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Papunya salon delivering deadly hairdos



Patrick Minor gives George Impu a shave in the new Papunya Hair Salon. Picture: Guy McLean



A NEW hair salon is providing training, jobs and a much-needed service to residents in Papunya and surrounding Aboriginal communities in the Western Desert region of the Northern Territory. Full story, page 38

Landmark native title ruling



THE dismissal of a commonwealth appeal in a landmark compensation case shows the “strength” of native title and may have implications for traditional owners across Australia. The High Court dismissed the appeal against a decision in the Federal Court, which found the Gumatj clan’s Country in northeast Arnhem Land was not acquired “on just terms” before being leased to the Swiss-Australian mining consortium, Nabalco in 1968.

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MY FAMILY

Kevin Zaro, Townsville, Qld



Family is important and we do lots of things together. Myself and Lilah Yoelu have nine children between us and enjoy as many activities as we can.

We love going down to the Townsville Strand or out to Pallarenda to go fishing or to have a barbecue.

The Strand next to the ocean is a beautiful place to go and we also meet lots of people there,

In the past we have caught whiting and grunter which make good eating.

Having the company of family Elders is very important to us all.

My much-loved father Enemarki Zaro was in the Light Infantry Battalion in the Torres Strait during World War II.

We used to take him to Anzac Day parades in Townsville until before he passed away in 2014.

Now I march on Anzac Day for my dad and Lilah marches for her grandfather Mapea Yoelu.

We attend a Pentecostal Church here and like singing.

I am originally from Mer and Lilah's home island is Saibai and we have lots of relatives around north Queensland including in the Torres Strait, south to the Burdekin and Sarina, even as far away as

Melbourne and WA.

In 2012, I left the Torres Strait to come to Townsville.

There are many extended family amongst the Lui, Wailu, Marou, Reuben and Doolah and Day families who live at many places.

We are all into sport and some of our children play basketball and participate in karate.

But our main sport is rugby league and we follow the Cowboys and the Dolphins in the NRL.

Your photographer saw us heading to the Cowboys game in Townsville on March 15 when they played the Cronulla Sharks here.

Between us we are related to quality NRL players Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow (Dolphins), Gehamat Shibasaki (Brisbane Broncos) and former West Tigers and Cowboys halfback Robert Lui.

We are very proud of them all.

Myself and Lilah like helping people and we are both support workers and I am employed by Yumba Meta and she is with Kith n Kin.

Also we try and keep in contact with family living up in the Torres Strait. Life is great because of family.

From left are Lilah Yoelu, Kozzani Zaro, aged 10, and myself Kevin Zaro.

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.

Koori Mail

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OUR CHILDREN



Bundjalung actor Lennox Monaghan plays 13-year-old Palawa boy Sonny Beeton in *Moonbird*, a six-part drama series set on a remote island off North East Lutruwita/Tasmania. **Full story page 5.**

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Is this the loneliest echidna in the world?

By KEIRA JENKINS



AFTER a devastating bushfire in 2014, the Pakana Rangers thought Lungtalanana (Clarke Island) was mostly devoid of life.

Then an echidna was captured on a camera set up to monitor wildlife on the island off Tasmania's coast, sending them "through the roof happy" according to ranger supervisor Kulai Sculthorpe.

"It's a great win for us to see that there's more diversity than we thought and there is surviving animals from that horrible fire in 2014," he said.

An echidna had not been seen on the island for decades, with the impacts of colonisation wiping out most native species on Lungtalanana.

Farmers had cleared land for sheep and cattle pastures, while cats released on the island preyed on animals and birds.

Traditional owners were prevented from conducting important practices like cultural burning, leading to severe bushfires that impacted the remaining ecosystem.

The Pakana Rangers are undertaking a cultural restoration project on the island that includes cultural burning practices, surveying the landscape to get an idea of the animals and health of the island, and returning native species.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre wants to return a range of species to the island, including the Bennett's wallaby, long-nosed potoroo and the Bass Strait Islands wombat.

Mr Sculthorpe said the trimanya (echidna in palawa kani) will be integral to the island's restoration.

"He's just so important because of the crucial part he is going to play in reviving, turning the soil – the cultural restoration project wouldn't work without these little animals doing their role," he said.

"This little guy is going to be very crucial and it also gives us hope as a community to know that what we want to do is achievable."

Lutruwita (Tasmania) has its own subspecies of echidna, which is hairier than its counterparts in the northern regions of Australia.

The Pakana Rangers have contacted a scientist to find out if the animal captured on camera on Lungtalanana is a subspecies unique to the island.

The rangers will also work to determine if other echidnas live on the island.

The restoration of Lungtalanana and return of native species is being



A trail camera on Lungtalanana off Tasmania has photographed an echidna. No-one had seen an echidna on the island in decades. If there were any left it was feared the devastating 2014 wildfire had wiped them out. Images courtesy Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.



Pakana ranger Kulai Sculthorpe among grass trees.



A juvenile Bass Strait Islands wombat. Picture: © WWF-Australia Chris Crerar.

supported by the World Wide Fund for Nature – Australia.

"Lungtalanana demonstrates that returning species of cultural importance to Traditional Owners, and restoring the ecosystem, are fundamentally entwined. They work hand in hand," the organisation's rewilding program manager Rob Brewster said.

Ultimately, Mr Sculthorpe said the restoration project will help to revitalise Country and cultural practice on Lungtalanana.

"We want to try to create a cultural landscape in a sense, where the animals are all doing their roles and this balances the landscape," he said.

"Also it's somewhere we as an Aboriginal community can go that is healthy Country, doing cultural practices, diving, foraging, all that stuff." – AAP



Pakana rangers removing invasive sea spurge weed by hand.

Age is no barrier to enjoying cricket

The National Aboriginal Over 55's cricket team are taking on New Zealand Over 55's in Mackay, Qld from the 9th till the 16th of April this year. The International Tri-Series will run a week after the Cricket Australia National Indigenous Cricket Championships.

They look to pay their respects and homage to the first team of 1868 trailblazers and a story often not told enough in Australian sport, while also paying homage to the 1988 re-enactment tour and grateful that some of the men are in this current squad.

Their team manager Greg James, who was also a member of that squad, had this to say, "We are preparing ourselves to be competitive in this series and are keen to establish ourselves as positive mentors and role models for our up-and-coming generations and overall, demonstrate through sport both on and off the field to be ambassadors for our people and our culture."

I love that we have a group of Aboriginal men over the age of 55 playing cricket together and showcasing their talents on an international stage. Not only is it great to see them having fun together, but they are committed to raising awareness of the importance for men to stay healthy, physically, mentally and spiritually.

This project been running for over a year now. They hope to



Shelley Ware

increase opportunities for our very talented First Peoples that are currently over 50 to remain in sport, to keep fit and healthy and support closing the gap in health inequities between ourselves and broader Australia.

Player Rob Hyatt said "I have been involved in sport for almost 30 years, working to support participation and development in our communities. Whilst we see the importance in sport participation across the country for our communities, in particular our youth and the role it plays in their development such as health and wellbeing, becoming young leaders and their cultural strengthening we also see the pride it creates in our communities in general."

Through cricket they aim to showcase the immense talent of First Peoples and enrich the lives of Aboriginal men over 50 years of age. We all know how important

connection is and the fact that they can maintain such a strong connection through physical activity, yarning and storytelling with other Aboriginal men is brilliant.

If you have spent any time in New Zealand and/or with Māori people, you know that they also value connections, sharing of stories, music, culture and connection to community. This will be such a wonderful opportunity for all who are involved.

Veterans Cricket Australia supports the participation of older men to remain in the sport and holds a number of national tournaments for age groups from Over 40's through to Over 70's. A number of players in their inaugural team have represented their state through these tournaments and over time their connection and passion have seen the tournaments grow.

They are hoping the international tri-series in Mackay, will be a new tradition of representation for the Over 55's and encourage future generations of cricketers to remain in the game, for as long as they can, as opportunities are not limited by age.

Team captain Matt Lewis said "We understand the importance of this series and what it means as far as inspiration for our age group and remaining physically active is concerned, but also what it means for our younger generations,

AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL OVER 50S TEAM

The Squad

Matt Lewis (C)	Bidjara
Darrel Smith (VC)	Anaiwan
Allan Bougoure	Darug / Kamilaroi
Rob Hyatt	Wotjobaluk / Gunnaikurnai
Steve Jennings	Gunnaikurnai
Jamie Jewiss	Wiradjuri
John Jewiss	Wiradjuri
Peter Lee	Githabul / Bundjalung
William Moggs	Bigambul
Alf Newman	Kamilaroi
Bert Pearce	Wiradjuri
Les Raveneau	Kamilaroi
Percy Raveneau	Kamilaroi
Mark Smee	Kamilaroi

Standby

Tim Croft	Gurindj/Malgon/Mudjuna
Colin Lamont	Bugindan
Mark Lewis	Bidjara
Karl Vooles	Warungu

International series vs Australia O55s and New Zealand O55s in Mackay

9 - 16 April 2025

knowing the pathway that exists, but to also have a pride of our culture and our ability to compete against the very best."

Good luck to the National Aboriginal Over 55's cricket team

against New Zealand. Thank you for the inspiration for all ages and the commitment to keeping our men 55 and over hearts, minds and spirits strong and healthy through cricket.

Koori Mail

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Have your say on Closing the Gap



THE independent review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap is now underway,

offering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a critical opportunity to shape policies that directly impact their lives.

The Closing the Gap Agreement requires an independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led review every three years (clause 125). This review builds on the Productivity Commission Review delivered in 2024, focusing on the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people involved in implementing the Agreement.

As part of the process, the Coalition of Peaks will host an Assembly, a face-to-face gathering of people with lived experience of the Closing the Gap Agreement. The Assembly will bring together key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives from across Australia – across sectors and jurisdictions – to provide real-time feedback on what's working, what's not, and where urgent improvements are needed.

"The Review and Assembly are self-determination in action," said Pat Turner AM, Lead Convenor of the Coalition



Pat Turner.

of Peaks. "This is about getting governments to follow through on their commitments and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people drive the change we need."

The Assembly was built into the Closing the Gap Agreement in 2020 as a key accountability mechanism. It provides a platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to directly influence what comes next for practical actions on the four Priority Reforms.

"This isn't politics – it's about accountability. Every level of government agreed to this process to create a space for genuine input and meaningful change," Ms Turner said. "The Agreement, including this Review and Assembly, was designed to extend beyond the typical election cycle to drive long-term impact and

accountability."

The independent review is being led by the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research at UTS.

"The foundation of our work at Jumbunna is the self-determination of our communities, and the Indigenous values of empowerment and agency of our peoples. We are honoured to have been asked to undertake this first independent review because the gathering of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories and perspectives is vital to drive the solutions our communities need," said Jumbunna Director, Professor Lindon Coombes.

Jumbunna is gathering feedback through:

- A short survey
- Written submissions
- Interviews
- In-person yarning circles, forums and interviews in six place-based locations

"We need as many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as possible to take part. This isn't just about measuring progress – it's about shaping the future and making sure governments stay accountable," Ms Turner added.

Have your say by 16 April – for more information visit: www.coalitionofpeaks.org.au

Moonbird film premieres in France

By JILLIAN MUNDY



MOONBIRD – a six-part drama series set on a remote island off North East Lutruwita/Tasmania, made its world premiere in France at Series Mania 2025 this week.

Moonbird explores the relationship between a recently sober father and his son, reconnecting through a muttonbirding season only to face cultural and personal crises threatening their relationship and forcing them to confront their family's tragic history.

The 6 x 10-minute series is written and created by Palawa men Nathan Maynard and Adam Thompson.

Maynard also directed it.

Bundjalung actor Lennox Monaghan plays 13-year-old Palawa boy Sonny Beeton and Badimya-Yamiji and Noongar actor Kyle Morrison plays his father Cracka.

Moonbird is another name for mutton birds, one of the world's most abundant seabirds and a traditional food of the Palawa. The birds migrate to islands and coastlines of Lutruwita to breed, where the annual harvest of chicks by Palawa is a unique Aboriginal industry, steeped in culture, story and connection.

When the chicks first take flight for their journey to the Bering Sea near Alaska, it is on and around the full moon at end of April, appearing as if they are heading to the moon.

Moonbird is the first ever on-screen drama set on a mutton bird island. Filmed on Big Dog Island – a real mutton bird island in the Furneaux group of islands in the Bass Strait, where Maynard and Thompson mutton bird together each year.

Their own muttonbird processing and living quarters



Badimya-Yamiji and Noongar actor Kyle Morrison with Bundjalung actor Lennox Monaghan.

were the set.

"We are so proud of muttonbirding, an ongoing cultural activity that not many people know about," Thompson told the *Koori Mail*.

"It was about taking a traditional activity, instead of having it on screen in a documentary we created a drama to introduce some of the complexity of mutton birding, it has been going on for so long, it's an unbroken tradition, there are also global environmental factors that are affecting mutton birding.

"It's not just about processing and catching mutton birds, it's about families and relationships and history," he said.

"The beautiful story of father and son trying to connect, it's a

universal story.

"The need to continue to pass on culture in a changing world and the difficulties we face is a story that Indigenous people from around the world can relate to – that is important to us."

"Without ruining the story, there is an underlying theme to look after our environment."

Thompson is in France this week for the Series Mania festival.

He will fly back to Lutruwita early April and pretty well head straight to Big Dog Island to join Maynard and others for the mutton bird season which will have started on 28 March.

"I don't have to be there for the beginning, we're not a commercial operation, we're a family mutton bird shed – we call it cultural birding".

While *Moonbird* is fictional, the set and many other elements are gritty and genuine. Some of the series was written at an old table on Big Dog Island where mutton birders and visitors had scribed their names for decades – that is where characters Moonbird Rick and Cracka names came from. The table is used in the set, and a *Koori Mail* front cover about mutton birding can even be seen on the wall!

The cast and crew were a mix of experienced professionals from the mainland and locals, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.

Where possible, roles were filled by Palawa including local Aboriginal 'attachments', and cameo roles for Maynard's son Clay and for Thompson.

"It was important that we created opportunities for black fellas, it's part of our remit with our company Kutikina, to bring community along with us, we use our influence to help community, plus it was filmed on Aboriginal owned land, we wanted to spread the money around too," Thompson said.

Moonbird is a co-production between the first-ever Tasmanian Aboriginal screen production company Kutikina Productions and Sheoak Films, commissioned and financed by SBS, NITV, Screen Australia and Screen Tasmania.

Audiences in Australia can see *Moonbird* on NITV and SBS Viceland, and SBS on demand later this year.

Tougher bail regime to harden young criminals, critics warn



INDIGENOUS, legal and human rights groups say tough new bail laws in Victoria will needlessly lock away more people – particularly Aboriginal women and children experiencing poverty, family violence and mental illness.

"The Allan government has rammed through dangerous and discriminatory bail laws which will deeply harm Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and breach human rights," they said in a joint statement.

Victoria tightened bail legislation in 2018 after James Gargasoulas drove into Melbourne's busy Bourke Street Mall while on bail, killing six people and injuring dozens more. The laws were relaxed in 2024



Victoria's bail laws were relaxed after an inquest into the death in custody of Indigenous woman Veronica Nelson recommended changes. Those same laws are now being toughened.

after an inquest into Indigenous woman Veronica Nelson's death in custody found the changes were an "unmitigated disaster".

The toughening of the bail laws

follows warnings from Australian retailers who say there has been a spike in retail crime involving weapons in the past year, with incidents involving knives and

blades up more than 40 per cent and an increase in violent or serious events of 30 per cent.

But National Children's Commissioner Anne Hollonds accused the government of looking for a quick political fix rather than acting on evidence.

"The data shows the number of children involved in crime has actually decreased in Victoria by three per cent," she said, adding that most of these children have unmet needs such as disabilities, health and learning problems as well as trauma and maltreatment.

"These are children in the most vulnerable of circumstances, and our 'early warning systems' of health, education and social services have failed to help them and their families."

Maggie Munn from the Human Rights Law Centre said the laws

condemn generations of children and adults to the trauma of imprisonment and risk more people dying behind bars.

The Law Institute of Victoria said it remains concerned about the removal of remand as a last resort for children.

"All the evidence shows that the earlier and longer a child interacts with the criminal justice system, the more likely they are to re-offend in the future," it said.

But Opposition Leader Brad Battin said the amendments should have gone further, describing the reforms as weak and diluted.

"Not only are these not the toughest bail laws in Australia, they're not even the toughest bail laws we've had here in Victoria," he said.

– AAP



Cultural tour guide Nathan Lygon with clapsticks watching the fire as tourists gather. Picture: Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council

Trail opens up opportunities

By MARION WILLIAMS



YEARS in the making, Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) opened the first section of its Gateway to the Bundian Way walking trail in February.

The trail will provide economic opportunities, create jobs and facilitate intergenerational learning for the Aboriginal community. It will benefit Eden's economy, as well as promote collaboration and the sharing of Aboriginal culture with locals and tourists.

When completely finished, the trail will be a multi-day, 35-kilometre walk with various camping options including Fisheries Beach. The beach is where the ancient pathway from the coast to Australia's highest point, Mount Kosciuszko begins.

Monaroo Elder and chair of Eden LALC Uncle BJ Cruse grew up hearing stories about the ancient pathways used for trade and cultural ceremonies like spring whale migrations and Bogong moth gatherings in summer.

"It is thousands of years old, from time immemorial," Uncle BJ said. "We didn't grow crops but relied on hunting and gathering and following the seasonal cycles."

In the lead up to the 1999 NSW Regional Forest Agreement in Eden, Uncle BJ began talking with John Blay, a writer and naturalist who was walking through the area, studying its flora and fauna, talking to Aboriginal people, and hearing stories about the ancient pathways.

In the late 1990s they began working on a heritage listing of a lagoon near Boydtown. During the title deed searches they

uncovered old parish and county maps featuring the pathways.

"John Blay did the technical work, and we did the on-the-ground-work," Uncle BJ said. "We were able to walk along the pathway, finding sites, and confirming its existence."

Their work led to the Bundian Way entering the NSW State Heritage Register in December 2012.

Sharing stories

Uncle BJ saw the potential to create a Gateway to the Bundian Way Trail for cultural tourism.

Eden LALC tourism development manager Clair Mudaliar said the concept of the gateway was to provide a more accessible route while still sharing the Bundian Way story.

Around six years ago, Tim Stubbs, CEO of environmental consultancy WolfPeak, met Uncle BJ and worked on a grant application. In December 2020,

the LALC received a \$7.1 million NSW Government grant to create the gateway trail.

It will have new trails plus link existing trails like the Whale Dreaming Trail.

Mr Stubbs said there were many challenges building the first section, the 3.8 kilometres between Jigamy Farm and The Pinnacles car park.

Hooded plover habitat led to the trail being diverted and crossing several land tenures – Twofold Aboriginal Corporation, National Parks and Wildlife Service, and Crown Land.

"It was a challenge doing the first one, showing it can be done," Mr Stubbs said. "LALC is very proud of that, and so it should be."

Cultural tourism

Ms Mudaliar said the Jigamy to The Pinnacles guided walk is the first of many cultural experiences the LALC will offer,

including guided and self-guided walks, and workshops.

Mr Stubbs said there was a fantastic opportunity to tap into the cruise ships that visit Eden with up to 5,000 passengers. A guided walk with cultural stories through beautiful scenery, could be complemented by a cultural performance and lunch.

Ms Mudaliar said cultural tourism would add to the training opportunities that Eden LALC provides through its Country Custodian program.

"We will have experienced guides and trainee guides, so it is an opportunity for intergenerational training," she said. Some of the young rangers have helped build the trails.

Uncle BJ said the Gateway trail is a significant Aboriginal contribution.

Mr Stubbs said it was Uncle BJ's vision and dream. "He is the one who has been committed to it for so long."



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Victoria's Treaty negotiations are finally getting underway



Treaty Authority members Dr Petah Atkinson, Jihad Clark, Thelma Austin, Andrew Jackomos and Duean White.

By ALI MC



AS Victoria's first Treaty negotiations look set to begin, the *Koori Mail* spoke with Jihad Clark, a Djab Wurrung man and

Chair of the Treaty Authority, to learn more about its role in the process.

While the first treaty legislation was passed by the Victorian Parliament in 2018 – the first of any kind in Australia – establishing the Treaty Assembly, it was decided that an independent body was required to serve as a negotiator between Traditional Owners and the state government.

As such, the Victorian Parliament established the Treaty Authority in 2022, of which Clark is the chair. The Treaty Authority is led by five Aboriginal members, and its role is to ensure that parties involved in the treaty process are ready to negotiate. The Treaty Authority also establishes the framework by which negotiations can take place and assists in resolving any disputes that may arise.

"The Treaty Authority is an independent and impartial body tasked with facilitating and overseeing treaty negotiations," Clark said.

"We've got a number of functions that includes oversight and facilitation. We also administer the treaty negotiation framework, which is the rule book,

the treaty process that was agreed between the state and the assembly. We also have a research function to support Traditional Owners along the journey towards treaty making, and an overall role to support the process, and that includes all negotiating parties."

Calls for treaty and other formally recognised agreements have a long history in so-called Australia, including by Yorta Yorta leader William Cooper in the 1930s to seek recognition of First Nations rights and in 1972, when the Aboriginal Tent Embassy was established, with calls for land rights and treaty.

In 1979, the National Aboriginal Conference (NAC) formally proposed a treaty with the Australian government; the government, however, was opposed to the use of the word 'treaty.' Famously, Yolngu band Yothu Yindi had the hit song *Treaty* in 1992, which brought the issue to mainstream attention.

The Treaty process in Victoria began in 2016 with the passing of the Treaty Act in Parliament, marking the official start of negotiations between the Victorian Government and Traditional Owners.

The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria was established in 2018 and is an independent, elected body that represents Aboriginal communities in the treaty process with the state government.

Alongside the treaty process has been Australia's first formal

truth-telling forum, the Yoorrook Justice Commission, which has been investigating past injustices as experienced by Victoria's Aboriginal communities.

In November 2024, the First Peoples' Assembly announced its intention to negotiate a Statewide Treaty on behalf of First Peoples in Victoria. This treaty aims to implement significant reforms to the state's structures and systems, granting First Peoples greater control over their lives and destinies.

Alongside the statewide Treaty, Traditional Owner Treaties are being negotiated to address the specific priorities and aspirations of local areas. These agreements ensure that local knowledge informs decision-making at the community level, with negotiations unfolding over the coming years at varying paces to accommodate the diverse needs of different communities.

With the various treaty negotiations commencing, Clark told the *Koori Mail* that it fast became evident an independent body was required to assist all parties in the parties.

"It was recognised that, after looking at international examples, the utility of having an independent, impartial body that sits there to oversee and facilitate negotiations was a really crucial part of bringing integrity and transparency and accountability to the treaty process," Clark told the *Koori Mail*.

He also clarified that the Treaty

Authority remains impartial from government, and does not report to any government minister, and as such, maintains its self-determination.

"It was made very clear in the early stages of its development, that it shouldn't be ultimately reporting to government. To really embody its independence, that it shouldn't have direct accountability to a minister as an ultimate decision maker, which is often the case," he stated.

"In this instance, our accountability is to the public and the Aboriginal community. As an independent and impartial body that is safeguarding the treaty process, we're there to give faith and confidence and build trust with the entire population of Victoria, that the treaty process is operating with integrity and within a robust way."

While the Treaty Authority was established by the Victorian parliament, Clark told the *Koori Mail* that its role as a mediator is grounded in First Nations values and methodologies. Rather than using terminology such as 'dispute resolution', the Treaty Authority have approached the process within the framework of 'finding common ground.'

"We've got an Aboriginal methodology that we believe is less adversarial than the Western way. You know, courtrooms, mediations - you think of Native Title disputes and challenges," he said.

"This is an Aboriginal led process. It's keeping the Western

system and Western lawyers out of the room. This is a self-determined, Aboriginal led process that we think we can get more outcomes from."

Clark also told the *Koori Mail* that the Treaty process is far more favourable for Aboriginal communities than past legislative practices such as Native Title.

"Treaty is a tool for communities to aspire to something greater, where communities can thrive," he told the *Koori Mail*. "Resources are embedded in communities with decision making power that we know works – local solutions and being empowered to make decisions."

While the Treaty process looks set to be a long journey, Clark is confident and excited in the opportunities that the process will bring to Traditional Owner groups.

"Treaty is ultimately around resetting the fundamental relationship between Traditional Owners as sovereigns and coming to an equal and fair relationship with the government," he said. "What that might encompass is a fair and just resolution of past injustice and dispossession, and that there is a fairer and transformative relationship that respects the rights of Indigenous peoples and their right to self-determination."

For more information about Victoria's Treaty process, head to <https://www.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/treaty>

Women call for end to violence



INDIGENOUS women from across the world have gathered to call for an end to violence, eradication of inequality and for their voices to be heard.

The International Indigenous Women's Forum, marking 25 years of advocacy, released their political declaration at the 69th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

The forum called for sanctions for gender-based violence, human trafficking and murder of Indigenous women; respect for traditional knowledge, access to sexual and reproductive health services; and inclusion of Indigenous women in climate and biodiversity policymaking.

Among those at the event was Waanyi and Kalkadoon lawyer Sandra Creamer.

Ms Creamer, who is a board member of the forum, said among the issues at the forefront of Indigenous women's minds are climate change, domestic violence, incarceration and suicide rates.

"We do have the solutions but there has to be respect for our culture ... that culture has been our foundations since day one, we have our lores and we do have cultural ways of dealing with



Indigenous women gathered at the 69th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women to call for an end to violence and inequality.

things," she said.

Each year, the forum brings Indigenous women from around the globe to the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York, something Ms Creamer said should not be underestimated.

"It's about being a collective of Indigenous women who have that connection to our land, which is so important to us because it is our spirituality, our identity, our Songlines, and how we keep maintaining that," she said.

Ms Creamer is confident the

dream of eradicating violence against Indigenous women can be realised, if not for this generation, but for the next.

But what is most powerful about their call to action, she said, is it comes from Indigenous women banding together as a

collective.

"The women come with so much pride, so much strength, and their strong spirits to make for whatever they need to do in their communities and their countries," she said.

— AAP



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Native title ruling paves way for \$700m in compensation

By KEIRA JENKINS



THE dismissal of a Commonwealth appeal in a landmark compensation case shows the “strength” of Native Title and may have implications for Traditional Owners across Australia.

The High Court dismissed the appeal against a decision in the Federal Court, which found the Gumatj clan's Country in northeast Arnhem Land was not acquired “on just terms” before being leased to the Swiss-Australian mining consortium, Nabalco in 1968.

The decision has cleared the way for up to \$700 million in compensation for Gumatj people.

Gumatj leaders Djawa Yunupingu and Balupalu Yunupingu celebrated outside the High Court on Wednesday after hearing the judgment against the Commonwealth.

“Justice has been served for my people and the people of northeast Arnhem Land,” Djawa Yunupingu said.

In May 2023, the Federal Court found native title rights and interests are property, and extinguishment of them is an acquisition that must be made under “just terms”.

Renowned land rights activist, the late Gumatj leader Dr Yunupingu originally brought the case in 2019, alongside an application for native title on behalf of his clan.

In its judgment on Wednesday, March 12, the High Court upheld this decision, paving the way for Gumatj to seek compensation.

“Native Title recognises that, according to their laws and customs, Indigenous Australians



Gumatj leaders Djawa Yunupingu and Balupalu Yunupingu celebrate outside the High Court of Australia in Canberra. (AAP)

have a connection with Country,” the judgment read.

“It is a connection which existed and persisted before and beyond settlement, before and beyond the assertion of sovereignty and before and beyond federation. It is older and deeper than the constitution.”

The federal government had argued if its appeal failed it would be liable to pay native title holders compensation “to an indeterminate number of grants of interests” in Northern Territory land and that would have “enormous financial ramifications”.

When asked if the decision would open the door for compensation, Prime Minister

Anthony Albanese said the government would allow the legal process to take its course.

“The decision is, of course, not a final decision,” he said.

“There’ll be a whole court process arising out of this.”

That legal process will include consideration of a native title claim over the area, likely including other clans from the region, which is yet to be determined.

Lawyer for Gumatj, Sean Bowden, said the courts will now have to work out what “just terms” means, following the High Court decision.

“What are just terms when you’ve had your traditional Country taken from you without

your consent, when you’ve had your sacred places destroyed in front of your eyes, when you’ve had to live with a refinery and smokestacks over your shoulder,” he said.

National Native Title Council chief executive Jamie Lowe said the decision shows the strength of native title and should be seen as an opportunity for communities who have historically been dispossessed.

“Where the Commonwealth, States or Territories have acted in a way that fails to respect constitutional or other legal protections, then it is common sense that there will be redress,” he said.

“This ought to be seen as an

opportunity to economically empower communities who have been historically dispossessed.

“It is not controversial that the communities impacted by projects on their Country should benefit from the wealth generated through those projects.”

Greens Senator Dorinda Cox said the decision was a win, not just for Gumatj people, but for all First Nations people.

“It confirms what we have long known – native title is not just symbolic, it is real, legal property, and the government cannot be allowed to take this away without fair compensation,” she said.

– AAP

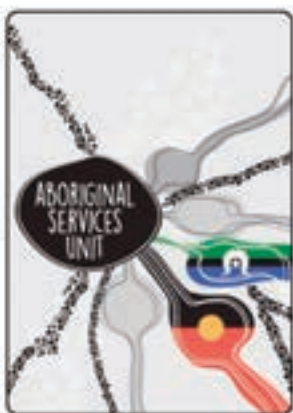
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New cultural centre inspires next generation of architects

By KEIRA JENKINS



MARNI Reti is 'hyper aware' of the responsibility architects have when they design and build on Country.

Designing alongside community is front of mind for the University of Sydney senior lecturer and Kaunitz Yeung Architecture associate.

Ms Reti said while there have long been architects, academics and Indigenous people pushing for a collaborative approach to design, this way of thinking has been building traction over the past few years.

"There's a widespread recognition that beyond the cultural and ethical reasons of why it's the right thing to do, it also just makes better architecture," the Palawa woman said.

The newly-completed Baaka Cultural Centre in Wilcannia, a tiny town in northwestern NSW, is one example of the architectural results which can stem from working with community and Country.

The centre, set to open in mid 2025, will be home to exhibition and makers spaces, a keeping place and a language hub, in the hopes of preserving Barkindji culture and increasing tourism in the town.

Integrating the heritage shopfront,



The newly-completed Baaka Cultural Centre in Wilcannia.

which used to be the Knox and Downs general store, and adding contemporary elements which reflect community practices are important parts of the design, Ms Reti said.

"The building itself was designed based on the bends of the Baaka (Darling River) and the interactions and complex relationship Barkindji people have to the

Baaka," she said.

Ms Reti, alongside Kaunitz Yeung director and co-founder David Kaunitz, will hold an architectural master's design studio in Wilcannia from Friday.

Part of a collaboration between the University of Sydney and Kaunitz Yeung Architecture, the program offers an opportunity to students to study firsthand

how cultural knowledge can inform contemporary architecture.

Mr Kaunitz, who is also a University of Sydney associate professor of practice, said students will get to experience the cultural centre project, which exemplifies how meaningful architecture can empower communities.

"Architecture is at its most powerful when it listens," he said.

"The Baaka Cultural Centre was shaped by deep collaboration with the Barkindji community, ensuring it is more than just a structure.

"It is a place where culture, identity, and community come together."

Ms Reti said it is important to see that the 18 students heading along to the studio have a 'hunger and respect' for culture, and want to incorporate this into their future practice.

Students will have the opportunity to walk on Country with Barkindji Elders and hear the community's stories, which Ms Reti said 'moves beyond theory'.

"We want to be able to show them built forms, finished projects and communities with firsthand experience of when this has gone right, but also a history of when it does not go right, when they're not listened to and not valued and respected," she said.

— AAP

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Heads highlight cultural theft



SHEEP heads preserved in bottles will be on display in a basement as part of an exhibition exploring the legacy of cultural theft.

Hobart winter festival

Dark Mofo last week revealed the work, by Indigenous artist and Trawlwoolway man Nathan Maynard, would be part of its 2025 offering.

The often-controversial festival, which ran at a reduced capacity in 2024, has pledged an "enormous" program from June 5-15.

Maynard's work titled 'we threw them down the rocks where they had thrown the sheep' will use flesh to "lay bare the legacy of cultural theft and erasure".

"Languishing in museums and their storerooms are the remains of ancestors of First Nations people from all around our globe," he said.

"They have been stripped of identity and, without consent, treated like specimens for study and scientific inquiry.

Sadistic power

"(It) speaks to the sadistic power white institutions flex when they deny First Nations people the humanity of putting our ancestor's remains to rest in the physical and the spiritual."

There were multiple massacres of Aboriginal people during colonisation in Tasmania, including the killing of about 30 men in 1828 by four shepherds.

Maynard has previously turned heads with a call-out for an Australian man of



Tasmanian winter festival Dark Mofo has revealed its first piece for a reinvigorated 2025 event, a work using flesh in jars to examine cultural theft.

British descent to volunteer his future deceased body, culminating in a ceremonial act of repatriation.

Dark Mofo says Maynard's work, to be housed in a Hobart basement in June, continues his exploration of remains and reclamation.

In 2021, following a backlash, the

festival pulled the pin on a piece by Spanish artist Santiago Sierra that asked for the blood of Indigenous people.

Dark Mofo apologised for hurt caused by the project and pledged to work more closely with Indigenous artists.

Ticket sales for the 2025 event have already been strong, with 6,000 pre-sales

snapped up for Night Mass in less than four hours in November.

"Taking the year off in 2024 was a difficult decision, but Dark Mofo is back with renewed energy and focus," artistic director Chris Twite said.

Dark Mofo's full 2025 program will be announced on April 4. **- AAP**



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More boarding support for Central Australian students



MORE First Nations students in Central Australia will have greater access to quality education, thanks to \$6.3 million from the Federal Government being allocated to two boarding providers.

The Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education has been offered \$5.1 million towards construction of its new culturally safe and supported accommodation centre in the Desert Knowledge Precinct in Alice Springs.

The facility will increase participation and retention of secondary school-aged students to complete Vocational Education and Training courses, including Year 12 and equivalent qualifications.

Alice Springs Youth Accommodation & Support Services (ASYASS) has been offered \$1.2 million to construct a new accommodation facility for pregnant young women, young mothers and their children experiencing homelessness and family and domestic violence.

Expectant and young mothers will be supported to access and stay engaged in secondary education while they are in culturally safe



Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy.

accommodation.

This will complement the range of crisis and transition youth housing programs being delivered by ASYASS to support school-aged young people experiencing homelessness in Central Australia.

The \$18 million Central Australia Boarding Response Fund was established last year following a review of boarding schools in Central Australia by the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments.

This investment provides funding for one-off capital works to improve existing facilities and enable facilities to take on more students.

Following an open and competitive grants process, \$10 million was provided to Yirara College and \$1.7 million to St Philip's College in Alice Springs, to upgrade their existing boarding facilities.

The remaining \$6.3 million has now been allocated creating more choice for First Nations young people in Central Australia to continue their education in the region.

Minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy said the investment would provide more opportunities for First Nations young people in Central Australia to access quality education in a culturally supportive environment, increasing participation and retention.

"Boarding is the only option for many First Nations students in Central Australia to engage in formal education," Senator McCarthy said.

Member for Lingiari Marion Scrymgour said boarding facilities are the gateway to a quality education for many Aboriginal students living in remote communities across her electorate of Lingiari.

"Every child has a right to a quality education, regardless of where they live."

The 'gap' is not closing



THE peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children has issued a warning as the latest Closing the Gap targets reveal worsening out-of-home-care rates for Indigenous children.

While the rate of children in out-of-home care remained at 50.3 per 1,000 children across 2023 and 2024, it has increased from 47.3 per 1,000 in 2019, according to the data, released by the Productivity Commission.

The rate of Indigenous children in youth detention was 26.1 per 10,000, an increase on the previous four years but overall the trend for this target showed no change from the baseline 2018-19 data.

Among Indigenous adults, the imprisonment rate was 2304.4 per 100,000 – 15 per cent higher than in 2023, and an increase of 30 per cent since 2019. Suicide rates are also worsening.

Catherine Liddle, chief executive of SNAICC, the peak body for Indigenous children, said substantial change is needed or risk Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children being left behind.

"If we continue down this path, we will fail in our shared responsibility to protect and care for these children, and to give them the opportunity to succeed," she said.

The Productivity Commission's Selwyn Button said the review found governments had not taken enough "meaningful action" to meet their commitments under the Closing the Gap Agreement.

"The continued worsening of outcomes we've seen in some Closing the Gap target areas shows the importance of governments taking their commitments to the National Agreement seriously, and taking meaningful actions to fully implement the priority reforms," he said.

Targets not met

Overall, only four of the 19 targets are on track to be met, while another six are improving.

The target of a 15 per cent increase in land and sea Country covered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait people's legal rights and interests is on track to be met.

While life expectancy, the number of babies born at a healthy birth weight, and completion of tertiary education showed improvement but are not on track to be met.

Digital inclusion was measured in the latest data for the first time, showing more than 80 per cent of Indigenous people 15 years and older were using the internet daily.

Coalition of Peaks lead convener Pat Turner said while there is "real progress" in some areas governments must step up to improve the areas where there have been setbacks.

"Too often, we see delay, half-measures, and a failure to empower our communities with real decision-making power," she said.

"If we are to achieve lasting change, the solutions must be led by us, not imposed upon us.

"If we fail to work in an interconnected way, policies risk sounding good in theory but failing in practice."

— AAP



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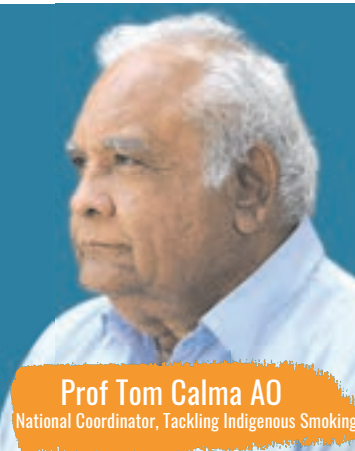


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Australian Government
National Indigenous Australians Agency

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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.

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Six Aboriginal women honoured in hall of fame



SIX Aboriginal women have been inducted into WA Women's Hall of Fame, in the 15th anniversary of the event. A total of 16 women were acknowledged in the 2025

WA Hall of Fame, which celebrates their contributions, achievements and their commitments to the betterment of fellow Western Australians.

Recognition

The recognition of women through this event, held in

conjunction with International Women's Day, encourages and empowers women to be more progressive and helps shape public policy to improve women's position and status in society. It is endorsed by women's organisations, business, industry, bi-partisan

state-government support.

WA Womens Hall of Fame chairperson Fiona Reid said that on the 15th anniversary found herself reflecting of the nearly three-hundred inspiring Western Australian women who have been acknowledged and celebrated by induction to

the WA Women's Hall of Fame. They are women who do not seek applause or accolades, but who go about their daily lives improving the lives of others, sharing knowledge, giving support, and standing as role models for future generations," Ms Reid said.

Glenys Collard

Glenys is a Nyungar woman from the southwest of Western Australia. She is renowned for her contributions to Aboriginal education, language preservation, participatory methods, and cultural advocacy. She is a leading figure in the study and promotion of Aboriginal English, an indigenised variety of English used by First Nations people in Australia.

Glenys has played a significant role in the Western Australian Department of Education's "ABC of Two-Way Literacy and Learning" project, collaborating with Patricia Konigsberg since 1996. This program aims to bridge the gap between Aboriginal English and Standard Australian English (the majority mainstream variety of English in Australia). These activities have the goal of enhancing educational outcomes for Aboriginal students.

A key aspect of this partnership is her approach to "two-way" communication, which she has championed throughout her career. This method involves understanding and respecting Aboriginal ways of knowing and expression while bridging them with Western health concepts.

As an Honorary Research Fellow and a member of Language Lab at



UWA, Glenys collaborates with academics to research and promote Aboriginal English.

A notable area of Glenys' recent language work has been her partnership with the Heart Foundation where she scripted materials in Aboriginal English to decolonise health communication and promote cultural inclusivity in medical messaging for Aboriginal communities.

Through her work with the Heart Foundation, Glenys continues to make an impact on public health, illustrating the critical role of culturally inclusive communication in achieving equitable health outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

Lesley Murray

Lesley Murray is an Anaiwan woman from Uralla NSW who has spent almost 30 years in WA where she has raised her four children. As an artist, she has dedicated her life to nurturing cultural pride, and emotional well-being through artistic expression.

As a program co-ordinator for the groundbreaking initiative Best Start Armadale, and Langford, she helped prepare Aboriginal children (and families) for school, while honouring their cultural heritage. This resulted in children graduating high school, and mothers securing employment. Her unwavering belief in the strength of young mothers gave them the confidence to believe in themselves and their ability to build brighter futures for their children.

In 2014 Lesley expanded her roots into the heart of the Pilbara working with the Act Belong Commit campaign in Roebourne. In the community she promoted social and emotional well-being with her efforts seeing culturally relevant messages and activities blossoming, promoting healing and unity.

Lesley believes in the transformative power of art to heal and empower. This passion guided her to serve as Acting Manager and CEO of the Roebourne Art Group Aboriginal Corporation (2018-2020). Under her leadership, established and early career Aboriginal artists blossomed, by using art to confront trauma, celebrate heritage, and strengthen their emotional well-being.



Lesley went on to start an Aboriginal Art Group at the Beanangng Kwuurt Institute formerly Sister Kate's Children's Home in Queens Park.

Lesley has a unique gift for finding the seeds of creativity in every individual and nurturing them into flourishing gardens of artistry.

Kim Farmer

Kim is a Noongar woman and lawyer, who exemplifies proactive and purposeful leadership and provides a visible role model for all women, especially Indigenous women in the WA and broader community.

She commenced her education journey as a young mature age student (early 20s), doing a Bachelor of Arts, major in Anthropology. After working in the Kimberley in native title and Aboriginal land heritage Kim returned to Perth to undertake a Post-Graduate Diploma in Arts, Anthropology. After a stint working at the Aboriginal Legal Service, WA, she completed her law degree.

With qualifications as both an anthropologist and lawyer, her legal expertise and prominence were recognised by her appointment as a magistrate in the WA Children's Court of Western Australia in 2024.

Running her own legal practice, Kim has worked in criminal, family, and child protection law, often providing pro bono support to those who could not afford to pay for legal representation. She has also served as Principal Legal Officer at Aboriginal Family Legal Services, advocating for Indigenous people affected by family violence, and worked for the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA.

Kim has volunteered on numerous boards, most notably in her current role



as patron, and vice-chairperson of the Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation, a not-for-profit ACCO named after her father, legendary footballer Polly Farmer. The foundation focuses on empowering Indigenous students through education and Kim frequently speaks about the role of education in empowerment, closing the gap in education for Indigenous students and promoting their leadership potential.

Kim has contributed to the WA community in a myriad of ways, including publicly sharing her insights and expertise at multiple public events. She is truly an inspiring Western Australian businesswoman.

Hannah McGlade

Dr McGlade faced significant challenges throughout her life.

Growing up, she experienced hardships, including family breakdown, homelessness and sexual assault, and left school before sixteen to support herself. Notwithstanding, Dr. McGlade's interests in education and justice never wavered, and her academic and legal achievements are groundbreaking.

The first Aboriginal woman to complete a law degree in Western Australia, she has dedicated her career to advocating for Aboriginal people, particularly in relation to violence against women and children. She specialised in international human rights law and her Ph.D. thesis received the prestigious Stanner award and was published as a book: 'Our Greatest Challenge, Aboriginal children and human rights', receiving acclaim from UNICEF and academics.

Dr McGlade has led the establishment of several Aboriginal organisations for women and children, stolen generations, and the wider community.

In 2013, she helped establish Djinda, the first service in Perth dedicated to supporting Aboriginal victims of violence. She also helped establish the first state-wide service and was the first CEO of the Aboriginal Family Legal Services. These services continue to provide vital support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



women experiencing family violence and sexual assault. She continues this work today in shaping the first separate national action plan on violence against Indigenous women and children.

Her work has influenced policy and discourse on Indigenous issues in Australia, and her advocacy and work has also included the United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues and UN treaty bodies.



Alison Scott

Alison is a proud Noongar woman from Boorloo (Perth) who has experienced intimate partner violence and homicide.

After her sister Jessica's murder in 2019, she decided enough is enough and made a personal commitment to become a more vocal advocate demanding real change from community and government.

With over 25 years' experience working with families in the human services sector, ten of those in senior level positions in WA State Government holding leadership positions, Alison has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and experience and uses this to hold government to account advocating for improved ways of working with a focus on system reform.

In 2024, Alison was appointed as the inaugural co-chair of the National Domestic Family and Sexual Violence (DFS) Lived Experience Advisory Council. She is passionate about creating safe communities, addressing inequity, supporting

recovery and healing from trauma and empowering First Nations people.

Most recently, the significance of Alison's work in raising DFSV lived experience voices was recognised as she was one of a selected few to join a discussion with Queen Camilla on family and domestic violence in Australia with key experts and women with lived experience to understand the measures taken to end violence against women in Australia (<https://www.pmc.gov.au/news/king-and-queens-royal-visit-australia>).

Alison is currently working on two innovative projects which aim to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people experiencing DFSV in WA and has previously worked on projects across Australia in the areas of family support, maternity care, remote employment, justice and healing services. Alison's experience includes working for state and federal government, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, and the private sector.

Juli Coffin

Professor Coffin is an Aboriginal mirtawa (woman), with traditional ties to her grandparents' Nyangumarta country in the Pilbara region.

Recognised as a prominent Aboriginal researcher, with expertise in cultural security, education and research across a diverse range of settings including chronic diseases, community development, health promotion and equine assisted learning. Juli is finding ways to support Aboriginal youth.

She has been awarded numerous competitive grants throughout her career, with the most recent being awarded in 2020 from Healthway and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Juli is a former elite water-polo player who was the first Aboriginal player to represent Australia nationally. She has coupled this passion for sport, love of animals and experience of having worked in the Aboriginal youth space for many years. Professor Coffin designed the Yawardani Jan-ga Equine Assisted Learning research program. This is the first of its kind in the Kimberley, Australia and the world.

Based in the Kimberley (Broome and Derby, with other regions to follow), this program builds relationship with Aboriginal young people and horses as a way of enhancing social and emotional wellbeing, healing trauma, and building leadership skills.

In 2022, Professor Coffin commenced a new position as Ellison Professor Aboriginal Young People's Social and Emotional Wellbeing at Murdoch University's Ngangk Yira Institute for Change.

Deeply committed, she is tackling some of Australia's most complex challenges, including reducing harm from bullying among Aboriginal schoolchildren, 'interrupting the supply' of Aboriginal young people to the youth justice system, and stemming the youth suicide rates in the Kimberley region.



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Loads of help to tackle heart disease



IT just sounds too good to be true – set up a bunch of mobile laundries out at remote communities so residents can wash and dry their bedding, blankets and clothes and their health improves – driving down cases of Rheumatic Heart Disease.

It's not magic but thanks to a partnership between North West Hospital and Health Service (NWHHS) and Orange Sky to deliver free laundry facilities to residents in remote communities including Mount Isa, Doomadgee and Mornington Island, that's exactly what's happening.

Orange Sky's mobile trucks and trailers, equipped with washers and dryers, have been strategically positioned in areas where access to these basic services is limited. The initiative also aims to serve as a platform for building trust and engaging in meaningful conversations about health and wellbeing.

"Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF) is a preventable condition caused by untreated Group A streptococcal infections, often caused by home/environmental factors and disproportionately affects Indigenous Australians and remote communities," said Sean Birgan, Health Service Chief Executive, North West Hospital and Health Service.



Lulu Juhel and her granddaughter Aminah Rosser-Juhel on Mornington Island.

"Left untreated it can lead to serious damage of the heart valves causing Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) which can lead to heart failure and stroke," he said.

"But we are making headway – cases of RHD have almost halved in the last 12 months alone and there's been a 57% reduction since the collaboration with Orange Sky began in 2022," he added.

"We're also identifying any issues a lot earlier because of

increased training and understanding by clinicians and those living in the community."

"Over the past two years our partnership with Orange Sky has focused on improving hygiene, health education, and community outreach to combat this chronic issue," added Mr Birgan.

"The results have been incredibly promising. By bringing critical services like laundry facilities and health education to these communities, we're

addressing the root causes of RHD and empowering residents to take charge of their health," said Mr Birgan.

Orange Sky Senior Impact Manager in Remote Communities, Judith Meiklejohn, said the partnership with NWHHS was about more than just clean clothes.

"Many Australians wouldn't even realise that these remote communities don't have access to consistent electricity and

running water, let alone a working washing machine big enough to wash blankets and bedding," added Ms Meiklejohn.

"We're also ensuring that not only can residents wash their bedding, blankets and towels but they are also able to dry them too which can be particularly challenging in the wet monsoon season.

"Our aim is to break down stigma and barriers and create healthier communities that are less susceptible to preventable disease," said Ms Meiklejohn.

"Since 2017 we've grown from running one remote laundry service to now operating 17 facilities at 15 locations across the country.

"Through local partnerships with community controlled or led organisations, we provide employment opportunities within each remote community to provide the laundry facility for the community to use which has been key to driving engagement and making a real difference to the lives of families.

"The service is completely free for people to use and access," she said.

The initiative is also supported by the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council, Mornington Shire Council and North West Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services in Mt Isa.

Shell Australia invites the Kimberley, Pilbara and Northern Territory community to get in touch

If you have functions, interests or activities that may be affected by the Prelude Floating Liquefied Natural Gas (FLNG) facility (Prelude), Shell Australia wants to hear from you.

In Australia, Shell is an integrated energy solutions business which includes gas production and liquefaction, as well as renewable power and energy solutions.

Prelude is moored offshore approximately 475 kilometres north-northeast of Broome in Western Australia. Prelude extracts, liquefies and stores gas and condensate at sea, before it is shipped to customers.

Shell Australia is seeking to consult in preparation of the five-yearly revision of the Prelude FLNG Environment Plan (EP). The EP will be submitted to the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA). Consultation with relevant persons is an important part of this approval.

Please respond by 31 May 2025.

For more information, please visit:
www.shell.com.au/prelude

The Pearl at the Heart of Shell artwork

This artwork represents Shell Australia's reconciliation journey and is inspired by the history of shell use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

The artwork was developed by Gilimbai artists Tarni O'Shea and Jenna Lee.



Prelude FLNG Joint Venture Partners



Exhibition tells story of survival and culture



Kalkadoon artist Colleen Sam and her mother Aunty Ena Sam. Pictures: AAP

By KEIRA JENKINS



AUNTY Ena Sam and her daughter Colleen have safeguarded the stories and knowledge of their people for years.

Growing up in Camooweal, on the border of Queensland and the Northern Territory, Aunty Ena remembers her Elders passing down knowledge to her and her siblings.

"My siblings and I grew up at a compound, my mum and dad worked all their lives," she said.

"That's where my Elders told us, me and my siblings, those stories."

The Sam family moved to Brisbane in the 1980s, and when Aunty Ena had her own children, she would tell them the same stories.

"With my kids, I used to tell them the stories at night, the same way I was taught," she said.

"As soon as the sun went down, I used to make all the kids sit down and listen."

It was in the 1990s that Aunty Ena started sketching the stories, and later Colleen Sam would bring them to life through paintings.



Black Cockatoo Dreaming painting by Colleen Sam.

These stories of survival, resilience and strength are now on display at Queensland's State Library, after decades of being held in secrecy.

The stories include accounts of massacres, Kalkadoon resistance and frontier battles, following the Sam family's survival from first contact through to the 1900s, all the while passing down their stories.

"They did all that in secret, through the whole protection

era, going through the different phases of assimilation, slavery, so part of their story is talking about strength," curator Serene Fernando said.

For Colleen Sam, sharing her family stories through *The Unbroken Spirit of the Kalkadoons* exhibition comes naturally.

"It's us continuing our responsibilities," she said.

"We've never left it behind and we've never put it down."

"The continuation of our



Aunty Ena Sam and her family in Camooweal in the 1970s.

culture is very important, for the survival of our Country and our people."

With the repeal of Queensland's Path to Treaty legislation and the failure of the voice referendum, the sometimes hard-hitting exhibition is a timely way for Australians to engage with the truth of their history, Ms Fernando said.

"It does have the full brunt of colonial violence and what it's like to go through war, and survival," she said.

"Not only do you get the full onslaught of war but enslavement and entrapment and policies that control your life."

"There's a whole

understanding and perspective that you can grapple with and see through this exhibition, through the historical artworks and paintings and the oral histories that are in the space."

But at the heart of the exhibition is culture – indeed, this is what Aunty Ena and Colleen say has kept their family and people strong for generations.

"That's what we carry, and that's what's been instilled in us, My people were set upon when they first met with European invaders, colonisers, but it's a bigger story," Coleen said.

The Unbroken Spirit of the Kalkadoons exhibition will be at the Queensland State Library until August 24.



Front row: Emma Beckley, Annie Mari, Ugari Nona, Elthies Kris, George Nona, Patrick Mooka, Danie Savage and Regina Turner. Back row: Damian Elu, Simi Guise, Phillemon Mosby, Nixon Mye, Dimas Toby, Bob Kaigey, Nixon Mye, Dimas Toby, Simon Naawi, Jack Matthew, Getano Lui, David Nona, Jerry D Stephen Jnr and John Paiwan.

New leaders for TSRA



ONE of the nation's strongest First Nations voices – the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) – has announced its new board led by newly elected chairperson George Nona.

Last month on Waiben (Thursday Island), TSRA inducted 20 board members representing communities as far north as Saibai near the Papua New Guinea border, south to Bamaga and Seisia on the mainland.

A mix of experienced and fresh faces, including six women, make up the elected political body tasked with determining the TSRA's strategic vision, policies and budget allocations.

Incoming chairperson George Nona said the new board would build on past efforts to seek new opportunities for the remote region, located more than 800 kilometres north of Cairns.

"I acknowledge the strong foundations laid by the leaders before us, including the legacy of Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, who served a total of 12 years, including two terms as TSRA chairperson," Mr Nona said.

"The incoming board will play a crucial role in advancing the region's aspirations and priorities over the next four years."

Mr Nona is a proud Badulgal, Goemulaig, Saibailag, Mua and Erub man from Badu and lives on Waiben.

He brings more than 30 years of experience in the public service – ranging from biosecurity to border force (Australian Customs).

His genuine commitment to community is evident from his daily life as a pastor, to his volunteer work with youth and sporting groups.

An avid rugby league fan, he is a strong advocate for health and wellbeing, particularly for



TSRA deputy chairperson Elthies Kris, chairperson George Nona (middle) and alternate deputy chairperson Patrick Mooka.



Newly elected TSRA chairperson George Nona with former chairperson Napau Pedro Stephen AM.

more sporting opportunities for young people across the remote region.

"I will be visiting all communities as soon as possible to truly listen and hear directly from our people," Mr Nona said.

"The TSRA has long provided a voice for the Torres Strait and will continue to listen and advocate for people and place of Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait) at the highest levels."

Mr Nona will be supported in the role by newly-elected deputy chairperson, Erub Le woman Elthies Kris and Alternate deputy chairperson, Patrick Mooka from Dauan.

The appointments follow the recent announcement of TSRA

CEO, Dauareb man Charlie Kaddy.

Mr Kaddy's three-year appointment – approved by the Minister for Indigenous Australians – followed a national recruitment process.

Chairperson Nona said the CEO appointment would bring stability and strong local leadership to the organisation and region.

"I would like to congratulate and express my confidence and high regard for CEO Charlie Kaddy," Mr Nona said.

Located in the nation's far north, TSRA is one of the most remote Australian Public Service (APS) agencies. It supports programs across the region,



TSRA chief executive officer Charlie Kaddy.

including for 17 inhabited islands of the Torres Strait and the communities of Bamaga and Seisia on the Northern Peninsula Area of mainland Australia.

The Torres Strait stretches 150 kilometres northwards from Cape York Peninsula to Papua New Guinea (PNG) and up to 300 kilometres from east to west. This 48,000 km² area includes more than 270 islands and reefs.

The TSRA board is elected every four years by their individual communities through an Australian Electoral Commission process, with the chairperson elected by the board.

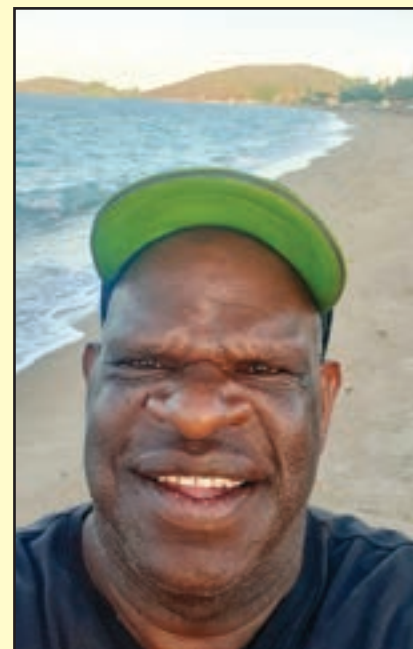
TSRA's vision is Yumi pasin – yumi Ailan Kastom. Strong in culture, unified partnerships to achieve a sustainable future.

● Learn more about the TSRA board at www.tsra.gov.au/board

Danny Eastwood's view



A YARN WITH...



Eric Babia Brisbane

Favourite bush tucker?
Wongai fruit.

Favourite other food?
Clear soup noodle, a chicken dish of Vietnamese origins.

Favourite non Indigenous food?
Hamburger with the lot.

Saltwater food?
Dugong and coral trout.

Favourite drink?
Coconut water.

Favourite music?
Bob Marley.

Favourite sport?
Rugby league and netball.

Favourite movie?
The first *Rambo*.

Favourite holiday destination?
Vanuatu.

What do you like in life?
Watching my children flourish.

What don't you like in life?
Disagreements.

Which Black or Indigenous person would you most like to meet?
Adam Goodes, the former Sydney Swans player.

Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire?
My brothers and sisters so we could have a singalong.

Who or what inspires you?
My wife Margie who is fighting cancer.

What is your ultimate goal?
To encourage many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to go to uni and follow their dreams.

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people?
Have more services in health and education.

Quote



We never look to see the scoreboard and what we've actually done and sometimes we forget how many great things we've actually achieved.

– Aaron Fa'Aoso is an actor, writer and producer from Saibai island in the Torres Strait.

● See page 31

Unquote

Native title ruling a massive win

Six years have passed since renowned land rights activist, the late Gumatj leader Dr Yunupingu, went to court seeking compensation and native title on behalf of his clan.

Last week, his family members, Gumatj leaders Djawa Yunupingu and Balupalu Yunupingu, celebrated outside the High Court after hearing that they had won an appeal against an earlier Federal Court judgement which found the Gumatj clan's Country in northeast Arnhem Land was not acquired "on just terms" before being leased to the Swiss-Australian mining consortium, Nabalco in 1968.

The High Court ruling has paved the way for up to \$700 million in compensation for Gumatj people.

The High Court judgement was clear.

"Native Title recognises that, according to their laws and customs, Indigenous Australians have a connection with Country," the judgment read.

"It is a connection which existed and persisted before and beyond settlement, before and beyond the assertion of sovereignty and before and beyond federation. It is older and deeper than the constitution."

Of course, now the courts will have to work out what 'just terms' means, however the High Court win by the Gumatj clan will be sure to give hope to all other Traditional Owners who are trying to get proper compensation for the



OUR SAY

use of their land.

Over in Western Australia, there has of course been a major battle between the Yindjibarndi Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation and Fortescue Metals Group.

YNAC took legal action in 2023 after years of alleging Fortescue never had permission to mine at the hugely profitable Solomon Hub project, 1,400 kilometres north of Perth.

They have argued that Yindjibarndi people were granted exclusive native title over the area in 2017 — a first in the Pilbara — and are seeking \$1.8 billion in compensation.

And while that case is not expected to be settled until the end of the year, and will no doubt be subjected to further challenges, the Yindjibarndi TOs would no doubt be encouraged by the recent High Court ruling in favour of the Gumatj clan. And so they should be.

As National Native Title Council chief executive Jamie Lowe said: "It is not controversial that the communities impacted by projects on their Country should benefit from the wealth generated through those projects."

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).

We got five out of ten from Senator Nampijinpa Price

By CHRISTIAN MORROW

KOORI MAIL comes to you this week in the shadow of looming federal election.

As the Voice of Indigenous Australia we believe our readers deserve to hear from the Coalition shadow minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator Nampijinpa Price in the run up to an election that must take place on a Saturday on or before May 17 this year.

Should Peter Dutton's Coalition win the election Senator Price would be in line to not only be the new Minister for Indigenous Australians. She may also continue in her role as the Coalition's government efficiency spokesperson. So we were interested to understand whether this role would be ongoing and what it would entail.

Understandably the senator has been busy, as have politicians from all political parties, jockeying for position prior to the beginning of the election campaign proper, so we sent through a list of questions, happy to get a written response.

We started by asking Senator Nampijinpa Price if she expected the Coalition to win the upcoming election and whether she expected to be the next Minister for Indigenous Australians.

The senator did not answer this question directly but a spokesperson said they could, "offer the following comment from Senator Nampijinpa Price in relation to the *Koori Mail* queries."

We asked, "Given that your stated policy position is to review all organisations within the 'Indigenous space', are there any organisations you see as currently doing well for Indigenous people or organisations which you see as failing Indigenous people?"

Senator Nampijinpa Price replied, "The reason I have long advocated for an audit is because we must prioritise organisations and bodies that are achieving practical improvements for marginalised Indigenous Australians and their communities."

"For example, we know that land councils in the Northern Territory could be operating more effectively for their members, such as producing faster outcomes for section 19 leases.

"Further, there are many organisations that are not Indigenous-owned or run, such as women's legal services, which predominantly assist marginalised Indigenous Australians, but who are not adequately funded, in part because of their non-Indigenous status."

"The aim of conducting an



Coalition shadow minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator Nampijinpa Price.

audit is to direct money away from places where practical outcomes are not being achieved for Indigenous Australians, and to re-direct it to those that are delivering improvements, whatever program or service they provide."

No answer

The senator then gave no direct answers to the following three *Koori Mail* questions below.

As the new government efficiency spokeswoman in any elected Dutton government, would you have purview across all of government or just Indigenous Affairs?

Should you identify government agencies or organisations the Coalition believe are not delivering for Indigenous people, will funding be frozen or withdrawn?

In respect of the above. Do you acknowledge the importance of language and arts organisations and programs in the fostering and maintenance of Indigenous identity? Would programs in these areas be maintained?

We then asked Senator Nampijinpa Price about her

comments regarding Central Land Council Chair, Warren Williams.

In a press release of February 11 the senator had stated, "an overdue reply to a question on notice asked by Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price in November 2024 revealed the new chair (Mr Williams) has an extensive criminal record, including multiple domestic violence order breaches, assault, being armed with an offensive weapon. Several of the offences incurred time in gaol."

In the press release Senator Nampijinpa Price called for the government to intervene in the case saying "this is yet another example of the racism of low expectations this government applies when it comes to Indigenous organisations and leaders."

She also reiterated her call for an Inquiry into Land Councils and other statutory authorities and said, "it's not just the instance of someone with this history having a position of power in a land council, but the circumstances that allow for it to happen."

In relation to Mr Williams we asked, "Would you acknowledge

that he (Mr Williams) has taken a different path, reformed himself and committed to campaigning against male vcommunity? Given your own admitted history of drug use and decision to take a different path, is it not possible for someone like Mr Williams to start over again?"

The senator replied, "As a survivor of domestic violence, my circumstances are not comparable to the circumstances of Mr Williams, who inflicted harm and trauma on other vulnerable members of the community."

"The fact is that domestic violence perpetrators such as Mr Williams should not be given positions of power over marginalised groups. We see it occurring far too frequently within Indigenous organisations. The unwillingness of the Albanese Labor government to hold Indigenous leaders to the same higher standards that we do for non-Indigenous Australian leaders is illustrative of the racist low expectations they hold for Indigenous Australians."

Then, in respect of the Coalition's urgent call for a Royal Commission into child sexual abuse in Indigenous

communities, we asked if the senator could be more specific about why such a commission was necessary.

Senator Nampijinpa Price said, "those who are familiar with the context of living in remote Indigenous communities know that sexual abuse is rampant."

"Child abuse prevention educator Holly-Ann Martin, who has had significant involvement with remote communities, agrees that many people in positions of leadership, whether in policing or politics know this is an issue, but are unwilling to address it publicly.

"It is therefore unsurprising when we see leaders of Indigenous organisations opposing a Royal Commission; that does not mean one isn't needed to shine a light on the horrors of these crimes and to identify systemic reforms to end this scourge."

Having been a lead campaigner for the NO vote in the Voice to Parliament referendum in 2023, we asked if the senator saw a pathway forward for Indigenous people through state-based treaty and truth-telling mechanisms?

The senator said, "treaty and truth-telling are not the most effective ways to achieve better outcomes for marginalised Indigenous Australians."

"When the gap between marginalised Indigenous Australians and the rest of the country remains as wide as it does, we must focus our attention on those measures that are going to practically improve lives, not simply those things that will make inner city Melbourne and Sydney-siders feel better about themselves."

Finally, we asked the senator where she stood on the 'Bringing Them Home' report and whether the recommendations should be implemented in full given so much time has passed since the findings were handed down.

While acknowledging the significance of the Bringing Them Home report and national apology day, the senator said "The Coalition is unequivocal about our desire to see children's fundamental human rights being upheld, regardless of their racial heritage or background.

"The right to be raised in a safe and healthy home environment will be the paramount guiding principle that we apply to every Australian child."

We closed by asking if the senator believed she would enjoy broad support amongst Indigenous Australians should she become the minister in any future Dutton government?

The senator did not reply to this question.

Troy's tips to survive while driving

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



ON THE EVE of his performance at Paartjima Festival in Alice Springs, multi-award winning singer/songwriter Troy

Cassar-Daley took time out to talk to the *Koori Mail* about road safety, especially for Indigenous Australian's who are over-represented in road fatalities.

Australia's road toll is the highest it's been in more than 12 years and First Nations Australians are three times more likely to die in a road accident than other Australians.

With a tagline 'Don't let a car change who you are – Safer driving starts with you', Troy is reminding all Australians, including

First Nations Australians, that if you wouldn't do something outside of a car, like cut in-line at a store or walk really closely behind someone, why would you do these things when on the road?

Troy reckons he has spent more hours behind the wheel getting to gigs than he has onstage playing music. Though the two subjects, road safety and music, may seem far apart, Cassar-Daley has travelled enough miles over Australia's sometime treacherous country roads to know the two are inextricably linked.

Listening to Troy's 2024 song *Let's Ride* its clear Troy

has a respect for and knowledge of cars and a songwriter's awareness of all the abstract meanings cars and driving can have in society. It seems like a natural fit to get him involved in a road safety campaign.

"When I was asked to be a part of this campaign I looked back at all the time I spent driving in Lismore and when I was growing up in Grafton," he said.

"I came to understand what cars could do and the risks involved in carrying on with your friends inside the car and

getting distracted whilst driving. I looked back at my driving habits and have to say I wasn't perfect.

"I realised I had a bad habit a flicking between songs on the radio and so I don't touch the stereo any more. I thought to myself I'm gonna be more responsible and

even though I've been driving since I was like 15 I still think I've got room for improvement."

As a touring musician and winner of forty-five Golden Guitar Awards at the Tamworth Music Festival, Troy said there were lesson's to be learnt on the road and inspiration to be gained.

"I always get inspired by the songs I hear on the radio when I do a run down to Tamworth, which is about seven hours from Brisbane, I make sure I pull over to write down ideas.

"Another thing I've learned is a tired driver is no good to anyone. My advice is to pull over at the first servo you can



Troy Cassar-Daley will appear at the upcoming Paartjima Festival from April 4-13 in Alice Springs.

and grab yourself something to eat, which always makes you tired and have a few hours in the car without being a risk to yourself and to others out on the road.

"A lot of us have been driving for a long time and it's probably been a while since we looked at the way we drive. It's important to take a second to look at your driving and think about what you can do to make things safer.

"Don't get distracted by others in the car, just keep your eye on the prize when it comes to driving and make sure you're thinking about people in other vehicles. Try and be the driver who is making it safer for all the people around you.

In April, I Cassar-Daley will appear at the upcoming Paartjima Festival from April 4-13 in Alice Springs.

"We will be the listening to part of the festival but there's a huge visual component to what happens out there. It's an immersion in culture, a beautiful thing put together by some really really important people.

"I've always come away with a very very full heart and I urge anyone to jump on the plane to come out to Alice and just have a look."

A stronger future: First Nations economic empowerment is not just smart policy, it's smart economics

Economic policies – including employment programs, business support and procurement policies – are being developed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities without their substantive participation, according to a new report - *Informing a Partnership on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Economic Development*.

The Coalition of Peaks' report, based on input from over 200 organisations, found that governments' reluctance to properly engage in genuine partnership has continued to drive unemployment, disadvantage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, and leave young people without clear pathways to economic security.

The key findings highlight significant shortcomings in current approaches and the need for a new path forward that centres solutions led by Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOs).

The report will shape the First Nations Economic Partnership between the Australian Government, ACCOs, the Coalition of Peaks, and other representatives. The partnership was announced by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese at the 2024 Garma Festival.

It calls for greater community control, stronger support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, and reforms to employment programs to make them culturally safe and effective. A key takeaway from the engagements is that economic empowerment extends beyond jobs – it is about self-determination.

Lead Convenor of the Coalition of Peaks, Pat Turner AM, said to accelerate economic development and wealth creation we must have the right building blocks in place.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander economic development is not separate from Australia's economy, it strengthens it. From land and water management to cultural tourism and small business innovation, our economic contributions create jobs, drive investment, and

generate new industries that benefit all Australians," Ms Turner said.

"This new partnership is a turning point. It is a recognition that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must have control over our economic futures."

The engagement process included six themed online workshops with approximately 140 participants, nine one-on-one sessions with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, an online survey with 99 responses (70 per cent identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander), and 12 written submissions.

The report recommends the partnership between the Australian Government and the Coalition of Peaks focus on ACCO-led solutions and initiatives that implement Closing the Gap's four Priority Reforms including:

- Strengthening representation through formal partnerships and shared decision-making
- Expanding economic opportunities within Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and supporting the development of new local economies
- Reforming employment services to better support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander job-seekers
- Increasing support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and improving access to procurement opportunities
- Enhancing access to data to create a clearer picture of economic participation and development

The Coalition of Peaks is a representative body of over eighty Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled peak bodies, together representing around 800 organisations. The Coalition of Peaks came together on their own as an act of self-determination to be formal partners with Australian governments on Closing the Gap. For more information go to: www.coalitionofpeaks.org.au

We Cannot Close the Gap Alone

Peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People, SNAICC – National Voice for our Children is calling for a unified, bipartisan approach to make real change on Close the Gap day.

Catherine Liddle, CEO of SNAICC, said when the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community is involved in genuine partnership and shared decision-making, there is impactful change in Closing the Gap measures.

"When all governments work with us, they not only empower communities but also drive better outcomes and lasting change," Ms Liddle said.

"We have seen positive change in areas such as land rights where governments have involved Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as partners in decisions about our lives.

"We need to see change in all sectors. Our children deserve nothing less.

"Committing to the Priority Reforms under the National Closing the Gap Agreement will Close the Gap. This means a commitment from all levels of Governments to work in partnership with our communities as the experts in own lives.

"Last week's update on the Closing the Gap targets should have served as a wake-up call about the real-life impact of government inaction."

The latest update from the Productivity Commission on Closing the Gap revealed that only one-third of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in early childhood education and care are developmentally on track for big school. Governments have made

zero improvement in the continuing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in juvenile justice and child protection systems across Australia.

"The cost of this lack of action is directly felt by our children. By failing to work with us, governments are contributing to a cycle of child removal, criminalisation and systemic disadvantage for our children," Ms Liddle said.

"We don't need a different approach to Closing the Gap. We need all governments to keep their word and look at the evidence for what works to change our life outcomes.

"We can close the gap, but we can't do it alone. It's time Australian governments uphold their commitments and work with us."

– SNAICC

Rethink housing reform

The Northern Territory's peak body for the Aboriginal community-controlled housing sector is calling on the Northern Territory Government to rethink its reform of managing public housing tenancies announced today.

Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT) CEO Leanne Caton says the approach proposed by the NT Government to manage public housing will see an increase in evictions which will increase the already high rates of homelessness in the NT:

"The Northern Territory already has the highest rates of homelessness in the country, at 12 times the national average. By fast-tracking evictions and increasing the powers of Public Housing Safety Officers (PHSOs) we will see Aboriginal people increasingly targeted and criminalised," Ms Liddle said.

These proposed reforms will disproportionately and overwhelmingly target Aboriginal Territorians. The reforms run counter to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap targets to reduce homelessness and overcrowding.

There has been zero consultation with AHNT as the housing peak or the Aboriginal community-controlled housing sector about the impact of these reforms. We call on the government to engage meaningfully with the housing

sector to ensure approaches are evidence-based.

These reforms will join other racially discriminatory reforms introduced on 6 February 2023 through the NT Government's Remote Rent Framework. The framework saw the NT's public housing model shift from an income-based arrangement to a per-bedroom based rent model whereby tenants pay a rate of \$70 per bedroom. This makes the NT the only jurisdiction with a public housing model based on bedrooms – not income.

It is widely accepted across every jurisdiction nationally, that public housing rents should not exceed 25% of a household's income to avoid forcing households into entrenched poverty and hardship. The room-based model in the NT Government's Remote Rent Framework is inequitable and is driving households further into rent debt.

Analysis of the available data shows that while the change in rent rates for a standard 25% of household income for one- and two-bedroom dwellings is perhaps manageable, the increase to three and four bedroom dwellings (which are the majority dwelling-type across remote NT) is staggering, especially when considered in the context of the current already high cost of living in the NT.

These are households largely

comprised of Aboriginal Territorians. Households who typically comprise low-income earners or are in receipt of a government benefit as the main source of income.

The NT Government did not undertake any modelling on the impacts of the Remote Rent Framework prior to being rolled out. It was implemented with no examination of the broader cost of living impacts on remote Aboriginal families.

Despite assurances from the NT Government that the increases in rent rates would not have a detrimental impact on Aboriginal people's cost of living and that the increase is moderate, analysis of the available data shows an increase of the proposed amounts has translated to a substantial increase, making public housing rent largely unaffordable.

The proposed reforms of stricter policies and increased evictions announced by the Minister recently will only criminalise and marginalise Aboriginal tenants further. The proposed reforms do little to support and sustain complex tenancies nor address the poor condition and long-term neglect of NT remote public housing.

– AHNT is the community-controlled peak body for Aboriginal housing in the Northern Territory.

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.

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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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No more time for excuses

Here we are. Those days have come. The darkest days of our lifetime. Capitalism has put a theme through everything in our life, our relationships, how we make our income to trade for goods, how we view the world, what we value and what we believe in. Capitalism has corrupted our minds. Our hearts. Our truth. It has placed a green gaze over our glasses similarly to how when you fall in love you have rose-coloured glasses. The issue is that we have now traded time for money, replaced love with war, and prioritised exploitation, hoarding and greed as successful traits. We have redefined the values of what it means to be truly wealthy and human.

On March 18th, Israel bombed Gaza again, with fighter jets unleashing a full blown attack on civilians and Palestinian country that has already had an unbelievable amount of destruction thrust upon them and it. Israel announced a ceasefire on Sunday, January 19, 2025. Yet the occupation still persists. The violence, the murders, the erasing of a culture. Hundreds of Palestines have been killed in the



Ella Noah Bancroft

bombing that occurred Tuesday the 18th of March. Children have been murdered. Women and families have been killed. Hearts broken, families shattered.

Since October 7th, the Gaza Health Ministry states at least 49,617 Palestinians have been confirmed dead and 112,950 injured. These are only the counts for the bodies that have been found, it estimates that tens of thousands of bodies lay under the concrete buildings that have fallen in Gaza. We have stepped into

dark days, the days where we watch entire peoples be tortured and murdered and their land and lives stolen right in front of our eyes.

In some twisted altered universe we in Australia are like the future of Gaza if America and Israel win. The total destruction of people's land they know and love so dearly, to make way for a colonial settlement. Do we ever stop to think of the destruction of these lands and how it is not too far from home?

The truth of this all is that regimes need to fall. The exploitation of people and the planet needs to halt. We are being asked to look and how we can shift our own values so we all might align to creating a more just society.

There is no more time to make excuses, to listen to the propaganda that mainstream media encourages, like when the Israel government or army states that they attacked because "they had information that Hamas was going to attack".

How does it stand up? Imagine if I hit you in the face and said I did it cause I thought you might do

it to me first. Netanyahu blames Hamas for the bombs that he fired, stating he needed to take strong action, because Hamas refused to release hostages, by killing thousands of civilians.

The occupation did not stop just because there was a ceasefire. We need to protest not just for ceasefire but for an absolute stop to the occupation as well and to all occupations around the world that exploit the original people and the land for corporate gain.

According to Amnesty International, Israel has re-imposed a total siege on Gaza, blocking the entry of all humanitarian aid, medicine, and commercial supplies, including fuel and food, in flagrant violation of international law. Israel has also cut off electricity to Gaza's main operational desalination plant. And today, the Israeli military has once again started issuing mass 'evacuation' orders displacing Palestinians.

There has never been a better time to really think about how we can shift the power away from the people who are holding guns to the heads of children. Bombing

entire cities of people. We live in an economic system, utilising our money as power, building our communities, figuring out ways to live without the system are small steps on the way to finding a new world together. Beliefs have to change, values have to shift and all of us need to start speaking the hard truth.

The worst thing about it all, is how do we really stop it? What will it take for this colonial capitalist system which has spread across the world like cancer to stop?

What will stop it? These systems only thrive when the people prop them up. This year we are being called to make great changes to our society so it may ripple out and impact others around the globe. Simplifying, slowing down, returning to nature for guidance and wisdom and not the media, overcoming fears, choosing to connect rather than numbing and most importantly taking to the streets with protests that start the revolution.

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

40 years of the Torres Strait Treaty: A promise now broken by climate harm

Dr Rose Elu

Forty years ago this year, our Elders fought hard to win the Torres Strait Treaty – an agreement from the Australian government to protect our culture, our connection to land and sea, and our kinship with our neighbours in Papua New Guinea.

Leaders like Tanu Nona, Marau and Getano Lui Snr stood their ground, rejecting inadequate offers and negotiating tirelessly to secure our rights. They knew the importance of fighting for cultural sovereignty over our land and sea.

In 1978, they succeeded in establishing a Treaty designed to safeguard our future that was later ratified in 1985. Built on respect and mutual obligation, it recognised that the Australian government had a duty to protect the people of the Torres Strait, our culture and our traditional way of life.

But today, that duty is being betrayed on a fundamental level.

For generations, Torres Strait Islanders have cared for our lands and waters, living in harmony with our environment. Yet climate change – driven by government policies that continue to support fossil



Dr Rose Elu speaking outside Federal Court in Melbourne. Picture: Catherine Black.

fuels – is threatening everything we hold dear. Rising seas are washing away our land, flooding our homes, and putting our culture at risk. If we lose our islands, we lose more than land – we lose our mother, our identity, who we are.

Our Elders have always been forward-thinking, asking: What is the plan for

the next 40 years? They asked this when they negotiated and won the Treaty, and we must ask it again now.

Today we know the answer is we must do everything we can to stop climate change and protect our islands from sinking. This is why Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul have taken

on the Australian Climate Case as plaintiffs to show the government that they have a duty to act on climate change under the very same Treaty negotiated by the leaders that came before them.

This year, the court will deliver its decision in their case, and we are waiting with strength in our hearts.

Winning any part of their case would be a positive step for us. It could establish that the government has a responsibility to protect us. It could confirm that our culture and the losses we suffer because of climate change have real, legal value. It could even force the government to cut

emissions in line with scientific recommendations. A win in their case would have national consequences.

No matter the outcome, I am proud of our people for standing strong. From Mabo and his fight for land rights, to our Uncles today and their struggle to force the government to reduce emissions, we have always fought for a better future – not just for ourselves, but for all peoples.

We are at a crossroads. If the government continues to turn its back on us, we risk losing part of who we are. But we are not powerless. We have the strength of our ancestors, the wisdom of our Elders, and the determination of our people.

I remember my father saying that when our leaders fought for the Treaty, they put their heads together, made concrete plans, and worked tirelessly to secure our rights.

We are doing just that again now – to protect the Torres Strait, and to safeguard the future of all our communities.

With love, strength, and the wisdom of our ancestors, we will be formidable.

● Auntie Dr Rose Elu is a Torres Strait Island Elder from the Saibai chieftain clan.

New edition of pioneering mental-health bible released



Judith Lovegrove with the latest edition of *Working Together*.



Lorelle Burton.



Professor Pat Dudgeon

We have just completed the 10th anniversary of celebrating *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice* (2nd edition). It has been referred to as the 'bible' in Indigenous mental health and wellbeing.

The 2014 second edition print of 50,000 copies sold quickly, as did the 50,000 printed for the first edition, and it has now been downloaded close to 20,000 times. Here are some comments from people who have used the book.

"This resource has played an integral role in shaping the landscape of the mental-health workforce, providing essential knowledge and skills with principles and practice guidelines for practitioners, researchers, academics, and mainstream organisations," Judith Lovegrove, social and emotional wellbeing trainer, mental health advocate, clinician and professional supervisor, said.

"This seminal work has had a profound impact on psychology higher education and signifies how we can work collaboratively to ensure culturally safe practice in our profession. It has had such a deep and meaningful contribution to the literature," Lorelle Burton, associate

provost, University of Southern Queensland, said.

In 2014, Professor Helen Milroy and Professor Roz Walker and I worked closely co-editing and writing chapters for the second edition of *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*.

It was and remains a pioneering text in the field of Indigenous mental health and wellbeing. Originally created as a resource for Aboriginal health workers, allied health professionals, counsellors and clinic staff in Indigenous health and mental health services, it has now very much entered the mainstream. It is used as a teaching resource by staff and students in universities and across all sectors of the health system. The book presents comprehensive information on the history of Indigenous mental health in Australia, issues and influences affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' social and emotional wellbeing, and models of healing, including a variety of Indigenous knowledges.

We did not expect the impact that the book would have. It's been central in decolonising the discourse on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and wellbeing in Australia and continues to inform policy and practice across many sectors.

Our key aims were to increase the knowledge and skills of the mental health workforce to provide more effective and culturally competent care for Aboriginal people and to address the negative impacts of colonisation on Aboriginal mental health and wellbeing. Also to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners had the opportunity to represent their views. There was no other text like it in Australia at the time.

After publishing, we started hearing that the book was really making a difference in the way practitioners understood the issues for Aboriginal people and that organisations had

implemented new strategies and protocols for working with clients.

We then published the second edition in 2014, and made important revisions to some chapters, including new contributions. There was a strong focus on healing models and programs, and more emphasis on children and young people. It was a labour of love and a lot of hard work to see it through to publication. The incredible reception the book received and its ongoing impact shows just how much it was needed.

Ten years after the second edition, we've been looking back to remember the impact of *Working Together*. As part of the celebrations, we have interviewed some of our fabulous authors (there were 76, most of them Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander), and hosted webinars discussing issues covered in the book, reigniting important conversations.

Our first webinar was in July last year. Roz, Helen and I came together to talk about the journey to publishing and how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and wellbeing has changed over the last decade. We have since hosted two more live events – one on interdisciplinary care and one on social and emotional wellbeing, both featuring co-authors from *Working Together*. Our next webinar has just been released: a conversation between Dr Stacey McMullen, Professor Monica Thielking, Professor Jeneva Ohan, and Belle Selkirk talking about the significance of *Working Together* in psychology higher education.

The reception to our events has been great. For the first three webinars alone, we saw almost 1,700 registrations, and a flurry of questions and feedback. The book has been influential in a variety of fields like psychology, education, social work and medicine, and this was reflected in the diversity of attendees; we had people from government departments, universities, and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, with others from the private and not-for-profit

sectors.

Working Together gained attention in many other countries with a colonial history and has been referred to by scholars and practitioners in New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom. This international appeal was reflected in webinar registrations from France, Singapore, Sweden, Ireland, Germany, and the United States.

Throughout the anniversary celebrations, we have been asked many times about a third edition; the demand is clear, and now the second edition is over ten years old it has slipped off some university reading lists. It is time for new comprehensive texts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and wellbeing that can be used in research, education and clinical and community practice. For me, a third edition is a daunting prospect, but there is a new generation of writers and researchers with a strong sense of history and important ideas for the future. If they were to pick up the baton, we would be there to support and cheer them on.

● You can download the book and find resources from our 10th anniversary celebrations here: <https://timhwb.org.au/working-together-book/>

Professor Pat Dudgeon is a 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 (CBPATISIP) at the University of Western Australia.

This article is part of a series of *Koori Mail* columns about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention contributed by authors from the CBPATISIP, which was established in 2017 to develop and share evidence about effective suicide prevention approaches for Indigenous people and communities.

Cowboys star aims to inspire

By ALF WILSON



STAR Cowboys NRLW player Tahlulah Tillett has been helping young students including many who are Aboriginal at remote communities to realise the importance of school attendance which will result in a good career.

The 26-year-old Tahlulah has played 15 matches for the Cowboys NRLW side since 2023, four for the Newcastle Knights in 2021, as well as three appearances for the ladies Indigenous Allstars.

Of Moa Island descent, her father Stephen Tillett was a member of the inaugural North Queensland Cowboys squad in 1995, playing reserve grade for the club.

Cairns-born Tahlulah has a genuine passion for helping youngsters to have an education so they can have good careers.

Outside football, Tahlulah is the Cowboys Community Engagement Officer and travels to communities to advise students on the importance of gaining a good education.

She travelled to Normanton Primary School and Gulf Christian College where



Tahlulah Tillett with students at Normanton's Gulf Christian College.

students now have access to the highly successful North Queensland Toyota Cowboys Try for 5! program which encourages and supports schools, students and families to boost attendance rates.

"Since visiting in late 2024 to introduce the program, staff at both schools have done an amazing job promoting and

driving the Try for 5! message; the students were all aware of the program and have had an awesome start to the year in terms of their attendance," Tahlulah said.

Tahlulah said that during the visit she attended each class, shared conversations about why it's important to come to school, set some goals for the year and

we also met with our MVP students who receive additional one-on-one support throughout Term 1.

"To see the young people excited about Try for 5! and to hear that some who had previously been disengaged with school were now attending more frequently demonstrated the power of this program," she said.

This is part of funding received from the Youth Development Partnership Fund, a joint initiative between the Department of Tourist and Sport and the Queensland Police Service.

school communities were off to an impressive start.

During the recent three-day visit, the Cowboys also engaged approximately 40 students in some fun, physical activities at the Normanton Sports Centre, enjoyed a touch football game with young people at the Normanton Stingers Rugby League Club, followed by skills and drills with players from their men's and women's teams, before finishing the visit with a morning tea with members of Gidgee Healing and local Elders at the Normanton Library.

As well as Try for 5!, the Cowboys Community Team are working together with local

authorities and organisations including Queensland Police and Carpentaria Shire Council to deliver a suite of initiatives including the Tackle Together program, where the Cowboys will facilitate a two-day rugby league clinic, culminating in some fun games for the community during the April school holidays.

Also supporting agencies in their ongoing youth engagement program delivery.

Cowboys Community Foundation CEO Fiona Pelling said having the support and involvement of the community was a huge indicator of future success.

"The most recent NAPLAN results reaffirmed what we have known for many years – the education gap between remote v urban and Indigenous v non-Indigenous students is large and spans all year levels. Schools are doing wonderful things in the classroom, but if the children aren't there they can't benefit, so Try for 5! is all about rewarding and supporting them to come to school so they form positive education habits early in life. We also know utilising the Cowboys brand to connect through the game of rugby league is a powerful platform for meaningful engagement," Fiona said.

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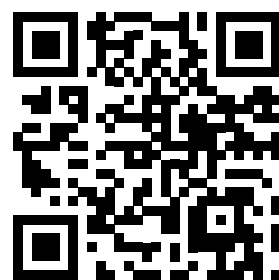
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Funding to tackle pre-term births



A LEADING First Nations obstetrician has welcomed the recent announcement of \$5.3 million in Federal Government funding to expand Australia's world-first national program to safely reduce rates of preterm and early term birth.

The announcement by the Assistant Minister for Health, Ged Kearney, continues the Commonwealth's long-standing commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Australian women, mothers and their babies.

Obstetrician and Lead of the Top End chapter of the Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Alliance, Dr Kiarna Brown said the funding would continue and expand the important work the Every Week Counts National Preterm Birth Prevention Program.

"This new funding will directly enable the efforts of hospitals and health services to improve the health and wellbeing of Australian women, mothers, their babies, and our most vulnerable populations," Dr Brown said.

Dr Brown said that despite the broad improvements seen in reducing rates of early birth across the country, these positive outcomes have not extended to First Nations women.

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%).

Alarming, First Nations women living in pockets of the Top End experience some of the highest rates of premature birth in the world, on par with disadvantaged groups in



Obstetrician and Lead of the Top End chapter of the Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Alliance, Dr Kiarna Brown.

low-income countries.

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

Better outcomes

"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,

"That is what our work in the Top End has focussed on in the first phase of the national program and we are excited to be able to expand its scope and hopefully provide a roadmap for improved outcomes for all First Nations women and their children," she said.

Chair of the Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Alliance, Professor John Newnham, echoed Dr Brown's comments and said ensuring that the non-Indigenous workforce is culturally informed

must be a priority.

"Dr Brown and her team are leading an innovative preterm birth prevention program in the Northern Territory. Central to their efforts is getting the perspectives from First Nations women on how health services can do better," he said.

Professor John Newnham said the continuation of funding would enable the Commonwealth-funded Australian Preterm Birth Prevention National Program to improve pregnancy outcomes for more women across the country.

"It has been inspiring to see the amazing work being done by the hospital teams participating in the first phase of the national program," he said.

"These teams have generously shared ideas, know-how and data with each other on how to support more women to safely continue their pregnancy to 39 weeks.

"The consortium of the Alliance and Women's Healthcare Australasia will be working in partnership with maternity consumers, First Nations leaders and jurisdictional partners to ensure Australia is the world's first nation to strategically and safely lower its rate of untimely and harmful early birth."

To-date, seven key clinical strategies, developed by the Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Alliance, have been used to safely lower the rate of preterm and early term birth. The strategies include: avoiding ending pregnancies before 39 weeks gestation, prescribing vaginal progesterone to women with a shortened cervix or a history of spontaneous preterm birth, promoting the importance of continuity of care, and strongly discouraging smoking whilst pregnant.



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Closing the Gap in First Nations health workforce

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



IN THE face of a crippling shortage of doctors and nurses in remote areas of Australia, Queensland's North

West Hospital and Health Service (NWHHS) has exceeded the national target for First Nations workforce representation.

With an expected shortfall of 70,000 nurses in Australia by 2035 including a gap of 9000 First Nations nurses, NWHHS is kicking goals when it comes to improving healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Executive Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health at NWHHS and a proud Woppaburra woman, Christine Mann said the NWHHS has managed to achieve a 10 per cent First Nations representation in their workforce which is nearly three times the 2031 national goal.

"Having a strong and well-represented First Nations workforce is the best way we can enhance the accessibility of health services, ensure culturally-safe health care and improve patient experience for First Nations people," Ms Mann said.

"In the last six to eighteen months the NWHHS has created an extra 24 full time positions in the First Nations portfolio spanning nursing, allied health and Aboriginal health practitioner roles.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have complex family structures and our First Nations workforce is key to understanding the best way to approach their healthcare and ensure our patients receive the best support.

"One of the biggest challenges for us is what's happening outside the hospital doors when it comes to issues like housing, overcrowding, hygiene and poverty and it's critical our frontline workers have an understanding of those factors."

According to the 2021 Census, 65% of Indigenous Australians employed in a registered health profession were a nurse or midwife. NWHHS has at least 17 nurses who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and nine of those are in leadership positions.

Ms Mann said there has been a strong investment in multiple career development pathways to help grow the First Nations workforce and encourage young people to pursue a career in health including: a school work experience initiative, the Deadly Start – a school based



Rebecca Mabo is working to improve health outcomes for First Nations patients.

traineeship; and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tertiary Cadetship Program.

"We're finding that providing more opportunities for First Nations people to work in healthcare has a trickle effect back to community and this motivates the next generation to follow a similar career path," Ms Mann said.

"Eventually we'd love to see our First Nations workforce mirror representation in the population which is 30 per cent. When I look at how far we've come already I think we can get there."

The North West Hospital and Health Service is an independent statutory body responsible for the delivery of public hospital and health services to around 32,000 people across 300,000 square kilometres comprising north western Queensland and the Gulf of Carpentaria with Mount Isa Hospital as the main referral centre.

Rebecca's story

Rebecca Mabo is one of the First Nations nurses now on the frontline working hard to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

She's just started with Queensland's North West Hospital and Health Service after being the only First Nations student to graduate from her university course.

Fresh into the ranks of healthcare professionals, Rebecca understands the mistrust felt by some First Nations people when it comes to interacting with the existing healthcare system.

She said Indigenous patients may not trust that the hospital is going to help them, instead they



Lila Pigliafiori is based in Mt Isa, Queensland.

just hear that once they enter the hospital they are in a terminal situation.

"I work in the hospital myself and can completely understand where First Nations people are coming from," she said.

"Sometimes I think the fear comes from believing that when they attend hospital, when they are sick, they potentially may not get better and may have to stay in hospital.

"It's also potentially a cultural thing, the healthcare workers are seen as figures of authority and there is a kind of power imbalance.

"Seeing my mum pregnant with my younger siblings sparked my interest in midwifery. It planted a seed in the back of my mind that one day I'd work with pregnant women and I eventually went to uni to study," she said.

Granddaughter of Eddie

'Koiki' Mabo, whose High Court case paved the way for native title, Rebecca is now a qualified nurse and midwife.

"I don't make a big thing about being Eddie Mabo's grand daughter but I do feel a sense of responsibility. I always like to carry myself with pride and know that I am standing on the shoulders of a giant."

Lila's story

Lila Pigliafiori is another First Nations nurse who works in mental health at Mt Isa. With rates of suicide for First Nations people almost three times higher than non-Indigenous she believes more support is needed to help patients attend appointments and navigate the complexities of the health system.

After a 30-year career in health fields she returned to university studies graduating in

2019 and now prides herself in helping her community unravel the mysteries of the healthcare system.

"We are on the front line having direct contact with the community and it's important to have first nations nurses represented in that space," Ms Pigliafiori said.

She is also powerfully influenced by her mother's devotion to the health of her own community.

"It's really important to me personally because growing up in a small community at Cloncurry I watched my mother work tirelessly as an Aboriginal health worker caring for people in the community as well as anyone else that walked through the door of a Queensland Health clinic.

"She devoted all her living days to working with our people and it was her vision and her mission in life to make sure everybody had equal access to services in the community. She was a tireless worker and I think it was her passion that influenced me to spend 30 years in this field."

Ms Pigliafiori returned to university, "to get the piece of paper that would allow me to work more openly and flexibly in the health space.

"Where I could care for any person really, but especially to be able to work with Mob, with Aboriginal people, and sit down with them one-to-one from presentation to entering hospital to going home.

"It's the most rewarding thing I could have ever done because I've been able to work with everyone on their different journeys within the health space."

Now a senior team leader with the Indigenous liaison team, Lila is helping to bring in Aboriginal school students and aspiring them to become nurses and/or midwives.

"That's been very rewarding having the students come into the health space, promoting the idea of a career there and sending home the message that to close the gap in any health system or social system or legal system we just need more of us present either in the background or the front line," she said.

It's also a source of pride for Lila that both her son and daughter have moved from other fields into roles within health system.

"I was just blown away to see the legacy of my mum has actually made its way down through the generations and I couldn't be more proud to see my young ones being in the health system influencing the way that our people use the system.

"It's the greatest reward," she said.

Bush ingredients add the spirit to ensure distillery's success

By KEIRA JENKINS



A FIRST Nations-owned business is one of Australia's most celebrated producers of organic spirits, after a 'rollercoaster' journey on the road to success.

It was a conversation over a few drinks that sparked the inception of Beachtree Distillery and owners Kirra Daley and Steve Grace to take the leap from their day jobs to business owners.

Standing proudly in Caloundra, on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, the organic distillery is now among Australia's most awarded.

But the story of the First Nations-owned business begins well before the conversation that set the plans in motion.

Ms Daley's father is a farmer, particularly interested in native plants, while her mother made sure to connect her to her Italian roots through wine-making and distilling.

These traditions, combined with local, organic ingredients became a core passion.

"I was taught growing up that when you have a native it should be pure, you don't want to mix up chemicals or

preservatives and things like that," the Bundjalung woman said.

Mr Grace's passion began with 'playing around with native ingredients out bush'.

With a background in engineering distilling equipment and using a process that is unique, the Kamilaroi man admits he's a perfectionist with each batch.

"I am very passionate about it," says the master distiller.

"The end result? It's me, it's mine and it represents me and us. I believe it has to be perfect."

Beachtree brings together the pair's long-held passions for their traditions and love of ingredients from Australian soil.

Even the name Beachtree is inspired by its location and the history that goes with it.

The meaning of Caloundra in the local Kabi Kabi language is 'place of beech trees', so Beachtree is a nod to those roots. Each bottle adds to the distillery's story and pays homage to the past.

"I bring the influence of a 65,000-year heritage," Mr Grace said.

"Without the ancestors backing me, I wouldn't be able to do what I do."

Over the years Ms Daley

said she's learned to trust the master distiller's instincts.

With a number of his handcrafted drops winning gold at the World Gin Awards, World Wine and Spirits competition and World Vodka Awards, Mr Grace has certainly earned this trust.

Beachtree was also named craft producer of the year at the 2024 Icons of Gin Awards.

But the journey hasn't always been easy for the small First Nations-owned business in a 'tough industry'. The pair established Beachtree in 2020, with Ms Daley describing what came next as a 'rollercoaster', with COVID-19 lockdowns and 2022 floods disrupting the operation.

They invested everything in the business, staying with family while the distillery found its feet.

"Sometimes I look back on those moments and think, 'what was I thinking'," she said. "But if we hadn't done it we'd probably be sitting there going 'what would have happened if we'd started that business we talked about over drinks'."

"The only way we're going to know how this pans out is if we just continue the journey and see where it takes us."



— AAP Beachtree Distillery owners Steve Grace and Kirra Daley.

Business taskforce launch



A NEW Aboriginal Business Taskforce is set to lead the growth of the Aboriginal business sector in NSW.

The taskforce will help ensure the voices of Aboriginal business owners and managers are heard by the NSW government.

NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty David Harris announced the taskforce earlier this month at the NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce in Redfern.

The taskforce members, the majority of whom identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, bring knowledge and experience for setting up and running Aboriginal businesses across the state.

Former Sydney Swans star and 2014 Australian of the Year Adam Goodes, now the CEO of the Indigenous Defence and Infrastructure Consortium, is one of eight appointees to the new government taskforce.

Mr Goodes is joined on the inaugural taskforce by Doug Delaney, Luke McIlroy-Ranga, Malinda Rutter, Melissa Fletcher,



Adam Goodes, CEO of the Indigenous Defence and Infrastructure Consortium, is one of eight appointees to the new government taskforce.

Phillip Usher, Sharon Winsor and Terri-Anne Daniel.

NSW is unique in having a specific Closing the Gap priority reform that focuses on Aboriginal economic prosperity, jobs and nurturing business and the new taskforce has evolved out of that priority.

The taskforce is a key initiative of the NSW Roadmap for Aboriginal Business Growth and the bi-annual Aboriginal Business Roundtables, to help ensure the voices of Aboriginal

business owners and managers are heard by government.

Taskforce members will provide the NSW Government with timely, strategic advice on the Aboriginal business sector and how it can be supported to grow.

Research from the Federal Department of Industry, Science and Resources shows that for every \$1 of revenue, certified Indigenous businesses create \$4.41 of economic and social value. Aboriginal-owned

businesses are also more likely to employ Aboriginal people which develops skills and experience within Aboriginal communities.

A recent report from the Dilin Duwa Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership found that Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses across the country employ more than 116,000 people and generate revenue in excess of \$16 billion annually.

The 2023 NSW Treasury First Nations Women's Economic Participation Review found that First Nations businesses are about 100 times more likely to employ a First Nations Australian than non-Indigenous businesses.

Taskforce member Adam Goodes said the Indigenous businesses sector was the fastest growing business sector.

"Indigenous businesses are 100 per cent more likely to employ other Indigenous people, and they provide a huge amount of social and economic value for every dollar that is spent with them," he said.

Taskforce member Terri-Anne Daniel said that "Being part of this taskforce is a real opportunity to ensure that

Aboriginal business owners, like myself, have a direct line to government decision-makers".

"We bring lived experience of the real challenges, and because we are entrepreneurs, we bring bold solutions to the table," she said.

"When Aboriginal businesses thrive, communities thrive. We're not just creating jobs; we're fostering independence, self-determination, and long-term prosperity for our people. Who better to help Mob than Mob?"

Minister Harris said his government "recognises economic empowerment and business development are critical to the socio-economic growth of Aboriginal communities".

"The taskforce is another step in NSW's determination to lead the nation in pursuing economic prosperity as a key goal to close the gap for Aboriginal people," he said.

Minister for Small Business Steve Kamper said the NSW government was committed to removing barriers for small business owners "at every stage of their journey and empowering the Aboriginal business sector to build and grow their business".

Re-writing my narrative amid the storms of life



Kirk Page

Cyclone Alfred has served as a stark reminder that nature often has the final word. The unpredictability of weather can dramatically alter our lives. While this tumultuous event unfolded, I found myself on the road, immersed in a metaphorical storm of my own, performing at the Adelaide Festival in a play centred around 'Love Stories'.

As I navigated my role and focused on perfecting every detail of the performance, my thoughts drifted to friends and family along the South East Coast of Queensland and the Northern Rivers region of NSW. I realised that while I was grappling with my own trivial frustrations, like the discomfort of a misfitting costume, others were preparing to face genuine challenges, specifically rising floodwaters threatening the place I call home.

Confronted by nature's fury, I couldn't help but wonder if the forces of the universe mock our confusion as we struggle to find solid ground amidst the chaos, making sense of the world by playing pretend on the stage about real life.

These reflections weigh heavily on me during such events. I find myself perched on the edge of my aspirations, aware of the impending disaster heading toward home and Country. In moments like these, the significance of what truly matters shifts drastically.

Have I been overly indifferent



A pump station in Lismore, NSW, showing rising flood levels.

to the turmoil around me? Is my ego blinding me to what's real, or am I simply a master at avoiding discomfort? In the past, facing such a confrontation would lead me to reach for a cold drink—maybe something like beer, wine, or spirits. I'd savour a good rosé while indulging in the repetitive ritual of dosing myself at infinity with nicotine. Yet, having been over 180 days free from cigarettes and alcohol, connecting with loved ones from a distance feels far more poignant when I'm sober. My new coping strategies revolve around walks with my dog – when I'm actually at home – and

completing a long list of rehabilitation exercises that help my body regain some comfort. It's remarkable how underestimated self-care can be. I acknowledge both my tendencies to avoid and distract, which makes this realisation all the more significant.

Yearning for peace in this chaotic world, I find myself questioning whether the current state of affairs has numbed me to the disasters unfolding globally and locally, personally and communally. Do we pay enough respect to the land we inhabit, acknowledging the ancient souls who paved the

way before us? As I reflect on my past, I wonder if my ancestors are laughing or crying at our predicament. Are we trapped in a slumber, too fearful to confront the stark realities before us?

Can our weary bodies shake us awake from this dream called reality?

Through it all, love persists as a delicate thread that keeps me grounded.

I'm in the process of rediscovering myself, balancing between love and fear. I'm rewriting my narrative, reshaping not just my understanding of the world, but also my place within it.

A multi-skilled master of none Kirk Page's kinship connections to his Munanjali/Yugembeh, Badu Island (Zenidth Kes), Polish and German ancestry are an inspiration. Growing up on the unceded lands of the Turrbal/Yuggera people in South East Queensland, he left in pursuit of the arts over science and lives to question this fateful moment from 30 years ago.

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

Kirk is a submerging artist touching the edges of irrelevance and partially making peace with the concept of time over knowledge.

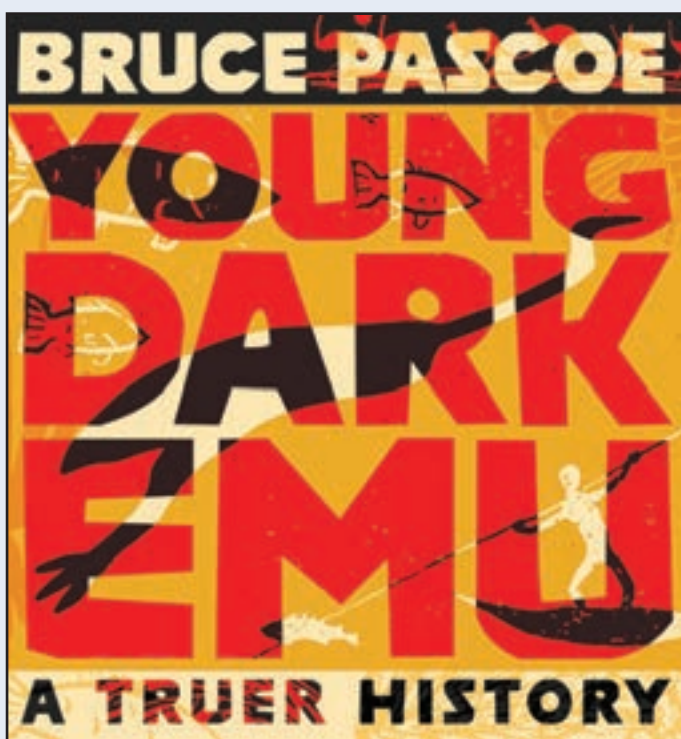
He is currently residing in the lush Bundjalung territories of the Northern Rivers and has agreed to contribute his thoughts on books, movies, stories and experiences as our new, regular columnist with the *Koori Mail*.

Young Dark emu - A Truer History

Bruce Pascoe's iconic non-fiction classic *Dark Emu* significantly shifted the way Australians relate to their environment. *Young Dark Emu - A Truer History* brought together the research and compelling first-person accounts of his work into a book for younger readers.

Young Dark Emu was highly awarded upon its original release in 2019. This updated edition brings a fresh look and format to the original content.

Using the accounts of early European explorers, colonists and farmers, Pascoe compellingly argues for a reconsideration of the hunter-gatherer label for



pre-colonial Aboriginal Australians.

He allows the reader to see Australia as it was before Europeans arrived – a land of cultivated farming areas, productive fisheries, permanent homes, and an understanding of the

environment and its natural resources that supported thriving villages across the continent.

Young Dark Emu asks young readers to consider a different version of Australia's history pre-European colonisation.

Getting Dusty

Getting Dusty is the much-anticipated sequel to Jared Thomas' CBCA longlisted junior fiction, *Uncle Xbox* (2023).

When Dusty bloodies his bully's nose in a soccer tournament, he finds himself grounded for a week.

Feeling this is unfair, Dusty gets upset and it's up to Uncle Xbox to help him understand why his actions have consequences and that he can learn from his mistakes. If this lesson includes spending time on Country, catching some nice waves and making new friends, well, who is he to argue.

From the author of *The Game Day series*, *My Spare Heart*, *Calypto Summer*, and *Songs that sound like Blood*, Jared Thomas has sensitively captured Dusty's world and childhood challenges, with integrity, humour and heart.





Aaron Fa'Aoso is an accomplished actor, writer and producer.

Custom and culture

Aaron Fa'Aoso is an accomplished actor, writer, and producer, from Saibai Island in the Torres Straits (Zenadth Kes) and best known for his standout roles in television. You may know him from his work on the ABC series *Black Comedy*, which earned accolades including a Logie nomination and an AACTA Award for Best Direction in 2015.

Fa'Aoso has also made waves with his role in *Reef Break* (ABC US), *Going Places* (NITV) and his food documentary series *Strait to the Plate* on SBS/NITV, which he not only hosted but also created and produced.

His acting career kicked off with a breakthrough role in the 2004 SBS mini-series *RAN: Remote Area Nurse* where his portrayal of 'Eddie' garnered critical acclaim, earning him nominations for both an AFI Award and a Logie Award for Most Outstanding New Talent.

Fa'Aoso's diverse career continues to flourish, with his upcoming role in the ABC series *In Limbo*. His mix of acting, producing and creating content has made him a key figure in Australian television.

Can you tell me who you are and where do you come from?

My name is Aaron Fa'Aoso, I'm a Sabai Island brother boy from Zenith Kes or Torres Strait Island. I'm Samu (Cassowary) Koedal (Crocodile). The Cassowary clan and Crocodile clan.

You've achieved some incredible milestones in your life. What are some of the highlights for you, successes professionally or personally?

Being a father is at the top of my list, also I'm a grandfather. I think for me success is really



about how we raise our children.

But custom and culture have supported me, my mother and my grandmother.

The Wadu Wam kinship system of our culture enables us as men (and supported by our mothers) to be able to have their sons thrive and to be a father and now grandfather, it's a beautiful system in terms of how we've been able to prevail as first people, and that's I guess what I'm really proud of.

You have an autobiography published, what was that journey developing that draft and how was that process for you looking back and sharing it with audiences/readers?

It was probably one of the toughest things that I've ever done in my life but one of those gratifying things. I never thought I'd ever ever write a book because that's not our thing. But when the opportunity was given to me, I took it on with both hands, we never look to see the scoreboard and what we've actually done and sometimes we forget how many great things we've actually achieved.

There's also a lot of mistakes that I made too so it was a process of acknowledging that and to forgive. It was probably the toughest journey that I've ever done in my life, to look back in but I think it was one of self reflection and I'm really proud that I did. I guess in a way it gave me a lot of insight, learning from all of the things, a certain getting of wisdom, and to celebrate the positive moments.

I think I was ready to face things in a way that I had never considered before. For the matriarchs, my mother and grandmother, I hope that I've made them proud and I guess for me looking to forge my own legacy.

Your next book *Spirit of the crocodile*. How did you come to the title of the book and the themes of global warming, can you talk a little bit about how the book came into being?

Having these issues in the public eye are really important – we are rapidly experiencing rising sea levels and as a custodian I need to be sharing the message of our First Nations people through the story of the prehistoric spirit of the crocodile.

That particular spirit will continue to live through me and this line of storytelling that has been around since the first sun and will still be there until it sets. If I'm able to drive a narrative that leaves behind this story of cultural protocol and systems and beliefs, I hope people can look back in one hundred years time and get a sense of what was happening back then and that those continue strong into the future and says that we were here and that we are still here.



Aaron Fa'Aoso says his autobiography was one of the toughest thing he had ever done.

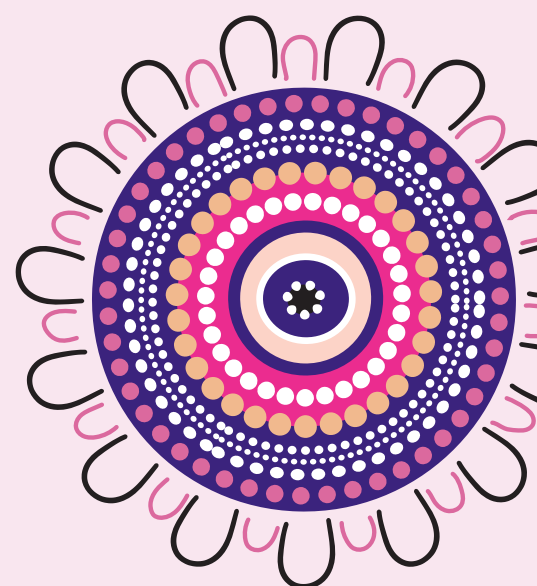


Stay healthy for you and your mob.

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

Flying high at TarraWarra 2025



FLYING high again in the cultural firmament the TarraWarra Biennial 2025: *We Are Eagles* will open on 29 March until 20 July 2025 at TarraWarra

Museum of Art on Wurundjeri Country/Healesville.

Curated by Yorta Yorta woman, writer and curator Kimberley Moulton the exhibition's title *We Are Eagles* is derived from a speech given by activist Pastor Sir Doug Nicholls KCVO OBE at the 1938 Day of Mourning — the seminal south-eastern First Nations political movement.

Nicholls' speech called for equal rights and an end to colonial oppression, stating, "we do not want chickenfeed ... we are not chickens; we are eagles."

Anchored in this sentiment, the exhibition features works by 23 artists who centre regenerative practice and relational transcultural connections to land, object and memory.

Reflecting the biennial's commitment to identifying new trends in contemporary Australian art, this year's iteration will showcase more than 20 newly commissioned works including: A sound work by Wurundjeri woman and artist Brooke Wandin responding to a wangimu bubupal (a child's boomerang). Recorded in language with her family, Wandin's work looks to restore the spirit of the wangimu bubupal and the history it surfaces; An ambitious new painting by Pitjantjatjara artist Iluwanti Ken who shares the eagle story from her community, along with a collaborative work with her niece Yaritji Young; A series of paintings and ceramics that depict local stories and memories by artists Laurel Robinson, Cynthia Hardie, Amy Briggs, and Jack Anselmi from Kaiela Arts, a thriving Aboriginal arts centre in Shepparton; and a large-scale light installation by Kamilaroi artist Warraba Weatherall that draws from scientific and anthropological documentation of Kamilaroi cultural sites and artwork designs, to regenerate an understanding of their meaning and relationship within contemporary culture.

Other artists included are: Nathan Beard, Moorina Bonini, Maree Clarke, Gunybi Ganambarr, Nadia Hernández, Lisa Hilli, Brendan Kennedy, Daniel Riley, Teho Ropeyarn, wani toaishara, Shireen



Performance/dance work by Daniel Riley.

Taweel, Lyn Thorpe, Angela Tiatia, Lisa Waup, and Yaritji Young.

Accompanying the exhibition is a public program of talks and performances by participating artists that will activate the main gallery and the recently opened Eva and Marc Besen Centre.

On Saturday, 29 March and Saturday, 12 April, curator Kimberley Moulton will lead tours of *We Are Eagles*, featuring floor talks by participating artists.

On Saturday, 14 June, a day-long celebration in partnership with RISING will take over the museum and new Centre with food, music and artist talks.

Highlights will include: a performance of Venezuelan protest songs by members of the Venezuelan community, engaging with the new large-scale immersive installation by Venezuelan-born artist Nadia Hernández; an exhibition floor talk by participating artists from Kaiela Arts providing insight into the thriving Aboriginal arts centre in Shepparton; and



Iluwanti Ken, *Walawuru Tjukurpa – Story of the Eagles 2024*, acrylic on Belgian linen, 300 x 198 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Tjala Arts, Amata.

visitors will also be able to experience Yorta Yorta/Wurundjeri artist Moorina Bonini's new conceptual film *Matha*, commissioned for RISING.

For more information go to: twma.com.au



TarraWarra curator Kimberley Moulton.

Objects reveal legacy of violence



A CHILD'S toy, a filing cabinet drawer, a disc-operated musical instrument and a series of 30 bronze plaques may seem innocuous and mundane, but on closer inspection, they tell a story of violence, racism and injustice.

In his exhibition *Shadow and Substance*, Kamilaroi artist Warraba Weatherall uses these items to examine the ethics of how Indigenous cultural property and information were acquired and how they're displayed in institutions.

"I try to use very mundane symbols and materials of the archive that people are familiar with but slightly alter them so it encourages people to think about those things differently," Mr Weatherall said.

When American anthropologist and eugenicist Charles Davenport went to Brewarrina Mission in



Kamilaroi artist, educator and activist Warraba Weatherall poses for a photograph at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney. (AAP)

NSW in the 1920s, he measured and recorded the dimensions of the limbs and skin colour of Mr Weatherall's family.

This information was published without their permission.

Mr Weatherall found these

anatomical records from institutional collections, using it to inform his new commission for the exhibition at Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art Australia.

Called *Trace*, the work features a series of paint swatches,

relating to a skin colour chart used by anthropologists and eugenicists in the 19th and 20th centuries, and a large sculptural spinning top.

"They would get this little child-like toy, put colour discs on the top, they would spin it until they blend together," Mr Weatherall said.

"They would sit the subject's arm next to the spinning top to try and get a read of how dark the complexion or how light it was and where they sat within the racial categories and hierarchies that related to that."

Rather than seeing the collections of ancestral remains, cultural property, and documented information on First Nations people as benign materials, they are signifiers of contemporary violence, Mr Weatherall said.

"We can't divorce ourselves from those histories," he said.

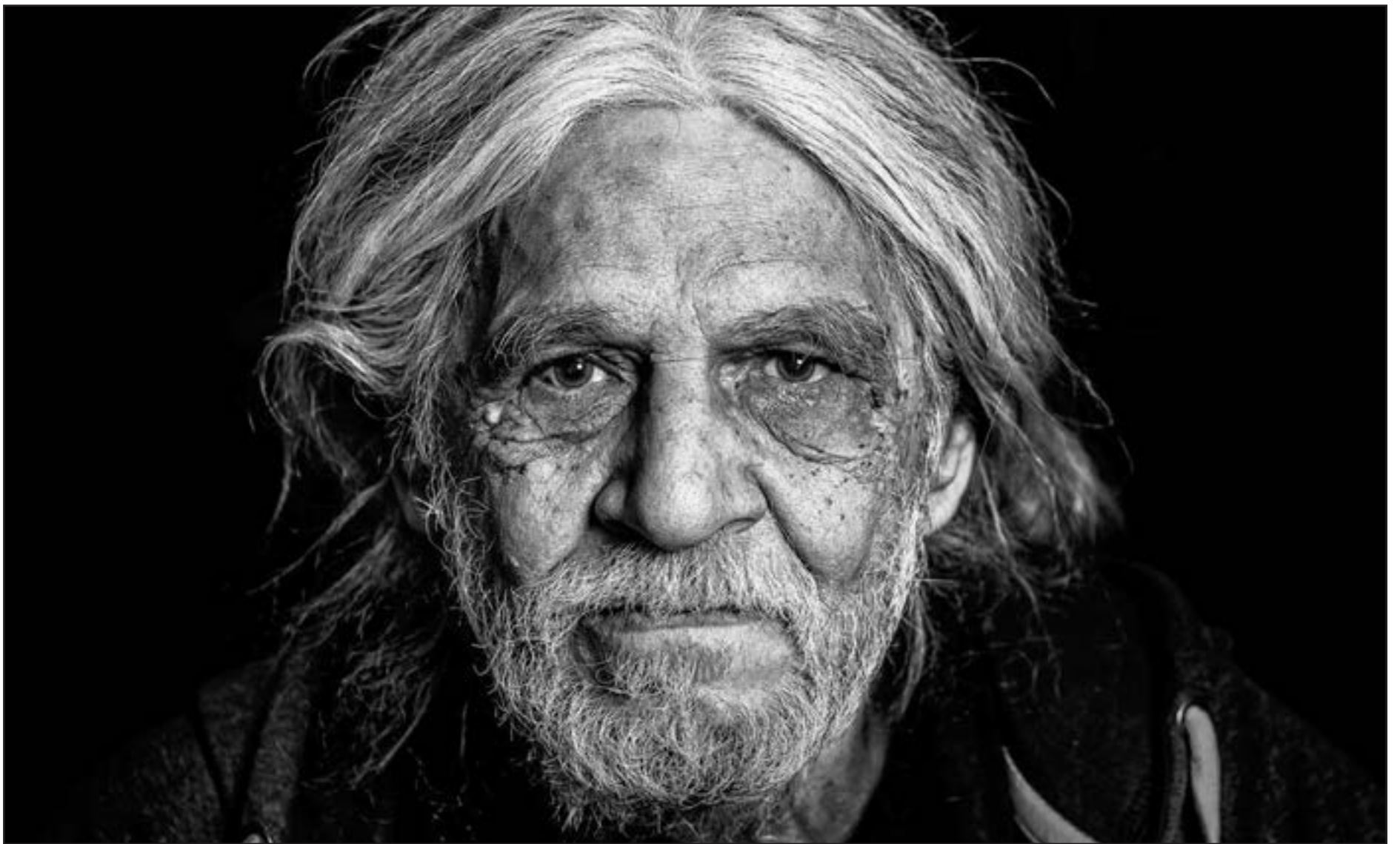
"All of those things have led up to this point where they're

influencing social and political realities for Aboriginal people and they're also shaping non-Indigenous people's perspectives of us.

"Australia was ground zero for a lot of those knowledges, planned, premeditated killing of Aboriginal people and taking bodies over to different institutions around the world just to study us."

As Mr Weatherall highlights the gaps and biases in the colonial record, he wants the exhibition to spark conversations and encourage people to address gaps in their knowledge of this history and its lasting contemporary impacts.

"Whether it's archives in general and how violent they are or how unethical it is to continue to house Aboriginal ancestral remains into these collections, I want people to think about those things and really see where they come from, think about things in a way they haven't before," he said.



Taunwurrung Elder Uncle Larry Walsh was part of the Yirramboi festival performance *Lazarus*.

Yirramboi festival returns to Naarm with massive line-up

By ALI MC



NAARM/Melbourne's largest First Nations festival Yirramboi is set to kick off in May with an incredible line-up of more than 400 artists and performers.

Yirramboi means 'tomorrow' in the Woivurrung language of the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners of Naarm, and is a bi-annual showcasing of diverse creatives from across every spectrum of First Nations communities.

This year's festival has a stacked program of visual arts, performance, song, cabaret and comedy, all falling under the programming theme of 'Futures Past.'

"This platform is really created in a way where we remove the red tape of what's perceived to be First Nations arts, and ask, 'as a practising artist, what story do you want to tell?'" Yirramboi Creative Lead Sherene Stewart told the *Koori Mail*.

"Too many times we see only a particular type of art presented – yes, we do traditional art, and it's incredibly important for us to continue that cultural inheritance. But there's also a

space for us to express ourselves how we want to, and in what practice we want to. Yirramboi really showcases that we can do anything and everything."

The Taunwurrung/Filipino director, curator and producer has worked with Yirramboi in a variety of capacities since the festival's inception in 2017.

She told the *Koori Mail* that the experience of working within a self-determined arts festival which highlighted First Nations participation in every facet of production was an incredible experience.

"It was this incredible moment in time where there was a festival of our own, where there was First Nations artists absolutely everywhere in and around Melbourne," she said.

"But also aligned to that was all the front of house managers, all the back of house managers, technicians, and anyone that you could think of was First Nations, and I'd never seen anything like that within my career, or within my time in the arts."

This year's Yirramboi festival will also showcase a new collaboration between Turtle Island (Canada) First Nations artists, highlighting the unique relationship that has developed over many decades between

Indigenous Peoples in so-called Australia and Canada.

"Within the performing arts space, and I'm sure in other different practices, there has been this incredible relationship with our Mob here, as well as First Nations, Inuit and Metis people within Canada," Stewart said.

"That's because we have a lot of shared history with each other, even though we're incredibly culturally diverse as well."

Stewart described how, rather than just programming one-off performances, the Yirramboi team hosted a First Nations producer from Turtle Island to support the self-determination of those communities and artists.

"We've actually brought in a First Nations producer who's moved from Canada that works with us in our team. The purpose of that was to ensure their self-determination when curating into our festival," Stewart said.

"When we're looking at Canada and programming their works, they have a whole different political system or cultural system than we do. So we wanted to ensure their self-determination, that they were being showcased the way they wanted to, through their

protocols within the festival."

Yirramboi also acknowledges the pathways that creative Elders such as Uncle Jack Charles forged in their careers, and honours their legacy through performances such as *Lazarus*, the story of Uncle Larry Walsh, and the naming of the Uncle Jack Charles Festival Hub.

"Our Elders have created pathways for us to be in the position that we're in," Stewart said. "So Yirramboi's theme this year is 'Futures Past'. We always need to be acknowledging our Elders because we honestly wouldn't be in this position to create these platforms without our Elders."

Along with involving and acknowledging Elders, Stewart told the *Koori Mail* it was vital that Yirramboi was inclusive of all diverse members of First Nations communities, including queer and people living with a disability.

"We showcase everyone from every community within First Nations communities," she said.

"It's always something that we want to ensure that our queer community feels safe and that our young people see that they are absolutely a part of our community and to have the

ability to have the self-expression within a platform like Yirramboi. Something also that we've been working really hard on is also engaging with our deaf and disabled community."

This direct engagement with the community is also extended to the performance and gathering space at the Uncle Jack Charles Festival Hub, which invites audience members to feel a part of the festival as well – not just a spectator.

"We really wanted to make it feel as if it was our own backyard. When you invite someone to your home, you have that special feeling, and that's what we wanted to bring to the festival," she said.

"And that's something that we really are focused on with Yirramboi – even if you're not an artist, you can come and be a part of the festival in every which way you would like to be. Again, really pushing that notion that Yirramboi doesn't belong to anyone. It doesn't belong to the team. It's in the name – Yirramboi is tomorrow, and that's all of our future."

Yirramboi: Futures, Past runs from May 1–11 across Naarm/ Melbourne.

The full program can be found at www.yirramboi.com.au

Lismore Regional Gallery gets all *proppaNOW*



The *proppaNOW* artist collective (left to right): Gordon Hookey, Jennifer Herd, Tony Albert, Megan Cope, Richard Bell, Vernon Ah Kee. The collective also includes the late Laurie Nilsen. Photo: Rhett Hammerton.

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



ONE of Australia's leading cultural groups, *proppaNOW* are currently staging their last exhibition

as a collective at Lismore Regional Gallery.

Established in 2003 in Brisbane, *proppaNOW* members Vernon Ah Kee, Tony Albert, Richard Bell, Megan Cope, Jennifer Herd, Gordon Hookey and Laurie Nilsen explore the politics of Aboriginal art and culture, re-thinking what it means to be a 'contemporary Aboriginal artist'.

Speaking at the recent opening event, Richard Bell said *proppaNOW* has looked different in every single venue.

"We all make work about land rights and the colonisation of this country and we are all constantly critiquing what is going on in Australia," Mr Bell said.

"Most of these works are quite confronting, it's a very powerful show and we're very proud of it.

"It's pleasing to see a number of people engage really closely with the work, reading every single thing on the wall. There is so much messaging in here, we really hope to do our communities proud with the work we make and promote."

Mr Bell said the title of their show, *OCURRENT AFFAIR*, takes a satirical dig at the old sensationalist current affair program known, unsurprisingly, as *A Current Affair* – once hosted by journalist Jana Wendt.

"In fact when we used to sit around talking at these events we used to call them our Yarn Events in honour of Jana," he said.

OCURRENT AFFAIR runs over several weeks with Bell's iconic Tent Embassy installation on show in the Quad outside the Lismore gallery.

Inspired by the original Tent Embassy in Canberra, Bell said his installation was a place where dialogue could take place.

"People can come and hear about important issues regarding Aboriginal Australians. It's especially important to hear

these things in a regional town like Lismore."

Bell believes that art really matters.

"Art is important, because it allows things to be said that would not be said otherwise – it allows for issues to be addressed.

Ashleigh Ralph, Director at Lismore Regional Gallery, said "*OCURRENT AFFAIR* was conceived as a collaborative activist gesture that addressed current socio-political, economic and environmental issues, while celebrating the strength, resilience and continuity of Aboriginal culture."

"*OCURRENT AFFAIR* embraces the slippage between language and its associated readings to probe and present new narratives. The exhibition will reflect on the ongoing state of affairs affecting Aboriginal communities – issues that are relevant to all Australians."

Other Events

Gathering Space

Staged on the first Sunday of the month from 1pm-3pm. Go along, grab a cuppa, have a yarn, and create! This monthly gathering space is open to Aboriginal artists and community members to learn, share, create, and collaborate. Kylie Caldwell, Bundjalung weaver and fibre artist, will be available to assist on the day. It is free, all materials are provided, and no registration is required.

Richard Bell's installation Embassy. March 1 – April 27

Inspired by the first Aboriginal Tent Embassy pitched on the grounds of Canberra's Parliament House in 1972, Embassy is a place of solidarity and resistance – a space where people ask questions, share ideas, and



Director at Lismore Regional Gallery Ashleigh Ralph, artist Richard Bell, CEO at Museums and Galleries NSW Brett Addlington and Aunty Thelma James Crummy – local Elder.



Conversation I by Vernon Ah Kee and Laurie Nelson stands in front of *Deadwood* by Megan Cope.

create plans for a better future. To honour this intent, organisations with aligned values will use the space to host discussions, engagements and programming that are pertinent

and relevant to the themes of *OCURRENT AFFAIR* and the local First Nations community on Country.

For details go to: lismoregallery.org



Embassy by Richard Bell



Toby Cedar.

Master cultural carver



Jack Wilkie-Jans

A Zenadth Kes artist of the Koki (North West) and Sager (South East) peoples, Toby Cedar is a Peiudu and Samsep-Meriam man with connection to Wug Village on Moa Island. His bloodlines come from Erub and Mer Islands. Toby's works are arresting in their power and their scale. A master carver, Toby works with wood and organic materials in assembling the final looks of his large-scale majestic ships, entrancing masks and strong-yielding dari headdresses. He plays with light and luminescence in his sculptural work and near-vortical depictions of his totems Wada (Frigate Birds) and Deumer (Torres Strait Pigeon) and scared iconography in his wall hangings—



Meg Pe Togeli by Toby Cedar.

also incorporating enamels and other opalesque inlays. Toby also works creating three-dimensional wall pieces, which are sculptural and textural in their refined forms. To say the very least, he is a great artist and carrier of his peoples Lore and customary practices, though with all the hallmarks of innovation for the age.

I remember interviewing the great author and literary giant, Professor Alexis Wright (Waanyi), in February of 2024 for the Cairns Tropical Writers Festival. She said something which has stuck with me — many things, actually — but as an artist, she said we need 'works of scale for the times' remarking that in these times, we are in the 'fight of our lives' as First Nations peoples. And while there are many First Nations artists working to great scale today (e.g. in the male cohort, Dr Archie Moore, Alick Tipoti and Darrel Sibosado spring most immediately to mind). Toby's works are certainly works of scale for the times! And, are executed to museum-standard each.

"I first started learning as a craftsman, making lugup (dance equipment) and Traditional Dari headdress and then over the years I experimented with many other

mediums to create more contemporary works. I'm inspired and guided by my family Elders and older Brothers," Toby told *Koori Mail*.

Toby started his work as an artist originally designing clothing, for his own brand CDA Bala Designs in 2009. Since then, his work evolved into broader disciplines, with his first breaks as a sculptor coming in 2011 when he was featured in a number of curated exhibitions. Now, his pieces can be seen, and belong to collections of private and public collections, across homes and galleries throughout Australia. For example: the National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, Newcastle Gallery, Bendigo Art Gallery, Cairns Art Gallery. He is decorated, as an artist, having been a finalist in the Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (2021) and recipient of the Cairns Indigenous Art Award for 3D, Design and Sculpture (2023), and of course more.

"As I must always follow protocol with my traditional works, I've been enjoying the freedom of creating a lot of contemporary pieces over the past year where I'm not restricted. I've been stepping outside of my comfort zone and using different materials, to share my interpretations and my stories," Toby said.

"I believe politics and religion have a lot to answer for, in both the past and the current times, with its effects still having huge impact on our people in our everyday life. My work is heavily influenced by this and I like to use my platform as an artist for truth-telling."

You can get in touch with Toby, see a selection of his impressive works, and learn more about him, by visiting: www.tobycedarart.com.



Nar Nar Bare by Toby Cedar.



Wag and Gotat by Toby Cedar.

event listings

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Parrtjima

– A festival in Light

when: April 4-13, 2025

where: Alice Springs

Desert Park, Mparntwe, NT

info/bookings:

parrtjimaaustralia.com.au

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Kulata Tjuta: Tirkilpa

(exhibition)

when: until Jul 13, 2025

where: Level 1, Gallery

15, National Gallery of

Australia, Parkes, Canberra

info/bookings:

nga.gov.au/whats-on/

Ever Present: First Peoples Art of Australia

(exhibition)

when: until Aug, 2025

where: Level 1, Gallery

1-6, National Gallery of

Australia

info/bookings: Free with

ticket, for more visit

nga.gov.au/exhibitions/e

ver-present/

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Sovereign Acts/Love Praxis

when: Until Apr 11, 2025

where: FUMA Gallery,

Flinders University, Bedford

Park, Adelaide

info/bookings:

flinders.edu.au/museum-of-

art/exhibitions

TASMANIA

Rex Greeno: Memories through Sea Stories

(exhibition)

when: until Apr 27, 2025

where: Tasmanian

Museum and Art Gallery

info/bookings: follow the

links at tmag.tas.gov.au/

NEW SOUTH WALES

Bulaan Buruugaa Ngali

An exhibition of ancestral

woven objects alongside

newly commissioned

contemporary works

where/when: Tweed

Regional Gallery, until Apr

27; Lismore Regional

Gallery, Sept 12, 2025 -

Nov 9, 2025

info/bookings:

artsnorthernrivers.com.au/s

earch?query=Bulaan+Buruu

gaa+Ngali+Exhibition

ProppaNOW

Including Gathering

Space first Sunday of the

month from 1 – 3pm and

First Nations music program offered



Anita Bellman and Blake Rhodes outside the Conservatorium in Lismore, NSW.



THE Northern Rivers Conservatorium is excited to announce the launch of its new First Nations Music Program, a groundbreaking initiative led by Bundjalung artist, Blake Rhodes.

This program is designed to provide First Nations artists with a dedicated platform to share their rich cultural heritage, stories, and music with the broader community.

“We are absolutely thrilled to have Blake Rhodes leading this important project,” Anita Bellman, executive director of the Northern Rivers Conservatorium, said.

“Blake’s deep connection to both music and his community, combined with his experience as a respected artist and mentor, will ensure that this program is culturally authentic, impactful, and inspiring for all involved.”

The First Nations Music Program will feature a diverse range of classes and workshops, covering everything from music production and songwriting to storytelling and creative expression.

“I’m incredibly excited to contribute to this program and to share my passion for music with my community,” Blake said.

“Music is a powerful tool for connection

and storytelling. I hope this program will empower and uplift the next generation of First Nations musicians and creators, especially those from the Bundjalung nation.”

The First Nations Music Program will officially launch in April 2025, with three days of dynamic songwriting and music production workshops for Aboriginal youth aged 14-21, held at the Northern Rivers Conservatorium.

For more details about the program or to register, please contact Blake Rhodes at FirstNations@nrcac.edu.au or call 02 6621 2266.

QUEENSLAND VICTORIA

No listings

Blak Holes — Dane Simpson & Isaac Compton

when: 6.30pm (5.30pm Sundays) Tuesday 8 April to Sunday 20 April 2025 (no show Mon 14)

where: The Greek – Paw Paw Jump, 272 Russell Street

info/bookings: www.comedyfestival.com.au

TarraWarra Biennial 2025: We Are Eagles

curated by Yorta Yorta woman Kimberley Moulton when: Mar 29 - Jul 20, 2025

where: TarraWarra Museum of Art, Healesville, Wurundjeri Country info/bookings: twma.com.au/

Treaty

(an exhibition exploring the past, present and

future of treaty with Victoria’s First Peoples) when: until Oct 27, 2025 where: South Rotunda, The Gateway info/bookings: free, no booking required. Details at slv.vic.gov.au/treaty

Stitchin’ Stories: Blak & Threadly

A tapestry of cultural narratives, history, and contemporary expressions of identity weave a rich story of First Nations fashion and textiles when: opens Saturday 1 March until Sunday 18 May 2025

where: Koorie Heritage Trust, Birrarung Building, Fed Square. information: www.koorieheritagetrust.com.au

Blak In-Justice: Incarceration and Resilience

A major exhibition developed in partnership with The Torch. when: 5 April - 20 July

2025 where: Heide Museum of Modern Art, 7 Templestowe Road, Bulleen Victoria 3105 information: <https://www.heide.com.au/exhibitions/blak-in-justice/>

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Art of Belonging: Spinifex People, Native Title and Beyond when: until Apr 28, 2025 where: WA Museum, Boola Bardip, Perth Cultural Centre info/bookings: visit.museum.wa.gov.au/boolabardip

Emu Heart A solo exhibition by Dianne Ungukalpi Golding a renowned West Australian artist from the Ngaanyatjarra Lands. when: Until 10 April where: Short Street Gallery, 7 Short Street

Broome, WA. info/bookings: enquiries@shortstgallery.com

NATIONAL TOURS

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

Barunga Festival Music line-up announced: Gamilaraay musician Thelma Plum, J-MILLA x Yung Milla, N.E. Arnhem Land band East Journey, emerging rap artist Jawoyn/Larrakia/TSI woman Kootsie Don and Yolngu Songman and East Journey frontman Rrawun Maymuru when: June 7-10 where: Barunga Festival info/bookings: barungafestival.com.au/music/

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT



A shipping container has undergone a retro re-fit, transforming it into a hair salon.



The hair salon is inspiring deadly hair cuts in the NT's Western Desert region.



Morris Roberts has signed up for the 12 month haircutting course at Papunya.



Deadly Hair Dude founder Gary Strachan is inspiring CDP participants like Shekayla Major to consider hairdressing as a career.

Hair studio has Papunya buzzing

Story and images
GUY MCLEAN



A NEW hair salon is set to provide training, jobs and a much-needed service to residents in Papunya and surrounding Aboriginal communities.

Papunya, west of Alice Springs, recently celebrated the much-anticipated opening of Papunya Hair Salon, a purpose-built shipping container which underwent a retro re-fit prior to delivery.

The hair salon was funded by National Indigenous Australians Agency and has been embedded in Papunya's Community Development

Program (CDP), delivered by Ngurratjuta Wankawilurratja/Alturla Rinya Aboriginal Corporation (NW/ARAC).

NW/ARAC's Community Liaison Advisor Garrard Anderson said the idea for a hair salon in Papunya was community driven.

"Community leaders wanted to see haircuts happening in Papunya because before people were driving 220 kilometres to get a haircut."

"People wanted to be feeling good about themselves and looking good and having that sense of self-pride."

"The hair salon has got a lot of deadly people interested. We've had people coming every day for weeks asking, 'when

does it open?' – from 10-year-olds right through to people in their 30s and 40s."

The salon is not just about deadly desert haircuts, its engaging young people in training, to grow community-based employment.

Nine CDP participants have already signed up for a one-year course, learning to cut, colour and dye hair.

On completion they'll receive a nationally recognised qualification and, potentially, a job.

"We want to support our young people to get up and work in community and being healthy, lively and active," Garrard said.

Training is provided by Gary Strachan, founder of Darwin's Deadly Hair Dude, which aims to

empower remote communities, by taking barbering to the bush.

He spends one week per month at Papunya, providing on-the-job practical and theoretical training.

"We engage students from day one and they actually start doing haircuts pretty-much straight away," Gary said.

"We use the approach the 'I do, we do, you do' methodology, where I'll show them for about 15 or 20 minutes and then we'll do it together and I'll basically hold their hand through the haircut. Then afterwards they'll start doing it on their own."

Six young women and three young men have signed up for the training.

Among them is 24-year-old Luritja man Patrick Minor.

"We used to cut our own hair at home, but we never had the new equipment so now we can learn to cut hair properly," Patrick said.

Patrick has been overrun by young local men, lining up for a deadly cut.

"Lots of the young fellas are coming in and getting dye and tips, maybe a mullet and a low fade."

Patrick hopes the training leads to employment.

"It's been really good learning with Gary, and I hope I can get my certificate," he said.

"I'd like to work cutting hair and it will be good to work here in community."

"Maybe one day I can teach some young people what Gary's teaching us."

Your guide to employment

Welcome to the Koori Mail's Indigenous Job Opportunities section. Each edition we publish employment advertisements from around the nation. To be part of this section, simply give our advertising staff a call on (02) 66 222 666, email advertising@koorimail.com or see our website – www.koorimail.com

*Koori Mail – Our ABC audit means our readership is guaranteed.
No other newspaper aimed at the Indigenous market can offer this!*

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who provide prizes for competitions or reader offers. If you would prefer that we do not do this, please write to us at: admin@koorimail.com or phone (02) 66 222 666, or fax (02) 66 222 600. Mail can be sent addressed to General Manager, Budsoar Pty Ltd, PO Box 117, Lismore NSW 2480.

Library Assistant

- This is an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander targeted position. Preference will be given to applicants of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent.
- The City of Sydney currently holds an exemption under section 126 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 in relation to its targeted recruiting programs. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants will need to demonstrate that they meet the Aboriginality criteria by providing documentation in addition to addressing the selection criteria.
- Permanent full-time position
- Salary: \$71,554 a year plus superannuation
- Location: Sydney CBD
- Option to work under a 19-day month arrangement

Caring for our city, creating a future for all

Our people are passionate about their communities and connected to their teams. They're motivated by our genuine commitment to diversity and inclusion, and our clear, compelling plan for our global city: Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050 Continuing the Vision.

Be part of a purpose-led organisation, with care at its core. You'll make a difference by acting in the best interests of our communities and city. Be better together with collaborative and inclusive partnerships. Embrace possibilities and be open to new ideas and creating bold solutions.

Help us create vibrant, inviting library experiences that support learning, connection and creativity across our diverse communities. You'll produce children's programs, enhance early literacy, provide exceptional customer service and support daily operations across our 9 library branches.

You'll have:

- a passion for high-quality customer service.
- strong digital literacy skills.
- excellent communication and teamwork skills.

You must be willing and prepared to work during weekends and across our libraries as required.

A pre-employment health declaration, medical assessment and working with children check must be completed.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander candidates who need support with their application can contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce team on 0474 882 300 or at aboriginalworkforce@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

For more information about the position, contact team leader - events, activities and partnerships, Natasha Aldrich on 0477 351 313.

To apply visit
cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/careers

CITY OF SYDNEY

Apply online
by 11.59pm,
Monday 7 April

HEAD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING AND CULTURAL PRACTICE LEAD



NAISDA is Australia's leading arts training organisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth, offering accredited qualifications and world-class training in dance, culture, and performance. Since 1976, we have nurtured the next generation of First Nations artists by combining technical excellence with deep cultural learning from Elders and remote communities.

Located on Darkinjung Land on the NSW Central Coast, we are recruiting for the following key, full-time positions:

Head of Teaching and Learning

This role will lead NAISDA's training team to develop and drive the strategic vision of our existing, and future, accredited education offering.

Key requirements:

- Significant experience leading a training team
- Degree in Education with a focus on teaching and learning
- Expertise in higher education curriculum development and design

Cultural Practice Lead

This role will establish the cultural framework for the NAISDA curriculum to enhance the cultural practices of NAISDA, with additional responsibility of managing the learning progression and achievement of NAISDA's Certificate III students.

Key requirements:

- Experience of providing cultural leadership and guidance
- Demonstrated experience and sensitivity in engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Established connections with remote cultural communities and understanding and ability to implement cultural protocols

Both positions are identified roles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people under Section 14D of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

Apply now: Scan the QR code or visit naisda.com.au/about-naisda/employment/

Applications will be reviewed as received. There is no set closing date.



Seeking Applications for Public and Professional Panels of Assessors

The Minister for Health and Ambulance Services is seeking applications from eligible and suitably qualified persons interested in being appointed as an assessor to the Public Panel of Assessors or to the Professional Panels of Assessors.

Assessors assist the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) by providing advice on questions of fact to judicial members hearing disciplinary matters relating to registered health practitioners.

Public Panel of Assessors

Applications are sought from members of the public for appointment to the Public Panel of Assessors.

Under the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013*, a person is qualified and eligible for appointment to the public panel only if:

- they are not a member of a National Health Practitioner Board (National Board); and
- they are not, nor have been, a health practitioner or registered as a health practitioner.

Professional Panels of Assessors

Applications are sought from suitably qualified health professionals interested in being appointed as an assessor to the following panels of assessors:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners | 9. Midwifery |
| 2. Chinese Medicine Practitioners | 10. Nursing |
| 3. Chiropractors | 11. Occupational Therapists |
| 4. Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists and Oral Health Therapists | 12. Optometrists |
| 5. Dental Prosthetists | 13. Osteopaths |
| 6. Dentists | 14. Paramedics |
| 7. Medical Practitioners | 15. Pharmacists |
| 8. Medical Radiation Practitioners | 16. Physiotherapists |
| | 17. Podiatrists |
| | 18. Psychologists |

Under the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013*, a person is qualified and eligible for appointment to a professional panel only if:

- they are not a member of a National Board; and
- they are registered with a National Board for the profession for which the panel is established; and
- they are a registered health practitioner whose registration is effective and is not subject to conditions or undertakings.

For appointment to the professional panels, it is preferable that an individual has at least eight (8) years of recent clinical experience.

Detailed information about the appointment process is available in the Applicant Information Pack available at <https://edenritchie.com.au/current-opportunities/?ja-job=713040>. It is essential to review the Applicant Information Pack prior to submitting an application.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, women, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with disabilities and people from regional areas are encouraged to apply.

For a confidential discussion, please contact Angela Macpherson at Eden Ritchie Recruitment on 1300 339 127.

Closing date: 5.00pm (AEST) Monday, 7 April 2025



Queensland
Government

M16348



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:

- a) Business Management – extensive experience in a senior management position.
- b) Operational Management – Strategic approach to day-to-day operational management of a Remote Aboriginal Service.
- c) Financial Management – manage the financial affairs of the organization, including budgeting, financial management (MYOB & Xero) & reporting to ensure compliance with legal & funding obligations.
- d) Staff Management – develop & build on a team that is committed to a productive working culture within the policies & procedures of GLALC & WLALC.
- e) Demonstratable 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.
- f) External Relations & Representation – cultivate strategic alliances & positive relationships to effectively represent & advocate for GLALC & WLALC.
- g) 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



RANGER – EMPLOYMENT POOL

**Department for Environment and Water
Various locations across SA**

Term and Ongoing contracts available

Vacancy No: 659472

\$58,709 – \$63,154 p.a. (OPS2)

An exciting opportunity to join South Australia's National Parks and Wildlife Service, where under the direction of a Senior Ranger, you will contribute to the effective management of National Parks and Reserves. Your core responsibilities will include the management of park conservation and wildlife values, supporting park visitors to ensure they enjoy a safe and memorable experience, supporting the maintenance and presentation of park facilities and assets, participation in fire and emergency response, and working with key partners, including park neighbours, conservation partners, volunteers and Aboriginal communities.

This is a merit pool and applicants may be offered a position on a term or ongoing basis based on organisational needs. Positions are available state-wide.

Enquiries to: enquiriesrangerpool@sa.gov.au

To apply and for more information visit the I WORK FOR SA website: www.iworkfor.sa.gov.au and search by vacancy number.

**Applications close:
11pm, Sunday 6 April 2025**

Application Instructions: Applicants are to submit a CV and letter of application (max 3 pages) addressing the technical, professional and qualifications outlined in the Role Description. Please complete a Pre-Employment Declaration.

The South Australian Public Sector promotes diversity and flexible ways of working including part time. Applicants are encouraged to discuss the flexible working arrangement for this role.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply



-POSITION VACANT-

Nari Tribal Council LTD (NNTC) is a not-for Profit Aboriginal owned and managed organisation, committed to the responsible management of Culture and Heritage, land and waters.

NNTC own and manage over 168,000 hectares of land in lower Lachlan and Low Bidgee area of NSW. We are looking to fill two teams 1x male Ranger Team and 1 x female Ranger Team, plus Ranger Supervisor.

3 x Male Rangers (Identified)

3 x Female Rangers (Identified)

1 x Ranger Supervisor position

12-month contract to start

All ages encouraged to apply

These are an indigenous identified positions. Applicants must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander decent (pursuant to Section 14 (d) of Anti-discrimination Act)

Nari Nari Tribal Council LTD is an equal opportunity employer and encourages woman and gender diverse people to apply.

Position descriptions are available by emailing narinari@bigpond.net.au

This employment will require successful applicants to stay on country at times.

Successful applicants will require to undertake various training provided as required.

Applicants should forward a cover letter, current resume, copies of relevant qualification and at least three (3) written personal references.

**Application must be forwarded to
narinari@bigpond.net.au**

Applications close Friday 4th April, 2025

Solicitor - Unrestricted

Port Lincoln, Ceduna or Port Augusta

- Salary commencing at \$105,000 per annum plus a generous rental and relocation package
- Full Time or Part Time – 8.30am to 5.06pm, Monday to Friday
- Excellent conditions and Salary Sacrificing opportunities
- Ongoing position subject to Probation
- Based in Port Lincoln, Ceduna or Port Augusta with regional travel

Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) (FVLSAC) – is a community legal service assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims - survivors of family violence and/or sexual assault in the state of South Australia. We work with families and communities, providing face to face and/or telephone legal advice to our clients. We have offices in Port Augusta, Port Lincoln and Ceduna and provide services to these areas and surrounding communities. FVLSAC also provides client support services and community legal education.

Are you looking for a fulfilling legal career where you can make a real difference? Join the Family Violence Legal Services Aboriginal Corporation (FVLSAC) as a Senior Solicitor and take a lead role in providing crucial legal support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples affected by family violence. This is an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to an important cause, while also living in one of South Australia's most idyllic coastal towns.

We currently have an opportunity for a Solicitor who is accountable to the Principal Legal Officer for the provision of legal advice, education and representation to FVLSAC clients.

About the Role:

We are seeking an experienced practitioner with at least 2 years post experience, with an unrestricted practicing certificate and experience in family law, child protection and victims of crime.

The role offers a rewarding balance of legal experience, the opportunity to develop client management skills, and developing and maintaining strong community networks.

Why Port Lincoln, Port Augusta or Ceduna?

Each of these locations have rugged natural beauty, with endless beaches, ancient landscapes and beautiful seafood.

TO APPLY: Please contact Atheana Bitmead, Corporate Services Manager by email at atheana.bitmead@fvlsac.org.au to obtain a copy of the Job and Person Specifications prior to applying for the role.

All applications must be emailed to: atheana.bitmead@fvlsac.org.au

Applications close: Open ended date.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.



Senior Solicitor

Port Lincoln, Ceduna or Port Augusta

- Salary commencing at \$125,000 per annum plus a generous rental and relocation package
- Full Time – 8.30am to 5.06pm, Monday to Friday
- Excellent conditions and Salary Sacrificing opportunities
- Ongoing position subject to Probation
- Based in Port Lincoln, Ceduna or Port Augusta with regional travel

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We currently have an opportunity for a Senior Solicitor who is accountable to the Principal Legal Officer for the provision of legal advice, education and representation to FVLSAC clients.

About the Role:

The role requires a Solicitor with extensive experience working in the field of Family Law, Child Protection and Victims of Crime. An Unrestricted Practicing Certificate is a requirement, with at least 5 years relevant experience.

This position is designed for an experienced practitioner who enjoys working with a close-knit team and has excellent problem-solving skills. The role offers a rewarding balance of legal experience, the opportunity to develop client management skills, and developing and maintaining strong community networks.

Why Port Lincoln, Port Augusta or Ceduna?

Each of these locations have rugged natural beauty, with endless beaches, ancient landscapes and beautiful seafood.

TO APPLY: Please contact Atheana Bitmead, Corporate Services Manager by email at atheana.bitmead@fvlsac.org.au to obtain a copy of the Job and Person Specifications prior to applying for the role.

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.



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- Housekeepers
- Cooks & Kitchenhands
- Night Attendants
- Operations Manager.



To learn more, scan the QR code or call Phillip on 0439 000 162.



Executive Assistant (Identified)

Permanent Part-time (4 days per week)

\$60,000 plus Leave Loading and Superannuation

Flexible work from home/office arrangements

Location on Gadigal Country in The Rocks, Sydney.

Are you passionate about supporting Aboriginal arts and culture in NSW? The Aboriginal Culture, Heritage & Arts Association seeks a part-time (28 hours/week) Executive Assistant to join our team.

Reporting to the CEO, you will be part of an enthusiastic team supporting our community-controlled cultural centre network across NSW. We work collaboratively with these member centres, growing their capacity and the appreciation of NSW Aboriginal culture, heritage and arts. We run regional and metro conferences, participate in art fairs, research and advocacy and have other exciting and interesting projects in development.

You will be organising travel and accommodation for members and staff, providing Board support with meetings and minutes, financial administration support with invoicing and payment of accounts, creating registration and evaluation data spreadsheets and generally supporting the CEO and team in day-to-day office operations and annual program delivery.

You should already have some administration experience using Microsoft 365, with an eye for detail, be well organised, have good interpersonal and communication skills, and be able to work to deadlines both independently and as part of a team.

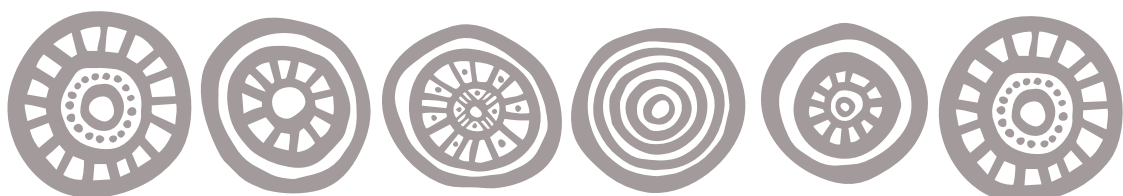
For full job description go to <https://mgnsn.org.au/sector/jobs/>

Inquiries: ceo@achaa.com.au

Please send your application including your resume to ceo@achaa.com.au

by 5pm Monday, 14 April.

Aboriginality is a genuine occupational requirement for this role and as such is an exemption under Section 14(d) of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.





Australian Government
National Indigenous
Australians Agency



NIAA/2025/026 – Engagement Officer and Engagement Assistant Director, Eastern Group

Location: Woden, ACT, NSW and QLD

Employment type: Ongoing & Non-ongoing for a period up to 12 months, Flexible working arrangements will be considered

Classification: APS Level 6 (\$98,314 – \$110,483)
Executive Level 1 (\$126,342 – \$143,993)

The NIAA's vision is to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are heard, recognised and empowered. The NIAA operates in a complex, dynamic environment and is committed to implementing the Government's policies and programs to provide the greatest benefit to all First Nations peoples. To support the Australian Government the NIAA regional presence is focused on place-based practice and working in partnership to develop and implement tailored local solutions.

We are excited to announce an opportunity for an experienced Engagement Officer and Engagement Assistant Director in our Eastern Group team located across various locations in our Qld and NSW office locations. This is your opportunity to collaborate with communities across the vibrant and diverse geographical footprint of the agency and deliver priority commitments in line with the Australian Government. Here, you'll work alongside First Nations Peoples, who continue to maintain their ancient connection to country and share their rich culture and language.

As an Engagement Officer or Assistant Director you will:

- work directly within the community, alongside local senior leaders and service providers
- build strong partnerships across all levels of government
- drive outcomes that align with the aspirations of communities

Application closing date: If this sounds like the opportunity you are looking for, we want to hear from you! Submit an online application by **Wednesday 9 April** by 11:30pm AEDT.

How to apply: Visit <https://www.niaa.gov.au/careers> or contact **Don Christopher** at don.christopher@niaa.gov.au.

0738NS_5538



Aboriginal Health Manager

First Nations Identified Role

Lead the Aboriginal Health team, drive culturally safe services, strengthen community partnerships, and advocate for First Nations health and equity.

- Be part of a fun, dynamic and supportive environment
- Attractive salary packaging, progressive leave options and excellent organisational culture.
- Full time, ongoing position based in the inner north

About the role

This leadership position will oversee the Aboriginal Health Team and drive the delivery of culturally safe, high-quality services aimed at improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across northern Melbourne. The role involves fostering strong partnerships with Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), government bodies, and other stakeholders, advocating for First Nations equity, and leading service innovation to ensure accessibility and cultural responsiveness. If you're passionate about creating positive change and improving community health, we invite you to apply.

Apply Now!

To find out more about this role or to apply:



yourcommunityhealth.elmotalent.com.au/careers/YourCH/

If you still have any queries about the role please contact Liz Chondros (she/her), Executive Director, Community Partnerships on elizabeth.chondros@yourch.org.au.



strategicdevelopment.com.au
+61 2 6226 6428
connect@strategicdevelopment.com.au
PO Box 71, Yass NSW 2582

Position vacant

Project Coordinator – Southeast Asia Professional Placements Pilot Program

About Strategic Development Group

At Strategic Development Group we care about the greater good. We aim to bring excellent people together to deliver forward thinking projects and build thriving communities. We are a professional services firm that partners with companies, governments and organisations at a local and international level to lead community engagement and international development projects. We work with partners and communities within Australia, the Pacific, Asia and Africa to support change that is empowering and inclusive.

About the role

On behalf of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Strategic is designing and implementing a proof of concept/pilot program for the Southeast Asia – Australia Professional Placements Pilot Program. As part of a small team, the Program Coordinator will support the administration of the program, including planning, executing and monitoring program deliverables, finance coordination, booking travel for the participants, and maintaining program documentation.

About you

If you are the right fit for this role, you will be excited at the prospect of joining a growing company where you can bring your own unique skills and interests to the already diverse team of people. You will be passionate about the values and aims of Strategic Development Group and keen to learn more in the areas that are less familiar to you.

You would describe yourself as:

- Efficient, with strong organisational skills
- Effective, with excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Adaptable, with excellent problem solving and time management skills and an ability to quickly adjust to changes in priorities.

You have proven skills in:

- Program administration
- Strong computer skills across the suite of Microsoft software
- Some financial administration is desirable.

For a full position description and details on how to express your interest, please

www.strategicdevelopment.com.au/work-with-us. Applications Close COB Wed 9 April 2025.

FORWARD THINKING PROJECTS. THRIVING COMMUNITIES.

Department Primary Industries
and Regional Development

Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council Expressions of Interest for Membership

The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is seeking Expressions of Interest from Aboriginal people to fill five coastal and inland regional membership positions on the NSW Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council (AFAC) and to create a talent pool for other regional vacancies that may arise. The AFAC has been established to provide strategic advice to the Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW on issues affecting Aboriginal fishing.

The Council also plays an important role in the development of cultural fishing policy as well as exploring commercial opportunities for Aboriginal communities associated with fishing activities.

Expressions of interest are invited from Aboriginal persons for the five regional positions (Central, South West, Far North Coast, North Coast and Sydney and Central Coast) and for consideration for the talent pool.

More information on AFAC, including a map of the AFAC regions and general information relevant to Aboriginal fishing, is available on the Department's website: dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/fishing/aboriginal-fishing/aboriginal-fishing-advisory-council

To register, contact the department on Aboriginal.fishing@dpi.nsw.gov.au or call the Aboriginal Fishing hotline on 1300 054 464.

Interested applicants should send a completed expression of interest form and their curriculum vitae to the Department via:

Post: AFAC EOI, LMB 3020, NOWRA NSW, 2541

Email: Aboriginal.fishing@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Expressions of interest must be received by **5pm on 20 April January 2025**.



Aboriginal Fishing
Advisory Council



JS0286



Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment: Invitation to Register Interest

96 Anzac Avenue, West Ryde

On behalf of Scion (the proponent), Curio Projects (heritage consultants) are commencing a program of Aboriginal community consultation for a State Significant Development relating to the site located at 96 Anzac Avenue, West Ryde. The site is situated within the City of Ryde Local Government Area.



Figure 1: Ariel view of the study area, 96 Anzac Avenue, West Ryde (outlined in blue). Source: SIX Maps.

The SSDA seeks to demolish the existing structures, undertake bulk excavation to accommodate basement car parking, and deliver a 14 storey mixed use development with ground level non-residential uses, and above ground residential apartments.

The purpose of this community consultation with Aboriginal people is to aid in the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) in accordance with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

Community consultation is being undertaken to assist the assessment of cultural significance of the study area. This notification is being undertaken in accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Aboriginal cultural heritage requirements for proponents 2010.

Curio Projects invite Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects(s) and/or places in the area to register an interest in a process of community consultation.

Please note that when you register an interest in this project your details will be forwarded to Heritage NSW and Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless you specify that you would not like your details released.

Please forward registrations to Curio Projects no later than 9 April 2025 via phone, email or mail to:

Daisy Cutcliffe
consultation@curioprospects.com.au
(02) 8014 9800
Curio Projects
Suite 3.01/Level 3 249 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000



DOING
THE
MOST
GOOD

Ginninderry*

Expression of Interest

Ginninderry First Nations Reference Group

Ginninderry is seeking First Nations representatives with diverse skills and expertise who can consider how the project can contribute to the opportunities and wellbeing of First Nations communities in the Capital Region.

Expressions of Interest submissions close 5pm, 30 April 2025.

For more information visit
ginninderry.com/gfnrg

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Department of Education



Notice of applications for determination of native title in Queensland

Notification day: 9 April 2025

These are applications by native title claim groups which are asking the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) to determine that they hold native title in the areas described below.

If you want to become a party to any of these applications, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, on or before 8 July 2025. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After 8 July 2025, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.

Under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) there can be only one determination of native title for a particular area. If a person with native title rights and interests does not become a party to any of these applications, there may be no other opportunity for the Federal Court, in making its determinations, to take into account those native title rights and interests in relation to the areas concerned.



Application name: Leah Mann & Ors on behalf of the Bigambul People #3 v State Minister for the State of Queensland & Ors

Federal Court File No: QUD300/2022

Description of area: The application area covers about 58 ha and is located over Lot 135 in DY1033 on Ellerslie Rd in Turallin

Relevant LGA: Toowoomba Regional Council



Application name: Leah Mann & Ors on behalf of Bigambul People #4 v State Minister for the State of Queensland & Ors

Federal Court File No: QUD301/2022

Description of area: The application area covers about 7,737 sq km and is located in the area surrounding Goondiwindi

Relevant LGAs: Balonne Shire Council, Goondiwindi, Maranoa, Southern Downs, Toowoomba and Western Downs Regional Councils

Date applications filed: 2 September 2022

Registration test status: The Native Title Registrar has not accepted these applications for registration. Although these applications have not been registered, the Federal Court may still refer the applications for mediation and/or make a determination in relation to them

For assistance and any further information about these applications, including the description of the area, call Sylvia Jagtman on 07 3052 4248 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



Stolen Generations Keeping Places – Missing Children Project Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls (1912-1969), Cootamundra, NSW

Some material contained in this document may contain words, descriptions and terms which may be culturally sensitive or triggering to readers. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this notice mentions deceased persons.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW has engaged Virtus Heritage to work with them to continue respectful investigations into Stolen Generations Survivor accounts of missing children at the sites of three former Aboriginal children's homes in NSW: Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home; Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls (1912-1969) (Cootamundra Aboriginal Girls' Home on the State Heritage Register); and Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Training Home.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW wishes to invite Aboriginal people and Aboriginal groups who hold connection and cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places within the Cootamundra, NSW area to register to be consulted as part of the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment/s (ACHA) and associated assessments including a Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) and associated consents (an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) and Section 60/140 consents). This also includes Coota Girls Survivors (former residents of the Cootamundra Domestic training Home for Aboriginal Girls 1912-1969) and descendants of Coota Girls Survivors connected to the Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls (1912-1969) with historical connections to the home and who have knowledge pertinent to identify the resting places of missing children.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW and Virtus Heritage will develop a test excavation methodology under an AHIP as well as a relevant Section 60/140 methodology in line with Coota Girl Survivors' wishes and informed by previous archaeological work completed for earlier stages of this project. This methodology may involve investigations into the potential unmarked graves of missing children.

The proposed project area is within the former Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls (1912-1969), within the Young Local Aboriginal Land Council area, on the State Heritage Register within the Cootamundra-Gundagai Local Government Area. The proposed activities may involve future investigations and future exhumation of human remains, if identified, culturally appropriate Sorry Business, and also investigations into features associated with the Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls (1912-1969). Aboriginal Affairs NSW are also exploring the wishes of Coota Girls Survivors for a future Healing Centre or Keeping Place, which will be considered as part of the ACHA and SoHI.

The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist the proposed applicant in the preparation of an application for an AHIP, Section 60/140 applications, and to assist the Director General of DCCEEW in his or her consideration and determination of the application.

Registration must be received by phone, writing, or email by 5:00pm on 9th April 2025

To register your interest, please contact: Dr Mary-Jean Sutton, Principal Archaeologist/ Anya Graubard, Senior Anthropologist Virtus Heritage Pty Ltd PO BOX 101 Pottsville NSW 2489 Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354 Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

The proponent contact details are: Jenny Higgins & Veronica Norman Keeping Places, Aboriginal Affairs NSW, Premier's Department Email: keepingplaces@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au



HELP CARE FOR VICTORIA'S HERITAGE APPLICATIONS SOUGHT FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE HERITAGE COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

The Minister for Planning, the Hon. Sonya Kilkeny, MLA, is seeking applications for the following appointment from individuals who wish to serve on the Heritage Council of Victoria:

- One alternate member with recognised skills or expertise in the area of heritage law, planning law or property law

This appointment will be from 1 July 2025 for a term of three years.

Further information on the constitution and functions of the Heritage Council can be found online at www.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au

We encourage applications from women, people of all ages, Aboriginal people, people with a disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and from lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, gender diverse and intersex people. Applicants from rural and regional Victoria are also encouraged to apply. We will provide adjustments to the recruitment process upon request.

Applications can be made via Join a Public Board www.boards.vic.gov.au. If you need further information, please contact the Heritage Council Secretariat on (03) 8572 7949 or heritage.council@transport.vic.gov.au.

Expressions of interest close on 31 March 2025.



Stolen Generations Keeping Places – Missing Children Project Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Training Home, Kinchela, NSW

Some material contained in this document may contain words, descriptions and terms which may be culturally sensitive or triggering to readers. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this notice mentions deceased persons.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW has engaged Virtus Heritage to work with them to continue respectful investigations into Stolen Generations Survivor accounts of missing children at the sites of three former Aboriginal children's homes in NSW: Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home; Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls (1912-1969) (Cootamundra Aboriginal Girls' Home on the State Heritage Register); and Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Training Home.

Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Training Home was established on what is the site of the former Aboriginal reserve at Kinchela (originally known as Arakoon) (MAHS 2022).

Aboriginal Affairs NSW wishes to invite Aboriginal people and Aboriginal groups who have connection and/or hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places within the Kinchela, NSW area to register to be consulted as part of the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment/s (ACHA) and associated assessments including a Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) and associated consents (an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) and Section 60 and potential Section 140 consents). This also includes Survivors and descendants of Survivors connected to the Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Training Home with historical connections to the home and who have knowledge pertinent to identify the resting places of missing children.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW and Virtus Heritage will develop a test excavation methodology under an AHIP as well as a relevant Section 60/140 methodology in line with Survivor wishes and informed by previous archaeological work completed for earlier stages of this project. This methodology may involve investigations into the potential unmarked graves of missing children.

The proposed project area is within the former Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Training Home, within the Kempsey Shire Local Aboriginal Land Council area, on the State Heritage Register within the Kempsey Local Government Area. The proposed activities may involve future investigations and future exhumation of human remains, if identified and also features associated with the Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Training Home. Aboriginal Affairs NSW are also exploring the wishes of Survivors for a future living museum and healing centre, which will be considered as part of the ACHA and SoHI.

The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist the proposed applicant in the preparation of an application for an AHIP, Section 60/140 applications, and to assist the Director General of DCCEEW in his or her consideration and determination of the application.

Registration must be received by phone, writing, or email by 5:00pm on 9th April 2025.

To register your interest, please contact: Dr Mary-Jean Sutton, Principal Archaeologist/ Anya Graubard, Senior Anthropologist Virtus Heritage Pty Ltd PO BOX 101 Pottsville NSW 2489 Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354 Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

The proponent contact details are: Jenny Higgins & Veronica Norman Keeping Places, Aboriginal Affairs NSW, Premier's Department Email: keepingplaces@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au



Stolen Generations Keeping Places – Missing Children Project Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home, Bomaderry, NSW

Some material contained in this document may contain words, descriptions and terms which may be culturally sensitive or triggering to readers. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this notice mentions deceased persons.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW has engaged Virtus Heritage to work with them to continue respectful investigations into Stolen Generations Survivor accounts of missing children at the sites of three former Aboriginal children's homes in NSW: Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home; Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls (1912-1969) (Cootamundra Aboriginal Girls' Home on the State Heritage Register); and Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Training Home.

The Home was founded in 1908 by the United Aborigines' Mission (UAM) to house Aboriginal infants and young children. The Home has been referred to by various names including Bomaderry Children's Home, Bomaderry Babies Home, United Aborigines Mission Home and the Bomaderry Mission Home. It was the longest running Aboriginal children's home in NSW, remaining open until 1988, nineteen years after the Board was abolished (MAHS 2022).

Aboriginal Affairs NSW wishes to invite Aboriginal people and Aboriginal groups who hold connection and cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places within the Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home, NSW area to register to be consulted as part of the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment/s (ACHA) and associated assessments including a Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) and associated consents (an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) and Section 60/140 consents). This also includes Survivors and descendants of Survivors connected to the Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home with historical connections to the home and who have knowledge pertinent to identify the resting places of missing children.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW and Virtus Heritage will develop a test excavation methodology under an AHIP as well as a relevant Section 60/140 methodology in line with Survivor wishes and informed by previous archaeological work completed for earlier stages of this project. This methodology may involve investigations into the potential unmarked graves of missing children.

The proposed project area is within the former Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home, within the Nowra Local Aboriginal Land Council area, on the State Heritage Register within the Shoalhaven Local Government Area. The proposed activities may involve future investigations and future exhumation of human remains, if identified and also features associated with the Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home. Aboriginal Affairs NSW are also exploring the wishes of Survivors for a future healing centre or Keeping Place, which will be considered as part of the ACHA and SoHI.

The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist the proposed applicant in the preparation of an application for an AHIP, Section 60/140 applications, and to assist the Director General of DCCEEW in his or her consideration and determination of the application.

Registration must be received by phone, writing, or email by 5:00pm on 9th April 2025

To register your interest, please contact: Dr Mary-Jean Sutton, Principal Archaeologist/ Anya Graubard, Senior Anthropologist Virtus Heritage Pty Ltd PO BOX 101 Pottsville NSW 2489 Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354 Email: consultation@virtusheritage.com.au

The proponent contact details are: Jenny Higgins & Veronica Norman Keeping Places, Aboriginal Affairs NSW, Premier's Department Email: keepingplaces@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au





NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	08/3755	BURLEY MINERALS LTD	12BL	67.1km SW'ly of Pannawonica	Lat: 22° 7' S: Long: 115° 56' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	09/2990	BREAKTHROUGH MINERALS LIMITED	79BL	137.1km NE'ly of Kalbarri	Lat: 27° 10' S: Long: 115° 25' E	MURCHISON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	29/1287	RIO TINTO EXPLORATION PTY LIMITED	19BL	115.1km SE'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 52' S: Long: 119° 53' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	53/2340	GATEWAY MINING LIMITED	2BL	90.1km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 11' S: Long: 119° 25' E	WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	53/2365	GATEWAY MINING LIMITED	2BL	99.8km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 5' S: Long: 119° 23' E	WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/6687	AUSQUEST LIMITED	44BL	97.2km N'ly of Mullewa	Lat: 27° 39' S: Long: 115° 27' E	MURCHISON SHIRE, NORTHAMPTON SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6942	BRANCH, Ian Robert	9.96HA	93.6km NE'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 45' S: Long: 120° 8' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6951	BRANCH, Ian Robert	107.52HA	93.5km NE'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 46' S: Long: 120° 8' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3465	CZAPLINSKI, Paul Edward	9.98HA	27.4km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 31' S: Long: 120° 50' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3466	CZAPLINSKI, Paul Edward	10.01HA	27.6km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 31' S: Long: 120° 50' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3467	CZAPLINSKI, Paul Edward	9.97HA	27.4km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 31' S: Long: 120° 50' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3468	CZAPLINSKI, Paul Edward	9.95HA	27.2km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 31' S: Long: 120° 50' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3469	CZAPLINSKI, Paul Edward	9.94HA	27.2km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 31' S: Long: 120° 50' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3506	PARNELL, Brett Ian	108.09HA	29.2km SW'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 40' S: Long: 121° 10' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3507	TORRICELLA, Carmine	199.40HA	26.5km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 36' S: Long: 121° 3' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5837	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	113.67HA	14.2km E'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 20' S: Long: 121° 12' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2865	MURTAGH, Jason Lee	193.17HA	28.5km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 42' S: Long: 121° 45' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4815	CLARKE, Benn Francis	187.71HA	36.6km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 121° 55' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4816	GOLDTIMERS PROSPECTING PTY LTD	184.02HA	35.5km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 59' S: Long: 121° 56' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4817	GOLDTIMERS PROSPECTING PTY LTD	182.89HA	35km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 59' S: Long: 121° 56' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY

Nature of the act: Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.

Notification day: 26 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 **26 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. **26 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_25556



NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO RENEW MINING LEASE
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may renew the following mining lease under section 78(2) of the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Mining Lease	16/5	KERLEY, Peter John	5.92HA	18.3km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 29' 10" S : Long: 120° 55' 31" E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE

Nature of the act: The renewal of mining lease, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of up to 21 years.

Notification day: 26 March 2025

Native title parties: Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until three months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to the notice. The three month period closes on **26 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 lease may be renewed if, by the end of the period of four months after the notification day (i.e. **26 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 application for renewal.

For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the application for renewal), contact the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

DMIRS_25557

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RENEWAL OF A MINING LEASE
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* of the proposed renewal of Mining Lease (ML) shown below, subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)*.

ML 10277 applied for by Sunshine (Ravenswood) Pty Ltd, (ACN: 129 017 723), over an area of 17.964 ha, centred approximately 42 km southwest of Charters Towers, in the locality of Charters Towers Regional Council..



Nature of Act(s): The renewal of a Mining Lease under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)* authorises the holder to mine and carry out associated activities subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)* for a term not exceeding ten (10) years, with the possibility of renewals for a term not exceeding ten (10) years. The renewal of the Mining Lease includes the renewal of access as shown.

Name and address of person doing acts: It is proposed that the Mining Lease be renewed subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)* by the Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

Native Title Parties: Under the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* any person who is a “native title party” is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed renewal of a Mining Lease. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until three (3) months after the Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties

in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: 1300 720 980 or Email: nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au. Enquiries in relation to the registration of a native title determination application may be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Brisbane Registry, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 30524040.

Further Information: May be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development, Mineral Assessment Hub, Level 9, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders Street, Townsville, Queensland, 4810. Telephone: (07) 4447 9230 or Email: MineralHub@resources.qld.gov.au

Notification Day: 9 April 2025



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Heritage Council of NSW

Heritage Act 1977

Notice of intention to consider amending a State Heritage Register listing

The Heritage Council of NSW maintains the State Heritage Register which is a list of places of particular importance to the people of NSW, including Aboriginal and other heritage.

The Heritage Council is considering whether to recommend amending the State Heritage Register listing of the following place. The proposed amendment is intended to recognise additional heritage values.

Paddington Town Hall, Paddington (amendment)

Written submissions on this listing are invited from any interested person by 9 May 2025. Enquiries to Stuart Read on (02) 9873 8500.

The Heritage Council is interested in receiving information in writing, by email, telephone or in person from the Aboriginal community or Aboriginal organisations on the potential significance of this place to Aboriginal people.

See more details about the nominated place at environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/request-a-heritage-listing/nominate-an-item-for-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/comment-on-nominations

Make your submission at: haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/paddington-town-hall

or direct your submission to: Heritage Council of NSW Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124

JS0269

Heritage Council of NSW

Heritage Act 1977

Notice of intention to consider listing on the State Heritage Register

The Heritage Council of NSW maintains the State Heritage Register which is a list of places of particular importance to the people of NSW, including Aboriginal and other heritage.

The Heritage Council is currently considering whether or not to recommend the listing of the following place on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgment of its heritage significance.

Abercrombie Bridge over Abercrombie River, Abercrombie

Written submissions on this listing are invited from any interested person by 12 April 2025. Enquiries to Ruth Berendt on (02) 9873 8500.

The Heritage Council is interested in receiving information in writing, by email, telephone or in person from the Aboriginal community or Aboriginal organisations on the potential Aboriginal significance of this place.

See more details about the nominated place at environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/request-a-heritage-listing/nominate-an-item-for-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/comment-on-nominations

Make your submission at: haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/abercrombie

or direct your submission to: Heritage Council of NSW Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124


LT0281

NOTICE OF KOKATHA COMMON LAW HOLDERS' AUTHORISATION MEETING

BHP OAK DAM RETENTION LEASE INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENT

SATURDAY 12 APRIL 2025 at 10:00am to 2:00pm

WEST AUGUSTA FOOTBALL CLUB, 13 GARDINER AVENUE, PORT AUGUSTA



PURPOSE:

To consult with and seek the consent of the Kokatha Common Law Holders for the Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC ICN 8093 (**KAC**) to enter into an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (**ILUA**) under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) with BHP Olympic Dam Corporation Pty Ltd (**BHP**) and the State of South Australia over the Oak Dam Retention Lease area.

The ILUA allows BHP to carry out advanced exploration activities under a Retention Lease within the Oak Dam Retention Lease area (map **below**) and outside of that area provided that the activities are associated with, for the purpose of or in connection with activities under the Retention Lease.

The activities include building a decline down to the ore body, continuing exploration drilling, building a camp, obtaining water (pipeline) and building a road in the Oak Dam location from the Olympic Dam Highway.

In consideration for consents for these activities, BHP will provide certain financial and non-financial benefits to KAC (for and on behalf of the Kokatha People).

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Those Kokatha Common Law Holders and KAC members as defined in Starkey v State of South Australia [2014] FCA 924, being those Aboriginal People who identify as, and are recognised by other Kokatha Native Title Holders (Common Law Holders) as, nguraritja for sites and places in the Kokatha Determination Area by reason of one or more of the following:

(a) he or she is one of the following named individuals (where living) or is descended either through birth or adoption from them:

(i) Alma Allen;	(viii) Ted Egan;	(xv) Dick Thomas;
(ii) Arthur Baker;	(ix) Micky Fatt;	(xvi) Edie Thomas;
(iii) Hilda Captain;	(x) Gladys Kite;	(xvii) George Turner;
(iv) Susie Captain;	(xi) Ted Larkins;	(xviii) Wild Mary;
(v) Andrew Davis;	(xii) Mick Reid;	(xix) Eileen Wingfield;
(vi) Percy Davis;	(xiii) George Reid;	
(vii) Stanley Davis;	(xiv) William Smith;	

(b) he or she possesses an ancestral connection with the Determination Area, in that his or her parent or grandparent was born in that country, had a long term physical association with that country and/or possesses significant geographic and cultural knowledge relating to the Determination Area;

(c) he or she was born on the Determination Area (including, if the person is born in a hospital, the place where they would otherwise have been born);

(d) he or she has a long-term physical association with the Determination Area and consequent knowledge of the country; and

(e) he or she possesses significant geographic and culturally-confidential religious knowledge relating to the Determination Area under Kokatha traditional law and custom.

Please note that to attend this meeting you must be a KAC member OR a Registered Kokatha Common Law Holder. If you are not a KAC member or Registered Kokatha Common Law Holder you will not be allowed in the meeting.

If you wish to register as a Kokatha Common Law Holder please download the Common Law Holder application form at www.kokatha.com.au and return it to the KAC office by email to admin@kokatha.com.au by 4 April 2025.

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

Fuel assistance is available to KAC members and Registered Kokatha Common Law Holders. Accommodation assistance is also available for Elders 55 years and older.


For assistance, please contact Khatija Thomas of SANTS Office on 1800 010 360 or email KhatijaT@nativetitlesa.org.

AGENDA

To consult with and seek the consent of the Kokatha Common Law Holders for the KAC to enter into a proposed ILUA over the area known as Oak Dam in the State of South Australia. This will allow BHP to undertake advanced exploration in the area under a Retention Lease and in return BHP will provide certain financial and non-financial benefits to KAC for and on behalf of the Kokatha Common Law Holders.

If Kokatha Common Law Holders wish to obtain a copy of the ILUA or have a personal explanation of the ILUA before the meeting, please email Camatta Lempens at Ih@cllegal.com.au or (08) 8410 0211.

Below is a map of the Oak Dam ILUA area.




Notice of applications for determination of native title in South Australia

Notification day: 9 April 2025

These are two amended applications by two native title claim groups (Ngarrindjeri and the First Nations of the South East) which are asking the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) to determine that they hold native title in the area described below.

On 10 March 2020, the Federal Court ordered that the two native title applications SAD6027/1998 (Ngarrindjeri Part B) and SAD180/2017 (First Nations of the South East) be dealt with in the same proceeding (**The Ngarrindjeri-FNSE Overlap Proceeding**) and continue under proceeding number SAD180/2017.

If you want to become a party to the Ngarrindjeri-FNSE Overlap Proceeding, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, **on or before 8 July 2025**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **8 July 2025**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.




Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) there can be only one determination of native title for a particular area. If a person with native title rights and interests does not become a party to this proceeding, there may be no other opportunity for the Federal Court, in making its determination, to take into account those native title rights and interests in relation to the areas concerned.

Description of area: The applications both cover the same area, being an area of about 2,429 sq km located approx. 19 km north of Kingston S.E.
Relevant LGAs: Coorong, Kingston and Tatiara District Councils

Date amended: On 4 December 2024, leave was granted to amend the applications to include areas under section 47C of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). The parcels listed in the section 47C Agreement are shown in dark grey fill on the map

Application name:	Andrew Birtwistle Smith and Ors on behalf of the First Nations of the South East #2 Native Title Claim and The State of South Australia and Ors in the schedule	Basil Sumner and Ors on behalf of the Ngarrindjeri Native Title Claim Group and The State of South Australia and Ors in the schedule
Federal Court File No:	SAD180/2017	SAD6027/1998 (all documents to be filed in SAD180/2017)
Date filed:	7 July 2017	6 July 1998
Registration test status:	The Native Title Registrar has not accepted this application for registration. Although this application has not been registered, the Federal Court may still refer the application for mediation and/or make a determination in relation to it	The Native Title Registrar has accepted this application for registration

For assistance and any further information about these applications, including the description of the area, call Sylvia Jagtman on 07 3052 4248 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



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www.koorimail.com

THE KOORI MAIL, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025 | 45

Notice of an application to register an area agreement on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements in New South Wales

Notification day: 2 April 2025



National Native Title Tribunal



NI2024/002 Brewarrina Common ILUA

Description of the agreement area:

The agreement area covers a combined area of about 40 sq km and is located in the vicinities of Brewarrina and Gongolgon in northern New South Wales
Relevant LGA: Brewarrina Shire Council

The agreement contains the following statements:

[Explanatory notes in brackets inserted by the National Native Title Tribunal]

8. CONSENT TO FUTURE ACTS

8.1 For the purposes of clause 8, the following acts are **Agreed Acts**:

(a) the exercise by Brewarrina LALC of all rights, interests, powers and entitlements as the holder of the fee simple interest over Lot 10 Sec 5 in DP 758457, including the rights to use, manage, control, hold, lease, licence, or dispose of, or otherwise deal with, land vested in it in accordance with the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW); **Note:** In accordance with clause 10 of this Agreement, all Native Title Rights and Interests in relation to Lot 10 Sec 5 in DP 758457 are surrendered. (b) the grant and transfer of the Brewarrina LALC Transfer Lands in fee simple to Brewarrina LALC in accordance with subsections 36(9)–(13) and section 36AA of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW); (c) subject to this Agreement, the exercise by Brewarrina LALC of all rights, interests, powers and entitlements as the holder of a fee simple interest in relation to the Brewarrina LALC Transfer Lands, including

the rights to use, manage, control, hold, lease, licence, or otherwise deal with, land vested in it in accordance with the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW), despite the existence of any Native Title Rights and Interests; **Note:** In accordance with clause 9 of this Agreement and the proposed Determination Orders, Native Title Rights and Interests will be recognised to exist in the Brewarrina LALC Transfer Lands. **Note:** In accordance with clause 11 of this Agreement, the exercise of any Native Title Rights and Interests in relation to the Brewarrina LALC Transfer Lands is subject to the Agreed Acts, this Agreement and any Plan of Management for the Brewarrina LALC Transfer Lands adopted in accordance with this Agreement. (d) the grant and transfer of the Additional Transfer Lands in fee simple to Brewarrina LALC in accordance with subsections 36(9)–(13) and section 36AA of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW); (e) the exercise by Brewarrina LALC of all rights, interests, powers and entitlements as the holder of a fee simple interest in the Additional Transfer Lands, including rights to use, manage, control, hold, lease, licence, or dispose of, or otherwise deal with, land vested in it in accordance with the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW), despite the existence of any Native Title Rights and Interests, noting that any such rights and interests will be extinguished or surrendered in accordance with clause 10; and **Note:** In accordance with clause 10 of this Agreement, all Native Title Rights and Interests in relation to the Additional Transfer Lands are surrendered. (f) the grant and transfer of the PBC Transfer Lands in fee simple to the proposed RNTBC in accordance with clause 7, and, the exercise of all rights, interests, powers and entitlements as the holder of that fee simple interest or perpetual western lands lease subject to any Native Title Rights and Interests.

8.2 For the purpose of section 24EB of the NTA, the Native Title Party consents to the doing of the Agreed Acts, including to the extent that they are Future Acts.

8.3 For the avoidance of doubt, consistent with the proposed Determination Orders and subject to this Agreement, in relation to the Agreed Acts: (a) the grant and transfer of the fee simple interests and the exercise of all rights, interests, powers and entitlements as the holder of a fee simple interest that comprise the Agreed Acts are valid and have full force and effect; (b) Brewarrina LALC may exercise all rights, interests, powers, and entitlements of the holder of a fee simple interest comprised in the Agreed Acts despite the existence of any Native Title Rights and Interests; **Note:** In accordance with clause 11 of this Agreement, the exercise of any Native Title Rights and Interests in relation to the Brewarrina LALC Transfer Lands is subject to the Agreed Acts, this Agreement and any Plan of Management for the Brewarrina LALC Transfer Lands adopted in accordance with this Agreement. (c) the rights, interests, powers, and entitlements comprised in the Agreed Acts include all rights, subject to any Native Title Rights and Interests, to manage the land and to grant leases and licences to third parties to access, use and occupy the land; (d) if the Agreed Acts and this Agreement or their effects are wholly removed or otherwise wholly cease to operate any Native Title Rights and Interests again have full effect; and (e) if the Agreed Acts and this Agreement or their effects are removed to an extent or otherwise cease to operate only to an extent, any Native Title Rights and Interests again have effect to that extent.

8.4 The Native Title Party consents to the Agreed Acts prevailing over any Native Title Rights and Interests and over any exercise of those Native Title Rights and Interests and that the existence of any Native Title Rights and Interests does not prevent, limit or impair, the exercise of rights under or pursuant to the Agreed Acts.

8.5 The relationship between the fee simple or western lands lease in the PBC Transfer Lands that is transferred to the proposed RNTBC in accordance with clause 7 and any Native Title Rights and Interests is that the fee simple will be subject to the Native Title Rights and Interests.

8.6 In accordance with section 24EB(1)(d) of the NTA, Native Title is surrendered in relation to the whole of the Surrendered Land and this surrender will extinguish all Native Title Rights and Interests.

8.7 The Native Title Party shall do all things reasonably necessary to give effect to the consents in clauses 8.2 and 8.4, including signing any documents and providing any consents.

8.6 [sic] The Native Title Party acknowledges that the consents in clauses 8.2 and 8.4 constitute the requisite statements for the purposes of section 24EB(1)(b) of the NTA and regulation 7(5) of the ILUA Regulations to the doing of any of the acts referred to in clauses 8.2 – 8.4.

Additional Transfer Lands means the parcels described in Part 3 of Schedule 1. **Agreed Acts**

means the acts referred to in clause 8.1. **Agreement** means this agreement, its recitals and schedules. **Agreement Area** means the area described in Part 1 of Schedule 1. **Applicant or registered native title claimant** means the person or persons whose name or names appear

from time to time in an entry on the Register of native title claims as the Applicant in relation to the Application, and as at the execution date those names are Elaine Ohlsen, Grace Gordon, Phillip Sullivan, Daniella Chedzey, John Shipp, Danielle Flakelar-Carney, Raymond Thompson, David Clarke, Jaye Lee Snowden, Peter Harris, Pearl Harris, Dennis Rankmore and Josephine (Josie) Winsor. **Application** means the native title determination application filed by the Applicant on behalf of the Ngemba, Ngayampaa, Wangaaypuwan and Wayilwan People on 14 March 2012, Federal Court proceeding number NSD 415 of 2012, which became NSD 38 of 2019. **Assignment Deed** means an executed deed generally in the form of the document at Schedule 5 to this Agreement. **Assignment Deed Delivery Date** means the date on which the executed Assignment Deed is delivered to the Brewarrina LALC in accordance with the Assignment Deed. [Brewarrina LALC is the short name in the agreement of Brewarrina Local Aboriginal Land Council]. **Brewarrina LALC Transfer Lands** means those parcels described in Part 2 of Schedule 1. **Determination Orders** means orders made by the Federal Court as an Approved Determination of Native Title in relation to the Application which relates to an area that includes the Agreement Area. **Future Act** has the same meaning as in the NTA. **ILUA Regulations** means the *Native Title (Indigenous Land Use Agreements) Regulations 1999* (Cth). **Native Title or Native Title Rights and Interests** means any native title rights and interests recognised in the Determination Orders in respect of land or waters in the Agreement Area within the meaning given by section 223 of the NTA. **Native Title Party** means: (a) on Commencement of the Agreement – the Applicant on behalf of the Ngemba, Ngayampaa, Wangaaypuwan and Wayilwan People (NSD 38/2019); (b) after the Agreement is Registered, but before the Assignment Deed Delivery Date – the Applicant and proposed RNTBC; and (c) on and after the Assignment Deed Delivery Date – the proposed RNTBC on behalf of the NNWW People. **NNWW Native Title Claim** has the same meaning as **Application**. **NNWW People** has the same meaning as in the Proposed Consent Determination Orders, being those Aboriginal persons who: (a) are the descendants of [certain named apical ancestors (these names are identical to those apical ancestors listed in the entry on the Register of Native Title Claims for the Application (NSD38/2019))]; (i) identify as a Ngemba, Ngayampaa, Wangaaypuwan or Wayilwan person; and (ii) are recognised as a Ngemba, Ngayampaa, Wangaaypuwan or Wayilwan person by Ngemba, Ngayampaa, Wangaaypuwan and Wayilwan People in accordance with their traditional law and custom. **NTA** means the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). **PBC Transfer Lands**

means the parcels described in Part 4 of Schedule 1 of this Agreement. **Plan of Management** means the interim document referred to in Clause 10 of the Joint Management Agreement at Schedule 2 of this Agreement and any Plan of Management later prepared in accordance with Schedule 2 of this Agreement. **Proposed Consent Determination Orders** means the consent orders proposed to be made by the Federal Court in the NNWW Native Title Claim (NSD38/2019). **Real Property Act** means the *Real Property Act 1900* (NSW). **Surrendered Land** means the Additional Transfer Lands and Lot 10 Sec 5 in DP 758457. **Transfer** means the transfer of a parcel of the PBC Transfer Lands to the proposed RNTBC in fee simple in accordance with clause 7 of this Agreement and the Real Property Act.

Parties to the agreement and their contact addresses:

Brewarrina Local Aboriginal Land Council (Applicant)	c/- Chalk & Behrendt Pty Ltd, Level 1, 63 Foveaux Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010
Elaine Ohlsen, Grace Gordon, Phillip Sullivan, Daniella Chedzey, John Shipp, Danielle Flakelar-Carney, Raymond Thompson, David Clarke, Jaye Lee Snowden, Peter Harris, Pearl Harris, Dennis Rankmore and Josephine (Josie) Winsor as the Applicant in proceedings no. NSD 38 of 2019 (Native Title Party)	c/- NTSCORP Limited Level 1, 44-70 Rosehill St Redfern NSW 2016 PO Box 2105, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012
Attorney-General of New South Wales as State Minister for New South Wales under the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth) (State)	GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001
Minister for Lands and Property as the Minister administering the <i>Crown Land Management Act 2016</i> (NSW) (State)	GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001

Objections to the registration of an ILUA where the application for registration has been certified:

This application for registration of an indigenous land use agreement (ILUA) has been certified by NTSCORP Limited, the entity performing the functions of the representative body for the area. Any person claiming to hold native title to any part of the area covered by the ILUA may object in writing within the notice period to the registration of this agreement if they think that the application to register the ILUA has not been properly certified. If you wish to object to the registration of this agreement (and you hold or claim to hold native title in any part of the area covered by the agreement) you may only object for one reason: in your view, the application to register the ILUA has not been properly certified, as stated in section 203BE(5)(a), (b) and (c) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). You must make this objection in writing and send it to the **Native Title Registrar, National Native Title Tribunal, PO Box 12440 George Street Post Shop, Brisbane QLD 4003** by **2 July 2025**. Generally, procedural fairness will require that the material you provide is given to certain other persons or organisations for comment. It may also be taken into account in the registration of other ILUAs and claimant applications and thus be provided to relevant persons or organisations for comment.

Details of the terms of the agreement are not available from the National Native Title Tribunal.

For assistance and further information about this application, including the description of the area, call Claire Smith on 08 6317 5333 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



Notice of an application to register an area agreement on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements in Queensland

Notification day: 2 April 2025



QI2025/001 Wuthathi Captain Billy Landing Land Transfer ILUA

Description of the agreement area:

The agreement area covers about 148.2 sq km and is located in the vicinity of Captain Billy Landing approx. 137 km north east of Weipa

Relevant LGA: Cook Shire Council

The agreement contains the following statements:

[Explanatory notes in brackets inserted by the National Native Title Tribunal]

4. Consent to and validating of Agreed Acts

4.1 The Parties:

- (a) consent to the doing of the Agreed Acts to the extent that they are Future Acts; and
- (b) subject to compliance with this Agreement, if any of the Agreed Acts done prior to the Registration Date are invalid Future Acts, the Parties agree to the validating of those Agreed Acts.

4.2 Clause 4.1(a) is a statement for the purposes of section 24EB(1)(b) of the NTA and clause 4.1(b) is a statement for the purposes of section 24EBA(1)(a) of the NTA.

5. Right to negotiate

5.1 To avoid any doubt, Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of the NTA does not apply to the doing of the Agreed Acts.

“Agreed Acts” means all acts necessary to give effect to this Agreement and the Deed of Variation and the IMA, including but not limited to any acts done as part of, or in relation to, the following acts:

- (a) making any of the land within the Agreement Area Transferable Land;
- (b) the grant or grants of part or all of the Proposed ALA Areas as Aboriginal Land to the Corporation under the ALA, to be held in accordance with the ALA;
- (c) the State and the Corporation entering into, being bound by and complying with the Deed of Variation for the IMA;
- (d) the State and Corporation being bound by and complying with the IMA;
- (e) the dedication, use and management of the Proposed National Park (CYPAL) Area as national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land);
- (f) the doing of all acts in the Proposed National Park (CYPAL) Area that are covered by the IMA in accordance with the procedures set out in the IMA;
- (g) any variation or assignment of the IMA in accordance with the terms of the IMA and the ALA;
- (h) the making, approval, giving effect to, amendment or revocation of, and the making of any regulation giving effect to, any Management Instrument in relation to the Proposed National Park (CYPAL) Area;
- (i) the Corporation granting the Southern Foreshore Licence to the State for pedestrian access to the Southern Foreshore Licence Area shown in the draft licence agreement in Schedule 4;
- (j) the Corporation granting the Lookout Licence to the State for vehicular and pedestrian access to the Lookout Area as shown in Schedule 3;
- (k) the State and the Corporation entering into, being bound by and complying with the Gravel Storage Lease;
- (l) the Corporation constructing and maintaining access tracks on the Proposed ALA Areas after they become Aboriginal Land held by the Corporation;
- (m) the registration and grant of a Carbon Abatement Interest, including any interest granting the right to deal with Carbon Abatement Products, or the declaration of an Eligible Offsets Project over any or all Proposed ALA Areas, after they become Aboriginal Land held by the Corporation, in favour of the Corporation;
- (n) the making, approval, giving effect to, amendment or revocation of, and the making of any regulation giving effect to, any Management Instrument in relation to the Proposed National Park (CYPAL) Area; and
- (o) the Relevant Acts.

“Agreement Area” means the area of land as described and shown in Schedule 1 [of the agreement].

“ALA” means the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991* (Qld).

“Associated Activity” means the doing of any activity in relation to a valid lease, agreement, licence, profit à prendre, permit or other authority created, authorised or otherwise granted in accordance with this Agreement, that is associated and consistent with the purpose for which the lease, agreement, licence, profit à prendre, permit or other authority is created including:

- (a) the construction or operation of infrastructure;
- (b) extraction of Quarry Materials or water in accordance with any lease, agreement, licence, profit à prendre, permit or other authority; and
- (c) survey activities and geotechnical investigations required prior to the creation, authorisation or grant of the lease, agreement, licence, profit à prendre, permit or other authority.

“CFI Act” means the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011* (Cth).

“Corporation” means the Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (ICN 7157).

“Deed of Variation” means the deed of variation to the IMA to be made in accordance with the ALA between the State and the Corporation on substantially the same terms as the draft agreement in Schedule 2.

“Gravel Storage Lease” means the lease entered into between the State and the Corporation on substantially the same terms as the draft agreement in Schedule 5.

“IMA” means the indigenous management agreement entered into by the Corporation and

the State on 13 December 2016 for the joint management of the Wuthathi (Shelburne Bay), Wuthathi (Sir Charles Hardy Group) and Wuthathi (Saunders Islands) National Parks (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land).

“Land Act” means the *Land Act 1994* (Qld).

“Land Title Act” means the *Land Title Act 1994* (Qld).

“Lookout Licence Area” means that area of land described as “Lookout Licence Area” in Part 1 of Schedule 1 and as shown in the plans in Part 2 of Schedule 1.

“Lookout Licence” means the licence granted by the Corporation to the State, on substantially the same terms as the draft licence agreement in Schedule 3.

“Management Instrument” means a Management Plan or Management Statement prepared under the NCA to specify how the Proposed National Park (CYPAL) Area is to be managed.

“NCA” means the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld).

“NTA” means the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

“Parties” means the parties to this Agreement.

“Proposed ALA Areas” means those parts of the Agreement Area described as “Proposed ALA Areas” in Part 1 of Schedule 1 and shown in the plans in Part 2 of Schedule 1.

“Proposed National Park (CYPAL) Area” means those parts of the Agreement Area proposed to be dedicated as national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land), in accordance with clause 12, described as “Proposed National Park (CYPAL) Area” in Part 1 of Schedule 1 and shown in the plans in Part 2 of Schedule 1.

“Quarry Materials” includes stone, gravel, sand, rock, clay, earth and soil but does not include minerals within the meaning of the *Forestry Act 1959* (Qld).

“Registered” means registered on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements.

“Registration Date” means the date that this Agreement is Registered.

“Relevant Acts” means:

- (a) following the grants of the Proposed ALA Areas to the Corporation, the creation, authorisation, grant or transfer of any valid lease, agreement, licence, profit à prendre, permit or other authority over any of the Proposed ALA Areas by the Corporation subject to the requirements in (where applicable) the NCA;
- (b) following the dedications of the Proposed National Park (CYPAL) Area in accordance with clause 12, the creation, authorisation or grant of a valid lease, agreement, licence, permit or other authority under section 42AD, section 42AE or section 42AEA of the NCA over the Proposed National Park (CYPAL) Area by the State, subject to the consent of the Corporation, and any other processes required under the IMA;
- (c) the renewal or amendment of a lease, agreement, licence, profit à prendre, permit or other authority under (a) or (b) above; and
- (d) an Associated Activity, but does not include the grant of a Mining Tenement or any authority relating to mining or mineral exploration under any legislation.

“Southern Foreshore Licence” means the licence granted by the Corporation, on substantially the same terms as the draft licence agreement in Schedule 4.

“Southern Foreshore Licence Area” means that area of land described as “Southern Foreshore Licence Area” in Part 1 of Schedule 1 and as shown in the plans in Part 2 of Schedule 1.

[“Aboriginal Land” and “Transferable Land” have the same meaning as in the ALA. “Carbon Abatement Interest” and “Carbon Abatement Product” have the same meaning as in the Land Title Act and the Land Act. “Eligible Offsets Project” has the same meaning as in the CFI Act. “Future Act” and “Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements” have the same meaning as in the NTA. “Mining Tenement” has the same meaning as in the Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld).]

Parties to the agreement and their contact addresses:

The State of Queensland (Applicant) (State)	c/- Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program PO Box 4597, Cairns QLD 4870
Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation ICN 7157 (Applicant) and Johnson Chippendale, Brian Macumboy, Smithy Wilson and Keron Murray on their own behalf and on behalf of the Wuthathi People (Applicant)	c/- P & E Law PO Box 2337 Cairns QLD 4870
The Cape York United Number 1 Claim Group	c/- Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation PO Box 2496, Cairns QLD 4870

Responses to an application to register an ILUA—where the application has not been certified:

Any person claiming to hold native title in relation to land or waters in the area covered by the agreement may wish, in response to this notice, to make a native title determination application or equivalent application under a law of a state or territory in respect of any part of the area. The application must be made by 2 July 2025. If that application is registered on the Register of Native Title Claims, the registered native title claimants must be a party to this agreement before it can be registered.

Details of the terms of the agreement are not available from the National Native Title Tribunal.

For assistance and any further information about this application, including the description of the area, call Jake Ellis on 07 3052 4189 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

25 First Nations icons in '25

Stacey Porter

Longtime *Koori Mail* correspondent **PETER ARGENT** looks back on the sporting careers of Indigenous stars across the wide world of sport in 2025.

A girl from Tamworth who began her passion playing T-Ball at five years of age, Stacey Porter nearly four decades later is regarded by the softball fraternity as Australia's greatest.

A genuinely humble and genuine character off the diamond, since the late 1990s she has been world class in her chosen field, ultra consistent and competitive.

She is still playing professionally in Japan, about to enter her 18th season in April.

Born on March 29, 1982, the second of Robyn and Kamilaroi man Stan's two daughters, the younger sister of Kristy.

"Yes, I started T-Ball when I was five, and loved it from the start," Porter told the *Koori Mail*.

"I also played hockey, little athletics and netball when I was young.

"My mum played (softball) when I was growing up as well and we did get a couple of game in, together.

"Representative softball in Tamworth progressed to my first NSW Under 16s team in the National Champs back in 1997."

Porter played at under 16s level that year and in 1998, then had three years in the NSW under 19s program from 1999 and 2001, with the girls winning four out of the five national titles.

In 1999, Porter first gained national honours, wearing the green and gold and being a part of the Australian Under 19s team for the World championships in Chinese Taipei.

"I first played for the NSW Open Women's team in 2002 and was a regular member of that 'Fivestars' team for the next 20-odd years," Porter continued.

"I can't remember how many national titles we won, there were plenty, maybe 14 or 15.

"In 2001 I went to America on a College softball scholarship, playing with University of Hawaii for three years until 2003.

"There were 60 to 70 games in a season, and it was high quality softball."

In 2002 Porter first was rewarded with Open Australia honours, debuting in Japan Cup with the Aussie Spirit.

In 2004 Porter participated in her first Olympics, being a key member of the silver-medal-winning Australian team in Athens and four years later in Beijing, where the national team won bronze.



Stacey in action with her bat.

As softball wasn't an Olympic sport in 2012 and 2016, Porter, her Aussie Spirit team-mates and code returned in Tokyo 2021, finishing fifth.

"Playing in the Olympics was the pinnacle, a dream come true," Porter smiled.

"The World Championships went from a four-year cycle to a two-year event when we weren't an Olympic sport.

World champion

"Six times I went to a world champs titles with the Australia team, four of them as the skipper.

"The champs were held in Canada, the Ukon – where it was light for 23 hours of the day, Italy, Japan, Holland and the USA, with a third being our best result."

For the majority of her career Porter played at third base and was an accomplished batter, but these days in Japan she plays, first base.

A calm and consistent player, Porter is a passionate heart on her sleeve competitor with a love for the contest and the challenge.

Known as one best hitter in the world – her key skillset is batting in general – she once held the home run record in Hawaii.

Porter is the most capped softball player in this country's history, playing 446 games for Australia, taking over this title from fellow 400-gamer, Natalie Ward.

In 2007 Porter played in the Italy professional competition for Macerata.

Since then, she has played in the professional Japanese League with the teams being company based.

She plays for SG Holdings (a transport company) based just outside Kyoto.

"This Japanese competition is the premier league in the world," Porter said.

"In Japan they have a tremendous working ethic and real love for softball.

"It is a split season starting on April 15, going through to June and then it continues from September to November.

"There are two conferences, and our best result was a fifth last year. Playing in this competition for 20 seasons is my goal."

Porter also spoke about mentors across her journey.

She said that firstly her mum Robyn and dad Stan were instrumental in her rise in the code and supportive.

She also mentioned that a coach from her teenage years and still a friend today, Richard Webb, was a strong mentor.

Webb followed her entire career, along with her NSW coach for many campaigns, Kerrie Porter, who Porter suggested was one of best coaches she ever had and very encouraging.



Australia's greatest softball player, Stacey Porter.

All Stars win at bringing families together

By KRIS FLANDERS



THE NRL All Stars has always been more than just football. Culture, community engagement, sharing stories and the fans creating memories they'll remember forever.

That's the case with Ethan Slater and his grandfather, Robert Kennedy. Ethan now lives in Mildura, Victoria while Robert calls Broken Hill in NSW home. The All Stars clash gave them a weekend to cherish.

The 27-year-old Slater said the expression on his 71-year-old Pop's face at the stadium for the match, the overall atmosphere and walking out onto the field was something you couldn't put a price on.

"I don't think Pop has been to a live game and he's a huge rugby league follower, I took a video of him at the ground and he's got the biggest smile on his face," Slater recalled.

"I don't get to see my Pop as much as I used to because I've moved away. This was quality time together, just the two of us, doing something we both love. You know, he's not getting any younger either, he felt the same way about spending time with me. This is something that we will always have," Slater said.

Pop Kennedy won the All Stars tickets through his local Aboriginal Medical Service in Broken Hill after getting his



Robert Kennedy and Ethan.

Deadly Choices Health Check done.

A real home body who loves watching the footy with his mates at the local club, Pop Kennedy at first wasn't really keen on going but his grandson, Ethan, wasn't having a bar of that.

"He doesn't go far from his home, loves the bush and hasn't been to Sydney in over 20 years or so, definitely doesn't do the big cities. So he wasn't going to go originally, I said to him you've got no choice, you're coming with me. In the end on Sunday morning when he flew out of Sydney he said he was so glad he went and it was once in a lifetime."

Slater said both games were brilliant to watch and he was

thrilled to be part of it.

"Amazing experience all up. It was definitely a blackout, so many Mob everywhere, that was good to see. So many different Mob getting together and all got connected that weekend. One of the things that stood out was that the crowd was cheering the entire time, not just when there was a try or when something big happened. The crowd was engaged the whole time for both games."

Olai Drummond and her daughter, Shaquela Baker, are from Cairns in Queensland. Both women are proud Torres Strait Islanders and couldn't believe their luck as they were also named as Deadly Choice winners for completing their



Shaquela Baker and her mum, Olai Drummond, about to leave for the stadium.

health checks.

"Look, I'm not a flyer, I don't like flying. Plus Sydney and Parramatta are such big places. The Deadly Choices crew and ambassadors made sure we were looked after, everything from the flights, to the accommodation and getting around. It was also my daughter's birthday that Friday before the game on Saturday, which made it all extra exciting," Drummond said.

The pair are big rugby league fans but have never been to the 'Big Smoke' of Sydney or Parramatta before. Drummond said being amongst the thousands of supporters and fellow Indigenous brothers and sisters was a huge highlight.

"Meeting the others was really great. They were all lovely people and we got to hear about where they come from and about their families. Walking up to the stadium there were so many

people, we are from Cairns and are not used to seeing huge crowds. We had great seats and I didn't even need my long-distance glasses as the view was amazing," Drummond said.

The strong Torres Strait Island women were thrilled to represent the blue, green, white and black colours of their people's flag.

Drummond and Baker were also moved by the traditional dances produced by the TSI footballers on the night.

"To see the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags around the ground was special. The footballers did those dances and it made us feel so proud, they did such a good job," Drummond recalled.

"My daughter said we are going to State of Origin now after feeling the atmosphere there. When we got back to Cairns and spoke about the trip away, my daughter said thanks for the best birthday ever."

Gadhu Gathering fixture announced

By KRIS FLANDERS



JOIN us!

That's the call from some of the leading Indigenous rugby league players after the NRL announced the new Gadhu Gathering fixture later this year.

The new initiative will see four games played in Sydney at the one venue, Allianz Stadium, and will combine the NRL and the NRLW for the second week festivities of the codes' Indigenous Round.

South Sydney star, Cody Walker, said the Gadhu Gathering is exciting and has called on the fans and our Mob to get behind it.

"It's a proud moment and I'm proud as an Aboriginal man to see the NRL Indigenous Round evolving every year," Walker said. "I look forward to Indigenous Round every year."

"To have a festival for three days with three different games and with teams that have their own individual Indigenous jersey to represent, it's pretty cool and amazing to be part of."

Walker also added that the Gadhu Gathering in the Indigenous Round will continue the focus on social change. Walker debuted in 2016 and is determined to ensure that rugby league continues to honour the foundations built by those that played before him.

"It's a chance to promote different conversations, some tough conversations that need to be had, but also for clubs to celebrate the wonderful things our people have done in the game," Walker said.

"It blows me away some of the things



Fans and Mob are being urged by players to get behind the Gadhu Gathering.

that some of the players that played back in the day experienced when they weren't accepted in local communities. That would have been quite rough."

The word 'gadhu' refers to a large body of water much like the ocean that is present and important to the people and teams

belonging to coastal Sydney. The Gadhu Gathering will be a celebration and bring together people with a shared passion for rugby league and culture.

Wests Tigers chairman, Barry O'Farrell, said his club was delighted to participate in the inaugural Gadhu Gathering.

"The creation of the Gadhu Gathering is another demonstration of the NRL's leadership when it come to recognising the contribution and celebrating the continued participation of Indigenous Australians in sport, in particular rugby league," O'Farrell said.

Indigenous round getting bigger

THE NRL's Indigenous Round just got a whole lot bigger with a recent announcement that will see the celebrations of our culture, past and present Indigenous players go into a second week.

Gadhu Gathering will see six Sydney-based clubs come together on Gadigal/Bidjigal land in a special three day festival with all games played at Sydney's Allianz Stadium.

Friday night (15th August) will see the Roosters host Canterbury. On Saturday, South Sydney will tackle Parramatta while on Sunday it's a fantastic double-header which will see the NRLW clash between the Wests Tigers and St George-Illawarra And following that will be the NRL match between the Tigers and the Sea-Eagles.

The NRL has announced that



Kris Flanders

fans will be able to purchase a 3-day pass to see all the clashes for the inaugural Gadhu Gathering. The NRL has also promised that all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island culture will be strongly featured with cultural performances, entertainment,

special fan zones, speciality foods and much more.

The players from the hosting teams are very excited about Gadhu Gathering and what it could mean for the game, the fans and their families and Mob. **(See more on Gadhu Gathering Page 49)** Since the very first Indigenous Round in 2015, the fans, media and support has grown every year for the games, with all 17 clubs showing off their vibrant and meaningful Indigenous designed jerseys. This year will be no exception either.

The Indigenous Round and now Gadhu Gathering will certainly make fans recall some of the biggest and greatest Indigenous players. Names like Arthur Beetson, Eric Simms, Lionel Morgan, Cliff Lyons, Steve Renouf, Ewen McGrady, Greg Inglis, Dale Shearer, Laurie Daley,

Johnathan Thurston. Then marvel at the talents of the current crop of superstars including Latrell Mitchell, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, Reece Walsh, Nicho Hynes, Bradman Best and Connor Watson.

In other rugby league news, four-time Indigenous All Star Shaniah Power will play for the Wigan Warriors in the upcoming season in the RFL Women's Super League in England. Power has played 23 NRLW matches with the Warriors, Gold Coast, the Roosters and the Cowboys.

She also played four matches for Queensland between 2020 and 2023. The strong second-rower was also the BMD Premiership Player of the Year in 2023 when she played with Wynnum-Manly in the Brisbane competition.

The 27-year-old will add plenty

of strike power and strength to the Wigan pack. The club is coached by former English Super League star and Great Britain Test hero, Denis Betts. Power's first outing for the Wigan Warriors could be in the Challenge Cup which gets underway in April. Power will join fellow Indigenous player, Rease Casey, who played at Wigan last season.

It's great to see our talented sisters making their mark overseas, flying the flag proudly in England while also showcasing their rugby league skills.

Closer to home, in NRLW signing news, ahead of the upcoming 2025 season with St George-Illawarra Dragons getting the signature of Ahlivia Ingram, agreeing to a one year deal. Ingram has played for Canberra in the NRLW, the All Stars and in the Prime Minister's XIII.

Top players switch Queensland clubs

By ALF WILSON



FOUR of the fastest and classiest First Nations players competing in the Hostplus Queensland Cup Statewide rugby league competition have switched clubs for the new 2025 season.

Brenton Baira (formerly Dolphins) is now with the Mackay Cutters, Julian Christian (former Norths Devils) and Jon Reuben (former Wynnum Manly) are now with the Ipswich Jets and Dantoray Lui (former Northern Pride) is with the Redcliffe Dolphins.

The Queensland Cup is the second tier to the NRL and many players from the 15 club comp are regularly drafted to play for NRL clubs.

The four are all quality backs who are potential match winners and are major signings.

A skilled outside back, Brenton is following in the footsteps of his father Royston Lightning who was a quality player in his heyday.

The first round of Queensland Cup fixtures scheduled for March 7 and 8 was postponed due to Cyclone Alfred.

In week two Brenton scored a try for the Cutters in their 27-20 loss to the Townsville Blackhawks.

Of Badu descent, the 22-year-old Brenton scored four tries for the Cutters in their trial win over the Townsville Blackhawks on February 15.

A week before Brenton shone when he lined up for the Cowboys in a trial loss to the Dolphins in Cairns.

Brenton had played 23 Queensland Cup games for the Redcliffe Dolphins and last season scored 12 tries and kicked 30 goals at a 73 per cent accuracy rate.

Showing his skills, Brenton also made 20 tackles breaks and eight line breaks.

During his time with the Dolphins, Brenton worked closely with Queensland Maroons flyer and Test champion Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow.

Proud father Royston who is aged 46 played 15 A grade matches for the Canberra Raiders between 1996 and 98 scoring five tries and kicking 11 goals.

Royston played for Herbert River Junior Rugby and also later for the Mackay Cutters.

Previously Royston played for both Cairns Southern Suburbs and Queanbeyan Kangaroos in the Canberra Rugby League competition.



Julian Christian (former Norths Devils) is now with the Ipswich Jets.



Dantoray Lui (former Northern Pride) is with the Redcliffe Dolphins.



Brenton Baira (formerly Dolphins) is now with the Mackay Cutters. (AAP)

Two years ago Royston and Brenton lined up together for Charters Towers side Black Bream at Townsville's Bindal Sharks Allblacks carnival.

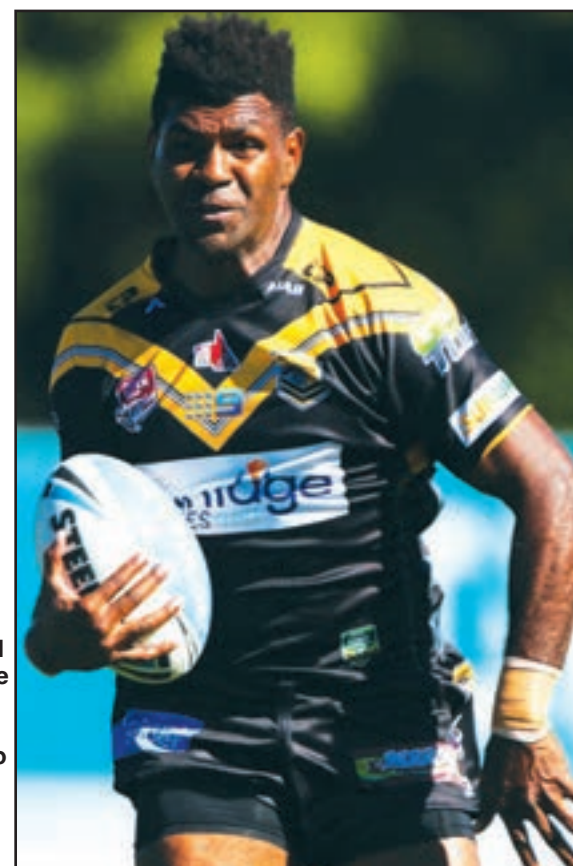
Julian was a member of last year's premiers the Norths Devils and has been a regular for Erub United at Allblacks carnivals, and was in the team which lost the recent Gordonvale event to Coastal Balaz.

Jon has been a prolific Queensland

Cup try scorer in recent years and also played one NRL match for the St George Dragons.

The Jets had a round two bye and Julian and Jon were named to make their debut in the side to meet the Tigers on March 23.

Versatile Dantoray can play in any backline position and will be an asset for the Jets after shining for the Pride in 2024.



Jon Reuben (former Wynnum Manly) is now with the Ipswich Jets.



Players celebrate their victory in the final of the AFLNT Premier League competition.

Crocs win fourth crown in Top End grand final

By PETER ARGENT



PLAYING the St Mary's green machine, who had progressed to the decider all the way from the Elimination

Final, Shannon Rusca's South Districts Crocs finished their dominant season in style with a Grand Final victory in the AFLNT's Premier League competition.

This game which had plenty of aggression and spice, was played with typical "Top End" style with a handful of melees added in. Only one point separated the combatants during the third quarter, before the Crocs kicked a pair of majors deep in the term.

The Crocs took a 12-point lead into the final stanza and while this was halved early in the quarter, Southern Districts would come away with a 15-point triumph, with the final siren sparking riotous celebrations amongst the Crocs players and supporters.

The TIO Stadium scoreboard read after the final siren sounded, Southern Districts 9.12 (66) to St Mary's 8.3 (51) on Saturday, March 15.

"It was fierce, high-pressure game, that went contest by contest and was unrelenting," a proud Crocs coach, Shannon Rusca explained post-game.

"We needed to play with controlled aggression and hold our structures against a potent and experienced St Mary's midfield.

"Will Farrer was used in a key role for the team making a contest up forward and our captain Michael Bowden



Coach Shannon Rusca and captain Michael Bowden lifting the cup.

sacrificed his game to play on St Mary's playmaker and goal kicker Jack Landt.

"We needed to hold our structures and in a game that could have gone either way; we need to continue our scoreboard pressure we applied, while also maintaining possession.

"By the 14-minute mark last term, when they needed to kick three goals, although still apprehensive there was a bit more relief in the coaches'

box." For siblings Will and Josiah Farrer, who also played in the previous Crocs success in 17-18, this was a second premier league premiership medallion.

For seasoned AFL talents with huge family heritages in Darwin Steven Motlop and Jed Anderson the emotion displayed post-game after the victory was palpable.

Skipper Michael Bowden, who was best in the corresponding game in 17-18

was vital, while half back Brodie Lake played with composure and a cool head, while Thomas Clarke was more than serviceable.

As there usually is, the hard luck story from a Crocs perspective was Jailen Clarke, who was squeezed out of the final side.

For St Mary's former Port Adelaide player and 23-24 Chaney Medallist Joel Garner was outstanding in an on-ball role, while small forward Nick Yarran, who suggested post-game, due to work reason this could be his final Premier league outing, delivered great defensive pressure and hit the scoreboard with two goals as well. In the 40 years of the Southern Districts Football Club, this was the Crocs fourth premier league title.

Current coach and Yanyuwa man Shannon Rusca has been involved in each of the quartet of titles. He played in the Crocs inaugural title as 17-year-old in 1996-97, when they beat St Marys, he was captained clubs of the 2006-07 title win over Waratahs.

He was also coach of the Southern Districts Cyclone effected title in 2017-18, when the game was postponed to the Wednesday, and they won against the Darwin Buffaloes by one point and now this 2024-25 premiership.

Along with being on the Brisbane and Western Bulldogs AFL lists and playing three seasons with West Adelaide in the SANFL, Rusca played 143 games with his foundation club, and now has coached the Crocs in 231 games.

● See pages 52-53 for more AFLNT action.

Umpires are human, not robots

Well, the AFLM 2025 season has kicked off and it's already brought heartache for some fans and pure joy for others. This season looks to be one that might surprise a few fans, breathing new life into their passion and others, well not so much.

It's early this season but once again, we find the umpires at the centre of a lot of fans complaints, concerning decisions they have made and how they then impact the outcome of the game.



Shelley Ware

Commentators like Jason Dunstall have used language like "That's tough" other media calling calls "brutally harsh" and Peter Ryan's comment "C'mon Ump. That is a crazy insufficient intent decision." These comments were all based around the last 5 minutes of play in the Western Bulldogs v Collingwood game. Many believe the decision changed the course of the game and allowed an opportunity for Collingwood's Steele Sidebottom to kick the match-winning goal.

There have been a few other incidents over the start of the season, that have made people scream at their televisions, I'm sure. Well actually I know it's a fact, as my husband was screaming about umpire decisions himself from the couch.

The AFL has come out and said that there was "a major breach" during the Carlton Hawthorn game, when just before half time, the Hawthorn interchange fielded 19 players at a centre bounce. The Hawks realised what was going on and winger Harry Morrison sprinted from the field to the bench.

The umpires noticed too and gave Hawthorn a 6-6-6 warning and awarded a free kick to Carlton. The AFL has since confirmed that the penalty should have been greater, they should have got a free kick and a 50m penalty. Hawthorn have also since been awarded an official warning.

Hawthorn insists the error was just through "miscommunication" and they take the warning seriously and they will work at this not happening again.

Honestly, I think these errors in human judgement remind us just of that, that we are human and we make human errors. We are not robots, we don't want robots making calls and taking the human element both good and bad out of the game.

I have been saying this for the 25 odd years I have been in AFL media. We can't play these games without umpires. We need them to play. Also don't forget as umpires they are heavily reviewed and held to account too, they also don't want to make bad calls. They are just humans and hey if they didn't make the odd mistake, what else would we talk about around the water cooler at work!?!

Women's grand final a heart-stopper



DRAMATIC and low scoring, the 2025 NTFL Women's Premier League Grand Final was only decided after the final siren sounded.

During the final term the football was camped in the Nightcliff forward line and they peppered the goals across the quarter, but only kicking five points to be one point behind the Green Machine when the siren sounded.

To add another twist SANFL experienced Tigers forward Lucy Northcott has a shot after the siren, with all three results still up for grabs.

The shot was repelled on the line and St Mary's won by the smallest of margins, 3.5 (23) to 2.10 (22).

"There were plenty of thought of what could happen running through my head when Lucy was lining up," St Mary's skipper Nikita Long explained.

"The wind had changed after the third quarter which helped Nightcliff.

"Our backline group has a strong trust and we definitely needed every bit of it on Saturday. "It is our second premier league Grand Final after we had lost to

Pints last year – by five points.

"The club's (St Mary's) previous women's premierships was about a decade ago."

Tiwi talent Shakaila Gardiner-Dunn was awarded the Williams Medal as Best on Ground, after kicking three critical second quarter majors.

Nikita Long added another chapter to the storied history of the Long clan at St Mary's.

"Yes, my dad John is one of the famous seven Long brothers," she smiled.

"It is such an honour to follow in the family footsteps and now play in a St Mary's premiership.

"I'm very lucky to be captain a St Mary's women's Premier League team and it was a privilege to lead the team.

"Both older brother Jack (now retired) and younger Jacob (who wore number 1 playing at full back in the Men's Premier League Grand Final against the Crocs) had previously won flags in the green and gold.

"...And, yes we are all defenders."

– PETER ARGENT



Tshintia Kendall takes a mark. Pictures by Peter Argent.



Nikita Long gets on away.



Players vie for the ball.



St Mary's Jaimie Bryant.



Nikita Long, captain of the St Marys team.



Janet Bird takes a kick.



Lexi Cagney gets a kick away under pressure during the final term.



St Mary's players celebrate the win.



Shakaila Gardiner-Dunn.



Nighcliff midfielder Adrian Scott flies high.

Plenty of talent on show

By PETER ARGENT



BOTH the Boys and Girls Under 18 Grand Final fixtures were played at TIO Stadium on Friday evening, March 14.

The women's side the Nightcliff girls came through the first semi-final, after losing their qualifying final match to Southern Districts, but they gained revenge in the final,

winning 3.6 (24) to 1.1 (7).

The Sharon Knight Medallist for Best on Ground was Tiger talent, Peggy Rock.

In the Boys match it was another lower scoring thriller between two teams, which had been close combatants all season.

Decider

The season decider was the same, with St Mary's getting up by four points in a game that wasn't decided until the final

siren, winning 4.6 (30) to 3.8 (26).

"We played four time through the season, Nightcliff won the first game by three goals, and we won the other three by less than a straight kick," back-to-back St Mary's Under 18s premiership coach Cooper Schiller said.

"It was a tense and dramatic finish, certainly a lot closer than our win 12 months ago.

"Jalyn Priestley kicked 33 goals and two clutch goals in

the grand final.

"Half forward Bruce Wilson had an impact on the contest and Brian Ross junior from Katherine was important on a half back flank."

Medallist for Best on Ground was the strong bodied 16-year-old midfielder-half forward Torres Strait Islander Kairyce Lowah.

Adrian Scott, Nightcliff midfielder with senior experience, was outstanding for the unlucky Tigers.



Adrian Scott.



Celebrating a tough win.



St Mary's and Nightcliff players vie for the ball in the Under 18 grand final.



Winners are grinners. St Mary's playersw celebrate.



Players mix it up in the middle.

Anika rewarded after ‘roller coaster’

By KRIS FLANDERS



REWARD for effort is a great way to describe the 2024/25 Women’s National Cricket League season for NSW Breakers batter, Anika Learoyd.

She spent the previous off-season working hard on her batting, putting extra time into her technique and striving to have better concentration levels when batting for the sky-blues.

It paid dividends as Learoyd finished with the second highest amount of runs with 577. Only her NSW teammate and captain, Tahlia Wilson, was higher.

The Gumbaynggirr woman said she had to be honest with herself in order to turn things around.

“It was a roller coaster with my batting this season. I started coming in at number 6, which was deserved, I hadn’t performed the previous year. I was really determined to try and fight back and earn that higher batting position back. I knew I wanted to be in the top order and I started feeling quite comfortable there,” Learoyd said.

“You know, it’s still very much a work in progress, if I’m honest I need to be converting those 70’s and 80’s into some much bigger scores. What I have done well this year is psychologically get myself in the fight and not getting out.”

Learoyd was crucial for NSW in breaking their five-long-year drought in the WNCL and was Player of the Match in the final against arch-rivals Queensland.

The Breakers batter was very proud to be able to hold the trophy alongside her good friend, fellow Indigenous player and Breakers pace bowler, Hannah Darlington.



Victorious Indigenous NSW Breakers champions Anika Learoyd and Hannah Darlington with WNCL title.

Casual speeding is the biggest cause of trauma on NSW roads



CASUAL SPEEDING. EVERY **K** COUNTS



Mistee has football in her blood

By ALF WILSON



RUGBY league is the dominant football code in the Torres Strait but Thursday Island born Mistee

Sagigi is a rising Australian Rules star for the Gold Coast Suns girls under 17 women's team.

Mistee is a member of the Gold Coast Suns which is competing against the Sydney Swans, Brisbane Lions and Victoria in National development squad matches.

Now based in Cairns Mistee boards at AFL Cape York House and attends St Andrews Catholic College.

She left there on March 20 for the first game against the Sydney Swans last Saturday, March 22.

Mistee who turns 16 next month attended the StreetSmarts Suns Academy program in Townsville a week before in preparation.

Speedy Mistee lines up as a centre which is a key position from where she can dictate play including defending, and also sending the ball into the forward line.

"I am really looking forward to playing in these games which will be a real highlight for me," Mistee told the *Koori Mail*.

This talented AFL player is a daughter of former quality TS and Cape York region rugby league players in dad Jack Sagigi and mum Tari Sagigi.

Jack was a key member of the Kulpiyam side which won the 2007 Island of Origin carnival on Badu Island and also represented Torres/Cape in the 2010 Foley Shield comp at Townsville, amongst many other achievements.

Tari scored the first try for Waiben's Sundown Sirens in their 32-22 win over Barbarians in the 2008 grand final of the KRL ladies rugby league competition at Thursday Island's Ken Brown Oval.

Mistee who is a god-daughter



Mistee Sagigi plays for the Gold Coast Suns.

of Cairns Pride CEO Garreth Smith keeps in daily contact by text or social media with her proud parents who live on Waiben.

"Dad and mum are really great supporters," she said.

In the coming Cairns and District AFL season Mistee will play for AFL House affiliate team Eagles in the under 17 girls division and North Cairns Tigers in the open junior girls.

Mistee's journey into Australian rules football began through the AFL Cape York development program at Tagai State College on TI.

Possessing a natural talent in the code, in 2023, Mistee played her first competitive game at the StreetSmarts AFLQ Schools Cup gala day in Cairns, representing



Flashback to the 2007 Island of Origin when Mistee's dad Jack Sagigi, left at front, and god-father Garreth Smith, third from left, starred for winning Island of Origin side Kulpiyam.

her college.

Her performance there led to an invitation to attend the Gold Coast Suns Emerging Talent Carnival in Maroochydore later

that year.

Her impressive form did not go unnoticed, and she was selected for the StreetSmarts Gold Coast Suns Academy

squad for the 2024 Under-16 Marsh AFL National Development Championships.

At the championships, Mistee competed against teams from the Sydney Swans Academy, the Brisbane Lions Academy, and Western Australia.

In August 2024, Mistee's consistent excellence earned her Queensland honours when she was chosen to represent the state at the National School Sport Australia Championships. She was also one of 38 Indigenous players selected to participate in the AFL's 2024 Woomeras program and represents the Cape York Crusaders.

Additionally, Mistee was selected for the Peninsula regional team for Under 17 girls and played in the Under 18 Indigenous South Pacific All Stars match versus Cairns All Stars.

Kieran Sciberras, AFL Cape York Development Coordinator, praised Mistee's remarkable progress, highlighting the significance of her achievement.

"Mistee's rise to such a high level of representative football shows that there is a genuine pathway for young people from remote Far North Queensland to reach elite AFL levels. She has made incredible progress in such a short time, and with no regular competitions on Thursday Island, her success makes us even prouder. There is no AFL field on the island. The closest is in Cairns, which requires a ferry ride, bus journey and plane trip to get to," he said.

Gold Coast Suns Academy Manager Kath Newman emphasised the academy's commitment to providing opportunities for talent regardless of location.

"No matter where you live across our vast Gold Coast Suns zone, if you have the talent and the desire to reach the highest level, we'll support you. We hope Mistee's success will pave the way for more Torres Strait Islanders to represent the Suns," Kath said.



Port Adelaide Charlyze Callaghan throwing the boomerang.

Softballers celebrate First Nations day

By PETER ARGENT



MARCH 1, 2025 makes the fifth year Port Adelaide Softball Club celebrated its First Nation Round.

Decked out in spectacularly designed tops – as were the umpires – the Port Adelaide Magpies were dashing and dynamic.

A highlight was the first ceremony 'pitch' to start the game.

Vicky Taylor from the Riverland came out behind second base with a player from each side, starting the game by each throwing a boomerang.

Port Adelaide Charlyze Callaghan (pictured throwing the boomerang), their match winning pitcher has Narungga, Yanjuntjatjara and Nunuku heritage.

Abbie Bastian was the Heat pitcher in this contest.

Magpies were victorious playing against Hills Heat, winning 9-3.

The purpose of Softball SA Indigenous Round's is to raise awareness, increase respect, and to acknowledge and value Aboriginal cultures and peoples across the wider and softball community.

It was great to see the brilliant designed Indigenous tops worn fellow Softball SA clubs West Torrens, Sturt, Seacombe and Walkerville.

Temaana Sanderson-Bromley from Malka Wiri Wiri painted softballs, which were gifted to various opposition players throughout the day.

Iteka Sanderston-Bromley produced the tops for the club, which were worn across all the grades for this round.



Roosters have plenty to crow about

By ALF WILSON



THE Thursday Island Roosters took on some of the cream of the Cairns and District Rugby League clubs in the

FNQ Chairman's Challenge and won the grand final convincingly 30-14 over Kangaroos.

Three other CDRL sides Brothers, Mossman Port Douglas Sharks and Tully Tigers competed at the start of the FNQ rugby league season at Jones Park in Cairns on Saturday.

After losing their first qualifying match 20-14 to Brothers, the well drilled Roosters rebounded to defeat Tully Tigers 20-8 in game two.

After the qualifying matches the ladder saw Kangaroos on top, Roosters second, Mossman Sharks third, Cairns Brothers fourth and Tully Tigers fifth.

In the semi finals the Roosters beat Mossman Sharks 16-10 and Kangaroos rolled Brothers 20-14.

Player of the carnival was Roosters Daniel Nona.

Semi final try scorers for Roosters were Emerson Charlie, Myron Ahwang, Daniel Nona and Jacob Mene.

Winning side

The Roosters side was: Myron Ahwang, Gerald Bindoraho, Jacob Mene, Jarrod Laifoo, John Mosby, Terence Yusia jnr (captain), Stewart Sabatino, Kongasau Nona, Emerson Charlie, Johann Turner, Aaron Binawel, Ryan Nona, Faafetai Nona, Manasa Dorante, Dean Dorante, Daniel Nona, Zengrey Nona and Boyd Ahmat.

The Mossman Sharks also included a liberal sprinkling of classy TS footballers including David Lui, Windsor Bowie, Aaron



The Roosters team after their win.

Guligo, Jafar Cook, Terence Anau-Sailor, Stanley Anau, Eddie Ingui and Epith Guligo.

It was more than a football carnival for the Roosters and a few days before Roosters blessed a homeless Mob when 40 containers of food was delivered by Rosie's Friends on the Street which is an arm of the Catholic diocese.

That kind gesture was praised by QRL officials.

Rosies is an outreach organisation which offers an efficient service to homeless people dubbed friends on the street.

Food is delivered in a van and the Cairns branch has been serving the community since 1992, offering friendship and meaningful connection four nights a week.

The boys also had the pleasure of undertaking three volunteer courses at Jones Park and special mention must go to Alby Anderson, Rachael Morgan, Atul Chowdary Denise Weier and Peri Creamer for making the courses happen.

Rachael Morgan, League and Club Coordinator Cape and Torres regions, said it was an action-packed week and was an

absolute pleasure to have Roosters in Cairns.

"They have represented their region very well, participating in multiple volunteer courses, including refereeing and coaching. I was very excited to hear of their plans for the week and am also looking forward to seeing how they will use this upskilling opportunity back in their communities. Not only did the team work on upskilling but they also generously offered their time to the FNQRL League to help with game day setup and then also a heart-warming helping hand to the local

organisation Rosies where they prepared over 40 meals for the homeless," Rachel said.

Rachel said the Chairman's Challenge ended in a great result with the TI Roosters taking out the grand final.

She said the Roosters also attended the following courses throughout their week's stay in Cairns: NRL 6-12 coaches course, 16+ referees course, and 13-18's coaches course.

"This has been a fantastic week for them and I hope that it will have many long lasting memories," she said.

Banks dominate premier reserves

By PETER ARGENT



THREE First Nations men played significant roles in the Banks Bulldogs emphatic win in the Premier League

Reserves (formally called Division 1) NTFL grand final; key forward and former AFL listed player Shaun Edwards and Tiwi Brayden Rioli, along with coach Robert Hale.

The Bulldogs were quick out of the blocks and had a 38-point lead at half time, before the Pint Greenants kicked a couple of consecutive goals in the third term.

Banks would regroup quickly and go on to win by a handsome 55-point margin, 11.12 (78) to 3.5 (23).

Rioli would continue the famous

family "Top End" legacy by winning the Clark Medal as best on ground in this clash.

"Brayden was a livewire – adding another dimension up forward with his absolute pace," coach Hale told the *Koori Mail*.

"Shaun Edwards was massive in the second semi-final and although he was quelled on grand final day, he still had a presence.

"(There was a) big emphasis to start well, as Pints had been up and about in their previous finals, kicking early goals and leading at quarter time.

"Leading into the game, after what we had with the condition of the oval in the 2024 Grand Final, I must admit I checked the weather on the internet about the 20 times during the week.

"I always thought if the conditions were ok, we could beat

them with our speed and spread."

Formerly, a successful junior coach at St Mary's, Robert Hale already has his Level 3 qualifications.

Across the grades Hale has made five Grand Final appearances as a coach in the past six seasons.

In his second year at Banks, after the loss in unique conditions in the 2023-24 decider, Hale enjoyed his first senior premiership on Saturday, March 15 as a coach.

Dad, Damian Hale, has his name etched in St Mary's football history as well coaching the Green Machine to a three-peat in the early 2000s.

Robert was a member of the 2008-09 and 2009-2010 St Mary's NTFL Premier League Premierships as a player as well.

● NTFL grand final reports, pages 51-53.



Banks First Nations Premiers Shaun Edwards, Brayden Rioli and coach Robert Hale with his son Eddie.