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Blacklash against Queen's Foxxxy look

COMMENT



At the centre of a lot of homophobic comments from Mob online following the Sydney Mardi Gras this year were images of drag queen Felicia Foxx, painted up in knee

high red boots, a red lap lap with a red g-string and a spear.

Many people hid their homophobic comments behind culture and religion but I feel strongly that the Jesus I learnt about as a child would not have judged this way.

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Picture: Joseph Mayers



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MY FAMILY

Agnes Rosser, Boulia, Qld



Agnes Rosser, Mathew Cantrill, Tahlia Noble, Leeara Cantrill. Front: Chelsea Noble.

Family is so important to me and I have many members living at Boulia which is a remote community in the Queensland outback.

But I also have many relatives living at other places and got to catch up with my niece Tahlia Noble, her daughter Chelsea Noble, aged six, who both live at Ayr, and my grandchildren Mathew Cantrill and Leeara Cantrill who live at Townsville.

They are aged 13 and are twins.

Boulia is about 1000km from Townsville and also around 300km from Mount Isa which is the biggest town in my area.

I was in Townsville for treatment at the big hospital there and took the opportunity to do a variety of activities with them.

Your photographer saw us on Survival Day doing some fishing from the banks of Ross Creek in Townsville.

We all dropped in a line as the ferry from Palm island cruised past.

Whilst there are Rosser family members on Palm island they are from a different mob but my nice may be related

to Noble family there.

Saltwater fishing in Townsville which is beside the sea if different to what I do at Boulia.

There we go fishing in freshwater rivers for species such as yellow belly.

However we didn't have much luck that day but just spending time with family was great.

Whilst in Townsville we had barbecues, visited the water park along the Strand, went swimming, and just had a good time together.

Out at Boulia I go hunting with family for kangaroo and goanna which make delicious eating.

Boulia is a famous place where many people have claimed to have seen the Min Min Light.

Your photographer asked me had I ever seen I can say that I have.

In between my dialysis treatment at the hospital it has been so wonderful to see these family as I live so far away from them when I return home.

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.

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OUR CHILDREN



The excitement from the children at Lockhart River's Paytham Malkari Dance festival was evident on the faces of these dancers, who had been practising for months before the event. The event was held in the tiny far north eastern Cape York community in September last year and will be on again this year. Picture: Christine Howes.

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Fostering resilience, one per cent at a time

By KEIRA JENKINS



DANTE Rodrigues was tired of seeing young men fall through the “holes in the system”, noticing his peers go down a “wrong path” or not having anywhere to turn to for support.

The 23-year-old and his cousin Jahdai Vigona took matters into their own hands by getting a few mates together armed with boxing gloves and pads at a local park in Darwin.

“We’d see a lot of our peers go through things that probably could have been avoided ... like unsafe relationships, drug and alcohol problems, crime, all those things,” Mr Rodrigues said.

“We decided to build a program for people just like us, that were starting to go off on a bit of a wrong path and just needed some guidance and assistance.”

Positive feedback

When their gathering of young men started to attract larger numbers and positive feedback from the attendees, the pair, both Tiwi Island men, knew they had to expand.

“We had young people coming out of their house who don’t normally exercise or leave the house on weekends or don’t have many friends coming and socialising,” Mr Rodrigues said.

“We had middle-aged men coming and speaking about their problems ... we even had an older fella come and tell us he was a bit suicidal, his wife had just left him and he just had a lot going on and he really needed that community and camaraderie to talk about these things.”

So the One Per Cent program was born, aiming to improve the mental and



Participants taking part in the One Per Cent program in Darwin.

physical health of young Indigenous men.

The two cousins now run programs on Groote Eylandt, Tiwi Island and are hoping to take their program to communities further afield.

Suicide rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more than two times higher than among non-Indigenous Australians, 2022 data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows.

Among young people aged 0-24, the suicide rate was more than three times as high, when compared to non-Indigenous people.

Last Wednesday a report from the Victorian coroner revealed the suicide rate among First Nations people is three times

higher than the rest of the population in the state (see page 12).

More than half of the Indigenous people who died by suicide in 2020-2024 were under 35, the report said.

For Mr Rodrigues support and programs for First Nations people must be community-led.

“If you send non-culturally aware people to do this kind of education, it doesn’t really click, especially in community,” he said.

“I think having people from the same background, with lived experience, it’s very important when working in this space because it builds rapport with young people a lot better but you can also see where they’re coming from.”

Mr Rodrigues last Wednesday delivered a keynote address at the Indigenous Suicide Prevention Forum in Sydney.

It was an honour, as a young man, running a relatively new program, to speak about the work they’re doing and draw attention to the mental health issues young men are facing in the territory, he said.

“We want people to be one per cent better every day,” Mr Rodrigues said.

“That’s how we approach our sessions, we don’t try to make massive changes overnight but we try to be consistent and we get those little one per cent of things done because at the end it adds up to a larger picture.”

Mardi Gras outfit causes outrage

By DARREN COYNE



A FIRST Nations photographer who snapped a photo of a drag queen dressed as a ‘strong, black, queer warrior’ at the recent

Sydney Mardi Gras says he was disgusted and embarrassed by the reaction the image received online from parts of Australia.

In the photo, Felicia Foxx, aka Wendell French, a well-known Oxford Street drag queen, wore a red lap lap over a red g-string, red leather thigh-high boots, and was covered in traditional paint.

“I always go to the parade’s marshalling area to get photos of the blackfellas and as soon as I saw Felicia like that it hit me in the heart,” Sydney-based photographer Joseph Mayers told the *Koori Mail*.

“I thought that’s the best costume I’ve ever seen Felicia in in my life. She was like a strong, black, queer warrior and that’s what we’ve got in Sydney.

“Now whether they (the critics) like it or not we have got queer people who are in our communities and they’ve always been in our communities.

“They can tell you they weren’t but that’s simply not true. Queer people, two spirit people, whatever, have always been around in Aboriginal culture and all other native cultures all around the world since the beginning.

“When I saw her outfit, as a



An image of Felicia Foxx and another performer at Mardi Gras.

straight man, I looked at it and thought this is wonderful so I took the photo and thought nothing of it but when I woke up the next day it was going off online.

“What I saw was disgraceful, homophobic bigotry. It was a reaction from our people that I did not expect that I would see in Australia.”

Mr Mayers said many negative comments suggested that the outfit was culturally unsound, yet most came from states that had not been subjected to the negative impacts of colonisation to the extent of what had occurred in the southern states.

He said it was ‘a little bit

hypocritical’ to start spouting culture and then in the second breath start hurling homophobic abuse “because that’s what white people did to us during colonisation”.

“They (the critics) were doing the same thing. We grew up with bigots and racism and now they’re turning that around in the most disgusting way to this person.”

Mr Mayers said most negative comments came from states outside New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

“In places like WA, Queensland and the NT, they still practise and speak their languages and they’ve got strong lore. Here we know that

you don’t have a right to go on to their Country and make comments, and we respect that.

“But this happened on our Country, Gadigal land, and Felicia went though all the right protocols.”

In another photo, not taken by Mr Mayers, Felicia Foxx is portrayed brandishing a spear at another person dressed as Jesus Christ. That photo resulted in the Australian Christian Lobby, which campaigns against same-sex marriage, abortion, and promotes ‘family values’, calling for the de-funding of Mardi Gras.

Australian Christian Lobby chief executive Michelle Pearse issued a statement saying that ‘the festival should not be funded by everyday Australians who are working hard to provide for their families’.

“Christians across Australia are grieved by the public depiction of Christ being speared by an Aboriginal stripper at the Mardi Gras,” Mrs Pearse said.

Mr Mayers replied that it was ironic that Christians were ‘losing their minds’ over the image.

“It’s funny because it’s not NSW, Victoria or whatever, because we’ve dealt with the Christians, with their missionaries, and them putting us on missions and taking away the children and all the other dodgy stuff the church did to us down here,” he said. “We’re all a bit weary and we’re not overly Christian but the rest of the blackfellas around Australia, they’re all Christians

and they’re taking offence.”

Felicia Foxx issued a statement in response to the furore saying the outfit was chosen to align with the Mardi Gras theme “Free To Be” and with the First Nations float theme “Blak Royalty”.

“My interpretation of this year’s theme was that you as an individual we’re free of restraints from society, free of gender roles, free of bigotry and free to be whomever you choose to be.

“I am a gay Aboriginal man who lives simultaneously with my queerness and culture 365 days a year. I can’t put my culture aside for my queerness nor put my queerness aside for my culture.

The statement said: “We are living in a society where culture is constantly evolving and I Wendell French aka Felicia Foxx am a proud gay, Aboriginal man.

“The image of myself holding that spear to someone dressed like Jesus was a stance for the truth telling when it comes to pre colonialism and what the churches, colonialists & genocidist did to our people.

“We talk about truth-telling in society today yet when myself someone who is apart of the race that the church tried to wipe out, it’s an outcry. This is my truth and if you don’t like it then you don’t like the truth!!

“WELCOME TO 2025 – Where I am FREE TO BE ME AND SPEAK MY TRUTH.

“If you don’t like it then go Nik your Nanny.”

An event to heal and connect



AN event to pay tribute to families and communities affected by Aboriginal deaths in custody will be held for the third time in Naarm (Melbourne) next month.

Presented by the Indigenous Sports Network, in partnership with the Dhadjowa Foundation, the the Ngarra Jarra Noun - Healing Ceremony, to be held at Victoria Park on Sunday, April 13, from 12pm.

Featuring a powerhouse headlining performance from renowned Indigenous rapper Briggs, and supported by talented local acts including Crooked TP, MPath Soul, Jayden Lillyst and Aaron Morgan, Ngarra Jarra Noun will also feature healing ceremonies conducted by Jason Tamiru with ten local traditional dance groups.

"The world is changing and in this political climate I believe having all our nations, clans and families connecting in pride while showing unity and strength is exactly what the answer is," Briggs said.

Nathan Lovett-Murray of the Indigenous Sports Network, said it would be special tribute to those impacted by deaths in custody..

"We have the oldest living culture in the world and we are the most locked up people in the world," he said.

"We need to come together at Victoria Park and heal our families and communities through music, dance and ceremony."



Kayla Baksh of the Wulumbarra dance group performs at a previous Ngarra Jarra Noun.

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Don't disguise your homophobia as culture

Sydney Mardi Gras this year was exactly what the LGBTI+ community needed globally. It was amazing to see so many beautiful people celebrating themselves and their community together. I loved all the allies joining in too. Made my heart smile.

The current climate in the world, led strongly by America's current law changes for LGBTI+ people is frightening, so this Mardi Gras was important. We needed to show the world, we celebrate and love people for their authentic self. Even our Prime Minister knew the extra importance of this year, as he walked alongside our LGBTI+ community, full of joy and pride.

Our First Nations community knows only too well how changes in laws and policy, can impact the wellbeing and welfare of us in a heartbeat. We also know too well how misinformation and disinformation effects our people's welfare daily.

So, it broke my heart to see in the days after the Mardi Gras, the large number of vile social media comments about our beautiful LGTBI+ community.

At the centre of a lot of homophobic comments were images of Drag Queen Felicia Foxx, painted up in knee high red boots, a red lap lap with a red G-string and a spear. I think they are important images to reflect upon.

Too often we are seen as one group of people, which we are



Shelley Ware

not. We are many different mobs that have different stories, beliefs, cultures, spirituality, protocols and also different connections to the LGBTIQ+ community.

Where my mob are from, men who have gone through ceremony wear red headbands. My father was an initiated Wirangu man and so I have lived experience and respect for the responsibility, protocols, knowledge and honour this brings. So, I had an immediate reaction of concern to the images because of the colour red, and its meaning to my people.

I do not know the protocols and culture of Felicia Foxx's Kamilaroi and Dhunghutti mob or even if red has the same meaning. That's not my business. I am not a cultural authority here. I just wanted to talk to the fact we are all so different in our cultural practices and beliefs, so what means something for one, may not

mean the same for another.

Many people hid their homophobic comments behind religion. I feel strongly that the Jesus I learnt about as a child would not have judged this way. Many comments not even related to the image of Felicia holding a spear to a person dressed as Jesus but to her sexuality. Religion has not been our way, it was forced upon us on the missions. I have chosen spirituality over religion but in saying that I do respect that it has since become a special part of many of our people's lives.

The other comments that bothered me were that we as First Nations people didn't have LGBTIQ+ people in our communities, in our long 65,000+ year history. Many communities embrace our Sistergirls, two spirits and that is a fact. They are loved and celebrated with the respect they deserve. If you think colonisers brought LGBTIQ+ people over on the ships 237 years ago, then you need to do some serious unlearning and learning fast. Our community know too well, how harmful social media comments are to our wellbeing.

There is no problem challenging each other respectfully, asking questions and learning from each other. but there is no place for homophobic comments at all.

● **Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide, South Australia.**

Winmar wants in on the AFL racism case



AFL great Nicky Winmar has asked to "courageously" co-lead a landmark racism class action against the league brought by Indigenous players, lawyers say.

Phil Krakouer, who played 141 games for North Melbourne, lodged the case in the Supreme Court in September 2023, alleging senior AFL management did nothing to prevent racism within the sport.

The class action is open to any Indigenous players who claim they experienced racism, racial vilification, discrimination, abuse, violence or victimisation between 1975 and 2023, while participating in the AFL.

Krakouer's barrister Melanie Szydzik SC said there was the "potential" he may be joined by another leading plaintiff, the court was told during a brief hearing recently.

Ms Szydzik was granted seven weeks to prepare and serve further documents on the AFL, including a revised statement of claim and to decide whether the new plaintiff will join.

The AFL is fighting the allegations and its barrister Mark Costello KC questioned whether that plaintiff could be involved in the action when he was also involved in a separate case about concussions.

Mr Costello said the AFL was also concerned by delays to the case, since it was filed 18 months ago.

"The types of statements made in respect of people with long histories, not only with the game but also connection with Indigenous players in the game," he told the court.

"It is important that your honour is aware that this litigation has ongoing affects outside this courtroom."

Outside court, the class action's lawyer Michel Margalit confirmed the plaintiff seeking to join was former St Kilda and Western Bulldogs player Nicky Winmar.

Winmar, a Noongar man, was already involved in the class action but had "courageously" offered to become co-lead plaintiff, she said.

"We are currently as a legal team considering whether this is to the benefit of the class action, and we're



Former St Kilda Saints player and Western Australian-born Noongar man Nicky Winmar poses in front of his statue at Optus Stadium in Perth. AAP

of course in the hands of the court as to whether or not this is appropriate moving forward," she told reporters.

"Nicky Winmar has been a trailblazer through our time.

"He really stands to fight to eradicate racial vilification in the game, to make it a safe place for all football players."

Winmar fought back against a number of alleged acts of racism throughout his career, including during a 1993 game against Collingwood where he was racially abused by the crowd.

He stood defiantly in front of opposition spectators who had been hurling racial abuse at him, lifted his jersey and pointed at his skin.

"I'm black and I'm proud to be black," he told the crowd, in a gesture which has since been memorialised in a statue outside Perth Stadium.

Ms Margalit said she had met with Winmar on a number of occasions and "he is very passionate" about the action.

Over the next month, she said lawyers would consider how to structure their case and whether to accept Winmar's offer.

"Mr Winmar suffered prolonged racial vilification in the workplace and it's certainly culminated in that famous moment that was photographed in 1993," she said.

"He's been left with the mental scars of that racial vilification, in circumstances where he's unable to walk away. So he certainly brings considerable experience, and considerable injury from those experiences."

The case was adjourned to a later date.

-AAP

Report calls out racist incidents



HATE mail, graffiti and property damage, and being abused in public places are among the incidents of racism

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experienced in 2023-24 – with many linked to the Voice debate.

The most common types of racism

reported in the 12 months to March 2024 were negative attitudes or stereotyping (23 per cent) and discrimination (15 per cent), according to the second annual Call It Out report on racism targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Physical violence, verbal abuse, hate speech, threats, intimidation, bullying, and damage to property combined made up more than a third of responses.

The report is based on more than 400 instances of racism against First Nations people reported to the Call It Out register.

The register is run by the University of Technology Sydney's Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research, and the National Justice Project.

The reported instances could be the "tip of the iceberg", report guest author and Jumbunna Institute director Lindon Coombes said.

"It's not just that thing that's happened that day or an incident that happened that week, it's a repeated pattern of behaviour, it's a repeated assault on Indigenous people where people get to a point that they no longer wish to tolerate that," he said.

"As Indigenous people we have a very high tolerance for racism, if we were reporting every incident, as people sometimes allege, we would be very, very busy people."

Racism online was the most commonly reported location of an incident, making up almost a quarter of reports.

13 per cent of reported racism occurred in public places and 12 per cent was reported in the workplace.

Although institutional racism was identified in just nine per cent of reports, one in five identified government and private institutions, including legal, education, health and public transport as the location of an incident.

"One thing that was really clear is that there was no safe space in terms of trying to avoid racism," Jumbunna Institute associate professor Fiona Allison said.

Prof Allison said there was also a higher proportion of perpetrators of racism who were unknown to the victim, rising from the previous 12 months, which was potentially related to the voice referendum.

One in five reports of racism to the register specifically referenced the referendum or voice.

Jumbunna Institute criminology professor Chris Cunneen said this was not surprising.

"One of the things that came across in the reports in particular was there was a very strong feeling expressed that the whole process around the referendum had facilitated the normalisation of racism," he said.

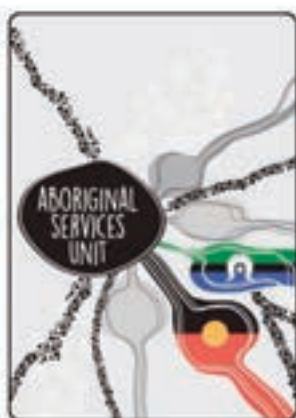
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Indigenous-led centre launched, continuing Eddie Mabo's legacy

By KEIRA JENKINS



IT was more than 30 years ago when a landmark legal case, brought about by Eddie Koiki Mabo and fellow Mer

Islanders, recognised the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to their lands.

A centre, which opened in Perth on Tuesday, March 4, will continue the forefather of native title's legacy, which began in 1982 when the group lodged their legal claim in the High Court for ownership of their lands.

The Mabo Centre will focus on advancing First Nations leadership and improving economic outcomes for communities through land and sea rights.

Dr Mabo's family gifted the centre his name, with his daughter Gail Mabo saying the centre will continue the fight for justice.

"Through winning the case, Dad gave the right for all First Australians to celebrate those things we hold most dear to us," she said.

"To bring back our voices. To bring back our culture. To bring back strength to the proud people that we are."

Mabo Centre co-chair Jamie Lowe said Dr Mabo's contributions left an enduring influence in Australia, inspiring generations of Indigenous activists in their fight for rights to Country.

"The Mabo decision was handed down 33 years ago, starting the recognition of native title in law," the Gundjitrara and Djabwurrung man said.

"However as Traditional Owners, we have known for over 65,000 years that we have rights to Country.

"It's time that native title met the needs of Traditional Owners and can continue to do so for



Gail Mabo speaking at the Launch of the Mabo Centre



Dr Eddie Koiki Mabo

generations."

The Mabo Centre will be established under a partnership between the National Native Title Council and the University of Melbourne.

It was conceived following a long process of consultation about the challenges and barriers to self-determination and economic prosperity

through land and sea rights, co-chair Marcia Langton said.

"It is time for a new mechanism to consider the impact of land and resource use and extraction from our lands within a rights framework," she said.

The First Nations-led partnership will be guided by an advisory board, with Mr Lowe,



Jamie Lowe, Co-Chair of the Mabo Centre and CEO of the NNTC.

Professor Langton and University of Melbourne Dean of Business and Economics Paul Kofman as co-chairs, and Larrakia, Wadjigan and Central Arrente lawyer Eddie Cubillo as director.

Professor Cubillo said the Mabo Centre will support First Nations governance, and

provide the policy base to enable agreement making, aiming for justice for Indigenous people.

"Justice is about much more than the law and rectification of wrongs," he said. "It is about provision of knowledge and opportunities to make change."

—AAP



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Reflecting on the Freedom Ride's legacy, 60 years on

By KEIRA JENKINS



IN 1965 a bus filled with students arrived at the University of Sydney.

They were returning from a two-week journey through regional NSW, drawing attention to racism in towns where Aboriginal people were barred from swimming pools, cinemas, pubs and RSL clubs.

Inspired by the civil rights movement in the United States, the Freedom Ride, was led by activist, Charles Perkins.

Gary Williams started at the University of Sydney in 1963, alongside Mr Perkins, forming the Student Action for Aborigines collective, which then formed the idea of the Freedom Ride.

They were the first Aboriginal students to attend the university.

Although Mr Williams was unable to join his fellow Freedom Riders for the entirety of the journey, he remembers meeting up with the group in Bowraville, where Aboriginal people were banned from the pub and the local cinema was segregated.

"I was walking up the street – I'd hitchhiked from Nambucca to Bowraville," he said.

"When they called for volunteers to go into the hotel the local mob said 'he'll do it'.

"So I went in and Brian (Aarons) was there, we went in and ordered ... there were reporters and journalists there so nothing happened."

The pair were served their drinks and a photo snapped as Mr Williams sipped his beer.

Mr Williams reunited with Mr Aarons as well as fellow Freedom Riders Professor Ann Curthoys and Jim Spigelman on Wednesday, February 26, 60 years after their journey ended, to reflect on its impact.

Mr Williams said he can see



The Freedom Riders marked the 60th anniversary of their tour of regional NSW to shed light on racism.

the "generational legacy" of the Freedom Ride.

"It's good to see not only with the Aboriginal community, but the wider community, embracing what was done in 1965," he said.

Prof Curthoys remembers confronting the "evident racism" throughout the country towns during her time on the Freedom Ride, as well as being warmed by the welcome from the Aboriginal community along the way.

"People arguing very explicitly

that Aboriginal people didn't have the right to go to the swimming pool or go to the cinema or go to the RSL," she said.

"It was a really weird mixture of some very warming things and some very chilling things that you encounter as you go through those towns."

Looking back, Prof Curthoys said the Freedom Ride had a greater impact than the students had initially realised.

"The impact that we wanted to have was to draw attention to the

situation, which we did, and to generate debate, which we did," she said.

"It's a long way from that to solving the issues, and that's by no means happened, but we did, I think, bring consciousness of these issues to the fore."

To commemorate the legacy of the Freedom Ride, the University of Sydney announced a new scholarship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

The scholarship will provide

\$8,500 each year to two undergraduate students for the duration of their degree.

"This scholarship is about more than financial support - it is recognition of the courage and impact of the original Freedom Riders," interim deputy vice-chancellor of Indigenous Services and Strategy, Professor Jennifer Barrett said.

"It is also about empowering those who might follow in their footsteps."

—AAP

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Rising above the waters

By RHODA ROBERTS AO



ON Bundjalung Country, during the final stages of the wet season, we have always experienced unexpected torrential downpours. Our Black Cockatoos as they fly skyward are our rain indicators. Traditionally, this time of year was when the floodplains provided sustenance. The land, in its cyclical nature, offers both nourishment and challenge, reminding us of the delicate balance we must maintain.

We are a proud region, and since 2022, many have walked the delicate line of stability between hardship and hope. There are countless stories of heartache and resilience, where strength has been found in the face of adversity, and the community continues to rise together.

But there has been a growing weight, a burden and despair felt deeply by our communities., "heavy and dark as storm clouds,".

This grief is not merely emotional but is also deeply tied to the ongoing devastation of the land, the disruption of ecosystems, and the loss of ancient practices that connect us to our environments. More than



A view just down the road from *Koori Mail* office in Lismore.

just a personal sorrow, it is a collective wound.

As we hear the constant updates of ex-cyclone Alfred and watch the rains persist, with flooding predicted once again, it feels as though the land itself is mourning. The heavy weight of it all, and the fear of having to start again is a burden many are feeling deeply. It brings back memories of the destruction and the struggles we've already faced, and the accompanying emotional toll can feel overwhelming.

But even in this challenging time, there is warmth and comfort to be found in the ways we come together. Physically, we stand side by side, offering help where it's needed, whether it's providing counselling, shelter, helping to

rebuild, or simply being there to listen and offer a hand. The strength of the community, of neighbours coming together, is a powerful reminder that we are not alone. It's the support of a community that helps carry the burden, lightening the load for everyone.

Remember, just six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet, and one foot of moving water is strong enough to sweep your vehicle away. Stay safe and avoid flooded areas.

Services

Here are some measures we can take and the services available to support recovery, helping again to rebuild and restore our region.

For assistance during floods and storms call the NSW SES on 132 500 or Triple Zero (000) for life threatening emergencies. <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/northern-nsw>

For Evacuation centres visit <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/during-an-emergency/evacuation-centres>

Community-led disaster recovery and resilience <https://resilientismore.org.au/>

The Albanese and Minns Governments have activated disaster assistance to communities in 15 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in northern NSW in anticipation of the impacts of Cyclone Alfred.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/ministerial-releases/disaster-support-for-fifteen-northern-nsw-lgas>

Assistance measures that may be provided to communities include:

- Assistance for eligible residents to help meet immediate needs like emergency accommodation and essential items generally provided from evacuation or recovery centres.

- Grants for eligible low-income residents to replace lost essential household items to maintain basic standard of living.

- Grants for eligible low-income residents to undertake essential structural repairs to restore their homes to a basic,

safe and habitable condition.

- Support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets.

- Concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers, and non-profit organisations and grants to sporting and recreation clubs to repair or replace damaged or destroyed property.

- Freight subsidies for primary producers to help transport livestock and fodder.

- Financial support towards counter disaster activity undertaken by emergency service organisations to keep communities safe.

NSW State Government Flood grants, payments and programs to aid recovery.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/floods/recover/financial-support>

Services Australia provide Federal Australian Government assistance such as Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and Disaster Recovery Allowance -

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/new-south-wales-natural-disaster-support?context=60042>

Lismore city council

<https://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/Community/Natural-hazards-and-emergencies/Floods/Flood-Recovery/Flood-Recovery-hubs-grants-and-support-services>

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Something fishy about abalone industry's compensation claim

By MARION WILLIAMS



SOUTH Coast Aboriginal fishers are indignant that they are being blamed for destroying NSW's commercial abalone industry.

They continue their decades-long struggle to exercise their cultural fishing rights against a state government that refuses to acknowledge in practice those rights which are enshrined in the Commonwealth's Native Title Act.

A marine biologist said the destruction of abalone habitat – kelp forests – by sea urchins amid warmer oceans is the root cause of the falling abalone numbers, while an academic said the accusations appear to be groundless.

Organised crime

An April 2024 NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) report said the illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) catch of abalone in NSW "involves organised crime in some instances".

It said that the yearly total allowable commercial catch is 100 tonnes. That was shared among 23 active businesses in 2020/21. The catch by recreational fishers is estimated to be under 5 tonnes annually, and the annual catch by Aboriginal cultural fishers is estimated at less than 1 tonne.

The report said that DPI Fisheries advised that the IUU catch "may now constitute up to 50 tonnes per year", based on an assessment by compliance officers. They "have observed an increase in illegal catch and sale of abalone and a southerly shift of illegal fishing operations".

The report said the risk of illegal harvest to sustainability of abalone stock is clearly a concern.

Koori Mail asked Fisheries how it arrived at its estimate of 50 tonnes, and asked Abalone Council of Australia's chief executive Dean Lisson on what grounds he told the ABC, "there



Scott Bennett of Great Southern Reef Foundation and Damon Gameau, presenter of the documentary White Rock, with traditional owner Walbunja man Wally Stewart and Stefan Andrews of Great Southern Reef Foundation. Picture: Great Southern Reef Foundation.

was a small group of repeat offenders exploiting cultural fishing rights". Both declined to respond.

Scapegoats

Honorary associate professor at the Centre for Indigenous Policy Research at Australian National University, Janet Hunt, who has followed the issue for years, said Fisheries gave no evidence whatsoever of how they reached the conclusion the IUU catch may be 50 tonnes. That represents half NSW's entire commercial catch.

She said Fisheries has confiscated on average slightly more than 500 kilograms illegal catch each year from 2020/21 to 2022/23, so there is a big gap between what Fisheries says it has confiscated and what it says is the possible scope of the illegal catch.

"I don't know where they have got that from. I think it is plucked out of thin air," she said.

Dr Hunt co-wrote the article "What's the Catch: The criminalisation of Aboriginal fishing in NSW."

"Aboriginal fishers are being scapegoated for all sorts of problems with the marine environment which are due more



The highly-prized black-lipped abalone. (Wikipedia)

to overfishing since the 1970s," Mr Hunt said.

"Before then, there was no regulation of Aboriginal fishers who maintained a very healthy marine system. Then abalone became a high-value export and commercial diving took off."

Climate change

Marine biologist Stefan Andrews is director of education and impact at not-for-profit Great Southern Reef Foundation. He said the kelp forests of south-eastern Australia are being destroyed by sea urchins.

"The urchins are prolific

reproducers and just don't stop eating. They overgraze kelp forests to the point there is nothing left," Mr Andrews said. "If there is no healthy reef, abalone have nowhere to live and nothing to eat."

"There are fewer and fewer abalones, and more and more urchins, so the ecosystem is completely out of balance," he said.

"The urchins are what need to be targeted."

Traditional owner Walbunja man Wally Stewart is incensed by the insinuation that Aboriginal fishers are taking 50 tonnes

every year. Commercial divers go out in boats with air compressors in deep water, while Aboriginal fishers free dive off rocks with a bag.

"We don't even take 1 per cent of what they take. They have made us out to be criminals who take 50 tonnes a year, when they are the ones who have destroyed the industry, and they want Fisheries to buy them out," Mr Stewart said.

Ms Hunt said the irony and injustice of an industry buyout was the people who have taken most of the abalone might then benefit whereas the people who have been trying most to look after the environment may not, depending on how the buyout is done.

First Nations' knowledge

Rather than the government buying out the commercial abalone fishers, Mr Stewart said money should go towards fixing the sea urchin problem.

Mr Stewart is a director of Joonga Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation which has a contract to remove sea urchins. He knows a marine scientist who has a kelp seed bank to help restore the kelp forests.

While Mr Andrews worked with Mr Stewart on the documentary White Rock about the climate-induced explosion of sea urchins, he learnt how different the reef once was and the Aboriginal people's deep connection.

"What is clear is there is knowledge through these First Nation sustainability practices that needs to be listened to," Mr Andrews said.

Dr Hunt said First Nations people have so much to offer through their extensive knowledge of caring for the marine environment.

"Instead of prosecuting them, and gaslighting them, and scapegoating them in a very racist way, the government should be working with them, so everyone is working together to improve the South Coast marine environment."

ACMI



Mick Harding

(Yowong-Illam-Baluk and Nattarak Baluk clans of the Taungurung people)

New First Nations Welcome Installation by Mick Harding.
See the new commission at ACMI.

CREATIVE VICTORIA

Health response to inquest



THE National Justice Project last week welcomed NSW Health's formal response to wide-ranging recommendations made by a coronial inquest into the death of Ricky 'Doug'ie' Hampson in 2021.

NSW Deputy State Coroner Magistrate Erin Kennedy called for NSW Health to amend a state-wide policy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients when she handed down her findings in August 2024. She found the 36-year-old Kamilaroi/Dunghutti father of eight died in agony from perforated stomach ulcers after being misdiagnosed and discharged without any scans or further review by

senior doctors.

Coroner Kennedy said Dougie's death was preventable and referred his treating doctor to the Health Care Complaints Commission for investigation and review over their conduct. She also made recommendations for improvements in cultural safety training at Dubbo Base Hospital and across the Western NSW Local Health District.

NSW Health has responded with commitments to improve cultural training and early identification of Indigenous status of patients.

National Justice Project senior solicitor Karina Hawtrey said these commitments showed the significant impact Dougie's death and his family's campaigning will

have on the healthcare system for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients across the state.

"The inquest found Dougie's death was preventable with the Coroner noting his case should help drive cultural safety, recognition and improvement in the healthcare system," she said.

"This response is just the start of the systemic change needed and recognition of the family's ongoing efforts to seek justice and accountability.

"The introduction of state-wide policy and updated training by NSW Health is an important step towards improving the treatment of First Nations patients and involving their communities in decision-making about healthcare."

Alarm at rise in suicide



THE true scale of an "alarming" rise in Indigenous Australians dying by suicide may still be under-reported, with concerns about gaps in data and barriers to culturally safe care.

Some 27 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people died by their own hands in 2024 in Victoria, a 42 per cent jump in two years.

It translates to a suicide rate three times higher than the rest of the population, a report from the state coroner revealed.

Some 56.6 per cent of Indigenous Victorians who died in 2020-24 were aged under 35, compared to 30.2 per cent of non-Indigenous people who took their own lives.

The average age of death for Indigenous men was 37 and 29.6 for women.

In the four years until 2024, one-third of Indigenous suicides were in men aged 25-34, while the most common age for women was between 18-24.

The analysis also revealed a geographical divide, with 54.9 per cent of suicides in First Nations peoples in regional areas and 45.1 per cent in metropolitan areas.

This contrasts with the rest of the population, where two-thirds of suicides occurred in metropolitan areas.

The figures are alarming, but not surprising, according to Sheree Lowe, executive director of the peak body for Aboriginal health in Victoria VACCHO.

She attributed differences between suicide rates among Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians to "intergenerational trauma" and disconnection from family or land.

Help on offer may not always be culturally appropriate, she said.

"The service system is designed to meet the needs of mainstream Australia and so what that means is more often than not, services lack cultural safety," Ms Lowe told AAP.

"Our communities have a historic legacy of mistrust with systems, we often see people waiting until ... a crisis or distress to start to access services, or people don't access services at all because they don't feel safe."

Stressors identified by the court included diagnosed or suspected mental health conditions, interpersonal concerns, substance use, exposure to family violence and contact with the justice system.

Ms Lowe said efforts to improve data collection on the deaths of First Nations Australians may have contributed to the jump.

"There's probably still gaps in that data, so there can potentially still be an under-representation around the identification of whether somebody identifies as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander," she said.

State Coroner John Cain said more conversations were needed at both a government and community level.

"It is critical to ensure proper supports are in place to drive down suicides in these communities," Judge Cain said.

Jessica Gobbo, from the court's Aboriginal engagement unit Yirramboi, said it was vital to release up-to-date information so culturally safe supports can be developed.

"More work is needed to understand why and how these passings can be prevented," she said.

Ms Lowe said reversing the trend starts with investing more into Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.

"Aboriginal health and wellbeing in Aboriginal hands and investing in our community control sectors is where the solutions lie," she said.

The Victorian government has invested more than \$116 million in Aboriginal-led, culturally safe social and emotional wellbeing services since the state's mental health Royal Commission.

"Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy," a government spokesman said.

-AAP



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Prof Tom Calma AO
National Coordinator, Tackling Indigenous Smoking

The Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) program aims to reduce smoking and vaping rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Department of Health and Aged Care is offering over \$6 million to design and deliver projects providing better health outcomes for First Nations people.

The National Reach and Priority Projects (NRPP) will focus on populations in regional, remote and very remote areas, prioritising:

- young Indigenous people (youth) Indigenous
- pregnant women, their families and women of childbearing age.

A public tender will open soon. Suppliers must design and deliver projects that support a population health approach and meet specific criteria, with applications assessed individually. Successful projects will be chosen on merits including Indigenous participation, value for money and not duplicating existing TIS work.

Scan the QR code to visit [NRPP.com.au](https://nrpp.com.au) for more information, or email any queries to NRPP@nintione.com.au.



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feature

Learning on Country



IN the remote community of Maningrida in West Arnhem Land, five generations of women are leading the way in caring for Country as part of the Djelk Bawinanga Rangers, under the guidance and mentorship of Joyce Bohme, Women Ranger Supervisor, fondly known as Nanna Joyce.

After working for 30 years in the local clinic, Nanna Joyce decided it was time for a change. She wanted more adventure and to reconnect with her mother's homeland, so she left the clinic to start a new career with the Djelk Rangers.

At the time, Joyce and another ranger, Felina were the first and only Djelk Women Rangers. Now, 16 years later, she is joined by Learning on Country (LoC) graduates and family members, Kate Nawirridj (Graduated 2021), Ashleah Nulla (Graduated 2022), Noreen Wurrkidj (Graduated 2023) and most recently Germaina Davis (Graduated 2024).

All the young ranger women (and men, Nanna Joyce's son Callum (graduated 2019) and grandson Karl (graduated 2024) are also continuing the Ranger legacy) took part in the award-winning Learning on Country (LoC) Program, during their senior schooling, which provided internship and learning opportunities with the Djelk Bawinanga Rangers, and helped them work towards their Cert II Conservation and Ecosystem Management (CEM) VET certifications.

The LoC Program is delivered across 14 Top End



Djelk rangers out in the field.

communities in partnership with the Department of Education and local Ranger groups and is driven by strong governance from an all-Aboriginal Steering Committee. It empowers Indigenous youth by combining traditional cultural knowledge with western education methods and curriculum, in a true, locally designed 'Two-Way' learning approach.

The collaboration between the LoC Program and Ranger groups in the remote communities the Program operates, such as Maningrida, creates a natural pathway for students to join the Rangers as interns, during and after they

leave school, and equips them with strong skills, accredited training and work ethic.

Conservation is deeply connected to cultural heritage, and the women Rangers do a lot of cultural work, teaching other women who are set to inherit land and how to care for it.

"We work with biosecurity and aquatic biosecurity, marine debris, banana and citrus monitoring, plant host mapping, animal health (making sure no diseases like rabies come in from overseas), and avian influenza collection and monitoring," said Nanna Joyce.

● Continued next page



Noreen Wurrkidj, Kate Nawirridj, Joyce Bohme and Germaina Davis.

Women do it better, says Nanna Joyce

● Continued

The female Rangers have made their mark on the team and are already well known for their strong attention to detail and immense pride in doing things the 'proper way'!

"The ladies, they just do it better, the proper way," said Jonah Ryan, Maningrida Learning on Country Ranger. "The ladies listen and take it all in. They want to be leaders. It makes me proud."

Nanna Joyce said, "We pride ourselves on doing it the right way, from our PPE and uniforms to safety and caring for country and culture."

Nanna Joyce explains that having women in Ranger roles is important to be able to support the younger girls in school and encourage them to step up and take leadership roles and develop financial independence.

The Women Rangers recently reached a major milestone, skipping the Ranger maritime vessel with an all-female crew for the first time! All women Rangers have now completed their Coxswains

training, with Noreen, Germaina and Ashleah completing theirs through the Maningrida Maritime program.

"It was awesome. We all felt so proud that we don't have to rely on the men to take the boat out now. The young girls felt so confident and so independent," said Nanna Joyce.

"The Ranger role supports the women to be strong, independent women. I feel so proud when I see my young ones step up and feel confident in themselves."

"At first, we fought for support and funding to have more women Rangers. Then, we went from no Women Rangers to not having enough cars for them!"

The future is bright for the Learning on Country Program and the Djelk Bawinanga Rangers, who are dedicated to mentoring more interns through the LoC Program. With a growing team of skilled and passionate women, they are not only protecting and nurturing the land but also empowering the next generation of female leaders.



Djelk rangers about to take off on another mission.

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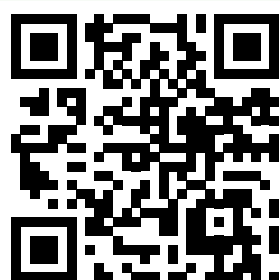
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To discover more about our BHP Indigenous Graduate and Internship programs, please scan the QR code.



Roneld rates Navy life

By ALF WILSON



IT is a long way from remote Yam island in the Torres Strait to the Middle East and it a journey that

Leading Navy Seaman Boatswains Mate (LSBM) Roneld Baragud has taken.

Cairns based LSBM Baragud grew up on Yam and fondly remembers Navy crew visiting his Torres Strait island home when he was just a child.

That was an event which ensured his career ambition was to join the Navy.

Now the Regional Indigenous Development Coordinator for HMAS Cairns, LSBM Baragud said it was his first introduction to Navy and something he would never forget.

"They came ashore with guns and took us out on the RHIBs for a tour. We jumped on the boat barefoot and they let us run wild," he fondly recalls.

At age 17, LS Baragud tried to enlist but his mother wouldn't let him.

The following year there was no stopping him. He saw Navy as a natural fit.

"My family are sea-going people. My great-great-grandfather, great-grandfather and grandfather were fishermen. We grew up around the sea, it was the main way to make money," he said.

Yam (Iama) Island is 100km north-west of Thursday Island, which is 39km north of Cape York Peninsula in Far North Queensland.

"Yam Island is four fuel drums – four 20 litre fuel drums – to Thursday Island, about a four-hour trip by boat away," he said.

He left Yam Island which had a population of 319 in 2018 for experience and to travel the world.

LSBM Baragud has served on HMAS Toowoomba and as a



ASBM Roneld Baragud from HMAS Stalwart exchanges gifts with Nyoongar Elder Trevor Walley during the ship's commissioning ceremony at Fleet Base West, Rockingham.



ASBM Roneld Baragud is farewelled by his family (L-R) Grandmother Lorna, Uncle Ronald, Aunt Lisha and baby Elrita prior to departing on HMAS Toowoomba for Operation Manitou from Fleet Base West, Western Australia.

member of the commissioning crew of HMAS Stalwart, sailed for his first overseas deployment to the Middle East.

"And then COVID hit. We were away for six months but couldn't go ashore. We just

stayed on the ship. It was mentally challenging, yeah, that's for sure," he said.

He was able to go ashore in Japan, however, when he was part of Stalwart's crew at the 2022 International Fleet Review.



ASBM Roneld Baragud on an RIDC course with his peers and mentors at HMAS Albatross, NSW.

"There were around 50 ships there. That was a definite highlight of my career so far," he said.

LS Baragud hopes to introduce a Torres Strait influence into the Navy

Indigenous team culture and make a positive difference to educate Cairns and the broader Navy about First Nations issues.

Part of his role will be to coordinate activities with Army who are also active in the region.

Randall to advise on controversial laws

By ALF WILSON



RANDALL Ross of Aboriginal and Torres Strait descent has been appointed as a member of the "Expert Legal Panel" which will advise the State Government on the *Making Queensland Safer Adult Crime, Adult Time* laws.

The five members were appointed earlier this year, when Mr Ross was described as "a former CEO of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, who has experience delivering programs for youth at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre".

Mr Ross will provide cultural advice in his role.

The other members are – Chair: April Freeman KC (a distinguished Kings Council, with 17 years of legal experience in criminal law, including role of Crown Prosecutor for Queensland).

Douglas Freeman (a barrister with 17 years of experience working on complex criminal trials and appeals, including many youth justice matters).

Lyndy Atkinson (founder of Voice for Victims advocacy group).

Robert Weir (retired Detective Superintendent, who served for 43 years in the Queensland Police Service).

The panelists will make recommendations to the Queensland Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and provide advice on how to best implement legislative amendments.

Townsville-based Mr Ross has TS Darnley Island descent and Aboriginal Juro and Kunjuun heritage.

Speaking to the *Koori Mail* soon after being advised of his appointment the 56-year-old Mr Ross said he was enthusiastic.

"I received a call out of the blue about it and since have been contacted and congratulated by many people including police officers from around the State," Mr Ross said.

Mr Ross said that whilst it was an advisory role, he would look forward to sitting down with youngsters to discuss their thoughts.

"I have been working and travelling up to the Torres Strait regularly and look forward to going up there in this role," he

said. Mr Ross has long been a stalwart of the Garbutt Magpies sporting and recreation club in Townsville.

He has been a founder and organiser of the Boys to Men Garbutt Magpies Cup AFL carnival in Townsville, which is in its 10th year and features school students.

Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services Laura Gerber said members were chosen for their expertise in legal matters, law enforcement and victim support.

"The panel will be tasked with identifying additional and more complex offences for inclusion in *Adult Crime, Adult Time*, as part of the second tranche of *Making Queensland Safer Laws*."

"Panel members are all highly skilled and experienced professionals in the areas of legal practice, law enforcement, victim support and public policy. I am confident they will draw on their expertise to provide sound advice to the Government," Minister Gerber said.

All five members of the Panel have experience in legal practice, law enforcement or victim support.



Randall Ross.



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Earthquake shocks Townsville

By ALF WILSON



ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait islanders living in Townsville were scared, prayed, and even thought a bomb exploded or a vehicle had crashed into their homes when a magnitude 4.4 earthquake occurred.

The earthquake shocked residents at 9.30pm on Saturday, March 1, when it shook homes and some residents feared for their lives for a short time.

Power went off to thousands of houses for a short period after the quake.

The quake was traced to a depth of 10km and whilst the tremor lasted only a few seconds it horrified many residents.

The *Koori Mail* spoke to people from various suburbs and Kirwan resident Gloria Sailor thought a bomb had hit her house.

"It shook me and the others here up. I ran outside screaming and people were texting me to see if we were okay," Gloria said.

Her husband Sam Sailor was at karaoke night at the Ross Island Tavern in Railway Estate and also felt the quake.

"Everybody there felt it and it was so scary," Gloria said.

Arthur Snyder and Ilma Baira from Palm Island were at relatives house in Garbutt, a suburb where many Aboriginal families live.

"I was very scared as I had no idea what it was. Maybe a car had struck the house or something exploded but it was frightening," Ilma said.

Arthur said he was concerned for others in the suburb in the seconds that the quake shook everything.

"I was just so glad it didn't last for long but it was very scary," Arthur said.

Not everybody was indoors and Noah Roma had been fishing near the Townsville Casino.

"It really shook things and it was good that it was only for less than a minute," Noah said.

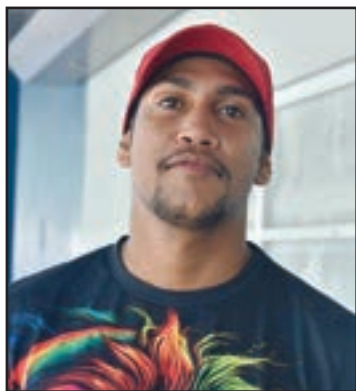
Elder Aunty Jenny Pryor said she sitting in her daughters Kirwan home watching television when the quake shook the building.

"My young grandson limped into the room after it and I had thought at the time it was an earthquake and nobody was hurt," Aunty Jenny said.

Hermit Park resident Evelyn Billy said she prayed as the quake occurred.

"It scared the life out of us. I has some youths here and they were frightened. Everything shook and the animals were terrified. My power went off. I am a committed Christian and as I prayed thought of the Bible which mentions an earthquake," Evelyn said.

Therese Cowley lives in Bohle Plains suburb and said she thought something had crashed into her house.



Noah Roma was fishing when it occurred.



Bai Tapau.



Therese Cowley.



Aunty Jenny Pryor.



Francis Tapim.

"There was a big bang and I remembered another quake which was around here in 2016. It was scary," she said.

Disabled Bai Tapau lives in the outer suburb of Kelso and said her residence totally shook.

"I thought 'My God what is happening' to us and it did frighten me. My carer was here and was also worried. My brother was at a 21st birthday party at a local club and told us all of the plates and cutlery on the tables moved," Bai said.

On the flip-side Mer islander Francis Tapim who lives in Kirwan said he didn't feel the quake.

"I had no experience about the quake," Francis said.

The quake epicentre was between 20km and 30km south west of Townsville.

Townsville City Council acting mayor Ann-Maree Greaney said the disaster management centre worked until midnight but did not go into emergency management.

She said preliminary inspections indicated Ross River Dam had not been impacted.

Ms Greaney said the earthquake was unexpected for the community.

"For me and I'm sure everyone else in the community, it took everyone by surprise. Certainly not what we were expecting on a Saturday night, following a massive rain event two weeks ago. Never experienced anything like it," Mayo Greaney.

Fortunately nobody was injured from the quake.

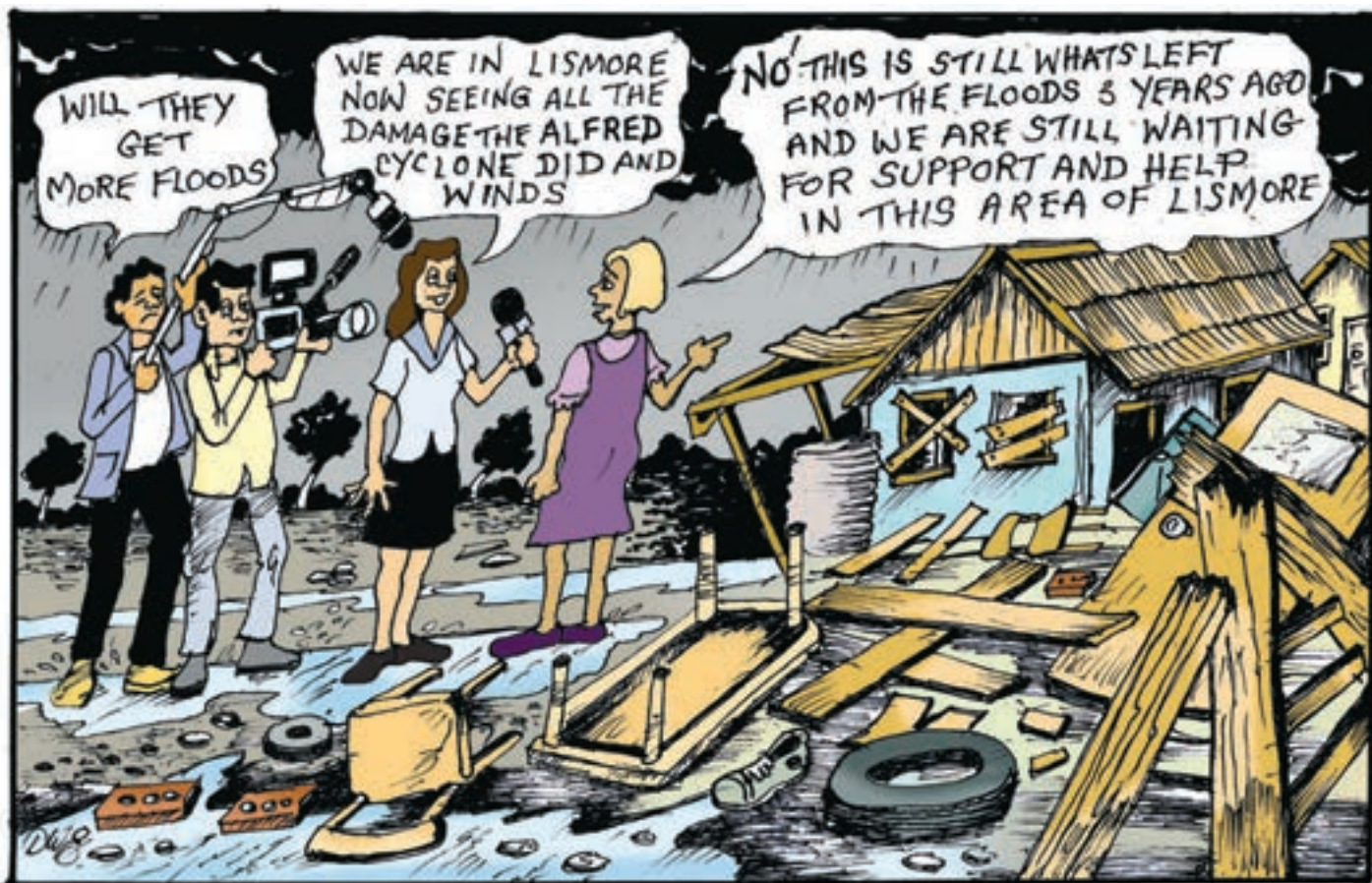


Arthur Snyder and Ilma Baira were in Garbutt when the quake stuck.



Gloria Sailor thought a bomb had hit her house.

Danny Eastwood's view



A YARN WITH...



Claudette Lovett Gunditjmara woman

Quote



“If you don't like it then go Nik your Nanny.”

– Kamilaroi man Wendell French, aka Felicia Fox, in response to critics of his outfit

● See page 3

Unquote

Bringing you the news in a cyclone

Producing a fortnightly newspaper that is delivered across the nation is a mammoth task at any time.

Producing that same newspaper in the middle of a natural disaster is monumental ... and stressful, to say the least.

Just over three years ago the *Koori Mail* office in Lismore, northern NSW, was inundated by an unprecedented weather event that flooded the building, destroying equipment and records that were integral to the newspaper's production.

Flood water rose two metres past what authorities had warned, which meant that any preparations prior to the flooding were useless.

With our own staff and their properties also impacted during that event the tough decision was made to hold off on production until the organisation was back on its feet.

In the meantime, our building became a relief hub for not only our local Aboriginal Mob, but all Lismore and surrounding folk who had been impacted.

Volunteers turned up in their hundreds to help out. Donations flowed in from across Australia to assist our people, and slowly but surely the rebuilding began.

You can imagine therefore the heartache and stress we have all felt as news of Cyclone Alfred began to circulate. For a time it was something



happening 'way up there' in the Coral Sea, off Queensland.

But ever so slowly, Alfred began to make his way closer and closer, and as a result, the stress levels began to rise.

This time however, we were prepared (as well as we could be). Everything of value was lifted to the very top floor, and staff were sent home, with their computers, with the hope that we could somehow pull off a mini-miracle and send our latest edition off to the printers.

It has not been easy. In fact, it has been intense! Just last night we anxiously watched the Wilson River rise to levels that threatened to overtop the levee which protects our CBD.

Thankfully, old Alfred began to slow down a little, running out of puff after his long, meandering journey to land.

Meanwhile, our staff have worked tirelessly to produce this newspaper for you, our valued readers. It's now almost 2pm on Sunday and this editorial is the final piece of the puzzle. Storms are still raging outside but we are about to hit send on our 846th edition. So please forgive any typos you might find.

We blame Alfred.

KOORI MAIL 100% ABORIGINAL-OWNED

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

Favourite bush tucker?

I love roo cooked with finger limes.

Favourite other food?

Beef Stroganoff.

Favourite drink?

Passionfruit and mango kombucha.

Favourite musician?

Daryl Braithwaite!

Favourite sport?

Tennis.

Favourite read?

Fiction, but not sci-fi or murder.

Favourite holiday destination?

Kakadu.

What are watching on TV?

Charmed.

What do you like in life?

Living in a country town because I have never been one for big cities.

What don't you like in life?

Narcissistic people.

Which person would you most like to meet?

Princess Di.

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

Daryl Braithwaite.

Who or what inspires you?

Olivia Newton-John. No matter her celebrity status, she was always very humble.

What is your ultimate goal?

To ensure our people have what they need to move forward.

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

I would encourage my mob to really think about our future instead of the rest of the world's situation.

'Like a warm bath': coral reefs rocked by heatwave

By POPPY JOHNSTON



CORAL reefs off Australia's wildest stretch of coastline may be spared agricultural runoff and other pressures from nearby human activity but there is no escape from global warming-intensified marine heatwaves.

The Kimberley coast, one of the most intact tropical marine environments on earth, is now under threat from "unprecedented" coral bleaching.

"Rangers that have been with us for a number of decades now are saying this is the worst they have ever seen," Kimberley Land Council chief executive officer and Bardi man Tyrone Garstone said.

"Scientifically, we are ahead of the curve of getting to 1.5C hotter and we're potentially seeing some of those impacts."

Kimberley reefs have been rocked by a severe marine heatwave causing coral bleaching – a sign of stress, but not necessarily a death sentence – throughout much of the northwest Australian coastline, including the World Heritage-listed Ningaloo Reef.

Surface water temperatures of 4C to 5C above long-term averages have been recorded in the past few months, causing fish deaths as well as coral bleaching.

Mr Garstone said damaged reefs threatened the way of life for Indigenous communities in the Kimberley, with fish and shellfish – free sources of protein that kept living costs down.

"The ocean is really our supermarket," he said.

At One Arm Point, on Bardi and Jawi country north of Broome at the top of the Dampier Peninsula, Mr Garstone has seen first-hand larger corals – typically thought resilient to large variations in temperature – turning pale.

The Kimberley coastline is home to particularly hardy coral species, with some even capable of surviving out in the open air and blazing sun during low points in the region's famous 12-metre tides.

It's not yet known which species and individual reefs have been bleached or the extent of the damage, with huge distances to cover and accessibility limited for scientists conducting field surveys.

Enviro Kimberley executive director Martin Pritchard said a damaged marine environment would affect people's jobs and income in Broome and other local communities.

A trip to Scott Reef, 300km



Bardi Jawi Rangers looking at the damage on the reefs off One Arm Point, One Arm Point, Dampier Peninsula, WA.



"Unprecedented" coral bleaching is threatening reefs off the Kimberley coast. AAP

northwest of WA's Cape Leveque, in early November first alerted Mr Pritchard to the potency of the underwater heatwave.

"It was like a bath," he said.

Scientists and authorities have ramped up their reef monitoring efforts with the help of Traditional Owners, universities and other groups.

Australian Institute of Marine Science research scientist James Gilmour said it would take months to get a comprehensive picture of the damage, with heat stress not uniform across reefs.

"A bleached coral is not a dead coral, but it is very stressed," he said.

Corals could die if warm

conditions were prolonged or extreme, he said, and it took time to understand whether or not individual corals would recover.

Widespread

Dr Gilmour said the unfolding bleaching was widespread and its timing unprecedented.

"The months March to April are usually the hottest for WA reefs and current outlooks indicate the heat stress will persist across much of the coastline."

University of Western Australia PhD Candidate in oceanography Kelly Boden-Hawes said climate change was making marine heatwaves more intense and frequent and

exacerbating natural weather cycles.

Developing La Nina conditions have been gathering a mass of warm water in the western Pacific, which ocean currents have been funnelling through Indonesian seas and along the WA coast from north to south.

Modelling suggests the currents could bring warm water as far south as Rottnest Island, she said.

La Nina conditions also tend to warm ocean temperatures well below the surface, putting deeper coral communities at risk.

Western Australian Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Action Reece Whitby

described the damage to the state's reefs as "quite shocking."

"It is one of the biggest impacts on the system up there we've ever seen," he said following a briefing from the WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

"I want to work with tourism operators and conservationists and work out what we need to do, but the ultimate solution is a very long and prolonged effort in terms of decarbonising our economy."

Conservationists have been urging authorities to do more to curb greenhouse gas emissions and stop the expansion of the fossil fuel sector.

Mr Pritchard warned a proposal to open a new fracking province in the Kimberley would produce "massive greenhouse emissions".

Climate Analytics chief executive officer and senior scientist Bill Hare said the scientific community had long predicted the harm global warming would do to coral reefs and serious action was needed to cut emissions to limit the damage.

"From the science, we've known for a very long time that even limiting warming to 1.5C global average mean is going to be really bad for our reefs," he said.

"We're going to lose a very large fraction of our tropical reefs."

"And hit 2C of warming is, basically, the end of tropical reefs globally."

—AAP

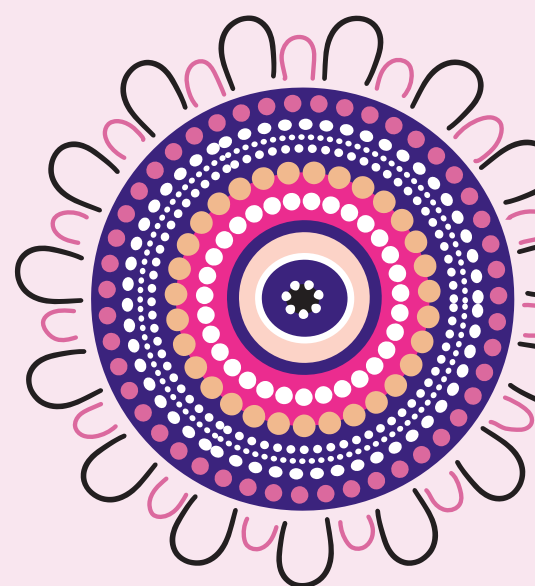


Stay healthy for you and your mob.

Are you aged 40 or over?

A free breast screen every 2 years is the best way
to find breast cancer early when it's easier to treat.

You can book for yourself or go with a group.



Book your free breast screen today at
book.breastscreen.nsw.gov.au
or call **13 20 50**.

Biyani Artwork by Jasmine Sarin,
Kamilaroi and Jerrinja Woman

Trust and meaningful conversations are key to improving First Nations preterm birth outcomes

Easily one of the proudest moments of my life was walking out of Hospital with my first born baby in my arms. I remember it so vividly. I'd had a smooth pregnancy and a great birth. My bouncing baby boy was three days old when we left the hospital. He was healthy and I genuinely left like the cat that got the cream as I walked the hospital corridors to my car.

There are few times in my life when I have felt that happy. Sadly, this is not the case for everyone. As an Obstetrician working in the Northern Territory, I see the devastating effects of babies born too early far too often.

Preterm birth is the definition given to babies born alive before 37 weeks of pregnancy are completed. It remains the single greatest cause of childhood death and disability in Australia.

Despite the broad improvements seen in reducing rates of early birth across the country through the Every Week Counts National Preterm Birth



Dr Kiarna Brown

Prevention Program, these positive outcomes have not as yet extended to First Nations women.

First Nations women living in pockets of the Top End experience some of the highest rates of preterm birth in the world, on par with disadvantaged groups in low-income countries.

Preterm birth remains the leading cause of death in children up to 5 years of age. In 2021,

there were almost twice as many preterm live babies born to First Nations mothers (14%) than to non-Aboriginal mothers (8%).

The complex interactions between maternal and perinatal health outcomes and the social determinants of health are key factors influencing the poorer health outcomes First Nations mothers and babies continue to experience.

We know that First Nations women have better birth outcomes when they have access to healthcare services and feel safe, respected, and have trusting relationships with their maternity care providers.

A recent study by the Menzies School of Health Research found the prevalence of many risk factors for preterm and early births were higher among First Nations women, compared to other expectant mothers.

Those risk factors included preterm membrane ruptures, diabetes in pregnancy, and blood pressure conditions. Importantly

within a preterm birth context, First Nations women are also more likely to have shorter cervical lengths which is a key risk factor for early birth. This is a critical area that requires our focus and additional research.

Access to appropriate healthcare services remains our biggest challenge. We also need to find ways to engage and educate women — and I'm not saying we should tell women what to do — but actually getting their perspectives on how health services can do better.

The development of our See, Stop, Scan campaign has been shaped by yarning groups in remote communities, exploring the community's awareness of preterm birth, hearing about their own experiences with maternity care and asking how health services can do better. It is hoped that it will provide a roadmap for improved outcomes for all First Nations women and their children.

We must strive to work with the non-Indigenous workforce to

ensure they are as culturally informed as possible, as Western medicine has long ignored how First Nations mothers had traditionally experienced pregnancy.

When women feel safe and respected, they're going to engage with services more often and they're going to have more meaningful relationships with their healthcare providers.

Then, and only then, will we be able to see meaningful and measurable improvements in Closing the Gap in preterm birth for our women, mothers, children and communities.

Dr Kiarna Brown
Obstetrician and
Gynaecologist, Royal Darwin
Hospital

**Top End Lead, Australian
Preterm Birth Prevention
Alliance**

**(Dr Brown has written this
Op Ed as part of National Close
the Gap Day 2025 (Thursday, 20
March).**

Closing the Gap is a long-term commitment

In the six months since I became the federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, I have heard some inspiring stories of success.

I have met with men and women in Kununurra in WA's Kimberley region and in town camps outside Alice Springs who have told me about how proud they are to be working.

They are proud - of themselves and each other.

And they want to inspire others, including their children.

Some of them are in their first ever job. That's life changing.

Through our new remote jobs program they are embracing the dignity of work, with decent pay and conditions, and their communities are also seeing the economic benefits.

I've seen the impact of First Nations led maternity programs, including the South-East Queensland Birthing in Our Community and Djäkamirr Birthing on Country Project in Galiwin'ku in North East Arnhem Land.

I have met students in Western Sydney, inspired to engage with their culture and with school, through our Junior Rangers program.

I have heard the stories of young people turning their lives around and getting back to school or into work with support by frontline services like Nyoongar Outreach in WA.

I have met with women Indigenous



Malarndirri McCarthy

rangers in Healesville, Victoria who told me about their work in healing Country, and how healthy Country means healthy people.

I have seen the impact when First Nations people receive lifesaving care on Country, close to family, thanks to a new renal dialysis unit in the remote outback town of Coober Pedy.

All of these changes, and more, were made possible because of the persistence of First Nations people in advocating for a better way.

And our Government's willingness to work with First Nations people to deliver

better outcomes.

The Prime Minister recently tabled the Commonwealth's Closing the Gap 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Implementation Plan.

It gives a comprehensive overview of what our Government has delivered so far, and the work ahead.

Crucially, we are committed to doing this work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap was signed in 2020 under the former Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

It is a whole of government, cross-jurisdiction commitment that requires national leadership and partnership between all levels of governments and the Coalition of Peaks.

Closing the Gap must be above politics.

We're seeing this principle in action in our six-year partnership with the Northern Territory Government and Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory to deliver essential services for remote communities.

And in the landmark 10-year investment to significantly reduce overcrowding in remote Northern Territory communities and homelands.

200 houses have been built in the last 12 months, with a further 64 due for completion by mid-year.

In 2025 we're continuing our work to improve outcomes for First Nations people.

We're reducing the costs of 30

essential products in more than 76 remote stores to improve food security in remote communities.

We're also establishing a nutrition workforce, building on the work of the Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation.

We're rolling out new laundries or upgrading facilities in 12 remote communities, because we know the connection between scabies and chronic diseases like Rheumatic Heart Disease.

As well as improving health outcomes, we're focused on economic empowerment for First Nations people.

We're strengthening the Indigenous Procurement Policy to boost opportunities for First Nations businesses to grow and create jobs.

And we're increasing opportunities for First Nations Australians to buy their own home and build intergenerational wealth through a boost to Indigenous Business Australia's Home Loan Capital Fund.

As I said in my Closing the Gap speech to parliament, our Government is ambitious for First Nations people.

We know there is much more to do to improve the lives of our most marginalised.

But change is happening.

There is no doubting Labor's commitment to improving the lives of First Nations people.

And there is no doubting Labor's commitment to Closing the Gap.

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



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KEEPING YOUR SAY SHORT AND SWEET

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

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

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

the privacy of individuals mentioned.

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

Let love guide us through disasters

It's Thursday 6th of March at 1.35pm and I'm patiently sitting pretty on the coastline of Northern NSW waiting for the dooming cyclone Alfred to hit our region. We are still recovering from the 2022 floods that hit our region and now we are bracing ourselves again for another natural disaster.

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting Cyclone Alfred to cross the coast later on Friday the 7th March, most likely between Maroochydore and Coolangatta.

Damaging and destructive wind gusts, storms, and heavy rainfall are expected to develop later Thursday the 6th and impact parts of south-east Queensland and northern NSW.

The king tides are pushing the river systems back onto land, making flooding a real issue for our region. We know this all too well.

During this time I reflect. I reflect on how much land there is in this area that is out of the floods but not accessible to the public, I reflect on how many rough sleepers have hit the streets in our region due to gentrification, also known as capitalism (the system that disregards its most



Ella Noah Bancroft

vulnerable). I reflect on the fact that developers keep buying up our flood plains, wetlands and drainage lands for mass developments. I reflect on how much damage we create in the pursuit of greed under this type of system.

I reflect on how we have so much space yet we give so little but in times like this, people's hearts shine through. They shine brighter than the portal of fear that the news screams towards us. It screams louder than the winds outside.

In times of natural disaster,

when the internet goes out, what will our laptops, streaming channels, social media and phones do for us?

In modernity we are brainwashed to believe these things are our most valuable resource but when a natural disaster hits, the truth is we need to not be alone, we need to be with our loved ones, our community, we need enough food and water to look after ourselves and the more that I learn about the world we are inheriting the more I know that the future must require us to build our homes and our lives to not be reliant on a system or resources that can be so easily shaken or taken down. We must take our life off the internet, the unstable connection that creates a false sense of security and we need to establish community ways of living, we need to establish places of safety as the sea levels rise and the winds rage. We need each other, and with each other we have the capacity to do anything.

There is a real sense of terror in the air here. The supermarket shelves are half stocked, people are lining up for hours, there is a post apocalyptic feeling in the

unknown of the cyclone hitting.

I hear people from QLD telling us to toughen up, but the issue is the unknown, our community does not know cyclones, it knows floods. In that unknown there is deep fear but when we come together, the fear can be alleviated.

Here is what I have learned through embodied experiences of being both on the front line of disaster relief and also in the firing line of disasters myself. It's important to go back to basics. For anyone living in regional areas prone to natural disasters, it's important to have access to water, gas bottles, petrol, a generator, and perishables. Bring back the basic battery-powered radio, battery-powered torches. If everything goes electric we will all face big issues with the natural disasters that are set to ramp up in the coming years.

Some other handy hints is filling water containers with water and freezing them in prep in case energy goes down, fill your bath, sinks and buckets of water in case your energy gets cut off and therefore your water.

In the case of a cyclone, we want to remove or tie down all

outside furniture that could potentially be lifted by the winds. Have a chainsaw ready to go with extra batteries or petrol. Have a pair of thick gloves ready and big boots just in case things get destroyed and require you to move them to exit. Have an extra power bank charged and ready to go. Ensure you speak to your loved ones if you are not with them and let them know your location.

Sometimes in the face of these disasters, we feel people differently, we miss people, we love people. It seems like often in these times of deep unknown our hearts melt for one another, the drama is turned to the natural world and not to human politics and perhaps that's a much better place for our attention to be. We remember who we love, how we love and how much we want to show up and tell them every day. In times like this, we can only ever let love guide us, move us and hopefully change us for the better. I am letting this remind me of what is truly important in this one precious life.

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

We deserve more from government than the usual cut and paste policy

With Cyclone Alfred dominating headlines, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has delayed calling the election until mid-May. But as another federal vote looms, it's time to ask an uncomfortable question: Why is Indigenous policy stuck on repeat? Time and again, the same ideas get recycled, repackaged, and sold as fresh solutions. Real progress takes imagination, not another round of copy-paste from Donald Trump's populist playbook.

Since the Voice referendum failed in 2023, Indigenous policy has stalled. Instead of using the moment to rethink and reset, politicians have retreated to the same old templates, avoiding hard conversations about genuine self-determination. With no clear path forward, leadership has fallen into reactive mode – this means more audits, more rebrands, but little real reform. Even the Opposition floated symbolic constitutional recognition before quietly shelving the idea, admitting Australians have no appetite for it.

Indigenous policy is not some abstract concept. It shapes lives, determines opportunities, and affects generations. A recent Closing the Gap report shows that of 15 socio-economic targets, only five are on track, while several are going backwards. The



Adam C Lees

status quo is failing, yet rather than offering bold alternatives, we keep getting the same tired scripts dressed up in new packaging.

Across the major parties, the patterns are obvious. Labor's approach of expanding job programs, increasing funding, and encouraging Indigenous participation in mainstream industries is necessary but far from groundbreaking. The Albanese government's latest commitments, such as the First Nations Economic Partnership, mostly build on existing initiatives rather than delivering real change.

The Greens continue to push for a national Truth and Justice Commission and greater inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in policy. These ideas have

merit, but a rights-based approach alone won't shift economic realities, improve key indicators, or create long-term prosperity. The Teals and most independents focus on accountability and heritage protections but lack a clear plan for Indigenous economic advancement. Talking about truth, justice, and inclusion is one thing, but without a real focus on ownership, investment, and structural change, nothing shifts where it matters.

The Coalition, meanwhile, is serving up old policies with a fresh coat of paint. Senator Jacinta Nampijimpa Price's calls for audits of Indigenous spending and a shift to private land ownership echo Howard-era policies that have been floated before. The idea that Indigenous trusts should invest in infrastructure has been around for years. Without structural support, it risks being little more than window dressing.

Then there's the blatant cut-and-paste from Trump's playbook and the steady drip-feed of US-style right-wing populism creeping into Australian politics. Instead of substantive reform, we're getting symbolic distractions that let leaders appear proactive while sidestepping the hard work of systemic and intergenerational change. Challenges to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander flags, curriculum changes, and promises to ban Welcome to Country ceremonies are all cheap distractions, poor substitutes for real policy. Refusing to stand before a flag or tweaking a curriculum won't create jobs or reduce poverty.

Even Clive Palmer's new Trumpet of Patriots Party is straight from the MAGA handbook - flag-waving nationalism, calls to "drain the swamp in Canberra," and the same tired rhetoric about government waste. They even roll out "Make Australia Great Again" as a slogan. Meanwhile, the Coalition is pushing for a Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), with Price stepping in as the so-called Shadow Minister for Government Efficiency (SMOGE).

The takeaway here is that none of these approaches radically change or disrupt how Indigenous communities engage in or benefit from the economy. Recycling policy is not the same as reshaping it.

The business sector continues to push for slashing red and green tape, as some projects face delays of more than six years despite offering significant benefits for Indigenous communities. Talk of Indigenous equity in major projects becomes meaningless if developments are delayed

or blocked, forcing investors to look elsewhere or making the cost of entry too high. All parties need to prioritise streamlining approvals, so projects are assessed fairly and efficiently while protecting the environment and cultural heritage.

Other promising policy ideas already exist, many drawing inspiration from Canada, where First Nations communities have secured ownership stakes in critical minerals, renewables, and digital economies - not just as participants, but as owners. The lesson is clear: Indigenous communities must have greater control over industries, land, and economic opportunities. For Australia to achieve this, we need to fix outdated land tenure laws so Traditional Owners can retain custodianship while unlocking economic potential. Success also means investing in Indigenous enterprises and scaling up Indigenous-led financing mechanisms, rather than relying on government-run procurement programs that benefit some but fail to drive broader economic self-determination.

Rather than recycling jingoistic slogans and rehashed policies, Australia needs a genuine shift from welfare to wealth creation. The conversation must move beyond "how many Indigenous people are

employed" to "how many Indigenous people own and lead businesses and industries." Right now, no major party is offering this. Instead, we're stuck with variations of the same old ideas, some dressed up as progressive, others as conservative, but all cut from the same predictable script.

If we're going to borrow and steal ideas from America, let's at least take the good ones - like the wisdom of the late African-American author Toni Morrison, who said, "As you enter positions of trust and power, dream a little before you think."

We need bold, original thinking, not another rebranded knockoff. We deserve more than cut-and-paste, edit-replace, and drag-and-drop policies. Real progress means empowering Indigenous communities with policies that deliver tangible results. That won't happen by recycling the past. Governments must support community-led initiatives and work directly with Indigenous people who are driving change on the ground.

● 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.

New national centre to help strengthen suicide prevention



Professor Pat Dudgeon is Bardi woman from the Kimberley region of Western Australia. She is a psychologist and Director of the Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention (CBPATSIISP) at the University of Western Australia.



Professor Helen Milroy is a Palyku woman whose homelands are in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. She is Australia's first Indigenous doctor and child psychiatrist. Currently Professor Milroy is the Stan Perron Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Perth Children's Hospital and University of Western Australia and Honorary Research at the Telethon Kids Institute. She is the Chair of Gayaa Dhuwi Proud Spirit Australia organisation and a board member of Beyond Blue. She is also an artist and published author and illustrator of children's books and has been shortlisted for several children's literature awards.

By Professor Pat Dudgeon and Professor Helen Milroy

Starting in July 2025, a new centre will bring together the University of Western Australia (UWA)'s Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention (CBPATSIISP) and the Transforming Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing (TIMHWP) research program, co-led by Professors Pat Dudgeon and Helen Milroy. That means our staff can work more effectively across programs and we will also be able to add new projects to address more urgent issues for Indigenous people.

The new Centre will be run as a consortium with UWA community partners National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia (GDPSA) and we will focus on Outcome and Target 14 under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap:

- **OUTCOME:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing.

- **TARGET:** Significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards zero.

This target was among four (from a total 19) Closing the Gap targets for which outcomes were assessed as "worsening, not on track" in the latest Productivity Commission report card, as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain twice as likely to die by suicide compared with other Australians.

For Indigenous children and young people the difference is even more stark with suicide rates three to four times

higher than mainstream Australia. The new centre will have a child and youth stream that will seek to understand and address the issues that are affecting our young generations with such devastating consequences.

We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's high rates of distress and suicide are fundamentally linked to our present and historical experiences of colonisation, dispossession, discrimination, disadvantage and entrenched racism. To be successful, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention programs and services need to acknowledge the centrality of these experiences and address them by empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Positive changes are gaining momentum at a national level. The government last year released the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy (NATSISPS), which was developed by Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia (GDPSA). The NATSISPS has the potential to bring about major improvements for Indigenous communities. NACCHO's Culture Care Connect program of regional suicide prevention activities delivered through the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) sector is showing promising results and its funding has been extended.

So our new centre has urgent work to do in collaboration with our partners to plan, pilot and document these new approaches that genuinely respect our

people and cultures and help us restore our resilience. By doing this, we can strengthen the case for social and emotional wellbeing services to be designed and delivered within our communities under the leadership and governance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A parallel activity stream aims to improve the cultural safety provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by mainstream services and clinicians. We will develop professional curriculum and continuing education resources so everyone working in mental health learns how to support our people appropriately and respectfully.

We are grateful to the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon. Mark Butler MP, for his support of our work and for the grant, which will allow the centre to operate for three years initially. We are looking forward to working with the Department of Health and Aged Care to finalise the details of our future work program and how we will measure its success.

We are privileged to have learned from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities all over Australia. Without their deep knowledge and understanding, our work would never have been possible and we recognise their aspirations as the foundation of everything we do. While some projects will focus on mental health professionals and service providers, the true strength of the centre will come directly from the strength of our relationships in community and we are looking forward to extending our

community partnerships in this new phase.

Some of these are geographic communities – in our current centres we have piloted successful new projects with Danila Dilba Health Service in Darwin and the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service (KAMS) among many others. Some are communities of shared experience, like the work we have been doing with people who identify as having lived experience to ensure their voices and needs are properly reflected in services and programs. Our website will continue to include information and resources for use in community but we will organise these differently and make them easier to find.

You may have noticed we keep referring to "the new national centre". That is because it doesn't have a name yet. In the weeks ahead we will be working with community and university Aboriginal colleagues to co-design an Aboriginal name, that will be strength-based and express our aspirations for the work ahead. We will announce it through our social media and look forward to sharing further news soon as we can.

This article is part a series of Koori Mail columns about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention contributed by authors from Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention (CBPATSIISP) and the Transforming Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing program at the University of Western Australia.

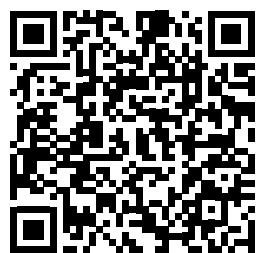
Port Macquarie State by-election

Saturday, 15 March 2025

VOTING IS COMPULSORY

A by-election for the State electoral district of Port Macquarie will be held on **Saturday, 15 March 2025**. If you are eligible to vote in New South Wales and live in the State electoral district of Port Macquarie you must vote.

Voting centres open at 8am and close at 6pm on election day. Find your nearest voting centre at **elections.nsw.gov.au** or call **1300 135 736**.



Visit **elections.nsw.gov.au**
Scan the QR code or call **1300 135 736**

Need assistance?

If you are deaf, hard of hearing and/or have a speech impairment, please contact us through the National Relay Service. If you need an interpreter, please call TIS National on **131 450** and ask them to call us on **1300 135 736**.

Aurora scholars aim to tackle cancer



IN an Australian-first, five Indigenous scholars have been awarded the inaugural First

Nations Cancer Scholarship. The scholarship is funded through an investment of \$5.9 million over four years from the Australian Government through Cancer Australia and administered by Aurora Education Foundation (Aurora), to increase the network of Indigenous people who lead and contribute to cancer control, including through research.

Each scholar will be supported to undertake full-time postgraduate study or research in a cancer-related field for up to three years. Brodie, Eden, Kayla and Kas will be pursuing Doctor of Medicine degrees at various universities across the country while Khwanruethai will pursue a PhD at Australian National University.

Currently, cancer is the number one killer of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, yet only 1% of health professionals identify as Indigenous. These scholarships aim to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students in building the skills and knowledge required to inform strategies to improve cancer outcomes for Indigenous communities and increase the number of First Nations leaders in cancer-related fields.

Aurora's CEO, Leila Smith, said these scholarships would lead the way in promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander excellence, representation and leadership in cancer care.

"The First Nations Cancer Scholarship recipients will bring more Indigenous healthcare professionals into the cancer care space, creating a lasting impact on the health, wellness and longevity of our people and



Aurora's CEO, Leila Smith with First Nations Cancer Scholarship recipients Eden Slicer, Kayla Vitale, Kwanruethai Ngampromwongse, Kasarina Mann and Brodie Seymour.

communities. I am incredibly proud of our scholars, and look forward to seeing the skills and experience they will bring to the cancer field in the coming years."

The successful recipients include:

Balarnu, Waluwarra and Wangkayujuru man, Brodie Seymour. Brodie was raised on Kalkadoon Country in Mount Isa and is set to complete his final year of his Doctor of Medicine degree at Griffith University. Brodie's decision to pursue medicine was influenced by his uncle's experience of geographical isolation from the healthcare system and Country while managing a cancer diagnosis. These experiences have reinforced his decision to become a practitioner and researcher focusing on oncology and improving access to on-Country cancer prevention, screening and treatment

services.

Gundungurra woman, Eden Slicer. Eden grew up in Lutruwita, Tasmania, and now lives on Gadigal Country, Sydney. Entering her second year of medicine at the University of New South Wales, Eden is passionate about becoming a research-focused neuro-oncological

clinician. She aims to contribute to establishing regional and remote community neuro-oncology outreach clinics to promote early detection and the development of sustainable healthcare relationships with community, as well as undertaking genomic research to understand the unique biology of cancers impacting First Nations peoples to inform the development of targeted treatments.

Ngarkat woman, Kayla Vitale. Kayla grew up in the Mallee region in Victoria and is

now entering her second year of study at Flinders University. Having begun her career as a registered nurse interested in childhood brain cancer, she decided to pursue a Doctor of Medicine when her dad got diagnosed with cancer. She wants to support health practitioners in delivering cancer education programs informed by local community priorities, focusing on early detection, prevention, and patient-centered culturally embedded practice.

Ngemba Wayilwan person, Khwanruethai Ngampromwongse.

Having grown up in Brisbane, Khwanruethai will begin their PhD focusing on "Cancer Screening at the Intersection: supporting LGBTQISB+ First Nations peoples' access to culturally safe, sexuality and gender-affirming cervical screening" at Australian National University.

Their research aims to enhance the effectiveness and accessibility of these critical services and will contribute to developing policies and practices that meet the needs of LGBTQISB+ First Nations peoples.

Descendent of the Kulburri-warra clan of the Kuku Yalanji, Guugu Yimidhirr, Yidnji, and Barbarum nations Kasarina (Kas) Mann.

Kas grew up in Cairns and Sydney and is now starting her final year of medicine at the University of Sydney.

Kas plans to pursue a career in gynaecological oncology practice and research.

She aims to address inequities experienced by First Nations women in cancer care by providing cultural safe care and increasing participation and access to early detection services, such as HPV screening and self-collected HPV tests.

Campaign aims to boost breast screening rates



THE NSW Government has partnered with Aboriginal women to create a multi media campaign, aimed at boosting breast screening rates.

The campaign encourages Aboriginal women to prioritise having a breast screen every two years from age 40, which is the best way to detect breast cancer in its earliest stages.

Developed by BreastScreen NSW together with an Aboriginal creative agency, the second phase of the 'Stay Healthy for You and Your Mob' campaign features Aboriginal women with breast cancer in a TV ad for the first time.

The advertisement includes a powerful story from Gomeroi woman Jacqui Nean Kahn, who shares how a routine breast screen saved her life. In addition to TV, the campaign is now running across a variety of media channels including radio, print, and screens in Aboriginal health



Gomeroi woman Jacqui Nean Kahn features in the new campaign.

services. The Aboriginal community was consulted for the development of the campaign, including an advisory panel of Aboriginal women, to ensure the message resonated with its target community.

Almost 45 per cent of Aboriginal women in NSW aged

50-74 are up to date with their breast screen. Since Cancer Institute NSW's Putuwa project began in 2023, participation rates for Aboriginal women in NSW aged 40 - 49 have more than doubled (7.8 per cent vs 18.7 per cent).

This campaign follows on from

the Putuwa project, an Australian-first NSW initiative that reduced the recommended screening commencement age for Aboriginal women from 50 to 40 years amid other measures to improve the cultural safety of the BreastScreen NSW service.

Breast Screen NSW recommends:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have a mammogram every two years from age 40.

- Anyone with breast symptoms should contact their GP or health worker without delay.

- Any woman with a family history of breast cancer should discuss their needs with their GP.

NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty and Minister for Medical Research David Harris said the development of the campaign centred around feedback from Aboriginal women.

"Breast cancer is the most common cancer in Aboriginal women in NSW, but the good news is that screening can detect

cancers before they can be seen or felt, and when found early, almost all breast cancers can be successfully treated," Mr Harris said.

"It's pleasing to see more Aboriginal women are screening, but we need to see screening rates continue to improve and we are committed to listening to and working with Aboriginal communities to reduce the impact of breast cancer.

"By working with Aboriginal communities to encourage more Aboriginal women to get a breast screen it will help us close the gap by helping improve health outcomes."

Breast Screen NSW is a free service.

Screening is performed by female staff, takes less than 20 minutes and no doctor's referral is needed.

BreastScreen NSW aims to provide a safe place of care. To book in a breast screen, call 13 20 50 or book online at breastscreen.nsw.gov.au.

Dressed to party proudly



FIRST Nations Mob turned out in numbers – and lots of glitter, feathers and other sparkly things – at the recent Mardi Gras parade in Sydney. With the theme, Free to Be, the members of the LGBTQI community, their allies and Elders, made their way down Oxford Street, soaking in the appreciative claps and waves from the thousands lining the street. First Nations performers also put on a dazzling display at the Gala event. Photographer JOSEPH MAYERS captured these images.



Auntie Kooncha and the Lapa legends, Auntie Barb, Auntie Marg and Auntie Irene travelled in style.



Senator Lidia Thorpe, looking wonderful, was still sticking it to the King.



Dykes on Bikes fly the flag.



The First Nations Float crew raise their arms.



Siupeli Haukoloa and Dylan Hoskins.



Jackie, Rowena, Jie, Tevita, Cameron and Richie perform the smoking ceremony.



Jodie Welsh marched with the Lapa Legends.



Stevie Ross and Ebony Williams



Jane Yettica held a sign supporting Gaza.



Janetta Quin-Bates, Raphael Lavalie and Jinny-Jane on the First Nations Float, which traditionally leads the parade.



Jedda and Shaniqua ready to march.



The Lapa Legends crew having a blast and making statements.



The Huxleys looking fabulous.



Kitty Obsidian lit up the room ... and her mouth.



Performers Nancy Bates, Naya Cook, Natalie Flores and Sophie Hunt.



Becca Hatch getting her groove on.



Emily Wurramara having a great time.



Liza Marie Syron, Stephen Oliver and Ben Graetz looking so, so sexy.



Savillion, feeling the love.



Jo Jo Zaho performs.



Josie Baker, Felicia Foxx and Jo Jo Zaho.

Championing the future of indigenous storytelling

By COLE BAXTER



TUCKED away in a little corner of one of Naarm's inner city suburbs

(Collingwood), is the offices of Aboriginal owned and led production company 'Blakground Productions'. Cofounder and managing director Sianna Catullo is a Narungga woman that has etched a staunch reputation for herself as someone that tirelessly works for mob.

Through her endeavours with Blakground Productions, their company specialises in First Nations storytelling through video, photo and creative development.

"Aboriginal owned and led production companies are essential in 2025 because it ensures First Nations people have ownership over their stories, both on and off screen, fostering authentic representation and cultural sovereignty in media," Sianna Catullo said.

Blakground Productions in

just a short time has already shown that it leaves a big footprint. Having worked with the likes of Clothing The Gaps, Champion (clothing brand), Eddie Betts Foundation and VIC NAIDOC just to name a few.

Sianna sees their pathway program as a future staple in the industry, equipping mob to pursue their own projects via collaborations across the continent.

"A strong Blak presence in production is essential for sharing more Mob's stories," Sianna said.

After years of conversations, colleagues became business partners in Greg McCann (non-Indigenous) and Sianna Catullo. It was their shared vision that became the foundations of Blakground Productions and continues to champion diverse Indigenous storytelling all around them.

"We set out to create a space where First Nations people are not only represented on screen but also lead the storytelling behind the scenes," Sianna said.



Rachael Stewart (Gunditjmara & Yorta Yorta), James Wajura (non-Indigenous), Greg McCann (non-Indigenous), Nathan Muir (Wiradjuri & Palawa) and Sianna Catullo (Narungga).

Harnessing the power of lightning

By KEIRA JENKINS



DARRYL Lyons probably has the best job title in Australia.

He's chief rainmaker at the Indigenous biotech startup Rainstick, which combines traditional

knowledge and modern science.

Mr Lyons and co-founder Mic Black have harnessed the power of electricity to sustainably influence plant growth.

Mr Lyons, a Maiawali man, said Rainstick treated seeds with electric frequencies for growers.

"Rainstick aims to mimic the natural effect of lightning and thunderstorms," he said. "We're building a seed treatment machine where we treat seeds – some growers might want more roots, some want more shoots, some in dry areas want better establishment."

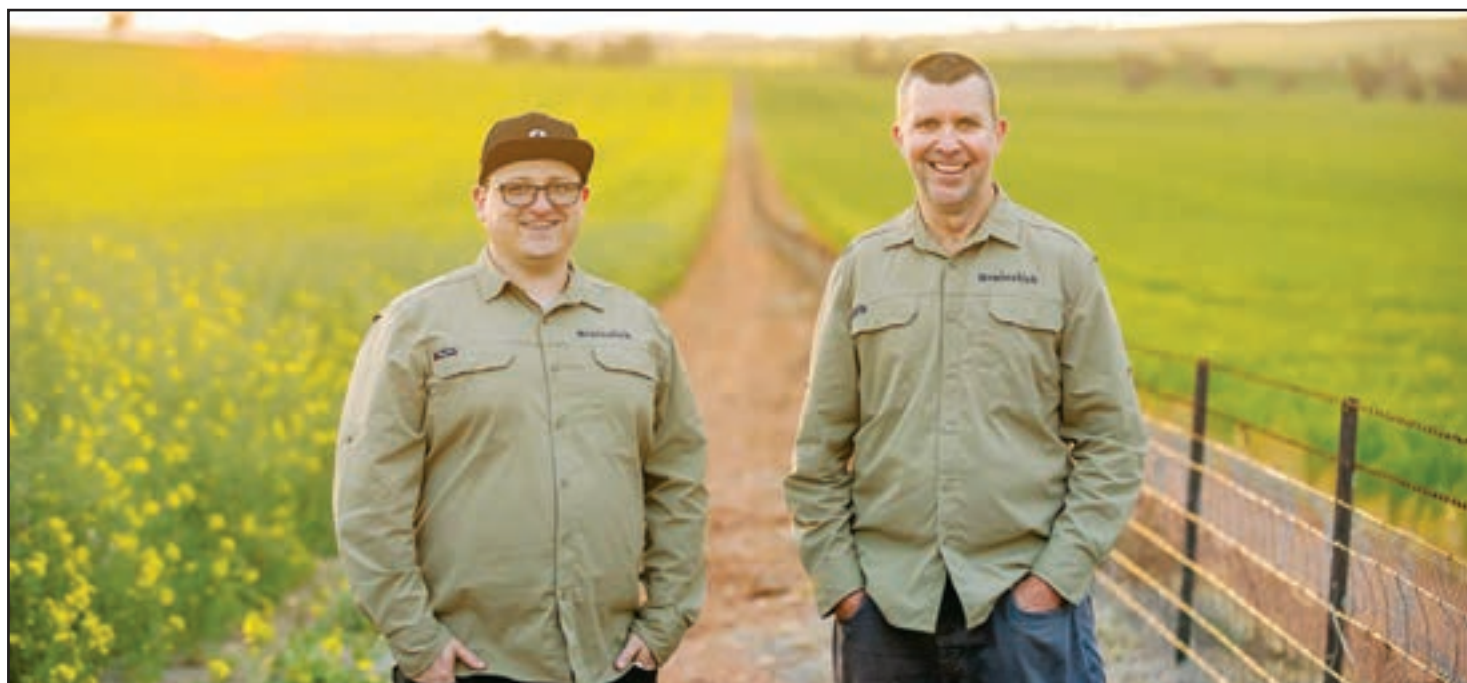
Inspired by the traditions of the Maiawali people of central-west Queensland, Rainstick builds on knowledge thousands of years old – the effect of lightning on plant growth.

As global food demand rises and crop yields decline due to rising temperatures and other climate impacts, Rainstick wants to offer a chemical-free option to growers.

Mr Lyons, whose family has a farming history, said the idea was prompted by a conversation with Mr Black about electro-culture.

Rainstick's process aims to supercharge plant growth without using chemicals.

Electric fields can influence how plants



Mic Black and Darryl Lyons want to supercharge plant growth without using chemicals.

grow and adapt to their environment, with traditional owners and farmers noticing plants grow better after a thunderstorm.

Mr Lyons said he and Mr Black were working with the CSIRO and universities to validate hypotheses on why this might be.

Initially working out of Mr Black's garage, the pair built the technology and discovered "some amazing results" along the way.

"I've got a big responsibility as chief

rainmaker," Mr Lyons said.

"I'm driven to make this work ... part of that comes from history.

"My grandfather lost his farm to drought and my dad was really affected when he got his dream to go back on the farm and he got knocked around by drought."

Rainstick was one of a number of startups showcased at the recent EvokeAG conference in Brisbane.

Mr Lyons said it was a great chance to get the word out as they started to run trials with growers interested in the technology.

"We want the growers to do all the talking for us," he said.

"We're focusing on leafy greens, lettuces and Asian greens, tomatoes and canola.

"We're also building a commercial seed treatment facility where we can treat the seeds."

—AAP

Archibald-winning artist makes it to the halfway line



ARCHIBALD prize-winning artist Blak Douglas returns to his home turf for a

mid career survey exhibition opening on March 15 at Penrith Regional Gallery in NSW.

Douglas's first exhibition was staged in Jamisontown, South Penrith in 1998 and this new exhibition, *Blak Douglas: The Halfway Line* includes more than 30 major works in varied mediums drawn from collections around Australia focusing on the past 30 years of the artist's practice and his longstanding connection to Penrith from 1998 to the present.

Co-curated by Djon Mundine OAM and Penrith Regional Gallery Director Toby Chapman, the exhibition tells the story of where, how and why a young graphic artist and Dhungatti descendant born Adam Hill in Blacktown became a self-taught painter then one of Australia's most celebrated artists – Blak Douglas.

The Halfway Line in one sense refers to the point Blak Douglas now finds himself in his life and practice. In 2022 he won Australia's most famous art award, the Archibald Prize at the Art Gallery of NSW, with his fierce portrait of fellow artist and Wiradjuri woman Karla Dickens in flood waters on Bundjalung Country.



Blak Douglas with his painting, *The Original Blak Panther*, at Penrith Regional Gallery. Photo Eddy Summers. Right: *Man on the Goon*

"Even after you win, you don't want to be seen as a one-hit wonder," Douglas told Djon Mundine.

This moment marked a turning point, as Douglas began working on a change of direction in his practice, still unfolding and in progress. This significant exhibition shows works from major collections including the Art Gallery of NSW and the National Gallery of Australia.

A confirmation of his position in the Australian contemporary art world, the Archibald win brought recognition and rewards but also creative pressure.

Co-curator Toby Chapman says, "The

Halfway Line is a space of celebration and reflection, recognising Douglas as a seminal figure in the development of contemporary First Nations art in Australia. Equally, it's an opportunity for the artist to reflect on his own trajectory, sharing moments of insight and vulnerability."

As well as presenting major paintings from each stage of his career, *The Halfway Line* celebrates the urgency of Douglas' practice, with ideas expressed through painting, sculpture, installations, photography and original poster designs stretching back to his time



at the University of Western Sydney.

The Halfway Line also refers to the artist's lived experience, the social and cultural lines that Douglas was told could not be crossed, but did anyway.

The exhibition creates a 'map' of those pivotal

moments as well as the geographic references that informed much of his early work.

Born Adam Douglas Hill in Blacktown, NSW in 1970 to a Dhungatti Aboriginal Father/Caucasian Mother, with English, German, Irish and Scottish ancestry. The

moniker 'Blak Douglas' was conceived in 2014 in honour of his dominant genealogies.

With formative years in Bungarrabee (Blacktown), he later attended High School, TAFE and University in Penrith, then discovered the urban artistic community in Sydney's inner city including Redfern.

His current studio is in Rylstone on Dabee (Wiradjuri) Country, across the Blue Mountains.

The river Dyarubbin (Nepean) flows along the mid-point across which he repeatedly travels and returns to.

Co-curator Toby Chapman said Penrith has had a significant impact on Douglas' early practice, having studied graphic design at Nepean TAFE before taking up the brush and canvas. Since his first exhibition in the industrial estates of Penrith.

"Douglas has been recognised for his bold, expressive style and incisive wit, often providing commentary on the social issues of the day," Mr Chapman said.

"His impact extends well beyond the art world. He is an advocate and activist, using his practice and visibility to champion social justice and recognition of the inequality experienced by Aboriginal people in Australia, both historically and today."

The exhibition opens on Saturday 15 March and continues until 20 July at Penrith Regional Gallery.

Support emerging creatives



FOUR young emerging Indigenous songwriters and filmmakers will be given a boost to help

progress their creative careers under a new mentoring program.

The NSW-based artists are participants in a DPM (Desert Pea Media) Futures program which involves creative, personal and professional mentoring.

DPM Futures is launching a crowdfunding appeal, seeking to generate \$20,000 to buy each of them a \$5,000 custom kit of media equipment and software to help them jump forward in their creative practice.

The organisation has over the past 20 years unofficially mentored and trained several Indigenous young people from regional and remote communities, guiding them through creative development and leadership processes, skills development, new career paths and even onto the national airwaves.

DPM last year attracted some funding to deliver a customised, professional and personal development program, which they



Songwriter Stewart Kapeen aka Stooz, film maker Coby Cochrane, songwriter Lorraine Dutton aka Lawless and film maker Keisha Mitchell.

started in December with an intensive development camp on Bundjalung Country (northern NSW).

Since then, the four talented participants have been busy furthering their creative, personal and professional practice.

The kits will include laptops,

studio microphones, cameras and lenses, tripods, headphones, audio recorders and associated devices.

The four young artists are:

Lorraine Dutton aka Lawless, a songwriter. She's a proud Barkindji woman, from Bourke/Broken Hill NSW. Lor met

the DPM team at Bourke High School in 2017 and was part of the legendary B-Town Warriors (People of the Red Sunset/Thundercloud etc). In 2023 Lor was part of our 'Crossroads' project in Bourke and re-ignited her songwriting practice. She ended up working at Bourke

High School as creative mentor.

Coby Cochrane, a filmmaker, is a Gamileroi man, originally from Walgett, but spent much of his life on the Central Coast. He uses filmmaking to reconnect with culture and learn about different Mob's stories.

Keisha Mitchell, also a filmmaker, is a Proud Biripi woman from Taree. She documents all sorts of community action, including footy and cultural activities. Keisha uses films to connect with people – hear their perspective, tell their authentic stories and showcase how deadly they are!

Stewart Kapeen aka Stop, a songwriter, is Nyangbul man from the Ballina area in the Northern Rivers (Bundjalung Nation). Stewie is an emerging singer/songwriter/rapper (and an accomplished cricket player). Stewie first connected with DPM on a songwriting project at Ballina Coast High School, engaging young people in response to the floods that inundated Cabbage Tree Island community and the region.

To support the project go to: <https://gofund.me/2e3e9b6a>

Shining on at Paartjima



The MacDonnell Ranges light show.

By KEIRA JENKINS



INDIGENOUS festival of light, Paartjima will light up the sky and landscape around Mpartwe (Alice Springs) for the

tenth year running from April 4-13, 2025.

The free festival will feature music, comedy, workshops and talks alongside the art installations the event is known for including Grounded and the MacDonnell Ranges Light Show.

Four new installations will be added to the immersive art offering, including Molly Hunt's Three Generations of Station Women, Bobby West Tjupurrula's Hypnotic Reverberations and Lyall Giles' Transforming Light & Country.

The light show combines classical music and Arrernte language, paying tribute to the spiritual connection to the land.

The tenth Paartjima will also present a free all-ages performance from country music legend Troy Cassar-Daley on April 5, his only free performance announced for the remainder of 2025, and his only free gig scheduled for 2025 in Outback Australia.

Towering poles, created by artists from Alice Springs three estate groups - Antulye, Irlpme and Mparntwe will stand tall at the festival's entrance.

Welcoming visitors to the grounds.

"More than ever, this year we all need to experience Paartjima, as the festival continues to shine new light on age old traditions and fresh expressions," festival curator Rhoda Roberts AO said.



Paartjima curator Rhoda Roberts AO

"Echoing the legacy of culture and the stories that connect us all across time.

"Come and feel the red earth beneath your feet as you look up at the magic that is Arrernte country as we illuminate the majestic MacDonnell Ranges."

Other musical highlights include singer-songwriter Bumpy, hip-hop group Dem Mob, Warren H Williams & Western Wind as well as the Darwin Symphony Orchestra gracing the stage alongside the Desert Divas on the final nights of Paartjima.

Among the workshops on the line-up are a watercolour painting session with local arts centre Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands and a drumming workshop led by Murawari musician Dobby while Paartjima curator Rhoda Roberts will lead a weaving

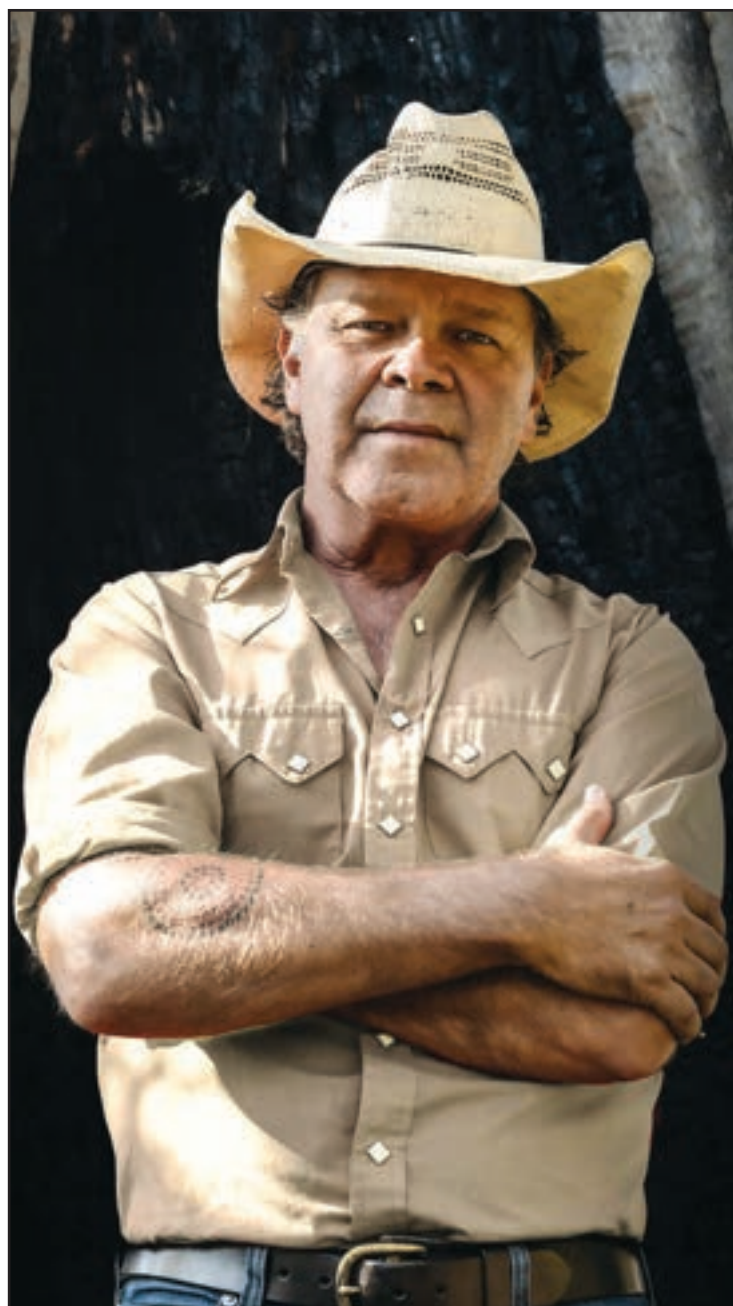
workshop.

In a first for the festival, stand up comedians Andy Saunders and Sean Choolburra will headline a comedy night.

Northern Territory Major Events Company interim chief executive Trevor Cox said the festival provides a "powerful opportunity" to engage with Aboriginal culture.

"The program not only entertains but challenges visitors to reflect on the profound impact of Aboriginal culture, right in the heart of Australia," he said.

Free registration for Paartjima 2025, including Troy Cassar-Daley's performance, and costed tickets for the Darwin Symphony Orchestra concert, are available now at paartjima.com.au.



-AAP Country Music legend Troy Cassar-Daley.

Writer inspired by heritage

By MARION WILLIAMS



JULIE Janson paused getting her teaching qualifications to volunteer for a housing project in Bourke in the 1970s.

Helping Dr Max Kamien on the Bourke Reserve was an eye-opener for the young Burruberrongal woman who had grown up in Sydney. She met a vibrant Nyemba and Barkindji community, but saw that housing was very difficult on the reserve.

This period changed her view on how Aboriginal people are treated.

"I made a commitment to do everything to find out about my own Aboriginal heritage, and my life's work would be Indigenous education," Ms Janson said. "I devoted my educational creative work to Indigenous rights, recognition of a fair go, and the humanity we must uncover in ourselves to fight racism."

The writer of three published novels and ten produced plays, Ms Janson is also an award-winning poet, shortlisted for the 2025 Gwen Harwood Poetry Prize.

Ms Janson grew up in a Housing Commission house on the Lane Cove River and spent much of her adult life in the Northern Territory and on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

"That is my true Aboriginal country, Hawkesbury River," she said. "I felt I was on my father's home country, sandstone country."

After qualifying, Ms Janson taught 52 Aboriginal children in a large caravan school on a cattle station in the Northern Territory.

"No one could read or write," she said. "It was a wonderful time with the Alawa people, and education was really appreciated by the community. Now they are fighting fracking in Beetaloo Basin."

Family history

Ms Janson wanted to know more about her Aboriginal father's history, something her family had never talked about.



Julie Janson with her father Darug man Neville Janson.

Going through birth, marriage and death certificates looking for her Aboriginal great-grandmother was difficult as race was rarely mentioned. Most people born in NSW were described as

natives of the colony.

Through the National Library of Australia's online resource Trove, she discovered her two times great grandmother, Mary Thomas.

From there, Ms Janson filled in the gaps by sifting through letters, magazine articles and photographs in the Windsor Library and Mitchell Library. She found that photographs of Aboriginal people ceased to exist between 1890 and 1960.

"People were being spread out, moved to missions and children taken away, or living in fringe dwellings on the outskirts of towns. They wouldn't have had money for a camera."

Historical novels need to be written from knowledge. Fortunately, Ms Janson worked on a research project, History of Aboriginal Sydney, with Professor Peter Read.

"I met Elders who spoke about living on missions or in areas such as Blacktown or La Perouse," Ms Janson said. "I am grateful for the sharing of stories."

Inspired characters

Ms Janson's father was descended from a line of Darug matriarchs. They inspired marvellous characters who were the foundation of her two critically acclaimed historical novels, *Benevolence* and *Compassion*.

Benevolence is about her three times great grandmother Maria Byrnes who was born in the early 1800s (the character Mary James). Hers was one of the earliest Darug generations to experience the full impact of colonisation.

Writing the first historical novel made her curious about what happened next, which led to *Compassion*. The protagonist, Maria Byrnes' daughter Mary Thomas, went on trial for stealing livestock.

Ms Janson's other novel *Madukka the River Serpent* explores the journey of mature female Indigenous private investigator June Thomas.

It was longlisted for the 2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award and for the 2023 Davitt Award for Best Adult Crime Novel.

Her next crime novel is *Waagaan the Bloody Crow*. She is concurrently working on the sequel to *Benevolence* and *Compassion*.

Tips for buyers considering an art collection

New year, new you? Perhaps new house, new milestone to celebrate, new income, or new vigour to support First Nations visual artists? Maybe think about a new art collection of your very own. Perhaps you've thought about it before, own a few small pieces already, or are unsure where to start, or unsure if the market is accessible enough for you to begin acquiring pieces? Have no fear! There are many simple and grounding ways you can foray into the work of art collecting, without breaking the bank or being overwhelmed. Here are a few of what I hope will prove helpful, practical tips to get you started.

I used to work as an art dealer assistant and work (sometimes) as a broker for artists and projects (collectors, curators, showcases—that kind of thing) and have seen many emerging art collectors yearn for certain artists/pieces only. Some are either prepared to spend too much at a time when they shouldn't. Perhaps when they've just gotten married and gone into debt to afford their first home, but who nonetheless want to add a special investment piece



Jack Wilkie-Jans

to their lives. Some are prepared to take out small personal loans or lay-buy. While others may have inherited collections or pieces from a loved one and are looking to determine their secondary market value or archival or sales/loan opportunities.

While it's encouraging to see thirsty collectors of any stage, please try not to covet the rare or heavily-publicised pieces to an extent it could send you broke! Budget with your disposable income only. And, maximise that budget by being selective and

patient in how you amass a collection. For example, instead of being prepared to slap down \$1,000-\$5,000 on one artwork, split that and support multiple artists by buying smaller pieces at different price-points or from different stages in an artist's career.

Also—and seriously—don't ignore E-bay or Facebook Marketplace, especially when you're still unsure what you may like. I know it seems like urban myths or the thing of Antiques Roadshow only, but treasures can be found in the most unsuspecting of places. However, if something has caught your eye and your instincts at a charity shop or online, always request the "story" of the piece. This will help you in making further attempts to authenticate or provenance the artist after purchase. I say 'after purchase' as any knowledgeable buyer—once credible questions begin to be asked about a piece one is hawking—would naturally up their price if they know or suspect its genuine, or remove it from sale if they know it's a fake. Follow your gut in these instances, and take photos of the

piece if in a shop or share the online ones with someone who may know more, before making an inquiry directly. Just to get a feel for a thing upfront.

I also encourage buyers of any stage to support emerging artists or less "popular" counterparts of the Big Names from their respective schools, families or techniques—or Indigenous Art Centres. Avoid online auctions if you can (due to often ill-provenance of pieces for sale—not all online auction "houses" provide all that much in the way of authentication or even documentation). Build relationships with dealers and agents by making general inquiries and outline what you might be looking for. But, ensure they are signatories to the Indigenous Art Code first. For example, I've made inquiries myself and have waited years sometimes before a call came back to me with exactly what I was looking for! This wouldn't have happened had I not found a dealer I thought had a good eye. Above all, forge relationships with artists themselves, if you can travel or live close by to them.

There are many ethical art fairs and art markets—as well as ones with online presentation, too—and these are great events to meet and talk with artists, and see works in real-life. They're also great platforms for education in the arts, with many offering seminal symposiums or deep-diving and diverse talks programming. Art fairs are known for their diversity and wide range of works of different scales and price-points, from emerging and established artists alike. Australia does these well!

When all's said and done, one of the most important things to remember is to be independent in your tastes: Collecting art is a labour of love, not a numbers game or popularity contest. In saying that, don't always ignore trends—some opportunities may never come again to buy at certain standards of quality, or accessible price-points. Don't think of any time-crunches of when you need to act and snap-up a piece as a gamble either. Because, if you're collecting for the right reasons (e.g. you love the work), you'll never regret your spend!

Keeping languages alive by letting our voices fly



John Kelly Ted Fields



DELEGATES travelled from across the state recently to have their voices heard at the NSW Aboriginal Languages Gathering 2025.

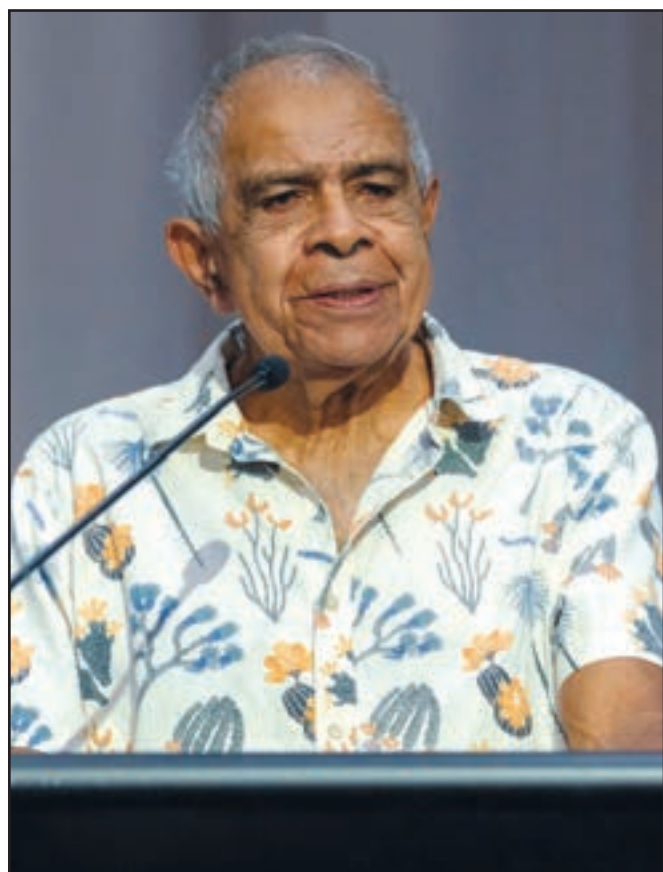
With the theme, Let our voices fly, the 3-day event celebrated the power and resilience of Aboriginal languages, and the incredible work of communities keeping their languages alive.

The gathering explored ideas of Connect, Speak and Fly, with each representing a key part of the journey in language revitalisation.

Connect is about building strong relationships between language groups, sharing knowledge and pooling resources, Speak honours the ongoing work of communities speaking language on Country, and Fly invited attendees to look forward and imagine a future where more and more people are speaking their traditional language.

Organised by the Aboriginal Language Trust, the gathering on Wonnarua Country, in the Hunter Valley of NSW, featured keynote speakers, workshops and breakout sessions covering topics such as Speaking with Kids, Speaking with Country, and Speaking with Story. Delegates were also treated to cultural dancing, performances, and presentations from various language centres from around NSW.

First Nations photographer JOSEPH MAYERS captured this selection of pictures – each worth a thousand words.



Keynote speaker Gary Williams



Jade Perry, Wanda Smith, Betty Smith- and Sara Freeman dance.



Gary Williams and Diane McNaboe enter the smoke.



Elizabeth Wright and Phyllis Oates.



Keynote speaker Roseanna Solomona.



The Languages Gathering was facilitated by Nardi Simpson.



Jayden Kitchener Waters.



Ngurrambaa dancers.



Raymond Kelly, Leitha Assan, Jesse Hodgetts, Edith Veronica Maher and Martin Hagan.



Sara Freeman dancing.



Jazlie Davis, Elley Blacklock and Ronnie Lloyd Bolt.



Lynette Riley (ALT board member), Nathan Brennan receiving the Lifetime Contribution Award on behalf of Michael "Micklo" Jarrett and Lindon Coombes (ALT board member).



Clare McHugh and Christopher Ingrey.



Beth Thornber, Amie Martin, Alinta Trindall and Jasmyrn Irwin.



Pat Connolly, winner of the Lifetime Contribution to Language Award.



Manduway Dutton, Julie Carey and Kristy Hart.



Jacob Chant Morris, Drew Longbottom, Lauren Chapman, Joel Deaves (accepting the Honorary Award for Aunty Lena Chapman) and Raymond Kelly (ALT board member).

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT

Zaleah is powering into a new career with the Cowboys

By ALF WILSON



EIGHTEEN year old Zaleah Mosby-Nona from remote Yorke Island (Masig) has taken the next step towards achieving her future career goals

by gaining employment as a trainee administration officer with the Cowboys Community Foundation.

Zaleah left Masig to board at Townsville's NRL Cowboys House for four years to finish secondary school.

She graduated from Townsville's Kirwan High and has now entered the world of employment after earning the role.

"I'm very grateful for the opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people and grow as a person and an employee. It will also provide me with excellent career options in the future," Zaleah said.

Zaleah said her main role is supporting the team with administration tasks and helping out where she can for community programs like the Cowboys 50-50 Charity Raffle.

"This job is also rewarding because it's a way I can give back to the community and the organisation which has helped support me," she said.

Also a talented rugby league player, when Zaleah's not behind her desk, she can be found working hard in the Cowboys gym near Queensland Country Bank Stadium.

Zaleah is one of only 12 under 19's in North Queensland to be selected in the Cowboys Junior Women's Elite Pathways Squad, nurturing young talent for opportunities in the NRLW.

Cowboys Community Foundation chief executive Fiona Pelling said Zaleah was a wonderful new asset to the Foundation and the Club.

"We have had the pleasure of getting to know Zaleah over the years. She was a member of our



Zaleah at Cowboys HQ in Townsville.

Cowboys House family, she was always so kind, had beautiful manners and an ability and commitment to support other new young girls in their journeys. Our NRL Cowboys House Career Transitions team worked with Zaleah to prepare her for this opportunity, she did a fantastic job in her interview and has already slotted into our team seamlessly," Fiona said.

Fiona said Zaleah's home island Masig has around 250 residents, whilst her Kirwan school here in Townsville had over 2000 students.

"Cowboys House has over 100 fellow boarders and 60 staff, and her new workplace at Cowboys HQ has over 50 employees. Her journey gives you an

understanding of the challenges our young people overcome in moving away from home to achieve equity in education and employment outcomes," Fiona said.

The Career Transitions program, presented by Edify Energy, works closely with Year 10-12 students and their families to identify career and training pathways and support students on their way to economic independence.

The Cowboys Community Foundation is the community arm of the North Queensland Toyota Cowboys. It improves employment, health and social outcomes through education-based programs, including NRL Cowboys House.



William Sutton and Taquayzsha Fullerton.

Engineering a great future

By ALF WILSON



FATHER of four William Sutton has praised the first ever North Queensland Cowboys 'Dream, Believe, Achieve

Engineering Pathways' program which is assisting First Nations participants to begin their journeys to new careers.

The Cowboys Community Team is delivering the project, with classes now underway at TAFE Queensland's Townsville Trade Training Centre (Bohle) campus, a major partner of the North Queensland Toyota Cowboys.

William and Taquayzsha Fullerton are amongst eight First Nations participants who are training for new careers.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for professional and personal growth," William said.

"This is the first time I've ever been to TAFE or studied for a qualification so I'm really excited. I've mainly only had casual work in construction, doing some concreting and tiling, so I hope to come out of this program with some more knowledge and skills to get a full-time job and a steady income. As a father of four children this is the step I need to take to get me closer to my goal of working in mining. It's been excellent so far, getting to know new people and learning how to be comfortable in new environments. This program is one of the best things that could've happened to Townsville by far".

TAFE Queensland general manager north region Susan Kinobe said the partnership

between two iconic North Queensland brands is creating real training and employment opportunities for the community.

"Together with the Cowboys, we are strengthening our communities by ensuring local job seekers, particularly those facing barriers to employment, gain the skills and confidence needed to secure meaningful careers. This program is about building futures and creating pathways to long-term success in industries that need skilled workers," Susan said.

Cowboys Community Foundation chief executive Fiona Pelling said it was an exciting time for the Cowboys, and marked the expansion of the successful Dream, Believe, Achieve training and employment program, presented by Maurice Blackburn Lawyers.

"Dream, Believe, Achieve equips students with the skills, knowledge and support they need to be job-ready from day one of their new careers," Fiona said. "Since 2015 we have developed a winning combination of in-class training, one-on-one mentoring, and work experience.

"We're grateful for the support of the Queensland Government, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers and TAFE Queensland for working with us on what is an exciting, new direction for the program."

Funded by the Queensland Government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) initiative, the pilot program supports disadvantaged or unemployed North Queenslanders to obtain a nationally recognised Certificate II in Engineering Pathways.

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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Gilgandra & Weilwan LALC's CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Permanent Full-time Position (Job share)

35 hours per week (shared between two LALC's)

Salary range negotiable from \$100,000 plus entitlements & Superannuation.

The CEO is accountable to the Board of Directors & is responsible for the day-to-day operations. The CEO ensures the activities of GLALC & WLALC are consistent with the priorities & directions of LALC's policy framework set down by the Members. The CEO ensures the services of both LALC's are of high quality & responsive to the changing needs of the communities & funding environment. The Boards of GLALC & WLALC seek to appoint a CEO with the following core technical competencies:

- Business Management – extensive experience in a senior management position.
- Operational Management – Strategic approach to day-to-day operational management of a Remote Aboriginal Service.
- Financial Management – manage the financial affairs of the organization, including budgeting, financial management (MYOB & Xero) & reporting to ensure compliance with legal & funding obligations.
- Staff Management – develop & build on a team that is committed to a productive working culture within the policies & procedures of GLALC & WLALC.
- Demonstrable knowledge and understanding of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALRA) (or the ability to rapidly acquire) with the capacity to interpret and implement legislation and sound communication skills.
- External Relations & Representation – cultivate strategic alliances & positive relationships to effectively represent & advocate for GLALC & WLALC.
- Qualifications in business, finance, or community services disciplines (or equivalent experience) or willing to obtain.

Selection Criteria for appointment to the role of CEO will be assessed based on the suitability & background & fit to the key candidate requirements. (listed above). Please call or email for employment package or to discuss the role: Gilgandra LALC – Trish Pont - MB: 0499230086 or Email: ceo@gillalc.com

Aboriginal Identified, "An applicant's race is a genuine occupational qualification and Authorised by Section 14(d) of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977."

Position closes: 9th April 2025.

Please Post applications to:

GLALC & WLALC CEO Recruitment Panel
PO BOX 163, Gilgandra NSW 2827

Weilwan LALC



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Larrakia
Development
Corporation | NT**

- Drive commercial success and long-term sustainability for the Larrakia people
- Shape and expand key business ventures, property development, and partnerships
- Champion cultural leadership and community-driven impact

Larrakia Development Corporation is seeking an exceptional Chief Executive Officer to lead this highly respected Indigenous commercial entity through an exciting period of transformation and growth.

Visit

www.leadingroles.com.au to download the Executive Information Package.

**Applications close 5pm
Monday 17 March 2025.**

Northern Rivers WDVCS Case Management Worker

Hours: Nine-day fortnight

Salary: SCHADS 6 is \$106,676 to \$113,391 per annum pro-rata, plus super, leave loading and PBI salary packaging.

Location: Lismore NSW

The Service has an exemption under s 31 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 to employ women in this role

The WDVCS Case Management Worker provides case management support to WDVCS clients who:

- Have been assessed as having complex and serious needs which are impacting on their ability to keep safe and that therefore would benefit from intensive support; and
- Are not able to be referred to another case management service in the area; and
- Consent to being referred into case management.

Responsibilities include (but not limited to):

- Case management of WDVCS clients, including development, implementation, assessment and review of case plans with clients
- Develop and maintain strong working relationships with key WDVCS partners, including the NSW Police Force, Local Courts, legal representatives and referral agencies, in order to facilitate client access to those agencies and services
- Risk assessment, using the DVSA, and safety planning with clients
- Provision of relevant information to clients and making warm referrals on their behalf to a range of service providers to assist with their ongoing needs

For enquiries or to obtain a comprehensive job kit (including the selection criteria) contact Kylie McKenzie on 02 6621 1044 or kylie.mckenzie@northernriversclc.org.au

Details can also be found at: Case Management Worker - Job in Lismore & Far North Coast - Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service.

Applications must address all selection criteria and include a current resume and cover letter.

Applications close 5pm Monday 24 March 2025.



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

About the role

- \$200,000 per annum (plus statutory superannuation and leave loading)
- Full-Time Fixed-Term

- Strategy / Continuous Improvement: Provide trend analysis and make appropriate recommendations around organisational financial performance; and
- Funding: Identify ways to diversify and strengthen funding income

To be successful in this role, you will have:

- Bachelor's degree in accounting or finance and economics
- MBA and/or CPA/CA is highly desirable
- Ten (10) years' experience in a similar industry; examples will be sought
- As you will be building and maintaining strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders, it is essential you possess superior relationship management, communication, negotiation and conflict resolution skills.

- Experience with cost allocations and grant funding acquittals will be highly regarded.

What we offer:

Kambu Health embraces equal employment opportunities and we encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to apply. Benefits we offer to our employees:

- Annual Leave Loading of 17.5%
- Four (4) weeks annual leave
- Annual Christmas closure for all Kambu Health employees
- Non-Taxable Fringe Benefits salary packaging options amounting to \$15,886 per annum
- Uniform Provided
- Access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Opportunities for both internal and external career growth, including professional development and

networking events

- Flexible working arrangements to accommodate individual needs

Applications:

You should provide a resume and a cover letter (no more than 2 pages) addressing the selection criteria listed within the position description in your application. Please apply online - applications will not be accepted if sent to the contact listed.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples encouraged to apply.

Contact:

- Human Resources
- E: hr@kambuhealth.com.au
- T: 0439 273 603

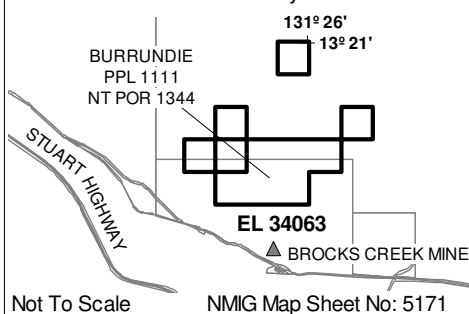
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION LICENCES

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.

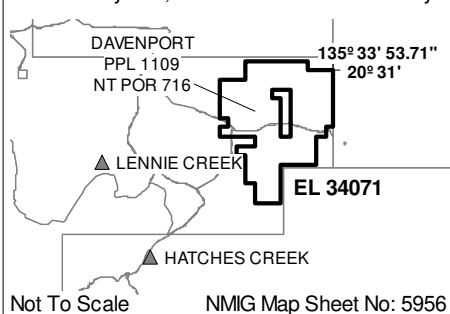
Applications to which this notice applies:

Exploration Licence 34063 sought by PETER DAVID SMITH, ROBERT GARRY MURRELL & WAYNE DEVERAUX, over an area of 10 Blocks (34 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the BATCHELOR locality.



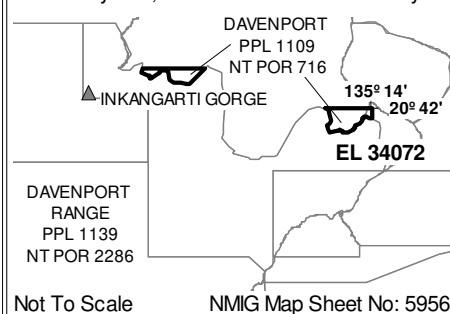
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5171

Exploration Licence 34071 sought by CALATOS PTY LTD, ACN 144 618 708, RESOURCE GOLD PTY LTD, ACN 134 647 484 over an area of 125 Blocks (400 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the HATCHES locality.



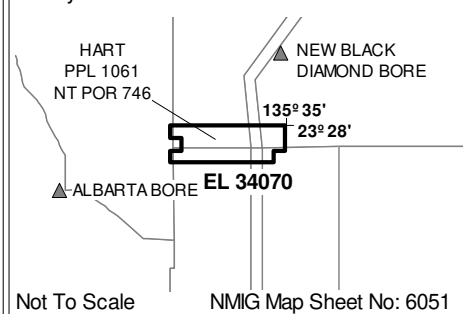
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5956

Exploration Licence 34072 sought by CALATOS PTY LTD, ACN 144 618 708, RESOURCE GOLD PTY LTD, ACN 134 647 484 over an area of 22 Blocks (50 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the HATCHES locality.



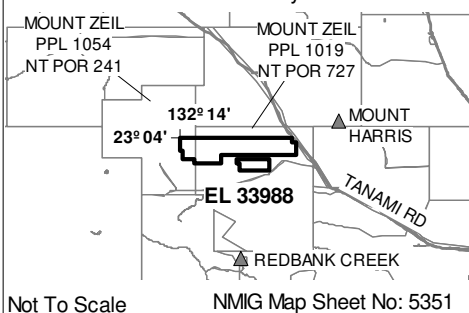
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5956

Exploration Licence 34070 sought by IGO NEWSEARCH PTY LTD, ACN 142 192 701 over an area of 28 Blocks (89 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the BRAHMA locality.



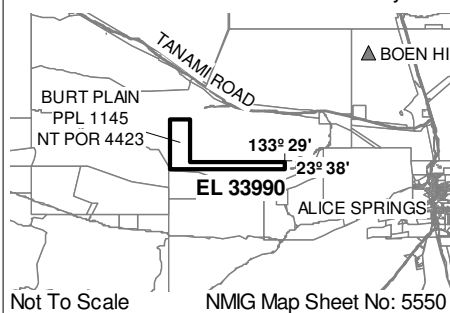
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 6051

Exploration Licence 33988 sought by PIETROVIN CONSULTANTS PTY LTD, ACN 163 916 998 over an area of 164 Blocks (518 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the GLEN HELEN locality.



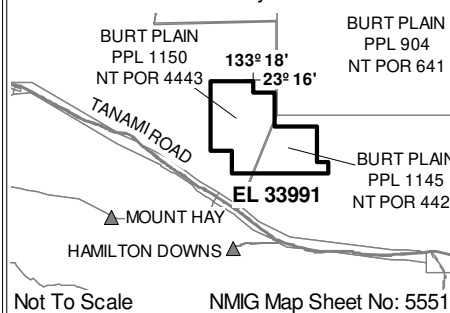
Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5351

Exploration Licence 33990 sought by PIETROVIN CONSULTANTS PTY LTD, ACN 163 916 998 over an area of 36 Blocks (114 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the MACDONNELL RANGES locality.



Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5550

Exploration Licence 33991 sought by PIETROVIN CONSULTANTS PTY LTD, ACN 163 916 998 over an area of 59 Blocks (187 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the ANBURLA locality.



Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5551

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: 12 March 2025



HAS YOUR FEDERAL ELECTORAL DIVISION CHANGED?

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

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

In the Northern Territory, the boundaries of both electoral divisions have been altered.

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

Where can I find out more?

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

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

Do I need to do anything?

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

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

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

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

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

You can also check which federal electoral division your suburb or locality is located in at www.aec.gov.au/electorate

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

Which areas have moved to a different federal electoral division?

From	To
Division of Lingiari	• the Division of Solomon – the localities of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Zuccoli and part of the suburb of Yarrowonga
Division of Solomon	• no changes have been made to this electoral division which result in the transfer of voters to another electoral division

www.aec.gov.au/NT-redistribution

☎ 13 23 26

1869AR_5469

Expression of Interest Cultural Heritage Management

OzArk Environment & Heritage has been engaged by APA (the proponent) to complete an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for the Bulloo Interlink (BIL) Pipeline (the project). The project will involve the construction and operation of a high-pressure gas pipeline, connecting the South West Queensland Pipeline in Queensland to the Moomba to Winton Pipeline (MWP) in New South Wales (NSW). This Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment will assess the parts of the project that will be in NSW, in the Unincorporated Far West Area. The project components in NSW will involve approximately 155 kilometres (km) of buried high pressure gas pipeline (of which 70 km will be located adjacent to the existing easement of the MWP). The pipeline in NSW will also include the following above ground infrastructure: a temperature control facility and an end of line connection facility. The pipeline in NSW will extend from the NSW / Queensland border in the north, approximately 51 km northeast of Tibooburra, and extend south, ending approximately 80 km north of White Cliffs. The project will also require the establishment of temporary construction areas including one to two pipe stockpile areas and camps, a connection facility and various access tracks.

OzArk is seeking Aboriginal persons and / or groups who wish to be consulted about the project. This consultation group will assist OzArk and the proponent in the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). The ACHAR will then assist the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in their consideration and determination of the project.

If you hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects or places in the project area, please register your interest to be consulted.

Registrations can be made by post: OzArk PO Box 2069 Dubbo NSW 2830; email: catherine@ozarkehm.com.au or by phoning OzArk on 02 6882 0118. All submissions should be received no later than **26 March 2025**

Note: Those registering an interest will be contacted to discuss the project further. Those who do register are advised that their details will be provided to Heritage NSW and the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless specifically advised in writing that details are not to be forwarded.



Assistant Commissioner (Aboriginal identified role)

- **Part-time board member role at Natural Resources Commission (approximately 1 day per month)**
- **Total remuneration package – Board member \$1200 per day**

Natural Resources Commission (the Commission) is looking for a highly skilled Assistant Commissioner with expertise in natural resource management and experience engaging diverse Aboriginal groups and senior levels of government. In this Aboriginal Identified position, you will advise, support, and when requested deputise for the Commissioner to provide independent, evidenced-based advice to the NSW Government. Your role will ensure this advice incorporates Aboriginal cultural knowledge and contemporary natural resource management practices.

About the Role

In this role, you will:

- attend Commission meetings (in person or online)
- provide strategic advice to support culturally informed and evidence-based decision making on complex natural resource management issues impacting upon Healthy Country
- foster a deeper understanding among the Commission and staff of the cultural, environmental, social and economic rights and interests of Aboriginal communities
- facilitate meaningful engagement with Aboriginal communities
- foster collaboration and knowledge sharing across the broader sector and actively engage with networks to support natural resources management and Healthy Country goals
- (when delegated) chair inquiries, reviews and expert panels, act on behalf of the Commissioner, and exercise the powers of the Commission, within agreed limits.

Closing Date: 30 March 2025

Applications MUST be submitted online through iworkfor.nsw.gov.au to be considered. Applicants should read the role description which can be found on nrc.nsw.gov.au/career (job reference number 40201)

Want to know more?

Contact Bryce Wilde, Executive Director, on 0407 107 310 or via Bryce.Wilde@nrc.nsw.gov.au

JS0213



Seeking Board Director

Wentworth Healthcare Limited, provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network, is seeking Expressions of Interest for a Director to join our skills-based Board. We are interested in candidates who have **finance, risk, assurance and compliance skills** and are suitably experienced for a Director position.

Our mission is to empower general practice and other healthcare professionals to deliver high-quality, accessible and integrated primary healthcare that meets the needs of our community.

For the role criteria and to request an information pack visit nbmphn.com.au/careers

More information: **02 4708 8139** or email director@nbmphn.com.au

Applications close Sunday 30 March 2025.

We encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women, people from culturally diverse backgrounds and people with disabilities to apply.



Blue Mountains | Hawkesbury | Lithgow | Penrith

Wentworth Healthcare is the provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains PHN. 801_0325



Notice of activity commencement

The proposed Blue Mackerel offshore wind project has commenced its Metocean and Geotechnical investigations.

These are being undertaken within the 163km² licence area, about 6 nautical miles off Ninety Mile Beach near Woodside Beach and Seaspray, Victoria — and in a smaller nearshore area (under *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* consent).

Flotational equipment measuring wind, waves, and currents will remain for 1–2 years. From 10 March, a specialised vessel will conduct seabed investigations for up to 5 weeks (weather permitting), providing essential data for our design and environmental assessments.

No exclusion zones apply, but please maintain minimum 500m clearance for safe maneuverability.

Connect

To register for updates, learn about future activities or more information, visit www.bluemackerel.com.au or email info@bluemackerel.com.au



We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people, the Traditional Owners of the land and waters where the proposed Blue Mackerel offshore wind project will be located. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

We aspire to a genuine partnership with the Gunaikurnai people that delivers mutual benefit and enhanced stewardship of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

We acknowledge the rights and responsibilities of all First Nations peoples for their lands and waters where we operate.

Powering your future Graduate Program

Join Transgrid's Graduate Program and help shape Australia's clean energy future








Apply today


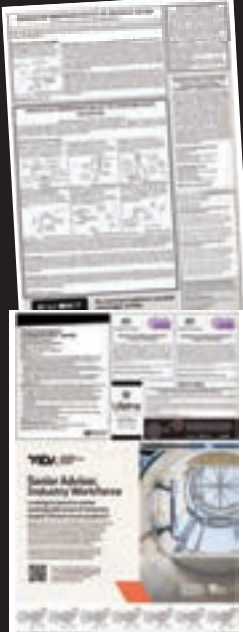
Applications close 3 April 2025






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NOTICE OF STAGED CONSULTATION MEETINGS TO CONSULT WITH AND SEEK CONSENT/ AUTHORISATION FROM THE GUNGGANDJI-MANDINGALBAY YIDINJI PEOPLE (GMY PEOPLE)

All Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji People common law native title holders as described in the Native Title Determination QUD6012/2012, are invited to participate in a **staged consultation** process and then a Consent/Authorisation meeting to consider the **GMYPPBC Indigenous Land Use Agreement "ILUA"**.

The GMY People are described in the QUD6016/2012 Determination as the descendants of one of 13 persons listed in the Order, or a person who has been recruited by adoption.

Stage 1: The GMYPPBC Board of Directors engaged* lawyers to draft an ILUA for consultation with the GMY People. Stage 1 is completed.

Stage 2: Two Consultation Meetings: The Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji native title common law holders are invited to participate in two consultation meetings, which provide an opportunity for your input into the draft ILUA.

Stage 3: Consent/Authorisation Meeting (#3): At the Consent/Authorisation meeting the GMY People will decide whether to consent to the final draft ILUA between the GMY People as the native title common law holders and GMYPPBC as the Trustee of freehold land.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Consultation Meetings – Stage 2			
Meeting Dates	Place	Venue	Time
Tues 25 March 2025	Yarrabah	Yarrabah Leisure Centre, Beach St. Yarrabah Qld 4871	10am to 3pm
Tues 20 May 2025	Yarrabah	Yarrabah Leisure Centre, Beach St. Yarrabah Qld 4871	10am to 3pm

Consent / Authorisation Meeting – Stage 3			
Meeting Dates	Place	Venue	Time
Tues 25 June 2025	Yarrabah	Yarrabah Leisure Centre, Beach St. Yarrabah Qld 4871	10am to 3pm

REGISTRATION: If you wish to attend a consultation meeting/s and/or the Consent/Authorisation meeting, please register your interest by contacting Deborah Richards: GMYPPBC Administration Officer via email: admin@gmyppbc.org or phone: 0456 004 505.

Buses (return) from Cairns to Yarrabah will be organised by the GMYPPBC for registered common law native title holders who require transport to Yarrabah. Due to limited funding, no other travel assistance will be provided. Light refreshments and lunch will be provided at each meeting.

To stay up-to-date about these meetings and bus transport, visit / follow GMYPPBC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/gmyppbc/>

WHAT IS THE ILUA ABOUT:

There are two parties to the ILUA:

- Party 1: GMYPPBC for the GMY native title holders.
- Party 2: GMYPPBC as a Landholder under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 (ALA).

The ILUA area is all the land within the 2 land parcels held by GMYPPBC as ALA freehold at Yarrabah: Lot 308 SP2780874 + Lot 2 SP283822. **See Map of ILUA Area outlined on page 2 of this notice.

The ILUA contains a native title process and a separate Aboriginal cultural heritage process that apply to activities by GMYPPBC in the ILUA area. The ILUA does not address any other legal compliance requirement for the ILUA area.

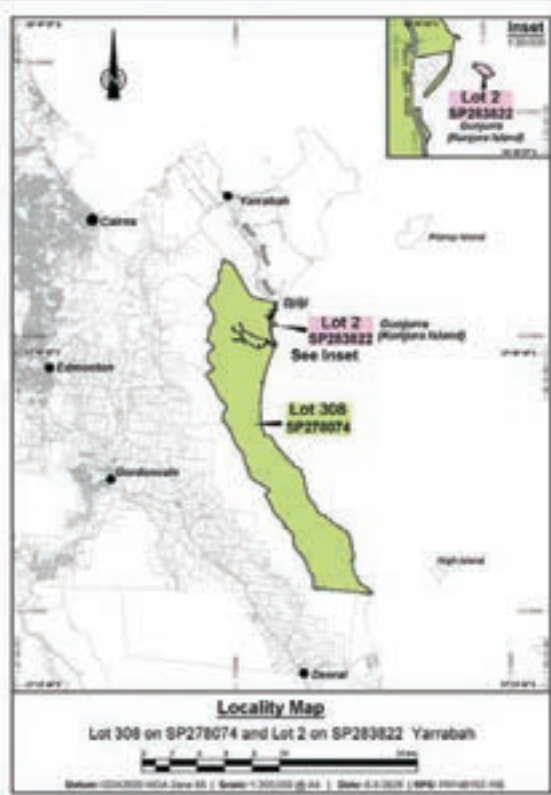
The native title process: (a) consent is given to low native title impact activities, (b) there must be consultation detailed in the ILUA about high native title impact activities before these can commence, and (c) consent is given to particular future acts detailed in the ILUA (relating to the GMYPPBC Blooms Point Precinct Project and Masterplan Project) subject to any related conditions included in the ILUA.

The Aboriginal cultural heritage process: (a) there are no requirements for low cultural heritage impact activities; and (b) a clearance procedure detailed in the ILUA must be completed before a high cultural heritage impact activity can commence.


* through funding provided by the Queensland State Government.

****Map of ILUA Area: GMYPPBC Trustee Area: Lot 308 SP2780874 + Lot 2 SP283822**

'Map 1: ILUA Area is Highlighted Green'



Aboriginal Patient and Family Support Officer



The team here at Benalla Health are looking for a passionate Aboriginal Patient and Family Support Officer (Part time – 0.5 FTE).

Specifically, the role will;

- Provide guidance and support to Aboriginal identified patients & families on their health care journey by linking patients and families to external & internal support agencies, including Aboriginal specific support agencies within the community.
- Liaise with stakeholders regarding any proposed changes to client's care plan
- Report any concerns or incidents relating to the provision of services to the client/carer.
- Document all services provided in the client record/history, including details of the care provided, any variances to the care plan, and the date and duration of the services provide. This documentation must be in accordance with any relevant standards and practices for documentation for the clinical specialty of Services provided.

The successful applicant (upon appointment) will undergo a National Police Records Check and Working with Children's Check for pre-employment safety screening purposes.

For more information regarding the role contact: Greg van Popering , Operational Director Healthy Communities on (03) 57612212.

Benalla Health is an Equal Opportunity Employer and has a strong commitment to Child Safety. This includes establishing and maintaining child safe and child friendly environments.

Applications to be made via Benalla Health careers page www.benallahealth.org.au

Applications close 4th April 2025.

Notice of a non-claimant application for determination of native title in New South Wales

Notification day: 26 March 2025



A 'non-claimant' application has been made to the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) seeking a determination that native title does not exist in the area described below. The Applicants have a non-native title interest in the area, which is set out in their application and summarised below.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), there can be only one determination of native title for an area. Unless there is a relevant native title claim, as defined in section 24FE, over the area described below on or before **25 June 2025**, the area may be subject to protection under section 24FA and **acts may be done which extinguish or otherwise affect native title**.

A person who claims to hold native title rights and interests in this area may wish to file a native title claimant application or become a party to this non-claimant application. These may be the only opportunities to have those rights and interests taken into account in the Federal Court's determination. Any other person may also wish to become a party.

If you want to become a party to this application, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, **on or before 25 June 2025**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **25 June 2025**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.



Applicants' name: Jeffrey George Smith and Debbie Ann Smith
Federal Court File No: NSD1000/2024
Non-native title interest: The applicants are the holders of Licence No. RN 636269 over Crown land being part of Lot 7301 on DP 1162521 (Reserve 22252 for travelling stock) for the purpose of 'Site Investigations'

Order sought by Applicants: The applicants seek a determination that native title does not exist in relation to the application area

Description of area: The application area covers about 1.54 ha and is located over part of Lot 7301 on Deposited Plan 1162521 in the suburb of Lambs Valley approximately 6 km south east of Glen Innes
Relevant LGA: Glen Innes Severn Council

For assistance and any further information about this application, including the description of the area, call Huia McGrath on 08 6317 5442 or visit www.nntt.gov.au

Project Notification the Preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report for the Property at 125, 145, 155, 165 and 175 Lawson Road, Badgerys Creek, NSW 2567

Public Notice and Registration of Interest - *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*

City Plan Heritage (CPH) have been engaged by Formus Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report for the proposed subdivision works at 125, 145, 155, 165 and 175 Lawson Road, Badgerys Creek, NSW 2567 in the Liverpool City Council LGA. An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report is to be prepared by CPH to inform a Development Application under the State Significant Development (SSD) planning pathway provided under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The proposed works may result in impacts upon Aboriginal objects protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and will therefore require the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report.

In accordance with Heritage NSW (2010) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents, individuals or groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to establishing the significance of potential Aboriginal objects and intangible cultural values in the area of the proposed development are invited to register their interest to participate in the heritage consultation and assessment process.

Contact details for the Proponent are:

Ben Fairfax
Formus Property Pty Ltd | Managing Director
M: +61 408 238 861 | E: bfairfax@formus.com.au

David Read
Formus Property Pty Ltd | Design Manager
M: +61 481 162 799 | E: d.read@formus.com.au

C/- Celeste Greeves
City Plan Heritage Pty Ltd |
Suite 7.02, 80 Clarence Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000
T: 02 8270 3500 | E: celesteg@cityplan.com.au

Registration for Expression of Interest period closes on 27th March 2025.



Join us to learn more about the Belubula Water Security Project

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is inviting community members from across the region to attend upcoming information sessions on the development of the full business case for the proposed Belubula Water Security Project.

The drop-in sessions are an opportunity for the community to receive information about project planning, ask questions and provide feedback to the project team.

The sessions are being held in:

- Orange:** Tuesday 25 March 2025 any time between 12 pm to 5 pm at the Orange Central Square Shopping Centre (227 Summer Street, Orange)
- Canowindra:** Wednesday 26 March 2025 any time between 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at CWA Canowindra Branch Hall (14 Blatchford Street, Canowindra)
- Bathurst:** Wednesday 26 March 2025 any time between 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm at Central Tablelands Collection Facility, Learning/Workshop space (20 Leena Street, Bathurst)
- Blayney:** Thursday 27 March 2025 any time between 11 am to 2 pm at Blayney Shire Community Centre (41 Church Street, Blayney)
- Online:** Tuesday 1 April 2025 online from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm AEDT. Registration is required.

Community members are also invited to complete a feedback survey available on the project webpage.

About the project

The proposed Belubula Water Security Project aims to improve water availability and increased drought resilience for residents, businesses and the environment across the Belubula Valley.

This important initiative is investigating options aligned with the draft Lachlan Regional Water Strategy and the Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy.

The 4 options being investigated include:

- a new pipeline between Lake Rowlands Dam and Carcoar Dam to transfer up to 2 gigalitres of water per year, capturing spills and boosting supply
- raising the Lake Rowlands Dam wall to increase storage from 4.5 gigalitres to 8 gigalitres
- building a new dam 2.5 kilometres downstream of Lake Rowlands
- connecting the Belubula and Macquarie valleys through an interregional pipeline.

The department is working with WaterNSW and Central Tablelands Water on this project.

For more information

Scan the QR code
Visit water.nsw.gov.au/belubula-water-security-project
Email water.enquiries@dpie.nsw.gov.au
Call 1300 081 047.



JS0108



DOING THE MOST GOOD



Community consultation on the draft Water Management (General) Regulation 2025 and the draft Water Management (Water Supply Authorities) Regulation 2025

The Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 will automatically lapse on 1 September 2025 under the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1989*.

It is important to have regulations in place because they support the operation of the *Water Management Act 2000*.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is proposing to replace the 2018 Regulation on 1 September 2025 with the:

- Water Management (General) Regulation 2025, and
- Water Management (Water Supply Authorities) Regulation 2025.

The object of these regulations is to repeal and remake, with some changes, the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018.

The 2 draft regulations and the Regulatory Impact Statement are on public exhibition on the department's website from Monday 10 March 2025 to 6 April 2025.

An online webinar will be held to give the public a chance to learn more about the changes before they make a submission.

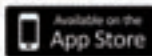
To find out more information and to register for the webinar, please visit: water.nsw.gov.au/water-management-regulation-remake or email water.enquiries@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Submissions close at 11.59 pm on 6 April 2025.

JS0152

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NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	15/2107	GEKO EXPLORE PTY LTD	34BL	34km SW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 6' S: Long: 120° 51' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/2109	EASTERN COOLGARDIE GOLDFIELDS PTY LTD	14BL	29.7km S'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 12' S: Long: 121° 3' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	16/656	AURUMIN MT DIMER PTY LTD	15BL	99.6km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 31' S: Long: 120° 2' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	27/724	WEDGETAIL EXPLORATION PTY LTD	8BL	56.3km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 17' S: Long: 121° 53' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	28/3463	AUSTRALIA MINERAL PROSPECTS PTY LTD	9BL	61.2km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 35' S: Long: 122° 4' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	28/3498	CHALWELL PROSPECTING PTY LTD	11BL	80.3km S'ly of Edjudina	Lat: 30° 32' S: Long: 122° 26' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	28/3501	COLEMAN, Brooke Louise	15BL	76.9km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 38' S: Long: 122° 15' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	30/585	BOX, Brodie Hamilton	42BL	126.3km W'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 27' S: Long: 119° 45' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	36/1107	METAL HAWK LIMITED	58BL	25.2km S'ly of Leinster	Lat: 28° 8' S: Long: 120° 44' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1468	GATEWAY MINING LIMITED	1BL	60.9km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 27' S: Long: 119° 27' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1469	GATEWAY MINING LIMITED	1BL	72.8km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 20' S: Long: 119° 25' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1470	GATEWAY MINING LIMITED	1BL	78km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 17' S: Long: 119° 24' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1471	GATEWAY MINING LIMITED	1BL	83.1km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 14' S: Long: 119° 22' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE, WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	59/2868	VERMILION METALS PTY LTD	7BL	76.5km NE'ly of Mullewa	Lat: 27° 59' S: Long: 115° 59' E	MURCHISON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	59/2886	VERMILION METALS PTY LTD	24BL	73.2km NE'ly of Mullewa	Lat: 27° 59' S: Long: 115° 56' E	GREATER GERALDTON CITY, MURCHISON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	63/2503	KINGSLAND GOLD PTY LTD	31BL	78.4km SE'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 53' S: Long: 120° 8' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, DUNDAS SHIRE
Exploration Licence	80/6095	BARACUS PTY LTD	76BL	76.9km S'ly of Wyndham	Lat: 16° 10' S: Long: 128° 2' E	WYNDHAM-EAST KIMBERLEY SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6917	WALTERS, Lesley Robyn	52.97HA	6.9km NW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 53' S: Long: 121° 8' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6924	EASTERN COOLGARDIE GOLDFIELDS PTY LTD	125.12HA	9.7km S'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 2' S: Long: 121° 9' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6925	EASTERN COOLGARDIE GOLDFIELDS PTY LTD	75.64HA	10.5km S'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 2' S: Long: 121° 9' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6930	GEKO EXPLORE PTY LTD	197.65HA	27.6km W'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 53' S: Long: 120° 52' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6931	GEKO EXPLORE PTY LTD	197.57HA	27.4km W'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 54' S: Long: 120° 52' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6932	GEKO EXPLORE PTY LTD	203.41HA	27.2km W'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 54' S: Long: 120° 52' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6933	GEKO EXPLORE PTY LTD	196.79HA	27km W'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 55' S: Long: 120° 52' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6934	GEKO EXPLORE PTY LTD	196.48HA	27km W'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 56' S: Long: 120° 52' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6935	GEKO EXPLORE PTY LTD	196.93HA	26.9km W'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 56' S: Long: 120° 52' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6936	GEKO EXPLORE PTY LTD	196.69HA	26.9km W'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 120° 52' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6937	GEKO EXPLORE PTY LTD	191.69HA	27.3km W'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 54' S: Long: 120° 52' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6938	GEKO EXPLORE PTY LTD	197.25HA	27.1km W'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 55' S: Long: 120° 52' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6939	GEKO EXPLORE PTY LTD	198.34HA	26.6km W'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 120° 53' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6940	GEKO EXPLORE PTY LTD	197.03HA	27.8km W'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 58' S: Long: 120° 52' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6941	GEKO EXPLORE PTY LTD	166.83HA	26km W'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 58' S: Long: 120° 53' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5823	DUNDAS MINERALS LIMITED	140.85HA	20.7km NE'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 15' S: Long: 121° 13' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5829	MAHONEY, Reece Anthony	120.80HA	20.2km N'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 16' S: Long: 121° 16' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5834	GOLDTIMERS PROSPECTING PTY LTD	157.72HA	15.4km NW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 17' S: Long: 120° 55' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2757-S	MCKAY, Glenn Michael TERRY, Dean Anthony	9.68HA	39.7km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 58' S: Long: 121° 59' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2806-S	FALAU, Takau	2.69HA	28km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 49' S: Long: 121° 45' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2860	CHAPMAN, Morgan Leslie	121.27HA	35.9km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 44' S: Long: 121° 50' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2861	CHAPMAN, Morgan Leslie	198.52HA	38.4km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 42' S: Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2862	CHAPMAN, Morgan Leslie	66.67HA	38.1km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 43' S: Long: 121° 51' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2863	CHAPMAN, Morgan Leslie	194.36HA	38.2km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 44' S: Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4793	COMPLETE PROSPECTING PTY LTD	193.91HA	29.9km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 1' S: Long: 121° 53' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4804	COSMO METALS LIMITED	192.01HA	13.5km N'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 38' S: Long: 121° 30' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4812	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	82.78HA	8.4km N'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 40' S: Long: 121° 28' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4813	BORROMEI, Rino	10.00HA	12.6km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 45' S: Long: 121° 36' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4814	KOŁODZIEJ, Allison Rebecca	6.02HA	7km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 48' S: Long: 121° 27' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2608	LEGENDRE, Bruce Robert	161.05HA	45.5km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 30' S: Long: 121° 51' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2609	LEGENDRE, Bruce Robert	196.56HA	46.6km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 30' S: Long: 121° 51' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2613	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	9.29HA	46km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 18' S: Long: 121° 46' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	77/4679	CARNICELLI, Anthony Noel	9.33HA	34.6km S'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 46' S: Long: 119° 35' E	YILGARN SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of Special Prospecting Licences, which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term up to 4 years from the date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.

Notification day: 12 March 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 **12 June 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. **12 July 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_25407



NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Mining Lease	26/873	SILVER LAKE RESOURCES LIMITED	3.57HA	32.2km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 59' S: Long: 121° 54' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	57/671	LEGENDRE, Bruce Robert VENUS METALS CORPORATION LIMITED	415.12HA	24.6km SW'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 9' S: Long: 119° 8' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Mining Lease	77/1320	XANTIPPE SX PTY LTD	18.32HA	4.4km N'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 25' S: Long: 119° 28' E	YILGARN SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of mining leases, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of 21 years from notification of grant and a right of renewal for 21 years.

Notification day: 12 March 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 **12 June 2025**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100. The mining tenements may be granted if, by the end of the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **12 July 2025**), there is no native title party under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* in relation to the area of the mining tenements. For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

DMIRS 25408

Notice of an Authorisation meeting for a Native Title Determination Application



When: Sunday 13 April 2025
10:00am – 5:00pm

Where: Byron Bay Cavanbah Centre - Sports & Cultural Complex
249 Ewingsdale Road
Byron Bay NSW 2481
With option to attend remotely (see below)

Who should attend: This meeting is open to all Bundjalung People of Byron Bay who are those Aboriginal persons who:

- (a)
 - (i) are the biological descendants of the apical ancestor Bobby Bray, also known as King Bobby of Bumberbin; or
 - (ii) are persons adopted in accordance with Byron Bay Bundjalung law and custom into the families of those persons described in (i), (including the biological descendants of any such adopted persons); and
- (b) identify themselves as a Bundjalung person of Byron Bay; and
- (c) are recognised as a Bundjalung person of Byron Bay by Bundjalung People of Byron Bay in accordance with their law and custom.

and
any other Aboriginal person who asserts native title rights and interests in the area of the proposed native title determination application.

Background

The Bundjalung People of Byron Bay are the native title holders of the Bundjalung People of Byron Bay #3 Native Title Determination Area, pursuant to the successful native title application determined by the Federal Court on 30 April 2019 (Proceeding NSD6020/2001) (**Bundjalung People of Byron Bay #3**). The Bundjalung People of Byron Bay #3 Native Title Determination Area broadly comprises the land and waters between Brunswick Heads and Broken Head, including Byron Bay, in north eastern New South Wales (except where native title has been wholly extinguished).

As part of its agreement to the successful Bundjalung People of Byron Bay #3 native title determination, the State of NSW agreed that, if the Bundjalung People of Byron Bay filed a further native title claim over the area known as Julian Rocks (Ngathangulli/Nguthungulli) and the waters within 100 metres surrounding that area on or before 19 May 2025, it would accept the existence of certain native title rights and interests and would not require any further connection evidence beyond that evidence filed in the Bundjalung People of Byron Bay #3 application.

Reasons for the Authorisation Meeting

At this Authorisation Meeting, attendees will be asked whether or not they wish to authorise a new native title determination application over the **Proposed Application Area**, being all land and waters within the external boundary described as:

The Julian Rocks (Nguthungulli) Nature Reserve and the waters surrounding that reserve extending to a line 100 metres seaward of the lowest astronomical tide (**Proposed Application Area**).

At this Authorisation Meeting, attendees will be asked whether or not they wish to authorise the proposed native title determination application over Proposed Application Area.

- Agenda for the meeting**
1. Welcome to Country and Introductions
 2. Discuss and confirm the process of decision making for the purpose of authorising a person or persons to make the native title determination application and deal with matters arising in relation to it;
 3. Consider and authorise a native title determination application over the area described in this notice;
 4. Identity of the native title claim group on whose behalf the native title determination application will be made;
 5. Native title application area;
 6. Native title rights and interests;
 7. Authorise one or more members of the native title claim group to make the native title determination application, and to deal with matters arising in relation to it;
 - (a) The native title claim group will consider resolutions and make decisions to authorise an Applicant to make the native title determination application and deal with matters arising in relation to it.
 - (b) The native title claim group will be asked to consider resolutions and make decisions about placing conditions on the powers of the Applicant including in relation to the Applicant's ability to enter into commercial and other agreements which may affect native title rights and interests.
 - (c) The native title claim group will be asked to consider and make decisions about the processes the Applicant must undertake in making its decisions. For example, whether or not the Applicant can make decisions by majority, and whether the Applicant can execute documents by majority.
 8. Any other business
 - Any other matters, as determined by the persons in attendance.

Attending the Meeting

The Authorisation Meeting will be held in-person and there will also be the option to participate remotely by telephone or videoconference.

Attending in person

If you wish to attend the Authorisation Meeting in person, please contact NTSCORP by no later than Friday 4 April 2025, so that all relevant arrangements can be made.

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided at the venue.

For those attending the Authorisation Meeting in person, mileage assistance and accommodation may be available in accordance with NTSCORP's meeting assistance policies, as reasonably adjusted to account for COVID-19 related variations. If you require accommodation, **you will need to contact NTSCORP by telephone or send an email to CFC@ntscorp.com.au with confirmed details, by no later than Friday 4 April 2025.**

Please note if you do not contact NTSCORP by **5:00pm on Friday 4 April 2025** to confirm your request for accommodation assistance, NTSCORP cannot guarantee we will be able to assist accommodation arrangements — although you would still be more than welcome to attend the meeting.

Attending remotely

You may also choose to attend the Authorisation Meeting by videoconference or telephone. You will still be able to listen, ask questions, and participate in decision making if you attend remotely.

In order to attend the Authorisation Meeting by videoconference or telephone, attendees must:

1. **REGISTER** - Call or email NTSCORP to register your attendance

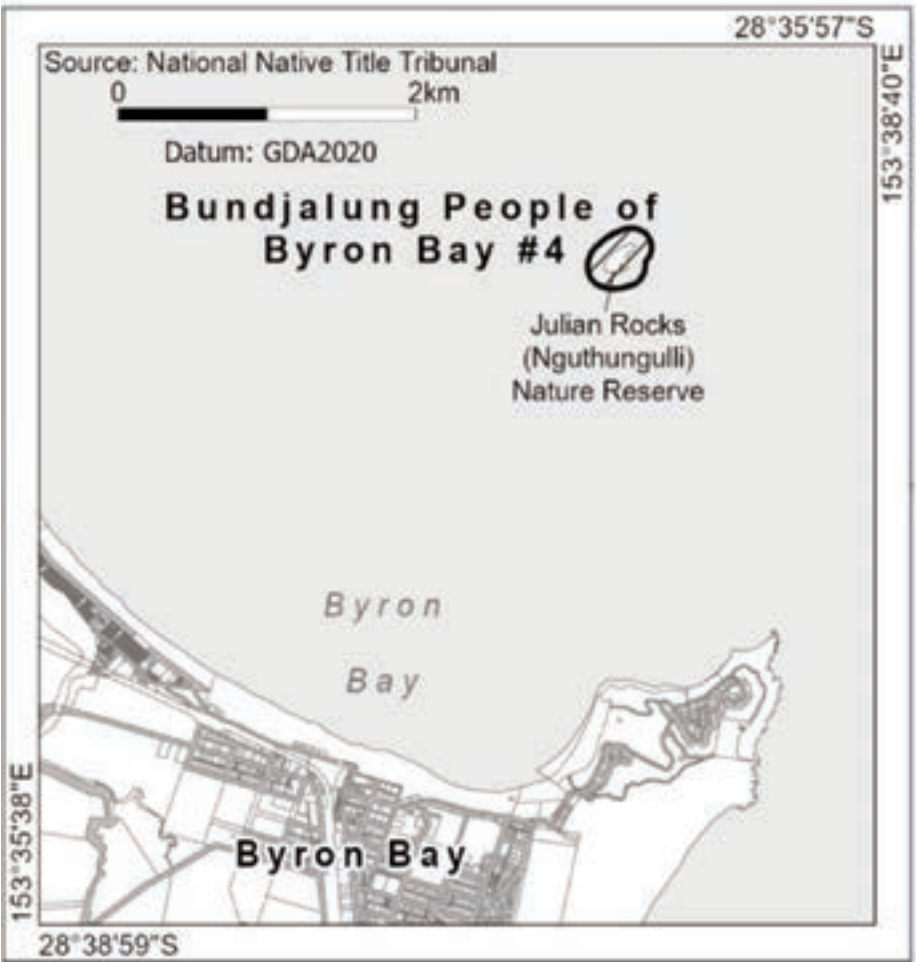
Please contact NTSCORP as soon as possible by calling the below number, or sending an email to the address below. Registration to attend remotely will close at **5pm on Wednesday 9 April 2025.**

2. **MEETING ACCESS**

Once you have registered, NTSCORP will send out details of how to attend the meeting by videoconference or telephone. For those attending the meeting remotely, assistance for telephone or data credit may be available in accordance with NTSCORP's meeting assistance policies. Please contact NTSCORP to discuss.

NTSCORP's contact details are: Freecall 1800 111 844 or (02) 9310 3188
Post: P.O. Box 2105, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012
Email: CFC@ntscorp.com.au

Should you have any queries or simply require further information, please do not hesitate to contact NTSCORP Limited.



The map above displays the Proposed Application Area (shown in bold black outline).

25 First Nations icons in '25

Adam Goodes



Adam Goodes in action. Picture: Peter Argent.

More than two-decade correspondent with the *Koori Mail*, PETER ARGENT, looks back on the sporting careers of Indigenous stars across the wide world of sport across the 2025 calendar year.

Sydney Swans champion Adam Goodes is a man of many layers. Born in Wallaroo, South Australia, on the Yorke Peninsula, his indigenous ancestry comes through his mother Lisa May who has heritage through both the Narungga and Adnyamathanha nations, along with being another member of the Stolen Generation. It was noted that Goodes preferred soccer as a young lad

and played football after moving Merbein West Primary School in 1986, because there was no soccer club to join.

He moved with his family to Horsham, Victoria and played school and representative state underage football.

His football at an elite junior level started with the North Ballarat Rebels in the TAC cup Under 18 competition where he was a member of the Rebels premiership team in 1997 (to date the only premiership by the Rebels in this competition), along with representing Victoria at Under 16s and Under 18s level.

He was picked up with selection number 43 overall with the 1997 AFL National Draft by the Sydney Swans.

Debuting for the Swans in the 1999 season, against Port Adelaide at the Sydney Cricket Ground Goodes would go on to play a club record 372 games to the end of the 2015 season, where he kicked 464 goals and

was regarded as one of the pre-eminent new age footballers who played with tremendous athleticism and had the unique ability to adapt to any position on the ground.

In 2003 he won the first of two Brownlow Medals. He shared the first one with fellow champions of the code Mark Ricciuto and Nathan Buckley, going to the event with his mother as his guest and the second Brownlow accolade came along in 2006.

Medallist

He won a pair of AFL premierships with the Swans first in 2005 broke a 72-year drought and they won again in 2012. He is a three-time Bob Skilton Medallist as the best and fairest player for the Sydney Swans, in both his Brownlow medal winning years and again in 2011.

He won four All-Australian accolades and was Sydney's leading goal kicker in 2009, '10 and '11, along with an AFL

Rising Star back in 1999.

He was also selected in the AFL's Indigenous team of the century in 2005 at centre half back.

In 2014 Goodes passed Andrew McLeod's previous record of 340 games as the longest serving Indigenous player in the AFL.

This mantle was taken over by Shaun Burgoyne during the 2019 season.

Goodes was also heralded for his community work and anti-racism advocacy, collecting the Australian of the Year honour in 2014.

Sadly, his outspokenness on racial verification issues contributed to being a target of sustained booing from opposition fans.

This caused him to take an indefinite leave from the AFL and eventually retiring for the game at the end of the 2015 series.

He has become the subject of two documentary films both released in 2019, "the Final

Quarter" and "the Australian Dream".

That year the AFL finally formally apologised to Goodes for not taking action to defend him against abuse.

With good friend and former premiership team-mate Michael O'Loughlin in September 2009 the pair launched the Goodes-O'Loughlin foundation aimed at empowering the next generation of indigenous role models and walks of life across Australia.

The foundation focuses on education, employment and healthy lifestyles.

In 2023 Goodes was further immortalised with a statue unveiled at Sydney Swans Headquarters.

The statue depicts Goodes doing a war cry, a memento of the iconic gesture he made after scoring the first goal at the 2015 AFL Indigenous Round.

It was unveiled ahead of '23 Marngrook Round, which saw the Swans defeat Carlton at Sydney Cricket Ground.

Tamika hits the jackpot in America

By KRIS FLANDERS



IT was a huge day out in Las Vegas for some of our extraordinarily talented Indigenous players during the NRL season opener as well as the English Super League match and the women's Test match between Australia and England.

It started with Bevan French and Jai Field in action for ESL heavyweight side, Wigan, as they put the cleaners through Warrington 48-24. French and Field both scored tries, but it was French, who stole the show as he also had a hand in three other tries.

In the first of the NRL fixtures, Canberra were too slick for the Warriors winning 30-8 with Sebastian Kris and Xavier Savage both scoring doubles for the Raiders. Halfback, Jamal Fogarty, also chipped in with 5 goals and was the general for Canberra in a dominant display.

The Test was a massive blow-out with the Jillaroos hammering the Lionesses 90-4. Brilliant fullback, Tamika Upton, scored 5 tries and looked unstoppable with every touch of the football. Upton was a nightmare for the English women as she scored tries in the 12th, 17th, 25th, 40th and 44th minutes of play as she ran for over 180m.

Reigning Dally M Medallist, Olivia Kernick, was also strong for the Aussies. The second-rower carted the ball up for 160m through 16 runs while also pulling off 13 tackles. Interchange forward, Keilee Joseph, is set for a big season for Brisbane after she scored a try, made 113m from 9 hit ups and strong in defence with 16 tackles. While interchange hooker, Quincy Dodd, was also spritely for the Jillaroos, making 7 tackles and making 37m from 7 darts out of dummy-half.

Four time defending premiers, Penrith, got their title defence off to a great start with a hard fought 28-22 victory over Cronulla. For the Sharks, Jesse Ramien, scored a try, he also made the most metres for the Sharks with 192m. While it seems 2025 is going to be another good year for five-eighth, Braydon Trindall, as he also booted 4 goals.

The premiers Penrith were best served by Daine Laurie, who came off the interchange bench replacing a concussed Casey McLean, to score two important tries for the Panthers. The final try on the 75th minute sealing the game for Penrith.



Tamika Upton of Australia scores a try during the International match between the Australian Jillaroos and England at Allegiant Stadium on March 1 in Las Vegas.

Is Las Vegas the right place for NRL?

THERE have been calls to change the schedule of the NRL season opener in Las Vegas for 2026 and beyond.

The wash up from the code's second foray into the American sports market has prompted many questions.

There were those who said that the 4 matches made it an incredibly long day and that it should be reduced. Yes it's a very long day but for travelling fans who ventured in from Australia, England, New Zealand and from across the United States it would have been a life-long dream and a tick off on the bucket list.

Perhaps, the 4 team match-ups could be split over two days of play? Why not extend the excitement, action and glitz over two days?

Have the English Super League fixture and then the first NRL match. Then the following day have the Women's Test or NRLW match followed by the second NRL clash. Two huge days of rugby league. That could take away one really long day of football.

If it's a great viewing product, the crowd will stay and watch, much like the NRL's Magic Round which has all games at the one



KRIS FLANDERS

venue in Brisbane again this year in May. For that round, on Saturday and Sunday, there are three matches played. Long days? Yes but football fans love watching their team and sticking around for the others matches. So surely Las Vegas can still work with 4?

This year for the very first time, a womens game was played, featuring a Test between Australia and England. The scoreline was a mammoth one-sided affair with the Jillaroos crushing the Lionesses 90-4. Any game with that sort of scoreline can get frustrating to watch but a womens game must be kept as part of the Rugby League Las Vegas venture.

This was the first women's match of any sport played at Allegiant Stadium since it opened in 2020. So a slice of history there too. To be fair the British women haven't played the Aussie women since 2017 in a Test match and it's obvious that the NRLW is producing extremely talented females across all teams and the pathways are a lot stronger at present than those in England.

Perhaps in 2026, it would be better to have a Test between the Jillaroos and the New Zealand Ferns or even an NRLW rematch of the teams from the previous Grand Final? Those scenarios could work because there's such a huge gap from the All Stars clash in early February and Round One for the NRLW, which is usually around July.

The womens clash must stay a part of the overall Vegas experience. The Americans would have loved the physicality on display from the women as well as the skills and athleticism on show. Let's face it, the Americans still can't get over that the men go so hard without helmets and pads, now we are showing that the womens game is just as tough. So let's not lose that either when Rugby League returns to the

glitter strip of Las Vegas in 2026.

All Rugby League fans from all clubs should have the chance to experience their side playing in the US. So far South Sydney, Manly, Brisbane, the Roosters, Canberra, the Warriors, Penrith and Cronulla have played matches there and I'm sure their fans didn't regret taking the trip.

There was a real international flavour this year with the vocal supporters of Wigan and Warrington being in attendance for their clash. Didn't they make some noise? The English love their rugby league and they love supporting their teams.

As a die-hard Canterbury Bulldogs supporter, watching the Duggies play in Las Vegas would be a dream come true.

The games were broadcast live into the homes of Americans via Fox Sports. Many were probably seeing a Rugby League match for the first time in their lives. Overall across the United States, Australia and New Zealand, more than 3 million viewers tuned into the broadcast. But only 371,000 Americans tuned in and with those using the streaming service on WatchNRL that grew out to about 400,000.

New sponsorships with global

brands like Red Bull and JD Sports were made as well as partnerships with the UFC and the WWE. With the NRL Combine there's almost the chance that someone born and raised in America could play footy in Australia. How good would that story be?

The Cronulla Sharks may have come home without the two NRL competition points but they did come back with a pop music superstar as their biggest name supporter. Katy Perry was presented with a signed Cronulla jersey by Indigenous All Star, Nicho Hynes and Kayal Iro. That's not a bad ally for the NRL to have also in terms of marketing.

Will the hype of the Las Vegas venture start to slide after 2026? Can they continue to get Americans fans through the gates to watch rugby league? Will the Vegas venture just be a wonderful tourism gain for the city and a fun week away for overseas fans to watch their club? Only time will tell.

Will the pin get pulled after a few more years? Is an NRL season opener better targeted at say Wembley Stadium in England, where rugby league is already a hugely supported sport?



Tesharna Maher will be lining up with the Central District Bulldogs this year.

Recruiting coup by Bulldogs

By PETER ARGENT



IT could be argued lighting quick Tesharna Maher comes from Indigenous footballer royalty.

There is certainly strong Aussie Rules heritage in the clan, as Mum, Bronwyn played in that first AFL Women's match for Melbourne against the Western Bulldogs back in 2013 at the MCG, while Dad, Kelvin played a couple years of SANFL league football with Glenelg and a star in the Northern Territory.

Uncle's Aaron and Alwyn "Froggy" Davey played both SANFL and AFL football, while her cousin Alwyn Junior is currently entering his third season with the Essendon Bombers.

In a major boost to their

midfield stocks, Maher is about to begin her first season with the Central District Bulldogs.

Still just 23 years-old (she turns 24 in November) she has been secured by 2023 SANFL Women's premiers, the Bulldogs for 2025 campaign and will play in their tri-colours at the Ponderosa.

Last year she was a member of the SA state team that played WAFL Women's side at Optus Stadium as well.

"Yes, I was a member of the team for Inaugural SANFL women's state game in Perth," Maher said proudly to the *Koori Mail*.

"If the opportunity came along again, I'll be keen to put my hand up.

"Play alongside SANFLW opponents, you get a chance to build new friendships and make contacts.

"It was pretty good fun

travelling and winning in Perth."

Maher also explained still quite young in football terms and play's her footy for the enjoyment, she hasn't closed the door on AFLW opportunities.

"It's not a priority for me at the moment, but I wouldn't knock it back if the opportunity arose," she continued.

"For me it is about focusing on a strong season with Central District.

"I'm loving it at the Bulldogs - the club, culture, environment and people are excellent.

"I was at Norwood for four years, after playing for the first two years at the Woodville West Torrens Eagles.

"Coming from a football family, mum, Bronwyn and dad, Kelvin; my uncles and cousins are my role models -

you take a bits and pieces from each.

"Initially I felt I was the odd one out playing soccer, so I thought I better have a crack at Aussie Rules."

Central District coach Ben Hunt said Maher has impressed during the pre-season on the track and in the trial games.

The ninth SANFLW starts on the weekend of Saturday, March 15, with the Doggies opening assignment, being against Glenelg on Sunday, March 16 at X-Convenience Stadium, Elizabeth.

Before starting her SANFL career Maher played elite senior level soccer in Adelaide and debuted in the SANFLW competition back in 2019. She now has 54 SANFLW games under her belt, being the Norwood Best and Fairest in 2022 and selected in the SANFL Team of the Year in 2023.

Season promises plenty of excitement



Shai Bolton could be trade of the season.

The 2025 AFLM season is here and the predictions are as you know, my favourite time of year. The start of the season where we hold all the hopes and Premiership dreams alive in our diehard hearts. If you have been playing along with me all these years, you know as always, I think Carlton as going to win the flag this year.

I know there are other teams, so I will go through other possibilities for the 2025 Premiership Cup. There are some strong contenders in fact the experts are saying there are six different teams that have a chance this year, looks like Geelong, Fremantle, Hawthorn, Brisbane, Greater Western Sydney and Collingwood are all the mix. Many say Brisbane have the team to make it happen, but I imagine Collingwood fans are looking for that back-to-back Premiership and so are the club.

Sadly, for Richmond fans it doesn't look good for you guys with predictions of the wooden spoon being strong. It shouldn't be a surprise though as clearly the Tigers are in their rebuild phase.

Fremantle's Shai Bolton is set to be trade of the year, he has already shown the move was good for him and he is loving playing with Michael Walters and the team. Both of them put a show on recently when they had a 19-point win over Melbourne. Shai is all class and the Dockers fans would be very excited about the season ahead. He will be exciting to watch this season.

It's no surprise that Collingwood's Nick Daicos is the name on everyone's lips, for the Brownlow this year, after being runner up to Carlton's Patrick Cripps in 2024. He is an absolute superstar on and off the field and I personally would love to see him win a Brownlow.

I know sorry fellow Carlton supporters; I just love him as a player and person. That's the hard thing about my work you meet different players, get to know them and only want the best for them moving forward.

The season has already had an unusual start with Cyclone Alfred forcing the AFL to cancel Brisbane's game against Geelong at the Gabba and the Gold Coast Essendon game. They have announced the Lions and Cats will now meet at the Gabba in round three, on Saturday March 29 at 6:35pm local time. The Suns and Bomber game has yet to be announced at the time of writing this but it will happen.

I think we have an interesting and exciting season ahead. I hope as always your team brings you a few screams of delight on the couch, you manage to get to some live games and your team are injury free. Bring it on!



Shelley Ware

Freemantle grabs small forward

By PETER ARGENT



FREMANTLE has bolstered its small forward stocks ahead of the 2025 season by adding Isaiah

Dudley to its rookie list as a Supplemental Selection Period pick.

The club announced Dudley's signing during a player's lunch at Optus Stadium last month between Fremantle and the Indigenous All Stars teams.

Dudley, who has been a star junior of Central District and for South Australia at State Under 16s level, has been playing senior football for the Bulldogs across the past three seasons.

He finished third in Central District's 2024 best and fairest award, the Norm Russell Medal

in the SANFL and produced an excellent finals series for the Bulldogs, who finished third.

"Isaiah was a very talented junior footballer and had a few injuries and things didn't go his way, but we have kept an eye on him at Central District," Fremantle head of player personnel David Walls said.

"He had high score assists in the SANFL and hits the scoreboard himself," Walls said.

"He jumped at the chance to come across and train and has handled himself really well.

"He's worked really hard and obviously still has work to do, but we are always looking to add talent in our front half."

Dudley's one-year deal fills the Dockers final spot on the rookie list for 2025 and increases the AFL Indigenous player list to 62.



Isaiah Dudley of South Australia kicks a goal during the 2021 U19 Championship match between Western Australia and South Australia at Optus Stadium back in 2021 in Perth.

Warria turns pro with resounding TKO decision



Thomas Warria celebrates his debut pro win.

By ALF WILSON



POWER-PUNCHING Torres Strait Islander Thomas Warria fulfilled a long term dream to become a professional boxer and won his debut bout in Townsville on February 15.

The only other pro bout was a curtain-raiser before the main event in which Palm Island boxer Patrick Clarke lost a close decision on points to Moranbah's Charlie Bell.

A big crowd packed into Townsville Quayside Terminal beside Ross Creek for the popular Battle at the Port pro-am tournament.

It featured the two professional bouts and 13 amateur fights on the packed card.

Thomas defeated Bundaberg's Ricky Bowles-Brown by a third round TKO decision in the main event, the heavyweight division.

The bout was scheduled over four/three minute rounds and the referee ended it when Thomas inflicted heavy punishment on his courageous opponent.

Speaking to the *Koori Mail* after his win Thomas said his opponent was tough and kept coming forward despite taking many punches.

"I landed some big shots and he did hit me with some body blows but nothing to my face. My height and reach advantage was good and we wore 10 ounce gloves. But he kept coming at me," Thomas said.

Thomas said he was a 'bit nervous' before and during the first round as he had lost 30kg in six months to prepare for the bout.

"I hadn't fought for a while and the cobwebs came off in the first round and I have been training hard and that held me in good stead," he said.

Thomas said he had a lot of fans amongst the crowd.

"I also had lots of support on social media from aunts on Badu and friends and relatives on Mabuiag and TI.

"I will get to see them all when I go up there for the Cultural Fest later in the year. I last visited Thursday Island over



Thomas Warria lands a punch on Ricky Bowles-Brown.



The referee raises the arm of winner Thomas Warria.

Christmas in 2019 and want to get back up there to see everybody.

"A brother Leslie Warria travelled up from the Sunshine Coast to see me," he said.

The 30-year-old Thomas had a celebrated amateur boxing career and his ambition 10 years ago was to one day turn pro which he has now achieved.

At the weigh-in the night before the tournament, Thomas arrived wearing a Mabuiag Island Goemu Bau Raiders shirt

from when the side competed at the Island of Origin series on Badu.

Versatile Thomas is also a quality rugby league footballer who lines up at numerous Allblacks carnivals.

"I will be playing for Goemu Bau Raiders at the Gordonvale Allblacks carnival in October," he said.

Thomas trains at Townsville's Art of Strength Boxing Club and said he was looking forward to more pro bouts.

"I have been promised another pro



Patrick Clarke and his son Patrick jnr.

bout at a big fight night to be held in June across the creek at the Townsville Entertainment Centre," he said.

Courageous Clarke

Dubbed the pride of Palm Island, Patrick Clarke lost no admirers with his courageous performance in his Super Lightweight bout over six rounds of three minutes duration.

"It was a very close fight but in the end I thought the decision was fair. I stunned Charlie with some heavy punches early on and I received cuts to my head and face in rounds two and three but didn't give up," Patrick said.

Patrick said he was inspired by the numbers of Palm Islanders in the audience.

"My son Patrick jnr who is aged eight was there and that made me proud," he said.

The event was promoted by Matty Rooney from Knuckles Boxing Club who described it as big success.

"The crowd was massive and Thomas will have more fights soon," Matty said.

Cricket's one day winners

By PETER ARGENT



AUSTRALIA's domestic summer in the one-day 50-over format concluded over the first weekend in March, Saturday and Sunday 1-2.

Three elite Indigenous cricketers, Anika Learoyd and Hannah Darlington for NSW, along with Brendan Doggett with South Australia secured championship medals.

The Women's Final was thriller at Allan Border Field on Sunday.

The New South Wales Breakers batted first and being in early trouble losing player of the tournament Tahlia Wilson second ball of the match, bringing Gumbaynggirr woman Anika Learoyd to the crease.

She top-scored for the Breakers with 80 from 110 balls, dispatching 12 boundaries, as the visitors fought their way to an under-par total of 215.

In reply, the ladder leading Queensland team were in the box seat at 2-135 before losing their last eight wickets for 59 runs and going down by 21 runs.

Both Learoyd, who was rewarded with "Player of the Match" honours and fellow First Nations player, allrounder Hannah Darlington lifted the Ruth Preddy Cup triumphantly.

"It's very surreal at the minute, it hasn't sunk in – this is something the group has only dreamed of in the last five years," Learoyd explained post-game.

"It was tough out in the middle; it was just a matter of trying to soak up pressure.

"T's (Wilson's) a really big wicket at the moment and to lose her early was a big setback for us, so it was a matter of just trying to anchor the innings and hope everyone else could bat around me."

Impressively Learoyd finished



Anika Learoyd plays a shot.

her 2024-25 WNCL campaign with 577 runs in 13 trips to the batting crease at an average of 48.08, which included five half-centuries and the 101 she delivered against South Australia in January.

In the inaugural Dean Jones Trophy contest, the South Australia men's team broke a 13-year silverware drought, defeating the Victorians in the men's Grand Final at Adelaide Oval on Saturday afternoon-evening.

Former Queensland dual Sheffield Shield winning quick, now in the SACA colours Worimi man Brendan Doggett was a member of the South Australian triumphant XI.

Batting first in pristine conditions, the hosts made 7-268 and then bowled out the Bushrangers for 204, enjoying a strong 64-run win.

Doggett bowled with significant pace and collected the wicket of opener Campbell Kellaway, having the figures of 1-41. He also took the final catch, which sparked riotous celebrations from the players and parochial crowd.

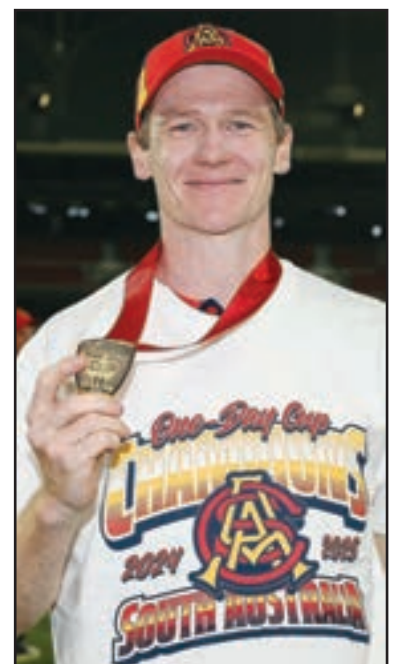
South Australia, the ladder leaders in the Sheffield Shield, are looking for a double crown for the first time in the SACA's history later this month.

They last won the Sheffield Shield back in 1995-96, with a young Jason Gillespie as part of the team.

Footnote – the one-day 50-over domestic competition has been a part of the Australian cricketing summer since 1969 and this year they named the champions trophy after the late Dean Jones.



Hannah Darlington.



Brendan Doggett.

Maryke makes mum and dad proud

By ALF WILSON



WHEN Maryke Babia represented the Australian First Nations Black Swans team at the PacificAus Sports Netball Series her

thoughts were with her mother Margie who has been battling cancer.

The fifth series was held from February 17 to 22 at Brisbane's Nissan Arena and the other teams were Fiji Pearls, Papua New Guinea (PNG) Pepes, Samoa Tifa Moana, and the reigning four time champions, the Tonga Tala.

The First Nations Team squad was: Maryke Babia, Jaylah Boney, Sophie Brewer, Olivia Clark, Lily Cubby, Acacia Elers, Jayda Grant, Jamaica Jauncey, Scarlet Jauncey, Brook Lacey, Tierrah Miller, Jayden Molo, Tia Molo, Aaleya Turner, Nasyah Turner, Head Coach: Ali Tucker-Munro, Assistant Coach: Natalee George, Team Manager: Beryl Friday.

In their matches, the Black Swans d Tonga 58-56, beat PNG 59-52, lost to Scotland 52-40, lost to Samoa 54-42 and drew with Fiji 56-all.

As a domestic invitee, and non-World

Netball sanctioned team, the Black Swans are not eligible to receive World Netball ranking points.

Under the rules Black Swans could not compete in medal matches and finished the tournament in sixth place.

Maryke lined up as a wing/defender for the Black Swans and her beloved mum Margie and dad Eric were near the court watching her in all of her games.

She was the only Torres Strait Islander in the Black Swans squad and lives in Brisbane but has descendants on Mabuiag Island.

"It was just great to see them there at each game and I did think of mum and her cancer. Also about representing all our mobs including mine up in the Torres Strait," Maryke said.

The 20-year-old Maryke spoke to the *Koori Mail* soon after the last game.

"We won several matches but being an invitational side did not figure in the official placings at the end," she said.

Proud dad Eric told the *Koori Mail* that the side did very well and included was that wonderful victory over Tonga.

"The Tongans are rated eighth in word netball and Maryke was training hard in the lead up to the series," Eric said.

The family live in Brisbane and Maryke is employed by the ARTIE Academy which assists to Close the Gap in educational outcomes.

It provides opportunity to participate in programs that encourage improvements in school attendance, behaviour, academic achievement, effort and ultimately Year 12 attainment or its equivalent.

Maryke plays for the Brisbane Tigers in the Hart Sapphire Series.

I asked her did she have any long term aims in the sport.

"I would really like to be picked for the Queensland Firebirds reserve grade team and maybe down the track get into the Australian Diamonds. But I have to be patient and keep improving," she said.

The Babia trio keep in touch was family and friends on Mabuiag and around the Torres Strait regularly.

Maryke was also a member of the winning Queensland team at Netball Australia's 2024 inaugural First Nations Tournament in Melbourne.

The tournament is an under-23s event with representative teams made up of First Nations players from each of the states and territories.



Maryke Babia at the shirt presentation with mum Margie and dad Eric.



Try-scorers show island flair



Xavier Savage in action in Las Vegas.



Sebastian Kris scored the first try in the game against New Zealand.

By ALF WILSON



XAVIER Savage and Sebastian Kris scored the first three tries of the 2025 NRL season before a world wide audience in Las Vegas.

The pair of outside backs, who have descendants on two remote Torres Strait islands, starred for the Canberra Raiders which defeated the New Zealand Warriors 30-8 in Las Vegas Nevada on March 2.

Centre Seb and winger Xavier finished with two tries each for the game

and were amongst the best players.

The clash was watched by viewers around the world including many rugby league fans from the Torres Strait, NPA and Cape York.

Never in their wildest dreams would many have thought that the only two TS players would score the initial four pointers of the season.

At the fifth minute centre Mabuiag Islander Seb broke several tackles and placed the ball on a part of the try line.

At first the referee disallowed the try but that was overruled by the bunker and it was awarded.

At the 26th minute speedy winger

Xavier who has Erub descent crossed out wide and a Jamal Fogarty conversion extended the lead to 10-nil.

Then at the 31st minute Xavier gleefully intercepted a Warriors pass to run almost the length of the field to score and the lead blew out to 16-nil.

Commentators described Xavier as best on the ground in the first half for his clever attacking skills and safety under Warriors bomb kicks.

It took just four minutes of the second half for Seb to cross for his second two pointer and the Raiders led 22-4.

It was after a high bomb kick by the Raiders was knocked on by Warriors

fullback Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad and Seb pounced to register his well-earned double.

The pair have massive support in the Torres Strait and Xavier played at the Gordonvale Indigenous Allblacks carnival before signing with the Raiders.

Seb has visited Thursday island and follows their Allblacks carnival sides.

When Seb lined up for the Canberra Raiders at Townsville in a game against the North Queensland Cowboys scores of family members and friends from the far north were there to cheer him on.

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17 years and still going strong

By KRIS FLANDERS



THE Ella Sevens tournament continues to be the biggest Indigenous gathering for rugby union in the country. 54 sides competed at this year's edition at Tuggerah on the Central Coast of NSW.

Ella Sevens organiser and Lloyd McDermott Club President, Tom Evans, says the competition is always well supported and held in the highest regards.

"The competition always provides an opportunity for players. We've had people like Maurice Longbottom come through the Ella Sevens and made it into the Australian Sevens side. It can be a springboard to higher representation. It's always a great opportunity for our mob to come together also," Evans said.

"It's one of the biggest events on the Aboriginal sporting calendar. Very hot conditions over the weekend but it didn't stop the players from putting on a show. It was free and open

football once again, lots of ball movement and speed, our people are really suited towards this style of footy."

In the Women's divisions, the Plate Final was won by Mr Jester's Inn 29-5 over Coastal Connections while the Cup Final was 29-0 victory to Sydney Dreaming against Tidda's United.

The Men's divisions winners were LooFern Brothers 33-15 against Coastal Black Cockatoos in the Bowl Final, the Plater Final went the way of Mehi Warriors over NXT GEN/NXT LVL 36-7 and the Cup Final was won by the Skindogs 34-12 against United Sports Club.

The Skindogs have been playing at the Ella 7's since 2008, with former player and now team manager Michael Dotti, saying the club will always compete at this prestigious tournament and to win it again was a huge honour.

"As a player it's always thrilling to win, as a manager it has its rewards too, because you get to see the smiles and the camaraderie from the efforts put in during the carnival.

Guys that have built a bond from a couple of hours that will do anything for each other on the field," Dotti said.

"Our group have great rugby union minds who know the rules and are playing week and week out gives us a bit of an edge. With the hot conditions during the tournament having three guys who can run 10 seconds flat really helped when other teams were getting tired."

Dotti said the Skindogs also had another team competing that consisted of former players from throughout the seasons who reunited to play in the 35-years and over division. He explained that players came from far and wide to play and that's what makes the club special.

"We have a core group that keep coming back for us because of the wonderful

friendships formed and those bonds stay strong. There were about 8 players from that first year who returned to play in this tournament for our over-35's side, that alone says a lot about how this team is viewed by people and that they want to play in that jersey," Dotti said.



Skindogs players, captain Gage Phillips and Ky Willoughby, all smiles after winning Ella Sevens.

Picture: @photobyfin