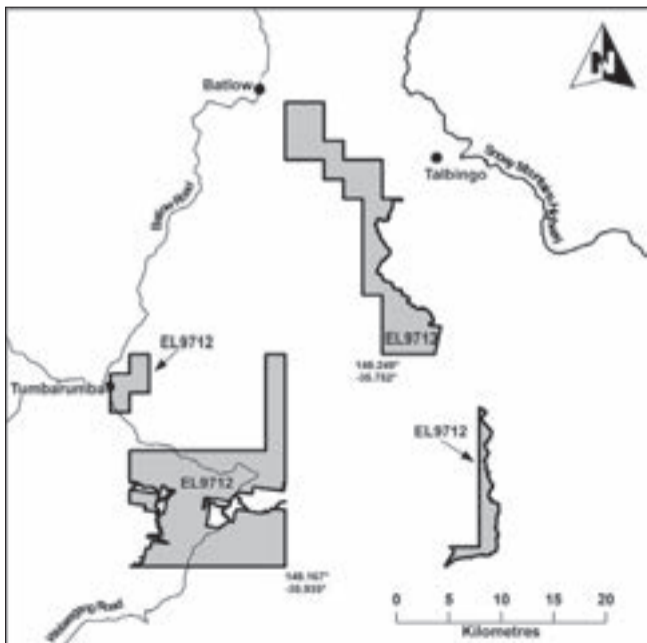
The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*, PO Box 344, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310.

How further information about the act and description of the area can be obtained

Further information may be obtained from; Assessments and Systems, NSW Resources within the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on (02) 4063 6600 or titles@regional.nsw.gov.au.

Notification Day

For the purposes of Section 29(4) of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* the notification day is 16 January 2025. 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 this notice.



LT0006

TILBUSTER QUARRY ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

Puddledock Rock Pty Ltd is seeking approval for the development of a quarry on **Pt. Lot 1 DP613994, 747 Puddledock Road, Tilbuster, NSW, 2350 (Project Site)**. The proposed quarry is located about 11 km to the north of Armidale and 7.5 km east of the New England Highway, within the Armidale Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA).

Puddledock Rock Pty Ltd propose to establish a hard rock quarry on the Project Site and extract up to 300,000 tonnes per annum of quarry material from a resource of approximately 4.7 million tonnes. The proposed quarry footprint is approximately 8.6 ha and is located within an existing mine lease (ML1064) associated with a former gold mine dating back to the early 1900s (Figure 1). The Project is within the boundaries of the Northern Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) in the Armidale Regional Council LGA of NSW.

As part of the Project approval application, Puddledock Rock Pty Ltd will prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to identify ways to avoid or minimise potential harm to Aboriginal objects. The ACHA will form part of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this Regionally Significant Development (under Schedule 7 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021). Community consultation with the Aboriginal community is an important part of this process. In accordance with the requirements of the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, 2010) [Consultation Guidelines], Aboriginal persons or groups who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the Area of Interest are invited to register for the community consultation process with Puddledock Rock Pty Ltd by **5pm on 18 January 2025** via the contact details:

Puddledock Rock Pty Ltd
c/- Whincop Archaeology Pty Ltd
Address: 99 Murton Avenue Holland Park 4121
Email: matt@whincoparchaeology.com.au
Phone: 0407 038 584

Puddledock Rock Pty Ltd advises that the details of any Aboriginal person or group who registers an interest in the Project will be forwarded to Heritage NSW, and the Northern LALC in accordance with Section 4.1.5 of the Consultation Guidelines, unless they specify that they do not want their details released.

Please note that any opportunities for engagement during the ACHA process would be separate to the consultation process.



Figure 1: Plan Showing Project Site (Indicative Footprint)

Natural Resources Commission



Have your say on Lachlan, Macquarie–Cudgegong and Namoi Regulated Water Sharing Plans

The Natural Resources Commission invites submissions to inform its review of the following water sharing plans:

- *Water Sharing Plan for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source 2016*
- *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2016*
- *Water Sharing Plan for the Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Sources 2016*

The purpose of water sharing plans is to prescribe how water is managed, firstly to provide for the environment and also to support social, economic and cultural outcomes. These plans typically apply for a ten year period. At the end of this, the Minister for Water may decide to replace or extend a plan.

Under Section 43A of the *Water Management Act 2000*, the Commission is to provide advice to the Minister on:

- the achievement of environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes of the plan, and if improvements can be made;
- whether the existing plan should be extended or improved and replaced

Please visit NRC website nrc.nsw.gov.au/water/wsp-reviews for more information and to make your submission.

Submissions close Sunday 23 February 2025.

Please contact the Commission on (02) 9228 4844 or email nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au should you have further enquiries.

JS0115



WISHING YOU AND YOURS A SAFE AND
Merry Christmas
FROM ALL THE TEAM AT THE KOORI MAIL



Koori Mail
The Voice of Indigenous Australia



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	08/3743	TECHGEN METALS LTD	20BL	80.9km S'ly of Paraburdoo	Lat: 23° 55' S: Long: 117° 44' E	UPPER GASCOYNE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/3744	JUNO GOLD PTY LTD	56BL	78.3km E'ly of Mt Augustus	Lat: 24° 2' S: Long: 117° 37' E	UPPER GASCOYNE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3966	GTT METALS GROUP PTY LTD	18BL	191.1km E'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 26° 41' S: Long: 122° 8' E	WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3968	GTT METALS GROUP PTY LTD	17BL	199km NE'ly of Leinster	Lat: 26° 47' S: Long: 122° 15' E	LAVERTON SHIRE, WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3969	GTT METALS GROUP PTY LTD	5BL	186km NE'ly of Leinster	Lat: 26° 54' S: Long: 122° 11' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3970	GTT METALS GROUP PTY LTD	2BL	187.9km NE'ly of Leinster	Lat: 26° 56' S: Long: 122° 14' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3973	BARACUS PTY LTD	4BL	187.6km NE'ly of Leinster	Lat: 26° 50' S: Long: 122° 9' E	LAVERTON SHIRE, WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2127	GREAT WESTERN EXPLORATION LIMITED	62BL	87.7km NW'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 26° 11' S: Long: 119° 28' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2128	GREAT WESTERN EXPLORATION LIMITED	61BL	86km NW'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 26° 4' S: Long: 119° 34' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2251	YERRIDA CO PTY LTD	9BL	84.3km N'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 25° 51' S: Long: 120° 2' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2252	YERRIDA CO PTY LTD	19BL	84.3km N'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 25° 52' S: Long: 119° 58' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2253	YERRIDA CO PTY LTD	29BL	83.3km SE'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 25° 59' S: Long: 119° 27' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2254	YERRIDA CO PTY LTD	53BL	59km SE'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 25° 56' S: Long: 119° 12' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	52/4404	AMERY HOLDINGS PTY LTD	32BL	81.9km S'ly of Paraburdoo	Lat: 23° 55' S: Long: 117° 50' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE, UPPER GASCOYNE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1375	AURUMIN SANDSTONE PTY LTD	15BL	28km SE'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 11' S: Long: 119° 27' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1458	RIO TINTO EXPLORATION PTY LIMITED	20BL	72.9km SE'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 27' S: Long: 119° 49' E	MENZIES SHIRE, SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/6661	MID-WEST EXPLORATION PTY LTD	9BL	126.3km E'ly of Kalbarri	Lat: 27° 22' S: Long: 115° 23' E	MURCHISON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/6662	MID-WEST EXPLORATION PTY LTD	2BL	119.9km N'ly of Mullewa	Lat: 27° 27' S: Long: 115° 25' E	MURCHISON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3253	BLACK DRAGON ENERGY (AUS) PTY LTD	6BL	33km S'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 44' S: Long: 119° 36' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3254	BLACK DRAGON ENERGY (AUS) PTY LTD	1BL	31.8km S'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 44' S: Long: 119° 35' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6920	FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD	40.23HA	14.5km SW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 2' S: Long: 121° 3' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	25/2843	FORTIFY MINING PTY LTD	199.12HA	43.8km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 50' S: Long: 121° 54' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2844	MAHONEY, Reece Anthony	196.72HA	28.7km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 44' S: Long: 121° 46' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2852	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	198.52HA	30.2km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 41' S: Long: 121° 46' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2592	RESOURCE ASSETS PTY LTD	188.08HA	28.3km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 32' S: Long: 121° 38' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2593	RESOURCE ASSETS PTY LTD	149.55HA	29.9km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 31' S: Long: 121° 38' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2594	RESOURCE ASSETS PTY LTD	152.89HA	31.3km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 30' S: Long: 121° 38' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2595	RESOURCE ASSETS PTY LTD	163.23HA	30.5km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 30' S: Long: 121° 38' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2596	RESOURCE ASSETS PTY LTD	171.23HA	29.7km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 30' S: Long: 121° 37' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	36/1960	MANDALAY METALS PTY LTD	51.78HA	24.5km S'ly of Leinster	Lat: 28° 8' S: Long: 120° 38' E	LEONORA SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.

Notification day: 18 December 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 **18 March 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. **18 April 2025**), a native title party lodges an objection with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of the licence is an act attracting the expedited procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, or GPO Box 9973, Perth, WA 6848, telephone (08) 9425 1000.

For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

* - 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km²

DMIRS_24438

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 of NSW is considering whether to recommend the amendment of the State Heritage Register listing for Rose Seidler House (00261) to become the Seidler Family Precinct in acknowledgment of its heritage significance.

Seidler Family Precinct, Wahroonga

Written submissions on this listing amendment are invited from any interested person by 11:59pm 11 March 2025. Enquiries to Meggan Walker on (02) 9873 8500.

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

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/seidler

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

Heritage Council of NSW

Heritage Act 1977

Notice of intention to consider listing on the State Heritage Register

The Heritage Council of NSW maintains the State Heritage Register which is a list of places of particular importance to the people of NSW, including Aboriginal and other heritage.

The Heritage Council is currently considering whether or not to recommend the amendment of a listing of the following place on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgment of its heritage significance.

Lady Gowrie Child Centre, Erskineville

Written submissions on this listing are invited from any interested person by 9 February 2025. Enquiries to Darrienne Wyndham or Judith Coombes on (02) 9873 8500.

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

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/erskineville

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

Wandoo Field Environment Plans Consultation

SEEKING RELEVANT PERSONS

VERMILION ENERGY

Vermilion is seeking to consult with relevant persons whose functions, interests or activities may be affected by proposed activities in the Wandoo Field.

Vermilion Oil and Gas Australia is a subsidiary of Vermilion Energy and has operated in Australia for over 20 years. Our Australian operations focus on exploring for and developing oil and gas from the Wandoo Field off the shore of Western Australia.

The Wandoo Field is located in Commonwealth waters within the Carnarvon Basin, approximately 80km northwest of the port of Dampier and 110km northeast of Barrow Island. It operates at a water depth in the range from 50m - 60m.

Our Activities

Vermilion wishes to continue developing and producing from its existing exploration permit WA-14-L. The Wandoo Field currently operates under existing accepted Environmental Plans for both production and well construction.

However, Vermilion is preparing two Environment Plans for submission to the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA).

Relevant Person Information

Learn more about who is a relevant person to be consulted, the environment that may be affected by the proposed activities, and the proposed control measures on our website.

Project Location



Your Feedback

If you think you may be a relevant person, please contact us to discuss consultation or provide feedback at the below channels.

We are asking relevant persons to provide feedback by 17 January 2025.

For More Information

Email: obu.consultation@vermilionenergy.com

To visit our website, scan the QR code



www.vermilionenergy.com/our-operations/australia/wandoo-consultation-activities



Notice of an application to register an area agreement on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements in Queensland

Notification day: 25 December 2024



QI2024/010 Mitakoodi and Mayi People Tenure Resolution ILUA

Description of the agreement area:

The agreement area covers a combined area of about 216 sq km and is located in the area surrounding Cloncurry and south east of McKinlay

Relevant LGAs: Cloncurry and McKinlay Shire Councils

The agreement contains the following statements:

[Explanatory notes in brackets inserted by the National Native Title Tribunal]

5. Consents and Validations

5.1 The Parties:

- (a) consent to the doing of the Agreed Acts to the extent that they are Future Acts; and
- (b) agree to the validating of any of the Agreed Acts, which are also Future Acts, done prior to Registration.

5.2 The Parties consent to the validation of any Future Acts done in that part of the Agreement Area identified in Part A of Schedule 1 prior to the Execution Date by the State to the extent they were done invalidly for the purposes of Native Title and can be validated in this Agreement.

5.4 The Parties consent to the validation of [certain acts in relation to exploration permits for minerals EPM 7085, 8609, 8586 and 8588] to the extent that they were done invalidly and can be validated in this agreement[.]

5.5 The Parties consent to the Surrender of all Native Title Rights and Interests to the State over the Surrender Area.

5.6 The Parties consent to [any future renewals, amendments, or extensions pursuant to the Land Act to a certain term lease in the Lawlor Lease Area and a certain term lease in the Tonkin Lease Area each for a term ending no later than 20 years after Registration].

5.7 Clauses 5.1(a), 5.5 and 5.6 is a statement for the purposes of section 24EB(1)(b) of the NTA and clauses 5.1(b), 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 are statements for the purposes of section 24EBA(1)(a) of the NTA.

5.8 To the extent that any of the acts that are validated and/or consented to under this Agreement, including the Agreed Acts, are Future Acts, the Parties acknowledge that the Non-Extinguishment Principle applies, other than to any Surrender.

5.9 The Parties agree that any Surrender permanently extinguishes all Native Title Rights and Interests in the area of the Surrender from the date the Surrender takes effect.

5.10 To the extent that part 2, division 3, subdivision P of the NTA would otherwise apply to a Future Act or class of Future Acts for which consent is given in this Agreement, the parties agree that part 2, division 3, subdivision P is not intended to apply.

6. Surrender

6.1 In accordance with clause 5.5, the Native Title Party surrenders all Native Title Rights and Interests over the Surrender Area.

6.2 The Surrender takes effect upon Registration of this Agreement.

7. Tenure Regularisation over McKinlay Shire Council rubbish tip

7.1 The Parties consent, to the extent that they are Future Acts:

(a) to the State taking the following steps to regularise tenure over the McKinlay Shire Council rubbish tip following Registration: [excise that part of Lot 23 on AL76 that is subject to encroachment from the current Reserve for Township Purposes held by McKinlay Shire Council as trustee under the Land Act (Lot 23 Encroached Area); reconfigure Lot 7 on AL33 to include the Lot 23 Encroached Area; and dedicate the Lot 23 Encroached Area as a Reserve for Sanitary Purposes (the "New Sanitary Reserve") and appoint the McKinlay Shire Council as trustee]; and

(b) to all acts:

(i) done under or in accordance with the New Sanitary Reserve; or

(ii) in the area covered by the New Sanitary Reserve, as long as the act's impact on Native Title is no greater than the impact that any act that could have been done under or in accordance with the Sanitary Reserve would have done.

Schedule 7 Agreed Acts

1. The dedication of any Reserve over any part of any of the ALA Lots and any of the Freehold Lots prior to any grant of Aboriginal Land over the ALA Lots or any grant of fee simple under the Land Act over any of the Freehold Lots provided that prior to the dedication of any reserve the State obtains the written consent of the Mitakoodi and Mayi People Native Title Aboriginal Corporation to the dedication including the dedicated purpose and the appointment of any trustee.

2. Any declaration of the ALA Lots as Transferable Land and any grant of Aboriginal Land over the ALA Lots to the Mitakoodi and Mayi People Native Title Aboriginal Corporation in accordance with clause 9.

3. Any Future Acts done by the Mitakoodi and Mayi People Native Title Aboriginal Corporation, or the Grantee at the relevant time, in the ALA Lots in accordance with the ALA and/or a grant of Aboriginal Freehold, including, for example, the grant of any leases.

4. Any deed of grant in fee simple under the Land Act over the Freehold Lots to the Mitakoodi and Mayi People Native Title Aboriginal Corporation in accordance with clause 9.

5. Any act that is necessary for, or consequential on, the doing of any of the acts described above in this Schedule 7.

6. Any variation of this Agreement that the parties are authorised, and agree, to make under section 24ED of the NTA.

"Aboriginal Land" means a grant in fee simple under section 38 of the ALA; "Agreed Acts" means the acts specified in Schedule 7; "Agreement" means [the Mitakoodi and Mayi People Tenure Resolution Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA)], including all schedules to [the ILUA]; "Agreement Area" means the land and waters described in Part A, Part B and Part C of Schedule 1 and depicted on the map in Schedule 2; "ALA" means the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 (Qld); "ALA Lots" means those areas identified in Part A of Schedule 5 and depicted on the map in Part A of Schedule 6; "Cloncurry Hospital Site" means that part of the Agreement Area described as Lot 43 on AP23963 and Lot 33 on BD68; "Execution Date" means the date of this Agreement or, where the parties sign the Agreement on different dates, the date on which the last party signs the Agreement; "Freehold Lots" means those areas identified in Part B of Schedule 5 and depicted on the map in Part B of Schedule 6; "Future Act" has the meaning given in the NTA; "Grantee" means a grantee under the ALA; "Land Act" means the Land Act 1994 (Qld); "Lawlor Lease Area" means that part of the Agreement Area described as Lot 51 on SP265801; "Mitakoodi and Mayi People Native Title Aboriginal Corporation" means the Mitakoodi and Mayi People Native Title Aboriginal Corporation ICN: 10313, being the entity to be nominated as the Prescribed Body Corporate for the Part A Determination; "Native Title" has the meaning given in the NTA; "Native Title Claim" means the Mitakoodi and Mayi People #5 native title determination application filed on 8 July 2015 in the Federal Court of Australia as amended from time to time (Federal Court proceeding No. QUD 556 of 2015); "Native Title Claim "Part A" means that part of the Native Title Claim designated as "Part A" in the orders of Justice Perry in QUD 556 of 2015 dated 25 March 2022; "Native Title Party" means, (a) before the Part A Determination: (i) the Applicant; and (ii) the Mitakoodi and Mayi People Native Title Aboriginal Corporation; and (b) after the Part A Determination, the Mitakoodi and Mayi People Native Title Aboriginal Corporation. "Native Title Rights and Interests" has the meaning given in the NTA; "Non-Extinguishment Principle" has the meaning given in the NTA; "NTA" means the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth); "Part A Determination" means the determination of Native Title proposed to be sought in relation to the Native Title Claim "Part A"; "Parties" means the State of Queensland and the Native Title Party; "Reserve" means a reserve dedicated under the Land Act; "Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements" has the meaning given in the NTA; "Registered" means registered on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements; "Registration" means the date on which this Agreement is Registered; "State" means the State of Queensland; "Surrender" means the surrender to the State (and the permanent extinguishment of) all Native Title Rights and Interests in the Surrender Area; "Surrender Area" means the area described in Schedule 3 and depicted on the map in Schedule 4; "Tonkin Lease Area" means that part of the Agreement Area described as Lot 151 on CP911698; "Transferable Land" has the meaning given in the ALA.

Parties to the agreement and their contact addresses:

State of Queensland acting through the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing, and Regional and Rural Development (Applicant)	c/- Native Title Indigenous Land Services, Department of Resources and Critical Minerals PO Box 15216, City East QLD 4002
Mitakoodi and Mayi Native Title People Aboriginal Corporation ICN 10313 (Corporation) (Native Title Party)	c/- Michael Owens Lawyer and Consultant PO Box 1989, Aitkenvale QLD 4814
Tanya Kum Sing, Pearl Connelly, Kay Douglas, Norman Douglas, Ronald Major, Sharn Fogarty, Clyde Fogarty, Justin Asse and Kristal Chapman as the Applicant for the Mitakoodi and Mayi People #5 Native Title Claim on behalf of the Mitakoodi and Mayi People (Native Title Claim Group) (Native Title Party)	c/- Just Us Lawyers PO Box 120, Red Hill QLD 4059

Responses to an application to register an ILUA—where the application has not been certified:

Any person claiming to hold native title in relation to land or waters in the area covered by the agreement may wish, in response to this notice, to make a native title determination application or equivalent application under a law of a state or territory in respect of any part of the area. The application must be made by 25 March 2025. If that application is registered on the Register of Native Title Claims, the registered native title claimants must be a party to this agreement before it can be registered.

Details of the terms of the agreement are not available from the National Native Title Tribunal.

For assistance and any further information about this application, including the description of the area, call Sylvia Jagtman on 07 3052 4248 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

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Can Santa deliver the following, or will he play Grinch?

GIVEN that it is the season to be jolly, what would NRL clubs love from Santa?

Brisbane would love a drama-free off-season, and for new coach Michael Maguire to bring some of that NSW Blues' winning formula into the fold.

Canberra would hope that all their 2025 roadtrips doesn't take its toll, and they can make the finals.

Canterbury will be wishing for their 2024 resurgence to continue into 2025 and go even further into the finals.

Cronulla will be hoping that Nicho Hynes has more tricks in

his big bag of tricks... just like Santa's sack.

The Dolphins have been hunting for finals action since their NRL debut two seasons ago. Some consistency and no injuries mid-year please, Saint Nick!

Gold Coast will be wishing for coach Des Hasler to finally bring together this side and be the best Queensland-based club in the NRL.

Manly will be praying for Tom



Kris Flanders

"Turbo" Trbojevic to remain injury-free so he can produce that freaky talent every week.

Melbourne will be asking to go one better in 2025, and lift the premiership trophy.

Newcastle will be wishing that they don't leave their finals charge so late this time around and book a higher spot in the top 8.

North Queensland will want Santa to deliver a flawless series of home games and to take that same energy on the road.

Parramatta will be hoping that new recruit Josh Addo-Carr is scoring tries and taking the Eels back up the table with him.

Penrith have had Santa in their back-pocket for the past four years, but Panthers fans are wishing for even more!

The Sydney Roosters don't need Saint Nick when they have Saint Nick Politis who they really should be asking for another top 4 finish.

South Sydney will wish that Wayne Bennett can take them back to the Promised Land (i.e. the grand final) like he did in 2021.

St. George-Illawarra will just want to make the finals for the first time in a long time — I mean, they even wear the same colours as Santa!

The Warriors will be wishing to make their home games a fortress again and a feared place for Australian teams.

Wests Tigers will want some of that Jarome Luai premiership magic to rub off on them, or maybe to just hand over that wooden-spoon they've had for the past three seasons.

C'mon Santa, don't be a grinch!

***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.**

All-Stars take cultural camp to Dubbo, Trangie

By KRIS FLANDERS

AUS ALL-STARS women's coach Jess Skinner took the team on a recent camp to connect to Country, each other and the community.

With the annual representative sporting and cultural event locked in for Sydney on 15 February, Skinner led the team at a camp in Dubbo in Western NSW.

The camp's focus primary was cultural connections and engaging with local communities in Dubbo and Trangie, Skinner's home town.

The squad met up with premiership-winner and Manly great, Ron Gibbs, who spoke on the All Stars, the team's history, and what the game and week means to the community.

The camp was also a chance for emerging young players to be

involved and to show them a greater scope and awareness of the pathways and opportunities before them.

In the broader context of women's rugby league, in other news, the best fullback in the world, Indigenous All-Star Tamika Upton has left Newcastle to return to Brisbane.

The Broncos have thrown out the red carpet, too.

The four-time premiership

winner returns to Queensland after a successful stint with the Knights.

Upton signed a three-year deal with Brisbane which will see her remain at the club until the end of 2027.

● Indigenous All-Stars Women's coach Jess Skinner took the team on a camp to Western NSW. Picture: Getty Images



'Unfinished business' with Blues

League great returns to Origin arena

By KRIS FLANDERS

AUS THE great Laurie Daley believes he has unfinished business in the State of Origin arena.

The rugby league champion returns to Origin as coach of the NSW Blues.

Daley has coached NSW Country, the Prime Minister's XIII and is a 10-time Indigenous All-Stars coach.

Daley takes over the reigns from Michael Maguire, who has joined Brisbane as coach.

Maguire guided the Blues to a famous series win over Queensland in 2024.

Daley returns to the role he held from 2013 to 2017, before he was axed. His Origin record in that time was 6-15, which he himself would admit was not great but that was against arguably the greatest Queensland State of Origin teams of all time.

During this stint as coach, however, Daley orchestrated the end of the Maroons' eight-series winning streak when the Blues won the 2014 series.



Laurie Daley (right) and Cody Walker ahead of the 2019 Indigenous All-Stars match in Melbourne. Picture: Getty Images

But Daley and the Blues would lose the next three series and he was shown the door. It led him to believe he'd never get another chance to make things right.

"To be perfectly honest, when I was sacked, I never thought I'd get another opportunity," he said.

"To be able to be back doing it is something that I feel very privileged and honoured to be a part of."

But questions remain. Has the game changed too much since he was last in the Blues' hot-seat? Daley hasn't coached since the All-Stars game in 2022.

Despite this, the man believes he can build on what Maguire and the squad achieved in 2024.

"I reckon I'll be a lot more wiser and better prepared," he said of the looming 2025 series.

"I know the challenges and I'm ready to confront them head on.

"You learn a lot through mistakes. There's things you'd like to do differently. One of those things is looking at yourself.

"While I haven't been coaching I watch the games intently. I still take notes and watch the videos. I'd like to think that I'm up to date with the trends of the game."

As a Blues player, Daley was one of the greatest. He appeared in 23 matches for NSW with a further three in Super League.

Daley played with a high level of intensity in the Origin arena and that passion often bubbled to the surface. He possessed those 'crazy eyes'. He punched way above weight and drove many a heavy Queensland forward backwards in defence.

Mickey O, Clarke to lead All-Stars' overdue return

Club NGAs the key to future growth at AFL level



SYDNEY Swans' 2005 premiership player, Hall of Famer, two-time All Australian Michael

O'Loughlin has been appointed as chair of selectors for the Indigenous All-Stars team.

The game will pit the All-Stars against Fremantle at Perth Stadium on Saturday, 15 February next year.

O'Loughlin will be joined by the All-Stars' coach, Xavier Clarke, the current North Melbourne senior assistant coach, along with AFL Indigenous and multicultural player engagement manager, Pauly Vandenberg, former Hawthorn and Port Adelaide player Chad Wingard, AFL Executive GM of social policy and inclusion Tanya Hosch, AFL Executive GM of Football Laura Kane and AFL GM Football Operations Josh Mahoney.

Kaurna / Ngarrindjeri / Narungga man O'Loughlin is well credentialed to lead the selection panel having played 303 games for Sydney and is the club's



Michael O'Loughlin – All-Stars chair of selectors.

second-highest leading goal-kicker with 521 goals.

He was the club's leading goal kicker in 2000 and 2001 and claimed the Swans' best-and-fairest in 1998.

In 2004, he was chosen in the AFL's 1904-2005 Indigenous Team of the Century and coached the Indigenous All-Stars team that toured Ireland in 2013.

Clarke, a proud Larrakia and Amrreamo / Marritjavin man, joined North Melbourne as assistant coach in 2023 and prior



Xavier Clarke – All-Stars senior coach. Pics: Getty Images

to this was senior coach for the NT Thunder which he led to the 2015 NEAFL premiership.

He later joined the Richmond Football Club as development coach in 2016 on the eve of the Tigers' golden run from 2017-2020.

Clarke played 106 games for St Kilda and the Brisbane Lions from 2002-2010 before retiring in 2011.

Hosch said it was fantastic to have O'Loughlin lead the selection panel and Clarke take

on the head coach role.

"To have a former player of the calibre of Micky lead the selection of this side is fantastic," she said.

"His football record speaks for itself but he has also been an immense leader amongst the Indigenous community and continues to give back through his work on numerous foundations and through his business.

"He epitomises the on-and-off-field excellence and community spirit that characterises the Indigenous All-Stars side and we are thrilled to have him on board leading the selection next year.

"Xavier is a highly regarded assistant coach in the AFL competition and has been a part of three premierships when he was with Richmond.

"I know Xavier has future ambitions to be an AFL senior coach and we are thrilled to provide him with this opportunity to be the head coach of the All-Stars in February as he continues in the coaching pathway."

LAST edition, I wrote about the decline in the AFL of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander players, and that it would take two to three years before we see any meaningful change, but it could come sooner than that.

At Carlton, there are three young Aboriginal men who are part of the club's Next Generation Academy who will be eligible for the 2025 AFLM draft.

No pressure on the following young lads but I'm talking about exciting prospects in 17-year-olds Jack Ison, Mingara Clark and Tyson Gresham. This deadly trio have trained with the Blues' senior side and the club's new (2024) draftees in the last few weeks.

The experience they are getting through the NGA program with Carlton is invaluable for their future playing careers.

While that's all great, the small problem with the NGA (in this instance, for Carlton) is clubs can put as much time, money and energy into a player or players but under draft rules they don't necessarily get first dibs. So the big commitment clubs are making with young footballers is that it could all come to nothing at draft time.

Personally, I think what goes around comes around; in that clubs can and should invest in young Aboriginal players and if they don't get to select them at the draft, then that's OK, too.

The AFL sees these future players developed in the NGAs as an asset to the future of the game, and it is good to see clubs like Carlton pouring time, money and effort into their futures.

While excited about next year's draft, I will stand by the fact that efforts like Carlton's and the NGAs generally must be replicated in rural and remote communities, where opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players to ultimately play in the AFL can continue.

While people like Pauly Vandenberg's work in this space as the AFL's national Indigenous and multicultural engagement manager continues, the fruits of those labour and the nature of the work won't truly be seen for a while yet.

*Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She has worked in the AFL industry for over two decades



Shelley Ware

Magpie Mattea lands at Vic Park



COLLINGWOOD have landed one of the AFLW's best emerging talents with the arrival of Tiwi woman Mattea Breed at the club's Victoria Park base.

Breed, a former Hawk, has inked a two-year deal with the Magpies.

As part of the trade with Hawthorn, Breed arrives at Collingwood alongside pick 26 in exchange for picks 22 and 28 in this year's AFLW draft.

Drafted to the Hawks with pick four in the AFLW Season 8 supplementary draft, Breed went on to play 20 games

across her two seasons with the side.

The Northern Territory product had an incredible 2024 season, averaging 13.6 disposals and a total of 50

clearances.

It was perhaps her game in round 8 against GWS that was, arguably, the 23-year-old's best game, with 21 disposals, a game-high 11 clearances, 16 uncontested possessions, and equalling first in tackles (eight).

Breed further impressed this season, finishing as second finalist for the Mark of the Year award.

"We're delighted to welcome Mattea to Collingwood, who will be a part of our program until at least the end of 2026," Collingwood's GM of Women's Football Jess Burger said.

"Mattea provides great drive through the midfield and staying ahead of the ball, impressing in the contest and her attacking ability."

● Mattea Breed has landed at Collingwood during AFLW trade week. Picture: CFC



Rioli suffers knee injury in first session with Gold Coast



GOLD Coast's prized recruit Daniel Rioli has suffered a knee injury at one of his first training sessions with his new AFL club.

Rioli injured the medial collateral ligament in his left knee at a Suns' early pre-season training run at their Carrara Oval base last week.

"The club will assess whether Daniel requires surgery over the next week," the Suns said in a statement shortly after the training incident.

"However, he is expected to be running post-Christmas and be available for pre-season matches before the (2025) Opening Round."

The Tiwi man from the famous Rioli

clan is a three-time Richmond premiership player with the Tigers, having played in the club's 2017, 2019 and 2020 premiership grand-final victories.

He reunited at the Suns with former Tiger coach Damien Hardwick in the October trade period.

The 27-year-old signed a five-year

contract with the Suns, giving Richmond picks six and 23 at the recent national draft, receiving four late picks – 51, 61, 70 and 76 – in return from the Tigers.

Rioli, who won Richmond's club champion award this season, has played 183 games, including three premierships from his 13 finals.

– with AAP



Ash Gardner excelled with the bat and ball as Australia clinched the ODI series against India. *Picture: Peter Argent*

Ash Gardner in career-best form with bat and ball

By PETER ARGENT



ASH Gardner was in career-best form when Australia effected a clean-sweep of the three-game Women's One Day International (ODI) series against India.

Gardner, the Australian team's vice-captain, played a pivotal role with both bat and ball in last week's win over India at the WACA in Perth, scoring a half-century with the bat and claiming a five-for with the ball.

Scoring a 50 and taking five wickets has only been achieved a handful of times in Women's ODI history.

At the WACA, Gardner made a patient 50 after arriving at the crease with Australia in trouble at 4-78.

After some early luck, Gardner was involved in a 96-run fifth-wicket partnership with fellow all-rounder Annabel Sutherland (110).

That partnership would push the Australians to post an impressive 6-298.

Gardner then changed the course of the game with the ball.

The contest was well in the balance until she bowled Indian opener and centurion Smriti Mandhana. Gardner would then claim four more wickets, collecting the stunning figures of 5-30 from her full allotment of 10 overs.

It was during this period where India sensationally slid from 3-189 to be all out for 215.

Post-match, Gardner said:

"This is the first time the group's come back together since the World Cup loss, so we were all in really high spirits coming into this series.

"To come away 3-0 pretty comfortably throughout this series is just a testament to where this team's at.

"Obviously we've been in every T20 final up until that point, and I think it was just a really good touch-point for our group to realise the things that we weren't doing as well as we could have.

"What we've seen in this series is that people have stood up at different times and people have made hundreds, people have taken five-fors, so I think this group's in a really good place at the moment."

Anika Learoyd has grown in stature at the crease for Sydney Thunder in the Women's Big Bash League. *Pictures: Sydney Thunder*



Gun bat Learoyd on an upward swing

By KRIS FLANDERS



STAR Sydney Thunder batter Anika Learoyd has grown in stature in her role at the WBBL franchise in a season that exceeded all expectations.

Despite falling short in the finals, the young Thunder side took on the WBBL with an almighty bang this season.

"I look back at the year with a lot of pride," she said.

"If you told us at the start of year that we would finish third I think we would have been pretty stoked with that.

"We're obviously disappointed with the way that it finished but we achieved a lot this season.

"We're still a young squad and in the past we've relied heavily on international players whereas this year our domestic talent really stood up."

The 22-year-old completed 12 innings and compiled 137 runs with a high score of 31.

The right-hand bat had a strong strike-rate of 92.57 and averaged 17.12 runs a game.

She found the boundary on nine occasions and skied the ball over the ropes for two sixes, while in the field, she latched onto four catches.

"When I delved into the season I had analysed what I had done and compared it to last season," she said.

"This year I was able to help 'ice' a few games, and was involved in a few games that required a lot of concentration where I was able to come through the other side.

"I've certainly learnt how to win games and absorb pressure."

Thunder recorded a 6-3-1 season from their 10 matches to finish the season in third. That pitted them against the Hobart Hurricanes in the semi-final in which they were set 127 runs to win, which they did.



Anika Learoyd.

Learoyd played a big role in that win, starring late with the bat, making 23 from 24 and, with Thunder captain Phoebe Litchfield, chased down the target.

"Again, it comes back to that mindset of absorbing pressure, sticking around and how you apply yourself then to make runs and help the side," Learoyd said.

"It was another tight situation against Hobart and there were a lot of fighting qualities shown by our side that game."

Learoyd has shown lots of heart and mental toughness to overcome a major setback in her career. Just 18 months ago, the classy batter, underwent operations to her hip. But the process of rehabilitation has seen Learoyd come back stronger.

"It was really tough," she said.

"It took a lot of learnings and resilience to get back from that, I'm proud that I've been able to do that.

"The cricket skills took a bit of time to get everything back on track but I persevered and trained hard.

"Because of that injury we've put my bowling on the sideline to concentrate on my batting, I'd like to one day perhaps bowl again but I'm happy to contribute with the bat."

The WBBL Indigenous Round was a highlight of the season, in which Learoyd and teammate Hannah Darlington wore a striking Thunder design that celebrated culture and Learoyd's her Gumbaynggirr heritage.

"It's gained traction each year and I like playing my part in highlighting the round being an advocate and what it means," Learoyd said.

"I want to see it continue to grow.

"Sydney Thunder as a club have always seen Indigenous Round as being important; always with a huge amount of respect and pride, and to celebrate that with Hannah is always special.

"We actually combined really well in Indigenous Round to help get the win too.

"Hannah is a very close friend of mine. It's been really wonderful to see her performing so well and being a game-changer for us.

"She's got an incredible work ethic and a great cricket brain and just natural ability, I think the sky's the limit for her.

"And even the way she engages with fans and off the field, she can go all the way and be a star at the international level."

Now that the WBBL season is over, Learoyd has set her sights on helping the NSW Breakers get back into title contention in the Women's National Cricket League (WNCL).

"We've had a tough couple of years, and if we are honest we haven't performed anywhere near as well as we'd like," she said.

"There's certainly a different vibe amongst the group, hopefully we can put ourselves into a position to play finals."

King, Kangas' road to premiership redemption



Courtney Hodder.



Ally Anderson.



Dakota Davidson.

By PETER ARGENT



NORTH Melbourne's Mi King was outstanding across the 2024 AFLW season, a neat reflection of her side the Kangaroos' unblemished season to win the premiership.

North Melbourne became the first of the AFLW expansion clubs to win the premiership. They were beaten by Brisbane in last year's grand final 12 months ago but redeemed themselves in November.

In a star-studded Kangas' midfield, the unheralded King delivered a strong body of work across the season.

The gutsy inside midfielder led the team's tackle-counts for much of the season; her efforts often setting the tone for her teammates to follow.

Across 2024, King averaged 19 disposals, 9.3 tackles and 4.3 clearances per game. Her disposal count this year was up from a career average of 15.6 and her workrate unquestioned, the highlight being a 17-tackle game against Port Adelaide in round 4.

King placed fourth in the Kangaroos' best-and-fairest behind winner Jasmine Garner, Ash Riddell and Sarah Wright.

Vanquished Lions

The vanquished Brisbane Lions can at least take some solace in the fact that they have played in six grand finals in all nine AFLW seasons. Of those, the Lions have won two, and both as underdogs, against the Crows in 2021 at Adelaide Oval, and last year against the Kangaroos.

Lion-hearted Lion Ally Anderson added another club best-and-fairest this year to her large collection of silverware. Anderson is an AFLW foundation player (2017) and has played in all nine seasons and in all the Lions' grand finals. She averaged 26.1 disposals per game this season, along with 6.6 tackles and 5.3 clearances. The 30-year-



Mia King and the North Melbourne Kangaroos celebrate the 2024 AFLW premiership after defeating Brisbane in the grand final at Princes Park in Melbourne. Picture: Peter Argent

old, who has played 93 games, produced an impressive finals series, also having an impact without the ball by laying an average of 9.3 tackles per game in the three finals including 14 in the grand final.

Dakota Davidson was among the Lions'

leading goal-kickers in 2024, finishing in the top 10 across the competition with 14 majors.

Courtney Hodder finished 10th in the club's best-and-fairest, this year having played a different role higher up the ground than as a forward.



Mark Beetson (left), Dean Widders and Dennis Moran took a squad of talented junior rugby league players through their paces at a TAAP camp at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence. Picture: NSWRL

Koori 16s to tour Aotearoa-New Zealand



FORTY Koori teenage footballers will tour Aotearoa-New Zealand next month as part of a NSWRL development tour.

The Under-16 squad was chosen following a Talented Aboriginal Athlete Program (TAAP) camp at the NSWRL Centre of Excellence earlier this month.

The teenagers are aged from 14-16

and the majority hails from outside Sydney.

The TAAP coaching staff included NRL greats Dean Widders and Dennis Moran, and Mark Beetson, the Sydney Roosters' development-pathways coach, and son of league immortal Arthur Beetson.

The participants were identified from the Koori Knockout, club rugby league, and schoolboy football competitions.

The squad:

Jack Asplett, Billy Beetson, Morgan Carter, Tirowee Golding-Lyons, Kade Hansacker, Allan Lardner, Bailey Logue, Jett Mackay, Kade Mackay, Tremayne Millgate, Devontai Nagatozarka, Bailey Pickvance, Isaac Searle, Naite Sines-Wainwright, Tyran Toomey, Darryn Vaggs, Xavier Vaipulu, Linjarra West.

Over the Black Dot in line for ASC Media Award



FLAGSHIP Koori rugby league TV show *Over the Black Dot* has won a nomination at the Australian Sports Commission's annual Media Awards.

The in-season weekly show takes a look at rugby league through a Black lens with a panel of former NRL players and experts.

Over the Black Dot's category nomination comes under Best Depiction of Inclusive Sport alongside the *Herald Sun's* Daniel Cencic – *A deaf ruckman, a brother's love and the footy story of the year*, the *Nine Network – 2024 Australian Swimming Trials*, the *ABC – That Pacific Sports Show*, and *The Conversation – The Conversation's continued focus on inclusivity in sports*.

The awards will be announced on 19 February.

Over the Black Dot has been on-air since around 2017.

WAC taking KO to Tamworth

● From back page



Of Tamworth's approximate 44,000 people, around 14.5% are Aboriginal and-or Torres Strait Islander.

WAC made a successful defence of its 2023 triumph when they defeated Nanima Common Connections 46-12 in the final at host town Bathurst.

Outside the football field the Koori Knockout provides a boost local economies.

At Bathurst in October, the event reportedly generated around \$10 million for the town and surrounding area – local businesses, accommodation providers and community organisations.

Tamworth is NSW's third largest inland city, behind Wagga Wagga and Albury.

Tamworth Regional Council's general manager Paul Bennett said the city is excited to host such a large-scale sporting event.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the Tamworth region, with an estimated 20,000 visitors expected to visit across the four days of the event," he said.

"Local workers and businesses will benefit from the increase in visitation, with an estimated total impact of more than \$5.2 million and the creation of 29 jobs for the duration of the event."

The 2025 Koori Knockout will be held over the traditional October long weekend, 3-6 October and at Tamworth's Riverside Sporting Complex.

The 2024 Koori Knockout winners were Men: WAC. Women: Redfern All Blacks. Under-17 Girls: Waterloo Storm. Under-15 Girls: Newcastle Yowies. Under-17 Boys: La Perouse Panthers, Under-15 Boys: Mindaribba Warriors. Under-13 Boys: La Perouse Panthers.



The Black Swans national netball team returns to the court next year after making their debut in 2024 (above and right). The 2025 squad will comprise of Maryke Babia (Mabuyag Island And Saibai Island), Tully Bethune (Wiradjuri), Jaylah Boney (Ngemba/ Barkinji), Sophie Brewer (Wiradjuri), Olivia Clark (Kamilaroi), Lily Cubby (Murrawari), Acacia Elers (Worimi), Chloe Eyre (Wamba Wamba), Jayda Grant (Wiradjuri), Jamaica Jauncey and Scarlet Jauncey (Yawuru), Brook Lacey (Ewamian), Brianna Martyn (Kullilli), Tierrah Miller (Yamatji/ Noongar-Wajarri/Whadjuk), Jayden Molo (Waanyi), Tia Molo (Waanyi), Kiesha Muckan (Nunukul Nughi-Kabi Kabi), Ellie Stacey (Wonnarua), Aaleya Turner (Kaurana), Nasyah Turner (Kaurana). Pictures: Netball Australia

Black Swans to fly again in Pacific Series



THE Black Swans national netball team will return to the court next year in what advocates say will help inform and shape a positive relationship within the game.

A 20-strong squad have been named to represent the First Nations team in 2025.

After their historic debut at the 2024 Pacific Netball Series, the Black Swans program will return for its second year, bringing together talented athletes from across the country to showcase their skills and cultural pride.

Twenty Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander netballers from across Australia will make up the 2025 squad, including 12 returning members, and eight debutantes.

Netball Australia's First Nations engagement manager Beryl Friday said she was excited to announce the new group of athletes who will continue the Black Swans legacy into 2025.

"In a first for the program, we have selected a cohort of 20 athletes who will form our Black Swans squad, with 15 chosen in teams for tournaments," Friday said.

"We have some of our original Black Swans back — those who have been consistent across tournaments this year, but I am very excited for our new names.

"Some of these players were selected from tremendous performances at the First Nations Netball Tournament and naturally they will continue to grow their craft in our culturally safe environment."

Friday was a part of the inaugural Black Swans First Nations team in 2024, providing a key mentor role to athletes who embarked on the unknown.

In 2025, she will look to do the same.

"My hope for our Black Swans group is to walk away next year with confidence in their playing abilities, a solid understanding of high-performance behaviours and what it means to be a professional athlete," she said.

"Off court, I hope we see a strong cohort of First Nations women from around Australia taking their new learnings and teaching others in their communities."

Included in the new squad, having been identified at Netball Australia's inaugural First Nations

Netball Tournament, is Maryke Babia.

A Mabuyag and Saibai Island woman, Babia will be the first ever Black Swans member from the Torres Strait.

"It's a dream come true to be recognised at this level as an athlete and as a Torres Strait Islander netballer," Babia said.

"It is a huge responsibility, but also a tremendous privilege.

"Growing up I was taught the importance of community, respect, and hard work. My dad grew up in the Torres Strait on Mabuyag island and has passed down language, songs, art and cultural practices my whole life — embracing and celebrating culture at home.

"These values have guided me throughout my sporting journey. I hope to inspire young Torres Strait Islanders and Indigenous Australians to believe in themselves and show them what hard work and determination can do."

Alongside Babia will be Kamilaroi goaler and returning Black Swan, Olivia Clark.

"It brought me a lot of joy and pride to represent my culture on such a large scale last year," Clark

said.

"I honestly never thought I would be a part of netball's history. It allowed me to play and meet some other extraordinary First Nations netball players from all around the country that I wouldn't have ever played with if it wasn't for this opportunity.

"In 2025 on and off the court I want to bring some experience to the team and share my experiences in the pathway. I want to be that supportive teammate, especially to the younger and newer members of the Black Swans squad and be someone they can talk to at any moment."

As part of the 2025 Black Swans program, all squad members will train in their respective state environments across the year and come together at tournaments to compete.

Daily training environment (DTE) schedules will be provided and delivered to each athlete to ensure the growth of their capabilities, skillsets and load management.

The Black Swans will contend as domestic invitees at the 2025 PacificAus Sports Netball Series next February.

'Super sub' Boland dropped from Third Test at Gabba

By PETER ARGENT



AFTER his critical role with the ball for Australia in the Second Test against India, 'super sub' Scott Boland has returned to the sidelines, again, for 12th man duties for the Third Test at the Gabba.

Boland has been replaced by Josh Hazlewood, who returns from injury.

In his 11th Test, Boland, 35, took match-figures of 5-105 which included the wickets of Indian top-order bat Shubman Gill, India captain Rohit Sharma, first-Test hero Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli and Mohammed Siraj.

"Someone needs to make way (for Josh

Hazlewood), but they will be pretty unlucky," captain Pat Cummins said post-Adelaide.

To date, Boland's Test career figures on Australian soil was 33 wickets at an incredible average of 13.54 runs per wicket.

"I thought it was a Herculean effort from 'Starcy' (Mitchell Starc) and 'Scotty' (Scott

Boland, on the first day.

"It was hot, humid, and we basically just kept rotating the bowlers and bowling all day.

"(It was a) huge effort from those guys who showed their class.

"I feel very lucky as a captain to have those guys."

Dargan inspired by ancestors

By KRIS FLANDERS



SHANELL Dargan is excelling at a sport that runs in her blood and that of her family, a tradition that reaches back in time to her ancestors.

Dargan, 31, turned to professional boxing in 2022 and is showing no sign of slowing down.

"When I did some research into my family, I found out that my great-great grandfather was a boxer, and his sons were all tent boxers," Dargan said.

"I think it was meant to be; it's crazy to think that I'm a boxer now.

"It really does show you that your ancestors are looking out for you."

Dargan is a mother of one while also looking after her niece.

She was a relative latecomer to the discipline and only took it up in 2019. Even then, it took her coach, Aaron Bailie, to notice how much talent Dargan actually possessed but that that talent just needed some development. Bailie encouraged Dargan to take her training more seriously, and after seven amateur bouts she turned professional.

She made waves early as a pro. Her record to date is 5-2-2. Within that was the Australian Super Bantamweight title.

"Compared to other fighters, I started pretty late," Dargan said.

"When I went to the Campbelltown PCYC, it was just about fitness and benefitting mentally and physically (but) my trainers believed in me and asked me to come to the advanced class for boxers. I showed the commitment and skills needed and within three months I was having my first amateur fight."

Her Australian bouts have been promoted by No Limits Boxing, the organisation run by the Rose brothers – George, Matt and Trent. Dargan said the brothers have reinvigorated boxing in Australia and that it's a privilege to



Shanell Dargan (right) connects to the head of opponent Pannaporn Kaewpawong at the Wollongong Entertainment Centre earlier this year. Picture: Getty Images

fight on their cards.

"They've done so much for the sport here and to work with them was as honour," she said.

"They're professional and they've given me a platform to showcase my skills and talent and they've given a lot of other Black boxers that chance, too. They've definitely brought boxing back to life in Australia."

Dargan's most recent fight was her first

fight overseas; in Indonesia against local champion Felmy Sumaeh for the WBA Asia-Pacific title on (Saturday, 30 November).

The result went the way of Sumaeh with the judges' scorecards reading 97-93, 98-92, 97-93.

Dargan believes she was hard done by but that it also was a big learning experience for her.

"I knew I was going to face an uphill battle

to win and I had to try and take it out of the judges hands," she said.

"I still take something from that though, it'll make me a better boxer. I fought my heart out.

"I'm hoping that I have my next fight in March next year.

"I'm having some down time with my family, getting married in January, but then it's back to business."



Koorie Basketball Academy land feet first on Ladji Ladji Country at Mildura



THE Koori Academy basketball program landed on Ladji Ladji Country at Mildura in Victoria's north recently where around 100 kids took part in several clinics in a day of basketball, culture, and connection.

The academy teamed up

with local youth organisation Kiilalaana to deliver the program for youngsters aged 4-11 and 12-17.

It was the first time the academy headed north and founder, Ricky Baldwin, who was earlier named 2024 Victorian Male Elder of the Year, much due to his tireless

work in this space.

"We had an all-Aboriginal coaching team, too; creating a safe and empowering space for the kids," Baldwin said.

"And the local Elders there expressed their amazement at the big turnout of kids and their high level of engagement throughout the day."

With healthy snacks from Kiilalaana that fuelled everyone's energy a healthy, and later a Bunnings-inspired barbecue lunch, Baldwin led the kids through a sporting and cultural workshop.

"This is where the kids can learn all about their cultural heritage as well," Baldwin said.



Above: The turnout of kids at the Koori Academy basketball clinic at Mildura numbered close to 100. Far left: Jida Cooper goes the dunk in an exhibition of his skills. Left: Some of the participants at the event.



Boland back breaking bails

AUS TEST cricket specialist and fan-favourite Scott Boland slotted back into the international arena in the manner he first left it – confounding batsmen with his precision bowling. Boland played his role in the Second Test against India with aplomb, where he claimed an aggregate 5-105 off 20.5 overs.

● More, Page 54

Scott Boland celebrates the wicket of India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal in the second innings of the Second Test at Adelaide Oval. Picture: Peter Argent

Austin, Barrell two new voices on Aus Paralympic Athletes Commission

AUS FIRST Nations para-athletes will have two staunch advocates in their corner with Tracy Barrell and Ben Austin joining the Paralympics Australia Athletes Commission. Barrell and Austin were invited to join the commission prior to the Paris Games; the twin appointments was made official late last month. The pair also form PA's First Nations Advisory Group. Barrell is on the board of the National

Indigenous Sports Foundation and is a public speaker on many topics she is passionate about, particularly on matters affecting her people. "Paralympics Australia is such a supportive environment," she said. "They were looking for people and so they asked us; and so when the time comes, for our people, Ben can do men's business and I can do women's business." The PAAC will call on the pair's expertise in the field of play, and what is possible for First Nations

para-athletes coming through. "They (PAAC) have a direct line to the executive so this is a great opportunity to not just talking about plans but execute them," Barrell said. "We want to bring in our expertise of cultural practice, to be more inclusive and put proper plans in place to get more Indigenous involved in para-sport. "Implementing things like formalising other forms of documentation of an athletes' progression because if

they're out in the communities they won't necessarily have registered coaches nearby to verify that progress." Barrell, who was awarded an OAM in 1993, competed in the pool at the 1992 Barcelona Paralympics and won gold in the 4x50 metres freestyle women's relay and the 50 metres butterfly S4. Austin won 12 Paralympic medals between Sydney 2000 and Beijing 2008, also in the pool.



– Darren Moncrieff Tracy Barrell.

Ben Austin.

WAC to take 2025 Koori Knockout to Tamworth

By DARREN MONCRIEFF

NSW COUNTRY for Kamilaroi-Gamilaroi-Gomeroi will host the 53rd NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival after back-to-back champions Walgett settled on the state's Northern Tablelands capital.

Walgett Aboriginal Connection's 2024 Koori Knockout triumph give the organisation hosting rights for the 2025 event, and a location of their choosing, as per a long-standing KO tradition. This would be Tamworth's first time as host of the event that began in 1971. The "capital of Australian Country & Western music" sits on Country-belong the

Kamilaroi-Gamilaroi-Gomeroi Peoples. "WAC is proud to bring the tournament to Tamworth," WAC supremo and NRL premiership player George Rose said. "This is the first chance we have had to defend our title on Gamilaroi Country since it was held in Walgett over 30 years ago. "We are proud to be back on Gamilaroi

Country with our people and representing WAC on the greatest weekend of the year." KO organisers said they will collaborate with Gomeroi leaders to ensure the tournament "reflects and respects the traditions of the land and its people".

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