



# Koori Mail

*The Voice of Indigenous Australia*

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## Rock'n the Cup



Youngsters Dion Mitchell and Nicholas Jingo of Mutujulu, Northern Territory, were stoked to get their hands on the biggest prize in AFL when the premiership trophy made the pilgrimage through the APY Lands in South Australia, then onto Uluru in the Northern Territory. Story and pictures by Peter Argent, page 9.

# Youth bail laws to face UN scrutiny

Australia could be taken to task internationally for its “crisis of mass incarceration” of Indigenous children as one state tries to take its controversial youth crime crackdown even further. **Page 8.**

**Todd Condie returns as editor after 21 years, page 21**



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## Nellie Dargan wins title

Sport

# MY FAMILY

Lindsay Malone, Palm Island



I was born and live on beautiful Palm Island which is a wonderful place where I have many family and extended family members.

We do lots of activities together and I have three sons, Blake, aged nine, Kelee, 23, and Toby, 24.

Like many other residents on our water-surrounded island, we have a boat which has a 90hp outboard motor and this enables us to go fishing to various spots.

We catch mackerel, coral trout, trevally and set pots for mud crabs which all make good eating.

Camping together is another activity and we boat over to nearby Fantome, Fringe and Possum islands.

My older sons also go hunting for wild goats and pigs and we sometimes have a family feast.

Having said that I also enjoy a nice steak.

I have a lot of relatives amongst the Geia family which has many members here and also up in the Torres Strait.

In addition to Palm Island, I have family at Cherbourg and in Brisbane.

Your photographer saw myself, Kelee

and Toby at the BP Cluden roadhouse on the outskirts of Townsville in late March, as we headed to Brisbane to meet up with cousins.

It was great to be able to catch up with them after a long journey by road.

Another passion of ours is rugby league football and I used to play for the local ladies team the Palm Barracudettes.

I am now aged 44 and have long retired but we still support the Palm Island teams which contest Allblacks carnivals and we also barrack for the Cowboys and Broncos in the NRL.

There was a recent carnival here on Palm where we also love events such as the annual Spring Fair and NAIDOC.

I am a committed Christian and do outreach work here on Palm which is good.

Recently I attended a ladies Christian conference on Masig in the Torres Strait where I also met up with friends.

My life is very happy and everyday I wake up to such scenic beaches and then can watch sunsets at night.

With such beauty around me on the home island I love being with family. It makes my life content.

From left are Kelee, Lindsay and Toby Malone.

## 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](mailto:editor@koorimail.com) along with a full caption (always reading from left to right) and between 350 and 400 words about your family. Tell us who is in your family, what you like to do as a family, your traditions and achievements, and what is important to you.

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# OUR CHILDREN



Lionel Carbine and Taison Taylor ready for a big night at the Parrtjima – A Festival of Light, which is being held in Alice Springs, Northern Territory. See page 31.

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# Parrtjima sheds light on the Red Centre



Picture: AAP



Dancers perform at the Parrtjima Festival in Alice Springs, Northern Territory. Parrtjima – A Festival in Light is celebrating its 10th anniversary, drawing from the timelessness of Aboriginal culture, art and stories. [Full report and pictures, pages 34-35.](#)

# Rangers program to increase by 800 jobs



THE number of Indigenous Rangers will be doubled by the end of the decade, with 800 new jobs announced last week under a second round of funding.

In the first round last October, more than 1,000 new Indigenous Ranger jobs were created across the country, with federal government funding of \$355 million over four years.

A total of 770 of those positions have gone to First Nations women.

The second round of the National Indigenous Australians Agency's (NIAA) Indigenous Rangers Program will create the 800-plus new jobs, with \$165

million in funding through to June 2028.

Minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, made the announcement while visiting the remote community of Ramingining, in North East Arnhem Land, 580 kilometres east of Darwin, to meet with the Arafura Swamp Rangers.

Arafura Swamp Rangers look after more than 1.2 million hectares of land and sea Country, controlling feral animals and weeds, and reducing destructive wildfires.

They are part of an expanded national network of Indigenous Rangers supported by the government's \$1.3 billion investment.

For more than 65,000 years, First Nations people have cared for Australia's land, rivers, seas, flora and fauna.

Indigenous Rangers continue this legacy today, managing Country according to Traditional Owners' objectives, combined with modern conservation training.

The Rangers' expansion contributes to Closing the Gap targets by increasing the proportion of First Nations people in employment and providing training pathways for First Nations youth.

Senator McCarthy said her government's investment in Indigenous Rangers was building Australia's future by empowering First Nations people, creating jobs in remote areas, and boosting

social, economic and environmental outcomes.

"I've travelled across the country and met Rangers from Healesville in Victoria, to Maningrida and Ramingining in the Top End, and what I see is people who are proud of the work they're doing," she said.

Minister for Environment and Water, Tanya Plibersek, said "We are so lucky in this country to have the world's most successful environmentalists to learn from".

"One of the great experiences of my job has been visiting Indigenous Protected Areas around Australia and seeing the work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rangers up close. There's no one better placed to care for land and sea than First

Nations communities.

"That's why we're creating 12 new Indigenous Protected Areas and doubling the number of Indigenous Rangers. We're adding an area the size of Tasmania to the areas protected – protecting native species, dealing with feral animals and weeds, managing fire risks, and restoring our beautiful Australian landscapes. At the same time, we're creating jobs and teaching a new generation to care for Country."

Member for Lingiari, Marion Scrymgour, said "One of the most important things for First Nations people living in remote communities is being able to train and work right there in their home communities".



# Farewell to two remarkable men



## Shelley Ware

We recently lost two remarkable Aboriginal men who were both from the sporting and media world. I want to start by saying, that my article comes with a warning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, that I will be writing about Aboriginal men, who have recently passed away.

The two men I am writing about have both left a legacy, that will be felt for years to come. Through our work together, I am grateful to call them friends, who became family over the years.

A few weeks ago, we lost media presenter and advocate Uncle Wayne Coolwell, who as a young man studied photography at college, but realised it was a passion not a career. He spent a few years in London, working for

a marketing magazine and continued to take photographs of his time in Europe. When he returned to Australia in 1984, he received a traineeship at ABC radio, where he started in news and current affairs before moving into sports media, on ABC Sport.

Uncle Wayne was the first Aboriginal commentator at the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, he was a trailblazer. His sports media career was impressive but it's the behind-the-scenes passion, for our people to shine and be acknowledged for shining, that I adored.

I met Uncle Wayne ten years ago at a Sports Summit at the Richmond Football Club. He launched straight into wanting to restart the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sports Awards. He also wanted to have a First Nations Sports Museum, dedicated to our people's sporting achievements.

Well, he kept that vision alive and three years ago, got a group of us together, formed a committee and prompted us, as uncles do, to bring back the Sports Awards after a 20-year hiatus. We brought them back in 2023-24 at the MCG and he loved it, at the time his health



Wayne Coolwell in his days working at the ABC.

Picture: Wayne Coolwell archives.

was declining and he couldn't be there but he watched online. He was so proud. In November 2025 the Sports Awards will be held in Brisbane, where we will continue to honour our people's sporting achievements and of course uncle Wayne Coolwell.

My heart aches deeply for the loss of Richmond and Collingwood ALF legend Andrew Krakouer, who we lost last week, at the age of 42. Too soon.

I worked with Andy on NITV's *Marngrook* football show for years, before we left together, along with Geelong great Matthew Stokes and some of the production crew, to start our own show *Colour of Your Jumper* on AFL.com. People loved our show and how the three of us laughed and laughed together every week for two seasons,



Andrew Krakouer in action.

Picture: AAP.

then Covid hit. We all know what happened then!

After Covid, Andy went on to do *Yokayi Footy* with AFL.com and NITV and loved it, he cherished his time with Megan Waters and the team. He also called live football games with NIRS, he loved his footy and his footy loved him.

What I loved the most about Andy, was how he made people feel, he really cared about his people and the people who love him as a player and wanted a

minute with him

I also loved how after his time in prison for a crime he took full responsibility for, he took that second chance at Collingwood and lived every minute of it. He went into prison and let them know this didn't define them and they could turn things around.

His legacy of this work will live on through the lives he changed and in the children's book he wrote with Jacqueline Dinan, *My Dad's Gone Away*. This stunning book helps children navigate the real feelings they feel when their dad goes to prison and gives them the safe space to talk about them.

If you knew Andy, you knew love, he loved everyone so deeply, that's why we all felt like family. In saying that he had a different level of love for his Barbara and their four beautiful children, he loved them beyond words. I will miss Andy and his big beautiful smile that lit up the room, I'm so proud of him and I wish this wasn't so.

Love to both of these beautiful men's families, communities, colleagues and loved ones, you are all in our thoughts and hearts.

● See Sport for tributes to Andrew Krakouer.

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## Mob on the map



TRADITIONAL Aboriginal place names will be put on the map for millions of smartphone users worldwide after a four-year project between Apple and local Indigenous groups.

The US tech giant announced the update on Thursday that will also show Indigenous reserves and protected areas and reflect traditional place names in other programs, such as weather and location apps.

Apple's changes will come in addition to a further investment in Indigenous community initiatives, and after several American technology companies backed away from diversity programs following a change in the US administration.

More than 250 traditional Aboriginal place names including Meanjin (Brisbane), Naarm (Melbourne) and the Eora Nation (Sydney) will be displayed as options as part of the Apple Maps update, and will appear in location searches with several alternate spellings.

The online maps will also display the names of the Traditional Owners for each area, about which Apple consulted with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

Some locations will also feature photographs and information submitted by local communities such as the Northern Territory outstation of Mamadawerre, where resident Rodriguez Pindiying said children captured images using iPads.

"Sharing our story and deep



Children take images with tablet devices in Mamadawerre, West Arnhem, Northern Territory. Picture: AAP

connection to the land is a meaningful moment for our community – a testament to our resilience, history and vision for the future," Mr Pindiying said.

"This isn't just about geography. It's about preserving our culture and ensuring Mamadawerre's legacy for generations."

The addition of Aboriginal place names comes after similar projects by the company in the United States and Canada in 2023, and as Apple added Maori names to New Zealand maps.

The company also announced further investment in the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust's Indigenous women's ranger programs and efforts to build three schools.

The investment, in addition to grants issued in 2022, would help to combine traditional knowledge with modern technology, Apple environment, policy and social initiatives senior director Alisha Johnson Wilder said.

"These are really focused on creating a lasting impact with First Nations and Indigenous

communities," she said.

"We have technology, we have resources that we are able to bring to partners, but the solutions really sit with the partners who are on the ground, who are deeply familiar with the unique challenges that they face."

Other programs supported by Apple include the Djamu Youth Justice Program run by the Art Gallery of NSW and ID Know Yourself that supports families in Sydney.

The announcements come at a challenging time for diversity programs and investments from US tech firms, with companies including Meta, Google, Amazon and Microsoft announcing changes and cuts to diversity programs, hiring policies, and staff.

The changes come after US President Donald Trump signed executive orders to remove diversity, equity and inclusion policies from government departments and the military.

– AAP



# Stolen skull returned home

By JILLIAN MUNDY



THE skull of a young Tasmanian Aboriginal man, murdered around 200 years ago, has been

welcomed home to Lutruwita/Tasmania.

Taken from Tasmania in the 1830s, the human remains became part of a collection at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland in 1853, catalogued as 'Native of Van Diemen's Land, who was shot on the Shannon River'

Little else is known other than he was a warrior of the Big River tribe who fought to defend their country.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) said there is no doubt that his skull was removed to service the international trade in Aboriginal body parts and the decapitation most likely performed by one of the killers, stock-keepers, property owners or lessees involved in or associated with his murder in the 1820s or 1830s.

"During this period British colonisers would pay bounties to obtain the body parts of tribespeople, and it's believed that the young man was killed for this reason," the TAC said.

"Bounties were introduced at £5 [equivalent in today's purchasing power to around \$1,500] for an adult Aboriginal person and £2 per child to encourage colonists to bring in live captives, with the payments later extended to the dead, thus a person bringing in the head of a native person could expect to receive financial reward."

Tasmanian Aboriginal people have been campaigning for the return of ancestors' remains for over 50 years.

So extensive was the 'bone trade' that barely a year goes by without a repatriation.

Palawa man Andy Sculthorpe from the TAC told the *Koori Mail* it felt good to bring the young man back to his Country and his community.

"It's been a long time coming."

Sculthorpe travelled to Scotland with Palawa Elder and shell necklace maker Jeanette James, returning late last month (March).



The Tasmanian Aboriginal community welcomes home the remains of an ancestor murdered in the early 1800s.

They also brought home a shell necklace and a stone tool. While abroad they met with Oxford University and Cambridge University to progress the repatriation of other stolen ancestral remains.

In the past, British institutions had been reluctant or refused to meet.

"It seems like the tide is turning," said Sculthorpe.

"It's becoming more and more socially and morally unacceptable to hold these remains from the community, particularly under the circumstances in which they were taken."

"In the last few years, we've seen an increasing will for institutions to want to talk with us about repatriation," he said.

"It's recognising the atrocities that occurred in the past shouldn't have happened, what happened is wrong."

"It's also recognising our community's needs now, today – the living community's needs are of more importance than the whims of scientists or researchers wanting to look at our ancestral remains for spurious reasons."

Jeanette James first repatriated human remains from overseas in 1998.

"I have seen a major shift in



Andy Sculthorpe and Jeanette James return home to Lutruwita with ancestors' remains and cultural items.

that time, the acceptance of us and what we were tasked to do, our welcome, the genuine dialogue that we've been having is really heartwarming and I think we'll have really positive outcomes from this trip," Sculthorpe said.

Neil Curtis, Head of University Collections at the University of Aberdeen, said given the violence and racism that led to their acquisition, "it would be unacceptable for these ancestral remains to be used for research, teaching or exhibition

purposes'.

The university is reviewing collections to identify items looted or unethically returned so they can initiate discussions as well as responding to proposals.

James and Sculthorpe understand the university is in talks to repatriate the remains of other First Nations people from so-called Australia.

They believe the skull they brought home is the last remains of a Tasmanian Aboriginal person held in a Scottish institution. There are still remains held in British institutions.

James says the shell necklace they brought home is made entirely from maireener shells and is in really good condition. She believes it is about 150 years old and made on Flinders Island, or considering the intense blue of the shells maybe from the outer islands.

Held in the University of Glasgow's Hunterian Museum, it is the first overseas return of a cultural item to Tasmanian Aborigines since a necklace and bracelet from Exeter Museum in 1998. Requests for the necklace to be returned were first made in 1994.

Shell necklace making has continued uninterrupted for thousands of years – the sourcing, collecting and stringing of shells is a closely guarded tradition. Early necklaces are rare and considered a learning resource for present-day makers. Today, shell numbers are declining mostly attributed to climate change.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre said the returns are a testament to the strength of the Palawa who have fought tirelessly to reclaim what was taken, a reaffirmation of resilience, sovereignty and connection to Country, a moment of healing and a powerful reminder that culture endures despite attempts to erase it.

"We will continue to fight for the return of all our ancestors and cultural possessions still held in institutions around the world," they said.

The remains of the man murdered can now be laid to rest and his spirit set free in his traditional homelands.



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# Indigenous artists to take up

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



PARIS is renowned as the world's epicentre of art and later this year two highly regarded First Nations artists will arrive in the city of light to take up prestigious residencies literally a stone's throw from Notre Dame Cathedral and The Louvre.

Archibald Prize-winning artist Vincent Namatjira OAM and multidisciplinary artist Jarra Karalinar Steel have been awarded the annual galang residency, a program delivered through a partnership between Powerhouse and the Cité internationale des arts.

Now in its third year, the prestigious residency supports Australian First Nations creative practitioners through two supported three-month residencies in Paris in June and July 2025.

## Jarra Karalinar Steel

Jarra will arrive in Paris in July and is looking forward to exploring how her art practice fits into global conversations. "Having dedicated time and space to experiment and grow as an artist is invaluable," she said. "My research will focus on Blak Futurism, cultural revitalisation, and the intersection between First Peoples' perspectives and broader narratives of identity, while drawing from my Yaluk-ut Weelam heritage."

The work developed during her time in Paris will contribute to the development of a larger ongoing project that will reflect on connections between Indigenous and diasporic experiences.

Ahead of taking up her residency, the *Koori Mail* spoke with Jarra, asking first where her studio was located.

**Jarra Karalinar Steel:** I'm fortunate enough to have a studio here at Euro Yroke on my Country at Shakespeare Grove in St Kilda, Melbourne. I'm a Boonwurrung, Wemba Wemba and Trawlwoolway artist and I get to be on Country while I'm making my work, which is very



Jarra Karalinar Steel is off to Paris.

special.

**Koori Mail:** Would you see Paris as uniquely placed within the art world, a city that has been seen historically as offering a nurturing place for artists and welcoming of a wide range of cultural expression?

**JKS:** Yes. I'm a bit of a nerd with this kind of stuff and I've visited Paris previously and knowing the history I have come to see it as a place where artists could have that space to be expressive. I also understand things have changed over time of course and it's not as easy to just rent a tiny studio in Montmartre. But Paris definitely has a presence in the world, it has some of the best galleries and museums. I'm always inspired by the appreciation for art and beauty that is ingrained into French culture.

**KM:** Who would you regard as a prime influence on development of your practice?

**JKS:** I wouldn't say there is any one person in particular, but I

was very fortunate to grow up around the likes of Auntie Helen José, Destiny Deacon, Craig Charles, Peter Clark and Marie Clark. Standing there quietly watching after being dragged around to exhibitions when I was a kid was a big part of my falling in love with the arts. Auntie Ellen was like a second mum to me and when I catch the smell of an artist studio I think of her. And of course my mother Carolyn Briggs was a huge influence on me.

**KM:** Are you able to define your practice and talk a little about the idea of Blak Futurism?

**JKS:** As I work on my Phd I am continuing to define my practice. I see myself as a multi disciplinary artist. My work is focussed on storytelling cultural revitalisation and I do a lot of public art which I see as a way of reclaiming space for contemporary Aboriginal visual language. I also work in digital spaces and have even engraved emu eggs. I want to play with everything because, I get bored

easily. I'm even working at the moment in video games. But ultimately it all comes down to identity, memory and connection to Country.

Blak Futurism is a form of Indigenous Futurism, a term coined by North American academic Grace Dillon, a woman of Anishinaabe and European descent. The movement uses art, literature and other forms of media to express Indigenous perspectives of the past, present and future in the context of science fiction and related sub-genres.

I acknowledge Destiny Deacon for coinage of the term Blak Futurism which I see as a type of speculative storytelling, a creative practice that imagines an Indigenous people's future that challenges colonial narratives through video games, literature and science fiction. I'm looking more at the speculative future ideas – I created a game that wondered what Melbourne would look like if it fully embraced our

culture. I also regard some of the things I create as future folklore which is another aspect I am unpacking through my Phd.

**KM:** What are you most looking forward to in Paris?

**JKS:** I'm looking to the food of course and having an opportunity to have space away from my home base. I grew up here, everything is here and there can be a lot of expectations (placed on my work) leaving not much space to grow and challenge myself. This will be my first proper residency, and it's an international one as well. I can't wait to go to the museums and galleries and just absorb and connect with amazing people in these institutions, the Cité internationale des arts as well as meeting Vincent Namatjira. I feel like my work is currently hyper-local and I have not had that opportunity to expand. So having time and space to focus, to hone into my art, to see my work in an international context is something I am very excited about.



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# residencies in Paris



Archibald Prize-winning artist Vincent Namatjira OAM in his studio. (Pictures supplied)

## Vincent Namatjira

Vincent, who takes up his Paris residency in June, said he was honoured to be selected for the 2025 program.

"As an Aboriginal artist based in a remote Indigenous community, I strongly believe that living remote should not be a barrier to artistic and professional development," he said.

"Being based in Paris will give me an opportunity to connect with local artists, curators and institutions, building relationships across countries and cultures and broadening the reach of my practice."

Namatjira plans to investigate historical depictions of First Nations people within French collections, examining how Indigenous subjects were represented in colonial-era art and how these visual legacies are manifested today.

His research will inform new artworks that draw connections between Australia's colonial past and broader global histories of subjugation,



Vincent Namatjira, King Dingo (self-portrait).

empire and resistance.

The project will culminate in a series of new paintings that will reinterpret European representations of authority and challenge dominant historical narratives.

## The galang residency

The 2025 galang residency selection panel consisted of Powerhouse Associate alumni, Wiradjuri artist writer and curator Dr

Brook Garru Andrew, Head of the Residency Department Cité internationale des arts Vincent Gonzalez, and Powerhouse Director First Nations Beau James.

Since its inception, the galang residency has provided a transformative platform for First Nations artists and generated new opportunities for its recipients. Previous residents include architect Jack Gillmer, who was recently appointed a creative director of the Australian Pavilion at the 2025 Venice Architecture Biennale, founder of Barabirang Projects Jayne Christian, leading journalist and storyteller Daniel Browning, and multidisciplinary artist Jody Rallah.

Powerhouse Chief Executive, Lisa Havilah said: "Each year, submissions for the galang residency highlight unique artistic approaches and perspectives from talented Australian First Nations creatives. Our support for this program will continue to foster opportunities for cross-cultural connections and collaborations."



A screenshot taken from a 7 News video shows the scene of a fatal e-bike crash in Sydney on Friday, March 28. (AAP)

## E-bike rider dies after crash with police car



AN Indigenous man on a rental e-bike died in an early morning collision with a police car after an officer tried to pull him over.

Investigators said the 48-year-old man was killed in the crash, which happened about 3am on Friday in the inner-Sydney suburb of Waterloo.

Paramedics tried to revive him but he died at the scene.

NSW Police Assistant Commissioner Peter McKenna said the man, who was Indigenous, had a "significant" amount of methamphetamine and \$10,000 cash in his possession.

The large amounts of cash and drugs would normally indicate they were being used as part of a supply operation, he said.

Police had notified the man's next-of-kin, who were interstate, as well as community Elders and the Aboriginal Legal Service as part of the force's protocol, Mr McKenna added.

He batted away any suggestion officers unfairly targeted Aboriginal people and that it might have played a role in the death.

"There's nothing whatsoever to indicate to me that there's any type of profiling or that we do that," Mr McKenna said.

"Around the state, I've worked in lots of Aboriginal communities and I can tell you the police who are on the ground work really hard to build those relationships and have very good relationships."

A 2023 report by the Redfern Legal Centre found that Indigenous people represented about 45 per cent of all incidents of police using force in NSW over a four-year period.

Indigenous residents of NSW make up around 3.5 per cent of the total population.

Officers from outside the command area will launch a critical incident investigation into the crash and the police actions.

That investigation will be overseen by the police watchdog.

## TINA - A TROPICAL LOVE STORY

WED 7 MAY 2025 8PM

A heartfelt tribute to the indomitable spirit of Tina Turner, performed and directed by Ben Graetz.

MELBOURNE  
RECITAL CENTRE





# Youth laws to face UN scrutiny

By KEIRA JENKINS



AUSTRALIA could be taken to task internationally for its "crisis of mass incarceration" of Indigenous children as one state tries to take its controversial youth crime crackdown even further.

Indigenous legal experts have filed a complaint with the United Nations, pointing to what they say is systemic racial discrimination in criminal laws nationwide.

Curtin University associate professor Hannah McGlade authored the complaint to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in an attempt to shine a light on youth justice policies that disproportionately affect Indigenous children.

"What's happening is the states and territories are putting the truck in reverse," she said.

"This approach is not only failing Aboriginal people and Aboriginal children, it's failing Australia."

The complaint from Dr McGlade, an expert member of the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues, comes as the Queensland government seeks to expand its controversial "adult crime, adult time" legislation with 20 extra offences.

A second tranche of laws to be



**"This approach is not only failing Aboriginal people and Aboriginal children, it's failing Australia."**

Curtin University associate professor Hannah McGlade authored the complaint to the UN.

added to existing legislation, which passed in late December after an election pledge by the incoming LNP government, will cover crimes like rape, attempted murder, arson and torture.

Premier David Crisafulli said the laws would bring serious offenders to justice.

"We promised to restore safety to our communities and to continue delivering strong youth crime laws – that's exactly what we're doing," he told

Queensland's parliament.

Multiple states and territories have recently tightened bail laws and introduced other legal changes to target young offenders, a shift that critics say will lead to an increase in already high Indigenous incarceration rates.

Dr McGlade said the tough-on-crime approach had created an appalling situation for Indigenous children while making communities more dangerous as

young people were more likely to become repeat offenders after early contact with the justice system.

"We're playing with fire," she said. "We're harming, potentially for life, the Aboriginal children who are being impacted and incarcerated in shocking situations."

A Curtin study found young people who had contact with the justice system were 4.2 times more likely than their peers to die

prematurely, with the most common causes being suicide, traffic accidents and drug poisoning.

Most of these deaths occurred before the age of 25, lead author Stuart Kinner said.

"Young people who have had contact with the youth justice system may have difficult family relationships and are at an increased risk of homelessness, mental illness, substance-use disorder and risk-taking behaviours, making them particularly vulnerable," he said.

"Achieving better outcomes for these young people will require coordinated, multi-sectoral investments in care that extend beyond the criminal justice system."

Queensland Youth Justice Minister Laura Gerber said the state was making significant investments in early intervention and rehabilitation measures alongside the "adult crime, adult time" policies.

"There must be consequences for action but we must also ensure that youth get the support and the guidance they need to turn their lives around," she said.

The UN delivered a scathing assessment of Australia's prison and detention practices, including the treatment of young people, in 2023, saying they were inhuman, degrading and in some cases may amount to torture. — AAP

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# AFL roadshow tours remote areas

By PETER ARGENT



AS a part of the third instalment of the AFL's Gather Round, its Roadshow travelled to the most remote footballing destination in our nation, the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands and then onto Uluru in the Northern Territory.

This was the inaugural trip by the 2025 AFL and AFLW premierships cup to the communities in this remote part of north-west South Australia.

The Cup first stopped at Pukatja Oval and the Ernaballa Ananga School, where the local students and staff played an impromptu game of football between the boys and the girls.

The next stop was Kaljiti (Fregon) where the students got to hold and pose with the cups, before playing softball and displaying their innate skillset.

A third community, Indulkana, the home of the Tigers, took the cups down to their home ground.

The following day the cups travelled up the community of the Mututjulu Cats, who play their football and have their ground in the shadows of Uluru.

This is all a part of the AFL Gather Round, which begins on Thursday, April 10, at Adelaide Oval and includes suburban venue, Norwood and the new Barossa Park at Lyndoch.



Student Derek proudly holds the AFL premiership cup on Pukatja oval, home to the Magpies.



Charlotte Andy Lewis displaying her strong skills during a game of footy



A dad and his lad – Brian Douglas and Lil Garth.



NT Thunder talent and Hawks fan Jake Singer if the AFL premiership cup.



Anaga students Nickiwah and Cheryth with the AFLW and the AFL cups.



The AFL and AFLW cups with Uluru in the background.



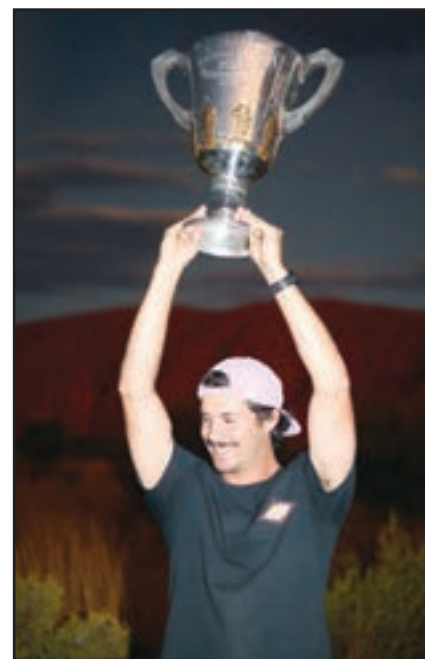
Cats supporter Julie Peipei with the AFLW Cup.



Cats Coach Craig Woods and former AFL footballer Brenton Phillips.



Cats footballer Christopher Reid.



SANFL staffer Bailey Gaskin.



Members of the Indulkna Tigers club with the symbol of footy supremacy – AFL premiership cup.



Lackon Turner with the AFL Cup at Uluru.



# Arrests as campaign to



Ruth Langford – ‘Law in Country continues to exist across this continent, it has never been extinguished and never ceded’.

By JILLIAN MUNDY



AS the climate warms, species teeter on the edge of extinction and a federal election looms, the campaign to end native forest logging is ramping up with protests across the continent, more arrests and challenges to colonial law.

Last week police evicted forest defenders and arrested Aboriginal woman Ruth Langford Tipruthanna, who were protesting native forest logging on the western side of the Kunanyi/Mt Wellington range – the mountain that overshadows Nipaluna/Hobart.

Langford, a Yorta Yorta and Dja Dja Wurrung woman who grew up in the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, said she was upholding her cultural obligation to protect Country.

“Country that encompasses the natural systems and cycles that provide for us all.

“I am choosing to not simply stand by and watch the destruction of one of the few intact native forests left in south east Lutruwita, fire experts have identified these wet old growth forests as the most important protective factor to stop catastrophic fires from reaching



Palawa woman Tanager Peet-West at the Rally for Forests in Nipaluna/Hobart.

Nipaluna/Hobart,” she said.

“It’s imperative that we change the archaic logging practices to ensure that we protect our water catchments and that we choose a way that makes better economic sense.

“If you live on this Country then you are obligated, under this pre-existing law, to protect nature – no colonial law can alter this truth and responsibility.

“We are all obligated to uphold this law and protect Country – I am simply honouring my

responsibility,” she said.

“Law in Country continues to exist across this continent, it has never been extinguished and never ceded.”

A week earlier rallies calling for an end to native forest were held simultaneously in twelve locations across so-called Australia. The Nipaluna rally attracted a crowd of around 4,000. Speakers said voting for independents and Greens in the federal election on 3rd May would give the environment the best chance.

## Goodwyn Alpha Geophysical and Geotechnical Surveys Environment Plan

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Woodside consults with relevant persons to gather feedback to inform its Commonwealth Environment Plans.

### Goodwyn Alpha Geophysical and Geotechnical Surveys Environment Plan

Woodside is submitting a revision to the in force Goodwyn Alpha Geophysical and Geotechnical Surveys Environment Plan (EP), accepted by NOPSEMA in May 2024. In the revised EP, the Operational Area will be expanded to encompass survey activities that will support future decommissioning activities. The revised EP will also make provision for surveys to be undertaken to support other scopes including the Goodwyn Alpha Infill development.

### Environment that may be affected (EMBA)

The EMBA is the largest geographic area where unplanned activities could potentially have an environmental consequence. The whole EMBA will not be affected.

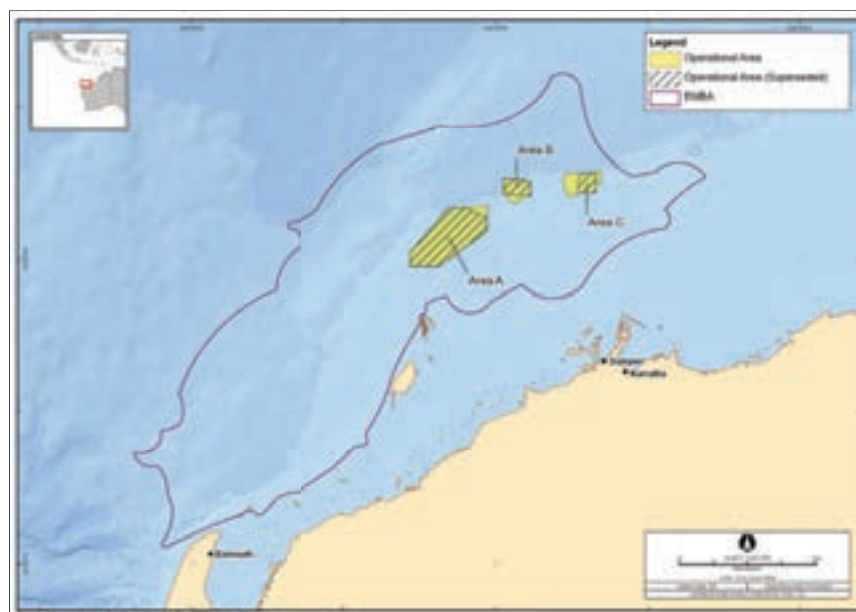
### We want to hear from you

If you are an individual, organisation or community group and believe your functions, interests or activities may be impacted by the activities under this Environment Plan, we want to hear from you by **9 May 2025**.

### To find out more go to:

[www.woodside.com/what-we-do/consultation-activities](http://www.woodside.com/what-we-do/consultation-activities)

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# save forests ramps up

## ● From previous page

The week before that, the Wilderness Society of Tasmania researched heavily redacted documents obtained under Right to Information laws to reveal the Tasmanian government is considering reopening forests to destruction previously reserved under the 2012 Tasmanian Forests Agreement. Dubbed the 'forest peace agreement' it aimed to end decades of 'uncertainty' for forestry workers.

The forests earmarked for destruction are in the north east of Lutruwita/Tasmania – Palawa home Country and home to threatened species and Aboriginal heritage.

According to research published by the Australia Institute, 25% of Tasmania's wood product comes from native forest, compared to just 9% for the rest of Australia. Tasmania accounts for 40% of all native forest log volume in Australia. Some 60% of the forest's biomass is simply left on site, and either burned or left to rot. Of the 40% of biomass that is removed, only 10% (4% of the total biomass) becomes sawlog – and only 25% of those logs (1%



**Jim Everett speaks at a press conference that revealed previously reserved forests in the north east of Lutruwita/Tasmania are earmarked for destruction – 'this has to stop, it's not just what is found in caves and in middens, those forests are our heritage, we are Country, Country is us, hurt that Country you're hurting my community'.**

of the total biomass) becomes sawn timber.

Forestry Tasmania (now rebadged as Sustainable Timbers Tasmania) – the government-owned enterprise that manages logging in native forests has been heavily subsidised by the state government. Over the period



**Palawa woman Theresa Sainty front and centre at the Rally for Forests alongside Bob Brown.**

1997-2017 Forestry Tasmania suffered a cash loss of \$454 million and wrote down the asset value of the forest estate by \$751 million.

Tasmania's native forests are globally recognised for their unique species and conservation value and are some of the most carbon-dense forests on the planet.

Continued logging has reduced the habitat of several endangered species including the

masked owl, wedge tail eagle, swift parrot and multiple types of quoll, just to name a few.

Many birds and mammals rely on the hollows of mature trees for shelter and nesting. Eucalypt trees can take hundreds of years to form hollows.

Langford was bailed to face trespass charges in court on June 25 for last week's action. She also faces court on May 5 for peacefully defending forests in January in vulnerable water

catchment areas of central Lutruwita.

A trespass charge against 82-year-old Palawa Elder Jim Everett puralia meenamatta is scheduled to be heard in court today (Wednesday, April 9), stemming from peacefully protesting destruction of forests last year. He has faced several similar charges – he has not entered the court, saying it has no jurisdiction over him and he has a right to protect his Country.



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# Decades of torment after teen's train-track death



MARK Haines' siblings have spent every day of the last 37 years desperately missing their beloved older brother.

Mr Haines, a happy and unassuming Gomeri teenager who loved playing footy, was found dead on train tracks outside Tamworth, NSW, in January 1988.

An inquest re-examining the 17-year-old's death has given his siblings Lorna and Ron Haines very little comfort.

"After 37 years they still don't feel like they have answers for what happened to Mark," National Justice Project lawyer Karina Hawtrey told reporters outside the NSW Coroners Court in Sydney last Friday.

Lorna Haines looked to the sky and began to weep as her lawyer described the depths of the family's torment.

"They want to know the truth about what happened to him, how he ended up on those tracks in Tamworth," Ms Hawtrey said.

Heavy rain was falling before dawn on January 16, when a train crew spotted Mr Haines' body lying in the middle of the tracks. A folded blanket or towel was under his head, and cardboard boxes surrounded him. Police found a stolen white Torana next to the rail line, which appeared to have crashed and rolled.

An initial police investigation ruled Mr Haines lay on the tracks either deliberately or in a dazed state after the car crash, something his family has never believed.

A coroner handed down an open finding after an inquest in 1988 and 1989.



Lorna Haines, with her partner John, wipes away tears as human rights lawyer Karina Hawtrey of the National Justice Project speaks to the media on behalf of Lorna and her brother Ron Haines.

Mr Haines' uncle Don Craigie has long pursued rumours that several Tamworth locals had something to do with his nephew's death or knew more about it.

Weeks of hearings have only agitated those theories, as many witnesses pointed towards other people, were unable to recall key details or denied any involvement.

Mr Craigie said investigators failed to take the family's suspicions of foul play seriously and police racism hindered any progress in the case.

"That train would still be there if it was a white boy," Mr Craigie told the inquest on Friday.

"They would have turned that train engine over."

A senior police officer, Chief Superintendent Alan Donnelly, openly dismissed him when they spoke at a Tamworth betting



A framed portrait of Mark Haines at the second inquest into his death. Pictures AAP

shop, Mr Craigie said.

"He said to me 'Don, you never know what a 17-year-old boy would do, you never know what a 17-year-old Aboriginal boy would do'," he said.

Chief Supt Donnelly died in 2023.

Matthew Varley, the barrister representing NSW Police, showed Mr Craigie a series of newspaper articles in which



Don Craigie, the uncle of Mark Haines, arrives to give evidence.

investigators appealed for more information in the years after Mr Haines' death.

Police also interviewed several people over the following decade, pursuing leads Mr Craigie gave them, according to documents before the inquest.

But Mr Craigie said police have treated deaths of non-Indigenous people very differently.

"I've seen a few deaths around Tamworth and they've pulled out all the stops," he said.

"And then there was others they did not pay too much attention to."

"We want to know how our boy died," Mr Craigie said.

The inquest, which opened in April 2024, was due to conclude, but further hearings have been scheduled before Deputy State Coroner Harriet Grahame.

— AAP

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# Accused murderer blames mate for the killing of teen



A MAN accused of murdering an Indigenous teenager has denied stuffing weapons down his pants and muddling up his alleged victims, as his version of events was dismantled while giving evidence in his defence.

Jack Steven James Brearley, 24, told a jury that prosecutors had it wrong and he did not strike Cassius Turvey in the head with a metal pole in Perth's eastern suburbs on October 13, 2022.

After taking the stand on Thursday, he said his co-accused, Brodie Lee Palmer, 29, swung the blows that led to the 15-year-old Noongar Yamatji boy's death in hospital 10 days later.

He also denied being in an alleyway near where he lived when shopping trolleys were allegedly pulled apart to create makeshift weapons.

But he was forced to concede that he was there, after Palmer's lawyer Christian Porter showed him CCTV footage during cross-examination.



Poster featuring Cassius Turvey.

Brearley said he was doing a drug deal but he denied that he carried a small axe into the alley to break up a shopping trolley.

"I'm not going to openly walk out the house and show the camera that I've got drugs in my hand," he told the Western Australian Supreme Court on Friday.

"It could be a bag of weed."

A further video showed Brearley coming and going from the alleyway.

"I could have got something wrong and have to go sort of that inside then come back out," Mr Brearley said.

Mr Porter said it was "total nonsense".

"You're there breaking poles off in the alleyway," he said.

"You're not doing customer service for someone who's just purchased your drugs."

Brearley denied he lied to the jury in his earlier evidence.

Brearley's girlfriend Aleesha Louise Gilmore, 23, and one of his co-workers, Mitchell Colin Forth, 26, are also on trial for the murder of Cassius.

Mr Porter also played a video in which he alleged Brearley was speaking to Gilmore's mother after Cassius was allegedly attacked.

A voice can be heard saying: "He was laying in a field and I was smacking him with a trolley pole so hard."

Brearley denied it was him. He also denied mocking Cassius when the voice mimics the teen

saying, "I'm so sorry, don't hurt me."

"The person at the other end of the call is a voice that sounds remarkably like yours," Mr Porter said.

But Brearley agreed there were inconsistencies with his defence story relating to his assertion that he had a physical altercation with only one person that day and that person was Cassius.

Brearley's evidence was that Cassius was wearing a green shirt and the teen had slashed him with a knife during a scuffle in the bush.

But Mr Porter took him to previous statements to police where he said the person with the knife was a "big Kiwi fella" with a blonde rat's tail and wearing a grey shirt.

Another was his evidence that he only punched Cassius twice in the head and the blows caused a cut to the teen's eyebrow.

Brearley agreed multiple witnesses involved in Cassius's medical treatment had not seen or recorded the injury.

Brearley's descriptions to the

jury and police of the location where he said his fight with Cassius happened were also inconsistent.

Mr Porter said a further problem for Brearley was the "sheer weight of eyewitness evidence" that a "skinny man" caused Cassius's fatal injuries.

"Evidence about you hitting Cassius with a pole," he said.

"That is a problem for them, but it's not what happened," Brearley replied.

"You are lying through your teeth," Mr Porter said.

"You have transplanted Cassius into the real scenario and pretending that is where the story stopped but what actually happened is that you were stabbed and lost it so you moved on to the next kid."

"That boy [was] slower and an easier mark ... and unarmed and like every violent bully in history you've taken your frustration and rage on the easier mark who was Cassius Turvey and you did it with a trolley pole."

"I disagree," Brearley said.

The trial continues. — AAP



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# Mungo Man reburial case lost



AN Indigenous man has lost a legal challenge to stop Mungo Man and Mungo Lady's ancient remains being reburied in unmarked graves, with a court ruling adequate consideration was given to whether it defied Aboriginal tradition.

The plan for the 42,000-year-old remains was set in 2022 after the federal government approved a NSW Heritage and Willandra Lakes Region Aboriginal Advisory Group proposal to intern 108 ancestral remains in 26 unmarked graves.

Local Indigenous man Jason Kelly and a group of Aboriginal Elders, who have for years fought against the reburial approach, launched Federal Court action in 2024 seeking judicial review of a government decision rejecting bolstered protections for the remains.

Mr Kelly, a senior Mutthi Mutthi man, has argued the remains should be kept in a way to ensure preservation, with simple monuments and the construction of a cultural centre.

His case claimed a failure to consider that "if the remains of Mungo Man and Mungo Lady or the other 106 ancestral remains were secretly reburied without memorials, they would be under



The 42,000-year-old remains of Mungo Man were returned to Country in 2017. Picture: AAP

threat of being treated in a manner inconsistent with the burial tradition".

The reburials, facilitated by the state government on behalf of three Traditional Owner groups, started earlier in March,

according to the judgment.

In dismissing the application, Justice Melissa Perry said the government "did consider whether reburying the ancestral remains in sites without memorials may be inconsistent

with Aboriginal tradition".

"The minister expressly addressed whether the ancestral remains, including Mungo Man and Mungo Lady, were under threat of injury or desecration as a result of the

proposal for secret reburials without memorials," she said.

The minister "did not err by considering only whether the ancestral remains were at risk of physical injury".

There was also consideration given that "the reburials project demonstrated significant, open and transparent engagement with the three Traditional Owner groups," according to the judgment.

Justice Perry ordered Mr Kelly to pay \$10,000 in respondent court costs.

Mungo Lady's remains show evidence of one of the world's oldest known cremations and Mungo Man is the oldest human skeleton to be discovered on the continent. From the 1960s and the 1980s, many remains were removed from the Willandra Lakes and Lake Mungo, and taken to the Australian National University for study.

After cross-generational efforts, Mungo Lady was returned to the Mungo National Park, in southwest NSW, for safekeeping in 1992 and Mungo Man was returned in 2017 with formal letters of apology to the Traditional Owners.

The park, part of the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage property, is jointly managed by NSW Parks and Wildlife Service and elders from three local Aboriginal tribes.

— AAP

# Traditional Owners criticise changes to sacred-sites laws



FAST-TRACKED amendments to sacred sites legislation have been slammed by traditional owners and the authority which safeguards them.

The Northern Territory government has introduced changes to the Sacred Sites Act it says will provide "simpler and streamlined" approval processes for development.

Certificates issued by the territory's independent Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority would be transferable under the amendments.

NT Environment Minister Joshua Burgoyne says the changes are designed to make the process more "accessible, efficient, and protective of sacred sites".

The authority, which is responsible for overseeing the safeguarding of NT sacred sites, has raised concerns about the lack of consultation and rapid time frame for feedback on the amendments.

Authority chair Bobby Nunggumajbarr said the board supported streamlining existing processes but instead of consulting with Aboriginal people, the government had proposed the "hastily drafted" transfer power.

"We could be discussing a one-stop shop where all Aboriginal heritage and sacred sites are protected under a single



Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority board member Barbara Shaw.

process and a single act," he said.

"We could be simplifying the authority's cost structure. We could ensure the offences and the penalties are in line with other heritage and environmental legislation."

Mr Nunggumajbarr said the fast-tracked amendments raised concerns for Traditional Owners and questions about why this was happening.

"The Sacred Sites Act is an extremely important piece of legislation that should not be changed simply to suit one development or another," he said.

Authority board member Barbara Shaw has also raised concerns about the one-



Central Land Council chairman Warren Williams.

week time frame for feedback on the amendments.

"That's not good enough for Aboriginal people out on Country who's got English as a third or fourth language, who does not have any connectivity whatsoever in remote communities," she said.

"There's arrogance in that, knowing we don't have that communication."

"One week to put in a submission then a month to present to the scrutiny committee, that's not good enough for our people, and that's why we need more time for consultation instead of this rush job."

The Central Land Council has also taken aim at the amendments, describing the

consultation process as a "tick a box" exercise.

Council chair Warren Williams said he had met with the minister, but was given "empty talk".

"We asked for information, he gave us platitudes. He disrespected us and treated us like little children," he said.

"He asked us to simply accept that the government's intentions behind the changes are good."

"He wouldn't give us any details about the changes or how they would work."

"No wonder we are all very alarmed."

In a statement, Mr Burgoyne said the proposed amendments came from recommendations from an independent review undertaken in 2016, which "undertook extensive consultation with stakeholders".

Mr Burgoyne said he met with the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority board on January 30 and more recently with land council representatives.

"I will continue to work with land councils and AAPA throughout this process," he said.

Mr Burgoyne said the amendments had been referred to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee and he would seek their passage in May 2025 sittings, allowing further consultation and the community to express any concerns.

— AAP



# Museum honours 'Polly'

By COLE BAXTER



THE Geelong Sports Museum has opened an exhibition which includes artefacts and images of the 'Big Cat' himself,

Graham 'Polly' Farmer.

Geelong Cats superfan Bob Gartland and the Polly Farmer Foundation have contributed pieces to help tell part of the life story of Polly. Tucked in a small corner at the museum are items from different parts of Polly's life, including his humble beginnings at Sister Kate's orphanage on Noongar Country in the Southwest of WA and Western Australia Football League paraphernalia. There are also items representing his mammoth impact on the Victorian Football League game of the 60s, which included a pivotal contribution to a Geelong Cats 1963 premiership.

Polly is a stalwart of the Australian Rules Football game and considered by many, especially from the pre-modern era, as one of, if not, the best to have played. He is renowned for having revolutionised the game with his dynamic handpass, which was crafted not just during his on the field time but also by practising through a cracked car window. The exhibition gives a nod to this by having the distance marked out in front of



Polly Farmer was known for practising his handball through a car window. Picture: supplied by Bob Gartland.

the museum for footy fans to see how they match up against the Noongar footy star.

A quick Google search will yield a double-sided grocery list length of accolades including multiple championships, medals and polished off with being awarded the captain of the Indigenous Team of The Century.

But it's really Polly's work off the field that is indelibly carved into the history books as his ongoing legacy. The Polly Farmer Foundation, which started as a pilot program in remote WA in the mid 90s, was created to support Aboriginal academic enrichment in school-age children.

It is now over 25 years old and is supporting 1,200+ Aboriginal students across Australia annually.

"We are so proud to see the 'Polly' exhibition launched... both highlighting dad's football achievements, especially with the Geelong Football Club, but importantly, celebrating his

enduring legacy in the Polly Farmer Foundation (PFF). It was such a pleasure to have the newly established Geelong based PFF Program team, including some current and recent past students and their families, join our family for the launch," Kim Farmer, the daughter of Polly, said.



Polly Farmer about to ruck tap to Bill Goggin at Kardinia Park, 1966. Source: NITV.



Gerard Griffin, Bob Gartland OAM, Kim Farmer, Brett Farmer and Cole Baxter during a sneak peek at an exhibition honouring the life of Graham 'Polly' Farmer. Picture: Geelong Sports Museum.



Polly Farmer's daughter Kim attempts to handball as far as her dad. Picture: Geelong Sports Museum.



# Indigenous groups cautiously optimistic about latest budget



MONEY for early childhood development, mental health and infrastructure have left Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak organisations with a feeling of 'cautious optimism' following the 2025 federal budget.

SNAICC, the peak body for Indigenous children, welcomed the \$5 billion investment to reform early education and care.

Chief executive Catherine Liddle said the commitment is an important foundation to "help shift the dial" in Closing the Gap efforts.

"We know investing in early education and care not only sets up our children to thrive, it makes all the difference to their life outcomes and builds stronger and resilient families where children are less likely to enter child protection and youth justice systems," she said.

Much of the spending allocated in the recently announced budget had been announced previously, including \$50 million already earmarked to reduce the price of essential



Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy.

grocery items in remote communities.

Minister for Indigenous Australians, Malarndirri McCarthy, said she was "very pleased" with this effort towards food security in remote communities, and efforts to tackle rheumatic heart disease, with \$11.4 million in the budget to establish or upgrade 12 laundry

facilities in remote communities.

"I'm very concerned about rheumatic heart disease that impacts so many First Nations people," she told the ABC.

"We know that something as simple as having more laundries in our communities and accessible has assisted and will assist in reducing and bringing those numbers down."



SNAICC chief executive Catherine Liddle.

A \$21.8 million investment to provide domestic and sexual violence services to First Nations communities was welcomed by peak organisations, as was \$27.4 million promised to improve access to culturally-safe mental-health care and 150 scholarships for First Nations psychologists over the next four years.

"This budget gives us cause for cautious optimism... Every dollar invested in Aboriginal community-controlled organisations delivers better value. It drives stronger outcomes for our people, builds local economies, and makes public spending more effective – because the work is done with community, not to community," Coalition of Peaks lead convener Pat Turner said.

Despite calls from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services to support their work, they did not secure funding in the budget.

Independent Senator Lidia Thorpe said community-controlled legal services are "under massive strain".

"While we're seeing a crisis of youth incarceration around the country, this budget does not once mention the word 'youth', and it offers nothing new in targeted support for young people to avoid incarceration," she said.

"There is no additional investment in legal assistance



Senator Lidia Thorpe.

services, or investment in support and diversion for young people away from the justice system."

Ms Thorpe also pointed out there was no funding earmarked for truth-telling and treaty efforts but said that came as "no surprise".

Ms Liddle said she was also disappointed to see the budget failed to implement measures under the 'Safe and Supported' national plan to protect Australian children, and did not include a new model for Aboriginal community-controlled early education.

– AAP

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# Guards 'tried everything' to revive Aboriginal inmate



PRISON officers who found an Aboriginal man slumped and unresponsive in his cell tried everything to revive him before his death, a coroner has heard.

Clinton Austin, a Gunditjmara and Wiradjuri man, died at Loddon Prison in Victoria on September 11, 2022.

Prison officer Steven Kennedy entered Mr Austin's cell when he didn't present for a count and found him slumped over on his bed, chin on chest as though he was "sleeping in an uncomfortable position".

Mr Kennedy told an inquest into Mr Austin's death he noticed the 38-year-old was cold when he touched his knee to rouse him.

Mr Kennedy said in a "matter of seconds" after he went into Mr Austin's cell he'd called a 'code black', which signals an emergency.

"I noticed that he wasn't breathing ... there was no movement in his stomach or

anything like that so that's when I called the code black," he said.

After the code black was called, prison officers, including Mr Kennedy, tried to get Mr Austin off the bed to begin CPR, but had to wait for assistance to lift him.

CPR was attempted on the bed but was not effective because of the softness of the mattress.

Mr Kennedy said it felt like a "really long time" for enough people to arrive in the cell to move Mr Austin off the bed.

"However, I know it was quite quick," he said.

"It could have been 30 seconds, it could have been a minute."

When senior prison officer Heath Martin arrived at Mr Austin's cell he checked for a pulse and told the court he also noticed Mr Austin was cold to the touch.

"There was a split second where it ran through my mind that CPR ... it may even be too late for CPR," he said.

"When we went to move him,

he gurgled and appeared to take some sort of breath and that's when I made the decision that maybe we have a crack at trying to revive him."

Mr Kennedy said the feedback the officers were given to their response were "positive".

"Everything we did was good in the sense of a bad outcome," he said.

An emotional Mr Martin said he was comfortable with the way he and his team responded to the situation.

"We tried everything – myself and my team – tried everything we could to revive Clinton on that day," he said.

The inquest was previously told by a fellow prisoner that Mr Austin had been vomiting two nights prior to his death.

Mr Kennedy said he'd had a short conversation with Mr Austin the day before his death and told the inquest he'd looked fine.

When asked if he could be mistaken about whether he'd spoken to Mr Austin a day before his death or prior to that, Mr Kennedy said it was possible.



Prison officers have told an inquest they tried to resuscitate Clinton Austin in his cell.

## Man dies in WA jail



WEST Australian authorities are investigating a death in custody at a prison in the state's goldfields.

The Department of Justice said the 31-year-old Aboriginal man was found unresponsive in his cell at Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 600km east of Perth, on Wednesday afternoon, April 2.

"Staff provided first-aid to the prisoner until paramedics arrived," a department spokesperson said in a statement.

The department said the 31-

year-old was taken by ambulance to Kalgoorlie Hospital, where he was declared dead.

"Preliminary reports indicate there were no suspicious circumstances," the spokesperson said.

Under WA law, deaths in custody are reportable deaths and are subject to mandatory coronial investigation.

The man's death is the 14th in custody in Australia this year and the fourth to involve an Indigenous prisoner.

Almost 600 Indigenous people have died in custody since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody presented its final report in 1991.

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

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

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



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### 2025 ABORIGINAL MEN'S HEALTH AND LEADERSHIP SHARING CIRCLE

12-15 MAY 2025

MURROOK CULTURE CENTRE, WILLIAMTOWN NSW  
WORIMI COUNTRY





Senior Traditional Owner Yvonne Margarula of the Mirarr people standing in front of Rio Tinto's Ranger Uranium Mine's pit number three in Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory.

# Minister cops criticism over uranium mine

Can't make it to a voting place on election day?



If you can't get to a voting place on Saturday 3 May, you may be able to vote early.

By law, all Australians aged 18 and over must vote in the federal election. But if you can't make it to a voting place on election day, you may be eligible to:

- vote early at an early voting centre, or
- apply for a postal vote.

If you're travelling, working or won't be in the electorate where you're enrolled on election day, you're allowed to vote early.

To find out more and check if you're eligible to vote early, visit [aec.gov.au/early](https://aec.gov.au/early) or call **13 23 26**.

Your vote will help shape Australia.

To learn more

[aec.gov.au](https://aec.gov.au) 13 23 26



Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 10 Mort Street, Canberra.



A FEDERAL minister's promise to local Indigenous people allegedly "infected" advice she gave not to renew a Rio Tinto subsidiary's lease to a large undeveloped uranium mine.

The Jabiluka mine was under lease to Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) which also operates the adjacent defunct Ranger uranium mine next to Kakadu National Park, near Jabiru, 300km east of Darwin.



Federal Resources Minister Madeleine King.

About two weeks before the 42-year lease expired in August, the Northern Territory's then Labor mining minister, Mark Monaghan, refused to extend it after receiving advice from federal Labor Resources Minister Madeleine King.

The lease renewal was rejected partially due to federal government plans to extend Kakadu National Park into the area.

As ERA challenges this decision in the Federal Court, it has been given permission to bring new accusations against Ms King over the advice that she gave to Mr Monaghan.

"The (advice) was infected by apprehended bias," the company wrote in amended pleadings filed with the court.

In the documents, which were publicly released on Thursday, Ms King is accused of bias due to a "promise" made to the Mirarr Traditional Owners that Jabiluka would not be mined.

She was also allegedly told by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek to refuse the lease extension and to do so promptly so Mr Albanese could announce the move at Labor's NSW state conference last July.

At the time of giving the advice, Ms King considered information that was "prejudicial and irrelevant," ERA claims.

The firm has sued Ms King, Mr Monaghan, the federal and NT governments as well as the Jabiluka Aboriginal Land Trust and the Northern Land Council.

In September, Yvonne Margarula, representing the Mirarr Traditional Owners of the Jabiluka site, was allowed to join the lawsuit despite ERA's opposition.

Two ERA shareholders, Zentree Investments and Packer & Co, also applied to be joined but were barred in October after the court found the company itself could properly pursue the case on its own.

An offer to buy the Jabiluka lease for \$550 million by Boss Energy was withdrawn after Ms Plibersek announced the government intended to incorporate the site into Kakadu, ERA said in affidavits filed with the court.

In its 2023 annual report, ERA said there were no plans to develop the Jabiluka area into a uranium mine, saying it could not do so without the approval of the Mirarr Traditional Owners.

It has said its priority would be to rehabilitate the Ranger mine, which comes at an estimated cost of \$2.2 billion.

— AAP



# Super failings cause suffering



A FIRST Nations woman distraught following her husband's death had to wait 500

days to get approval to access \$100,000 in funds he had accrued and was given little support to navigate the process, despite her cultural barriers.

Another grieving widow was made to wait months and lodge the same documents over and over before finally being paid \$600,000 in benefits owed to her.

An elderly man who had lost his wife to cancer and urgently needed access to funds owed to him to cover an outstanding mortgage had his payment unnecessarily delayed 28 days, causing "significant further distress".

Financial regulator the Australian Securities and Investments Commission found superannuation funds were responsible for delays caused by processing issues within their control in more than three-quarters of the death benefit claims it reviewed.

Industry peak body the Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia apologised on Monday for letting down members and their families after the personal toll of the industry's systematic claims handling failures were exposed.



The peak body for super funds has apologised after a financial watchdog report revealed delays were rife in paying out death benefits to bereaved families.

Trustees are facing a reckoning as the sector matures from wealth accumulation to decumulation, with a growing strain on resources to pay out millions of members.

After initiating legal proceedings against heavy hitters Cbus and AustralianSuper, the financial regulator is putting fund executives on notice to shape up.

"Many of the complaints we read were distressing," Commissioner Simone Constant said.

"We saw deep grief, vulnerability, frustration and genuine suffering."

Poor customer service was rife among the 10 trustees – representing 38 per cent of all

benefits managed by super funds – the commission reviewed.

Funds failed to return claimants' phone calls, dismissed queries from grieving family members, or asked them for unreasonable information.

Death benefits refer to the remaining superannuation balance in a member's account after they die, which a beneficiary – usually a family member – is entitled to be paid as soon as practicable.

The super funds association acknowledged the report detailed "sobering examples of where service simply wasn't good enough".

"While the majority of our members and their families have a seamless experience with death benefits claims, we know we need to do better to make sure this is the experience of as many people as possible," chief executive Mary Delahunty said.

"Trustees need to take utmost care in paying death benefits, but excessive waiting, lack of communication and inconsistent processes are not acceptable."

The report, released on Monday, March 31, made 34 recommendations for funds to adopt.

They focused on improving customer service and speeding up response times, better monitoring and reporting, streamlined claims processes, better staff training

and removing barriers for Indigenous claimants.

The super sector had made significant changes in the 12 months since the period examined and was implementing "many" of the recommendations, Ms Delahunty said.

While timelines to respond to claims varied greatly between funds, none of them closed more than half of claims within 90 days, the report found.

Colonial First State trustee Avanteos was the most timely performer, while Rest closed just eight per cent of claims within 90 days and had more than half of claims outstanding after six months.

None of the trustees monitored or reported on their end-to-end claim handling times or performance, revealing a gap in oversight.

The commission reviewed a mix of retail, public sector and industry super funds including big players such as Australian Retirement Trust and UniSuper.

The review did not include Cbus and AustralianSuper as the commission prioritised its legal action against them.

The federal government has pledged mandatory standards to force super funds to pay out death benefits faster and provide better communication to claimants if it is re-elected.

– AAP

## Okha Floating Production Storage and Offloading Facility Operations Environment Plan

Woodside has led the development of the LNG industry in Australia and today aims to thrive through the global energy transition.

Woodside consults with relevant persons to gather feedback to inform its Commonwealth Environment Plans.

### Okha Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) Facility Operations Environment Plan (EP)

With the five-year EP revision, Woodside plans to continue operation of the Okha FPSO facility which extracts, processes and stores oil and export gas. Vessel-based routine inspection, monitoring, maintenance and repair activities are planned to support 13 subsea wells and infrastructure.

### Environment that may be affected (EMBA)

The EMBA is the largest geographic area where unplanned events could potentially have an environmental consequence. The whole EMBA will not be affected.

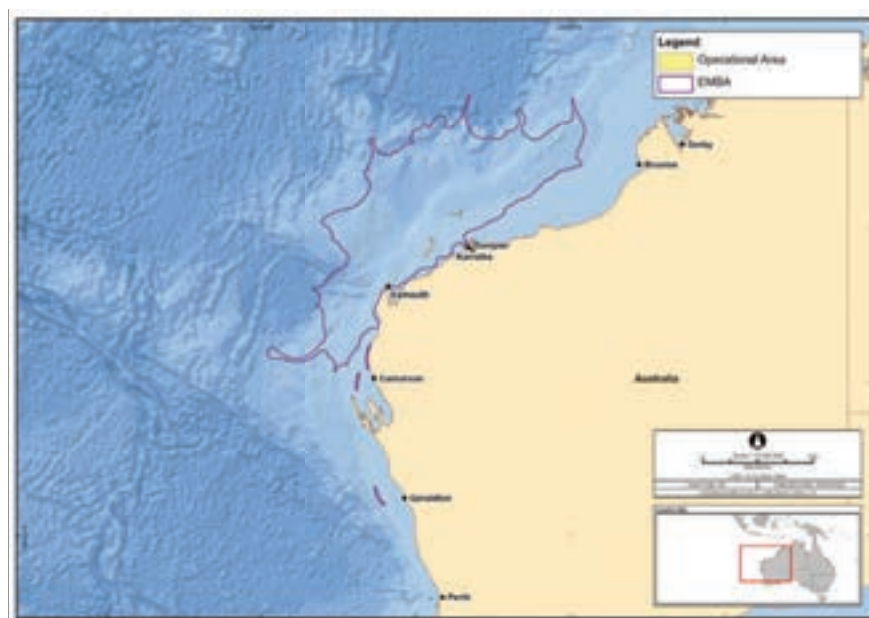
### We want to hear from you

If you are an individual, organisation or community group and believe your functions, interests or activities may be impacted by the activities under this Environment Plan, we want to hear from you by **16 May 2025**.

### To find out more go to:

[www.woodside.com/what-we-do/consultation-activities](http://www.woodside.com/what-we-do/consultation-activities)

You can also subscribe via our website to receive future information on upcoming activities.



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Toll free: 1800 442 977  
[woodside.com](http://woodside.com)





## Danny Eastwood's view



## A YARN WITH...



## Ethan Sartour

Alice Springs, NT

## Quote



**"If you live on this Country then you are obligated, under this pre-existing law, to protect nature – no colonial law can alter this truth and responsibility."**

– Ruth Langford, a Yorta Yorta and Dja Dja Wurrung woman.

● See page 10

**Unquote**

# Returning to the Koori Mail fold

It is a great privilege to be returning to the *Koori Mail* newspaper after 21 years, and to be working again for an Aboriginal-controlled organisation. While working interstate, I have been amazed at how resilient the board and staff of this paper have been through historic flooding in Lismore, and admired the leadership of Naomi Moran and her team at the time and through the recovery period.

To only miss two editions during a natural disaster shows the commitment of the board and staff to ensuring First Nations are heard nationally.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Darren Coyne, who took on the editor role during this time, for his passion for the role, and look forward to working with him in his new role as production editor.

Many thanks also go to Rhoda Roberts AO, the cultural lead at *Koori Mail*, for steering the ship.

I very much look forward to working with someone I've known and respected for a long time, someone whose family in 1991 was instrumental in taking the idea of a national First Nations newspaper, based in regional Australia, and making it a reality.

At a time when a Treaty process at a national level is a long way off, some states are backtracking on even developing a Treaty, the annual announcements of failing basic indicators as part of Closing the Gap,



and the rejection of the Voice Referendum by much of the Australian public for simply asking for a seat at the table of power in Canberra. It is crucial the voices of our First Nations peoples are heard consistently.

It is important to remind Australia that we as the descendants of the First Peoples of this ancient continent are not going away (we have nowhere else to go!), and while you may ignore us, we will never let you forget us.

A personal focus of mine will be asking our old people and Elders, particularly the activists who fought for First Nations rights in the 70s, 80s and 90s, with little or no resources, their thoughts on the current state of progress, or lack thereof.

I also want to tap into existing media networks in the remote parts of Australia, including the work of bush broadcasters and community radio stations, and share their stories with First Nations communities in the cities.

Of course, these types of discussions will be complemented by the numerous positive stories reflecting the achievements of all our Mobs – all our stories matter, every story holds significance. – **Todd Jigarra Condie**

## KOORI MAIL 100% ABORIGINAL-OWNED

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

**Favourite bush tucker?**  
Alangkwas – bush bananas.

**Favourite other food?**  
Vegan eggs benedict.

**Favourite drink?**  
Chocolate milkshakes.

**Favourite dessert food?**  
I make a great chocolate tiramisu.

**Favourite music?**  
Taylor Swift.

**Favourite sport?**  
Horse riding.

**Favourite holiday destination?**  
Fiji.

**Favourite movie?**  
*SpongeBob*, the movie.

**What do you like in life?**  
I like to travel, trying new foods, and audiobooks.

**What don't you like in life?**  
I don't like a lot of rain.

**Which Black or Indigenous person would you most like to meet?**  
Madeleine Madden (actor).

**Which person would you like to meet?**  
Actors Ashley Eckstein and Rosario Dawson.

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

**Who or what inspires you?**  
My baby sister Kia.

**What is your ultimate goal?**  
Financial freedom.

**What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people?**  
Continue to follow my dreams and inspire others to follow theirs.



# Meet our new editor

**T**odd Jigarru Condie is the newly appointed Editor of the national Indigenous newspaper, the *Koori Mail*, a position he first held 28 years ago.

'Jigarru' means 'lightning storm' in the Yidinji language of Far North Queensland.

Todd is a proud member of the Wadjanbarra and Bundabarra clans of the Yidinji nation in north Queensland, and is related through his late mother, Auntie Lorna Joseph, to a large extended family located throughout central and Far North Queensland.

## Where has he been?

Since he left the *Koori Mail* in 2004, Todd has been on a 21-year adventure interstate continuing his passion of working with and for First Nations peoples.

He worked in Darwin in the Northern Territory in the media unit for one of the peak Aboriginal land councils in Australia, the Northern Land Council, for five years.

Highlighting the achievements of Top End Traditional Owners through the *Land Rights News* (a joint publication by the Northern Land Council and the Central Land Council) enabled extensive travel to Aboriginal-permitted land and untold cultural experiences.

An opportunity to live and work in Victoria came up so Todd relocated from the tropical heat of Darwin to the middle of a Melbourne winter!

During his time in Victoria, Todd has been developing and implementing Reconciliation Action Plans for the City of Port Phillip in St Kilda in inner city Melbourne and for the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, also in Melbourne, for the last 14 years.

Following the rejection of the Voice Referendum in 2022 by the Australian public, like a lot of First Nations peoples working in the reconciliation space, Todd felt disappointment that all the hard work by Reconciliation groups at the community and state level as well as organisations in the public and private sectors with Reconciliation Action Plans was seemingly in vain.

Accompanying factors such as the COVID lockdowns in Melbourne (particularly onerous for people from interstate living in the city), the unprecedented flood event in Lismore in 2022 which heavily impacted family and friends, and the inability to conduct Sorry Business when his mother passed away in Cairns in Far North Queensland as the borders were shut, meant a life change was in order.

It was then Todd decided to relocate closer to family and friends on the Northern Rivers of New South Wales, with a desire to work for an Aboriginal-controlled organisation.

Thus the decision to come full circle and return to the same



Todd Jigarru Condie is returning as editor after 28 years.

role at the *Koori Mail* newspaper.

## Working background

Originally from Far North Queensland, Todd is a Traditional Owner of the Wadjanbarra (wah jin burra) clan of the Yidinji (yid in gee) language group of the Atherton Tablelands, near Cairns, in Far North Queensland.

He was a board member of the Wadjanbarra Aboriginal Corporation, based in Atherton, formed when native title was conferred in 2014.

The corporation aims to protect Yidinji significant cultural sites, including Lake Barrine and Lake Eachem, and to negotiate agreements with water authorities, Wet Tropics Authority and local landowners.

Born in Innisfail in Far North Queensland, he was five when his family moved to his white father's hometown of Mullumbimby on the far north coast of New South Wales where he did his primary and secondary schooling.

At the tertiary level he has a Bachelor of Arts (Humanities) degree from Griffith University in Brisbane.

Todd's mother, Lorna Condie nee Joseph, instilled in him and

his brother Craig and sister Lana the importance of a good education. Amazingly, Auntie Lorna, a single Aboriginal mother, raised and supported all her children through tertiary education to pursue careers working with and advocating for First Nations peoples, as well as completing an Associate Diploma in Aboriginal Community Health herself.

## Working in Melbourne

Todd worked for a year in East Melbourne as Aboriginal Affairs Coordinator with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, in the Melbourne CBD, implementing their Reconciliation Action Plan.

One of the aims of the plan was to increase the number of First Nations firefighters in Victoria.

In 2010, Todd secured a role at City of Port Phillip, based in St Kilda in inner city Melbourne, which was to strengthen and reinforce effective working relationships between Aboriginal Traditional Owners, First Nations residents and local government via the development and implementation of its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) framework.

He, and his team, developed

and implemented Port Phillip Council's first and second Reconciliation Action Plans and was developing its third RAP, when he decided to return to his childhood home in Mullumbimby and look after his elderly father.

During his time in Melbourne, Todd represented the City of Port Phillip across several networks including Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation, Reconciliation Victoria's Cultural Council, Bayside Peninsula Aboriginal Governance Committee, and Aboriginal Victoria's Urban South Local Aboriginal Network.

He was also a member of St Kilda Life Saving Club, St Kilda Homelessness Hot Spots Committee, and a member of the Victorian Ombudsman's Reconciliation Action Plan working group.

He also provided advice to several local government bodies in Victoria and interstate on the most effective and culturally appropriate methods of developing and implementing a RAP.

## First stint at Koori Mail

While finishing a degree from Griffith University in Brisbane, Todd worked at a

hydroponic lettuce farm in Byron Bay to support himself.

Following graduation in 1993, and an article in the *Koori Mail* featuring he and his brother Craig, who graduated at the same time, a position came up at the paper.

Todd began as a cadet journalist in 1994, and because the network of correspondents wasn't as developed as it is now, was required to travel extensively throughout Australia providing coverage of the many awe-inspiring festivals, conferences, symposiums, and landmark events on the First Nations calendar.

Todd worked in various roles including editor, sub-editor, reporter, and photographer at the *Koori Mail*, over a ten-year period from 1994 to 2004.

He was also the paper's first Aboriginal editor and worked on 260 fortnightly editions during this time.

Todd was also an accredited journalist during the Sydney 2000 Olympics, representing the *Koori Mail* and the National Indigenous Media Association (NIMAA).

During the same year, as chairman of NIMAA, Todd had the opportunity to speak at the United Nations in New York, as part of an Asia/Pacific contingent, outlining the impact of the Sydney games on First Nation peoples.

## Working in the NT

He worked for five years in the media unit at the Northern Land Council in Darwin in the Northern Territory, working closely with the Top End's Traditional Owners, which included editing the long-running *Land Rights News*.

During his time there, he had the opportunity to work on the successful Blue Mud Bay case in the High Court of Australia, which greatly increased the rights of Top End Traditional Owners.

He had the privilege of travelling with more than 80 Traditional Owners to receive the successful decision in person at the High Court in Canberra.

## Personal background

Todd has worked with more than 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in every state and territory of Australia over his 30-year career.

Todd has also travelled extensively throughout south-east Asia, Europe and the USA.

Todd has a passion for sport and is a member of the St Kilda Football Club (AFL), Melbourne Storm (NRL), and the Cairns Taipans (NBL) and follows the Golden State Warriors in the NBA and West Ham United in the English Premier League.

Todd has also been a longtime member of Amnesty Australia.

Todd is also the proud father of four-year-old son, Jordan Jurra Jandamarra.



# Brooke Boney has it all

By CHRISTIAN MORROW

**A**RGUABLY Australia's most high-profile Aboriginal woman, Brooke Boney, has chosen to slip away from the white-hot media spotlight and into the halls of academia to complete her Master's degree at Oxford University.

Recently, as part of the Byron Writers Festival, the proud Gamilaroi woman visited Bundjalung land sitting down at the A&I Hall in Bangalow with Bundjalung/Kullilli writer, journalist and radio broadcaster Daniel Browning to talk about her new book *All Of It*.

Despite her prominence in mainstream media, most notably as a presenter on the *Today Show*, Brooke has never shied away from the hard questions such as speaking out to support changing the date of Australia Day.

She has paid a heavy price personally for her preparedness to speak out even as she continued to forge ahead in her career, culminating in being part of rolling coverage of the 2024 Paris Olympics.

But when Australia voted down the Voice to Parliament in late 2023, Brooke knew it was time to step away. She told the *Koori Mail* the referendum's failure was an inflection point not only in her career but also in her own personal life.

Brooke is now a Charlie Perkins Chevening scholar at the Blavatnik School of Government at Oxford University. Her work entails examining how Indigenous policy is communicated to the broader Australian community and how more effective communication could help mitigate the impacts of policy changes on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

*Koori Mail* also caught up with Brooke recently and we started out asking her if there was one event that sparked her very early interest in journalism.

**Brooke Boney:** Yeah, we had a big family event when I was in my early twenties and I was working as an advertising cadet at the *Financial Review* and I thought wait a minute why aren't there more Blackfullas who are involved in telling our stories? We should be there to provide context and full details about why and how the things that happen to us happen the way they do. I wanted to be involved and so I applied to go to UTS and study journalism.

**Koori Mail:** You are renowned as a hard worker. You were producing *Backchat* for SBS and undertaking an internship at the ABC both while completing your undergraduate degree at UTS. That's no mean feat. Is there something that accounts for your drive and commitment to succeed?

**BB:** Honestly, I just knew from very early on that I had to just go for every opportunity that



Brooke Boney has stepped away from media to concentrate on study at Oxford University.

came up as a journalist because the jobs were so hard to come by and if I wanted to get anywhere I knew I had to work hard. Also, I think something that we all know as Aboriginal people is that people have such low expectations of us and I knew I had to work harder to prove myself. I wanted to prove them wrong, and I wanted to make my family proud. We shouldn't have to do that kind of thing just to be respected but it was the way it was when I was just starting out in my career, I think it still is true for many people, so I did it. I still do it to be fair.

**KM:** Were you surprised by the reaction to your on-air 2019 comments regarding changing the date? Publicly at least you seemed quite poised throughout the episode, how did you get through?

**BB:** I think something we've

all learned on social media in the last couple of years is that there are some really uncomfortable perspectives out there bubbling away just under the surface. When I said those comments on air it brought them all to the surface and a lot of it was directed at me and my family. I feel like I barely survived that first year on TV because of that episode and ever since I've been a lot more measured about how I speak about things because it was such a painful experience. I think if I seemed poised it was because I was well supported and felt like it was the right thing to do regardless of the way people reacted. You can't control how people react to things and if saying something that is not only true but important to say causes a stir then I think you just have to figure out how to work through

it.

**KM:** Throughout your media career so far, is there an event or a person that you have reported on or interview subject that has had a significant impact on you or even just produced a favourite on-air moment?

**BB:** I've had so many moments that have left an impact on me. From going up to speak with the Dungays to break the story about David Dungay Jnr's death in custody to going to the Olympics. There are little pieces of all of the things I've reported on that both break my heart and make me question humanity but then other things that completely restore my faith. Being a journalist means that you experience the very best and the very worst of people on any given day and I'm grateful for all of it.

**KM:** Was the result of the

2023 Referendum an inflection point for you in your career?

**BB:** Not just in my career but in my life. It changed the way I thought of myself and my role in Australian media. I couldn't help but question why I'd put myself through all of those years of trying to explain our experience and perspective to people if when it mattered people couldn't bring themselves to grant us the opportunity to have a small amount of control over our own destinies, to be able to have a small say in something practical like how policies might affect us. I think even more than that now though the outcome that has been more disappointing is how emboldened some are in expressing perspectives that were once considered no-go zones. As Australians we've moved backwards in terms of how comfortable we are in expressing certain opinions. They're not opinions that are helpful, understanding, compassionate or take into account the impact of colonisation or contemporary policies on Aboriginal people and I think we're all worse off for the result of it.

**KM:** Reflecting on your Master's degree, what do you believe accounts for the policy churn afflicting government policy around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

**BB:** This is a big question with lots of different answers. Put simply I think there is a lot of change in policies before they are able to take full effect and a lot of overlap with little accountability. There is not enough respect for the concept that Aboriginal people have a lot of the answers to questions that have plagued us for decades and when we do have inquiries or royal commissions not enough is done to implement the strategies that are recommended. It leaves us constantly in a position where we have to explain why expenditure is where it is but there is little movement in terms of closing the gap. We don't hold much of the power but all of the responsibility for the lack of change rests with us. It's sad and unfair.

**KM:** Given that England is the wellspring of the colonialism that had such dire consequences for Aboriginal Australians, is there a particular resonance for you in returning to this place to study?

**BB:** I have reflected on this quite a lot over the last six months. I know it seems weird to seek refuge in the birthplace of colonisation for Aboriginal people. You know sometimes how to seek answers to questions you have to kind of go back to the beginning to see where things started going wrong? It feels a little bit like that for me. Oxford is also a place of excellence, and I've always wanted to go there. It's a gift to be able to push myself as hard as I have in learning and gaining knowledge.



# Krakouer remembered as 'a special talent'



Andrew Krakouer was 'the perfect crumber, and he was a good mark for his size'.



FORMER Richmond and Collingwood AFL player Andrew Krakouer has been remembered as a "special talent"

after he died from a suspected heart attack, aged 42.

Krakouer played 102 games for the Tigers (2001-2007) and 35 for the Magpies (2011-2013), kicking three goals in the Pies' 2011 grand-final loss to Geelong.

His second stint in the AFL came after he was jailed in 2008 for 16 months over a serious assault.

Richmond and Collingwood figures led tributes to Krakouer, who died in Perth on Sunday, March 30, with both clubs saying they were "deeply saddened".

Tigers great Matthew Richardson remembered Krakouer as "a beautiful man who was loved by all his teammates".

"He always greeted you with a hug and a warm smile," Richardson said.

"He had a great sense of humour and was one of those people you felt really good to be around. Just a ripper person.

"As a player, he was super talented.

"He was the best crumbing



Andrew Krakouer speaking during the launch of children's book *My Dad's Gone Away*. (AAP)

forward I played with ... the perfect crumber, and he was a good mark for his size as well. When he was on song, he was unbeatable."

Krakouer fell out with Collingwood following the 2021 'Do Better' report into allegations of racism, but made peace with the club the following year.

Former Magpies coach Nathan Buckley described the 2011 mark-of-the-year winner as "a genius" who could do "special things" on the field.

"He made the most of his opportunities," Buckley told SEN.

"He was troubled at times, but what a brilliant footballer. Really calm, quiet teammate who was respectful and went about his business. He loved the game, found a way to impact and could do things other players couldn't do. He was exceptional."

Krakouer was a star at state-league level, delivering a brilliant 2010 WAFL season that earned him a second chance in

the AFL.

He won the Sandover Medal as the WAFL's best player that season and was awarded the Simpson Medal as best afield in Swan Districts' grand final win over Claremont.

Krakouer tallied 42 disposals and four goals in the decider, kicking the match-winner in the dying seconds of a one-point victory that clinched Swans' first premiership in 20 years.

GWS star and former Swans teammate Stephen Coniglio said his "hero" Krakouer had a

significant influence on him.

"I can't even begin to think where my career and life would have headed if I never had met you... you overcame so much of your own adversity only to give back to mine and many others," Coniglio posted on Instagram.

Krakouer kicked 35 goals in 23 games during his 2011 AFL comeback but ruptured an ACL during the following pre-season.

He returned late in 2012 but was delisted by Collingwood at the end of 2013.

Krakouer later worked in football media and co-authored a children's book – *My Dad's Gone Away* – which addressed the experiences of children with incarcerated parents.

AFL chief executive Andrew Dillon said Krakouer would be remembered for the work he had done to turn his life around, becoming a leader in addressing school and community groups while building a media career.

"To lose him at such an early age is a tragedy, and we hope there can be some peace for his family in this heart-breaking and difficult time," Andrew Dillon said.

His father Jim and uncle Phil were stars with Claremont in the WAFL and North Melbourne in the VFL back in the 1980s.

– AAP



# Surviving the election

As the delusion dust starts to fade away, we, as the collective, are slowly becoming aware of the deep corruption of the systems that raised us and govern us. They are built in beliefs and values that no longer seem to resonate with the society we are becoming. The next generations are not as blind as those who have gone before. They are more aware of the impact on our natural world due to "colonial progress". They are more aware of inequality and injustice and they are simply just so much more informed than those generations who came before them, partly because they were raised with the internet and let's face it, the early forms of AI.

We are recognising the deep and harmful repercussions of the colony and its ties into the consumerist capitalist system. We are all wanting a change but how do we get a change?

Australian prime minister Anthony Albanese has called the next Australian federal election to take place on the 3rd of May. My usual thoughts on politics and especially the two-party system have always been that they are just the wings to the same bird in flight, and that bird seems to be flying us all into a brick wall of destruction.

What I mean by that is there



**Ella Noah Bancroft**

is no longer a great divide between left and right, they both come under the values of a capitalist society that is built on greed, rape, murder and the destruction of our natural resources. They are both built to protect the colony and the corporate greed that rapes our Country and they both only really care about GDP. So who is the lesser of all evils and can we actually make change?

My hope is that the two-party system breaks, that neither Labor or Liberal get voted in but rather I pray that this election we see the most number of independents take the seats in parliament, leaving Albanese to remain as prime minister but with little to no power. I just cannot

see a world where we would be better if Dutton got in. Giving an ex-Queensland cop power in parliament is not a good idea. Not only is Dutton repulsive to listen to with his bizarre beliefs, if we as a country vote him in, we will be following our not so distant cousin, America, into the darkest times we have seen in politics in a long time.

Some part of me shivers at that thought and the other part of me feels like the only way we are going to truly change as Australians is when this country elects a leader that is the embodiment of colonial capitalism and let's be real, Dutton is that guy.

Dutton is our Trump and maybe we need a man like that to take power for us all to see how far we truly have gone the wrong way and how much we need to actively change on an individual, community and local level. Whether we are ready to accept change or not, it is coming. We are in the throes of a massive energetic clearing, one where we are all being called to heal and change our behaviours so we can usher in the better world tomorrow. Will we keep Albanese and give him little power or will we vote in Dutton and move into the darkest times? Either way, both will lead to change and both will

be deeply uncomfortable.

But like all beautiful births, we need uncomfortability first. We need destruction in order for creation to be created. We need to usher in a world where our children are cared for and families are supported, where food comes from farms around the corner and not flown over the seas, where all humans and animals are free from slavery and where we refind ourselves in deep, real world connections to real life people, our more than human kin, and the planet. Another real fear is that we have to be taken into the depths of the techno-colonial-capitalist future to experience it, to feel it, to realise we don't want that. We might need to taste that to experience how bad that is for us and our health in order for us to correct our course and make true change.

So why is breaking down the two-party system a good idea? It can be very good for democracy, although I will agree we don't live in a democracy but we could find an opportunity in this next election to refind it. More political parties, and the more parties with a chance of being part of the government, provokes more debate and provides more choice to voters. Independents are a great way to get local voices making decisions in

parliament without having to follow party rules or values. It allows for truer diversity.

The two major parties in Australia are too close together, they are both paving a path to hell with colonial intentions and I truly think it's time we, the people, take back the power and say no more to these big parties and the two-party system.

If we want to see real change and reform take place in parliament, we should be voting for minor parties. We could have real change if we started to vote more independents in and didn't vote for the two-party system. Australians need to wake up to the fact that we don't live in a democratic system. We have been sold a lie and now we need to regain our voice in parliament. Just a reminder to everyone reading this, politicians are supposed to work for us, the people. That's why we work and then our tax makes up their wages. We are their bosses and we have forgotten it. I urge you to do your own research on how to make change on local, state and federal levels in your own areas. Who are the parties that truly align with your vision of our future tomorrow?

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



Aboriginal Home Ownership Hub



"I want to see a future where Aboriginal people are dominant in the housing market"

– Madylin Gamble, Gunditjmarra woman, Victorian Homebuyer Fund (VHF) participant

Madylin, a proud Gunditjmarra woman and participant in the Victorian Homebuyer Fund (VHF), faced a tough choice between securing stable housing and continuing her education. Like others in her community, Madylin knows too well the impact of unstable housing on realising her goals. Without the support of the Victorian Homebuyer Fund (VHF), Madylin would not have been able to purchase her home when she needed to most.

The Victorian Homebuyer Fund (VHF) is a Victorian State Government home ownership program that allows eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households to buy a new or established residential property with a smaller deposit and without paying Lenders Mortgage Insurance (LMI).

After more than three years of opening doors to Aboriginal home ownership, the Victorian Homebuyer Fund (VHF) program is ending on 30 June 2025. To find out if the Victorian Homebuyer Fund (VHF) may be the opportunity to get into your own home sooner, check your eligibility on the Aboriginal Home Ownership Hub via the QR code.





# Strengthening our cultural safety in mental-health care



## Professor Helen Milroy

We all have stories about someone in our Mob who felt unwelcome or misunderstood when trying to get help for their mental health. Maybe it was a friend who didn't return to a clinic because the staff didn't get where they were coming from. Maybe it was an aunty or uncle who felt judged or even faced racism when they were at their most vulnerable. These experiences have taught us a hard truth: mainstream mental-health services haven't always been safe or respectful places for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Cultural safety in mental-health care is something our hearts have long yearned for. But what does it truly mean? In simple terms, cultural safety means that when we walk into a clinic or hospital, we feel safe to be ourselves. Our culture, identity and history are respected at every step. There's no fear of racism or misunderstanding. Instead, we're met with open minds and hearts. Cultural safety is about trust – knowing that the people caring for us truly “get” who we are and what we've been through. It's the opposite of a one-size-fits-all approach. It's care that fits us, designed with our input and honouring our ways.

### The TIMHWP project

Right now, I'm thrilled to be leading an exciting effort to bring these ideas to life – the Transforming Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing (TIMHWP) project at the University of Western Australia. Together with my colleague, Professor Pat Dudgeon, we're uniting Aboriginal voices from across the country to reshape the mental health system. TIMHWP flips the script: instead of outsiders telling us what's best for our mental health, it puts Aboriginal communities in the driver's seat – our voices lead the way, and professionals walk alongside us.

Our project teams have been yarning with Elders, youth, healers and community workers to gather wisdom on what truly works. We're also working closely with universities and hospitals to turn that wisdom into action. The message is clear: nothing about us without us. By co-designing solutions, TIMHWP ensures that the changes in mental-health care aren't just token gestures – they're deep, genuine shifts rooted in what our people have said we need. (For more about this project, you can visit the TIMHWP website. This project isn't just happening in boardrooms or research labs – it's happening on the ground in our communities, where everyone, from young ones to Elders, come together to talk about mental health in a comfortable setting.

As one of the participants in our project powerfully shared:

"Because the spaces that we want don't exist yet. This place where you can come and just go, 'I don't have to explain my whole culture to you. I don't have to explain anything'."

Community voices will be shaping the future of therapy, crisis support, and even



Professor Helen Milroy, second from left, with Angela Watson, Rene Kulitja and Alison Carol from the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council.

the design of mental-health facilities (imagine clinics with outdoor yarning spaces and paintings by local artists, instead of cold white walls).

The story we're writing together is one of healing, hope and empowerment. There is a saying we hold in our hearts: “strong culture, strong people”. By making cultural safety the cornerstone of mental health care, we are strengthening the spirit of our people. As one participant in our study described the intersection of culture, spirituality and mental health:

“And my history, what people don't understand is that as Aboriginal people, we've got spiritual, cultural and then there's mental health. I've been through the three of them. Spiritual is my everyday life. Cultural is my everyday life because I'm Aboriginal. Mental health is affected when people don't believe me that what I'm going through is cultural or spiritual.”

We're ensuring that no one has to choose between getting help and staying true to who they are. And we're proving that when you respect and include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in creating solutions, amazing things happen.

### Making services safe

For many of us, trust has been broken in the past by systems that didn't value our voices. Years of trauma, racism and neglect have made our people understandably cautious. That's why rebuilding trust is so important. To do that, services should listen to our community, involve us in decisions, and actively fight racism within their walls. Words aren't enough – we need action that we can see and feel. When a service shows it's willing to change – like hiring more of our people, training staff in our cultures, or partnering with Elders – we notice. Each positive experience spreads by word of mouth. Bit by bit, trust grows. And with trust, more of our people feel okay about reaching out for help when they need it.

A big part of making services safe is confronting racism wherever it shows up. This means more than just saying

“everyone is welcome”. It means actively being anti-racist – calling out discrimination and prejudice whenever they occur and making sure staff at every level understand the impact of racism on our wellbeing. When a mental-health professional understands intergenerational trauma and the strength of our survival, they're less likely to judge and more likely to show compassion. And when we see a service stand up against a racist remark or policy, we feel a shift – it tells us, this place respects us. Cultural safety and anti-racism go hand in hand. You can't have one without the other. Our vision is that one day our kids and grandkids can seek help without bracing themselves for ignorance or bigotry.

Working together is the only way forward. Our community-controlled health organisations – like Aboriginal Medical Services – have always been safe harbors. They are run by our people, for our people, and they know how to create a welcoming space. By partnering with them, hospitals and clinics can learn practical ways to be culturally safe. This might mean having cultural consultants or liaison officers available or adopting models of care that were developed by Aboriginal communities. As expressed thoughtfully by a community member in our study:

“There needs to be more Aboriginal people working in mental health. You need to be direct about how Aboriginal people don't give eye contact... And if you don't give eye contact, it doesn't mean that it's bad body language. They need to have cultural awareness. If there's no Aboriginal workers, there needs to be cultural awareness that we find eye contact intimidating.”

It certainly means involving community representatives in planning and governance. When we see our own leaders at the table deciding how programs run, we feel confident that our needs won't be brushed aside.

Our ancestors navigated by the stars and found pathways where none seemed

possible. In the same way, we are forging a new path for mental wellbeing – one grounded in culture, connection and community leadership. The current system was never designed with us in mind, and tinkering at the edges is not enough. What we need is deep, structural transformation. This new path is about walking together with mutual respect: Elders, young people, health workers and community organisations, side by side.

In the end, cultural safety in mental-health care isn't just a policy or a project – it's a promise. A promise that we will no longer be treated as outsiders in our own country's healthcare system. A promise that our children and grandchildren will grow up with services that celebrate their identity and support their wellbeing in equal measure.

Together, drawing on the strength of our cultures and the resilience of our communities, we are building a healthier, stronger future. And that is something we can all look forward to with pride and optimism.

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

This article is part of a series by authors from the Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention at the University of Western Australia.



# Connecting with others through storytelling

I consider myself incredibly fortunate to be part of a production as an actor that has recently captivated audiences. The show called *Love Stories*, is crafted by the talented Trent Dalton, who hails from Darra, Queensland – just a stone's throw away from my own childhood home. This connection to the local landscape adds a special warmth to the production, one that resonates deeply with both cast and audience.

In *Love Stories*, conversations about love and its many forms are meticulously unravelled by the author, allowing us to witness these heartfelt narratives woven together on stage. The play is not just a display of emotions, it excels in its ability to transport audiences to a place of warmth and tenderness. Yet it also has a knack for delivering emotional jolts that leave viewers moving and inspired.

The process of rehearsing a play like this can be quite intense. Our journey began when *Love Stories* was invited to the Adelaide Festival, where the original cast joined forces with three new members to learn the production in just over two weeks. As an actor, there's a unique thrill that accompanies this work – coupled with a fair amount of anxiety. It's a balancing act of navigating emotional depths and



Kirk Page and Jade Dewi Tyas Tunggal in a scene from *Smoke*, a theatre work under development. Image by Katie Holmes.

memorising dialogue, all while finding the rhythm of the physical storytelling.

What I find truly enchanting about theatre is the creation of a little bubble where we can inhabit the lives of real people and their stories. This environment breeds both pressure and exhilaration, especially when collaborating with fellow actors and

performers who share a common goal, to tell a compelling story in the most believable way possible.

When the curtain rises, we enter an alternate universe for a few hours each night, only to return to reality afterward and mingle among the very people who inspire the narratives we bring to life on stage. In some cases, those narratives are

deeply personal stories. For instance, I recently had the privilege of directing Rhoda Roberts AO in a narrative about her cousin, Frank Roberts – the first Aboriginal person to represent 'Australia' in boxing, who travelled all the way from Cubawee in northern NSW to compete in the Tokyo Olympics in 1964.

Working alongside Rhoda was a remarkable experience, and our production recently made its mark at the Adelaide International Arts Festival. Frank's story weaves together themes of family, place, and community – demonstrating that the legacy of survival and success continues to thrive. Frank, a proud Bundjalung man, came from a lineage of change-makers who paved the way through sports and community leadership.

Ultimately, as we gather in theatres or festival venues across the country, whether we're in the audience or on stage, we must remember that every performance is a reflection of someone's truth. Be it a heartfelt story or pure entertainment, the lines often blur. As I take on each role and witness the brilliance of my fellow actors, I'm reminded of the power of storytelling and how it connects us, educates us, and occasionally provides the escape we all desperately need.



## Kirk Page

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

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

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

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

## Trouwerner

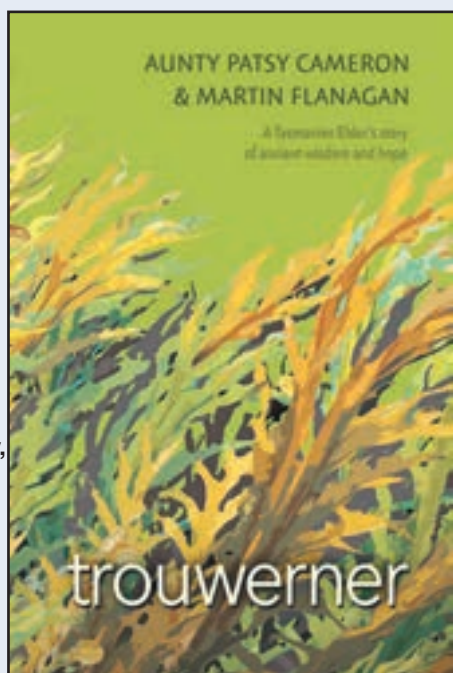
Aunty Patsy Cameron and Martin Flanagan

*Trouwerner* is an inviting yarn between Elder Aunty Patsy Cameron, the 28th Tasmanian Governor Kate Warner, and journalist Martin Flanagan.

It weaves through the coming-into-being time, Trouwerner's colonisation and the lies of history, to the power of truth-telling and hope for the future.

It is a story of kinship and respect, of realism and optimism, welcoming the reader into the conversation.

"Down the gravel road where Patsy lived as a child is a stretch of tall bush. Like a stage curtain, it hides the vista of Franklin Sound. Walking through that bush with Patsy is like entering a crowded room where you are a stranger and your companion seems to know everyone."



# Our Dance is a book that teaches culture

By Jacinta Daniher & Taylor Hampton  
Illustrated by Janelle Burger

*Under the moon, by the big gum tree,  
Let's dance and sing in the  
corroboree,  
With ochre on our bodies, our dance  
awaits,  
Our Mob, Our culture, let's celebrate.*

*Our Dance* is a joyful, rhyming children's book that celebrates First Nations culture and the different animals local to Australia.

Co-written by Ngayamppa/Wiradjuri man Taylor Hampton who has a passion for educating young Mob, and his partner Jacinta Daniher, who is an early childhood educator.

They wanted to create content that is educational, interactive and exciting.

Their two children have inspired them to create picture books that reflect their culture and experiences as young Indigenous children growing up in Australia.

The illustrator, Janelle Burger, is a Noongar and Italian woman, who's passionate about raising awareness about her culture.







Multi-award-winning singer and songwriter, Emma Donovan. Picture: AAP

# Emma's journey to the centre of soul

Emma Donovan is an acclaimed singer, known for her soulful voice and inspirational messaging inspired by her family connections to Yamatji (WA) and Gumbaynggirr (NSW) Country. Emma has successfully carved out a name for herself in the music industry with grace and strength.

A multi-award-winning singer and songwriter, her music reflects her personal stories and observations of the heart from a woman's perspective.

Emma's musical journey began with her family band, The Donovans, where she performed alongside her mother, Agnes, and her extended family.

Her collaborations with the extraordinary Black Arm Band project further showcased her role as a contemporary artist and a vital voice for the music scene.

Over the years, Emma has toured and collaborated with some of Australia's finest artists, including Paul Kelly, The Teskey Brothers, Paul Grabowsky, Spinifex Gum, and the late legendary Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter.

Her work with Melbourne's acclaimed rhythm section, The Putbacks, has earned her critical acclaim and multiple awards, including Best Soul/RnB Album at

the ARIA Awards for both *Crossover* (2021) and *Under These Streets* (2022), and Best Soul, Funk, R&B, or Gospel Act at the 2021 Music Victoria Awards.

With her deep commitment to community and culture, Emma regularly performs songs in the Gumbaynggirr and Noongar languages, offering audiences a rare and intimate look at Country and connection. Her work continues to inspire and influence both the Australian music scene and global audiences, making her one of the most important and respected artists of her generation.

**Where did you grow up and can you tell us a bit about what it was like there when you were young?**

I mostly grew up in Western Sydney with family and in Sydney. My mum came from New South Wales in Nambucca Valley and we spent most of our holidays there. That's home for me, my mum's place. I can say that place has changed since growing up. It's a lot more touristy now.

**When you were little did you have dreams of being a singer and touring the universe and becoming a star?**

I grew up in a musical family. As a young person I always made little concerts and performances,

me and my brother would do concerts for the family.

Music was always around us, from our grandparents to all my uncles and even mum so it was destiny that I might end up as a musician. I never really imagined you know big touring or any of those things, it's kind of been beyond my wildest dreams to think I would be doing this as a career.

**What is your opinion on fame and who is the most famous person you have ever met?**

I think one of the most famous people that I've met has been Cathy Freeman. I was absolutely gobsmacked to meet her. I met her during the Olympics in Sydney, I couldn't believe how nervous I was meeting her. Cathy is an absolute international icon but more importantly, an Aboriginal icon.

Someone like Cathy Freeman who is internationally recognised but is an Aboriginal person first and watching her come up and witness her success has been inspirational for me and our community. I remember watching her run that race and we all stopped as a nation and on a global scale to watch her win that gold medal.

It's funny when people think of fame and success as Aboriginal

people we go back to that shame factor you know. I see a lot of like you know there's a lot of success in Aboriginal music see you know outside our communities and I think it's different now how Mob kinda deal with it you know what I mean, there's a different way that our mob see success, we are very humble.

People like Jessica Mauboy and Cathy Freeman have made success outside of our communities. I feel like these are the ones that know how to keep that connection regardless of the fame or the success. I love seeing this amongst black artists and peers and mentors too. Keeping connection, staying grounded and humble is also a measure of success to me.

Sometimes I still struggle with my own insecurities and you go back and listen to past recordings and I think did I really do that, it's a bit like looking back at a photo album.

You know it's a snapshot of a time in your life. Music has been a lifeline for me, to write to survive, to feel confident you know put aside all my anxieties. It's been very healing for me over the years. I've had to look back and double check in on myself to make sure that I'm on the right path with myself and yeah, it's

emotional for me.

Sometimes I listen to it for my own power to remind myself where I have come from and where I need to go.

**Life on the road and touring must be a challenge. What keeps you active and inspired when life gets busy?**

I have two little ones and I have a family and this is my sole income, I've made it my sole income, no pressure on myself. You know that sometimes we do have them quiet periods of the touring blues you know, when there is a gap and there's hardly any work and that's challenging.

In a way the writing music and singing is good for my health and being back on Country and having time with my children, sharing that with them at home in Nambucca it's cleansing and you need the fuel before you go back out on the road and do it all again.

**If you could invite some special guests to dinner who would they be?**

Definitely Aretha Franklin, one of my faves. Uncle Archie and my mum and Cardi B.

**Whats coming up for you next?**

I want to do another solo album in 2026 perhaps some more soul music as well as taking some rest time.



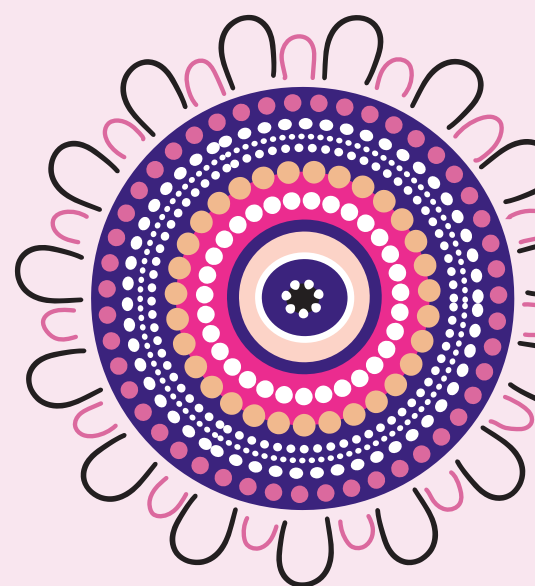


# Stay healthy for you and your mob.

## 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](https://book.breastscreen.nsw.gov.au)**  
or call **13 20 50**.

Biyani Artwork by Jasmine Sarin,  
Kamilaroi and Jerrinja Woman



# A taste of the Torres Strait for Townsville

By ALF WILSON



A FOOD van which specialises in Torres Strait and Aboriginal cuisines and employs two fulltime staff and five casuals opened in Townsville on Friday, April 4.

For the previous two weeks Bina's Kitchen had been waiting for heavy rain to stop so the van could start operations.

It will be located at the parking area beside the AMR Hall in Aitkenvale suburb.

The operator of Bina's Kitchen, Evelyn Billy, is also the head chef, and said the van would offer a full menu including many Torres Strait and Aboriginal dishes as well as some non-Indigenous food.

## Menu

Amongst the main menu dishes which will tantalise the taste buds include traditional fried fish served with blachan and jasmin rice; Sarbi fish served with rice; seasoned fish served with salad; pork dinuguan (pig blood with rice); vermicelli and coconut curry chicken.

"We will also have a full range of coffee and there is a covered area next to the van where customers can sit in comfort and yarn whilst they eat. Also we can provide other food types for customers and will be doing catering," Evelyn said.

The AMR Hall is named after the late Anatasia Maria Ross of Darney descent.

All Townsville City Council



First customers Sharine Milne, left, and Peter Idai, right, with Evelyn Billy in front of the food van.

approvals were gained for the food van. Trading hours will be Monday to Saturday between 6am and 1pm and 4pm to 9pm.

The *Koori Mail* was there on opening day and the first two customers were Peter Idai and Sharine Milne who have descendants from Bamaga on the Northern Peninsula Area and Saibai Island.

"I have been waiting for this to open and have ordered several dishes to take back to work. It looks delicious," Sharine said.

Another attraction will be a

juice menu which Evelyn said would be popular with Indigenous people.

"Many of the juices will have ingredients such as noni fruit which our people use for bush medicine," she said.

The cooks have use of the modern kitchen in the AMR Hall and also a new coffee machine in the van.

"Already tonight we have an order to serve for 150 people at a reunion," Evelyn said.

Evelyn said as business grows she intends to employ more First Nations people.



At the opening were Maria Frank, Valarie Marshall, Evelyn Billy, Jan Pool from AMR Hall and Phoebe Nona.

# Snap-happy Cass loves a challenge

By COLE BAXTER



GAMILARAAY woman Cass Edwards has travelled the world multiple times playing ice hockey and now she is carving

her name into Australia's media landscape with her photography.

Her experiences include shooting the PGA tour and AFL's Indigenous All Star's game, through to flying to the United States to be the personal band photographer of her all-time favourite band, The Matches.

It's no wonder camera giant 'Nikon' has noticed the waves she's been creating and is investing in her future, early on.

"Stepping out and trusting that I could make a successful

career as a fulltime creative is my greatest accomplishment to date," she said.

"I had no idea that I could make a living out of something that gives me so much enjoyment and fulfilment."

Despite being kept busy with opportunities such as shooting the NRL's west coast games, Cass continues to document many grassroots and small Aboriginal community events across Noongar Country, not just limited to the sports sector.

"I've always been a creative from a young age, and I love the challenges that come with pushing myself to try new things... being able to tell a story through photography allows me to capture something creatively in a way that words can't," Cass said.



Pictures by Cass Edwards. For more go to [www.cassedwards.com](http://www.cassedwards.com)



Cass Edwards checks a shot. Picture: Cole Baxter.





# Cultural learning space launches at La Perouse Public School



A NEW learning space to help foster employment opportunities and Aboriginal cultural connection has been launched at La Perouse Public School, thanks to a \$99,000 'Community and Place' grant from the state government.

Grant recipient IndigiGrow is a 100% Aboriginal-owned and operated social enterprise which operates nurseries at La Perouse and Matraville Sports High School, reviving, growing, and delivering native plants and bush tucker across Sydney.

The development of the cultural learning space on Bidjigal Country in Botany Bay is part of

IndigiGrow's broader efforts to grow jobs and broaden cultural knowledge.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, David Harris, attended the launch with school students, staff, parents and carers to celebrate the transformation of an unused school space, into a thriving hub for hands-on education in native plants, cultural knowledge, and connection to Country.

The launch featured a demonstration on how to propagate banksia pods using fire, given by IndigiGrow's Peter Cooley.

The NSW Government's Community and Place Grants

has funded \$35 million to support community-led programs that advance Closing the Gap outcomes since 2022.

Attorney General and Member for Maroubra, Michael Daley said the cultural learning hub would help strengthen young Aboriginal people's connection to culture.

"Programs like this are crucial to improving outcomes for Aboriginal students and empowering the next generation of community leaders," he said.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, David Harris said the government was proud to support community-led initiatives that provide opportunities for students to deepen their cultural knowledge, learn from Elders, and gain practical skills that connect them to Country and community.

"Projects like this demonstrate the power of Aboriginal knowledge and leadership in shaping meaningful educational experiences for young people in NSW," Mr Harris said.

"By supporting IndigiGrow's work, we are helping ensure the next generation can access cultural learning in a way that strengthens identity, wellbeing, and opportunity to help close the gap."

Peter Cooley from IndigiGrow, said having the cultural educational learning facilities in the school environment was so important.



La Perouse Public School children help celebrate IndigiGrow's grant.

"They provide pathways for our young people to learn cultural knowledge and skills in a culturally safe, supportive and familiar learning environment, enhancing social and emotional wellbeing," he said.

Lisa Maller, Principal of La Perouse Public School said

IndigiGrow shares invaluable knowledge about bush tucker and significant local plants, deepening students' awareness of the natural world and its cultural significance.

"The creation of the yarning circle will provide a vital communal space for cultural

exchange and connection, offering students profound learning experiences that celebrate both environmental and cultural heritage," she said.

**For more information on IndigiGrow visit:**  
<https://indigigrow.com.au/>

# \$5.1 million boost for student accommodation



BATCHELOR Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education has welcomed

a \$5.1 million investment in new student accommodation at its Alice Springs campus.

Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, said the funding would transform educational opportunities for students from remote Northern Territory communities by providing culturally safe housing at the Desert Knowledge Precinct. The new accommodation will support students enrolled in our diverse range of programs, from vocational certificates to higher education degrees, many of whom travel vast distances to study. This initiative underscores our commitment to empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander peoples through education. Batchelor Institute acting chief executive Renee Long said the \$5.1 million investment "marks a transformative step for Batchelor Institute and our students from remote communities."

"For years, we've worked to create a culturally safe space for learning, and this new accommodative accommodation at our Alice Springs campus will ensure students can focus on their education without the challenges of unsuitable accommodation," she said. "We're deeply grateful to Senator McCarthy and the federal government for recognising the unique needs of our students. This funding supports our mission to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through education, fostering self-

determination and strengthening communities across the Northern Territory." Professor Kathryn Gilbey, executive dean of Higher Education and Research at Batchelor Institute, said the new accommodation would create a home away from home for students, many of whom travel vast distances to learn. "By providing a culturally supportive environment, we're ensuring they can thrive in their studies while staying connected to their communities and cultures. "At Batchelor Institute, our 'both-ways' philosophy positions First Nations peoples as knowledge holders in all we do. This \$5.1 million investment will enhance our ability to deliver education that respects Indigenous ways of learning, helping students build futures while preserving their cultural identities."



Batchelor Institute.



# Guiding light in the sky inspires Troy's musical composition



TROY Russell started his musical journey young.

He was 11 when he began taking piano lessons with a neighbour, and music has since remained a part of his life.

"I learned the basics of music through her, then you grow up, life gets in the way, so it was the mid-90s I started picking up music again, learning bass guitar," the Biripi and Gamillaroi man said.

Russell has played in bands and ensembles including GiiMusic and the Green Hand Band for decades.

It was through the Ngarra-Burria First Peoples Composers initiative that Russell first had the chance to begin composing music "in a big way".

One of his compositions, commissioned by Bach Akademie Australia, will be performed alongside the works of the German maestro in the *Countertenor*.

Russell said the Bach Akademie wanted a piece written about Venus, also known as the morning star.

Bach had written about the



Biripi and Gamillaroi composer and musician Troy Russell.

morning star but Aboriginal people would have also seen that celestial body in the sky, Russell said.

His composition, called *The Morning Star (Clans)*, reflects and honours the story and connection between the ancient

and new music.

"Knowing that Aboriginal people would have used that same star in the sky (and it)

would have been seen every evening and morning was really significant," Russell said.

"It's a guiding light to a lot of people like Aboriginal people, and means a lot to so many people all around the world."

Russell was pleased with the opportunity to compose a piece for the Bach Akademie but had to do some research, having never composed for baroque instruments.

Once he got started, he found himself enjoying the process.

"Once I get an idea of melody, making the instruments work with each other, with the scope that I'm working with – a cello or clarinet and the range of instruments between strings sections, viola, violins, maybe a piano," he said.

"I write for those and making sure that even though some sounds might clash, it still works. Getting them to work together, I've been finding that really interesting and I really enjoy it."

**The *Countertenor* will be touring from April 4, beginning in Newcastle before visiting Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne Adelaide, Orange and finishing in Blackheath on April 23.**

# University invests in Lyndon's creativity with *Bidjali* artwork



THE University of the Sunshine Coast has unveiled a new artwork by Kabi Kabi artist Lyndon Davis as part of its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visual identity.

The artwork, titled *Bidjali* meaning "coastal people", is displayed in the Sunshine Coast campus library, with elements of it to feature across a wide array of resources including UniSC Arena, select sports uniforms and digital assets including the UniSC website to name a few.

A well-known and respected Kabi Kabi artist and educator, Mr Davis has a long and storied history with UniSC, collaborating on research, events, artworks and exhibitions.

Mr Davis explained *Bidjali* was about connection, community and culture – honouring the Butchulla and Gubbi Gubbi/Kabi Kabi peoples and country on whose land UniSC campuses operate.

"It was important to get a perspective from others in the community, and luckily they were thinking exactly the same as me. You've got the water, the bunya, the whales, the dolphins" he said.

"[Those designs] depict exactly what this landscape is. So that's what I've tried to incorporate here – to bring back those traditional styles.

"I remember seeing some of my Elders making art years ago and it wasn't dots or cross-hatching it was bold geometric patterns and designs."

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



Kabi Kabi artist and educator Lyndon Davis.

visual identity is a small but important part of a larger body of work to embed Indigenous perspectives into everything UniSC does – from teaching and learning to research opportunities.

UniSC Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Helen Bartlett, praised *Bidjali* and reaffirmed the University's commitment to strengthening connections with Traditional

Owners and creating an equitable future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in higher education.

"Lyndon has created a remarkable piece of art, capturing the history, connection and country of the Traditional Owners upon whose land UniSC is located," Professor Bartlett said.

"*Bidjali* is a visual representation of our

commitment to honour that history, and advance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander higher education as outlined in our Strategic Plan and Reconciliation Charter.

"The proportion of Indigenous students at UniSC is 4.2 percent – more than double the Australian average – and we are immensely proud of our relationships with Traditional Owners."



# Crafty call-out for Queensland First Nations creatives



CAIRNS Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) is calling out Queensland-wide to First Nations artists and craftspeople to showcase their culture and wares to thousands of visitors at this year's Artisans Showcase at Tanks Arts Centre in Cairns between 10 and 13 July this year.

CIAF's artistic director, Teho Ropeyarn, said that while the art market is traditionally one of the most popular and visited attractions of the annual event, it has been rebranded Artisans Showcase to better reflect the organisation's commitment to showcasing authentic, high-quality artwork and craftsmanship.

"Importantly, the Artisans Showcase will provide an inclusive, ethical platform to present and sell a diverse and culturally

rich range of arts and crafts celebrating the heritage, traditional techniques, and creative expressions of Queensland's First Nations communities," said Mr Ropeyarn.

CIAF will also feature the work of approximately 300 visual artists and 100 performers across a multifaceted program of mostly free and family-friendly events.

Highlights include this year's *Pay Attention!* themed art fair, *Look & Listen* fashion performances, The Artisans Showcase, Eat Street, music, cultural dance and demonstrations, masterclasses and CIAF Talks (with keynote speakers and panel discussions).

**Queensland's First Nations artisans are invited to apply up until April 30 at: <https://ciaf.com.au/cairns-indigenous-art-fair-ciaf2025>.**



Ken Thaiday Snr, CIAF's artistic director Teho Ropeyarn and Gillyba Ambrum. Photo: Alicia Jade, Studio So

# Biennale appoints Bruce Johnson McLean First Nations curatorial fellow



LEADING voice in First Nations art and culture and member of the Wierdi people of Wribpid, Bruce Johnson McLean has been appointed the new

Foundation Cartier pour l'art contemporain First Nations Curatorial Fellow for the 25th Biennale of Sydney.

2026 Biennale artistic director Hoor Al Qasimi said, "The Biennale of Sydney has long been a space for artists to share their stories and challenge perceptions.

"Bruce Johnson McLean's appointment as First Nations Curatorial Fellow is an important step in shaping an edition deeply rooted in connection, and the transformative power of art."

"Bruce brings over 25 years of experience as a curator, writer, and advisor. He will build on the remarkable work of Kuku Yalanji man Tony Albert,

the inaugural Fellow in 2024, working closely with artists to develop ambitious projects for the upcoming Biennale."

Taking place from 14 March – 14 June in 2026 across historic sites, museums and gallery spaces in Sydney, organisers said the next edition will feature new commissions, a thought-provoking exhibition, programming that is by, with and for community, and a continued commitment to platforming First Nations voices.

The Biennale of Sydney will also return to White Bay Power Station, after successfully launching Sydney's newest arts and cultural venue in 2024. The last edition saw over 777,000 visitors across six venues, with White Bay Power Station alone welcoming approximately 174,000 visitors making it the most attended non-museum site in the Biennale's history.



2026 Biennale First Nations curatorial fellow Bruce Johnson McLean.

# Deanne Gillson centres the Sacred Knowledge of plants



THE work of Wadewurrung artist Deanne Gillson is currently going head-to-head with the work of colonial botanist Sir Joseph Banks in a new exhibition

*Floribunda*, at Bunjil Place Gallery in Melbourne until July 20 this year.

*Floribunda* explores the human relationship with flowers, and the influences of flowers on art over time and is presented in partnership with the National Gallery of Victoria.

Based in Ballarat Ms Gillson's series of ten still life works depicting healing Indigenous plants in traditional woven baskets, *Before Joseph Banks, Our Baskets and Plants Held Sacred Knowledge* (2022), is paired alongside 20 prints from the monumental folio by renowned botanist, Sir Joseph Banks, in a dialogue that centres Indigenous knowledge of Australian plants and pushes colonial interpretations to the periphery.

First created for the NGV's Melbourne Now, Ms Gillson's work is a direct response to Banks' work and the lack of Indigenous knowledge in the Australian plants he documented. Banks was on the First Fleet and became obsessed with Australian plants, taking over 30,000 of them back to Britain.

Over a 40-year career, Deanne has been focused on reclaiming Australian elements of the Australian bush in her unique form of Indigenous art, and this series is part of an extended investigation into Banks' work. Curated by celebrated Australian artist David Sequeira, the exhibition brings together more than 150 floral works from the NGV, one of Australia's most important collections.

Spanning painting, photography, installation, sculpture, fashion and more, this universal history of flowers is told from the perspectives of international and Australian artists, creatives and designers across time, and features works from Azuma Makoto, Arthur Streeton, Margaret Preston, John Brack, Grace



Deanne Gilson. Photo: James Henry

Cossington-Smith, Carla Zampatti, Akira Isogawa, Yves Saint Laurent and Trevor Nickolls.



One of the works from Deanne Gilson's series *Before Joseph Banks, Our Baskets and Plants Held Sacred Knowledge* (2022).



# Black joy celebrated in debut play



DALARA Williams wanted to see people like her in the romcoms she grew up with, so she wrote her own.

After studying acting, she roles the Wiradjuri and

Gumbaynggirr woman was asked to audition for were often "tragic" and took a specific lens on the lives of Aboriginal people.

She realised this came at the cost of them often being left out of stories involving love and friendship at the level she wanted to see.

"I grew up watching romcoms and stuff like *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Wedding Singer* and *Strictly Ballroom* ... I wanted us to be able to live those lives as well because they are our reality," Williams told AAP.

Listening to the stories of her grandmother Norma Ingram and aunts Millie Ingram and Margaret Campbell, Williams was inspired by their joy and the friendship between the women, which has lasted to the present day.

Williams' debut play pays respect to these women and their stories.

"They shared their social life because that was the thing that fascinated me the most, Black joy and the life they had in a world that wasn't really built for them, and how they thrived in that," she said.



Wiradjuri and Gumbaynggirr woman Dalara Williams.

"I saw these women that inspired me and that's the woman that I've become today, and I wanted to honour them in this really fun and loving way."

Set in Redfern, where Williams grew up and still lives, *Big Girls Don't Cry* focuses

on three Aboriginal women navigating life, just as Williams' grandmother and aunts did, as they gear up for the much-anticipated debutante ball.

The play takes place in the lead up to the 1967 referendum, which allowed for

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be counted in the census for the first time. It also follows the 1965 Freedom Ride, which drew attention to the racism and segregation in regional NSW.

Williams plays the character Cheryl, bringing to life the story of joy and resistance alongside Stephanie Somerville as Lulu and Megan Wilding as Queenie.

Williams said the political movements of a 1960s Redfern spanned beyond the rallies and the protests, underlining every social and community event in this period.

"That's how the movement began ... they just had dances and talent shows on the weekend and from that you got people coming from all over the country to Redfern and the city in the 60s," she said.

"The ideas started happening and they started talking to each other and that grew into the Aboriginal activist movement."

Williams said she hopes the representation of Black joy she's brought to the stage can reignite and keep the fire burning in the souls of those who are still fighting for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"It's a big reminder that you also need the joy as much as the tragedy and that makes us the whole person that we are," she said.

***Big Girls Don't Cry* is at Belvoir St Theatre until April 27.**

# Uni art museum to reopen, addressing racism legacy



THE new entrance to Melbourne University's Potter Museum of Art is framed by a giant mirror – fitting for an

institution taking a good hard look at itself, and its past.

The exhibition *65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art*, will mark the gallery's reopening in May after it closed in 2019 for a renovation project that took six years.

Co-curated by Marcia Langton, Judith Ryan and Shanyssa McConville, the exhibition title (shared with a companion Thames and Hudson publication released in 2024) is ironic.

The name refers to the belated and reluctant acceptance of Indigenous art into the fine art canon by curators, critics and collectors.

What's more, Professor Langton said the artworks have often been wrongly interpreted as non-representational.

"I've been annoyed for decades about how Aboriginal works are treated as abstract works, as if they have no meaning, as if they are not histories," she said.

The 450 artworks in the show include pieces by William Barak, Lin Onus, Albert Namatjira, Rover Thomas and Emily Kam Kngwararray, with the majority on display drawn from the university's collections.



Art Curator, Judith Ryan, Marcia Langton AO and Associate Curator at Melbourne University, Shanyssa McConville at the Potter Museum of Art, in Melbourne.

The exhibition and book both celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, and contend directly with colonisation – such as the university's role in the eugenics movement, and its history of collecting Indigenous remains.

"While many of the artworks shine with the cultural richness of first peoples, there are also works that engage us in truth-telling and profoundly challenge the legacy of the university's collections and academic practices," said vice chancellor Emma Johnston.

Items from the archives include finance records approving the

purchase of skeletal remains, medical instruments for measuring skulls and photographs of digs during which remains were stolen.

"Having all of that there, you can be critical of it and actually see how it was happening," said McConville.

The university collections date back to the 1800s, when Walter Baldwin Spencer was collecting work in western Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.

Spencer was a professor of biology at Melbourne University and a prominent eugenicist – one of several from the movement of scientific racism who is still

commemorated by the institution, with a building named after him.

Looking through the massive collections amassed by the likes of Spencer has been a 10-year project for Prof Langton, who was also one of the architects of the Voice to Parliament proposal, which failed at the 2023 referendum.

Not only did the collections reflect the racist views of those who built them, they also came with significant gaps, she said – there were no artworks by women collected apart from weavings, and the names of the artists who made those were never recorded.

It's here that loans, acquisitions and commissions have come into play, filling in the many blank spaces in the university's holdings.

Sandra Aitken's woven Gnaraban or eel trap is one of six major commissions revealed last week at a preview event, along with bull-kelp water carriers and woven river reed and white iris baskets from artist Vicki West.

It's the first time the university's collections of Indigenous art, cultural objects and records has been shown together, and interpreted by authoritative Indigenous scholars, said the associate director of the university's art museums, Charlotte Day.

A gallery show would typically be hung on white walls, but the curators have designed backgrounds that reflect where the artworks are from – works from the likes of Trevor Nickolls on walls suggesting a city art studio and bark works from Arnhem Land on tropical greens.

"If you've been in the Arnhem bush after the rains, after the fires, there's an array of greens from psychedelic to forest green," Prof Langton said. "I wanted to make the bark paintings feel like they're at home."

**The Potter Museum of Art will reopen to the public during Reconciliation Week on May 30 and the exhibition will run until November 23.**



# Festival lights up the

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



IN THE FACE of disruptions both natural and political, Paartjima 2025 got off to a spectacular start on Arrernte Country in Central Australia last weekend with a feast of light installations, artworks, workshops and music all shining a light on the way ahead.

Kumalie Riley performed the Welcome to Country along with Paartjima Reference group member Felicity Hayes who welcomed everyone in language.

In her opening remarks festival curator Rhoda Roberts said that now more than ever an event like Paartjima was vital.

"With timelessness as our theme this year we can pride ourselves as First Nations people that our culture continues," Ms Roberts said. "This festival continues our ancient stories but in new expressions.

"If we look at what has occurred over the last two years, and in this pre-election period, particularly with the dissemination of so much harmful dis-information, festivals like Paartjima can be a trusted source.

"Just like the *Koori Mail*, of which I am the cultural lead, people can be assured the information they're getting is straight from the heart of our people. That's why the panels, workshops, concerts and exhibitions we stage at Paartjima for free each year are so important and relevant today."

Massive rain storms swept across the site in the days just prior to the festival opening, making set up difficult. On top of that the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, called a federal election.

Despite all this, Paul Ah Chee, Paartjima's cultural engagement consultant with the Northern Territory Major Events Company, stayed focussed on the big picture and the big messages that always come out of the festival, which is now in its tenth year.

"It was a big weather event, constant rain day and night for a few days making the site pretty hard to get onto," he said. "The crew told me they were so relieved to get it all set up.

"For me the festival theme, timelessness, is about sharing of inter-generational knowledge. Our culture is timeless in terms of where it comes from and where it's going and we have full carriage of that as peoples and therefore the responsibility to maintain it falls to us."

As for the upcoming federal election Mr Ah Chee sees things over a longer perspective.

"I believe now, after the referendum, Aboriginal people are acutely aware of where they stand and what their expectations should and should not be. But there is a sense of resilience that has been born with that knowledge and a better understanding of where we sit within Australian society.

"So in the case of the federal election outcome I think we will just take the good with the bad and adapt to whatever is put in front of us.

"Aboriginal people realise it is up to us to take responsibility, take care of one another and ensure our children are educated and given the best opportunities. Though people's circumstances may be different that is the message we take.

"The festival grows organically each year and to a degree we try and guide that but still it finds its way like an ancestral being navigating its way across the landscape, that's the beauty of Paartjima."

The opening two nights of the festival brought together all the best of new Indigenous creativity. Apart from the stunning light installations that projected around the venue and up onto the nearby MacDonnell Ranges, there was a host of engaging panel discussions and workshops set to take place all week.

Ms Roberts began with an exciting 'in conversation' event with three young



Traditional dancers performed at the Paartjima Festival in Alice Springs, Northern Territory. (AAP)



Families explore the 'Grounded' installation. (AAP)



A family watches Molly Hunt's *Three Generations of Station Women* animation. (AAP)

Aboriginal creatives: multidisciplinary artist Molly Hunt; actor, musician and film-maker Mark Coles Smith; and writer and artist Seraphina Newberry.

Ms Roberts introduced these three new voices to the audience saying they held out the promise of a new creative paradigm.

"We are going to start a conversation here that helps us all understand there is new lens we are seeing through and a new narrative sweeping across the country and with these panelists here tonight we can see change happening, they are new threads that link our past and take us into the future," she said.

"They are helping to develop a new cultural economy for our people, its about self-empowerment and independence.

"But none of that begins until you know who we are and these young people make us proud because they continue age-old stories, they continue the connection to the landscapes that shaped them."

Balangarra and Yolngu artist Molly Hunt's story *Three Generations of Station Women* was projected on a big screen at

Paartjima. The installation soundtrack was created by Nyikina actor and musician Mark Coles-Smith who was well known to the audience for his screen roles in *Mystery Road* and *Apple Cider Vinegar*.

Seraphina Newberry grew up in a family of Pitjantjatjara artists. She is Arrernte and has lived in Alice Springs all her life. Her graphic novel *Exo-Dimensions* is a science-fiction extrapolation of a creation story.

All three highlighted the profound importance of Country in their creative processes with Seraphina summing it up saying:

"For me culture and Country are a big part of who I am and how I work because it reflects everything I do and everything I represent and writing stories is a big part of being us, it never goes away," she said.

"It's what we have been doing for thousands and thousands of years. And we can represent that to other cultures if we have permission."

Ms Roberts highlighted the importance of gaining that permission from cultural

authorities to ensure the authenticity of cultural output.

"Our creatives don't have the luxury of just writing any story, or filming anything or dancing anything or singing anything they please, we have to seek permissions from our cultural authorities because we value authenticity."

Later on Saturday evening Ms Roberts hosted another 'in conversation' session with country-music legend Troy Cassar-Daley, winner of a record-breaking 24 Golden Guitar Awards at the Tamworth Country Music Festival over his thirty-year career.

The very essence of authenticity, the Bundjalung singer/songwriter generously shared stories of his family and life to a rapt audience. Later, organisers were forced to set out additional seating to accommodate the huge crowd that turned up for Troy's free show – hungry for a slice of authentic culture.

Paartjima is set to continue until Saturday, April 13, and the *Koori Mail* will be bringing you further stories from the event over coming weeks.



# heart of Arrente land



Here Artepe Apmereke-Artweye Patrol with Troy Cassar-Daley. Pictures: Christian Morrow.



Marlon entertains the Friday night crowd.



Paartjima curator and cultural lead of the *Koori Mail*, Rhoda Roberts, with Kumalie Riley who performed the Welcome to Country on opening night.



A local Darwin family with the famous Paartjima Stockmen.



Troy Cassar-Daley performs.



Cassa and Shanna Hayes from Eye of Thee, one of the many Indigenous businesses representing at Paartjima.



Paartjima cultural engagement consultant Paul Ah Chee.



Members of the opening-night panel discussion Molly Hunt, Seraphina Newberry and Mark Coles Smith under the bright Paartjima lights.



Troy Cassar-Daley in conversation with Rhoda Roberts.





Celebrated Walbunja, Monaro artist Cheryl Davison. Picture: David Rogers Photography. Below an example of Cheryl's art.

# Celebrating the Dreamtime

By MARION WILLIAMS



CELEBRATED Walbunja, Monaro artist Cheryl Davison had people spellbound when she talked about her latest project.

Meaning 'a long time ago' in the Dhurga language, Warigamban is a large scale sculptural and screen print installation that brings to life stories of Country, cultural practice, and the Dreamtime.

Her artist talk on March 15, which was part of Sculpture Bermagui in partnership with Four Winds and Bundanon, was packed with admirers and friends.

Ms Davison interwove Dreamtime stories while explaining the technical side of the two artworks and dropping in nuggets of knowledge and wisdom.

## Cultural practices passed down

"When national arts organisation Bundanon first asked me to do something on Country, I really wanted to do something to honour the ancestors," Ms Davison said. "There is no better way to tell their story than the cultural practice of breadmaking which brought a lot of people together."

The huge, handcrafted screen print started with the burrawang and the baskets made from lomandra. The collected burrawang nuts are placed in the baskets in running



creeks until fish start coming to nibble them, signalling all the poisons are gone.

Ms Davison said that is one reason why it is important those fish are not fished out. Unfortunately, a type of rush that grew around Bomaderry and was used to make baskets has disappeared due to the chemicals associated with lawns and gardens when the area was developed for housing five years ago.

She told the audience that the cultural practice of making bread

from burrawang nuts had been handed down through songlines.

"People underestimate the power of those songlines," Ms Davison said. "It is very important to sing those songs in ceremonies so that the future generations learn. This is about old people keeping their practices alive through songs."

The screen print evolved to depict the whole forest. Everything in it is there for a reason, including the amazingly life-like black cockatoos and the dingo which is part of Ms

Davison's lore.

"That is my integrity," she said. "Doing it right culturally."

The screen print is on very expensive pure Turkish linen. The three-metre-wide sections were meticulously stitched together. The baskets were made by local artist Don Atkinson.

## Community project

While the screen print was recently commissioned by Bundanon, the sculpture installation was commissioned

by the Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre in Moruya a few years earlier.

That artwork tells the Dreamtime story of Wonga, the pigeon that was attacked by a hawk. As Wonga made her way back to the nest, blood from her broken wing dropped on the white waratahs turning them red.

Women from Bermagui made the huge number of waratahs for the installation, while Mr Atkinson and his partner artist Jidi Cooper made the sticks with markings that would be seen on message sticks.

## Helping to keep culture strong

Ms Davison helped revive the lost practice of basket-making in the south-east. "I am happy I had a hand in that because that has spread."

She is also the founder of the multi-generational Yuin choir Djinima Yilaga.

"Since 2019, we have been working in language. Language brings a new thing to the pieces I do, and brings more meaning," she said. "Imagine our people singing in language about Country."

Ms Davison said her Warigamban project "is just my way of telling my story about my people".

"It is innocent art, very simple yet impactful, and it tells the story."

Ms Davison's art has been exhibited in the Art Gallery of NSW and is part of the National Museum of Australia's permanent collection.



# Sheridan is passionate about sharing the digital world



**Jack Wilkie-Jans**

**S**heridan Teitzel (née Doyle) is an advocate for digital inclusion in remote Indigenous communities, focusing on systems, economic opportunities and knowledge record-keeping. She is a Wik-Way woman from Weipa in Western Cape York, from a proud matriarchal lineage. She's the eldest of her generation in a long line of proud Wik daughters. A Monica Clare Research Fellow (2024), the President of the Weipa Community Care Association (WCC), and owner of Arnya Consulting, Sheridan's work inspires me.

Not only because of her commitment to preserving and correctly caring for First Nations knowledge systems and Indigenous Cultural & Intellectual Property. But, also because she understands how to bring together our deep, complex knowledge of kinship, Country, culture, and sciences with the modern digital economy. I spoke with Sheridan to find out what this means and how it can be a game-changer for our people.

**Q. 'Digital Economy' sounds like a big concept. What does it offer in terms of enterprise?**

A. Many people think of Artificial Intelligence, online shopping, and website development, but the 'digital economy' is much broader. It creates pathways for people in remote areas to access opportunities, markets, and resources that were previously out of reach. One of its greatest strengths is bypassing barriers associated with bricks and mortar businesses.

Leila Janah's work demonstrates how remote work, like image tagging, speech recognition training, and text categorisation provide entry points for those developing digital literacy. The creative sector also presents opportunities in stock photography, content creation, digital art, and cultural storytelling, where Indigenous perspectives are in demand.

**Q. How can remote communities, particularly in Cape York, participate?**

A. It begins with access to



**Sheridan Teitzel is Wik-Way woman from Weipa in Western Cape York.**

skills, technology, and culturally relevant opportunities. Digital literacy programs are key in bridging the gap, as it equips people with knowledge in data safety, social media marketing, and business systems like project and content management software.

However, digital participation also depends on infrastructure. Many households in Cape York lack the connectivity or equipment to engage in online work, making digital hubs with internet access, equipment, and training crucial. Another factor is flexibility. Many people balance family, land management, and cultural obligations.

Sustainable engagement with the digital economy means creating work structures that accommodate community dynamics, such as contract work, pay-per-task systems, and seasonal job models that align with cultural and environmental cycles.

**Q. How do your roles in WCC and research inform your projects?**

A. My work spans consulting,

community leadership, and research, but the underlying goal is the same, creating meaningful pathways for people in remote regions. As President of WCC, I oversee the strategic direction for a range of crisis intervention services, including a new initiative to establish a high-risk team that improves inter-agency collaboration. I'm currently exploring opportunities to integrate digital literacy into broader economic and social strategies, ensuring our community isn't left behind in the digital shift.

My research focuses on linking traditional knowledge and value systems with modern frameworks. A key part of this is advocating for stronger Indigenous Intellectual & Cultural Property Rights. Too often, Indigenous knowledge is extracted without recognition or fair compensation. By embedding cultural protocols into community engagement models, we can ensure that knowledge holders are acknowledged and appropriately rewarded.

**Q. What inspired you to start Arnya Consulting?**

A. 'Arnya' means heart or intuition in Alngith-Liningithi—a word my late great-grandmother, Jean George (Awumpun), often used. My mother, Dr Fiona Wirrer-George, chose the name when establishing Arnya Consulting, which I initially supported before taking ownership. Arnya allows me to deliver professional services while continuing my advocacy work, and supporting initiatives that support my local community.

**Q. What is your vision for a First Nations 'digital economy'?**

A. The recent increase in Sorry Business in the community has reinforced the urgency of digital pathways for sustainability. Many young people already engage with technology, but we need to reframe how digital tools can support employment and enterprise. Investment in digital hubs and infrastructure is essential to making this vision a reality.

There is also potential for

partnerships with organisations looking to outsource. Museums, libraries and knowledge-keeping institutions require data annotation for historical images and recordings—an area where Indigenous people should be engaged and compensated.

Another priority is ensuring community consultation and cultural knowledge-sharing are properly valued. Too often, Indigenous peoples contribute expertise for free, while external consultants charge significant fees for work that relies on our input. The digital economy provides an opportunity to create fair systems that standardise fees and compensation for cultural engagement.

My vision is for an overarching policy framework, or a dedicated digital inclusion initiative, to ensure that Indigenous peoples are not just consumers but active participants and decision-makers in the digital economy.

**Learn more about Sheridan Teitzel and Arnya Consulting:**  
[www.arnya.com.au](http://www.arnya.com.au)



## 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/ever-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/search?query=Bulaan+Buruugaa+Ngali+Exhibition

#### ProppaNOW

Including Gathering Space first Sunday of the month from 1 – 3pm and

# Festival shines light on the outback



Shining a light on the outback.

By ALF WILSON



A HIGHLIGHT of the Festival of Outback Skies at outback Hughenden in Queensland will be Moonda Nurra – a culturally significant production that will bring together light, First Nations culture, storytelling, and history.

The much anticipated festival will be held from 2 to 4 May at Hughenden which is a town along the Flinders Highway.

Hughenden is located 390km from coastal Townsville and 500km from inland Mount Isa.

Hughenden has a large number of Aboriginal people including many families living there.

It is expected to also attract hundreds of First Nations people from other outback towns Winton, Richmond, Julia Creek, Cloncurry, Mount Isa which all have numerous Indigenous people amongst their populations.

Moonda Nurra will be an unforgettable event on the shores of Hughenden Recreational Lake.

The breathtaking showcase is led by esteemed Indigenous Artistic Director Lydia



Artistic Director Lydia Miller.

Miller, in consultation with Yirendali peoples, and will serve as the grand finale to the festival on Sunday 4 May.

Anchored by the dreamtime serpent of Moonda Nurra, the production will unfold the creation story of the landscape, flora and fauna, and celebrates Yirendali culture and the ongoing presence and contribution of Indigenous peoples to the Flinders Shire.

The production is a collaboration between Yirendali Elders, other local First Nations peoples, and professional Indigenous dancers and musicians including David

Hudson and choreographer Glen Thomas.

Lantern-making workshops led by Lalune Croker with local schools and community have helped create props for the show.

Flinders Shire Mayor Kate Peddle said festival-goers will be captivated by the production's dance, language, music, and audiovisual storytelling.

"This production will be a truly significant celebration for the festival and community, as the production will be the first time showcasing Yirendali culture in the region. It's a powerful tribute to the Indigenous stories, spirit, and landscapes that shape the Flinders Shire, and we are incredibly proud to bring it to life under the guidance of Lydia Miller and Yirendali Aboriginal Corporation representative Jim Hill. This is definitely an event not to be missed," Mayor Peddle said.

The Moonda Nurra Production is made possible thanks to funding through the Australian Government's Festivals Australia program, and promises to be a landmark moment in the festival's celebration of Flinders Shire's deep past and dynamic present. Festival-goers can experience Moonda Nurra as part of the Sunday Sesh, a vibrant day featuring live music, a raft race, and market stalls.

### QUEENSLAND

No listings

### VICTORIA

#### 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: 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/





## Working at DCJ – be part of building a culturally capable workforce

**The services DCJ provide have a major impact on the lives of Aboriginal families and communities in NSW.**

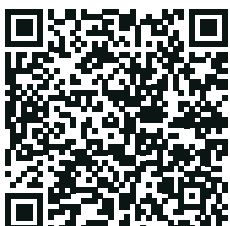
By having more Aboriginal staff in DCJ we can build staff's capability to work with communities in a way that builds trust.

That's why we need you. With your help, we'll achieve so much more.

At DCJ we welcome applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Your lived experience and cultural knowledge are important and can make a huge difference to our community.

Whether you're working directly with our clients or helping behind the scenes, there are lots of opportunities in frontline or backend roles.



DCJ1003\_0225

To find out more visit  
[careersatdcj.com/careersforaboriginalpeople](https://careersatdcj.com/careersforaboriginalpeople)  
or scan the QR code.





# Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT

## Cafe promotes Koori culture

By MARION WILLIAMS



BLAK Cede Gunyah café and shop is an Aboriginal women-led social and cultural

enterprise within the South Coast Women's Health and Wellbeing Corporation, also known as Waminda.

Blak Cede exists to create culturally-safe employment opportunities and educational pathways for Aboriginal women and men from the South Coast, empowering them to lead self-determined lives.

Blak Cede also demonstrates Aboriginal ownership and rights to traditional bush foods and medicines. It is dedicated to promoting community health through culture.

The café and shop officially opened on April 19, 2024.

### Gathering place

As Blak Cede Gunyah approaches its first anniversary, it can celebrate the successful establishment of a vibrant, safe place filled with Blak joy and love. It is also a space for truth-telling about their history, and an opportunity for people to engage in active anti-racist and imperfect ally work.

Mel Williams, a proud Aboriginal woman from the Wreck Bay community and the café manager of Blak Cede Gunyah, said they have created a culturally safe place for their community and the wider community.

"There is a lot of truth-telling and questions being asked," Ms Williams said. "I feel this has given us a voice."

For the local Koori community, Blak Cede feels like a family gathering, with many expressing that it feels like home.

"It is about seeing, and being, and doing, having our own music and our arts," Ms Williams said.

The café also serves as an unofficial mentoring space. "Community who are down and out pop in for a yarn or coffee, and I can refer them to someone for support," she said.

Ms Williams said that for



Blak Cede staff Lisa Jones-Bell, Jess Williams and Kayla Timbery. Picture: supplied

some non-Koori people, Blak Cede is their only interaction with Aboriginal people "so we are really modelling for our community".

### Pathways

With ongoing support from the wider community and philanthropic funding, Blak Cede has expanded its team to more than 20 staff members.

They work in the Blak Cede Gunyah café, online store, and catering enterprise. All staff members are casual, part-time, or full-time employees of Waminda.

Additionally, young Koori girls are completing their high-school

work experience at the café, as well as doing traineeships.

### Transformation

The café has achieved much in its first year, but it has been a long and challenging journey to get where it is today.

It has been a journey of hurdles, transformation, and perseverance.

It originated in 2009 within Waminda's Dead or Deadly program that focused on physical activity and exercise, nutrition, smoking cessation, and chronic disease prevention and management. From there, the idea was born for Waminda to have its own unique program

that was centred around food, nutrition, community, and culture.

In May 2017, Waminda established its social enterprise project, Nyully Tucker.

It aimed to provide employment pathways for Aboriginal women by forming a catering service honouring fundamental cultural values.

The comprehensive account of the enterprise's history on Blak Cede's website, along with detailed background articles, demonstrate it is much more than just a café.

As the enterprise continues to grow, the Blak Cede team remains committed to staying

true to its original purpose of keeping their community healthy through culture.

With additional funds raised, Blak Cede aims to provide ongoing pathways and employment for local Koori women and men in the café, e-commerce space, traditional foods garden, and farms, while continuing to produce delicious Blak Cede products.

Expanding catering services and product lines, and global advertising are part of Blak Cede's vision.

So too is developing a strong foundation for creating a safe space to practice culture through holistically sharing knowledge.

## 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](mailto:advertising@koorimail.com) or see our website – [www.koorimail.com](http://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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## RANGER

**Department for Environment and Water  
National Parks and Wildlife Service  
Innamincka**

**Full Time - Ongoing**

**Vacancy ID: 663308**

**\$58,709 to \$63,154 pa**

**(OPS2 includes 13.1% shift penalty rates)**

Located on the Cooper Creek in the far north of South Australia the role of Ranger (OPS2) is a critical component in the small but dynamic Outback District team. Reporting to the OPS6 Ranger in Charge, Innamincka, the Ranger is responsible for contributing to the effective operational management of parks and reserves within the District, specifically Innamincka Regional Reserve, Malkumba – Coongie Lakes National Park and Strzelecki Regional Reserve. Core responsibilities surround supporting the management of park conservation and wildlife values, ensuring park visitors enjoy a safe and memorable experience. The Ranger supports the maintenance and presentation of park facilities and assets, participates in fire and emergency response, and works with key partners, including park neighbours, conservation partners, volunteers, and Aboriginal communities. We look forward to welcoming you and your land management skills, environmental skills, relevant experiences and qualifications to our beautiful region. We strongly encourage Yandruwandha and Yawarrawarka people to apply; head to I Work for SA to read the role description and follow the instructions to apply. Applications will only be accepted through I Work for SA.

### Initial enquiries to:

Travis Gotch (District Ranger, Outback);  
0438 854 624; travis.gotch@sa.gov.au

To apply and for more information visit the I WORK FOR SA website: [www.iworkfor.sa.gov.au](http://www.iworkfor.sa.gov.au) and search by vacancy number.

### Applications close:

**11 pm, Tuesday 29 April 2025**

*The Department for Environment and Water is committed to building a diverse and inclusive workplace. We encourage applications from people with diverse backgrounds including all ages and gender identities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse and LGBTIQ+.*

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.*

W28342

**IWORKFOR.SA.gov.au**



**BOWRAVILLE LOCAL  
ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL**

## Chief Executive Officer

Bowraville Local Aboriginal Land Council

Salary range \$85k - \$95k plus superannuation

BLALC is seeking a CEO whom practices purpose led leadership to achieve the social, culture, economic and environmental aspirations of the BLALC Aboriginal Community. The CEO is responsible in ensuring the statutory functions of the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALRA) are met, reporting to the Board, managing the day-to-day operations and administration of BLALC, achieving outcomes through the BLALC Community Land and Business Plan, and applying best practice principles to the functions of BLALC. The CEO will develop and maintain strong, respectful relationships with current and emerging partners to ensure the continuation of current BLALC programs and identify and deliver new opportunities. Salary packaging and salary sacrifice options available to the successful applicant. Motor vehicle, mobile phone, tablet and laptop provided for work related use.

This position is a targeted position open to Aboriginal applicants only. Applications from Non-Aboriginal applicants will not progress to the next stage of recruitment. In accordance with Sections 14 and 21 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 and under Clause 26 of the Government Sector Employment (General) Rules 2014.

To obtain a recruitment package including the selection criteria and position description, please email your request to [trent@leavie.com.au](mailto:trent@leavie.com.au) using the subject line: **Chief Executive Officer – Bowraville LALC** or call 0400563018.

**Applications close: 5:00pm Friday 25th April 2025.**



## WAMINDA RECRUITMENT

Waminda is a unique Aboriginal women led community-controlled health organisation that supports women and their Aboriginal families to belong and receive quality, culturally grounded, health and well-being care. This is an exciting opportunity for Aboriginal women with experience in the drug and alcohol sector and who share a passion and commitment to supporting women to thrive and meet their aspirations, to join our team.

## Program Manager

- **Full-time:** 35 Hours per week
- **Location:** Bomaderry, and other Waminda outreach sites where required
- **Remuneration:** Salary is in accordance with the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010, Level 7 – above award conditions

Are you a strategic leader with a commitment to making a real difference? We want you to join our team at Waminda as our next Program Manager! You'll be the driving force behind the operations and delivery of our vital AOD rehabilitation program and Centre for Aboriginal women and their children. You'll manage a dedicated team, build key relationships with stakeholders, and ensure that every client's needs are met with compassion, cultural understanding, and clinical excellence. Please kindly note, all applicants must identify as both Female and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

**Applicants for this position must be female Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; an applicant's gender and race is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised under section 14(d) and 31 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.**

**Applications close on Wednesday, 23 April 2025.**

For any further information on these positions, or to apply please request an application package at [peopleandculture@waminda.org.au](mailto:peopleandculture@waminda.org.au).

**No late applications will be accepted.**



Justice  
and Community  
Safety

## Assessor

- **This is a prioritised role for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, who will be given priority consideration as per the special measures provision of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010.**
- **Make decisions on eligibility for financial assistance as per legislation, established policy, guidelines, and procedures.**
- **Melb CBD based - Earn \$95,102 - \$107,905 + superannuation**

The Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) is a landmark reform that prioritises the needs of victims and supports their recovery from violent crime.

The FAS represents a major leap forward and will provide financial assistance through a simple and easy to navigate process that is fair, sensitive, and responsive to victims' needs. It will acknowledge harm done and be trauma informed, with a priority focus on being inclusive and culturally safe.

Reporting to the FAS Senior Assessor, you will be responsible for the review and approval of applications for financial assistance as per established policy, guidelines, and procedures.

Key responsibilities include:

- Analyse and approve applications and requests for payments as per established policy, guidelines, and procedures. Escalate complex and high-risk applications and decisions as appropriate.
- Identify, analyse, and provide advice on documentary evidence requirements for applicants or their appointed representative to enable assessment of their application.
- Formulate notices of decision for simple applications, including the analysis completed and the reasons for the decision.

To be successful in this role, you will have:

- Experience working with victims of family violence, sexual assault, and victims of crime more broadly and an understanding of the systemic barriers faced by marginalised communities in the justice system.
- Knowledge of risk factors for family violence and the Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework.

A relevant qualification and/or experience in community services, social work, criminology, psychology, victim services and/or family violence is highly desirable.

**To apply, please visit [careers.vic.gov.au](http://careers.vic.gov.au) or for more information, contact [Sophie.Stemmer@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:Sophie.Stemmer@justice.vic.gov.au) or call 0491 955 956.**



## 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.

### Lithgow Small Arms Factory, Lithgow

Written submissions on this listing are invited from any interested person by 11 July 2025. Enquiries to Meggan Walker on (02) 9873 8500.

The Heritage Council is interested in receiving information in writing, by email, telephone or in person from the Aboriginal community or Aboriginal organisations on the potential Aboriginal significance of this place.

**See more details about the nominated place at** [environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/request-a-heritage-listing/nominate-an-item-for-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/comment-on-nominations](http://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:

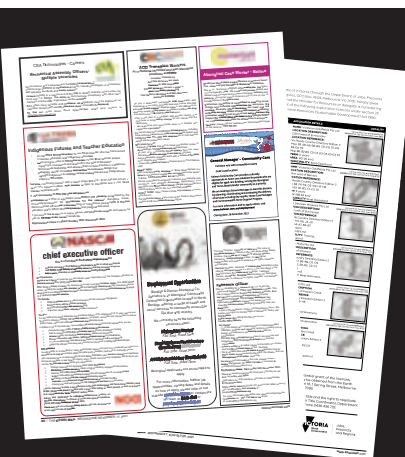
[haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/lithgowsaf](http://haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/lithgowsaf)

or direct your submission to:

Heritage Council of NSW

Locked Bag 5020

Parramatta NSW 2124



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Australian Government  
Department of Employment  
and Workplace Relations

## Chief Executive Officer, Comcare (Statutory Appointment)

Applications are sought for a suitably qualified person for appointment as the Chief Executive Officer of Comcare.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for Comcare's day to day operations and overall management of the organisation, including governance and reporting requirements.

Comcare is a corporate Commonwealth entity established under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* and is a statutory agency under the *Public Service Act 1999*.

Comcare is responsible for regulating the Commonwealth's work health and safety jurisdiction under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and managing the Commonwealth's workers' compensation scheme established under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* and asbestos-related claims liabilities under the *Asbestos-related Claims (Management of Commonwealth Liabilities) Act 2005*. It also has regulatory functions in relation to workplace rehabilitation and is the claims and liability manager for a number of government departments and agencies.

To be a strong contender for the role you must have a high level of judgement, leadership, professional and personal integrity, a strong client and service delivery focus and experience or capacity to manage large and/or complex operations. High-level leadership experience in a regulatory environment will also be highly regarded. Experience in managing change is also highly desirable, noting that the Review of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* is currently underway.

This position is a full-time statutory appointment for up to five years and will be based in Canberra or Melbourne. The appointment will be made by the Governor-General following a merit-based selection process.

The remuneration package is determined by the Remuneration Tribunal. The current total remuneration is \$459,760 per annum.

For further information about Comcare visit: <http://www.comcare.gov.au/>

### How to apply:

- Selection documentation can be obtained by downloading it directly from the Executive Intelligence Group website: <https://executiveintelligencegroup.com.au/vacancies/> under reference no. 992.
- Further information can be obtained by contacting Tricia Searson or Karina Duffey at Executive Intelligence Group on (02) 6232 2200 or [admin@execintell.com.au](mailto:admin@execintell.com.au).

Applications close at 11.30 pm AEST on Sunday 27 April 2025.

0785NS\_5563

Natural Resources Commission



## Have your say on improving biodiversity and supporting landholders in regional landscapes

The Commission is undertaking an independent review on options to further protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystem functions in regional landscapes, and enhance value and support for landholders. This review fulfills a commitment under the NSW Plan for Nature and is being carried out under a Premier's terms of reference.

The Natural Resources Commission invites submissions via the Have Your Say platform to inform our review.

This consultation provides the opportunity for comment on any issues within the scope of the review's Terms of Reference, including:

- What do you consider is the most significant action(s) NSW can undertake to protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystem function on private lands?
- How can NSW government and landholders further improve soil, water and vegetation management to protect and restore biodiversity while delivering sustainable economic benefits?
- What do you consider is the most effective way to further support and enable landholders to deliver sustainable land management and production outcomes?
- Is there any other information about this topic you would like to share with us?

The Have Your Say consultation on this project is located at [nsw.gov.au/have-your-say/nsw-plan-for-nature-independent-review](https://nsw.gov.au/have-your-say/nsw-plan-for-nature-independent-review)

Further information about the NRC's commitments under the NSW Plan for Nature is available at [nrc.nsw.gov.au/native-vegetation/home](https://nrc.nsw.gov.au/native-vegetation/home)

Submissions close midnight, Sunday 27 April 2025.

Please contact the Commission on (02) 9228 4844 or email [nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au) should you have any further enquiries.

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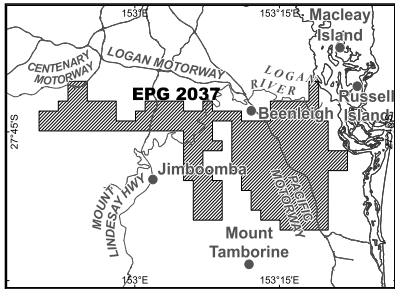


# DOING THE MOST GOOD

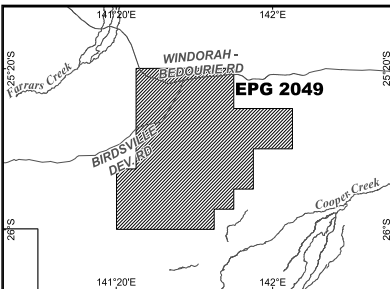
## NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION PERMIT GEOTHERMAL NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed grant of Exploration Permit Geothermal (EPG) shown below, subject to the provisions of the *Geothermal Energy Act 2010*.

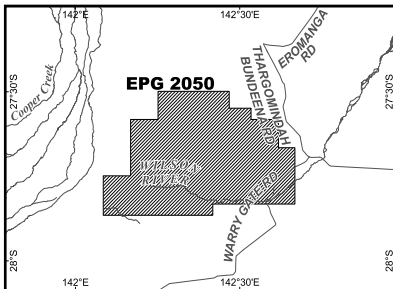
EPG 2037 applied for by Whitebark Energy Limited, ACN 079 432 796, over an area of 190 sub-blocks (576 km<sup>2</sup>), centred approximately 6 km east southeast of Logan City in the localities of Gold Coast City Council, Ipswich City Council, Logan City Council, Redland City Council and Scenic Rim Regional Council.



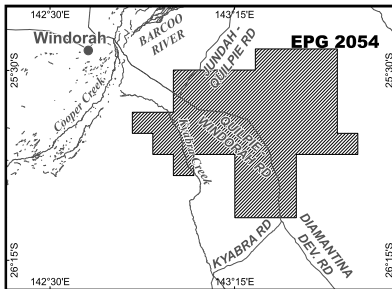
EPG 2049 applied for by Whitebark Energy Limited, ACN 079 432 796, over an area of 1250 sub-blocks (3860 km<sup>2</sup>), centred approximately 104 km west southwest of Windorah in the locality of Barcoo Shire Council.



EPG 2050 applied for by Whitebark Energy Limited, ACN 079 432 796, over an area of 573 sub-blocks (1740 km<sup>2</sup>), centred approximately 144 km west northwest of Thargomindah in the locality of Bulloo Shire Council.



EPG 2054 applied for by Whitebark Energy Limited, ACN 079 432 796, over an area of 1250 sub-blocks (3860 km<sup>2</sup>), centred approximately 68 km southeast of Windorah in the localities of Barcoo Shire Council and Quilpie Shire Council.



**Nature of Act(s):** Grant of Exploration Permit Geothermal under the *Geothermal Energy Act 2010* authorises the holder to explore for geothermal energy for a maximum term not exceeding five (5) years, with the possibility of renewal for terms not exceeding five (5) years.

**Name and address of person doing acts:** It is proposed that the Exploration Permit Geothermal be granted under the *Geothermal Energy Act 2010* 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 grant of Exploration Permit Geothermal. 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](mailto:nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au). Enquiries in relation to the registration of a native title determination application may be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Brisbane Registry, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

**Further Information:** May be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development, Petroleum Assessment Hub, Level 4, 1 William Street, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3199 8118 or Email: [petroleumhub@resources.qld.gov.au](mailto:petroleumhub@resources.qld.gov.au)

**Notification Day: 23 April 2025**





Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment: Invitation for Registration of Interest:

63 Townson Road, Schofield

On behalf of Al Faisal College (the proponent), Curio Projects (Heritage Consultants) seek registration from local Aboriginal groups and people with respect to a proposed new education space development. The project site is located at 63 Townson Road, Schofield, in the Blacktown LGA.



Lot Boundary of 63 Townson Road, Schofield in red, with larger vegetated extension of lot to the north that will not be altered or developed

The Proponent is seeking to develop the 63 Townson Road site in order to create a new Islamic Faith School. Current details indicate that this development will involve the construction of a new school that will house 870 students and 50 staff, and will require demolition, tree removal and sub-surface construction of a new school, including car parking, internal roads and associated civil and landscaping works relating to Lot 11 DP 17048.

The purpose of Community Consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist the applicant in the preparation of an application for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) and, if required, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) in accordance with Section 90 of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, and to assist Heritage NSW in their consideration and determination of the application.

Curio Projects invite local Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or places in the area of 63 Townson Road to register their interest in being involved in Community Consultation.

Please forward registrations to Curio Projects no later than 23 April 2025, via phone, email or mail:

Att: Sebastian Gerber-Hood  
Curio Projects  
Level 3, 249 Pitt St  
Sydney NSW 2000  
sebastian@curioprospects.com.au  
(02) 418115544



Aboriginal Heritage

Bandon Road Upgrade and Extension between Windsor Road, Vineyard and Richmond Road, Marsden Park.

Transport for NSW invites Aboriginal people and Aboriginal groups, who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places, in and around the area of the proposed Bandon Road Upgrade and Extension project, to register their interest to be consulted throughout the planning process.

To register your interest, please contact:  
Jeffery Charlton  
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer  
Level 1 51-55 Currajong Street, Parkes NSW, 2870  
M: 0428 463 258  
Jeffery.charlton@transport.nsw.gov.au

Registrations must be received by phone or in writing by Wednesday 23 April 2025.

Transport for NSW proposes to upgrade and extend Bandon Road from Windsor Road, through Marsden Park North, connecting to Richmond Road at Elara Boulevard, creating a new east-west connection for the communities of the North West.



For more information, visit the project page online at: nswroads.work/bandonrd.

- The proposal may result in the Transport for NSW:
- Applying for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Part 6 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and/or
  - Undertaking investigations in accordance with the *Code of practice for archaeological investigations in NSW 2010*, and/or
  - Undertaking an environmental impact assessment under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.



WaterNSW Mt Hunter Weir Riverbank Erosion Flood Remediation Works

Invitation for registration of Aboriginal interest

Dharawal Environment and Heritage (Dharawal EH) have been engaged by WaterNSW to undertake the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the Mt Hunter Weir Riverbank Erosion Flood Remediation Works ("The Project").

The Project is located in the Camden and Wollondilly Local Government Area, NSW (Subject Area), within Lot 1//DP733131 and Lot 102//DP1239859, within the administrative boundaries of Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Mt Hunter Weir riverbank erosion remediation works are located along the eastern bank of the Mt Hunter Weir, on the Nepean River, near the intersection of Cobbitty and Werombi Road.

In accordance with the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents (DECCW, 2010), WaterNSW is seeking registrations of interest from Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to the Subject Area.

Community consultation with Aboriginal cultural knowledge holders will help establish the cultural significance of the area and allow participation in the consultation process as part of the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report. Consultation will also assist Heritage NSW in their consideration and determination of any subsequent permit applications (if required).

Any Aboriginal people or organisations with relevant cultural knowledge can register their interest in writing via email to:

Dharawal Environment and Heritage  
dharawalfeedback@gmail.com

Please be advised that, as per Section 4.1.6 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (OEH, 2010) the names of Aboriginal persons and groups who register an interest will be forwarded to Heritage NSW and the Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council unless the person or group specifies that they do not want their details released.

Any enquiries concerning Cultural Heritage management at WaterNSW can be directed to:

First Nations Engagement Officer, WaterNSW  
E: aboriginalengagement@watermsw.com.au

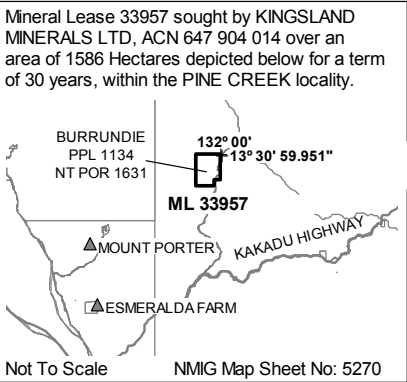
Registrations will be received via email to dharawalfeedback@gmail.com by close of business on 23 April 2025.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF MINERAL LEASE

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Honourable Gerard Maley MLA, Northern Territory Minister for Mining and Energy, C/- Department of Mining and Energy, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) of the intent to do an act namely to grant the following mineral title application.

The application to which this notice applies:



**Nature of act(s):** The grant of a mineral lease under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* authorises the holder to explore and mine for minerals including (but not limited to) the processing and the removal of minerals from the lease area and the treatment of tailings or other mining material the property of the Crown on the lease area, including any extractive minerals for or in connection with any of the purposes specified in the lease document for a term the Minister thinks fit and to seek renewals. The term for which it is intended to grant the mineral lease commences from the date of grant. Further information about the act may be obtained from the Department of Mining and Energy, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801 or Centrepont Building 48-50 Smith Street Darwin NT 0800, telephone (08) 8999 5322.

**Native Title Parties:** Any person who is, or becomes a "native title party" within the meaning of the *Native Title Act 1993* is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2, Division 3, Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993*. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries concerning becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Brisbane QLD 4001, or telephone (07) 3307 5000.

Notification Day: 9 April 2025



NOTICE TO GRANT AMALGAMATION APPLICATIONS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following amalgamation applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Exploration No.	Applicant	Amalg No	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
31/1316	DYNAMIC METALS LIMITED	719799	83.95HA	50.1km NE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 15' S: Long: 121° 48' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY, MENZIES SHIRE
38/2376	RICHMOND, William Robert	726987	51.42HA	104.1km N'ly of Laverton	Lat: 27° 41' S: Long: 122° 18' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
38/3144	RICHMOND, William Robert	726990	9.0 HA	105.5km N'ly of Laverton	Lat: 27° 40' S: Long: 122° 17' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
38/3145	RICHMOND, William Robert	726978	47.12HA	105.1km N'ly of Laverton	Lat: 27° 40' S: Long: 122° 18' E	LAVERTON SHIRE

**Nature of the act:** Grant of amalgamation applications which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals.

**Notification day: 9 April 2025**

**Native title parties:** Under Section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to the applications. The 3 month period closes on **9 July 2025**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100.

**Expedited procedure:** The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each amalgamation application may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **9 August 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.

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# NOTICE OF AUTHORISATION MEETING FIRST PEOPLES OF THE MILLEWA-MALLEE NATIVE TITLE CLAIM (VID630/2015)

INFORMATION SESSION: SATURDAY, 10 MAY 2025  
AUTHORISATION MEETING: SUNDAY, 11 MAY 2025  
VENUE TBC & ONLINE VIA ZOOM

**PURPOSE:** To decide whether to proceed to a native title consent determination recognising the native title rights and interests of the First Peoples of the Millewa-Mallee (FPMM) by:

1. Authorising the native title determination.
2. Nominating a Prescribed Body Corporation (PBC) to hold or manage the native title rights and interests on behalf of the native title holders.

## PROPOSED DECISIONS

- Discuss and decide on the decision-making process for the meeting.
- Discuss and decide whether to authorise (agree to) the terms of the consent determination agreed between the Applicant and the other parties to the claim.
- Discuss and approve the PBC rule book.
- Discuss and decide on the nomination of the PBC, including whether it is a trustee or agent PBC.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The FPMM native title claim group, being those living Aboriginal people who satisfy all three of the following criteria:

- (a) are descended (including by adoption in accordance with traditional law and customs) from one or more of the following identified ancestors:
  - (i) John Perry;
  - (ii) Nelly Perry;
  - (iii) the mother of Sarah Mayne; and
- (b) identify themselves as having rights and interests in the Claim Area under the traditional laws and customs applicable to the Claim Area, as:
  - (i) Ngintait, Latji Latji or Nyeri Nyeri; and/or
  - (ii) a member of the native title holding group; and
- (c) are recognised by the Native Title Holders as having rights and interests in the Claim Area under the traditional laws and customs applicable to the Claim Area, as:
  - (i) Ngintait, Latji Latji or Nyeri Nyeri; and/or
  - (ii) a member of the native title holding group.

## INFORMATION SESSION: SATURDAY, 10 MAY 2025

Members of the FPMM native title claim group are invited to attend an information session to receive and discuss information and legal advice about the decisions to be made at the authorisation meeting on 11 May.

**Venue:** To be confirmed

**When:** 9:30am-2:30pm

## AUTHORISATION MEETING: SUNDAY, 11 MAY 2025

Members of the FPMM native title claim group are invited to attend the authorisation meeting to decide whether to finalise the FPMM claim by authorising the native title determination and nominating a PBC.

**Venue:** To be confirmed

**When:** 9:30am-4:30pm

**ATTENDING THE MEETINGS:** People can join in person or remotely via Zoom. **You must register if you plan to attend the meeting.**

**Attending in person:** If you wish to attend in person, please contact Toby-Lee Kirby **by Monday 5 May 2025**. Travel assistance will be provided in accordance with FNLRs' travel assistance policy available on our website.

**Attending remotely:** If you wish to attend remotely by Zoom, please contact Toby-Lee Kirby for the registration link. We request that you register to attend remotely by **Wednesday 7 May 2025**.

## FNLRs CONTACT DETAILS

Toby-Lee Kirby, Senior Community Liaison Officer

Phone: 0434 632 875

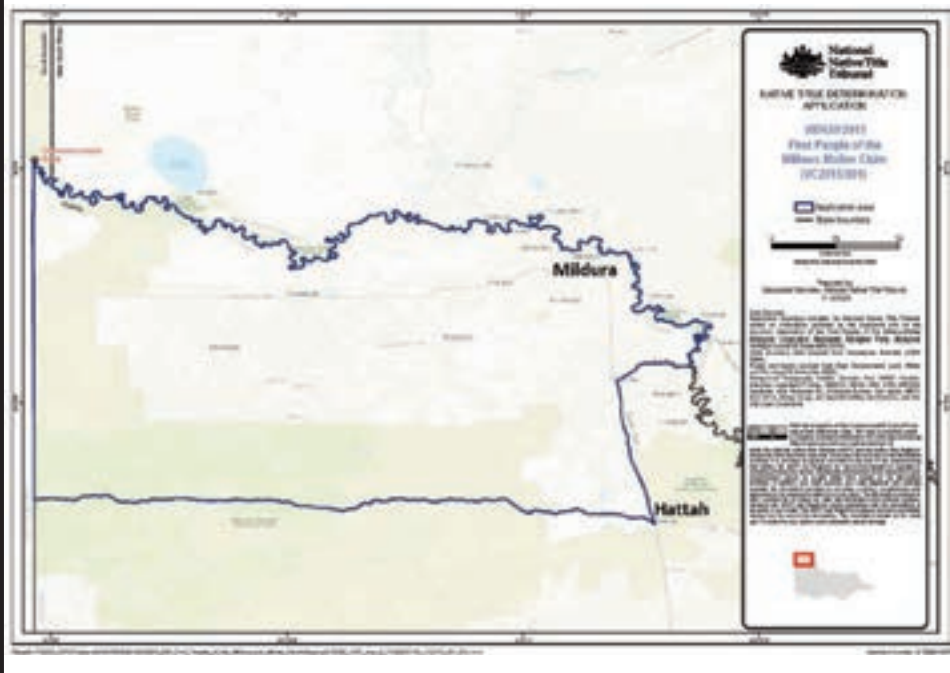
Email: [tobylee.kirby@fnlrs.com.au](mailto:tobylee.kirby@fnlrs.com.au)

Stacey Little, Senior Lawyer

Phone: 0401 781 845

Email: [stacey.little@fnlrs.com.au](mailto:stacey.little@fnlrs.com.au)

## MAP OF THE FPMM CLAIM AREA



North Queensland Land Council  
Native Title Representative Body  
Aboriginal Corporation (ICN 1996)



# NOTICE OF AUTHORISATION MEETING DJUNGAN PEOPLE #5 NATIVE TITLE CLAIM (QUD811/2018)

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, 30 April 2025</b>	<b>Registration opens:</b>	from 9.30am
<b>Venue:</b>	Mareeba International Club, 10 Vaughan Street, Mareeba QLD	<b>Meeting starts:</b>	10.00am
		<b>Meeting finishes:</b>	3.30pm

The North Queensland Land Council (NQLC) will hold an authorisation meeting on **Wednesday, 30 April 2025** to which all members of the Djungan People #5 native title claim group (as described below) are invited to attend. This is an important meeting where binding decisions about the Djungan People #5 native title claim are proposed to be made.

## PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting is to consider, and if appropriate, make decisions about the following:

1. **CONFIRM** the decision-making process to be used for making decisions at the meeting.
2. **CONFIRM** the Applicant (previously authorised in 2018).
3. **AUTHORISE** the entry by the Applicant into an agreement under section 87 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) with the State, the Djungan Applicant and other respondents, for the purpose of securing a consent determination recognising the native title rights of the Djungan People in the Djungan People #5 claim area.
4. **AUTHORISE** the Applicant to nominate **Nguddaboolgan Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC** (ICN 7727) to be the prescribed body corporate for the Djungan People #5 native title determination.
5. **AUTHORISE** the provision of instructions for the North Queensland Land Council (NQLC) to act as the legal representative of the Applicant and the claim group, to make minor technical amendments to the application and do all things necessary pursuant to the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) to progress the Djungan People #5 claim to a determination of native title.



Map of Djungan People #5 Claim Area for determination

## PERSONS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND

**All members of the Djungan People #5 native title claim group as described below are eligible and invited to attend this meeting.**

The Djungan People #5 native title claim group is comprised of the descendants (including through adoption or raising up in accordance with traditional laws and customs) of the following apical ancestors:

1. Tommy and Topsy Watson;
2. John Wason;
3. Dinah [Richards];
4. Jessie Wason;
5. Jack O'Neil and his spouse, Flora Richards;
6. Peter Ray Burns;
7. Jimmy Kingsburra and Lizzie Kingsburra (including the descendants of Joe Sands);
8. Charles James Archer (Senior);
9. Lucy [Burns];
10. Pluto [Brumby];
11. Mollie and her spouse, Bert Gordon; and
12. Mick Richards.

If you have any questions about whether you are a member of the Djungan People #5 claim group as described above, please contact NQLC and ask to speak with anthropologist **Luis Lopez** by telephone on **(07) 4042 7000** or **Freecall 1800 814 779** or send an email to [llopez@nqlc.com.au](mailto:llopez@nqlc.com.au).

To confirm your interest in attending this meeting, or to enquire about **travel assistance** please contact **Maddy Fuller** or **Cherona Walker** at NQLC on **Freecall 1800 814 779** or **(07) 4042 7000** or [legaladministration@nqlc.com.au](mailto:legaladministration@nqlc.com.au) by no later than **3pm Friday, 11 April 2025**. **Please note that there is limited funding available and any requests for travel assistance after this date will not be approved. All approvals for travel assistance are subject to NQLC policy.**







NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the Mining Act 1978:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Mining Lease	16/595	NORTHERN STAR RESOURCES LTD	1050.17HA	21.5km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 21' S: Long: 120° 50' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	16/596	NORTHERN STAR RESOURCES LTD	109.46HA	22.5km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 22' S: Long: 120° 49' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Mining Lease	80/651	HORROCKS ENTERPRISES PTY LTD	5.78HA	20.5km SE'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 20' S: Long: 127° 48' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE

**Nature of the act:** Grant of mining leases, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of 21 years from notification of grant and a right of renewal for 21 years.

**Notification day:** 9 April 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 **9 July 2025**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100. The mining tenements may be granted if, by the end of the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **9 August 2025**), there is no native title party under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* in relation to the area of the mining tenements. For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

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NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the Mining Act 1978:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	08/3565	SKRYNE HILL PTY LTD	39BL	26.5km NW'ly of Pannawonica	Lat: 21° 32' S: Long: 116° 5' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE, KARRATHA CITY
Exploration Licence	08/3705	FE METALS LIMITED	17BL	50.4km SW'ly of Pannawonica	Lat: 21° 52' S: Long: 115° 54' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	27/741	DYNAMIC METALS LIMITED	3BL	35.6km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 23' S: Long: 121° 41' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	30/586	GORILLA GOLD MINES LTD	3BL	59.3km NW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 3' S: Long: 120° 33' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3979	RED DUST PROSPECTING PTY LTD	40BL	168.7km NE'ly of Laverton	Lat: 27° 14' S: Long: 123° 6' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	47/4957	YANDAN GOLD MINES PTY LTD	1BL	25km E'ly of Whim Creek	Lat: 20° 55' S: Long: 118° 3' E	KARRATHA CITY
Exploration Licence	51/2269	TASEX GEOLOGICAL SERVICES PTY LTD	20BL	44.6km SE'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 25° 52' S: Long: 119° 4' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	53/2369	SEA KING CAPITAL PTY LTD	10BL	45.4km W'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 26° 44' S: Long: 119° 47' E	WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1434	FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD	40BL	29.1km SW'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 9' S: Long: 119° 4' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1472	FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD	42BL	105.9km S'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 52' S: Long: 118° 54' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/6651	METALBELT HOLDINGS PTY LTD	19BL	88.7km E'ly of Dalwallinu	Lat: 30° 15' S: Long: 117° 34' E	KOORDA SHIRE, MOUNT MARSHALL SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3255	HARBOUR EXPLORATION PTY LTD	24BL	96.9km N'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 21' S: Long: 119° 10' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3256	HARBOUR EXPLORATION PTY LTD	3BL	159.3km N'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 29° 47' S: Long: 119° 23' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3257	HARBOUR EXPLORATION PTY LTD	3BL	154.7km W'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 45' S: Long: 119° 26' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3258	HARBOUR EXPLORATION PTY LTD	5BL	150.4km W'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 42' S: Long: 119° 29' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3259	HARBOUR EXPLORATION PTY LTD	2BL	162.9km E'ly of Paynes Find	Lat: 29° 45' S: Long: 119° 16' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3261	AURUMIN MT DIMER PTY LTD	3BL	105.3km NE'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 23' S: Long: 119° 50' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3265	HARBOUR EXPLORATION PTY LTD	1BL	146.5km W'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 41' S: Long: 119° 31' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3266	HARBOUR EXPLORATION PTY LTD	1BL	144.9km W'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 40' S: Long: 119° 32' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3267	HARBOUR EXPLORATION PTY LTD	1BL	143.3km W'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 39' S: Long: 119° 33' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	25/2869	TIPENE, Stephen Andrew	194.87HA	24km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 45' S: Long: 121° 43' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4760	CLARKE, Benn Francis	186.14HA	34.7km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 56' S: Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4774	BRANCH, Ian Robert	199.28HA	33.9km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4822	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	125.64HA	35.7km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 121° 55' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4823	BORROMEI, Rino	9.70HA	13.3km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 45' S: Long: 121° 36' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2610	HOOPER, Brett Alan	171.66HA	41.5km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 20' S: Long: 121° 44' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2611	HOOPER, Brett Alan	137.50HA	40.9km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 21' S: Long: 121° 44' 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:** 9 April 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 **9 July 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. **9 August 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 km<sup>2</sup>

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# 25 First Nations sporting icons in '25

# Johnathan Thurston

**Longtime *Koori Mail* correspondent PETER ARGENT looks back on the sporting careers of Indigenous stars across the wide world of sports in 2025.**

Embracing his Indigenous roots and his Gunggari heritage, wearing footy boots and his trademark headgear and mouthguard regularly with the red, black and yellow of the First Nations people's Johnathan Thurston was a true inspiration to his community.

His accolades and achievements were breathtaking across a Rugby League career which spanned nearly two decades.

One of the modern superstars of national rugby league Johnathan Thurston is a 179cm (5' 10½") half back or five eighth who had a 323-game career initially with the Canterbury Bulldogs and then with North Queensland Cowboys.

His record during the 17-year career makes him one of the true champions of the NRL code.

Thurston has Indigenous heritage on his mothers' side and his dad is a New Zealand Māori who also has some English heritage.

He started playing football as a young lad for the South Sunnybank Rugby League Football Club in Queensland and at 12 was given a scholarship for the South Queensland Crushers.

In his teens, he moved to Toowoomba and attended Saint Mary's College.

Despite being a standout player at school and club level, none of the Rugby League clubs were willing to sign Thurston.

His manager negotiated a deal with Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs and he was collected for the 2001 season as a 'nil playing fee'!

He would make his NRL debut in 2002 and while he never quite cemented a place in the Bulldogs side he did play a part coming off the bench in the premiership winning team against the Sydney Roosters in the 2004 NRL Grand Final.

At the end of that campaign, he moved up to the north of Queensland to play for the North Queensland Cowboys.

In his first season he won the prestigious Dally M medal as the NRL Player of the Year and helped the Cowboys into the Grand Final, which they lost to



**Johnathan Thurston is widely regarded as a future Rugby League immortal.**

the West Tigers.

He made his international debut for Australia in the 2006 ANZAC Test against New Zealand and in the 2006 State of Origin series Thurston was instrumental in the Queensland team's series win after the Maroons were defeated in their first game, winning the series 2-1.

He was captain of his NRL club for the first time in 2007 and collected a second Dally M medal that year.

In a career full of highlights, he won another two of the NRL's major Individual awards in the winter of 2014 and 2015; a currently unequalled record of four Dally M Medals as the Rugby League's best player.

Thurston also collected the Golden Boot award on three occasions in 2011, 2013 and 2015.

He played an amazing 36 consecutive State of Origin games (37 in total) between 2005 and 2017 scoring 224 points.

He has the most career points and goals in State of Origin football and has the most career points for an Australian Test team player with 334 points.

He has four North Queensland Cowboys Player of the Year awards, winning them in his opening season with them (2005) along with 2012, 2014 and 2015 winters.

He played in three grand finals, two of them for the Cowboys.

The third NRL Grand Final was North Queensland's breakthrough thrilling one-point win over Brisbane at ANZ Stadium getting home 17-16 in 2015, where he also collected the Clive Churchill Medal for Best on Ground.

Just to add to his legend in the golden point extra-time decider on October 4, Thurston kicked the winning field goal for his team in front of 82,758 patrons.

He played in two rugby league World Cup finals. The

initial one against New Zealand at Suncorp Stadium where they went down 34 to 20 and gained revenge in 2013 when they beat the Kiwis at Old Trafford 34 to 2.

Thurston received Life Membership of the North Queensland Cowboys.

In both 2015 and 2018 Thurston was named Phillips Sports Dad of the Year.

In 2019 as a part of the Queen's Birthday honours lists, he was made a member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his significant service to rugby league and as a role model.

He was inducted into the Sports Australia Hall of Fame in 2023 and in August 2004 he gained the honour of being inducted into the National Rugby League Hall of Fame as member number 121.

In an overflowing trophy cabinet Thurston won Alan Clarkson Trophy in 2015 (awarded to the player regarded as the most valuable finals player in the world); the Graham Murray Medal in 2016 (man of

the match in the 2016 World Club Challenge); an Arthur Beetson Medal in 2017 (awarded to rugby league players who show both outstanding skills and similar personal qualities as the legendary Beetson); the Wally Lewis Medal in 2008 (State of Origin player of the series); the Ron McAuliffe Medal in 2012 (Queensland's State of Origin player of the series), the Preston Campbell Medallist twice in 2010 and 2017 (man of the match in the Rugby League All Stars Match) and was Australian Representative Player of the Year in 2014.

A clutch playmaker, Thurston's skill, composure, toughness and relentless competitiveness elevated him to elite status. He was also a key pillar in Queensland's unprecedented eight-year Origin dynasty from 2006-13.

Admitting to his misspent youth in a biography, footy gave Thurston a lifeline and he is a future Immortal of the NRL code.



# Delladova class act worthy of applause

AS far as great heartfelt gestures in sport go, it's one that will be remembered for years to come.

Melbourne United's Matthew Delladova was named the NBL's Finals MVP (Most Valuable Player) after losing the championship decider against the Illawarra Hawks. Delladova then gave the award over to his victorious Illawarra Hawks opponent Will Hickey.

Many would argue that Hickey should have been named as the Finals MVP anyway after his dazzling displays throughout the Hawks astonishing NBL title series triumph.

Hickey, showing a ton of class himself, reluctantly accepted the award from Delladova. You could tell that Delladova seemed almost embarrassed that he was named the MVP. Footage from the presentation after fulltime shows Hickey shaking his head to say to Delladova that he wasn't taking



## Kris Flanders

the award from him. It didn't stop Delladova from leaving the stage and hand delivering the award straight to Hickey.

Will 'Davo' Hickey had a superb season and in just under 18 months has become a star for the Hawks. He's turned his game around and was a real match winner for the Illawarra club all season. His performances during

the finals will be talked about for a long time, especially with Hawks fans.

Hickey was inspirational.

In Game One, Hickey scored 14 points along with 7 rebounds and 8 assists in the 96-88 loss. In Game Two, Hickey scored 8 points with 5 rebounds and 4 assists in the 102-100 victory.

In the Game Three 83-77 loss, Hickey was top point scorer for the Hawks with 12 points along with 2 rebounds and 2 assists. In Game Four, Hickey was again top scorer for Illawarra with 22 points. He also collected 6 rebounds and 8 assists in the 80-71 win which sent the series into a Game Five final.

In the championship decider, Hickey, again stood tall and aimed up for the Hawks. He top scored again with 21 points, 10 rebounds and 8 assists. That performance on home soil sent Hawks fans into raptures as Illawarra clinched the five game series with a 114-104

win.

Those numbers alone and Hickey's all round finals series displays definitely made him the MVP.

The 25-year-old from the regional NSW town of Cowra has certainly found a home with Illawarra and has quickly turned into a crowd favourite since he started playing with the club in 2022 after stints with South East Melbourne Phoenix and Melbourne United. A foundation NBL club, the Hawks have now won two titles with previous win back in 2001, Hickey made sure that Hawks won in 2025.

Under coach, Justin Tatum, Hickey has really shown what he's capable of. He is now a leader and a key attacking weapon for the Hawks as they will look to go back-to-back titles the following NBL season.

Just quickly going back to Delladova's gesture to Hickey, it reminds me of a similar tale back

in the 2004 NRL Grand Final between Canterbury and the Roosters.

The Bulldogs won 16-13 and a very young Johnathan Thurston, who wasn't yet the superstar that he would turn into, was named on the Bulldogs interchange for the big match.

At fulltime, JT, who was leaving the club the following season to link up with North Queensland Cowboys gave his NRL premiership ring to his captain, Steve Price, who missed playing in the game through injury. Class act.

Thurston would go onto become one of the best players the game has ever produced, starring for the Cowboys and leading them to the 2015 premiership. Winning Dally M Medals and other prestigious awards and being a match winner on numerous occasions for Queensland in the State of Origin series.



Jamie Chapman crosses over to score the Blues 2nd try during Game 1 of the Women's State of Origin 2024 between the Queensland Maroons and the New South Wales Sky Blues at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane last year. (AAP)

# Major milestone for NRLW

By KRIS FLANDERS



WHILST the NRLW season is still three months away there is still plenty of excitement about what the new year will bring for the women's game.

There will be eleven rounds of awesome action and with the addition of Canterbury Bulldogs and the return of the Warriors, the league has expanded the competition to 12 teams battling it out for the premiership.

NRL CEO, Andrew Abdo, launched the inaugural NRLW Magic Round which will be played in Newcastle in Round Five of the competition. The women's edition will see three games played over

two days on August 2 and 3.

Abdo labelled it a major milestone for women's rugby league and expects the event to replicate the success of the NRL Magic Round.

"Magic Round has been a phenomenal success for our game and it will be a opportunity for fans to experience that same colour and atmosphere in Newcastle for the first NRLW Magic Round this year." Abdo said.

"Magic Round is the next important step in the growth of the NRLW competition and it is great that we can bring that carnival experience to one of our most passionate rugby league fanbases in Newcastle and showcase the best of the women's game for regional fans."

Meanwhile, Gold Coast Titans have locked up star player, Jaime Chapman, to a long-term deal to remain at the club. The NSW, Australian and Indigenous All Star inked a contract extension until the end of the 2027 season.

"I love being a Gold Coast Titan and hopefully I'll be here for a very long time, so to lock in another three years is really exciting." Chapman said.

## Great leader

"(Coach Karyn Murphy's) such a great leader on and off the field and I learn so much from her as a person, which is why it was an easy decision to stay on the Coast. She has a lot of trust in me and that's what I love about her."

As the Cronulla Sharks aim to

go one better after losing the 2024 NRLW Grand Final, their campaign has gotten off to a positive start with the news that back-rower, Rhiannon Byers, after also extending her contract until the end of 2027.

Byers, an Indigenous All Star, made the switch from rugby sevens in 2023 to play rugby league and is keen to repay the faith that Cronulla have in her.

"The Sharks gave me the opportunity to fulfil the NRLW dream," Byers said.

"It's nice to know the club appreciates me as a player. It brings that reassurance, but I also know I can keep pushing and being better each year for the Sharks. I think there are going to be some really good things coming this year."

That sentiment was backed up by Cronulla coach, Tony Herman, who said he admires Byers' resilience and work ethic.

"Rhi has faced her fair share of setbacks, including back injuries that hampered her sevens career and a season-ending broken wrist on her NRLW debut in 2023," Herman said.

"She pushed extremely hard to get back to the top and showed how good she can be last year. We're excited to see her fulfil her potential with more experience."

The NRLW season will kick-off on the 3rd of July. There will also be a three match State of Origin series between NSW and Queensland from May 1st with matches scheduled to be played in Brisbane, Sydney and Newcastle.





Glenelg's First Nations contingent for 2025, from left: Latrell Sumner-Pickett, Connor McLeod, James Bell, Waylon Davey-Motlop and Matthew Coulthard.

# Tigers looking to write SANFL history

By PETER ARGENT



WITH dual premiership First Nations recruit from Sydney James Bell – now in the leadership group – Matthew Coulthard returning after a stint with

Richmond, Connor McLeod looking to cement his position in the senior team, new faces at the club Latrell Sumner – Pickett and Waylon Davey-Motlop keen on forcing their way into league ranks, the Glenelg Tigers are endeavouring to achieve a special goal, never achieved in their club's 100-year history.

After back-to-back successes in 2023 and 2024, the Bays have their eyes on the first three-peat ever since the club was formed back in 1921.

Across the club's first 90 years, they had enjoyed the ultimate success only on four occasions – 1934, 1973 and the back-to-back successes of 85-86.

They won again in 2019 and have been champions again for the past two campaigns, last year coming all the way from the Elimination Final.

Now regarded the competition yardstick, they are team everyone is chasing.

The *Koori Mail* had a chat to James Bell about the '25 season ahead:

**KM - Firstly, congratulations on your past two years – two flags from two years in the SANFL is a good start. Has there been much talk in the pre-season about the ultimate goal this year, a third SANFL premiership or is it more about the process?**

JB - We haven't really addressed it, but we know it's there. It's obviously in the background, but what we can control - is what we put into the processes. We continue to work hard session after the session; that's all we really focus on.

It tells you a lot about our culture, the way the playing group have come back (to training) really strong and ready to go.

**KM - Have you got any personal goals for this year? Are you a goal setter by nature or do you just like**



The moment James Bell became a dual SANFL premiership player, last September, as the siren sounded on Glenelg's Grand Final victory.

**going with a flow?**

JB - Firstly, it's about and aiming to be the best teammate I can be. That's when we play our best footy. It's about contributing by any means, especially the one percenters, like chasing, tackling and defensive pressure, that doesn't require talent, just commitment and work ethic.

**KM - There is a state game (Interstate fixture against the VFL) is very early in the year; is that on the radar?**

JB - Obviously that'll be a nice reward. If I can get there it would be great. I know there's two (state) games so it would be nice to be selected in both of them from a personal perspective.

**KM - Your season last year and your final series was just outstanding. Can you see improvement on that?**

JB - 100 per cent. When I first came to Glenelg I had surgery straight away and I'll put on a few 'kegs' (kilograms) and I reckon I took a bit to get into that season and I still fairly happy with it.

This pre-season I've come back earlier with the younger group. I haven't missed a

session and am just getting after it. I'm just hungry.

**KM - With the Indigenous boys at the club do you feel like you've got a bit of a leadership role with the other four in this group?**

JB - I'm a part of the club's leadership group this year and that is pretty surreal.

There was a time when I liked to have a bit of fun, but I think I've now got the attitude if you want to be part of it (this success), I need to lead from the front.

I'm here to help the young boys.

The new guys Waylon and Latrell have shown massive signs already - they can play footy and even excel at Glenelg.

**KM - The premierships - the pleasure you got out of last September and back in September 2023 - is there anything that beats that in footy?**

JB - I don't reckon! I reflect back on last season where we had a few games during the season where we should have won and we let them get away.

From where we were at the start of finals, our resilience was pretty good.

To go all the way was amazing!

## The Gather Round is massive festival of football

**G**ather Round is here this 10-13th of April and Tarndnya/Adelaide will shine bright again, not being bias as it's my home town or anything, but they sure know how to put on a major sporting event. I am still yet to go home to enjoy Gather Round but I have made a promise to myself to lock it in for next year. So, for those of you who have tickets for the four-day event here are some of the things you can expect.

It's an action packed weekend where 18 teams will play in 9 games, on grounds around the city, its basically a massive football festival or a feast of football. Which every way you like.

This year for the first time, football and wine lovers can head to a game in the Barossa. You can watch North Melbourne v Gold Coast on the 12th and Richmond take on Fremantle on the 13th. Make a day of it and ride the hop on hop off bus and check out a few wineries too. I told you Tarndanya knew how to put on a sporting event.

Not only do the adults get to have fun at Gather Round, I checked out the schedule, its amazing! Little fans can head to football clinics of their favourite team and meet the team and their favourite players. Well big fans can head along too, you know you want to. These are always a fun place to get your guernsey filled, with player signatures.

The little ones have other opportunities in meeting players too, at the Maccas Footy Festival, at Elder Park from 10am-10pm every day, there will be signings and live site appearances. Or they can participate in "football frenzy" fun activities all day, there will be all sorts of interactive activities like making a footy card with them on it and more, they will have a ball, no pun intended. Or head to Rundle Mall where players will pop up too, I've heard there is a barber that will even cut your hair the same as your favourite player. The AFL and sponsor Maccas always do a great job of these pop-up events, so check out the schedule and immerse yourself into the full fan experience, if heading along.

Melbourne fans have something extra to look forward to, as the Dees will be donning the 1990s guernsey at Gather Round, which was emblazoned with the Flamehead logo. If you are quick they have launched their limited edition guernsey or you can grab a scarf and a hat too. Bit of a retro launch for Dees fans, always love a retro launch.

I love that the AFLW players are getting into the fun too, they will be around for special pop up events and GWS player Georgia Garnett will be the DJ for the four-day event. So basically, every corner you turn of Tarndanya, you will find some footy fun to be had. I can't wait to watch on, for those of you going, cheer a little louder for those of us who couldn't make it and I will see you there next year!



Shelley Ware



# Brendan Doggett writes himself into Sheffield Shield history books

By PETER ARGENT



A PROUD Queenslander, who had already won a pair of Sheffield Shield titles with the Bulls earlier in his career, Brendan Doggett has bowled South Australia to victory, with an 11-wicket haul in the Grand Final at Karen Rolton Oval, from Wednesday, March 26 to Saturday, March 29.

This is his third Sheffield Shield title win after two victories for his home state (2017-18 and 2020-21), before moving down with Nathan McSweeney and played his first game in SACA colours in 2021.

On the first day, after winning the toss and sending the Bulls in, Doggett, who didn't play in the round 10 game the previous week, ripped through the Queensland batting order. He collected the brilliant figures of 6-31 from 11.5 overs as the visitors were bundled out for just 95.

Queensland fought their way back into the contest bowling SA out in their first innings for 271 and then making 445 in their second dig.

Doggett added to his first

innings heroics, with a five-wicket haul in the Bulls second effort and the match analysis of 11-140, the best Grand Final figures since these games first started back in 1982-83 season.

Doggett spoke to the *Koori Mail*, after his celebrations, as he was madly packing with his wife and two year old child as they prepare for a first stint in County cricket with Durham in the north of England.

"It was an incredible experience, the emotion when Jason Sangha hit the winning runs on Saturday was amazing," Doggett smiled.

"It was always the plan for me rest for round 10 match, which was also against Queensland.

"That was the benefit of finishing at the top of the table. "We wanted to bowl first and did that when Nathan won the toss.

"Needing to capitalise on the Karen Rolton wicket early, it was good to have an impact personally.

"Queensland was great to me giving me my start; there was still a healthy banter on the ground.

"It was bitter-sweet when I hugged Andy Bichel; he has been

a big mentor and a person that had been in my corner from the start.

"I still go to him to this day for advice about my craft."

South Australia would win the Sheffield Shield for the first time in nearly 30 years, since the success of the 1995-96 campaign, when Jason Gillespie was at the start of his first-class career sparking amazing revelry the South Australian cricket faithful, with many of the crowd jumping the fence and celebrating with the players after the winning run were hit.

It is the first time in more than six decades since one-day domestic cricket started in the late 1960s, that the SACA has secured both the one-day and Sheffield Shield crowns.

"When (now senior coach) Ryan (Harris) came along as bowling coach last year, he instilled in us bowlers that we can win from anywhere," Doggett explained.

"We're always going to fight, no matter our position.

"And I guess the belief sort of started from that point."

Doggett, as expected was named Player of the Match in the Sheffield Shield Final for his efforts with leather in hand.



Brendan Doggett acknowledges the crowd after his six-wicket haul on the opening day of the Sheffield Shield Final.

Hailing originally from Toowoomba, Doggett was named the Lord's Taverners Indigenous Cricketer of the Year back in 2016.

Doggett made his Sheffield Shield debut for the Bulls against Victoria in October 2017 and was

part of the landmark Aboriginal XI tour of the UK in June 2018.

He has been on the brink of Test selection on a couple of occasions and also has dealt with a raft of fast bowler related injuries over his career.

## Top tips to avoid driving tired



Get a good night's sleep.



Avoid driving after midnight.



Pull over for a break in a safe place.



Plan to take regular rest breaks.



Arrange to share the driving.



Take a nap, 20 minutes works best.



Don't trust your tired self  
[testyourtiredself.com.au](https://testyourtiredself.com.au)





# Davo delivers when it counts

By PETER ARGENT



PLAYERS with "star quality" deliver when it counts!

This is exactly what William "Davo" Hickey did for the

Illawarra Hawks when the National Basketball League (NBL) Grand Final series was on the line.

At this point the minor round ladder leader went two-one down against Melbourne United, after their second home loss.

In the do or die round four away match, playing as an energetic guard Hickey inspired the Hawks to the game-four nine-point away win to keep his team in the championship.

He was then the lynchpin the championship winning game-five match in front of his home crowd.

Hickey delivered a 21-points, 10 rebounds, eight assists performance, recorded 12 first-quarter points to help Illawarra erase any early deficit, after starting in place of import Trey Kell.

Along the way he became the inaugural First Nations men's player to score more than 20 points in the NBL Finals game.

## First title

After his game four heroics, he then followed it up with a double-double in Game Five to lead the Hawks to their first title in more than two decades.

The 194 cm (6'4") 26-year-old guard who was on the Melbourne United roster in 2021-22, has elevated his game of the past 12 months.

This performance sealed the Hawks' first title since 2001, and second in their 47-year history.

"I'm lost for words, I just trying



William Hickey of the Hawks during the NBL Grand Final Series Game Five match between the Illawarra Hawks and Melbourne United at WIN Stadium in Wollongong.

to soak the moment in to be honest," a passionate Hickey said post-game following the game five championship win, in a national television interview.

"I just so proud of us - we were down - we were out.

"It's the grit that we showed.

"(To have) Two losses on our home court and to finish it here tonight, was emotional.

"I been believing in myself my whole life.

"Why not instill the belief into our fans here at Illawarra Hawks."

Hickey also said the camaraderie and the love the Hawks roster showed each other was a key to the Hawks title winning success.

Five-time NBL winner and 36ers coach against Hickey in the 23-24 season, Scott Ninnis said Hickey played without fear.

"He was incredible, it was an

outstanding performance," Ninnis continued.

"Davo played with heart and was a driving force in the championships win.

"Having played well during the regular season, he truly elevated himself and his game during the finals.

"That's what champions do!"

Having Wiradjuri and Gamilaroi heritage, Hickey was first a development player for the

South East Melbourne Phoenix back in 2019.

In February this year he signed to play with the Auckland Tuatara in the 2025 New Zealand NBL season.

It has been a big couple of years, as Hickey In March 2024, Hickey played a pivotal role the Australia 3x3 team winning gold at the FIBA 3x3 Asia Cup and in 2025 as became an Australian Boomers basketballer.

# Health scare forces junior games to be postponed

By ALF WILSON



A MELIOIDOSIS scare has forced junior rugby league fixtures in Townsville to be postponed until after Easter.

Hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youngsters and amongst those who compete in various age groups and the competitions in various age divisions were scheduled to commence in late March.

Some parents of juniors have contacted the *Koori Mail* praising the decision of the Townsville District Junior Rugby League to postpone for health reasons.

Three people have died in Townsville from Melioidosis since extensive flooding.

Sarah Bax, Operations and Strategy Manager, Rugby League Townsville and District said that every decision made was

guided by what's best for participants, volunteers, and the wider community.

"We know how much our kids were looking forward to getting out on the field. There's nothing quite like the excitement of playing rugby league with your mates. But the safety and wellbeing of everyone involved has to come first. With the current weather and health concerns, we felt it was the right call to postpone. We're so grateful for the support and understanding from our rugby league families, and we can't wait to kick off again after the Easter school holidays,"

Sarah said.

Some of the grounds at which junior fixtures are played were under water even on March 30 when the Torres News checked out Illich Park in Aitkenvale suburb.

By comparison when grand finals were

played last September at the on dry grounds and TDJRL headwaters about four kilometres from Illich Park.

A Queensland Health spokesman said Melioidosis is a serious infectious disease which is caused by bacteria within certain soils that are found in Northern Australia.

It can also enter the body when you breath in dust and droplets, or when you come into contact with contaminated water.

Whilst Melioidosis can be treated with antibiotics but only after the disease is properly diagnosed, which requires a blood or urine sample.

Symptoms of melioidosis include infection in the lungs, pneumonia, fever, weight loss, muscle pain and headaches.

These symptoms usually develop within three weeks of exposure to the bacteria, but in some cases the illness might not occur until months or even years after the initial

infection."

The spokesman urged those who were at risk of serious illness to take precautions to avoid infection this wet season.

Such as not to work outside if it's raining, control your diabetes, and try to reduce your alcohol intake.

"When you go outside, wear protective footwear and gloves, wash your skin thoroughly after exposure to soil or muddy water, and wear a mask if you're using a hose or high-pressure cleaner around soil. If you are immunosuppressed and you develop a chest infection or fever, it's important to seek medical assistance," the spokesman said.

A far north Queensland Health spokesman said that there had also been six cases of Melioidosis diagnosed on Cape York so far this year with fortunately no deaths.



# Hodges plays his 100th Qld Cup game

By ALF WILSON



FORMER NRL player Jayden Hodges lined up for his 100th Queensland Cup rugby league match during which time he has been a member of the three northern clubs, the Townsville Blackhawks, Cairns Northern Pride and Mackay Cutters.

The 31-year-old Jayden starred as a hooker for the Blackhawks when they beat Northern Pride 28-14 in Townsville on March 23.

That was round two in the 15 club statewide comp and the previous week Jayden also shone when his Blackhawks rolled the Mackay Cutters 27-20.

The Queensland Cup is the second tier competition after the NRL.

Blackhawks win over Cairns

Pride was a milestone for Jayden and teammates and supporters celebrated his 100 Queensland Cup matches.

Jayden played 43 games for the Mackay Cutters (2018 to 20), 25 for the Northern Pride (2021, 22) and this was his 32nd for the Blackhawks which he joined in 2023.

Jayden also played 11 NRL matches for the Manly Sea Eagles and three for the Cowboys during a celebrated career.

Speaking to the *Koori Mail*, said the Blackhawks made a presentation to him and Kalifa Faifai Loa who was playing his 100th game for the Blackhawks club.

"It was a good day to have the win and also have the presentation afterwards. We have been training hard and the team is going well," Jayden said. Jayden praised Blackhawks

winger Dudley Dotoi who scored two tries against the Pride.

"Dudley has the ability to soon be in the NRL," Jayden said.

Proud of his Darnley Island heritage, Jayden has also lined up numerous times for Erub United at Allblacks carnivals.

Jayden said he last visited Darnley in December and caught up with family and extended family.

"I have family amongst the Sam, Kiwat and Savage families and didn't realise how relatives many I have on Darnley," he said.

After three rounds the Blackhawks sat third on the ladder after failing to reach the finals in 2024.

Blackhawks which is coached by ex Canberra Raiders NRL Terry Campese had the bye in round four.

They were drawn to meet the CQ Capras in round five.



Jayden Hodges with the ball in action for Erub United.

# Wet season wreaks havoc on footy

By ALF WILSON



PLAYERS from remote Indigenous communities Doomadgee, Burketown, Normanton, Kowanyama and Mornington Island have to travel long distances over some of Australia's roughest roads to compete in the Gulf Cluster rugby league competition.

During the wet season roads are closed after rain as they are now.

## Early May start

So the 2025 competition won't start until early May and players and officials are looking forward to it.

Rugby league is a big part of life on these communities.

The Normanton Stingers have been training hard since February and had a trial match organised against a Mount Isa team on March 29.

However Stingers coach Robert Murray said it had to be cancelled due to the weather.

"I had to call it off because it would not have been safe for players to travel to Normanton," Robert said.

The prohibitive costs of airfares did not enable the game to go ahead.

Normanton have won the past two premierships and boast some talented players in their line up.

These include Trevor Henry, Myron Toby, Clay George and Jarvis George.

"But we have lost a star from last season in Kaylem Rapson-Charger who has moved to Weipa," Robert said.

Whilst the land based teams travel by road to cluster matches at Normanton or Burketown, Mornington island has extra costs to contend with.

Players and officials have to go by plane to the mainland and



The Normanton ladies team.

then by road to the venue.

"Teams have to drive long distances to get to the host venue and many of the roads are dirt," Robert said.

## Big trips

It is 323km between Normanton and Doomadgee, 370km to Kowanyama and 206km away from Burketown.

It looks likely that Doomadgee will field two teams, the Dragons and United, which

will ensure there will be no bye as a total of six sides will compete.

In addition to the strong men's comp, a ladies division will again be held featuring Normanton, Doomadgee and Burketown.

"Mornington island is also trying to organise a women's side," Robert said.

Most of the Normanton population follow the Stingers and after games everybody

heads to the aptly named Purple Pub hopefully to celebrate a win.

It is a great place to talk about football.

Whilst only Normanton and Burketown will host games this season, Doomadgee and Kowanyama will be aiming to have home matches in 2026.

Work is progressing on the football grounds at both communities.

Robert praised Normanton officials Les Henry and Tia

Young for their organisation of games. "They do a lot of hard work putting it all together," Robert said.

## Respect

Robert also has plenty of respect for the Doomadgee team which they beat in last year's decider.

"It takes a good opponent to make a great game of football and their coach Craig Logan is well respected," he said.





# Knockout Nellie



Thai champion Kanokwan Wirunpat feels the heat as Nellie Dargan executes her fight plan to perfection.

## Dargan drops unbeaten Thai champion to take WBC title

By KRIS FLANDERS



AND new WBC Australasian Super-Bantamweight champion...Nellie Dargan!

That's how the ring announcer called out the victorious boxer with her arms raised in celebrations and then had the new title wrapped around her waist. Dargan boxed her way to the title defeating the previously unbeaten Kanokwan Wirunpat.

There was much excitement and relief from Dargan and her crew after the bout.

"It's honestly the best feeling when you've worked so hard for 8 weeks and it finally pays off. It ended in round three via TKO (Technical Knockout). A big combination put my opponent on the canvas and she wasn't able to recover and the ref stopped the contest," Dargan recalled.

The new WBC Australasian Super-Bantamweight title holder said her opponent, Wirunpat, was a tough adversary.

But Dargan added that her camp and coach, Anton Shalom, had done their homework in the lead up to the night and executed the fight plan.

"I knew going in she (Wirunpat) was

going to be tough and could punch, but I really just focused on my strengths and listened to my coach's advice and adjusted when instructed to. The first two rounds I was a bit anxious but once I calmed down and listened to Anton it became easier to set up my punches," Dargan said.

The 32-year-old fighter who trains out of the No Quarter Boxing Gym in Alexandria, Sydney, said her crew talked about the highs and lows from the fight and what can be improved on moving forward.

### Big boost

"Anton (coach) was so happy, my manager Kamil was happy. It was our first fight together as a team so to get this first one out of the way and with a KO was a big boost for all of us. We debriefed a little and we both said I did some good things but also did things that I didn't do well. Which is just a part of it. But it's seeing these things and making adjustments in the next fight," Dargan said.

When the Wiradjuri and Mununjali woman had her hand raised in victory she had plenty of supporters behind her. Family and friends made some noise for the fighter and Dargan said she could feel every cheer and encouragement from them.

It lifted her.

"All my friends and family attended, my son and my 85 year old Nan. My sponsors, I had over 150 people there supporting me which was an incredible feeling. It really makes the world of difference from fighting over in Indonesia (previous bout) with hardly anyone there to this just really helped me push to get the KO finish and perform," Dargan said.

The boxer has overcome some tough life hurdles along the way but after finding her way, support from family, getting married earlier this year and with her boxing going to another level, Nellie Dargan, believes she is finally in a good place.

"If you told me 10 years ago this is where I'd be in my life I would tell you, you're crazy. I am so proud of how far I've come in my life but I'm not done yet I want to keep chasing greatness and keep pushing forward becoming a better person, mother, wife and fighter," Dargan said.

The hard hitting puncher knows that now she's got a title there will be challengers lining up for a shot but it's a situation she's craving.

Dargan wants another local Australian title around her waist, get her world rankings higher which will open even more doors to possible international success.



This is what victory looks like.