



Koori Mail

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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

EDITION 843

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025

PUBLISHED SINCE 1991

Phone: (02) 66 222 666

www.koorimail.com

Recommended price \$2.99 (GST-inclusive)



**STOP
PRETENDING YOUR
RACISM
IS PATRIOTISM**

Full Invasion Day coverage, pages 28-35

Picture: Cole Baxter

INSIDE



Bobbi is a hit at Australian Open

PAGE 4



Bush to Beach is a blast for kids

PAGE 12



Cultural fishing disappointment

PAGE 16



Q and A with Emily Wurramara

PAGE 21

MY FAMILY Kiarah Mack (Mparntwe - Alice Springs)



Kiarah Mack, Deanella Mack, Ethan Satour, Shaniah Satour and Chris Robles.

Werte (hello), my name is Kiarah (Kia) Mack, I'm an Arrernte woman from Central Australia.

I recently moved to Bundjalung Country from Mparntwe (Alice Springs) and I am honoured to take up a cadetship with the *Koori Mail* which is 100% Aboriginal-owned.

In my previous role I worked as a cadet journalist for ICTV (Indigenous Community Television) back in my hometown of Mparntwe (Alice Springs), after living in Meanjin (Brisbane) for the past five years.

In my new role with the *Koori Mail* I'll be learning about writing articles and how to conduct interviews with people from different cities across Australia, as well as remote communities.

Growing up, surrounded by the McDonnell Ranges, some of my favourite ways to pass time included visits to clay-pans, cooking using campfire and walking along dirt roads with my family on our homelands.

My father's family are the Tilmouths and Satours. With the Satour side, there's some ancestry of one or two Afghan cameleers who married into the family on Arrernte Country.

On my mother's side of the family are the Macks.

We like to catch up around birthdays, barbecues, engagement parties, Christmas and sports like footy and netball whenever my younger cousins or aunts are playing.

My family loves footy and it's probably due to my great-grandfather, who was an eastern Arrernte man from Alcoota, being the first Aboriginal person in Mparntwe to umpire football.

I have a genuine passion for storytelling in all its forms, especially when it comes to sharing our experiences from an Indigenous perspective.

I believe this helps our communities and Mobs feel proud of our history, leading to a greater understanding of our culture and connection to Country.

SHARE YOUR FAMILY WITH OUR READERS

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

OUR CHILDREN



A favourite activity at the Putalina Festival in Lutruwita/Tasmania recently was spear making, followed by target practice. Full coverage, pages 26-27.

Koori Mail

Postal Address
PO Box 117, Lismore, NSW, 2480

Street Address
11 Molesworth Street, Lismore, 2480
Telephone (02) 66 222 666
www.koorimail.com

STAFF

CEO: Naomi Moran – ceo@koorimail.com

Editor: Darren Coyne – editor@koorimail.com

Newspaper Advertising: advertising@koorimail.com

Job Web Advertising: webads@koorimail.com

Accounts: accounts@koorimail.com

Subscriptions: subs@koorimail.com

Advertising Rates

\$18.50 (+ GST) a column centimetre casual rate (discounts available for multiple bookings).
Spot and full colour available.

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>

The *Koori Mail* is published by Budsoar Pty Ltd and printed by SpotPress, 26 Lillian Fowler Place, Marrickville NSW 2204.

The Aboriginal flag is reproduced in the *Koori Mail* by permission of its author, Harold Thomas.

The *Koori Mail* is owned equally by Nungera Co-operative (Maclean), Bundjalung Tribal Society (Lismore), Kurrachee Co-operative (Coraki), Buyinbin Co-operative (Casino) and Bunjum Co-operative (Cabbage Tree Island), all on the NSW north coast.

Items published in *Koori Mail* may be reproduced by Budsoar Pty Ltd on our website – www.koorimail.com

KOORI MAIL – 100% ABORIGINAL-OWNED 100% ABORIGINAL-CONTROLLED

More forest arrests

By JILLIAN MUNDY



RUTH Langford/Tipruthanna who was arrested in the Eastern Tiers Forest Reserve last week protesting the logging of native forests says the real criminals are those allowing the destruction to continue.

Hers was the latest in string of arrests in forestry coupes around Lutruwita/Tasmania, as more people answer Palawa Elder Uncle Jim Everett puralia meenamatta's call to end native forestry logging and reinstall Palawa law in Country.

Langford, a Yorta Yorta and Dja Dja Wurrung woman, who was born and raised in Lutruwita, says she has a cultural responsibility to Palawa and their Country.

"This arrest shows how flawed the current colonial system is, the real criminals are the government agencies who are destroying our precious waterways, exposing us to potentially catastrophic fires and failing to protect endangered species in their homes."

She said the minister, police commissioner and prosecutor should not be wasting public funds charging Aboriginal people who are protecting Country.

"The colonial courts and institutions have no jurisdiction over Aboriginal people protecting Law in Country," she said.

"It's my turn to step up. My Elders and those that have gone before are sources of inspiration – this is nothing new to our people, it's just another step in fighting for our land. Radical resistance works."

Langford's mother, the late Ros Langford, was arrested in the 1980s protecting Kuti Kina cave and was instrumental in stopping the Franklin Dam. The iconic campaign drew international attention, destabilised parliaments and ushered in federal environmental laws and the birth of the Greens Party.

Langford hopes the upcoming federal

election will result in a hung parliament.

"It would break the monopoly of the two parties and give our people and our country a chance."

Langford looks forward to the day police officers will be arresting those destroying Country rather than those defending it.

"My hope is this will be soon – before the damage is so immense that it is irreversible. I believe the tide is turning and people are not buying extractive industry and government propaganda, including many working for colonial governments," she said.

A recent poll commissioned by the Australian Climate and Biodiversity Foundation and conducted by Pyxis Polling and Insights showed ending native forest logging is set to become an election issue.

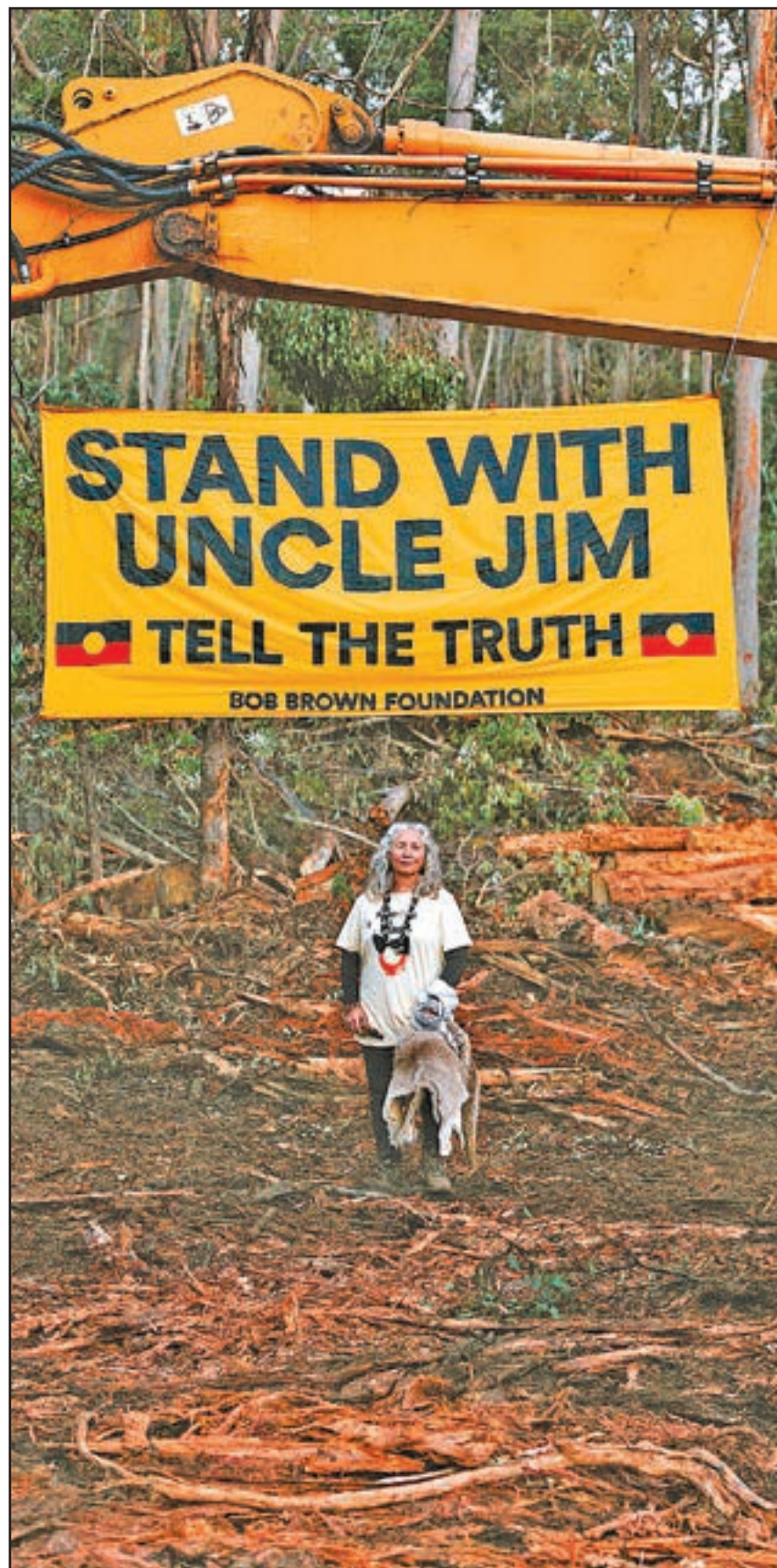
Habitat

The forest Langford was arrested in last week on Lutruwita's east coast is known as a breeding ground and habitat for the critically endangered Swift Parrot.

Alongside her were Palawa community members Carleeta Thomas and Cody Gangell and allies. Langford has been working alongside Everett, calling for people to stand with him to restore Palawa Law in Country and end native forest logging.

Both the Bob Brown Foundation and Grass Roots Action Network Tasmania have answered Everett's call and supported 20 days of action in the lead up to Invasion Day.

Uncle Jim Everett was arrested and charged with trespass defending native forests in March last year, then again on his 82nd birthday in October. As the *Koori Mail* went to press, these charges were being heard before a magistrate 'ex parte', meaning the case proceeds regardless of whether Everett turns up to court or not. He has expressed on several occasions that the colonial court has no jurisdiction over him and he has a right to protect his country.



Ruth Langford just before her arrest protecting native forest in Eastern Tiers Forest Reserve. Photograph Ramji Ambrosiussen/Bob Brown Foundation



Cody Gangell, Carleeta Thomas and Ruth Langford. Photograph – Jillian Mundy

Scientist named Young Australian of the Year



KATRINA Wruck's scientific research is helping to change Indigenous communities, one load of laundry at a time.

The Mabuigilaig and Goemulgal woman's work in the field of green chemistry has been pioneering, leading to the creation of the world's first reusable laundry system.

Through working with the abundant rock zeolite, Dr Wruck found a way to turn it into zeolite LTA, one of the main ingredients in laundry detergent and helps to

remove contaminants from water that causes hardness.

As part of her business Nguki Kula Green Labs, Dr Wruck has aimed to support Indigenous communities by boosting access to free laundry facilities while also addressing illnesses such as rheumatic heart disease.

Her research is also examining ways to break down toxic forever chemicals to make them benign, providing a way to reduce contamination in the environment.

The Indigenous scientist has been recognised for her work, being named as the Young

Australian of the Year.

The 30-year-old was given the honour by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Canberra on Saturday.

National Australia Day Council chair John Foreman said Dr Wruck's pioneering research was paving towards a sustainable future.

"Katrina is forging new futures for our planet and for industry," he said.

"Her achievements and community work show other young people that they, too, have opportunities in the world of science and technology."

– AAP



Katrina Wruck has been recognised for her scientific work.

Culture on display at Australian Open



BOBBI Lockyer's incredible art was splashed around Rod Laver Arena for the entirety of this year's Australian Open, bringing some pink to the world-famous competition.

An esteemed Ngarluma, Kariyarra, Nyul Nyul and Yawuru artist, Ms Lockyer is Tennis Australia's First Nations Artist for 2025.

With her artwork *Together* seen by millions of viewers around the world, Ms Lockyer said her aim was to convey unity and inclusivity, celebrating the shared experiences of people from diverse backgrounds at the Australian Open from January 6-26.

"My artwork tells the story of togetherness, and everyone coming together – it's a story of unity – the perfect theme for the Australian Open," Ms Lockyer said.

Inclusivity

"In the artwork, I have painted symbols to represent how diverse and inclusive this event is, with people coming from all walks of life – from all over the world – for a shared experience," she said.

"I also included river lines to show and symbolise harmony, while the gum blossom and wattle leaves represent and honour the beautiful Welcome to Country from Aunt Joy at the 2024 Australian Open."

Ms Lockyer said being named as Tennis Australia's First Nations Artist for



Bobbi Lockyer's art was featured at this year's Australian Open in Naarm.

2025 is a proud moment.

"To be involved in this way, and to be able to put Indigenous Art out there for

the world to see, makes me so happy,"

Ms Lockyer said.

"By having Indigenous art on the world

stage at such a prestigious event like this helps to make other Indigenous people feel welcome too."

Koori Mail

ABN: 19 053 994 915

SUBSCRIPTION FORM 2025

Have the **Koori Mail** – Australia's National Indigenous Newspaper – delivered to your home or office for the following and **SAVE!!!**

3 Months (6 editions) - \$40 (includes - \$3.64 gst) - OR

6 Months (12 editions) - \$60 (includes - \$5.45 gst) - OR

1 Year (25 editions) - \$100 (includes - \$9.09 gst) - OR

2 Years (50 editions) - \$175 (includes - \$15.91 gst)

Renewal: ☐ New Subscription: ☐ Invoice Me: ☐

Enclosed is \$..... for ☐ 3 months ☐ 6 months ☐ 1 Year ☐ 2 Years

Direct Deposit: ☐ Cheque enclosed: ☐

Please charge my Credit Card: ☐ MASTER CARD ☐ VISA ☐

(PLEASE TICK APPLICABLE CARD)

Card Expiry Date: / / CVC

Name of Card Holder:

DISCOUNT BULK SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone: Fax:

Signature: Contact Name:

Email: Contact Phone No:

Mail your completed form to:

Subscription Officer

Koori Mail Newspaper

PO Box 117 Lismore NSW 2480

PH: 02 66 222 666 (ext 3) Email: subs@koorimail.com

Customer ID Number:

Please photocopy this form for your tax records.
This will be a TAX INVOICE FOR GST when payment is made.

Combatting racism

The first-time racism filled my body and changed me was when I was eight years old on a family holiday to Mparntwe/Alice Springs. Of course I had felt racism before but never like what I experienced that trip. What I saw, felt and experienced has stayed with me my whole life.

In fact, when my husband Steven and I took our son Taj, around the age of six, on a road trip to Uluru and he wanted to stop in Mparntwe for a few days, the stop came with conditions to prolong the inevitable. My privilege allowed me to stay in a hotel by the pool with Taj for the three days, while Steven did the full tourist experience, he loved the Country but could feel and see why I kept our son away. I just couldn't have my son carrying this same hurt, at this young age too.

I have been back to Mparntwe easily over 10 times since then with work and every time my heart breaks a little more for my people who are as a whole, in my opinion, treated like second class citizens. The power imbalance and racism I witness is as thick as it was when I was eight years old, in my eyes, it's like a time capsule of Australia at its worst, when it comes to all levels of racism still being practised daily.

In saying this through my work, I have had the privilege of seeing the brilliant Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people, who have made it their life work to fight against this every day, so that Aboriginal people have equal rights and equity is their right. They fight against systemic



Shelley's view

racism that is so deeply embedded within the town and surrounding Country. They have solutions that will bring a strength within our community, to better the whole community. I feel I must also mention, they love living on their Country in Mparntwe, but acknowledge the need for healing and change.

Last year I watched NITV's *The Point* about how Elders and young people are working their hearts out for our young people in Mparntwe. People who are a part of 'Kids on Country not in Custody' and the grandmother's group and other organisations. All so our children remain on Country with family, so they are taught language, culture and connections and can see a positive future for themselves. Their work is invaluable.

We have just seen 40 police deployed from South Australia to

Mparntwe at the NT police commissioner's request as the youth crime is out of control. I cannot condone the violence and the crimes being committed and the fear that people are living in. I hope the help is delivered with an open heart and mind.

Part of me understands the anger in these young ones and why we are at this point but this anger needs to be healed as it hurts too many people, including themselves. Even though these police may be a quick fix for the moment, we need to look deeper into the why and make some real changes within the community of Mparntwe, which will take time.

May the wider community of Mparntwe see the role they play and make changes themselves. May our ancestors surround Mparntwe and our people, especially our children, so they can help guide them. To our people fighting for them on the ground every day, thank you and I hope those that need healing, find their connections so this pain and anger stops.

My heart aches as I watch on and I hope that all of us look to our own spheres of influence and ask what can we can do to bring calm, culture, connection, hope, trust, healing and joy to these young people, sooner than later. I also hope the young people, who are doing the right thing for themselves, their family, community, culture and people are respected, celebrated and honoured, as they too walk the streets of Mparntwe.

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

Experts warn 'discriminatory' changes target Aboriginal kids



PROPOSED changes to child protection laws affecting Aboriginal children are discriminatory and "extremely concerning", experts in the sector say.

The Northern Territory government is planning to amend child protection laws to give courts and the Department of Children and Families powers to override national guidelines under the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle.

Current laws provide protections for Aboriginal children in care, including placing them with family or kin and close to Country, however a "special and exceptional circumstance" provision would be added under draft legislation.

In documents circulated to the child protection sector last Thursday, Department of Children and Families drafting instructions state: "a court has discretion to not uphold the principle in special/exceptional circumstances" if it is believed doing so would adversely affect the child.

The Aboriginal Child Placement Principle was developed to provide nationally accepted standards for Indigenous children in care after a series of reports in the past 30 years, including the 1997 *Bringing Them Home* Report.

Currently, more than 90 per cent of children in care in the Northern Territory are Aboriginal.

North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service chief executive Cindy Torrens, a Warlmanpa and Wambay woman, said the proposed amendments were "extremely concerning" and would weaken the intention of the law.

"The Northern Territory child protection system has been the subject of an unprecedented number of inquiries and reports, including a royal commission," she said.

"These reports tell us over and over again that our children's



More than 90 per cent of children in care in the Northern Territory are Aboriginal.

connections to culture, family, community and Country are integral to their safety and wellbeing."

Ms Torrens said it had been only two months since the coroner recommended strengthening the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle following the tragic death of a six-month-old baby in care.

"We urgently need to repair this broken system ... and shift the unequal power dynamics that have historically existed between child protection and our families," she said.

Both the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) and the NT Children's Commissioner made submissions urging the territory government to rethink its proposal after the bodies were given just 48 hours to provide feedback.

"This type of exception does

not exist elsewhere in Australia and should not be introduced in the Northern Territory," SNAICC chief executive Catherine Liddle wrote.

"On its face, the amendment appears discriminatory in its design and to limit Aboriginal children's rights specifically."

Ms Liddle said the discriminatory nature of the amendments went against recommendations made in numerous reports intended to prevent further stolen generations.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy said she shared concerns about the proposed changes.

"Under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, all governments have committed to reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home

care," Senator McCarthy said.

Asked whether there were plans to amend or remove the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle, a spokeswoman for the Department of Children and Families said the safety and wellbeing of children was the priority.

"We are committed to working with children, families and Aboriginal communities to ensure culturally appropriate responses to safety concerns for children in the Northern Territory," the spokeswoman said in a statement.

"There are no plans to remove the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle in Care and Protection of Children Act 2007."

NT Attorney-General Marie-Claire Boothby said the government would no longer accept the "status quo" when it

came to community safety, including Aboriginal children.

"We will do things differently under this government and we won't apologise for that," she told reporters.

"We want to see that all legislation we consider is putting territorians' rights above the rights of offenders ... if there are laws that need to be changed, then they will be changed."

Opposition Leader Selena Uibo said the Country Liberal Party (CLP) government was "prioritising political point-scoring".

"Alarming, some of these changes seem to target Aboriginal children and families specifically," she said. The CLP must explain why they are creating laws that single out one segment of our community."

— AAP

TAFE NSW

Be yourself

TAFE NSW supports more than 35,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. With dedicated Aboriginal staff, culturally safe spaces, and specialist services, we're here to help you on your learning journey.

Learn new skills through our wide range of high quality education and training courses. Explore courses in Hospitality, Tourism, Business and Training & Assessment.

Be deadly at TAFE NSW.

Enrol now for Semester 1, 2025.

www.tafensw.edu.au

131 601

TAFE NSW is approved by Liquor and Gaming NSW FY 2023/2024 to deliver RSA, RCG, Licensee/Advanced Licensee courses.

RTO 90003 | CRICOS 00591E | HEP PRV12049



Women unite for change

By JILLIAN MUNDY



ABORIGINAL women from the South West of Western Australia have joined forces to have their voices heard in places of influence and drive positive change in their communities.

Inspired and mentored by the Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council, over 80 Aboriginal women met on Wardandi Boodja Country in Goomburrup (Bunbury) earlier this month.

The historic two-day event, or 'roundtable', brought together Aboriginal women aged from 13 to 83, with decades of experience between them across government, community services, private enterprise, entrepreneurship and family, including leaders, students, retirees and stay-at-home mums.

Known as the South West Aboriginal Women's Collective (SWAWC), by mid-year they plan to be a legal entity, elect their inaugural board and co-design their first regional action plan with and for Aboriginal women.

"We haven't had a voice for a long time in places where decisions are being made," said collective's co-founder and planning committee chairperson Banjima (Pilbura) and Noongar/Ballardong woman Michelle Woosnam.

"Kids are still going to jail at really young ages, we've got overcrowding in jails, we've got overcrowding in our houses, we've only got one women's refuge for the whole south west, there is lack of voice and lack of consultation with south west women, no cultural hub for women," Woosnam said.

SWAWC is about systemic change. Their first priority is gender-based violence.

SWAWC's ambassador is 28-year-old Ballardong/Wardandi/Noongar woman from Bunbury, Courtney Ugle, an AFLW player and founder of Waangkiny – a social enterprise dedicated to empowering individuals and communities through the power of storytelling, breaking the stigma and silence of domestic violence.

"I am really honoured to be a part of South West Aboriginal Women's Collective, I'm really excited to see what we can generate together," she told the *Koori Mail*.

Ugle's father Glen Ugle passed away tragically when she was eleven years old, then eight years later her mother, Jody Websdale, who was just 42, was murdered in her home by her partner. These losses have shaped Ugle into the woman she is today and inspired the work she does.

"A lot of the work I do is in honour of my Mum. I think if she was still here, I would still be in this space, because she's one woman, and there are so many more women who have fallen victim to family and domestic violence.

"I've turned my pain into power, or adversity into influence," Ugle said.

Domestic violence can be a taboo subject in closely connected communities, addressing it is hard work.

"I have a deep personal commitment to really want to drive change and create change," said Ugle.

"The nature of this work is uncomfortable, our women are dying, we don't want to see those numbers rise."

Ugle has been sharing her own story in workshops and public speaking, educating others to recognise red flags and put boundaries in place, not just in intimate relationships, but all relationships.

She is committed to expanding her impact and ensuring that the pain she has experienced becomes a force for good – not just for herself, but for her community and generations to come.

"Waangkiny is a big part of my role with the Southwest women's collective," she said.

"I feel like I was equipped with the strength to be able to carry and do this work, it's not easy, but it's not impossible."

Woosnam said SWAWC will build women up.

"We want women to thrive, we want women to have choices, to see who they can be, open up the world, and instil that leadership confidence in them to know that their voices count, their

concerns count – we're building confidence in women's voices and valuing their voices."

She said it was not about reinventing the wheel, but investigating why existing services aren't working, or not welcoming, and how can we work together to make positive change.

While SWAWC is for Mob, Woosnam says it has the potential to improve life for anybody in the South West region of WA facing the same issues.

Their vision and commitment were supported by sponsors and partners including Alcoa, Volunteering WA, Oxfam Australia, South West Development Commission, South West Women's Health & Information Centre, Milligan and Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council. The event was further enhanced by the dedication of volunteers led by Bec Harnett, whose contributions were instrumental to its success.

The collective plan to meet again in April.



Over 80 women turned out to the two-day South West Aboriginal Women's Collective Roundtable.



Roundtable facilitator Vanessa Elliot, Senator Sue Lines and CEO of Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council Janine Dureau discuss 'Leadership in Words and Wisdom'.



Dr Lynette Narkle shares an excerpt from Tracy Westermans book *Jilya* – 'the actions we take as leaders should never be about gaining more power for ourselves, but ensuring more is gained for others'.



South West Aboriginal Women's Collective inaugural committee together at the roundtable. Changes to address gender-based violence is their priority.



Auntie Allison Rodgers with young Tex Hill.



The Phenomenal Women's Panel: Courtney Ugle, Lesley Nelson, Amy Binder, Rhonda Norman, Lesley Ugle and Joanne Hill.



South West Aboriginal Women's Collective Chair Michelle Woosnam.



The Phenomenal Women's Panel Courtney Ugle, Lesley Nelson, Amy Binder, Rhonda Norman, Lesley Ugle and Joanne Hill.



There was representation across generations at the roundtable – Wiradjuri mother and daughter Harper and Nicole Pearce, who live in Bunbury.



Collective planning committee members Michelle Woosnam and Jodie Riley.



Local Elder Nan Melba Wallam, Vanessa Elliot and Aunty Coral Woosnam.



Cassidy McGuire – amongst the serious conversations were laughs, tears and connection.



South West Aboriginal Women's Collective Ambassador Courtney Ugle is using her WAFL profile and her own journey born into a family where domestic violence was normalised, resulting in the murder of her mother, to break the cycle of toxic relationships.



Wadandi woman from Busselton, Tahn Donovan, from Karri Karrak Association, spoke of the importance of leading with strong governance.



Local Leaders Joanne Hill and Aunty Karen Jetta.



Kungarakan woman Lowana Corley representing Shooting Stars Foundation.



Facilitator Vanessa Elliot with Paige Dann and Courtney Collard.

Resistance fighters remembered

By ALI MC



JANUARY 20 marks a significant date in both Victoria and Tasmania's violent colonial history, when in 1842

Tasmanian Aboriginal resistance fighters Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner became the first people hanged in Melbourne.

The execution of the two men is commemorated by a sculpture designed by Brook Andrew and Trent Walter and can be visited in Melbourne's CBD adjacent to the Old Melbourne Gaol.

Each year since 2016 – when the memorial was erected – a small crowd gathered at the site to pay their respects and keep the memory of Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner's sacrifice alive.

This year, attendees were addressed by representatives of the Peerapper Nation from North-West Tasmania, who had flown in especially to mark the occasion.

Camilla Wolley, Cultural Manager at the Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation, told the crowd that "for me, personally, Tunnerminnerwait and his story have impacted on my life in many ways. He inspired me to learn a lot more about my own history and my own story."

"He gave me a greater appreciation for the Country that I



Peter Benson, Selina Maquire, Camilla Wolley (Circular Head Aboriginal Corp, representatives of Peerapper Nation, North West Tasmania) with Dr Joe Toscano, Convenor of the Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner commemoration committee.

live on, a stronger connection to the culture and a pride for who I am, and at times, I have had to draw on his characteristics of strength, bravery, determination and the ability to adapt to adversity to get myself through," she said.

Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner were originally from what the British referred to as Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) and had been transported to what was then known as the Port Phillip District in 1839 by George Augustus Robinson, 'Protector of Aborigines'.

It has been recorded that Tunnerminnerwait – from the Parperloihener clan of north-west Tasmania – had witnessed the

Cape Grim massacre in 1828 as an 11-year-old, when many of his own people were killed.

After being transported to the new Port Phillip colony, Tunnerminnerwait accompanied George Robinson on a tour of the Western District from March to August 1841 where they heard testimonies about frontier violence.

They also investigated the Convincing Ground massacre in which between 60 and 200 members of a Gunditjmara clan were killed by whale-hunters at Portland Bay.

After his return, Tunnerminnerwait left Melbourne with Maulboyheenner, and along with three other Tasmanian

Aboriginal women – Truganini, Pytterriner and Planobeena – waged an eight-week guerilla war against the British settlement in the Port Philip area.

The five resistance fighters stole two guns and ammunition from a settler's hut at Bass River, robbed stations from Dandenong to Western Port and South Gippsland districts on the outskirts of Melbourne, wounded four white men and killed two whale-hunters.

It took three military expeditions to successfully track and capture them, with the help of native police. All five were captured in November 1841 at Powlett River.

While the women were exonerated, Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner were sentenced to death, becoming the first people officially executed in the new colony.

After much lobbying with Melbourne City Council, the sculpture to commemorate this tragic aspect of the Frontier Wars was commissioned and opened in 2016.

Since then, an annual commemoration has been held by people keeping the memory of Tunnerminnerwait, Maulboyheenner, Truganini, Pytterriner and Planobeena alive.

Camilla Wolley reflected further on Tunnerminnerwait's inspiring story at this year's event:

"A hero is typically defined as someone who is admired for their

courage, remarkable achievements or noble qualities, someone who performs acts of bravery, selflessness or sacrifice for the benefit of others," she said.

"The Tunnerminnerwait story was not driven by the desire to be a hero. It was a story of survival, a fight for his people, a survivor, which he faced alongside his brothers and sisters until his final breath.

"For us, he is a hero. We admire him, not just for his courage, but for his resilience, determination and strength in the most harrowing of times."

Standing by Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner was the first monument to the Frontier Wars built in a major city in this country and sits amongst Indigenous medicine plants found in the landscape of Parperloihener clan (Cape Grim), Iarapuna (Bay of Fires), Woiworung and Boonwurrung of the Kulin Nations (Melbourne).

"He has left behind a lasting legacy for us, and reminds us every day of the importance of ensuring that we never forget him and all other Mobs from that Country and what they endured," Wolley continued.

"He encourages us to tell their stories and share their culture. Today we remember Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner and the sacrifices they gave."

Family and domestic violence is not always physical

If someone is controlling and does something bad over and over, it can make you feel scared, shame, and no good

...it's called

COERCIVE CONTROL

and it's not part of our culture

Look up on the internet

 wa.gov.au/familyviolence



Hitting the road to reconnect families with their ancestry



ABORIGINAL people in Western Australia will be able to access records, usually kept from the public eye, to find out more about their family history.

The restricted government files, which are closed to the public because of their sensitive nature, span from 1886 and 1972, and include information on births, family history, relatives, and medical records.

Research experts from Aboriginal History Western Australia can help people access these historical records, and will be travelling across the state's southwest to host free family history sessions.

They'll travel, alongside the State Library of Western Australia's Storylines team, to Collie, Manjimup, Margaret River, Busselton, Bunbury and Eaton, helping families begin the journey of researching their family history.

The Storylines archive holds more than 12,000 photographs and other documents relating to Aboriginal people in the state.

Aboriginal History WA community education officer Duane Kelly said these sessions are a great starting point for Indigenous people to know and understand more about their history.

"It's critical that community knows



A road trip through Western Australia's southwest hopes to help Aboriginal people take the first step in researching their family history.

about these records because it's people's family history, their personal ancestry and contains a lot of personal and sensitive information that can be life-changing for a

lot of people to understand who they are a bit better, particularly people that might have been removed or impacted by various policies," the Nanda and Amangu

man said.

Mr Kelly said Aboriginal History WA, which is part of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, also has a number of truth-telling projects, which will be highlighted at the family history sessions.

The truth-telling projects focus on institutions like missions and orphanages or other subjects like Aboriginal trackers, or the extent of Indigenous involvement in agricultural and pastoral leases in the state.

"The truth-telling projects are a way for us to highlight some of the lesser known aspects of WA's past relating to Aboriginal history as well as provide tools for families to do their own family history research," Mr Kelly said.

"The wider community, when they start to learn about more of these sort of topics, might have a greater understanding of what's happening within our community across the state and internationally as well and how these past policies have had a lasting impact on community today."

Family history sessions will be held in Collie on February 10, Manjimup and Margaret River on February 11, Busselton and Bunbury on February 12, and end in Eaton on February 13.

FEEL THE
SYDNEY SIDE
OF SUMMER

Search [sydney.com](https://www.sydney.com)



feel new sydney



Karajarri ranger Julian Nagomarra in the Kimberley region, Western Australia. (AAP)

Rangers need more funds



A FUTURE MADE IN AUSTRALIA IS HELPING PEOPLE LEARN NEW SKILLS



A Future Made in Australia economic plan is investing in people right across Australia to learn new skills. People can train in new and emerging industries with our **New Energy Apprenticeships Program**, and improve access to job opportunities for women in clean energy, digital and technology sectors with our **Building Women's Careers Program**. These are just some of the programs that will help Australians to gain the training and skills they need for the jobs of our future.



Australian Government



THE Karajarri Rangers in Western Australia's Kimberley region care for an area which spans 25,000 square kilometres.

Ranger Julian Nagomarra said his old people have given him important knowledge of his Country, which has been passed on through generations.

"Karajarri people have always lived in the desert and the Saltwater Country," he said.

"We have different seasons, we know what season is which for which animals.

"When everything is flowering in the desert, everything is getting healthy on the seaside."

Traditional Owners have a responsibility to look after Country, Yindjibarndi Nation chief executive Michael Woodley said.

The Pilbara-based organisation is a partner of non-profit Country Needs People, which supports Aboriginal rangers.

"Aboriginal rangers' work is imperative and needs a serious investment from government," he said.

"It's important that we all work to strengthen the work of rangers and Traditional Owners in caring for Country across Western Australia."

Western Australian Premier Roger Cook recently promised a \$20 million investment in the state's ranger program if his government is re-elected in March.

Mr Woodley welcomed the commitment, saying he was keen to work with whichever party was elected to strengthen the work of rangers.

Western Australia's ranger program has been running for seven years and Country Needs People chief executive Patrick O'Leary said it needs permanent support.

"It's now really important for every other party and candidate in the upcoming election to clearly state their position on supporting the work of WA's Aboriginal rangers", he said.

"We'd like to see the funding for this work become permanent and support more secure ranger jobs into the future because the need for this work is not going away, it's only getting more urgent."

The need for the work he does is not lost on Julian Nagomarra, who is seeing first hand the impacts of climate change on his Country.

"A lot of crocodiles are moving down south from the north," he said.

"The old people wanted us to start the sea rangers up. (We) look after Country for them and us and our future.

"We need this place, we still live off the land so that's why Country needs people and people need Country." – AAP

Coral back in Australia after more than 100 years in US



Samples of the returned coral.



TORRES Strait Islanders have been "reunited with part of their homelands, spirit and culture" as a significant collection of coral, taken from the area more than 100 years ago, is returned to Australia from the United States.

The corals were collected from Mer Island, in the eastern area of the Torres Strait, by an American scientist in 1913.

The corals were identified as originating from the island by a James Cook University and Queensland Museum post-doctoral research fellow who was undertaking studies at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in the US.

The corals hold profound cultural and ecological importance for the Torres Strait community, often used in ceremonial contexts, storytelling and other traditional practices.

They symbolise connection to ancestral lands and the natural environment of the Torres Strait.

"For the Meriam peoples, Wes Wes (corals) are a part of us and our sea estate," Mer Gedkem Le Corporation chairperson Faleh Passi said.

"They are significant story to our identity as to the land on which we live."

Torres Strait Regional Authority chairperson Napau Pedro Stephen said Elders have described the corals as a garden.

"Coral provides shelter for the fish of the sea, food source for many of the species and therefore they're one to us as being the custodian of the land," he said.

"This coral is very much part of the custodianship of the sea."

Following the rediscovery of the corals two years ago, negotiations with the Smithsonian for their return began, led by Meriam Traditional Owners, Queensland Museum and the Torres Strait Regional Authority.

Mr Stephen said it had been an important and emotional journey to secure their return.

"Kemer Kemer Meriam Nation will be reunited with part of their homeland, spirit and culture that was taken more than 100 years ago from the Torres Strait to the United States," he said.

"This recognition of the enduring connection between Torres Strait Islanders, land and sea is significant for Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait) and more widely, Australia as a nation."

It was a moment of mixed emotions for Mr Stephen when the corals were finally back on Australian soil.

"It's a feeling of joy and sadness at the same time," he said.

"I look back at the time of the 1900s when those coral was first taken away, it's like taking something from you that's part of you."

Mr Passi said the significance of the return is about much more than having the corals physically back in Australia.

"The return of the corals is not just about physical artefacts, but about acknowledging and honouring the cultural, spiritual and historical rights of the Meriam people wherever you live, while promoting reconciliation and cultural preservation," he said.

The corals will be kept at Queensland Museum in Townsville, under an agreement with Meriam Traditional Owners.

- AAP

Price gets new role



PETER Dutton has finally unveiled his new-look front bench, which includes a newly created Donald Trump-style "government efficiency" portfolio.

The opposition leader revealed the changes at a press conference in Cairns, announcing MP David Coleman would replace retiring Senator Simon Birmingham as shadow foreign affairs minister.

Mr Dutton also made the eye-catching announcement of Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price as his shadow minister



Jacinta Nampijinpa Price.

for government efficiency.

The new portfolio is almost certainly inspired by US President Donald Trump's Department of Government Efficiency.

That department, led by billionaire Elon

Musk, is not an official agency but is the president's move to trim government programs and spending.

"There's a lot of waste that's been generated over the course of the last two and a half years, \$6 billion a year spent on 36,000 new public servants in Canberra that are of no assistance whatsoever to the people of Cairns, and the people of regional communities who want additional investment," Mr Dutton told reporters.

Senator Price adds that portfolio to her Indigenous Australians gig, where she successfully campaigned against the proposed Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

More support is available

Changes to student loans will reduce student loan debt.

SUPPORTING / AUSTRALIANS

For more information visit supportingaustralians.gov.au

Australian Government

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

Bush to Beach celebrates 20 years empowering youth



Participants in this year's Bush to Beach program were eager to hit the surf at South Narrabeen in NSW, learn water safety, snorkelling and even surf for the first time.



THIS year the Bush to Beach program celebrated 20 years of Indigenous children from far North West NSW participating in an unforgettable experience of a beach adventure.

A group of approximately 30 children, aged eight to 15, from Brewarrina, Weilmoringle and Goodooga embarked on a transformative journey to South Narrabeen from January 24-27.

The weekend rewarded the children's commitment to school attendance with a chance to engage in exciting beach

activities. Held at the South Narrabeen Surf Club, the children were guided by surf life savers and local Nippers and taught how to snorkel, learn water safety and even surf for the first time.

Important

One of the original participants, Murriwarri Ngemba Yuwaalaraay man Christopher 'Burra' McHughes was welcomed back this year to share with the children his experiences taking part in the program.

"The program is so important to the community here," Burra said.

"I was a kid from the bush who all of a sudden found myself exposed to totally new experiences and a different environment from what I was used to," he said.

"It took me a while to realise the impact Bush to Beach has."

Burra's journey began in 2005 when he experienced the ocean for the very first time on a Bush to Beach trip.

He said that the program "opened his eyes to what is possible".

These days, Burra serves as a founding member of the NSW Rural Fire Service's first Indigenous State Mitigation crew in Brewarrina and Bourke.

He is also an accomplished photographer and the inaugural Bush to Beach director.

As part of the 20th anniversary celebrations, Burra went to South Narrabeen to share his journey and the impact of the Bush to Beach program with the next generation of participants.

Burra reinforced the importance of resilience, education and cultural pride.

"The Bush to Beach program gives participants a reason to work hard, stay in school, and it provides them with opportunities they otherwise wouldn't normally have had," he said.

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

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

DILIN DUWA
CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS BUSINESS LEADERSHIP



Join the Dilin Duwa network of Indigenous professionals who are making an impact across the nation.

Programs available:

- **MURRA Indigenous Business Masterclass** - for business owners and managers.
- **Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Business Leadership** - for senior managers, executives and aspiring researchers.

For more information, contact
Chris Riley (Noongar), Program Manager,
chris.riley@unimelb.edu.au



The Bush to Beach program rewards children's commitment to school attendance.

TELSTRA NATSIAA
2025 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Closes 2 March 2025
magnt.net.au/natsiaa



Toxic foam used in celebrations



DEFENCE staff unwittingly sprayed toxic firefighting foam to entertain children before a coastal village was

contaminated with "forever chemicals", an inquiry has been told.

The Commonwealth agreed to pay \$22 million to people living in Wreck Bay, on the NSW south coast, after the toxic foam used at nearby defence sites leaked into sacred waterways.

The settlement of the civil action, brought by the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council, was approved by the Federal Court in 2023.

Members of the Wreck Bay Indigenous community last week told a federal inquiry of their continued concerns about contracting cancers and their inability to fish and swim in their waterways.

Shine Lawyers' Craig Allsopp, who worked on the case, said there was anecdotal evidence that defence staff made "snow" fields out of the firefighting foam during Christmas celebrations.

Without realising the toxicity of the foam, workers also sprayed the foam to farewell colleagues.

"They just had no idea," Mr Allsopp told the inquiry sitting in Nowra.

"I don't think there's any doubt that this land is contaminated."

The inquiry is examining the social, economic and environmental effects of PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances), including sources of exposure and the adequacy of regulations.

PFAS chemicals are known for their heat, water and stain resistance and have been commercially produced for decades

for use in firefighting foam, aviation, carpets, cookware, fabric and cosmetics.

PFAS was once used in firefighting and the chemicals have been detected near defence bases and airports around Australia.

The defence department has remediated 28 sites since 2015, including two near Wreck Bay, where 21 million litres of water has been treated to limit further contamination.

"We remove PFAS from the water, which is the way we will limit its capacity to continue moving off base and through both groundwater and surface water into communities," acting associate secretary Celia Perkins said.

David Goldberg, who worked as a GP in Wreck Bay from 2000 to 2008, said he suspected the community was subject to a cancer cluster likely due to PFAS exposure.

Two patients from one family died before the age of 50, one from breast cancer and the other from bowel cancer.

"I'm aware that many people are dying, that most of them it's from cancer," Dr Goldberg said.

Dr Goldberg said it was statistically impossible to prove cancer clusters due to small sample sizes, but there was international evidence that PFAS was a likely carcinogen.

While it was highly likely PFAS was having health effects, there was no doubt the contamination had diminished the cultural practices of the Indigenous community, he said.

They were unable to swim, fish or grow vegetables in order to reduce potential harms.

"What price do you put on that for a non-stick frying pan?" Dr Goldberg said. "I don't think it's worth it."

— AAP

Learn today. Lead tomorrow.

Experience a university degree with the flexibility to maintain your work, family and cultural commitments.

Study education, arts, law, nursing, social work, land and sea country management, public health or Indigenous research through our Community Based Delivery.

deakin.edu.au/nikeri
1800 063 383

Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 00113B

NIKERI
INSTITUTE



Australian Government
National Indigenous
Australians Agency



NIAA

Are you an employer in a remote community or want to become one?

You can apply for a grant to create new jobs in your community, through the Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) program.

This is the first stage in replacing the Community Development Program (CDP).

Grants will support eligible employers to employ local people in new jobs by funding wages and equipment.

To apply or find out more –
visit **www.niaa.gov.au/remote-jobs**
call **1800 079 098** or visit your local NIAA office.



XC1000_RJED_NIAA_190x147.5



Australian Government
National Indigenous
Australians Agency



NAIDOC Local Grants 2025 Applications Now Open

The NAIDOC Local Grants online application for 2025 is now open. NAIDOC Local Grants support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and supporting organisations to deliver local NAIDOC Week activities and events in communities and regions around Australia.

Register and complete an application at GrantConnect:
www.grants.gov.au.

Applications close **Thursday 20 February at 3.00pm AEDT.**

The 2025 NAIDOC Week theme is "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision, Legacy". Find out more about NAIDOC Week 2025 at:
www.naidoc.org.au.

0364NS_5354



SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING SURVEY

We are running a quick, anonymous survey to help shape the best suicide prevention training for our community. Have your say before 28 February:

nbmphn.com.au/SuicidePreventionTrainingSurvey



news



New island homes

By ALF WILSON



PALM Island Mayor Alf Lacey has hailed a new state government 'Home Ownership Scheme' on the north Queensland Aboriginal Shire as a program which will give locals a sense of ownership and pride. The scheme was announced by the recently elected David Crisafulli government on January 23 and Cr Lacey said it had been the culmination of decades of struggles by locals and councils. "This is helping to close the gap and I am sure First Nations communities including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders will welcome it," Cr Lacey said. It will allow Palm Islanders to become homeowners on a community they love. More than 300 such properties in the community will be able to be purchased under a



Palm Island mayor Alf Lacey.

rent-to-buy model. The model allows residents to purchase their government-owned social housing home by entering into an agreement with the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. After the completion of a payment plan, a 99-year home ownership lease will be registered and the ownership of

the house will be transferred over to the tenant. Queensland Minister for Housing and Public Works Sam O'Connor visited the island with local MPs Adam Baillie, Natalie Marr and Janelle Poole for the announcement. Cr Lacey said that since mission days on the community residents had been paying rent. "Now this makes it a reality that our First Nations people can buy their own homes and this is what they wanted for years," Cr Lacey said. Whilst Cr Lacey said the focus would be on established homes throughout the island he added that new buildings which would be built would also be available. "There are vacant blocks on Palm Island which people call family plots and new homes on these would be welcomed." Palm Island is 48 nautical miles from Townsville and has about 3,000 permanent residents.

IMP: It's more than running

Applications for IMP 2025 now open!



Are you an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person aged 18-30? Apply now to be a part of the 16th Indigenous Marathon Project squad. Embark on the journey of a lifetime and inspire your family and community. You will be trained and supported to run the TCS New York City Marathon and complete the IMP education program. No running experience needed, but you must have the determination and commitment to make a difference. **Where will IMP take you?** To learn more about the application process or to apply visit www.imf.org.au/IMP/imp-applications-25/ or call 0477 111 477.

Check us out on social media



INDIGENOUS MARATHON PROJECT
#RUNSWEATINSPIRE



A motorised boat on the shore of Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. (AAP Images supplied by Sam Williams).



A group camped on the coast of Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.

A journey from canoe to dinghy



A 250km journey across the coast of Arnhem Land once took days in a dugout canoe, but is now a matter of hours in a motorised boat.

Traditional Owner and Elder Samuel Gulwa remembers journeying in a dugout canoe, surrounded by family and Elders, between the communities of Maningrida where he lives, and Waruwi on Goulburn Island.

It was during these trips, he was introduced to important places across the coastline.

"When we were travelling with the canoe, we used to stop and camp. My mother, she used to tell us, 'Come on you boys, make a big fire and I'll tell you all these sacred site areas'," Mr Gulwa said.

Now there is no need for camping as

the days of paddling along the coast are gone, with motorised boats condensing the epic journey into a four to five-hour trip.

Charles Darwin University anthropologist Sam Williams has been working with Mr Gulwa and a group of Elders in Maningrida to understand how the transition from canoe to tinnie has changed the journey.

Research focus

Looking particularly at the trip between Maningrida and Waruwi, Mr Williams' research paper focuses the implications of accelerated movement for Indigenous people's connection to Country.

"Our lives can move very quickly and that's a phenomenon that everybody in the world is experiencing," he said.

"I was really curious about what that means for the people I'm working with in Arnhem Land, in terms of the deep relationships they have to their ancestral Country, these particularly important places on their land."

While in some ways it is easier to access Country with advancements in marine transport, reduced travel times can also mean people are not connecting with Country in the same ways as they once did, Mr Williams said.

"Because things are faster, it's almost harder to do than ever to have the kind of interactions they (the Elders) really care about, which are ones where you actually engage with the Country as alive and sentient and as a source of deep ancestral power and meaning," Mr Williams said.

The Elders are determined to keep

connection to Country strong, and during their field work in 2023 and 2024 filmed videos speaking about areas of particular significance.

Videos

Although not a perfect solution, the hope is the videos will help young people learn about these places when spending time on Country is difficult.

"This is for the new generation, so they can see, so they can learn more," Mr Gulwa said.

"We made these videos for future generations, so they can watch and learn about this Country and know who their families are – to learn about kunak (Country) and nguya (clans)."

The research is part of a larger project commissioned by elders in Maningrida to renew and maintain connection to Country.

MH
Museums of History NSW

Coomaditchie

The Art of Place



WOLLONGONG
ART GALLERY

wollongong
city of innovation



On now at the **Museum of Sydney**
Free entry mhnsw.au

Coomaditchie: The Art of Place is based on the exhibition commissioned by Wollongong Art Gallery in 2023. Image: Swans of Coomaditchie Lagoon (detail), Allison Day, 2022. Wollongong Art Gallery. Photo © Bernie Fischer. Artwork © the artist

Cultural fishing advocates slam flawed consultation

By MARION WILLIAMS



A FUNDAMENTALLY flawed consultation is the latest battle in the decades-long fight by NSW South Coast Aboriginal fishers for their fishing rights.

The consultation was unannounced, held over the holiday period, totally online and based on the NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries)' interpretation of cultural fishing.

In 2009 the NSW government passed the Fisheries Management Amendment Act 2009. It exempted Aboriginal cultural fishing from the catch limits that apply to recreational and commercial fishers. Section 21AA of that Act made a special provision for Aboriginal cultural fishing and protected cultural fishers from compliance actions under the Fisheries Management Act. Yet the prosecution and imprisonment of South Coast cultural fishers continued.

In November 2022, a parliamentary inquiry into why the Act had not been implemented recommended that Section 21AA of the Act commence by 30 June 2023. It still has not.

The current consultation is about draft regulation to support the commencement of Section 21AA. Contrary to the Act, the draft regulation intends to set daily take and possession limits.

NSW Aboriginal Land Council representative for the South Coast region Danny Chapman only heard about the



Danny Chapman, NSW Aboriginal Land Council South Coast region councillor. Picture: Supplied.

consultation when it was brought to his attention at one of the scheduled meetings between the council and Fisheries.

"The other thing I didn't know, which was totally inappropriate, was that they issued a page of information on the consultation that looked like the interim compliance measures that the government issued in around 2012 while it was trying to fix Section 21AA.

"So, it isn't about what Black fellas are thinking about and talking about, and is only about Fisheries' consultation paper,"

Mr Chapman said. "It is nowhere near a consultation about the regulation to commence Section 21AA. Their view that cultural fishing is totally uncommercial is totally wrong."

Mr Chapman has been telling the government for 20 years, including NSW Minister for Agriculture Tara Moriarty, about the commercial aspect to cultural fishing. It enables people to pay bills, pay for burials and myriad other things.

"When the minister met with us in Merimbula on the Far South Coast last year, she said

she would look at the commercial side and create an Aboriginal fishing industry," Mr Chapman said.

"We haven't heard anything since then, and now we have this consultation."

Mr Chapman said that since the interim compliance measures were issued, South Coast Aboriginal fishers have had 800 brushes with Fisheries' compliance officers, and around 100 people have had to be represented in court, including eight who will appear in court in March.

Mr Chapman said that under the legislation, only the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Committee can advise the Minister. He said the committee's chair has done a deal with Fisheries through the Birpai Barray (Hastings) Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Local Management Plan and is not supportive of the South Coast fishers.

Meanwhile Fisheries' advisors have set up numerous committees. A majority of members on each committee are commercial fishers. "It is a total club," Mr Chapman said.

He is adamant they will continue to pressure government and Fisheries to listen because "if we don't, we will find we have nothing left."

"Fisheries won't give us our rights back and they are hell bent on protecting their mates."

Fisheries was contacted for comment. It repeated the wording on the consultation's webpage.

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/fishing/aboriginal-fishing/proposed-aboriginal-fishing-regulation>. Minister Moriarty was contacted for comment but did not respond.

Mr Chapman has told Fisheries that the consultation approach is wrong and that it must meet with fishers from Wollongong and Wallaga Lake before making any recommendations to the minister.

"If they commence Section 21AA using bag limits that goes nowhere to solving the problem," he said.

Help us provide a safe home away from home

Multiple job opportunities in NT and WA

- Enjoy the security of an ongoing, fulltime position.
- Extra benefits to increase your take home pay.
- Additional allowances and generous shift penalties.

To learn more, scan the QR code or call 02 5104 4577

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

SHOP BLAK TO SCHOOL!



HAS YOUR FEDERAL ELECTORAL DIVISION CHANGED?

There has been a redistribution of federal electoral divisions in Western Australia. A redistribution ensures there are a similar number of voters in each electoral division for a given state or territory.

Because of this, you may be voting in a different electoral division at the next federal election.

In Western Australia, the boundaries of all federal electoral divisions have been altered. The new Division of Bullwinkel has been created in the local government areas of the Shires of Beverley, Northam, Toodyay and York, and parts of the cities of Armadale, Gosnells, Kalamunda, and Swan, and part of the Shire of Mundaring.

A list of the areas which have moved to a different federal electoral division is provided in the table below.

Where can I find out more?

Further information can be found at aec.gov.au/WA-redistribution

Maps and descriptions of all federal electoral divisions are available at aec.gov.au/profiles

Do I need to do anything?

You do not need to take any action if your federal electoral division has changed as the result of this redistribution. The AEC has:

- transferred your enrolment to your new federal electoral division, and
- written to households whose federal electoral division has changed and those letters should arrive in the coming weeks.

How do I find out if my federal electoral division has changed?

You can check your enrolment online at aec.gov.au/check

For privacy reasons, your electoral enrolment will only be confirmed if the details you enter are an exact match to your details on the electoral roll.

Alternatively, you can contact the AEC on 13 23 26 or find your local AEC office details at aec.gov.au/contact

Which areas have moved to a different federal electoral division?

From	To
Division of Brand	• the Division of Canning – the localities of Golden Bay, Karnup, Secret Harbour and Singleton, and part of the locality of Keralup
Division of Bullwinkel	! The Division of Bullwinkel is a new federal electoral division
Division of Burt	• the Division of Bullwinkel – the localities of Mount Nasura and Orange Grove, and part of the localities of Armadale, Gosnells, Kelmscott and Martin • the Division of Swan – the locality of Langford and part of the locality of Beckenham
Division of Canning	• the Division of Bullwinkel – the localities of Ashendon, Bedforddale, Canning Mills, Carmel, Karragullen, Lesley, Mount Richon, Pickering Brook and Roleystone, and part of the localities of Martin and Wungong • the Division of Burt – the localities of Darling Downs and Oakford, and part of the localities of Byford and Hilbert
Division of Cowan	• the Division of Hasluck – the localities of Beechboro, Kiara, Lockridge and Noranda, and part of the locality of Morley • the Division of Perth – part of the localities of Balcatta, Osborne Park and Stirling
Division of Curtin	• the Division of Moore – part of the localities of Gwelup and Karrinyup
Division of Durack	• the Division of Bullwinkel – the Shires of Northam, Toodyay and York, and the locality of Avon Valley National Park
Division of Forrest	• the Division of O’Connor – the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup and part of the locality of Wilga West
Division of Fremantle	• the Division of Tangney – the locality of Palmyra and part of the locality of Kardinya
Division of Hasluck	• the Division of Bullwinkel – the localities of Bailup, Beechina, Bickley, Boya, Bushmead, Chidlow, Darlington, Gidgegannup, Glen Forrest, Gooseberry Hill, Gorrie, Greenmount, Hacketts Gully, Helena Valley, Hovea, Jane Brook, Kalamunda, Koongamia, Lesmurdie, Mahogany Creek, Malmalling, Mount Helena, Mundaring, Parkerville, Pauls Valley, Piesse Brook, Reservoir, Sawyers Valley, Stoneville, Stratton, Swan View, The Lakes, Walliston and Wooroloo, and part of the localities of Bellevue, Hazelmere, Midvale and Red Hill
Division of Moore	• the Division of Pearce – the localities of Burns Beach and Kinross
Division of O’Connor	• the Division of Bullwinkel – the Shire of Beverley • the Division of Durack – the Shires of Cunderdin, Kellerberrin, Koorda, Merredin, Mount Marshall, Mukinbudin, Nungarin, Tammin, Trayning, Westonia and Wyalkatchem
Division of Pearce	• the Division of Cowan – the localities of Cullacabardee, Darch, Landsdale, Madeley and Wangara, and part of the locality of Ballajura
Division of Perth	• the Division of Hasluck – the Town of Bassendean, and part of the localities of Bayswater, Embleton and Morley
Division of Swan	• the Division of Bullwinkel – the localities of Forrestfield, Maida Vale and Wattle Grove, and part of the localities of High Wycombe, Perth Airport and Welshpool
Division of Tangney	• the Division of Swan – the localities of Ferndale, Lynwood and Wilson

Note: This notice is not related to the 2025 Western Australian State Election. For information about the state election, visit the Western Australian Electoral Commission’s website at elections.wa.gov.au

www.aec.gov.au/WA-redistribution ☎ 13 23 26

Janice is truth-telling

By JILLIAN MUNDY



TASMANIAN
Aboriginal artist Janice Ross is in London this week truth telling and pushing for the return of important objects in British institutions, in particular a doll and pincushion that belonged to stolen Tasmanian Aboriginal girl Mathinna.

Mathinna was born at Wybalenna on Flinders Island, Lutruwita/Tasmania in 1835 during the brutal Black War. She was stolen from her parents for Tasmanian Governor 'Sir' John Franklin and 'Lady' Jane Franklin when she was just four years old.

Jane Franklin herself wrote that Mathinna was a 'civilising experiment', listing her alongside a collection which included the skulls of Aboriginal people. In her writings Jane Franklin described Mathinna as a 'savage', four years after stealing her the couple dumped Mathinna at an orphanage and returned to England, taking Mathinna's little doll and the pincushion she made with them – part of their



Janice Ross with her installation in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, a version on a white wall is currently exhibited in London – it is story that spans centuries.

disturbing collection.

Mathinna died under mysterious circumstances in her late teens.

A famous 1842 portrait of Mathinna in a red dress by artist and freed convict Thomas Bock has captured the imagination of generations and is symbolic in telling the story of the brutal

colonisation of Lutruwita.

It was this painting and then the 2017 discovery of her doll and a pincushion in a box in England that inspired Janice to create an installation reflecting on her own disconnection from her people and culture.

The installation nuratinga milaythina kani mana-mapali

(Country holding our stories), first exhibited at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG), was part of the 2022 group show taypani milaythina-tu: Return to Country – twenty contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal artists' responses to cultural treasures held in TMAG and collecting institutions from other parts of

Australia and overseas, exhibited alongside some of those objects.

At the time Mathinna's doll and pincushion were on loan to TMAG for the exhibition.

While the loan for the doll has been extended, the pincushion has been returned to England.

Janice herself was adopted into a white family when the forced removal of children from Aboriginal families and single mothers was still happening in Tasmania.

While Janice was adopted into a loving and supportive family, who had no part in taking her from her birth parents, and hers is a much happier story, she feels parallels to Mathinna's life and feels a connection to her.

"I understood from a very young age that I was an Aboriginal child, but Aboriginal to me had no meaning, I didn't know who Aboriginal people were because there was no contact with them," Janice said.

"So when I was growing up the only connection that I made was with the North American tribes – I wrote assignments at school, and I felt like I had this connection with them, it was so good."

● Continued next page

Public Notice

Consultation for Well Completions and Interventions EP



Sea Country Consultation

Beach Energy (Beach) supplies natural gas from offshore Victoria to the local market through existing infrastructure, including pipelines and onshore production facilities.

At the commencement of consultation for the Offshore Gas Victoria (OGV) Project in June 2023, Beach advised that further Environment Plans (EPs) may be required for activities to complete and connect wells successfully drilled.

Beach is continuing to consult on its Well Completions, Well Interventions, and Plugging and Abandonment Activities EP (Well Completions and Interventions EP).

Such activities would enable future connection of new gas wells to existing infrastructure, maintain the option to plug and abandon an existing suspended well subject to a further assessment of its viability and enable activities to re-enter up to two existing wells to improve performance.

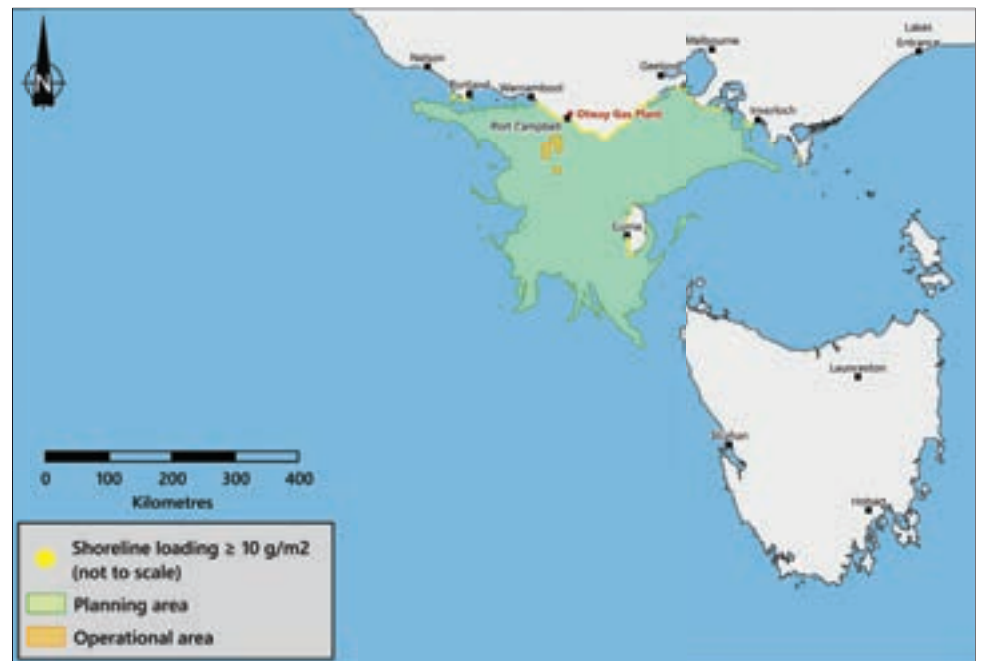
Invitation to consult with Beach

Beach consults with relevant persons so appropriate measures can be considered in response to objections or information received during consultation. Consultation is continuing for persons and organisations whose functions, interests, or activities may be affected by the activities described in the Well Completions and Interventions EP.

Consultation for this EP commenced on 16 September 2024 and will **close at 5.00pm AEDT on 14 February 2025.**

Further consultation dates and information

Dedicated First Nations online information sessions (webinars)	Wednesday 5 February 2025, 7.00pm to 7.45pm AEDT
	Thursday 6 February 2025, 2.15pm to 3.00pm AEDT Please contact us to register for a webinar.
Open online information sessions (webinars)	Thursday 6 February 2025, 7.00pm to 7.45pm AEDT
	Friday 7 February 2025, 11.30am to 12.15pm AEDT Please contact us to register for a webinar.



For information regarding consultation, please see NOSPEMA's Brochure titled 'Consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans', at consultation.nopsema.gov.au

Beach invites culturally sensitive consultation with First Nations Peoples through the following online community information sessions (webinars).

The map in this notice shows the planning area, and environment that may be affected.

To register your interest in attending a webinar, please email community@beachenergy.com.au advising the session you would like to attend, and we will send you registration details.

Further information

We encourage you to access Beach's additional resources, maps and project details about the EP via the QR code. To arrange a meeting or seek further information, please contact Beach.

P 1800 797 011
E community@beachenergy.com.au
beachenergy.com.au



READ MORE

in the heart of London

● From previous page

In her installation she writes – “The yearning and wanting to return to her mother, Country, and family, like an umbilical cord of connection that mirror my own journey as a Pakana (Tasmanian Aboriginal) child and woman of the stolen generation. It is for this reason Mathinna’s doll resonates with me as an object of deep symbology, when I look at and contemplate Mathinna’s doll, I am reminded of an institutionalised feeling of loss, a sense of not fitting in with either the family that raised you or your blood family. Emotions of detachment, confusion and numbness resurface as I am reminded, I too was stolen and forced to experience a displacement from my culture, my people, and my homelands”.

For 23 years Janice had no connection to her Aboriginal family or culture, and has spent the last 30 years reconnecting, learning and making up for it – she is now a leading Pakana artist and language speaker.

“I’ve returned, and that strength has grown really strong now in my connection with my culture and identity, it’s something Mathinna didn’t get to experience,” said Janice.



Janice’s own doll features in the exhibition.

Janice’s installation featured her own doll given to her by her (adoptive) British grandparents, a replica pincushion made from kelp, her paintings of Mathinna’s doll and pincushion and Janice’s own scribed on the wall.

Dr Jane Wildgoose, an English artist and art historian and collector with a particular interest in the practice of collecting human remains (and advocating for their return) and mourning objects read about



In London, installer Ben Gaskell, Dr Jane Wildgoose, Janice Ross, curator Nick Kaplony and Pakana arts leader Sinsa Mansell.

Janice’s installation online. She initially wanted to include some of Janice’s words in an academic journal, their conversations led to collaborating and a journey to London. A version of Janice’s installation is now showing in the Conway Hall Ethical Society library alongside a work of Jane’s.

Janice will be the guest

speaker at Conway Hall’s Seeing Truth in Museums Conference on February 1, talking about artists roles in activism and repatriation. The half-day conference will focus on museums, addressing violent and coercive histories behind many collections, intergenerational trauma and advocate for truth, reconnection and reparation, and how

collections can be reinterpreted and used to challenge unequal power structures.

During the visit to London Janice had hoped to meet descendants of the Franklins who own Mathinna’s doll and pincushion to explain their significance to Tasmanian Aboriginal people and make a plea for their permanent return.

Janice considers them “cultural living stories belonging to their home Country”.

“It’s all part of our story, to our identity, the strength and healing of our identity is going to become stronger when our stories are back on Country, with our people,” she said.

Janice arrived in London in time for January 26, when she gave a powerful speech in palawa kani and English, at Conway Hall about the colonisation, struggles and triumphs of her people, explaining why ‘Australia Day’ is also known Invasion Day – a day of mourning.

Jane said the collaboration is about advocating for the return of the doll and pin cushion. This week Janice will also meet with family on her adoptive mother’s side, who like Dr Jane Wildgoose, discovered Janice online and connected with her.



Expression of Interest

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples Community Led Wellness, Healing and Suicide Prevention Program

We invite local organisations to lead funded, community-driven programs to promote wellness, healing and suicide prevention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This initiative recognises the importance of culture in social and emotional wellbeing and seeks to reduce suicide through holistic, community-designed programs.

Submit your Expression of Interest by Friday 7 February 2025. Visit www.nbmphn.com.au/CommProgram to apply.



Wentworth Healthcare Limited (ABN 60 155 904 875) as Ngeen Blue Mountains PHN, 196, 2123 11811

If reading about suicide raises strong feelings or emotions for you and you would like to talk to someone, here are some places you can contact for support:
13 YARN (13 92 76) Lifeline (13 11 14) Beyond Blue (1300 22 4636)

If you look after your lifejacket, it will look after you

Always complete a pre-wear check before wearing your lifejacket.

- ☒ Check for wear and tear.
- ☒ Check the cylinder is full, the auto cartridge is aimed, and both are screwed in, hand tight.
- ☒ Check the pull cord is clear.



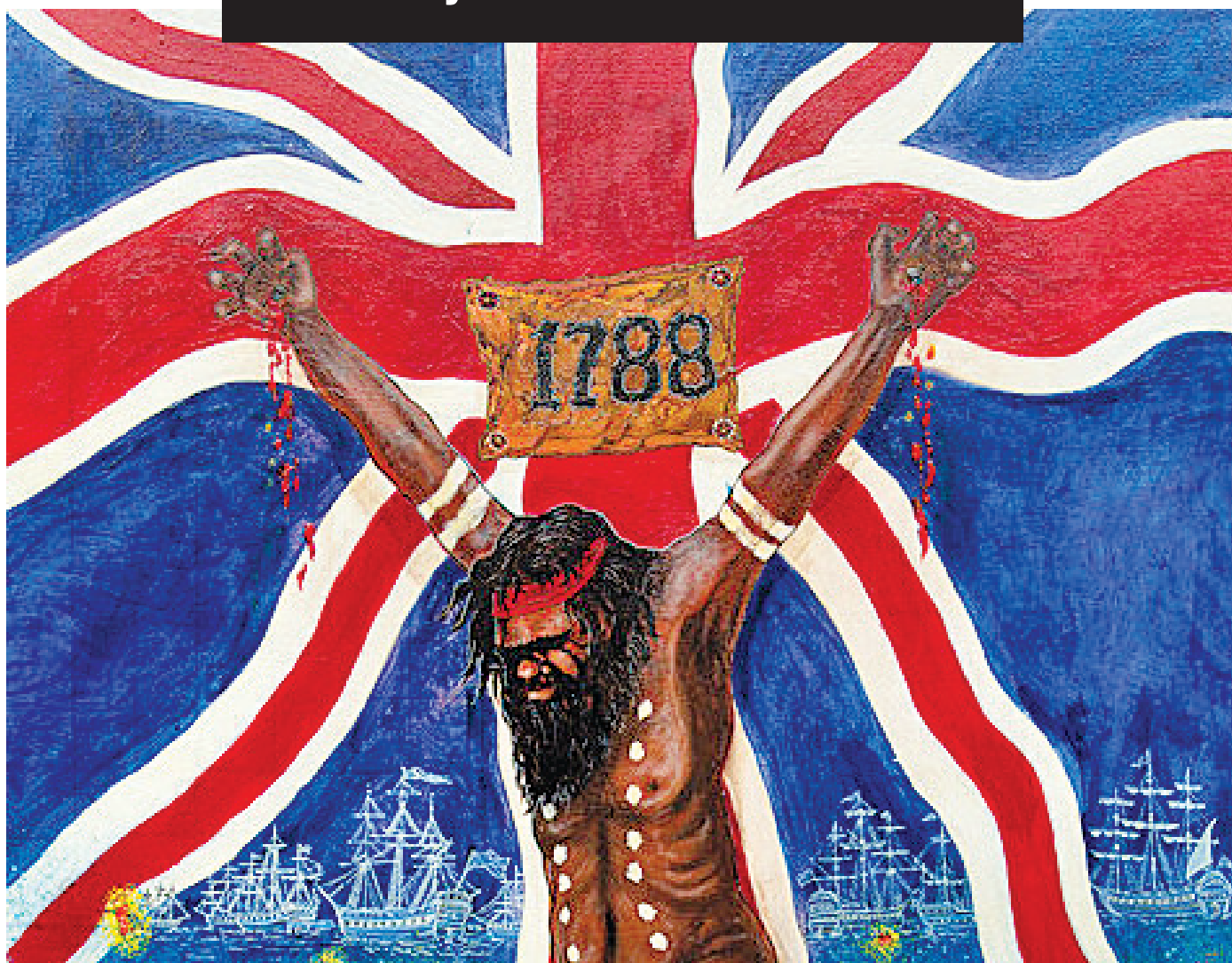
Learn how at nsw.gov.au/maritimesafety



Wear it. Check it. Service it.



Danny Eastwood's view



A YARN WITH...



Kyle Ellis

Gunditjmara, Victoria

Favourite bush tucker?
Smoked Eel.

Favourite other food?
Spaghetti Bolognaise.

Favourite drink?
Coke.

Favourite music?
All music, but Country the most.

Favourite sport?
Basketball.

Favourite read?
Comics.

Favourite holiday destination?
Movie World.

What are you watching on TV?
The Walking Dead.

What do you like in life?
Helping people, and my cats.

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

Which Black or Indigenous person would you most like to meet?
I have met some amazing Indigenous people like Kutcha Edwards and Ernie Dingo

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

Who or what inspires you?
My friends.

What is your ultimate goal?
To join the police force.

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people?
Change the date.

Quote



"I've returned, and that strength has grown really strong now in my connection with my culture and identity, it's something Mathinna didn't get to experience."

– Tasmanian Aboriginal artist
Janice Ross

● See pages 18-19

Unquote

Story of a doll is story of Australia

As thousands of people around the country marked January 26 with protests, gatherings and speeches, Tasmanian Aboriginal artist Janice Ross was in London explaining why Australia Day is also known as Invasion Day, a day of mourning.

Ms Ross is also pushing for the return of a doll which belonged to a stolen Tasmanian girl named Mathinna.

Mathinna's story is one of trauma and theft. Much like the colonial history of this country.

Mathinna was born at Wybalenna on Flinders Island, Lutruwita/Tasmania in 1835 during the brutal Black War. She was stolen from her parents for Tasmanian Governor 'Sir' John Franklin and 'Lady' Jane Franklin when she was just four years old.

Jane Franklin herself wrote that Mathinna was a 'civilising experiment', listing her alongside a collection which included the skulls of Aboriginal people.

A civilising experiment!

Let that sink in.

Stealing a child from its parents simply because you have an entitled view that your way is better.

Franklin went so far as to describe Mathinna as a 'savage'.

Yet four years after stealing her, the couple dumped Mathinna at an orphanage and returned to England, taking Mathinna's little doll and the



pincushion she made with them – part of their disturbing collection.

So again, they stole a child. Then dumped that child. They then stole the child's doll and took it home with them.

Did they even care that Mathinna died under mysterious circumstances in her late teens?

Did they worry about the impact their selfishness had on another human being?"

Or did they simply get on with their lives, showing off the child's doll during tea parties for their entitled friends?

Janice Ross herself was adopted into a white family when the forced removal of children from Aboriginal families and single mothers was still happening in Tasmania.

Hers was a happier story – and she has been able to reconnect with her culture – yet she still feels a special connection with Mathinna and her doll.

She hopes to meet with the descendants of the Franklins, and will ask that they return it permanently to Australia. Hopefully they will do the right thing but given their English heritage, there are of course no guarantees.

KOORI MAIL 100% ABORIGINAL-OWNED

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

Award-winning Wurramara taps into power of nature

HAILED as one of the country's greatest voices by Double J, Emily Wurramara is playing a limited run of shows during February and March across most states of Australia.

The Lutruwita/Tasmania-based artist, activist, author and proud Warnindhilyagwa woman from Groote Eylandt and Milyakburra/Bickerton will be touring in support of her multi-award-winning album *NARA*.

It follows up her back-to-back wins at the 2024 ARIA Awards for Best Adult Contemporary Album which saw Emily make history as the first Indigenous woman to ever win in this category since the award's inception in 1987.

NARA was co-produced by Wurramara and James Mangohig (A.B. Original, Daniel Johns) and features the singles *STFAFM* featuring her younger brother ArringarZri, *Lordy* featuring Tasman Keith, as well as *Magic Woman Dancing*, the video for which scored a nomination at the 2024 National Indigenous Music Awards.

Emily is known for her ability to evoke feeling through intimacy and appreciation of life's subtleties, written and sung in both English and Anindilyakwa language.

Emily's live shows are both intimate and brimming with a sense of community and ahead of the tour Emily had a yarn with the *Koori Mail's* CHRISTIAN MORROW.

KM: You have emphasised the importance of being on country, on your home beach on Groote Eylandt when you write music. How important are the smells and the feel of the ocean and the place to your writing?

EW: I am a salt water woman, and my people are the Warnindhilyagwa people from Milyakburra/Bickerton Island (Groote Eylandt- 50 kilometres off the coast of the Northern Territory). Being near the ocean helps me feel more deeply about what I am writing. Nature just is, and what you're seeing and feeling in nature is a state of being and there is real power in that.

KM: Does writing in language give you access to different range of expression.

EW: When it comes to writing in language it has to be done in a way that is respectful and in a way that honours who I am and my story. And, when it comes to my storytelling it's just something that is, I don't feel any pressure in any kind of way when I write in language because that's just how it is and how you feel it is translated to



Emily Wurramara is embarking on a tour across Australia.

people, then it's up to them to determine how they feel about it.

KM: You have a family of your own, how important is that family to your music and did it change you as an artist when you had a family?

EW: Having family gave me more motivation to be better than I was and to show up as me and as a human being. Being a mum has so many responsibilities that I don't think we talk about enough. There is a new level of responsibility I feel since building my family and I think creating that space of safety is really important through my music and through everything that I do. I am really aware and conscious that it is so much bigger than me.

KM: What were your earliest influences? Who did you look to when you began as an artist?

EW: Growing up on Groote I saw all my uncles playing in bands and I wondered why there weren't any women from my community playing and enjoying music. Why is it always men? Why does it have to be a guy thing. There was a big push for me to (get into music). When I moved from Groote to Meanjin I also felt this sense of safety in music that I got watching my uncles and grandparents play. (My family) listened to every kind of music and every genre from reggae to opera to country

and western and even to hip hop. I used to fall asleep to Tupac and it shows, it was a variety of influences. But I think the motivation was to be the first from my community do what I loved and show that you can have a career doing what you want and still be that person showing up in community, and still have that power and reverence.

KM: Does the wide variety of music you were listening to as you were growing up, from Tupac through to opera, make it easy for you to move across genres yourself when it comes to your music?

EW: Most certainly, I don't like boxes, or being pushed into boxes. I feel what I'm doing is a bit of a rebellion against what is expected of me. I think it's time to understand that we get to call the shots now and get to play whatever cards we choose. Life is just too short to not give things a go.

KM: You are about to go back out on tour, what can people expect from you on stage?

EW: Most of the shows and the Melbourne shows on Naarm will include a full band which I am very excited for. I'm a story teller so we will be having yarns onstage and I always turn my audiences in choirs. I tell everyone to get their vocal chords ready, we are going to

have a sing, it's going to be Karaoke night. That's the whole vibe, bringing the community together into a space where we feel safe around a camp fire, have a yarn and have a laugh and a cry and lots of singing.

KM: And that brings us to the big anthem of yours, *Stay The Fuck Away From Me (STFAFM)*. What or who are you talking to or about when you use that phrase?

EW: *STFAFM* can be directed to anyone or anything. (I direct it) to people who didn't believe in me and didn't understand the pressures I was under when I was going through my mental-health journey. I have had a lot of people in my life and in my career tell me that I have to just suck it up and deal with it. Mental health was never something that we spoke about when we were younger and it's just bringing that awareness to my boundaries and (letting people know) this is not OK and you are not OK so just stay the fuck away from me. It's pretty plain and simple and the song it has so much impact and meaning especially for me as an Indigenous woman. The amount of racism and prejudice and judgement I have faced throughout my career, I could write a book about it and this song is for those people (telling them) you have crossed my boundaries, the red line and I

am not going to back down from that.

KM: The film clip from the song is extraordinary. Was it done in one take?

EW: Yes. It was done in one take. It was a very big challenge but we got there in the end.

KM: It seems you had everyone in it, everyone got a cameo.

EW: It was fun to shoot. It was all my Mob, my Darwin family and community and just felt like we were having a party down a red dirt road. My little brother was in it, I was so proud of him. When you see someone and you see their growth and what they are what they have become. I felt really proud when I saw him in the clip. I just thought wow that's my little brother, yeah!

KM: You also mentor younger performers coming up behind you. How important is it to foster the next generation? Is this something you draw upon yourself?

EW: Most certainly. I draw inspiration from others and I just have so much belief in these young singer songwriters and artists coming up in our community. They have such big things to say and big feelings and I believe feeling and authenticity are really deadly. If we are able to move through spaces as our true authentic selves especially in a space that was never made for our voices to be a part of, I think that is empowering. Any way I can help to support, empower and save space for the younger people in these areas I am there because it's so much bigger than just me. When ego comes into the business it doesn't feel good, it's about community and community is where I am at and right now we need our community, we need our people and our safe people around these spaces.

Tour dates

Fri 7 Feb – Workers Club, Naarm/Melbourne, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country VIC.

Sat 8 Feb – Treaty Day Out, Gunaikurnai Country VIC.

Sat 15 Feb – Riverboats Music Festival, Yorta Yorta Country VIC.

Sun 16 Feb – Perth Festival, Whadjuk Noongar Country WA.

Fri 7 Mar & Mon 10 Mar – WOMADelaide, Kaurna Yerta SA.

Fri 21 Mar – Music Lounge (Great Southern Nights), Wollongong, Dharawal Country NSW.

Sat 22 Mar – Belco Arts Centre, Canberra, Ngannawal Country ACT.

For tour details and tickets go to:
<https://linktr.ee/EmilyWurramara>
ragigs

New program supporting Pilbara families facing domestic violence

By ASAD KHAN AND TANGIORA HINAKI



A NEW initiative aimed at supporting Pilbara families experiencing family and domestic violence was officially launched in December last year in Western Australia by domestic-violence minister Sabine Winton.

The program, Kanyjaru Ngarnarna Wapa, is a partnership between MacKillop Family Services and the Julyardi Aboriginal Corporation, created under the state government's Safe at Home program.

The initiative provides an innovative approach to addressing domestic violence by allowing women and children to remain safely in their homes where possible, reducing the need for crisis accommodation.

Rehabilitation

It also focuses on rehabilitation and accountability for perpetrators of violence, ensuring a holistic response that supports all family members.

Trina Stoddart, CEO of Julyardi Aboriginal Corporation, highlighted the program's unique approach to addressing domestic violence within the Pilbara region.

"This program aims to support families experiencing family domestic violence and to create safety in their own

homes," Ms Stoddart said.

"Reducing the need for crisis accommodation, and, you know, kind of an upheaval in their lives – and supporting them to keep a safe and stable home for them and their families – is important. This program works with partnering organisations to ensure that all members including perpetrators are supported to support the family to come together again, which is really important to the Elders."

The new program reflects a culturally sensitive and community-led response to domestic violence, aligning with traditional values of family unity and healing. By involving Elders and local organisations, Kanyjaru Ngarnarna Wapa promotes stability and safety while empowering families to rebuild their lives together.

Minister Winton praised the initiative as a critical step in addressing domestic violence in regional and remote areas.

"This program not only provides immediate safety for women and children but also offers long-term solutions through community collaboration and support for rehabilitation," she said.

Safe at Home is part of the WA government's efforts to reduce domestic violence and support affected families. Programs like Kanyjaru Ngarnarna Wapa underscore the importance of localised and culturally appropriate solutions in creating safe and stable family environments.



Kariyarra Elder Alfred Barker from Julyardi Aboriginal Corporation, Minister Sabine Winton, MacKillop Family Services' General Manager Natasha Bargeus, Kariyarra Elder Raylene Button from Julyardi Aboriginal Corporation, and Jessica Farber-McKie, Project Coordinator at MacKillop Family Services.

Empowering educators for inclusive classrooms

By JAHNAVI SIVARAJAH and MARION CHEEDY



THIS March, a groundbreaking online resource for early childhood educators will be launched, providing a range of accessible materials to foster conversations about allyship, cultural diversity, and inclusion.

Called the Allies and Friends Toolkit, the new collaboration between Exponential Library and ABC Kids Early Education aims to support educators working with children aged three to five years, including those in kindergarten.

Project Lead Jenae Tien Cannon said the toolkit is designed to help educators integrate important topics into their classrooms, with engaging resources for children to watch and interact with, and for educators to learn from.

"With a focus on creating inclusive environments, the toolkit is a powerful tool for shaping

future generations' understanding of diversity," Ms Tien Cannon said.

One of the most exciting aspects of the project is its collaboration with ABC's *Play School*, a beloved children's program known for its commitment to inclusive content.

The Allies and Friends toolkit even inspired a special *Play School* episode, also launching in March 2025, which explores the concept of allyship.

Inclusive content

"*Play School* does an incredible job of creating inclusive content, so when they heard about the toolkit, they wanted to explore it further," Ms Tien Cannon said.

As a diversity consultant for the show, Ms Tien Cannon worked alongside the *Play School* team to bring the ideas from the toolkit to life, drawing inspiration from real-life stories of friendship and inclusivity.

Ms Tien Cannon said the creation of the toolkit has been a

rewarding experience, particularly in terms of collaboration and community engagement.

"One of the biggest highlights was working with Laura Stone, who took our ideas seriously and supported our vision," she said.

"It's amazing that a small company like Exponential Library was chosen to create such a national resource, especially when competing with big names like *Bluey*."

Working with a diverse range of community members, the team was able to reflect the rich cultural tapestry of modern Australia in the toolkit's content.

Looking ahead, the team hopes to continue building on the toolkit by adding more resources and collaborating with other organisations to promote inclusive practices in early education.

"We're excited to keep expanding the toolkit," Ms Tien Cannon said.

"And working with more communities, and ensuring that inclusivity is at the heart of early childhood education at all times."



Jenae Tien Cannon is the project lead for the Allies and Friends Toolkit.

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.

How to climb the morning mountain



Kirk Page

The idea of getting out of bed this morning felt like climbing a small mountain. The self talk that happens in the first 10 minutes after I wake up is like I was being asked to perform surgery. Why is it so difficult to get out of the bed some mornings?

It's a battle between comfort and responsibility, and I'll be honest, some mornings I feel like I'm losing, I'm uncomfortable at the thought of being responsible, to do what you say you're going to do.

I have acquired a dog who's ready and chomping at the bit to get out of the house every morning at the latest 6.05am. I have become a slave to puppy potty timetables. She is cute though and I must admit getting out first thing in the morning is fairly delicious.

But it doesn't matter how many times we go through this mental tug o war. We still have to find a way to get moving. So how do we face

the mountain of self doubt, anxiety and resistance that greets us first thing in the morning?

Wrestling with that inner voice is a daily ritual for me, a voice that whispers, 'You don't have to get up. Stay in bed. It's so comfortable here. Cue dog rustling around on the floor.'

I've discovered that going to bed and being in sleep space at 945pm can change the context a lot.

Getting good sleep really counts, and if it's any less than 6.5 hours I start to melt around 130pm.

So, what can we do about this inner battle? How can we fight the gravitational pull of our blankets and make sure we show up for the day? Here are a few methods I've tried (with varying degrees of success)

This might seem too simple, but getting enough sleep the night before can make a world of difference when it comes to motivation the next day. I'm averaging bed

time around 9.30pm now I have a dog that likes to go visit the beach at 6.15am every morning. WE are working together and it feels like she is my Yoda. A four-legged mentor, teaching kindness, patience and getting my steps in. It's a win-win situation, mostly.

When the resistance is strong, I sometimes play the countdown game. I count backwards from five, slowly and with purpose. When I hit zero, I know it's time to spring up—sometimes with all the manufactured positivity I can muster. The countdown tricks my brain into action before it can get too stuck in the 'I can sleep for 10 more minutes' loop.

Let's be real for a moment, getting out of bed some days can feel like scaling a glacier. It's a slippery slope, mixed with a dash of anxiety, doubt, and maybe even a little resistance to what's on the horizon.

It's that moment when the

bed feels like the better offer than facing the responsibilities we've signed up for. The warmth of the blankets lures us back in, and we think, 'Just a few more minutes...'

I've coined it 'the doona dive'—the act of diving back under the covers, imagining that in ten minutes, everything will magically feel better.

Some days, it's hard to tell if it's just tiredness or something deeper, like burnout, anxiety, or even depression. When the mental gymnastics feel particularly exhausting, it's important to remember, getting out of bed isn't just about physical movement; it's an emotional and mental challenge.

So, how do you seize the day when all you really want is to bury yourself in blankets and ignore everything? The key is to take the first step, however small it might be. It's not about tackling everything at once. Just start with the first step, even if that's just

getting up, stretching or walking to the bathroom. Movement is progress. You don't need to leap out of bed with perfect energy or enthusiasm—just move.

That first step may feel like a struggle, but every time you fight that urge to stay in bed, you're building resilience. The struggle to get out of bed is real, but it's also a reminder that sometimes the hardest part of the day is just showing up. So, let's be kind to ourselves on those tough mornings. It's okay to not feel ready to face the world every day. But when we can, even if it's just a tiny step forward, we're showing up for ourselves—and that's something worth celebrating.

This book thinks you're deadly



This *Book Thinks You're Deadly* is an inspirational, illustrated compendium that celebrates the diversity and success of First Nations People.

Written by Corey Tutt, author of *The First Scientists*, this book features the profiles of more than 70 Blakfellas who are doing deadly things across sport, art, activism and science, through to politics, education and literature. It showcases the careers and Corey's personal stories of First Nations People who have done great things in their respective fields, including Professor Marcia Langton, Miranda Tapsell, Tony Armstrong, Dr Anita Heiss, Danzal Baker (Baker Boy), Adam Goodes and Blak Douglas.

Molly Hunt's deadly illustrations make this book the perfect gift for all ages. A celebration of Blak excellence, it will inspire future generations to create change and leave readers to ponder, 'What makes ME deadly?'

Novel shares stories of first people

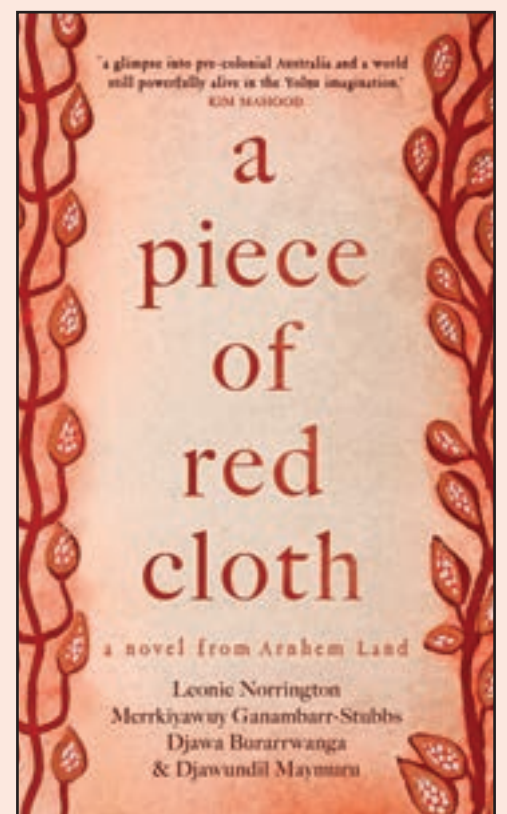
A *piece of red cloth* is based on oral stories passed down through generations of Yolŋu people from North East Arnhem Land, told by Leonie Norrington and cultural custodians Merrkiyawuy Ganambarr-Stubbs, Djawa Burarrwanga and Djawundil Maymuru.

Long before the white settlement of Australia, the Yolŋu people traded with the Macassans of Sulawesi in Indonesia who were under Dutch rule. The story follows a girl living on Blue Mud Bay in Arnhem Land who is promised to Djapalitjarri when she comes of age.

The story is told through the voices of the first people of North East Arnhem Land, the Yolŋu, who know it best.

The book captures important events from times long before Cook imagined a 'Southern Land'. *A piece of red cloth* is a breathtaking re-imagining of history and place.

Told through Yolŋu eyes, we see



hunting, foraging, cooking, managing relationships and creating ceremony. The novel captures the dignity, resilience and power of the Yolŋu people as they face foreign vices, their strength not to be underestimated.

Writer Leonie Norrington is a multi-award winning author who grew up in the Barunga community in Arnhem Land. She writes for children and adults in both fiction and non-fiction.

Collaborators on this book Merrkiyawuy Ganambarr-Stubbs, Djawa Burarrwanga and Djawundil Maymuru are Yolŋu cultural custodians. Merrkiyawuy and Djawundil are also the co-authors of *Welcome to My Country* and *Songsprals*.

The fall of the empire

We sit in the Southern Hemisphere looking at what appears to be the new popular reality television show "Trump as US president again". I hate reality television and then when I start watching I can't stop. That's a similar feeling I have to the US political landscape.

I feel like I'm watching *Idiocracy*, the 2006 film that was supposed to be a sci-fi film but now feels more like a documentary of where we are now.

On the 21st of January Donald Trump was sworn in as president of the US for a second term. After taking his Oath, Trump announced that this was going to be the "golden age of America". I would kindly suggest to Donald that for most of us it's the fall of the empire and that he is the truest reflection of a leader of the colonial capitalist system.

I feel sorry for the people of the USA but I also worry that large numbers of them are still continuing to have trust and give power to rich white men like Donald Trump. Have we not learnt anything from history people?

The truth is Trump is a racist, a misogynist, a capitalist, a homophobe, sexist and the list really goes on.

Trump is a man of war. His answer to everything is more



Ella Noah Bancroft

force, more dominance, more powering over people and the planet. He is going to increase oil and gas drilling stating "Drill baby drill" from inside the Rotunda.

He intends to use more force to combat "criminals" otherwise known as immigrants who pay taxes and do the work that most white Americans don't want to do.

He then went on to say some more stupid-arse comments about how there are "only two genders – male and female" in the US. He vowed to make this a policy and sign an executive order that would roll back protections for

transgender people and terminate diversity, equity and inclusion programs within the federal government.

Well done America, you have done it again. I honestly believe if this is what the people want, let them have it. He is clearly a scared young uninitiated boy walking around in a big white old male body, attempting to reinforce his rich-boy beliefs.

He then goes on to say that he's planning to "plant the stars and stripes on planet Mars". Like what is actually going on here people?

Him and his other power-hungry buddy Elon Musk are planning to claim space territory even though it is prohibited by the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, to which the US is a signatory.

Gosh America, you have really gone and done the world a disservice but most importantly, I cannot bear to believe that Donald Trump is your president... for the second time.

I laugh (and cry) that so many people voted for Trump in some attempt to bring back their freedom and become wealthy again? As he stands alongside Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos, the men who have accumulated millions of dollars from people through their platforms.

It's a joke that anyone would assume that these men would

want to give over their power, status or money back to the American people.

The only way this could be the "Golden Age" for America is if they wake up and see that true system change is what will bring around collective liberation and what we all need to be doing right now is divesting from these monopolies and building out our communities and supporting our local services.

Money is power and attention gives status, so what does it look like for us to redirect both those things to our local and under-resourced communities? What does collective liberation look like?

This year might be the worst this planet has ever been, in terms of climate issues, food insecurity, psychotic power hungry men running countries and destroying others.

If you haven't already seen the speech given by Mariann Edgar Budde please I advise you to see it. This is what courage and strength and compassion looks like. This is what it looks like to stand up to a bully. During the inaugural prayer service, Mariann Edgar Budde pleaded with Trump to have compassion on all who will be impacted by his dogmatic belief.

She pleaded for him to think of the immigrants, the LGBTQI community. Mariann Edgar Budde

is the first female spiritual leader at Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

If you have lost faith within the political landscape please be encouraged by the fact that you still have power, you as an Individual can work with the collective for all our liberation. We can remove our attention from huge online platforms that capitalise off our time, we can stop buying from platforms that make the rich richer, we can redirect funds to support local or marginalised communities, we can lead protests, we can fundraise, we can support and care for each other more and step away from the colonial capitalist machine that has us enslaved to a desk.

We can re-find our heart in each other, in our humanity and we can look at Trump and think wow if that is where the western democratic system is going, if that is what it takes for this type of capitalist system to succeed then maybe we in Australia have a great opportunity to revolt and say no.

From Israel to the States, are these really the people who want us as our mates, our kin? Our global partners? Food for thought.

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

Indigenous struggles in Trump 2.0's wake

It's been a predictably colourful and politically charged fortnight following US President Donald Trump's inauguration and a slew of executive orders. Most of these orders focused on strengthening border security by promising the swift removal of illegal immigrants, regulating immigration, promoting economic growth through artificial intelligence (AI) and tech infrastructure, and implementing policies winding back commitments to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and gender recognition.

These orders represent a mixed bag for Indigenous peoples in the US; some offer progress while others create significant challenges. On the one hand, Trump has taken positive steps, such as directing the Secretary of the Interior to work toward full federal recognition for the Lumbee Tribe. Based in North Carolina, the Lumbee have long been excluded from access to essential resources, services and rights available to other federally recognised tribes, such as healthcare, education and self-governance. This directive is a positive development for the tribe's 55,000 members, who have campaigned for decades for



Adam C Lees

this result.

Although North Carolina has recognised the Lumbee Tribe since 1885, it has yet to gain federal recognition. The next step requires Congressional approval, a hurdle they haven't previously been able to overcome. However, this long-awaited aspiration could finally become a reality with Trump's backing.

Conversely, Trump's order to rename the highest peak in North America back to Mount McKinley marks a significant setback for Indigenous groups and Alaskan lawmakers who fought to honour the mountain's traditional Athabaskan name. Denali, meaning "The High One," holds deep cultural significance for the

'Across the pond in Australia, Trump's populist style continues to ripple and reverberate.'

Athabaskan people. In 2015, the US Department of the Interior, under President Barack Obama, officially renamed Mount McKinley to Mount Denali after years of advocacy.

Unfortunately, our Prime Minister lacks the legislative power to issue an executive order to rename places like several 'Black Gin' Creeks and Black Gin Gully in the Northern Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, and other outdated and racist terms. I digress!

Lastly, Trump's order to disband DEI initiatives, and by default, those supporting Indigenous students, has received the most coverage, particularly the move to sack federal DEI staff and cancel programs. Colleagues have reportedly been asked to report any instances where DEI programs are being hidden.

This move has also sparked widespread scrutiny, with many companies rethinking their approaches to DEI considering these developments.

It's often forgotten that the United States is home to a wide range of Indigenous groups, from Native Americans and Alaska Natives like the Inuit, Aleut and Yupik to Hawaiians, Samoans, Chamorros and Indigenous peoples from US territories and freely associated states, such as the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and American Samoa. While not under complete US jurisdiction, these groups maintain unique ties to the country. The US is also home to Indigenous peoples from Mexico and Central America, including the Zapotecs and Mayans, many of whom have migrated due to historical displacement and the ongoing effects of American policies on their home countries.

Given their varying levels of federal jurisdiction, it will be interesting to see how presidential executive orders and future policies under Trump 2.0 affect Indigenous peoples across the US, particularly regarding resources,

cultural heritage protection and representation.

During Donald Trump's previous term, several policies impacted Indigenous communities, including those in US territories. Environmental rollbacks, such as reducing the size of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments, opened traditional lands to mining and drilling. His last administration also limited tribal sovereignty, as seen with the opposition to the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe's land trust status, undermining their self-determination and self-governance. Policies on healthcare and immigration, like cutting Medicaid funding in places like American Samoa, challenged these communities.

Across the pond in Australia, Trump's populist style continues to ripple and reverberate. We're seeing copycat tactics in recent Opposition moves on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, with echoes of Trump's order banning LGBTQ+ pride flags in embassies and offices, as well as the rising anti-"woke" sentiment.

All we need to do is look online or read the major dailies to see that Indigenous issues continue

to be a political football. Then there's the good old comments sections. We face an uphill battle to receive balanced coverage. In addition to the resounding defeat of the Voice to Parliament proposal, several recent polls show significant shifts in public sentiment on Australia Day, with (supposed) more substantial backing from younger Australians and major media outlets to 'keep the date'.

While there are clear parallels between Australia's political climate and the rise of Trump-style populism, particularly in the use of divisive rhetoric and cultural polarisation, we need to remember that we are not America. I hope that Australians can sift through the bullshit and reject this type of cheap political posturing and politicking. We don't need to, and shouldn't, follow America's lead; we have the opportunity and the responsibility to do better. But will we?

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



Future leaders converge



THE CareerTrackers community reunited for the first time in person last week since 2020 at Naarm's Marvel Stadium at their annual Leadership Development Institute conference.

The conference brought together 400 CareerTrackers students, alumni, partners and staff in three days of learning and networking.

The CareerTrackers internship program was started in 2009 with a vision to create First Nations leaders, particularly in the corporate space. With an alumni cohort of more than 1,300, many of whom are keen to give back and support current interns, the program is the largest community of First Nations students and professionals in Australia.

CEO Taryn Marks said that spending three days with the CareerTrackers community has been an amazing experience.

"Seeing everyone in one room, and spending time with them over this three-day period, it's really obvious the power of our incredible community, which is why the theme this year is 'Connecting for Impact' – because together we can achieve so much more," Ms Marks said.

Quandamooka woman Scarlett Smith-Perkins, who is studying computer science at the University of Queensland, said that she appreciated the opportunity to meet other students and Mob in person. Scarlett said she enjoyed connecting with other computer science students from all over Australia at the STEM workshop.

Interns attended sessions on presentation, goal setting, STEM and study skills; and alumni attended sessions on Indigenous governance, leadership and managing cultural load.

Travis Cardona, Director First Nations and Outreach at NIDA who delivered a session for interns on presenting with confidence said: "It was truly inspiring to witness the enthusiasm of so many First Nations university students at the CareerTrackers event. Our brief NIDA presenting skills workshop aimed to equip them with tools to confidently navigate future presentations. CareerTrackers deserves commendation for their exceptional efforts in paving career pathways for our young Mob."

One of the most engaged sessions was run by Drew Patten and Layla Quartermaine of the Koorie Youth Council, with the theme 'The Gift of Responsibility', which included audience discussion of topics such as wellbeing and experiences in the workplace.

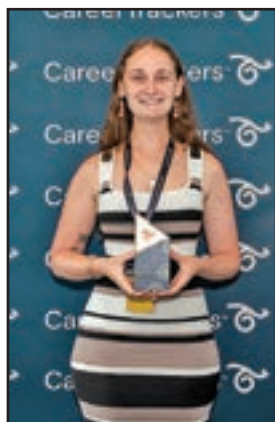
Alumni Manager Bek Lasky, who programmed the alumni workshops, said her highlights included seeing everyone together, meeting new people and getting the chance to have deep conversations.

"It was important for us to be together in person, so many alumni are on such great career paths and trajectories, so it was good seeing where they are now."

On the last day of the LDI, Andy Krakouer gave an inspirational speech about his incredible life from prison to playing for Collingwood Football Club to presenting *Yokayi Footy* on NITV. He spoke to the students about learning to be accountable for his actions, and the importance of culture, finding strength in community and resilience.



CareerTrackers alumni Joshua Preece, Rebekah Hatfield, Tara Croker, Anne Marie Forrest, Keely Farinazzo, Claudia McCartney, Jason McCall and Melita Hegarty. Picture: Jacinta Keefe



Alumni Excellence award winner Merinda Walters. Pic: Tiffany Garvie.



Intern of the Year award winner Isabella Zdravkovic.



LDI Awards MC Hannah Hollis (centre) with CareerTrackers alumni Tara Croker (left) and Teeyana Salabogi. Pic: Tiffany Garvie.

LDI CareerTrackers interns and alumni gathered at Marvel Stadium. Photographer: Tiffany Garvie

ExxonMobil

Community Consultation - decommissioning



An ExxonMobil Brand

Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd (Esso), a wholly owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil Australia Pty Ltd, is committed to operating and decommissioning its Gippsland and Bass Strait facilities safely and effectively. After delivering energy to Australia for over 50 years, many of the Bass Strait oil and gas fields are now reaching the end of their productive life. As planning for decommissioning progresses, Esso is focused on safely shutting-down non-producing facilities and ensuring they stay safe throughout the entire decommissioning process.

Community Information Sessions

If you'd like to know more about plans for **Decommissioning of platforms and pipelines in Bass Strait**, the Esso Consultation Team will be hosting community information sessions at the following locations:

Monday 17 February 2025 - Yanakie
Yanakie Hall
Millar Road, Yanakie

Tuesday 18 February 2025 - Foster
Foster War Memorial Arts Centre
Main Street, Foster

Wednesday 19 February 2025 - Leongatha
South Gippsland Trade Skills Alliance (SGBLLEN)
71 Ogilvy Street, Leongatha

Monday 24 February 2025 - Lakes Entrance
On the Wharf Café, Bullock Island
Lakes Entrance

Tuesday 25 February 2025 - Yarram
The Yarram Country Club
322-340 Commercial Road, Yarram

Wednesday 26 February 2025 - Sale
The Criterion Hotel
90 Macalister Street, Sale

All the above sessions will run from **5.00pm - 7.00pm** with a **presentation** about Esso's operations with a focus on decommissioning projects.

We encourage you to come along and ask questions or to raise any concerns you may have. Please **register your attendance** by emailing: consultation@exxonmobil.com

If these dates and times don't suit, contact us at consultation@exxonmobil.com or by phone on 03 9261 0000.

The Esso Team will also be available to discuss all current activities, including:

- Bass Strait State Waters Environment Plan
- Bass Strait Operations Environment Plan
- Gippsland Basin Geophysical and Geotechnical Investigations Environment Plan

- Jack-Up-Rig Plug & Abandonment Revision 1 Environment Plan
- Turrum Phase 3 Drilling Environment Plan

[Like to be consulted about these activities?](#)

Esso is working to identify and consult with relevant persons [stakeholders] whose functions, interests, or activities may be affected by one or more of Esso's proposed activities.

Complete the [Esso Consultation Questionnaire \(sli.do\)](#) in the Esso Consultation Hub to let us know if you'd like to be consulted or have any questions or feedback.

Refer to the NOPSEMA brochure [Consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans brochure.pdf \(nopsema.gov.au\)](#) to understand more about consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans assessed under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2023.

Your feedback and our response will be included in the relevant regulatory application documentation and submitted to the regulator.

[Please connect us with other interested people](#)

If there is anyone you know who may be interested in our activities, we encourage you to share this information with them.



[To find out more information](#)
For more information about Esso's activities and other projects, go to the Esso Consultation Hub at: <https://corporate.exxonmobil.com/locations/australia/our-approach>

'The festival' brings

By JILLIAN MUNDY



HUNDREDS turned out to this year's Putalina Festival, soaking up the vibes, sunshine and music. Known simply as 'the festival' to Lutruwita/Tasmania's Aboriginal community it is a big community catch up.

Putalina holds a story of invasion, genocide, grave robbery and repatriation, land return and ultimately survival of Palawa.

The annual festival is on the Saturday closest to 16th January, marks the anniversary of the 1984 reoccupation of Putalina, which led to its eventual return to Aboriginal control.

On near every other day of the year Putalina is a reflective, somewhat sombre and tranquil place.

For festival performers it is a supportive stage and a chance to showcase their talent to their own community, whether they be first time performers or

established recording or touring artists.

For Tye Hart, a 22-year-old Waka Waka man who has grown up in the Palawa community, it was his first ever solo performance.

"I did it to get over my nerves and fears, for my son, my biggest fear is stage fright, I want to teach him not to let fear hold you back," the new dad told the *Koori Mail*.

Not only did he face his fears, but impressed his community with silky smooth vocals performing a cover of James TW's *When You Love Someone*.

Although Tulampunga/Pakana man Rulla Kelly-Mansell, a recorded hip-hop artist who has played alongside the likes of Archie Roach, Vika and Linda Bull, Midnight Oil and Yothu Yindi, was born and raised in Lutruwita, it was his first time performing at Putalina. When he was younger he concentrated on football and has been Kurna/Adelaide based for the past five years, and timing just never seemed to align for the

festival.

"It was very special, I defiantly felt the energy of our old people," he said of performing at Putalina.

He played a sample of songs which he is recording for his debut album, due out later this year, including one reflecting on 'addressing the elephant in the room' – cultural appropriation and fraudulent identity, and another about the destructive mining and logging industries and standing in solidarity with Uncle Jim Everett.

"The album will be a testimony to living and growing up in Lutruwita, celebrating the flora and fauna and speaking to about the endemic issues our communities are faced with," he said.

For 20-year-old Taylor Hughes it was the first time she had performed since a high-school production but her second time on the Putalina stage – the last time she was just ten, in her first ever festival performance, when she sang a tribute to Elders passed.



Dancers Leroy Hart, Brenton Brown and Danny Gardner with, down the front, Manala Gardner and Akynah Brown.



Rulla Kelly-Mansell and band perform as festival goers give the finger to colonisers and their destruction of Country.



'Pink Ladies' dance trio Sophie Milburn, daughter Erza Milburn and sister Ashlee Mansell opened the festival, followed by their brother Mitchell Mansell, pictured on their left, who sang.



Cousins Zephyr Looby and Mae Gamble hanging in the kids activity and craft tent.



Tulampunga/Pakana hip-hop artist Rulla Kelly-Mansell.

community together



Dancers Danny Gardner, Manala Gardner, Akynah Brown and Brenton Brown.



DENNI, aka Madam Pakana, has been a festival highlight for the last few years, pictured with keen young'uns backing her up on the stage behind.



Cousins Taylor and Natika Hughes – Natika was moved to tears when Taylor sang earlier in the day.



Washing-up extraordinaires Michelle Gower, Delina Rigney, Troy She and Dave Parker.



Some of the Launceston Mob, Heidi Maynard, Nola Hooper, Trudy Maluga, Tyreece Smith (from Burnie) and Seth Counsel.



Thungutti singer/songwriter Jimmy Kyle of Chasing Ghosts said “coming from the mainland it was an honour to perform.”



Tye Hart facing his stage-fright fear and wowing his community with his silky-smooth vocals.



Festival goers Maggie Blanden and Sienna Barron-Scotney, with mother and daughter duo Mia and Mon Mansell, who sang.



A section of the crowd enjoying Rulla Kelly-Mansell and friends closing the festival.

Thousands join Invasion Day march

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



MORE than ten thousand Indigenous people and their allies fronted up loud and proud at the Invasion Day Rally and March at Belmore Park at the centre of Gadigal (Sydney) last Sunday.

This is despite many sections of the mainstream media in Australia declaring in the run-up to January 26 that, since the loss of the 2023 Voice Referendum, most Australians were no longer engaged with Indigenous issues including truth telling, treaty, changing the date or re-establishing Indigenous sovereignty over a land never ceded.

The estimate of crowd size came directly from police who escorted the vocal marchers in a parade that stretched along Broadway to the annual Yabun Festival at Victoria Park.

Yabun is the largest community-led one-day festival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures with performers this year including Electric Fields and BAARKA as well as a separate dance-ground.

Invasion Day Rally and March co-ordinator Gwenda Stanley has been involved in the rally for ten years. She believes January 26 should henceforth be known as 'Sovereignty Day'.

"I started off with Redfern Aboriginal tent embassy and watched it grow over the years. Our narrative needs to change, we need to control the narrative of what we want to say," Ms Stanley said.

"I'm a bit nervous today, the rally has grown over the years but there are also a lot of idiots out there and we are hoping they will keep the peace today. They are not going to frighten us, we will take these streets every year.

"We are just moving on from the referendum that was never going to give us anything, we are still in the same boat. What was going to change if we won it? We are still having suicides, we are still homeless and we are still landless in this country. The unfinished business of genocide in this country needs to be addressed."

Many speakers on the day also exhorted the crowd to re-commit to the campaign for justice for Indigenous people.

The memory of the 1965 Freedom Ride, a 15-day bus journey through regional NSW, a defining moment in Australian activism, was celebrated and the grandchildren of Billy Craigie, a co-founder of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in 1973, and prominent Aboriginal activist Isabel Coe lead the rally and later parade.

Survival Day Rally MC Lynda-June Coe opened proceedings saying, "not only is this a day of celebration but it's a day of mourning and I am calling for a minute's silence to remember all of our fallen warriors, all our loved ones that passed away before their time and to remember all the casualties of this undeclared war and all of our brothers and sisters who have passed away in

incarceration as a result of this illegal occupation."

After the silence Ms Coe also paid tribute to "all our Palestinian brothers and sisters here today and I also extend that solidarity and respect to our Maori brothers and sisters. At this point in time their sovereignty is also under attack from a right-wing agenda designed to eradicate the first peoples of that land. Our plight is one, let us stand together in love and unity and respect for all."

Ms Coe then introduced Wiradjuri Elder, Uncle Dave Bell, "who has been on the front line in Sydney for the last decade plus."

Mr Bell paid his respects to the warriors in the frontier wars like Pemulwuy and Windradyne. He also acknowledged Auntie Amanda Hall, great grand-daughter of Harry Hall who was there with Charles Perkins on the 1965 Freedom Ride.

The *Koori Mail* caught up with Auntie Amanda later on. She said she saw some of the same spirit of the Freedom Ride in the Invasion Day Rally and March.

"We are up to the 60th anniversary of the Freedom Ride and we are still fighting the fight sixty years later," she said.

NSW Treaty Commissioners, Naomi Moran and Dr Todd Fernando, appointed last year by the Minn's government, addressed the crowd with Ms Moran saying she took the responsibility of being the only female NSW Treaty Commissioner very seriously.

"I am no-one without those who came before me and I want to acknowledge all those warrior men and warrior women. Let us keep in mind that treaty has always been part of the conversation, treaty has always been in the marches, treaty has always been in the dust and on the doorsteps and in the conversations we had around our tables and it's time to take it to another level," she said. "We are proud as commissioners to make sure your voices continue to be heard."

The final speaker of the day was Vanessa Turnbull-Roberts who said the task of the Treaty Commission was not to be underestimated.

"We all need to come to the table and understand what treaty means and end the war," she said before urging the crowd to prepare for the looming Federal election.

"There is a war on Black children, we are removing our children at a higher rate than we have ever seen before. We need to take the lives of young people seriously. I challenge everyone to go into their remembering, its sits in your spirit it never leaves and let's march the streets, let's scream and let's stand together."

After the intensity of the Invasion Day Rally and March, the Yabun Festival was a welcome celebration with families packing out Victoria Park for an afternoon of Aboriginal culture, music and hope for the future.



The Mayul-Daghaan dancers from Dharal (Campbelltown) opened the Survival Day rally and led the crowd response.



The Survival Day 2025 March of more than 10,000 stretched all the way along Broadway before concluding at the Yabun Festival at Victoria Park.



Jupuul Mari (Stephen Porter) addresses the crowd.



Lawyer and Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People, Vanessa Turnbull-Roberts, and daughter Waitui, were the final speakers at the 2025 Survival Day Rally.



NSW Treaty Commissioner Dr Todd Fernando reminded the crowd the commission was to be a Black-only consultation process.



NSW Treaty Commissioner Naomi Moran is one of three commissioners that also includes Aden Ridgeway.



Mahalia, Wyndradyne, Coen and Chayse Murphy came in from Western Sydney.



Alera Foster, Corey Holt, Arley Holt and Ebony Holt from Warumungu (Canning Creek).



Amanda Hall, grand-daughter of Harry Hall, one of the original Freedom Riders and Uncle Dave Bell, a rally organiser on the Committee of the Black Caucus, hailed Survival Day 2025 a success

The Ngungilanh Dancers from Ngiyambah in Central West NSW were just one of many dance groups that kept a big crowd engaged at the Yabun dance ground.



Yabun MC Steph Tisdell chats with legendary No Fixed Address drummer, Uncle Bart Willoughby.



Riding high in the Survival Day March, a jarjum has her eyes on the future.



TJ, Allira, Michael and Mark Fuller from Tubbahgah (Dubbo).



Sydney-siders Aaron McGrath, Rhiana Leaupepe Perkins, Buia David, James Boyd and Santi Pineda from Columbia.



Dean Brady on the main stage at Yabun 2025.



Kaliya Edwards-Ware, Leilani Green, Kirriana Edwards-Ware and Mya Williams-Orcher at Yabun 2025.



Mob from Moree including Anne Fernando, Cassie Duncan, Lisa Duncan, Lillyarna Donovan, Ji Duncan, Louarna Beckett, Rayden Waite, Mitchell Blanch and Zakeidan Bolt enjoying the festivities at Yabun 2025.



The Taylor Family from Kangai near Grafton made the trip to Yabun.

Naarm grinds to a standstill



IN Melbourne, tens of thousands of people lined the steps of state parliament – in what organisers described as the biggest Invasion Day turnout to date – to demand justice over Indigenous deaths in custody

and missing and murdered women, and for governments to be held to account in treaty negotiations. Chants of "shame", "long live the resistance" and "from the river to the sea, always was always will be" rang out as a dozen speakers addressed the crowd.



The Invasion Day protest in Naarm at Flinders Street Station intersection.



Yalanji, Jirrbal, Badu islander soul singer Kee'Ahn performed at the event.



Signs are left on the steps of Victoria's Parliament House at the rally.



A sacred fire burns on the steps of Victoria's Parliament House.



Thane Garvey, Wurundjeri Traditional Owner, leads the smoking ceremony.



Djirri Djirri Dancers entertained the crowd.



Gamilaraay, Kooma, Muruwari woman Maurial Spearim addresses the crowd.



Uncle Professor Gary Foley encouraged those in attendance to educate others about the true history of colonisation.



Bunurong woman and First Peoples' Assembly Member Zoe Upton.



Protestors march along Bourke Street in Naarm.



Gamilaraay, Dunghutti, and Gumbaynggirr rapper Jonathan "Caution" Binge leads the march.



Children under the giant Aboriginal flag



A large Aboriginal flag was carried throughout the march in Naarm (Melbourne) CBD.



Warlpiri woman Samara Fernandez-Brown addresses the crowd about the police shooting of her cousin, Kumanjayi Walker.



Uncle Robbie Thorpe, from the Krautungalung people of the Gunnai Nation, about to address the crowd at Flinders Street Station.



Protestor at Flinders Street Station intersection.



Attendees rally at Victoria's Parliament House



An Indigenous Deaths in Custody sign is held by an attendee

History and culture

By PETER ARGENT



STARTING with the "Mourning in the Morning" on the banks of Karrawirra Parri (River Torrens) in Tarntanya Wama (Elder Park), many events were held around the Adelaide area honouring Australian First Nations culture – and 60,000 years of history.

A special Smoking Ceremony conducted by revered Elder Uncle Moogy Sumner was a key part of the event.

North Haven Surf Lifesaving Club Aboriginal-controlled community organisation Yura Yerlo, in conjunction with Port Adelaide Enfield Council, also hosted a Survival Day event.

The theme this year was based on the resilience and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities with ceremony, speeches, performance, a barbeque and creative workshops.

Up at Mount Barker in the Adelaide Hills, the Ruby Hunter Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting Aboriginal people backed by arts and culture, stood in solidarity with First Nations communities across the region with the theme of "Reignite Our Spirit."

The biggest of these events was held at Tandanyangga (Victoria Square) in Adelaide's CBD.

After people marched through the streets, there were potent speeches and performances from interstate and local First Nations and Māori artists, including Coloured Stone and "Dem Mob".



Viola Koncz, Shakana Coleman, Nicky Coleman; Royden Argent, Jermaine Clinch, Stephanie Clinch, Brendan Saunders, Justin Saunders, Chris Catsambalis, Chloe Highfold and Ashley Cameron.



Georgia Broad, Mihret Richards, Xavier Richards and Kylie Wanganeen enjoying the festivities at Outer Harbour.



Kiah Buckskin-James and Jasmine Miller.



Maddi Ingram with Payten and Elijah Calyun (right) looking for some fun in the sand.



Joshua Weetra and his little sister Sophia Weetra at the rally in Tandanyangga.



Kelani Woods, Aaliyah Woods and Mariah Andrew from Adyamnana and Kuyani heritage.



Tom Hunter and Mick Adelaide.



From the Mandandanji Mob in Queensland, Tyrone Taylor

Boorloo represent

By COLE BAXTER



MORE than 1,000 Blackfullas and allies came together on January 26 at Forrest Chase in Boorloo/Perth for respectful truth-telling and truth-listening.

Framed with slogan-adorned signs, and amongst a sea of t-shirts advocating for better acknowledgement of Indigenous folks in Australia, this year's Invasion Day rally was a realistic representation of more than just a bipartisan narrative that the mainstream media often feeds the airwaves.

Noongar man Clint Uink, a state and federal Greens candidate, said more truth-telling is needed in Australia.

"We have power when we come together," Mr Uink told the crowd.

"When we mobilise in the streets...when we vote...we want treaty's, we want to end (Indigenous) deaths in custody," he said.

The rally saw the inclusion of grassroots community activists and federal representation, along with some from the general republic getting to have their say in regard to what January 26 means to them.

"Sorry means you don't do it again," Ballardong Noongar woman Roxy Moore said.

At the rally, an obvious stoicism mists through the crowd.

But there is also a strong togetherness that brings a comfort to the like-minded folks that recognise January 26 as a day of mourning, and to respect it as such.

"My people walked on these lands before Australia was even thought of," Noongar woman and Indigenous rights advocate Marianne Headland Mackay said.

At the end of the formalities, the stage of speakers and massive crowd marched from Forrest Chase down the closed-off main streets of Boorloo's CBD and into the Supreme Court gardens.

There, the City of Perth council hosted the Birak festival, a celebration of Indigenous culture, paying special attention to the host nation of Noongar Country – platforming local dancers and musicians.

The Birak festival has become a post-rally staple, to neutralise some of the settler Australian energy, where people can gather around the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) to watch fireworks.



Marianne Headland Mackay (Noongar, Indigenous rights advocate spoke at the rally.



A sign points out that January 26 is not a date to celebrate.



A crowd marches through the streets of Boorloo / Perth.



Clayton Murray-Mitchell and son (Gandjon-Jji, Yorta Yorta, Wemba Wemba).



The Boorloo rally was held at Forrest Chase in the CBD.



People came in their hundreds with signs on Invasion day in Boorloo / Perth.



A young person stands in solidarity at the Boorloo / Perth rally.



Bryce and Tyrese Ninyette-Hardy and Megan Krakouer (Noongar, Indigenous Rights Advocate).

Invasion Day draws thousands to protest

By BOB NEBE



WITH a crowd of more than 10,000, the people of Magan-Djin (Brisbane) came out in force to protest this day of mourning for the 87th year. People of different cultures stood in solidarity with First Nations people and their long struggle.

Meeting at Queens Gardens under the statue of Queen Victoria, speakers had messages for a broken country: messages of hope, messages of anger, and messages for the way forward.

Speakers included Uncle Eddie Ruska, Uncle Dale Ruska, Aunty Glennis Croft, Uncle Lionel Fogarty, Moodjidi Fogarty, Sameer El Lagta, William Sim, Guyala Bayles, Cheryl Leavy and Ruby Wharton.

Aunty Glennis Croft told the crowd that she has been to every Invasion Day rally in Brisbane since its inception in the 1970s and her plans, at 82 years of age, is to be at next year's rally.

In her speech she stressed the importance of education and that 'you must use their system' to fight back and win.

Moodjidi Fogarty did what he does best and educated people on the continued feudal system that permeates the present colonial society.

He explained how people need to go back to their circle, the collective decision making, and how every day, not just today, is Invasion Day.

Others spoke of the similarities between the genocide that the First Nations Peoples



The crowd makes its way over Victoria Bridge.

experienced and today's experience in Palestine.

There was also much talk of the LNP's dismantling of the truth telling and healing inquiry and the shame this brings.

Aunty Cheryl Leavy spoke about a way forward suggesting self-government is what First Nations people need.

She championed the building of national and international connections to further the cause and she believes that First Nations people deserve more than their rights, they deserve liberation.

Guyala Bayles, a young Birri Gubba and Wonnarua actor, poet, and activist read us a poem entitled "Don't judge me" which

spoke of the problems all First Nations people live with every day, racism, injustice and the results of substance abuse.

Led by dancers, the crowd made their way to the street, stopping along the way for lessons from Moodjidi about the two sides of the river, and about the guardian spirits of the river.

When the crowd got to the South Brisbane police station they sat down in the street and listened to Uncle Lionel Fogarty talk about the horrors of black deaths in custody.

At Musgrave Park there were more speakers, entertainment and food, giving people a chance to enjoy themselves.



Victoria Van Schie and her niece Mia-Jade.



Aunty Glenys Croft speaks to the gathering.

Mob mark 'minute of power'

By JILLIAN MUNDY



EVERY year more and more people turn out to the Nipaluna/Hobart Invasion Day Rally calling for truth-telling and for the divisive 'Australia Day' celebrations be stopped.

Each year the same banner is carried at the front and the same chant is heard 'Australia Day is not OK, we won't celebrate Invasion Day'.

At the rally there are allies and young children joining for the first time, and each year the absence of those no longer with us is noticed.

Despite all of this and the increasingly toxic and racist politics and commentary in White Australia, the rally wasn't dampened.

Unlike other years when a minute's silence is observed, this year the rally stomped their feet, clapped and pumped their fists in a 'minute of power' making as much noise as they could in the face of injustice.

"I want the people in that building there to hear the sound of change that is coming to them," Palawa man Cody Gangell said, referring to parliament house nearby.

Palawa/Warlpiri woman Nunami Sculthorpe-Green spoke at the rally of the divisiveness.



Thousands marched through the streets of Nipaluna/Hobart chanting, "Australia Day is not OK, we won't celebrate Invasion Day".

"You have those who know that the foundation of this country is based on the removal of Aboriginal people from our lands through violence and genocide, they know this country is built on white supremacy and they are proud of it," Sculthorpe-Green said.

"The legacy they have inherited from their ancestors makes him feel big, they want to carry that racism forward and use their energy to uphold systems of discrimination. This is the country they've created and they want to celebrate that history proudly – today is their day," she said.

"On the other side of the divide of those who have learned the history of this country, and it makes them feel sick, stories of massacres, rape, genocide and forced removal, and incarceration of Aboriginal people, don't make them want to celebrate."

"Wanting to change the date, means you understand that the invasion of our land is not something to unite in celebration over, it means you believe that Aboriginal people are human, that our lives have value and that our ancestors deserve dignity."

"It can also mean that you see



Yuwaalaraay woman Eliza Gibbs ochres up her daughter Georgie.

the need for justice, and you understand that there is a possibility of creating a new story for this country. One in which unity does not mean assimilation into White Australia, but the ability for all of us to have our rights, culture and history respected."

Ms Sculthorpe-Green said Aboriginal people know that changing the date means very little without a treaty.

"We have both time and justice on our side," she said.

Another speaker, tulampanga/nupawula man Rulla Kelly-Mansell, urged young people to recognise the difference between the online world and the real world, and not forget their humanity.

Greens senator Nick McKim said changing the date was not

divisive, but would unite the country.

"Changing the date is about respect, changing the date is about telling the truth of what happened in this country," he said.

"Change is not only possible, but essential."

McKim encouraged people to vote for change.

"You can not keep voting for the same old crap and expecting things to be different."

Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre campaign manager Nala Mansell concluded the rally with words of hope.

Growing up she heard stories from older family members about having no returned land, not speaking their language, their stolen ancestral remains still held in far off institutions and their identity not recognised.

"It's hard for us to comprehend or understand that today, hearing those stories of how everything had to be fought for, a continuous, constant battle to have to fight for what we have today," Mansell said.

"Every single person here today will one day soon be able to be part of the same type of history where they too can look into the eyes of their children and grandchildren and tell them about a time they remember when White Australia celebrated the Invasion of Aboriginal lands and murder of Aboriginal people.

Townsville turns out in force



Ashley Saltner jnr leads the walk of solidarity.



Vicky Tapim and Alanie Solomon at the Alanie's Scrunchies stall.



Shaquillah Tapim and family members at the L Creations Stall.



Robbee, Ros Sailor and Louisa Lay.

By ALF WILSON



A DAWN ceremony, followed by a walk of solidarity then a Kunbul Festival,

were highlights of the successful Townsville Survival Day on Sunday.

At 5.30am, men and women

gathered at Picnic Bay Surf Lifesaving Club headland on the Strand for the dawn event.

Then at 9.30am the walk commenced at the Gregory Street Amphitheatre and it ended about 500m away at Strand Park.

More than 300 men, women and children walked and whilst the majority were either Aboriginal or Torres Strait

Islander, some were non Indigenous.

After the walk, Strand Park was the venue for the Kunbul Festival commencing at 11.30am, which featured traditional dancing, markets, live music, a kids corner and a variety of traditional food.

There were performances by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance groups under a

big tent which was vital because rain fell about 1pm.

Guests were welcomed to Country by Auntie Dorothy Savage for the Bindal people and by Virginia Wyles for the Wulgurukaba Mob.

"Survival Day is special for our people and we are still here after 60,000 years. It is also good for our younger ones as us older people won't

be around forever. This is a happy day because we are alive as First Nations People," Auntie Dorothy said.

A food stall run by Naianga Tamwoy was busy selling traditional Kai Kai food.

The day was organised by Big Eye Theatre and its leader Ros Sailor spent months getting it all together.

Hundreds gather in Hamilton

By PAUL CONNELLY



ON Gunditjmara Country in South West Victoria, more than 100

people gathered in the forecourt of the Hamilton Performing Arts Centre, for this year's Survival Day activities, eclipsing last year's inaugural event numbers significantly.

Event organisers spent many months meeting and curating the event under the incredible leadership of emerging elder, Stacye Charles.

"I want to thank everyone for coming out and making this a special event, both Mob and our Allies," Ms Charles said. "This is an important day for our community and this land was never ceded, we are a proud people and we have survived due to our strength, resilience and determination"

A Welcome to Country was conducted by Auntie Claudette Lovett, who reminded those gathered what Survival/Invasion Day means to First Nations peoples.

"It's about the loss of a generation on colonisation," Auntie Claudette said.

"It's about understanding and appreciating the very country we live in today, acknowledging those lost,



Event organiser Stacye Charles.

who fought hard. The innocent were killed at a young age, before they could crawl even," she said.

Surviving

"Today is about surviving, surviving the atrocities, surviving the disrespect, the criticism, the racism, because if you think that supporting such behaviour is ok, then check yourself, you wouldn't allow or tolerate it in your own home."

Uncle Mookeye Bell said the healing process of the effects of colonisation is important.

"Truth, speaking the truth, that is what we want, it should be what every Australia wants," Uncle Mookeye said.

"We don't want our kids growing up not knowing the truth. You know, as a kid I went to school and was told that Captain Cook discovered Australia, and I would go home, you

were told no he didn't, it was confusing, so it is our job to ensure that our kids are not confused," he said.

"It is important that we are here today to celebrate our continued existence as Gunditjmara people"

Kyle Ellis, one of the event organisers spent most of his morning on January 26 dealing with online racist comments, while trying to also prepare for the days activities.

But Kyle is a strong proud Gunditjmara man, and with the knowledge that the community has his back, was able to rise above the racists and bigots, and speak truth to their lies online.

Those gathered on the day, both Mob and allies came together as one, to recognise and mourn a dark chapter in Australian history, but to also celebrate the continued survival of the First Nations peoples of this nation.

Music for the day was provided by Jayden GunditjMan Lillyst, who kept the crowd entertained as they ate the food prepared by Master Indigenous Chef and Arabana Woman, Corina Stewart.

Plans are already being made for next year's event as this year's saw the crowd size almost triple from last year.



A group gathers for Survival Day in Hamilton, Victoria.



Indigenous liaison officer Jo Westall and Michelle Ellis.



River artist and performer.



Jayden GunditjMan Lillys performed.



Uncle Mookeye Bell.

New exhibition shares journey to sacred place



YINDJIBARNDI artist Alice (Guurruu) Guinness will share a fully immersive journey to Yindjibarndi's most sacred site, when her exhibition *Burndud*, opens on Thursday, February 6, from 4.30pm-6.30pm at the John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University in Perth.

This is Ms Guinness's first solo exhibition and it marks a significant milestone in a remarkable artistic journey spanning more than two decades, showcasing the depth of her connection to culture and her enduring contribution to preserving Yindjibarndi stories.

Commissioned by Boorloo Contemporary for the 2025 Perth Festival, Ms Guinness brings her culture's most sacred place, the *Burndud* Ground, to life transforming John Curtin Gallery into a mesmerising connection to Ngurra (Country).

Burndud is the most sacred place in Yindjibarndi lore and culture.

"The *Burndud* is a special place for teaching and learning. I feel privileged to be able to share knowledge about a place that is at the centre of Yindjibarndi culture and identity," Ms Guinness said.

"The *Burndud* is a dancing and meeting place at the law ground. The people sit on the ground there and they sing songs. The ladies dance around behind the men when they're singing the song," she said.

"The *Burndud* is a special



Esteemed Yindjibarndi artist Alice (Guurruu) Guinness will exhibit her work at the John Curtin Gallery at Curtin University next month.

place for teaching and learning. This important ceremonial site also has its own song. I also paint the Lines of my Country, out at Millstream, the land of my people and the Yindjibarndi, fresh water people."

Ms Guinness will collaborate with Sydney-based media designers Lightwell, Fremantle-based producers CakeWalk Media and Juluwarlu's nationally recognised First Nations archive to show how Yindjibarndi people learn their culture through the *Burndud*.

Guurruu Alice Guinness is the second-born of 10 children to her father, Guinness Gilby (dec.), and her mother, Nordie King

(dec.). Born into a large Yindjibarndi family at Gurrabinya Country near Cherratta Station, Ms Guinness spent her childhood around the Pilbara town of Wittenoom.

As a child, Ms Guinness's Ngurra was both her teacher and playground. Exploring the land with her siblings, she formed a deep connection with the Old People, gaining strength as a proud Yindjibarndi child.

Ms Guinness began painting in 2003 at the Warawarni-gu Healing Art Centre in Roebourne.

When the centre closed due to lack of funding, she joined the Ngarluma Yindjibarndi people's

Roebourne Art Group in 2009.

Her time with the group marked a turning point, and by 2016, her artwork had gained widespread recognition.

In 2019, Ms Guinness began working with Juluwarlu, initially not as a painter but as a cultural assistant.

She supported Elders in recording their stories and history, gradually returning to painting and dedicating herself to her art.

At Juluwarlu's art centre, she became known for her dedication – always the first to arrive and the last to leave.

Today, Ms Guinness is an Elder, sharing her time between Roebourne and Ngurrawaana in the Pilbara.

Her artwork, rooted in her connection to Country, reflects her deep commitment to preserving Yindjibarndi law and culture.

The *Burndud* is a sacred site, ceremonial oral law and song-cycle central to Yindjibarndi culture, history and identity.

The *Burndud* is a significant site on Yindjibarndi Ngurra, connected to the Ngurra Nyujuggamu – the time when the world was soft.

It is also the sacred law – the Birdirra Law – that Yindjibarndi people have passed down through generations for more than 60,000 years.

To this day, every summer, in the Birdirra Law Ceremonies, young men are chosen by their parents to take the sacred journey from boyhood to manhood. At this time, they will be given the knowledge and

responsibilities from the *Burndud* to carry forward the traditions of songs and wisdom.

Lorraine Coppin, CEO, Juluwarlu Group Aboriginal Corporation said she has learned that Ms Guinness' *Burndud* depictions are deep messages of what she sees as important things in life – Ceremony, Family, Galharra (Kinship), Ngurra and the Songs.

"She teaches me to remember these things and always hold each equal to the other and remember our roles and responsibilities and never losing the true meaning of the *Burndud* and why it remains," she said.

Burndud Exhibition
John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University
February 7 – April 17



***Burndud*, Alice Guinness, 2024, 120 x 150cm, acrylic on canvas.**

Mardi Gras exhibition honours Aboriginal love



***Multitudes of Love* by Kyra Kum-Sing.**



AN UPLIFTING show of solidarity, healing, and joy, *Black Family - Aboriginal Love*, celebrating the queer Aboriginal community, will open at 6pm on Friday, February 21, at Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative in Leichhardt.

Boomalli's 2025 Mardi Gras exhibition will be curated by Dunghutti/Gomeri woman, Nioka Lowe-Brennan, marking her debut as an emerging curator.

Offering an exploration of love, connection and resilience, each participating artist has been invited to create works inspired by those who make them feel supported, accepted and loved.

Ms Lowe-Brennan said Boomalli had been a source of profound connection and transformation on her journey.

"Being part of this co-operative has been pivotal in my life," she said.

"I went from being a closeted,

shy teenager longing for connection to feeling accepted, supported, and have been mentored in ways that changed my life.

"This theme emerged from reflecting on the gratitude I feel. I wanted the artists to join me in celebrating how we accept and support one another as Mob, within Boomalli and beyond, and the love we have for our people and those who stand by us."

Mentorship

Ms Lowe-Brennan also acknowledged the invaluable mentorship of Boomalli curator, Kyra Kum-Sing and volunteer Senior Strategist, Dr Bronwyn Bancroft, saying she felt honoured to learn from such powerful Black women.

"Kyra's artwork, *Multitudes of Love*, featuring hearts in the colours of the Aboriginal flag and patchwork elements, was chosen as the hero image for the show," Ms Lowe-Brennan said.

"Selecting Kyra's work was an

easy choice - it fits the theme so well and honours her mentorship throughout my journey as an emerging curator. Her guidance has been invaluable, not just in curatorial practice but in being an artist and a queer Aboriginal woman."

"As Aboriginal people, we often face displacement, rejection and adversity. Yet, no matter the challenges, we always find our way back to the people we belong with."

"We retrace and reconnect, while also building community and finding family wherever we are. This resilience is at the heart of our identity—a testament to how we support one another, create bonds, and how we love."

Black Family – Aboriginal Love Exhibition

Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative

February 21, 2025 - April 12, 2025.



***Figs* by Jay Kulbaru features in the new exhibition.**

Exploring the wisdom in slowing down



MERRIGONG Theatre Company's annual artist's program, MERRIGONGX, kicks off this year with

Kirli Saunders' *Yandha Djanbay* (Go Slowly), at the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre from February 20-22, 2025.

Yandha Djanbay (Go Slowly) presents a powerful meditation on resilience, connection, and healing.

Fusing language with land, and intimate storytelling with audiovisual projection, Kirli's work honours her relationship with Country as both balm and blessing in times of hardship.

Kirli is a proud Gunai Woman and award-winning multi-disciplinary artist, writer, singer-songwriter and consultant.

She was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her contribution to the arts in 2022.

Kirli's eight celebrated books include *Eclipse*, *Returning*, and *Bindi*. *Yandha Djanbay* (Go Slowly) includes poetry from *Eclipse*.

"*Yandha Djanbay* is a mix of poetry, monologue, song and gesture that fuses incredible visuals by Tad Souden, with my music and words," Kirli said.

"Directed by Leland Kean and with Ngunawal sis, Lillie Paton, as part of the producing team, it's a project of collaboration, and one of bravely telling the stories I haven't yet told," she said.

"It's about our ways, about going slowly, and the connection to land, sea and sky being the balm and blessing, offering calm in those times of chaos."

The performance will be a celebration of her inherited strength, her identity as a Blak queer woman, and the wisdom



Kirli Saunders presents *Yandha Djanbay* (Go Slowly), at the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre in NSW this February.

found in slowing down, offering an immersive experience of renewal and connection.

Lillie Paton is Merrigong's new First Nations emerging producer and *Yandha Djanbay* is her first project with the company.

Leland Kean, director and Merrigong Theatre Company's artistic development manager said *Yandha Djanbay* is a deeply personal look into the world of one of the country's most powerful emerging First Nations voices.

"Like the works title, *Yandha*

Djanbay (Go Slowly), has developed over time," Ms Kean said.

"Evolving out of Kirli's first commission with Merrigong, *Going Home*, and many hours of conversations, the work weaves Kirli's award-winning poetry with stories of reflection, loss, heartbreak and renewal," she said.

MERRIGONGX places artists and their practice at the centre of their community.

From in-house creative

developments to full-blown public presentations of new work, and everything in between, MERRIGONGX provides independent artists with financial, technical, marketing, and artistic resources.

Merrigong Theatre Company is a not-for-profit company that operates Wollongong's premier performing arts venue, Illawarra Performing Arts Centre (IPAC).

The performance is recommended for ages 14 years and over.

For this event there is no set ticket price.

Instead, simply reserve a spot, show up, then pay what you feel the performance is worth afterwards.

***Yandha Djanbay* (Go Slowly)**
Bruce Gordon Theatre – IPAC.

February 20-22, 2025.

Bookings:
<https://merrigong.com.au/shows/yandha-djanbay-go-slowly/>

Top tips for emerging artists

As 2025 begins to unfold and take shape, most artists out there are likely wondering what opportunities there may be over the year to come.

As encouragement, and being an artist myself, and an artist's agent/representative, I thought about sharing some general tips, which could help you get the ball rolling.

Let me preface by stating: There's no such thing as a sure-fire recipe to success.

Furthermore, 'success' is whatever you make of it!

Also, advice is only ever as useful as your given circumstances.

And as I can't speak to all artists of all stages in their careers, I'll address emerging and aspiring artists in this column.

Your first tip is that, in looking ahead, I hope you've already scanned galleries and events calendars over the year to come and already put in your Expressions of Interests. Most arts organisations will schedule their plans (and enlist their artists) at least twelve months ahead. But, in sifting through the many opportunities (also award competitions, residencies and grants etc), there'll be many things you'll want to be part of. On this front, the adage of having to be 'in it to win it' rings true in the arts, but so it is that you'll experience more knock-backs than go-aheads. Please also accept that you cannot do everything – you are your own 'production house' and administration officer, and you don't want to be stretched for energy, ideas or even resources in your art-making.



Jack Wilkie-Jans

For many emerging artists, crafts are where one starts. This kind of output can be useful to honing a technique, getting used to any preferred materials and scales. Though, as markets are the best opportunity for artisans and craftspeople, do try to be selective on how many events you'd seek to move your arts and wares at. This applies if you have ambitions to become a collectable and 'gallery' artist one day. The more you sell at lower price-points, at smaller scales, the more you'll oversaturate your available market.

Remember, where you start isn't always where you'll remain, and one day collectors and curators will want to be able to keep track of your earlier works and ensure their compatibility with later ones.

On this dictum, please emphasise quality over quantity, and significance-of-opportunity than perhaps an immediate perceived promotional or sales opportunity. Instead, take your time and be selective (saying 'no' can just be saying 'not yet').

Essential to all artists and their message is to find your own unique and authentic artistic voice and visual aesthetic and narrative style.

Being grounded with an authentic and immovable creative voice will help protect you from carpetbaggers or culture-vultures and will help you in the low times.

Knowing you have something of value to say through your work will help achieve patience. Carrying this will also help you navigate the many protocols which exist around genuine authority in storytelling, versus what may be perceived as styles appealing to tourist markets and broader non-Indigenous buyers.

Here, I'm talking about being sure not to appropriate the styles and iconography of other First Nations artists which are sacred to their Lore. Overall, I urge you to do your research on protocols, who's-who, who's coming up and who else is making similar art to you.

Of course, one of the hardest things for any artist is regarding their works themselves; knowing when to put down the

brush (or whatever your instrument is) can be exceptionally difficult. Confirming your own belief or confidence in your talent and style can also be one of the biggest first steps in a career as an artist.

Never fear – you will hone this instinct, as it is an instinct. And, sometimes a fresh set of eyes helps. Never be shame to share your work on Facebook or Instagram or privately with people whose tastes you trust. But at the same time, don't create for other people. Knowing when to take or leave advice around your artworks' aesthetic and construction is a fine line.

The above can all be a bit overwhelming at times, your ability to produce works as you wish will ebb and flow. The world of artists rights and contracts and fees and all of that hubbub is a complex space.

Reach out and ask for advice and broaden your circle in doing so. Remember, the Indigenous Art Code, Arts Law, Copyright Agency, and local galleries/art centres/organisations can give you help. So can people like me who are agents and representatives, who fight for artists in a commercial setting.

This isn't much, but I do hope this helps you scope out your approaches this year in your arts journey!

If you have need of any further advice for your situation, you can reach out to me via www.jackwilkiejans.com

● Jack Wilkie-Jans is a Waanji, Teppathiggi and Tjungundji artist and writer, and regular contributor to the Koori Mail.

event listings

NORTHERN TERRITORY

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/

Sovereign Acts/Love Praxis
when: Feb 17- Apr 11, 2025
where: FUMA Gallery, Flinders University, Bedford Park, Adelaide
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



Janaya prepares for next tour

BANGARRA dancer Janaya Lamb is a proud Wiradjuri woman with deep cultural ties to her heritage. Born on Bundjalung Country in Northern NSW and raised on Gamilaraay Country, Janaya's roots also stretch through her Torres Strait Islander, Butchulla and Ngajanji ancestry on her grandfather's side. Our arts reporter, KIRK PAGE, had a chat with Janaya about the upcoming tour of 'The Light Inside' which will be featured in our next edition.

where: Signal Point Experience Centre, Goolwa/Ngarrindjeri Country
info/bookings:
agsa.sa.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/#touring

TASMANIA

luna rrala – strong women
when: until 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

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

Bulaan Buruugaa Ngali

An exhibition of ancestral woven objects alongside newly commissioned contemporary works
where/when: Tweed Regional Gallery, Feb 22 - Apr 27; Lismore Regional Gallery, Sept 12, 2025 - Nov 9, 2025
info/bookings:
artsnorthernrivers.com.au/search?query=Bulaan+Buruugaa+Ngali+Exhibition

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/

Michelle Pulatuwayu and Woody Minnapinni
when: 1 February – 15 March 2025
where: STATION Gallery Gadigal/Sydney
info/bookings:
stationgallery.com

Shoalhaven First Nations Film Festival
Like My Brother, an inspirational story of young First Nations women moving between two worlds - their home on the Tiwi

Islands and the professional football clubs of Melbourne.
when: Sunday 9 February
where: Huskisson Pictures, 19 Sydney St, Huskisson
info/bookings:
sfnff.wordpress.com

QUEENSLAND

irhythm 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/whatson/exhibitions

VICTORIA

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/

NATIONAL TOURS

Bangarra Dance
The Light Inside
when/where: Feb, Dharawal Country (NSW); March, 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/production/s/illume/

Parrtjima
– A festival in Light
when: April 4-13, 2025
where: Alice Springs Desert Park, Mparntwe, NT
info/bookings:
parrtjimaaustralia.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/

Treaty Day Out
Including Troy Cassar-Daley, A.B. Original, David Arden, MpathSoul, Electric Fields, Kutcha Edwards, Emily Warramara and Canisha
when: Saturday 8 February 2025
where: Gippsland Sports and Entertainment Park, Morwell.
info/bookings:
www.TreatyDayOut.com

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT



Palawa man Bradley Maynard's career has benefited from the TAFE course he undertook.

Bradley's TAFE journey



FOR proud Palawa man Bradley Maynard, TAFE provided the stepping stones to turn his passion for workplace safety into a thriving career.

Bradley began his journey with an apprenticeship in boiler-making and welding – a role that had helped develop his technical skills but left him wanting more.

A Facebook post about TasTAFE's Certificate IV in Work Health and Safety sparked his interest, inspiring him to take the first step.

"I thought, why not start small?" Bradley recalls.

"From there, I built on it".

That initial decision became the foundation for an impressive career transformation.

Through TAFE, Bradley has earned five qualifications, including courses in leadership, management, and training and assessment.

These qualifications not only expanded his skillset, but also gave him the confidence to step into leadership roles.

"I started as a project supervisor, and TAFE gave me the skills and confidence to take on management roles," he shares.

Today, Bradley works as a Safety Manager at Crisp Bros. and Haywards, a Tasmanian-based steel fabrication and construction company.

Responsibility

In this role, he oversees over 300 workers, manages policies, workers' compensation, and conducts site inspections and audits.

"It's a role I never imagined myself in," Bradley says, "but my qualifications made it possible."

Bradley's story highlights the transformative power of Fee-Free TAFE courses, which remove financial barriers and make education more accessible.

For Bradley, this support enabled him to retrain and step into a high-demand, meaningful industry.

He acknowledges the invaluable guidance of TasTAFE's Aboriginal Support Officers, who assisted with enrolment, fees and resources.

"They were always in contact to see if I needed any help or support.

Very supportive

"Everyone – no matter their background – was supportive. The instructors were hands-on and genuinely wanted us to succeed. It felt like a community," Bradley says.

Bradley's advice to others considering a Fee-Free TAFE course?

"It's not just about gaining a job — it's about sharing knowledge, inspiring others, and aiming for a brighter future.

"Have a look at what Fee-Free TAFE courses are available and contact your local TAFE support team to find something that interests you.

"Then it's up to you to set your own pathway, discover your own style, achieve your goals, and possibly start a new career," he says.

Bradley's journey is a testament to the transformative power of these courses, which have already helped many First Nations Australians retrain and find meaningful work in high-demand industries. Whether you are interested in upskilling in your current industry, or wanting to access TAFE's dedicated job placement support, your study will lead to more opportunity.

With the right support and resources, TAFE can be the key to unlocking your potential and shaping a brighter future.

With flexible study options available, you can set your own pathway, discover your style, and achieve your goals — just like Bradley did.

To learn more about Fee-Free TAFE opportunities, visit <https://www.yourcareer.gov.au/fee-free-tafe/first-nations>

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!*

Advertising disclaimer: Budsoar Pty Ltd, publisher of the Koori Mail, reserves the right to alter, omit or change advertisements, and while every care is exercised, it is not responsible for errors or non-insertions. No adjustments will be made for errors unless attention is drawn to them within the first week of

publication. Advertisers agree that all advertisements published by Budsoar Pty Ltd may also appear on a relevant web site operated by Budsoar Pty Ltd.
Privacy Policy: Budsoar Pty Ltd collects your personal information to assist us in providing the goods or services you have requested, to process your

competition entries, and to improve our products and services. We may be in touch to let you know about goods, services or promotions which may be of interest to you. We may also share your information with other persons or entities who assist us in providing our services, running competitions or with other companies

who provide prizes for competitions or reader offers. If you would prefer that we do not do this, please write to us at: admin@koorimail.com or phone (02) 66 222 666, or fax (02) 66 222 600. Mail can be sent addressed to General Manager, Budsoar Pty Ltd, PO Box 117, Lismore NSW 2480.



chief executive officer

- Lead an Aboriginal health service to improve primary health care delivery
- Ensure best practice, culturally appropriate health services for community
- Based in Coffs Harbour, NSW North Coast | Relocation assistance available

The Organisation

Established in 1998, Galambila is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples living on Gumbaynggirr land (Coffs Harbour).

Galambila is committed to the delivery of high quality, comprehensive primary health care that is sustainable and culturally relevant for their clients and is the largest employer of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the area, providing opportunities for community to work in and with community.

Serving the Aboriginal communities of Coffs Harbour, Urunga, Bellingen and Woolgoolga, and providing outreach services at Yarrawarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Galambila also collaborates in service delivery across the broader region with other communities.

Benefits & Culture

- Attractive salary with tax effective packaging
- Relocation assistance, motor vehicle allowance, generous additional paid leave
- Study leave and financial assistance towards professional development

The Role

You will report to and provide the Galambila board with executive level support and direction to guide the organisation through its next stage of growth and development, while continuing to progress the current breadth of programs and services. With a focus on community, Aboriginal self-determination and upbuilding First Nations' staff, you will:

- Review and refine the strategic plan and organisation structure
- Motivate, develop and empower staff to build capacity and achieve quality outputs
- Identify priority health needs within the community
- Review and adapt process, policy and procedure frameworks to align with best practice
- Oversee organisational governance, risk management, contractual compliance and attainment of accreditation standards

Skills Required

You have developed your executive career in the health, social welfare, community or development sectors. With a successful track record in the delivery of a diverse range of programs and services, you have a collaborative and flexible leadership style and proven ability to work calmly and kindly and think strategically under pressure.

You bring knowledge, respect and support for the cultural values and practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples together with demonstrated understanding of the issues impacting the health status of communities and current initiatives to improve Aboriginal health outcomes. Your experience also includes:

- Strategic leadership at an organisational level
- High level organisational governance, risk management, quality improvement and compliance focus
- Success engaging and working collaboratively with key stakeholders, staff and community
- Financial management experience including budgeting and program management
- Negotiation and management of both government funded programs and self-generated income

You either identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or you are a strong First Nations ally passionate about Aboriginal self-determination and empowerment.

If you are inspired by the opportunity to significantly impact Indigenous health, please submit your resume and cover letter responding to the skills required section above to cv@ngorecruitment.com. Alternatively, please call Hayley Martin on 02 8243 0570 to have a candidate pack emailed to you.



Indigenous Educator/IAS Project Officer 12 hours per week

Aboriginal Identified Position

Would you like to join a friendly, well supported working environment? Do you want to make a difference to the lives of children in Coraki NSW?

Coraki CWA Preschool seeks an experienced educator to join our team and deliver the Coraki Preschool Parenting and Support Project.

The successful applicant will have;

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Above average organisation skills
- WWCC & Police Check
- Cert III in Education & Care (minimum)
- Approved 1st Aid Certificate (or willing to gain the necessary qualifications)
- Ability to manage a project budget & reporting requirements

If you possess these skills we would love to hear from you.

Please email your resume and cover letter to corakipreschool@bigpond.com

Applications close 10th February 2024



Muurrbay
Aboriginal Language & Culture Co-operative

LANGUAGES MANAGER

Muurrbay Aboriginal Language & Culture Co-operative, Nambucca Heads is seeking an experienced Languages Manager to lead delivery of language maintenance programs to Aboriginal communities.

Essential: a minimum Honours degree in Linguistics or at least ten years of Linguistic work experience preferably in Aboriginal languages, language project management experience, strong communication and interpersonal skills, and ability to work collaboratively with diverse communities. First Nations people encouraged to apply. Salary range \$80,000 to \$110,000 K.

See Languages Manager advert on SEEK website for full position description and how to apply.



Australian Government



Chief Executive Officer

Lead an impactful organisation as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL), providing critical services to First Nations people nationwide.

- Affirmative Measure for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander candidates
- Canberra, Brisbane, Darwin, Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne or Perth
- Ability to obtain and maintain a Negative Vetting Level 1 security clearance is required

AHL is an Indigenous Portfolio Body within the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio and operates as a not-for-profit Commonwealth Company. For over 50 years, AHL has provided culturally safe, resident-centred hostel accommodation, supporting First Nations people to access employment, education, and services. AHL is at inflection point, with financial sustainability pressures and increasing demand for services.

The organisation operates under the *Corporations Act 2001* and other regulatory frameworks, with its strategic direction set by a Ministerially-appointed Board of Directors. The CEO, appointed by the Board in consultation with the Minister for Indigenous Australians, oversees daily operations and implements Board-approved policies and strategies.

The CEO leads AHL, driving its strategic vision and operational performance to improve the quality of life and opportunities for First Nations people. Reporting to the Board of Directors, the CEO ensures the effective management of resources, oversees strategic partnerships, and aligns services with government priorities and community needs.

To be successful in this role, you will have proven leadership and organisational transformation experience in business, government, or community organisations. You'll have experience managing large, geographically dispersed teams and budgets. You will possess strong strategic planning, stakeholder engagement and advocacy skills, as well as demonstrated cultural leadership and sensitivity to First Nations communities and culture. Exceptional communication, negotiation, and interpersonal skills are essential. Personally, you'll be a visionary, resilient leader and inclusive team builder with strong decision-making capabilities. You'll be empathetic, committed to social justice and empowering First Nations communities. You must also be willing to travel extensively.

This position is open only to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander candidates as an Affirmative Measure under section 8(1) of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*. A specified term of up to 5 years will be offered to the successful candidate.

How to Apply:

For more information, visit First People Recruitment Solutions <https://bit.ly/3BY1BCH>

Applications must be submitted online by **11:59pm (AEDT) Monday, 10 February 2025**.

To obtain a detailed candidate information pack to assist with your application, contact Bryan Creith bryan@fprs.com.au or Marisa Conlon marisa@fprs.com.au



1690AF_5394

Community Development Officer – Aboriginal Services



Full time temporary up to 3 years.

To perform this role, it is essential that the person is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. It is therefore a genuine occupational requirement under Section 14(d) of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

Salary: \$90,623 to \$101,416 per annum (based on 70 hours per fortnight) plus superannuation and a nine-day fortnight.

Appointed salary in this range will be based on skills, qualifications, and experience.

About us

Hornsby Shire is located on Sydney's upper north shore, approximately 25 kilometres north of the CBD. Known as the 'Bushland Shire,' our local government area is characterised by bushland comprising national park, major waterways, natural reserves, and rural landscape. The rest of the Shire combines urban, rural, and open spaces.

Council for many years has had an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee with representatives from the Traditional Owners, the Dharug and GuriNgai Peoples and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples who live, work, study or have a strong commitment to the Hornsby LGA.

About the Role

The primary purpose of this position is to develop and foster effective and strong communication networks between the Hornsby Shire Council, the local Aboriginal community, and the local community services sector.

Responsibilities of this role include;

- Contributing to the development of strategic policies to address the needs of Hornsby Shire's Aboriginal Community.
- Supporting and advocating on community issues
- Collaborating with stakeholders in the development and implementation of meaningful and responsive community development activities.
- Research and prepare grant application for funding projects and community events relevant to the Aboriginal community.
- Facilitating the engagement between Council and Aboriginal stakeholders relating to heritage and environmental matters.
- Support Hornsby Shire Council's Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee.
- Support the facilitating and coordinating of Aboriginal Community activities and events.
- Provide information and education to Hornsby Shire Council and community to raise cultural awareness.

About you

To be successful in this role you will have tertiary qualifications in community development or social science and good research skills or extensive experience in the sector.

You will be a proactive, strategic thinker with well-developed communication and consultation skills.

Benefits of working with us!

We pride ourselves on having a fantastic culture with a genuine appreciation for work-life balance. Visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/careers and click on "what we offer" to learn about the wonderful benefits available at Hornsby Council.

You will be required to have a current Working with Children Check to work in this position. For further information and to apply, please visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/careers

Closing Date: 21 February 2025 at 11.30pm





Join our team as a
**CORPORATE SERVICES
MANAGER**
at our new Abbotsford office.
Lead operations, drive strategic initiatives,
and foster a collaborative work environment.
Apply now by sending an email to
recruitment@wurundjeri.com.au



2025 Refrigeration Apprentice Program

Kickstart your career in the cool world of refrigeration! Our 4-year apprenticeship program offers comprehensive training and hands-on experience, equipping you with valuable skills for a rewarding future

Our Refrigeration Apprenticeship Program for 2025 is now open, and we're looking for great talent and creative problem solvers across Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth

No experience necessary – if you're eager to learn and have a passion for mechanics, this is your chance to thrive in a growing industry.

To find our more and to submit your application click on the QR Code below and select your preferred location or for more information visit <https://grads.woolworths.com.au/page/refrigeration-apprenticeship-program/>



Coonamble
Local Aboriginal Land Council



Chief Executive Officer

Full Time/Permanent (35 Hours) \$100,000 - \$120,000

The Coonamble Local Aboriginal Land Council (NLALC) is seeking applications from experienced and motivated people interested in a rewarding career undertaking the challenging role of full-time Chief Executive Officer.

The position holder will provide an extensive range of assistance and support to the elected Board through the day-to-day management of the Coonamble LALC's affairs in accordance with delegated authorities; the provision of sound and accurate advice and the implementation of the Board's resolutions in a timely and appropriate manner.

The successful applicant will have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALRA) (or the ability to rapidly acquire), the capacity to interpret and implement legislation and sound communication skills. Organisational and management experience is essential together with an understanding of accounting practices and principles. A sound knowledge and appreciation of Aboriginal issues would also be required.

All applicants must obtain a copy of the recruitment package containing the Position Description and selection criteria and address the selection criteria for their application to be considered.

For a recruitment package contact the Coonamble LALC office, by email: admin@coonamblelalc.com.au or on (02) 6822 2100.

ONLY APPLICATIONS ADDRESSING THE SELECTION CRITERIA ALONG WITH YOUR RESUME WILL BE CONSIDERED.

Applications and an up to date copy of your resume can be forwarded to ceo@coonamble.com.au or marked "Confidential" and posted to:

The CEO Recruitment Panel
Coonamble Local Aboriginal Land Council
16 Castlereagh Street
COONAMBLE NSW 2821

Applications close: 31st January 2025



DOING THE MOST GOOD

Manager

Child and Family; Region - North Queensland; Service Delivery - Child and Family
Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services

Salary: \$142,760 to \$150,874 (annual salary) or \$5,472 to \$5,783 (fortnightly salary)

Location: Mackay

Job Reference: QLD/615955/25

Key Duties: Managers lead and manage service centres, delivering quality, collaborative and integrated child protection services to clients and communities.

Skills/Abilities: Support, lead and manage staff and the service centre in a style consistent with the Framework for Practice in delivery of high-quality child protection services, develop service delivery partnerships, engaging with the community.

Enquiries: Kym Hodgkinson – 4796 6500 – To apply please visit www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au

Closing Date: Friday, 14th February 2025



BUTCHULLA NATIVE TITLE CLAIM GROUP AUTHORISATION MEETING

Date: Saturday, 8 March 2025
Time: 10:00am – 12:00PM
(registration from 9:00am to 10:00am)
Location: The Mantra, Buccaneer Drive, Urangan

This is a meeting to consider authorising one or more members of the Butchulla People to make, and to deal with matters arising in relation to, a native title claim over the area shown on the map below, which overlaps with the Kabi Kabi First Nation Traditional Owners Native Title Claim Group native title application QUD 20/209 in the Federal Court.

Those biological descendants of the following people who identify as Butchulla are invited to attend this meeting:

Father/Mother of Gracie and Maudie Daramboi; Mother of Jessie Aldridge's mother and Lappy; Mother of Charles Richards; Garry Owens; Annie Morris / Anna Gala nee Morris; Granny Polcus /Jenny Brown; Willy Brown/Mamboo/Namboo; George Gundy; Willy Wondunna; Jack Morris; Mary Ann (mother of Susan Rooney); Roger Bennett; Percy Coulson; Mother of John and Rosie Broome; Mother of Clara, Henry, Percy, and Lucy Wheeler

Enquiries
Please contact Lorraine Woolley, on 0412 187 930 or Veronica Bird on 0475 111 232 if you have any queries in relation to this notice.



ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

State Records of South Australia and the State Library of South Australia are calling for expressions of interest from individuals to join the Aboriginal Reference Group. Members of the group will be consulted on the agencies' programs and activities in relation to Aboriginal peoples and cultures.

MEMBERSHIP

Any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person can nominate for membership for a term of up to 24 months. Preference will be given to those that have connections with communities across all regions of South Australia. Diverse representation of Aboriginal peoples will be a priority objective.

Members will have knowledge of and experience in issues affecting Aboriginal people in relation to libraries, archives, and/or records management, and the ability to represent the interests of Aboriginal peoples across South Australia.

Forms and further information are available at www.archives.sa.gov.au

or contact **Helen Chadwick**
Phone: (08) 7322 7729
Email: slsasr.arg@sa.gov.au

Nominations close Monday 31 March 2025



Government of South Australia



STATE RECORDS of South Australia



State Library of South Australia



BARADA BARNA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
RNTBC (ICN: 8343) – NOTICE OF MEETINGS – TO
CONSULT WITH AND SEEK THE CONSENT OF
BARADA BARNA COMMON LAW HOLDERS –
REGARDING BBAC’S PROPOSAL TO ENTER INTO
THE HAIL CREEK MINE INDIGENOUS
LAND USE AGREEMENT
UNDER THE NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH)

All members of the **Barada Barna People** are invited to attend Consultation and Consent meetings (details set out below) in relation to BBAC’s proposal to enter into the proposed **Hail Creek Mine ILUA**.

The Barada Barna People are described in the Barada Barna Native Title Determination (QUD380/2008; QCD2016/009) as the descendants of the following apical ancestors:

- Bob Lotus
 - Lizzy Payne
 - Daisy (wife of Booyah McDonald)
 - Maggie (wife of Toby Barker & Peter Darwin & Michael Angus)
 - “Polly” Mary (wife of Robert Noble & Bert Fox)
 - Lizzie (wife of Paddy Flynn)
- Polly (wife of Thomas Mitchell)
 - Lucy Ross
 - Laura (wife of Duke/George Barker, Neddy/Teddy Sauney and Adam Bowen)
 - Charles Budby (father of George “Saltbush” Budby)

HAIL CREEK MINE ILUA - CONSULTATION AND CONSENT MEETINGS DETAILS

In accordance with the requirements of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), the *Native Title (Prescribed Bodies Corporate) Regulations 1999* (Cth) and the Barada Barna Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (**BBAC**) Rule Book, BBAC must consult with and obtain the consent of the Barada Barna People before making a decision to enter into the proposed Hail Creek Mine ILUA.

The following meetings will be held to comply with these requirements:

DATE	TOWN	VENUE	TIME
Monday, 17 February 2025	Townsville	Mercure Townsville, 166-194 Woolcock Street Service Road, Currajong QLD 4812	5:00pm
Tuesday, 18 February 2025	Moranbah	Black Nugget Hotel Motel, 81 Batchelor Parade, Moranbah QLD 4744	11:30am
Tuesday, 18 February 2025	Mackay	Windmill Motel and Events Centre, 5 Highway Plaza, North Mackay QLD 4740	5:00pm
Wednesday, 19 February 2025	Rockhampton	Rockhampton Leagues Club, Cnr George & Cambridge Streets, Rockhampton City QLD 4700	5:00pm
Thursday, 20 February 2025	Brisbane	Brisbane International Virginia, 21 Zillmere Road, Boondall QLD 4034	5:00pm

REGISTRATION

If you wish to attend a meeting, please register your interest via email at returning.officer@baradabarna.org or mail at PO Box 626, Townsville QLD 4810. Travel assistance will not be provided. Light refreshments will be provided at the meeting.

WHAT IS THE HAIL CREEK MINE ILUA ABOUT?

Barada Barna Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (ICN: 8343); Gangali Narra Widi Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (ICN: 8363; ABN: 62 678 118) (**GNWAC**); Widi Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (ICN: 8911; ABN 36 938 219 078) (**WAC**); Hail Creek Coal Pty Ltd (ABN: 59 080 002 008) (**Hail Creek Coal**); and the **Hail Creek Joint Venture** (Hail Creek Coal Holdings Pty Limited (ABN: 71 625 050 722); Marubeni Resources Development Pty Ltd (ABN: 57 009 932 236); and Sumisho Coal Development Queensland Pty Ltd (ABN: 13 082 435 149)) propose to enter into an ILUA pursuant to Subdivision B of Division 3 of Part 2 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) within the ILUA Area (plan set out below).

The proposed ILUA is in relation to the existing Hail Creek Mine owned by the Hail Creek Joint Venture and operated by Hail Creek Coal.

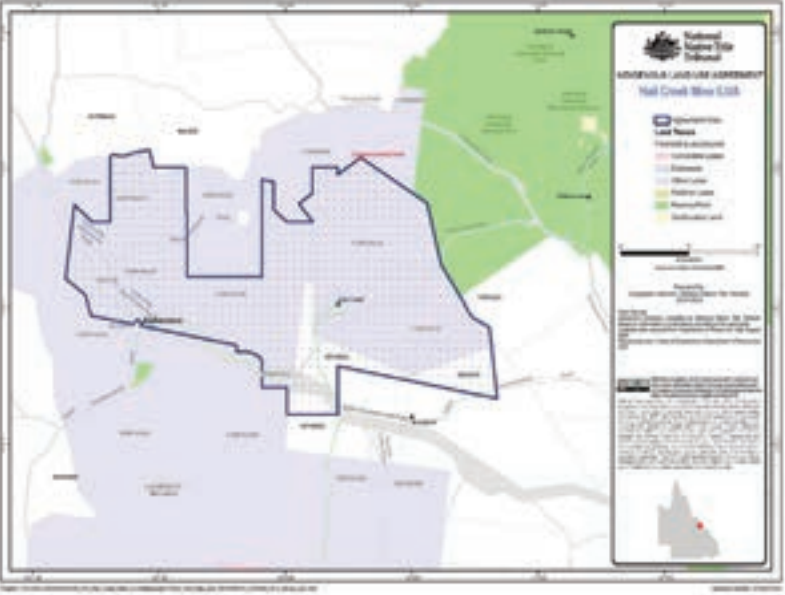
The Barada Barna People, and Widi People are the Common Law Holders of Native Title in relation to different (and in some parts shared) parts of the ILUA Area.

In accordance with the proposed ILUA, BBAC (for and on behalf of the Barada Barna People), and GNWAC and WAC (for and on behalf of the Widi People) will consent and agree to certain ‘Agreed Acts’ within the ILUA Area, being any ‘Future Acts’ relating to the Hail Creek Mine, including any expansion or extension of exploration or production activities in the ILUA Area (after the commencement of the ILUA).

In consideration for these consents, Hail Creek Coal and the Hail Creek Coal Joint Venture will provide certain financial and non-financial benefits to BBAC (for and on behalf of the Barada Barna People) and GNWAC and WAC (for and on behalf of the Widi People)

HAIL CREEK MINE ILUA AREA

The ILUA Area is located in the vicinity of Hail Creek, in central Queensland, north-east of Elphinstone and north-west of Nebo.



Notice of an application for
determination of native title in the
Northern Territory



Notification day: 12 February 2025

This is an application by a native title claim group which is asking the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) to determine that the group holds native title in the area described below.

If you want to become a party to this application, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, **on or before 12 May 2025**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **12 May 2025**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) there can be only one determination of native title for a particular area. If a person with native title rights and interests does not become a party to this application, there may be no other opportunity for the Federal Court, in making its determination, to take into account those native title rights and interests in relation to the area concerned.



Application name: Clifford Drover & Ors v Northern Territory of Australia (Simpson Desert)
Federal Court File No: NTD16/2024
Date filed: 27 August 2024
Registration test status: The Native Title Registrar has **accepted** this application for registration

Description of area: The application area covers about 23,894 sq km over NT Portions 4207 and 4917 located in the south eastern corner of the Northern Territory
Relevant LGA: MacDonnell Regional Council

For assistance and any further information about this application, including the description of the area, call Claire Smith on 08 6317 5333 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

Notice of an application for
determination of native title in
New South Wales



Notification day: 12 February 2025

This is an amended application by a native title claim group which is asking the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) to determine that the group holds native title in the area described below.

If you want to become a party to this application, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, **on or before 12 May 2025**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **12 May 2025**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) there can be only one determination of native title for a particular area. If a person with native title rights and interests does not become a party to this application, there may be no other opportunity for the Federal Court, in making its determination, to take into account those native title rights and interests in relation to the area concerned.



Application name: Clancy John McKellar & Ors on behalf of the Wongkumara People and State of Queensland & Ors
Federal Court File No: QUD851/2018
Date filed: 11 March 2008
Date amended: On 24 June 2024, leave was granted to amend the application to include areas under section 47C of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth)
Registration test status: The Native Title Registrar has **accepted** this amended application for registration

Description of area: The amended application area covers about 1208 sq km and is located south of the Queensland State Border within the Sturt National Park, in the vicinity of Tibooburra. The parcels listed in the section 47C Agreement are shown in black hatching on the map and are referred to as the **NSW Part B determination area** or **NSW 47C area**
Relevant LGA: Unincorporated area of New South Wales

For assistance and any further information about this application, including the description of the claim area, call Claire Smith on 08 6317 5333 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.





NOTICE TO GRANT AMALGAMATION APPLICATIONS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following amalgamation applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Exploration No.	Applicant	Amalg No	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
27/610	TECHGEN METALS LTD	721515	28.75HA	48.3km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 29' S: Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
31/1316	DYNAMIC METALS LIMITED	722692	48.99HA	50.6km NE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 15' S: Long: 121° 48' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY, MENZIES SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of amalgamation applications which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals.

Notification day: 29 January 2025

Native title parties: Under Section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to the applications. The 3 month period closes on **29 April 2025**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100.

Expedited procedure: The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each amalgamation application may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **29 May 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.

DMIRS_24870

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
Assessment – Invitation to
Register Interest – HN1400-A

Heritage Now is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for a proposed residential subdivision at 164 Macarthur Road, Spring Farm in Camden LGA. Contact details for the proponent are: Hatton Homes c/- Ben Miller, Senior Town Planner, Barker Ryan Stewart, ben@brs.com.au. Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places in the area are invited to register an interest in the community consultation process. The purpose of the consultation is to assist in the preparation of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application, if required, and to assist the Secretary of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water in their consideration and determination of the application.

In accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*, please send your registration to Dr Holly Winter (Heritage Now, 51 Reuss St, Leichhardt NSW 2040, hello@heritagenow.com.au) by Wednesday 12th February 2025. Your details will be provided to Heritage NSW and the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless you specify that you do not want your details released.



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	08/3748	MARDIE MINERALS PTY LTD	6BL	49.1km E'ly of Onslow	Lat: 21° 30' S: Long: 115° 34' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	27/744	GREENCORP METALS PTY LTD	8BL	28.8km NE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 13' S: Long: 121° 29' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	28/3488	DYNAMIC METALS LIMITED	7BL	72.8km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 27' S: Long: 122° 8' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	51/2259	ZEUS MINING PTY LTD	7BL	52.2km NE'ly of Cue	Lat: 27° 1' S: Long: 118° 9' E	CUE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2261	GATEWAY MINING LIMITED	43BL	49.3km S'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 26° 4' S: Long: 118° 50' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	52/4345	STANIFER PTY LTD	18BL	84.9km E'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 25° 24' S: Long: 119° 31' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	52/4348	STANIFER PTY LTD	44BL	102.6km E'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 25° 27' S: Long: 119° 43' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1462	AURUMIN SANDSTONE PTY LTD	3BL	5.8km NW'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 57' S: Long: 119° 15' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/2992	POLARIS METALS PTY LTD	3BL	137km N'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 29° 59' S: Long: 119° 18' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3496	HUTCHINSON, Neale Ronald	121.75HA	30.5km N'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 41' S: Long: 121° 3' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3497	KALGOORLIE MINERALS PTY LTD	165.92HA	28.1km W'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 40' S: Long: 121° 11' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3500	STONE, Graeme John	71.78HA	26.4km N'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 42' S: Long: 121° 8' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3501	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	188.39HA	28.6km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 37' S: Long: 121° 3' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3502	MURTAGH, Jason Lee	111.13HA	14km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 29' S: Long: 121° 4' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3503	MURTAGH, Jason Lee	110.96HA	13.9km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 29' S: Long: 121° 5' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5793	PURSUIT EXPLORATION PTY LTD	188.51HA	5.3km NE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 24' S: Long: 121° 22' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5794	PURSUIT EXPLORATION PTY LTD	193.04HA	4.8km NE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 24' S: Long: 121° 21' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5795	PURSUIT EXPLORATION PTY LTD	194.23HA	5.9km NE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 24' S: Long: 121° 21' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5817	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	117.26HA	12.7km W'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 27' S: Long: 121° 11' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5818	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	9.20HA	7.3km NW'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 23' S: Long: 121° 16' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2855	MONGER EXPLORATION PTY LTD	172.55HA	35.3km E'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 9' S: Long: 122° 2' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4764	COMPLETE PROSPECTING PTY LTD	190.33HA	35.3km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 56' S: Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4807	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	52.83HA	10.8km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 50' S: Long: 121° 27' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4808	SPENCER, Scott Andrew SMART, Benjamin Wayne	160.11HA	29.4km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 4' S: Long: 121° 56' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4809	SPENCER, Scott Andrew SMART, Benjamin Wayne	177.10HA	30km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 3' S: Long: 121° 56' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4810	SPENCER, Scott Andrew SMART, Benjamin Wayne	182.95HA	29.7km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 3' S: Long: 121° 55' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2607	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	64.02HA	55.9km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 20' S: Long: 121° 53' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	51/3412-S	LEVISSIANOS, Angelo	7.53HA	42.3km SE'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 25° 55' S: Long: 119° 0' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of Special Prospecting Licences, which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term up to 4 years from the date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.

Notification day: 29 January 2025

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 **29 April 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. **29 May 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_24871

POWER
THE
HAPPY
FOR SICK KIDS

While hospital is Ruby’s life, Starlight helps her laugh and play. Because a healthy dose of happiness helps sick kids just be kids. That’s the power of happy.

This Starlight Day, Power the Happy for sick kids and see that money can buy happiness.

DONATE NOW
starlight.org.au



Australian Government

National Indigenous Australians Agency



Youpla Support Program – free financial counselling in Taree and Kempsey

Were you affected by the ACBF or Youpla going broke?

As part of the Australian Government’s Youpla Support Program, eligible former Youpla members can access free financial counselling from Mob Strong Debt Help.

Mob Strong will be visiting Taree and Kempsey to provide financial counselling to former Youpla members in early February.

You can find out more on the Mob Strong Facebook page.

0477NS_5408

Notice of an application for determination of native title in Western Australia

Notification day: 12 February 2025



This is an application by a native title claim group which is asking the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) to determine that the group holds native title in the area described below.

If you want to become a party to this application, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, **on or before 12 May 2025**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **12 May 2025**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) there can be only one determination of native title for a particular area. If a person with native title rights and interests does not become a party to this application, there may be no other opportunity for the Federal Court, in making its determination, to take into account those native title rights and interests in relation to the area concerned.



Application name: Ashley Bell & Ors on behalf of Badimia Barna Native Title Claim Group and State of Western Australia

Federal Court File No: WAD258/2024

Date filed: 12 September 2024

Registration test status: The Native Title Registrar has *accepted* this application for registration

Description of area: The application area consists of three discreet areas with a total combined area of about 11,230 sq km, located in the Mid West and Wheatbelt regions in the vicinity of Kalannie, Mount Magnet and Sandstone Townsites

Relevant LGAs: Shires of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Mount Magnet, Mount Marshall, Sandstone, Wongan-Ballidu and Yalgoo

For assistance and any further information about this application, including the description of the area, call Huia McGrath on 08 6317 5442 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



Notice Under Section 29 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) Exploration Licence Application 6774 (Act 1992) and Exploration Licence Application 6776 (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

The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992* intends to grant exploration licences under section 22(1)(a) of the *Mining Act 1992* (NSW) on land subject to native title.

Should licences be granted, the holder of the licences may apply to renew or transfer the licences prior to them expiring (including partial renewals or partial transfers).

Note: If the licences are granted, the renewal, re grant or re-making (including partial renewals or partial transfers) or extension of the term of the licences may be valid pursuant to section 24MD(1) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) without further notification, provided the requirements in section 26D(1) are satisfied.

Holder's details

Sunshine Silica Pty Ltd (ACN 669 797 102) is the applicant for Exploration Licence Application 6774 for Group 2 minerals and Exploration Licence Application 6776 for Group 1 minerals, which, if granted would authorise prospecting on each licence for an initial term of up to 6 years.

Description of area that may be affected

The entire area of Exploration Licence Application 6774 that covers an area of about 72 units situated approximately 20 kilometres southeast of the town of Cowra, and the entire area of Exploration Licence Application 6776 that covers an area of about 67 units situated approximately 17 kilometres east southeast of the town of Cowra, in the State of NSW as shown on the diagram below.

Name and postal address of person by whom the act would be done

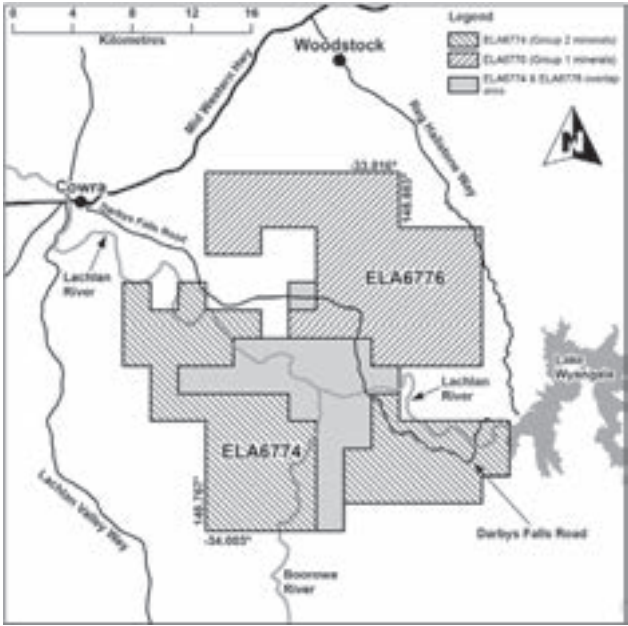
The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*, PO Box 344, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310.

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 13 February 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.



download now

KOORI MAIL

NOW AVAILABLE

A digital subscription to **KOORI MAIL** is the perfect way to treat yourself

Available via Apple Newsstand, iTunes, Google Play for Android market or www.pocketmags.com

Latest issue & Back Issues just \$1.99 each. Subscribe for six months or one year at a reduced rate. Download to your iPad, iPhone, Android device, Mac, PC or Kindle Fire.



www.koorimail.com



NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Mining Lease	24/1015	EISLER, Dean Tristram	58.42HA	4.2km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 26' S: Long: 121° 22' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	25/389	ORACLE GOLD PTY LTD	81.99HA	28.6km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 47' S: Long: 121° 45' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	29/446	HASS, Neil William	9.93HA	38.9km N'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 1' S: Long: 121° 10' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Mining Lease	77/1309	STEPHEN, Kim Alexander STEPHEN, Carolyn May	326.52HA	4.8km W'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 14' S: Long: 119° 16' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Mining Lease	77/1314	MINING PROJECTS MANAGEMENT GROUP PTY LTD AU KT PTY LTD	250.18HA	138.3km E'ly of Paynes Find	Lat: 29° 27' S: Long: 119° 5' E	MENZIES SHIRE

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: 29 January 2025

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 **29 April 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. **29 May 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 24872

44 | THE KOORI MAIL, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025

www.koorimail.com

NOTICE OF AUTHORISATION MEETING
FIRST PEOPLES OF THE MILLEWA-MALLEE NATIVE TITLE CLAIM (VID630/2015)
SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2025, 9:30AM-4:30PM
MILDURA GRAND HOTEL, 129-137 SEVENTH STREET, MILDURA
& ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Purpose: To make decisions about authorising the resolution of the First Peoples of the Millewa-Mallee native title claim through a consent determination, including the nomination of the Prescribed Body Corporation (PBC) to hold or manage the native title rights and interests on behalf of the native title holders.

Who should attend: The First Peoples of the Millewa-Mallee native title claim group, being those people descended from the apical ancestors John and Nelly Perry and the mother of Sarah Mayne.

Attending the meeting: This meeting is a hybrid meeting which means people can join in person or via Zoom video or telephone conferencing.

Attending in person: If you wish to attend in person, please contact Toby-Lee Kirby by Friday, 7 February 2025. Travel assistance will be provided in accordance with FNLRS' travel assistance policy available on our website.

Attending remotely: If you wish to attend remotely by Zoom, please call or email Toby-Lee Kirby to register your attendance. We request that you register to attend remotely by Wednesday, 12 February 2025.

FNLRS contact details

Toby-Lee Kirby
Senior Community Liaison Officer
Phone: 0434 632 875
Email: tobylee.kirby@fnlrs.com.au

Stacey Little
Senior Lawyer
Phone: 0401 781 845
Email: stacey.little@fnlrs.com.au

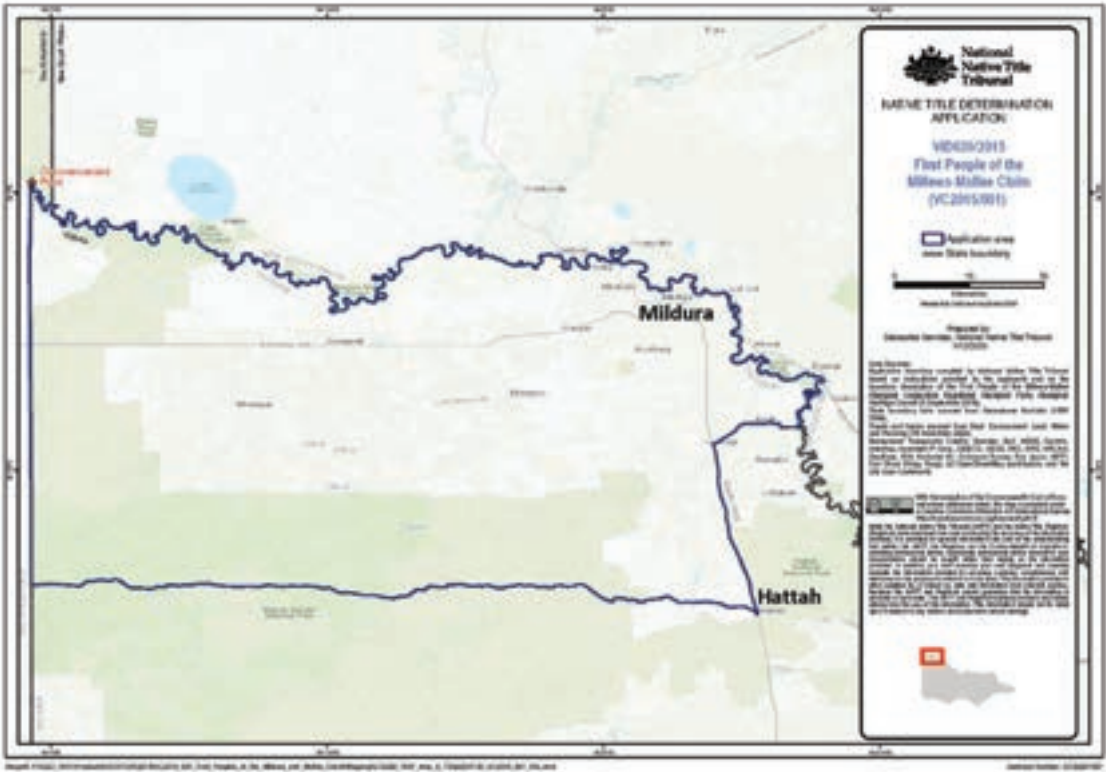
AGENDA

Proposed decisions:

- Discuss and decide on the decision-making process for the meeting.
- Discuss and decide whether to authorise (agree to) the terms of the proposed consent determination of the native title claim, as agreed between the parties to the claim.
- Discuss and decide whether the native title rights and interests are to be held in trust by the nominated PBC, or the nominated PBC is to be an agent of the native title holders.
- Discuss and decide whether to authorise the Applicant to finalise the resolution of the claim by consent determination, including the nomination of the proposed Prescribed Body Corporate, on the terms discussed at and agreed to by the claim group meeting.



MAP OF THE FPMM CLAIM AREA



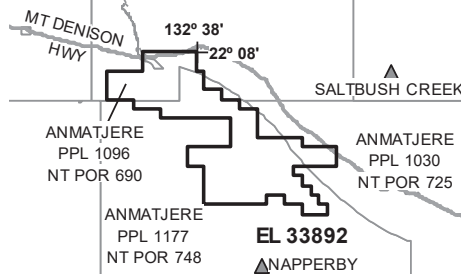
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION LICENCES

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

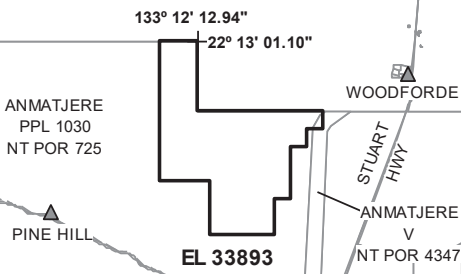
The Honourable Gerard Maley MLA, the Northern Territory Minister for Mining and Energy, C/- Department of Mining and Energy, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) of his intent to do an act, namely to grant the following exploration licence applications.

Applications to which this notice applies:

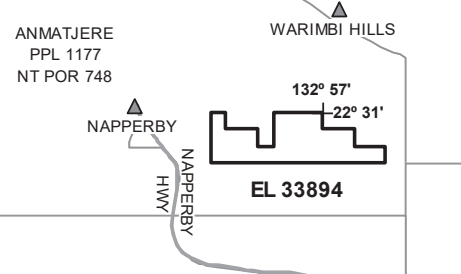
Exploration Licence 33892 sought by AUSTRALIA MINERAL PROSPECTS PTY LTD, ACN 670 377 910 over an area of 165 Blocks (525 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the REYNOLDS RANGE locality.



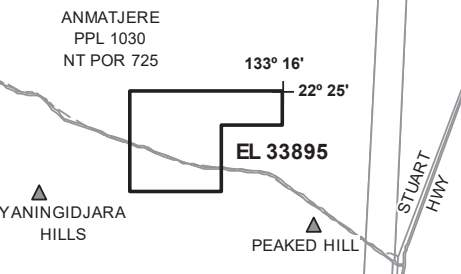
Exploration Licence 33893 sought by AUSTRALIA MINERAL PROSPECTS PTY LTD, ACN 670 377 910 over an area of 67 Blocks (182 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the TEA TREE locality.



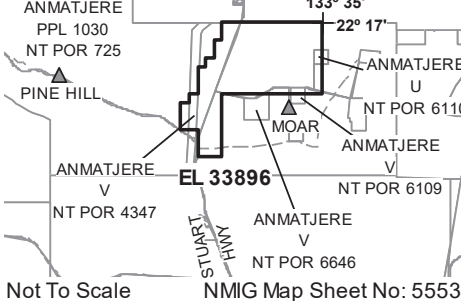
Exploration Licence 33894 sought by AUSTRALIA MINERAL PROSPECTS PTY LTD, ACN 670 377 910 over an area of 23 Blocks (73 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the NAPPERBY locality.



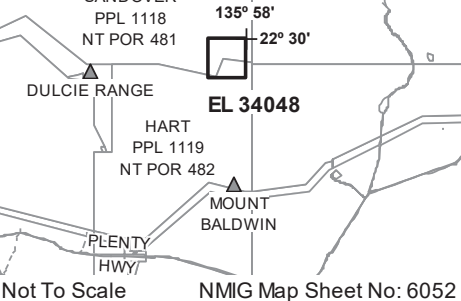
Exploration Licence 33895 sought by AUSTRALIA MINERAL PROSPECTS PTY LTD, ACN 670 377 910 over an area of 11 Blocks (35 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the TEA TREE locality.



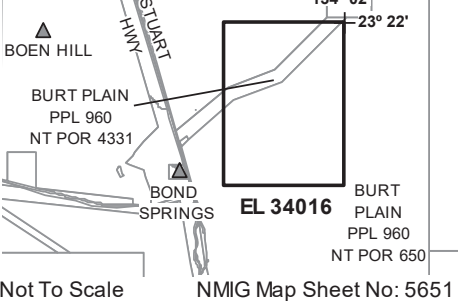
Exploration Licence 33896 sought by AUSTRALIA MINERAL PROSPECTS PTY LTD, ACN 670 377 910 over an area of 137 Blocks (436 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the TEA TREE locality.



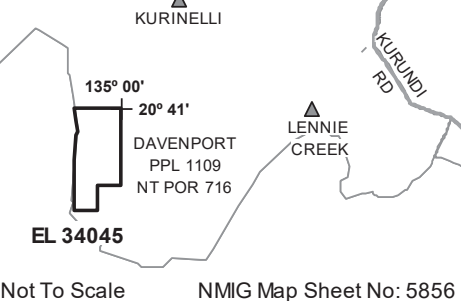
Exploration Licence 34048 sought by DALY TENEMENTS PTY LTD, ACN 658 845 786 over an area of 25 Blocks (80 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the JINKA locality.



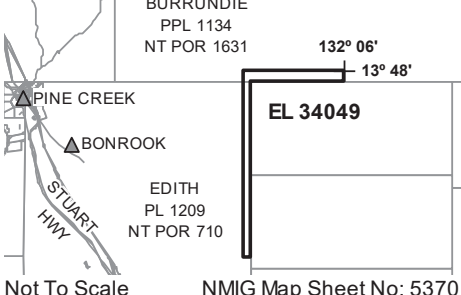
Exploration Licence 34016 sought by GEMPART (NT) PTY LTD, ACN 081 859 896 over an area of 80 Blocks (253 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the BURT locality.



Exploration Licence 34045 sought by REDSTONE METALS PTY LTD, ACN 106 360 678 over an area of 7 Blocks (22 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the DAVENPORT RANGE locality.



Exploration Licence 34049 sought by WILTON MINING PTY LTD, ACN 668 370 643 over an area of 13 Blocks (17 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the RANFORD HILL locality.



Nature of act(s): The grant of an exploration licence under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* authorises the holder to conduct activities in connection with exploration for minerals for a term not exceeding 6 years and to seek renewal(s). The term for which it is intended to grant the mineral exploration licences referred to in this notice commences from the date of grant. Further information about the act may be obtained from the Department of Mining and Energy, GPO Box 4550 Darwin NT 0801 or Centrepont Building 48-50 Smith Street Darwin NT 0800, telephone (08) 8999 5322.

Native Title Parties: Any person who is, or becomes a "native title party" within the meaning of the *Native Title Act 1993* is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2, Division 3, Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993*. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries concerning becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Brisbane QLD 4001, or telephone (07) 3307 5000.

Expedited Procedure: The Northern Territory Government considers that the acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure as defined in section 237 of the *Native Title Act 1993*. The exploration licences referred to in this notice may be granted unless an objection is made by a native title party to the statement that the act is one which attracts the expedited procedure. Such an objection must be made to the National Native Title Tribunal within 4 months of the notification day.

Notification Day: 29 January 2025

25 First Nations icons in '25

Ashleigh Barty

With more than two decades as a correspondent with the *Koori Mail*, PETER ARGENT is looking back on the sporting careers of Indigenous stars across the wide world of sport across the 2025 calendar year

The girl with the "Mona Lisa" smile, a gifted talent at three different sports, Ash Barty is a modern sporting superstar who had the conviction to leave tennis when she was at the top of the game.

Barty is a member of Ngaragu nation from southern New South Wales and northeastern Victoria.

She is equally adept and has played at a high-level in golf, cricket and where she claimed to most fame, with a tennis racket in her hand.

Resilient, tough and with an all-round full-court tennis game, Barty displayed plenty of court craft across a decade playing tennis. Barty is 170cm tall and has drawn comparisons to former world number 1 Martina Hingis in her style

Across the career she enjoyed three Grand Slam singles tennis championships, firstly the 2019 French Open, emulating hero, fellow Indigenous superstar Evonne Goolagong-Cawley, by winning the 2021 Wimbledon championship and to top it off she became the first Australian to win our national women's single title in over four decades, the 2022 Australia Open.

She also won a Grand Slam doubles title, the US Open in 2018 with Coco Vandeweghe and was a finalist in five other Slam doubles deciders before that.

From Ipswich in Queensland, Barty was already an outstanding junior and at one stage ranked as the world number two junior player in the world.

She won the 2011 Wimbledon girl's singles title, giving everyone an insight into her potential in this sport.

There were times she struggled with rigorous demands on the professional tour.

Having been on the junior circuit the year before, Barty started her professional career in April 2010, having just turned 14 at an ITF Women's Circuit \$25K event in her hometown.

She had a hiatus from tennis from 2014 until she returned to



Barty's backswing is a hard to beat.

the game in early '16.

Between that time Barty played Women's National Cricket League and Women's Big Bash League cricket.

Her coach Andy Richards called her a natural at the sport.

She began training with the Queensland Fire in mid 2015 and would go on to play a couple of WNCL fixtures, debuting at Railways Oval (now redeveloped as Karen Rolton Oval) against the South Australian Scorpions. She played also nine games with the Brisbane Heat in the first season of WBBL and played premier women's cricket for the Western Duburbs District Cricket Club.

Coming back to tennis she became the second Australian player to be ranked number one in the world by the Women's Tennis Association.

There is also a Bronze Medal from the 2020 Olympic games (actually held in 2021) in mixed doubles.

Barty then shocked the sporting world for a second time, at just 25 years of age announcing her retirement

following her Australian Open victory in 2022.

Also, a keen golfer who plays off her handicap of four, Barty returned to competitive sport playing in the Pro-Am at the New Zealand Open in Queenstown, during early 2024.

This was after parenthood came for Ash Barty and her husband, Garry Kissick, when she gave birth to her first child Hayden in 2023.

In 2022 Barty played golf in a "Icon Series" in New Jersey, USA, testing her talent alongside American swimming legend Michael Phelps, English football great Harry Kane and former Australian Test cricket captain, Ricky Ponting.

Across her career Barty won the WTA Player of the Year twice, in 2019 and 2021, and the Sport Australia Hall of Fame "The Don Award" in 2019 and 2022.

Barty was Newcombe Medallist as Australia's best tennis player in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021.

She was appointed Officer of the Order of Australia (OA) in the



Ashleigh Barty becomes a WNCL cricketer with the Fire.

2022 Queen's Birthday Honours for "distinguished service to tennis at the elite level, and to youth development programs".

Once her playing career was finished Barty launched her own foundation simply called the Ash Barty Foundation and it has donated more than 16,000 books to libraries around Australia

While the Australian sporting public miss Ash Barty and her immense talent, you get the impression she is happy to be out of the spotlight and living a less demanding life.



Ash Barty with the Brisbane Heat in the Women's Big Bash League.

It's Ash's Ashes after stunning performances

B Brilliant cricket all-rounder, Ashleigh Gardner, has her fingerprints all over Australia's domination against England in the current Ashes multi-format series.

The Aussie women have already retained the Ashes after completely owning the English throughout three One Day Internationals (50 overs) and three T20 matches thus far. There's still an historic day/night Test match to be played at the MCG beginning on January 30.

Ash Gardner made her own piece of history as she scored a maiden century in the second ODI. The swashbuckling ton was also the first by an Aboriginal woman for Australia at the elite level.

The 27-year-old's previous highest score in the green and gold colours was 74 runs, but Gardner easily eclipsed that previous best to reach triple figures. She also became the first woman to hit an ODI hundred batting at No. 6. The innings showed patience, tenacity and the usual flair that has made Gardner one of Australia's best in recent years.

There was something different for Gardner in that innings, you could tell that she wasn't going to be denied this time around and was definitely determined to get



Kris Flanders

past her previous high score but go on and deliver and finally get that long awaited 100.

Coming close again wasn't going to be good enough for Gardner and she knuckled down, scoring singles and two's when on offer and then despatching shots to the boundary. When she finally got into what they call the "nervous nineties" Gardner showed no nerves at all and quickly blasted

two fours in succession. The century soon followed!

Australia looked like they were going to surrender to a very meek total when they were 4/59 but that's when Gardner entered the foray. She shared crucial stands with Beth Mooney and Tahlia McGrath.

Gardner is a genuine match winner for Australia in all formats currently. The right-hand batter can take apart her opponent's bowling attack, very quickly, and with her maiden century now behind her she knows she has those attributes and concentration levels to score big regularly. But throw her the ball and Gardner's off-spinners have gone to another level where she can tie down opposition batters and also claim important wickets.

At the time of writing, Gardner, has been a standout in the 50-over clashes and the English will be glad to see the back of her when they eventually head back home.

In the opening ODI at North Sydney Oval, Gardner, collected 3/19 off 6.1 overs and also latched onto 2 catches in the field which limited England to a total of 204. While in the successful run chase, Gardner made 42 not-out off 44 deliveries. The second ODI saw Gardner dismissed cheaply for 2 but was handy with the ball

capturing 1/23 off 10 overs and also another catch. But it was the third clash of the One Day Internationals in which Gardner stepped up and made an incredible mark.

She tore apart the English bowlers by making 102 runs off 102 balls faced which left her with the stunning strike rate of 100.00. The incredible knock consisted of eight 4's and a huge 6.

That sensational innings set Australia up with a unbeatable total of 8/308 from their 50 overs. In return, England could only manage 222, with Gardner unable to take any wickets but she lit up the highlights reel by taking an awesome catch.

Gardner was standing out on the boundary as English batter, Sophie Ecclestone, launched a shot out towards her. With all the athleticism in the world, Gardner, stuck her right hand backwards to take the ball and then as she was about to go over the rope, threw the ball back into the field of play and dived forward to take the catch. A screamer that they'll be replaying for years to come!

It was a performance that rightly so awarded Gardner as Player of the Match.

Gardner was rested for the three T20 matches. Which means

the batting and bowling gun will be ready to rip in for the one-off Test match.

Gardner has come through the cricket systems and pathways, including being part of that wildly dominant NSW Imparja Cup women's side that slayed them In Alice Springs in 2014 and 2015. She's also been successful with the NSW Breakers in the Women's National Cricket League (WNCL), the Sydney Sixers in the WBBL and played for the Gujarat Giants in the Women's Premier League in India the past two seasons.

Add to that the Commonwealth Gold Medal from the 2022 Birmingham Games as well as three T20 World Cups (2018, 2020 and 2023) and a ODI World Cup in 2022.

The proud Muruwari woman is certainly an inspirational figure for young Indigenous women and aspiring cricketers. The best part is that Gardner is still so young, but such an experienced player, there's definitely more accolades and achievements ahead for her.

● Kris Flanders is a Gumbaynggirr man with 25 years experience working in Indigenous media. He is a passionate writer and sportslover.

Record numbers battle

By KRIS FLANDERS



THE battles have been won again in the annual Battle of the Countries Rugby League tournament. But that doesn't mean that the important messages behind this competition, concerning mental health, suicide prevention and speaking up ever finish.

Tournament Founder and Event Coordinator, Rod Broad, made an impassioned plea for more health organisations to get on board and get behind the competition.

"Unfortunately, there is still a lack of support from services who should be there and that's concerning because we are talking about mental health and suicide preventions. This event is a perfect opportunity for those services to come together and show people that there are indeed places to go and people to speak to. Broad said.

"It's not about financial assistance only, it's about those organisations being seen and getting that message across to our Mob. It's not up to me to tell those places how to spend their finances but when there's an event like this, in your own backyard, help us help our people."

Unfortunately, like thousands across the country, Broad has lost loved ones to suicide through mental health issues, it's one of the reasons he started this rugby league tournament seven years ago in the Illawarra region of the NSW south coast.

"I think a lot of us have been sadly touched by these issues, either in our own families or people we know, we are losing too many. We've got to try and break this horrid cycle and that's what we are trying to do. My heart breaks every time I hear a story about depression and families losing loved ones because of mental health and suicide, that's why myself and our organisers are so passionate about making a difference. I don't want anyone to experience this, I wish I could take that pain

away, including myself," Broad said.

In 2025, it was the 7th Battle of the Countries, and the tournament recorded the biggest ever numbers of teams in its history. 70 sides representing areas including Armidale, Kempsey, Central Coast and Newcastle came to play some skilful football and also support the mental health and well-being cause.

Broad said the sheer numbers this year says a lot about how the community views the tournament and believes that 100 registered teams next year is a huge possibility.

"People want to come together for a good cause and this affects so many communities and Mob these days, so the reaction is that they've come together in large numbers to show their support for one another and to help each other out." Broad said.

"The Battle of the Countries organisers have always had a goal to crack that 100-team mark across all the age groups, when we start looking at the numbers we had this year, I think we are going to need an extra day's play. They're long days, early starts and late finishes for my staff too."

The founder says he never gets tired of watching this brand of rugby league and believes this year he watched nearly every match from the juniors to the seniors.

"The action was great again, some wonderfully gifted players, new faces and talent and mixed with older heads and 'old school footy'. It's that blackfella style of play, you see it and you go for it. Also, what really stood out for me was that the culture we come from and the pride and respect we have, is that everyone got behind the zero tolerance about bad behaviour. You know, no drugs and alcohol, no violence on and off the fields," Broad said.

Overall champions were Gomerioi Roos (U8s), Illawarra Titans (U10s), Mindaribba Warriors (U12s), Dunghutti (U12s Girls), Dunghutti (U14s), Mindaribba Warriors (U16s), Wandii Wandian (U16s Girls), Illawarra Titans (U18s).



The Open Women's division was taken out by the Mindaribba Sisters, above, while the Open Men's division was won by Aboriginal Cultural Traders, below.



Simpkin set to captain the Roos

By PETER ARGENT



PROUD Yorta-Yorta man Jy Simpkin will be the North Melbourne Football Club standalone captain for the 2025 AFL campaign. He has been in a dual role with Luke McDonald for the past two seasons. This 26-year-old has been backed in as captain by his teammates and coaches again for 2025.

Simpkin is the Roos' sole captain in 2025 after former skipper Luke McDonald made the decision to step aside prior to the leadership vote last week.

Originally drafted from the Murray Bushrangers, Simpkin, a 183cm midfielder and ball magnet, has played 152 AFL games during eight seasons for the Shinboners.

An exciting and versatile midfielder, who can play roles both as an inside or outside on-baller, Simpkin is equally comfortable winning the contested football at the coalface or providing run and



Jy Simpkin assess his options.

carry for his side.

Taken with pick No.12 in the 2016 AFL draft, Simpkin soon settled into the Roos' on-ball rotation and won back-to-back Syd Barker Medals (North Melbourne club best and fairest awards) in 2021 and 2022.

He also won the prestigious Glenn Archer Shinboner of the

Year award in 2021.

Fremantle defender Alex Pearce is the other captain of an AFL team currently.

Notable former Indigenous captains of AFL clubs have included Gavin Wanganeen, who was the inaugural captain of the Port Adelaide Football Club when the Power entered

the AFL in 1997, and dual Brownlow Medallist Adam Goodes, who was co-captain of the Sydney Swans for four seasons: in 2009 and 2010 alongside Brett Kirk and Craig Bolton, and in 2011 and 2012, when he lifted the AFL premiership cup with Jarrad McVeigh.

Let's have more All-Stars games

This February 15th we will see the AFL Indigenous All-Stars take on Fremantle at Optus Stadium and the excitement is building. It's been a 10-year hiatus since our last Indigenous All-Stars game and there are calls from players like West Coast's Liam Ryan already that they



Shelley Ware

want more and hope to see this happen every two years. I'm with Liam, the memories, excitement and pride the Indigenous All-Star matches have brought personally and to our people is something I want for the young ones too.

If you haven't seen the Indigenous themed guernseys, make sure you check them out, they were recently unveiled at Mardalup Park in East Perth. Love them!

Whadjuk, Ballardong and Eastern Arrernte artist Jade Dolman designed the All-Stars jumper and the match-day Sherrin. Jade incorporated symbols that acknowledge the role that the women in the players' lives have played in their careers. The connection to water is represented through the Beeliiar (umbilical cord) to represent the importance of water and protecting our future and bringing new life to our world – our future.

The Fremantle jumper was their inaugural Indigenous Round jumper in 2013, designed by Roger Hayden and his uncle Dr Richard Walley.

Water plays a big role in the design as it moves around Fremantle bringing life to Country and it's people. The three Karli (boomerangs) symbolise strength, combativeness and creativity through dance and music.

Players have already confirmed and the excitement is building among them. We will see Liam Ryan, Hawks' Jarmen Impey, Lions' Charlie Cameron and Callum Ah Chee, Magpies' Bobby Hill, St Kilda's Brad Hill, Demons' forward Kysaiah Pickett, and Adelaide's Izak Rankine.

I love that Fremantle have released three of their star Indigenous players in Alex Pearce, Shai Bolton and Michael Waters. They will have some inside tips for the players and it will be great to see them up against their own team, representing themselves and their people. Further players are to be announced in the coming days.

In the player list already revealed there is a lot of pace, looks like it is going to be a fast game, full of skill and passion. Well done to the AFL for getting this game back up and to Fremantle Football Club, who have been committed to its success from the beginning to the final realisation.

Tickets are on sale now, so if you can, get along to the game and make it a sellout. We want to see this Indigenous All-Star game played again and again and again. I wish I could make it over to see it but it's the couch for me. Good luck brothers we will be cheering for you.

Pickett link to Dockers



Fremantle could nab Melbourne forward Kysaiah Pickett and Sydney superstar Chad Warner if they are able to unleash some magic at the trade table this year.



FREMANTLE midfielder Caleb Serong has described Kysaiah Pickett as a special talent as rumours grow the star Demons forward wants to join the Dockers.

Pickett is contracted with Melbourne until the end of 2027, but there's mounting talk he is keen to return to Western Australia.

The 23-year-old has family links to both Perth and Adelaide, and Fremantle appear to be in the box seat to secure his services.

Pickett will be in Perth next month as part of the Indigenous All Stars clash with Fremantle at Optus Stadium on February 15.

The Dockers could use that opportunity to convince Pickett to join them at the end of 2025.

"There's a lot being spoken about that," Serong said when asked about the talk linking Pickett to Fremantle.

"But it's kind of weird. The trade period from this year just finished a couple months ago and there's a lot of water to go under the bridge.

"A lot can change in a month, let alone 10 months. He's an incredible player and a special player, and, yeah, we'll see how it goes."

– AAP

Connor slugs two half centuries

By ALF WILSON



SWASHBUCKLING

batsman Connor Snow, who is a 22-year-old Aboriginal from Normanton, scored two half

centuries for his side Far Canal at the Goldfield Ashes cricket carnival at Charters Towers.

The carnival was held from January 17 to 19 and featured 268 teams in four mens' and a women's grade and is the biggest in Australia.

It was estimated that about a fifth of the players were either Aboriginal or Torres Strait islanders and some entire teams were made up of those.

These included Black Bream,



Connor Snow travelled from Normanton to play with Far Canal.

West Indigies, Brothers and Garbutt Magpies.

But many of the other sides had some Indigenous cricketers.

In the men's divisions there were eight teams in A-1, 14 in B-2, 120 in B-2 and 90 in the social grade.

The ladies division had 24 teams which was the most ever.

The A-1 men and ladies divisions were Twenty/20 games, each side in B-1 was allowed 50 overs whilst in B-2 and social it was a 35 overs a side format.

The top divisions were played as serious games however in the lower grades they were very social.

Far Canal contested the B-2 division which had the most teams and rules stipulated that batsmen had to retire at the end of the over in which they reached 50, and bowlers were restricted to a few overs each.

With the temperature more than 25 degrees, many of Connor's teammates suggested they would like to see some relief in the form of snow, which is his surname.

"It was so hot but we love playing at the Ashes beside our brothers and catching up with families from all over the place," he said.

With his blazing bat, Connor retired at 50 on day one, made 26 the following day, and on the final day scored another half century.

"We only won a game but it was all about cricket in a friendly manner," he said.



West Indigies team members.

Connor's brother Ty Snow travelled from Brisbane to play for Far Canal.

West Indigies captain Glenn Butler said his side lost on day two in a close game by 10 runs and in their final match won on forfeit.

Asked who starred for the West Indigies, Glenn said there were many.

"Once again it was Joel Masso and Bobby Dallachy with the bat and Matthew Masso (five

wickets) and Richard Butler (six wickets) with the ball, A special mention to Justin Crane for leading the team and being the best all round player behind the stumps and with the bat," Glenn said.

A highlight for West Indigies was their "Indigenous derby" encounter on day one against Black Bream.

Black Bream is a local Charters Towers team with Aboriginal players.

"We beat Black Bream and lost to Kickback Kangaroos XI in our second game then won by forfeit over Thuringowa Bulldogs," Glenn said.

The West Indigies ladies team finished a creditable third in the 24-team division.

In the lower grades, batsmen who failed to score had to wear a rubber duck on their heads.

Those fielders who dropped a catch wore a woman's dress until a team mate did so.

DeVries wins ACCC batting trophy

By PETER ARGENT



FROM Ulverstone on the North Coast to Tasmania and playing for the Greater Northern Raiders in the Tasmania Premier League, Indigenous left-

handed bat and wicket-keeper Brayden DeVries won "The Don Bradman Trophy" as the leading run scorer in the 2025 Australian Country Cricket Championships (ACCC) held in the Barossa Valley from Friday, January 3 to January 10.

It was the first time the Tasmania Tigers had played in the ACCC, finishing fourth with a quartet of victories across the exhausting 50-over one-day and T20 event, which had nine rounds.

DeVries won the Bradman Trophy with 327 runs at an average of 40.88, including a century in a Twenty20 fixture at Angaston Oval, and a pair of 60s.

His brilliant century, the first by a Tasmanian at the ACCC, on Sunday January 5 against NSW, came from just 66 deliveries faced and included seven boundaries along with a further seven sixes.

In the 40-year history of the ACCC – Brayden DeVries is just the second known First Nations player to win the Bradman Trophy – following Western Australia's Bevan Bennell who won the accolade in the summer of 2019/2020 – just before Covid.

As expected DeVries also won a ACCC "Baggy Green" after being selected in the Team of the Championships.

DeVries, who turned 21 on January 26, is also a talented Aussie Rules footballer.



Brayden DeVries won "The Don Bradman Trophy".

"My indigenous heritage is from Palawa Mob, on my mum, Demelza side," DeVries told the *Koori Mail*.

"I am hoping to play for our NICC side in Mackay in April, and I reckon I've played in three tournaments in Alice (Springs).

"My sporting passion depends on the season.

"My form at the ACCC has helped me being selected in Second XI game for Tasmania at the WACA in Perth in January.

"The tournament in the Barossa was great; each ground had unique characteristics and the facilities were awesome, with the wickets all good.

"It was First T20 hundred, that ton at Angaston Oval.

"My form kick started from the first game against WA and it stems from my preparation going into the tournament."

Along with Studying PE at the Uni of Tasmania Launceston Campus, DeVries



Brayden DeVries in action.

will be playing for the Ulverstone Football Club in the new North West competition as an inside midfielder this winter.

He is also currently in the 50-man senior training squad for Tasmania side that enters the AFL in 2027.

A second Indigenous player, batsman Marty Jeffery from Dubbo played for the NSW Country Men's team at the '25 ACCC tournament.

He wasn't as productive as DeVries, but did finish his tournament with a classy 53 against the South Australian Outbacks at Dutton Park, Kapunda on the final day.

On the women's side of the tournament,

former Women's National Cricket League player Cara Fiebig announced her retirement from this level of the game, after the '25 event.

Fiebig had led the Outbacks to an inaugural women's title in 2018 in Geraldton and was a member of the title winning side for her state in 2023 in Canberra as well.

A correct batter and off-spin bowler, Fiebig twice won "Baggy Greens" in the Team of the Year sides, in the women's section of the ACCC.

She was also the first Outbacks player to collect a hat-trick against Western Australia at the 2017 event in Wollongong, NSW.

Mara sisters achieve winning treble

By ALF WILSON



SISTERS
Lyrech and
Jahntae
Mara
achieved a
unique

sporting treble last year when they played in the winning teams at Indigenous rugby league carnivals in far north Queensland.

The pair played for GH United Memorial at the Mackay carnival where they defeated Sarina Crocodiles in the final (27 September).

Soon after (6 October), Lyrech (23) and Jahntae (19) played for the Coastal Neurs winning team at the

Cairns Women's Indigenous All-Stars Carnival, defeating Original Dobbs in the final.

A week later Lyrech and Jahntae were stars for the Unity team which rolled Burdekin Delta in the final of the Bindal Sharks All Blacks carnival in Townsville.

Lyrech played mainly at lock in the carnivals and Jahntae lined up in the second or front rows. It was only at the Mackay carnival where they were joined by younger sister, Kiarah.

So how did each win compare?

"They were completely different... but I would say Mackay was the hardest,"

Lyrech said.

The girls' mother, Rothana Baira, watched them at each carnival. She is one of their strongest role-models, as is their grandmother, Maria Baira. Rothana coached the Townsville women's team to a win in the final of the 2023 Foley Shield. Lyrech played beside her now-retired mum at several Indigenous carnivals, including at the Zenadth Kes on Waiben-Thursdays Island.

Lyrech is one of the most talented female players in Queensland's north and was in the Mackay Cutters side which won the 2023 QRL Women's Premiership title.

"I hope to get another contract with the Cutters for next season," Lyrech said.

The girls are from a genuine sporting family. Their elder brothers Roy and Jimmy are former top players. Roy coached the Blackhawks Colts side to the QRL statewide premiership two years ago. He also coached Badu Island side Kulpiyam at several carnivals in the past.

The future looks bright for Lyrech who is being tipped to get a contract with an NRLW team in the not-too-distant future. Jahntae is also a rising star who will be around football for many years.



Jahntae, Kiarah and Lyrech Mara at the Mackay carnival.

Warria ready for first pro fight

By ALF WILSON



AFTER losing 30kg in weight, Torres Strait Islander Thomas Warria will fulfill his dream when he makes his debut as a professional boxer in Townsville next month.

The 30-year-old Thomas will meet Ricky Bowles-Brown in the main bout on the Battle at the Port pro-am tournament at Quayside Terminal on February 15.

Thomas who has family and friends on Mabuiag, Badu and Waiben said he had been "chasing his dream" to become a pro boxer for several years.

"I had about 40 amateur fights and won 33 of them and am excited about this coming bout and have been training hard for five weeks and that will continue until the fight night," Thomas said.

Thomas trains at the Art of Strength Gym under the

watchful eye of father and son team Scooter and Hayden Hooper.

"It has been hard work to get to the stage of being fit to fight as a professional and I now weight about 105kg. But I had been 135kg and feel great now," he said.

Whilst Thomas doesn't know much about his opponent who hails from southern Queensland, he expects to do well.

"I will have heaps of support on the night when many of the big crowd will have of TS descent," he said.

"All of my friends from the islands have been supporting me on social media.

"There will be more than 500 spectators packed into the venue and the atmosphere will be wonderful."

With another TS heavyweight boxer Rocky Savage to turn pro after March, many boxing fanatics have described a potential bout between the pair as "Torres Strait Heaven".

I asked Thomas what would

be the chances of him entering the ring against Rocky at a later date.

"We are mates and have sparred together and whilst I would prefer not to fight him, if the opportunity arises it would be an option. I am sure boxing fans would like it," he said.

The main support bout on the card will see Palm islander Patrick Clark meet Charlie Bell.

"Patrick will have many fans coming over from Palm Island where I also have been for a tournament," Thomas said.

There will also be numerous amateur bouts including one between women.

Promoter Matty Rooney who runs Knuckles Gym said that Thomas was an ideal fighter to participate in the main bout.

"Outside the ring Thomas is quietly spoken but once he enters it he packs a powerful punch," Matty said.

In addition to his boxing skills Thomas is also a hard running rugby league front row forward who lined up for Walkabouts at



Thomas Warria is about to achieve his dream by becoming a professional boxer.



Palm islander Patrick Clarke will fight in the support bout.

the recent Bindal Sharks Allblacks carnival in Townsville.

He has another dream to get back to the Torres Strait soon to catch up with everybody and to compete in his second favourite sport "I want to go up to TI and

play at the Zenadth Kes rugby league carnival late in the year.

His brother Peter Warria is a talented amateur boxer who is a skillful rugby union player for North Ward Old Boys in the Townsville comp.

Christmas Cup well contested

By ALF WILSON



THIRTEEN men's and five women's team contested the Palm Island rugby league Christmas Cup held at Barracudas Oval from December 13 to 15.

Visiting teams came from as far away as Cherbourg, Woorabinda, Yarrabah and many other places to compete against local sides.

Many of the visitors were billeted with family and friends on the North Queensland Aboriginal community and after the football gathered for goodwill and friendship.

It was an all Palm Island men's grand final with the Stumbo Walsh Memorial side beating Barracudas (1) 19-6 in a hard fought and entertaining decider before a big crowd.

After two rounds of qualifying matches at the Morrison Civil Works sponsored carnival the points standings was: Cherbourg Brothers 1, Northern Crocs 2, Stumbo Walsh Memorial 3, Barracudas (1) 4, Yarrabah Yulu 5, Woorabinda Warriors 6, Mt Bentley Raiders 7, Waandi Warriors 8, Stingrays 9, Barracudas Green 10, Manbarra Manta Rays 11, Bayside Tridents 12, Wallaby Point Boars 13.

After the final organisers named a Team of the Carnival which was: 1 David Mills-Pryor, 2 Racine Doyle (most tries over the weekend), 3 Block Barba, 4 O'Shea, 5 Sharman Pearson, 6 Zach Mossman, 7 Joshua Natoli, 8 Anthony Grey, 9 Diesel Jacobson, 10 Yaza Stevens, 11 Tari Bomagera, 12 Andree Wright, 13 Gordon Daisy.

Individual Awards went to : Best Forward Anthony Grey (Cherbourg), Best Back: Gordon Daisy (Palm Island, Player of the Carnival: Andree Wright.

In the women's final a star studded Waandi Warriors 20 beat Birri Guthalins 0.

In the semi finals Birri Guthalins d Barracudettes and Waandi Warriors d Rose Minda Memorial.

Points after qualifying games were: Birri Guthalins 10p, Waandi Warriors 9, Rose Minda Memorial 5, Barracudettes .05, Cherbourg Tiddas 0.

Chief organiser was Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Councilor Telstan Sibley who thanked everybody for the carnival which was in its fourth year.

"Ben Barba for lifting the profile of the carnival, my family, all the people behind the scenes make these events happen. This is for us, I want to tell all you young fellas, if you want to do something in the community you'll always have critics, you just get up there and do it," Cr Sibley said.



The Stumbo Walsh Memorial side beat Barracudas (1) 19-6.



Waandi Warriors 20 beat Birri Guthalins 0.

Doggett's slice of Big Bash history

By PETER ARGENT



ON New Year's Eve at Adelaide Oval in the traditional Twenty20 match in this time slot, this summer against the Perth

Scorchers, strongly-built quick Brendon Doggett wrote his name into the Big Bash League history books. But as a batsman!

His First Nations ancestry on his mother's side is nwith the Worimi tribe, based around Newcastle.

Batting first, Doggett was joined at the batting crease by number 10 bat and leg spinner Cameron Boyce in the 11th over.

At this point the Adelaide Strikers were reeling at 8/58 and

there was a chance this game would be finished well before the lights at the stadium were to shine at full lux.

Against the odds, with a little luck, this pair of bowlers by trade produced the best ninth wicket Big Bash partnership in the 14-season history of this version of the code.

They produced an unbroken stand of 84, easily eclipsing the previous best – 60 by Jimmy Peirson and Mujeeb Ur Rahman for the Brisbane Heat back in 2020-21 – it was one of just five partnerships of 50 or more for ninth wicket since the start of the Big Bash.

Doggett, whose previous best Twenty20 score was 10 not out with Boyce (29*) became unlikely batting allies.

The big Queenslander dispatched the Scorchers attack to all points, making an undefeated 47 from 39 balls faced, sending the ball to the boundary five times and over the pickets for sixes twice more.

Although Doggett backed up in the field with a catch and a wicket, in the end his New Years Eve heroics proved fruitless as the Scorchers won by seven wickets with 33 balls remaining.

Doggett was released for BBL duties with Adelaide Strikers after the pace bowler has been with the Australian team for the Adelaide and Brisbane Tests

This NYE game was his first appearance for the Strikers in the BBL14 campaign.



Brendon Doggett hits a legside boundary.



Battling for more sporting support

By KRIS FLANDERS



THE battles have been won again in the annual Battle of the Countries Rugby League tournament in Wollongong, NSW. But that

doesn't mean that the important messages behind this competition, concerning mental health, suicide prevention and speaking up ever finish.

Tournament founder and event

coordinator, Rod Broad, made an impassioned plea for more health organisations to get on board and get behind the competition.

In 2025, it was the 7th Battle of the Countries, and the tournament recorded the biggest ever numbers of teams in its history. 70 sides representing areas including Armidale, Kempsey, Central Coast and Newcastle came to play some skilful football and also support the mental health and well-being cause.

● Full story and results, page 47.



Organisers are hoping to attract 100 teams for next year's Battle of the Countries.



Up, up and away ...



EFFERVESCENT and energetic William Hickey is a part of the heartbeat of the Illawarra Hawks as they push towards the NBL title this season.

Dynamic and explosive as a point-guard, he has been a key component in the Hawks 24-25 campaign.

Now in his mid 20s, after his NBL career has included stints with South East Melbourne Phoenix and Melbourne United, he is moving towards the peak of his powers.

An athletic and emotive basketballer, Hickey is the emotional heartbeat of the side.

His natural leap, passing skills and court sense are among the strong attributes in his game.

This image captures Hickey's athletic prowess as he attempts a dunk of the 211cm Isaac Humphries.



Pictures: Peter Argent.