



Koori Mail

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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Jaime Chapman scores a try in the NRL Women's All Stars . Picture: Joseph Mayers

Our shining Stars



The winning AFL All Stars Men's team. Picture: Peter Argent.

The Indigenous women's side took out the recent NRL All Stars match against the Maori team in NSW, while the Indigenous men's AFL All Stars side dominated against the Fremantle Dockers in Western Australia.

– See Sport

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MY FAMILY Sarah Moore (nee Everett), Lutruwita



Evie Brodribb, Addy Moore, Aiden Everett, Koa Everett, Sarah Moore (Everett), Maleah Moore and Logan Everett.

I'm pictured here with my daughters and four of my ten nieces and nephews. We're enjoying ourselves at the 2025 Putalina festival. My three siblings were there too, our children and our mum. It's the first festival we've been to in three years as it often falls on mine and my daughter Maleah's birthday weekend. Our birthdays are just four days apart, and we have big family gatherings at home – forty to fifty people. Pretty much every day or two through January and February there is a family birthday. Then this Friday (28th Feb) my hubby Zeke and I celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary. We've been together since I was 13 and Zeke was 15. My brother Aaron was friends with Zeke first, so I guess I stole my brother's mate and gave Zeke a brother by

marriage he never had – those two are like brothers. I became a mum when I was twenty. Having children has given me so much more respect for other mums, aunts and grandmothers. So long as my children grow up to be good kind humans, choose good paths and have happy lives, I will know I've done my job and will be the happiest mum in the world. I don't ask much because of the way the world is going with drug abuse and things like that. Zeke and I like to give the girls a regular break away from technology, we go away a minimum of four days at a time, anything to do with water or the bush – camping, motor bikes, a bit of fishing, it's always different places around inland Tassie. My family is one big bubble of fun and love, it's our safe zone in that bubble.

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



Brian Kelly proudly hugs his daughter at the NRL All Stars game.

Koori Mail

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Community ruptured over iron-ore mine

By KEIRA JENKINS



TRADITIONAL Owners are seeking \$1.8 billion in compensation from iron-ore miner Fortescue Metals Group over economic and cultural loss.

Yindjibarndi Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation wants \$1 billion for cultural damage, while \$678 million is being sought for economic loss, according to documents filed to the Federal Court.

In their closing submission, lawyers for the Yindjibarndi

Aboriginal Corporation said the loss of Country as a consequence of Fortescue's Solomon Mine Hub in the Pilbara "is equated to a suffocation affecting Country and individuals as hollowness and emptiness".

"The fact that the Yindjibarndi are getting nothing for their Ngurra (Country) from this manjangu (stranger) is a cause of deep spiritual loss," Yindjibarndi lawyer Justin Edwards told the court last week.

The total number of sites that have been damaged or destroyed is in excess of 285, according to Yindjibarndi's closing submissions.

Yindjibarndi lawyer Vance Hughston said cultural sites must have an economic value, asking how much it was worth for a nation to have sites dating back tens of thousand of years.

"They're the sort of things that people say are priceless," Mr Hughston said.

The Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation is also seeking compensation for specific destruction of sites and for the cost of healing the trauma caused by social disruption.

Fortescue began mining at the Solomon hub in the Pilbara in 2013 without agreement from the Aboriginal corporation, instead

dealing with a breakaway group.

Fortescue and the Yindjibarndi attempted to negotiate a Land Use Agreement for the Solomon Mine Hub, but no agreement was ever reached.

Division arose among Yindjibarndi people, including in relationship to the negotiations with Fortescue, the submission said, resulting in the formation of Wiru-Murra Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation.

"Yindjibarndi people divided publicly in August 2010 over a Land Access Agreement. They have remained divided since then," Yindjibarndi's submission says.

Earelier this month, Mr Edwards described the division as a "rupture" in the community, which had impacted the practice of cultural ceremony.

"They haven't been done for years now, or been done for years as a group of Yindjibarndi people, as a community," he said.

"The significance of those ceremonies is not just a personal significance, it's a significance, Your Honour, for the Country.

"The rupture in this community can be properly understood as a rupture in Country when that spiritual relationship is fully understood."

— AAP

Seafaring traditions celebrated



This painting by New Zealand marine artist A. D. Blake (www.adblake.com) was used to promote the Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart, Tasmania, last week. It depicts a Māori waka unua off the coast of Moutohorā Island sailing alongside HMB Endeavour in 1769, with famed Tahitian navigator Tupaia on board. It is the only known occasion of a Waka, under sail, sailing next to Endeavour, on other occasions they were paddled, The waka's sail is modelled after the sail Te Rā, made of woven flax and the only known traditional Māori sail still in existence.



FIRST Nations seafaring traditions and cultures from across the Pacific were showcased as part of this year's usually ultra-colonial flavoured Australian

Wooden Boat Festival in Nipaluna/Hobart.

The four-day biennial festival, held on the city's waterfront, attracted over 400 wooden boats and thousands and thousands of visitors. It was a hype of

activity with all manner of maritime related workshops, talks, displays and activities. While it did host replicas of tall ships including Cook's HMB Endeavour – a haunting sight under full sail moving up Timtumili Minanya/River Derwent – the

daily hakas, Pasifika weaving and upeti block rubbing workshops and the Pacific Seafarers Precinct and panel discussions gave the festival a more honest and inviting vibe.

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Young dancers step into US limelight

By KIARAH MACK



THE long hours of training by young dancers, Maddison Gibson, 11, and Sonny Maree Abraham,13, have paid off.

The two Noongar girls have won auditions to perform in the US in April.

Maddison, a jazz cheer-dancer, and Sonny, a cheer-dancer, were invited, along with 21 other dancers in their dance school, to perform in Florida and California after they auditioned for several US events.

The girls come from two different WA dance schools. Sonny will compete in a cheerleading competition and Maddison will dance in Disneyland. Jazz cheer-dance is a combination of jazz dance and cheerleading that incorporates dance, jumps, and stunts.

Maddison's mum, Alison Scott, said her daughter had been practising long hours lately in preparation for the the big US trip.

"They perform on the Disneyland street parade, the Disneyland performing arts workshop, and a Disneyland stage performance," Alison said.

"They perform at a big shopping centre in California and then do a dance workshop in Hollywood before performing at the Universal Studios city-walk stage.

"They have so many opportunities to perform in amazing places that many kids don't get."

Earlier this month, the girls had their first rehearsals of the new dance routine.

"We're all into it, getting their costumes ready and all that," she said.

"They have a special Universal Studios dinner happening, there's to be a breakfast at Goofy's Kitchen at Disneyland, and lots of things to do that are lots of fun for the kids."



Dancers Maddison Gibson, 11, and Sonny Maree Abraham,13, are off to America.

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Living with ADHD

Having ADHD has been something I have known about myself for a really long time but I wasn't officially diagnosed. Girls seem to learn to mask the outward behaviours of ADHD really well and really quickly, thus making a diagnosis harder or for some unnecessary because our behaviour doesn't impact the lives of others, like teachers.

School was a nightmare for me and I struggled. I wasn't naughty, I didn't break the rules, I certainly talked a lot, I wasn't focussed, my work was not up to my standard, that I now know I am capable of. Basically, I just floated through as an average student, pretty much steering the social bus from year to year.

Teacher-wise, upon reflection, their expectations of me were low. For some teachers it was clearly because I was Aboriginal. For others even though I was trying my guts out to stay on task and went home exhausted every day, they saw someone not committed to their learning and that played a factor in their investment in me. Maybe instead of writing 'talks too much' 'can't focus on tasks' on my reports, they could have actually taken the time to understand what was really going on with me.

In fact I was asked to leave school during Year 10, at age 14. As the principal told me, I would amount to nothing, as school wasn't for me and she had found me a job. Bless her! Needless to say, I declined her generous offer.

Education was important to my family; I wasn't about to not fight for my education, after my



Shelley Ware

poppa and dad fought so hard for my dad's. I ended up finishing Year 12 and eventually going to teachers college, I always knew intelligence wasn't my problem but it was during my studies, where it became clear I was definitely undiagnosed dyslexic and ADHD and this had impacted my schooling.

So, I immediately began to educate myself on learning how my brain works, what helps me reach my full potential and how to ask for help. Strong deadlines and editors are now my favourite things in life.

I have mostly liked my ADHD to date, the dyslexia has had its moments, but I have always been able to accomplish more than most people do in a day's work. My ability to hyperfocus, when work is due and my levels of creativity serve me well. Sure, my house is a bit messy but I don't care, mostly you can ask me where something is and I can find it in a heartbeat. I always try to see the positives!

The issue lately has been

perimenopause, with the rise and fall of my hormones this has really played havoc with my ADHD. I felt like a teenager that needed to be prodded to do anything. My emotional regulation? Well that wasn't amazing and not fun for the household. There were a lot of flat days which are not my normal and I just didn't feel like myself.

I decided to get an official diagnosis and yes there are many middle-aged women who are doing this and for good reason. Turns out I was right I've got ADHD and was able to get a retrospective diagnosis and I've been trialling ADHD medication for a few months now and it's working for me. I have also increased my exercise and that has been a game changer too.

At times I wonder what could have been, if I was on the medication earlier but you know I had to let that go and I'm happy with my life, it probably was harder than it needed to be at times – but here we are.

I must say, I cannot believe that people have been walking around all this time, thinking about one and only one thing, finishing a task before starting the next task. Mind blown!

Happy to say my focus and motivation are back, my emotional levels and reactions to situations is back on track. Now I'm happy to stay on these ADHD meds for now and see where they take me. They are not a magic pill, I have had to do some work too. Maybe I will only need them through perimenopause and maybe I will need them forever more. Time will tell.

Sharing the joy of science inspires an interesting life

By KEIRA JENKINS



IN his own words, Corey Tutt has lived "a very interesting life". The Kamilaroi man has been a zoo

keeper, a travelling alpaca shearer and a mental-health research assistant.

At 32, he's also an author, founder the not-for-profit Deadly Science and was the 2020 NSW Young Australian of the Year.

Growing up in regional Australia, Tutt always had a love of science but found little encouragement to pursue his dream.

"No one really thought the kids there could become scientists, especially Aboriginal kids," he said.

He embarked on a journey that would take him from WA to New Zealand before eventually resettling in NSW to work at the University of Sydney.

By then, he'd already discovered how poorly remote schools were resourced and launched Deadly Science.

Working two jobs to manage the costs, he began purchasing and mailing books and other reading material box-by-box, school-by-school to needy communities.

"It just broke my heart because I saw myself in these kids," he said.

"I didn't have a lot of resources when I was young, in terms of books and things."



From posting boxes of books off to remote classrooms to writing his own, a love of science is at the heart of everything social entrepreneur Corey Tutt does.

Deadly Science has since grown exponentially, with the charity now working with more than 800 schools and community organisations across the country.

Even so, some things will never alter for Tutt as founder, chief executive and budding social entrepreneur.

"I still get so much joy seeing kids just find love in science," he said. "They get a box of resources, they open it up, they get that smile and that never

changes for me."

Tutt has also penned three of his own books, with his third title, *Caution! This Book Contains Deadly Reptiles*, launched at Sydney's Taronga Zoo on Friday.

Childhood dream

Creating the text fulfilled a childhood dream inspired by Harold Cogger's *Reptiles In Colour*.

"When I first started reading it, I got lost in it," he said. "It

really captured my imagination of what was possible."

Tutt mused long and hard about a text like Dr Cogger's but using the traditional names of the animals.

With illustrations of 68 reptiles, all hand painted by artist Ben Williams, Tutt wanted his creation to take readers on a journey through Country.

"We worked with 21 different language groups to get the names of reptiles and proper

permissions to use them," Tutt said.

"A child can go to Gamilaroi Country, then go to Wiradjuri Country and then to Badu in the Torres Strait and they can learn a bit about that Country and the landscape."

Now a new dad, Tutt has also revealed a fourth book in the works. Written for his son as a way to share with him the gift of story, it is due out in August.

— AAP

Video shows teen's final minutes before fatal attack



VIDEO of an Indigenous teenager on a bus that took him to the site where he was allegedly chased down and murdered with a metal pole has been played for a jury.

Cassius Turvey, a 15-year-old Noongar Yamatji boy, died in hospital 10 days after prosecutors say he was chased, knocked to the ground and "deliberately struck to the head with a metal pole" in Perth's eastern suburbs on October 13, 2022.

Aleesha Louise Gilmore, 23, her boyfriend Jack Steven James Brearley, 23, and his mates Brodie Lee Palmer, 29 and Mitchell Colin Forth, 26, are on trial in the West Australian Supreme Court for Cassius' murder.

Prosecutor Ben Stanwix played CCTV footage for the jury last Thursday which was recorded at the Midland train station about 3.55pm.

It showed Cassius dressed in a green school uniform t-shirt and dark shorts with a black bag getting onto the 315 bus with a large group of teens.

He's tall and calm and looks like a student on his way home after a day at school.

The jury was also shown CCTV recorded inside the bus.

Cassius stands quietly near the rear doors with his right hand wrapped around a yellow pole to steady himself.

With his backpack strap over his left shoulder, he appears deep in thought as others in the group of 19 young people talk around him.

Mr Stanwix has previously said the students travelled to Middle Swan and got off the bus opposite a large so-called green space near a TAFE college about 4.05pm.

CCTV footage from the train station also showed Palmer's Ford Ranger ute arrive in the car park about a minute after the 315 bus drove away.

A young man with a mullet haircut wearing a light blue t-shirt and shorts, who was previously described as Brearley by Mr Stanwix, can be seen looking about the station before climbing back into the ute, which drove away.

The court was previously told the male accused caught up with the bus as Cassius

and the others got off.

Mr Stanwix has said Brearley, armed with a metal pole, attacked two teens in the group before climbing back into the ute with Palmer and Forth and driving after some of the other teens in the group who had run away across the grassy open space.

Cassius was among them and Brearley struck him on the head at least twice. One blow split his left ear in half and another lacerated his forehead.

Mr Stanwix has said Brearley "was filled with fury about his broken car windows", which happened a day earlier, and about threats communicated via social media that a group of "kids" could damage the home he shared with Gilmore.

The smashed car windows were part of a series of escalating tit-for-tat incidents that started on October 9 when some of the accused allegedly "snatched two kids off the street" and unlawfully detained them, punching, kicking and stabbing one of them.

The incident was triggered by a "love triangle" involving Gilmore's 14-year-old brother and another teenager of similar age and social media exchanges about the boys

fighting.

A witness, who can not be named for legal reasons, told the jury Gilmore had messaged his younger brother on October 13 "threatening to hit my mother over the head with a metal pole".

"She mentioned she was going to attack (my brother) as well."

It allegedly followed Gilmore and one of her younger brothers messaging the witness's brother to say they were coming to his school for a fight.

But under questioning from Gilmore's lawyer Simon Freitag, the witness agreed Gilmore's actual message said "Oi, do you want your mother dragged out?" with no mention of a pole.

Other CCTV shown to the jury shows the accused drinking and hanging out on the patio at Palmer's house in the hours before Cassius was allegedly attacked.

They climb into a ute about 2.50pm on October 13 and leave, with the court previously told Gilmore's brothers had messaged her about the same time over the threats on social media.

— AAP

Capt. Saunders makes grand entrance at the war memorial



THE STORY of the Australian Army's first Aboriginal Commissioned Officer, Captain Reginald Saunders, now takes pride of place in the recently opened Main Entrance of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Born near Purnim, Victoria, on the Framlingham Aboriginal Reserve in 1920, Captain Saunders was a Gunditjmara man who served in both the Second World War and in the Korean War.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese marked the occasion saying the new entrance was "A place of light."

"It is a physical rendering of the Ode of Remembrance," he said.

"For nearly eight and a half decades, the Australian War Memorial has kept the memory. It is one of our most precious national treasures.

"And in honouring Captain Reginald Saunders, the first Australian Aboriginal commissioned officer in the Australian Army, it honours a spirit of courage so deeply ingrained in this continent that all Australians can be proud."

He was named in honour of his uncle, William Reginald Rawlings, who had earned a Military Medal for bravery in the First World War. Reg's father, Chris, had also served in the First World War.

Raised by their grandmother after their mother died in 1924, Reg and his younger brother, Harry, remained close to their father.

Chris remembered that when he talked about the First World War, Reg listened with "ears as big as footballs", and at the outbreak of the Second World War, Reg was eager to volunteer for service.

According to War Memorial archival material Indigenous Australians were prevented from enlisting in the Second Australian Imperial Force, but restrictions were not consistently enforced and both Saunders brothers joined in early 1940.

After his initial training, Reg was sent to the Middle East as a reinforcement for the 2/7th battalion. Having survived several encounters with German aircraft in North Africa, Saunders embarked on the ill-fated Greek campaign which he, along with many others, considered a mistake.

After Greece, his unit fought on Crete where Saunders experienced his first



Captain Reg Saunders and his fellow soldiers pictured in Innisfail Queensland on October 12, 1943, by James Tait. Photo Courtesy of The Australian War Memorial.



Captain Reg Saunders.

close combat. After the German victory, Saunders remained hidden on the island for the next 11 months, helped by a local family.

He finally escaped aboard a British submarine and returned to Australia, where he began training for jungle

warfare against the Japanese in the Pacific.

In late 1942 Saunders learned that his younger brother, Harry, had been killed in the bitter fighting that had taken place towards the end of the Kokoda campaign.

Saunders was in New Guinea the following year, where he was soon selected for officer training back home in Australia. Graduating as a lieutenant, he returned to New Guinea commanding a platoon of 30 men.

The feeling of equality many Indigenous Australians had experienced in the army disappeared when the Second World War ended and they returned to Australia.

Saunders moved to Melbourne with his wife, Dorothy, and three young children, but struggled to find work that matched his skills and qualifications.

He re-enlisted for service in the Korean War, in which he led a company of 100 men.

In April 1951 his unit helped bring the rapidly moving Chinese and North Korean forces to a temporary halt, which earned them the United States Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation for "extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance".

Saunders was discharged from the army at the end of the Korean War and later moved to Canberra, where he worked at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

He was made a Member of the British Empire for his commitment to raising the profile of Indigenous communities and was appointed to the Council of the Australian War Memorial. He died in 1991, aged 69.



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Nominations close 7 March 2025.



Yurringa Energy is powering



AUSTRALIA'S first Indigenous-owned energy retailer is celebrating a "significant win" on its journey to cement itself as a national company.

After launching in Victoria in mid-2024, Yurringa Energy will expand to South Australia and Queensland through an agreement with NBN.

The \$1.6 million contract means Yurringa will supply electricity to NBN's major network operation sites in Queensland and SA.

Yurringa Energy chief executive Shane Wilkins said the partnership is a "significant win" in the retailer's journey to establish itself as a national company.

"What we're demonstrating is that an Aboriginal business can work in essential services, not only in the state that they reside and they're born, but across the country, and deliver as good a quality service and as good a product as the big boys," he said.

Yurringa Energy managing director Daniel Briggs said the agreement is an example of what corporate leadership and First Nations economic



Australia's first Indigenous-owned energy retailer is expanding into two more states just eight months after launching.

advancement can look like.

"Recognising and valuing the importance of contributing to the growth of Indigenous engagement in the energy industry is significantly impacting on workforce diversity and

growth," he said.

Although it's Yurringa's first foray out of Victoria, Mr Wilkins said the company wants to be one of the largest employers of Aboriginal people in the country, with a goal for First Nations

people to make up 50 per cent of its workforce.

"We want to inspire other Aboriginal businesses and companies and people to have a crack," he said.

"We think being the first of

anything sets precedent, it proves concept, it's all of those good things that tells community you can do this."

NBN regional and remote chief development officer Gavin Williams said he's proud the company is able to leverage its supply chain to contribute to employment opportunities for First Nations people.

"By partnering with Yurringa Energy we're not only getting a good commercial deal, importantly we're playing a role in transformative change by contributing to a more inclusive and equitable economy," Mr Williams said.

"We acknowledge that our role extends beyond connectivity and we must also support culturally safe and appropriate use of technology, expand our employment and business pathways with First Nations people and deliver community-led programs and solutions."

NBN is also involved in installing wi-fi services in more than 100 Indigenous communities across the nation.

Mr Wilkins described the roll-out as a "wonderful thing" for all involved that Yurringa Energy hopes to support in the future.

— AAP

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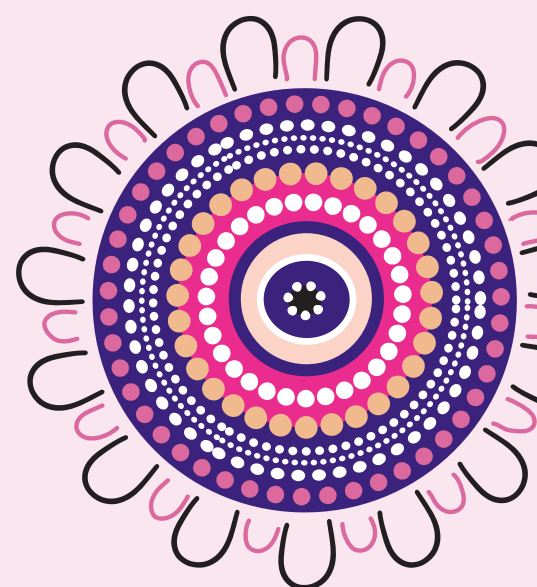


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Biyani Artwork by Jasmine Sarin,
Kamilaroi and Jerrinja Woman

Tackling violence against women

By ALI MC



ABORIGINAL women's organisation Djirra recently commemorated the 10th annual Ochre Ribbon Week at an event

held in the Victorian town of Mildura, on Latji Latji Country.

An Aboriginal-led advocacy campaign, Ochre Ribbon Week raises awareness about the devastating impacts of family violence on Aboriginal women.

Djirra CEO Antoinette Braybrook told the *Koori Mail* that since Ochre Ribbon Week was launched ten years ago, she had only seen the rates of family violence rise.

"In 10 years of Ochre Ribbon Week and 22 years as the CEO of Djirra working on the frontline of Aboriginal women's safety, I have only seen the rates of violence rise," she said.

"Ochre Ribbon Week is an opportunity for us to amplify Aboriginal women's voices and experiences to draw attention to the importance of investing in Aboriginal women's self-determination."

Nationally, Aboriginal women are thirty-four times more likely to be hospitalised and eleven times more likely to die due to family violence. Tragically, the first woman to die because of family violence this year was an Aboriginal woman.

"Here in Victoria, we are forty-five times more likely to experience



Djirra Community Engagement Manager Kelly Fladon (left) and Djirra CEO Antoinette Braybrook.

family violence than other women," Braybrook said.

"This is a national disgrace, and the ramifications are devastating; beyond the physical trauma, family violence has social, cultural, and economic impacts that reverberate through families and generations."

While the rate of family violence against First Nations' women continues to rise, the Federal Government has still yet to begin implementing recommendations made in the 2024 Senate inquiry into Missing and Murdered First Nations Women and Children.

The inquiry made ten recommendations including the need for trauma informed healing,

implementation of a violence prevention framework for men and boys and development of Aboriginal community-based support programs for men.

The report also highlighted the contributing factor of racism within the police force and other frontline services, and recommended higher standards for media reporting on cases of murdered and disappeared First Nations women and children.

Braybrook said that since the report was handed down in August 2024, twelve more Aboriginal women had been killed.

"When will they listen," she said. "One recommendation specifically

points to the need to invest in Djirra and other specialist Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services. We call on government to implement this immediately by establishing a dedicated funding stream in the Department of Social Services for our non-legal and early intervention and prevention work."

Along with legal services, Djirra provides Aboriginal women's cultural and wellbeing programs, such as Sisters Day Out.

Sisters Day Out is a one-day workshop which is held regularly in communities across Victoria and is an opportunity for Aboriginal women to support each other, to learn about their legal rights and connect with service providers.

The Ochre Ribbon Week event in Mildura coincided with the 200th Sisters Day Out, a remarkable milestone that demonstrates the importance of the services Djirra provides.

"Our 200th Sisters Day Out workshop saw record numbers, with close to 400 Aboriginal women and 30 service providers attending," Braybrook said.

"Sisters Day Out provides another entry point for women to seek our services for their safety. It has been recognised by the Royal Commission into Family Violence and internationally as best practice."

The workshops are even held inside Dame Phyllis Frost, rebadged 'Sisters Day In'. In Victoria, 1 in 10 women in prison identify as Aboriginal, and are the

fastest growing cohort in the prison population.

Braybrook stated that a contributing factor to the violence perpetuated on First Nations' women were systems such as child protection and incarceration, along with homelessness.

Ten per cent of people seeking homelessness services in Victoria are First Nations women, despite making up less than two per cent of the state's population.

"Through Djirra's on the groundwork with Aboriginal women, we not only see the gendered nature of violence but also systems violence and racism," she said.

"This too contributes to the disparity – our women fear reporting because there's a real threat their children will be taken. We see our women misidentified as primary aggressors, criminalised and incarcerated."

Despite the lack of government support, Antoinette Braybrook is determined to continue to expand Djirra's services.

"Over the next 12 months Djirra will be a step closer to realising our 22-year strategic vision for expansion of our regional services and establishment of the first Aboriginal Women's Centre in Victoria," she told the *Koori Mail*.

"We were excited to announce this week that our Mildura regional expansion is underway, and our next site will be in Gippsland."

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Teaching AI Aboriginal English



Google Australia senior researcher Ben Hutchinson at the Research@ event in Sydney. Artificial intelligence technology will be trained in Aboriginal English in a project led by Google and the University of Western Australia.



ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander people are being excluded from technology that doesn't understand the way they speak, the terms they use, or the cultural significance behind them.

But a multi-year project between Google and researchers at the University of Western Australia will try to improve access to a range of technologies by training an artificial intelligence model in Aboriginal English.

The internet giant revealed the project on Wednesday, in the latest investment from its \$1 billion Australian Digital Future Initiative announced in 2021.

The project, which is due to add Aboriginal English to Google services in mid-2026, could take longer than expected due to a lack of reference materials and cultural sensitivities.

Despite its lack of recognition by AI or voice recognition technology, University of WA adjunct lecturer Glenys Collard said most Indigenous children began school speaking Aboriginal English they learnt at home.

The powerful language featured different grammatical structures to Australian English as well as different meanings and cultural references which often went unrecognised, the Nyungar scholar said.

"People aren't getting services through the whole system," she said.

"I want to give my Mob the choice, the option to use technology."

But capturing the nuances of Aboriginal English will be complicated, University of WA associate professor Celeste Rodriguez Louro said, as linguists typically reached for a dictionary or a set of grammatical rules as a first step.

"There's no standard language ideology that applies to Aboriginal English in the same way we think about mainstream varieties of English," she said.

"We need to be careful what we are imposing from our own ideologies that we carry as speakers of majority languages."

Storytelling sessions that the university's Language Lab had used to capture Aboriginal English previously would not be appropriate for this project, she said, as it could expose stories of trauma.

"Things shifted in the work we're trying to do for Google ... because we did not think our structured yarning sessions would be culturally safe," she said.

Instead, she said the university would recruit and train Indigenous research assistants in different parts of Australia to capture Aboriginal English speakers' responses to questions and stimuli.

Once recorded, the language could be added to a range of services, Google Research scientist Ben Hutchison said, including AI-powered voice assistants in cars and phones, as well as text message dictation and YouTube video captions.

"Ideally, everyone should be able to talk to AI systems in ways that are natural to them but AI systems haven't always encountered different ways of speaking before," Mr Hutchison said.

"Previous research actually suggests that if you're from an under-represented or minoritised group (and) an AI system fails to understand you, you're more likely to feel self-conscious, both about yourself and about your community."

Language collected through the research project will be vetted by an Indigenous advisory committee before being made available to Google, he said, and the technology would be evaluated and tested before launch.

Other projects in Google's Digital Future Initiative focus on tracking humpback whale migration, detecting bushfires, and building an electric inverter.

— AAP



University of Western Australia adjunct lecturer Glenys Collard, Language Lab director Celeste Louro, and Google Research scientist Ben Hutchison at Google headquarters, Sydney.



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FUTURE MADE IN AUSTRALIA



A new app is helping Indigenous language speakers and knowledge-holders to preserve cultural information, creating a "holistic learning experience" for users.

Preserving cultural knowledge and language

By KEIRA JENKINS



INDIGENOUS languages all over the world are "disappearing", but one Western Australian group is taking the preservation of their language into the digital realm. The Ngalia Heritage Research Council, Kiwa Digital and Amazon Web Services are working together to preserve cultural knowledge, language and tradition through an artificial intelligence tool.

Kado Muir is one of three fluent speakers of his Ngalia language, and said while he was fortunate enough to sit with his mother and develop a dictionary of the language, it was time to digitise the knowledge.

"Across the world Indigenous languages are disappearing," Mr Muir said.

"The importance of bringing it all to a digital platform is once it's in there we have the ability to manage it, to control it but also deliver our cultural responsibilities of passing on this knowledge in culturally sensitive ways.

"The digital platform is one that enhances our ability to discharge our cultural obligations."

The digital archive system, developed by Kiwa Digital on its CultureQ app, is used to store, manage, safeguard and publish content.

The tech, built on a generative AI platform called Amazon Bedrock, provides text-to speech, voice

generation, translation capabilities and a chat function.

Kiwa Digital managing director Steven Renata said the technology means the language will be spoken as a reader swipes their finger across the text on a smart device for an 'immersive' experience.

"That technology can be applied to many languages," Mr Renata said.

"You bring imagery, static animation, bring video and suddenly you've got a very holistic learning experience for whoever it might be, whether it's a young child or even an adult who has missed out on

learning your own language and wanting to start afresh."

The CultureQ app automatically identifies sacred data, applies enhanced security measures to the knowledge to ensure against hacking or deletion.

Mr Renata

said the app allows for the storage and management of cultural knowledge at scale while retaining data sovereignty.

For Mr Muir, it is essential the modernisation of Ngalia cultural and intellectual property is on a secure platform, which is driven by Indigenous protocols and Indigenous people.

"We've got our own protocols around accessing knowledge and information," he said. "There is information which may be gendered, may be age related, cultural and secret stuff."

- AAP



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Pat Turner, the lead convenor for a coalition of peak Indigenous bodies.

Time for 'rubber to hit the road'



Indigenous Australians Minister Malarndirri McCarthy.



INDIGENOUS leaders have declared it's time for the "rubber to hit the road" as a plan to reduce First Nations' disadvantage continues to fall short of its goals. Delivering the Closing the Gap statement at Parliament House, Anthony Albanese recently confirmed just five of 19 targets outlined in the strategy are on track to be met by 2031.

A government plan to improve wellbeing will include capping the cost of essential groceries for people living in remote Indigenous communities.

The price cap will apply to 30 products including milk, bread, rice, chicken, toothpaste and toilet paper across 76 remote stores.

Laundries will also be rolled out or upgraded in 12 rural areas to improve the health of residents.

The PM said the road ahead was not easy, and the nation couldn't "turn our back" to the disadvantage and violence affecting Indigenous people.

"To close the gap would ultimately erase the gulf that lies between us and our true potential as a nation," he said. "It is about ensuring that all Australians get the same chance in life."

The Indigenous Business Australia's Home Loan Capital Fund will receive a boost to increase opportunities for First Nations people to buy their own homes and build intergenerational wealth for their families.

Scholarships will be provided for up to 150 Indigenous psychology

students to increase the availability of culturally safe mental health support.

Establishing a First Nations children's commissioner was a "critical step" to addressing the disproportionate representation of young people in the justice system, Indigenous Australians Minister Malarndirri McCarthy said.

"It is not just the role of Indigenous affairs ministers across the country, it is the role collectively of all cabinets across the country," she told reporters.

Pat Turner, the lead convenor for a coalition of peak Indigenous bodies, said the full impact of the changes would take time to materialise.

"Now is the time for the rubber to hit the road and for all governments to invest the money

at the community level," she said.

Ms Turner said she was worried about the issue of youth crime becoming election issues.

Politicians had the opportunity to do "what's right and effective" which was owed to disadvantaged Indigenous Australians and taxpayers, Opposition Leader Peter Dutton said.

"There's little that we can do if safety and housing and health and education and employment are not there for Indigenous Australians and in too many parts of the country today, those basics are missing," he said.

"We have to make sure that as a national parliament, we can work together in a bipartisan way to achieve better outcomes."

Successive Labor and coalition governments had failed to address

structural issues, Greens senator and Indigenous woman Dorinda Cox said.

"What's not written here is that the lack of action on these targets are continuing to keep First Nations people out of schools, out of hospitals, out of workplaces, and in detention centres and putting our people in early graves," she said.

The government recently announced more than \$800 million towards services including policing, women's safety, education and alcohol harm reduction in remote communities.

Opposition Indigenous health spokeswoman Kerryne Liddle said the pricing of essential grocery items in remote areas was "outrageous", but would not say if the coalition would back a similar policy to the price cap.

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‘Exciting’ price caps could close health and budget gap

By KEIRA JENKINS



A GOVERNMENT plan to cap the cost of essential groceries could help to improve the health of First Nations

people living in remote communities.

With grocery prices capped, there is hope to improve physical health as well as budget health in remote communities, a financial counsellor says.

In many remote communities across the country there's only one local shop to get groceries and driving to another can take hours, leaving residents with very little choice. Mob Strong Debt Help senior financial counsellor Bettina Cooper said.

Disadvantaged

"The majority of these remote First Nations communities are in the most disadvantaged socio-economic areas in Australia," the Boandik woman said.

"The evidence is clear that something needs to change, the gap needs to be closed and there needs to be equity."

Prime Minister Anthony

Progress on a range of Indigenous outcomes have been laid out in federal parliament as part of the annual Closing the Gap report.

- A price cap will be set on 30 essential food items at 76 remote grocery stores to keep everyday items at the cost seen in major cities.
- The products will include goods such as milk, bread, chicken, flour, apples, bananas, toilet paper, toothpaste and baby formula.
- Grocery costs are often significantly higher at remote stores due to transport costs, with natural disasters such as floods also cutting off supply chains.
- The federal government says the cap would also help contribute to boosting health outcomes in remote areas, which experience high rates of conditions such as diabetes, rheumatic fever and chronic kidney disease.
- Indigenous staff in remote grocery stores will also be trained up as part of a nutrition workforce in communities.
- Other health initiatives being rolled out as part of Closing the Gap targets include putting in new laundry facilities in 12 remote communities.
- Greater opportunities will also be put in place for Indigenous Australians to buy their own home as part of an increase to the Indigenous Business Australia fund.
- The availability of culturally-safe mental-health supports will also be increased, which will provide scholarships for 150 Indigenous psychology students.
- Early prevention and response services will also be continued to tackle domestic and sexual violence in remote communities.
- The federal government had previously announced more than \$800 million to deliver services to remote communities in the Northern Territory.
- Closing the Gap targets have been in place since 2007 and are designed to reduce disadvantages between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.
- While 11 of the 19 targets are seeing improvements on outcomes, just five are on track to being met.

Albanese last week announced a price cap on 30 essential products in more than 70 remote community stores as he delivered

the annual Closing the Gap statement.

Ms Cooper advocated for price caps on essential items following

a CHOICE investigation in October, which revealed some remote residents were paying double for their groceries than

consumers in the city.

She said last week it was exciting to see the government focusing on reducing the cost of essentials in remote communities.

"I'm excited to see that there's fresh produce on there, and I'm excited to see things like toilet paper and menstrual products because if you've got no options and those products are high priced, where does that leave you," she said.

Five on track

The Prime Minister revealed just five of 19 Closing the Gap targets were on track to being met, but Ms Cooper said she hopes grocery price caps are a step toward achieving these measures for remote residents.

"They'll be able to access those items like flour, milk, tuna, bread, those essential items, even nappies and toothbrushes, that are affordable and accessible," she said. "What we really hope will happen is over a period of time with these affordable items being there, that we'd actually see an improved health outcome and improved budget health too."

— AAP

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news

Historical treaty documents on display



The original manuscript of John Batman's controversial 1835 treaty.

By ALI MC



TREATY is an engaging exhibition and conversation space currently installed at the State Library of Victoria in Naarm (Melbourne's) CBD. Curated through the Victorian Indigenous Research Centre, on display is the historical treaty document signed by early colonialist John Batman and leaders of the Kulin Nation in June 1835.

Also included is a painting of the treaty signing by John Wesley Burt, and maps which detail the area that John Batman intended to acquire.

Yet contemporary voices of First Nations leaders and activists such as Uncle Robbie Thorpe are also included.

Originally centred around the original 'Batman's Treaty', Wurundjeri, Dja Dja Wurrung and Ngurai Ilium Wurrung curator Stacey Piper developed the exhibition to reflect contemporary debates such as the current treaty negotiations in Victoria.

"The exhibition was mainly just to pull these objects out so people can come and have a look at them, especially at a time when we've got the treaty in Victoria taking place," Piper told the *Koori Mail*.

"The negotiations were launched in November last year, and so it's a really important time for so-called Victoria. I took the view to curate this space as a conversation space."

'Batman's Treaty' purported to negotiate the purchase 500,000 acres in Melbourne and Geelong from Kulin leaders in exchange for goods and clothing.

However, the efficacy of the treaty – and John Batman's intentions – remain contested, in

particular, whether the Kulin leaders understood the content of the treaty they were to sign.

Batman's Treaty was deemed void by the early Victorian government, and later that same year, the Australian continent was declared 'terra nullius', disqualifying any future attempts at treaty-making with First Nations, who were considered not to be 'owners' of the land in the first place.

Piper told the *Koori Mail* that this history of treaty-making was a vital part of the ongoing conversation about treaty, voice and truth telling.

"This exhibition wouldn't have come about if they didn't suggest pulling the Batman treaties out of the collection, because everything that you see in here is a response to the collection item," she said.

The exhibition itself is designed as a circular space, with the depiction of native trees and a sustainable wooden structure topped with blank paper.

Spicer told the *Koori Mail* that she "wanted to centre Country as the authority."

"I love bringing Country into the space. And the paper around the top, it was a way to depict the treaty now being a blank canvas."

Reflecting on the recent Voice referendum, Spicer told the *Koori Mail* the inclusion of videos featuring prominent First Nations activists and leader was to demonstrate the continued strength of voice.

"Even though the Voice to Parliament was an epic fail, in here our voices are still strong," she said. "Hence why we've got many voices around. Our voices are strong. They always have been. Nothing's taken away our voice, just because there's never not been a Voice to Parliament."

● Continued next page

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Uncle Robbie Thorpe, from the Krautungalung people of the Gunnai Nation, is one of many contemporary First Nations' voices in the exhibition.

● From previous page

Spicer also told the *Koori Mail* that the installation of *Treaty* and other recent First Nations' exhibitions at the State Library was an opportunity to challenge established institutional norms and allow for cultural participation of the community.

Reflecting on *Beruk*, a recent exhibition about the life of Wurundjeri Ngurungaeta William Barak, she told the *Koori Mail* that the objects installed were viewed as living cultural items, not simply artefacts to be handled delicately with gloves.

"I grew up with Uncle Jim Berg when I was at the museum; you'd use no gloves. You'd just pick up those objects. And I wouldn't pick up objects that I didn't feel right to, but say, a Barak boomerang, I'd pick it up," she said.

Spicer also said they had encouraged younger Wurundjeri community members to participate in the installation and to provide a direct continuation of lineage through handling items such as William Barak's original shield and painting.

"As, the descendants of Barak, they're handling the items. And when you think about the hands that have passed between Barak and then those boys, it's not many," she said.

Piper said the role of museums had changed within the last decade, to allow for First Nations communities to access to items in the collection and open up space for conversation.

"The institutions have opened the doors, so a lot's changed," she said. "I want the young ones that come in and the schools that come in to feel safe with us, to feel comfortable with us. I loved growing up hearing my elders speak, and it's a beautiful culture. We've got a lot of beautiful things to share."

Treaty is on at the State Library of Victoria until October 27, 2025.



Wurundjeri, Dja Dja Wurrung and Ngurai Illim Wurrung curator Stacey Piper, from the Victorian Indigenous Research Centre at the State Library of Victoria.

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news



Immunisation and breast screening were two of the topics discussed.

Women have a yarn about better health

By KIARAH MACK



IMPROVING
Aboriginal women
and children's health
by promoting
awareness of
immunisation and

breast screening was the focus of the first of seven Yarn Up events held in the NSW Northern Rivers earlier this month.

About 40 representatives from women and children's health services in the region met at the Lismore YWCA to discuss the issues and how best to boost immunisation and breast/cervical screening for women.

Northern NSW has a high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities but a low participation rate for Aboriginal children's immunisation as well as Aboriginal women's health screening.

As a result, the group experiences worse cancer outcomes compared to the general population.

State health funding for the Yarn Ups has allowed them to be rolled out, with health districts partnering with local Indigenous women, children and family-services groups to promote them.

Aboriginal Medical Services will work with health districts, craft groups, schools, community centres and supported playgroups or

sporting groups to promote the Yarn Ups.

The next Yarn Ups will be held in Grafton on Monday, March 24, Ballina in April (date and venue to be confirmed) and Murwillumbah on Thursday, May 8.

Aboriginal immunisation health worker Virginia Paden and BreastScreen NSW strategy engagement manager Jennifer McKay met in July last year when they spoke to the Jubullum community at Tabulam about issues affecting Aboriginal women and children's health.

The event there was successful and the idea of the Yarn Ups was put to the local health district which endorsed the plan to conduct the seven Yarn Ups across the region.

Ms McKays told the *Koori Mail* that they were "delighted to have this opportunity to reach Aboriginal communities and discuss issues on health so that they can learn more about their own bodies and how they can prevent diseases and how they can use women's health screenings".

Ms Paden said "immunisation protects us against vaccine-preventable diseases that have huge implications for our Elders and our young people and is also a huge part of Closing the Gap".

"I think it's important because we need to keep our generations strong and our community members strong," she said.



A group shot of the women taking part in the Lismore Yarn Up.



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Crowd turns out for

By PAUL CONNELLY



THE homelands of the Gunai Kurnai in Eastern Victoria people played host to the latest instalment of the First Peoples' Assembly Treaty Day Out concerts, thus

completing an event in all five regions of the assembly.

Undeterred by the rain, a crowd of 2,500 gathered at the Gippsland Sports and Entertainment Centre in Morwell to be entertained and learn more about the path towards a treaty in Victoria.

The first Treaty Day Out was in Shepparton, and included such luminaries as Archie Roach and Yothu Yindi.

Amy Rust, First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria Head of Engagement and Communications, said: "Treaty Day Outs have been a deadly celebration of First Nations music and culture, bringing Mob and allies together for a good time and a chance to learn more about and show their support for Treaty."

"We've run five Treaty Day Outs across the state in the last three years and they've proven to be a major enrolment incentive."

"We estimate that there's probably somewhere around 40,000 Aboriginal people in Victoria who would be eligible to enrol with us. We already have over 9,000 people signed up, which is an entirely voluntary process, and we think this is a tremendous start."

For MpathSoul – Monica Jasmine Karoo, one of the many artists to perform in Morwell – this was a very special gig since her return to her homelands.

"This was very special opportunity for me as I am a proud Gunai woman, and I was here among family and friends. I lived in Taralgon, and grew up in the Latrobe Valley, and went to school in Churchill, so this is the ancestral Country of my great grandfather, and now I am back living on Country, after many years living in Naarm, where I spent time developing my music."

"It's interesting how things sometimes come a full 360 degrees."

Jasmine said Treaty was very important to her for many reasons.

"Treaty to me is having our voices listened to, so that we are at the forefront and empowered. It means self-determination and hope for our next generation, as well as acknowledgement of the legacy our Elders have left, not just in our own community, but a national acknowledgement from wider Australia of the revival and resistance of our existence, of our cultural practices, our languages, our songs and dances."

Co-chair Ruben Berg said it was important that the Aboriginal and broader community understood that a treaty is happening, and it is not something to worry about.

"It's a really positive thing, and Treaty Day Out events are a really good example of that," Mr Berg said.

"At this stage we do not have an exact date that a treaty will be enacted but we have been making significant progress. We obviously had the big ceremonial opening in November last year, and last month we were able to release the subject matters we are discussing with the state, and are working through those with the state, as well as working out what additional subject matters we have to add, or adjust. The subject matter in particular revolves around the enhanced version of the assembly, and looking at how we can hold government accountable for the things they are supposed to do with this process."

Currently there are 33 elected members



A.B. Original and Marlo perform at Morwell, Victoria, during the fifth Treaty Day Out.



Hip Hop group, 3%, performed.

of the assembly, representing five regions across the state as well as representing traditional owner groups.

Throughout the day, the two MCs, Shiralee Hood and Isaac Compton, kept the crowd entertained, informed and motivated despite the weather and some technical difficulties due to the rain.

There were stunning performances as well as an amazing dance and welcome ceremony from the Gunaikuinai Dancers.

Performers included: 3%, Canisha, MpathSoul, Fonzie, Uncle Kutcha Edwards, Emily Wurramara, Troy Cassar-Daley, A.B. Original, Electric Fields, and Uncle Dave Arden.

Uncle Dave Arden, a Kokatha and a Gunditjmara songman and a founding member of The Black Arm Band, said a treaty must include truth telling.

"We must re-amend the damage that the commonwealth of western ancestors have done to destroy the heritage of First Nations Australia."

"We are making inroads, as long as it is done by First Nations people and not being 'mission managed', by non-First Nations people."

"The most important part of the treaty process must include truth telling. We must start being honest with each other, in the sense of truth telling, as long as it is positive, and we treat each other with love." When asked if there should be punishment for truth telling David said "no, it is an acknowledgement, not punishment."

"It is not about taking people's belongings, their homes, their land or possessions. It is simply a clean start and getting back to things that have been taken away!"

This was the last of the Treaty Day Out concerts with the next major event for the Treaty process on February 28 and March 1, when First Peoples Assembly will host statewide gathering at the MCG, to talk more about the process.

This will be a Mob-only event.



Crowd favourite, Troy Cassar-Daley.

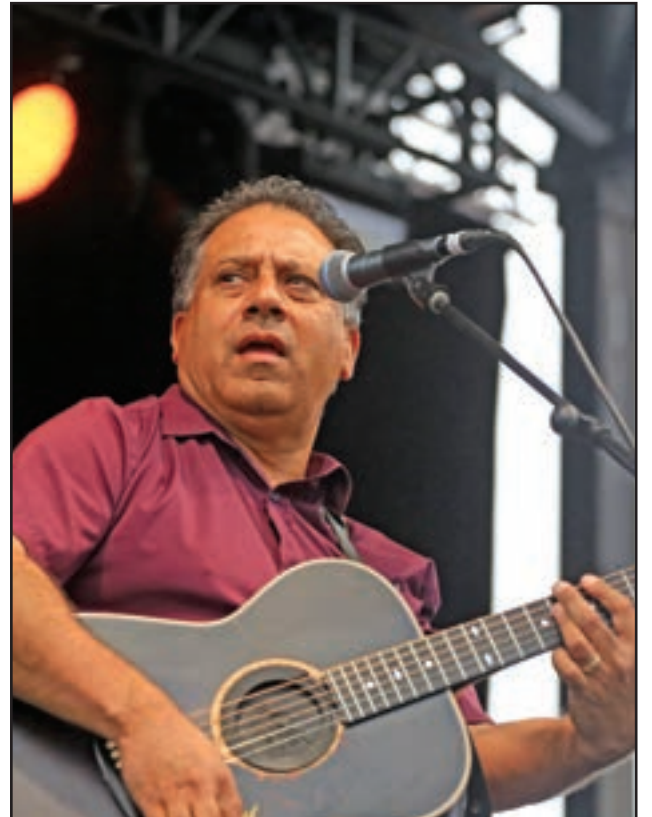


MpathSoul performs.

fifth round of Treaty



Members of the First Peoples Assembly on stage.



Dave Arden on stage.



Dancers.



Emily Wurramara and dancers.



MC Shiralee Hood.



The day featured a number of dance ceremonies.



Kutcha Edwards sings among the crowd.



Electric Fields were on fire.



Some of the dancers who performed with Emily Wurramara.

Danny Eastwood's view



A YARN WITH...



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

Favourite holiday destination?
Gold Coast.

Favourite movie?
Tora Tora, about the attack on Pearl Harbour.

What do you like in life?
Sharing my wisdom with my people.

What don't you like in life?
Alcohol.

Which Black or Indigenous person would you most like to meet?
Anita Heiss.

Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire?
Children so we can yarn.

Who or what inspires you?
Elders which are evening stars.

What person would you like to meet?
Abba singing group member Anni-Frid (Frida) Lyngstad.

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people?
Help them capture our culture so it can be passed on and maintained from generation to generation.

Quote



"There is a growing movement of women and gender-diverse runners saying enough is enough, you're not alone and let's fight this fight together."

– Take Back the Track founder Sissy Austin, Ballarat Victoria

● See page 23

Unquote

Running against the violence

Sissy Austin is an inspiration. Following a harrowing, unprovoked attack that happened while she was out running in February 2023, the Ballarat district woman has since founded a movement, called Take Back the Track.

Launched earlier this month, the movement is about raising awareness of the violence and harassment that many women and young girls experience on a daily basis. Sadly, the attackers are most often young, unformed males who have not been taught the proper respect when it comes to females.

Sissy used her attack to fight back. And she wasn't alone. When she started speaking out about the violence she had experienced, and subsequent mistreatment at a hospital, she was contacted by other women and gender-diverse people, sharing their own experience of harassment and violence.

From those shared experiences, Sissy and others found their collective strength.

Family, friends, the local community and the running community across the country, including high profile marathon runners Robert De Castella, Steve Moneghetti and Turia Pitt, reached out to offer skills, talent and support.

Take Back the Track resulted in people coming together across the nation to run together in safety, and solidarity.

The biggest shame is that such a movement is needed in the first place.



The ever-present dangers that face women are like a cancer that needs to be cut out from our communities.

This can only happen with proper education in our schools, but also in our homes.

Because that is where education truly begins. We all must think about how we relate to others, especially those who might be more vulnerable. Our sisters, our wives, our mothers and our lovers deserve to live their lives safely, whether they are out having a run in the bush, or simply walking down the street. But most importantly, women deserve to feel safe wherever they might be. And it is up to the menfolk to either lead by example, or to walk alongside them in their yearning for a peaceful life.

Respect for others is what can set us apart as a so-called intelligent species.

But for that to happen, each and everyone of us needs to take a good hard look at how we treat others.

As Sissy says: "You don't have to be a runner to have a conversation about runners' safety. All women and gender-diverse runners have the right to run freely and safely. A lot of us just have one runner in the family, and it's important for the family to support them and share the load."

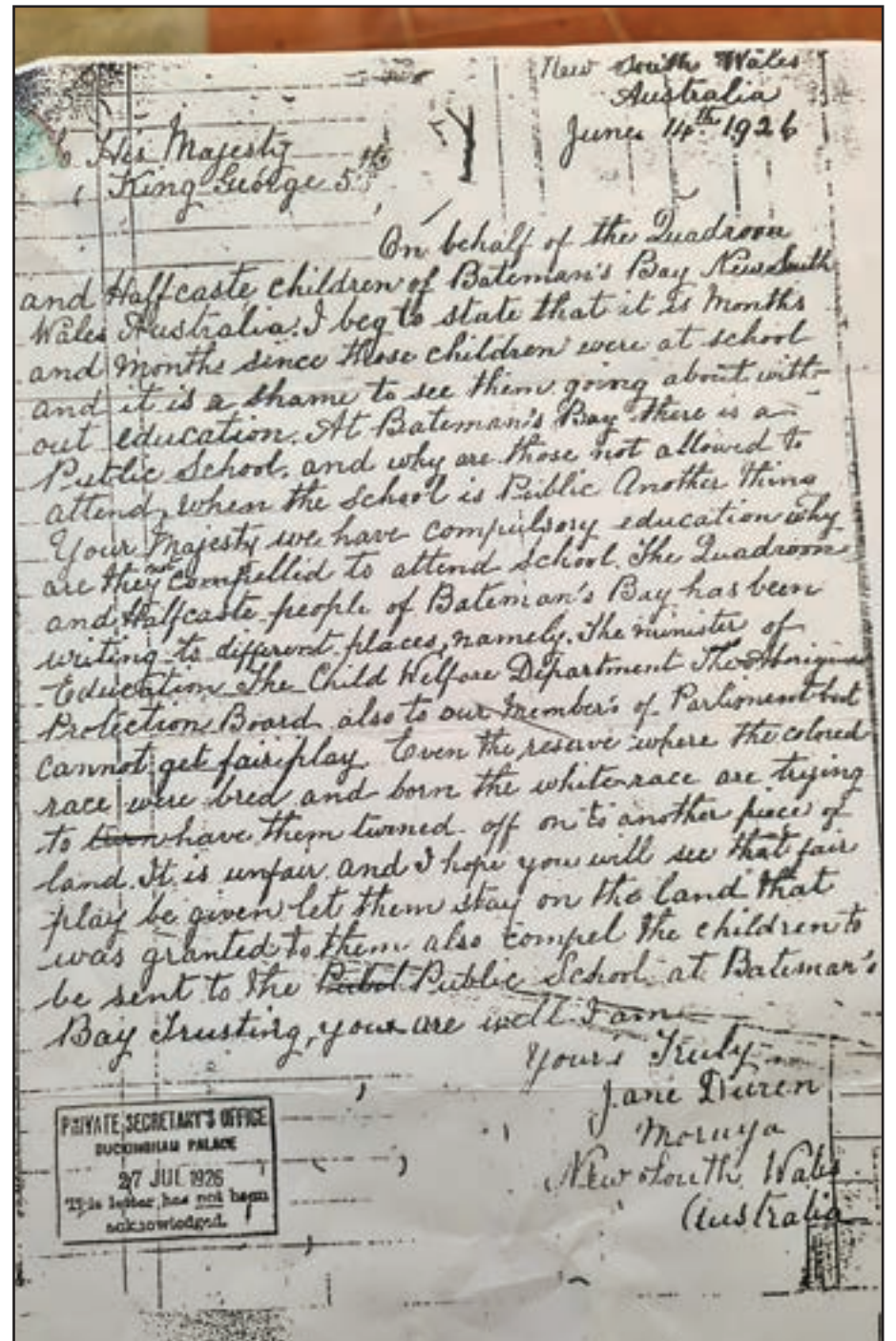
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The Koori Mail is owned by five Aboriginal organisations on Bundjalung country in northern NSW – Kurrachee Cooperative (Coraki), Bunjum Cooperative (Cabbage Tree Island), Nungera Cooperative (Maclean), Buyinbin Cooperative (Casino) and the Bundjalung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

Strong matriarch took concerns to the King



Jane Duren (seated), with her daughters Agnes Davis (left) and Jean (Regina) Chewying. Agnes Davis is the grandmother of Auntie Loretta Parsley. Picture supplied



The letter by Jane Duren to King George V in 1926 complaining about Aboriginal children excluded from attending Batemans Bay Public School.

By MARION WILLIAMS

SEVERAL of pioneering activist Jane Duren's many descendants believe she has not received the recognition she deserves.

In 1926, aged 59, Jane Duren wrote to King George V about the Aboriginal children who had been excluded from attending the Batemans Bay Public School. Her letter also said that her people were being turned off the land where they were born and bred. She asked the king for "fair play" in both issues.

The letter led to Mrs Duren meeting the Department of Education's Chief Inspector. The children eventually resumed school.

A year earlier, Jane Duren and Dick Johnson started the Batemans Bay branch of the Australian Aborigine

Progressive Association, Australia's first politically organised, united Aboriginal activist group. Fred Maynard started the AAPA around 1924.

In 1927, Jane Duren accompanied Mr Maynard and other activists to a public debate in Sydney.

Aged 70, she attended the Day of Mourning and Protest in Sydney on January 26, 1938. It marked 150 years since white settlers seized sovereignty.

Strong matriarch

Walbunja traditional custodian Auntie Loretta Parsley wants her great-grandmother to be remembered for having an impact on so many people.

"I think she paved the way for a lot of people to stand up and make a difference," Auntie Loretta said.

Auntie Loretta's mother used to tell her about Jane Duren.

Auntie Loretta has since done considerable research into her great-grandmother.

Jane Piety married John Duren from Alsace in France in 1884. He had jumped ship at Moruya Heads and was 16 years her senior. They had nine, possibly ten, children. The youngest was only two when John Duren died in 1909 on a steamer on his way to Sydney for medical treatment.

Not only was there no widow's pension, but Auntie Loretta said Aboriginal people had no rights at all.

"She had a big family of her own and the idea was to educate and empower her children, so they could rise above that idea of being downtrodden," Auntie Loretta said. "She wanted rights, and she was headstrong."

Activist, and active in the community

Jane Duren worked at Newstead School at Moruya Heads, possibly as a teacher's aide, and always advocated for education. She was also a midwife.

"She did a lot of things in the community to engage people and look after them, being matriarch of the family and a matriarch of the community," Auntie Loretta said.

She went on to attend events like the 1938 first Day of Mourning and Protest to stand up for Aboriginal rights.

"They went unnoticed because they were Aboriginal people who, to the general public, had no rights," Auntie Loretta said. "The media would not write about it because it was seen as controversial."

Sometimes it paid to be unnoticed because they would be penalised if they had left a mission, for example, and were not back by curfew.

"The laws were very rigid, and she had to comply with all those laws or be considered an agitator. She had good ethical rules for her family."

"When we think about her in my family, she was the matriarch, and showed excellent leadership" Auntie Loretta said. "She did it gracefully and in an honourable way, not antagonistic, and was known for making a difference to the community. Granny Duren had a vision for things to improve, for us to be educated, and that we understood the world."

"She had good principles and I think she was a woman before her time."

Vale Uncle William Victor Simms 1946-2025

By RHODA ROBERTS AO

The *Koori Mail* board of directors and our national team pay tribute to and acknowledge the passing of the acclaimed Bidjigal Elder, cultural leader and musician known fondly as Uncle Vic Simms.

“Sing from the heart, give everything from your heart and you’ll succeed.”
– Uncle Vic Simms 2023.

If you gazed across the lands at La Perouse in 1957, with searing hot roofs of corrugated iron huts stretching towards the waters of Botany Bay, you’d also catch sight of a skinny young boy, Vic Simms, alongside his nine siblings. They were often to be seen carrying tin cans and sticks, tirelessly loosening and collecting melting road tar to patch up the holes in the roof and walls of their family home.

Born in 1946 on La Perouse Mission, Vic’s early days were marked by unexpected changes with more than a few bumps in the road and unpredictable shifts that would seem unimaginable to most.

One evening, after a footy game at La Perouse, he seized a moment that would change the course of his life. Bravely jumping up on stage at the post-match social, where Kevin Jacobsen Quintet, led by singer Col Jacobsen, were playing. The 11-year-old Vic’s voice cut through the crowd – a raw and captivating sound, a voice that would soon captivate the hearts of many.

This was the beginning of his musical journey, one that would take him far beyond the cultural grounds of La Perouse, but never too far from the spirit that shaped him – the heart, and the voice that could rise above any challenge, just like he did with that tar.

Uncle Vic Simm’s story is one of turning hardship into art and proving that no matter what life throws your way, you can always find your voice and make it heard.

1957 was a year of firsts, a pivotal moment in Australian history. It marked the dawn of the age of television in the country, Slim Dusty won his first gold record for the iconic *A Pub With No Beer* and Danish architect Jørn Utzon became the designer for the now world-renowned Sydney Opera House. It was a year when new horizons were explored.

At the same time, when Bidjigal skies darkened with the annual gathering of the flying foxes and when, in the old ways, ceremonies would have echoed across the waterways, Uncle Vic Simms was performing on the lands of the Gayemagal at the October Manly Jazzorama Music Festival.

Little did he know that as his



Vic Simms performs in the chapel of Parramatta Jail in July, 1979. (Photo supplied)



Uncle Vic Simms. Photo courtesy of Yabun “Backstage Portraits”

voice echoed across the saltwater, his talent would soon see him singing jingles for TV commercials and appearing on the legendary television programs *Bandstand* and *Six O’Clock Rock*.

Whilst touring with the newly renamed Col Joye and The Joy Boys, he shared the stage with rising stars like Johnny O’Keefe. Performing under the name ‘Vicky’ Simms at the time, he moved easily among the giants of music, rubbing shoulders with legends such as Shirley Bassey, Buddy Holly and Peter Allen.

In regional NSW on a sweltering hot day, the touring party including Peter Allen and Col Joye went to the local pool. With the scent of chlorine and the sound of children’s laughter in the air they experienced first hand the deep-rooted racism that existed in Australia. Aboriginal people were not allowed to swim there. But in a show of solidarity the whole touring party vowed to



Koori Radio Mob: Tre, Tasha Lawrence, Dylan DJ Shark, Gavin Ivey, Lola Forester, Jake Simon, Shahalam (Shaz) Kazi, Rodney Turner and Jodie Matthews gather around local Elder Uncle Vic Simms styling up in the brown coat. (Photo: Christian Morrow)



Bidjigal man Uncle Vic Simms (second right) greets Denmark’s Crown Princess Mary (right) as they attend the opening of ‘State of Green – Join the Future – Think Denmark’ forum at the Sofitel Wentworth Hotel in Sydney in 2011. Photo AAP

leave if Vic was not admitted.

In the late sixties, after a desperate turn of events, Uncle Vic found himself serving time in Bathurst Gaol, one of the toughest prisons in the country, notorious for drugs, violence and harsh treatment. But even in that dark place, Vic’s resilience shone

through. He traded two packs of tobacco for the loan of a guitar and began to write songs – turning his pain into art. In 1973 this creative spark led to him signing a contract with RCA Records, and in just one hour, the album *The Loner* was recorded in prison.

The album reflects the reality of life for a young Bidjigal man, experiences of racism inspired the songs making *The Loner* a powerful and acclaimed album that touched hearts across the nation. Recording the album was a monumental achievement and upon its release Uncle Vic was given special leave to perform live at the iconic Sydney Opera House.

The Loner is rightly recognised as a timeless Aboriginal protest album and in 2001 Uncle Vic received the Deadly Award for Outstanding Contribution to Aboriginal Music.

In 2014, under the auspices of Uncle Vic himself, Meanjin-based musician Luke Peacock along with a stellar cast of musicians created the album *The Painted Ladies Play Selections from the Loner*. The album went on to earn a place in the book *The 110 Best Australian Albums*.

Many years later, while working at the Sydney Opera House, I personally booked Uncle Vic Simms for a music program at the iconic venue – it was a true honour. It was the sweetest of moments to bring his remarkable pioneering talent, his passion and his fiery spirit to the stage, once again showcasing not only his musical genius but also the strength and spirit of one of our proud warriors.

As an international recording artist, Uncle Vic dedicated more than 60 years to the music business. He was not only a brilliant songman, but also a keeper of knowledge whose cultural heritage was woven deeply into the fabric of his work. His activism was as vital as his music.

Later, on a windy day at La Perouse, Uncle Vic once again carried a stick as we walked the tour of his Country he had designed as an educator with UNSW Medicine and Health. He always imparted and shared so generously his Bidjigal stories and the place that was home, continuing to tirelessly and persistently patch up the holes in the nation’s truth telling.

Uncle Vic’s legacy was cemented with the inclusion of *The Loner* into the National Film and Sound Archive, preserving his cultural impact for generations. In 2024, he received an honorary doctorate from the University of New South Wales, recognising his decades of dedication to cultural education.

We will always remember him as a voice for his community and an artist whose work transcended the generations. His influence will live on, echoing through the songs he shared, the lessons he taught and the cultural legacy he helped shape. Rest in peace, Uncle. Your light will never fade.

– with material from the ABC Double J archive.

Sissy urges women to Take Back the Track

By JILLIAN MUNDY



TAKE Back the Track founder Sissy Austin thought she'd feel sad on the anniversary of the viscous and unprovoked attack on her while out running near her Ballarat home in February 2023.

But it was nothing like that. "I felt like a warrior," she told *Koori Mail*.

"When I reflect on the loneliness I felt after being attacked, the journey to arrive here has reminded me that in fact I was never alone.

"There is a growing movement of women and gender diverse runners saying enough is enough, you're not alone and let's fight this fight together."

Take Back the Track, launched earlier this month, raises awareness of violence and harassment faced by women and gender-diverse runners and campaigns for all runners to feel a sense of freedom and happiness.

"I know to the non-runner it's just running, but running should be the most accessible form of exercise, it's mostly free, you should be able to do it anywhere, at any time.

"And I just love the connection to Country that you get through running, moving through the seasons of the year," explained the inspirational Peek Woorroong, Keerraay Woorroong & Djab Wurrung woman.

Sissy discovered her love for running in primary school. So keen were she and her brother and sister, they would hitchhike with their mum every weekend to little athletics in Ballarat, about an hour's drive away.

After leaving school, Sissy gave it away for a few years then, in her twenties, was inspired by the Indigenous Marathon Project (IMP) – particularly Jess Lovett-Murray – and took it up again.

She pushed herself to run longer distances including half marathons. It was her go-to selfcare.

"I love the connection running provides to body, both physically and mentally. It is an outlet that is on your doorstep or down the road to your favourite running track.

"You eventually find yourself lost in the feeling of pushing your body one kilometre after the other, and lost in adventure, seeing, feeling, smelling new places you never knew existed."

A favoured running spot was Lal Lal State Forest – a 15-minute drive from her Ballarat home – which she describes as a really beautiful escape from the craziness of the world.

On 11 February 2023, the safety and retreat of Lal Lal State Forest was no more. While running a familiar route, Sissy was viciously attacked.

Recovering, Sissy made her



Take Back the Track was launched earlier this month.



Take Back the Track founder Sissy Austin. Picture: Mitch Nivalis.

way back to her car – about 4km away. Although she knew the area well, unaware of a serious concussion she became disoriented.

When she eventually found the car and called police, they had limited resources in the area and were delayed. Too terrified to wait and of how injured she was, Sissy drove out. Driving only for a short period before pulling over to the side of the road, relieved to be attended to by emergency services.

That relief soon disappeared. In Ballarat Base Hospital (Grampians Health). Sissy was left lying in her own vomit and forced to sign discharge papers. The care, or lack of, Sissy received at Grampians Health was so poor she was eventually given an apology from the Chief Medical Officer, Chief Nursing Officer and her experience was heard before the Yoorrook Justice Commission, with the health minister calling it 'brutal and dehumanising'.

Sissy has since called for medical protocols against discharging patients suffering from head injuries.

The concussion left Sissy with difficulty speaking, amnesia and an inability to work for six months. This robbed her of the opportunity to continue working with Senator Lidia Thorpe leading up to the

referendum and almost stole her chances of participating in IMP.

Thankfully, IMP checked in when she forgot the application deadline, offering her an alternative process.

Sissy was determined to get back on the track, at first only running in very public places. It was an effort, requiring mental and physical healing and support. She credits her family, friends, running coach and community for supporting her return to running.

In November 2023 Sissy ran the New York Marathon with the IMP squad.

Almost a year to the day after Sissy's attack, Ballarat woman Samantha Murphy went missing while out running.

"I was stressed, feeling anxious in the lead up to the one year anniversary of my attack.

"My brother called me and asked 'did you see a runner's gone missing in Ballarat near where you were attacked?' I was at Southern Cross (train station) in Melbourne. I broke down in tears, and for that next whole week, me and my brother were part of the search for Sam.

"It was a hard time. Some people in Ballarat were real racist (about my attack), posting on social media things like 'I thought it was a political stunt because it was leading up to the referendum' and 'we thought that she'd done

that to herself because she's an Aboriginal activist'."

Sissy has since moved to Castlemaine where she's found a supportive running community.

Samantha's body has never been found. A 23-year-old man has been charged with her murder and is awaiting trial. Sissy's attacker has not been found and the case remains open.

With Sissy speaking out about her attack, the mistreatment at the hospital and her recovery journey, women and gender diverse runners started contacting her to share their own experiences and their fears of running at certain times of day or in certain places.

"I realised I was not the only runner that had a rigid schedule dictated by fear.

"Once I'd recovered enough, I felt an obligation to rise and fight for the so many people that had reached out to me throughout my healing journey, sharing their experiences."

While out running, Sissy was thinking up the Take Back the Track campaign and quietly working on it on her laptop during the commute to work.

Initially it was to be a 'sock movement'.

"Runners would have Take Back the Track socks out there running," she explained to *Koori Mail*.

"If you see especially a fella wearing them you would know that you're not alone, someone who's running in solidarity with you, without even having to talk to them."

She shared her idea with her physio who was impressed. Feeling confident, Sissy put her idea out in the world via a logo on Instagram.

Family, friends, local community and the running community across the country, including high profile marathon runners Robert De Castella, Steve Moneghetti and Turia Pitt, offered skills, talent and support. Before she knew it, Take Back the Track was becoming a movement beyond her wildest dreams.

In early February the campaign launched with over 150 groups registered to run in events for the inaugural National Take Back the Track Day on Sunday 16 February. With many more not registering, there were likely thousands who ran in solidarity.

"It's been really nice to reclaim the whole month and the narrative, celebrating our love and connection to running.

"Trying to steer away from the fear of running, which the media is really good at instilling in people, providing space for women and gender diverse runners to actually talk about what they love about running, and their hopes and dreams.

"My dream is to be able to run in the morning before the sun rises."

One of Take Back the Track's goals is for male runners to actively show solidarity with women and gender diverse runners.

For example male runners can offer to run with women and gender diverse runners, especially at times and in places that may cause fear, and model respectful behaviour and call out disrespectful behaviour.

Sissy has been surprised at how many men had no idea women and gender diverse runners lived in fear of being harassed or attacked.

"Some said we've never even thought about it. Many men who are allies just had no idea and felt really emotional that that's our running experience."

Sissy encourages everyone to join the movement online, and educate themselves on the experiences of women and gender diverse runners.

"You don't have to be a runner to have a conversation about runners' safety. All women and gender diverse runners have the right to run freely and safely. A lot of us just have one runner in the family, and it's important for the family to support them and share the load."

● Visit takebackthetrack.com

Technological revolution swims in Black blood

It's 2025 and it already feels like we are living in the future. The advancement of technology is moving at a rate so rapid it's hard to stop and have conversations about what is truly happening to our global community because of it. Many of us are blinded to the actual harm that comes with our phones, tablets, batteries, and "sustainable" technology.

We are being fed the narrative that convenience is king. Although if we were to look at other industries that become convenient we would see how that too is killing us. Let's take for example our food industry, once we started to create "convenient" food like fast food chains, processed food that last a long time and needs to be transported in plastic, we started to destroy our health and the health of the planet and our more than human kin that live on it.

Convenience has another side that we talk about, the side of supremacy and elitism that comes with convenience. Who or what has to be exploited so we can have convenience and so we can live this so-called privileged life?

This rapid rush towards the technological future has happened too fast, and we need time to really think about the environmental, social, emotional and spiritual issues that come with the advancement of such technology.

I would like us to turn our attention to the global stage, let's take the US for instance, it's bad enough that Trump has been elected but now he has Elon Musk, who is the world's richest person, with a net worth of around \$433 billion as the head of Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE



Ella Noah Bancroft

as they call it. Why is this bad? When we have billionaires in government we are absolutely going down the wrong path. Again we are elevating greed and status. We are prioritising productivity and efficiency over what we actually need to do, which is return to a more natural state of being, one that is more aligned with seasonal change and going slow when we need to and fast when it's important. The issue with all these white men in power is that they ultimately have horrible values and then they lead with those values being the highest of priority and no matter what the cost.

No billionaire is for the people, otherwise they would have distributed wealth to support equality, solved world hunger and at the very least, given away their money to single mothers.

If the average American makes \$65,470 per year then that

breakdown looks like the average American having to work for almost 7,000 years to make the same amount of money that Elon is worth. How hilarious.

I feel like the high-tech future holds a compromising position as we the people give more and more of our money away to the already rich and greedy men of this world and through technology they can acquire a lot of money, as they have a global audience to take from.

Another big impact of the advancement of technology is the environmental cost. Before we talk about cobalt, the sheds and data centres that hold all of our information have to be running 24 hours a day, there is no such thing as the cloud, it's giant sheds on Indigenous land, that uses so much power and water, so the environmental cost of data collection alone is driving us to climate chaos.

I want to take our attention to cobalt for a moment. Cobalt is a key component in rechargeable batteries for electric vehicles, laptops, tablets, and smartphones. While, yes, a lot of the mining industry is owned by China, we play a very vital role as consumers who are purchasing these things. Also while China might own the mines, its massive US, European and Australian brands that get their technology made there and then we the consumer spend our money, so therefore we say yes we consent to this.

The issue I find with advancement of technology when it comes to 'sustainable energy' such as electric vehicles and solar panels is that there is always a

bigger cost to keeping the consumption epic alive and while it might seem that it can improve our own country's carbon emissions, on a global scale we are still doing damage.

The violent rush to extract cobalt in the Congo is leaving the land and the people in absolute distress and chaos. Firstly the mining is a big no no, I mean when will we as a species realise that no good can come from cutting in the belly of our mother to steal her resources, she has already provided us on the surface of Country with the things we need, we have to stay humble and return to what is given to us and not to dominate and violate Country to extract from her.

If you believe in sentient beings and you believe that everything is living then you would understand that cutting in the belly of our mother is not going to have good repercussions.

Aside from the spiritual and animist view on mining, what comes with these mines is corruption including poisoning the locals and child slave labour.

Many children and women are working in these mines and they are exposed to radiation, sometimes the mines cave in on them and often death can be a result of this type of work.

All so we can then get the technology to keep up with the Kardashians and keep pouring our money in to the pockets of people like Elon Musk, Dutton and Trump who keep the capitalist system alive and thriving.

I don't know about you but this whole reality is like a bad movie. Sometimes it also feels like I'm watching a train crash in slow-mo.

I feel we are being asked to feel into the bigger picture, beyond just our local, state or even national impacts and really start to see the hidden thread in our consumption and the long lasting impacts of our decisions and our beliefs here in this western liberal democratic nightmare of a consumption society. When will our insatiable appetites become satisfied, how many lands must we destroy, waters poisoned and children and women killed before we wake from this nightmare and fight for change? Convenience is killing us, others and our planet.

We have all been sold a lie, a lie that the more we have, the greater we are, the more we climb the social or status ladder the more respect we will earn, the more selfish we are the more we are appalled by our peers and family.

This is the changing of the tides, a returning to a deeper way of being, of relating. How do we come back to this reality, to the physical and spiritual of this world that we have inherited and reject the technological spaces that steal our attention and take our money? The more we give to Elon and Mark, the worse we make the world. Trade systems are slave systems and every purchase has an invisible red thread that has death attached to it.

Let's take back our power and reframe our values to ask ourselves truly, what makes us joyful and how can we return to this. How can we exist in our world without blood on our hands?

Ella Noah Bancroft is a Bundjalung writer and a regular contributor to the Koori Mail.

Surviving as an Indigenous business

Starting my own company last April was a leap into the unknown. I knew it wouldn't be easy, but I didn't expect just how much would be on my plate: paperwork, financial risk, and the relentless grind of making it work. Everything from registering an ACN, developing terms and conditions, engaging legal and tax advisers, sorting insurance, handling marketing and advertising, submitting BAS statements, and applying for tenders was all on me. No shortcuts. No government handholding. No subsidised loans. Just risk, long hours, and the reality of running a business.

Beyond the admin, I had to work out exactly where I fit – refining my services, getting a real feel for my market, and proving my worth to clients. Even after decades in some of the world's biggest resource companies, I'm still learning on the fly. Running your own business is a completely different game. It demands financial discipline, adaptability, and sheer determination. I've been lucky to have foundation clients backing my growth, and it's been



Adam C Lees

great to see progress, but I'm still not even a year in. This is the reality of business ownership. So why doesn't Indigenous economic policy reflect that?

Contrary to common assumptions that Indigenous businesses receive funding, support and are lucrative – my reality is the same as 1.6 million Australians running small businesses: no guaranteed funding, no special deals, just the daily challenge of keeping things afloat. Yet Indigenous economic policy is still framed around government programs, procurement targets, and subsidised business models, as if

Indigenous people can't thrive in the real economy on their own terms.

Most policies assume access to funding is the biggest hurdle. It's not. Wealth creation isn't about handouts but about ownership, investment, and long-term growth. There's a difference between landing a government contract and building a business that can stand on its own. Getting a business loan or even a credit card is tough for anyone, especially without a proven track record. Most lenders require two years of standalone business income – an impossible ask for many start-ups. If you don't have savings or assets to self-fund, you're stuck.

A key concern I have with the current and refreshed focus on Indigenous economic policy is the overwhelming emphasis on securing equity for native title groups on Indigenous land where native title has been determined. In northern Australia, many of these groups have been the biggest beneficiaries of mining, resources, and renewables. Plenty has also been written about how land ownership should be an

economic asset, not a barrier. We seem to forget though, that native title is a communal right that belongs to all members and not just the individual or small family. Current land tenure laws make using Indigenous land for business development difficult without losing custodianship. The legal framework needs to change so Traditional Owners and Prescribed Body Corporates can leverage their land for commercial success while maintaining cultural connections.

But for many Indigenous people, especially those living in cities rather than on Country, native title land isn't even a factor. We don't benefit from significant projects on Country, and economic policy needs to recognise this reality. To close the economic gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians the opportunities for Indigenous entrepreneurs must exist regardless of location or legal standing.

Ultimately, real wealth isn't built on policy. It's built by people willing to take risks and back themselves. Indigenous business policy should be about unleashing opportunity, not managing

dependency. It would be far easier for many to throw in the towel and take a job rather than push through the early stages of a start-up. The financial strain and the relentless struggle for work-life balance are enough to break most people. I can count on one hand the number of weekend breaks that I have taken in the last twelve months while I build and invest in my business. No economic policy can truly prepare or incentivise someone for the realities of building a business or enterprise from scratch.

That's where organisations like Supply Nation prove their value, offering real support, training, and networks to help Indigenous businesses grow. With black cladding still a concern, procurement policies must do more to prioritise 100% Indigenous-owned businesses. Accountability matters, not just in name, but in outcomes that genuinely benefit Indigenous entrepreneurs building something of their own.

Being a small business owner is like a butterfly struggling out of its cocoon. Instead of emerging with beautiful wings, you're

flapping around half-baked, covered in stress, and hoping a strong gust of wind (or a non-paying client) doesn't take you out before you even get going. And yet, the struggle is what makes it all worth it. For those of us lucky enough to make it, we can see both the risk and the reward.

Getting a handout, a reduced loan, or an equity stake for nothing without having done the hard yards creates a false sense of achievement. The real value comes from backing yourself, pushing through the grind, and knowing you've built something that stands on its own legs (or wings, if we're sticking with the butterfly analogy). If the past year has taught me anything, it's this: building a business is hard. But it's even more complicated when the system assumes you can't do it without their help and can generate barriers to realising entrepreneurship.

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

Finding roles and making space for Aboriginal men



Michael Mitchell

Some of our men have lost their way. They just haven't got strong roles in the world we're living in now and it's a real struggle for many of us. As a society we really need to take that seriously and ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men of all ages can contribute properly to our communities, and get respect for doing it.

Things have changed so much. A lot of young men now don't know how to catch a fish, dugong or turtle, or catch a kangaroo or a sheep or a goat for bush tucker. That was one thing Aboriginal men always used to be able to do, and those skills are really important because they give men stronger self-worth, sense of control and pride if they're able to provide for themselves and their families.

So we have to get men back out to Country, including getting them away from phones and the Internet which cause so much distraction and stress and take us away from what's really important.

We need to think about men's work roles too. After colonisation our men worked as stockmen, ringers, jackeroos, camp cooks, drovers, shearers and saddlers. Then there was the pay dispute when men walked off the land. There was a whole lot wrong with those times but Aboriginal men were still working on the land, still deeply connected with Country and animals, with roles that were recognised and valued. Now farming is done differently and those roles don't exist.

Nowadays Aboriginal men can make a lot of money in the mining and resources industries, but that means working 12-hour days, for eight or 10 days straight, and that wears people out. It's no good for men who also want to be active and involved in their families and communities.

Aboriginal men excel in all kinds of sports – and sport is one area where we can be role models within our communities. If we're lucky enough to play at elite level, sport can be our job too. Playing footy was 10 years of my life, but footy still doesn't define who I am. What defines and differentiates me is my



The men's workshop group at the national Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Gathering 5.



Michael Mitchell co-facilitated SEWB Gathering 5 with Judith Lovegrove from the Menzies School of Health Research.

culture and my identity as an Aboriginal man.

I'm part of the Transforming Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing (TIMHWB) research project at the University of Western Australia. TIMHWB organises national Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Gatherings where people come together from all over Australia to discuss the biggest challenges and work on solutions.

At the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Gathering 3, held on Ngannawal Country in Canberra in September 2022, a group of men who work in mental health began to discuss what we could do collectively about the troubles we are facing. We started to reflect on our own identities as men and the needs we saw in our own communities to strengthen men's roles and sense of purpose.

We continued to catch up from time to time and in October last year, on Kuarna Country in Adelaide, 15 men came together from Country all over Australia to

start shaping our ideas up into practical solutions. I facilitated along with Associate Professor Graham Gee, an Aboriginal clinical psychologist.

We came together on the banks of the Karrawirra Parri/River Torrens, starting with a breakfast cook up, and then circled up to share our work and ideas. We yarned about what a Men's SEWB Gathering on Country could look like. It could be a safe, healing space to bring together boys, men and Elders to take part in cultural activities, share our knowledge, listen and talk about what makes men, relationships, families, and community strong.

Our plan now is to bring together a working group to further develop these ideas for a Men's SEWB Network and On-Country Men's SEWB Gathering. We're going to meet regularly online and in person to keep everyone updated and think through how we can apply for the funding we will need to do this properly.

The men's group is honoured to have the support of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women leaders in SEWB. We all understand that the whole community benefits when our men are strong.

I'm optimistic we can make it happen. In the last couple of years we've seen a lot more really positive investment in Indigenous-led SEWB and suicide prevention approaches, like the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)'s Culture Care Connect program, which coordinates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention networks in regions and communities. We could look at setting up our men's groups alongside Culture Care Connect activities. I am really pleased to see various men's gatherings and initiatives starting to happen across Australia and looking forward to working together.

We need to restore faith and belief in men and build their self-worth and self-belief back up. There are important roles for men in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and families if we can just make the space for them to contribute.

● Michael Mitchell is a Yamatji man of Nyamal and Malgana descent. He started his working life as an electrician and then went on to play professional Australian Rules Football for Claremont and Richmond, where he was awarded Goal and Mark of the year (1990), and was named

one of the Richmond Ten Tiger Treasures of the century by winning Goal of the Century (2020). Michael began his career in Indigenous health and social and emotional wellbeing by developing a youth training program in the Carnarvon region developing skills to work in the fishing industry. Michael managed and coordinated several Aboriginal Community Controlled Services and gained a degree focused on Indigenous mental health from Curtin University. During the 15 years he was the Service Manager of Wungen Kartup, an Aboriginal mental health program, there was never a suicide of a client under their care.

Michael is a member of the AFL's mental health committee and works as a consultant in Aboriginal mental health and social and emotional wellbeing.

● This article is part of a series of Koori Mail columns about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention contributed by authors associated with the Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention (CBPATISIP) at the University of Western Australia, established in 2017 to develop and share evidence about effective suicide prevention approaches for Indigenous people and communities.

Resilience - an excuse to prevent real change



Kirk Page

Resilience. The word that gets tossed around when describing our survival or the measure of our strength when faced with challenges that are out of our hands.

This word flung around like it's our birth right or the solution to systemic oppression, injustice and decades of neglect. It's a word that has been co-opted, turned into a convenient excuse for inaction, and used as a shield to protect those in power from facing their responsibilities. For Aboriginal people in Australia, this word has become a weapon in the hands of those who would rather ask for more endurance than real change.

The expectation that Aboriginal communities should simply 'be resilient' in the face of relentless suffering is both cruel and condescending. To ask a people who have endured centuries of displacement, cultural erasure and violence to keep going, as though resilience alone will fix the trauma, the inequality, and the ongoing injustice, is to dismiss the root causes of those problems altogether. It's as if the ability to endure pain, to

survive, is seen as a form of virtue rather than an indication of the deep, unresolved wounds that have never been properly addressed. The reality is that resilience is not a solution, it's a survival mechanism when there is no other choice. It is not a prize, it's a coping mechanism, one that shouldn't be the measure of Aboriginal strength, but rather a symptom of a country that continues to fail its sovereign people.

And what have we seen in the wake of all this 'resilience'? The idea of truth telling, once touted as a necessary step for reconciliation, seems to have been abandoned. Politicians, so eager to say the right thing when it's politically relevant, are the first to pack up their tents and walk away when the real work begins. The fight for justice, for recognition, and for basic human rights has been handballed to the Elders, for them to do more work and cultural labour, those who have already carried the burden for so long. But how long can they bear this weight? How long until the system breaks the spirit of those who have never been given the chance to rest? I

guess we are just so resilient. The statistics speak for themselves. Aboriginal people are over-represented in the criminal justice system, and under-represented in opportunities for health, education, and employment. Not to drag out the statistics AGAIN, but here they are, the life expectancy is tragically low, often less than half that of the average Australian.

The suicide rates are a devastating reflection of the hopelessness that comes from seeing no meaningful change after generations of struggle. These aren't just numbers. These are lives, mothers, fathers and children, lost to a system that continues to refuse to acknowledge the legacy of colonialism and the ongoing impact it has on Aboriginal people.

The solution isn't more resilience. It's more accountability. It's the Australian government and its institutions confronting the deep seeded inequalities that have plagued Aboriginal communities for centuries. It's about ensuring that truth telling isn't a token gesture, but an

active, ongoing process that leads to real structural change. It's about giving Aboriginal people the autonomy to heal on their terms, not under the crushing weight of an ongoing colonial project that refuses to take responsibility for its actions.

What does it take to get a real response to the inequalities we see?

What does it take for governments and allies to stand up, not just for a moment of symbolic solidarity, but for a sustained fight for justice and change? If the current trajectory continues, the answer is clear, it will take the deaths of more people, more lives torn apart, more voices silenced.

How many generations must endure before we see real, impactful change?

How many more must experience the endless cycle of hurt, just to make room for the next generation to be weighed down by the same injustices?

Resilience alone is not the answer. The real question is, when will Australia take responsibility for the historic damage done.

Kirk Page's kinship connections to his Munanjali/Yugembeh, Badu Island (Zenidh Kes), Polish and German ancestry are an inspiration. Growing up on the unceded lands of the Turrbal/Yuggera people in South East Queensland, he left in pursuit of the arts over science and lives to question this fateful moment from 30 years ago.

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

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

Take note: a course worth writing about

There's only a couple of days to apply for the Seeding Storytellers program so hurry up. It's a note-taking training program for emerging First Nations screenwriters, supported by Screenrights Cultural Fund, and delivered by Screenworks in partnership with the Australian Writers' Guild. Designed to provide the appropriate professional development required for the role of a note-taker, Seeding Storytellers will help set up emerging First Nations screenwriters for the best chance of success in their careers.

A writer's journey into the industry is far from linear and the variety of roles a writer takes on in their early career, with the appropriate training, benefits their creativity. Note-taking is a fundamental entry point in a writer's creative pathway and a key skill in the professional development of early career writers. Awareness of the procedures and etiquette in writers' rooms are an important part in understanding the administrative aspects of building a story for screen.

Applications close

Following the close of applications on February 28, 2025, Seeding Storytellers will be delivered to selected participants as a series of three-day-long online workshops on May 3, 10 and 17, 2025.

These will be run and delivered by highly-experienced, working writers Sara Khan, Catherine Kelleher and Terence McCarthy. Covering note-taking, script coordinating and the basics of a writers' room, participants will learn in a culturally safe, supported environment and come



away with the skills required to find work as a note-taker in the film and television industry.

Program Manager Sara Khan, a proud Wailwan, Gomeri and Pakistani woman and writer on *Heartbreak High*, says, "For First Nations people, our stories and perspectives are invaluable to the writers room. How we utilise and share these for creative purposes requires protections. Providing First Nations writers with the essential skills for note-taking will seed the growth for more visibility and representation of First Nations people in writers' rooms."

Catherine Kelleher, an experienced writer-director and recently the Scripted Development Executive at SBS, will be

responsible for the note-taker training workshop and resources. While at SBS, Catherine advised on how to facilitate culturally appropriate working environments.

Terence McCarthy, a writer, development executive, script department manager and script editor with fifteen years' experience in the Australian and US film and television industries, will be responsible for script coordinator training.

At the conclusion of the program, participants will be supported by Screenworks to seek work as note-takers. They will also be showcased to the screen industry via the AWG Pathways website. The Pathways First

Break tab is a permanent resource for industry looking for talented new writers who have valuable skills to offer in writers' rooms.

Who can apply?

Applications for Seeding Storytellers are open to emerging and early-career First Nations screenwriters until February 28, 2025.

To apply, applicants will need to complete the application form below, including a current CV and a sample of their work.

For any questions, or help submitting your application, contact:

info@screenworks.com.au
02 6681 1188



Raymond D Blanco is the co-creator/director of *Bunyi Bunyi Bumi*.

Play explores relationships between trading nations

Who are you and what is your role in the dance production *Bunyi Bunyi Bumi*?

I'm the co-director and choreographer. I've been in the industry for over 40 years, I began my dance career in the 1980s working nationally and internationally across time and cultures and I have influenced a generation of makers and dancers and performers. Working at NAISDA and nurturing our next generations earlier in my career has given me experience with developing and devising dance theatre.

How did this show begin and what is it about?

I was supposed to be in retirement or heading into a retirement a few years back. That's why I left National Aboriginal & Islander Skills Development Association in 2017. I was moving back to Queensland and then the word got out and I was approached by Blakdance which is a producing body. The organisation was curious to know what I was up too and would I be interested in doing a workshop with some Indonesian dancers. It was one of those moments where I was looking into my own family story, my grandmother's family who come from Indonesia as well. I was eventually introduced to

Alfira O'Sullivan and Murtula who are incredible dancers and story tellers with their cultural/contemporary dance group Suara Dance and we soon realised it would be great to make a dance work that was intercultural and looked at our cultural relationship over the ages. We did a workshop where performers worked together and had a sharing with some venues and programmers and the work then began to develop further and we are currently in rehearsal right now for our show that will be in Dandenong later in February.

How is it performing again after a long break – I hear you may have been called out of retirement?

I was a part of the initial workshop and development and I am a mature dancer which brings a grounding and experience to the work. Years ago we were told that the shelf life of a dancer isn't long but I think that is nonsense, it's great to see older bodies performing.

I come from the school where the people said when you reach 35 you're too old to be on stage and that's a myth. I must say that I did injure myself though and had to call on a younger dancer who is actually my nephew – Wangeenga Blanco who brings a beautiful dynamic that is great to witness.

Can you share with us what the work *Bunyi bunyi Bumi* is about?

It follows a story of the relationship and connection of Indonesia and Aboriginal communities, whether it be through trade and the coming together of both our communities.

There is influence from the environment and the elements with trade winds and the relationship between Australia's Aboriginal people and Southeast Asian diaspora and all the connections to song and dance that we share.

During the development we have realised there's many family connections and friendship connections that people have with each other in the cast.

How has the intercultural relationships impacted our culture and the show you are making?

Through the trade and travel routes over time I guess there was immigration and that has become a thread that we have explored in the work and that strong mix of Malay and Indonesian influence in our culture, food and dance that has affected us.

There is some dance we have devised that is based on rhythms and body percussion and how there are similarities and



A scene from the production, *Bunyi Bunyi Bumi*.

connections we both share.

Are there challenges when creating intercultural work and how do you approach working with First Nations culture and protocol?

It's pretty simple. We have approached this by maintaining a

strong sense of respect, I mean it's old fashioned but it's called respect.

Basically, we just respect each other's space and the stories we are sharing, it's just a matter of respecting each other and learning and relearning in some cases our connections to our shared heritage.

Elder has a vision for eyecare



UMCLE Jimmy, a 69-year-old Yolngu man from Darwin, is one of many whose lives have been transformed thanks to cataract surgery performed by Australia's first Aboriginal ophthalmologist, Associate Professor Dr Kris Rallah-Baker.

For nearly a decade, Uncle Jimmy had severe vision impairment caused by cataracts, a condition he referred to as "smoky eye." Once an avid reader, his deteriorating vision forced him to give up one of his greatest joys - reading the newspaper to his community.

Through the support of The Fred Hollows Foundation and its Territory-based partner Deadly Vision, Uncle Jimmy has regained his sight and is a passionate advocate, encouraging others in his community to seek eye care and not fear surgery.

"I explain to people all the time what happens in the surgery, both before and after. I like to explain everything and make people feel at ease and have a laugh. It's only one day in and out at the hospital you don't stay overnight," Uncle Jimmy said. "It's fear of the unknown, fear of hospitals, and the eyes are really sensitive, they can cause a lot of pain, so I try and be a messenger and speak about my experience, so they get the real story."

The foundation is aiming to raise vital funds to provide life-changing eye care,



Uncle Jimmy is examined by Australia's first Aboriginal ophthalmologist, Associate Professor Dr Kris Rallah-Baker.

particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia.

Cataract remains one of the leading causes of vision impairment among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Nearly 70% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who need cataract surgery have yet to receive a diagnosis. Long waiting lists, geographical barriers, and cultural concerns continue to make access to

timely treatment a challenge.

The foundation's Indigenous Australia Program is working to change this reality by funding outreach clinics, providing surgeries, training local health workers and supporting Indigenous-led eye health initiatives.

Dr Kris Rallah-Baker, who was trained with the foundation's support, highlights the urgent need for action.

"From the very beginning, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people face

barriers just to get into the system and access surgery. Referral pathways, long waiting lists, and a lack of culturally safe services make it even harder. But thanks to The Fred Hollows Foundation and its partners, we are not only restoring sight - we're empowering communities," Dr Kris said.

With the support of generous donors, in 2024 the foundation's Indigenous Australia Program screened over 15,000 people, performed more than 3,000 eye operations and treatments and distributed over 3,000 pairs of glasses. However, there are still many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people waiting for urgent eye health care.

In the Northern Territory, the foundation partners with several organisations to improve access to eye care in regional areas including the Barkly region, Darwin and Tennant Creek. Last year, The foundation had 4,299 generous Territory locals donate over \$200,000 to help restore sight to people living with avoidable blindness around the world. "It's generous every day Australians who have helped people like Uncle Jimmy receive the critical eye care they need. We can and want to do more. Every donation will contribute to supporting essential eye health services that will change lives, families and communities," Dr Rallah-Baker said.

To support The Fred Hollows Foundation's work and help restore sight, visit hollows.org



Australian Government



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First-Nations-led trial shows 30 per cent diabetes remission for Aboriginal women



A GROUNDBREAKING study, co-designed by Aboriginal women, has led to a remission of type 2 diabetes in its participants.

The study is the first of its kind in Australia and was led by South Coast Women's Health and Wellbeing Aboriginal Corporation (Waminda) in collaboration with Southern Cross University and the Australasian Society of Lifestyle Medicine.

The research described and measured how using shared medical appointments, continuous glucose monitors and a sustainable, culturally relevant food program can develop self-management knowledge, skills and motivation to drastically improve glycaemic control in First Nation women.

The study also incorporated culturally responsive activities, including food appreciation sessions tailored to First Nations people of the Yuin Nation, on the South Coast NSW.

Participants in the study said that "Shared medical appointments were how Aboriginal people had always done health care ... now we are keen to re-engage with services that we had been avoiding."

Lead investigator and Southern Cross University lecturer Associate Professor John Stevens said of the 25 women who'd been living with diabetes for more than 10 years, seven women completely reversed their diabetes for at least 12 months, and 18 women reduced their blood sugars to a healthier level.

"It's amazing how quickly this group bonded with each other because everyone really empathises with where each person is at," Professor Stevens said.

"These women were empowered to make decisions about what was going to happen, and led to high engagement in the program and remarkable success,"

"The tailored eight-week lifestyle medicine course used the Shared Medical Appointment process, where the



Some of the women taking part in the study to tackle type 2 diabetes.

clinician – in this case a general practitioner – was just another member of the group, adding their knowledge and skills to the mix, encouraging self-management and pride in the way these women had already managed their health, and offering guidance on behavioural change techniques that really made a difference.

Improvements

"Statistically significant improvements were also observed for weight, systolic blood pressure, liver enzymes, blood glucose time-in-range, and diabetes scores indicating improved self-management of type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Hayley Longbottom, Waminda Chief

Executive Officer and co-author, says the approach gives Aboriginal women the tools to feel in control to create self-determining outcomes.

"The continuous glucose monitoring, alongside health coaching from diabetes educators, provided a unique experience for these women to learn about their own bodies and not only manage but reverse their diabetes, with Aboriginal Health Practitioners providing long-term support," Ms Longbottom said.

Southern Cross University is the first in Australia trialling the concept of Shared Medical Appointments (SMAs), with Professor Stevens – cofounder of the Lifestyle Medicine movement in Australia – explaining how SMAs are one

of the best ways to deal with chronic disease.

The format consists of groups of eight to 15 people who share a common health issue or diagnosis with a health care practitioner, such as a GP or nurse, who facilitates a discussion about beneficial lifestyle changes for all participants as well as individual consults within the group setting.

Professor Stevens says this innovative study represents a significant step forward in addressing the disproportionate impact of type 2 diabetes on First Nation communities in Australia and overseas, offering a promising model for culturally appropriate diabetes care.

Research highlights alcohol links to disease and death

By FRASER BARTON



THE largest investigation of alcohol consumption in Australia's history shows how it increases the risk of cancers, other diseases and death.

Australians increase their likelihood of alcohol-related cancer by 12 per cent for every seven additional drinks a week, researchers have found.

A study of over 180,000 people and their drinking habits began in 2005 with researchers following up over an 11-year period.

It is the largest investigation of alcohol consumption in the nation's history and measures the relationship between alcohol use

and the risk of different causes of death.

The Daffodil Centre, a joint venture between Cancer Council NSW and the University of Sydney, undertook the study.

They estimate that 5.3 per cent of, or about 9000, deaths were due to alcohol in 2021.

Over the 11-year follow-up period in their study, there were 18,193 deaths.

A previous 2023 *Lancet Journal* article revealed that, "Whilst Indigenous Australians, who collectively make up 3.3% of the Australian adult population, choose to abstain from alcohol consumption at a higher rate than non-Indigenous Australians at 31% compared with 23%, respectively, rates of risky alcohol consumption for Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and

over are 18.7% compared with 15.2% for non-Indigenous Australians.

The Daffodil study went on to warn that alcohol can increase the risk of developing cancers of the mouth, throat, oesophagus, stomach, bowel, liver and breast.

"Our research shows that for every additional seven drinks per week, someone has their risk of death from alcohol-related cancers rise by 12 per cent, death from digestive system disease by 32 per cent, death from cardiovascular disease by seven per cent and death from all causes combined by six per cent," lead researcher Dr Peter Sarich said.

"Men and women who consume more than 10 drinks per week were estimated to have an 8.5 per cent and 4.1 per cent

higher absolute risk of death from all causes by age 85 years, respectively."

Younger people are statistically less likely to drink weekly, but when they do they exceed drinking guidelines more so than other age brackets.

On the other hand, just over half in older demographics, particularly those between 50 and 69, will drink weekly but are less likely to exceed guidelines than young people.

"People aged 18 to 24 are still drinking above the guidelines at higher rates compared to other age groups, according to the National Health Survey in 2022," Dr Sarich said.

The National Health and Medical Research Council recommends people consume no more than 10 drinks a week and

no more than four in any one day.

The most recent National Drug Strategy Household Survey from 2022-2023 showed 77 per cent of Australians aged 14 and over consumed alcohol, and 41 per cent at least weekly.

"Australia needs a comprehensive approach to reducing alcohol use in order to reduce the burden of alcohol-related cancers," she said

"This includes sustained investment in public awareness campaigns as well as warning labels and alcohol products highlighting the link between alcohol and cancer.

"For these campaigns to be effective, they must be supported by pricing, policies, restrictions on alcohol, advertising and promotion, as well as limits on the availability of alcohol." –AAP



**“Finally I met
someone who
listened instead of
mucking around.”**

**– Beverley, 50
Commonwealth Home Support
Programme recipient**

Artwork by: Dr Mick Adams

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Next chapter in combatting financial abuse in First Nations communities



ONE of Australia's biggest banks is partnering with two First Nations led and community

controlled not-for-profit organisations to help address issues around financial abuse within First Nations communities.

Commonwealth Bank (CBA) will partner with Queensland based Strong Women Talking and the West Australian based Council of Aboriginal Next Chapter Innovation Partners with the bank providing financial support as well as a range of other non-financial support measures over the next 18 months.

The focus on First Nations communities follows CBA research showing that First Nation communities experience a higher exposure to financial abuse than others.

According to the research, those who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander are almost three times as likely (58 per cent) to have experienced financial abuse from a partner as those who don't (20 per cent).

Commitments

CBA Head of Community Investment, Nathan Barker, said the two new Next Chapter partners and their work complemented the CBA's Reconciliation Action Plan commitments.

"CommBank's Next Chapter Innovation program allows us to



Chris Turnbull, CBA's General Manager of Social Impact and Community Investment, speaks with Sono Leone Weatherall from Strong Women Talking and Ada Hanson from Council of Aboriginal Services WA at the Next Chapter Innovation Showcase event in Sydney.

share our experience in delivering innovation as well as to provide practical support and accelerate action for these community organisations," Mr Barker said.

"With a focus this year on developing innovative responses to support First Nations communities, we hope this will

help direct resources and capability where it can provide meaningful help and impact."

Next Chapter Innovation offers successful organisations: access to grants of up to \$200,000 and executive support and mentoring from CBA.

Strong Women Talking is helping to break the cycle of

domestic and family violence in First Nations communities and will deliver mobile domestic violence education and awareness sessions, which are trauma-informed and culturally safe, tailored and client centred.

The Council of Aboriginal Services WA (CASWA) is a peak body established to increase the

capacity of Western Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations involved in service delivery to Aboriginal people.

CASWA will develop its "Empowered Pathways" project that will provide First Nations people impacted by financial abuse with the tools to achieve economic independence, personal empowerment and cultural resilience through financial literacy programs, employment pathways and culturally aligned economic activities.

Understanding

CBA's Indigenous Advisory Council Chair Sean Gordon said by working with Strong Women Talking and CASWA the bank hoped to deepen its understanding of the issue of financial abuse and support place-based initiatives that drive positive change.

"To further drive awareness of financial abuse in First Nations communities, CBA is collaborating with the First Nations community to develop resources and education materials that help to raise awareness and understanding of financial abuse," he said.

"By collaborating on culturally appropriate content, we hope to empower individuals, families, and community leaders with the knowledge and tools to identify, prevent, and address financial abuse."

For further information go to: commbank.com.au/nextchapter

Reforms planned to strengthen Indigenous Procurement Policy



REFORMS aimed at strengthening Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP) and providing more opportunities for First Nations

businesses and entrepreneurship have been announced by the Federal Labor government.

Under new criteria, businesses will need to be 51 per cent or more First Nations owned and controlled (or registered as an Indigenous corporation) to access these Commonwealth procurement contracts.

The government said it was also making the IPP more ambitious, lifting the Commonwealth's Indigenous procurement targets from 2.5 per cent of total value of contracts to 3 per cent from 1 July 2025.

The targets will then rise annually until they reach 4 per cent by 2030.

Minister for Indigenous Australians, Malarndirri McCarthy said the Albanese Government



Malarndirri McCarthy.

was committed to increasing opportunities for First Nations businesses.

"First Nations businesses play a key role in advancing the economic empowerment and self-determination of First Nations people," she said.

"These reforms, based on consultations with Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses, Chambers of Commerce and various levels of government, will create even more opportunities for First Nations businesses."

The government will also work with regulators to tackle 'black cladding' – disingenuous conduct designed to gain access to programs like the IPP – and explore options to make it easier to report the practice.

These reforms come as a result of consultations carried out last year and are part of the government's ongoing work towards the economic empowerment of First Nations people and communities.

Ms McCarthy said the IPP reforms go towards Outcome 8 in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities) and complements work under the Buy Australian Plan to create more opportunities for First Nations businesses.

For details of the reforms go to: <https://www.niaa.gov.au/our-work/employment-and-economic-development/indigenous-procurement-policy-changing>



THREE new programs aimed at boosting First Nations digital inclusion are now accepting

applications.

The new programs are part of the federal government's \$68 million investment in First Nations digital inclusion measures announced in the 2024-25 federal Budget and will contribute to achieving equal levels of digital inclusion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people under Target 17 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

The \$20 million First Nations Community Wi-Fi Program will fund eligible projects to roll-out free community Wi-Fi solutions in remote and very remote First Nations communities. Successful grantees will be required to work closely in consultation with communities to deliver place-based solutions for a minimum period of five years.

This program will build on the success of the government's NBN Community Wi-Fi Program announced in February 2024, which is delivering free Wi-Fi connectivity in 23 remote First

Nations communities in partnership with NBN Co.

Applications are also being sought for the First Nations Digital Support Hub Program and Network of Digital Mentors Program, which will support First Nations Australians to be online safely and effectively, and determine which connectivity options are best for them.

A total of \$4 million over two years is available for the development and delivery of a Digital Support Hub to provide national assistance online and over the phone to First Nations peoples and communities to help them develop their digital and connectivity literacy.

All three programs have been established on the recommendation of the First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group, which has provided an initial report and roadmap to government on ways to close the digital divide.

● Applications for the First Nations Digital Support Hub and Network of Digital Mentors Programs close on March 13, 2025.

● Applications for the First Nations Community Wi-Fi Program close on April 24, 2025.

Celebrating seafaring

By JILLIAN MUNDY



FIRST Nations seafaring traditions and cultures from across the Pacific were showcased as part of this year's usually ultra-colonial flavoured Australian Wooden Boat Festival in Nipaluna/Hobart.

The four-day biennial festival, held on the city's waterfront, attracted over 400 wooden boats and thousands and thousands of visitors. It was a hive of activity with all manner of maritime related workshops, talks, displays and activities.

While it did host replicas of tall ships including Cook's *HMB Endeavour* – a haunting sight under full sail moving up Timtumili Minanya/River Derwent – the daily hakas, Pasifika weaving and upeti block-rubbing workshops and the Pacific Seafarers Precinct and panel discussions gave the festival a more honest and inviting vibe.

The festival poster featured a painting of a Māori waka unua (canoe) sailing alongside *HMB Endeavour* in 1769, with famed Tahitian navigator, mediator and artist Tupaia on board, and woodblock lettering by Samoan, Rarotongan, Tahitian and German artist Michel Tuffery.

At the brilliant opening night panel discussion – We are the Ocean: Voyaging and the Pacific – and from displays in the Pacific Seafarers Precinct, festival goers learnt how First Nations peoples have used their intimate knowledge of stars, wind, clouds, waves and birds to sail to lands across the vast Pacific Ocean. Not only expert navigators, they are also mathematicians, scientists, astronomers and naval architects.

Festival goers also learnt how Cook recorded, in his logs, that Māori waka were much faster than their vessels, sailing circles around his ship, and how Tupaia navigated the *Endeavour* through the Society Islands and was aboard the British ship when it landed in Kamay/Botany Bay in 1770.

Navigator, educator and waka expert Captain Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr, a Tainui man (meaning his ancestors arrived on the shores of Aotearoa/New Zealand on the Tainui waka about 1,200 years ago), spoke on the panel. He talked about growing up learning from his family how his ancestors sailed the oceans while, outside the home, the family's navigational feats were relegated to myth and legend.

"My teachers would tell me my ancestors, by sheer luck, got lost in a storm somewhere, and washed up somewhere" he said.

Hoturoa has spent decades learning the skills of his ancestors, bringing them out of the realm of fable and into reality. He founded the Te Toki Voyaging Trust to engage young Māori by sharing this knowledge, creating opportunities to voyage the oceans and instilling confidence and pride in their culture.

It would be fair to say Hoturoa is obsessed with navigation. He has travelled to Arabia to learn about navigation in the desert and hopes to one day meet Aboriginal people from desert communities in so-called Australia to also learn about their traditional navigation skills and knowledge.

Hoturoa explained how the catamarans of today, including those in cashed-up ocean yacht races, are the great-great-great-grand-descendants of the multi-hulled vessels his descendants built and voyaged the Pacific in.

At the Wooden Boat Symposium, Alson Kelson from the Marshall Islands spoke about a school he co-founded called Waan



The 'Parade of Sail' on Timtumili Minanya/Derwent River is a highlight of the festival to some, to others the tall ships are a haunting reminder of invasion. Photograph – Stu Gibson.

Aelōñ in Majel, mainly funded by foreign aid. They teach traditional proa (canoe) and boat building and other Marshallese cultural skills, alongside maths and basic English and other skills needed to engage in a global society and now climate-change advocacy.

Marshall Islands is made up of around 1,200 islets and islands, all on low-lying coral atolls about halfway between Australia and Hawaii, with the average height of land being only two metres above sea level.

"We're an ocean people, our life depends on the ocean, and the same ocean is crawling closer and closer to our living room," Alson explained to the *Koori Mail* following the symposium.

The Marshallese commute between islands with their fossil-fuel-free transport, built using renewable natural materials and the age-old techniques of their ancestors, and advocate to stop their homes being inundated by rising oceans. Meanwhile, millions and millions of dollars are poured into the 'descendants' of their traditional watercraft, including yachts raced in competitions like the Sydney to Hobart and America's Cup, sponsored by luxury brands like Rolex and Louis Vuitton.

"The thing is, we did not have 'copyright'. (Western boat builders) have some kind of copyrights on their own design based a lot on our cultural skills and intellectual property.

"But nobody's talking about it. When we do talk about it, they say it's complicated and of course, because they don't want to pay anything."

Alson said none of them have ever donated to Waan Aelōñ in Majel.

"I think they should, somehow, at least donate something for a good cause, not to make people rich, but at least to contribute to the fact that (they are) a billionaire or a millionaire and have boats designed after our canoe."

Hoturoa told the *Koori Mail* that the opening panel discussion must have been an eye-opener to many as people wanted to keep talking about it throughout the festival.

"I could tell I was educating a whole lot of people, enlightening a lot of people as to (the fact) there's a whole other world of



Palawa and Gunai Kurnai man Dewayne Everettsmith welcomes Pacific Islanders to the festival and Elder of the Tasmanian Māori community Adam Ranui replies and acknowledges the Palawa community at the opening of the festival.

sailing and navigation that's not here," he said.

Hoturoa would like to return to the festival, if he was invited by the Palawa, and bring canoes – along the same vein as Tuia.

New Zealand's mainstream society, like Australia's, is obsessed with Captain Cook and, like the First Nations here, Māori associate 'Cooky' with disease and murder.

When the New Zealand government controversially proposed a 250th anniversary in 2019 to celebrate Captain Cook 'discovering' the country, Māori told the government they needed to celebrate over 1,000 years from the arrival of their own people to people arriving today.

While some iwi (tribes) were not supportive of the compromise, the celebration was reframed and named Tuia 250.

"Tuia means to stitch everything together, to sew all the voyaging stories of New Zealand together, and Cook was only a little bit of it," Hoturoa explained.

"The only way that it can come here is if you fellas (Palawa) ask us, we could come here with a clear conscience. Because the only people who recognise how important traditional knowledge is, is ourselves. These other fellas just think it's hocus pocus."

He said the highlight of the festival was yarning with the *Koori Mail*.

"I finally got a connection with the real



Rex Greeno signs his exhibition catalogue for Nic Ingram.

owners of the land."

Dewayne Everettsmith kicked off the festival with a heartfelt welcome, Sheldon Thomas was there with two bark canoes and National Indigenous Training Academy (NITA) Education had a trade stall, yet Hoturoa said he was not made aware of their presence. Only a handful of other Palawa attended this festival held on their Country.

With the vibrant Pacific First Nations focus, it seemed a missed opportunity for a genuine cultural exchange between the Pasifika visitors and the Palawa as well as a platform for education and truth-telling for the wider community. There is always next time – the festival will be back in February 2027.

culture and traditions



Throughout the festival, artist Michel Tuffery ran mark-making workshops based on traditional Sāmoan Upeti woodblock rubbing, which is traditionally used for making tapa cloth ceremonial attire. He is pictured here with participants Ella Breen, sisters Edia and Frankie Cleary and siblings Ryann and Alonzo Avellana.



Māori Keren Ruki demonstrates how to prepare flax to Karen McCrone, Chantelle Feiloivao and Dominique Petterwood at the Pasifika weaving workshops that ran every day of the festival.



Mista Matthews from the Naarm/Melbourne based Ngā Mātai Pūrua Māori Community Organisation performs a haka.



Festival goers wave to a bark canoe built by Sheldon Thomas.



Tasmanian Aboriginal traditional canoe builder Sheldon Thomas with three-metre-long stringy-bark canoe, which now the festival has closed will be transported to Melaleuca in the remote South West of Lutruiwita/Tasmania to display in the Needwonnee Aboriginal Walk.



Professor Kate Fullagar, Samoan, Rarotongan, Tahitian and German artist Michel Tuffery, Professor Dame Anne Salmond and navigator Tainui man Captain Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr discuss the human exploration of the Pacific at the historic Theatre Royal.



Dancers from Naarm/Melbourne based Ngā Mātai Pūrua Māori Community Organisation performed at the opening night 'We Are The Ocean' panel discussion at the Theatre Royal.



Pasifika weavers Seve Faleupolu (Samoa), Sionemaletau Falemaka (Niue) and Keren Ruki (Māori) led workshops showcasing weaving techniques from Aotearoa/New Zealand and the Pacific.



Cook Islands woman Tura Tumatangi from Naarm/Melbourne performs a ura (dance).

First Nations singers

By PAUL CONNELLY



FIRST NATIONS performers have once again thrilled crowds at the St Kilda Festival's First Peoples First, with more than 300,000 people attending the two-day event.

The festival is held in Euro-Yroke (St Kilda), on the lands of the Boon Wurrung people. Euro-Yroke is the name that the St Kilda AFL team use during the Indigenous rounds, and that name was translated by Boon Wurrung Elder Dr Carolyn Brigg and language specialist Aunty Fay Muir.

Melbourne turned on the usual mixture of weather it is well known for, but this did nothing to keep the crowds away, with many braving the rain to enjoy two days of music dance and the arts. The rain had an effect on the performances with the intermittent downpours cutting some sets short.

Originally held a week before the main festival, First Peoples First is fast becoming an integral part of the iconic Melbourne festival.

Festival director Fred Gesha, a proud Meriam man from the Torres Strait on his father's side and Bundjalung on his mother's, has overseen the development of the Saturday program, which has this year seen it expand to a third stage (an informal dance stage in front of the iconic Palais Theatre).

Amazing

Gesha curated a deadly program to showcase an amazing collection of Indigenous talent from across the country.

"The original Indigenous stage was not part of the original St Kilda Festival, and was started by Aunty Caroline Briggs, and I am proud to continue the growth and development of this amazing gathering and event she started," he said.

"Apart from the incredible line-up of artists we were able to secure, we also work closely with the Archie Roach Foundation and their Singing our Futures program, which is an amazing mentoring program for emerging First Nations artists which was developed by Archie.

"Archie himself was the most capped artist and played this festival many times.

"We love the Singing our Futures crew, especially seeing the great young artists coming out of it."

The program has been under the leadership of Candice Lorrae (of The Merindas), an accomplished singer/songwriter and music producer with Jawoyn and Torres Strait Islander heritage. Singing Our Futures has seen emerging artists receive mentorship from some of the country's most prominent artists, including Emily Wurramara, Dan Sultan, Emma Donovan, Dobby, and Bumpy.

This year's mentees covered a wide range of musical styles including pop, hip hop, rap, dance, folk and RnB. The current mentees who played this year were Naomi Diane, Aria Clemmet, Royston Noell, Torres Green, Brenna Lee and Wren Arkose.

One of the great success stories which showcases the success of the Singing Our Futures program and its connection to the St Kilda Festival is Kiwat Kennell. Three years ago he joined as a mentee in the program, was the MC last year, and this year, a performer in his own right on the main stage, demonstrating the power and success of Singing Our Futures, and the continued legacy of Uncle Archie Roach and the Archie Roach Foundation.

Kiwat told the *Koori Mail* that he enjoyed the festival despite the rain.

"We only got to play two songs due to the weather and safety. I had put a nine-piece band together for this performance, and even had two other performers from the day for backing vocals, Canisha and Charlie Needs Braces, so we gave it our all for those two



Amos Roach performs at the St Kilda Festival. Photos: Chris Worthy.



Kiwat Kennel performs on Saturday.

songs we got to perform. It has been a great ride over the past few years, and I have to thank both the Archie Roach Foundation and the St Kilda Festival for the opportunity."

Free music

City of Port Phillip Mayor Cr Louise Crawford welcomed the crowds and said: "Port Phillip Council is proud to present Australia's largest free music festival, which supports 100-plus artists across two days of celebration, and yesterday we had First Peoples First, with a spotlight on an incredible line-up of First Nations artists, in what is now an integral part of the festival. They braved the rain and the only real dampener on the festivities was the cancellation of the closing ceremony due to safety concerns."

This year's artists over the two days of the festival included Jem Cassar-Daley, Troy Cassar-Daley, Amos Roach, Canisha, Charlie Needs Braces, Crooked TP, Jess Hitchcock, Jungaji, Kiwat Kennell, Live and the Dream, MpathSoul, Naomi Diane, Sunny Luwe, 3%, The

Andrew Gurruwiwi band and many many more.

A main feature of the Sunday lineup was the high-energy, ten-piece funk outfit, the Andrew Gurruwiwi Band, which has honed its musical skills on the beach at Birrtjimi and in the dirt of Yirrkala, a remote community in North East Arnhem Land. Led by Andrew Gurruwiwi, a shy-but-extravagant, blind, keytar-wielding Yolngu Elder with a passion to make people dance, the band serves up real funk jams in their native language.

Aside from the music, there were many activities to attract the visitors, with hip-hop dance workshops, boomerang making and basket weaving.

Hip-hop dance groups The Fun Crew and Indigenous Outreach Projects ran workshops throughout the day, inviting those participating to join them in entertaining the crowds.

The Welcome to Country ceremonies were conducted by Uncle Mark Brown with 3KND radio legend G-Man acting as the MC for the day's events.



Uncle Mark Brown delivers the Welcome.



Mayor of Port Phillip Cr Louise Crawford.

shine at Euro-Yroke



Members of the Andrew Gurruwiwi Band chilling out on Sunday.



Jungaji soaks up the atmosphere.



Mick Harding of Ngarga Warendj talks to Iria Larrinaga of Spain while burning boomerang designs.



Ryan Brown (Kuku-Yulanji) and John Brady (Gomerioi) with Bob Williams of Yarn Strong Sista.



Aunty Leonie Harris, Aunty Marlene Gilson and Tammy Gilson.



Basket weavers Akasha Dingey, Laura Wood, Aunty Bronwyn Razem and Penny Mentiplay.



MpathSoul on the Optus stage.



Troy Cassar-Daley and his daughter Gem perform.



Dancers and Aunty Leonie Harris and Aunty Marlene Gilson.

APRA awards artists



L-R from back: Samuel Marks, Wild Gloriosa, Skeleten, Solune, Marlene Cummins, BARKAA, Denvah, KIAN, Kee'ahn Bindol, Becca Hatch, Josten Myburgh, Romy Vager.
PHOTO: Maria Boyadgis.



FIRST Nations artists Becca Hatch, BARKAA, Kee'ahn Bindol and Marlene Cummins were among thirteen songwriter and composer winners of the 2025 APRA Professional Development Awards (PDA) announced at a packed-out event in Sydney last week. BARKAA took home the award for Hip Hop/Rap and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Music Office (NATSIMO) presented awards to Kee'ahn Bindol (General), R&B artist Becca Hatch (Youth) and blues songwriter Marlene Cummins (Senior). Each of the thirteen took home their share of a game-changing \$130,000 cash to be spent on their professional development through workshops, music education

courses, composer seminars and co-writing sessions. Dean Ormston, CEO of APRA AMCOS said, "Investing in career development opportunities for our members is a big part of what we do, and our PDAs have a demonstrated track record in enabling career defining opportunities. "It's wonderful to see such a diverse range of talented songwriters and composers across multiple genres being recognised, and it's testament to their dedication, commitment, passion and putting in the hard yards to progress their careers in what is a very challenging industry. "I have no doubt that this will be an important step to bigger and better things for this year's winners and driving Australia's reputation as a global music powerhouse."

This year's winners are: BARKAA - Hip Hop/Rap; Becca Hatch - NATSIMO Youth (under 25); Cassie Hamilton - A Transgender Woman on the Internet; Crying - Music Theatre; Denvah - Country/Americana; Josten Myburgh - Classical & Experimental; Kee'ahn Bindol - NATSIMO General; KIAN - Popular Contemporary; Marlene Cummins - NATSIMO Senior (over 50); Romy Vager - Popular Contemporary; Samuel Marks - Screen Composition; Skeleten - Dance/Electronic; Solune - Jazz & Improvised Music; and Wild Gloriosa - R&B/Soul. Previous First Nations PDA winners include Baker Boy, Jem Cassar-Daley, Miss Kaninna, Ngaiire and Yirmal.



Becca Hatch sings.

Shining a light on our times



CONCEPTS of light, time and vision – and the idea of shining a light on our times as they relate to the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung word 'Yalingwa' are explored in a new exhibition *Between Waves*, The 2023 Yalingwa Exhibition on Tour currently showing at the University of the Sunshine Coast Art Gallery.

The exhibition presents the work of ten artists and collective who explore the visible and invisible energy fields set in motion by these ideas, to illuminate interconnected shapeshifting ecologies within, beyond and between what can be seen.

While light can stimulate sight and is said to reveal truth, it can also be blinding and obscuring. Equally, while darkness is seemingly used to conceal, it is within the darkness, the in-between places and spaces that no one wants to venture, that truth seemingly lingers; rippling inward and outward, above,

below and between the surface.

Developed by the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), *Between Waves* was curated by Jessica Clark and is touring nationally with NETS Victoria.

Participating artists include: Maree Clarke, Dean Cross, Brad Darkson, Matthew Harris, James Howard, Hayley Millar Baker, Jazz Money, Cassie Sullivan, this mob, Mandy Quadrio.

Megan Williams, manager, said the gallery was excited to bring this extraordinary exhibition here to the Sunshine Coast.

"*Between Waves* is a celebration of First Nations contemporary art and offers as a platform for practice from the Southeast. The exhibition invites us to explore the visible and invisible energies that shape our interconnected worlds, urging reflection, responsibility, and balance," she said.

"Through a range of contemporary art forms including video, installation,

poetry, projection, photography, painting, sculpture, sound, printmaking, and a digital commission, the selected artists have embraced the push and pull dynamics that flow beneath the surface, navigating ideas of presence and absence, the known and unknown, trans-generational and collective consciousness.

"Together the artists prompt reflection on life shifts and cycles and centre notions of remembering, rehabilitation, regeneration and reclamation."

Between Waves

The 2023 Yalingwa Exhibition on Tour

when: 17 February – 5 May 2025

where: University of the Sunshine Coast Art Gallery, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs, Qld

Information: usc.edu.au/art-gallery

Monday to Friday 10am-4pm,

Saturday 10am-1pm

Closed Sundays, public holidays and exhibition changeover. Free entry.



Brad Darkson, *Waiting for Kakirra 2023*, installation view. Photograph: Andrew Curtis

Photos highlight Freedom Ride



A PHOTOGRAPHIC exhibition to mark the 60th anniversary of the historic protest bus ride around NSW

which exposed systemic racism against Aboriginal peoples is on show in Sydney.

On February 12, 1965, 29 students including Arrente/Kalkadoon man Charles Perkins set off on a Freedom Ride bus tour from the University of Sydney, influenced by the Freedom Rides and civil-rights movement in the United States.

The tour, taking in 16 regional towns in 15 days, confronted the entrenched and overt racism experienced by Aboriginal peoples including segregation and exclusion.

In Walgett, the bus was run off the road by angry locals.

The free exhibition, called *On the Road to Justice: Remembering the Freedom Ride*,



The Freedom Ride bus in Boggabilla, a small town in the regional north of NSW. Photo courtesy Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales and SEARCH Foundation.

is on at 119 Redfern Street, Redfern, until Thursday, March 13, from 10am-4pm weekdays.

The exhibition features historic photographs and contemporary portraits of people who lived in the towns when the bus visited.

Sydney Lord Mayor, Clover

Moore, said the Freedom Ride "is now widely recognised as one of Australia's most significant civil rights protests".

Uncle Dan Munro said that when he was 13, he watched the bus "roll down the mission".

"The white students on the bus

along with Charlie came down and asked some of the parents on the mission if they could take some of us kids to the pool. Some parents were scared to let their kids go, but others were OK after they explained what they were doing," Uncle Dan said.

"This was the first time I saw white people stand up against the racism we lived with every day."

Councillor Moore said that "while the bus was on the road for a little more than two weeks, the Freedom Ride sparked national and international debate for years about the discrimination and injustices faced by Aboriginal peoples".

"The protest had a lasting impact in the regional communities the bus visited and influenced the civil rights and self-determination movement in Redfern in the 1970s," she said.

Cr Moore said the City of Sydney exhibition was another way to mark the legacy and impact of the Freedom Ride, 60 years on.

A morning tea hosted by the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council is also being held at Sydney Town Hall to acknowledge the landmark moment in Australian history.

ICONYX honours Archie Roach



THE presence of Uncle Archie Roach can be felt in the new single released last week by rising First Nations artist ICONYX – a powerful version of Roach's iconic ballad, *Mulyawongk*.

Mulyawongk is the first single from ICONYX upcoming album *Blak on Trak*, due for release on March 21 via Skinnyfish Music with the spectacular video available on YouTube.

It has been a momentous time for the East Kimberley artist, not only delivering the emotional tribute to Roach, but also taking to the stage at Perth Festival recently to open for beloved singer-songwriter, Emily Wurramara.

The release of *Mulyawongk* holds special significance for ICONYX, as she received explicit permission from Archie Roach himself to perform and reimagine the track.

Just a couple of weeks before his passing, Roach heard the new version and declared that, "ICONYX has taken this song to another level."

Since then, her cover of the song has remained completely unchanged to honour the version that he loved and approved via his then manager, Jill Shelton.

Amos Roach, whose hand is in the artwork by Kendra Morrison for *Mulyawongk* and who holds the bloodline of both the stories of this song, has also approved ICONYX'S cover.

ICONYX in turn expressed deep respect and appreciation for the opportunity to cover *Mulyawongk*.

"Archie Roach is a legend of Australian music, and getting the chance to pay respect to his legacy feels like both a huge responsibility and absolute privilege," she said.

"I really hope it hits home with everyone who listens,"

Mulyawongk blends elements of

modern folk, blues, and storytelling traditions, with strong cultural and historical themes through Aboriginal narratives.

Previously, in an interview with *Beat Magazine*, Roach explained that *Mulyawongk* was the ancestral being who guards the Murray River for the Ngarrindjeri people.

"Other people might call it a bunyip. And there's nothing really to fear from a *Mulyawongk* – unless you hurt the river."

"And Ruby, being a woman of the river, the *Mulyawongk* watches out for her spirit. You might have gotten away from the river, but the *Mulyawongk* will always call you back."

ICONYX is a 17-year-old East Kimberley artist who navigates the world without sight, her storytelling, deeply influenced by her family roots of Kukatja, Pintupi Mob, and her life growing up in the city on Whadjuk, Noongar Boodja, invites listeners on a unique sonic journey.

As a passionate songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and co-producer, ICONYX crafts music through a deep connection to tactile sound, offering sighted audiences an immersive and powerful experience.

Her powerful voice and wide-ranging influences, blend hip-hop with the deep storytelling traditions of contemporary Aboriginal Australian music.

Three of ICONYX previous songs have been being nominated for WAM Awards in recent years and in 2022, she won the Act Belong Commit category for her track *Dawn of the Future*.

ICONYX has a deeply personal connection to the late Gurrumul and Archie Roach with both families granting her rare permission to perform and reimagine their music. This further cemented ICONYX significance in the Australian music landscape.



East Kimberley artist ICONYX.



Emmy Webbers, *Rewoven Identity* 2025 Collection of the artist. Photo: Christian Capurro.



Tarsha Davis, *Unravel* – Recycled diary with embroidered text 2025 Collection of the artist. Photo: Christian Capurro.

Exhibition stitches together Blak and Threadly stories



A TAPESTRY of cultural narratives, history and contemporary expressions of identity will weave a rich story of First Nations

fashion and textiles when the exhibition *Stitchin' Stories: Blak & Threadly*, opens and showcases the creative output of nine boundary-pushing First Peoples designers.

This is the fourth iteration of the Blak Design program, *Stitchin' Stories* which opens on Saturday, March 1, at the Koorie Heritage Trust, Birrarung Building at Fed Square, Melbourne.

Recruited through an open call to work with fashion and textiles, the participating artists have produced nearly thirty pieces exemplifying the dynamic ways in which fashion and textiles express cultural continuity and innovation.

Many of the works incorporate sustainable and recycled materials, reinforcing the importance of Country and environment in contemporary creative First Peoples design practice.

Gunaikurnai woman Emmy Webbers' work *Rewoven Identity* is part of the exhibition. She is an experienced artist who has long worked with paint on canvas, digital art work and public art and is especially well-known for painted wooden animal forms.

"It's all about whatever interests me in the moment and the strength of the ideas," she said.

"Personally, I have been making art for many years, and professionally for about five years—but I had never done anything related to fashion and textiles before," she said.

"I sew, but I have never incorporated it into my art work. So when Blak Design came along it

seemed such a nice blend of the artistic side of my life with the fact that I love making clothes, working with fabric and creating new things."

In contrast, Tarsha Davis (Kuku Yalanji and Palawa) has used her collection to address the painful legacy of colonialism and gendered violence, especially in relation to Western-style clothing imposed upon Aboriginal people.

Her installation, incorporating *Unravel*, deftly combines humour and historical reflection to emphasise the strength and resilience of Blak women, highlighting the complex relationship between fashion, violence, and survival.

"I'm at a stage now of wanting to use my art practice for exploration and advocacy," she said.

"I'm really happy for people to take what they want from it, but I also like to use humour as a way of turning pain into power. The violence is obviously meant for harm, but it won't stop us or silence our laughter."

Matty Chilly is a Wiradjuri, Wamba Wamba, Mutti Mutti, Yorta Yorta, Waddi Waddi, Barapa Barapa, Gubbi Gubbi, Nari Nari, Yitti Yitti man with ties to Māori Iwi in Aotearoa New Zealand.

His work, *Munatunga Collection*, merges cultural materials with contemporary fashion. His innovative creation of "gumnuttons" from gumnuts," paired with a suit that integrates kangaroo skin, with one portion gracing the front of the jacket and the tail draping down majestically from the back of the collar, showcases a deep connection to Country and culture.

"It is really beautiful and has this 'next-level tuxedo' thing about it," he said.

The inclusion of natural elements in the artist's designs is

both a homage to traditional practices and an innovative take on high fashion.

These pieces go beyond serving as mere fashion; they act as powerful mediums through which First Peoples' stories, experiences and worldviews are shared, preserving and innovating upon traditions while also pushing the boundaries of what is conceived as fashion.

The 2024 Blak Design program and this exhibition would not have been possible without the dedication, time, energy and extraordinary talent of all the participating designers including – Emma Stenhouse (Ngarrindjeri), Michelle Searle (Awabakal), Tahnee Day (Gunditjmara and Yorta Yorta), Tarsha Davis (Kuku Yalanji and Palawa), Teena Moffatt (Yorta Yorta, Gunaikurnai and Gunditjmara) and Tricia Van Der-Kuyp (Wiradjuri).

"This exhibition underscores how fashion can be a platform for storytelling – of the past, present, and future, while fostering dialogue and understanding around First Peoples cultures and histories," says Tom Mosby, CEO, KHT.

The *Stitchin' Stories: Blak & Threadly* exhibition is proudly supported by the KHT's exhibition partners Creative Victoria, City of Melbourne, the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Program, the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body, Viva Energy Australia and ANZ Bank.

The KHT's annual Blak Design program is generously supported by the Ian Potter Foundation and the RMIT University School of Fashion and Textiles, a global leader in fashion and textiles education.

For information go to: www.koorieheritagetrust.com.au



Matty Chilly, *Munatunga Collection Kangaroo Suit (detail)* 2025 Collection of the artist. Photo: Christian Capurro.

event
listingsNORTHERN
TERRITORY

Parrtjima

– A festival in Light

when: April 4-13, 2025

where: Alice Springs
Desert Park, Mparntwe, NT
info/bookings:
parrtjimaaustralia.com.auAUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL
TERRITORYBelonging: Stories
from Far North
Queensland

(exhibition)

when: until Mar, 2025

where: National Museum
of Australia, Acton
Peninsula, Canberra
info/bookings:
nma.gov.au/exhibitions/belo
nging

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/e
ver-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: Until 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/

TASMANIA

Rex Greeno: Memories
through Sea Stories
(exhibition)

Jade's proud of her designs

By MICAH KICKETT

INDIGENOUS mural
artist Jade Dorman
had the honour
recently of designing
the Indigenous AFL
All Stars guernsey and
the matchball.The Whadjuk, Ballardong,
Eastern Arrernte women from
Perth, WA, said it was great to see
her artwork displayed.“Yeah, it's so surreal to have
designed this. The last Indigenous
All Stars was 10 years ago, 2015,”
she said.“So it's such a huge honour to
have it hosted on Whadjuk Boodjar
and also to be the artist. When I
first met with AFL to talk about it, it
was a confidential project so I
didn't know what it was, what the
pitch was going to be until we were
talking. And as soon as they
mentioned Indigenous All Stars, I
cried in the meeting because I just
had so much respect for the game
and everything that that game
stands for, like just bringing all the
brothers together and just letting
them all run amok and have fun on
the field.

“It's a huge honour.”

She explained the meaning
behind the artwork:“A lot of it is about our Derbal
Yerrigan and our waterways. And
we've got like the umbilical cord
that runs down the side of the
guernsey, which is the freshwater
and the saltwater meeting, which is
very sacred. And when I first met
with AFL, they said they really
wanted to have the design
honouring women and the role that
women have in the sport and
supporting our young people.“So I have referenced women
quite a lot in the design as well. So
that even though it's men that are
playing in the game, it's very
inclusive of all of us, the younger
generation, men and women in our
community.”

She became emotional seeing



Jade Dorman in the guernsey she designed.

the guernsey unveiled.

“I remember seeing Liam Ryan
walking over with the guernsey on,
and that was the first time I'd ever
seen it in person and seen it being
worn.“And I was just trying not to cry
because I was like, oh, I got it. Now
I'm going to meet him. I can't meethim with like, just tears rolling
down my face. So I was keeping it
together and I was like, Hey, it's
really nice to meet you.”“I was really grateful for this
opportunity and also for just being
a black fella, I'm always grateful
and honoured to have that
connected to me.”when: until Apr 27, 2025
where: Tasmanian
Museum and Art Gallery
info/bookings: follow the
links at tmag.tas.gov.au/NEW SOUTH
WALES

Bulaan Buruugaa Ngali

An exhibition of ancestral
woven objects alongside
newly commissioned
contemporary works
where/when: Tweed
Regional Gallery, until Apr
27; Lismore Regional
Gallery, Sept 12, 2025 -
Nov 9, 2025
info/bookings:
artsnorthernrivers.com.au/s
earch?query=Bulaan+Buruu
gaa+Ngali+Exhibition

Michelle Pulatuwayu

and Woody Minnapinni

when: Until 15 March

2025
where: STATION Gallery
Gadigal/Sydney
info/bookings:
stationgallery.com

King Stingray

Celebrating the release
of their highly anticipated
second album 'For the
Dreams' with support bandsBeddy Rays and The Belair
Lip Bombs

when: Thursday 20

March 2025

where: Enmore

Theatre, Newtown, NSW,

Australia

tickets:

https://www.enmoretheatre.
com.au/event/king-stingray-
3/

QUEENSLAND

Is That You, Ruthie?

Return season of the
play based on Dr Ruth
Hegarty's books, adapted
for the stage by Leah
Purcell.where: Queensland
Performing Arts Centre
(QPAC)

when: 6-15 March 2025.

info/tickets: qpac.com.au
or phone 136-246

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/wha
t-s-on/exhibitionsBlack, bold and
beautiful 2025Australia's Leading
Indigenous Fashion Show,
Luncheon and Women's
Event showcasing
Indigenous businesses from
across the state, celebrating
International Women's Day
and promoting Indigenous
communities, culture,
business and creativity.

when: 10 March 2025

where: Brisbane
Convention and Exhibition
Centre.

info/tickets:

https://events.humanitix.co
m/black-bold-and-beautiful-
indigenous-women-s-
luncheon

Between Waves

(exhibition)

The 2023 Yalingwa
Exhibition on Tour
when: Until 5 May 2025
where: University of the
Sunshine Coast Art Galley,
90 Sippy Downs Drive,
Sippy Downs QLD
Information:
usc.edu.au/art-gallery
Monday to Friday
10am—4pm, Saturday
10am—1pm
Closed Sundays, public
holidays and exhibition
changeover. Free EntryOn the Road to
Justice: Remembering the
Freedom RideA free exhibition
when: Until March 13,
from 10am-4pm weekdays.
where: 119 Redfern
Street, Redfern

VICTORIA

The Wet

Circa Cairns
when: Sat, Mar 15, 2025
where: The Round,
Nunawading, Melbourne
info/bookings:
theround.com.au/TarraWarra Biennial
2025: We Are Eaglescurated 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/treatyStitchin' Stories: Blak
& ThreadlyA tapestry of cultural
narratives, history, and
contemporary expressions
of identity weave a rich
story of First Nations
fashion and textileswhen: opens Saturday 1
March until Sunday 18 May
2025where: Koorie Heritage
Trust, Birrarung Building,
Fed Square.information:
www.koorieheritagetrust.co
m.auBlak In-Justice:
Incarceration and
ResilienceA major exhibition
developed in partnership
with The Torch.when: 5 April - 20 July
2025where: Heide Museum of
Modern Art, 7 Templestowe
Road, Bulleen Victoria
3105information:
https://www.heide.com.au/e
xhibitions/blak-in-justice/WESTERN
AUSTRALIAArt of Belonging:
Spinifex People, Native Title
and Beyond

when: until Apr 28, 2025

where: WA Museum,
Boala Bardip, Perth Cultural
Centreinfo/bookings:
visit.museum.wa.gov.au/
boolabardipBig 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: March,
Karna Country (SA); and
Oct, Djaara Country (VIC)
For information and
bookings, visit:
bangarra.com.au/

Illume

Touring nationally from
June 4For information and
bookings visit:
bangarra.com.au/production
s/illume/

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/mus
ic/

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT

New initiative to drive tourism growth



Margaret Campbell performs a smoking ceremony at Blues Point Reserve. Picture Destination NSW



DESTINATION NSW has launched a new initiative to support Aboriginal tourism businesses in regional areas, with data showing record numbers of visitors are seeking

Aboriginal experiences in NSW.

The Aboriginal Experience Development Pathway 2025 will be delivered by Destination NSW in partnership with the NSW Aboriginal Tourism Operators Council (NATOC).

The initiative aims to build relationships, connect on Country, and provide aspiring Aboriginal tourism operators with a greater understanding of the visitor economy and access to services to further develop their visitor experiences.

NATOC Chair Dwayne Bannon-Harrison said the "The Pathway will provide Aboriginal entrepreneurs with invaluable support to develop sustainable and innovative business models that use community and cultural identity as a foundation for creating economic opportunities."

The Pathway will provide 30

Aboriginal tourism businesses with online and one-on-one training sessions, networking opportunities, the opportunity to take part in the Destination NSW media familiarisation program and access to a one-day business development workshop.

Tourism Research Australia data confirms NSW is the number one destination in Australia for Aboriginal tourism.

In the year ending September 2024, a record 814,300 international and domestic overnight visitors participated in an Aboriginal tourism experience. These visitors stayed 20.7 million nights and contributed \$3.1 billion in expenditure across their whole trip.

The Aboriginal Experience Development Pathway 2025 is open to eligible businesses in more than 50 local government areas across the state.

Aspiring and operating Aboriginal-owned or led visitor economy businesses, including accommodation providers, tour and activity providers and visitor attractions including museums, galleries, wineries, distilleries, breweries and farm gates are

invited to apply.

Destination NSW Acting CEO Karen Jones said, "Destination NSW is proud to have a long-standing partnership with NATOC and to work alongside Aboriginal tourism operators in developing, promoting, and showcasing world-class visitor experiences that celebrate the depth and diversity of Aboriginal culture across NSW."

"Aboriginal tourism is a powerful driver of visitor economy growth, creating jobs, supporting regional communities, and offering domestic and international visitors an authentic connection to the world's oldest living culture."

"By continuing to strengthen these partnerships, we are ensuring Aboriginal tourism thrives, delivering lasting cultural and economic benefits for Aboriginal communities and NSW as a whole."

The 2025 Aboriginal Experience Development Pathway is part of Destination NSW's capability-building NSW First Program.

Go to: www.destinationnsw.com.au

Grants to create new jobs



A SECOND round of grants is now open for eligible employers to apply for funding to create local jobs in remote communities, as part of the Labor

Government's new Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) program.

Jobs established through the program will have fair pay and decent conditions, including superannuation, sick leave and annual leave.

In response to community feedback calling for a flexible jobs program, the jobs created can be part-time, full-time or casual and flexible around personal, family and community obligations.

The program has also responded to feedback that more employment opportunities are needed for young people once they've finished school, with job seekers aged 15 and over eligible to apply for an RJED-created job. The \$707 million program is creating up to 3,000 new jobs over the next three years and is part of delivering on the Albanese Government's commitment to replace the Community Development Program (CDP).

Employers interested in applying for a grant are encouraged to speak with their community to find out what jobs are needed and wanted locally, and will need to show evidence of community support in their grant application.

Assistance is available to help employers with the grants process, including a dedicated helpdesk and public information sessions.

Grant writing support is also available for eligible employers, with a focus on supporting small organisations.

This second round of employer grants is open until March 31, 2025.

Minister for Indigenous Australians, Malarndirri McCarthy said the program was about providing dignity of work no matter where people live.

"During my visits to communities where they've had a remote jobs trial running, I've heard from people about the positive impact having a job has had on them, their family and their community," minister McCarthy said.

For more information visit www.niaa.gov.au/remot-jobs/employers

Your guide to employment

Welcome to the Koori Mail's Indigenous Job Opportunities section. Each edition we publish employment advertisements from around the nation. To be part of this section, simply give our advertising staff a call on (02) 66 222 666, email advertising@koorimail.com or see our website – www.koorimail.com

*Koori Mail – Our ABC audit means our readership is guaranteed.
No other newspaper aimed at the Indigenous market can offer this!*

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who provide prizes for competitions or reader offers. If you would prefer that we do not do this, please write to us at: admin@koorimail.com or phone (02) 66 222 666, or fax (02) 66 222 600. Mail can be sent addressed to General Manager, Budsoar Pty Ltd, PO Box 117, Lismore NSW 2480.



Aboriginal Case Manager
Ballina

Would you like to make a real difference in people’s lives?
If so, come and join the team at Momentum Collective.

This position will provide Specialist Homelessness Services Domestic and Family Violence program/s to First Nations people and to deliver quality person-centred services with compassion and dignity.

Here at Momentum we are known to provide a culturally safe environment and provide career development and mentoring opportunities for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees.

Momentum Collective is committed to creating social change and inclusive opportunities for everyone. We promote diversity when recruiting our team and are guided by our core values of trust and respect, wellbeing, innovation, working well together and being gracious. We respect the special place our nation’s first people hold in our communities and value the differences in everyone.

To apply: please call Cindy on 0417228384 or email recruitment@mymomentum.org.au



Aboriginal Recognition Support Officer
Financial Assistance Scheme

- Utilise your administrative expertise to provide support to the Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS)
 - Full-time opportunity to work with a high-performing and passionate team
 - Earn \$76,817 - \$93,275, plus super
- This is a prioritised role for Aboriginal people, who will be given priority consideration as per the special measures provision of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010.

This is an exciting opportunity to deliver a major new initiative for victims of crime. The FAS is a landmark reform that prioritises the needs of victims and supports recovery from violent crime.

Reporting to a FAS Senior Assessor, you will be responsible for drafting trauma-informed victim recognition statements and coordinating victim recognition meetings.

Key responsibilities include:

- Developing trauma-informed victim recognition statements in accordance with the Act.
- Assessing needs to coordinate complex victim recognition meetings.
- Engaging with stakeholders to deliver recognition meetings, including venue logistics and travel arrangements.

As our ideal candidate, you will possess:

- Experience in direct human service delivery where there are sensitive and complex needs from a trauma-informed perspective.
- Commitment to pursuing a culturally safe workplace and improved outcomes for Aboriginal people, aligned with the principle of self-determination.
- Commitment to trauma-informed practice, including an understanding of the victim services system and the ability to improve victim outcomes, applying an intersectional perspective to service delivery, engaging in reflective practice, supporting and informing victims of crime, and considering lived experience.

A relevant qualification or equivalent experience in fields related to community and social services, social policy, social work, law, or public administration is desirable.

For further information on this position and to submit your application, please visit careers.vic.gov.au

Applications close Wednesday 12 March 2025

Notice of an application to register an area agreement on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements in Queensland

Notification day: 5 March 2025



QI2024/011 Northern Kaanju People Forestry Act Sales Permit ILUA
State of Queensland
Description of the agreement area:
The agreement area covers about 663 sq km and is located on the Cape York Peninsula approx. 64 km north of Coen
Relevant LGA: Cook Shire Council

The agreement contains the following statements:
[Explanatory notes in brackets inserted by the National Native Title Tribunal]

- 5. Consents**
5.1 The parties consent to:
(a) the doing of the Agreed Acts to the extent that they are Future Acts; and
(b) the validation of any of the Agreed Acts done after the Execution Date but prior to Registration, to the extent that they are Future Acts.
- 5.2 The parties consent to the validation of a Prior Grant to the extent the Prior Grant:
(a) was a Future Act;
(b) was done invalidly for the purposes of Native Title; and
(c) can be validated in this Agreement.
- 5.3 Clause 5.1(a) is a statement for the purposes of the NTA, section 24EB(1)(b) and clauses 5.1(b) and 5.2 are statements for the purposes of the NTA, section 24EBA(1)(a).
- 5.4 To the extent that any of the Agreed Acts or any Prior Grant is or was a Future Act, the parties acknowledge that the Non-Extinguishment Principle applies.
- “Aboriginal Land”** means a grant in fee simple under section 38 of the ALA;
“Access Track” means the navigable vehicle access shown on the map at Schedule 4 [of the agreement];
“Agreed Acts” means all acts necessary to give effect to this Agreement including but not limited to any acts done as part of, or in relation to:
(a) Future Grants;
(b) all things necessary for, or incidental to, a Future Grant;
(c) all things necessary and incidental to give effect to the Reconfiguration, the construction and maintenance of the Access Track and the Haulage Track, and the grant of Aboriginal Land in accordance with this Agreement;
(d) surrender of part of the Term Lease to align with the New Lot 3 as shown in the map at Schedule 13 [of the agreement];
(e) amendment of the Term Lease to align with the New Lot 3 as shown in the map at Schedule 13 [of the agreement]; and
(f) the extension of the term of the Term Lease;
“ALA” means the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991* (Qld);
“Existing Lot 3” means the registered plan for lot 3 on SP187433 as attached at Schedule 2 [of the agreement];
“Existing Lot 5” means the registered plan for lot 5 on SP187433 as attached at Schedule 2 [of the agreement];
“Forestry Act” means the *Forestry Act 1959* (Qld);
“Future Act” has the meaning given in the NTA;
“Future Grant” means any or all of the following:
(a) the amendment, extension, renewal or variation of a Relevant Sales Permit that is in force on the Execution Date;
(b) the grant of a Relevant Sales Permit on or after the Execution Date;
(c) the amendment, extension, renewal or variation of a Relevant Sales Permit that is granted on or after the Execution Date, and, to avoid doubt, includes a Relevant Amendment of a Relevant Sales Permit;
“Get”, in relation to Quarry Material, has the meaning given in the Forestry Act;
“Haulage Track” means the new haulage track to be constructed by Bowyer Archer over the New Lot 5 and shown on the map at Schedule 13 [of the agreement];
“Land Act” means the *Land Act 1994* (Qld);
“Land Registry” is as defined in the Land Act;
“Native Title” has the meaning given in the NTA;
“New Lot 3” means the proposed new Lot 3 as shown on the map at Schedule 3 [of the agreement];
“New Lot 5” means the proposed new Lot 5 as shown on the map at Schedule 4 [of the agreement];
“Non-Extinguishment Principle” has the meaning given in the NTA;
“Prior Grant” means the grant, amendment, extension, renewal or variation of Sales Permit 000296 and Sales Permit 201609002 between 18 January 1996 and immediately before Registration;
“Quarry Material” has the meaning given in the Forestry Act;
“Reconfiguration” means the realignment to the boundaries of Existing Lot 3 and Existing Lot 5 to create New Lot 3 and New Lot 5 as shown on the plan in Schedule 5 [of the agreement];
“Relevant Amendment” of a Relevant Sales Permit, means an amendment, variation, extension or renewal of the Relevant Sales Permit that relates to:
(a) an area to which the Relevant Sales Permit applies that is within the Agreement Area;
(b) the expiry date of the Relevant Sales Permit;
(c) the scope of activities authorised by the Relevant Sales Permit for the purpose of Getting Quarry Material from within the Agreement Area; or
(d) the type or quantity of Quarry Material authorised to be Got under the Relevant Sales Permit from within the Agreement Area;
“Relevant Sales Permit”:
(a) means a sales permit granted or issued under the Forestry Act, sections 46 and 56, to Bowyer Archer that authorises Bowyer Archer to Get Quarry Material from within the Agreement Area; and
(b) includes Sales Permit 201609002 and Sales Permit 000296 to the extent each applies to the Agreement Area;
“Sales Permit 000296” means the Forestry Act sales permit contained in Schedule 6 [of the agreement], as amended or varied from time to time;
“Sales Permit 201609002” means the Forestry Act sales permit contained in Schedule 7 [of the agreement], as amended or varied from time to time;
“Term Lease” means term lease 0/230788 held by Archer River as trustee for the Archer River Quarries Trust and registered in the Land Registry bearing title reference 40052502

Parties to the agreement and their contact addresses:

State of Queensland through the Department of Primary Industries (formerly Department of Agriculture and Fisheries) (Applicant/State)	c/- Crown Law GPO Box 5221, Brisbane QLD 4001
Michael Ross and Reg Williams on their own behalf and on behalf of the Cape York United #1 Native Title Claim Group (Native Title Party); and Northern Kaanju Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (ICN: 9756) (RNTBC/Native Title Party); and Yaa Y’a Aboriginal Corporation (ICN: 10240) (Native Title Party); and Rodney Accoom and Jean Temple on their own behalf and on behalf of the Affected Northern Kaanju Native Title People (Native Title Party)	c/- Cape York Land Council PO Box 2496, Cairns QLD 4870
Bowyer Archer River Quarries Pty Ltd ACN 603 263 369; and Archer River Quarries Pty Ltd ACN 125 109 088	c/- P&E Law PO Box 841, Maroochydore QLD 4558

Responses to an application to register an ILUA—where the application has not been certified:
Any person claiming to hold native title in relation to land or waters in the area covered by the agreement may wish, in response to this notice, to make a native title determination application or equivalent application under a law of a state or territory in respect of any part of the area. **The application must be made by 5 June 2025.** If that application is registered on the Register of Native Title Claims, the registered native title claimants must be a party to this agreement before it can be registered.

Details of the terms of the agreement are not available from the National Native Title Tribunal.
For assistance and further information about this application, including the description of the area, call Sylvia Jagtman on 07 3052 4248 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



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GO ONLINE FOR MORE JOB ADS

koorimail.com/current-jobs-ads-and-general-web-ads/



We are hiring a First Nations Coordinator

CDC Victoria is a leading bus operator connecting communities across Melbourne. This position is critical in furthering CDC Victoria's commitment to reconciliation and fostering broader community engagement and cultural initiatives.

- Support Indigenous communities
- Build cultural awareness
- Foster partnerships with Indigenous organisations
- Be part of a vital and growing bus industry.



www.cdcvictoria.com.au

CDC Victoria is an equal-opportunity employer. We encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

How To Apply?

Send your application to HR.VIC@cdcbus.com.au or contact Jessika Harvey at 0422 061 882 for more information.



Interested?

Scan the QR code to learn more.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

(Attractive Remuneration Package Negotiable)

The Dubbo Local Aboriginal Land Council (DLALC) is seeking applications from experienced and motivated people interested in a rewarding career undertaking a new and challenging role of Chief Executive Officer.

This position has recently been established following amendments to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, 1983 (ALRA) as amended, and provides an excellent opportunity for the successful applicant. This position holder will provide an extensive range of assistance and support to the elected Board through the day-to-day management of the DLALC's affairs in accordance with delegated authorities, the provision of sound and accurate advice and the implementation of the Board's resolutions in a timely and appropriate manner.

The successful applicant will have demonstrable knowledge and understanding of the ALRA, 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 Contact DLALC Office, by email: ceo@dlalc.com.au or on (02) 6884 5276 or 0431 421 989.

Applications can be forwarded to ceo@dlalc.com.au or marked "Confidential" and posted to:

The Chairperson
Dubbo Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 1565
DUBBO NSW 2830

Applications close Wednesday 12th March 2025
Aboriginal people are encouraged to apply.

POWERHOUSE

Program Curator First Nations

Clerk Grade 7-8
Temporary, up to 4 years
Powerhouse Parramatta

The Program Curator First Nations role develops and delivers public, co-production, festival, and partnerships programming. The role primarily involves working collaboratively with teams across the Museum and advocating for, developing, and delivering programs representing and in collaboration with First Nations communities.

About Powerhouse

Through the renewal and across its platforms, Powerhouse will redefine museums in the 21st century by renegotiating the terms of engagement with communities, radically returning to and reckoning with its legacy as a museum of industry and fortifying its vital role in the cultural and economic ecosystems of NSW, Australia and the world. The Powerhouse, one of Australia's oldest and most important cultural institutions, continues the delivery of its renewal program across its five platforms, Powerhouse Parramatta, Powerhouse Ultimo, Powerhouse Castle Hill, Sydney Observatory and Powerhouse Digital, our space to tell stories and provide new levels of access to the Powerhouse Collection of over 500,000 objects. To find out more, take a tour through powerhouse.com.au

NOTE: Powerhouse is an on-site agency, and staff may be required to support teams across all Powerhouse sites, including Parramatta, Castle Hill, Sydney Observatory, and Ultimo.

To Apply: Please submit a CV and Cover letter through the iWorkforNSW site <https://iworkfor.nsw.gov.au/job/program-curator-first-nations-502165>

PLEASE NOTE: This is an identified position; applicants must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. An applicant's race is a genuine occupational qualification authorised under Section 14(d) of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

POWERHOUSE

Learning Manager First Nations

Clerk Grade 9-10
Temporary, up to 4 years
Powerhouse Parramatta

The Powerhouse is committed to developing new and innovative approaches to First Nations learning, developed in direct response to our collections, communities, and our responsibility in caring for Country. Learning Manager, First Nations is an inaugural position responsible for developing, delivering and managing learning programs, partnerships and resources that centre and celebrate First Nations knowledge, teaching and communities at the Powerhouse.

About Powerhouse

Through the renewal and across its platforms, Powerhouse will redefine museums in the 21st century by renegotiating the terms of engagement with communities, radically returning to and reckoning with its legacy as a museum of industry and fortifying its vital role in the cultural and economic ecosystems of NSW, Australia and the world. The Powerhouse, one of Australia's oldest and most important cultural institutions, continues the delivery of its renewal program across its five platforms, Powerhouse Parramatta, Powerhouse Ultimo, Powerhouse Castle Hill, Sydney Observatory and Powerhouse Digital, our space to tell stories and provide new levels of access to the Powerhouse Collection of over 500,000 objects. To find out more, take a tour through powerhouse.com.au

To Apply: Please submit a CV and Cover letter through the iWorkforNSW site <https://iworkfor.nsw.gov.au/job/learning-manager-first-nations-502162>

PLEASE NOTE: This is an identified position; applicants must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. An applicant's race is a genuine occupational qualification authorised under Section 14(d) of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

On behalf of the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Incorporated's Association Management Committee notice is hereby given for the

ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Commencing 1pm on Thursday 20th March 2025



Novotel Sydney Brighton Beach
Cnr, The Grand Parade & Princess Street
Brighton-le-Sands NSW 2216



Further information please contact the Secretariat
Ph: (02) 9550 5666
Email: info@aecg.nsw.edu.au

www.aecg.nsw.edu.au



NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO GRANT PETROLEUM SPECIAL PROSPECTING AUTHORITY

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum C/- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following Petroleum Special Prospecting Authority application/s applied for under section 105 of the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967 (WA)*:

TITLE TYPE	APPLICATION NUMBER**	APPLICANT	CO-ORDINATES	AREA	SHIRE
Special Prospecting Authority	STP-SPA-0131	CR1 Energy Pty Ltd	NW Corner: Lat: 22°34'55.27"S Long: 116°35'4.73"E SE Corner: Lat: 18°34'54.98"S Long :124°40'4.54"E	9748.91km²	UPPER GASCOYNE SHIRE, ASHBURTON SHIRE AND MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Special Prospecting Authority	STP-SPA-0132	CR1 Energy Pty Ltd	NW Corner: Lat: 23°14'55.25"S Long: 117°45'4.81"E SE Corner: Lat: 23°59'55.23"S Long :118°50'4.85"E	9647.1 km²	UPPER GASCOYNE SHIRE, MEEKATHARRA SHIRE, EAST PILBARA SHIRE AND ASHBURTON SHIRE
Special Prospecting Authority	STP-SPA-0133	CR1 Energy Pty Ltd	NW Corner: Lat: 21°19'55.23"S Long: 116°0'4.69"E SE Corner: Lat: 23°24'55.30"S Long :116°35'4.79"E	11946.25 km²	ASHBURON SHIRE, KARRATHA CITY

Nature of the act: The grant of a petroleum special prospecting authority will authorise the holder to explore for petroleum and to carry on such operations and execute such works as are necessary in accordance with the conditions to which the special prospecting authority is subject too, for a term of 6 months from the date of the grant.

Notification day: 26 February 2025

Native title parties: Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until three months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The three month period closes on **26 May 2025**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100.

Expedited procedure: The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each authority may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **26 June 2025**), a native title party lodges an objection with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of the authority is an act attracting the expedited procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, or GPO Box 9973, Perth, WA 6848, telephone (08) 9425 1000.

For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

** - A technical description of the boundaries of the proposed petroleum special prospecting authority area can be provided on request.

DMIRS_25228



NOTICE OF AUTHORISATION
MEETING JIRRBAL PEOPLE #4
NATIVE TITLE CLAIM (QUD983/2015)

Date:	Saturday, 15 March 2025	Registration opens:	from 8.30am
Venue:	Wondelca Showgrounds Longlands Gap Road, Wondelca	Meeting starts:	9.30am
		Meeting finishes:	12.30pm

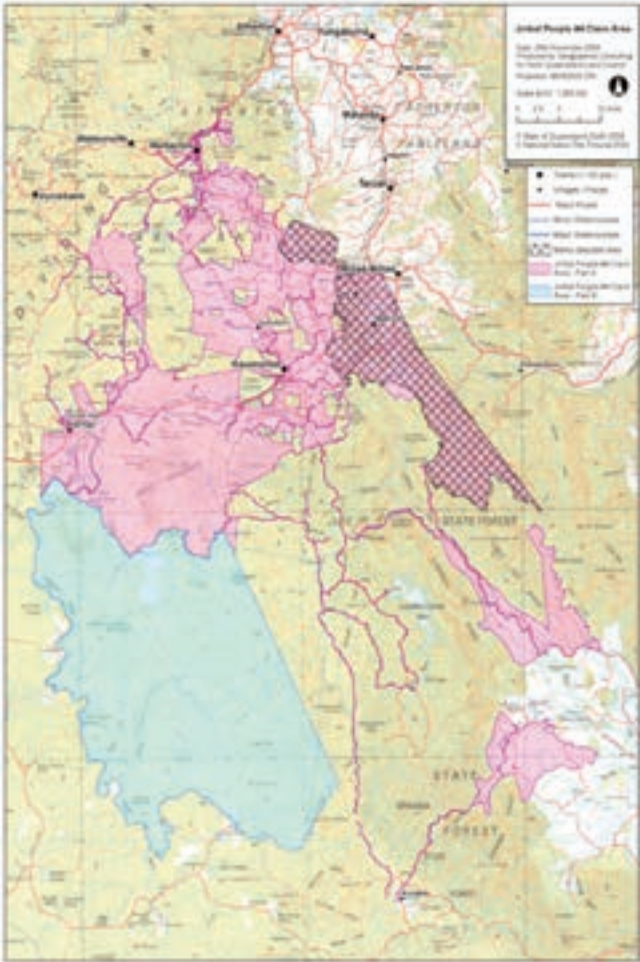
The North Queensland Land Council (NQLC) will hold an authorisation meeting on **Saturday, 15 March 2025** to which all members of the Jirrbal People #4 native title claim group (as described below) are invited to attend. This is an important meeting where binding decisions about the Jirrbal People #4 native title claim are proposed to be made.

Following the Authorisation meeting, there will be a Consent Determination Celebration lunch for Part A which will take place at approximately 12.30pm.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting is to consider, and if appropriate, make decisions about the following:

- CONFIRM** the agreed and adopted decision making process to be used for making decisions at the meeting.
- NOMINATE** Jirrbal persons to be the replacement Applicant for the Jirrbal People #4 native title claim (QUD983/2015).
- AUTHORISE** the replacement Applicant to replace the existing Applicant for the Jirrbal People #4 native title claim (QUD983/2015), and authorise the replacement Applicant to make the Jirrbal People #4 native title claim and to deal with all matters arising under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), including sections 61 and 251B of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth).
- AUTHORISE** any conditions to be imposed on the authority of the replacement Applicant.
- AUTHORISE** the replacement Applicant to make an interlocutory application to the Federal Court to replace the existing Applicant in accordance with section 66B of the NTA and to amend the Jirrbal #4 native title claim (Form 1) to record the change of the Applicant.



Map of Jirrbal
People #4 Claim
Area

Map of the
remaining Jirrbal
People #4 Claim
Area for
determination

PERSONS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND

All members of the Jirrbal People #4 claim group as described below are eligible and invited to attend this meeting.

The Jirrbal People #4 claim group is comprised of those Aboriginal persons who are descended (which may include descent by adoption) from one or more of the following apical ancestors (listed alphabetically):

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Betty (aka Biddy) Gordon | 20. Lucy Gordon/Lifu |
| 2. Bonnel Logan and Jinnie | 21. Minnie Silent |
| 3. Bulbulyarraman Willie Mango or his wives
Nellie and Calida | 22. Murrigami (aka Jim Clarke) |
| 4. Charlie (Jurabagle) Woods | 23. Murriguemie |
| 5. Chloe McKenzie/Cameron | 24. Nellie Deagon |
| 6. Dubula Lorna Lawrence (nee Robinson) | 25. Nellie Googoonburra |
| 7. Ethel Perrott | 26. Nellie Keough/James, Merti/Bertie or
Peter |
| 8. Harry Maloon | 27. Nellie Williams |
| 9. Jack (Deinjo) Watson/Major | 28. Polly Hull |
| 10. Jack Robinson | 29. Polly Robinson (1) (aka Polly Ingham) or
her husband Mick Robinson |
| 11. Jerry Linedale or Maggie | 30. Polly Robson |
| 12. Jimmy Darcy or his wives Polly and Lassie
Darcy | 31. Romeo Robson (aka Robinson) or his wife
Topsy |
| 13. Jimmy Murray (aka Jimmy Minegan) or his
wives Jinnie (aka Jay Minigan) and
Misashay (aka Maryanne) | 32. Rosie Congoo |
| 14. Joe Robinson or Eva Robinson | 33. Sam Boyd |
| 15. Katie Cameron | 34. Toby and Polly |
| 16. King Jimmy Robertson/Robinson (aka
Jimmy King) or his wives Kitty Robertson
or Polly Malone | 35. Tommy Gardiner (aka Tommy Anderson) |
| 17. King Sandy Maynard or his wife Annie
Thomas | 36. Tommy Herberton's siblings |
| 18. Linda Duffin (aka Linda McGuire) | 37. Tommy Toombs or his wife Polly |
| 19. Lizzie Palmer, Maggie Cross or Mary Todd | 38. Una Woodleigh |
| | 39. Wanmal and Yugibidjal |
| | 40. Youall Biddy-Robinson or her husband
Tommy Herberton |
| | 41. Youall Biddy-Robinson's siblings |

If you have any questions about whether you are a member of the Jirrbal People #4 claim group as described above, please contact NQLC and ask to speak with anthropologist **Kara Dunn** by telephone on **(07) 4042 7000** or **Freecall 1800 814 779** or send an email to kdunn@nqlc.com.au.

To confirm your interest in attending this meeting, or to enquire about **travel assistance** please contact **Cherona Walker** at NQLC on **Freecall 1800 814 779** or **(07) 4042 7000** or cwalker@nqlc.com.au by no later than **5pm Monday, 3 March 2025**. Please note that there is limited funding available and any requests for travel assistance after this date will not be approved. All approvals for travel assistance are subject NQLC policy.

Notice of an application for determination
of native title in Western Australia

Notification day: 12 March 2025



National
Native Title
Tribunal

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 11 June 2025**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **11 June 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: Raphael Sampi & Ors on behalf of the Ngunjuwarr Claim Group v State of Western Australia

Federal Court File No: WAD275/2024

Date filed: 27 September 2024

Registration test status: The Native Title Registrar has **accepted** this application for registration

Description of area: The application area covers about 961 sq km and is located approx. 72 km south west of Kununurra

Relevant LGA: Shire of Wyndham – East Kimberley

For assistance and any further information about this application, including the description of the area, call Claire Smith on 08 6137 5333 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

Notice of non-claimant applications
for determinations of native title in
New South Wales

Notification day: 12 March 2025



National
Native Title
Tribunal

'Non-claimant' applications have been made to the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) seeking determinations that native title does not exist in the areas described below. The Applicants have non-native title interests in these areas, which are set out in their applications and summarised below.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), there can be only one determination of native title for an area. Unless there are relevant native title claims, as defined in section 24FE, over the areas described below on or before **11 June 2025**, the areas may be subject to protection under section 24FA and **acts may be done which extinguish or otherwise affect native title**.

A person who claims to hold native title rights and interests in any of these areas may wish to file a native title claimant application or become a party to the non-claimant application. These may be the only opportunities to have those rights and interests taken into account in the Federal Court's determination. Any other person may also wish to become a party.

If you want to become a party to any of these applications, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, **on or before 11 June 2025**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **11 June 2025**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.



Applicant's name: Warringah Gravel & Stone Supplies Pty Ltd (ACN 003 293 383)

Federal Court File No: NSD1734/2024

Non-native title interest: The applicant is the registered holder of Crown Lease AF208124V over Lot 2 on DP1139826 with the State of New South Wales

Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks a determination that native title does not exist in the land described as Lot 2 on DP1139826 and located at Belrose, in the local government area of the Northern Beaches, parish of Manly Cove, county of Cumberland, State of New South Wales

Description of area: The application area covers about 5.6 ha and is located over Lot 2 on DP1139826 in the suburb of Belrose

Relevant LGA: Northern Beaches Council



Applicant's name: John Willoughby

Federal Court File No: NSD1735/2024

Non-native title interest: The applicant is the registered proprietor of Lot 1090 on DP755808 and Lot 1144 on DP728612, and holds a licence over lot 1145 on DP728612. The applicant erected a heavy-duty vehicular crossing and culvert permitting vehicular traffic across the 'Drainage Reserve' between Lot 1090 on DP755808 and Lot 1144 on DP755808

Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks a determination that native title does not exist in relation to all the land and waters within that area described as 'Drainage Reserve' on DP728612

Description of area: The application area covers about 1.1 ha and is located over the 'Drainage Reserve' on DP728612 in the vicinity of Acacia Industrial Park, Armidale

Relevant LGA: Armidale Regional Council

For assistance and any further information about these applications, including the description of the area, call Huia McGrath on 08 6317 5442 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

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FEATURE

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Heritage Act 1977

Notice of intention to consider listing on the State Heritage Register

The Heritage Council of NSW maintains the State Heritage Register which is a list of places of particular importance to the people of NSW, including Aboriginal and other heritage.

The Heritage Council is currently considering whether or not to recommend the listing of the following place on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgment of its heritage significance.

Yurulbin Park and Foreshore, Birchgrove

Written submissions on this listing are invited from any interested person by Saturday 12 April 2025. Enquiries to Stuart Read on (02) 9873 8500.

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

See more details about the nominated place at environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/request-a-heritage-listing/nominate-an-item-for-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/comment-on-nominations

Make your submission at: haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/birchgrove

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

NOTICE OF
TAUNGURUNG
NATIVE TITLE
MEETING

Saturday 8 March 2025
Broadford Town Hall

This notice is to advise that Taungurung Land and Waters Council (Aboriginal Corporation) (TLaWC) and First Nations Legal & Research Services (FNLRS) will be organising an important Taungurung meeting to be held on 8 March 2025.

The Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of this meeting is to provide information about the process of making a native title determination application (native title claim) to the Federal Court under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) and to provide an opportunity for Taungurung People to discuss whether they wish to make a native title claim. This is not a decision-making meeting – it is an opportunity for Taungurung People to ask questions and provide feedback.

Who is invited to the meeting

All Taungurung People are invited to attend this important meeting.

Please update your contact details with FNLRS to be notified of all future native title meetings. If you would like further information about this meeting or are not able to attend this meeting in person and would like to meet at a different time, please contact FNLRS.

Meeting time and location

Date:	Saturday, 8 March 2025
Time:	10 am – 3 pm
Location:	Broadford Town Hall 20 Murchison Street, Broadford, Victoria
FNLRS Contact Person:	Toby-Lee Kirby (Senior Community Liaison Officer)
Phone number:	0434 632 875
Email address:	Tobylee.Kirby@fnlrs.com.au

Limited funding for travel and accommodation is available for this meeting. Travel assistance will be provided by FNLRS in accordance with the FNLRS Travel Assistance Policy: <https://www.fnlrs.com.au/policies>. Please contact Toby-Lee Kirby on the contact details above to confirm whether you will be attending the meeting, and to request any travel assistance by 28 February 2025.

Notice of an application to register an area agreement on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements in New South Wales

Notification day: 5 March 2025



NI2024/003 Wangkumarra Kawalanyi Land Use Agreement
Description of the agreement area:

The agreement area covers about 5,941 sq km and is located in northwest New South Wales, adjoining the Queensland State border in the vicinity of Tibooburra

Relevant LGA: Unincorporated - Far West Area

The agreement contains the following statements:

[Explanatory notes in brackets inserted by the National Native Title Tribunal]

Right to negotiate

5.3 For the purposes of section 24EB(1)(c) of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) nothing in this Agreement affects the right to negotiate under Subdivision P of Division 3 of Part 2 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth).

Validation

[Clauses 5.4 to 5.9 provide that ss 19, 22F, 24EBA(1)(a)(i) and 24EBA(3) of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) and ss 8, 8A and 30 of the Native Title (New South Wales) Act 1993 (NSW) apply to validate all past acts, all intermediate period acts and all future acts (other than intermediate period acts) attributable to the State, that s 24EB(2) of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) applies to all future acts done in relation to land or waters in the native title area on or after the date that this Agreement is registered (provided any future act is in accordance with the procedures set out in the agreement or the relevant Native Title Act), that s 24EB(2A) of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) applies where the details of this Agreement are removed from the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements and that s 24EBA(7) of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) applies to not affect the validity of any future act done under this Agreement.]

Non-extinguishment principle

5.10 Section 24EB(3) of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) and section 30(3) of the Native Title (New South Wales) Act 1994 (NSW) apply to certain acts carried out in accordance with this Agreement.

5.11 Section 24EBA(4) of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) and section 30(3) of the Native Title (New South Wales) Act 1994 (NSW) apply to certain acts undertaken before this Agreement is registered.

Public works

5.13 Section 24EBA(1)(a)(i) of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), Regulation 7(5)(d) of the Native Title (Indigenous Land Use Agreements) Regulations 1999 (Cth) and section 30 of the Native Title (New South Wales) Act 1994 (NSW) apply to validate all public works, attributable to the State, that were constructed or established before the date this Agreement is registered (including those identified in the NSW determination), other than intermediate period acts, and such public works which have extinguished native title in relation to: (a) the land or waters on which the public works which were, or are, situated; and (b) adjacent land or waters, the use of which is or was necessary for, or incidental to, the construction, establishment or operation of the public works.

5.14 All public works that were constructed or established on land or waters in the native title area on and after the execution date and before this Agreement is registered, are valid to the extent they are constructed or established invalidly because of the existence of native title, provided that they are constructed or established in accordance with the procedures set out in this Agreement or in the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth).

Other future acts

5.16 Division 3 of Part 2 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) applies to any future act not covered by Schedule C (Alternative future acts regime).

[Clause 18.2 Definitions:] Crown land has the meaning given Division 1.3 of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (NSW) and includes: (a) any land dedicated for a public purpose; or (b) any land dedicated as a State Forest under Division 1 of Part 3 of the Forestry Act 2012 (NSW). future act has the meaning given by section 233 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), but does not include a future act done by the Commonwealth. Local Land Services means the NSW agency created pursuant to Part 2 of the Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) and includes officers and employees of the State who carry out functions and duties pursuant to that Act. Minister means the Minister allocated, from time to time, with responsibility for the administration of a NSW law under section 50B of the Constitution Act 1902 (NSW). NSW agency means [the Ministers administering and with relevant responsibilities under the Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW), Crown Land Management Act 2016 (NSW), National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW), National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW) and Local Land Services where its functions relate to local land services and State priorities for local land services under the Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW), and includes officers and employees of relevant NSW agencies]. NSW laws means any law in force in the State of New South Wales, and includes the common law, legislation, a statutory rule, statutory instruments and environmental planning instruments. registered, when used in the context of an Indigenous land use agreement, means the entry of an Indigenous land use agreement, including this Agreement, by the Registrar on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements established and maintained under Part 8A of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth). State means the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales and includes: (a) any Minister or NSW agency; and (b) any person or entity acting for or on behalf of the State; unless the context or terms of a provision in the Agreement requires otherwise; and also includes: (c) any State-owned corporations created under a NSW law, for the purposes of clause 9 (Compensation) of this Agreement.

Parties to the agreement and their contact addresses:

Clancy John McKellar, Iona Dawn Smith, Ernest (Hope) Ebsworth, Rosemary (Rose) Anne Wilson, Margaret Anne Collins, Sharlene Louise Knight, Archie Alfred Ebsworth, Norman John Hodge, Jacqueline Elizabeth Hill, on behalf of the Wongkumara People as the applicant in Federal Court (proceedings No QUD851 of 2018) (Applicant)

AND

Wangkumarra Kawalanyi Aboriginal Corporation, ICN 7384 (RNTBC)

c/- Eddy Neumann Lawyers
255 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Attorney General of New South Wales (as the State Minister under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth))
Minister for the Environment (as the Minister administering the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW))
Minister for Agriculture (as the Minister administering the Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW))
Minister for Lands and Property (as the Minister administering the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (NSW))
Chief Executive Officer of Local Land Services
c/- NSW Crown Solicitor's Office
GPO Box 25
Sydney NSW 2001

Responses to an application to register an ILUA—where the application has not been certified:

Any person claiming to hold native title in relation to land or waters in the area covered by the agreement may wish, in response to this notice, to make a native title determination application or equivalent application under a law of a state or territory in respect of any part of the area. The application must be made by 5 June 2025. If that application is registered on the Register of Native Title Claims, the registered native title claimants must be a party to this agreement before it can be registered.

Details of the terms of the agreement are not available from the National Native Title Tribunal.

For assistance and any further information about this application, including the description of the area, call Claire Smith on 08 6317 5333 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

For all your advertising needs email: advertising@koorimail.com





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
29/993	AURENNE MIT PTY LTD	724450	7.60HA	84.8km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 5' S: Long: 120° 28' E	MENZIES SHIRE
29/1130	AURENNE MIT PTY LTD	724451	27.62HA	83.8km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 6' S: Long: 120° 29' E	MENZIES SHIRE
57/1057	GATEWAY PROJECTS WA PTY LTD	723052	128.09HA	48.1km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 34' S: Long: 119° 28' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of amalgamation applications which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals.
Notification day: 26 February 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 **26 May 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. **26 June 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_25245

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email: advertising@koorimail.com



Australian Government
National Indigenous
Australians Agency



Youpla Support Program – free financial counselling in Armidale and Tamworth

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 Armidale and Tamworth to provide financial counselling to former Youpla members in early March.
You can find out more on the Mob Strong Facebook page.

0589NS_5448



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The National Parks and Wildlife Service are seeking expressions of interest from Monero/Ngarigo community members to join the Southern Snowy Mountains Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee to provide advice on the management of the southern part of Kosciuszko National Park and nearby conservation reserves.
Expressions of interest close 16 March 2025.
For an EOI information package please email: npws.southernrangesbranch@environment.nsw.gov.au

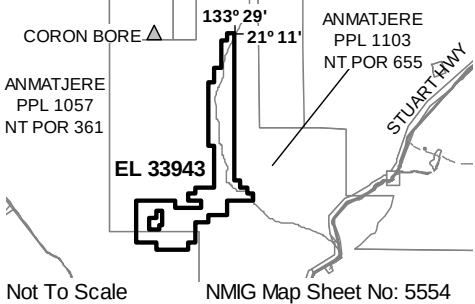
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION LICENCES

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

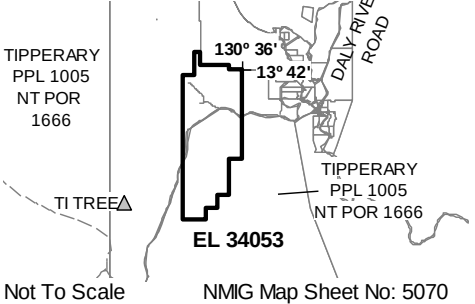
The Honourable Gerard Maley MLA, the Northern Territory Minister for Mining and Energy, C/- Department of Mining and Energy, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) of his intent to do an act, namely to grant the following exploration licence applications.

Applications to which this notice applies:

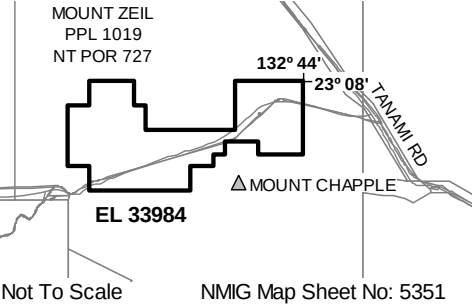
Exploration Licence 33943 sought by BAUDIN RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 618 455 593 over an area of 153 Blocks (484 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the ANNINGIE locality.



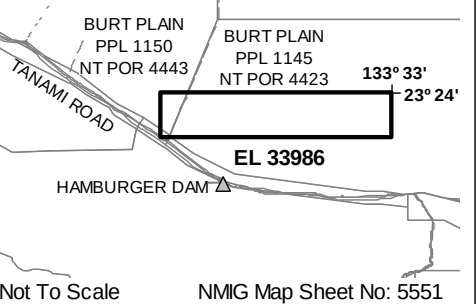
Exploration Licence 34053 sought by CORNERSTONE METALS PTY LTD, ACN 680 560 089 over an area of 57 Blocks (187 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the DALY RIVER locality.



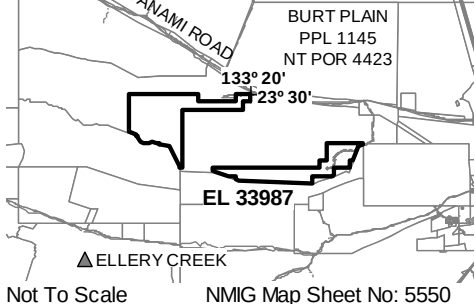
Exploration Licence 33984 sought by MOONLIGHT RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 678 095 273 over an area of 116 Blocks (367 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the GLEN HELEN locality.



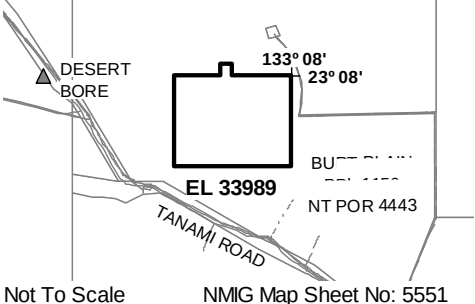
Exploration Licence 33986 sought by MOONLIGHT RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 678 095 273 over an area of 51 Blocks (161 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the ANBURLA locality.



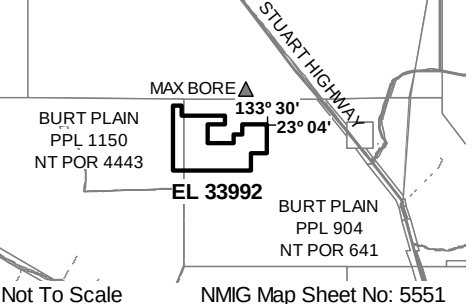
Exploration Licence 33987 sought by MOONLIGHT RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 678 095 273 over an area of 98 Blocks (282 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the MACDONNELL RANGES locality.



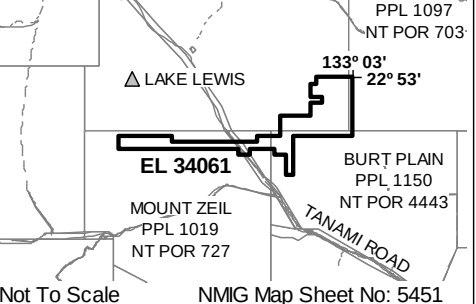
Exploration Licence 33989 sought by PIETROVIN CONSULTANTS PTY LTD, ACN 163 916 998 over an area of 71 Blocks (225 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the ANBURLA locality.



Exploration Licence 33992 sought by PIETROVIN CONSULTANTS PTY LTD, ACN 163 916 998 over an area of 51 Blocks (162 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the ANBURLA locality.



Exploration Licence 34061 sought by PIETROVIN CONSULTANTS PTY LTD, ACN 163 916 998 over an area of 127 Blocks (402 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the NARWIETOOMA 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: 26 FEBRUARY 2025



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	08/3761	KARRATHA GOLD PTY LTD	40BL	36.1km SE'ly of Onslow	Lat: 21° 55' S: Long: 115° 16' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/3762	KARRATHA GOLD PTY LTD	22BL	49.6km SE'ly of Onslow	Lat: 21° 52' S: Long: 115° 31' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/3763	KARRATHA GOLD PTY LTD	32BL	43.6km E'ly of Onslow	Lat: 21° 45' S: Long: 115° 30' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/3767	A.C.N. 629 923 753 PTY LTD	25BL	58.2km SE'ly of Onslow	Lat: 21° 54' S: Long: 115° 35' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/3768	A.C.N. 629 923 753 PTY LTD	79BL	77.4km SW'ly of Pannawonica	Lat: 22° 5' S: Long: 115° 45' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/3769	A.C.N. 629 923 753 PTY LTD	11BL	57.2km SW'ly of Pannawonica	Lat: 22° 0' S: Long: 115° 55' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/3770	A.C.N. 629 923 753 PTY LTD	4BL	69.5km SE'ly of Onslow	Lat: 21° 56' S: Long: 115° 42' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	27/745	HEAVY METAL EXPLORATION PTY LTD	8BL	35.1km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 31' S: Long: 121° 43' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	36/1115	TECHGEN BBG PTY LTD	38BL	44.1km SW'ly of Leinster	Lat: 28° 16' S: Long: 120° 30' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3241	NIMY PTY LTD	6BL	111km NE'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat: 30° 0' S: Long: 118° 42' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3243	AUSTRALIA MINERAL PROSPECTS PTY LTD	42BL	161.5km W'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 37' S: Long: 119° 22' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	80/6063	VERKUYLEN, Anthony Dirk	3BL	21.4km SE'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 23' S: Long: 127° 45' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Exploration Licence	80/6099	BLAIS, Luke Thomas	12BL	32.9km W'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 20' S: Long: 127° 22' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	26/4776	PASKOV, Steven James	6.78HA	6.6km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 48' S: Long: 121° 27' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY

Nature of the act: Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.
Notification day: 26 February 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 **26 May 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. **26 June 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.

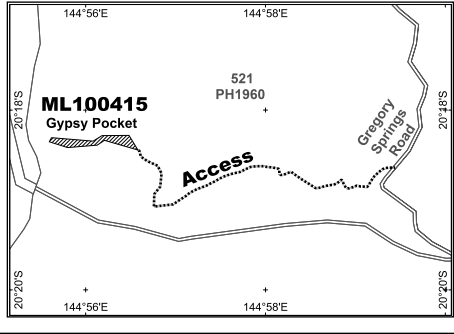
* - 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km²

DMIRS_25244

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF A MINING LEASE
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed grant of Mining Lease (ML) shown below, subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

ML 100415 applied for by Clyde Ian Doxford, over an area of 23.86 ha, centred approximately 54km north west of Pentland, in the locality of Charters Towers Regional Council.



Nature of Act(s): The grant of a Mining Lease under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) authorises the holder to mine and carry out associated activities subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) for a term not exceeding ten (10) years, with the possibility of renewals for a term not exceeding ten (10) years. The grant of the Mining Lease includes the granting of access as shown in the graphics.

Name and address of person doing acts: It is proposed that the Mining Lease be granted subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) by the Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

Native Title Parties: Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) any person who is a “native title party” is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed grant of a Mining Lease. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after the Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties

in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: 1300 720 980 or Email: nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au. Enquiries in relation to the registration of a native title determination application may be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Brisbane Registry, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 30524040.

Further Information: May be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development, Mineral Assessment Hub, Level 9, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders Street, Townsville, Queensland, 4810. Telephone: (07) 4447 9230 or Email: MineralHub@resources.qld.gov.au

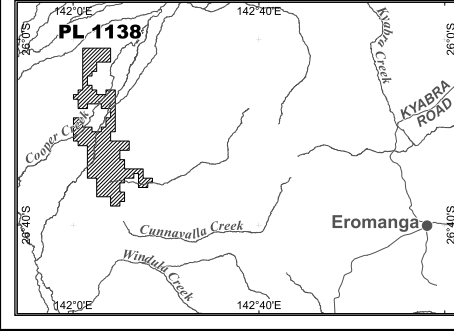
Notification Day: 12 March 2025



NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF A PETROLEUM LEASE
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing, Minister for Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed grant of Petroleum Lease (PL) 1138 shown below, subject to the provisions of the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* (Qld).

PL 1138 applied for by Santos Limited ACN: 007550923, Delhi Petroleum Pty. Ltd. ACN: 007854686, Beach Energy (Operations) Limited ACN: 007 845 338, Vamgas Pty Ltd ACN: 006245110 and Santos Australian Hydrocarbons Pty Ltd ACN: 010850487 over an area of 196 S/blocks [approx. 601.47ha], centred approximately 121 km West North West of Eromanga, in the locality of Barcoo Shire Council and Quilpie Shire Council.



Nature of Act(s): The grant of a Petroleum Lease under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* (Qld), authorises the holder explore for, develop and produce commercial quantities of petroleum for a maximum term not exceeding twenty-five (25) years with the possibility of renewals for terms not exceeding twenty-five (25) years.

Name and address of person doing acts: It is proposed that the Petroleum Lease be granted subject to the provisions of the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* (Qld) by the Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing, Minister for Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

Native Title Parties: Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) any person who is a “native title party” is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed grant of a Petroleum Lease. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after the Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title

determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: 1300 720 980 or Email: nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au. Enquiries in relation to the registration of a native title determination application may be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Brisbane Registry, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

Further information: May be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing, Regional and Rural Development, Level 4, 1 William Street, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3199 8119 or Email: petroleumhub@resources.qld.gov.au

Notification Day: 12 March 2025



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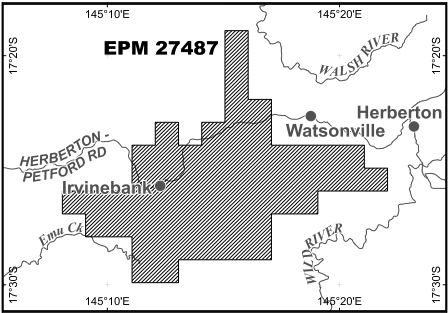


NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION PERMIT FOR MINERALS

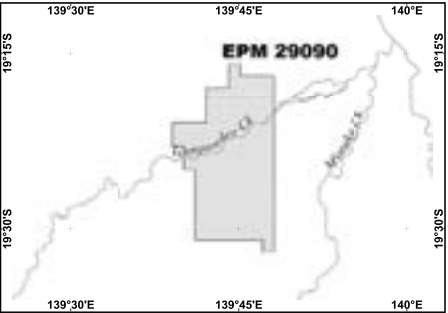
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals (EPM) shown below, subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

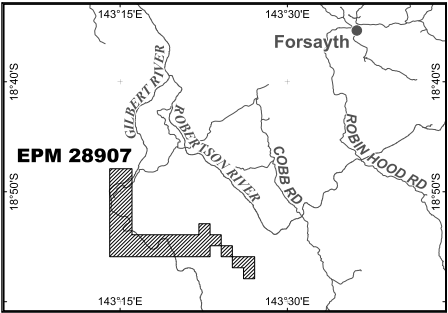
EPM 27487 applied for by EPM 14880 PTY LTD, ACN 602 568 678, over an area of 57 sub-blocks (186 km²), centred approximately 6 km East of Irvinebank, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council and Tablelands Regional Council.



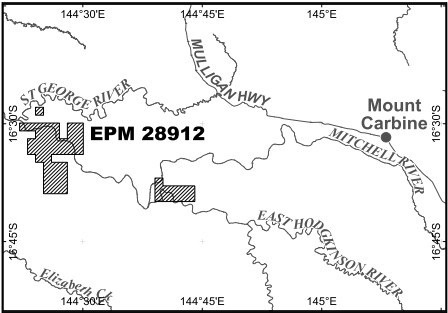
EPM 29090 applied for by TNC MINING PTY LTD, ACN 652 408 378, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (47.42 km²), centred approximately 45.88 km South-West of St Lawrence, in the locality of Burke Shire Council and Cloncurry Shire Council.



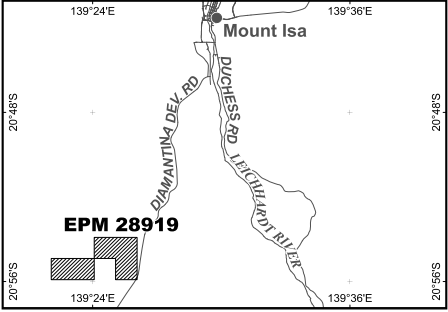
EPM 28907 applied for by Peter Paul Frederick ESCRIVA, over an area of 36 sub-blocks (117km²), centred approximately 45 km South-West of Forsyth, in the locality of the Etheridge Shire Council.



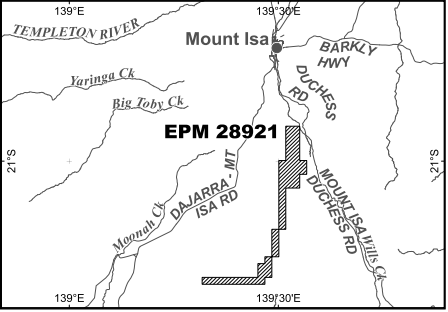
EPM 28912 applied for by HARDROCK MINERAL EXPLORATION PTY LTD, ACN 646 002 888, over an area of 52 sub-blocks (190 km²), non-contiguous over three areas, centred approximately 64 km West of Mount Carbine, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.



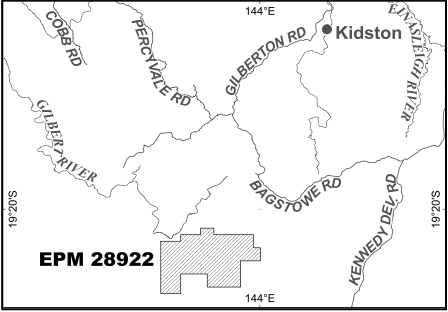
EPM 28919 applied for by SYBELLA MINERALS PTY LTD, ACN 661 557 651, over an area of 5 sub-blocks (16km²), centred approximately 23.2 km South-Southwest of Mount Isa, in the locality of the Boulia Shire Council and Mount Isa City Council.



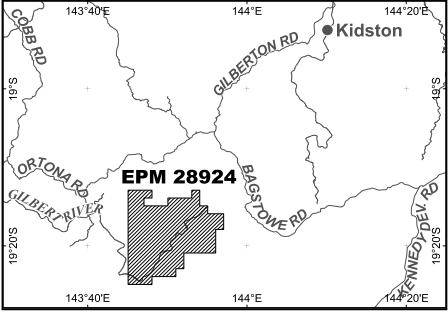
EPM 28921 applied for by HAMMER BULK COMMODITIES PTY LTD, ACN 600 367 477, over an area of 48 sub-blocks (153 km²), centred approximately 43 km South of Mount Isa, in the locality of the Boulia Shire Council and Cloncurry Shire Council.



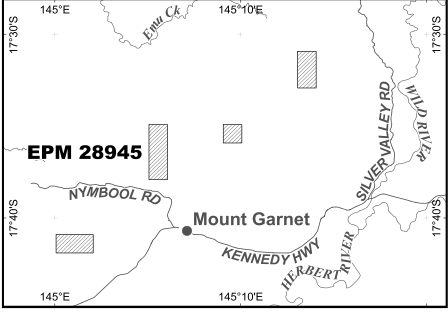
EPM 28922 applied for by COOPER METALS LIMITED, ACN 647 594 956, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (323 km²), centred approximately 76 km South-West of Kidston, in the locality of the Etheridge Shire Council.



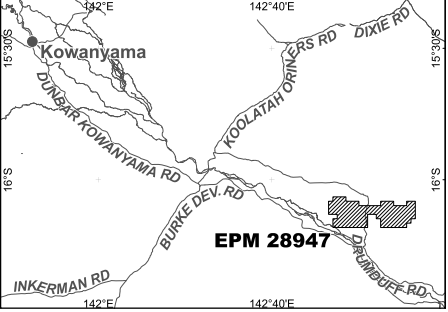
EPM 28924 applied for by COOPER METALS LIMITED, ACN 647 594 956, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (323 km²), centred approximately 60 km South-West of Kidston, in the locality of the Etheridge Shire Council.



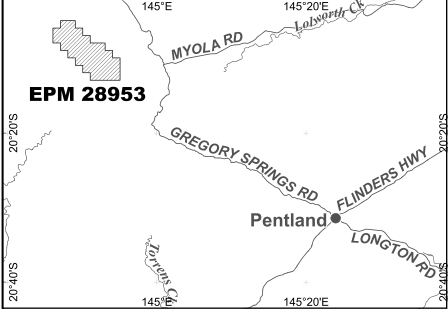
EPM 28945 applied for by HUNTRE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD, ACN 620 809 467, over an area of 8 sub-blocks (26 km²), non-contiguous over four areas, centred approximately 8 km North of Mount Garnet, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council and Tablelands Regional Council.



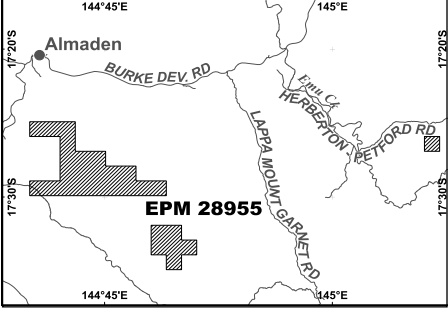
EPM 28947 applied for by BLUEY BEEMAN PTY LTD, ACN 654 910 040, Mayra Eugenia FOSTER and Stuart Valentine FOSTER, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (329 km²), centred approximately 157 km South-East of Kowanyama, in the locality of the Cook Shire Council and Mareeba Shire Council.



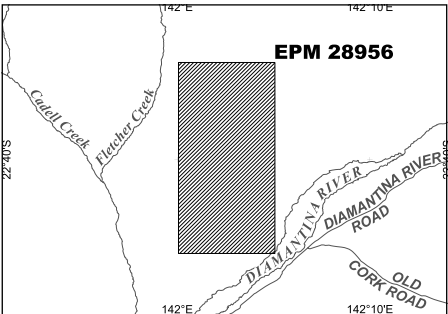
EPM 28953 applied for by KYNNUNA MINERALS PTY LTD, ACN 672 354 237, over an area of 38 sub-blocks (122 km²), centred approximately 76 km North-West of Pentland, in the locality of the Charters Towers Regional Council and Flinders Shire Council.



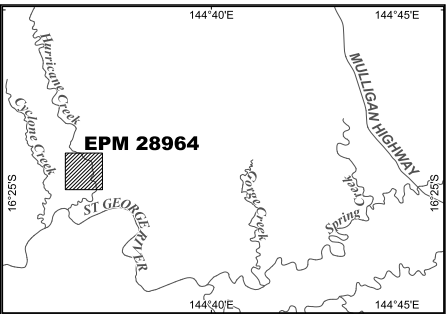
EPM 28955 applied for by QUEENSLAND STRATEGIC METALS PTY LTD, ACN: 605 093 703, over an area of 28 sub-blocks (91.4 km²), non-contiguous over three areas, centred approximately 30 km South-Southeast of Almaden, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.



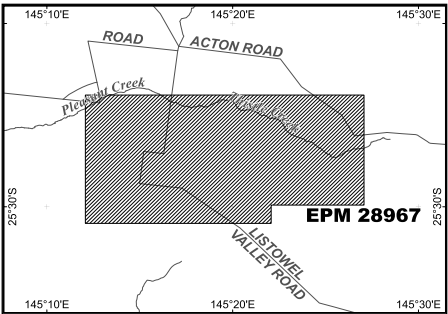
EPM 28956 applied for by Cameron Joseph SULLIVAN and Dean Andrew SULLIVAN, over an area of 50 sub-blocks (158.07 km²), centred approximately 106.89 km West-Southwest of Winton, in the locality of the Winton Shire Council.



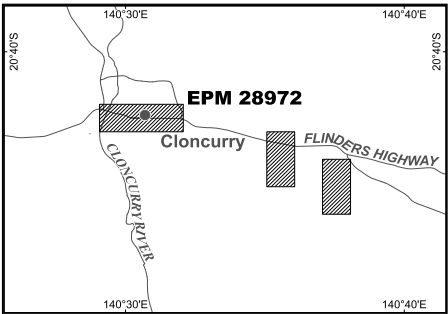
EPM 28964 applied for by Dennis David FITZGERALD and Donna FITZGERALD, over an area of 1 sub-blocks (3.28 km²), centred approximately 58 km West-Northwest of Mount Carbine, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.



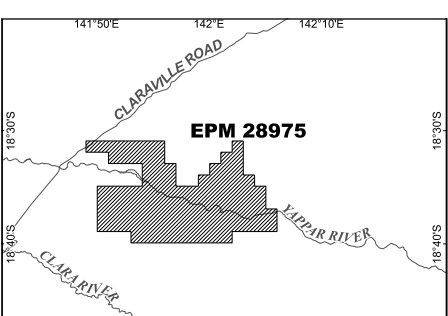
EPM 28967 applied for by META RENEWABLES PTY LTD, ACN 645 988 478, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (309.49 km²), centred approximately 88.08 km East-Northeast of Adavale, in the locality of the Blackall Tambo Regional Council and Quilpie Shire Council.



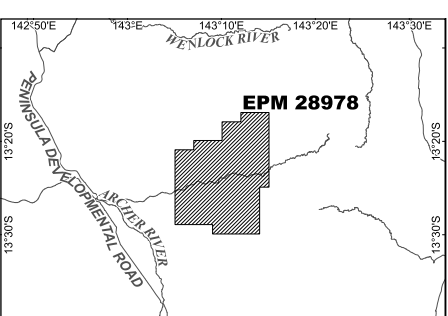
EPM 28972 applied for by RENEGADE EXPLORATION (QLD) PTY LTD, ACN 645 510 078, over an area of 7 sub-blocks (22 km²), non-contiguous over three areas, centred approximately 5 km East-Southeast of Cloncurry, in the locality of the Cloncurry Shire Council.



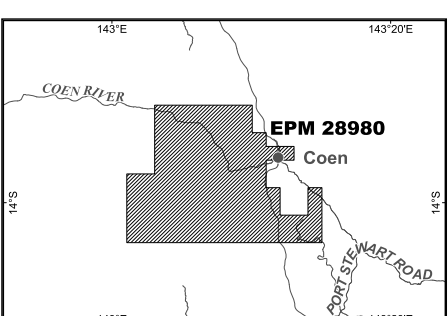
EPM 28975 applied for by GRAPHITE1 PTY LTD, ACN 673 299 306, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (324 km²), centred approximately 53 km South-West of Croydon, in the locality of the Croydon Shire Council.



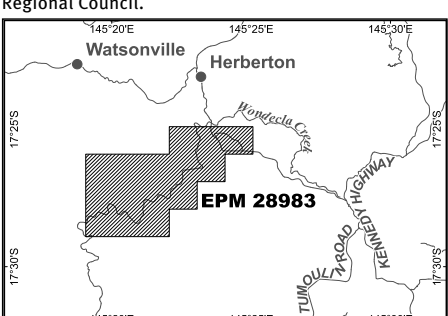
EPM 28978 applied for by SBR CRITICAL MINERALS PTY LTD, ACN 673 098 023, over an area of 102 sub-blocks (340 km²), centred approximately 62 km North of Coen, in the locality of the Cook Shire Council.



EPM 28980 applied for by SBR CRITICAL MINERALS PTY LTD, ACN 673 098 023, over an area of 102 sub-blocks (339 km²), centred approximately 8 km West-Southwest of Coen, in the locality of the Cook Shire Council.



EPM 28983 applied for by PROMETHEUS METALS PTY LTD, ACN 670 591 885, over an area of 15 sub-blocks (49 km²), centred approximately 7 km South-Southwest of Herberton, in the locality of the Tablelands Regional Council.



Nature of Act(s): The grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld), authorises the holder to explore for minerals for a term not exceeding five (5) years with the possibility of renewal for a term not exceeding five (5) years. It is proposed to grant and renew the Exploration Permit for Minerals subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) and the Native Title Protection Conditions.

Name and Address of person doing Act(s): It is proposed that the Exploration Permit for Minerals be granted subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) by the Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

Native Title Parties: Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) any person who is a 'native title party' is entitled to certain rights in relation to the Exploration Permit for Minerals and the proposed grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3248 1100 or Email: qldreg@fedcourt.gov.au.

Further information: May be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development, Mineral Assessment Hub, Level 9, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders Street, Townsville, Queensland, 4810. Telephone: (07) 4447 9230 or Email: MineralHub@resources.qld.gov.au.

Expedited Procedure: The State of Queensland considers the grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals to which this notice applies, is an act attracting the Expedited Procedure. The Exploration Permit for Minerals may be granted unless, within a period of four (4) months after the Notification Day a native title party lodges an objection in respect of the individual Exploration Permit for Minerals with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of that Exploration Permit for Minerals is a future act attracting the Expedited Procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

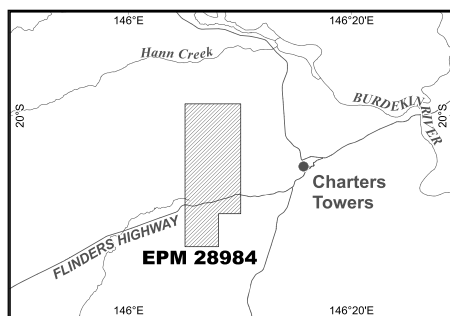
Notification Day: 12 March 2025

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION PERMIT FOR MINERALS

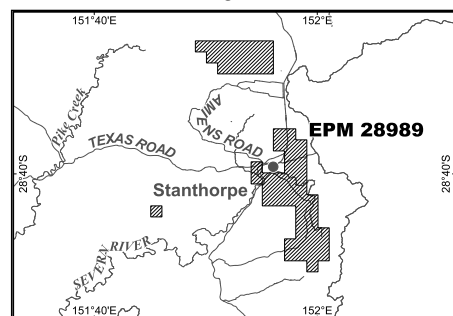
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals (EPM) shown below, subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

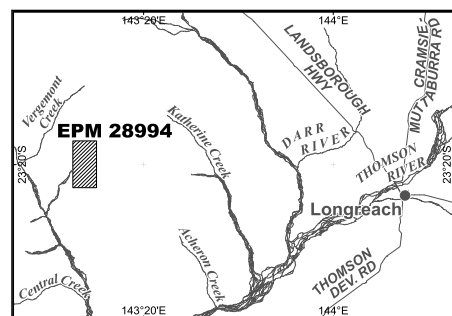
EPM 28984 applied for by MOUNTAINBLUE MINERAL PTY LTD, ACN 669 098 766, over an area of 59 sub-blocks (190 km²), centred approximately 14 km West of Charters Towers, in the locality of the Charters Towers Regional Council.



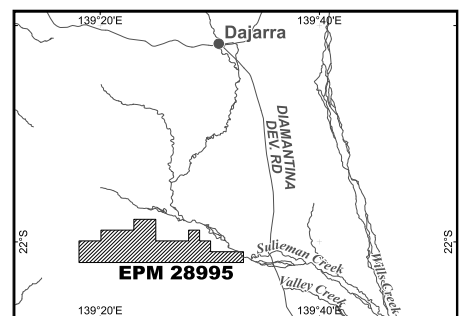
EPM 28989 applied for by FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 095 546 428, over an area of 59 sub-blocks (178 km²), non-contiguous over three areas, centred approximately 6 km West of Stanthorpe, in the locality of the Southern Downs Regional Council.



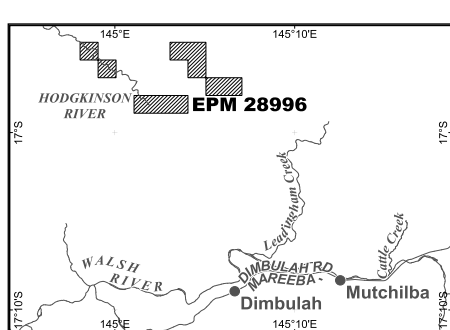
EPM 28994 applied for by WHS INVESTMENTS QLD PTY LTD, ACN 617 428 074, over an area of 50 sub-blocks (157 km²), centred approximately 117 km West-Northwest of Longreach, in the locality of the Longreach Regional Council.



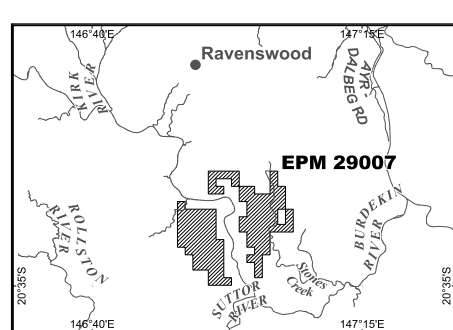
EPM 28995 applied for by XIRLATEM PROJECTS (QLD) PTY LTD, ACN 663 916 630, over an area of 35 sub-blocks (111 km²), centred approximately 35 km South-Southwest of Dajarra, in the locality of the Boulia Shire Council and Cloncurry Shire Council.



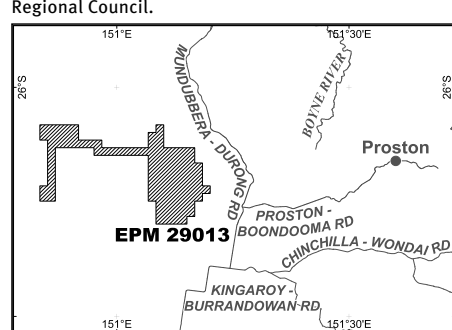
EPM 28996 applied for by Scott Troy DAVIS and Cameron John LOWE, over an area of 10 sub-blocks (33 km²), non-contiguous over three areas, centred approximately 24 km North-Northwest of Dimbulah, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.



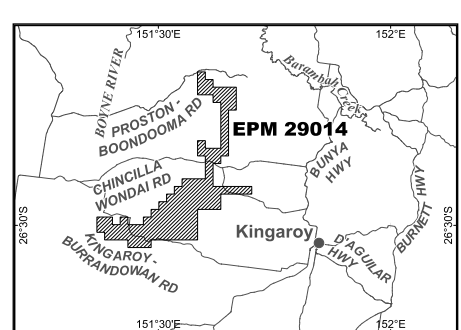
EPM 29007 applied for by RAVENSWOOD GOLD PTY LTD, ACN 637 527 309, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (321 km²), non-contiguous over 2 areas, centred approximately 39 km South-Southeast of Ravenswood, in the locality of the Charters Towers Regional Council.



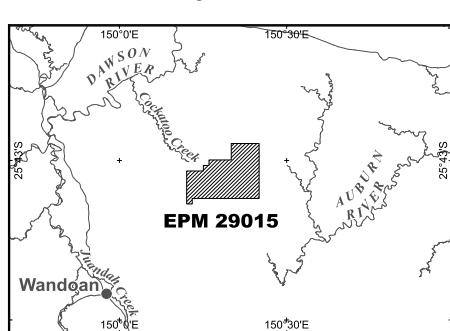
EPM 29013 applied for by MDI (QUEENSLAND) PTY LTD, ACN 674 872 541, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (308 km²), centred approximately 58 km West of Proston, in the locality of the North Burnett and South Burnett Regional Councils and Western Downs Regional Council.



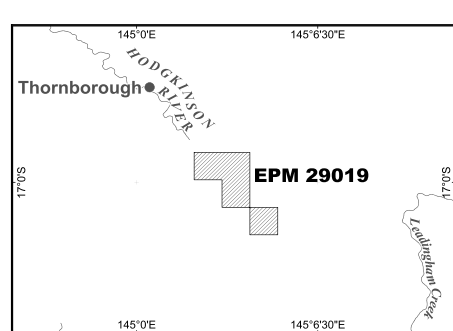
EPM 29014 applied for by MDI (QUEENSLAND) PTY LTD, ACN 674 872 541, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (307 km²), centred approximately 41 km North-West of Kingaroy, in the locality of the South Burnett Regional Council.



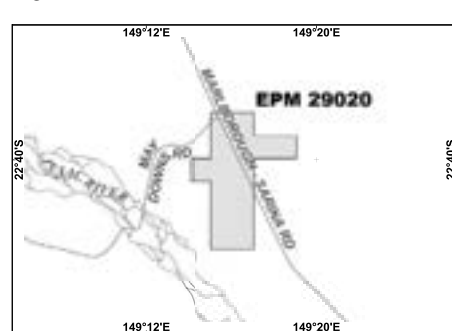
EPM 29015 applied for by MDI (QUEENSLAND) PTY LTD, ACN 674 872 541, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (309 km²), centred approximately 52 km North-East of Wandoan, in the locality of the Banana Shire Council and Western Downs Regional Council.



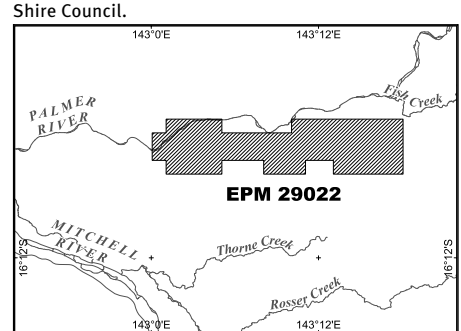
EPM 29019 applied for by Wayne Thomas SAUNDERS, over an area of 4 sub-blocks (13 km²), centred approximately 9 km South-East of Thornborough, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.



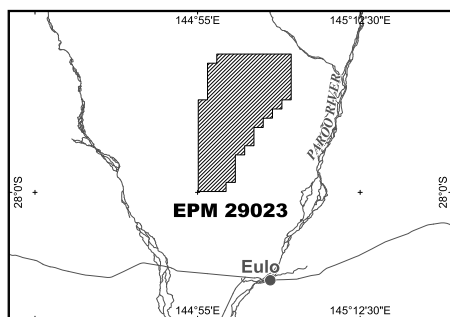
EPM 29020 applied for by ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI AUSTRALIA LIMITED, ACN 008 737 424, over an area of 15 sub-blocks (47.42 km²), centred approximately 45 km South-West of St Lawrence, in the locality of Isaac Regional Council.



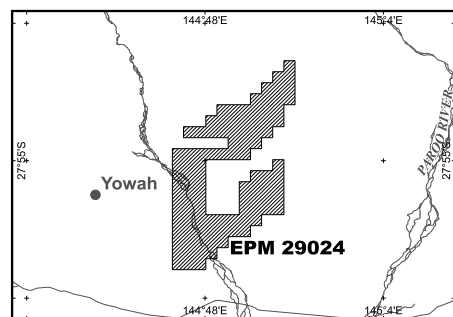
EPM 29022 applied for by Roland Tristan FIELDEN, Mayra Eugenia FOSTER and Stuart Valentine FOSTER, over an area of 60 sub-blocks (197 km²), centred approximately 149 km South-West of Laura, in the locality of the Cook Shire Council and Mareeba Shire Council.



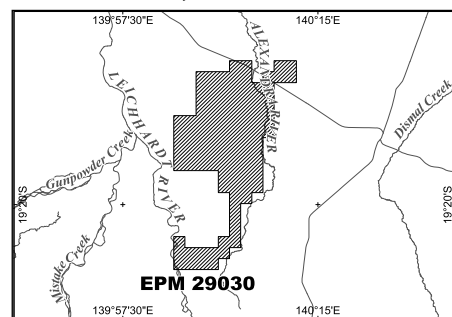
EPM 29023 applied for by BMJ EXPLORATION PTY LTD, ACN 660 279 738, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (303 km²), centred approximately 34 km North-Northwest of Eulo, in the locality of the Paroo Shire Council.



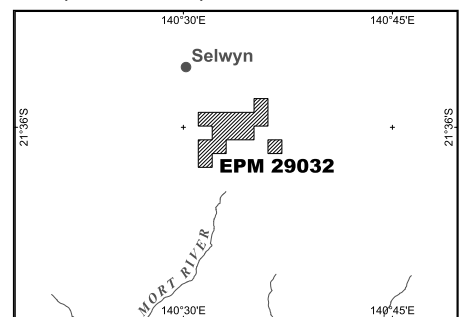
EPM 29024 applied for by BMJ EXPLORATION PTY LTD, ACN 660 279 738, over an area of 99 sub-blocks (300 km²), centred approximately 20 km East-Northeast of Yowah, in the locality of the Paroo Shire Council.



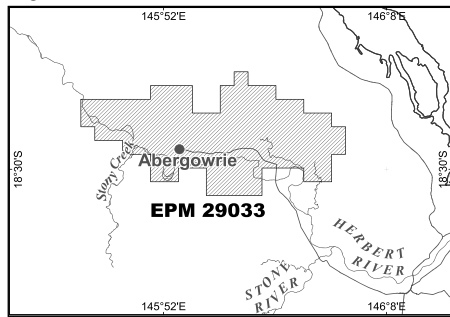
EPM 29030 applied for by FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 095 546 428, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (323 km²), centred approximately 63 km North of Dobbyn, in the locality of the Burke Shire Council and Cloncurry Shire Council.



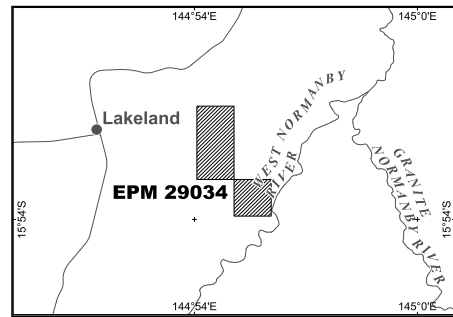
EPM 29032 applied for by COOPER METALS LIMITED, ACN 647 594 956, over an area of 13 sub-blocks (41 km²), non-contiguous over two areas, centred approximately 12 km South-East of Selwyn, in the locality of the Cloncurry Shire Council.



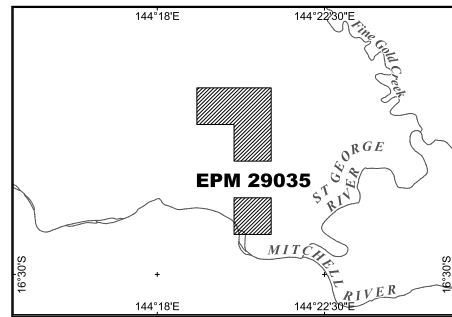
EPM 29033 applied for by TRIMURTI RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 676 668 170, over an area of 99 sub-blocks (322 km²), centred approximately 4 km North-East of Abergowrie, in the locality of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council and Hinchinbrook Shire Council.



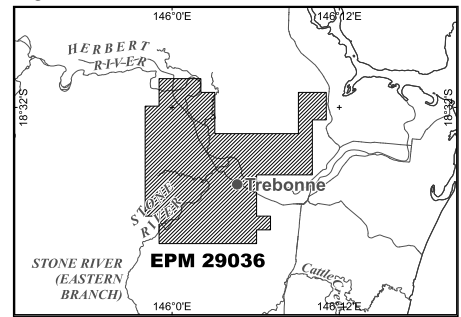
EPM 29034 applied for by Graham Edward ELMES, over an area of 3 sub-blocks (10 km²), centred approximately 7 km South-East of Lakeland, in the locality of the Cook Shire Council.



EPM 29035 applied for by Kay Frances FITZGERALD, over an area of 4 sub-blocks (13 km²), non-contiguous over two areas, centred approximately 83 km North of Chillagoe, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.



EPM 29036 applied for by TRIMURTI RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 676 668 170, over an area of 97 sub-blocks (315 km²), centred approximately 3 km North-West of Trebonne, in the locality of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council and Hinchinbrook Shire Council.



Nature of Act(s): The grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld), authorises the holder to explore for minerals for a term not exceeding five (5) years with the possibility of renewal for a term not exceeding five (5) years. It is proposed to grant and renew the Exploration Permit for Minerals subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) and the Native Title Protection Conditions.

Name and Address of person doing Act(s): It is proposed that the Exploration Permit for Minerals be granted subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) by the Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

Native Title Parties: Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) any person who is a 'native title party' is entitled to certain rights in relation to the Exploration Permit for Minerals and the proposed grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3248 1100 or Email: qldreg@fedcourt.gov.au.

Further information: May be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development, Mineral Assessment Hub, Level 9, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders Street, Townsville, Queensland, 4810. Telephone: (07) 4447 9230 or Email: MineralHub@resources.qld.gov.au.

Expedited Procedure: The State of Queensland considers the grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals to which this notice applies, is an act attracting the Expedited Procedure. The Exploration Permit for Minerals may be granted unless, within a period of four (4) months after the Notification Day a native title party lodges an objection in respect of the individual Exploration Permit for Minerals with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of that Exploration Permit for Minerals is a future act attracting the Expedited Procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

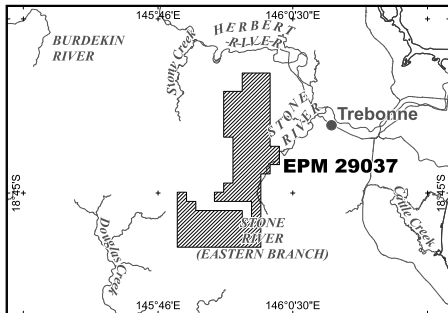
Notification Day: 12 March 2025

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION PERMIT FOR MINERALS AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT LICENCE

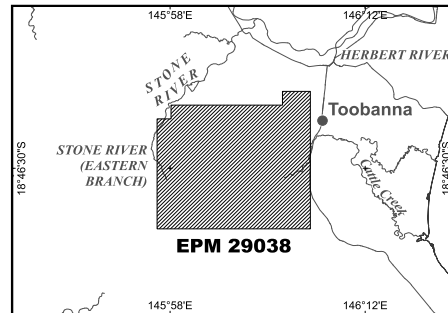
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals (EPM) and Mineral Development Licence (MDL) shown below, subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

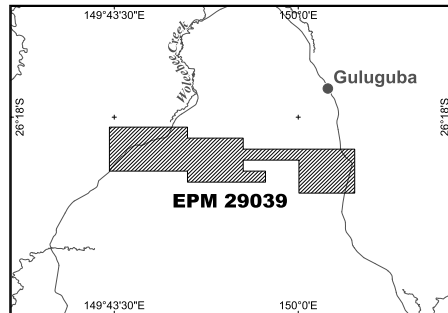
EPM 29037 applied for by TRIMURTI RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 676 668 170, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (324 km²), centred approximately 21 km South-West of Trebonne, in the locality of the Charters Towers Regional Council and Hinchinbrook Shire Council.



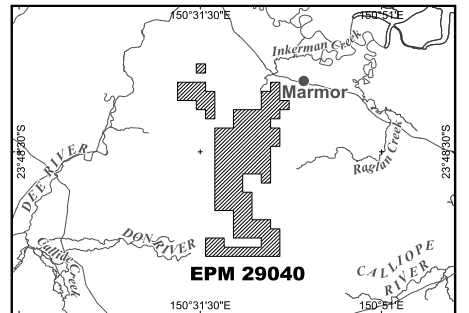
EPM 29038 applied for by TRIMURTI RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 676 668 170, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (324 km²), centred approximately 14 km South-West of Toobanna, in the locality of the Hinchinbrook Shire Council.



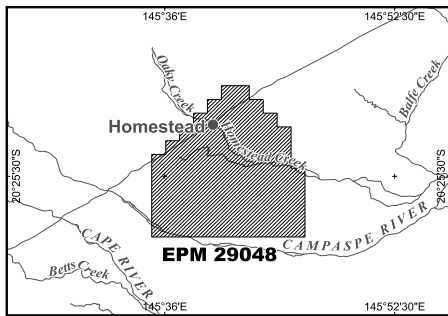
EPM 29039 applied for by BENTONITE INDUSTRIES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD, ACN 648 659 223, over an area of 75 sub-blocks (230 km²), centred approximately 18 km South-West of Guluguba, in the locality of the Maranoa Regional Council and Western Downs Regional Council.



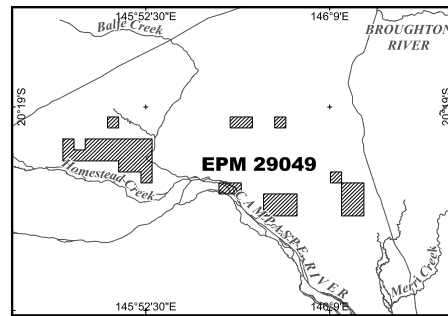
EPM 29040 applied for by PTR RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 153 851 702, over an area of 96 sub-blocks (301 km²), non-contiguous over three areas, centred approximately 22 km South-West of Marmor, in the locality of the Banana Shire Council, Gladstone Regional Council and Rockhampton Regional Council.



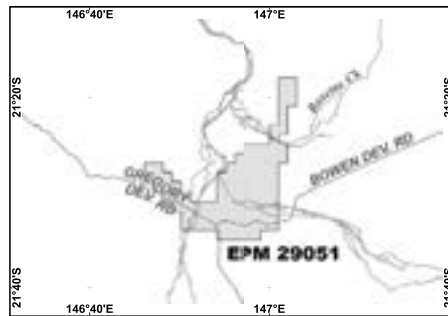
EPM 29048 applied for by SUNSHINE (RAVENSWOOD) PTY LTD, ACN 129 017 723, over an area of 94 sub-blocks (302 km²), centred approximately 32 km North-East of Pentland, in the locality of the Charters Towers Regional Council.



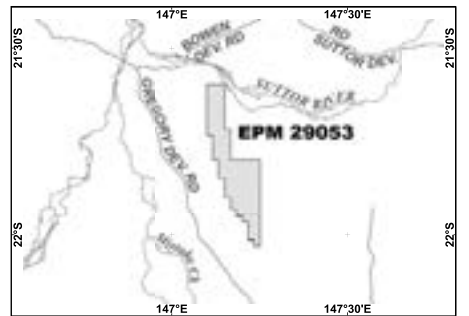
EPM 29049 applied for by SUNSHINE (RAVENSWOOD) PTY LTD, ACN 129 017 723, over an area of 38 sub-blocks (122 km²), non-contiguous over seven areas, centred approximately 44 km South-West of Charters Towers, in the locality of the Charters Towers Regional Council.



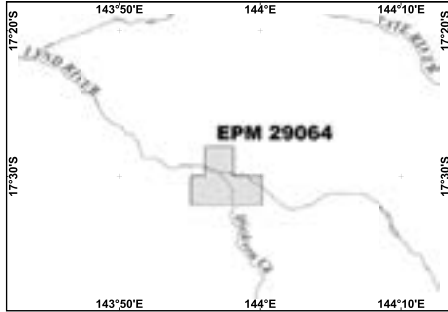
EPM 29051 applied for by ILLUMINATE GOLD PTY LTD, ACN 670 070 023, over an area of 99 sub-blocks (315.54 km²), centred approximately 46 km South-West of Mount Coolon, in the locality of Charters Regional Council, Isaac Regional Council and Whitsunday Regional Council.



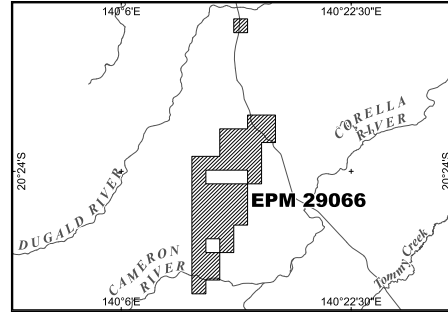
EPM 29053 applied for by ILLUMINATE GOLD PTY LTD, ACN 670 070 023, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (318.01 km²), centred approximately 52 km South-Southwest of Mount Coolon, in the locality of Isaac Regional Council.



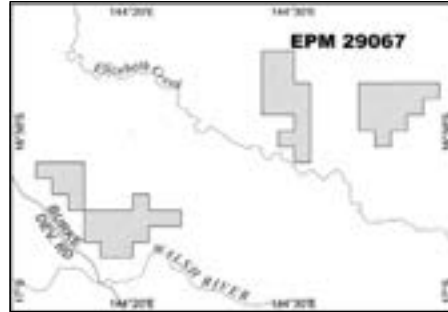
EPM 29064 applied for by TATE OPERATIONS PTY LTD, ACN 143 929 579, over an area of 14 sub-blocks (45.71 km²), centred approximately 72 km West-Southwest of Chillagoe, in the locality of Mareeba Shire Council.



EPM 29066 applied for by MULGA MINERALS PTY LTD, ACN 126 109 733, over an area of 39 sub-blocks (215 km²), non-contiguous over two areas, centred approximately 43 km North-West of Cloncurry, in the locality of the Cloncurry Shire Council.



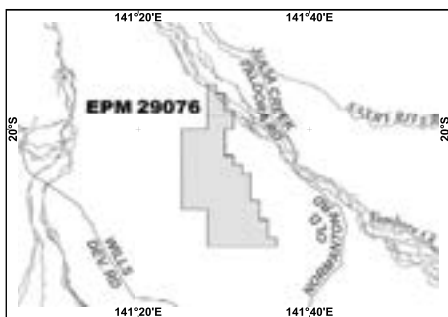
EPM 29067 applied for by OLDFIELD RESOURCES PTY LIMITED, ACN 151 506 946, over an area of 46 sub-blocks (150.70 km²), non-contiguous over three areas, centred approximately 35 km North-Northwest of Chillagoe, in the locality of Mareeba Shire Council.



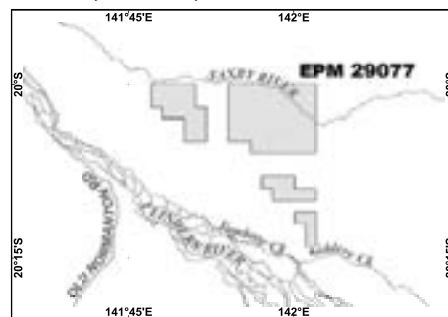
EPM 29070 applied for by HARD COPPER PTY LTD, ACN 678 561 987, over an area of 98 sub-blocks (303.56 km²), centred approximately 104 km North-West of Injune, in the locality of Maranoa Regional Council.



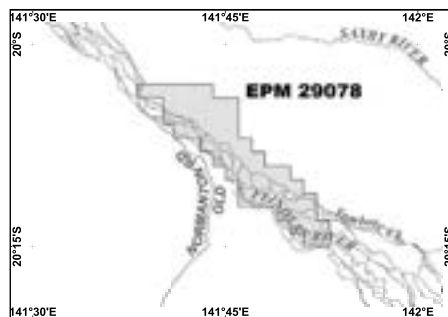
EPM 29076 applied for by REDEL RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 155 689 080, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (321.60 km²), centred approximately 68 km North-Northwest of Julia Creek, in the locality of McKinlay Shire Council.



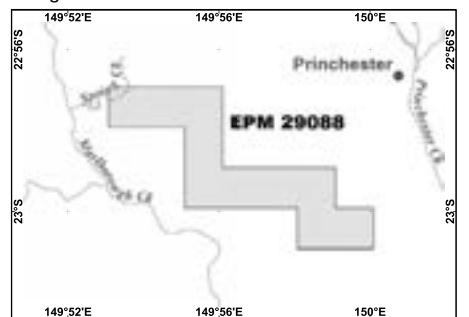
EPM 29077 applied for by REDEL RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 155 689 080, over an area of 73 sub-blocks (234.82 km²), non-contiguous over four areas, centred approximately 69 km North-Northeast of Julia Creek, in the locality of McKinlay Shire Council.



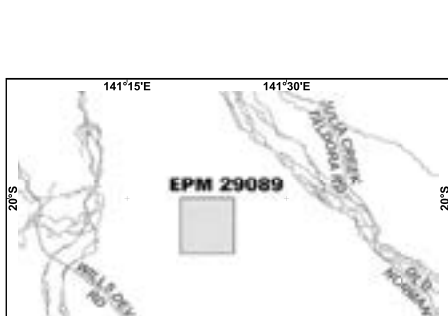
EPM 29078 applied for by OZENERGY PTY LTD, ACN 137 554 235, over an area of 55 sub-blocks (176.84 km²), centred approximately 58 km North of Julia Creek, in the locality of McKinlay Shire Council.



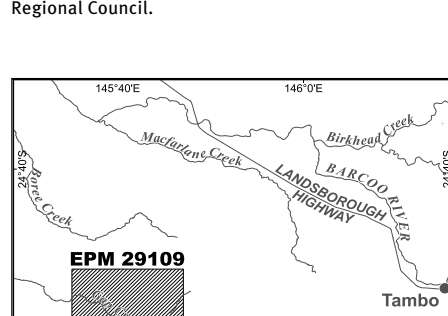
EPM 29088 applied for by FRONTERA FUTURE METALS PTY LTD, ACN 636 452 858, over an area of 10 sub-blocks (31.54 km²), centred approximately 20 km South-East of Marlborough, in the locality of Livingstone Shire Council.



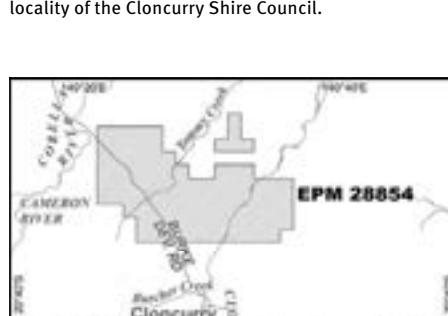
EPM 29089 applied for by REDEL RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 155 689 080, over an area of 25 sub-blocks (80.43 km²), centred approximately 75 km North-West of Julia Creek, in the locality of McKinlay Shire Council.



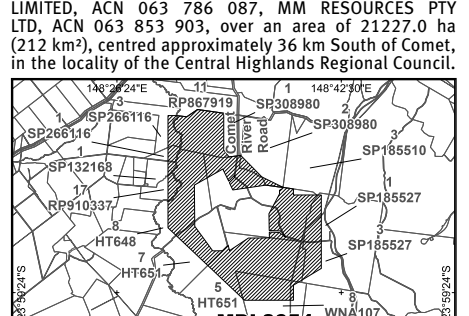
EPM 29109 applied for by AZTECH WELL CONSTRUCTION PTY LTD, ACN 132 051 453, over an area of 88 sub-blocks (273.5 km²), centred approximately 48 km West of Tambo, in the locality of Blackall Tambo Regional Council.



EPM 28854 applied for by COPPERQUEST AUSTRALIA PTY LTD, ACN 647 983 006, over an area of 97 sub-blocks (311 km²), non-contiguous over 2 areas, centred approximately 19 km North of Cloncurry, in the locality of the Cloncurry Shire Council.



MDL3054 applied for by ENEX TOGARA PTY LIMITED, ACN 002 746 787, DONGBU AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED, ACN 063 785 946, HYOSUNG RESOURCES (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD, ACN 063 828 133, KORES AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED, ACN 063 786 087, MM RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 063 853 903, over an area of 21227.0 ha (212 km²), centred approximately 36 km South of Comet, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



Nature of Act(s): The grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld), authorises the holder to explore for minerals subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) for a term not exceeding five (5) years with the possibility of renewal for a term not exceeding five (5) years and subject to the Native Title Protection Conditions. The grant of the Mineral Development Licence under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) authorises the holder to do all things that are authorised under the Mineral Development Licence over the area of the application and carry out activities leading to the evaluation and economic development of the ore body subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) for a term not exceeding five (5) years with the possibility of renewal for a term not exceeding five (5) years and subject to the Native Title Protection Conditions.

Name and Address of person doing Act(s): It is proposed that the Exploration Permit for Minerals and Mineral Development Licence be granted subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) by the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

Native Title Parties: Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) any person who is a 'native title party' is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals and the Mineral Development Licence. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3248 1100 or Email: gldreg@fedcourt.gov.au

Further information: May be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development, for Exploration Permit for Minerals, Mineral Assessment Hub, Level 9, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders Street, Townsville, Queensland, 4810. Telephone: (07) 4447 9230 or Email: MineralHub@resources.qld.gov.au. For Mineral Development Licence - Coal Assessment Hub, Corner of Bruce Highway and Yeppoon Road, Parkhurst, Queensland, 4701. Telephone: (07) 4936 0169 or Email: CoalHub@resources.qld.gov.au.

Expedited Procedure: The State of Queensland considers the grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals and the Mineral Development Licence to which this notice applies, is an act attracting the Expedited Procedure. The Exploration Permit for Minerals and Mineral Development Licence may be granted unless, within a period of four (4) months after the Notification Day a native title party lodges an objection in respect of the individual Exploration Permit for Minerals or Mineral Development Licence with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of that Exploration Permit for Minerals or Mineral Development Licence is a future act attracting the Expedited Procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

Notification Day: 12 March 2025

NRL Indigenous brothers

By KRIS FLANDERS



IT'S on again!

The NRL is back for 2025 with the opening round kicking off in Las Vegas with Canberra tackling the Warriors and defending premiers Penrith taking on Cronulla.

Our exciting and talented Indigenous brothers will light up the fields again this year. Here's the 54 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island players in the Top 30 list for each club.

BRISBANE BRONCOS:

Selwyn Cobbo, Kotoni Staggs, Ezra Mam, Reece Walsh, Gehamat Shibasaki.

The Broncos missed the finals last year after playing in the 2025 Grand Final. It was a huge blow to the proud club with a history of playing finals footy. Can they turn their fortunes around? Selwyn Cobbo has appeared in 68 contests and could possibly bring up 50 NRL tries this year as he's currently on 43. Will he be able to play Origin again for Queensland? Kotoni Staggs starts his 8th season of NRL footy. The gun centre can score a try (52) and is a very handy goal kicker when required too. Ezra Mam with 57 games and 33 tries to his name is the talented playmaker for the Broncos and will need to fire to take the club back to late September footy. Reece Walsh is another who needs to bring his brilliance each week for a Brisbane revival. Now in his 5th season, Walsh will be looking to add to his 74 games and 34 tries and should play Origin for the Maroons again. Gehamat Shibasaki returns to the Broncos, the club he made his NRL debut for back in 2018. He has since had stints with Newcastle, North Queensland and South Sydney. He's played 30 NRL games and from all reports has impressed new Brisbane coach, Michael Maguire. Plays centre and wing.

CANBERRA RAIDERS:

Jamal Fogarty, Sebastian Kris, Xavier Savage

The Raiders, despite finishing on the same 30 points as the Knights, just missed out on 8th spot for the 2024 finals race. Coach Ricky Stuart would have been filthy about getting so close and is aiming for his side to go a step better. Jamal Fogarty is the Raiders halfback and leader on the field. He missed most of 2024 through injury and if he can stay fit will bring up the 100 NRL games milestone. Centre, Sebastian Kris, is also on the verge of 100 NRL matches as he's currently played 85 and could also crack 50 tries with 37 so far. The flashy player built a strong centre/wing partnership with Xavier Savage. Winger, Savage, was a standout performer last year and is becoming an integral part of 'The Green Machines' attack. He has 47 matches with 24 tries heading into the new year.

CANTERBURY BULLDOGS:

Josh Curran, Blake Taaffe



Selwyn Cobbo is lining up again with the Brisbane Broncos.



Josh Curran and William Kennedy battle it out.

Canterbury made their first semi-finals last year since 2016. The Bulldogs are building to something special and the next assignment is finishing higher in the ladder in 2025. Josh Curran is fresh from playing a strong match for the Indigenous All Stars. The hardworking forward was great for the Bulldogs in his first season at the club and is aiming to be regular starter in the lock position. Curran, with the deadly Indigenous headgear and long hair, stands to play 100 games (85) and 15 tries. Blake Taaffe was kept in NSW Cup by Connor Tracey and he will have to work hard at training and in games to get the number one spot back. Is more than capable of making that happening with his energetic play, safe hands and versatility.

CRONULLA SHARKS:

Nicho Hynes, William Kennedy, Jesse Ramien, Braydon Trindall, Hohepa Puru, Niwhai Puru

The Sharks made the top four last year. There's no reason why the beachside club can't make the top four again this season. Will their supporters be singing "Up up Cronulla" many times throughout 2025? Nicho Hynes is the 2022 Dally M winner and he will want to recapture that form and lead the Sharks around again. Blessed with a stylish kicking game, Hynes is the ace up the sleeve. He's a solid goal kicker too and brings experience. Fullback, William Kennedy, now has 107 games and is capable of injecting himself into the backline movements with great effect. Tough to handle on his day. Jesse Ramien brings size

and speed to the club. The centre is set to play 150 games early this season (146) as well as add to his try tally which sits at 53. Braydon Trindall was Cronulla's best player and was awesome during the finals. The 5/8th can build a deadly combination with Hynes and the club thinks the same way as they extended his contract till the end of 2028. Hohepa Puru has joined his brother Niwhai at the club. Hohepa, has only played 2 NRL games with Canberra in 2023. He is said to be a hardworking forward who led the NSW Cup for most tackles last year. His brother, Niwhai, was seen playing for the Indigenous All Stars for the very first time this year. He was great for the Indigenous team as he led them around the ground at halfback. Niwhai is yet to make his NRL debut but he guided Newtown Jets to win the NSW Cup Grand Final last year. Can play, a top goal kicker and will get his chance at some stage.

DOLPHINS:

Trai Fuller, Josh Kerr, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow

In their two-year NRL existence, the Dolphins, have found themselves in the top 8 during the seasons and then through injuries and sliding form they've missed out. Can they make history and get to their first NRL finals campaign? Exciting back, Trai Fuller, is set for just his 3rd NRL year. He burst into the scene last year with 11 games in which he scored 5 tries. But the year ended awfully when he ruptured his ACL which required surgery. Should he bounce back



Jason Saab.

and stay fit, Fuller should get more game time this year. Josh Kerr is fresh from being co-captain for the Indigenous All Stars. That honour will fire him up for a big season for the Redcliffe based club. The mobile prop forward is closing in on 100 NRL games (95) and is aiming to be a regular starting member of the Dolphins pack.

Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow is the biggest fan favourite with Dolphins supporters. He can change a game very quickly and his speed makes him one of the quickest players in the game. He should play for Queensland again with good form and is currently on 86 matches with that 100 milestone on the cards.

GOLD COAST TITANS:

Jacob Alick-Wiencke, Jayden Campbell, David Fifita, Brian Kelly, Alofiana Khan-Pereira

The Titans finished 14th last year and their fans are getting tired of watching the finals instead of being involved in them. Jacob Alick-Wiencke is a talented young lock who has played 10 games in 2 NRL seasons. He will be pushing hard to double that number in 2025. Jayden Campbell played in his very first All Stars game this year and will be pumped after that. The dynamic fullback is getting better with every season he's played, Campbell, even played some games at five-eighth last year. One of the best and needs to show that every week. David Fifita is a huge man standing at 186cms and weighting in at 115kgs. Hard to stop when he gets going and Gold Coast fans hope that he

delivers that more in 2025.

Embarks on his 8th NRL season and is just 1 try away from bringing up 50 career tries, a great effort for a forward. Brian Kelly was close to best on ground for the Indigenous All Stars and is consistently one of the best for the Titans each week. The centre has played 169 matches for 59 tries. Alofiana Khan-Pereira was the NRL's top tryscorer last season and already has the incredible stats of 44 tries for his 44 career games! No doubt the speed-machine will be on the Gold Coast highlights reel again this year.

MANLY SEA-EAGLES:

Jason Saab

Manly finished seventh and made it into the second week of finals. Can they finish higher and go further into the finals? Jason Saab is one of the quickest players in the game today. The fleet-footed winger is about to play his 7th NRL season and goes into the 2025 season with 86 appearances with an amazing 63 tries from those games. One of the Sea-Eagles biggest attacking weapons with great speed and standing at nearly 200cm he is a "go-to-option" for his side's kickers.

MELBOURNE STORM:

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS:

Bradman Best, Adam Elliott, Dylan Lucas, Dane Gagai, Jermaine McEwen

The Knights came from nowhere to flash home into 8th spot last year and make the finals. Bradman Best possesses great size and speed in the centres and was part of that successful NSW Origin side in 2024. With continued top form he will play for the Blues again this series. He's come through the Knights system and is one of the stars at the club. He's just 13 games shy of the 100 career games mark and is also 13 tries off 50 NRL touchdowns. Adam Elliott tackles himself to a standstill and would run all day if asked to by his coach. The experienced forward is an inspirational forwards leader. Dylan Lucas continues his meteoric rise in the NRL. After making his debut in 2023, Lucas, has become an important part of the Newcastle pack. He enters his 3rd NRL year after debuting for the Indigenous All Stars and playing for the Prime Ministers XIII at the end of last year. More honours lay ahead for this forward. Dane Gagai is set for an astonishing 15th season of NRL football.

The 34-year-old is the current Knights' Player of the Year and there will be massive celebrations in 10 games time when he brings up 300 NRL games which is a very elite club with just 53 other players in history to have achieved that.

On the other end of the scale, Jermaine McEwen, will be looking to make his NRL debut this year. Has come through the Knights' pathway and has played NSW U19s. Is the brother of NRLW and Indigenous All Star, Evah McEwen.

ready for 2025 season

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS:

Braidon Burns, Reuben Cotter, Scott Drinkwater, Zac Laybutt, Jamal Shibusaki

The Cowboys roped the competition in and finished 5th on the ladder and played finals footy. They're tough to beat at home with the Townsville faithful coming out in thousands and they'll be hard to toss at home again. Braidon Burns signed with the Cowboys in May last year to resurrect his career. He quickly found a home in Townsville where he scored 5 tries in his 4 games. Burns enters his 9th season and should have played more games than his current 66, but injuries, form and not being able to crack a a first grade spot have stopped more appearances. One of the premier props in the game today, Reuben Cotter is a machine. Hard runs and rigid defence, Cotter is the type of player you want in any side. If he keeps that form going he will find himself in another Queensland and Australian jerseys. Scott Drinkwater is one of the guns for the Cowboys and a main strike in their attacking arsenal. With the ability to play at fullback or in the halves, he's a quality player, with 120 games and 43 tries to his credit. After a 2024 cut short with an ACL injury, Zac Laybutt, is aiming to stay fit and become a key part of the Cowboys backline. It's just his 3rd NRL season and can add to his 8 games. A talented young forward, Jamal Shibusaki, is set to make his NRL debut. The local Townsville junior is the younger brother of Gehamat. He was the Mal Meninga Cup Player of the Year in 2024. Splits his time playing between second-row and prop. Top prospect.

PARRAMATTA EELS:

Josh Addo-Carr, J'Maine Hopgood

The Eels had a huge fall from grace in 2024 and just missed out on the wooden spoon. They've got a host of new faces and a new coach in Jason Ryles, who'll be aiming to take Parra back up the table. One of the new faces is Josh Addo-Carr who departed the Bulldogs at the end of last year. This will be the 10th year of NRL action for "The Foxx". He's played 179 and is close to bringing up 150 tries (140) which, should he stay injury free, will be done this year. Another of the brothers blessed with incredible speed. J'Maine Hopgood has been brilliant since joining the Eels in 2023. He made his State of Origin debut with Queensland last year and if he's recovered fully from back surgery, there's no reason why he can't play more for his state. The tough and hardworking lock has been snapped up by the Eels till the end of 2027.

PENRITH PANTHERS:

Daine Laurie

The Panthers have been in the past five Grand Finals since 2020 and have won four straight. They've lost some big names, including Jarome Luai and James Fisher-Harris, but they've got a

wonderful system in place. They will go close again for the "high-five" of titles. Daine Laurie returned to the Panthers last season and while he played 14 games for 2 tries he was unable to play fullback in a fulltime role given that Dylan Edwards is one of the club's best players. Laurie may want to push for a spot on the wing but whenever he gets a chance in first grade, he gives everything and can be a dangerous player on the day.

ROOSTERS:

Connor Watson, Ethan Roberts, Blake Steep

The Roosters finished 3rd but it's a totally new look "tri-colours" team in 2025. They've lost some big guns in Joey Manu, Jared Waareea-Hargreaves, Joseph Sua'ali'i and Luke Keary. They should still be there and create headaches for opposition teams. Connor Watson had an outstanding 2024 where he was part of the victorious NSW Origin side. One of the most versatile players in the game, Watson, can cover various spots including lock, hooker, centres and the halves. He will bring up the 150 NRL games milestone early as he sits on 146. Blake Steep was part of the Indigenous All Stars squad with the lock making his NRL debut last year and started well with 3 games and a try. Many at the club believe he has a big future after coming through the Roosters lower grades, where he was captain of the SG Ball side. Can get more game time this season. Like Steep, Ethan Roberts has also made his way through the Roosters pathways at the club and was part of the Indigenous All Stars. He should make his NRL debut this season.

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS:

Tallis Duncan, Alex Johnston, Latrell Mitchell, Shaquai Mitchell, Tyrone Munro, Isaiah Tass, Jayden Sullivan, Cody Walker, Jack Wighton

Supercoach Wayne Bennett returns to the club he guided to the 2021 Grand Final. Bunnies fans will be hoping that Bennett magic is back and he can ignite their talented roster. Tallis Duncan is a versatile and tough forward with a high work rate and handy ball skills. Alex Johnston is on the verge of creating history. The star winger has 195 tries and is trailing the great Ken Irvine's record of 212. Not only a great player but also a great community leader. Latrell Mitchell is locked in at the club till the end of 2027 and the superstar fullback will be aiming for a premiership before that time is up. Linking up with Wayne Bennett will bring the best out of Latrell again. With good form again he will be playing for NSW and Australia. Champion. Shaq Mitchell is still on a high from being co-captain of the Indigenous All Stars and scoring a try there. The big front-rower is set for a big 2025. One of the best NRL debuts was had by electrifying winger Tyrone Munro. He ended up playing 7 games and crossed for



Josh Addo-Carr is a hard man to stop.

an astounding 6 tries. He made his Indigenous All Stars debut recently and will be pumped for a big season. Isaiah Tass made his debut in 2022 and is known for his strong ball-carrying style in the centres. Has good speed and size and is contracted till the end of the 2027 season. Jayden Sullivan is a new face in the Rabbitohs' colours. After playing with the Dragons and the Tigers, the talented pivot hopes he can find a permanent home with the historic club. Sullivan adds plenty of depth in the halves. Cody Walker, is blessed with exciting attack and playmaking qualities that are vitally important for any Souths resurgence. Is 1 try shy of the 100 NRL tries. Can he play NSW Origin again? Jack Wighton made an immediate impact in his first year at the Bunnies last season, he was named as Player of the Year for the club. Can play in the centres and at five-eighth. He's a rugged defender who enjoys the physicality and mixes that with wonderful ball skills. He also brings plenty of experience with his 263 NRL games.

ST GEORGE-ILLAWARRA DRAGONS:

Tyrell Sloan

The Dragons missed out on the final 8 by just 2 points. Coach Shane Flanagan hopes the addition of names like Clint Gutherson and Damien Cook will have the Dragons breathing fire again in 2025. Local junior, Tyrell Sloan, was a marvel for the club in 2024. He scored the most tries of his career with 13 last year to take his tally to 30. He can cover plenty of ground quickly from his fullback position meaning opposition tacklers need to make sure they don't make a mistake. Sloan will add to his 59 games.



Tyrell Sloan is out to score even more tries this year.

WARRIORS:

WESTS TIGERS:

Jack Bird, Jahream Bula, Brent Naden

The Tigers have won the dreaded wooden spoon for coming last the past 3 seasons and they've had enough. The club has spent big over the off-season with some big names joining the club including Jarome Luai, Royce Hunt and Sunia Turuva. Another big time new face is Jack Bird. The 2016 premiership winner is hoping to reignite his career by coming to the Tigers from the Dragons. He brings plenty of big game experience and will be a great addition to coach, Benji

Marshall's side. Bird has played 156 matches ahead of his 10th season of NRL footy, the versatile Bird can cover positions both in the forwards and the backs.

Jahream Bula is an exciting young fullback, who embarks on just his 3rd season at the elite level. The livewire back will be one of the biggest attacking options for the Tigers and can find the tryline with 15 from 39 matches. Brent Naden, comes off a great performance for the Indigenous All Stars. He was one of the best on that night and if he can produce that effort every week, then it will be a big 2025 season for the centre/winger. Naden is signed until the end of this year but has a decent strike rate of 33 tries from his 72 games.

Maori prevail in game of inches

By KRIS FLANDERS



FLASHY Indigenous All Stars centre/winger, Brent Naden, with his tongue firmly planted in his cheek, believes if he had smaller feet then they might have got the win. However, the Maori All Stars prevailed in a close encounter 10-6.

Naden also pointed out that despite the result he wouldn't have wanted to be anywhere else that night.

"Very proud of the boys, a scoreless first half, we had our chances to win. Thought we still could have got them at other stages in the game. Even for myself in the corner, I thought I had the try, foot went out. Need to get a smaller sized foot. But what can you do?" Naden said.

The Wests Tigers star was heavily involved and even produced one of the best chase-downs ever seen on runaway Maori centre, Mawene Hiroti, who looked certain to score until tackled by Naden.

"It's an emotional week, you know being with your brothers, and sharing stories and connecting with them. But also getting amongst the community and the people. It's something you have to be a part of to truly understand what it is. You know, seeing the mob and fans puts a smile on my own face, so we are glad that we can do that for them too. You're not just representing your Mob, you're representing every one. It's something I'll hold close to my heart for the rest of my life."

Indigenous All Stars co-captain, Josh Kerr, explained what the accolade of being skipper meant.

"You change one kid's life, that's a generational change, it means so much more than just a game of football. What it does for our communities here and in New Zealand is unreal," Kerr said.

That sentiment was backed up by Indigenous All Stars coach, Ron Griffiths.

"You know when you have people living below the poverty line and you get someone who breaks that mould and say plays NRL footy for 10 years, then you get a really good role model. They can inspire their families and communities to chase their dreams and that could be higher education and employment and totally change the landscape," Griffiths said.

The timing of the All Stars in early February was again a big talking point in the press conference and the dressing sheds. But successful Maori All Stars



Josh Kerr was the skipper of the the All Stars side.

coach, Adam Blair, said that the game has to be given the highest support from rugby league administrators and NRL clubs to allow players the chance to play in these matches.

"It's a big thing for these players to be here at this time of the year, I'm so proud of these players for standing up to their clubs and saying that they want to play the All Stars, it shouldn't have to be like that, but unfortunately it is these days. Someone like James Fisher-Harris here is a leader and to have the likes of Kalyn (Ponga), Keano Kini and others in this team says a lot," Blair said.

Coach Blair also had some immense praise for Maori All Stars centre and co-captain, Dane Gagai. He's played 6 games in this All Stars concept, 3 each with both the Indigenous and Maori teams because of his dual heritage.

"He's an old fella but he just continues to keep turning up at the best of times and when the game is on the line, Gagai is there. He just competes. This game meant so much to Dane, he wanted to win in this jersey because he hadn't done that before for his mother. To have Dane in our team, I'm so privileged, he always puts his hand up for us. I love him because he's so passionate about both cultures," Blair said.



Jayden Campbell tackles.



Jack Wighton reaches for the stars.



Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow does the shark traditional dance of the Torres Strait Islander.

Taking rugby league to Las Vegas is a winner



VIVA Las Vegas! The NRL rolled the dice and came out big winners when they took rugby league to America last year and now they're doubling up to showcase the game even harder this year.

It's going to be bigger, bolder and better with more teams and more nations involved with more opportunities for travelling fans and new supporters who've never witnessed rugby league live. A once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Round One of the NRL kicks off in Las Vegas at the impressive Allegiant Stadium with Canberra versus the Warriors followed by Penrith and Cronulla on Sunday 2nd of March.

Earlier in the day, English Super League clubs, Wigan Warriors will play rivals Warrington Wolves and the super day of rugby league will also have a Womens Test match between the



Kris Flanders

Australian Jillaroos versus England.

In the days leading up to the big day there will be multiple Rugby League Fan Hub days held where supporters, experienced and newcomers, can come together and celebrate and learn the game. A massive Fan Fest Day will also allow supporters to

meet and greet all the players from the 8 teams that are in Las Vegas.

There will also be exhibition matches played between USA RL and Greece RL, in men's and women's matches. The Las Vegas Nines competition will be contested with more than 40 teams participating.

The NRL will once again host a Talent Combine which will search for American talent who could make it in Australia in rugby league. 25 male and 25 female athletes will participate in a range of speed, agility, strength and skill-based tests. They're designed to assess the athlete's suitability to play in the NRL and NRLW.

Following the Combine, 4 athletes who meet minimum performance standards and display the most potential will be invited to travel to Australia to train for up to two weeks with an elite NRL or NRLW team.

Our Indigenous brothers will showcase their skills to the United

States as Jamal Fogarty, Sebastian Kris and Xavier Savage will be in action for Canberra against the Warriors. Daine Laurie will be in the Penrith squad when they meet Cronulla who will have Nicho Hynes, William Kennedy, Jesse Ramien, Braydon Trindall and the Puru brothers for team selection.

An added bonus for travelling Australian supporters will be the chance to watch English Super League clubs Wigan and Warrington. Wigan feature Bevan French, the Indigenous star from Tigha, NSW, who's set the ESL competition on fire since he joined the Warriors in 2019.

French has been a top try scorer and won a stack of football awards, including the Man of Steel award for the competition's best player in 2023 and is also a premiership winner. Fellow Indigenous footballer, Jai Field, is also playing for Wigan. He's also won awards and premierships in his time with Wigan.

Our Indigenous sisters will also get to leave their mark on the American sporting public too. The Australian Jillaroos have named Quincy Dodd, Keilee Joseph, Olivia Kernick, Mahalia Murphy and Tamika Upton. The Aussies will be coached by Indigenous All Stars coach, Jess Skinner.

Whilst many of the travelling rugby league players have never played football in the US, Parramatta's NRLW captain and superstar, Mahalia Murphy isn't new to playing in Las Vegas.

Murphy has represented Australia in the World Rugby Sevens tournament in 2017. The match will also be the first Test match between Australia and England since 2017 as well.

Allegiant Stadium is a world-class ground which is adjacent to the world-famous Las Vegas strip. The stadium is fully enclosed and climate-controlled with a capacity of 65,000 people. It's the home of NFL club, the Las Vegas Raiders, and hosted the 2024 Super Bowl.



Women take narrow victory

By KRIS FLANDERS



RIGHT down to the wire. That's how close the women's match between the Indigenous and Maori All Stars was.

In the end it was a 20-18 victory for the Indigenous sisters. It was the youth who really stood up for the team.

19-year-old Lailani Montgomery and fellow teen sensation Ella Koster were the heroes with both of them playing huge roles in securing the win.

Montgomery, who filled in for regular halfback Kirra Dibb who went down with a serious lower leg injury, didn't miss a beat as she took the reigns and led the Indigenous side around the ground.

"Words can't describe the feeling, it's one of those scenarios you dream of, to do it in your first game (Indigenous All Stars debut) let alone in any game, it means so much. It tops any other win I've had, to do it for your Mob, I had over 40 people in the stand. People turned up for me so I had to turn up for them," Montgomery said.

"The first two minutes I was very nervous and replacing Kirra who's such a dominant half, it's hard when someone like her goes down, but the amount of support and confidence I got from my teammates was incredible and allowed me to step up."

The young Gold Coast Titans NRLW star set up a try and with the game in the balance at 18-all and fulltime upon the match, Montgomery was then the subject of a controversial, but correct, ending.

Montgomery went for a field goal but was thwarted by Maori five-eighth Ash Quinlan. In doing so Quinlan made contact with the kicker's legs resulting in a penalty goal.

A simple kick, but the pressure was on Montgomery and she showed experience beyond her years to convert and win. The teenager said missing wasn't an option.

"Especially when it's right in front, I felt good going in, you hear the boos and in your own head you're saying you better not miss it. Just one of those things, I



Right from the start, the women were ready to rumble.

blocked that out and did my normal routine." Montgomery recalled.

Earlier in the night, Ella Koster was on the receiving end of a perfect cut-out pass from Montgomery. Koster still had a ton of work to do to beat the defence and perfectly time her one-handed put-down in the corner for a try.

The Dragons NRLW player got more game time than she originally thought when she replaced the injured Bobbi Law. Koster recalled how she got all caught up in the moment to deliver a heartfelt speech at halftime that inspired her more experienced teammates.

"I just told the girls that we've had this theme all week of 'Mob Deep' and to us that means that this sport and this time is bigger than us. You know, the people who have come before us and the people who are here, we worked too hard to give up. I just said lift, do it for yourself and everyone around you," Koster said.

"Growing up you know, Mahalia (Murphy) was one of my idols. I actually have some things signed

by her at home. So to to play with her was a pretty starstruck moment for myself. Mahalia and others have paved the way for young players like me to be able to play."

NRLW captain and one of the more experienced players in the Indigenous side, Mahalia Murphy, said in the sheds that she was happy to play alongside a great mix of women and secure the win for the Indigenous Mob.

"I remember how daunting it can be being a youngster coming into a team and how you have to find that confidence when you're on the big scene. They all handled it really well. (Ella) Koster received a team award in the sheds afterwards and there's so many talented young players here who are going to forward and leave their mark," Murphy said.

"This game is always physical with the Maori women, could have gone either way and it was a matter of staying in that grind, doing the hard tasks, very proud of my girls."

Murphy, who grew up just down the road in Blacktown from

Parramatta's Commbank Stadium, said to play in front of family and friends was special.

"It's nice and close to home and I had lots of support and Mob at the ground, it's also my home ground at club level with the Eels, I love playing here. My favourite ground. Putting on this jersey gives you chills, you only play this game once a year, so you have to embrace it and soak it up as much as you can," Murphy said.



Lailani Montgomery in action.



Quincy Dodd and Keilee Joseph tackle an opponent.



Monique Donovan prepares to offload.

61 Indigenous players set to

By PETER ARGENT



Currently on AFL lists from a First Nations perspective are 61 players contracted, with Gold Coast leading the way with seven, while three other clubs – Port Adelaide, St. Kilda and West Coast – each having six players with Aboriginal heritage.

ADELAIDE (2)

Izak Rankine (83 AFL Games, 122 AFL goals)

Among the most dynamic players in the competition, Izak Rankine will be a key to the Crows hopes of playing major round footy. A small forward /midfielder he is an elite performer who can break games open.

Wayne Milera (99 games, 29 goals)

After playing 22 games in '23 Wayne Milera only managed three last winter.

Now 27, at his best Milera is a smooth moving half back that sets up play. It's a big year for Wayne.

BRISBANE (3)

Callum Ah Chee (143 games, 73 goals)

Moving across from Gold Coast in 2020, Callum Ah Chee has been ultra consistent for the Lions and was a key player in the finals last year.

Charlie Cameron (229 games, 404 goals)

Moving north from Adelaide in 2018, Charlie Cameron is one of the superstars of the competition. A creative forward with X-factor and a match winner, who excites.

Keidean Coleman (65 Games, 14 goals)

A heart-break story of the '24 campaign Keidean Coleman ruptured his ACL in round one and missed the entire winter. A classy half back with composure.

CARLTON (2)

Jesse Motlop (40 games, 42 goals)

Another member of this generation of the extended Motlop clan to play AFL football, Jesse has the goal kicking gene. He is moving into his fourth season, this is a pivotal year for this exciting small forward.

Zac Williams (155 games, 35 goals)

After a long and fruitful career as a defender, at times during '24 Zac Williams displayed his capacity as a small forward. A capable player all round.

COLLINGWOOD (2)

Bobby Hill (88 games, 97 goals)

After winning the Norm Smith Medal in the premiership year of '23, Bobby Hill was equally productive in '24, with 30 goals and took the Mark of the Year in round 14.

Ash Johnson (27 games, 36 goals)

A preciously talented, marking medium forward from Halls Creek, his fifth season on the Magpies list will be critical for Ash Johnson.

ESSENDON (2)

Jade Gresham (158 games, 155 goals)

Coming across from St Kilda



Charlie Cameron lines one up.

last year Jade Gresham is a big part of the Bombers structures and will play an important role and a forward/midfielder in their finals hopes.

Alwyn Davey Jnr (20 games, 9 goals)

Second generation member of his family Alwyn Davey, after 10 games in each of his opening two seasons, will be looking for a consistent and injury free '25 campaign.

FREMANTLE (4)

Shai Bolton (135 games, 165 goals)

Moving across from Richmond, a WA product, Shai Bolton is a dual premiership Tigers and will be a key to the Dockers premiership plans in the midfield. A high-quality all round player.

Quinton Narkle (57 games, 26 goals)

Now at his third club, after eight seasons in the system, six with Geelong and two at the Power, Quinton Narkle will be looking to cement a spot in the starting side.

Alex Pearce (122 games, five goals)

The team's leader, now entering his third season as captain, Alex Pearce is a reliable defender, who gets big tasks most weeks.

Michael Walters (239 games, 367 goals)

Long serving veteran Michael "Son Son" Walters enters his 17th season with the Dockers, has been the club's leading goal kicker

on five occasions and an All-Australian.

He will give valuable experience to the forward line.

GEELONG (4)

Jack Martin (151 games, 133 goals)

Now at his third club, after starting on the Gold Coast and having the past five seasons on the Carlton list, Jack Martin will be hoping his body will hold up for an entire season. At best he's a game breaker.

Lawson Humphries (11 games, 1 goal)

One of the fairytale stories of 2024, plucked out of WAFL reserves football, Lawson Humphries debuted in round 16 and played the Cats final 11 games of the campaign, exciting the faithful as a running defender.

Mitchell Edwards (0 games, 0 goals)

For the 206cm ruckman from the West, Mitch Edwards, his second season on the Cats list is more than likely seeing him develop in the club's VFL program.

Tyson Stengle (85 games, 141 goals)

After six years on the Richmond and Crows lists, Tyson Stengle has showed his full potential in his three years at the Cats, winning All-Australia honours in the 2022 premiership year and being just as productive last winter.

GOLD COAST (7)

Sean Lemmens (148 games,



Callum Ah Chee celebrates a goal in the 2024 Grand Final



Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera action.

25 goals)

On the Suns list since 2014, SA lad Lemmens has been a stalwart of the club over this period and valuable servant.

Joel Sudar-Jeffrey (28 games, 16 goals)

A medium defender still to hit his peak Joel Jeffrey is a player to watch in '25.

A second generation player, he is the son of Russell, who played 50 games with St Kilda and the Brisbane Bears.

Jy Farrar (34 games, 3 goals)

Now 28, and another from Halls Creek, he will be looking to make the most of his opportunities in 2025.

Malcolm Rosas Jnr (45 games, 45 goals)

Possessing lightning speed and having the ability to hit the scoreboard Malcolm Rosas, now 23, will be looking for a breakout '25 season.

Lloyd Johnston (9 games, 3 goals)

Still just 20 Lloyd Johnson, another NT product in the Suns squad is a developing product with plenty of upside, including eye-catching speed.

Daniel Rioli (183 games, 109 goals)

After nine seasons and three premierships with the Tigers, Daniel Rioli moves to the Gold Coast, adding much needed experience, class and hardness.

Ben Long (111 games, 57 goals)

In his two seasons with Gold Coast, after six on the St Kilda list, fellow Northern Territory product, Ben Long has displayed plenty of

versatility, playing at both ends of the ground.

GWS (1)

Toby Bedford (60 games, 31 goals)

A player noted for his blistering pace, coming up from the Melbourne Demons, Toby Bedford has fitted snugly into the Giants forward structures across the past two seasons.

HAWTHORN (4)

Matthew Hill (0 games, 0 goals)

Following a stint with the Melbourne Storm NRL Academy, Matt Hill joined the Hawks as a Category B Rookie following the 2024 season.

Noted for his resilience and speed, he has huge family ties in our native football code.

Cody Anderson (0 games, 0 goals)

Cody Anderson was collected with Pick 64 in the 2024 national draft from the Hawthorn's Next Generation Academy. He's noted as an explosive midfielder and exciting pressure forward.

Jarman Impey (197 games, 63 goals)

Three games away from his 200-game milestone, Shepparton junior Jarman Impey is a tough-as-nails, hard running defender.

Karl Amon (170 games, 68 goals)

A Victorian lad who started his AFL career at Alberton before moving back home. Lissom in movement, Karl Amon is a key link player at the Hawks, noted for his elite kicking skills.

line up for 2025 AFL season

MELBOURNE (4)

Ricky Mentha (0 games, 0 goals)

A crafty small forward Ricky Mentha Jnr was collected by the Demons as a Category B Rookie following the 2024 Draft.

Steven May (235 games, 24 goals)

A two-time All-Australian in 2021 and 2022, along with being a premiership player, Steven May is a rock in the Demons defence and is a key backman across the competition.

Kysaiah Pickett (106 games, 161 goals)

A match-winning excitement machine with a rich heritage in the game, Kozzie Pickett is a multi-dimensional player. He was a member of the '22 premiership side and is one of the premier indigenous footballers in the AFL.

Shane McAdam (53 games, 73 goals)

Mercurial at times, with the ability to take a big mark, Shane McAdam has a crunch season ahead in his second year as Demon, after 50 games with the Crows.

NORTH MELBOURNE (2)

Jy Simpkin (152 goals, 62 goals)

The stand-alone captain in 2025, Jy Simpkin is a dual Sid Barker Medallist (Club best and fairest). A ball magnet, he is a strong distributor of the ball and capable of a hanger.

Robert Hanson Jnr (8 games, 4 goals)

Getting a first opportunity in '23, the 20-year-old Rober Hansen is still in the embryonic stages of his career. He has the potential to become an elite small forward.

PORT ADELAIDE (6)

William Rioli (90 games, 124 goals)

From the Tiwis, via St Mary's (NTFL) and Glenelg (SANFL), Willie Rioli played in the West Coast premiership of 2018. He is now settled and comfortable in Adelaide, and looking for a big year with the Power as a premier small forward.

Jase Burgoyne (36 games, 7 goals)

A son of Peter Burgoyne, Jase has the same balance and poise as his father. He had a number of breakout games in 2024 and is capable of being one of the young stars of the competition in '25.

Jeremy Finlayson (120 games, 115 goals)

Providing great flexibility to Port Adelaide's side, Jeremy Finlayson is predominately a key forward who also can be used as a ruck. A left footer, he endured a season ending spleen injury in round 18.

Lachlan Jones (56 games, 6 goals)

A strongly built medium defender for the Power from rural SA Lachie Jones consistency has grown over his four years at Alberton. Aggressive at the contested ball, he also has a solid skillset.

Jason Horne-Francis (65 games, 47 goals)

A former number one draft pick, Jason Horne-Francis is one of the midfield Bulls in the AFL. Also capable of going forward and



Jason Horne-Francis makes a break against Carlton.

hitting the scoreboard, he is a up and coming superstar of the game.

Sam Powell-Pepper (142 games, 106 goals)

From WA Sam Powell-Pepper was sorely missed by the Power in '24 after his knee injury in the round seven match against St Kilda in just his third game of the season. A physical player his return will be confidence boosting for the team. A player with a real presence.

RICHMOND (2)

Rhyan Mansell (53 games, 32 goals)

From Tasmania and a premiership player with Woodville West Torrens (SANFL), Rhyan Mansell is starting to settle into his role at the top level, having the ability to play roles at both ends of the ground.

Maurice Rioli Junior (36 games, 26 goals)

One of the best tacklers in the AFL, Maurice Rioli needs to add to his offensive game in his fifth year on the Tigers.

ST KILDA (6)

Bradley Hill (255 games, 101 goals)

A triple premiership player at Hawthorn, who also played with his older brother at Fremantle, Brad Hill now enters his sixth year as a Saint. A strong running creative defender.

Liam Henry (55 games, 20 goals)

Among the most exhilarating footballer at the Saints, Liam Henry was only able to show glimpses of what he is capable of in an injury-interrupted first year at Moorabbin in '24.

Lance Collard (3 games, 0 goals)

Showing glimpses of his natural talent, WA lad Lance Collard can be dynamic in front of the big sticks and ability to affect the scoreboard.



Rhyan Mansell celebrates a major.

Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera (63 games, 6 goals)

A smooth and composed SA export, Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera's star continues to rise after another stellar season off half-back in 24 for the Saints.

Isaac Keeler (0 games, 0 goals)

From rural SA, Isaac Keeler, a tall forward-ruck, has spent his first two seasons in the VFL with the Sandringham Dragons. Athletic and with a strong mark, expect him to burst into the system in his third year.

Marcus Windhager (52 games, 6 goals)

Expected to have a breakout season, Marcus Windhager is a hard worker, developing leader and fierce on-field combatant. He is strong defensively as well.

SYDNEY (1)

Joel Hamling (91 games, 0 goals)

A former premiership player with the Western Bulldogs back in 2016, after a stint back home in the west with Fremantle, Joel Hamling is in his second year on Sydney's list. He started back in

2012 and is entering he 13th AFL season.

WESTERN BULLDOGS (3)
Liam Jones (200 games, 84 goals)

Evergreen veteran defender, Liam Jones is enjoying his second stint at the Doggies, and had eight seasons on Carlton's list, debuting back in 2010. A forward in his younger days, he is now amongst the most respected tall defenders in the AFL.

Arthur Jones (14 games, 5 goals)

Agile Arthur Jones is a dashing midfielder-forward who hails from Mt Barker in regional Western Australia. Already a fan favourite at the Kennel.

Jamarra Ugle-Hagan (67 games, 103 goals)

A number-one draft pick back in 2020, Jamarra Ugle-Hagan is a highly skilled, athletic key forward who is 195cm tall and is a marking presence. From their Next Generation Academy he is pivotal to the Doggies success.

WEST COAST (6)
Malakai Champion (0 games,



Sam Powell-Pepper.

0 goals)

An 18-year-old small forward with dazzling speed and agility who plays with zest and energy and is a real livewire inside forward 50, Malakai Champion has the ability to excite and add another dimension to the Eagles forward structure.

Tyler Brockman (36 games, 24 goals)

Returning to the West from Hawthorn at the end of 2023, Tyler Brockman is yet to display the consistency as a small forward West Coast crave. Still just 22, this is a big year for him.

Tim Kelly (144 goals, 79 goals)

A mainstay of a midfield since coming back from Geelong, Tim Kelly is a hardworking and ball winning, consistent midfielder. This veteran is a key in the engine room, after his later start than most at the top level.

Coen Livingstone (0 games, 0 goals)

Another West Coast's Next Generation Academy product, 200cm Coen Livingstone showed signs in his first season on the Eagles' list, impressing with his aggression and commitment to the contest as a forward-ruck in his first year of League football in the WAFL.

Liam Ryan (105 games, 136 goals)

This high-flying Eagles small forward, leaping Liam Ryan overcame serious hamstring setbacks across 12 months last pre-season to manage 16 consecutive appearances in 2024. A 2018 premiership player in his first season at the top level.

Tyrell Dewar (7 games, 5 goals)

From the Mines Rovers, Tyrell Dewar is a natural and classy forward who debuted during the 2024 campaign and displayed promising signs.



Bobby Hill in action. Bobby kicked the opening goal, and finished with four goals.

Spectacular display

By PETER ARGENT



AFTER a hiatus of a decade, it was a superb return for the Indigenous All-Stars AFL team in the 2025 fixture against the Fremantle Dockers on Saturday, February 15 at Optus Stadium.

Two goals up at half time after an entertaining contest, the All-Stars would go on to win the game by a handsome 43-point margin.

This Xavier Clarke-coached team's marquee pace and foot skills were on display across the breath of the match.

It was an emotional game for the North Melbourne captain, Jy Simpkin.

His performance included an early third-quarter goal that he dedicated to his late pop who passed away between seasons.

He won the Polly Farmer Medal as best on the ground with 30 disposals and a complete all-round performance in the midfield.

The options up forward for the All-Stars were plentiful with 2023 Norm Smith Medal Bobby Hill kicking the opening goal of the game and showcasing his class and composure finishing with a four-major haul.

The 2021 number one draft pick Jason Horne-Francis was a potent option both through the midfield and when playing as a lead up forward.

He kicked three goals while all the other small forwards hit the scoreboard as well.

In defence Stephen May was a wonderful general at centre half back, receiving strong support from Jarman Impey, Karl Amon, Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera and Lawson Humphries.

A brilliant showcase of the best aspects of our current "First Nations" footballers a record crowd of 37,865 patrons came through the gates to watch the current stars produce many acts of scintillating football.

The previous high for an All-Star fixture had been 17,500 for the clash against Carlton in

Darwin before the start of the 2003 season.

A Who's Who of Indigenous stars of yesteryear were among the guests being entertained at Optus Stadium that evening.

Aspiring to be the first Indigenous senior coach in the AFL era, 100-game former St Kilda player Xavier Clarke is keen to find a way for the Indigenous All-Stars game to fit into the AFL calendar. He understands it's a balancing act.

"It is a big event, the people that it took to pull this together, the AFL, the clubs, the collective," Clarke said.

"It's a relationship between the clubs and everyone else to be able to get this together, Finding that balance is going to be the trick. But I think we'd love to see it more regularly than 10 years.

"It was just a great spectacle.

"You hope that (a) young girl or young Indigenous boy sitting in the crowd or at home watching this game, being really inspired to play the game, and we see

those numbers in terms of Indigenous talent getting into the AFL.

"We hope that's the legacy this game (has)."

Scoreboard

INDIGENOUS ALL STARS	5.2	7.5	12.8	16.12 (108)
FREMANTLE	2.3	5.5	7.8	9.11 (65)

GOALS

Indigenous All Stars: Bo.Hill 4, Horne-Francis 3, Walters, Stengle, Cameron, Pickett, Simpkin, Ryan, W.Rioli, Kelly, Motlop

Fremantle: Frederick 3, Sharp 2, Jackson 2, Amiss 2

BEST

Indigenous All Stars: Simpkin, Bo.Hill, Horne-Francis, Humphries, May, Ah Chee, Burgoyne, Impey, Pickett.

Fremantle: Serong, Frederick, Sharp, Jackson, O'Driscoll, Draper

AFL All Stars bring so much joy

What a game! The Indigenous All Stars game brought so much joy and pride into our community and now we want more of it. I don't know any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who didn't think they were going to win. It was a team of superstars and they played accordingly.

I loved the joy that was on display and I loved the pride you could see in the All Stars faces and in the way they held their bodies in strength and honour. I don't think I stopped smiling; I certainly know they didn't. Everything about it was special.



Shelley Ware

Some of my favourite post-match moments were when West Coast Eagles Liam Ryan jumped up on the rails and really hugged a young Sistagirl, who was clearly proud and emotional from the game. The hug was genuine and the AFL public have really been positive about it too. Had me in tears. I loved that someone wrote on AFL's Instagram post "Sometimes we make the right people famous."

I also loved that Carlton's Jesse Motlop wrote on socials, that he had watched from the sidelines 10 years ago and he couldn't believe that he had made it to the other side of the fence. He said he shared the field with greatness and hopefully inspired the next generation. He absolutely inspired the next generation, you could see it in real time on the faces of all the kids in the crowd. Who knows, maybe one of those kids will make it to the other side of the fence, in the future.

The good news is that this game has sparked a hunger for more, people are calling for future All Star games and of course those who enjoyed it, but can't bear to admit it, have called for the return of State of Origin. People are calling for the scrapping of Round 0 and bringing back representative football, we all love it, the AFL need to listen.

Andrew Dillon has come out and said he has heard what the fans want and is keen for more discussions about future possibilities. Potentially in 2026 we will see more All Stars or State of Origin games and he is going to talk to players and teams, to see what they want.

He said the AFL is committed to the Indigenous All Stars but whether it is every year or every second year, that is what will be discussed at length. This commitment makes me very happy and I'm already excited for the next game, one I will make sure I am at.

Thank you to the brotherboys who represented with the skills, passion and pride that the game deserves. You made us so proud and we will be talking about that win for years to come.



Jy Simpkin with his well-deserved Polly Farmer medal.



Indigenous All Stars captain Michael Walters and coach Xavier Clarke. Pictures: Peter Argent.

Plenty of action in All Stars game



Callum Ah Chee.



Traditional dancers added to the atmosphere.



Having a friendly chat about game tactics.



Jason Horne-Franis with his eyes on the ball.



Saying G'day to their opponents.



Brisbane Lions player Ally Anderson gave the game the thumbs up.



Jamara Ugle-Hagan lines up a kick.



Izak Rankine meeting some fans.



Kozzie Pickett in fine form.



Karl Amon looking for a target.

Former WAFL great honoured



By PETER ARGENT

ANOTHER Indigenous hero of the state league era, Western Australian great Stephen Michael, has been announced as the Sir Douglas Nicholls Round honouree for 2025.

A proud Noongar man Stephen Michael had a decorated career with South Fremantle between 1975 and 1985 as a strong high leaping ruckman and key forward.

Across his 243-game career for the South Bulldogs, Michael won a pair of Sandover Medals the WAFL best and fairest in the back-to-back seasons of 1980 and 81.

He was his club's best and fairest five times and a member of the 1980 WAFL premiership team.

At state level, he represented Western Australia 17 times, captaining them on three occasions.

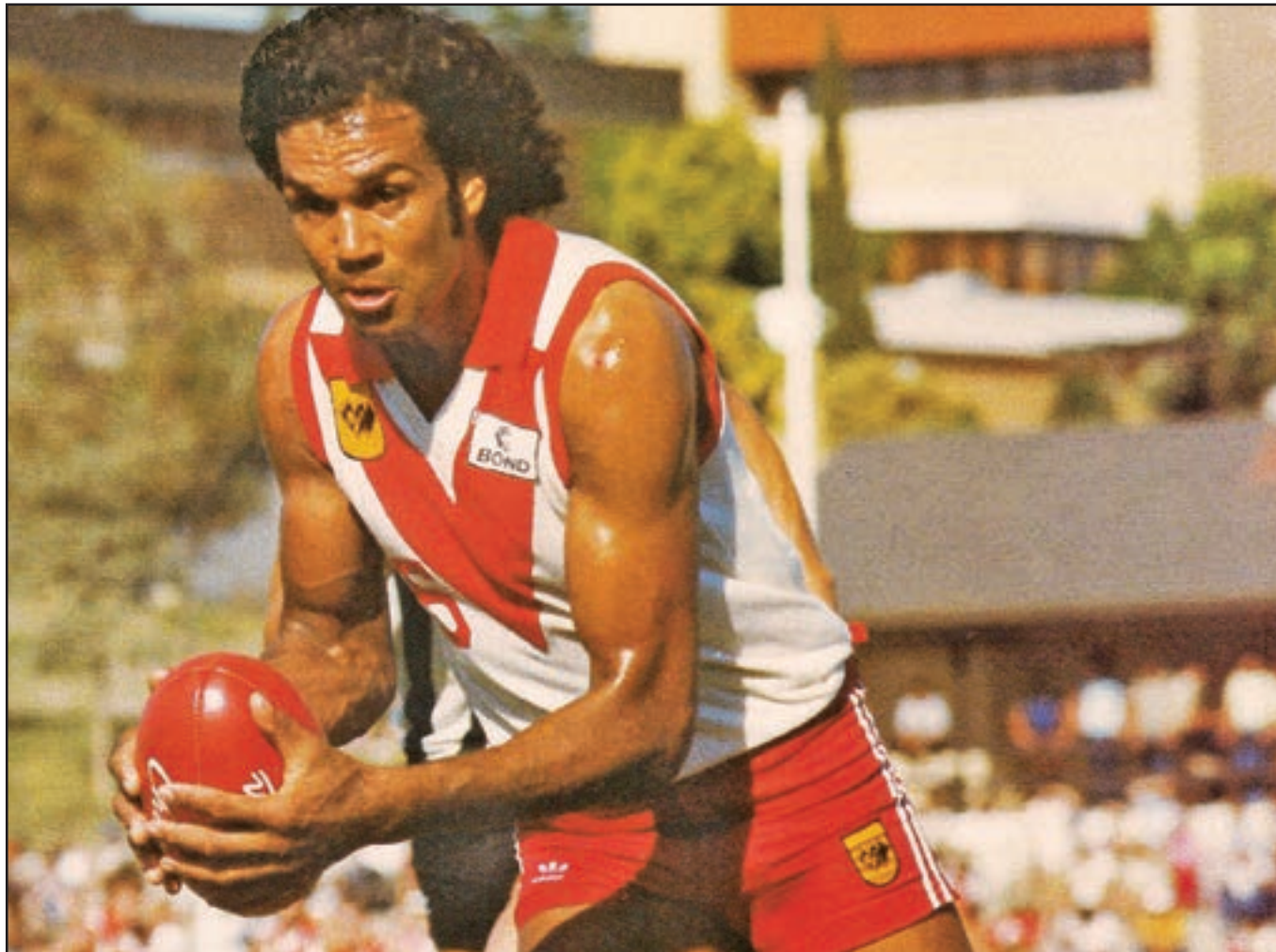
He won the Simpson Medal for the best player in the WA versus SA state fixture and won the Tassie Medal as the best player in the Australian State of Origin series in 1983 where was also captain of his state.

Michael is an inaugural member of Fremantle football legends and was inducted into the Australian football Hall of Fame in 2004.

In 2005 he was named at centre half forward in the Indigenous team of the century.

He is currently the patron of the Stephen Michael Foundation, which delivers a range of school and community-based programs to at-risk and disengaged youth across Western Australia.

Michael becomes the seventh person to be named the Sir Douglas Nicholls Round honouree, joining fellow greats Sonny Morey (2024), Glenn James OAM (2023), Bill Dempsey (2022), Syd Jackson (2021 & 2020), Michael Long (2019) and Graham 'Polly' Farmer (2018).



Stephen Michael back in his playing days with South Fremantle Bulldogs in the WAFL.

Casual speeding
is the biggest
cause of trauma
on NSW roads



CASUAL SPEEDING. EVERY **K** COUNTS



25 First Nations icons in '25

Patrick Mills

After more than two decades as a *Koori Mail* correspondent, **PETER ARGENT** looks back on the sporting careers of Indigenous Stars across the wide world of sport during the 2025 calendar year.

Born in our nation's capital, Canberra, Patrick Mills' father Benny is of Torres Strait Islander heritage while his mother Yvonne is an Aboriginal woman from the Kokatha nation and was a part of the stolen generation.

There is also plenty of Indigenous heritage crossing through the family genes with Mills' uncle being Olympic basketballer Dani Moreau, the second-ever Indigenous basketballer after Michael Ahmat.

He has cousins Edrick and Brenko Lee who played in rugby league and is also related to power forward, Nathan Jawai, who played both NBL and NBA hoops.

Mills' great uncle is the land rights activist Eddie Mabo.

Patrick's first basketball was for local Indigenous club in Canberra, his parents established called "The Shadows".

Mills was also an accomplished underage Aussie rules footballer.

He had a stint at the Australian Institute of Sport and in January '06, Mills won the highly regarded RE Staunton Medal as the "Player of the Championships" at the Under 20s Australian National carnival that was played in Perth.

He played for his country at junior level in 2006 and was first selected in an extended Boomers squad that year as well.

Another accolade in 2006 was the "most promising new sports talent" at the Deadly awards along with being named the national sports person of the year by NAIDOC.

He signed a college contract with Saint Mary's College in California for the '07-'08 season. In April 2009 he declared for the NBA draft, forgoing the final two years of his college career.

In 2009 Mills was selected with the 55 pick overall by the Portland Trailblazers

He made his NBA debut with the Trailblazers on January 4, 2010 appearing in 10 games for the club in his rookie season of 2010-11.



Patty Mills was #5 in Team Australia during the Olympic Games in Paris . Getty images

He played 64 games for the Trailblazers averaging 5.5 points and just over 12 minutes of court time during the following campaign.

In March 2012 Mills signed with San Antonio Spurs and scored his first "double-double" – 34 points and 12 assist in a win over the Golden State Warriors a couple of months later.

In the 2013-14 NBA season Mills was a member of the title winning franchise with the Spurs. One of two Australians on the roster with Aron Baynes, Mills averages 10.2 points per game during his 81-game (the Spurs played 82 games that season with Mills also displaying his durability) regular season and averages 7.3 points per game during the play offs.

A 188cm (6'2") point guard, by 2017 Mills re-sign with the Spurs on a four-year \$500 million contract.

During the course of the 2020 season Mills, a noted shooter, recorded his 1000 NBA three-point bucket becoming the first Australian in NBA history to reach this milestone.

In 2021 Mills nabbed the NBA record for the most games by an Australian overtaking Andrew Bogart after his 706th appearance.

He moved to the Brooklyn Nets in August, 2021 and 2023

became an Atlanta Hawk for a season.

In 2024, he played for the Miami Heat and is currently at the Utah Jazz where he became 1,000-game NBA player in early 2025.

He first made his senior debut with the Boomers in 2007 and has played in four winning FIBA oceanic championships.

He's the first indigenous Australian to be a flag bearer when he carried the flag alongside swimmer Kate Campbell in the opening ceremony of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

With a brilliant personal performances he led Australia to its first ever Olympic men's medal, scoring to 42 points against Slovenia in the Bronze Medal game and once again represented the Boomers in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

There is also the philanthropic side of Patty Mills.

The NBA Champion and four-time Olympian launched Indigenous Basketball Australia (IBA)1234 in 2021.

The program provides pathways and skill development for young Indigenous basketballers aiming to play at the top level.

It is a program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to play basketball in an environment that is free of discrimination and exclusion.



Patty Mills playing for the Miami Heat last year in the American National Basketball League, drives the ball against the Portland Trail Blazers. Getty images



Doggett claims yet another scalp



Brendan Doggett appeals.

By PETER ARGENT



IN an amazing game of Sheffield Shield cricket, where 20 wickets fell at Adelaide Oval on day one, South Australian First Nations quick Brendan Doggett bowled SACA team back into the contest against Tasmania with the

outstanding first innings figures of 6-40 on the opening afternoon.

After being bowled out for 93, SA restricted the Tigers to 101 and would go on to win the match outright by 87 runs. In a Player of the Match performance Doggett finished with seven scalps in the contest.

South Australia, looking for their "Holy Grail", a first Sheffield Shield title since a

young Jason Gillespie was involved back in 1995-96, are comfortably perched on top of the ladder after eight rounds.

The SACA team have a big round-nine match against Victoria, one of the other three teams vying for a spot in the final.

In the Victorian team's round eight clash with NSW, fellow Indigenous paceman Scott Boland was impressive

with a 10-wicket match haul.

After 4-56 in the first innings, he claimed 6-46 from 21 overs in the second dig. It was the 35-year-old's second 10-wicket game yield of his first-class career, despite Victoria's 76-run loss.

His previous 10-wicket haul was in the final Test of the 24-25 summer against India at the same venue, the Sydney Cricket Ground six weeks earlier.

Gardner displays her powers



THE power and grace of Australian best current Indigenous cricketer Ashleigh Gardner has been on display in India.

In the opening two games of the Indian Women Premier League (WPL) she has already smashed 11 sixes... but that's only a part of her elite performances in the first couple of days of this tournament.

As the new captain of the Gujarat Giants (GG) in the third season Indian Women Premier League (WPL) Ashleigh Gardner continued her sparkling form she had delivered over the Australian summer with both bat and ball in hand.

In the first outing of the WPL season playing Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), who are in their title-defence, both teams made over 200 runs in a run feast.

Gardner dispatched the RCB bowler to all points.

Her swashbuckling score of 79 in 37 balls included eight sixes and another three boundaries.

She had a blistering strike rate of 213.51, with GG scoring 53 runs off the last four overs to finish at 5 for 201. Gardner also took 2/33 from her three overs with the ball, but the RCB batting line up had the last laugh.

In the GG's second game, game five of the tournament against the UP Warriorz, Gardner played a key role in breakthrough victory.

Leading strongly in the field and bowling her off-spinners with plenty of guile, Gardner took 2-39 and restricted the UPZ to 9-143.

Gardner led GG's chase of 144 with her second consecutive half-century, making 52 from 32 deliveries faced, including a trio of sixes, along with five fours before being dismissed by Australian team-mate Tahliia McGrath.

With her team in early trouble at 2-2, Gardner and South African batter Laura Wolvaardt then counter-punched, including hitting three sixes in a single over from Saima Thakor. With Gardner leading the charge, GG raced to 2-41 at the end of the powerplay.

Unlucky not to be player of the match in game one, she received this honour in GG's initial win.

GG coach Michael Klinger also confirmed the way Gardner has been conducting herself as a leader off the field has been great as well.

Gardner said she was excited by the opportunity to be skipper of the Gujarat Giants, although she previously has not had many captaincy roles in her career.

"I'm going to try to be fearless and take the positives out of a situation," Gardner explained.

"I'll go with my gut feel.

"When the things get tough the captain needs to be calm, and I'd endeavour to bring that aura to the group.

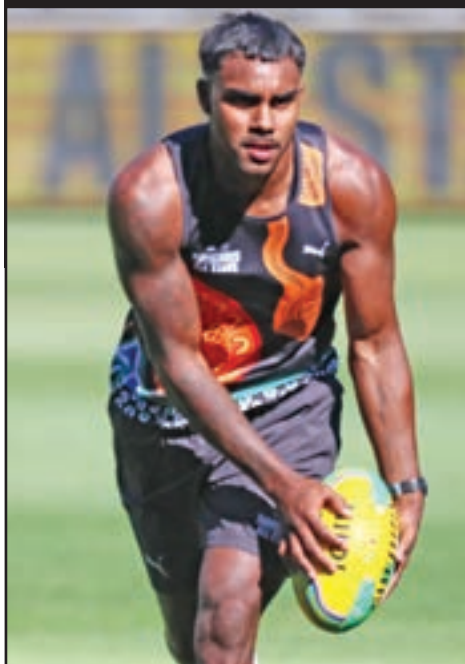
"We have got some raw talent that can display their talents on the biggest stage.

"(There is) plenty of experience and youth in this side."

In season one and two of the WPL, the Gujarat Giants finished at the foot of the ladder both years, with just two victories each season.

— PeterArgent

All the All Stars action



NRL stories and
pics, pages 52-53

AFL stories and
pics, pages 56-57



Check out our season previews for both AFL and NRL