



Koori Mail

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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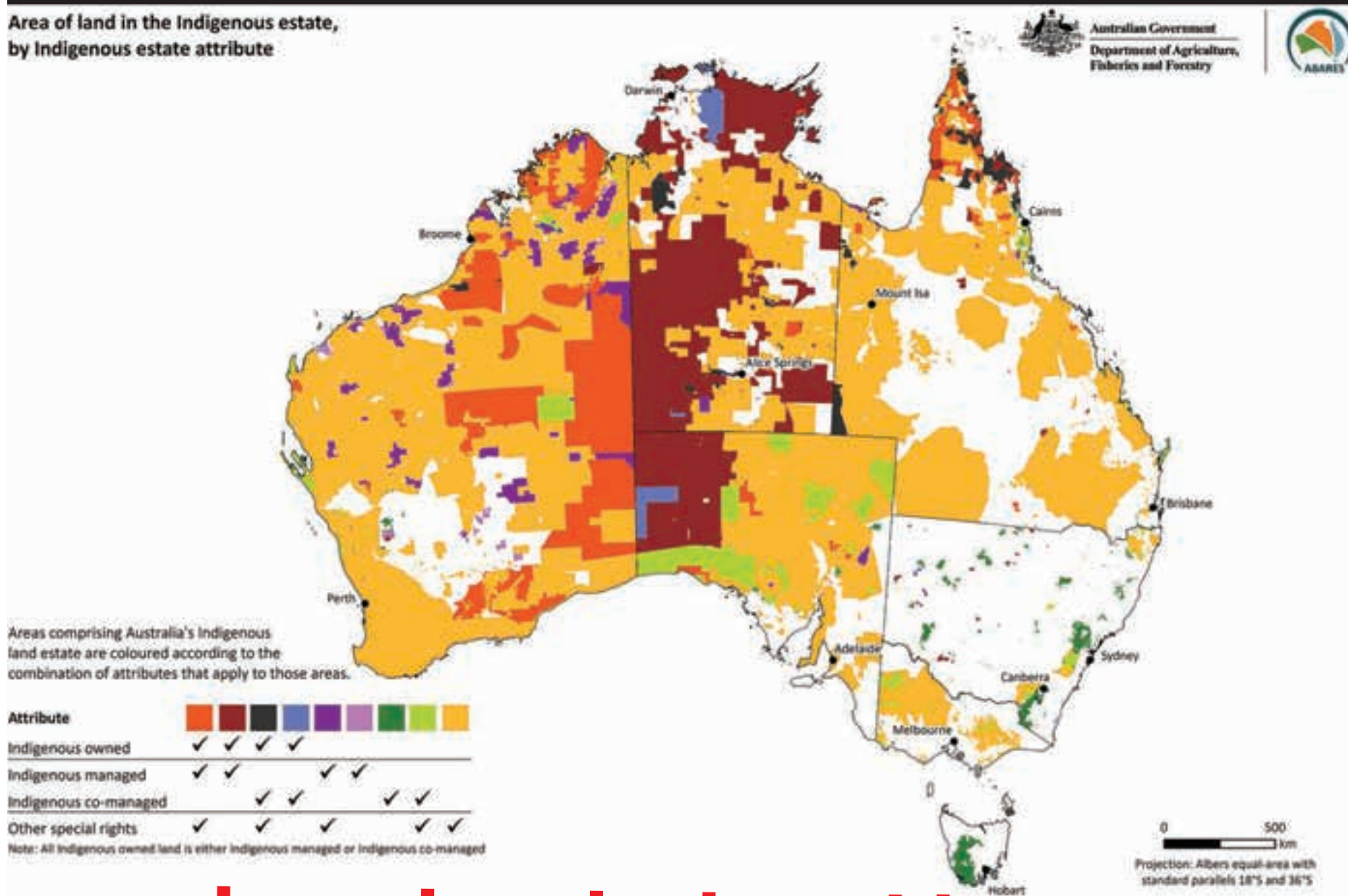
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Professor Ghillar Michael Anderson – last surviving member of the founding four of the 1972 Aboriginal Embassy in Canberra – explains why - **pages 22-23**

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Meet Bertie, the SANL superstar

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MY FAMILY

Krystal Dean – Lockhart River, Qld



The adults in the picture, roughly from left to right, are Kaarena Accoom, Aila Pascoe, myself, Esme Butcher, Shay Graham, Lourarna Deeral, Shamika Graham, Laraysha Deeral and Brianna Deeral, Lockhart River's Krystal Dean says.

In the pram is Wayne and the other kids include Rylan, Nayani, Lajazah, Latisha and Maya.

We're a big family, and everyone in the photo is related to me – cousins, a few in-laws, nephews, nieces.

We all travelled down to be here from Lockhart River, Coen and here in Hope Vale.

It's probably five years since our last football game, so everyone is excited to

travel with the boys – the Lockhart River Scorpions – and supporting them.

We're just excited to finally watch them play again, this is a great excuse to get together more often. Everyone loves footy, so I think that's the main thing.

Otherwise, sadly, it's maybe for funerals, but we also do camping and fishing competitions.

We love to get together for big celebrations, maybe 18th and 21st birthday parties, but this gathering is a big one because we've travelled a long way.

We're camping and it was good to be on the road together, as a family, as a community, and getting together with the Coen, Hope Vale and Pormpuraaw families, it was good to see everyone here.

SHARE YOUR FAMILY WITH OUR READERS

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

OUR CHILDREN



These Hope Vale kids were raring to go for the Queensland Rugby League's first round of their Southern Cape Cluster competition. With visiting teams from Coen, Lockhart River and Pormpuraaw in the community, Ethan Ford-Ross, Dwaan Deeral, Devon Deemal, Tyhiem Naylor and Henry Deeral had plenty of chances to catch up with friends and family on the day. Picture: CHRISTINE HOWES

Koori Mail

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'They're monsters': teen's murderers get life in prison

By AARON BUNCH



A MURDERED Indigenous teenager's heartbroken mother has expressed her fury at his killers after two of his assailants were handed life sentences.

Cassius Turvey, a Noongar Yamatji boy, died in hospital 10 days after he was deliberately struck to the head in Perth's eastern suburbs on October 13, 2022.

Jack Steven James Brearley, 24, and Brodie Lee Palmer, 30, were convicted in May of murdering the 15-year-old after a 12-week trial.

They were each sentenced last Friday to life imprisonment, with Brearley eligible for parole after serving 22 years and Palmer after serving 18 years.

Mitchell Colin Forth, 27, who also stood trial in the West Australian Supreme Court for the murder of Cassius and was found guilty of manslaughter, was sentenced to 12 years. He will be eligible for parole after serving 10 years.

Mother's anger

Cassius's mother, Mechelle Turvey, said she was satisfied with the sentences handed to the three men as she vented her frustration and anger over the death of her son.

"I wish I was a bit younger and had better knees so I could have jumped that f**king dock," she said outside the court.

"They're all freaking monsters.

"No mother should have to visit the grave of a 15-year-old innocent child who did absolutely nothing."

The sentences were met with applause from dozens of



Cassius Turvey.

supporters inside the court, while verbal abuse was directed at the killers.

"First thing that come to mind after Jack Brearley was sentenced was how he said my son had learned his lesson after

he had bashed him in the bush," Ms Turvey said.

"He learned a life lesson now."

Aleesha Louise Gilmore, 23, also stood trial but was acquitted of a murder charge.

Cassius was with fellow students who caught a bus to parklands to watch a fight being talked about on social media.

Brearley, Forth and Palmer intercepted them near the field and Cassius and other "terrified school kids" fled into nearby bushland.

It was there that Brearley caught up with him, the trial heard, before the teen was knocked to the ground and hit in the head with a metal pole.

Cassius was struck at least twice, the impact splitting his ear in half and causing bleeding in his brain.

The attack on Cassius followed a complex series of events that started on October 9 when Forth, Brearley, Gilmore and another man who was tried on lesser charges, Ethan Robert MacKenzie, 21, "snatched two kids off the street" before punching, kicking and stabbing one of them.

Four days later, Brearley and his co-accused allegedly armed themselves with metal poles pulled from shopping trolleys before climbing into Palmer's ute and driving off to search for youths before they came across Cassius.

In sentencing, Chief Justice Peter Quinlan said the killers had cut Cassius's life short in a horrendous and vengeful act of aggression, violence and brutality.

"Cassius Turvey was robbed of his life and of his promise ... all because you killed him, Mr Brearley," he said.

Lack of remorse

Brearley had a complete lack of remorse and had lied throughout the trial, falsely accusing Cassius of knifing him and attempting to blame an innocent man for the killing, Justice Quinlan said.



Mechelle Turvey, mother of Cassius Turvey, outside the Supreme Court of WA in Perth on Thursday, June 26. (AAP)

"Mr Brearley, you were the person who killed Cassius Turvey in that fit of rage and brutality," he said.

"You went onto that field looking for someone, anyone to inflict serious injury on, and you carried out that intention with unflinching violence.

"While you did not intend to kill Cassius Turvey, your attack was persistent and sustained and only stopped by the arrival of Mr Palmer."

Palmer and Forth were at the scene and found to have a common purpose.

The five defendants variously faced 20 charges over the events of October 9 and 13.

The jury found them guilty of all except Gilmore's murder charge and a theft charge faced by Brearley. Gilmore was sentenced to one year and three months, conditionally suspended for 24 months.

MacKenzie received two years and six months and will be eligible for parole in November.

— AAP

Cop who shot Aboriginal woman lied repeatedly about car ramming



A FORMER police officer acquitted of the shooting murder of an Indigenous woman has been recommended for prosecution over a separate incident in which he rammed a car during a pursuit.

Western Australia's Corruption and Crime Commission says its investigation found then-senior constable Brent Wyndham repeatedly lied about the May 2024 ramming incident in the regional town of Geraldton and that constituted serious misconduct.

The CCC report, released on Friday, found the police Skoda driven by Mr Wyndham — who has since left the force — had made physical contact with an evading vehicle twice, causing it to hit a light pole.

"The second point of contact caused the evading vehicle to spin and come to a stop," the watchdog said.

"This action is called a Precision Intercept Technique or 'PIT' manoeuvre and is only permitted in exceptional circumstances."

Following the incident, Mr Wyndham and his passenger Constable Alex Miatke made statements that the evading vehicle rammed them and that it presented a danger to children standing in the street.

The commission said its investigation established these statements were false.

"It was in fact the police vehicle that first instigated contact with the evading vehicle and there was no one standing in the street."

This false information was repeated by the officers in their witness statements to support the prosecution of the evading driver

for criminal damage to a police vehicle.

"Fortunately in this case the actions of other police officers resulted in the charge of unlawful damage being withdrawn before a wrongful conviction could occur," the report said.

The driver faced other charges, pleaded guilty in court and was sentenced.

The CCC has recommended WA Police consider prosecuting Mr Wyndham and take disciplinary action against Const Miatke.

In September 2019, then-constable Wyndham shot Ngarlawangga Yamatji Martu woman JC in a Geraldton street as she held a knife. He was charged and found not guilty of murder and manslaughter of the 29-year-old, who had been diagnosed with drug-induced psychosis and schizophrenia.

Mr Wyndham was later promoted to

senior constable before quitting the force in December 2024.

The commission's investigation into the ramming incident highlighted concerns over the management of staff at the Geraldton police station and the conduct of officers when interviewing suspects.

It recommends WA Police conduct a review of its emergency response driving tactics, including the use of PIT manoeuvres.

WA Police Commissioner Col Blanch said the force took any findings or opinions of misconduct very seriously and he noted the recommendations of further action against the two officers. "I will need to fully consider these recommendations before making any further statements," he said in a statement.

"Consideration will also be given to the other concerns raised in the report." — AAP

Exploring the challenges of men



Actors Aaron Pederson and Kirk Page rehearsing a scene from *Dear Son*. Picture by Morgan Roberts.



FIRST Nations love, hope and healing are shining out in Brisbane with the production of *Dear Son*, premiering and currently playing until 19 July at the Bille Brown Theatre in Meanjin (Brisbane). Based on the book by Thomas Mayo, *Dear Son* features letters and reflections from First Nations fathers and sons that honour the rich traditions and wisdom of fathers passed down through generations, whilst exploring the challenges faced by First Nations men today. The book and play feature letters from Stan Grant, Troy Cassar-Daley, John Liddle, Charlie King, Joe Williams, Yessie Mosby, Joel Bayliss, Daniel James, Jack Latimore, Daniel Morrison, Tim Sculthorpe and Blak Douglas. Full story, page 34

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Making sense of the world around us

The fear and unsettled nature of this global community we currently live in is at times consuming and terrifying. Majority of us have no control over the decisions that are negatively impacting the countless lives and wellbeing of people around the world. How do we support and advocate for our global community by staying informed but at the same time, keeping ourselves well?

On the 24th of June, I was celebrating SBS's 50th year birthday celebration, it was a big night held at the Governor General Sam Mostyn's home and the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was there too.

He spoke to how SBS have brought the world's news and stories to us, in a levelled and informed manner. This was an overwhelming theme of the night, that SBS brings a sense of belonging to our communities, through their efforts of keeping us informed with a high level of integrity and support for all peoples.

Prime Minister Albanese also spoke of the war between Israel and Iran saying: "I don't want the war of Israel and Iran to come to this country." These are words I am holding on to and I wanted to share them with you, as the intentions of our political leaders are very important. They are what hold us in despair or in the hope that we will continue to live in peace and our children will be safe from the unimaginable grief and despair wartime brings.



Shelley Ware

Which brings me to why it's important to stay informed, although there are many reasons, one of great importance is our children. We must always remember the access they have through social media and news outlets on their phones, especially when they are alone and without any kind of reassurance from their loved and trusted ones.

The internet is full of misinformation, disinformation, Trump madness, graphic videos and images and hard truths they will be finding hard to decipher between and will be having a physical and emotional reaction to.

We can't dismiss our children with "Everything will be OK" and end of discussion, like my parents did. Of course, we can still say these words but we need to be prepared for their complex questions with age-appropriate answers. They need to feel safe in our educated words, love and hugs.

I vividly remember the feelings I had when World War III looked imminent, as a child. I remember laying awake at night crying quietly and whispering to my old people, asking them for protection and love to surround us, so we could all live in peace and not war.

This is potentially what your children are doing too and they need your reassurance. It's not an easy time as a parent but being prepared, letting them know they can talk to you and having open conversations when they need them is so important during these uncertain times.

I can't speak highly enough of the SBS and NITV news programs that bring us a balanced view. Choose what suits your needs and remember sometimes we also need to tune out too.

In fact, I'll be honest I need many days of not hearing the terror that people are living in at the moment and I know this is a privilege and the guilt around this is real too. My view is that I need to be well for when and how I do choose to support and advocate for the people around our globe, facing genocide and war, so I can be strong in my advocacy and support to help those in need in whatever small way I can. Please take care of yourself and take care of our babies, they need us at the moment.

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

Cindy's law: reforms close sexual violence loophole



FOR 37 years, Dawn Smith has dreamt about what life would be like if her daughter Cindy was still alive.

"I've always wondered what she would have been like today, whether she would have married and had kids," Ms Smith said, her voice wavering.

"You think of all of these things. I miss her very much."

Ms Smith was robbed of the opportunity to see her daughter grow up after the 15-year-old was killed in a car crash in the NSW outback in December 1987, alongside her 16-year-old cousin Mona Lisa Smith.

Evidence indicated the driver, Alexander Grant, sexually interfered with Cindy after her death, a coroner ruled in 2024.

Nearly four decades after the crash, Jacinta Rose "Cindy" Smith's legacy will live on, with the NSW government introducing legislation to close the legal loophole that protected Grant from prosecution over his sexual violence.

A charge of indecently interfering with a corpse was dropped ahead of Grant's 1990 trial due to difficulties with establishing the timing of Cindy's death.

He was then acquitted of driving-related offences and died in July 2017.

A new legal provision, introduced in parliament on Wednesday, aims to ensure offenders who sexually assault someone or indecently interfere with their body after death cannot escape prosecution when the time of death is unknown.

When it is found beyond a reasonable doubt that one of these crimes occurred – but it is unclear which one due to the uncertain timing of a death – a



Auntie Dawn Smith and Kerrie Smith are seen next to the Tree of Knowledge, outside NSW parliament in Sydney, Wednesday, June 25, 2025. The family of Cindy Smith have been waiting for more than 35 years for justice with the closing of a NSW legal loophole that allowed a middle-aged offender to walk free after he sexually abused a teenager around the time of her death. (AAP)

perpetrator will be sentenced for whichever offence has the lesser maximum penalty.

An offender would have previously gone unpunished.

NSW Attorney-General Michael Daley said the reform was a direct response to the inquest and the tireless advocacy of the girls' families.

George Newhouse, the chief executive of the National Justice Project, which represented

Cindy's family, said her loved ones had to carry the circumstances of her death in their hearts for decades.

The amended law would mean no other family had to suffer in the same way.

"That's never going to bring back Cindy or Mona ... but at least the family have some legacy for the future to ensure no parent has to go through what they went through," Mr

Newhouse told reporters in Sydney on Wednesday.

The girls died when Grant's ute rolled on the Mitchell Highway, between Bourke and Enngonia, in the early hours of December 6, 1987.

Grant had offered them a lift home, but instead "plied" them with alcohol and drove out onto the highway, State Coroner Teresa O'Sullivan concluded.

Ms O'Sullivan found some

police officers did their best to investigate the crash, but several failures to collect critical evidence had an "irreparable" effect on the case.

"The uncomfortable truth, to my mind, is that had two white teenage girls died in the same circumstances, I cannot conceive of there being such a manifestly deficient police investigation into the circumstances of their deaths," she said in her findings.

Grandfather pens letter to PM after death in custody



THE grandfather of a 24-year-old man who died in custody has drafted an open letter to the prime minister calling on Canberra to step in and address "madness" in the Northern Territory's justice system.

The senior Warlpiri leader and kin of Kumanjayi White, who died after being forcibly restrained by two plain clothes officers inside a supermarket in Alice Springs in May, said justice in the Territory was "in crisis".

"Your government in Canberra has total power over the NT," Ned Jampijinpa Hargraves, a Yuendumu man, wrote.

"The prisons are so full they need private security guards; guards on buses and public housing officers are being given guns – this madness must stop."

The letter addressed to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese landed ahead of protests in Sydney and Alice Springs to demand justice for Mr White.

The senior Indigenous leader renewed his call for an independent investigation into the death of his grandson.

The family has also been calling for the release of CCTV footage and for the officers involved to be stood down while the investigation takes place.

Federal minister for Indigenous Australians, Malarndirri McCarthy, backs an

independent inquiry but despite broad support, the NT government has rejected the proposal, saying NT Police are best-placed to investigate the death.

Police allege Mr White, who had a mental disability and was in care, was shoplifting and assaulted a security guard.

In his letter, Mr Hargraves demanded immediate action from the Commonwealth, including withholding funding to the NT government until it agreed to an independent probe.

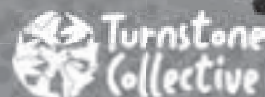
The Yuendumu community also lost 19-year-old Kumanjayi Walker in 2019 when he was shot by then-NT police officer Zachary Rolfe.

● Full letter, page 24

POWER
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Fighting for the children

By ALI MC



WHILE the rates of First Nations children in out-of-home care continue to rise, two powerful grandmothers are

fighting back.

Grandmothers Against Removal (GMAR) are a community-run advocacy organisation that aims to ensure Aboriginal children are kept with their families.

"We know sometimes children have to be removed from their parents, but give them to the grandmother, give them to the auntie, give them to the uncle. Don't put them in out-of-home care with non-Aboriginal people," Rieo Ellis told the *Koori Mail*.

Originally started in New South Wales in 2014 by Gomeroi woman Hazel Collins, GMAR is now represented in Victoria as well, where Aboriginal child removals are some of the highest in the country.

In Victoria, the rate of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care is around 22 times higher than non-Aboriginal children.

In 2023, for example, Aboriginal children represented 29.2% of all children in out-of-home care in Victoria, while making up only 1.8% of the total child population.

It is this massive inequality GMAR (Victoria) aim to rectify, by ensuring Aboriginal children remain with family.

Ellis told the *Koori Mail* that family members – especially grandparents – are often overlooked by Child Protection Services.

"When a child is removed from family, the grandmother puts their hand up and says 'I'll look after them.' I'll look after my grandchildren," she said.

"But the department deems them unsuitable – they didn't have a working with children check, sometimes because they say the housing is not suitable.



GMAR Victoria volunteers Rieo Ellis and Alison Fuller.

They should look at family members who are available and want to look after the child."

Some of the services that GMAR provide include working directly with families whose children are at risk of being removed, and in partnership with community organisations such as the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service.

Ellis also speaks publicly at rallies such as Invasion Day, ensuring their message about protecting Aboriginal children from cultural and familial disconnection is heard far and wide.

She told the *Koori Mail* that Aboriginal children should remain within their culture and

community, and to prevent the continuation of the Stolen Generations, which Ellis says is a form of genocide.

"Their policies are racist and genocidal when you look at it because stopping a child from practising their culture, that's genocide," said the proud Bundjalung and Jinabarra woman.

"You don't have to be killed off to show that you're doing genocide."

Alison Fuller, the founder of GMAR Victoria, shared with the *Koori Mail* her story as part of the Stolen Generations.

She and her siblings were removed from their family and placed into a mission, a

childhood experience which deeply impacted her.

"As a young adult I tried to find love, but when you're broken, you don't know how to look properly," she said. "I realised when I was over 50 that I'd been actually stolen and everything that goes with that."

The proud Palyku, Walmatjari and Bibbulmun woman told the *Koori Mail* she was originally contacted by Senator Lidia Thorpe to help start the Victorian branch of GMAR.

She told the *Koori Mail* her own experience motivates her to advocate for Aboriginal children at risk of experiencing the same trauma.

"GMAR hopes to break that

cycle where our children are stolen and then completely violated and destroyed," Fuller said.

Reflecting on her own removal, she told the *Koori Mail* that children raised in out-of-home care "are totally unprepared for life."

"They don't get any love, they don't get any discipline, they don't get any direction. They are totally failed in that system," she said.

Fuller said the impacts of child removal continued well into adulthood and account for the high rates of youth and adult incarceration.

"When those young people come up and are adults, they don't know where to go, they don't know what to do, they don't know anything," she explained.

"They're totally unprepared, and family bonds have been broken. There's a need for that to stop, because if it doesn't, we're going to be totally messed up as a community."

As GMAR is a voluntary organisation, Fuller explained that donations are required to assist them to continue to advocate for Aboriginal families and children.

"A regular payment will help us be able to represent and help our people. Our aim is to have camps and to bring families together, those in the system and those outside," she said.

"We do what we can. We know how to work on a shoestring budget. We've done it as parents."

Fuller also had a message for the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, to resist the ongoing impacts of the child protection system.

"We are the original sovereigns of this country. That's a very powerful status, and our people need to remember that and come together and stand united," she said.

"As a community, as a people, we need to maintain our identity and that's what the government is trying to destroy under these child protection laws."

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Caring for Kooyang Country with ancient knowledge and science

By KEIRA JENKINS



BUDJ Bim is home to the oldest dated aquaculture system on earth.

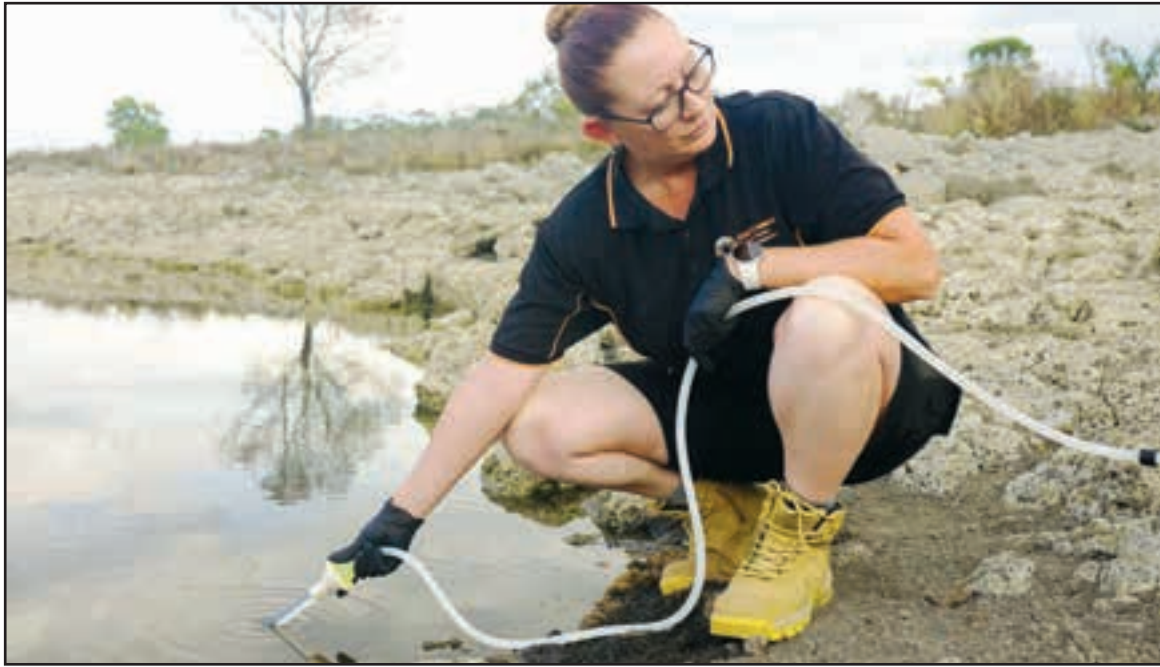
Comprised of channels, dams and weirs that control water flow, the aquaculture system has been used to contain floodwaters and trap, store and harvest eels for millennia.

The World Heritage-listed landscape in southwest Victoria has been cared for by Gunditjmara people for generations.

Now, traditional knowledge is being combined with western science to continue safeguarding the important cultural and environmental landscape at Budj Bim.

Traditional Owners are using environmental DNA sampling to map fish populations and track ecological changes in the waterways. The surveys have already detected 53 species.

"We are able to trace where the Kooyang (short-finned eel) are travelling through our system, identify key endangered species and invasive species that are



"It's our obligation to protect what our ancestors left for us," water officer Nicole Hudson says.

threatening our native cultural species," Gunitj Mirring Traditional Owner Corporation Aboriginal water officer Nicole Hudson said.

The technology, developed by EnviroDNA, takes a sample of particles left by living organisms in an ecosystem.

"We're able to pick up the presence of that DNA that's left behind and take it to our laboratory and assign that to different taxonomic groups to tell you what animals are absent or present," EnviroDNA chief executive Jim Stuart said.

Mr Stuart said the technology was a more powerful tool than observational techniques, as it provided definitive evidence on whether a particular species was present.

The technology enables users to hone in on just one species or

map the biodiversity of the entire ecosystem.

For Ms Hudson, being able to map the biodiversity at Budj Bim helps fulfil a cultural responsibility thousands of years old.

"It's our obligation to protect what our ancestors left for us," she said.

"They planted the seeds and paved the path for us to walk in harmony with Country.

"We read Country. It tells us what it needs, and when to step in to help it heal from pollution and unnatural changes.

"Our connection is ongoing. We'll always care for our Country."

EnviroDNA's technology has been employed in 25 projects involving 19 Traditional Owner groups across Victoria, NSW, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland.

The projects have already covered more than 21,000 square kilometres of land and sea, and Mr Stuart said it was hoped the program could be further expanded to become national.

"If we want to make lasting impact, we need to back Indigenous-led programs that are already working," he said.

— AAP

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Plan sets example in caring for Country

By KEIRA JENKINS



KAKADU National Park's natural and ecological diversity and cultural significance through archaeological sites make the World Heritage-listed area a special place.

For Bininj Munggyu Aboriginal Corporation founder James Morgan, Kakadu's uniqueness extends beyond the diversity of the bird life and other natural values.

"For me personally, it's special because of the continuing connection that Aboriginal people – the Bininj/Munggyu people – have in Kakadu and that has been scientifically established to be at least 65,000 years," he said.

But the same values for which the 20,000-square-kilometre national park in the Northern Territory has been World Heritage-listed, are under threat from invasive weeds, feral animals and fires, which impact the natural landscape and culturally significant sites.

Traditional Owners have worked with the Natural Environmental Science Program (NESP) and Parks Australia to develop the Kakadu Research Strategy, setting the agenda for research in the park to address some of these challenges.

"We know a lot about northern Australia from the more than 40 years of research done in Kakadu and there is a wealth of Bininj/Munggyu knowledge to help manage the park," the program's resilient landscapes hub leader and University of Western Australia professor Michael Douglas said.

"But responding to new threats, like invasive species and climate change needs new information, and that's where research is critical."

The 10-year strategy sets out how Traditional Owners want research to be done, their priorities, and expectations for researchers operating in Kakadu.

Kakadu Traditional Owner and NESP project leader Margaret Rawlinson said being involved in the development of the strategy was an empowering experience.

"We've worked really hard together to try and achieve this and it's actually really happening now," she said.



National Environmental Science Project researcher Mitch Cowan and Kakadu Traditional Owner Byron Cooper setting up a camera to monitor wildlife in Kakadu National Park, NT. (AAP Image)

"I talk to my mum and everyone on the community and they're really proud that this is happening, and we feel good."

Kakadu Traditional Owner and NESP project leader Victor Cooper said he's looking forward to working to protect Kakadu National Park for future generations.

"A lot of our team leaders, Bininj team leaders, are very proud of that because it all came from the people themselves and how they wanted it done," he said.

"There's guidelines and there's actions we need to follow now on how to make the park run better."

The Indigenous-led strategy outlines the use of 'two-way science', which draws on traditional and western knowledge systems, working with and involving the appropriate Bininj and Munggyu Traditional Owners and considering the local benefits including employment and training opportunities.

It is the first Indigenous-led research

strategy for Kakadu National Park, and is hoped to set a new standard for collaboration between Traditional Owners and scientists.

"The Kakadu Research Strategy ensures that by working in partnership with Traditional Owners, we achieve management outcomes that not only look after Country, but value Indigenous knowledge and culture," Environment Minister Murray Watt said.

– AAP

Elder jailed for abuse



A RESPECTED Indigenous Elder's "spectacular fall from grace" has culminated in a years-long jail term after he was convicted of abusing an underage umpire he mentored.

Robert "Locky" Eccles, 72, was found guilty by a jury in April of four child-abuse charges and handed a prison term of up to four years and eight months on Monday.

He mouthed "I'm alright" to four female supporters in court as he was handed his fate.

The Gunditjmarra Elder received a Senior Victorian of the Year award in 2021 for his "intergenerational leadership, sharing language, culture and his passion for sport with the community".

However, Minister for Ageing Ingrid Stitt had since revoked the award and requested he return his

trophy and certificate, the court was told.

Eccles founded the Gunditjmarra Aboriginal Co-operative and was appointed as an Elder to Koori court hearings in the county and magistrates courts in 2016.

He continued in the role until 2023, when he was charged.

Eccles was also called upon by private and government organisations to deliver programs and Welcome to Country ceremonies as an Elder, the court was told.

"Yours has been a spectacular fall from grace," Chief Judge Amanda Chambers said on Monday, 23 June.

Eccles was aged 59 and working as a senior umpire in regional Victoria when he started giving full body massages to a 15-year-old junior umpire in his garage in 2011.

He had mentored the teen through the local umpires

association and told him the massages were important for his performance as an umpire.

When the youth turned 16, the massages became sexual.

Eccles sexually offended against the teenager on two occasions in 2012 and warned him not to tell anyone.

The victim did not report the abuse until January 2023, when he informed his partner and police after Eccles texted him saying: "Hey mate, how are you going?"

Eccles' first trial, in October 2024, was abandoned after the judge discharged the jury as she found evidence adduced by the informant to be prejudicial.

His second trial resulted in a unanimous guilty verdict for four charges.

He was convicted of three counts of committing an indecent act on a child aged under 16 and one of sexual penetration of a 16 or 17-year-old child under his care.

The jury acquitted Eccles of another four charges of sexual penetration of a 16 or 17-year-old and one of committing an indecent act.

Judge Chambers took into account Eccles' previous good character, which was demonstrated through a number of references handed to the court.

He was a respected community member who had provided a significant contribution to Indigenous recognition and advancement, she added.

However, offending against a child he had mentored and encouraged was "appalling", particularly given the inherent power imbalance, Judge Chambers said.

The fact the offending happened in the privacy of Eccles' home, where the boy could not be protected, had amplified his vulnerability, she said.

"Your offending involved the breathtaking breach of the trust

that the association, the victim's parents and grandmother had placed in you," Judge Chambers said.

"What you did was so egregious that it is nonsensical to suggest you may not have fully appreciated the wrongfulness of your conduct."

She found Eccles' offending had left a "profound impact" on the life of his then-teenage victim.

"I often sit and reflect on what life could have been, but there is one thing for sure, I will never be the same again," the victim, who cannot be named, said in a statement.

Eccles, who continues to maintain his innocence, must spend a minimum of two years and 11 months in jail before he will be eligible for parole.

He has already served 67 days of this sentence and he will be registered as a serious sex offender for life.

– AAP



Celebrating NAIDOC Week

Big Backyard Quiz

12 July



Celebrating NAIDOC week

By JILLIAN MUNDY



With NAIDOC week falling in the school holidays across the continent, many students and educators are already celebrating, getting two weeks of NAIDOC celebrations.

At Elizabeth College* in Nipaluna/Hobart today there is a welcome to Country and smoking ceremony, guest Aboriginal singers, a big cultural cook up with wallaby pizzas cooked in the college's new pizza oven and kunzia and sassafras billy tea, the launch of an art exhibition inspired by this year's The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy NAIDOC theme, and students rolling up their sleeves to break down a wallaby.

"We'll show the hospitality and cookery students how to look after and respect the whole animal," explained Nerissa Fenton, an Aboriginal Educator who works across three schools.

"Everything from skinning it to the parts that were used by Aboriginal people for tools and resources - the students and teachers are pretty excited."

In other schools activities include murals being painted, roo patties being made, clap sticks and baskets being crafted and



Aboriginal staff and educators ready for early NAIDOC celebrations before the end of the school term, gravitating to the fire at Elizabeth College in Nipaluna/Hobart – Jahli Langford, Paul Mabb, Nerissa Fenton and Avery Thoen, who is holding ceramic test pieces featuring ochre in glaze – their pieces for the NAIDOC exhibition were still in the kiln the day the *Koori Mail* visited.

colouring-in competitions using resources from the official NAIDOC website.

"Schools are, I think, they're getting there, really on board," said Nerissa.

"NAIDOC in schools is an opportunity for celebration, inclusiveness and Truth Telling.

"The Aboriginal students in our schools can see themselves in their learning, and see themselves in this school.

"When I started 11 years ago it

was hard to just get a flag up a pole, God forbid if we ever lit a fire."

Fellow Aboriginal Educator of 15 years, Paul Mabb agrees. He used to push for NAIDOC week to be recognised, let alone celebrated. "Back then we'd probably go out and raise a flag, if that, if the schools had a flagpole, if they didn't we'd do nothing," he said.

"Now they all want a piece of us. It's good"

Nerissa describes the end of school NAIDOC week celebrations as 'a good exhausted'.

"Even if you've connected or educated just one student or teacher, you've done your job," she said.

Nerissa and Paul said only a decade ago many teachers were reluctant to include any Aboriginal curriculum, some students tried to hide their Aboriginality because of the stigma attached and there

were still books in school libraries saying there was no Tasmanian Aboriginals left (which they of course removed).

They both enjoy it when NAIDOC week falls in the school holidays – it is an opportunity to educate students in the final week of term, then celebrate with their community during NAIDOC week.

"It's nice, the students kind of have a taster before NAIDOC actually happens," explained Nerissa.

She has sent invitations to college staff and teachers to attend the big Aboriginal community flag raising at Piyura Kitina, returned Aboriginal land, just outside of Hobart on Monday 7th July.

"They get to know a bit of me, they get to know a bit about the [Aboriginal] community, and they might be able to use that in their teaching into the next terms."

*In Lutruwita/Tasmania year 11 and 12 is usually referred to as college, which until recently was separate from high schools. In an initiative to change the idea that education finishes in Year 10, in 2015 the Tasmanian government started including year 11 and 12 in public high schools. There are still eight stand-alone year 11 and 12 colleges in the state.

● Events around the country, next page.

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Celebrations of history, culture and achievements around the country



WITH the theme 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy', this year's National NAIDOC Week is being

celebrated across Australia in capital cities, regional cities, small towns and remote communities.

Nearly 200 events around Australia have been registered on the NAIDOC website.

The week, held generally in the first week of July each year, celebrates and recognises the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and celebrate the oldest, continuous living cultures in the world.

3 July - Central Goldfields, Maryborough, Victoria, the community is invited to a NAIDOC Celebration, 10am to 2pm, Maryborough Pony Club, featuring welcome to Country, smoking ceremony, performance by Jungle City Dance, giveaways and free BBQ lunch. For more information www.mdhs.vic.gov.au

6 July - Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney, NSW, is

opening up all their exhibitions and vessels for free, the day will begin with a smoking ceremony by Uncle Les, and will feature dance workshops with Bangarra Dance Company, a native plant workshop with Koori Kulcha and live music throughout the day.

Bookings essential visit www.sea.museum/tickets

7 July - Free screening of *Emu Runner*, Majestic Cinema, Port Macquarie, NSW, 5.45pm, light refreshments available, RSVP to veronic@buttery.org.au

9 July - 'Doing it Right: Respectful Brand Alignment with First Nations Arts', free webinar, 11am-12pm, led by Indigenous lawyer Dr Terri Janke, register with events.teams.microsoft.com

10 July - Free screening of *Emu Runner*, Star Court Cinema, Lismore, NSW 6pm, Transport is available for Elders, RSVP to info@buttery.org.au

10 July - NAIDOC in the City, Sydney Town Hall, 2.30pm -8pm (markets), 7pm -10.30pm (live concert), free, concert features 3%, Becca Hatch, Bluetongue, TOAH, Jem Cassar-Daley, Mi-kaisha, MINTY and Yung Brother. For more

information visit www.sydneynaidoc.com.au

11 July - Koorie Heritage Trust NAIDOC Week Market, 1pm to 6pm, a day of free community celebrations. The market coincides with the NAIDOC in the City free concert, presented by City of Melbourne, to be held at Federation Square in Melbourne in Victoria at the conclusion of the annual NAIDOC Week march from the steps of Parliament House.

The week will also feature two exhibitions by Uncle Colin Clark and Dr Jenny Murray-Jones and free workshops. For more information go to www.kht.org.au

12 July - Indigenous All Stahz Ball, The Imperial Hotel Basement, Sydney, NSW, Father Kai Brown and Gusta Silky present a showcase of the creativity of Black LGBTI and Brotherboy Mob, free entry for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples, 2pm to 7pm. For more information contact Kai Brown on kaiwarrclancy@gmail.com

● For a comprehensive list of NAIDOC events in every State and Territory go to www.naidoc.org.au/events for nearly 200 events on offer.



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Playgroup reimaged: Elders and children connect at aged-care home



A UNIQUE playgroup at Adelaide's only First Nations aged care home is fostering meaningful connection between

Elders and local children, celebrating the world's oldest continuous culture in a setting filled with laughter, language and cultural learning.

More than just play, the Marra Elders Playgroup is where Dreaming stories are passed on, language is heard, and the deep role of Elders in teaching and guiding is honoured.

Every fortnight, Elders from the Aboriginal Elders Village, operated by Aboriginal Community Services (ACS) in Davoren Park, are joined by local children aged 0 to five-years-old and their carers.

It's the only playgroup in South Australia hosted in a First Nations-specific aged care home and offers a rare opportunity for children to learn directly from cultural custodians, fostering respect, identity and belonging from an early age.

The Marra Elders Playgroup was established as part of an intergenerational collaboration between ACS, Playgroup SA and Marra Dreaming – a cultural community centre in Salisbury.



Marra Elders Playgroup – Aboriginal Elders Village.

Launched during Reconciliation Week, the playgroup includes a program of painting, cooking damper, storytelling, singing in Aboriginal languages, and weaving.

ACS CEO Graham Aitken said the unique program fostered cultural continuation, storytelling, connection to Country, and keeping

traditions alive through the voices of Elders.

"For our Elders, this exciting new program brings joy, purpose and connection, reducing isolation and celebrating their vital role in raising strong, culturally connected children.

"This is a true community

approach – where young and old come together to support one another, learn from each other and build strong, inclusive communities.

"We hope this model inspires more culturally rich, intergenerational programs across South Australia and beyond."

Playgroup SA CEO Craig

Bradbrook said Playgroup SA was honoured to partner with Marra Dreaming and ACS to help connect community through the Marra Elders Playgroup, which reflected the true spirit of Intergenerational playgroups.

"At Marra Elders playgroup, cultural identity, intergenerational connection, and belonging are nurtured through shared experience," Mr Bradbrook said.

"Children and families benefit deeply from the presence of Elders, whose wisdom, stories, and language are central to every gathering."

Marra Dreaming Manager and founding member Raylene Snow said the Marra Elders Playgroup was a special space where culture, care and connection thrived across generations.

"Through this program, the children can gain a deep sense of identity and belonging when they engage directly with Elders, and their parents and carers can also connect and share stories with the broader community," Mrs Snow said.

"The Elders take on the valued role of passing down culture, language, and stories, creating meaningful everyday connections with younger generations and a sense of belonging and inclusion through shared tradition."



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25PNIDXC1080

Young leaders visit NSW Parliament



THE Parliament of NSW welcomed 20 young Aboriginal leaders (aged 18–25) for its Young Aboriginal Leaders Program as part of the Bicentenary of the Legislative Council celebrations.

The four-day initiative held recently was designed to empower and further inspire the next generation of Aboriginal leaders across NSW.

Selected after a state-wide call for applications, each participant arrived in Sydney on Gadigal land having travelled from across NSW — from Narrandera to Dubbo, Grafton, the Blue Mountains, Eden, Kiama, Newcastle, and from across Greater Sydney.

President of the Legislative Council Ben Franklin said the young participants demonstrated passion, resilience, curiosity, and a deep commitment to their communities.

"Having already demonstrated significant leadership in their communities, these twenty Young Aboriginal Leaders came to NSW Parliament ready to share their stories, connect with each other and learn from the experience," Mr Franklin said.

Participants were welcomed by the Parliament's Aboriginal Engagement team, led by Joe Stewart and Damon Goolagong and after touring the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly chambers, learned about parliamentary processes, ways to participate in our democracy and the purpose of parliamentary inquiries.

They also met with NSW Premier Chris Minns MP.

The program provided an opportunity for the participants to meet and learn from other Aboriginal leaders who shared wisdom and modelled the resilience and innovation at the



The young leaders with premier Chris Minns and president Ben Franklin in the Legislative Assembly chamber.

heart of Aboriginal leadership in this country.

From Professor Jack Beeton, the Managing Director of Literacy for Life, to Deputy Secretary at Aboriginal Affairs, Shane Hamilton, and National Institute of Dramatic Art's Director of First Nations and Outreach, Travis Cardona — these leaders shared powerful insights into their careers, candid reflections on the challenges they have faced and how they lead with purpose and pride.

Program highlights also included time spent on Country with the La Perouse Aboriginal community, a private tour of the Gweagal spears at the Chau Chak Wing Museum and a meal shared with iconic Australian Indigenous Chef, Mark Olive.

The culmination of the project saw all participants deliver inspiring speeches in the Legislative Council chamber on an issue important to them and future projects they have planned for their communities.

These speeches were recorded and are being shared with all Members of the NSW Parliament.

Eliza Darney from Tamworth said the week made her feel 'strong and grounded'.

"I've always struggled with confidence within my own identity, but this program helped me grow as an individual and become more confident in who I am," Darney said.

The highlight for Eliza was the Using Your Voice workshop with Natasha McNamara

from NIDA.

"She taught us how to ground ourselves and speak with purpose."

Malek Lyons from Narrandera said in some ways it was 'uncomfortable walking into NSW Parliament, but it's powerful'.

"I've never been so interested or engaged in learning about the politics of Australia as I have over the last few days," Malek said.

"I've learnt a lot from the program and from the other participants, and I leave with an understanding of how I can better advocate for our people. I've never had so much fire in me to get home and just rip in."

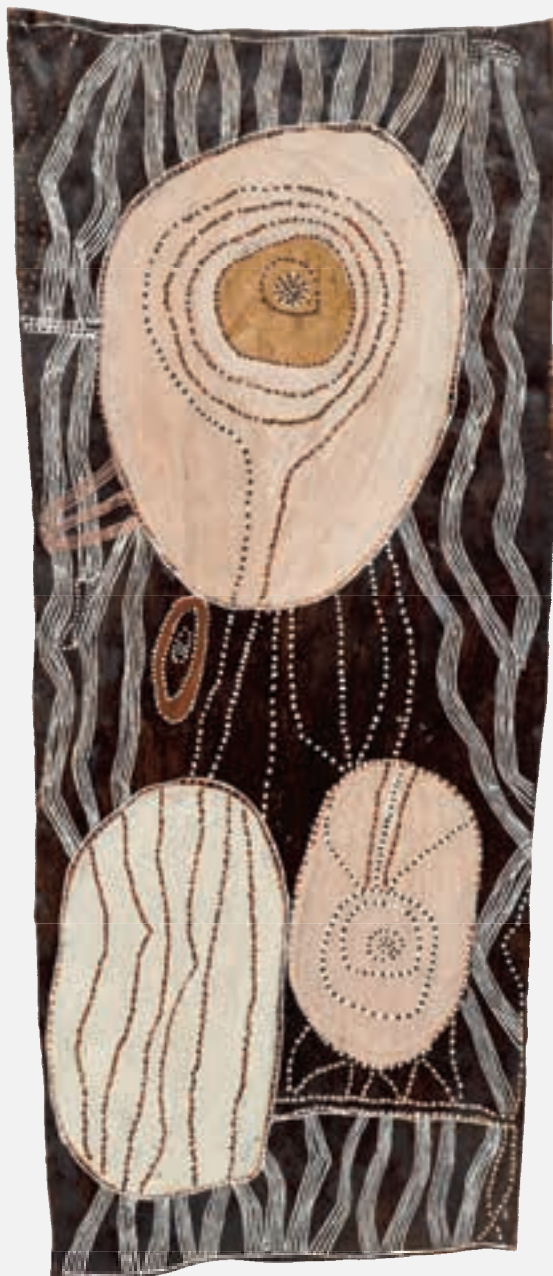
Jai McEwen from Hamlin Terrace on the Central Coast of NSW said the initiative gave 'us the space to connect with each other and work on relationships'.

"The relationships we've built over the last four days are going to last for the rest of our lives," Jai said.

President Franklin said it was powerful when 'experience meets aspiration'.

"I have no doubt the conversations, connections, and confidence the participants built during the Young Aboriginal Leaders Program will echo far beyond these walls," Mr Franklin said.

The 20 youth delegates also included: Benjamin Harris from Lake Cargelligo, Dre Wicks from Eden, Mea-mai Stanbury from Katoomba, Brittney Lavis from Grafton, Braden Lyons from Narrandera, Stevie Carr from Dubbo, Axel Wellings from Goulburn, Sebastian Kelly-Toiava from Macquarie Fields, Jayden Kitchener-Waters from Merewether, Arabella Flowers from Newtown, Billi Moss from Redfern, Iyesha Roberts from Collombatti, Taylor-Lee Byrne from Lake Illawarra, Sam Russell from Dungog, Lachlan Sibir from Kings Langley, Jacob Smeaton from Hamlyn Terrace, and Illarrah Roberts from Ballina.



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Nonggirra Marawili Baradjala – lightning and the rock 2018, Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased with funds provided by the Aboriginal Art Collection Benefactors tour to Arrnhem Land 2018 © Estate of Nonggirra Marawili, Buku-Larrgajay Mulka Centre, Yirrkala

Walking for treaty and truth

By PAUL CONNELLY



THE Yoorrook Justice Commission was first proposed by the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria in 2020, and now after four years of hearings and submissions, and engagements with First Nations people across Victoria, the Yoorrook Justice Commission has finalised their report and recommendations. They were to be tabled in the Victorian Parliament on 30 June. The word Yoorrook is a Wemba Wemba word, simply means Truth.

For commissioner and deputy co-chair Travis Lovett, a Gunditjmara man, this journey was not complete, and he and his wife decided to honour all those who had testified or made submissions by undertaking a walk from Portland, the place where settlers and colonialists first came ashore, to the steps of parliament to deliver message sticks from his people, and from other Mob as he passed through their lands, thus bringing attention to the completed work of the commission.

"I told my wife I was going to walk from Portland to Parliament, and she said 'really?' and I said, yes, and she said really, really? and I said yes, yes, and she said, 'ok, let's do it'."

The walk included such places and towns as Lake Condah, Budj Bim, Tae Rak, Framlingham, Tyrendarra, Port Fairy, Warrnambool, Camperdown, Colac, Birregurra, Geelong, Footscray and Melbourne at Camp Sovereignty.

First and foremost was approaching clans along the planned route, seeking permission to pass through and stand upon their Country. Next was organising a support crew and ensuring everyone's safety. This was undertaken by First Nations Traffic Control and Deadly Sports Plus First Aid, combined with many volunteers from Melbourne University, assisting with logistics and marshalling.

The first leg of the walk saw over 400 people join Travis from the foreshore to the convincing ground, where whalers massacred men, women and children in a dispute over a beached whale. but by the time they departed Kings Domain in Naarm

(Melbourne), for the final walk to parliament, it was announced 5,000 people had registered for the final leg. Once they reached the steps at Spring Street, the police estimated the crowd size at 14,000, and by the time Travis had completed his speech, the First Nations Traffic Management called out over the radios that another 500 people were just leaving Kings Domain.

"When I first envisioned this walk, I thought it would just be me and my wife, but then people joined in the walk, more than we ever thought. This is a testament to many people here today. We have always asked and advocated for people to walk with us. I want to give you all a round of applause for turning up here today, because you are walking to elevate the lived experiences of our people, and we have documented the true history of what has happened in the state of Victoria. 25 days ago, I left my homeland of Gunditjmara Country, at a place recently named Portland, with a small group of companions, I had the sea one side, and Country on the other, Aboriginal land and Aboriginal water. The first step was taken with the weight of history pressing through the soles of my shoes, and the voices of my people whispering, urging me forward. We began at the place where the first wound was struck into the earth, where footsteps came ashore, not as visitors, but as claimants, where the smoke of long burning fires was ignored, and where our presence was declared absence.

"We began where truths were first buried and are now being unearthed. This was where the lie of emptiness took root, a lie which was signed into law, written into schoolbooks, and this city, but it was never true."

One of those people listening on the steps at Spring Street, was Uncle Andrew James Lovell, a Narungga man.

"I testified at the commission about being removed from my parents at a very young age, made a ward of the state for 15 years and found myself being moved between, Victoria, South Australia, and one-time New South Wales. This shaped my life and this, combined with the abuse, caused the trauma I carry to this day. Testifying at the Yoorrook Truth Telling Commission, and participating



The gathering at Colac, Victoria. Pictures by Paul Connelly and Cam Matheson.



First Peoples Assembly co-chair Ruben Berg.



Travis Lovett and Andrew James Lovell.



A sunset smoking ceremony at Camp Sovereignty in Naarm (Melbourne).

in the walks, showed that I was never alone, and through this process I made many new friends and found healing. I was especially touched when Travis came to me and said he had organised for me to be among those invited into the Victorian Parliament to watch him and Elders present their message sticks to the premier.

After a smoking ceremony, Travis Lovett addressed the gathered crowd.

The First Peoples Assembly of Victoria will now take the lead in holding the government to account on these findings and recommendations!

Assembly co-chair and Gunditjmara man Rueben Berg thanked Travis for undertaking the walk and delivering the messages sticks and said that this is their aim as the path to Treaty unfolds as to the findings and recommendations of the

Yoorrook Truth Telling Commission.

"We are currently negotiating the first statewide Treaty with the Victorian Government. Part of these negotiations have focused on the role the assembly will play in making sure our people can continue to have our truths heard, recorded and shared beyond Yoorrook.

"We look forward to receiving Yoorrook's final report and keeping government accountable to its recommendations"

Peter Sharp, one of the great grandsons of Alfred Deakin, who as the the Chief Secretary of Victoria at the time, signed off on the Aboriginal Protection Act, and eventually the White Australia Policy Peter gave an address about his submission to the commission at the NIKERI Indigenous Education Institute at Deakin University in Geelong

telling those gathered:

"About 35 years ago, at the Port Fairy Folk Festival, that I went to hear a singer I had never heard of, and it was a life-changing event. The singer's name was Archie Roach.

"It came as a shock to learn that the attempted elimination [of First Nations peoples] continued after frontier violence diminished and I say 'diminished' because it really probably hasn't ended, however, it was a greater shock when I stumbled on the evidence that indicated that a member of my own family had enabled the attempted elimination to be put into law."

"What has to be understood, is that my great grandfather's work and legacy was not one of mistaken policy, or of good intention policy gone wrong, but a deliberate policy to eradicate Aboriginal culture, of what he referred to as a dying breed!"



A panorama shot at Kings Domain.



Travis and Auntie Eleanor Bourke on the steps of Parliament celebrating the end of the walk.



Tae-Rak-smoking ceremony.



Killarney Beach gathering.



Walking in the rain to Tyrendarra.



Peter Sharp, great grandson of former Prime Minister Alfred Deakin.



Travis Lovett and Family arriving at the steps of Parliament.



Uncle Norm Eccles, Wudawurrung Elder, handing over his Mob's message stick to Victorian premier Jacinta Allen.



The Framlingham walk.



Group photo with Travis Lovett and Professor Eleanor Bourke and Elders who presented their message sticks to Premier Jacinta Allen.

Sharing the stage with Peter at NIKERI was Corinne Eccles, a proud Wadawurrung woman who speaking post event Corinne said, "The walk itself held a special significance for our family, with my father, Uncle Norm Eccles, a Wadawurrung Elder, and stolen generation survivor, walking with Trav, at his age, he felt like Trav cared. My dad is 77 and I was so proud when he completed 12.5 kms on Wadawurrung Country sections of the walk, and personally handed our Mob's message stick to the Premier"

First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria Co-Chair and Gunditjmara man Rueben Berg said, "We

congratulate Commissioner Travis Lovett for leading the Walk for Truth and to all Community members and allies who joined along the way. For the past four years Yoorrook has not only led truth-telling across this state, but it has also played a pivotal role in a process of healing. This would not have been possible without the courage and resistance of our peoples who shared their life experiences with Yoorrook, thank you to everyone who provided evidence."

We finish this walk with the words of the Chair of Yoorrook, Professor Eleanor Bourke AM who said, "It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to lead

the Yoorrook Justice Commission over the past four years. I am extremely proud of what Yoorrook has achieved, from the depth of evidence gathered across the state to creating a safe space for First Peoples to share their truth."

Yoorrook's final report makes 100 recommendations for change based on the lived experience of First Peoples and other Victorians. This will be tabled in parliament on the 30th of June.

If you wish to view the available testimony and other Yoorrook Commission statements and submissions, head to their webpage at <https://www.yoorrook.org.au/>



The walk along the Geelong foreshore.

Footy fans travel for days up north



GETTING to the footy is no easy thing when you live in remote communities in northern Queensland. But that didn't stop the hundreds who travelled for up to eight hours to enjoy the start of the Queensland Rugby League's

South Cape Cluster competition kicking off on 14 June at Hope Vale. *Koori Mail* correspondent CHRISTINE HOWES made the road trip from Cairns to Hope Vale for the football, and also stopped at a few other places along the way. Here are some social photos from the football. For more coverage, see sports section.



Lockhart River and Hope Vale families enjoying round one of the QRL's Southern Cape Cluster footy comp.



Hope Vale's Woibo family enjoying the first round of the QRL's Southern Cape Cluster footy comp.



Hegamaea-Ryder families from Cooktown.



Alerah Ross, Vonetta Ware, Thea Woibo, Barry Woibo (6) and Evelyn Woibo.



Hope Vale's keenest footy supporters.



Three young women – the Gibson crew – from Hope Vale enjoying supporting their team.



Romena Edwards, Gavin Kendall and Colt Kendall (9).



Toby Pensio and Wendell Bowen.



Scorers Tykeerah Cobus and Alice-Lee Walker.



Hope Vale family on the field to support their Hope Vale Warriors team.



Thomas Yougie, Thaarrah Deemal, Cindy Bowen and Jason Ware.



Hope Vale's oldest matriarch Ella Woibo (92) and her family.



Shonaycie Gray and Leearna Bowen.



Hope Vale's Gibson family making good use of their family vehicle at the first round of the QRL's Southern Cape Cluster footy comp.



McGreen family from Hope Vale.



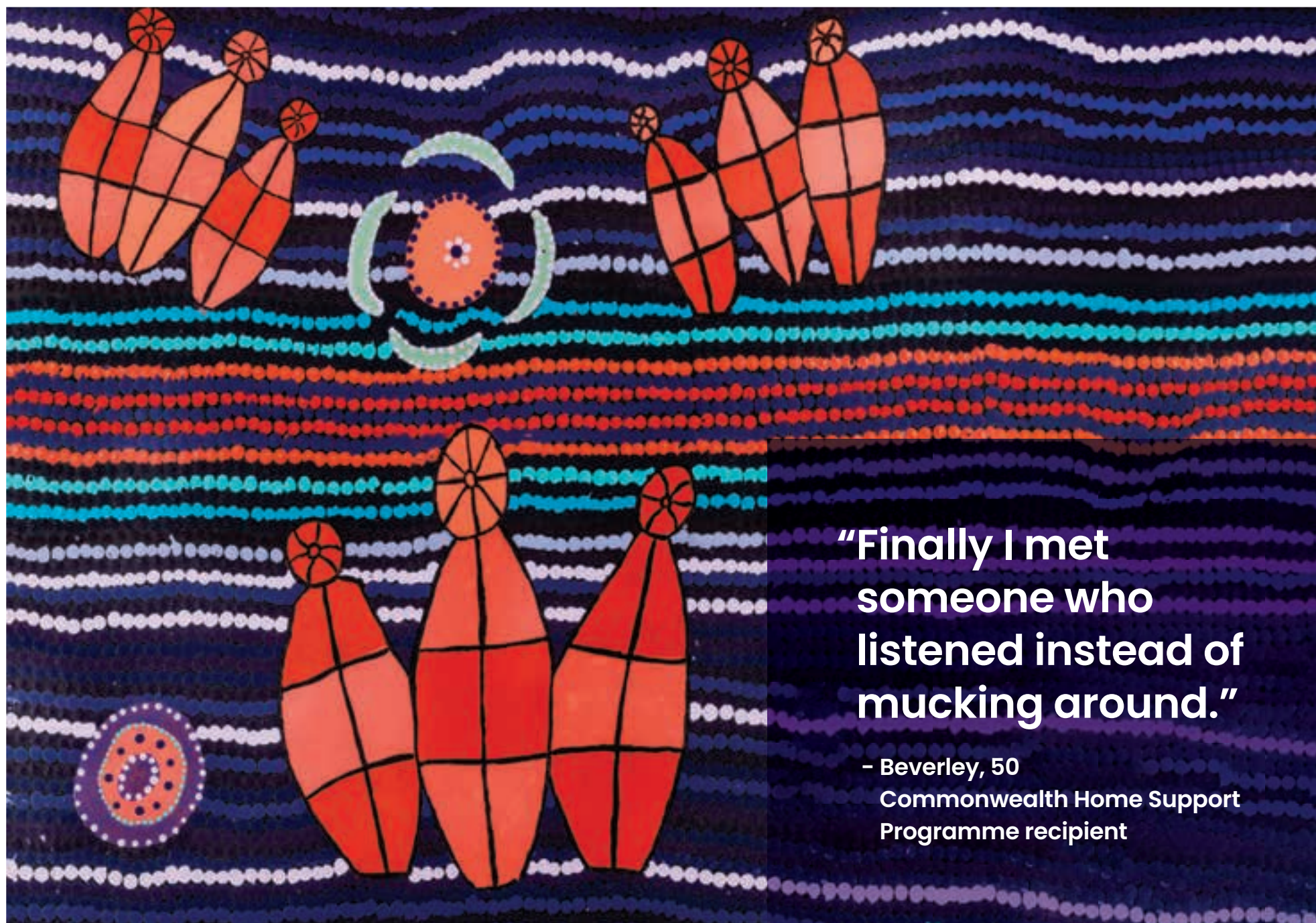
Jedda Aitken and Lillian Hart.



Pormpuraaw Croc supporters enjoying their day in Hope Vale for round one of the QRL's Southern Cape Cluster.



Hopevale Warriors team supporters and families.



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

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

Artwork by: Dr Mick Adams

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Jerrinja LALC's campaign to save the Huskisson Burial Ground/former Huskisson Church. *Picture: Supplied*

Battle to protect cultural heritage

By MARION WILLIAMS



FOR years Aboriginal people on NSW's South Coast have been battling against the destruction of their cultural heritage and Country's ecological values by unwanted development.

The land there is highly sought after by developers. The developers are masters at exploiting weaknesses and loopholes in the numerous pieces of federal, state and local government regulation and legislation that are supposed to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage. That includes culturally significant artefacts and sites, and the plants and wildlife living there.

CEO of Jerrinja Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) Alfred Wellington sums up the problem: NSW is the only jurisdiction in Australia without standalone Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation.

Jerrinja LALC has a long history of campaigning against developments that threaten the cultural landscape, including its ecological values. This has included five applications in the last five years for federal protection of sites under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act. Some of the developments are on land adjoining Jervis Bay National Park or threaten Lake Wollumboola which is very significant to the Jerrinja people.

For thousands of years, it has sustained them with food and other resources. As an intermittently closing and opening lake system it has unique ecological values and is habitat for migratory seabirds. When the lake was closed, the Jerrinja people used it as a shortcut to access other places of significance in the cultural landscape.

"It is understandable that developers would not see things the way we see them," Jerrinja



A drone photo of the area under threat by the West Culburra development. It proposes a 300-lot mixed-use subdivision on native forest with close to 80-year-old growth in one of the pockets of the Shoalhaven untouched by the 2019/20 bushfires. *Picture: Supplied.*

man Mr Wellington said. "We have that connection with the land and see that cultural landscape."

Initially, bodies such as the local council and the Independent Planning Commission have sided with Jerrinja LALC and other community organisations against the proposed developments.

The developers invariably then do deals behind closed doors, appeal to other bodies like the Land and Environment Court or gain federal approval under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, albeit with conditions such as having to buy or retire biodiversity credits.

"When they can't get their way, they resort to legal threats," Mr Wellington said. "We got a legal threat to cease and desist."

Mr Wellington said standalone Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation has been drafted and would like to know what is preventing it from going anywhere. He would like the legislation to be discussed with all Aboriginal bodies and with the LALCs because they deal with all the development applications and heritage assessments.

Jerrinja LALC is fed up spending so much time and energy fighting unwanted developments.

"Even if it is lawful, does not mean it is moral," Mr Wellington

said. "These systems and structures are racially discriminatory."

"What we are fighting for is the protection and preservation of the unique cultural heritage and ecological values that are intrinsically linked to the health of our people and the broader community, and for future generations to experience, enjoy and take on custodian roles."

In response to requests for comment from the offices of NSW Minister for the Environment Penny Sharpe and NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty David Harris, a government spokesperson said the NSW Government has committed to deliver standalone Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation.

"In 2024, the government undertook targeted consultation with Aboriginal peak bodies and industry groups to understand their aspirations for Aboriginal cultural heritage reforms," a government spokesperson said. "The government is considering feedback from the consultations."

Mr Wellington hopes for change but is mindful that standalone cultural heritage legislation has been proposed by successive state governments since 2010. There have been numerous consultations, working papers and exposure drafts of Bills that have not resulted in the reforms that are urgently needed.

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Danny Eastwood's view



Protecting children

Australia's leading First Nations child advocates are calling on federal and state governments to step up and protect children and young people's human rights at a national youth justice conference in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) recently.

Members of the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners Guardians and Advocates First Nations Caucus are collectively urging governments to finally listen, act, and uphold the rights of the children and young people they are obligated to protect.

Across the country, we are witnessing a disturbing erosion of hard-won safeguards – protections grounded in international law – that intended to shield Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from institutional harm.

Regressive reforms that lower the age of criminal responsibility, increase the likelihood of children being imprisoned and reduce access to diversionary alternatives not only breach children's rights, but undermine government commitments to Closing the Gap.

The evidence is unambiguous: the earlier a child is drawn into the justice system, the more likely they are to be criminalised for life.

The current punitive approach does not rehabilitate – it retraumatises. The cost is borne not only by these children, but by communities already stretched by intergenerational injustice.

Australian Governments are legally bound to uphold and protect the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children through their ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and other international instruments.

These are not symbolic gestures.

They are binding commitments. And yet, those commitments ring hollow when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are left behind or locked away.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities continue to contribute to numerous Royal Commissions, inquiries and reports that make tangible recommendations for change.

Governments across the country must work with communities and leaders alike to implement outstanding recommendations to achieve meaningful outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Our children cannot wait any longer!

First Nations members call on the Australian government to take immediate action and ensure states and territories are held to account to their commitments to national agreements and implement the recommendations made in Help Way Earlier including:

- Urgently establishing a Minister for Children;
- Protecting children's rights by incorporating the UNCRC into domestic law in Australia through a National Children's Act as well as a Federal Human Rights Act; and
- Establishing a Ministerial Council for Child Wellbeing.

This statement is endorsed by the following First Nation advocates:

Shaleena Musk, Children's Commissioner (NT); Shona Reid, Guardian for Children and Young People; Jacqueline McGowan-Jone, Commissioner for Children and Young People; Meena Singh, Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People (VIC); Natalie Lewis, Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner (QLD); Lil Gordon, Acting National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People (Australia).

Quote



'We began where truths were first buried and are now being unearthed. This was where the lie of emptiness took root, a lie which was signed into law, written into schoolbooks, and this city, but it was never true.'

– Travis Travis Lovett, a Gunditjmara man, about his treaty walk.

● See page 14-15

Unquote

What's left for the next generation

As we approach National NAIDOC Week, with the theme 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy' made me wonder what world view our next generations are going to inhabit?

What sort of Australia are they going to experience when they live through the 2030s, 2040s and even the 2050s?

This will be a world when many of our holders of cultural knowledge, the fluent language speakers, the veterans from the Aboriginal rights movements, and the custodians of songlines will have passed away, reuniting with the ancestors in the spirit world.

As the modern world moves more and more away from face-to-face human interaction, it is my hope the younger generations are able to navigate the fast evolving technological ways of communicating and incorporate, in a respectful way, the ancient stories and 'connections to Country' of their ancestors.

As a father of a five-year-old son, Jordan Jurra Jandamarra, what sort of world do I want him to experience in the future?

Aside from the basics of living in a wealthy Western First World country (things many Australians take for granted and not always available in remote communities) – safe drinking water from the tap, healthy affordable food, stable and secure housing, a good education and health services when he needs them – I wonder what type of Australian society he is growing up in.

Well, I want him to know all about his Mob in far north Queensland and the large extended families he is a part of.

I want him to know the Country of his ancestors – the Wadjanbarra and



OUR SAY

Bundebarra clans of the Yidinji Nation, based on the Atherton Tablelands, near Cairns. I want him to know his responsibilities as a Traditional Owner and care for his Country, especially places such as Lake Eacham and Lake Barrine.

I want him to grow up in a country where racism and discrimination is considered outdated and out of touch.

My dream is that Australia has a major rethink about its histories, its location in the Asia/Pacific region and its ties to the British monarchy.

My wishlist would be the following: A republic with an Australian head of state, a new national anthem that can be sung in English and First Nation language, a new flag, a national Treaty framework for all language groups in all regions, the actual implementation of the 339 recommendations of Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, and the development of an organised First Nations middle class to be more effective politically.

Finally, I would like to live in a country where people find it difficult or unsavoury to manufacture First Nation identities, become an 'expert', and then influence debates based on little or no lived experience.

When my son gets older I will read this to him, and explain the context.

– TODD JIGARRU CONDIE

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

Ruth responds to the call to protect Country

By JILLIAN MUNDY



"WHEN my mama called me – I said I'm coming Mum." Ruth Tipruthanna Langford is referring to Mother

Earth. Whether physically putting her body on the line to delay the felling of a single tree by a single day, pushing to challenge the highest court on the continent to recognise law in Country or going to jail, she is there.

"We are in desperate times for our whole planet," the Yorta Yorta and Dja Dja Wurrung woman from Lutruwita/Tasmania told the *Koori Mail*.

"The fact that the Australian government can approve Woodside gas expansion in a state of such climate emergency, tells us that it is beholden on people to resist at every turn.

"We have to get mobilised, we cannot wait for the government to find a solution out of this, we have to step up, just like our old people have done at different times.

"The wider community have inherited a concept that the government will save them and look after them, from that Western perspective, there was feudal overlords, then the church, now the government, but we understand that it's got to be up to the individuals.

"We've got to remember that many drops of water, create the river, create the ocean.

"I really believe Mother Earth is calling all of her children right now, we all feel it, the colonial construct tells us that it's too hard – it's not, there are millions of people on this planet right now, they're stepping up, and we can join them."

For anyone that knows Ruth her declaration of and call to action, and her passion is not surprising.

Ruth came to be born and raised in Lutruwita after her father, who she says by all accounts was a suave white fella in a flash car back in the day, swept her mother off her feet when he rocked up to a place called the box yards on the Murray River where she was living.

They soon moved back to his home state and started a family.

Born in 1970, activism has always been part of Ruth's life.

"Mum had been working with her uncle, Sir Douglas Nichols, and dad was a member of the communist party.

"Every day was charged in our home, with a passion for human rights, land rights," she explained.

"I can't remember a



Ruth Tipruthanna Langford.

separation in the conversation between land rights and human rights, they were one thing, we may have said those differently but it was one thing.

"It was always around the rights of the land, our obligation to care and protect that land, reclaiming it from the extractive colonisers."

Ruth speaks proudly of her mother, the late Ros Langford, who despite being unable to swim, was the first Aboriginal woman to be arrested on the Franklin River in the iconic 1982 protests.

"She was so moved to protect that Country and protect cultural rights that she put herself in that danger.

"When I grew up, I didn't understand, around Yorta Yorta Country, Palawa Country, I grew up thinking it was all our Country, it was all Aboriginal land, we all have to protect this land."

By the time Ruth was in her early twenties language around cultural identity was changing.

A prominent member of the Aboriginal community in Lutruwita, there was a time, while not shying away from her Yorta Yorta and Dja Dja Wurrung bloodlines, Ruth referred to herself as Palawa, meaning Black person in one of the islands original languages. Later on some people pulled her up.

"Colonisation has taken away those protocols to bring us in to community.

"I'm having those conversations with Elders in the community, how do we get placed in this community that

recognises we do have cultural obligations to the community, but we don't have that ancestral connection here, but we are part of this community."

While words may shift, Ruth's dedication to her cultural obligations and lifelong learning about First Nations cultures and philosophies have not.

As a young adult volunteering with a surgical eye expedition on the Solomon Islands, and staying on with the villagers, Ruth not only learnt about their customs, laws and connections, but about the destruction by miners, loggers and land clearing for palm oil production, and the environmental and social destruction by western mining companies in West Papua and Papua New Guinea.

"It was really formative in my understanding that what we were experiencing back home, the colonisation, it was happening across the planet and predominantly, it's First Nations continuing to be impacted.

"It shook me to my core, I wanted to orientate myself to protect Country, because the law is in Country and our culture is dependent on Country."

She went on to join Palawa activist, close friend and mentor Uncle Jim Everett Puralia Meenamatta and Greens politician Peg Putt in exposing lies of the Tasmanian forest industry to Japanese customers, contributing to disrupting the market and the collapse of the proposed Gunns Pulp Mill, a major player in the destruction of old-growth forests.

Over the years Ruth has travelled to, and accepted and created opportunities, to listen and learn from First Nations Elders, including Māori in Aotearoa/New Zealand, Ainu in Japan, Adivasi in India and several nations in Turtle Island/North America and so-called Australia.

Driven by this knowledge, and her own life and upbringing, Ruth has amongst other things run on-Country healing retreats, worked with survivors of domestic violence and founded the Nayri Niara Festival, inviting senior people from different First Nations to Lutruwita, sharing ceremonies, knowledge and friendship.

Last year, with Uncle Jim, Ruth attended the Forest Economics Congress – an initiative by artist and activist Kirsha Kaechele (one half of the duo behind MONA) which bought people from the forestry industry, economists, scientists, First Nations and conservationists into the same room to consider the varied values of forests – locally and globally.

Ruth realised she had been lulled into believing clear felling of old-growth forests in Lutruwita was being phased out under the 1997 Regional Forestry Agreement.

"I realised how little of our old-growth forest we have left, I got out of there and thought my number-one priority needs to be we're stopping this today, this is f...ing insane."

She has stood along Uncle Jim, answering his call, peacefully protesting logging of

native forests, campaigning to defend law in Country and challenging colonial courts.

So far this year, Ruth has been arrested twice for protecting forests marked for logging.

It puts her in the colonial court system to provoke a response to her stating she is obligated to adhere to law in Country and protect the very things that give us life.

Her requests for the trespass charges to be adjourned have been met, the second one just last week.

"I want to gather my team to have this conversation, which will be an international human rights lawyer, people who understand the first law in this Country and Aboriginal Lore, historians, Aboriginal people, and people who understand constitutional law.

"There has been no agreement for us to extinguish our law [in Country], it still exists, so everybody is obligated to that law.

"I'm prepared to go to jail on this.

"There's two pathways that we can take – the colonising construct, which is materialism, extraction, patriarchy and [flexing] power.

"Or a First Peoples way of knowing and being, which is about how we relate, generosity and being responsible, protecting and being in an honourable relationships with the very things that give us life – the water, the forest, our extended community in kinship.

"I think we are nearly there, I can feel it."

Still fighting



First day of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy outside Parliament House in Canberra on 17 January 1972. Left to right: Billy Craigie, Bert Williams, Ghillar Michael Anderson and Tony Coorey. Image courtesy The Tribune

Not many people know that 70 per cent of Australia is legally First Nation. We all know that the High Court Mabo decision ended the notion of 'terra nullius', land belonging to no-one, so that First Nations own all of the Australian land mass and adjacent islands.

Under the occupying colonial regime, however, acceptance of this fact is a hard-fought struggle, still in process.

Nevertheless substantial gains are being made on paper, but in reality self-determination and self-governance of the lands is elusive.

Are you aware that the Indigenous Estate is made up of a hidden fact?

First Nations Peoples have a legal interest in over 70% of Australia's landmass.

How is this possible you may ask? In short, I will describe how this was achieved.

Office of Aboriginal Affairs

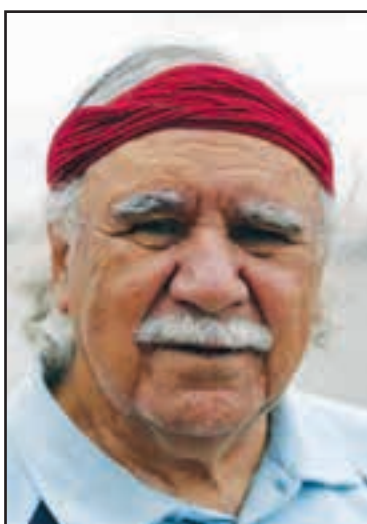
Beginning in 1969 the Commonwealth Government set about addressing the needs of Aboriginal Peoples, while maintaining a commitment to absolute assimilation.

The Commonwealth process was to establish the OAA, the Office of Aboriginal Affairs. This Office was on the first floor of the Commonwealth Bank in Civic, Canberra.

The officers appointed, who are now passed, were Dr HC 'Nugget' Coombs, Bill Stanner, anthropologist, Barry Dexter, former Australian Ambassador to Laos, Jeremy Long, former Northern Territory Patrol Officer, and his boss Frank Moy, who was the last Protector of Aborigines in the Northern Territory.

Charles Perkins was the Research Officer at the OAA.

Reg Saunders and Margaret



GHILLAR MICHAEL ANDERSON

Lawrie were the Aboriginal Liaison Officers.

Under this OAA the Commonwealth provided money in the form of a land acquisition fund which Nugget Coombs and the OAA authorities controlled.

History shows that the Liberal McMahon government, after 1972, began buying land in the Northern Territory for Aboriginal people. These purchased lands were then leased to a corporation made up of clan owners.

White managers were engaged to run these pastoral companies, without the consent from the clans.

The details of these lands, their management and their profits are unknown to the public, with all the knowledge being controlled by government agencies.

Significant lands and properties were bought with this land purchase program, consisting of very large cattle properties in the Gulf area of Queensland, Western Australia, and South Australia, where the OAA argued the 'real' Aborigines live according to their

'We all know that the High Court Mabo decision ended the notion of terra nullius, land belonging to no-one, so that means First Nations own all of the Australian land mass and adjacent islands. Under the occupying colonial regime, however, acceptance of this fact is a hard-fought struggle, still in process. Nevertheless substantial gains are being made on paper, but in reality self-determination and self-governance of the lands is elusive.'

law and custom.

Then in 1973, the OAA was replaced by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA).

Department of Aboriginal Affairs

The DAA continued the policy of land acquisition with a slight variation.

The Whitlam government introduced, by legislation, the Bureau of Northern Land Council (NLC), which had the power to claim land in the Northern Territory, through the Federal Court system.

The problems that arise with this are the restrictions and veto powers that are within the Act, whereby they created a power for the Land Council representatives, then centralised a significant power, not with the representatives, but with the CEO, a high-level mission-manager approach, which removed the absolute power from the nominated representatives who sit on the Bureau of Northern Land Council.

In 1980 the Aboriginal Development Commission (ADC) was established and developed the home ownership program; a land purchase division; and the ability to acquire and fund commercial businesses.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission

The ADC later merged with the DAA to form the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), which included the advisory functions of the National Aboriginal Conference (NAC).

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act

Then in 1981 South Australia created the APY Act [Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981 amended 2005] and gave back to the APY Peoples one eighth of the total land mass of the state.

Raukkan on Lake Alexandrina and Ngarrindjeri lands on the lower Murray and Lake Coorong are administered through self-governance.

New South Wales passed legislation establishing the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW).

NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

The Acts, however, contain severe limitations on effective self-determination.

In NSW only 3,000 hectares of former Aboriginal reserves were

returned to Aboriginal ownership, while 33,000 hectares of former reserves were removed from the original estate, to remain in white hands under the Crown Lands (Validation of Revocation) Act 1983 (NSW).

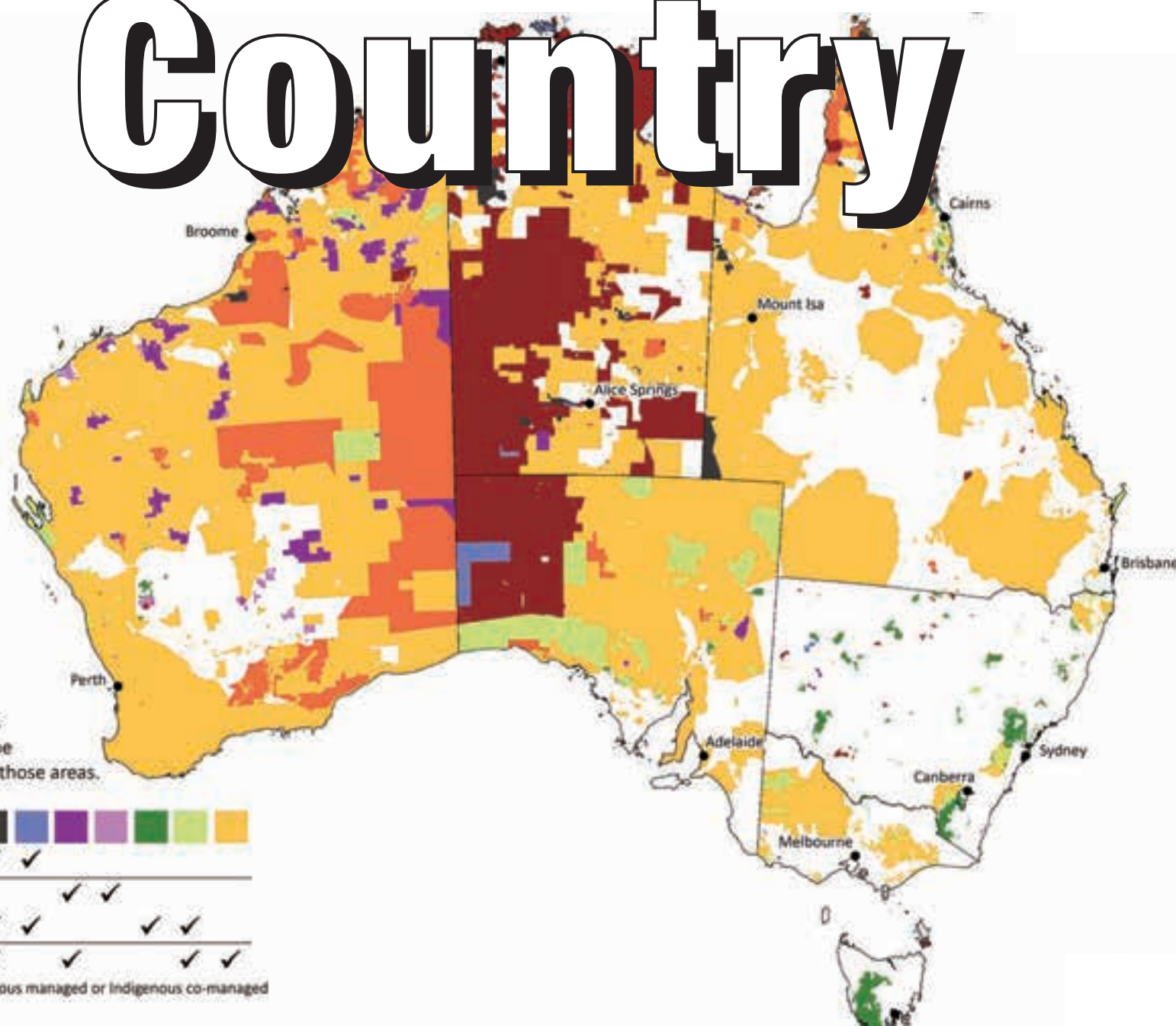
The Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW), however, permitted vacant and unused Crown Lands to be claimed by the Aboriginal Land Council system, which has been partially successful, but the NSW Lands Department has procrastinated through its unwillingness to process in excess of 28,000 claims in an appropriate time frame.

Another example of limitations is that Local Aboriginal Land Councils in New South Wales, who own millions of dollars in assets, receive a total sum of \$160,000 per year from the State Aboriginal Land Council to manage and provide for the local membership's diverse needs.

QLD Deeds of Grant in Trust

In Queensland the reserve lands are now owned by the people and in some areas the former reserves are now classified as Local Government Areas, where they elect their own Council to manage and control these reserves, subject to the Local Government Act 2009 (Qld).

for Country



Other areas remain classified as 'DOGITs', that is the land is held by the Aboriginal people by way of 'Deeds of Grant in Trust'.

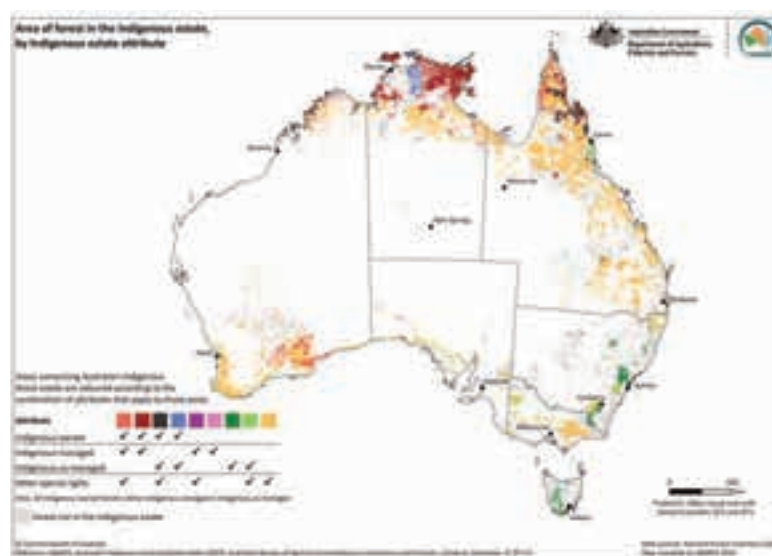
Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation

Then there are the lands purchased by the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILC/ILSC) since 1973. The land purchases by the ILC/ILSC vary across the country. Recent appraisals of the success of the purchases is somewhat mixed in the sense that the political affiliations with the traditional land owners and the personalities administering the ILCSC determine the security and success of the Traditional Owners in occupying, owning and managing the properties.

Entire Indigenous estate land

The Indigenous estate land attributes are as follows:

- Indigenous owned: freehold land or forest that is owned by Indigenous communities, or land or forest for which ownership is vested through other mechanisms
- Indigenous managed: land or forest that is managed by Indigenous communities
- Indigenous co-managed: land or forest that has formal, legally binding agreements in place to include input from Indigenous people in the process of developing and implementing a management plan
- Other special rights: land or forest subject to native title determinations, registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements, and legislated special cultural use provisions.



The Australia's Indigenous land and forest estate (2024) dataset shows that a total of:

- 154 million hectares of land in Australia (20%) is Indigenous owned
 - of this, 24 million hectares is forest
- 192 million hectares of land in Australia (25%) is under some form of Indigenous management, comprising 156 million hectares that is Indigenous managed and 36 million hectares that is Indigenous co-managed
 - of this, 31 million hectares is forest, comprising 20.7 million hectares that is Indigenous managed and 10.6 million hectares that is Indigenous co-managed
- 443 million hectares of land in Australia (58%) is subject to other special rights for Indigenous peoples and communities
 - of this, 62 million hectares is forest.

In unlocking the Indigenous

Estate to release some of the land for economic development and freeing up government and privately-controlled royalty money, there is no reference to who and how the Indigenous Estate will be controlled or protected once exposed.

We cannot permit the failed administrators in the peak bodies to become the new agents of control.

The assets of the Indigenous Estate must become the property of those nations and peoples for whom they were acquired

So the question we all must ask is:

Who controls the Indigenous Estate now and in the future, and how?

Why is it that, generally, the Traditional Owners themselves do not have their names on the title deeds?

If Traditional Owners do have their names on the title deeds. why do government agencies such as

the ILCSC retain control over these lands through caveats, which severely restrict First Nations people from growing economically?

Why do the caveats require the approval of these macro-managing agents, who have the final say on Aboriginal Peoples' aspirations, wishes and hopes?

We have capacity to free ourselves from the burden of 'disadvantage' that holds our people in bondage and poverty, if the shackles of administrative control are broken.

I appeal to our First Nations and peoples throughout Australia: We must demand that the federal, state and territory governments dispose of the failed Aboriginal administrators whom they have appointed.

The governments should not fear modern-day advanced thinkers in First Nations communities.

We are very well aware of the failures of the current administrators that are employed in many peak body groups around this country.

This 'Black Wall' that shields governments from the progressive grassroots First Nations thinkers must be dismantled and the monies saved can be best used for the people to address their disadvantages and inequalities.

At present the people have no equity, which means they don't have a say at the top.

This does not mean necessitating a single 'Voice' to parliament.

We are not an homogenous population and each First Nation group has its own aspirations and desires, which means that a one-size-fits-all national policy cannot be successful in addressing the

real issues that confront individual First Nations.

We are First Nations peoples who are believing we govern 'our way', when in fact we are trying to govern 'our way' a white-owned institution, and, yes, most of our people do not have the corporate knowledge and governance expertise at community level.

If governments plan to accede to 'Unlocking the Indigenous Estate' understand this:

We know your trick which is to bring in white administrators, sell off our assets, pay themselves their half-million bill, and then walk away with half a million dollars, plus leaving an empty shell for another blackfella to come in and try and refill the gaps.

We must understand the need.

If you'll pay a white administrator \$400,000 to run Black companies why can't we pay our own the same and attract the best?

I make this appeal to all governments and our peoples – we must take ownership of our own affairs and stop the government from hiding behind the Black Wall that is made up of highly-paid failed Black administrators.

1. The government must detail exactly what the Indigenous Estate is and how it is administered;
2. We must retire the failed black administrators and bring in new blood, new ideas, progressive thinkers to take up the new mantra of achieving true self-determination without restrictions.

PROFESSOR GHILLAR
MICHAEL ANDERSON
 Convenor of Sovereign Union of First Nations and Peoples in Australia and Head of State of the Euahlayi Peoples Republic.

Open letter to the prime minister on behalf of the family of Kumanjayi White

We write requesting your urgent support to help us get justice for Kumanjayi White. My Jaja (grandson), our loved one, died in the custody of off-duty police officers in an aisle at Coles in Alice Springs on May 27.

Witnesses report that Kumanjayi was treated violently by the police and he lost consciousness whilst in their control.

How can this happen in a supermarket aisle! There is no way a white person would have been treated this way.

When George Floyd was killed in 2020 in Minneapolis, it sparked global Black Lives Matter protests.

During these big protests, you congratulated the BLM Movement and said that too many Aboriginal people were dying in custody in Australia.

Well it's 35 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in custody made recommendations that have never been implemented. When will Aboriginal lives matter?

Last year, at the Garma festival here in the NT, you said you wanted a country where "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have power over their destiny" and where "your children can flourish, as they walk in two worlds".

You promised, "we can close the gap".

Well, prime minister, the gap is getting wider, and fast. More of our people are getting locked up by police and dying in custody than ever before.

Here in the Northern Territory the CLP government is boasting about how fast they are filling up the prisons with our people.

They are putting many oppressive policies onto us, creating an atmosphere of racism that killed my Jaja.

Not long after his death, a senior man from Wadeye, TN, an important cultural leader and educator, also died in police custody. We stand with his family for justice too.



Warlpiri Elder Ned Jampijinpa Hargraves has written to the prime minister on behalf of the family of Kumanjayi White.

At the moment our children cannot flourish, we have no power over our destiny.

We need you to match your fine words with action.

The NT justice system is in crisis. The head of the DPP has resigned; the head of ICAC has resigned; the Police Commissioner has been sacked; the prisons are so full they need private security guards; guards on buses and public housing officers are being given guns – this madness must stop. You must step in now.

There is no trust between my people and the NT Police, yet the CLP have just cancelled a long-promised review into racism in the NT police.

We have demanded that the investigation

into my Jaja's death is taken out of the hands of the NT Police.

This demand has been supported now by many organisations – Land councils, trade unions, legal services, every Human Rights Commissioner.

Yesterday the Federal Minister Malarndirri McCarthy reiterated the need for an independent investigation.

800 people signed letters to the NT government demanding an independent investigation, including a number of witnesses to my Jaja's death who were horrified at what they saw.

Thousands more have signed our petition.

Your government in Canberra has total power over the NT. You used this power to

take away all our rights, our jobs and our assets with the NT Intervention 18 years ago today. Our communities were devastated and we have not recovered.

Now we demand action from Canberra to see that our rights are restored and we are protected from the racist CLP government.

So much of the funding that comes into the NT is supposed to be to "Close the Gap". But instead we face a government trying to punish us and brutalise us.

We support the calls from the Central Land Council for your government to withhold funding from the NT until they agree to an independent investigation into the Kumanjayi White case and to establish a police integrity commission, similar to other states.

We support the calls from all Human Rights Commissioners for "immediate reform" to implement all the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody back in 1991.

This must include action to stop the racist laws that make it so hard for my people to get bail. More than half of the prisoners in the NT are on remand. They can not get proper legal support. The CLP cut funding for a local Law and Justice Group at Yuendumu – we need this restored.

We want financial support to set up the Kurdiji Wita Yuendumu Cultural Authority to start taking back control of our community. This should be the start of proper funding so we can reestablish employment and community control here at Yuendumu and across the NT.

Prime minister, at Garma last year you said "my optimism for the future still burns".

Take action now so we too can have some optimism. Take action for justice for Kumanjayi White, take action to stop the racist NT government and give power to our people.

Warlpiri Elder Ned Jampijinpa Hargraves.

Are we there yet?

In 2000 we walked across Oz bridges for reconciliation. In 2004 Michael Long walked to Canberra to ask Prime Minister John Howard "Where is the love for my people?"

In 2005 we walked from Geelong to Melbourne to commemorate The Long Walk.

We kept walking with Longy every year to the Dreamtime at the 'G.

In 2023 Michael Long walked to Canberra again in search of YES for the Voice referendum.

In 2025 we walk with Yoorrook Commissioner Travis Lovett on his 400km Portland to Melbourne Walk For Truth.

The final destination is now close for Victoria. Treaty.

The colonial war will, hopefully, soon be over.

JOHN MURRAY
Queenscliff Victoria

Minns is logging koala habitat not delivering promised protection

The NSW Budget has failed to deliver on Labor's most high-profile environmental promise: the creation of the Great Koala National Park.

The Bob Brown Foundation, along with many community members, are frustrated that logging has started to destroy more forests that need protection, and another Minns government budget has failed to allocate funds for protecting the Koala habitat on the mid-north coast.

Fifty community members demonstrated outside NSW Parliament to highlight the ongoing broken Labor promise. While Treasurer Daniel Mookhey pours public money into the loss-making Forestry Corporation, he tells us there's nothing in the budget to save koalas and forests from the chainsaws of his logging corporation.

We are standing in solidarity with the communities fighting logging up and down the coast while this government is blind



and tone deaf to the deteriorating health of our environment and desperate calls to do better for the environment."

Native-forest logging continues inside the proposed koala park area, degrading critical habitat for koalas and Greater

Gliders. A blockade at Orara East State Forest at the mid-north coast is stopping logging operations, with local communities joining the call to protect koala habitat from the government's chainsaws.

Forestry Corporation has racked up around \$90 million in losses since 2020. If the government is serious about saving money and saving wildlife, it should start by abolishing this loss-making agency. Instead, we throw public money to the tune of \$4.2 billion for disaster relief, while doing nothing to mitigate the climate breakdown causing them. At a time when climate-driven disasters are costing billions and nature is in rapid decline, the Minns government has chosen not to deliver on its election promise of creating the Great Koala Park. This budget prioritises short-term damage over long-term protection.

Doro Babeck, Bob Brown
Foundation's NSW campaigner.

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



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KEEPING YOUR SAY SHORT AND SWEET

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

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

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

the privacy of individuals mentioned.

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



SEWB Network members at the SEWB Gathering 5 in October 2024.

Story behind the gatherings



Prof Pat Dudgeon

I'm proud to be the founder, and one of the leaders, of the national Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Network. We're led by a consortium, comprised of the Transforming Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing (TIMHWP) project, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia (GDPSA), and the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA). Together, we've created an Australia-wide coalition of SEWB and mental health representatives from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak bodies and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, academics, practitioners, policy makers, and front-line workers. We're advancing our vision of SEWB healing, measurement, and advocacy – working together to better the future for our people.

How it began

It all began in 2021 when we held our first Social and Emotional Wellbeing Gathering on Noongar Country, here in Boorloo (Perth), Western Australia. This gathering saw the formation of the SEWB Network and the recommendations which we have developed and worked towards with each subsequent gathering. Over two days in March 2021, delegates from across Australia came together to yarn about social and emotional wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Our aim was to bring together Aboriginal and



Dr Graham Gee and Uncle Moogie Sumner during the Welcome to Country on Day 1 of the SEWB Gathering 5.

Torres Strait Islander peak bodies, community organisations, leaders, experts and front-line workers to create a national Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) forum for the future. The gathering was hosted by TIMHWP UWA, NACCHO, and Gayaa Dhuwi Proud Spirit Australia.

Seven months later our network came together, again on Noongar Country to advance our critical work in support of our recommendations; this is when the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association joined us, a key partner in the consortium. In 2022, we then met on Ngannawal/Ngambri Country in the ACT, and then in 2023 we came together on Larrakia Country in Darwin, Northern Territory for our fourth gathering. These gatherings have been a vital opportunity for us to come together as a community, researchers and policy makers, to share our stories and experiences, and explore ways to enhance the SEWB of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through connection, kindness, and caring. The gatherings are a space to engage in meaningful discussions, listen, learn, and celebrate our rich cultural heritage – together in this way,

we strengthen our collective efforts to promote mental health and wellbeing within our communities. Each Gathering has a different focus which is decided on together.

Fifth gathering

Last year we were pleased to deliver our fifth Social and Emotional Wellbeing Gathering. Network members from across Australia came together in Tarndanya (Adelaide) on Kurna Country, South Australia (and online via Zoom) to discuss SEWB for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples over three days, from October 15-17, 2024. The theme was *One Health: The Health of the Environment, Animals, and People* and the attendees were welcomed to Country by Ngarrindjeri Elder, Uncle Major 'Moogie' Sumner AM. This gathering had a special focus on environmental determinants of health and SEWB across the lifespan.

One of our presenters, and a fellow host, Professor Helen Milroy AM, shared the importance of totems and storytelling. She spoke about how totem stories connect us to nature and keep us thinking about the world around us and how we can care for it. "We are born, we live on, and we go back



Hosts of the SEWB Gathering 5 (from left to right): Tony Kiessler (AIPA), Prof. Pat Dudgeon AM (CBPATISIP/TIMHWP), Prof. Helen Milroy AM (GDSPA/TIMHWP) and Monica Baroltis McCabe (NACCHO).

to the earth; people and Country are inextricably linked. Stories allow the person to take their own understanding, to listen and learn a way forward. Stories don't tell you what to do, they leave you autonomous to choose what you want to do with the knowledge."

The theme of One Health was drawn on by many of our presenters, with topics ranging from companion animals and their importance to family structures, cultural stories and provision of warmth to the 'River Ecology', a metaphor for healing by Rowena Lawrie who described it as, "rivers are life, the veins of Country, controlling flow. Everything inside a river is connected to the outside of the river." These concepts of One Health were discussed among workshop participants across ten workshops hosted throughout the gathering. Participants acknowledged that when people are connected to Country, animals and community, they are building intergenerational resilience, strengths, and self-determination.

At the close of the SEWBG-5, participants were invited to provide feedback, which came back overwhelmingly positive. One SEWB Network member said "the Gathering offers such

rich engagement with the content and sectors and workforce. This is great for our spirit."

The national SEWB Network continues to grow stronger and to work even more collaboratively, strengthening the partnerships between, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOS), policy makers, health and mental health clinicians and practitioners, and mainstream health organisations. This work aims to support Outcome 14 in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples enjoy high levels of SEWB. The work of the Gatherings and the Network members, aims to develop, translate and disseminate the evidence base on SEWB and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention, and further the collective understanding of best practice in SEWB for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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

Katungul recognised with awards

By MARION WILLIAMS



KATUNGUL
Aboriginal
Corporation
Regional Health
and Community
Services (Katungul)

won two awards at
Eurobodalla Shire Council's
annual business awards.

At the black-tie event in
Batemans Bay on June 14,
Eurobodalla Mayor Mathew
Hatcher announced Katungul was
overall Business of the Year and
Outstanding Indigenous Business.

"Across the shire with services
ranging from general practice to
social and emotional wellbeing
programs, Katungul is more than
a health clinic," Mayor Hatcher
said. "It's a cultural connector and
community powerhouse, led and
staffed by Mob for Mob."

Katungul CEO and Yuin man
David MacQueen said it was
beyond his wildest dreams to win
the awards.

"To have the people I work with
recognised for their work in the
community was very special," he
said.

Katungul's work extends well
beyond Eurobodalla shire. Its
footprint reaches from Ulladulla on
the South Coast to the Victorian
border. The area includes nine
local Aboriginal land councils and
several language groups.

"We are the only Aboriginal
medical services with three



Some of the staff, management and board members of Katungul Aboriginal Corporation Regional Health and Community Services at Eurobodalla Shire Council's annual business awards on June 14. *Picture: Eurobodalla Shire Council.*

clinics," Mr MacQueen said.

In addition to its clinics in
Batemans Bay, Narooma and
Bega, Katungul runs outreach
clinics at Wallaga Lake and Eden.

Mr MacQueen said Katungul
came out of community need.
Three Aboriginal organisations
joined forces to form Katungul in
June 1993.

He oversees 79 full- and part-
time staff, 15 of which Katungul
has sent to university for further
training. Across the huge
catchment area, staff have 2,815
active Indigenous clients.

The range of services and
programs that Katungul provides
is also large.

On the medical side, services
include GPs, vaccinations, health
check and chronic disease
management. It has
psychologists, psychiatrists and
endocrinologists, along with
specialists in paediatrics,
ophthalmology and cardiology.
Mental-health services include a
suicide-prevention program.

Katungul has recruited a full-
time dentist after having to rely on
locums for the past two years.

"We have a waiting list of 125
people, but it could be three times
that when we go into the
community," he said.

Another critical service is
transporting people to medical

appointments as far away as
Canberra and Sydney when
needed.

Katungul's range of programs
for social and emotional support is
extensive.

Safe and Strong Families
includes an early intervention
program through the Department
of Community and Justice.
Katungul also has a domestic
violence facility in Bega.

"There are about 20 rooms
through state and federal
government funding for women
and children experiencing
domestic violence," Mr MacQueen
said. "I think there is only one
other facility like this in NSW."

Another big area is elderly care
support as Katungul has more
than 800 community members in
that category. Some have home-
care packages, while others don't.

"It is a clunky piece of software
so we sit beside them and get
them logged in so they can apply."

Drug and alcohol support
includes counselling and transport
to rehabilitation centres.

The National Aboriginal
Community Controlled Health
Organisation (NACCHO) funds six
programs that build Aboriginal
community resilience.

Mr MacQueen is happy with
progress in the two years he has
led Katungul. Its clinics are
delivering more services as
recruitment has improved.

Vaccination rates have doubled
from the previous year and health
checks are up 50%.

"We have a lot of programs
and now we are delivering on
them," Mr MacQueen said. "We
have good relationships with the
state and federal governments
and NACCHO, delivering good
services, and improving the health
outcomes of the community."

Katungul's staff are committed
to providing culturally safe care.

"Most of the people delivering
our programs and services are
Indigenous and from this part of
the country," Mr MacQueen said.
"That cultural understanding on
this footprint goes a long way to
providing a culturally safe
service."

advertorial

Call for support providers to get with the program

Join the 3,000 not-for-
profits, health practitioners,
social workers and
government agencies who
are connecting with clients
and making a positive impact
in their communities by
becoming an approved Work
and Development Order
(WDO) sponsor.

What is the WDO?

The WDO program helps
people reduce their debts
due to fines by taking part in
activities like training courses,
volunteering, getting financial
counselling, mental health
support, drug or alcohol
treatment or a mentoring
program. It was introduced
to improve the difficulties
that fines present to the most
disadvantaged people in the
community.

Connect with new clients

WDO sponsors are
approved providers who offer
their services and programs
to WDO participants. As an
approved provider, people
can find your business
through our WDO sponsor
finder online search, then
contact you directly for
support and to sign up for
your programs.

As part of your role,
you'll help people find out if

they're eligible, provide and
supervise activities, keep a
record of participation and
report on progress.

If you're interested
in becoming a sponsor,
Revenue NSW would like to
hear from you. You won't be
on your own, you'll receive
comprehensive support from
both Revenue NSW and
Legal Aid NSW with 'How
to' guides, WDO guidelines
and access to a Self Service
Portal.

CEO and Founder of Salt
Care Peter Dover said:

"The WDO scheme has
been amazing for the people
we reach.

We assist people from
across the Shoalhaven
experiencing disadvantage
and many of our WDO
participants volunteer in the
programs we run, including
food services, warehousing
and working on our farm.

... we also run a weekly
group where they can come
together to talk about what's
going on in their lives and
help each other to work out
strategies and solutions.
With the age restriction
lifted under the new WDO
guidelines, more participants
will now be able to take part
in mentoring-style programs
like this.

It's all about helping
get these individuals into a
supportive community where
they can contribute in a
meaningful way. Some of our
past participants have even
gone on to become support
workers with us!"

WDO updates create new opportunities

Recent changes to
the WDO scheme include
opening mentoring programs
to people of all ages,
clarifying participation if
living interstate and allowing
social workers to sign up as
sponsors.

These changes create
more opportunities for
individuals and services,
particularly in regional areas,
to join in, not only as a
participant but as a sponsor.

NSW Commissioner of
Fines Administration Scott
Johnston said:

"I encourage people
and services in NSW to
get involved in the WDO
scheme. It's another way
we're creating a fairer, flexible
and more equitable system
that understands everyone's
circumstances are different.

By becoming a sponsor,
you'll help people to get out
of the cycle of debt and work
towards a brighter future."



The First Nations team provide customers with options and
can connect them with WDO sponsors to offer support to
reduce fine debt.

Apply online to become a sponsor

Visit nsw.gov.au and search
'WDO sponsor' or call our
WDO Sponsor Support
team on 1300 478 879.

For support with fines

Call our dedicated Revenue
NSW First Nations Hotline
on 1800 002 345. They're
ready to help, Monday to
Friday from 8:30am to 5pm.



Dress code discriminates



A MOVE to ban people in "dirty or stained clothing" from a city's public buses has been slammed as a cruel and discriminatory measure targeting the already disadvantaged.

The Northern Territory government has come under fire after new signs outlining the dress code went up inside buses around Darwin.

NT Infrastructure Minister Bill Yan backed the signs, saying dress and tidiness standards on buses had existed for some time.

He said the rule could apply to tradies covered in oil and grease getting on a bus and sitting on a seat after a day's work.

"Some poor person is going to come in after that and end up sitting on that seat and get covered in garbage," he told ABC Radio.

Mr Yan said there were mobile laundries all over Darwin where people could clean their clothes.

The Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory criticised the dress code signs for sending a clear message to disadvantaged people they were not welcome on public transport.

"It is a cruel and discriminatory policy that unfairly targets people experiencing poverty, homelessness and mental ill health," CEO John Paterson said.

The "shameful" policy would

disproportionately impact Aboriginal people, particularly those sleeping rough or without access to housing, laundry facilities, or appropriate healthcare, Dr Paterson said in a statement.

"This has nothing to do with public safety or hygiene. It's about exclusion."

Dr Paterson said one-in-five Aboriginal people in the NT experienced homelessness and the territory had 13 times the national rate of people sleeping rough.

"Public transport is a basic right for everyone in our communities regardless of whether you can access washing facilities or afford stable accommodation," he said.

Children's Ground, an advocacy group for Aboriginal children, said policies or practices that allowed discretionary exclusion based on appearance or perceived hygiene risk reinforced harmful stereotypes.

Many First Nations people, especially those living rough without access to basic washing facilities or clothing resources, were at risk of being excluded from public services, the group said.

"The government carries the responsibility to ensure that all public services operate without discrimination and with access and fairness," it said in a statement.

"That responsibility extends to making sure people can access transport with dignity and without fear of being turned away." — AAP

New Yarrabah community bus service aims to connect residents



RESIDENTS in the far north Queensland Aboriginal community of Yarrabah are a little bit more connected to the nearby city of Cairns and work opportunities at the marine precinct of Portsmouth with the introduction of a new bus service.

Local bus operator Kinetic has announced the start of operations for a new community bus service in Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire.

The 6-month trial service will connect Yarrabah residents to employment opportunities in the Portsmouth Marine Precinct and link the community to existing public transport networks in Edmonton in Cairns.

Buses will operate Monday to Friday, featuring early morning and afternoon runs to and from the Portsmouth Marine Precinct for workers.

An additional daytime service to Edmonton and Mt Sheridan will run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, providing community members with greater connectivity to essential services and transport links.

The initiative is the result of a partnership

between Kinetic, Wugu Nyambil Employment, Local Jobs Cairns, the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and local employers, with funding shared between the Australian Government, Kinetic, and Tropical Reef Shipyard.

Wugu Nyambil General Manager Robert Friskin said that this was a great opportunity for the people of Yarrabah to travel to Cairns daily for work opportunities.

"Transport is a major barrier to obtaining work for Yarrabah residents," said Mr Friskin.

"We thank our partners for collaborating to enable this service to become a reality and look forward to the positive impact on members of the Yarrabah community."

Kinetic North Queensland general manager John O'Brien said the new service was a demonstration of a joint commitment amongst the local community to improve transport accessibility for regional and First Nations communities.

"By providing more public transport connections, we're opening up employment opportunities all around the region by adding to residents' commuting options," said Mr O'Brien.

The service has been designed to meet the specific needs of the Yarrabah community, with stops at Noble Street (Wugu Nyambil), Edmonton (Cattle Street at Old Bruce Highway), Mt Sheridan Plaza (Barnard Dr), Tropical Reef Shipyard (Portsmouth off Cook St) and Norship (Tingira Street), enabling connections to workplaces and existing public transport networks.

The service will be available at a 50-cent fare rate each-way (\$1 return), with payment made by cash or credit/debit card.

As part of the launch, Kinetic will hosted a Moving the Mob information session in collaboration with Wugu Nyambil, showcasing employment opportunities within the transport sector for First Nations peoples.



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

2025-26 NOMINATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST AND COMMONWEALTH HERITAGE LIST

The Minister for the Environment and Water, Senator the Hon Murray Watt, invites nominations of places for inclusion in the National Heritage List or the Commonwealth Heritage List.

A place can be included in the National Heritage List if it is in Australia's jurisdiction and the Minister is satisfied that the place meets the criteria for outstanding heritage value to the nation.

In Australia, sites on the Commonwealth Heritage List must be entirely within a Commonwealth area. Outside Australia, they can be owned or leased by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency. These sites must meet the criteria for significant heritage value.

The 2025-26 nomination round opens on Monday, 30 June 2025 and closes on **Friday, 29 August 2025**.

More information about the National Heritage listing and assessment criteria, and the National Heritage listing process can be found at dcceew.gov.au/national-heritage

More information about the Commonwealth Heritage listing and assessment criteria, and the Commonwealth Heritage listing process can be found at dcceew.gov.au/commonwealth-heritage

For more assistance, questions, or to access a nomination form and guide:

- **Scan:** The QR code
- **Visit:** dcceew.gov.au/heritage-nominations
- **Email:** AHC.Secretariat@dcceew.gov.au
- **Mail:** The Nominations Manager
Australian Heritage Council
Secretariat Heritage Policy Branch
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
GPO Box 3090, Canberra ACT 2601



This notice is made in accordance with the provisions of sections 324H, 324J and 341H of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

1119NS.5627



Have Your Say on the Dams Safety Act 2015 Review

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is reviewing the *Dams Safety Act 2015* on behalf of the Minister for Water.

This review will check if the Act's policy objectives are still valid and if its terms (words and phrases in the Act) are suitable for achieving those objectives, as required by section 55 of the Act.

The department has prepared an issues paper for the review. Owners of declared dams and other interested stakeholders are now being invited to share their feedback on the questions in the issues paper via an online survey.

Your input will help ensure the Act continues to serve its purpose effectively.

Scan the QR code or visit <https://water.nsw.gov.au/dams-safety-act-review> to learn more and submit your feedback by **11.59 pm, Friday 25 July 2025**.



110357



Roper River graduates

Sherry-Ann Chadum, Melita Nunggumajbarr, Sally Morris – Director at Response Employment and Training, Felicity Rami, Caroline Wurrben, Helen Sambo, Carmelina Ngalmi, David Hurst, CEO Roper Gulf Regional Council, Mayor Tony Jack, Roper Gulf Regional Council.



ROPER Gulf Regional Council is celebrating the success of six aged-care staff members who graduated with a Certificate III in Individual Support.

The group were celebrated at a recent council meeting in Katherine in the Northern Territory.

The graduates, based in Numbulwar, Ngukurr and Wugularr, completed their training through Response Training, gaining nationally recognised qualifications that will enhance the delivery of person-centred care for elderly residents in their communities.

The course, funded by the Indigenous Employment Initiative Program through the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, focused on upskilling local staff to deliver culturally safe and responsive aged care.

The training combined both theory and practical learning, with much of the assessment taking

place on the job.

Programs Manager, Cristie Geer, said the graduation was not only a proud moment for the staff involved, but also a reflection of the council's ongoing commitment to supporting its workforce.

"This is a fantastic achievement for our staff, who have worked hard to balance their studies with their day-to-day responsibilities," she said.

"We're committed to providing training and career development opportunities for our employees, especially those working in vital service areas like aged care."

The successful completion of this course will ensure that aged-care clients across the region continue to receive high-quality, compassionate, and culturally appropriate care.

The graduation ceremony was a proud celebration of the dedication and effort of local staff, and a strong example of the value of building a skilled local workforce in the Roper Gulf region.

Blue MACKEREL

The proposed Blue Mackerel Offshore Wind Project is located off the coast of Brataualung and Tatungalung Country in Gippsland. It's roughly 10km from shore between Seaspray and Woodside Beach. The project is undergoing feasibility assessments. If constructed, it could generate 1GW of renewable energy by 2032 – enough to power over half a million Victorian homes.

We want to hear from you!

Community consultation to help shape a Community Benefits Program is now open. Attend an event and tell us what matters most to your community this July or complete our survey online.

Complete our survey

Visit www.bluemackerel.com.au

Call +61 3 9021 0602

Email info@bluemackerel.com.au

Know someone who should have a say? Please share this with them!

Visit us in person, or online

Seaspray Surf Life Saving Club

Friday 4 July, 5pm – 7.30pm

Seaspray Community Hall

Saturday 5 July, 10am – 1pm

Woodside Beach Hotel

Saturday 5 July, 3pm – 6pm

Winter Webinar sessions

Prefer to join online? Tune into one or more of our Winter Webinar series to learn about:

- Offshore wind
- Community benefits
- Environmental protection
- Construction

Register online for the webinars and find out about other events later in July.



We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people, the Traditional Owners of the land and waters where the proposed Blue Mackerel offshore wind project will be located. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

We aspire to a genuine partnership with the Gunaikurnai people that delivers mutual benefit and enhanced stewardship of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

We acknowledge the rights and responsibilities of all First Nations peoples for their lands and waters where we operate.

Fuel-security boost for Torres Strait Islands with major tank upgrades



IBIS team member Amos Baragud (right) helps customer Jeffrey David fuel up on Iama Island.



NOT-FOR-PROFIT remote store operator Community Enterprise Queensland (CEQ)

is significantly improving fuel security and supply capacity for two Torres Strait communities, with the installation of new high-capacity fuel tanks on Masig and Iama Islands.

The new 14,000-litre tanks will replace the existing 5,000-litre storage units – almost tripling fuel availability and helping local communities better manage peak demand periods, including cultural events and crayfish season.

CEQ Chief Executive Officer Michael Dykes said the investment addresses long-standing supply challenges faced by island residents.

"For communities like Masig and Iama, fuel is not just about transport – it's about food security, economic independence, and safety," Mr Dykes said.

"These are fishing communities where fuel powers boats, vehicles, and livelihoods."

Mr Dyke said increasing capacity ensures that people can keep working, feeding their families, and travelling safely.

The larger tanks are expected to reduce the risk of fuel shortages and eliminate the need for risky inter-island travel when supplies run low.

With a full 14,000-litre tank, each island should have a two-to-three-week buffer if resupply vessels like *Sea Swift* are unable to deliver due to adverse weather.

"Islanders won't have to worry about running out during critical periods – whether it's the busy fishing season or a major community gathering," Mr Dykes said.

The upgrades form part of CEQ's ongoing commitment to support regional and remote communities with reliable infrastructure and essential services.

CEQ is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for providing goods and essential services to the Torres Strait, Cape York Peninsula and in Doomadgee and on Palm Island through its 31 stores.

CEQ manages the Islanders Board of Industry and Service (IBIS) and Aboriginal Business, Industry and Service (ABIS) stores, as well as other stores including Col Jones and Community Home and Hardware, and Mona's Bazaar and Mitre 10 on Waibene.



Influenza isn't as scary if you're vaccinated.

Protect you and your mob this winter.

**Book your flu vaccine today at your
Aboriginal Medical Service, GP or pharmacy**

healthdirect.gov.au/nswfluvaccine



Guarantee program hits milestone



ANZ has announced its First Nations Guarantee program has reached a \$150 million milestone in Asset Finance lending to First Nations businesses.

ANZ's Guarantee is a nationally leading program unlocking access to capital for First Nations startups and existing business, giving them the opportunity to invest in growth, expand their operations, acquire assets, and drive economic growth.

The Guarantee program was first established in 2018 by ANZ in partnership with mining company Fortescue Metals Group and has since expanded to include other mining companies.

Since then, the program has backed 35 Western Australia-based First Nations businesses, allowing them to secure essential assets – machinery, equipment, property, and vehicles – while expanding infrastructure and creating jobs.

First Nations businesses face unique and heightened challenges in securing finance from traditional lenders and financial institutions, such as lower intergenerational wealth and financial inclusion, as a result of systemic financial and economic exclusion.

However, initiatives like ANZ's Guarantee program can provide crucial financial support, enabling businesses to purchase their assets rather than rent, and helping those without an extensive credit history or collateral to build a stronger asset base for long-term sustainability.

Today, some of these businesses no longer require a guarantor, marking a significant milestone in their financial independence and ability to scale their business.

ANZ's Head of First Nations Strategy (Australia), Shelley Cable said 'ANZ's First Nations Guarantee has become Australia's single most successful program for lending to First Nations businesses at scale'.

"It significantly increases the finance available to First Nations businesses, and this \$150 million lending milestone demonstrates the ongoing need for finance, to fund the rapid growth occurring within Australia's First Nations economy," Cable said.

"Being able to extend finance allows participating First Nations businesses to start and scale rapidly."

To expand the reach of the program, ANZ encourages more institutional and large corporate businesses to join as guarantors, further strengthening the financial ecosystem for First Nations businesses.

ANZ's Managing Director, Corporate Finance for Institutional Banking, Christina Tonkin said 'collaborating with our large Institutional customers demonstrates the collective impact we can have, when large organisations combine their financial strength and scale in support of First Nations economic growth'.

"Becoming a guarantor supports First Nations economic growth while strengthening procurement pipelines with a more diverse and resilient supplier base," Ms Tonkin concluded.



ANZ's Head of First Nations Strategy (Australia), Shelley Cable.



The New Dreaming podcast set.

Podcast series creates platform for truth-telling



Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) is proud to announce its partnership with New Dream Productions, founded by proud Badjjala man David Cook, to launch a special IBA series of *The New Dreaming* podcast.

As one of the first initiatives under IBA's new support network for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, this partnership aims to empower economic independence by creating a powerful platform for truth-telling.

The New Dreaming podcast provides a space for real, meaningful conversations that empower, challenge, and inspire. Through the voices of those who have broken barriers, found their purpose, and reclaimed their stories, the podcast uncovers the truths that shape Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

IBA Deputy CEO Sean Armistead

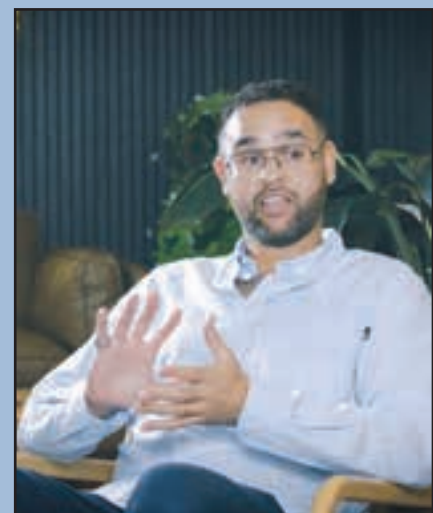
said, "This initiative grew from meaningful conversations within Galambany, our Indigenous staff network, where the need for more support for First Nations men in business came through strongly. This work is a direct response to those voices. It supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men as they navigate their own paths to economic independence.

"Partnering with New Dream Productions was a powerful way to begin this journey through a podcast that holds space for First Nations men. It brings awareness to the silent struggles some of our men are facing and creates a safe space for them to share and be heard."

Managing Director David Cook said, "New Dream Productions is proud to partner with IBA on an important project that spotlights the voices of Mob who are reshaping the future, story by story."

"This podcast is about truth-telling,

inspiration and the power of First Nations leadership. Backed by IBA's belief in our vision, we're creating a space for those voices to lead the conversation."



IBA guest, James Saunders.

First Nations Economics announces new Chair



An organisation with the goal of achieving social, cultural and economic sovereignty for First Nations peoples has appointed a new Chair and a majority female Aboriginal-led board for the first time.



Professor Sandra Creamer AM.

First Nations Economics (FNE) has appointed Professor Sandra Creamer AM as its new Chair, alongside Suzy Wilson and Renee Pujo as new board members.

This announcement results in a majority female Aboriginal-led board – a landmark achievement for the organisation.

Professor Sandra Creamer AM, who is also CEO of the Australian Women's Health Alliance, an Adjunct Professor of Public Health at the University of Queensland and a board member of the International Indigenous Women's Forum, said the appointment was an honour.

"This is a pivotal time to amplify the economic aspirations of our communities, ensure that economic development is culturally appropriate, gender inclusive and leads to genuine redistribution of power," Professor Creamer said.

"Having a majority female Aboriginal-led board brings crucial perspectives to this important work and will ensure that

First Nations women are not just included in these conversations but leading them alongside our men."

Also on the board are Suzy Wilson-Uilelea and Renee Pujo.

Wilson-Uilelea, a Wiradjuri woman with kinship connections to the Yorta Yorta and Wemba Wemba peoples, is the director of the Northern Territory Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). She was the first Indigenous Australian to serve as Head of the Torres Strait Treaty Liaison Office.

Renee Pujo is currently working with the Jungarni Jutiya Indigenous Corporation in the Kimberley in Western Australia on management and governance.

First Nations Economics works with partners as independent First Nations economic advisors to achieve economic sovereignty of First Peoples through policy, evidence and evaluation.

Betty paints for those who come after



RENOWNED Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands artist and teacher Betty Kuntiwa Pumani is presenting her first major museum survey until October 5 this year at Bundanon gallery near Nowra in NSW.

Featuring paintings by Betty together with works by her mother, sisters and daughter, the exhibition spans 2012 to the present day alongside new commissions.

Entitled *malatja-malatja* (those who come after) this show was curated by Bundanon CEO Rachel Kent in collaboration with the artist and Mimili Maku Arts.

The exhibition also premieres a major new three-part painting, '*Antara*', created especially for Bundanon, with Betty saying:

"I'm proud to show these works together at Bundanon Art Museum proud to bring our family forward through this exhibition and to honour our Tjukurpa. It is a special thing to be able to do."

"And for this exhibition, I painted one more canvas for the next generation. I was thinking about the women who came before me, and those who will come after me. This is for future generations, for those children to learn from."

This new commission *Antara* is presented alongside major loans from public and private collections including National Gallery of Australia, Museum of Contemporary



Betty Kuntiwa Pumani in her studio at Mimili Maku Arts.

Art Australia and Bendigo Art Gallery, contextualised by early works drawn from the Mimili Maku Arts Cultural Collection, shown publicly for the first time.

Betty's paintings represent *Antara*, her mother's Country in the APY Lands in north-western South Australia, and Tjukurpa storylines centred on maku, the witchetty grub. Matrilineal connections inform Pumani's painting practice and reflecting this lineage, four works by the artist's mother, Kunmanara (Milatjari) Pumani and sister, Kunmanara (Ngupulya) Pumani, are included along with a major collaborative work, *Antara*, by the artist and her daughter, Marina Pumani Brown.

The exhibition's title – a Pitjantjatjara term meaning 'those who come after' – carries the understanding that what is done



Betty Kuntiwa Pumani with her new work *Antara* commissioned for *malatja-malatja* at Bundanon.

now already belongs to future generations, connecting ancestral past with the future, through ongoing care for Country and culture.

Betty says of the paintings in the exhibition:

"Over many years, I have painted many stories. Some are small works. Others are large, carrying the same story across many canvases. Stories of *Antara*, stories of the Maku Tjukurpa – the Witchetty Grub Songline."

"Now, they come together to be exhibited. Side by side, these works will be seen – joined together in this major exhibition and book, each one sharing its part of the story."

"It fills me with pride and joy to

see them here, gathered together to be shown. I'm really thrilled to see my older paintings and my newer paintings together. To show together with my extended family – my older sister, my mother, my daughter. Generations of women painting the stories of our Country."

"We were taught by my mother. My daughters and I paint our Dreaming to teach our younger generation, so that when they are older, they can know everything."

"When we are old, they will hold onto that knowledge and keep it strong in their paintings, in our family."

Pumani's Bundanon survey is expanded by a new monographic publication with interpretative

essays, interviews in Pitjantjatjara language by the artist, colour reproductions of exhibited works and detailed documentation of her new commission.

Bundanon CEO Rachel Kent describes Betty Kuntiwa Pumani as a visionary artistic and cultural leader, her paintings inextricably linked to her mother's Country, *Antara*, on the APY Lands.

"It was a great honour to work with Betty in 2020 on her major commission for '*The National*' – her largest and most ambitious work, spanning ten metres in length – and now, five years later, it is once again an honour to bring her art to Bundanon for her first major museum survey," Ms Kent said.

Betty Kuntiwa Pumani is a senior artist, teacher, and *ngangkari* (traditional healer) based in Mimili on the APY Lands of far northwest South Australia.

Born in 1963 near Perentie Bore and raised on her family's homelands around *Antara* and *Paralpi*, Betty is a two-time National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award winner, and in 2017 winner of the Wynne Prize at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Also showing at Bundanon is leading Melbourne-based artist David Sequeira's solo exhibition, *The Shape of Music*, which brings together four bodies of work in diverse media, including a major new commission for Bundanon.

For more information go to: www.bundanon.com.au

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FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT VICTORIA



THE biennial Climate Conversations project will present a powerful installation *Rise and Fall* by nationally recognised artist of

Wiradjuri, Irish and German heritage artist Karla Dickens with an event to officially launch the project held from 5pm on Saturday 11 July at the Lone Goat Gallery in Byron Bay.

Climate Conversations is a creative initiative of Byron Shire Council that invites local artists to collaborate with community and explore ways of adapting, reorganising, and evolving in the face of climate change through the arts.

Long Goat gallerist Sarah Harvey said it was exciting to bring *Rise and Fall* to a local audience.

"Dickens is a nationally recognised artist who uses her multidisciplinary practice to bring dark humour to her unflinching interrogation of subjects such as race, gender and injustice," Ms Harvey said.

"Through her mastery and utilisation of 'found objects', overlooked or discarded objects are given new contexts that interrogate Australian culture, contest histories and agitate for change."

"As a Wiradjuri woman who has lived on Bundjalung Country for many years, Karla explores climate catastrophe from a First Nations perspective and through her own lived experience in the 2022 Lismore floods. The community can engage with the Climate Conversations project through a series of four interactive events to generate deeper conversations around climate challenges including:

Plastic: recycling and the problem with single-use with Sarah Child on Saturday 12 July from 10.30am.



Karla Dickens with her installation *Rise and Fall*.

Working Together as Community: This event on Saturday 19 July from 2pm sees Karla in conversation with Bundjalung woman Ella Bancroft regarding their shared experiences of supporting community during the 2022 Lismore Floods.

Creating Space: an afternoon of yarnning, creating and sharing as a community with Karla Dickens on Saturday 26 July from 1pm.

Our 'Rescue Mission' Creating Space: A community installation created using recycled everyday plastic waste materials. People are invited to bring plastic lids and water bottles to the gallery and be part of creative actions.

For more info go to: www.lonegoatgallery.com



Jess Hitchcock performs with the Penny Quartet.

Jess Hitchcock hits the high notes during NAIDOC Week

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



FIRST NATIONS singer-songwriter Jess Hitchcock will team up with the award-winning Penny Quartet for a special one-night only performance to kicking off NAIDOC Week on Monday 7 July at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

Musica Viva Australia and Melbourne Recital Centre are presenting the event which will feature 11 newly commissioned arrangements of Hitchcock's best-known songs by 11 of Australia's finest young composers.

"Mob celebrates each other all year round but NAIDOC WEEK is when we all come together to especially recognise our young people, set an example for the young ones, and celebrate what they are doing now and will do in the future," Jess said.

Renowned as a singer's singer that can effortlessly cross musical genres, Jess is an accomplished opera singer, singer-songwriter, a writer, composer and storyteller with an endlessly versatile voice equally at home in a studio, on stage or in a football stadium singing up a storm on grand final day.

With family connections through

the Torres Strait, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Jess pays tribute to her mother for her musical prowess.

"I just love music and story telling. I got that from my mother who also loved everything from country to jazz to world music. It's all about telling stories," she said.

Remarkably, for an artist who regularly tackles opera Jess had no specialised singing training in the field.

"I had no formal training as a singer, just as a piano player, my mother made sure I learned to read music as I would learn to read words on a page," she said.

"I got my singing ability from my family, singing together from a very early age, as many islander families do and developed a musical ear. I love singing backup and harmonies.

"I accidentally got into opera singing when Mob started to write operas and they were looking around for singers. Now there are many great singers."

Singing the 11 newly commissioned arrangements of her songs has been a rare pleasure for Jess, with one arrangement in particular touching her heart.

"Taking my folk country songs into the realm of classical music and reshaping the songs has been exciting," said Jess.

"My song *Collide*, which was re-arranged by Nicole Murphy has worked really well.

"It's a song about mental health and the delicacy of the string arrangements really compliments the song. It hits emotionally every time, it's as if I am hearing my words and music for the very first time."

On Friday 11 July Jess will be part of another special musical event marking the 50th anniversary of NAIDOC Week when the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra celebrates the legacy of Yorta Yorta Yuin composer and soprano Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO with a concert of her works.

"I will be singing a movement from the *Eumeralla*, a war requiem for peace as part of the Yinya dana: lighting the path concert at Hamer Hall," said Jess.

Featuring key moments from Cheetham Fraillon's compositional partnership with the MSO, the performance acknowledges her remarkable career dedicated to the future of First Nations voices in classical music.

Later in 2025, Hitchcock will also tour with legendary Australian singer-songwriter, and long-term collaborator, Paul Kelly.

For Jess Hitchcock and The Penny Quartet information and bookings go to: musicaviva.com.au



Jess Hitchcock.

Art fair honours legacy



CAIRNS Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) will return to its spiritual home amid the lush rainforest surrounds of Gimuy/Cairns' Botanical Gardens precinct when it opens on Thursday 10 July at the Tanks Arts Centre, transforming the three repurposed World War II oil tanks into a powerful hub of visual and performing arts, fashion, talks and cultural exchange.

CIAF's 2025 season is the debut program from newly appointed Artistic Director Teho Ropeyarn which will, over four days and nights, feature the creative energy of more than 400 artists, performers and presenters.

Inspired by Tony Albert's 2011 print, this year's theme, *Pay Attention!*, is both a provocation and a call to action, urging artists, audiences, and institutions to reckon with the truth, amplify First Nations voices, and shape the future of contemporary storytelling across all art forms.

"CIAF is more than a fair – it's a movement," said Mr Ropeyarn. "*Pay Attention!* is a creative call to remain vigilant, honour our histories, and assert our presence as we shape the future."

"I trust this year's program captures the maturity and momentum of Queensland's First Nations arts movement. I'm incredibly proud to share this with the world."

The 2025 program features some of Australia's most acclaimed First Nations artists, curators and thought leaders, including Venice Biennale Golden Lion-winning artist Dr Archie Moore, curators Sebastian Goldspink and Bruce Johnson McLean, artist Tony Albert, and CIAF's own Artistic Director Teho Ropeyarn, alongside leading cultural commentators such as Dr Terri Janke.

CIAF Chair Bianca Beetson said the return to Tanks Arts Centre was both a symbolic and strategic move.

"In 2025, CIAF comes full circle – returning to the site of its earliest beginnings to present a bold new program shaped by our next generation of First Nations voices," she said.

"This year's theme, *Pay Attention!*, invites festival goers to listen deeply, reflect honestly, and engage fully with the stories



Internationally renowned cultural leader, filmmaker and author Samantha N. Martin, widely known as The Bush Tukka Woman, will bring her extensive knowledge of native Australian foods and survival skills to life at CIAF with a series of free, hands-on workshops.

being shared. It's a program that honours legacy while looking fearlessly to the future."

CIAF's opening ceremony kicks off at 4pm on Thursday 10 July at the Tanks Arts Centre Precinct with a Welcome to Country, cultural dance, live music, curated digital projections, and Eat Street food vendors.

Hosted by Sean Choolburra and Tania Major, official proceedings will commence at 6pm with entertainment headlined by Cairns hip-hop collective R.3.B who will launch their new single, *Far North*.

The Art Fair Showcase will run over all for days and will feature more than 30 exhibitors with the Artisans Showcase likewise run over four days in two open-air pavilions featuring First Nations artisans

showcasing their jewellery, textiles, ceramics, fashion and more in two open-air pavilions.

The Look & Listen Fashion Performances will hit the runway twice daily on Thursday 10 July and Friday 11 July. And the CIAF Art Awards Ceremony will be announced on Friday 11 July, 11.30 in Tank 5 with six category prizes, including the Premier's Award and People's Choice Award announced at Closing.

Masterclasses will also be available as well as hands-on workshops with acclaimed artists including Helena Loncaric, SamalaThakiale Cronin/MumRed, Nephi Denham, Kerry Klimm, and Matilda Nona.

For tickets and full program go to : www.ciaf.com.au



Kamilaroi/Bigambul artist and Golden Lion-winning Venice Biennale representative Dr Archie Moore.

My Cousin Frank: the tale of the first Indigenous Olympian comes to Naarm



THE TRUE story of Australia's first signed Indigenous Olympian, Francis Roy "Frank" Roberts will be shared on stage by his cousin, Rhoda Roberts AO, in NORPA's *My Cousin Frank* at Arts Centre Melbourne from 9-12 July 2025.

"This story is a national story – a First Nations family's journey in Australia's tumultuous era of dispersal and silence to navigating a world controlled by government policy. A story of a young man's journey that deeply resonates with NAIDOC Week's 2025 themes of strength, vision and legacy," Roberts said.

Making its Naarm/Melbourne debut during NAIDOC Week, the story is written and performed by Roberts, one of the most pre-eminent cultural figures of her generation.

In the real life tale, Roberts



Rhoda Roberts.

introduces audiences to her cousin Frank, a man who spent his entire life fighting tirelessly, both in the boxing ring and for his family and culture.

A Widjabul Wia-bal and Githabul man, Frank or "Honest Frank", as he was known, was raised on the Cubawee Reserve just outside of Lismore in New South Wales.

From a family thoroughly immersed in boxing, Frank competed at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics in the welterweight division as the first Aboriginal Australian athlete to gain selection, and one of the first Indigenous Australians to participate in the Olympic Games.

"The process of writing this story has been a deeply personal and transformative one, involving extensive research, community consultation and my own reflections," Ms Roberts said.

"It's been a journey of uncovering my family's history and ensuring the authenticity of the narrative, all while aiming to make an impact on the audience. *My Cousin Frank* serves as both a celebration of achievements and a call for deeper reflection on our past and the work still to be done."

My Cousin Frank is presented as part of this year's NAIDOC Week, an opportunity for Australians to celebrate, learn and



Tony Barber, light middle weight, Athol McQueen, heavy weight, Francis Roberts, welterweight. Photo courtesy of Athol McQueen.

recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year marks a powerful milestone, 50 years of honouring

and elevating Indigenous voices, culture and resilience.

For information and bookings go to: www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

Dear Son brings hope and healing

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



FIRST Nations love, hope and healing are shining out in Brisbane with the production of *Dear Son*, premiering and currently playing until 19 July at the Bille Brown Theatre in Meanjin (Brisbane).

Based on the book by Thomas Mayo, *Dear Son* features letters and reflections from First Nations fathers and sons that honour the rich traditions and wisdom of fathers passed down through generations, whilst exploring the challenges faced by First Nations men today.

Combining his own prose and poetry, author and editor Thomas Mayo, a Kaurareg Aboriginal and Kalkalgal, Erubamle Torres Strait Islander man, invited 12 contributors to write a letter to their son or father, bringing together a range of perspectives that offer a celebration of First Nations masculinity.

The book and play feature letters from Stan Grant, Troy Cassar-Daley, John Little, Charlie King, Joe Williams, Yessie Mosby, Joel Bayliss, Daniel James, Jack Latimore, Daniel Morrison, Tim Sculthorpe and Blak Douglas, that created an honest and loving book for families to share around the world.

Renowned First Nations theatre makers Isaac Drandic and John Harvey transformed these letters into a page-to-stage adaptation starring leading First Nations actors Jimi Bani, Waangenga Blanco, Trevor Jamieson, Kirk Page and Aaron Pedersen.

The play is billed as a message of resilience and joy for a First Nations future, about the importance of family, the power of culture and the enduring strength of the human spirit.

In the midst of rehearsals, actor Jimi Bani, a Wagadagam man from Mabuyag Island in the Torres Strait, took time out with the *Koori Mail* to talk about *Dear Son* and the powerful effect it was having on the cast and crew.

KOORI MAIL: *Dear Son* is a deeply personal play. Has it had a resonance for you as a father yourself?

Jimi Bani (JB): Yeah, absolutely I'm a father of three boys and two girls and an uncle as well so I feel very connected to the work. It's actually very personal to me.



Jimi Bani took time out from rehearsal to reflect on *Dear Son*.



Waangenga Blanco gets in the groove. Pictures: Morgan Roberts

KM: Does the play provide an opportunity to draw a perspective on your own past? What has come to you from the production?

JB: It's given me permission to have a deep conversation with my sons. When I had my first boy, Dimitri, I was very young. I was still in my twenties and still trying to figure out who I was as a man. I had to grow up real fast. Dimitri, he helped me to grow up as man and all of that experience had a domino effect for all my other children.

When he was first born the perspective and understanding of

me being father wasn't there yet so there was a barrier. I mean, as soon as he was born it was and it still is the best day of my life, the happiest day of my life and it obviously changed me as a person. But learning to navigate through that, and how to communicate was an experience in itself.

He's in his twenties now and we have respect for one another, for who we are but the way I talk to the other two boys is obviously different because of life experience and by doing this show it gave me the insight of you

know what it means to open up to my boys

KM: You are using the letters written by other men such as Stan Grant and Troy Cassar-Daley as a kind of script, so as actors you are inhabiting them in a way.

JB: Absolutely, basically we are vessels as actors bringing parts of those twelve men's stories to life.

KM: Whose letters are you presenting?

JB: Amongst other parts I am playing Elder and storyteller Yessie Mosby from Masig (Yorke Island) and Palawa man Tim Sculthorpe, yeah I'm doing a lot of the ensemble stuff as well.

KM: Is there a dramatic story around the letters as well?

JB: Absolutely, you have five men on stages and we all bring our experiences to the show and along with the director Isaac Drandic it makes for a very collaborative piece adapted from the book *Dear Son*. The structure has a lovely flow, we're still obviously in rehearsals and working it out but John Harvey has written a story that flows through the letters.

KM: Are there any lessons that can be drawn broadly about being a First Nations father or son? Are there particular themes that emerge?

JB: Absolutely, it's throughout the whole piece and throughout all the letters. When these men wrote these letters it shows a side that is not often known of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fathers that goes beyond all the stereotypical stuff that is of spoken about in society.

What these 12 brave men have done (in the book) is to write a love letter to their sons and to their fathers that shows the true humanity of these Indigenous men, these First Nations men and the story will be universal and will resonate with everyone be they parents, fathers or uncles.

The audience will also see deeper inside these Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men who usually don't speak in public, it's more that we sit in our men's groups and we empower ourselves through our language – it's been about sitting in that safe place for us.

So what these letters have done is to bring around everyone who has read *Dear Son* and given them the opportunity to come and sit around those camp fires with us and listen to these dads talk.

It's really brave and amazing that could happen with the book

and now we have an opportunity in the play to express and embody what it is to be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander dad, son, nephew or uncle. Hopefully there will be inspiring messages that come out from these stories, some truth telling, experience of hardships and celebration of language.

For myself I am just blessed to be part of it because my journey is to continue our cultural code system, especially from the Wagadagam people from where I come. We are in the society but there is a living cultural code practice (outside this) that still exists and it is an inspiration for me to go back to that practice and work out how I can implement that in the real world.

So I can get confirmation that okay, cool brother you're walking on the right track or actually man you gotta work harder, be there for your nephews, pick them up and teach them who they are and take them through their language which means going for a walkabout and take them through that process.

There are totally different angles and perspectives from these 12 men so it makes the play really colourful.

KM: Do you think all the actors and performers have similar feelings about the production of *Dear Son*?

JB: I can't actually speak on behalf of them but I can say that man, we are loving it because this is our space, not like men's business, but we share, we open up, we crack each other up. We have a specific humour when we come together but this one there gives us permission to open up. Just working with all my co-stars it's such a blessing to tell these wonderful stories with them.

Our journey together is a story in itself, we know we're going to do the Brisbane season and go on from there. Over nine weeks of us spending time together, from the get go, as Indigenous men we naturally open up to each other but this play has opened up another space for deep talk and we've shared a lot of that so far, that's what I can say about my co-stars.

Dear Son runs from 28 Jun – 19 Jul at the Bille Brown Theatre playing Mon – Wed 6.30pm, Thu – Sat 7.30pm and matinees on Wed 1.00pm, Sat 2.00pm.

For bookings and info go to queenslandtheatre.com.au/plays/dear-son

Hermannsburg potters graduate



A GROUP of Hermannsburg potters have traded clay for graduation caps, with six of the artisans celebrating the completion of their studies with Charles Darwin University (CDU) this week.

The Hermannsburg potters have been studying visual arts at the CDU Alice Springs campus for several years and this year six of them received a CUA20720 Certificate II in Visual Arts, including Anita Ratara, who crossed the stage as the oldest graduate aged 82.

The Hermannsburg potters are a dedicated group of Western Arrernte artists who for 30 years have been sculpting and painting their visual histories on handmade ceramic pots.

New skills

During their studies with CDU TAFE, they have branched out and learned new skills and techniques that have helped them grow as artists.

The group said they have loved being able to come to the campus and learn from all the lecturers.

"They have taught us new skills such as drawing and mixing

colours, it's a fun environment and helps us to look for new ideas for our pots," the group said.

CDU Visual Arts and Arts Administration Lecturer (Faculty of Arts and Society) Lucy Stewart said it was an honour to work with the Hermannsburg Potters.

"These very experienced artists are always keen to learn new skills and explore new techniques such as drawing and printmaking," Ms Stewart said.

"I am proud of the work that they have done to grow as artists and push themselves outside of their comfort zones during their course work."



Beth Inkamala, Hayley Coulthard, Andrea Rontji, Anita Ratara, Judith Inkamala, Rona Rubuntja.



Colonising Species, Kevin Gilbert.

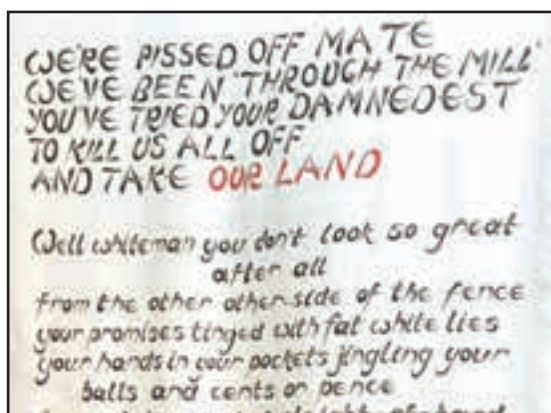


Boothung and Mirrigarng, Kevin Gilbert.

Enduring legacy of the Treaty man Kevin Gilbert



Kevin Gilbert at Bird Cage Reserve, Murrumbidgee.



We're Pissed off – poem on silk.



Lidia Thorpe with backdrop of poems on silk.



THE WORK of Wiradjuri artist, poet and writer Kevin Gilbert continues to resonate across Australia 33 years after his death.

On the eve of what would have been Gilbert's ninety-second birthday, Independent Senator Lidia Thorpe spoke movingly of his legacy, opening an exhibition of his work *True: Kevin Gilbert 1933-1993*, at Tuggeranong Arts Centre in Canberra. The exhibition brings together a collection of lino prints, poetry and photographs created over Gilbert's lifetime alongside other works edited for the first time.

Gilbert is well known for leading the Treaty 88 campaign, advocating for sovereign treaties in the lead up to the 1988 Bicentenary and was instrumental in re-establishing the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra.

Watched on by ambassadors and diplomats from Colombia, Bosnia, Chile, Iran, Egypt, Tonga, Ecuador and Mexico along with federal member for Bean, David Smith MP, Senator Thorpe reflected on the enduring power of Gilbert's work.

"I never met Kevin Gilbert but I feel that his spirit is in me. His legacy is what drives me and my work and maintains my resistance," she said.

"Sovereign treaties is still something we need to do in this country – sovereign to sovereign," she said.

"Looking around at his work, I want to take it all home, I want to take it into Parliament and remind everybody that I'm not the only one, this is not new to us or this country, this has been said by our Elders and our activists for decades and decades since the invasion of this country.

Senator Thorpe also acknowledged Gilbert's partner Eleanor saying, "So Ellie, thank you for all that you do in keeping Kevin's legacy and spirit alive and for allowing us to be part of that tonight."

"Auntie Irene Watson texts me every

now and again when she sees me coping it in Parliament and it's like a breath of fresh air when an Elder texts you saying: It's alright Bub keep going."

The senator went on to quote Professor of Law Irene Watson in her foreword to Kevin's *Aboriginal Sovereignty, Justice, the law and land* (includes Draft Treaty).

"Auntie Irene says Kevin left a paper trail for us to follow for the resurgence of First Nations people to emerge from this violence.

"This country has a black history and it has a black future. It's only Blackfullas that are going to save this country because we are the only ones who know how to do it and in the words of Uncle Kevin – only those who love the land and love justice will hold the land."

Gilbert's partner Eleanor Gilbert said the presence of international diplomats and Senator Thorpe at the opening were a marker not only of Gilbert's significance as an artist but also the continuing relevance of his message regarding justice for Indigenous Australian's and the need for a sovereign treaty.

"The world is now actually watching what is going on in Australia," she said. "I'm told that even the UN special rapporteur for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Francesca Albanese, is aware that there is a big issue here."

She said the presence of the diplomats was not only expressive of the relationship Senator Thorpe was building with those countries but also, "it signifies that there is international attention and solidarity as well."

In writing about her husband's work for this exhibition Ms Gilbert said, "By presenting Kevin's legacy in its many forms we keep alive his visionary dreams and aspirations still so relevant today.

"Through art, voice and the written word he has handed on the baton to succeeding generations, and offers a pathway for the resurgence of First

Nations and Peoples to emerge from the grip of a sophisticated genocide that claimed, and claims, the lives and health of too many.

The artworks in *'True'* were part of a Visions of Australia exhibition called *Breath of Life: Moments in Transit Towards Aboriginal Sovereignty* that toured Australia in 1996, and internationally to CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting) in Durban, South Africa, and the Rebecca Hossack Gallery in Soho, London during the 2000 Olympics.

The work has since been stored with this being the first time the works have seen the light of day in twenty-five years. Ms Gilbert writes that;

"Kevin Gilbert remains *'The Land Rights Man'*, *'The Treaty Man'* and his aspirations for justice live on in his vision for a proper foundation for all people in this land.

The last word goes to Kevin Gilbert himself: "I believe if there is to be an Australian culture, it cannot be an imported, ersatz culture. Cultures and the people are developed from the land they occupy.

Culture has to be developed from the heart, from the depths of human integrity, the depths of human passion, the depths of human creativity and I believe that if there ever is to be a sound overall culture for this land, it has to involve everyone and it must evolve or be based upon those fine aspects of the human family – integrity, justice, vision, creativity, life and honour...."

The exhibition will continue until August 9 at Tuggeranong Arts Centre in Canberra. On July 5 the gallery will present some of Gilbert's poetry recorded by CAAMA also featuring readings from his family. On July 10 there will be a screening of a video of Gilbert setting out of his position on sovereignty and sovereign treaties.

For more about Kevin Gilbert go to: www.kevingilbert.com.au



Group shot neighbour-at-the-gate-team. Photo Peter Morgan.

Meet The Neighbour at the Gate



A NEW exhibition that interrogates the impact of colonialism on First Nations and Asian Australian peoples will open on July 11 at The National Art School (NAS).

The exhibition *The Neighbour at the Gate* led by Wardandi (Nyoongar) and Badimaya (Yamatji) woman and senior curator Clothilde Bullen and a curatorium comprising Micheal Do, senior curator of contemporary art at the Sydney Opera House, and Whadjuk Balladong and Wilman Noongar artist and curator Zali Morgan.

This world premiere exhibition brings together three First Nations artists and three Asian Australian artists, presenting commissioned and existing works.

Artists include: Dennis Golding, a Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay man whose work critiques the social, political and cultural representations of race and identity; Larrakia, Wardaman and Karajarri woman Jenna Lee who challenges concepts of identity through the intersection of language and objects; and James Tylor, looking at Australian cultural representations through the perspectives of his mixed

heritage comprising Nunga (Kurna Miyurna), Māori (Te Arawa) and European ancestry together with: Malaysian-born artist and educator Jacky Cheng whose practice weaves narratives of her ancestral experiences with her new-found home; Elham Eshraghian-Haakansson, an Iranian-Australian researcher and video artist exploring inherited stories and post-memory felt by displaced communities; and James Nguyen, a Vietnamese born artist exploring the Vietnamese Australian experience of displacement and diaspora through his incisive and poetic art making.

The Neighbour at the Gate questions how immigration is framed in Australia's post-colonial context and how First Nations and Asian Australian communities navigate identity and belonging in the wake of this convergence of cultural interaction and resistance.

"It is urgent and timely that audiences have the opportunity to think deeply about nation-building and our shared histories. We hope that *The Neighbour at the Gate* presents new dialogues about what it means to be an Australian and who we are as a country today," Ms Bullen said.

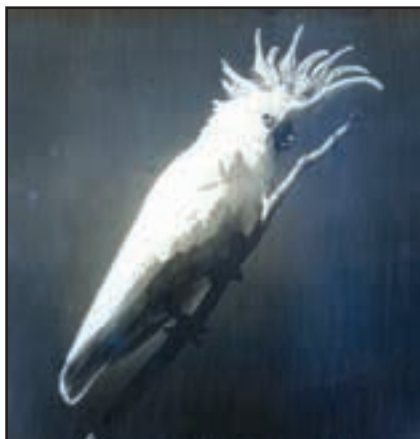
National Art School Head of First Peoples, John Waight, said NAS was a champion of art as a medium for education and social engagement.

"This is an important project for the National Art School at a critical time in our nation's history. We are pleased to be able to lead the cultural conversation with truth telling at the core of this special project," he said.

The Neighbour at the Gate is proudly supported by the NSW government through Blockbusters Funding initiative.



Jenna Mayilema Lee, *Grasstree (at rest)*.



James Tylor, *Pardu (Kurdaki)* 2024.



Dennis Golding, *Revisiting (Little Bay)*.



Hayley Panangka Coulthard. Photo Alana Holmberg.

Wynne finalist shares her culture through clay in Alice Springs



CELEBRATED Western Aranda artist Hayley Panangka Coulthard, a two-time finalist in the prestigious Wynne Prize, will share her culture through clay as part of a new exhibition, *Kaltjinhama* –

Kaltjerrama (Teaching – Learning) at Watch This Space Gallery in Alice Springs.

Known for her technically skilled and artistically rich ceramics that express a deep connection to Country, the exhibition will showcase new works – created as part of her formal studies as a Charles Darwin University (CDU) Visual Arts student – using art and making as a vehicle for storytelling and the sharing of artistic and cultural knowledge.

A member of the acclaimed Hermannsburg Potters since 2009, Ms Coulthard developed her talent under the mentorship of senior potters Judith Inkamala and her mother Anita Ratara. Now a senior artist herself Hayley is using clay to keep Western Aranda culture strong.

"Studying at CDU helped me explore new techniques and reconnect with locally harvested clay from my Country around Ntaria," Ms Coulthard said.

"The CDU Visual Arts Department in Alice Springs is a fun, safe and supportive place for me and other artists from Hermannsburg Potters to learn and grow our practice," she said.

"Yinga antja nama relha kaltjinhintjaka nhanha arrpmarnintjaka arna-urrgkna (I really want to teach people how to make with the clay)."

Ms Coulthard also received CDU's Edgar Dunis Award for Outstanding Achievement by a First Nations Student in Arts. CDU Visual Arts and Arts Administration Lecturer, Lucy Stewart, said it was an honour to work with Ms Coulthard and the other Hermannsburg Potters at CDU's Alice Springs Campus.

"Hayley is an established teacher in her community, she is leading the way in using clay as a medium to share her culture and language," Ms Stewart said.

Kaltjinhama – Kaltjerrama (Teaching – Learning) opens Tuesday 8 July from 6-8pm at Watch This Space (WTS) in Alice Springs.

For information go to: www.wts.org.au



Hayley, holding local clay pot, and her mum Anita.

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT



Shantelle and Amber Scholes.

First steps toward building careers



TWELVE Aboriginal students have taken the first step toward building careers in civil construction thanks to a partnership between TAFE NSW Queanbeyan and leading civil construction contractor, Yara.

The Certificate III in Civil Construction (Plant Operations) is providing practical training and real-world industry experience, supporting participants to develop the skills required for long-term employment in the construction sector.

Among the participants is Kamilaroi woman Shantelle Scholes, a mother of six who is already employed with Yara.

Inspired by her success, Shantelle's eldest daughter, Amber, has now joined her in the course, turning the program into a powerful shared journey.

"I've been working with Yara for a little while now, and I really love what I do. It's physical, hands-on, and I feel like I'm contributing to something real," Shantelle said.

"My daughter was excited by the work I am doing and wanted to give it a go. Now we're doing the program together – it's become a whole family journey."

Yara is deeply committed to creating long-lasting employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.

"At Yara, we believe in more than just delivering great projects, we're here to build futures," said Clay Uyen, Business Development Manager at Yara.

"Through support and education, we're seeing incredible benefits among team members like Shantelle and her family. This program is changing lives, and these ripples will make genuine waves in our local communities."

TAFE NSW Aboriginal Engagement

Coordinator Daryl Ella-Ritchie, a Yuin/Walbunja man, said the program is a meaningful step forward in strengthening community through culturally safe training.

"This program reflects what's possible when we genuinely connect with Mob and work together to build culturally respectful pathways into industries like construction," Mr Ella-Ritchie said.

"We've created culturally safe spaces, and we're embedding local Aboriginal history and identity into our campuses."

Mr Ella-Ritchie works closely with Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, schools, and industry partners to deliver tailored programs. He recently established a culturally safe space at the Queanbeyan campus and is now working on creating a Yarning Circle, which is a place to share, reflect, and celebrate Aboriginal culture and history.



Shantelle operating machinery.

Students celebrate policing pathway progress in NSW



SIXTEEN Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students celebrated a major milestone this week, graduating from the IPROWD (Indigenous Police Recruitment Our Way Delivery)

program at TAFE NSW Eora in Chippendale – a key step towards potential careers in law enforcement.

Established 16 years ago, IPROWD is a culturally tailored course that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in building the skills, confidence, and knowledge to apply for roles in the justice system.

Career opportunities in the NSW Police Force and the Australian Federal Police are a particular focus.

Among the graduating cohort was Jackson Cooper, a Dunghutti – Dharug man from Ourimbah who is continuing a strong family tradition in policing.

Jackson's father, Aaron Cooper, now a senior constable in the Hunter region, completed the IPROWD program more than a decade ago.

His grandfather, Grant Harridge, was also a police officer for more than 40 years in New South Wales, and had a significant influence on his life too.

Jackson is now eagerly following his family members' footsteps, ready to serve and represent his community.

"Dad's always been a big inspiration in my life," he said. "I've grown up hearing his stories from the job and having deep conversations about whether I'd be able to handle the good and the bad."

Jackson said studying at TAFE NSW Eora provided a culturally safe and empowering environment.

"Before this course, I was timid about expressing my Aboriginality because I'd been bullied a lot growing up. But here, it's been different," he said. "I've become more confident in myself. The course didn't just prepare me for a job – it helped me grow as a person."

"I've become more confident in my own skin. I used to get angry at racist comments, but this course has helped me learn better ways to communicate and deal with people. Being in a space where I could hear other students' experiences really



Jackson Cooper with his dad Aaron Cooper, now a senior constable, after completing the IPROWD program in 2010.

opened my eyes. For the first time, people were asking me about my culture – which I'd never really had."

IPROWD Project Officer Kylie Giusti said the program offered students far more than academic preparation.

"IPROWD is about identity, empowerment and representation," she said. "It gives our students the tools and cultural strength to step into spaces where they can be changemakers. Students like Jackson are not only building on family legacies – they're shaping a new generation of Aboriginal leadership in law enforcement."

Now graduated, Jackson plans to apply for the NSW Police Force later this year and is working to prepare mentally and physically for the next stage of his career journey. His long-term goal is to join the Tactical Operations Unit or Police Rescue.

"The IPROWD course helps you see the police aren't there to be the enemy – they're there to help, and if you join the force, you can be that help. It's been a rewarding experience for me, and I'd encourage others to take that step," he said.

"I've always wanted to be the person who brings hope in the worst moments," he said. "Joining the police isn't just about a job. It's about assisting and supporting people, being that bridge, and creating change from within."

Your guide to employment

Welcome to the Koori Mail's Indigenous Job Opportunities section. Each edition we publish employment advertisements from around the a call on (02) 66 222 666, email advertising@koorimail.com or see our website – www.koorimail.com

*Koori Mail – Our ABC audit means our readership is guaranteed.
No other newspaper aimed at the Indigenous market can offer this!*

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THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

Professor / Associate Professor, Teaching and Learning (Indigenous)

The role Reporting directly to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Engagement (DVCIE), this leadership position will develop the strategic direction for Indigenous Education at UQ, monitor the whole-of-university approach to Indigenous Education, develop strategies to enhance the recruitment of Indigenous students, ensure support and success for our Indigenous students.

The person We're searching for an experienced academic leader with a PhD (or equivalent) and a national profile spanning across teaching, research, and engagement. You will bring leadership in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander matters, supported by a strong knowledge and planning of both organisation-wide campaigns and involvement with external stakeholders.

Remuneration This is a full-time, fixed-term position for five years at Academic Level D or E.

Applications close 3 August 2025

Job No. R-52653

UQ considers that being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander is a genuine occupational requirement for this position under s25 of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld)* and the filling of this position constitutes a special/equal opportunity measure under section 8(1) of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth)*. **The position is therefore only open to Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.** The successful candidate will be required to provide evidence to confirm that they are an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

Visit careers.uq.edu.au for more career opportunities and to obtain a copy of the position description and application process.
The University of Queensland values diversity and inclusion.

CRICOS Provider 00025B • TEQSA PRV12080

MUSEUM CURATOR MENTOR
REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS

- 3+ month volunteer position
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identified role
- Flights, living allowance and insurance provided

For more information contact:
indigenouspathways@australianvolunteers.com

Australian Volunteers | Australian Aid



First Nations Engagement Leader (Identified)

We're proud to be advertising our Council's inaugural First Nations identified role.

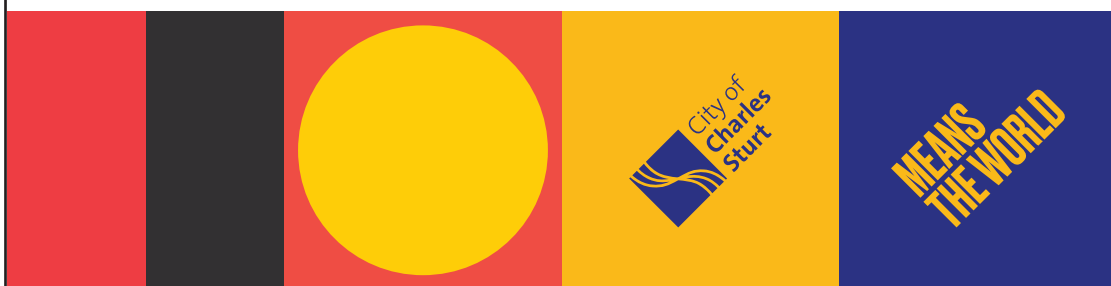
Are you passionate about strengthening Kaurna and other First Nations voices and embedding cultural knowledge within local government? We are looking for a dedicated First Nations Engagement Leader to drive meaningful engagement and inform reconciliation initiatives across the City of Charles Sturt.

In this role, you will lead initiatives that create culturally safe spaces, align with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and build strong partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Your work will help shape a more inclusive and connected community where First Nations cultures are recognised, valued and celebrated.

You will bring energy, leadership, and a commitment to genuine community engagement to ensure First Nations voices are heard and valued across all areas of Council's work.

Apply now at careers.charlessturt.sa.gov.au or contact Tess Geraghty at tgeraghty@charlessturt.sa.gov.au or ph: (08) 8408 1331 for more information.

Applications close 5pm, Friday 25 July 2025.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST MANAGER

WONGKUMARA CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN ("CHMP") WITH SANTOS LTD

Expressions of Interest are invited from suitably qualified members of the Wongkumara People Native Title Claim Group QUD 52/2008 who wish to be considered for the position of the Wongkumara CHMP Manager. There are 2 positions involving 2 weeks on 2 weeks off back to back. The position is based at Ballera in South West Queensland. The purpose of the position is to manage in country on behalf of the Wongkumara Endorsed Parties and Wongkumara People Native Title Claim Group the CHMP between the Wongkumara People and Santos Ltd. The skills required include a knowledge of Wongkumara Cultural Heritage, general organisational skills and computer skills. The required experience includes ability to identify cultural heritage, extensive prior participation in cultural heritage surveys and monitoring (including seismic), management of people and performance and project management. Details of specific duties, wages and other conditions can be obtained from and expressions of interest including CV should be directed to Eddy Neumann at Eddy Neumann Lawyers, Level 1, 255 Castlereagh Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Telephone: (02) 9264 9933 Facsimile: (02) 9264 9966 Email: en@eddyneumann.com.au.

It is intended the successful applicants will commence duties on 29 October 2025 and 12 November 2025.

Expressions of interest must be received by 18 July 2025.

RS2472

Aboriginal Cultural Support Awareness Advisor

Western Melbourne Area

\$124,888 - \$136,747 per annum (plus superannuation)

Fixed Term until 30 June 2027, Full Time

The Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Advisor provides advice to and builds awareness of Child Protection practitioners working with Aboriginal children and engages with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and community services organisations to improve outcomes through progression of self-determination reforms for Aboriginal children, families, and communities. While the role does not develop cultural plans, it provides important cultural expertise and guidance which supports child protection practitioners with the cultural planning process, and cultural plan compliance.

This crucial role enables Aboriginal children to remain connected to community, build resilience and support them remaining with family. The role will also focus on area improvement and implementation processes, aligning outcomes to relevant divisional policies and processes.

Special Measures:

This is a Designated role - Only Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are eligible to apply.

Contact for further information: Nathan Sherlock,
nate.sherlock@dffh.vic.gov.au or 0448 993 185

Reference number: DFFH/COPL/00666786

Applications close: 09 July 2025

For more information about this opportunity, please go to www.careers.vic.gov.au and download a position description to view departmental information, the selection criteria, our pre employment screening requirements and our Diversity and Inclusion commitments.





OFFICIAL VISITORS

Call for Expressions of Interest

ACT Official Visitors is seeking highly motivated, skilled and experienced people for appointment to two Official Visitor positions in Canberra.

The role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Official Visitor for Corrections is to visit detainees at the adult correctional centre and court cells. The role of Official Visitor for Disability is to visit people with disability in supported accommodation and residential age care.

Official Visitors work with government and non-government agencies to monitor the conditions and quality of services at visitable places and to identify and resolve complaints. Official Visitors also send a report to the relevant Minister every three months.

Applicants must have well-developed liaison and communication skills and the ability to communicate empathetically with people of diverse backgrounds in challenging situations. An understanding of Human Rights in the ACT is highly desirable.

Appointments will be for a period of up to three years. Remuneration is as a Part-time office holder, up to \$635 per day plus superannuation. This role provides networking opportunities and flexible working arrangements.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Official Visitor for Corrections is only open to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander candidates. People of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent are strongly encouraged to apply for both positions.

How to Apply

Please contact Stefan Dzwonnik on 02 6207 0978 or ovs@act.gov.au for a copy of the selection package. The selection package can also be found in the ACT Diversity Register website on www.diversityregister.act.gov.au. Applicants will need to address the selection criteria in the selection package and send their expression of interest documents to ovs@act.gov.au.

Applications close on **27 July 2025**.

5265SB_0093



Fish Passage: Reconnecting the Northern Basin Project

Join us at an upcoming community information session.

The Water Group in the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water invites community members and stakeholders from across the Central Darling Shire, Bourke Shire, Walgett and Moree Plains regions to come along to upcoming information sessions about the Fish Passage: Reconnecting the Northern Basin Project.

The project aims to enhance fish passage by installing partial width rock-ramp fishways at weirs in Banarway, Calmundi, Louth, and Tilpa.

The department's Water Group recognises the importance of carefully balancing the needs of water users and the environment.

The information sessions will enable the community to learn more about the project, review the revised fishway designs, discuss the independent water balance assessment findings, ask questions and provide feedback.

The sessions will be held across 3 locations on the following dates:

- **Tuesday 29 July 2025**, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, at the Tilpa Community Hall (1 Darling Street, Tilpa)
- **Wednesday 30 July 2025**, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, at Louth Tennis Club (30 Bloxham Street, Louth)
- **Thursday 31 July 2025**, from 9 am to 11 am, at PCYC Walgett (65-71 Dewhurst Street, Walgett).

An online webinar will also be held on Wednesday 6 August 2025, from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Registration is required.

Each session will begin with a 30-minute presentation, followed by a question-and-answer session. We look forward to sharing project updates and to hearing community views. Registration is not required to attend the information sessions in Tilpa, Louth and Walgett.

For more information:

- scan the QR code
- visit water.nsw.gov.au/fish-passage-project
- email water.enquiries@dpie.nsw.gov.au
- call 1300 081 047.



LTO468



Payroll and Administration Officer

Location: Sydney

Classification: Temporary (12 months), Full-time

Salary: Clerk Grade 7/8 (Total Remuneration Package: Up to \$137,732 p.a. Package includes salary (\$110,266 - \$122,058), employer's contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading.)

Job reference: 0000AZG8

About the role

The Payroll and Administration Officer will provide a professional end to end payroll management service at the LECC. This role is responsible for auditing, reporting and flexible working administration. The role also provides administrative support to other HR functions.

About you

You'll have:

- Tertiary qualifications in a payroll administration related field or equivalent work experience.
- Extensive hands-on iChris or CHRIS 21 end-to-end payroll management experience including PAYG and superannuation legislative obligations.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills with the ability to communicate across all levels of the organisation.
- Attention to detail and a high level of accuracy.
- Sound knowledge of relevant legislation in the payroll industry.

For more details and application information, please visit iworkformsw website and search for job reference 0000AZG8.

Closing date: Tuesday, 08 July 2025, 11.59pm

Enquiries: Natalie Kerr (02) 9321 6815

GOODOOGA LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

(Remuneration Package Negotiable)

Full Time/Permanent

The Goodooga Local Aboriginal Land Council (GLALC) is seeking applications from experienced and motivated people interested in a rewarding career undertaking the challenging role of full-time Chief Executive Officer.

This position holder will provide an extensive range of assistance and support to the elected Board through the day-to-day management of the Goodooga LALC's affairs in accordance with delegated authorities; the provision of sound and accurate advice and the implementation of the Board's resolutions in a timely and appropriate manner.

The successful applicant will have demonstrable knowledge and understanding of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALRA) (or the ability to rapidly acquire), the capacity to interpret and implement legislation and sound communication skills.



First Nations Social Emotional Wellbeing Worker

- **Part-time, ongoing role in Bairnsdale | \$83k - \$85k (pro-rata) + Salary Packaging + Super**

This is a key mentoring position working with young people, focused on their health and wellbeing in the Bairnsdale region.

RAV is the lead agency for **headspace** Bairnsdale, providing early intervention mental health services to 12-25 year olds.

Reporting to the Centre Manager, you will work as part of the Relationships Australia Victoria First Nation's team to provide strength-based and culturally safe services to young people with a focus on First Nations young people. You will support young people and their families/friends to access wellbeing support, therapeutic interventions, and care coordination, working closely with local community, through facilitation, organisation and delivery of health promotion activities and community events.

The role is three (3) days per week, including a Tuesday evening shift.

This role is an Aboriginal designated position, classified under the Equal Opportunity Act (2010) Section 12 - Special Measures. Only Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are eligible to apply.

For further information about the position, how to apply and the position description please visit www.rav.org.au/careers.

Applications close on Wednesday, 30 July 2025.

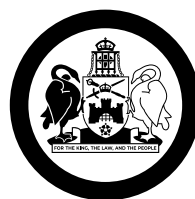
Organisational and management experience is essential together with an understanding of accounting practices and principles. A sound knowledge and appreciation of Aboriginal issues would also be required.

All applicants must obtain a copy of the recruitment package containing the Position Description and selection criteria and address the selection criteria for their application to be considered. For a recruitment package contact the Contact Officer Karlene Middleton (NSWALC), by email: karlene.middleton@alc.org.au or on (02) 6885 7005.

Applications can be forwarded to lalcgoodooga@yahoo.com or marked "Confidential" to the Chairperson and posted to:

The CEO Recruitment Panel
Goodooga Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 78
GOODOOGA NSW 2832

Applications close: Friday 11th July 2025.
Aboriginal people are encouraged to apply.



ACT
Government

The ACT Government is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and highly motivated persons for appointment as External Adjudicators

Adjudicators provide an independent external review of decisions regarding disciplinary matters that are disputed by detainees in the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

The role of Adjudicator supports other independent review functions and plays a significant role in ensuring the rights of detainees at the AMC are upheld. For most matters, an internal review process takes place before an Adjudicator becomes involved.

As Adjudicators oversee decisions, it is important that the person exercising the function has a high standard of integrity, impartiality and objectivity, as well as a sound understanding of administrative law principles. An Adjudicator is required to be judicially qualified. A judicially qualified person is a judge or retired judge; a magistrate or retired magistrate; or a person who has been a legal practitioner for not less than five years.

Eligibility/Other requirements

An Adjudicator is required to be judicially qualified. A judicially qualified person is a judge or retired judge; a magistrate or retired magistrate; or a person who has been a legal practitioner for not less than five years.

Notes

Appointments as Adjudicators are for a period of up to three years and remuneration is on a per diem basis in accordance with ACT Remuneration Tribunal's Part-time Public Office Holder Determination which can be found at the Remuneration Tribunal's website: www.remunerationtribunal.act.gov.au/determinations

How to apply

To apply, applicants are asked to submit an expression of interest (maximum four A4 pages) detailing their Knowledge, Skills and Experience against the Selection Criteria and a current curriculum vitae.

Expressions of Interest are to be sent to: Catherine.King@act.gov.au

Expressions of Interest close: 8 July 2025.

5243SB_0091



Murra Mia AC

Murra Mia Aboriginal Corporation

**Strengthening
Aboriginal Tenancy
Program**

Caseworkers x 2 Full-Time

Location - Batemans Bay

Overview of Position:

The Strengthening Aboriginal Tenancy Project will provide tenancy support through local strategies to Aboriginal people with complex needs whose tenancies are at risk of failure. Support includes case management, advocacy, community outreach services and assisted referrals to other specialist support services to sustain new or existing tenancies.

The caseworker will work as part of a team to provide practical supportive and specialist intervention to those who seek assistance from the project.

This is an identified position under Section 9A of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

Enquires: Michelle Craig on 0457 798 647 or email: michelle.craig@aru.org.au

**Closing date: 5.00pm
14 July 2025.**



CCLHD - Aboriginal Family Clinician - Child Protection Counselling Service (CPCS)

Organisation / Entity: Central Coast Local Health District
Job category: Health - Allied Health Clinician
Job location: Central and North Coasts - Newcastle & Hunter Valley / Gosford, Central Coast and Region
Job reference number: REQ578620
Work type: Part-Time
Total remuneration package: \$112396 - \$116038
Closing date: 13/07/2025 - 11:59 PM

Employment Type: Permanent Part Time
Position Classification: Health Clinician Level 3
Remuneration: Depending upon qualifications
Hours Per Week: 24
Location: Central Coast
Requisition ID: REQ578620
Applicants Close: Sunday 13 July at 11:59 pm 2025
Interviewing week of: 31 July 2025

Applicants for this position must be of Aboriginal descent through parentage, identify as being Aboriginal and be accepted in the community as such. An applicant's race is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised under Section 14(d) of the NSW Anti Discrimination Act 1977.

Support healing. Strengthen families. Make a difference for Aboriginal children and communities.

The Child Protection Counselling Service (CPCS) within Central Coast Local Health District is seeking a dedicated and culturally responsive Aboriginal Family Clinician to join our team. This is a unique and meaningful opportunity to work with Aboriginal children, young people, and families who are engaged with the child protection system.

Working on Darkinjung Country, you will help support children's recovery from trauma and strengthen family capacity to keep children safe, connected, and supported within their communities.

About The Role:

As the **Aboriginal Family Clinician**, you will:

- Provide trauma-informed counselling and casework for Aboriginal children, young people (0–18 years), and their families/carers impacted by: physical or emotional abuse; neglect or exposure to domestic and family violence
- Deliver therapeutic interventions that promote healing, wellbeing, and cultural connection.
- Support families to strengthen their parenting capacity and work towards safe family restoration or preservation.
- Engage and build trust with local Aboriginal communities and service providers to increase access to culturally safe support.
- Work collaboratively as part of a small, supportive multidisciplinary team, including Clinical Leads and a Service Manager.
- Contribute to the ongoing development of culturally safe, responsive service models within VAN (Violence Abuse & Neglect) services.

Note: If a Social Worker is appointed to this role, participation in the Hospital On-Call Service will be required as per the on-call agreement.

For more information about this role, please view the Position Description and On Call Social Work Service Participation Agreement

About You:

You are an experienced and compassionate clinician who:

- Is an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person with strong connections to community
- Holds a relevant qualification in Social Work, Psychology, or Counselling
- Has experience working with children, families, or individuals impacted by trauma and/or child protection issues
- Understands the importance of cultural safety and Aboriginal-led healing practices
- Is skilled in therapeutic engagement, case management, and family support
- Can build strong relationships with Aboriginal communities and service networks
- Is committed to promoting social justice and improving outcomes for Aboriginal children and families

Applicants must have current work rights in Australia or be a permanent resident or citizen. Unfortunately, we cannot consider applicants who do not meet this requirement.

Benefits

- **Work-Life Balance** – Enjoy an accrued day off each month, 17.5% annual leave loading, and paid parental leave.
- **Financial Benefits** – Boost your take-home pay with salary packaging, save on car costs with novated leasing, and access relocation assistance.
- **Health and Wellbeing** – Stay active with discounted gym memberships (Fitness Passport), free flu vaccinations, telehealth support, and confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP) counselling for you and your family. Plus, access discounted private health insurance.
- **Career Growth** – Advance your career with free professional development courses and secondment opportunities.

For more information, please visit Benefits at CCLHD

Working for Central Coast Local Health District - NSW Health/

Central Coast Local Health District is committed to implementing the Child Safe Standards.

Central Coast Local Health District is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants can access support through the Stepping Up initiative, which provides guidance on the NSW Health recruitment process.

NSW Health strongly recommends all workers stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations as per the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation guidelines. However, COVID-19 vaccination is not a condition of employment.

Additional Information

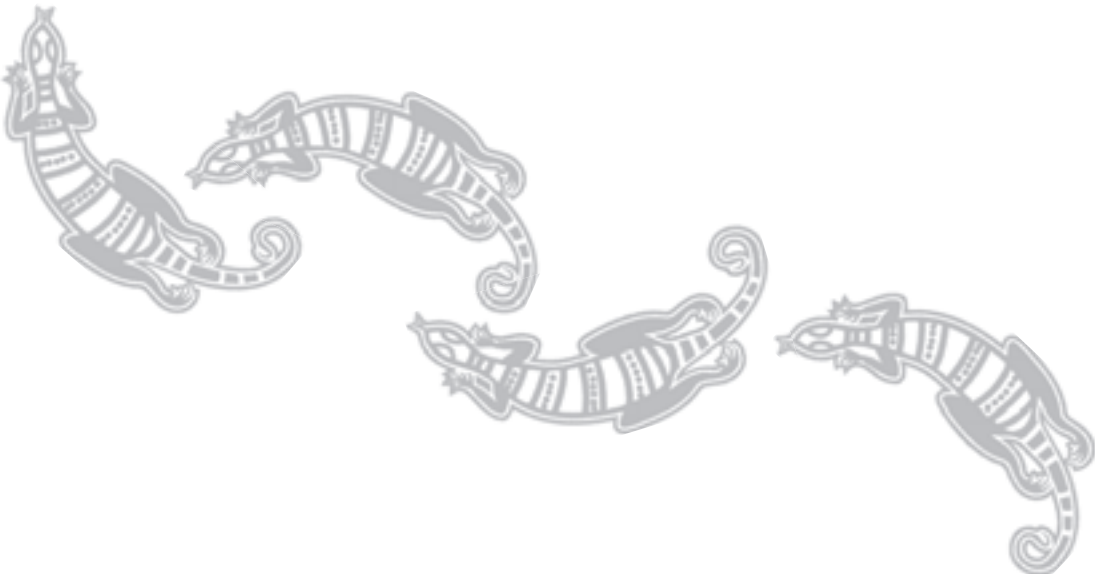
An **Eligibility List (E-List)** or talent pool may be created from this recruitment episode to assist in filling future permanent, temporary, or casual full-time and part-time positions.

Need More Information?

For role-related queries, please contact: Claire - Louise Kerr

Phone: 0459 302 167

Email: clairerlouis.kerr@health.nsw.gov.au



NOTICE OF WILYAKALI NO. 1 NATIVE TITLE COMMON LAW HOLDERS MEETING

A meeting of the **WILYAKALI NO. 1 NATIVE TITLE COMMON LAW HOLDERS** will be held on:

DATE: Saturday, 12th July 2025 **TIME:** 10:00am to 4:00pm

****PLEASE NOTE NEW VENUE: Broken Hill Civic Centre
31 Chloride Street, Broken Hill NSW 2880****

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Wilyakali People who are descendants (including by adoption) of the following apical ancestors:

- Jack Tyler and his niece Minnie Crozier (Bates);
- Mary Walgu; and
- Outalpa Dick;

and who identify as Wilyakali and are recognised by the other Native Title Holders under those traditional laws and customs as having rights and interests in the Determination Area (collectively, **Native Title Holders**).

PURPOSE: To consult with and seek the consent of the Wilyakali Native Title Holders to:

1. Authorise the terms of a Settlement Indigenous Land Use Agreement (**ILUA**) between the State of South Australia and the Wilyakali Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (**WNTAC**) relating to compensation and future acts under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) in the Wilyakali No. 1 native title area in the map **pictured**.
2. Authorise the terms of a Native Title Mining Agreement for exploration between Trachre Pty Ltd and WNTAC to allow mining exploration in EL6958 and EL6960 within the Wilyakali No. 1 native title area.
3. Authorise the terms of a Native Title Mining Agreement for exploration by the Joint Venture between Peel Far West Pty Ltd and Red Hill Minerals Ltd and WNTAC to allow mining exploration in EL6959 within the Wilyakali native title area.

ASSISTANCE: Assistance will be provided by South Australian Native Title Services Limited (SANTS) in accordance with SANTS' policy for costs associated with travel to and from the meeting. *Please note SANTS does not provide mileage or hire cars.* Please contact leesha Goldsmith at SANTS on 1800 010 360 for assistance to attend or for further information about this meeting.

This meeting is called by STEPHEN KENNY of CAMATTA LEMPENS LAWYERS on the instructions of the Wilyakali Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC. For further information contact Stephen Kenny or Jasmine Werneburg on (08) 8410 0211. If you would like a copy of the ILUA or other agreements before the meeting, please email Kia Hook on khook@camattalempens.com.au.



Notice Under Section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), Mining Lease Application 645 (Act 1992)

This notice is given in accordance with the requirements of Section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

Description of the nature of the act

The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992* intends to grant a mining lease under section 63(1)(a) of the *Mining Act 1992* (NSW) on land subject to native title.

Should a lease be granted, the lease holder may apply to renew or transfer the lease prior to it expiring (including partial renewals or partial transfers).

Note: If the lease is granted, the renewal, re grant or re-making (including partial renewals or partial transfers) or extension of the term of the lease may be valid pursuant to section 24MD(1) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) without further notification, provided the requirements in section 26D(1) are satisfied.

Holder's details

Cadia Holdings Pty Limited (ACN 062 648 006) is the applicant for Mining Lease Application 645 which, if granted would authorise the mining for copper, gold, lead, molybdenite, silver and zinc for an initial term of up to 21 years.

Description of area that may be affected

The entire area of Mining Lease Application 645 that covers an area of about 253 square metres situated approximately 23 kilometres south southwest of the city of Orange, in the State of NSW as shown on the diagram below.

Name and postal address of person by whom the act would be done

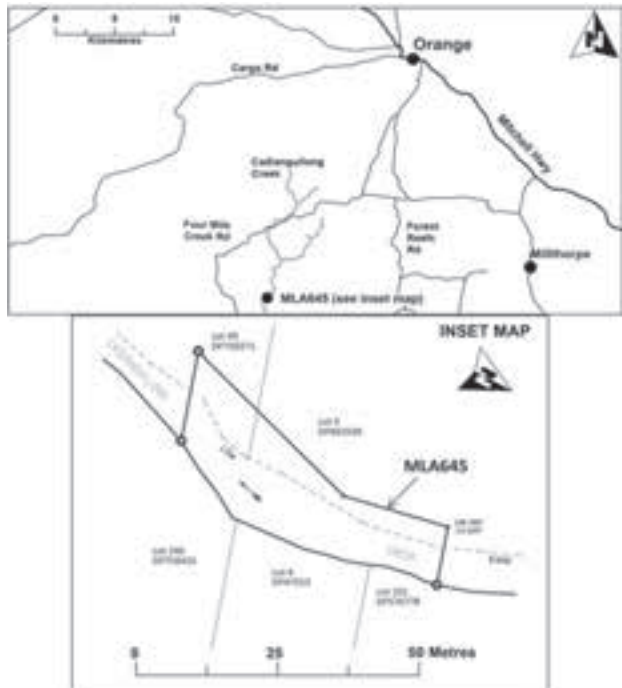
The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*, PO Box 344, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310.

How further information about the act and description of the area can be obtained

Further information may be obtained from: Assessments and Systems, NSW Resources within the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on (02) 4063 6600 or titles@regional.nsw.gov.au.

Notification Day

For the purposes of Section 29(4) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) the notification day is 17 July 2025. Under Section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice.





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	08/3794	LADYMAN, Geoffrey Ross	2BL	46.2km SE'ly of Onslow	Lat: 21° 53' S: Long: 115° 28' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	16/640	DYNAMIC METALS LIMITED	6BL	25.3km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 24' S: Long: 120° 48' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	29/1293	MT IDA LITHIUM PTY LTD	34BL	89km W'ly of Leonora	Lat: 28° 54' S: Long: 120° 25' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	52/4457	STANIFER PTY LTD	1BL	78.8km E'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 25° 36' S: Long: 119° 30' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1475	FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD	70BL	120.1km S'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 29° 1' S: Long: 118° 56' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1476	EDE NATURAL RESOURCES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	56BL	87.7km E'ly of Paynes Find	Lat: 29° 4' S: Long: 118° 33' E	MENZIES SHIRE, SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1477	ROX (MURCHISON) PTY LTD	4BL	114.1km E'ly of Paynes Find	Lat: 28° 58' S: Long: 118° 48' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/6692	EMC URANIUM PTY LTD	18BL	22.4km NE'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat: 30° 45' S: Long: 118° 21' E	MUKINBUDIN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3274	STALLION LITHIUM PTY LTD	1BL	85.2km S'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 32° 11' S: Long: 119° 47' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3278	FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD	19BL	127.4km E'ly of Paynes Find	Lat: 29° 21' S: Long: 118° 59' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3279	FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD	4BL	123.2km E'ly of Paynes Find	Lat: 29° 11' S: Long: 118° 57' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3280	FMG RESOURCES PTY LTD	2BL	122.2km E'ly of Paynes Find	Lat: 29° 15' S: Long: 118° 56' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3281	AHD TRENCHLESS PTY LTD	33BL	52km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 56' S: Long: 118° 53' E	WESTONIA SHIRE, YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3282	AHD TRENCHLESS PTY LTD	9BL	37.4km NE'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 57' S: Long: 119° 34' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3283	AHD TRENCHLESS PTY LTD	60BL	33.6km N'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 56' S: Long: 119° 25' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3284	AHD TRENCHLESS PTY LTD	23BL	58.1km N'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 43' S: Long: 119° 11' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3285	TG GOLD PTY LTD	2BL	74.1km S'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 32° 7' S: Long: 119° 38' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3286	EMC URANIUM PTY LTD	37BL	50.4km NE'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat: 30° 35' S: Long: 118° 34' E	MUKINBUDIN SHIRE, WESTONIA SHIRE, YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	80/6125	COMPLETE PROSPECTING PTY LTD	4BL	31.6km SW'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 29' S: Long: 127° 32' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Exploration Licence	80/6126	COMPLETE PROSPECTING PTY LTD	1BL	27.4km S'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 27' S: Long: 127° 34' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Exploration Licence	80/6127	COMPLETE PROSPECTING PTY LTD	1BL	25.1km S'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 26' S: Long: 127° 35' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6960	HIGGINS, Ryan	9.80HA	8km S'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 1' S: Long: 121° 10' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3519	MURTAGH, Jason Lee	197.47HA	13km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 29' S: Long: 121° 3' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3520	MURTAGH, Jason Lee	34.60HA	25.2km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 21' S: Long: 120° 47' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3521	KAY, Brendan Charles	190.93HA	35km NW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 42' S: Long: 120° 56' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3526	DUNN, Christopher Raymond	188.68HA	34.9km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 39' S: Long: 120° 56' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3533-S	LARWOOD, Paul Kevin	10.00HA	23.4km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 34' S: Long: 120° 59' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3534-S	LARWOOD, Paul Kevin	8.62HA	24.4km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 34' S: Long: 120° 59' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3535-S	LARWOOD, Paul Kevin	9.92HA	23.2km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 34' S: Long: 120° 59' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5846	LAWSON, Matthew James LAWSON, Shane	159.41HA	12.9km W'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 24' S: Long: 121° 11' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5866	NORTON GOLD FIELDS PTY LTD	195.04HA	14.5km S'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 34' S: Long: 121° 17' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5867	NORTON GOLD FIELDS PTY LTD	153.24HA	14.6km S'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 34' S: Long: 121° 18' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5868	NORTON GOLD FIELDS PTY LTD	193.24HA	13.5km S'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 33' S: Long: 121° 18' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5869	NORTON GOLD FIELDS PTY LTD	194.76HA	11.7km S'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 32' S: Long: 121° 18' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5870	NORTON GOLD FIELDS PTY LTD	194.78HA	10.2km S'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 32' S: Long: 121° 18' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5871	NORTON GOLD FIELDS PTY LTD	195.45HA	15.8km S'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 35' S: Long: 121° 18' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5872	NORTON GOLD FIELDS PTY LTD	199.93HA	13.8km S'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 34' S: Long: 121° 18' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5873	NORTON GOLD FIELDS PTY LTD	199.44HA	11.8km S'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 33' S: Long: 121° 18' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5874	NORTON GOLD FIELDS PTY LTD	199.40HA	11.7km S'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 33' S: Long: 121° 19' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5875	NORTON GOLD FIELDS PTY LTD	199.51HA	11.8km S'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 33' S: Long: 121° 20' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5876	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	137.99HA	15.5km N'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 18' S: Long: 121° 19' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5877	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	128.92HA	14.6km N'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 18' S: Long: 121° 19' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2859	BEHSMAN, Patricia Mary JOHNSON, Jillian Wendy	199.08HA.	39km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 49' S: Long: 121° 51' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2874	MANSEN, James Karl	199.68HA	22.6km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 42' S: Long: 121° 42' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2875	MANSEN, James Karl	199.86HA	23.6km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 42' S: Long: 121° 42' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2876	MANSEN, James Karl	192.66HA	24.6km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 42' S: Long: 121° 43' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4836-S	MACKIE, Glen Alan	9.88HA	7.7km N'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 8' S: Long: 121° 39' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2622	MURTAGH, Jason Lee	132.85HA	18.3km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 40' S: Long: 121° 38' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2623	MURTAGH, Jason Lee	197.62HA	16.6km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 40' S: Long: 121° 36' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2624	MURTAGH, Jason Lee	196.82HA	17.7km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 39' S: Long: 121° 37' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2625	MURTAGH, Jason Lee	198.07HA	17km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 39' S: Long: 121° 36' 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 Special Prospecting Licences, which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term up to 4 years from the date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.

Notification day: 2 July 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 **2 October 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. 2 November 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 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
16/539	OWEN, Tristan David	731808	9.61HA	31.1km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 35' S: Long: 120° 51' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
30/548	DYNAMIC METALS LIMITED	719007	130.86HA	54.4km NW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 4' S: Long: 120° 36' E	MENZIES SHIRE

Nature of the act : Grant of amalgamation applications which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals.
Notification day: 2 July 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 **2 October 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. 2 November 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 STAGED CONSULTATION MEETINGS TO CONSULT WITH AND SEEK CONSENT/AUTHORISATION FROM THE GUNGGANDJI-MANDINGALBAY YIDINJI PEOPLE (GMY PEOPLE).

CONSENT/AUTHORISATION MEETING POSTPONED

Attention All Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji People common law native title holders as described in the Native Title Determination QUD6012/2012:
Please be advised the Consent/Authorisation Meeting scheduled on 25 June 2025 **has been postponed** due to ILUA registration requirements. New meeting notices and advertisements will be circulated when the Consent/Authorisation meeting has been rescheduled. Please email any queries regarding this notice to: admin@gmyppbc.org

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION PERMIT FOR MINERALS AND RENEWAL/GRANT OF MINING CLAIM

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 for Minerals (EPM), grant of Mining Claim (MC), and renewal of Mining Claim (MC) shown below, subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)*.

EPM 29054 applied for by Rachele Sarah Kinzett, over an area of 4 sub-blocks (12.65 km²), centred approximately 150 km west southwest of Winton, in the locality of Winton Shire Council.

MC 60272 applied for by Barry John Chappell, over an area of 1.71 ha, centred approximately 1 km southwest of Yowah, in the locality of Paroo Shire Council.

MC 60273 applied for by Barry John Chappell, over an area of 1.89 ha, centred approximately 1 km southwest of Yowah, in the locality of Paroo Shire Council.

MC 60290 applied for by Raimund Anthony Walzl, over an area of 0.09 ha, centred approximately 1.6 km southwest of Yowah, in the locality of Paroo Shire Council.

MC 60331 applied for by Benjamin Robert Bowen, over an area of 7.57 ha, centred approximately 74 km northwest of Cunnamulla, in the locality of Paroo Shire Council.

MC 300482 applied for by John David Wilton, over an area of 19.12 ha, centred approximately 176 km west southwest of Longreach, in the locality of Barcoo Shire Council.

MC 300514 applied for by Leonard Jessie Morris, over an area of 0.09 ha, centred approximately 100 km southwest of Winton, in the locality of Winton Shire Council.

MC 300516 applied for by Isaac Aaron Andreou, over an area of 0.20 ha, centred approximately 1 km southwest of Yowah, in the locality of Paroo Shire Council.

MC 300520 applied for by Melissa Gaffney, over an area of 20.00 ha, centred approximately 170 km southwest of Winton, in the locality of Winton Shire Council.

MC 300521 applied for by Melissa Gaffney, over an area of 20.00 ha, centred approximately 170 km southwest of Winton, in the locality of Winton Shire Council.

MC 300526 applied for by Shirley Rae Jackson, over an area of 15 ha, centred approximately 101 km south southwest of Winton, in the locality of Winton Shire Council.

Nature of Act(s): The grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)* authorises the holder to explore for minerals subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)* for a term not exceeding five (5) years with the possibility of renewals for terms not exceeding five (5) years. The grant of Mining Claim 300514, 300516, 300520, 300521, 300482, and 300526 under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)* authorises the holder to mine and carry out associated activities subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)* for a term not exceeding ten (10) years with the possibility of renewals for terms not exceeding ten (10) years. The renewal of Mining Claim 60272, 60273, and 60290 under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)* authorises the holder to mine and carry out associated activities subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)* for a term not exceeding ten (10) years with the possibility of future renewals for terms not exceeding ten (10) years. The renewal of Mining Claim 60331 under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)* authorises the holder to mine and carry out associated activities subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)* for a term not exceeding five (5) years with the possibility of future renewals for terms not exceeding five (5) years. The grant and renewal of the Mining Claim includes the grant and renewal of access as shown.

Name and Address of person doing Act(s): It is proposed that the Exploration Permit for Minerals and Mining Claims be granted and renewed subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld)* by the Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing, and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

Native Title Parties: Under the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* any person who is a 'native title party' is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed grant and renewal of an Exploration Permit for Minerals and Mining Claim. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until three (3) months after the Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: 1300 720 980 or Email: nativetitleQLD@fedcourt.gov.au. Enquiries in relation to the registration of a native title determination application may be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Brisbane Registry, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

Further information: May be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing, and Regional and Rural Development, for Exploration Permit for Minerals Mineral Assessment Hub, Level 9, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders Street, Townsville, Queensland, 4810. Telephone: (07) 4447 9230 or Email: MineralHub@resources.qld.gov.au. For Mining Claims - Small Scale Mining Assessment Hub, 99 Hospital Road, Emerald, Queensland, 4720. Telephone: (07) 3078 3031 or Email: SSMHub@resources.qld.gov.au.

Notification Day: 16 July 2025



Notice of non-claimant applications for determination of native title in New South Wales

Notification day: 16 July 2025

‘Non-claimant’ applications have been made to the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) seeking determinations that native title does not exist in the areas described below. The Applicants have non-native title interests in these areas, which are set out in their applications and summarised below.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), there can be only one determination of native title for an area. Unless there are relevant native title claims, as defined in section 24FE, over the areas described below on or before **15 October 2025**, the areas may be subject to protection under section 24FA and **acts may be done which extinguish or otherwise affect native title**.

A person who claims to hold native title rights and interests in any of these areas may wish to file a native title claimant application or become a party to the non-claimant application. These may be the only opportunities to have those rights and interests taken into account in the Federal Court’s determination. Any other person may also wish to become a party.

If you want to become a party to any of these applications, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, **on or before 15 October 2025**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. **After 15 October 2025**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.

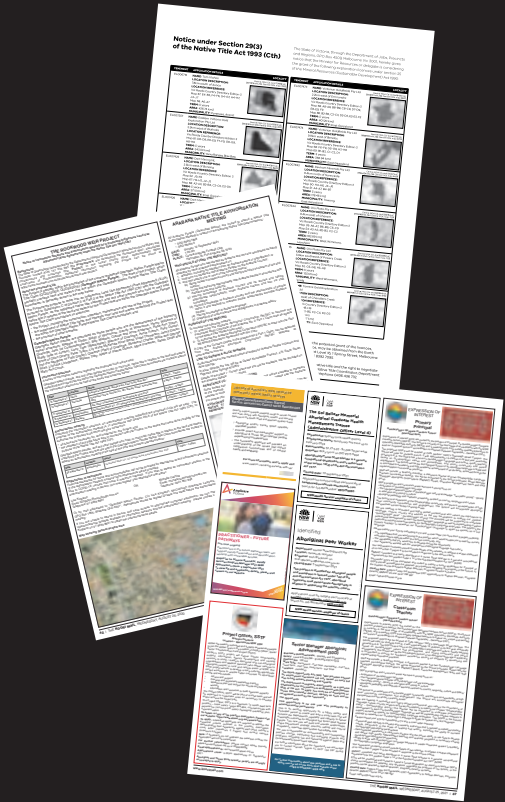


Applicant’s name: Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council (in each application)
Non-native title interest: The Applicant holds or is entitled to a transfer of an estate in fee simple but, pursuant to s 36(9) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW), subject to any native title which existed in relation to the land immediately prior to the transfer to the Applicant
Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks a determination that native title does not exist in the application areas (set out below for each application)
Federal Court File No: NSD607/2025
Description of area: The application covers a combined area of approx. 3.73 hectares and is located over of Lots 8, 10 and 11 in DP1306196 and Lot 13 in DP 1306781 in the town of Byron Bay
Federal Court File No: NSD608/2025
Description of area: The application area covers approx. 705 square metres and is located over Lot 9 in DP1306196 in the town of Byron Bay
Federal Court File No: NSD609/2025
Description of area: The application area covers approx. 0.31 hectares and is located over Lot 387 in DP728536 in the town of Byron Bay
Relevant LGA: Byron Shire Council

For assistance and any further information about these applications, including the description of the area, call Megan Harris on 07 3052 4981 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



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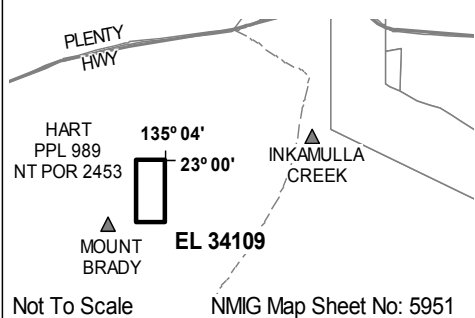
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION LICENCES

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

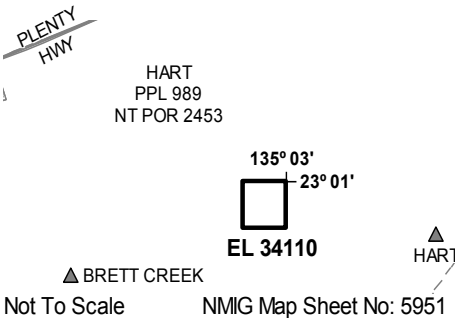
The Honourable Gerard Maley MLA, the Northern Territory Minister for Mining and Energy, C/- Department of Mining and Energy, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) of his intent to do an act, namely to grant the following exploration licence applications.

Applications to which this notice applies:

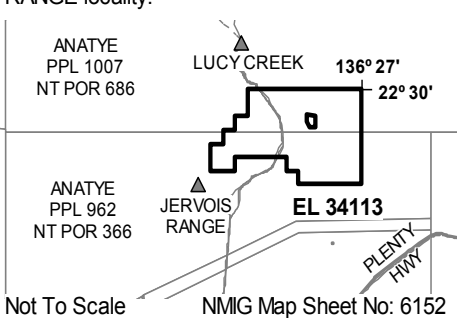
Exploration Licence 34109 sought by AUDAX HOLDINGS PTY LTD, ACN 678 403 864 over an area of 2 Blocks (7 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the QUARTZ locality.



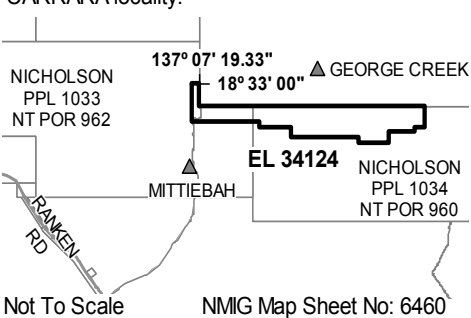
Exploration Licence 34110 sought by AUDAX HOLDINGS PTY LTD, ACN 678 403 864 over an area of 1 Block (4 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the QUARTZ locality.



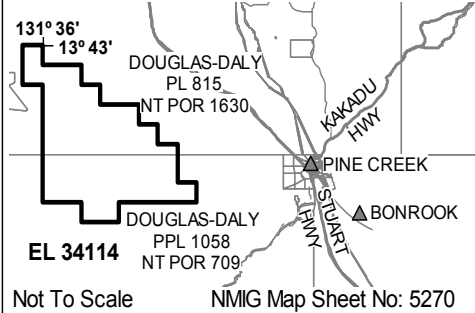
Exploration Licence 34113 sought by BAUDIN RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 618 455 593 over an area of 64 Blocks (202 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the JERVOIS RANGE locality.



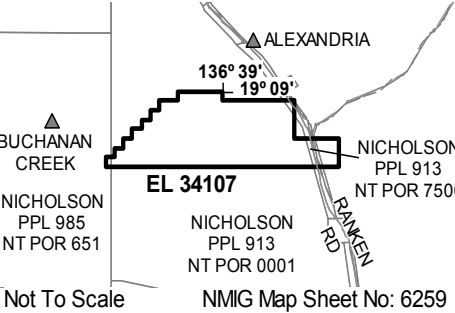
Exploration Licence 34124 sought by BAUDIN RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 618 455 593 over an area of 224 Blocks (685 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the CARRARA locality.



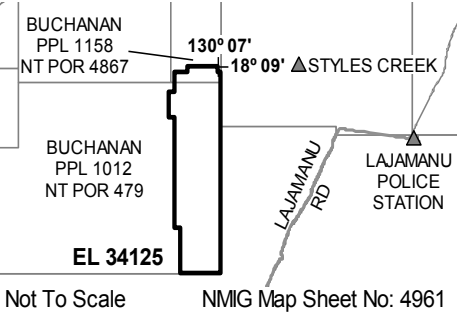
Exploration Licence 34114 sought by GEMPART (NT) PTY LTD, ACN 081 859 896 over an area of 42 Blocks (141 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the PINE CREEK locality.



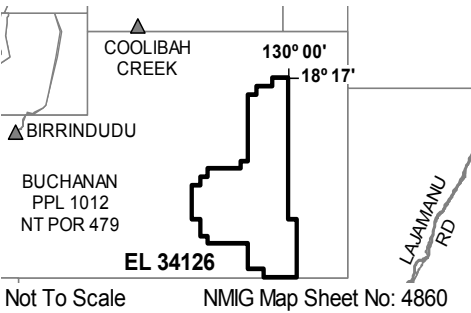
Exploration Licence 34107 sought by GEORGIABOBBI INVESTMENTS PTY LTD, ACN 607 267 630 over an area of 146 Blocks (474 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the ALEXANDRIA locality.



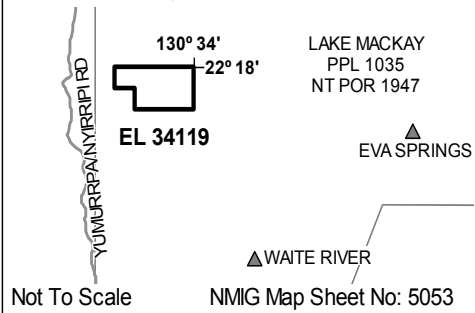
Exploration Licence 34125 sought by PURE EXPLORATION PTY LTD, ACN 669 443 636 over an area of 250 Blocks (754 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the STYLES locality.



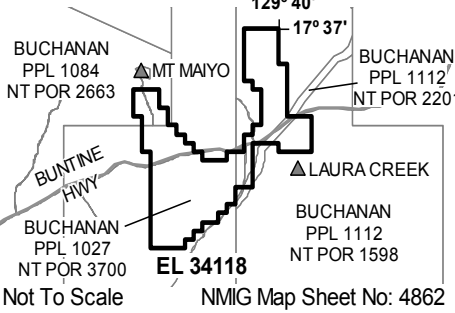
Exploration Licence 34126 sought by PURE EXPLORATION PTY LTD, ACN 669 443 636 over an area of 178 Blocks (580 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the WARE locality.



Exploration Licence 34119 sought by URO CORPORATION PTY LTD, ACN 653 927 998 over an area of 7 Blocks (23 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the VAUGHAN locality.



Exploration Licence 34118 sought by WESTAR GRAPHITE PTY LTD, ACN 676 492 658 over an area of 190 Blocks (622 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the INVERWAY locality.



Nature of act(s): The grant of an exploration licence under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* authorises the holder to conduct activities in connection with exploration for minerals for a term not exceeding 6 years and to seek renewal(s). The term for which it is intended to grant the mineral exploration licences referred to in this notice commences from the date of grant. Further information about the act may be obtained from the Department of Mining and Energy, GPO Box 4550 Darwin NT 0801 or Centrepont Building 48-50 Smith Street Darwin NT 0800, telephone (08) 8999 5322.

Native Title Parties: Any person who is, or becomes a "native title party" within the meaning of the *Native Title Act 1993* is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2, Division 3, Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993*. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries concerning becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Brisbane QLD 4001, or telephone (07) 3307 5000.

Expedited Procedure: The Northern Territory Government considers that the acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure as defined in section 237 of the *Native Title Act 1993*. The exploration licences referred to in this notice may be granted unless an objection is made by a native title party to the statement that the act is one which attracts the expedited procedure. Such an objection must be made to the National Native Title Tribunal within 4 months of the notification day.

Notification Day: 2 July 2025

Bertie Johnson – looking back on a SANFL superstar



First known Indigenous premiership player

By PETER ARGENT



A REMARKABLE football story is the journey of First Nations footballer Bertram Harold Johnson, known unilaterally across the greater football communities in South Australia and Victoria as “Bertie”.

Now living in Cohuna on the Murray, Bertie is in his mid 80s and still loves his footy.

Brilliant on his day, noted for his lightning speed and one of the great characters of his era, Bertie Johnson was a key member of the West Adelaide premiership win, in what was named the famous “Turkish Bath” Grand Final of 1961, playing in 90-plus-degree Faren height (30 plus degree Celsius) temperatures.

With his performance he became the SANFL’s first known Indigenous premiership footballer.

Journalist and 1947 premiership player Merv Agars wrote in his history of the West Adelaide Football Club, called *Bloods, Sweat and Tears*, “He unwound a devastating second half of brilliant speed and ball control.”

This was a triumph of hard work and will, as two years earlier, Johnson enduring a broken leg in the 1959 title decider against Port Adelaide, which sidelined him for the majority of the ‘60 campaign.

Adding to his history of firsts, in 1964, Johnson, along with Tiwi Islander David “Soapy” Kantilla became the first known First Nations players for don a state jumper for South Australia.

Johnson’s football journey is even more amazing, when you consider Bertie’s first structured football was in the junior grades at West Adelaide.

Born at Ooldea and brought up in the Riverland at the Gerard Mission, after he needed to move to Adelaide, Johnson acquired a cabinet making job in Adelaide in his mid-teens and ran across a future West Adelaide legend Doug Thomas working at that company, Hamra Furniture.

At that point he had no junior club or community football education.

Bertie borrowed boots for his first training session with the West Adelaide Colts from Thomas.

“Yes, West Adelaide was my first football club,” Johnson confirmed.

“When it came to my pace no players caught me, but some girls did.

“I didn’t recollect of any specific issue from the game; it was just normal Grand Final excitement that go me fired up in 1961.

“John Ryan (a business partner), Ken Eustice, Doug Thomas and Jeff Bray were among the best team-mates I played with at West Adelaide, while Laurie Dwyer was a very good player at North Melbourne.

“A couple of opponents that stood out included “Chicken” Hayes at Port Adelaide and Stan Alves at Melbourne.

“Playing in that state game for SA, I remember we won and still regard it as a career highlight.”

Johnson suggested the way the game currently played would suit him, because of his scintillating pace.



Bertie in the front row.

“He had tremendous pace, great courage and a lot of natural talent, all we had to do was get him a little fitter.”

SA football icon, Australian Football Hall of Famer and team-mate Neil Kerley.



Bertie at the piano.



Bertie on the farm.



Bertie.



Pat, Bertie and Dianne.

He explained his favourite First Nations footballer was Graham "Polly" Farmer, who he played against once during the 1965 VFL season.

In 1962 Johnson would create another slice of First Nations history becoming the first Indigenous player to play 50 SANFL league games.

Bertie was blessed with great pace and was one of the most exciting footballers of his generation.

He played his first SANFL league game on August 10, 1957, against Norwood and went on to play 81 games for the Bloods between 1957 and 1964.

It should have been a lot more, but for injuries and suspensions.

During his time in Adelaide, Bertie struck up a long-lasting friendship with Adelaide Oval Media Hall of Fame Advertiser photographer, Barry O'Brien.

"Bert's battles with Neville "Chicken" Hayes were legendary," O'Brien confirmed.

"There's no doubt he was targeted by other clubs because of his brilliance – and short fuse.

"He was subjected to constant racial abuse on and off the field, but it didn't affect him. "Bertie retaliated with either saying something rude or some rough play.

"As a young photographer I was always keen to break new ground, always looking for unique and interesting photo opportunities.

"I was told Bertie was from the Stolen Generation and raised at Gerard Mission.

"I asked him if he would be willing to return to talk to the boys there.

"However, Gerard was too far away, so with reporter Reg McDonald we cheated a bit and went to Point Mcleay mission on the Coorong.

"Bertie was very quiet but the further we went the more he loosened up.

"I struck up a good rapport with him while we were there and of course he got on very well with the kids.

"I took a boomerang with me;



Bertie as groomsman at Barry O'Brien's wedding.

everyone had great fun throwing it.

"Actually, that turned out to be the front-page picture, not Bert.

"I took him some prints to Bert in the next few days, and we just really hit it off.

"With my fiancée Pat and his girlfriend Dianne, we'd pile into my Peugeot 203 and head off on picnics.

"It followed that I asked him to be groomsman at our wedding – not a popular choice with my father and others of his ilk at the time.

"Our friendship continued until he transferred to Melbourne in the mid 1960s.

"I had very little contact with

"He was real wag, ahead of his time - one of those mischievous rascals and a damn good player."

SA football icon, Australian Football Hall of Famer and team-mate Neil Kerley.

him until one day in 1981 I picked up the phone at the office and a husky voice said, "How's it going Barry Boy".

"I recognised him immediately and said, "Bertie Johnson you bastard".

"His infectious laugh followed.

"He was moving back to Adelaide after being extremely successful and in demand in Melbourne working on building restorations, chimney building and paving.

"The timing was perfect as I had just started building our mud brick house and he agreed to work on it.

"Bertie was an amazing worker. "His starting time was 7am and he would be there at 6.30.

"Constantly I would hear the call, "more mud Barry Boy" as I battled to keep up with him as he lay the mud bricks.

"He was an extremely clean worker and would wear good clothes to work and then go to the Westies club after work.

"He hated getting a spot of mud on his hands or arms and

never on his clothes.

"One day, with friends, we had a barbeque, and we were all hopping into our loin lamb chops with our fingers when I noticed Bertie wasn't eating.

"I said, "Not hungry Bert?" his reply was, "Can I have a knife and fork please?"

"He built our very special chimney from a pile of Wistow stone in my house.

"He knew in his mind where every stone was going."

O'Brien suggested Bertie was the most exciting footballer of his time, with his speed over the first 20 metres electrifying, although on occasions it got him into trouble.

"In the 1959 Grand Final at the Adelaide Oval he took off after the ball toward the boundary, but the fence was too close and he hurdled it, landing in a spectator's lap," O'Brien recalled.

"In the closing minutes of that game against Port Adelaide, with the result still in the balance, he tried to kick the ball off the ground but crossed legs with Lloyd Zucker.

"He broke his leg rather horribly and was being treated by St John's Ambulance people when the final siren sounded.

"He missed most of the 1960 season.

"Then in the 1961 'Turkish Bath' Grand Final against Norwood he was judged best on ground by umpire Lawrie Sweeney.

"It was a fiery game with he and his great mate Johnny Ryan involved in several incidents."

O'Brien said Bertie Johnson would always make the eight-hour drive to Adelaide to celebrate our anniversaries, birthdays and other special events.

"He wouldn't stay with us, preferring to stay in the Marion Hotel and would go to the Morphettville racetrack every morning for breakfast where he was friendly with all the jockeys," O'Brien commented.

"On one occasion in the 1990s having lost his licence, he came down in the bus to a family wedding.

"He was going to catch the bus

back to Cohuna where he was working in a dairy with former jockey Anthony "Tassie" Pegus, but I said I would drive him.

"I kept a tape recorder running on the journey and went through his life's experiences with him.

"At the end of the trip I knew it would make a great movie."

O'Brien has a full manuscript written and ready to go on the amazing life of Bertie Johnson.

Interestingly back in 1957, when Johnson played in a reserves level state game for SA against the VFL at the MCG, he first came under notice by VFL clubs, receiving offers from Geelong, Hawthorn and the Kangaroos in what was his first trip outside the state of South Australia.

His performances with the Bloods over the next eight years convinced hot-gossiping coach, Alan Killagrew – who was the Norwood Redlegs '61 Grand Final mentor against West – to persuade Johnston to move to Melbourne and try his luck in the VFL competition.

Johnson moved from West Adelaide to North Melbourne in 1965 and was instantly popular with the Kangaroos' fans, living with Killagrew for a time.

He played 31 VFL senior games over four seasons with the club and was a member of North Melbourne's 1967 Reserves Grand Final victory over Richmond.

Johnson rounded off his senior playing career with brief stints at VFA clubs Dandenong and Williamstown.

It has a long and fulfilling life full of love and laughter, with many friendships made along the way. In the mid 1960's Bertie and O'Brien were among the people who campaigned for citizenship for Indigenous people, attending talks by Charlie Perkins and others.

"During the "Sorry" time he hated people saying "Sorry" to him," O'Brien reflected.

"He didn't want people to feel sorry for him.

"He stood on his own two feet. "That really sums up Bertie."

25 First Nations icons in '25

Rohanee Cox

With more than two decades as a correspondent with the *Koori Mail*, PETER ARGENT is looking back on the sporting careers of Indigenous stars across the wide world of sport across the 2025 calendar year

Rohanee "Roey" Cox was born on the 23rd April 1980. She has Nyulnyul heritage and started her life in Broome in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

She was one of the first Indigenous Australian women to represent her country in basketball at the Olympics and won a silver medal with the Opals at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

A small forward – shooting guard, 182cm (6'0") tall with strong skills, she had a two-decade career in the Women's National Basketball League (WNBL) starting at the Australian Institute of Sport.

Her tenures included campaigns with the Perth Lynx, Townsville Fire, West Coast Waves and she finished her playing days with the Sydney Uni Flames.

There were some ups and downs along the journey.

As a 20-year-old, she was living in remote Western Australian town of One Arm Point, single and pregnant. This was a 23-hour drive from Perth.

Having a daughter she named Alyriah, Cox was encouraged by her to play basketball again, signing her up for a local league.

Displaying tremendous resilience and strength of character, this was the catalyst to turning her young career around.

Cox would play for a further 15 years, retiring at the end of the 2016 campaign.

She initially had a scholarship with and played for the Australian Institute of Sport as a teenager between 1996-98, before donning a singlet for the Perth Lynx in 1999-2000.

She returned to that club 2002/2003, before a five-year tenure, being at the top of her game with the Townsville Fire from 2005.

During her time in the north of Queensland, Cox won the prestigious 2009 WNBL Most Valuable Player (MVP) award as the leagues best basketballer and was a member of the WNBL All-Star Five both in that season and



Rohanee Cox playing for the Sydney Uni Flames.

the campaign before (2008 and 2009 seasons). She was the WNBL league's leading scorer in 2008.

After a significant junior career at national level, Cox made her Australian Opals debut as a teenager in the late 90s.

However, she left the team and sport shortly after that and did not play with the side again until 2006, some eight years later.

Getting back into the squad for 2008 was a challenge as she had to overcome a knee injury.

She first played for the Opals in 1998 at the Brazil Olympic

Committee Invitational and was named in the 1999 and 2000 squads.

In March 2007, Cox was named to the national team what would prepare for the 2008 Summer Olympics.

She participated in the 2007 FIBA Oceania Championship for Women, averaged 9.3 points per game, along with 4.3 rebounds and 3.0 assists.

Cox participated in the 2008 FIBA Diamond Ball Tournament for Women and at the 2008 Summer Olympics, she had had an Aboriginal flag on her kit.

Winning that silver medal at the 2008 Summer Olympics, Cox became the inaugural First Nations women Australian to win an Olympic medal in basketball.

In that campaign the Opals won seven straight games at the Olympics, only losing to the United States in the gold medal game.

In that Silver Medal winning Australia team, Cox's team mates included Erin Phillips, Lauren Jackson, Suzy Batkovic, Penny Taylor and Jennifer Screen.

She fitted comfortably alongside these fellow hoops

legends.

Cox continued as a member of the Opals program until 2011.

Her final stop in the WNBL was with the Sydney Uni Flames for four seasons from 2012 to 2016, retiring in her mid 30s as one of the greats of the code in this country.

Among her many honours, in 2007 Cox collected Maher Medal for International Player of the Year, and at the 2009 Deadlys, she won the Award for Female Sports person of the Year.

Roey Cox was NAIDOC Sports person of the Year in 2010.



Ngarluma Yindjibarndi Foundation (NYF) representatives, including emerging leaders and Elders, with Karlayura Rodeo organisers in Ieramugadu (Roebourne) May 2025.

Traditional Owners unite to bring rodeo to life



THE Ngarluma Yindjibarndi Foundation Ltd (NYFL) is proud to announce its cultural partnership with Karlayura Rodeo Inc. for the inaugural Roebourne Rodeo, to be held on 9 August 2025.

The Roebourne Rodeo is the first of its kind for the town, and NYFL is excited to support this landmark event, which aligns closely with the aspirations of our members and the broader Ngarda-ngarli (Aboriginal) community of Ieramugadu (Roebourne) for an activated, connected, and culturally rich future.

As the official Cultural Partner, NYFL has been working alongside Karlayura Rodeo Inc. to ensure the event is grounded in local culture and guided by Ngarluma Elders. NYFL has facilitated wangka-ngarli (deep conversations) between community leaders, Elders, and Karlayura Rodeo leadership to help bring this shared vision to life.

These conversations took place throughout the start of 2025, with Senior Ngarluma Elders Ricky and Frank Smith – respected brothers and cattlemen who run stock at Ngurrawaana – sharing their deep knowledge of the cattle industry and their excitement about bringing a high-standard rodeo event to Ngarluma Country.

Ngarluma Elder, Nanna Violet Samson, and Yindjibarndi Elder Judith Coppin, both respected nannas in the

Ieramugadu community, also took part in the wangka-ngarli.

They expressed their strong support for the event, giving their cultural approval for the rodeo to be held on Ngarluma Ngurra, and highlighting the positive impact it could have in bringing families together and showcasing cultural strength.

NYFL and Karlayura also sat down with emerging leaders in Ieramugadu, to listen to the next generation's hopes for the event.

Ngarluma woman Sam Walker spoke about the importance of seeing local fashion and arts on display alongside the rodeo action, as a way to celebrate community identity and inspire pride in local talent.

"This partnership speaks to the deep desire of Ngarluma families to see a safe, family-friendly event return to Country – one that celebrates our culture and brings people together," said NYFL CEO Sean-Paul Stephens.

"The wangka-ngarli with our Elders and young people show just how strong the community's vision is. We are proud to walk alongside Karlayura and the many local leaders making this vision a reality."

The rodeo is an initiative led by respected Banyjima and Nyiyaparli cultural leader Brian Tucker (BT), his wife Kuruma Elder Georgina Bobby, and rising rodeo leader Tui Magner, a proud Māori

woman with strong ties to the Pilbara.

As a Banyjima and Nyiyaparli man, Tucker has lifelong connections to Ieramugadu, developed through years of kinship, cultural exchange, and shared struggle.

Georgina too has called Ieramugadu home over the years, while travelling for Lore and visiting kin in the community.

Their leadership is deeply rooted in lived relationships with the town and its families.

"Bringing a rodeo to Ieramugadu has been a long-held ambition of the community," said Mr Tucker.

"Over the years I've spoken to many Ngarluma families who have said they want something like this – a place for community, for celebration, and for our young people to shine.

I'm so pleased that NYFL, as cultural partner, is walking with us to make this happen."

Tui Magner, who has led rodeo development across WA, emphasised the potential for young people to see a future in rodeo sports.

"Rodeo is more than entertainment – it's a pathway. My daughter recently spent time in the US learning elite rodeo skills, and there's no reason why young people from the Pilbara couldn't follow that same path. This is about pride, talent and opportunity – and we're building something with real momentum."



First Nations rodeo participant Xaver Cox at an Onslow Karlayura Bull Riding School. Photo: Aussie platinum photography.



Roebourne Rodeo organiser and Traditional Owner Brian Tucker.



Roebourne Rodeo organiser Tui Magner. Photo: Anna Tibu.

Netballers heading to Victoria for national tournament



FIRST Nations netballers from around Australia will be making their way to Victoria in August for the return of the First Nations Tournament.

Netball Australia announced the return of the First Nations

Tournament, marking the next chapter in celebrating and elevating First Nations talent, culture, and community through netball.

Following the success of the pilot event last year, the tournament now enters a new phase as a permanent fixture on the national netball calendar slated for August this year.

Supported by Visit Victoria as the official host partner, as well as Suncorp and Confident Girls Foundation as official partners of the event, the 2025 edition will expand from three to five days of competition, taking place at Frankston's Jubilee Park Stadium from 20-24th August, 2025.

The 2024 pilot tournament saw Queensland claim the historic inaugural victory, with Murrawari goaler Lily Cubby named player of the tournament following her team's triumph.

Cubby, one of several athletes since selected in the inaugural 2025 Black Swans national squad, said the return of the event continues to provide talent identification for upcoming First Nations talent.

Speaking about her call up to the team, Cubby said, "I'm incredibly excited to see the First Nations Tournament return in 2025. It's such an honour to represent my family and Mob on this platform – it means the world to me.

"This tournament isn't just about playing the game, it's about connection, culture, and creating real opportunities," she said.

"It's so powerful for young First Nations girls to see that there's a pathway for them in sport, and I'm proud to be part of something that celebrates who we are and where we come from."

The tournament was developed in consultation with and support from Netball Australia's eight member organisations, whose leadership and collective commitment have been instrumental in shaping the event into a truly national competition.

Under-23 representative teams from every state and territory will feature in the 2025 tournament, including Victoria, ACT, Tasmania, New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Netball Australia's General Manager, First Nations, Ali Tucker-Munro, said "last year's tournament was a powerful showcase of the incredible depth of netball talent we know exists within our communities".

"Watching the girls play with such pride – pride not just in representing where they're from, but in their culture, with their Mob in the stands cheering them on, that was a real privilege," Tucker-Munro said.

"It's more than just a competition – it's a place where our Mob can come together, stand tall, and shape the future of our game."

Netball Australia CEO Stacey West said the 'Tournament presents a space for culture and netball to thrive side by side'.

"Last year's pilot was about more than just competition – it was a demonstration of Netball Australia's commitment to creating culturally safe, inclusive pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players, coaches, umpires, and fans," West said.

"We are proud to see the First Nations Tournament return as an annual celebration and honoured to continue walking alongside our First Nations partners on this journey."



Murrawari goaler Lily Cubby named player of the tournament last year.

AJ on track for long-standing record

South Sydney flyer and try scoring machine Alex Johnston, at the time of writing, is just 5 tries away from breaking one of rugby league's longest standing records – that of Ken Irvine's 212 tries set in 1965.

It's a record that has stood for 60 years and one that was thought it could never be broken.

But since Alex Johnston made his NRL debut in 2014, the fleet-footed winger has been attacking that record. It now looks like that record could tumble in 2025. In Round 16, AJ scored 4 tries alone when South Sydney fell short to Melbourne 25-24.

Only Irvine and Johnstone have managed to score 200 tries or more in the history of the game with next best being Billy Slater on 190 and Steve Menzies on 180. The next highest scoring Indigenous player was Matt Sing who finished his career with 159 tries.

Irvine played 236 first-grade games for North Sydney and Manly. During his time with the Bears, Irvin, crossed the line for 171 tries in his 176 games for the club. Irvine's tally in the representative arena was also impressive. He scored 30 tries for NSW from 24 appearances, 33 tries from 31 matches for Australia and 7 tries from 8 games for City Firsts.



Kris Flanders

Johnston made his debut for South Sydney in Round 8 of the 2014 season and of course, scored a try on debut! It was the year that he also scored his very first hat-trick against Newcastle in a 50-10 demolition. He finished his thrilling debut season in 2014 with a try in the Bunnies' historic Grand Final victory over Canterbury. It was South Sydney's first title since 1971. AJ also finished the season as the NRL's top try scorer with 21 from 18 matches. Not a bad effort for a rookie.

Since that scintillating debut season, Johnston, has gone on to be a prolific try scorer each season for Souths.

In fact, there have only been three seasons when Johnston



Alex Johnston scores a try.

didn't break 10 tries in the year. Those "lean" years were 2018 with 8, 2019 with 4 and last year with 8. So it's almost safe to suggest that had some injuries not come into play that Johnston may have already broken the record. But that's rugby league... you have to take the good with the bad and with the knowledge that injuries are going to happen from time to time.

The great thing about watching Johnston is when he gets on a roll and in a mood then often two or more tries can come along. So it's no surprise either that when he crossed for 4 tries against Melbourne recently, AJ, picked up some more NRL records.

He now has scored hat-tricks on 16 occasions and is now equal highest with Frank Burge (Glebe and St. George) and Ken Irvine

who also did it 16 times in games.

There are over 10 rounds of action still to be played but the Rabbitohs also have 2 byes left to be had, so that will somewhat cut down the chances and time for it to happen. On the other hand Souths still have games against clubs who've struggled this season including Gold Coast, Parramatta and St George-Illawarra.

But we all know that Johnston has the skills and try-scoring senses to get the job done against any side. So the record could be broken sooner rather than later and what a special occasion that will be.

A young kid who played junior football for La Perouse United and attend Endeavour Sports High School before coming through South Sydney's pathways system to find himself playing on the wing for the Rabbitohs in the NRL and then becoming the greatest try scorer ever in the history of a sport that has been going since 1908. Amazing!

So whether you support South Sydney or not, get behind Alex Johnston, as he shoots for the magical 213. I'm sure the late, great Ken Irvine will be standing and cheering from that big stadium in the sky when it happens too.

Go AJ! Go!

Young Dragons ready for fiery season

By KRIS FLANDERS



AFTER a few disappointing seasons the Dragons NRLW side appear intent of breathing fire again and burning their opposition.

Experienced and talented centre, Bobbi Law, believes there's a sense of change around the football club as they enter the 2025 campaign.

"Been a pretty good pre-season so far, all the girls are very excited as it's been a long time since we played footy together from last year, we've trained hard and worked hard. We are building something special down here," Law explained.

"We have some new faces in the staff with the likes of Nathan Cross, our new head coach who's been the assistant coach for Queensland the last two years. We also have the recently retired Sammy Bremner as our new Women's Football Manager and new player recruits like Hannah Southwell, a great leader from the Knights. We are maturing as a squad, we have some really experienced girls and some of our younger players are stepping up."

Law has had a rough start to 2025 when she went down with injury during February's All Star clash. The Indigenous star said to not be able to finish such an important match was tough but she has worked extremely hard at her rehabilitation to get herself right for the Saints.

"Everything is really good with myself, it was difficult and a mental challenge for me, I had to make sure that I was ready to start Dragons pre-season training. I'm proud of the work I've done because I'm injury free now and I'm feeling really fit. I have to say that pre-season training has been pretty easy and you don't get to say that often but it's because I've done the work," Law said.

Law recalls that despite missing the rest of the All Stars clash she was very impressed with the way the young brigade stood up for their Mob, in particular her fellow Dragons teammate, Ella Koster who came on in Law's absence.



Bobbi Law and Ella Koster are looking forward to the start of the NRLW season.

"I've played alongside Ella here at the Dragons now for a few years and she's like a little sister to me, we bounce on and off each other all the time. On the footy field and off the field too with ideas. To see her have such an amazing debut in the All Stars with her whole family there, she's a strong young staunch Indigenous woman, who I know took a lot away from that experience," Law said.

Law will start her 7th NRLW year after stints with the Roosters and Newcastle, where she won a premiership in 2022. Law believes she's found her rightful home in the Illawarra and enters her 3rd year in red-and-white colours.

Law also does a lot of work in the Illawarra region and with NAIDOC Week approaching, the Worimi and Dunghutti woman expects to be very busy, something she's looking forward to.

"I love it down here, I love the vibe of the place, Wollongong is my home now. I work with The Healthy Deadly Kids program with

the Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service, hopefully I'm using my platform to inspire and make positive changes. I work alongside Tyson Demos (former Illawarra Hawks NBL player) where we engage local schools and talk about health, nutrition, dental hygiene and mental health. Then we get out on either the footy field or basketball court where we take them through different skills," Law said.

"I think I'll probably be at every single NAIDOC event in the Illawarra and the Dragons do such an amazing job of getting involved and celebrating our culture which I love seeing from them."

Saints forward, Ella Koster, will turn 20-years-old soon but already she's shown maturity beyond her age.

Her Indigenous All Stars teammates are still talking about her rousing and inspirational halftime speech that lifted them in that game. Astonishingly, it was her debut Indigenous All Stars appearance, in which she also scored a crucial try.

The Gweagal/Wiradjuri woman wants to

bring that type of mentality to the Dragons this season.

"That moment has opened some opportunities for me. I'm the type of person that sees what's in front of me and goes for it. I wasn't planning on saying anything, I was just in that moment. That's the intensity and motivation I want to bring to club land," Koster recalled.

"That game (All Stars) gave me huge confidence, just being in that safe cultural space and learning off girl's that I've idolised. It was such an honour to play in that game, my family and ancestors have sacrificed a lot for me. The week leading up to the game and the crowd was unbelievable, words can't describe it really, just proud."

Koster is a local junior, having played rugby league with the Albion Park-Oak Flats Eagles, she was also part of the successful Illawarra Steelers side that won the Tarsha Gale Cup last year.

With 14 appearances in the NRLW and 5 tries to her name, Koster, will remain a Dragon till the end of the 2027 season.

"It means everything, I've grown up down here, always wanted to play for the Dragons. The NRLW space has grown so much and I'm so grateful to play at home. I only live 30 minutes away from WIN Stadium for training and games here. It's my home soil and my home land and to represent my family is special," Koster beamed.

"I know what this club means to locals here and the community. The Dragons are building on that culture, last year we had out first Indigenous jersey for the women's game and that was something that was pushed by Bobbi (Law) and the club."

The Dragons have added former Raiders forward and Indigenous All Star, Ahlivia Ingram, to the squad. Koster is excited about what she can bring to the Saints.

"Only met her a few weeks ago but I can already tell she's got that passion for the game and the club. She's a hard worker, she was coming in off rehab and you could see the work she put into it, she dug in. I'm really excited about playing alongside her in the forwards," Koster said.

First Nations women line up for NRLW season

By KRIS FLANDERS



THE NRLW is back! The Warriors return to the competition while Canterbury are the newest club to the elite level joining

Brisbane, Canberra, Cronulla, Newcastle, North Queensland, Parramatta, St George-Illawarra, defending premiers the Roosters and the Tigers.

This season there are over 30 talented Indigenous women in the competition, some are the biggest names in the game and will be on the highlights reels plenty of times during the 2025 year, while six up-and-coming footballers have been added as development players.

There's also three head coaches and more in support staff.

BRISBANE BRONCOS:

Montaya Hudson - Keilee Joseph - Shaylee Joseph - Tamika Upton

Montaya Hudson has been elevated from a development player into the Top 24 for this season. The 19-year-old from Cloncurry has represented Queensland in Under-19s side. Hudson plays fullback and has spent the past two seasons playing with the Norths Devils in the BMD Premiership. Keilee Joseph is one of the toughest forwards in the game today. Joseph is a Queensland Origin star and Jillaroos representative. She's played 32 games and has scored 3 tries. An absolute workhorse, Joseph makes plenty of yards and loves making big hits and tackles. Younger sister, Shaylee Joseph was also elevated from a development player to the top 24. She's yet to make her NRLW debut but is a Queensland Origin player at the Under-19s level and played for Easts in the BMD Premiership. Tamika Upton has returned to the Broncos in a massive boost for the club. Upton is a four-time premiership winner, two with the Broncos and two with the Knights. Easily the best fullback in the NRLW and a Dally M winner, Upton has a wonderful try scoring record with 26 in 37 matches and is co-captain in 2025. Former NRL star and 2005 premiership winner, Scott Prince, is the Head Coach.

CANBERRA RAIDERS:

Grace Kemp - Madyson Tooth (Development Player) - Relna Wuruki-Hosea

Grace Kemp will be with the club till the end of 2027 based on her brilliant form last year. Already a NSW Origin player and Indigenous All Star, Kemp has certainly made a brilliant switch from union to league. The prop will definitely add to her 18 NRLW games. Madyson Tooth is a development player from Goulburn and has come through

the Tarsha Gale Cup and the Katrina Fanning Shield. Tooth is a talented centre. Relna Wuruki-Hosea made her NRLW debut last year and played 3 games. From Badu Island in the Torres Strait, the gifted centre, has just recently resigned till the end of 2027 and played under-19's Origin for the Maroons. Darrin Borthwick is the Head Coach.

CANTERBURY BULLDOGS:

CRONULLA SHARKS:

Rhiannon Byers - Nakia Davis-Welsh - Quincy Dodd - Tommaya Kelly-Sines - Caitlan Johnstone-Green - Jada Taylor

The Sharks are hoping to go one better this year and erase the memories from last season's Grand Final loss. Rhiannon Byers ad her best year for the Sharks last year and the tough second-rower will build from that. Byers will run all day and tackle anything that moves. Nakia Davis-Walsh played 4 matches for 4 wins last year and the fullback/winger is aiming to get even more game time. Quincy Dodd, one of the best for Cronulla, the local junior is a leader for the club. Dodd adds so much spark to the attack and is always busy in defence. 38 games and 11 tries. Tommaya Kelly-Sines is the newest addition to the club after stints with Parramatta and Canberra, the powerful froward has plenty of potential and is a great signing for the Sharks. Caitlan Johnstone-Green, is on a three year deal with the Sharks after leaving Newcastle where she won two premierships. A powerful running prop who is always hard to handle and produces big hits in defence. Needless to say the Sharks will miss er presence until she returns to action after her pregnancy. Jada Taylor is an electric fullback with a great turn of speed. However, injury stopped her 2024 year. But her four tries from nine games says that when right to go she will be hard to stop.

GOLD COAST TITANS:

Shaylee Bent - Jaime Chapman - Tahlia Fuimaono - Phoenix Hippi (Development Player) - Lailani Montgomery - Savannah Roberts-Hickling (Development Player)

Shaylee Bent begins her 7th season in the NRLW and is one of the Titans' most experienced campaigners. The brilliant second-rower has now played 39 games for 4 tries. Jaime Chapman is one of the fastest players in the NRLW today she can turn nothing into something with some fancy footwork and stepping. The centre/winger can score a try. Chapman has 19 to her name from 31 games. An integral key in the Titans attack, who will no doubt score one of her trademark length-of-the-field runaway tries. Tahlia Fuimaono has a strong kicking game and any success the



Titans have may come from her kicking boot. The five-eighth has played 21 games and can run the ball when she sees an option. Phoenix Hippi is hoping for an opportunity at the Titans to progress her game. She's already played Origin for Queensland at the Under-19s level and also the Australian Schoolgirls side last year. Lailani Montgomery made her NRLW debut last year and played 5 matches. But in February this year showed the rugby league world what she can really do. She played a major role in the Indigenous All Stars getting the win, playing her role as halfback and also slotting the pressure goal kick which won the game. The Titans will be hoping Montgomery can bring that type of form to clubland this year. Savannah Roberts-Hickling is another youngster craving for their NRLW time to shine. SVH has graduated from the Future Titans Academy. She's a talented centre who played with the Tweed Seagulls in the Brisbane competition. Last year she also played Rugby 7s for the Australian Schoolgirls side. Simon Buxton is the Head of Performance.

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS:

Mariah Brown (Development Player) - Evah McEwen - Leah Ollerton (Development Player)

Newcastle have given great opportunities to two Indigenous players looking to start their NRLW careers in 2025. Mariah Brown is from Moree and the natural centre has come through the Knights system via the Tarsha Gale Cup and playing for Wynnum-Manly in the BMD Premiership in Brisbane. Evah McEwen made her NRLW debut last season in which she played two and scored a try. She's the younger sister of Newcastle NRL player, Jermaine. Leah Ollerton is another aiming to get a crack at the elite level this year. Hailing from Scone, Ollerton is said to be a skilful dummy-half and has emerged through the Knights pathways and has represented NSW at the Under 19s level. The Knights are also trained by former Indigenous All Stars coach Ben Jeffries and Transition Coach Bec Young.

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS:

Essay Banu - Krystal Blackwell

- Bree Chester - Kirra Dibb - Tallisha Harden - Jasmine Peters - Caitlan Tanner (Development Player) - Tahlulah Tillett

The Cowboys once again have the highest representation of Indigenous females at the club in the NRLW. Essay Banu is an Indigenous All Star but has also represented her PNG roots during her career. The big prop forward adds plenty of size and strength to the Cowboys pack and will add to her 8 NRLW appearances. Krystal Blackwell can play fullback and wing. She has 15 games for 2 tries and enters her 3rd NRLW season. Bree Chester had a breakthrough 2024 year where she was named as the Cowboys Player of the Year. A tough and hardworking lock-forward, Chester embarks on her 3rd NRLW year and will be aiming to keep that hot form from last year into this season. Kirra Dibb is the general of the backline and the playmaker, she's also club co-captain and goal kicker. A NSW, Jillaroos and Indigenous All Star representative, Dibb is starting her 7th season and sits 3rd on the alltime table of highest point scorers in NRLW history. Tallisha Harden is the other co-captain, she's done everything in the game and is one of the most respected amongst her peers. Starting her 8th season, Harden is in that veteran status, but still one of the most reliable and honest forwards in the game. After playing all three games for Queensland in her State of Origin debut this year, Jasmine Peters is set perfectly for a very strong Cowboys season. The flashy centre/winger certainly knows where the tryline is having scored 11 times from 26 outings. Caitlan Tanner has been promoted to the top 24 squad and is talented five-eighth or halfback. Tanner was born in Bundaberg and played in the BMD Premiership with Wynnum-Manly. Tahlulah Tillett embarks on her 4th NRLW season and the 5/8th plays a vital role in the Cowboys attack. After 19 games, she's still searching for that maiden NRLW try and the crafty player should get that this season.

PARRAMATTA EELS:

Mia Middleton - Mahalia Murphy - Taneka Todhunter

The Eels' Mia Middleton made her NRLW debut last year and played 3 matches and will surely add to that tally. Positioned in the centres, Middleton, is a First Nations Gems pathways player who will add some speed and attacking brilliance to the Parra backline. Captain, Mahalia Murphy, recently signed on for another two seasons. The tough forward who can also play in the backs, Murphy has a ton of experience being a dual international and is a leader on and off the field. She's played 21 games for 6 tries. Taneka Todhunter is a talented young

hooker who will play a vital role in the Eels' spine. The 23-year-old from Dubbo has played 13 matches and is aiming to get that maiden NRLW try this year. Todhunter is an Indigenous All Star and has played for the Prime Ministers' XIII.

ROOSTERS:

Olivia Kernick

The reigning Dally M champion, Kernick is the best forward in the NRLW. She's blessed with great hands, a great offload and the wonderful knack of finding the tryline. The top Rooster will be an integral part of the club's push to win back-to-back titles. Kernick is in top form for 2025 already with a win for the Indigenous All Stars, the Jillaroos in Las Vegas and was player of the series for NSW in their successful origin campaign.

ST GEORGE-ILLAWARRA DRAGONS:

Ahlivia Ingram - Ella Koster - Bobbi Law

The Dragons have secured the services of Ahlivia Ingram. The former Raiders player has played 3 NRLW matches and the prop will add some sting to the Saints pack. Ella Koster was a standout of the Indigenous All Stars this year and will take plenty of that experience going into the Dragons year. The second-rower enters her 3rd NRLW season and has 14 appearances for 5 tries. The local junior could be due for a standout season. Centre, Bobbi Law, embarks on her 7th NRLW session and is a 2022 premiership winner with the Knights. The four-time Indigenous All Star has played 26 NRLW games with 7 tries and brings experience and leadership to the club.

WARRIORS:

The Warriors are coached by two-time NRLW premiership winner Ronald Griffith and is being assisted by Ian Bourke. Griffith brings his wealth of knowledge and big-match winning expertise to the Warriors. He turned the Knights into premiership contenders and winners, he has the ability to do that with the Warriors also.

WESTS TIGERS:

Tallara Bamblett

The Tigers have one of the best young rising stars at their club in 2025. Tallara Bamblett is a creative young halfback who's got a stack of speed and had played touch football for the Indigenous All Stars. She will learn plenty from one of the most talented NRL stars ever, Greg Inglis, who is the Assistant Coach after getting experience with the Queensland Origin woman's side the past two years.

Generation Next arriving

By PETER ARGENT



SELECTED in the South Australian Under 16s state team for 2025 are a pair of "Sons of First Nations Guns" – Archie Faulkner and Percy Burgoyne.

Archie is the son of former Western Bulldogs footballer Cameron, who had four seasons at Whitten Oval playing 18 AFL games.

Like his father, Archie is playing his SANFL football with the Central District Bulldogs.

Percy is the youngest of Shaun and Amy Burgoyne's sons.

Shaun Burgoyne is currently the longest-serving First Nations AFL footballer, having played 407 games, firstly with Port Adelaide and then with Hawthorn, playing in four AFL premierships.

"While his dad was an inside midfielder and small forward, Archie is 185cm midfield type," South Australian State Under 16s coach Heath Younie explained.

"He moves well, is a good decision maker and has an excellent football IQ."

"Archie travels across from the Yorke Peninsula to play for the Bulldogs."

"His other strong attributes included being good kick; he

consistently hits target.

"I see him playing a wing or half forward role across the championships."

"Percy displays a number of strengths his father had."

"He is an athletic talent, being quick off the mark and strong in aerial contests."

"Percy has grown about 10cm in the last 12 months."

"He is a versatile player who is capable of player roles either down back, up forward or in the midfield rotations."

Both lads have strong football genes on both sides of the family.

Archie's uncle, his mother Louise's brother is Jason Earl, from Mallala who played 50

SANFL league games with Woodville West Torrens in the early 2000's.

Shaun's wife Amy is the sister of AFLW and basketball superstar Erin and his pop is AFL (and SANFL) Hall of Famer Greg Phillips.

Along with Heath Younie, who also works as a "SANFL Coach and Player Developer" in the state-league, the SA Under 16s team will have mentors including Julian Farkas (former National Championships winning U16s coach), Ben Warren (200-games player and Norwood premiership player and coach) and Brett Hudson (South Adelaide junior coach) as assistants.



Tassie Devils stadium woes

Well, it's not looking good for the Tasmanian AFL team as the stadium that is part of the \$1 billion deal is full of controversy. The AFL won't bring the AFL to Tasmania without the stadium and reports are coming out of Tasmania, that more than two thirds of Tasmanians don't want the AFL stadium. So, trouble is looming for the potentially new AFL club.

Tasmania's Premier Jeremy Rockcliff lost a no-confidence vote in parliament recently, this now means there will be a new state election. Which doesn't look good for the premier as he may not get voted back in, because the people are not happy with the AFL's list of conditions and his promises to make it happen. The premier has been the biggest supporter of the stadium and what he thinks a Tasmanian team and stadium will bring to the community of Tasmania.

Many are saying it's the worst one-sided deal in Australian sport history.

Australia Institute strategy director Leanne Minshull said "When you consider everything Tasmania has done for footy for more than a century this is shameful treatment by the AFL, which claims to support grass-roots football."

They are strong words by Minshull and words that needed to be said to show support for the people of Tasmania. This has been going on for so long, does one wait for the election to renegotiate or does premier Rockcliff listen to his people now? It's been a long time of nothing happening.

Yes they have a uniform, mascot, CEO and are talking coaches but does any of this matter if you can't get the basic deal right? You need the people on your side so they come to the games and support the team, not resent the team.

On the other hand, we do know that the Northern Territory are good to go, as the people have been asking for an AFL team for as long as I can remember. They may be open to a one-sided deal like this one, to make it happen or they may have ideas of their own. Also, when does the AFL cut its loses and say it's time to look elsewhere?

I'd love to see a team in both Tasmania and the Northern Territory but if there was to be one... I'm team Territory. I believe a team in the Territory will bring an opportunity for so many of our Mob to play at the highest level and stay on Country with family.



Shelley Ware



Percy Burgoyne winning the ball in traffic.



Archie Faulkner lines up a kick.

Dewar delivers on pre-season goal

By PETER ARGENT



WEST Coast young gun Tyrell Dewar who has Noongar, Yamatji and Wongi heritage, was named the round 14 AFL Rising Star nominee after a superb personal performance against Carlton on Sunday, June 15. He collected this accolade despite the Eagles going down to the Blues by 34 points at Whadjuk (Optus Stadium) in Perth.

Starting at half-back before shifting to a wing, Dewar racked up a career-best 27 disposals, which included 24 kicks, seven score involvements and a game-high 843 metres gained.

"It was one of my goals at the start of the year to get a Rising Star," Dewar said in his press conference, after he was announced as the nominee for that round.

"I'm stoked that I got it."

Dewar, 21, has become a major success story from the Eagles' Naitanui Next



Tyrell Dewar.

Generation Academy.

He arrived at the Eagles as a forward and kicked a brilliant long-range goal on debut against Collingwood in round nine last season.

Dewar played seven matches in 2024 and has become a regular this campaign, averaging 14.5 disposals in 11 games.

Dewar's versatility to play multiple positions and attack with his foot skills has

been a strength under first-year coach Andrew McQualter.

"I played as a forward all last year, played seven games and I wanted to come back to pre-season in good nick and impress the new coach, 'Mini'," Dewar explained.

Last month Dewar re-signed for three more seasons, tying him to the Eagles until at least the end of 2028.

Having ticked off a goal to become a Rising Star nominee, the kid from Kalgoorlie is keen to keep improving.

"Just playing more consistent footy," Dewar said of his next goal.

"Keep getting better at training, just getting better with my skills."

The previous First Nations player to receive a weekly AFL Rising Star Nomination was Geelong's Lawson Humphries back in round 18, last season.

Back in the 2022 campaign there were four nominations won by Indigenous players – Jason Horne-Francis, Joel Jeffery, Lachie Jones and Jamarra Ugle-Hagan.

Battle of the Gulf



Lockhart River captain Chris Johnson with the ball and good backup.



Pormpuraaw Crocs' Rowan Hart looks for space against the Coen Colts.



Lockhart River Scorpions' Paddy Hobson takes on the Hope Vale Warriors.



Lockhart River Scorpions' Benny Macumboy goes on the attack against the Hope Vale Warriors.



Coen Colts break through Pormpuraaw Crocs' defences.



The Mornington Island Raiders side at the Gulf Cluster in Normanton.

By ALF WILSON



MORNINGTON Island Raiders and Normanton Stingers remain undefeated after two rounds of the Battle of the Gulf Cluster rugby league competition featuring clubs from some of the most remote Indigenous communities in the country.

Two Doomadgee sides, the Dragons and United, along with Kowanyama and Burketown's Danggara are the other teams.

The second round was held at Normanton's John Henry Oval on June 14 and both the Raiders and Stingers won their matches.

Men's results were Normanton 22 d Kowanyama 0, Doomadgee United 20 d Kowanyama 12, Normanton 8 d Doomadgee Dragons 6, Mornington Island 28 d Mougibi Danggara 4, Doomadgee Dragons 30 d Doomadgee United 4, Normanton d Mougibi Danggara (forfeit) and Mornington Island 10 d Kowanyama 6.

Mornington Island Raiders coach Anthony Saltmere told the *Koori Mail* his side faced a long journey to get to Normanton.

"It is a 20-minute plane trip from the island to Doomadgee and a bus trip after that takes at least five hours over rough roads. The cost is also prohibitive and we thank the Mornington Island Shire Council and local Chop Chop butcher shop for supporting us," Anthony said.

Mornington Island has a young side and is one of the favourites along with Normanton to reach August's grand final.

As testimony to the closest in ability of the leading sides, round one Normanton and Mornington Island fought out a 6-6 draw.

One of the rising young stars for the Raiders is winger Kenneth Jacob who is a renowned try scorer.

Other good players were Jacqueline Chong in the halves, forwards Robbie Ahkit and David Stowers.

There was also women's competition games with honours split with Mougibi and Doomadgee each enjoying a win, while Normanton settled for a draw and a loss.

Women's results: Mougibi Magawas 18 d Normanton 0, Doomadgee Dragons 12 d Mougibi Magawas 10, Normanton 8 d Doomadgee Dragons 8.

The next Battle of the Gulf Cluster round will be held in Burketown on July 12.

Hope Vale embraces football fever

By CHRISTINE HOWES



RUGBY league fixtures are back for the year on far north Queensland's Cape York Peninsula with two Queensland Rugby League competitions – the Southern Cape Cluster and Thursday Island's Island Rooster Challenge – kicking off on 14 June.

Lockhart River Scorpions won the day in Hope Vale, with two match wins against the Coen Colts and home side, the Warriors.

Pormpuraaw Crocs also won against the Hope Vale Warriors – a grand final rematch from 2024 – before the Coen Colts beat them later in the day.

League and Club Coordinator for the Cape and Torres, Rachael Morgan, said that for some of the teams it had been a while between games.

"Lockhart River are normally part of the Western Cape, which hasn't played since 2023, and Coen hasn't played for a few years," she said.

"So they were happy to do the travel, about seven and a half hours from Lockhart, I think they said, but then we have our next round in Coen, so that will be a lot more central for the teams."

Lockhart River captain Chris Johnson said they had worked hard in the lead-up.

"We've worked hard for the past few weeks, we're ready," he said.

"The last time we played in comp, we were premiers four

years in a row.

"We've got some young fellas coming through now, and we love our football up there."

Reigning Southern Cluster premiers' captain for the Pormpuraaw Crocs, Jeremiah Gilbo, said they also had some younger players who had stepped up.

"The first game was a good win," he said.

"The second was a bit tough, and we were fatigued, but it was good to come back here and play footy again.

"We were well-prepared for the grand final rematch, and it was a pretty good game.

"Coen gave us a good game there, and that will help us play better in the next round."

First-time Coen Colts captain Walter Peter said it was a good

day, enjoyed by all.

"It's good to see footy back on Cape York again," he said.

"Footy brings everyone together, we haven't played in a few years, a bit rusty, but we'll work on it."

Home side captain Daniel Woibo said they also had some new faces.

"Pretty happy with the boys," he said.

"The comp is bigger this year with Lockhart joining, so that's pretty good too."

Ms Morgan said it was a good day.

"Very good to see it actually happen today and see all the teams enjoying it so much," she said.

"A lot of hard work goes on in the background with all the volunteers and our staff and

coordinating a referee course this morning.

"I think we've ended up with eight new referees today and that's fantastic.

"Our biggest challenge in our game in this area is referees so to have eight people now accredited is going to be a huge help.

"We just need the support of all the teams now to support the referees and help them along their journey to get to where they need to go."

Round 1
Hope Vale Warriors 6
Pormpuraaw Crocs 34
Lockhart Scorpions 26 Coen Colts 22
Round 2
Coen Colts 26 Pormpuraaw Crocs 12
Hope Vale Warriors 6
Lockhart Scorpions 24



Warria chops Lumberjack

By ALF WILSON



PROUD Torres Strait Islander boxer Thomas Warria remained undefeated as a professional boxer and gained sweet revenge when he defeated Ricky "The Lumberjack" Sangral by split points decision in a heavyweight bout in Cairns on June 25.

It was the main preliminary bout on a gala night of pro fights organised by the famous No Limits Promotions at the Cairns Convention Centre.

Thomas, who fights under the banner of "Torres Thunder," had won his debut pro bout in Townsville during February.

But Thomas had been beaten by the Lumberjack as an amateur at the 2023 National Championships in Tasmania.

"I had a lot of support from my Torres Strait Islander relatives who live in Cairns, Townsville and other places. My relatives on Mabuiag, Badu and Thursday Island would have come down but it was mid week which made it difficult," he said.

However, supporters Richard Sam and Frankie Walker wore islander head dresses in the change room and as Thomas walked into the ring.

"It was a hard fight on a very big stage and I reckon about 3,000 people packed into the Convention Centre. We both landed some very big punches but I hit him with most solid combinations. There was a lot of atmosphere there," Thomas said.

As testimony to the closeness of the bout after the four rounds, two judges scored Thomas ahead 40-36 and 39-37.

But the third judge had the Lumberjack winning 40-36 hence the split points ruling.

The 31-year-old power puncher

Thomas weighed 110kg for the fight compared to the Lumberjack's 104kg.

Thomas is trained in Townsville by Hayden Hooper and his father Scooter Hooper at Art of Strength Gym.

Ricky fights under the Lumberjack ring name because he is a tree lopper from Inverell in NSW.

Thomas kept his pre-bout promise to "chop the Lumberjack down to size". Thomas said he would have a short time off before having a third pro bout.

"I have had a couple of offers for future bouts against potential opponents so I will just have a rest and then decide," he said.

Another TS boxer, Laphya Reuben who has Saibai and Moa connections, lost his four-round bout by first-round TKO to Quinton Smith.

Main pro bouts

In the main bout on the action packed card, Mackay-born Liam Paro beat Jonathan Navarro after the fifth of a scheduled 10 rounds.

Before that Liam Wilson defeated Ayrton Gimenez by points over 10 rounds.

Callum Peters beat Luca Lanigan via first-round TKO – light-heavyweight 6 rounds;

Kirra Ruston defeated Kartik Kumar via second-round TKO – catchweight 6 rounds;

Vegas Larfield defeated Bryan Cabrillos via UD (58-55, 58-56, 59-55) – featherweight, 6 rounds.

No Limit Boxing is an Australian Boxing Promotions and Management company and was founded in 2016.

The organisation was founded by three Rose brothers, Matt, former NRL rugby league star George and Trent.

They promote a number of events throughout each year and have promotional rights to some quality boxers.



Richard Sam, Thomas Warria and Frankie Walker Jr before the bout.

WA Indigenous draft prospects catching the eye

By JACKSON CLARK



A HOST of exciting young Indigenous footballers from Western Australia are emerging as names to watch at

this year's AFL Under 18 National Championships.

Their rise comes at a crucial time for Indigenous representation at the elite level, with just 62 Indigenous players currently on AFL lists – a significant drop from 87 just five years ago.

WA Football's State Talent Manager Adam Jones has highlighted a group of promising players tied to West Coast and Fremantle's Next Generation Academy (NGA) programs.

"West Coast have some really good Indigenous boys, starting with Wes Walley who's been really good," Jones said.

"He's a Subi kid, a small



Wes Walley.

forward but very good overhead."

Walley has impressed with Subiaco's Colts side, averaging 17 disposals and 1.5 goals per game across four matches while showcasing his strong aerial ability for a player of his size.

Another standout is Swan Districts utility Tylah Williams, whose combination of skill and endurance has caught the attention of recruiters.



Koby Evans.

"He's at Swan Districts and his GPS running has been off the charts the last couple of games so I'm really excited about what he can bring," Jones said.

Also in the mix is Fremantle NGA product Ryda Luke, who made headlines earlier this season after a remarkable performance in the WAFL Colts competition.

"His name would be familiar

after he kicked eight goals in a half for South Fremantle colts – he's a powerful medium-sized forward," Jones said.

Luke's reading of the play and excellent goal nous makes him a tough match-up for opposition defenders.

East Fremantle's Tom Phillips is another exciting prospect linked to the Dockers' NGA.

Despite attending boarding school at Scotch College in Melbourne, Phillips returned west to take part in WA's trial games, including the recent three-point win over Vic Country.

Rounding out the Dockers' NGA prospects is Basil Hart from Peel Thunder – a low-possession, high-impact player who has shown flashes of brilliance as a versatile forward.

"Basil Hart is another one," Jones said.

"He's an Indigenous boy from Peel Thunder who's a medium-to-

small forward with a fair bit of talent."

While WA's Indigenous draft crop is brimming with talent, one of the state's most promising prospects in Koby Evans will miss the National Champions due to injury.

Evans, a powerful midfielder known for his speed and explosiveness, had 28 disposals and two goals in Perth's Colts season-opener.

He also featured in the AFL Academy's match against Coburg's VFL side before being sidelined.

"Probably the best of them, Koby Evans, unfortunately won't feature in the campaign over the next few weeks," Jones revealed.

"He's got a stress fracture in his back so he'll be working his way back into the season at the latter stages."

Evans will be aiming for a return later in the year.



SANFL legend Bertie Johnson reflects - pages 44-45