



Koori Mail

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS NEWSPAPER – 100% ABORIGINAL-OWNED 100% SELF-FUNDING

EDITION 855

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025

PUBLISHED SINCE 1991

Phone: (02) 66 222 666

www.koorimail.com

Recommended price \$2.99 (GST-inclusive)

Warakurna Superheroes shine at French photo festival Pages 32-33



AUSTRALIA'S photographic talent has taken centre stage as *On Country: Photography from Australia* opens at prestigious French photo festival the Rencontres d'Arles. Central to the exhibition are the *Warakurna Superheroes*, a series by Tony Albert, David Charles Collins and Kieran Lawson, created in collaboration with children from the remote Northern Territory community of Warakurna.

National NAIDOC winners

Female Elder



Western Australia Elder Aunty Rosalie Kickett has dedicated her life to empowering Aboriginal people, most recently incarcerated Aboriginal men. She dedicated her award to her parents, and her late daughter who died from gender-based violence.

Person of the Year



Jaru and Indjibarndi man Daniel Hunt was recognised for his extensive work in Aboriginal health. "Legacy is the thing I turn to most ... because it is those who have come before us, those trailblazers, who really have paved the way," Dr Hunt said.

Male Elder



Uncle Harry Phillip Hall is a Gomerioi and Euahlayi man and a prominent Aboriginal community leader. He is also a human rights activist and has worked in public service, including within Indigenous affairs for more than 60 years.

Lifetime Achievement



Anmatjere and Marranunggu man Michael Long OAM was recognised for his leadership to address racism within the AFL and advocate for Indigenous rights. He reminds all Australians that reconciliation is a journey we must take together.



Pictures and stories from Boorloo's celebration - inside

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Walker inquest cites racism

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SonSon retires from footy

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OUR FAMILY

Widjabul/Wia-bal Dance Group



THE delightful and talented Widjabul Wia-bal Dance Group performed for participants of the Common Threads First Nations Climate Dialogue on the first evening, in the *Koori Mail's* community space, setting the scene for talks on the Country of a community who know too well the effects of climate change. **More about the gathering on pages 30 to 31.** Pictures: Jillian Mundy



SHARE YOUR FAMILY WITH OUR READERS

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

Koori Mail

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Advertising Format
Page Size: 38cm deep x 26cm wide
7 columns per page - we do not accept 1 or 6 column adverts
Single column size 35mm • 2.5mm space between columns

Advertising Deadlines
Bookings 5pm on the Wednesday prior to publication.
Material 5pm Thursday prior to publication.

Koori Mail on The Web: www.koorimail.com
Complete details of editorial and jobs advertised in the *Koori Mail* can be accessed through the State Library of NSW's INFOKOORI service.

INFOKOORI site address
<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/infokoori>
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Distressed community still calling for truth-telling

By KEIRA JENKINS



"HOW can we embrace our future without acknowledging our past?"

That is the question being posed by the former chair of a scrapped truth-telling inquiry.

Almost a year on from the disbanding of a truth-telling and healing inquiry, its former chair still gets approached by community members upset about its abolition.

Waanyi and Kalkadoon barrister Joshua Creamer said he was regularly approached by people – both Indigenous and non-Indigenous – expressing disappointment the truth-telling process could not continue.

"People are still distressed and upset about it," Mr Creamer said.

He delivered the keynote NAIDOC lecture at the University of Queensland last week, posing



Waanyi and Kalkadoon barrister Joshua Creamer.

the question "how do we embrace the future when we can't acknowledge our past".

For Mr Creamer, this has been one of the enduring failures of Australian society – not listening to, acknowledging or learning from its own history.

"I don't think we can move on without a solid foundation and that

solid foundation comes from knowing who we are, what our history is," he said.

In early July, Victoria's Yoorrook Justice Commission released its final report featuring 100 recommendations across five volumes and an official public record of Victoria's history since colonisation in 1834.

Mr Creamer said Yoorrook was an example of how truth-telling could be done.

"The only issue the (Queensland) premier raised in abolishing the inquiry is that it would be divisive," he said.

"Victoria has proved very well that it hasn't been (divisive), in fact there has been a really important process of the Indigenous community down there coming together with the broader community."

The federal government has backed away from Makarrata (truth-telling) at a national level, reallocating funds for the process to Closing the Gap measures.

Instead, the government has said it is watching the progress of truth-telling across the states and territories.

"It's been radio silence at the Commonwealth level, but I do understand that because up until 1967 the states were primarily responsible for Indigenous

populations," Mr Creamer said.

"States do have to take a leadership role on truth-telling but certainly ... states and the Commonwealth can play a role together in that process."

Mr Creamer was inspired to lead Queensland's truth-telling process by the stories he heard as a barrister, working across some of the nation's landmark class actions, including stolen wages and Stolen Generations cases.

It is these stories, so important to piecing together a full history of the nation, that Mr Creamer fears will be lost as those who experienced the policies and injustices of the past age.

But when Australians were ready to listen, those stories were there to be told, Mr Creamer said.

"The calls for truth-telling aren't going to go away," he said.

"The history is there in the people who lived it and we do have a short time, I think, to hear those stories."

– AAP

Fears heritage-listed rock art at risk from gas project



MORE than a million pieces of ancient rock art have secured World Heritage status in a bittersweet listing for environmentalists and traditional custodians

fearful nearby industrial activity is damaging the engravings.

The Murujuga rock art landscape in Western Australia was listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as a heritage site on Friday after intense lobbying by the federal government.

"Achieving World Heritage status ensures stronger protections under Australian legislation and will allow the world to celebrate this unique cultural landscape," Environment Minister Murray Watt said while visiting the organisation's headquarters in Paris.

The federal environment minister was accompanied by representatives from the Western Australian government and Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation.

Murujuga contains the world's largest, densest and most diverse collection of Indigenous rock art engravings – known as petroglyphs.

Ancient history

Some are estimated to be more than 50,000 years old.

They depict animals, plants and human figures and are visible due to the colour and contrast between the removed varnish layer and the underlying brighter weathered rind of the host rocks.

The site was previously put forward to UNESCO for World Heritage listing in 2023 but Australia's application was referred back in May.

UNESCO recommended state and federal governments address concerns that nearby acid emissions, including those from Woodside's Burrup gas hub, were degrading the art.

The peninsula in northwest WA near Karratha is home to two gas plants, a fertiliser plant and iron ore and salt export facilities.

Senator Watt recently gave provisional approval for a Woodside project on the



Sacred, heritage-listed rock art is being damaged by emissions from nearby industries, say critics.

peninsula to continue operating until 2070.

Mardathoonera woman and Murujuga traditional custodian Raelene Cooper, who was at the UNESCO meeting, welcomed the World Heritage listing but criticised the removal of recommended protections, including halting industry expansion.

"Today, Australia rewrote the World Heritage listing in the interests of the gas industry," she said.

Environmentalists were also concerned the Woodside project extension could cause further damage.

"The world is now watching," Australian Conservation Foundation chief executive Kelly O'Shanassy said.

"The onus is on the Australian government to make sure the values recognised by UNESCO are not jeopardised by ongoing industrial pollution."

Reverse approval

WA Greens Fossil Fuels spokesperson Sophie McNeill called on state and federal governments to reverse the draft approval

for the North West Shelf extension.

"It's absolutely disgraceful that Labor put in so much effort to get those protections removed," she said.

Australia has 21 properties on the World Heritage list, which includes the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and the Great Barrier Reef.

UNESCO added several other sites to its list, including the Xixia Imperial Tombs in China and the Faya Palaeolandscape in the United Arab Emirates.

– AAP

Protecting water

In calling attention to the extreme conditions faced by saltwater and freshwater communities, a new exhibition at the University of Queensland Art Museum highlights the importance of water protection to the survival of all species.

- Full Story, page 39

Jilmar artists, Colin Heenan-Puruntatameri, Raelene Kerinauia, Patrick Freddy Puruntatameri, Janice Murray and Pedro Wonaeamirri. Image courtesy of the artists, Jilmara Arts and MCA Australia. Photo: Ken Leanfore.

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Stories of NAIDOC

This NAIDOC brought us stories of joy, laughter, connection, justice and truth. I love it when my social media is flooded with blak excellence and this NAIDOC was even bigger and brighter than other years. Celebrating 50 years of NAIDOC week certainly took it up a notch and all communities delivered.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people please read on with caution, as I will be mentioning names of our people who have passed away at the hands of others due to racism and violence.

The Walker family and our community have always believed racism played a role in the death of their precious Kumanjaya. After six years of efforts and not giving up on this truth, during NAIDOC week the findings from the Kumanjaya Walker shooting inquest were shared. The truths the Walker family and our community needed to finally hear.

Northern Territory coroner Elisabeth Armitage, in Yuendumu delivered a 683 page report that found Kumanjaya Walker's death was avoidable. Even though Constable Zachary Rolfe was found not guilty for the shooting in March 2022, the report states clearly that Rolfe was racist and it cannot be ruled out that his attitudes and conduct during the shooting played a role in the death of Kumanjaya Walker.

My love and heart go to the Walker family and to young Kumanjaya, forever 19 and forever in our hearts. The 32 recommendations from the coroner focusing on aspects of policing, community engagement and support in Yuendumu must



Shelley Ware

be read, considered and put in place, for Kumanjaya, the Walker family, the police officers doing the right thing and for the people of Yuendumu and other communities around this country.

It was so beautiful to see Narelda Jacobs kneeling down next to her Auntie Mechelle Turvey, mother of the beautiful Cassius Turvey at the National NAIDOC awards. Their interaction of love and support for each other during the family's heartache was generous and stunning to witness.

We lost Cassius at age 15 in October 2022 to the racial violence of adults, who were sentenced to serious jail time. Finally justice was served for Cassius and this was another exhale moment for our people and emotions I can't even imagine for the Turvey family. My love and heart also go out to this beautiful family as I know your healing is just beginning.

In celebration of the NAIDOC balls around the country, I have to say they all looked so special, from the national to the remote community NAIDOC balls.

Everyone was smiling up and looking their best. Congratulations to all of the incredible winners of the NAIDOC awards around the country, your work is invaluable to our people and I'm so happy for you that you have been recognised by your community.

Of course, a special mention to the National NAIDOC awards winners, especially the "big one" 'Person of the Year' Dr Daniel Hunt. Your work in healthcare for priority populations and clinical governance is incredible. Thank you for all that you do for our people and helping others understand what needs to be done moving forward.

I have had the honour of writing the SBS *Learn NAIDOC* teacher resources for the past 8 years and these years are as always, curriculum and NAIDOC theme aligned. So, head to the SBS *Learn NAIDOC* page and download the resources, send them to the children in your life teachers and schools. These resources are not only for NAIDOC Week but beyond.

The coming together of community is what I find the most heartening and seeing our community and more allies than ever celebrating NAIDOC week together was incredible. I attended a few events that will hold special meaning in my heart for a long time, it's just so beautiful to be a part of the celebrations that come with NAIDOC and I'm already looking forward to next years.

Happy NAIDOC!

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

Police admit racism 'truth' after fatal teen shooting



RACISM cannot be ruled out as a contributor to the decisions of a former police officer when he fatally shot an Indigenous teenager in a remote community, a coroner has found.

Kumanjayi Walker was shot three times at close range by then-constable Zachary Rolfe at a home in Yuendumu, 300km northwest of Alice Springs, in November 2019.

The Northern Territory police commissioner Martin Dole was in the community along with several other representatives from the force on Monday, 7 July, to hear Coroner Elisabeth Armitage hand down her findings after a year's-long inquest into the 19-year-old's death.

Senior Warlpiri Elder Ned Jampijinpa Hargraves said he had invited Mr Dole to the community for the hearing and was promised the commissioner would speak with him after the proceedings.

"I am so, so, so disappointed with him," Mr Hargraves said.

"He promised me that he was going to be around and wait until the meetings were over and we were going to meet up later.

"Apparently he just left without letting me know 'I've gotta go'."

That disappointment was echoed by Kumanjayi Walker's cousin Samara Fernandez-Brown, who said Mr Dole should have honoured his promise.

"I'm really disappointed he's not stuck around and spoken to Ned, I think that's utterly disrespectful," she said.

In a statement the Northern Territory Police Force said Mr Dole extended his "heartfelt sympathies" to Mr Walker's family.

"Following conversations with senior community members, and in deep respect for the significance of this moment for



A coroner could not rule out Zachary Rolfe's racism contributing to Kumanjayi Walker's death. (AAP)

Kumanjayi Walker's family and community, police returned to Alice Springs shortly after the formal proceedings concluded," the statement read.

In handing down her findings, which spanned 600 pages, Judge Armitage said she had found Mr Rolfe was racist and could not exclude the possibility his attitudes were a contributing cause of the 19-year-old's death.

"That I cannot exclude that possibility is a tragedy for Kumanjayi's family and community, who will always believe that racism played an integral part in his death, and is a taint that may stain the NT Police," she said.

Judge Armitage said Mr Walker's death was avoidable and a case of "officer-induced jeopardy", a circumstance where an officer "needlessly put themselves in danger, making themselves and others

vulnerable and creating a situation that justifies the use of deadly force".

But Mr Rolfe was not just "a bad apple", Judge Armitage said, he worked in an organisation with "the hallmarks of institutionalised racism".

"His racist messages were not mere aberrations — they were, at least in part, reflective of a work culture that tolerated racism," she said, referring to texts sent between Mr Rolfe and police colleagues, littered with racist language.

The failure of the Northern Territory Police to properly supervise or "rein in" Mr Rolfe's behaviour, including an attraction to adrenaline, a lack of discipline and contempt for authority and women, emboldened his approach, the coroner said.

The NT force said it would "carefully consider" the coroner's 32 recommendations, which

included consulting with Yuendumu community leadership about when it may be appropriate for police not to carry firearms.

She recommended improvements to training and the handling of complaints against officers.

"We acknowledge the coroner's work and thank her for the careful consideration she has given to such a complex and sensitive matter," Mr Dole said.

"We extend our sympathies to the family of Kumanjayi Walker and acknowledge the courage of those who contributed to this process.

"This has been a hard road and we are determined to ensure that what has been learned is not lost."

In a statement issued by his lawyer, Mr Rolfe said he does not accept many of the findings in relation to his conduct on

November 9, 2019.

That includes criticism he failed to adhere to operational safety training, or that he ignored his training.

"He does not accept there was any dishonesty at all associated with these events," the statement read.

"Insofar as some may hold a view to the contrary, this was never about race."

NT Police Acting Commissioner Mr Dole said a decision to leave the town before talking with Mr Walker's family was made after discussions with Elders despite a community leader knocking that decision.

The commissioner said the force had acknowledged 32 recommendations by the coroner and they will be considered.

But it was clear racism existed in the NT's law and order branch, he said.

"It is a truth that we must face. What was tolerated in the past will no longer be acceptable," the commissioner told reporters in Alice Springs.

The NT's Country Liberal Party government said it would take time to consider the findings and recommendations.

Commissioner Katie Kiss said her heart was breaking for the family of Kumanjayi Walker and the community of Yuendumu.

Ms Kiss said she hoped the coroner's findings would help prevent further tragedies.

"(Judge Armitage's) findings must be the final alarm. This must end."

NT Police said it would consider consulting with Yuendumu community leadership about when it might be appropriate for police not to carry firearms.

A draft anti-racism strategy developed with the assistance of NT Aboriginal organisations will soon be released for broader consultation.

— AAP



Young people participating in the Deadly Didge 'n' Dance Festival, part of the centenary commemorations for Palm Island. Alf Wilson. John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland. Image 31493-0001-0102.

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Indigenous business must be 'backed' to Close the Gap



DESPITE "deficits" and "negativity" surrounding Closing the Gap narratives, Indigenous

businesses are slowly becoming the engine driving social change because they are grounded in their own communities.

A landmark report from Supply Nation found Indigenous businesses create \$42.6 billion of social value each year and allow First Nations people more freedom to live on their own terms.

It's leading to better mental-health outcomes, more pride among communities and a better connection to culture and Country, the report found.

Supply Nation, which provides Australia's biggest database of Indigenous businesses, said

With more than 5,500 businesses nationwide, the Indigenous economic sphere is spreading the wealth around in terms of social capital and aspirational values.

"social value" included things such as agency over life, expanded aspirations, financial security and physical and mental health.

Some \$16.2 billion of the social value created was experienced by Indigenous employees.

Supply Nation chief executive Kate Russell launched *The Sleeping Giant Rises* report at a Business Sydney event, coinciding with NAIDOC Week.

"The closing the gap narrative is overwhelmingly negative but ... we believe that Indigenous entrepreneurs are closing the gap better than other parts of

Indigenous Australia," she said.

"By lifting up our Indigenous communities ... that is saving government money in terms of welfare payments ... but it's also lifting a sense of pride, aspiration, happiness and well being in those communities."

By economically empowering a nascent but thriving business sector of about 6,000 companies, verified by Supply Nation on a database, the financial and social dividends would benefit millions of Aboriginal Australians.

"The Indigenous business sector is not a story of disadvantage. It is a story of empowerment, it is a story of self

determination and we need to have a positive lens on what is often a deficit conversation," she said.

Nearly 66,000 First Nations people are employed by Indigenous businesses, and 84 per cent of owners said those employees were better able to support families and feel positive about life.

Many owners reported more home ownership among staff, with more than six-in-10 believing employees were more likely to own homes.

Seven-in-10 business owners said young people in their families were more likely to finish

year 12, the same result as those who were more likely to complete a university or TAFE degree.

One business owner quoted in the report described themselves as a "role model to my children".

"They've seen the hard work that's gone into being a business owner for the last 16 years and now they are starting to see the benefits for me and for them," they said.

The report also called for more active role in policymaking that affects Indigenous Australians.

"Governments must consider giving Indigenous entrepreneurs or Indigenous businesses a seat at the table when they're making broader policies like Closing the Gap," Ms Russell said.

"They deserve to be backed."

— AAP

Supply Nation appoints new directors



THE Supply Nation Board has announced the appointment of Jenni Collard, General Manager at Rio Tinto, and Katie Wyatt, Head of Diversity and Inclusion at BHP Group, as non-executive directors.

Ms Collard, a descendant of the Yadhiagana / Wuthathi and Guringji peoples, has over 25 years of experience in the public service and the mining industries, with broad expertise in Indigenous affairs, social policy, program management, and regional development.

At Rio Tinto, Ms Collard's responsibilities include oversight of the internal group audit function to ensure compliance with the highest standards of governance and ethics.

Ms Wyatt a proud Noongar / Yamatji woman, brings with her significant experience in leadership and organisation development working with some of Australia's largest



Jenni Collard.

organisations including BHP, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Accenture and Australia Post.



Katie Wyatt.

Ms Wyatt has fulfilled a senior role at Social Traders and has a unique retail and supply-chain perspective

having worked with Coles Group as Head of Culture and Inclusion.

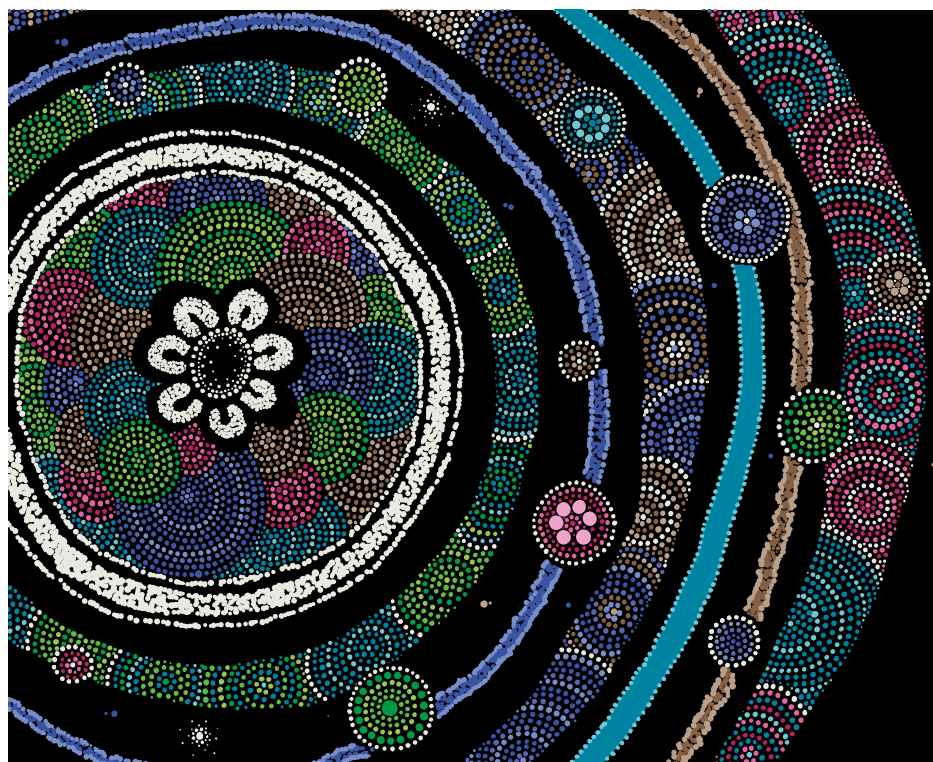
Ms Collard said Supply Nation continues to play a critical role in supporting the growth of Indigenous business and economic empowerment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"I look forward to contributing to the Board to enhance and grow the Indigenous businesses we serve and the sector more broadly, particularly in my home state of Western Australia."

Ms Wyatt said she was very pleased to join the Supply Nation Board.

"It is extremely important to support the growth and success of Indigenous-owned businesses through procurement and commercial collaboration which has been proven to result in positive social outcomes," Wyatt said.

"I hope that my expertise across broad industry sectors will be of value not only to Supply Nation but to all our suppliers and members."



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Lockhart River's Kawadji Wiimpa Dancers at last year's Paytham Malkari Dance Festival.



Krystal Dean and Steven Bally with Pormpuraaw dancer Jeremiah Gilbo (centre) at last year's Paytham Malkari Dance Festival.



Kawadji Wiimpa song man Simon Butcher.



Organising committee members Steven Bally and Krystal Dean with Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council CEO David Clarke.



Mayor and organising committee member Wayne Butcher at last year's festival.

Festival brings communities together

By CHRISTINE HOWES



THE focus of this year's Paytham Malkari Dance Festival, held in the far north of Cape York

Peninsula in the town of Lockhart River, will be on acknowledging Elders, organising committee member and mayor Wayne Butcher says.

"They have kept our culture strong all these years and some will be particularly missed this year," he said.

"They are the key to handing our culture on to the next

generation – we're thankful to those who have participated in the past, as well as those who will be there this year.

"But the Elders will be our main focus and we want to design our program around them."

Councillor and committee member Krystal Dean said they were keen to pay tribute to a key Elder who died earlier this year.

"We've sadly lost one of our Elders and now we have to work towards doing the organisation without her," she said.

"But we will also pay tribute to her at this festival, so we're working towards that.

"Next school term we'll be working to making dance costumes for more than 50 juniors who will dance."

She said the best thing about the festival, to be held in the last week of the September school holidays, was sharing their culture with other communities.

Last year dance groups from Bamaga and Pormpuraaw joined the festival, this year Pormpuraaw was confirmed, and another would be invited soon.

"Seeing them come and showcase their culture, and just feeling alive when you just see them just sharing their culture, being proud of who they are,"

she said.

"Dancing and getting to know them too, as well.

"Most of us, communities, know each other by families and stuff like that, but it's good to see different communities attending our festival and sharing culture together.

"Making ourselves stronger and not forgetting who we are and where we come from.

"I think that's a big part of our identity is just to get back to culture and knowing ourselves and I think that's what's missing here with the younger ones – they're all over the place with technology and they forget who

they are and what their identity is."

Cultural leader and songman for Lockhart River's Kawadji Wiimpa Dance Group Simon Butcher said it was a 'whole of community' effort to host the festival.

"Everyone comes together and we support each other," he said.

"There will be a lot of preparations, especially collecting bush materials.

"The importance of this festival that we have in this third year is to pass the baton down to our younger ones and make sure that they continue it."

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Sean wins \$10,000 scholarship

By MARION WILLIAMS



GAMILAROI and Wiradjuri man Sean Kinchela has won the \$10,000 Indigenous Storytellers Scholarship

2025 with a powerful cultural portrait of his partner.

The photograph radiates pride, determination and resilience.

He took the photo a week after his grandfather passed away. Another reason he wanted to do a cultural portrait is the explosion of racism on social media since the October 2023 Voice referendum.

Mr Kinchela's scholarship was announced on Thursday, July 10, at the Murrook Culture Centre in Port Stephens.

Recognition of his talent is growing. Last year he won the astronomy category of the Sony 12 days of lenses photography competition in Australia and was a finalist in the Indigenous Storytellers Scholarship 2024.

This year he is also a finalist in the National Photographic Portrait Prize. The prize attracts thousands of entries from emerging and established photographers across Australia. A panel of judges selected the 48 finalists. Their works will be



Sean Kinchela's cultural portrait of his partner that won the Indigenous Storytellers Scholarship 2025. Picture: Supplied.

exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra from August 16 to October 12, before the winner of the \$50,000 prize is announced. The exhibition of works will then tour Australia.

Artistic family

Mr Kinchela's artistic talent goes beyond photography. He

also paints.

"Most of my family members paint and practice culture through dance, song and art," he said.

He also has a graphic design business and has designed the Indigenous round jerseys for the Parramatta Eels for four years.

Mr Kinchela grew up in Nowra although his family is originally

from Moree. He moved to the Far South Coast, on Yuin Country 10 years ago.

"Growing up I didn't have a lot of family photos," he said. "My grandmother and her sisters were members of the Stolen Generation, so taking photos now is a good way to capture memories."

Storytelling

His photography and art take inspiration from Country, oceans and skies.

"I am using photography to tell stories," Mr Kinchela said. "My aim is to share these stories in the hope of protecting Country, the oceans, skies, animals and our people, along with keeping our culture alive and burning."

Mr Kinchela's family is very supportive of everything he does, and they have received so much praise from anyone who has viewed his photography. He consults his family on any art that is culture-related to ensure he has their approval.

He made the headdress for the prize-winning portrait of his partner and her mother made the raffia skirt and other dress pieces that reflect her Torres Strait Island heritage.

Her grandfather is from the Torres Strait Islands and her mother is a Gamilaroi woman.

Mr Kinchela wanted to do a

cultural portrait because it has not been done before in the South Coast area.

Truth-telling

The portrait is titled Past, Present, Future.

"I feel like we are at a time when I have never experienced more racism," Mr Kinchela said.

"Since the Voice referendum it has just exploded on social media. All our energy is low, and we are hesitant to post anything on social media because of all the racist comments," he said.

"We belong here. We have been here for 70,000 years and we are still going to be here."

Mr Kinchela will use the scholarship money to buy more photography gear so he can continue to take professional photos and take his craft to the next level. He will keep entering photography competitions

Photography is also a vehicle for truth-telling.

"Photography is very subjective. Everyone sees different things in it," Mr Kinchela said. "It draws out the subconscious, how you relate to something."

The Indigenous Storytellers Scholarship is an initiative of *Façon* magazine and supported by Greater Bank.

● See the other winners, page 35

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Artwork: *Geegal - Meaning Tree* by Lizzy Stageman.

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Boorloo hosts a banger



Mui Mui Bomer Gedram dance performance. Pictures JILLIAN MUNDY.



WINNERS of the annual National NAIDOC Awards were revealed at a ceremony on Saturday, 5 July, in Perth, ahead of NAIDOC Week celebrations across the nation.

The awards recognise individual excellence and celebrate the strength, culture and leadership of First Nations people, and the 2025 edition marks the 50th anniversary of NAIDOC Week.

West Australian general practitioner and dentist Daniel Hunt was honoured as NAIDOC person of the year for his work in the health sector.

The Jaru and Indjibarndi man's passion to help those facing disproportionately high rates of chronic disease and poor overall health has seen him become the deputy medical director of Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services, the largest Aboriginal Community Controlled Healthcare Organisation in WA.

The 2024 Indigenous Doctor of the Year was also recognised for his work in managing Australia's syphilis epidemic.

Former AFL player Michael Long was recognised with a lifetime achievement award for his lifelong service to his people and country in speaking for Indigenous rights and fighting against racism in sport.

The 2019 NT Australian of the Year made history in 1995 when he sparked public debate by becoming the first AFL player to formally lodge a complaint after being racially vilified on-field during a game.

That stance led the AFL to implement the league's racial vilification code.

The community leader and dual Essendon premiership legend walked from Melbourne to Canberra to meet prime minister John Howard in 2004 over government inaction on Indigenous issues.

In 2023, he re-created his Long Walk to Canberra in support of the

Indigenous voice to parliament.

Torres Strait performer Christine Anu, a multi-ARIA Award winner known for her rendition of *My Island Home* during the Sydney 2000 Olympics, won the creative talent award.

Indigenous Affairs Minister Malarndirri McCarthy congratulated the winners, who were chosen from a field of 27 finalists.

"There is no better way to recognise the strength, vision and enduring legacy of past generations than by celebrating the achievements of exceptional individuals," Senator McCarthy said.

National NAIDOC Committee co-chair Steven Satour said the themes of the celebrations lived in the nominees' stories.

The judging committee considered more than 200 nominations in this year's NAIDOC Week, which is celebrating the strength, vision and legacy of the next generation of Indigenous leaders.

2025 NATIONAL NAIDOC AWARD WINNERS

- Lifetime Achievement Award: Michael Long
- Person of the Year Award: Dr Daniel Hunt
- Female Elder Award: Aunty Rosalie Kickett
- Male Elder Award: Uncle Harry Phillip Hall
- Sportsperson Award: Danielle Ponter
- Youth Award: Anika Gosling
- Creative Talent Award: Christine Anu
- Caring for Country and Culture: Wadjemup Project Steering Group
- Education Award: Professor Eddie Cubillo
- Innovation Award: Blak Brews



Kerry-Ann Winmar welcomed everyone to Boorloo (Perth), for the National NAIDOC Awards last week.



Members of the Allah Cultural Enterprises Performance group.



Zipporah Corser-Anu accepts the Creative Talent Award 2025 on behalf of her mum Christine Anu, presented by Erica Smits. Zipporah also performed during the evening.



Blak Brews – Troy and Cerisa Benjamin accepting the innovation award.



Hosts Narelda Jacobs and Mark Coles Smith.



Education Award 2025 went to Professor Eddie Cubillo.



Male Elder of the Year 2025 Uncle Harry Phillip Hall.



Caring for Country and Culture Award 2025: Wadjemup Project Steering Group. The award was presented to the advisory committee for Stage Two of the Wadjemup Project and includes members Farley Garlett, Neville Collard, Herbert Bropho, Glenys Yarran, Sandra Harben, and Karen Jacobs. The Wadjemup Project is a state-wide Aboriginal-led project facilitated by Rottnest Island Authority to reconcile the history of Aboriginal people's imprisonment on Wadjemup between 1838 and 1931.



A dancer entertains the crowd.



Perth band South Summit.



Aunty Rosalie Kickett was named 2025 Female Elder of the Year.



Georgia Rose Gosling receives the Youth of the Year Award on behalf of her little sister Anika Gosling.



Lifetime Achievement Award 2025 winner Michael Long.



Dr Daniel Hunt was named the NAIDOC Person of the Year.



Sportsperson of the Year 2025 winner Danielle Ponter.



The Pigram Brothers closed the evening.



Menang/Nguda sisters Liza Kerley and Val Swift from Jerramungup (WA).



Gamilaroi/Wiradjuri man Allan McKenzie, Maddison Panting repping for her son's Mob – Kaja, Munanjali/Minjungbul/Wiradjuri man Isaac Compton and Gomeroi/Wiradjuri/Awabakal woman Merissa Mason.



Traditional Ngarrindjeri weaver Betty Sumner from Raukkin (SA) and Kaku Yalangi man Gary Oliver from Cape York.



Nunda woman Anne Oxenham and Noongar women Lennett Sandy and Shirley Harris.



Noongar woman Rosalie Kickett with co-workers from Acacia Prison, Palawa woman Brooke Dillon and Noongar woman Leanne Eades-Garlett.



Franc Croft from Waiben (Thursday Island), Pat Clarke from Seville Grove (Perth) and Irene McNamara with husband Albert Arthur Fredrick McNamara from Perth.



Noongar family and friends from Perth – Jaime-Lee Kickett, Jill Abdullah, Anthony Kickett, Colleen Roses (Gudjula from Darwin) and Kelsee Kickett.



Noongar friends Katiska Davis, Ernie Hill and Tierra Clanton.



NAIDOC Person of the Year Daniel Hunt (holding award) with Ahtem Kassem, Summer Marriott, Michelle Dalton and Richelle Douglas.



Mick Gooda (2nd from left) with daughters Peta Gooda and Paris Atkins, Larrakia, Wadjigan and Central Arrernte man Eddie Cubillo, who was named NAIDOC Education Award Winner and Nyikina man Charles Prouse.



Colleen Tighe-Johnson from Tamworth, Sarah Bolt from Canberra, Tamara Gyles from Darwin, Rachelle Towart from Canberra and Vanessa Lee-AhMat from Cairns.



Goreng Goreng man Justin Mohamed and Narungga Kurna woman Janine Mohamed.



Tjiwarl woman Nic Merson (2nd from left) with her friends, Noongar legends Ted Wilkes, Dennis Eggington and Anthony Kickett.



Shona Reid, Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, Don Pitt, Jenni Collard, Dr Donna Odegard and Isabelle Adams.



Noongar Mob having a ball – Robyn Anderson, Derek Nannup and Isabel Brown.



Proud Noongar moort (family) Maree De Giambattista, Nick Dyson, Alyce Brooke and Eva Dyson.



Yamatji women, Dr Donna Bacon with her mum Violet Bacon from Geraldton (WA).



Wayne Bynder with daughters Ashleigh Ross-Parker and Caralyn Hauser.



Travis Peris, Ebony Williams and Louise Siasau.



Theckla Alley, Jacqui Day-Brook, Bianca Brackenridge and Davina Blair, all from Townsville.

Check out the next edition of the Koori Mail for even more photos from Boorloo, along with pictures and stories from around Australia. If you celebrated NAIDOC Week with your Mob, and got a great snap of family or friends, please send it through to editor@koorimail with a caption and we'll do our best to get it into our next edition ... or our website, koorimail.com

Cairns celebrates with fair day

By CHRISTINE HOWES



THE highlight of every NAIDOC year in Cairns is the march and fair day at Fogarty Park.

The day kicked off a week of activity including an Edor Competition, breakfast, trivia night, Kup Murri masterclass by the Kunjur Men's Group, Elders luncheon, youth forum and a gala dinner.



Kira Butterworth holding Ernysia Cook (3) with Kylie Butterworth, Otis Morrison (4) and Rohalia Morrison (5).



Anne Aniba (nee Drummond), Jennifer Mast and Deba Pilot cooking for Blaq Pearl at the Cairns NAIDOC Day in Fogarty Park.



The Cassidy Family enjoying a shady sit-down at the Cairns NAIDOC Day in Fogarty Park.



The Nakata family enjoying their Cairns NAIDOC Day at Fogarty Park.



Dancer Keira Warrior with Lousia Miskin and Toniann Mayo.



The NAIDOC Cairns organising committee members, volunteers and workers at the Cairns NAIDOC Day in Fogarty Park.



Marnie Hamilton and Josh Faud doing a roaring trade at the Athe Threads stall at the Cairns NAIDOC Day in Fogarty Park.



Office of the Commissioner Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa staff Kiri Harris and Jane Fuller with Commissioner C'Zarke Maza.



Yarrabah visitors Josh Willie, Jeff James, Roderick Mundraby, Robin Schreiber and Hazel Patterson.



Enjoying a stunning day in Fogarty Park at Cairns NAIDOC Day was Jodie Cockatoo and her family.



Mercina Minniecon with Hailin Connell (10 months), Starga Connell (4) and Ziniann Connell (6) holding the fort at the Gabey Girls stall at the Cairns NAIDOC Day in Fogarty Park.



Harlow Simmons (11) and Jacquita Chong holding Jandamarra Simmons (2), Jai Simmons (13) enjoying Cairns NAIDOC Day at Fogarty Park.

Shrine performance reflects on Indigenous service

By PAUL CONNELLY



THE Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne honoured the service of Indigenous soldiers

last Sunday with a special NAIDOC week performance by Richard J Frankland called, *Reflections of Service*.

A last post also played in observance of NAIDOC week.

Known for his over 50 films and documentaries, and a musical career spanning three decades, Richard, joined by his piano player Bruce Haymes, presented a musical and spoken journey of his service and that of his family, many of whom still serve to this day.

"I was contacted by the Shrine to do a presentation for this year's NAIDOC week," Mr Frankland said.

"I passed it onto my team, Alicia and Mark, and the staff at the Shrine were completely respectful, and after several months of discussions and negotiations we arrived at a concept for this event.

"I speak to honour those who served but never got the recognition when they returned home.

"They were not allowed to participate in the RSL march on ANZAC Day or even enjoy a beer with their mates who they served alongside."

Mr Frankland said the performance was special.

"I was very sick leading up to this performance, but I pushed through, and at times wobbled a bit, but I watched the audience connecting with me on a personal level.

"It was great to look up and see a lot of Uncles and Aunties, nieces and nephews, brothers and sisters, black, white and brindle, all honouring those men and women passed for their service.

"I also saw this as a great way of dealing with the ugly events of ANZAC day this year when a neo-Nazi booed the Welcome to Country at the dawn service.

"I see racism as a mental health disease – it is not normal decent behaviour – and I saw this opportunity at the shrine to educate people to the valued service of First Nations



Richard J Frankland lays a wreath during the Reflections of Service ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance. Pictures Paul Connelly.

servicemen and women.

"I experienced racism in different ways during my service, and got into more than a few fights, but I stood my ground and served my country.

"I joined the infantry but then joined the military band so I could become an officer to follow in the footsteps of my Uncle Reg Saunders.

"My commander asked what instrument I played, and I said, 'the flute'. He said, 'go into that room and grab yourself a flute'. I went in the room, and there were all these plastic cases, I selected one, returned very proud of my effort, and it turned out to be a clarinet.

"My commander looked at me and said, 'you don't know what a flute is, do you?'"

Over the course of an hour Richard spoke of his service, and while he never saw action, he says he would have gone in an instant and served his role within the army in any conflict Australia may have been involved with.

He also talked of his work at the Deaths in Custody Royal Commission, and the journey which has led him to places across the world, where he made many documentaries exposing injustice and atrocities.

By his side on the day was his friend Mark Holden.

"We share a lot of family stories, we share a lot of commonalities, I will stay at his home with his family, and he with

mine," Mr Frankland said.

"We support each other on a professional and spiritual level, and even a very humanistic level.

"As you know, I believe in two types of family, blood and Pringhael Gunditj or spirit family. Mark is very much spirit family."

A last post played at the end recognising the service and sacrifice of First Nations soldiers and their families. Richard laid a wreath and repeated the oath of remembrance.

Narungga man Andrew James Lovell was impressed.

"Richard is one of the loveliest blackfella musicians I have ever met, his voice is stunning, and captivating. Wow, wow, wow!" he said

Mr Frankland told the *Koori Mail* that it was his hope that one day war memorials would include displays dedicated to the Frontier Wars.

"These are as important as any of the other conflicts our memorials honour," he said.



Richard J Frankland, Narungga man Uncle Andrew James Lovell and Edwina McHenry.



Richard Frankland and Bruce Haymes.



Richard reciting the Ode of Remembrance.



Richard J Frankland and Mark Holden.



Kyanna Tom, Izie Tom, Mena Warria, Emma Mackie and six year-old Zahlee Tomuri.



Marc Shoyer had his pet dog Bala.



Eddie and Fran Savage.



Kaoa Kii and her 13-year-old son Otoniera Tapera were carrying a small guitar.



Ken Leon from Mount Isa.

Thousands march for NAIDOC

By ALF WILSON



A RECORD number of men, women and children took part in Townsville's NAIDOC march with many carrying banners and either

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander flags.

An estimated 2,000 participated in the July 11 March commencing at 10am sharp along Thuringowa Drive which was closed off along one side to traffic.

Some disabled or elderly people were pushed in wheelchairs and several marchers even had their pet dogs with them.

The *Koori Mail* was there and spoke to numerous marchers as they prepared for the 1.5km walk.

Mount Isa man Ken Leon said it was great to see so many turn out for the special event.

Kaoa Kii and her 13-year-old son Otoniera Tapera were carrying a small guitar and strummed it during the march.

Marc Shoyer had his pet, aptly named dog Bala, with him and loved the event.

Eddie Savage held a TS flag and his wife Fran carried an Aboriginal flag.

Kyanna Tom, Izie Tom, Mena Warria, Emma Mackie and six year-old Zahlee Tomuri walked as a family and whilst they have ,Moa Island descent all proudly wore shirts with Aboriginal colours.

It took about 40 minutes for the marchers to reach idyllic Riverway Park beside the fresh water reaches of Ross River.

Hundreds of non-Indigenous people snapped photos of the marchers from the opposite side of the road.

After the march most people attended a "Deadly Day Out" at Riverway Precinct where they enjoyed live music, performances, a variety of traditional food and activities for the whole family.

Flag raising was held there which in previous years had taken place the previous weekend at Jezzine Barracks.

But the local council slashed NAIDOC funding and that event was not on this year.

On July 8, a booked out Corporate Breakfast was held at the Ville Resort-Casino.



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Leading the march were flag carriers and dancers.



Marchers wave as they march along for NAIDOC Week. *Pictures: Alf Wilson.*



One of the excellent banners.



Big Aboriginal and TS flags stood out.

b

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Law student Portia Crisp-Williams and Pakana Rangers Rueben West and Jesse Williams.



Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania manager Sarah Wilcox.

LimilinatURI rally calls for land return

By JILLIAN MUNDY



AROUND 100 people took to the streets of LimilinatURI/Devonport on Friday calling for land returns and reflecting on this year's NAIDOC theme – Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy.

Fittingly the rally was led by young Pakana Rangers from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.

The rally's chant was to be 'from Robbins Island to Kunanyi's shore, this is our land, this is our law, we march today, we won't retreat, our land was never yours to keep', but soon reverted to the rally cry that has spanned decades – 'what do we want – land rights – when do we want them – now'.

Just over a month ago the Tasmanian Government announced the establishment of Tasmanian Aboriginal Truth-telling and

Healing Commissioners, saying they would no longer progress Treaty.

In response, calls for land returns and treaty have grown louder. Later this year will mark the 20th anniversary of land returns to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, but still less than 1% of the island state has been returned to the Aboriginal community.

At the rally Sarah Wilcox, Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania manager, spoke of the power of young people and their focus on healing Country and people.

"This healing is made possible through land rights and land return, because we did not give up our rights, the crown took our country, the lands, the waters, the seas, the skies, they divided it up and they sold it for their own profit – shame," she said.

"Our waterways are poisoned, our land is drying out, our sea Country is heating up.

"We need action, we need governments and leaders to do what is right and not what is popular.

"There is so much land that they could be handing back right now, really easily, that wouldn't impact anyone else, but it impacts us.

"It is our ancestral lands."

Wilcox encouraged Tasmanians heading to the polling booths again on Saturday to vote for candidates backing Palawa-led solutions, land returns and Treaty.

Aboriginal leader Michael Mansell agreed.

"I don't care who is in government, I don't care who is elected," he told the rally.

"There will be majority of people there, if they want to, to return land to the real owners – that's us, and that's what we should be campaigning for."

He said he was encouraged by the young people leading the rally and stepping up to speak.

He also reflected on the 2025 NAIDOC theme.

"We are not made up of three generations. We are a people whose

history goes back to the beginning of humankind, who goes back beyond 50,000 years, and all of the things that have taken place during that time, where we owned this land, we managed this land, we nurtured the forests, the only reason the forests are still there is because Aboriginal people nurtured them."

Pakana Ranger Jazmin Wheatley, who later in the day was honoured with a NAIDOC special achievement award, challenged the people to reflect on whether they are showing up for young people, truly listening and helping them to lead and shape their future.

"While our land is poisoned, our forests logged and our heritage destroyed, we continue to show up with purpose, fire and a deep love for our culture," she said.

"Are you giving our young people the tools, support and opportunities they need to thrive?"

"Let's continue the work of healing, truth, telling and restoration together."



Sisters Ella and Mariah Lowrey from Burnie with placards they made for the rally.



Freya Well and Ash Peet with baby Juno, and Tananger Peet.



Ranger coordinator David Lowery and Junior Pakana Ranger Jazmin Wheatley spoke of truth-telling, strength, vision, deep commitment to ensure legacy is honoured, and love of culture.



Around 100 Aborigines and allies attended the rally through the main streets of LimilinatURI/Devonport.



Palawa leader Michael Mansell reflects on the NAIDOC theme, land returns and representation in the parliament.



The rally called for land returns, treaty and justice.

Young leaders step up at Yarrabah



"IT'S been a magnificent week, we've had heaps of events" Yarrabah Traditional Owner and Gindaja Treatment and Healing CEO Ailsa Lively says.

"It's great to see everyone out celebrating culture, getting involved and dancing, singing, marching," she said.

"The week started with Gindaja Treatment and Healing Centre having a big day out at Jilara Oval, then Mutkin celebrated their Elders and Gurriny Yealamucka Health Centre had their big event at the Community Hall.

"All the PBCs came together for a beautiful event at the museum last night and the whole community has come together today."

Cultural leader Mala Neal said the 50 years of NAIDOC was a long time.

"But not as long as our 50,000 years," he said.

"This year has been very special and I think a lot to reflect on.

"I think we're celebrating 35 years of NAIDOC in Yarrabah alone, so we have the spirit, the fire is alright and it's growing."

MC for the day, Barry Cedric, said the community had lined up for yet another celebration.

"It can only happen in Yarrabah," he said.

"This is one way of bringing the community together.

"Bishop Malcolm Park has been blessed and I think he'd be happy.

"The community is happy and we are taking on board and passing on what our Elders have taught us."

Ms Lively said she loved there were so many young people involved, as was in keeping with this year's NAIDOC theme: 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy'.

"I feel at peace that seeing a lot of the young people get up and take the lead this year," she said.

"I'm really relieved when it's my time to step aside from the work I do, that we have a next generation of leaders coming through."



Happy NAIDOC'ers Serenity Barlow (12) and Leontay Noble (13).



Mario Madua (Western Cape College) with junior Gunggandji Land and Sea Rangers Jared Fourmile, Kaydis Singleton and Malachai Ambrym-Cedric, and senior Gunggandji Land and Sea Rangers Dion Sands and Keith Amybrym.



Merrill Richards and Ailsa Lively.



PLO Gaylene Patterson with Yarrabah Cultural Leader Nathan Schreiber.



MC Barry Cedric on stage.



Back row: Lynelle Richards, Noralyn Murgha, Alyssa Yeatman. Seated: Alita O'Burns holding Razarli Murgha (1), Lindsay Murgha, Deborah Murgha, Ryam Murgha and Henry O'Burns.



Clifford Richards, Clifford Davidson and David Marrot.



Sammi-Jo Noble, Sue Noble, Sheralyn Noble (11) and Maree Connolly.



Patterson/Palmer family enjoying the 2025 Yarrabah NAIDOC Day.



Chern'ee Sutton, a proud Kalkadoon woman, designed The Perth Mint limited-edition Emu Utingat coin.

Perth Mint Unveils 2025 Emu Utingat coin



The Perth Mint is proud to present the 2025 Emu Utingat coin, the fourth release in its acclaimed Indigenous coin series, unveiled during a special NAIDOC Week celebration.

This year's coin marks a significant milestone as The Perth Mint partners for the first time with contemporary Aboriginal artist Chern'ee Sutton, a proud Kalkadoon woman whose talent has earned international recognition.

Chern'ee's work has been commissioned by local, state and federal governments, with two of her artworks holding the honour of inclusion in the Royal Collection at Buckingham Palace.

The coin's launch was marked by a moving ceremony in The Perth Mint forecourt gardens.

Guests were welcomed with an Acknowledgement of Country, followed by a smoking ceremony, and a wonderful dance performance by Corroboree for Life, creating an atmosphere of respect and cultural celebration.

Chern'ee travelled from Bundaberg, Queensland, to attend the launch and met with customers and signed certificates, turning their collectables into true treasures.

The 2025 design celebrates the

emu, known as 'Utingat' in the Kalkadoon language, Australia's largest and most iconic native bird.

The artwork captures the emu's spiritual journey through life and the diverse landscapes and communities it calls home.

The 2oz silver antiqued coloured coin has a limited mintage of 2,000.

Artist Chern'ee Sutton said it was an amazing project to bring to life. "I'm so incredibly proud to have collaborated with The Perth Mint to create this limited-edition Emu Utingat coin," she said.

"It's such an honour to see my artwork featured in this way, the colours and design came up so beautifully on the silver coin and to have it launched during NAIDOC Week makes it even more special."

The launch during NAIDOC Week reflects the mint's commitment to recognising and celebrating the culture and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Continuing its tradition of supporting Indigenous charities, The Perth Mint is donating \$10,000 from the proceeds of the coin to Ruah's Kambarang Place Aboriginal Women's Refuge, an organisation providing cultural support and safe accommodation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women escaping domestic violence or crisis situations.

Marking 30 years of Torres Strait flag



The Royal Australian Mint has released a new coloured \$2 coin marking 30 years since the Torres Strait Islander Flag was officially recognised as one of Australia's national flags.

The flag, designed by Bernard Namok in 1992, is rich with meaning and symbolism reflecting the culture, identity and connection Torres Strait Islander people have to land and sea.

Inspired by reef patterns, traditional netting and fishing traps, the coin honours the meaning behind the flag's powerful symbols – land, sea, people, culture and unity – and highlights the strength and pride of Torres Strait Islander identity.

Designed by mint artist, Elyssa Waterford, the bright and beautiful coin features artwork by Erub Island (Darnley Island) artist Lavinia Ketchell alongside elements from the flag.

The dhari head dress and star have been placed in the

centre of the coin design, reflecting their position of prominence on the flag.

The circular colour print further reflects the flag design with each colour represented, blue signifying the ocean, green the land, and black representing the Torres Strait Islander people. Two strips of white are also included, representing the dhari and the star.

Ketchell's influence forms the protective relief under the colour print. Her inspiration was taken from the traditional netting and fishing traps of the Torres Strait Islander people and reflects their traditional fishing practices, community gathering, teaching and heritage.

Royal Australian Mint acting Chief Executive Officer, Emily Martin, said the new \$2 coin was more than just change in our pockets.

"This coin is a meaningful tribute to culture, identity and resilience. It's a proud reminder



of the strength and spirit of Torres Strait Islander people, and a step towards greater recognition and respect in everyday life," Ms Martin said.

The release was created in collaboration with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, which chose Ketchell's artwork as part of a competition held across Torres Strait communities.

Torres Strait Island Regional Council mayor Cr Phillemon Mosby said the coin was more than just currency. "This coin is a national acknowledgment of the cultural richness and contributions of our people. To see our flag represented in such an historic and widely recognised way is a proud moment for all Torres Strait Islanders," Cr Mosby said.

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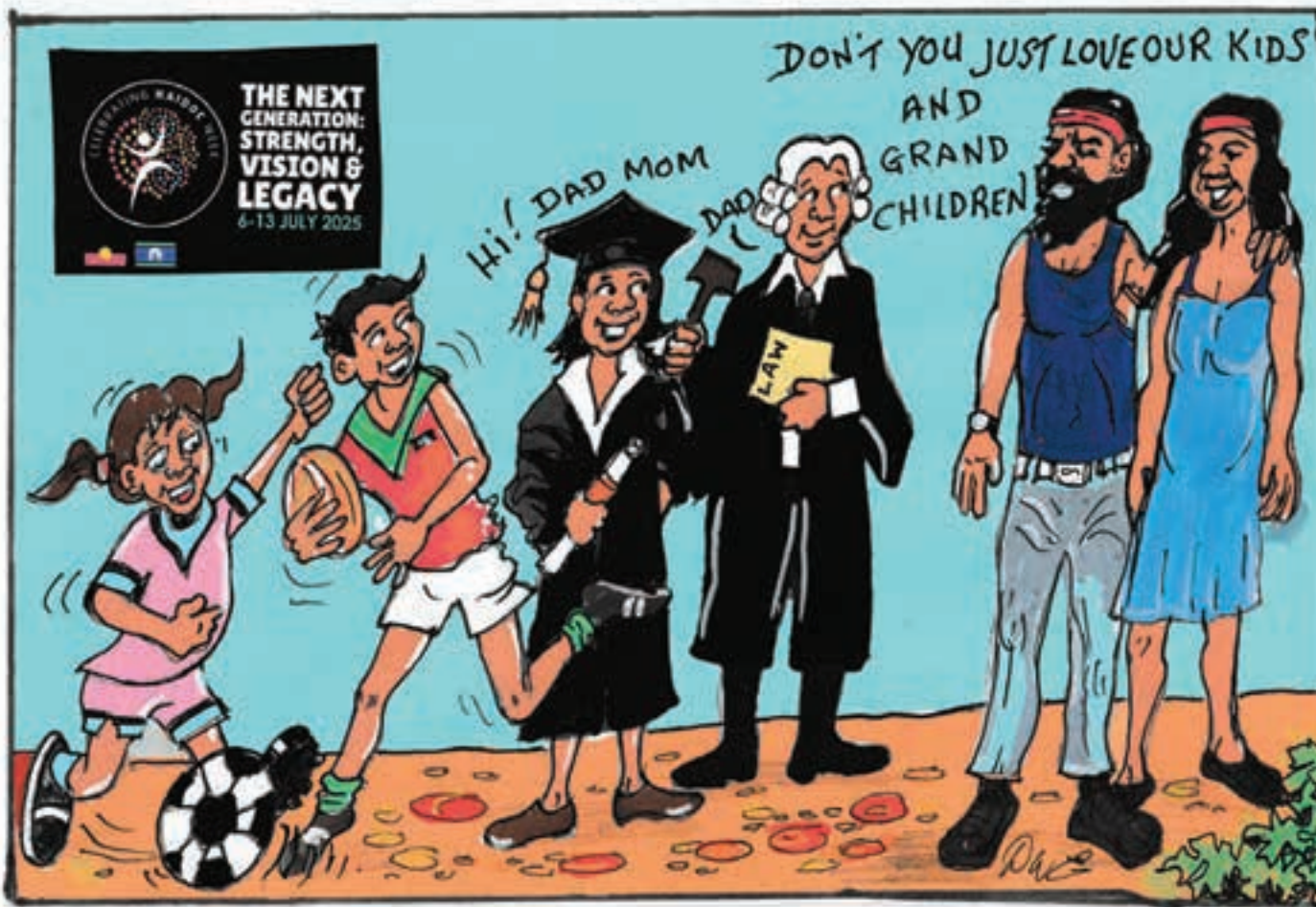
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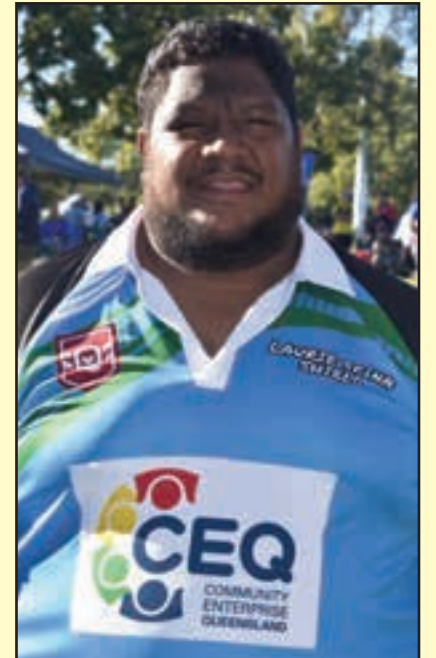
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Danny Eastwood's view



A YARN WITH...



Sam Joe, aged 36 Mabuiag Island, Torres Strait

Favourite bush tucker?
Wild yam.

Favourite other food?
Sticky pork.

Favourite non-Indigenous food?
Porterhouse steak.

Saltwater food
Mud crabs and coral trout.

Favourite drink?
Lemon, lime and bitters.

Favourite music?
Anything by Lucky Dube.

Favourite sport?
Rugby league. I barrack for Cronulla Sharks.

Favourite movie.
Rampage starring the Rock.

What do you like in life?
Peace, harmony and love.

What don't you like in life?
Nothing really. I am a happy person who loves life.

Which Black or Indigenous person would you most like to meet?
My dad, Salatielu Joe, who passed away in 2008.

Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire?
Craig Bellamy, the Melbourne Storm NRL coach.

Who or what inspires you?
Seeing people do inspiring things.

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people?
Build more pathways for the benefit of our people such as education of our young people.

Quote



I see racism as a mental-health disease – it is not normal decent behaviour – and I saw this opportunity at the shrine to educate people to the valued service of First Nations servicemen and women.

– Musician Richard J Frankland

● See page 15

Unquote

The concept of time is arbitrary

Flying over to Perth from Sydney for the National NAIDOC Dinner in a window seat really makes you wonder about the size of the continent of Australia and how ancient the land is.

For five hours I flew over countless number of clan estates and homelands and marvelled at how all our Mobs have cared and looked after that Country for a 1,000 generations, some say.

It reminded me of a passage in a book I've been reading by Dr Debra Dank.

In *'Terraglossia'* (2025), Dr Dank developed a timeline to highlight how the West and First Nations people look at the concept of 'time'.

Dank came up with a circular timeline made up of concentric circles, featuring 60,000 years of Aboriginal occupation of Australia in the outer circle; the reach of documented Aboriginal oral history at 13,000; the building of the pyramids at 5,000 years; the advent of 'ancient' Greek cultures at 3,000; and finally the writing of *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer 700 years ago, and Captain Cook's arrival around 200 years ago.

'What are accepted as ancient cultures, the genesis of modern English and Cook's landing are all very young compared with that outer circle.

Indeed, if 5,000 years is ancient, is it not obvious that this word is not nearly enough to describe Aboriginal living with our lands for more than 60,000 years?

And if modern English had its start 700 years ago, how can we imagine it is enough to define, articulate or explain the



OUR SAY

complex ways of knowing, being, doing and thinking that have enabled Aboriginal communities to live here so well for so long?'

Hopefully acknowledgement of Aboriginal timeframes are made in academia and celebrated in mainstream Australia.

Just on a side note – I was fortunate enough to be part of a *Koori Mail* contingent in attendance at the National NAIDOC Dinner in Perth (Moorloo) recently and was impressed and inspired by the finalists and the eventual award winners.

However, I felt a bit shame about the reception from a section of the audience to the award winners' acceptance speeches which left a lot to be desired.

Talking over our Mob on a night, which for some, was a highlight of their lives and recognition for their hard work and commitment to their field of endeavour, is a little disappointing.

This was after several polite suggestions from the event hosts for some quiet and respect, as well as explaining it was being broadcast live on NITV! As blackfullas we can do better.

– TODD JIGARRU CONDIE

KOORI MAIL 100% ABORIGINAL-OWNED

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



Mechelle Turvey, mother of Cassius, and BARKAA embrace during the National NAIDOC Awards ceremony in Boorloo. BARKAA performed her hit song, *Blak Matriarchy*.

Our children matter

Cassius Turvey was not just a name in the headlines. He was a child of our people, a bright light whose life was taken far too soon by the darkest kind of violence.

As a mother, as an Aboriginal woman, and as someone who has fought every day to give voice to our stories with truth and dignity — my heart breaks for Cassius, his family, and for every young Blak boy who walks this country never truly safe.

Cassius should have come home that day.

He should be laughing with his friends, running his little lawn business, dreaming big for his future. Instead, we are left with his memory — a gentle, strong, and kind-hearted Noongar Yamatji boy — whose murder reminds us all of the hard truth we live with: that racism is still killing our people.

His death has sparked a national reckoning, but it should never have taken the loss of a child to make this country listen.

Cassius's story is not isolated.

It is part of a long, painful history of injustice, and unless we rise and act with real accountability, it will not be the last.

To Mechelle Turvey — your courage humbles me.

Your strength in the face of such profound loss is what Blak matriarchy looks like. You stood in that courtroom with grace, with fire, with truth, and you reminded this country of something it cannot ignore: our children matter.

Their lives matter.

Cassius mattered.

In his name, we keep fighting. For justice. For change. For every young Aboriginal life that deserves to grow up free, proud, and safe. We will not let his name be forgotten.

Rest in power, Cassius.

Your legacy will be carried in every march, every headline, every heart that beats for justice.

You are loved.

You are remembered.

Always.

Naomi Moran

NSW Treaty Commissioner, Bundjalung / Dunghutti

W&J custodians file cross appeal to defend Doongmabulla Springs cultural rights case

Nagana Yarrbayn Wangan and Jagalingou Cultural Custodians have filed a cross appeal against the Queensland Government's attempt to appeal the continuation of their hearing in the Supreme Court, escalating their fight to protect the Doongmabulla Springs and preserve the full integrity of their cultural rights case.

The Cultural Custodians are taking the fight directly to the government after recent court victories that saw Justice Burns twice overrule government attempts to halt proceedings in the landmark case.

Three weeks ago, Nagana Yarrbayn survived a strike-out application filed by the previous state Labor Government, opening a new pathway to protect human rights and enforce Aboriginal cultural rights under the Queensland Human Rights Act.

The current LNP Government's attempt to adjourn the hearing was overruled earlier this month by Justice Burns, who told the government to get on with it and



Adrian Burragubba, a spokesperson for the Wangan and Jagalingou Nagana Yarrbayn Cultural Custodians

made the Custodians orders in full, allowing the case to proceed.

The case centres on protecting the Doongmabulla Springs from environmental harm caused by the open-cut Carmichael Coal Mine operated by Adani.

The Cultural Custodians are critical of the government for failing to act on expert evidence regarding the environmental impact of mining, including independent expert evidence from Griffith University's head of civil and environmental engineering, Professor Matthew Currell, and

Flinders University Professor Adrian Werner, as well as the government's own commissioned report from CSIRO and Geosciences Australia.

The government has been repeatedly rejected by the courts, yet they continue to try to kill off our case through appeals. We will not stand by and let them subvert our rights. By filing this cross appeal, we are taking the fight directly to them and defending the integrity of our cultural rights case, and our right to protect the Doongmabulla Springs.

We hope the judges will resist this latest intervention by crown law and give us the hearing that we seek. The government needs to be held to account for their failures to enforce their own laws to protect the springs from mining, and to respect our human rights.

The government has a responsibility not to usurp our cultural rights, which are rooted in First Law. But the government is being obstinate by refusing to respect our legal right to be heard and failing to understand our law. They are continuing to interfere with our human rights.

First Law is our customary law and it differs from statute law. We view it as the law of the land, nature, and the environment. Water is a creator being and a sovereign, from which all life originates. For tens of thousands of years, our people lived by the water, and interference with the sacred Doongmabulla Springs impacts our rights as First Nations people.

The government is trying to forcefully assimilate us under

legislation that appropriates, exploits and monetises our land and waters, in a way that is an unlawful limitation of our human rights. But we will not be assimilated and these continued violations of our rights as a people must stop.

'We will never give up or die out, and future generations will know our history and celebrate our law, totems, and connection to Country.'

Nagana Yarrbayn Cultural Custodians are asserting their cultural authority to protect the Doongmabulla Springs, seeking to enforce their cultural rights under the Queensland Human Rights Act and to enforce protection of the springs under the Environmental Protection Act. The Queensland Government has recognised, under law, that the Cultural Custodians hold distinct cultural rights, protected by the Human Rights Act, enabling them to seek legal relief.

Nagana Yarrbayn Senior Cultural Custodian, Adrian Burragubba.

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

Staying accountable

*Speech delivered on Friday 11 July at the NAIDOC Week march in Darwin, NT.

As a Saltwater woman from the Yanyuwa Garrwa people I pay my respects to the Larrakia, whose lands we are gathered on.

It's good to be here with you all, families and friends, coming together to celebrate but also to remind us of what is still before us.

We celebrate 50 years of NAIDOC Week. Half a century of honouring our cultures, our resilience and our stories through this week of celebration.

It is a powerful reminder of who we are, where we've come from and the strength that keeps us going.

And for those who walk with us, all of you, it's a time to celebrate the richness of a culture that's over 60,000 years old and thriving.

This week I joined NAIDOC celebrations with some of our Elders at Purple House.

And I was honoured to be in Perth last weekend for the National NAIDOC Awards and present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Michael Long.

Alongside Michael, it was fantastic to see so many Territorians among the winners including Professor Eddie Cubillo, Danielle Ponter, and Cerisa Benjamin from Blak Brews.

But I also acknowledge this year's NAIDOC Week has been a



Marlarndirri McCarthy

sad time for many, with the Northern Territory Coroner handing down her findings into the death of Kumanjayi Walker.

My heart goes out to Kumanjayi's family, the Yuendumu community, and the wider Warlpiri-Luritja community who have suffered a profound loss.

They are exhausted and still experiencing deep grief.

The findings by Coroner Elisabeth Armitage have been a long time coming.

I thank Coroner Armitage and her team for their careful work and for travelling to Yuendumu to be with the community to deliver the findings.

We've heard from the Acting Police Commissioner, who has acknowledged the history of racism within the NT Police and committed to fixing it.

We've heard from Leanne Liddle, the NT Police Cultural

Reform Command Director, and I commend her work to create meaningful change and rebuild trust across our communities.

I look forward to hearing from the Chief Minister.

I encourage the Northern Territory Government to carefully review and consider the recommendations in full.

It is time to be at the table with First Nations people.

This continues to be an incredibly difficult and sensitive time for many.

Two more recent deaths in custody have compounded the collective grief and trauma felt by many First Nations families.

I am committed to working with the states and territories – including the NT Government – who hold the levers for change in the justice system.

I am working with the Federal Attorney-General to consider a range of options to address the high number of First Nations people dying in custody.

But it's also about the incarceration rates of First Nations people.

We have to reduce those numbers.

We are working through existing mechanisms, including the Standing Council of Attorneys-General and the Joint Council on Closing the Gap, to identify tangible actions and hold states and territories to account.

Bail and remand are key drivers of the disproportionately high incarceration rates for First

Nations young people and adults.

I've been to the Darwin Correctional Centre. I'm spending time in the Alice Springs Correctional Centre with the prisoners and with the staff.

This is serious business.

Too many of our people are being locked up.

I thank General Manager David Gordon, Tony O'Callaghan and Erica Harvey from NT Corrections who took the time to show me through and explain how overcrowded the prison is.

While Corrections is doing what they can, it is NT laws that are driving this situation.

It is unacceptable for both prisoners and staff.

Our prisons are holding people who have not been convicted of a crime because of laws which drastically reduce the circumstances under which they can be granted bail.

As the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody made clear, the best way to reduce First Nations deaths in custody is to reduce the high incarceration rate of our people.

This is what the Commonwealth Government is focusing on, including through the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

We are investing in the areas that we know will help keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people out of the justice system – like housing, jobs, education and health.

We are rolling out community-

led Justice Reinvestment initiatives across the country to help prevent First Nations people coming into contact with the justice system in the first place.

In the NT, those initiatives are in Central Australia, Maningrida, Katherine, Lajamanu and Groote Eylandt – and we're seeing results. On Groote there has been a huge decline in offending, with crime rates now at all-time low.

A total of 130 offences were recorded in the last 12 months compared to more than a thousand in 2019.

That's just one example of how local people have local solutions to these issues around justice.

This year's NAIDOC Week theme is *The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy*.

The Albanese government is proud to support so many community events across the country, through more than 500 NAIDOC Local Grants.

And there are more events still to come – including the Darwin Gala Ball and Awards Ceremony tomorrow.

Wherever you are, and whatever your passion, please remember this.

Australia is a democracy.

You vote people in. Keep them accountable, keep me accountable, and keep all governments accountable.

Enjoy NAIDOC Week.

Yo, Bauji Barra.

Senator Marlarndirri McCarthy, Minister for Indigenous Australians.

Celebrate culture all year round

Each year, NAIDOC Week invites all of us to deepen our understanding of culture, connection and kinship. A time to reflect and speak the truth of the history of this country. The week is about celebrating the rich culture and tapestry of creations by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In 2025, the theme of NAIDOC Week was The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy, asking us all to reflect and deepen our understanding of what type of ancestors we want to be, what kind of Elders we want to grow into and what do we want to pass down to the next generation?

As we continue to hold our culture strong with radical embodied resistance, we keep the story alive, the flame of the fire flickers with light of the generations of generations of our people who came before us, who existed and thrived on these lands.

A bloodline bound by DNA to the very country we walk on.

Our communities have carried forth our cultural



Ella Noah Bancroft

strength and stories despite the injustice received through the colonisation of these lands, displacement of our peoples, and ongoing systematic disparity. The one thing the black community does well is bring in the black joy, the belly laughs, the smiles, the big bold hearts that hold our community. When we raise our young ones with respect and those jarjums turn into adults who become great carriers and protectors of our culture. We cultivate our leaders through our values and

what we choose to celebrate will determine our legacy.

Let every laugh we have be an act of sovereignty. Let it be woven onto the blanket of our community to be wrapped around our Elders at night. Let us all bring joy in spite of all the challenges, to uplift one another, to bring our communities with us on every step. Let us find joy in art, language, dance, storytelling, music, kin and ceremony. A reminder to the dominant culture that we have deep relations and

connections here that have existed since time immemorial. Our cultures are not broken, or extinct but rather they are burning bright flames that continue to grow.

NAIDOC is all about this, it's about bringing joy, celebration and acknowledgements to our communities and the leaders. A time to focus not on the traumas but on the

triumphs, the achievements and excellence. While acknowledging and recognising the deep injustice of colonisation, we as a people have always risen, have always flown with our ancestors beneath our wings, carrying us forth, teaching us so much along the way. Let us rebel through celebration, through heart connections and care. The joys of coming together to celebrate our culture keeps us strong, that is my vision for the next generation, a

'Let our legacy carry the truth of what our old ones left us. Let us all remember to share our blessings.'

vision where we gather, connect, uplift our culture and care for our kin. Let our legacy carry the truth of what our old ones left us. Let us all remember to share our blessings.

Let NAIDOC not be one week, but let it be all year round. We remember to celebrate our communities, to come together, uplift and share. Our languages of belonging are rooted in our

relations and so in a world that is rapidly digitising, let us always hold close the importance of dance, sharing meals, music, yarns and laughs. This week NAIDOC saw gatherings all over the Northern Rivers, here on Bundjalung Country, we celebrated with marches, markets, music, art and so much more. The Tweed NAIDOC was a celebration of dance, a corroboree that brought tears to my eyes. The ancestors turned up the sun and cleared the skies of

any clouds as we came together to be with each other. When we come together we regulate our nervous systems, promoting feelings of calm and well-being. Human to human contact. A reminder that our wellbeing is intimately linked to our connections to one another and our more than human kin.

It's an important time for our allies to come and celebrate with us too, a

time to deepen understanding about our culture and celebrate the rich history of our country and the truth. The hope is that the celebration of First Nations people is carried out in the hearts of our allies, to ripple in change, always inviting allies to return to acknowledging and learning.

As the fire continues to burn, it continues to warm the hearts of culture, connection and resistance within our communities. It's the future that will fuel the fire, the one that has been lit since time immemorial, the one that keeps our communities warm, nourished and loved.

To celebrate NAIDOC Week in all its fullness is to acknowledge and honour the history of this country and ongoing struggle of our people while simultaneously dancing, dreaming, laughing and making a change to connect rather than divide so our future babies have the chance to thrive.

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

TORRES TASTES

Star-chef
Nornie
loves to stir
appetites
with native
ingredients



Nornie Bero. Picture: On Jackson Street.

By MARION WILLIAMS

Since someone said Indigenous people don't have cuisine, Nornie Bero has been on a mission to make native ingredients the hero of Australian cuisine – from high-end dining to everyday cooking at home.

It is rooted in her upbringing that revolved around cooking with her father and aunties while soaking up the rich cultural heritage of the Meriam people in the Torres Strait.

From those humble beginnings she has mastered her craft in the rough and tumble of the male-dominated restaurant industry across Australia and in London. She has appeared on our screens on *Paddock to Plate* and had her own cooking show *Island Echoes* on SBS. In June she was a judge on *MasterChef* after bringing in a mystery box filled with native ingredients to test the contestants.

That started as selling homemade condiments and spices at the South Melbourne Market grew into a business spanning an all-day bar and kitchen, catering, and retail and wholesale condiments and spices. Her second cookery book will be published next year.

Grew up cooking

Her father's parents passed away when he was 15. Five years later, he was a single

parent. "Imagine a young black man in his twenties having a kid," she said.

He and his young daughter moved from island to island a lot.

"He did his best and I have these great memories of what he instilled in me," Ms Bero said. "I can walk through life feeling grateful for growing up with those protocols that he taught me and have guided me."

"Ever since I was a kid I was cooking with my aunties and dad, making damper with dad

to keep the lights on, making fish burgers and pumpkin buns," Ms Bero said. "I became fascinated with hunting, catching my own food and pickling."

She also credits her father for teaching her to be a feminist.

Ms Bero left the islands to get a better education. She attended high school in Townsville and Cairns. By then, her father was already getting sick and once again she found herself being shipped around.

Through it all though, her

father ensured she was soaking up her cultural heritage.

Learning culture through food

Culture and food are closely entwined for Ms Bero, literally. Her favourite native ingredients are tattooed on her, as is her pickling recipe.

"I love the idea of learning about people's culture through food. It is important for us to know each other through food and to share stories over food," Ms Bero said. She has even

learnt a few different languages through working in kitchens.

Central to her quest to champion native ingredients is her condiment business which makes native ingredients more accessible.

Putting them on shelves and in pantries increases their visibility.

Ms Bero said native ingredients are a \$1 billion industry, but some are being produced in different countries and being sold back to Australia.

Pushing boundaries

Education is a massive part of her mission even as she is still learning herself about how far she can push the boundaries of native ingredients. She has cooked crocodile tongue to demonstrate and educate that there is much more out there.

She said Australia follows a European food table that doesn't belong to Australia and its climate. That is in contrast with the Torres Strait Islands where there is a community calendar based on what is in season.

"I really think native foods are the way forward and what Australian cuisine should be for the future," Ms Bero said. "There are only a few of us out there concentrating on using native ingredients."

Food security and Australia's agriculture also come into play. "That is the road I am going down."



Auntie Gail Mabo and Nornie Bero. Picture: James Henry, courtesy of Koorie Heritage Trust, 2025.

Truth-telling about suicide is important



Prof Pat Dudgeon

At the Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention (CBPATISIP) we share evidence on what works best when it comes to suicide prevention and support for our people. We are always working to empower First Nations individuals, families, and communities. It is not easy to talk about suicide, especially publicly and in a culturally safe way, but sometimes it can be healing. This is why we created a resource, in collaboration with the national Mindframe project, to help our people share their experiences, and tell stories of their loved ones.

“A lot of our Mob keep a lot of stuff bottled up, especially our young ones. And that’s where we see suicide, suffering in silence.” - WA media training program participant

We developed the First Nations guide for truth-telling about suicide to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples when talking publicly about suicide, in ways that are safe for themselves, their family and others in the community.

The guide grew out of a media training program co-designed and delivered by Megan Krakouer, Aboriginal media expert, social justice advocate, and the Director of the National Suicide Prevention and Trauma Recovery Project, and with support from Gerry Georgatos, mentor for the National Suicide Prevention and Trauma Recovery Project. We are very grateful to the 18 Aboriginal community members who participated in the pilot program. Their stories and deep knowledge, acquired through lived and living experiences of mental-health concerns, informed all aspects of the guide. Their strength and resilience are formidable.

Truth-telling about suicide

Truth-telling is a practice that corrects the record and presents a more accurate account of



Ted Wilkes, Megan Krakouer, Pat Dudgeon and Gerry Georgatos debriefing on the media training program.

Australia’s history; at a community level, it is a powerful way of recognising the strength and contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and acknowledging the historical silencing of injustices and ongoing impacts of colonisation on First Nations peoples.

In the context of suicide, truth-telling can include individual people sharing their personal experiences and stories that honour their loved ones or advocating for better support or services. These acts of truth-telling about suicide can improve understanding and support for people in distress, reduce the fear, shame and loneliness that often surrounds suicide, highlight community needs, and help change how the media tell our stories.

Some people find that sharing stories in a culturally safe space is a healing experience, and it can also encourage others to reach out for help.

However, sharing our stories publicly can compound the traumatic effects of suicide if we have negative experiences with the media. Our guide offers advice on what to think about when deciding whether to engage with the media, and on preparing for interviews if you do decide to go ahead. It is a vital resource in making sure our stories are told by our people, on our terms.

Of course, the media has a

big part to play here too. Australian journalists must ensure they are working in safe and respectful ways when sharing stories about our peoples’ experiences of suicide. We ask that journalists engage with respect, spend time in community before developing a story on suicide, and take time to talk with a community spokesperson.

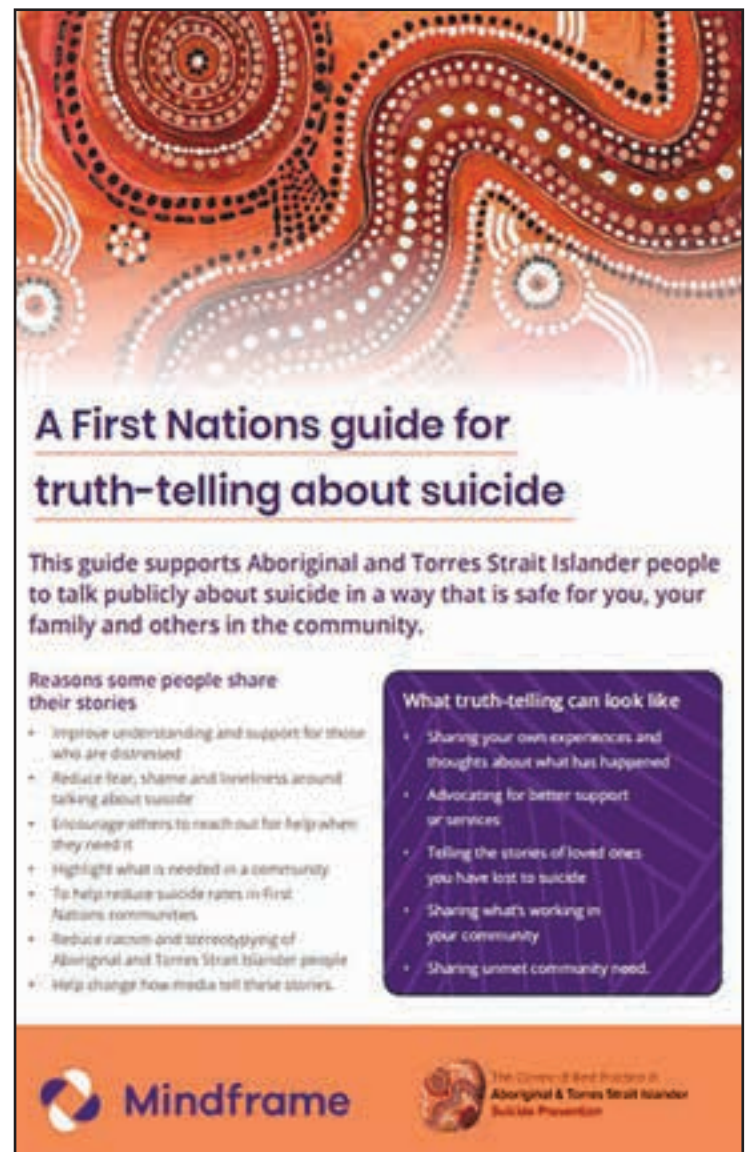
Importantly, the media should not wait until after a passing to report on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide.

Stories about people surviving a suicidal crisis, about what is working well in communities, or about available supports or services, may contribute to preventing future suicides, and we urge the media to cover those things too.

For more information on truth-telling about suicide, visit the fact sheet on our website at <https://cbpatsisp.com.au>.

Please be aware this resource provides general advice only; for people who are considering sharing their stories, we recommend seeking further specific advice from Elders or community leaders.

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



The guide helps people navigate the difficult subject of suicide.

The hidden harm of fluctuating ear disease in First Nations children



MORE than one third of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children experience

fluctuating ear disease and eight percent experience persistent ear trouble, according to new clinical findings from Hearing Australia.

Hearing Australia is calling for urgent action to detect and treat ear disease early – giving children the best start in speech, learning and social development before school.

Middle-ear infection (otitis media) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children remains among the highest globally.

“It can often start in early infancy without any obvious symptoms which is why regular ear health checks are important,” says Yorta Yorta woman Kirralee Cross, Partnership Specialist at Hearing Australia. “It can impact a child’s hearing over time and their ability to develop important listening, speech and language skills.”

Cross said findings are a powerful reminder that the fight against preventable hearing loss must remain a national priority, especially in a child’s early years.

Since 2019, Hearing Australia has run the government funded Hearing Assessment Program – Early Ears (HAPEE), which provides services to over 10,000 First Nations children aged 0-6 every year.

More than 26 percent of children assessed are found to have undiagnosed ear disease and one-in-five have undiagnosed hearing loss.



Kirralee Cross – Hearing Australia First Nations Partnership Specialist.

To support early detection, a new study from the National Acoustic Laboratories (NAL), the research division of Hearing Australia, shows the effectiveness of a free and easy to use five-minute checklist. The findings also showed:

- 82 percent of children with significant otitis media-related hearing loss lasting for 3+ months or longer received a ‘not yet on track’ result – a clear sign they needed ear health and hearing support.

- Children flagged as ‘not yet on track’ were 46 times more likely to have significant, sustained hearing loss than if they received an ‘on track’, underscoring the need for urgent follow-up.

Cross said the findings from NAL are valuable as it shows the PLUM tool identifies children



Hearing Australia team performing an ear examination.

who are both likely – and not likely – to have long term ear-health and hearing trouble. This will help health practitioners to know when to give reassurance to families and when prompt action is needed to reduce the impact of otitis media.”

Hearing Australia is working closely with local communities and healthcare providers to prioritise regular ear-health checks – and to use tools like PLUM to help detect common, often-overlooked hearing issues that can lead to serious developmental delays.

“We’re proud to work with over 400 health organisations

across the country, and close to one-third are Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations,” says Kirralee.

“We’re tailoring our support and coordinating services with Ear, Nose and Throat specialists where possible so that children can get the help they need.”

Experts recommend that young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have ear health checks every six months. However, Hearing Australia says checks are often prompted by parents or caregivers. Identifying hearing problems shouldn’t fall solely on families.

Often there are no signs of

ear trouble which is why it’s important that ear health checks are a routine part of care,” says Kirralee.

“Through the HAPEE program, our team has supported the up-skilling of more than 1,000 health workers in hearing health. It means that more kids can be screened regularly and those who are identified as having a possible hearing problem can then be prioritised and seen by an audiologist.”

Hearing Australia is striving to halve the rate of hearing loss in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by 2029.

Stick With It, mental-health campaign



RUGBY league great Greg Inglis is leading a powerful new mental-health campaign – and it all starts with a simple piece of sports tape.

Running from July 2 to August 4, *Stick With It* transforms everyday sports strapping tape into a national symbol of resilience. Across the country, footy stars, fans, and entire communities will wrap tape around their wrists to show solidarity with those facing mental-health challenges.

A national health crisis, this campaign couldn’t be more urgent. Suicide is the leading cause of death for Australians between the ages of 15 and 44 (AIHW, 2022a) – especially males aged 18-44 – the leading cause of death for young Australians aged 15-24 (AIHW) – a 68% increase in the last 15 years, and twice as likely in Indigenous and regional communities.

Stick With It is a visual reminder to all of us to not only

stick with your own mental health, but to stick by others who might need it too.

Launched by Greg Inglis’ Goanna Academy – Australia’s first Indigenous-owned, accredited mental health education provider – in partnership with Enrichd Group, *Stick With It* will roll out across TV, radio, print, digital, social, radio and live events.

Stick With It will include NRL and NRLW players from across the league, taping their wrists and wearing them both on and off the field, sending a powerful message to millions.

At the heart of the movement is the *Stick With It Challenge* – a powerful social media activation inviting all Aussies to share how they *#StickWithIt*. Whether it’s a personal story, a message to a mate, or a reason to keep going, every post helps normalise mental health conversations and lets others know they’re not alone.

Goanna Academy’s goal is to raise \$500,000 to fund life-saving mental-health education programs in schools and regional communities.

Goanna Academy already supports over 40,000 people and is endorsed by Headspace and quality assured by NSW Education. Its programs deliver evidence-based mental health and wellbeing tools for both youth and adults across Australia.

The campaign launched with an interactive mural activation that travelled across Sydney with appearances from Greg Inglis, Kennedy Cherrington, and Cody Walker. Aussies taped messages of resilience directly onto the live billboard mural – creating a powerful community statement.

The campaign will officially wrap on August 8 at the Goanna Academy Gala at Sofitel Darling Harbour – a night of impact and inspiration featuring Greg Inglis, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and other special guests.

Every donation, every wrist taped, and every act of solidarity helps break the stigma, reach those in need, and change lives.

For more info, merch and tickets to the Gala, go to: goannaacademy.org.au.



Goanna Academy's Greg Inglis wearing his *Stick With It* message.



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Ngarrindjeri and Yorta Yorta woman, Nari Sinclair.

Kidney warrior honoured



NARI Sinclair, a Ngarrindjeri and Yorta Yorta woman and powerful advocate for people with chronic kidney disease, has been honoured by the University of Adelaide community.

In the Adelaide Health and Medical Sciences building, room 3066 was affectionately known by Nari as the Big Ole room, will now be known as the Nari Sinclair Room.

It is the first room on any University of Adelaide campus to be dedicated to an Aboriginal woman.

"Nari, who passed in 2023, believed real changes could be made by addressing the gaps she had identified, and wanted to elevate the voices of Aboriginal people with kidney disease to be heard, and their journeys and experiences valued," said AKction research lead Dr Kim O'Donnell.

Nari connected with Inawinytji Tjingilya Williamson, a Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara woman and fellow kidney warrior, after lobbying politicians outside Parliament House to advocate for better transport options.

They spoke about their shared experiences, the amount of time they spent waiting for transport and began to identify gaps that they both

experienced while receiving kidney care.

From here, Nari and Inawinytji established the Aboriginal Kidney Care Together – Improving Outcomes Now (AKction) Reference Team.

Nari continued her leadership role as a Chief Investigator in the project's second stage, where her lived experience directly informed the design of research activities and guided priority setting.

"Since 2021, the Nari Sinclair Room has been used for our monthly AKction meetings," said Dr O'Donnell.

"This has been a safe space to come together, share stories, strategise and continue to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with lived experience of kidney disease and transplants to improve kidney care and practice nationally."

In addition to her research involvement, Nari was also dedicated to creating culturally safer spaces for First Nations People and sharing her knowledge and wisdom with students studying to become healthcare professionals.

She co-facilitated Aboriginal health teaching in nursing courses and cultural safety education sessions for oral health students at TAFE SA and shared her journey with students and helped

them to understand the importance of clinical yarning and genuine partnerships to elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patient voices.

"Nari was the ultimate kidney warrior, with lived experience of chronic kidney disease, haemodialysis, kidney transplantation and living with complex comorbidities," said AKction co-lead Professor Janet Kelly.

"These experiences fuelled her passion for improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' experience of being on dialysis or having a kidney transplant.

"Nari wanted to improve the whole kidney journey for her people, and encourage people to have annual health checks to prevent and detect kidney disease."

Her stories and teachings were also shared at national conferences, within journal articles on radio and in community gatherings and workshops.

"Our family are so proud of mum," said Nari's eldest daughter Marissa Sumner.

"We didn't realise mum had been doing all this work to help other people with kidney disease.

"We still feel her presence today and thank the University of Adelaide for acknowledging the warrior woman she was."



Professor Jaqui Hughes from Flinders University.

Wagadagam woman awarded the Arthur E Mills Oration Medal



FLINDERS University Professor Jaquelyne Hughes, an internationally acclaimed researcher and clinician in the field of kidney health, has delivered the Arthur E Mills Oration at the 2025 Convocation of The Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

Subsequently, Professor Jaquelyne Hughes received the Arthur E Mills Oration Medal for showcasing leadership and inspiration to the health sector.

Professor Hughes has been lauded for her groundbreaking and life-saving contributions to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector.

The Goemulgal ipeka (woman) of the Wagadagam people from Mabuyag Island has been living on Larrakia Country for many years now and has had a lasting impact on the Territory community.

As a Matthew Flinders Professor and the first-ever Clinical Research Professor for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Advancement at Flinders University in Darwin, Professor Hughes brings expertise as a specialist nephrologist.

Her extensive background encompasses chronic kidney disease, dialysis and pioneering research and advancements in health systems.

For over 15 years, she has been at the forefront of a progressive movement in medicine that values cultural wisdom and comprehensive understanding alongside the clinical expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healthcare providers.

Professor Hughes from the College of Medicine and Public Health, Rural and Remote Health in the Northern Territory (NT) says she is honoured to receive the accolade.

"My work is made possible by the invaluable support and guidance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities," Professor Hughes said.

"Together, we are reshaping the healthcare system to provide comprehensive care that respects the entirety of individuals' well-being".

Hughes said that integrating cultural perspectives enhances clinical effectiveness.

Professor Robyn Aitken, Flinders University's Dean of Rural and Remote Health, says Professor Hughes contributes significantly to the university's well-established and expanding health and medical research capacities in the NT and beyond.

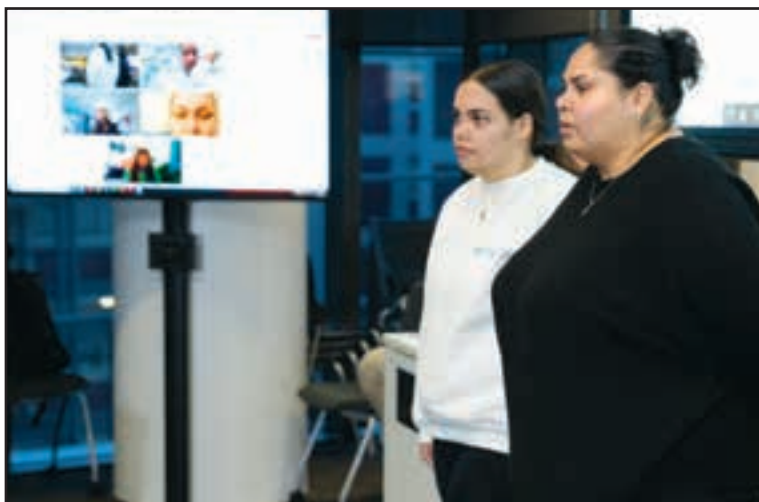
"Thanks to her ongoing efforts, many lives have been improved in the NT and beyond," Professor Aitken says.

"She truly exemplifies inspirational leadership, and we are immensely proud to see her exceptional talent recognised through this award."

Arthur E Mills Oration was endowed in 1950 by his widow and established within the Royal Australasian College of Physicians for the promotion and encouragement of medical education and general culture.



University of Adelaide Health and Medical Sciences building, room 3066, will be known as the Nari Sinclair Room.



The Nari Sinclair Room.

Nurse Navigators helping patients through care



AS A proud Kooma, Barada, Kabalbara and Yetimarala woman, Jenny Airs' role with West Moreton Health is a calling.

For the past three years, Ms Airs has been working as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurse Navigator, helping guide First Nations community members through the health system and ensuring they have access to essential services and support.

West Moreton Health in Ipswich in south-eastern Queensland has 15 Nurse Navigators, assisting patients who have complex health conditions and require a high degree of comprehensive, clinical care.

An experienced Registered Nurse, Ms Airs has always had a desire to help others but said the chance to make a difference to the lives of fellow First Nations people had become a driving force.

"My role is deeply rooted in my heritage and my passion for supporting and empowering our

people," Ms Airs, a nurse with Queensland Health for 24 years, said.

"During my career, I have witnessed firsthand the impact of culturally sensitive care and advocacy."

Airs said her role is crucial because it bridges gaps in understanding and access, ensuring that 'our people receive the care and respect they deserve'.

Ms Airs said she was proud to play a part in helping her people.

"The most rewarding aspect is seeing the positive changes in our community and knowing that my work contributes to better health outcomes and a stronger, more empowered community," she said.

"I am deeply passionate about improving healthcare outcomes for our people and I strive to be a voice for those who are often marginalised in the healthcare system."

West Moreton Health's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit provides a link between health services and the First Nations community through initiatives such as the Jaghu

Maternal and Infant Program, and the Murrumba Targan Djimbulung service for adults with chronic health conditions.

The unit's Acting Director,

Maurice Woodley, said it continued to play a vital role in the local community.

"We know the West Moreton region has a large First Nations

population and navigating the health system can be daunting, which is why our unit and staff like Jenny are so important," Mr Woodley said.



Jenny Airs, Nurse Navigator at West Moreton Health.

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The dialogue kicked off with a powerful day of welcome and immersion in the culture and history of Wadjabul Wia-Bal people, led by Ashley Moran, on Country. Here the group is visiting the sacred Nimbin Rocks, NSW. Pictures Jillian Mundy.

Leading the climate challenge

By JILLIAN MUNDY



WITH Australia and the Pacific likely to host the COP31 international climate conference in Adelaide in

November 2026, Mobs around the continent are urged to prepare now.

COP, which stands for Council of Parties, brings leaders from 198 countries together each year, under a United Nations (UN) framework, to negotiate climate change solutions and track progress against agreed goals.

Common Threads co-founder and director Wadjabul Wia-Bal/Bundjalung woman Larissa Baldwin-Roberts said with COP conversations largely about leadership, or lack of, there is an opportunity to showcase Indigenous leadership in climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience.

"We've had the last three COPs in places where you can't protest, or can't speak your mind, she said.

"Obviously, there's work to do on Australia's protest laws, but reality is, on a global perspective, we are one of the only centre-left governments in the world – that means something, and we need to make it mean something."

At the latest, a decision on who will be host will be made in September, unless Türkiye pulls their opposing bid beforehand.

With the COP agenda set a year out from the meeting, Baldwin-Roberts said now is the time to get involved.

"COP is one of the largest gatherings in the world that happens every single year, it can be up to 100,000 people in a space for a meeting for two or more weeks.

"People and investors come together to invest in new technologies and community-based solutions.

"Leading into Brazil, Indigenous communities have seen hundreds of millions of dollars of investment come into their land and water management practices."

COP30 will be in Brazil from 10 to 21 November this year.

"Having all of that focusing in on the Pacific, our communities actually need to be at the forefront of that negotiation.

"We absolutely need to be at

the table, when [people] think about Australia, they don't think about us being Indigenous peoples here but there is an incredible amount of Indigenous people and cultures here, and so we have ideas around what it could look like in terms of all the state-based pavilions that are inside.

"There's the Australian pavilion, we want to have an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pavilion in there, like so many different tribes and nations from across the country speaking to international people, have that platform inside, as well as the Indigenous peoples pavilion.

"We want to do incredible actions like welcoming the Pacific Islands onto Country, holding this space globally, in the Asia Pacific region it's most many Indigenous nations in the world."

Outside the COP meeting is the 'yellow zone' where climate justice is intertwined with social

justice, acknowledging perspectives and experiences of those most affected by climate change.

Baldwin-Roberts said protest here is incredibly important.

"We have made significant progress as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people protesting, campaigning and changing hearts and minds.

"That's what we're good at, and we know it gets big reforms.

"I think the last time we really had a big gathering around COP was in Paris."

Known as the Paris Agreement, it was in 2015 that the COP meeting agreed to pursue efforts to limit the increase of global warming to 1.5 degrees celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Lismore gathering

Early this month Common Threads bought over 80 people together from around so-called Australia, and some international

guests for a 'First Nations Climate Justice Dialogue' to connect, build shared strategy, collaborate and coordinate efforts leading up to COP31.

The three-day gathering in Lismore on the lands of the Wadjabul Wia-Bal people drew together youth to Elders, community leaders, artists, lawyers, activists, rangers and storytellers, just to name a few, recognising that individuals often fill or move into many or all of these roles and more.

Commons Threads are telling Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen, and Environment Minister Murray Watts of the gathering's support for Australia hosting COP31.

"We can't walk away from this."

They plan to keep organising dialogues, including regional ones.

Baldwin-Roberts encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander people to recognise the work they do through a climate lens.

"With ecological collapse across the world it is not a matter limiting warming to 1.5 degrees, then moving onto adaption.

"Adaption is necessary right now. For example, the types of megafires that are ripping through there's no way that Country can just repair itself if you leave it alone.

"It requires people to go out there and manage and replant and regenerate and there needs to be significant investment to do that."

She recognises incredibly persistent Indigenous leadership across the country who are thinking long term and with a collective perspective.

Forefront

"Within western systems, they think about the individual, they think about capitalistic systems, and forget about people. I think that's why you need Indigenous people at the forefront."

Getting on with the work of adaptation and being resilient, a hallmark of Indigenous peoples, and being in spaces where there is action, prevents them from becoming depressed at the levels of global warming.

Baldwin-Roberts lived through the floods of 2022 in the Northern Rivers of NSW where the community pulled together and looked after each other, while the government made promises then let people down.

"Common Threads are developing a national storytelling campaign.

"There is an incredible amount of work around adaptation, mitigation, resilience, when we think about protecting people, our community and our rights.

"This is within the sphere of what we call climate change and climate action.

"So many regions have a unique story to tell, we need to elevate those stories, we need people stepping out, talking about what they're doing on Country, how it's working.

"If we're not on Country and there's no one to manage it, biodiversity has no chance without us, and our waterways have no chance without us.

"We are the oldest continuing culture, and the people who survived the last big climactic event."



Common Threads team Rachael Cavanagh, Millie Telford, Tamika Sadler and Larissa Baldwin-Roberts, are pulling together First Nations communities far and wide to make an impact of COP31, likely to be in Adelaide next year.

Who are Common Threads?

Guided by a steering committee of Dr Jackie Huggins AM, Larissa Baldwin-Roberts and Millie Telford, Common Threads started as a project of Australian Progress, bringing together First Nations teams from non-government organisations, and concentrating on training, messaging research, capacity building and coordinating together for systems change campaigns, at the same time pushing back against the Murdoch media machine.

Larissa Baldwin-Roberts says they are transitioning into their own organisation to help coordinate and connect people working on

different sides of the country, and intend to grow rapidly over the next 12 months.

"Until we get into a place where we have our own representative body, and I believe that's going to happen in the next decade, we need to be connected and talking to each other, because the movement against us is organised.

"It's got millions of dollars, and they're not joking around, they're campaigning against Indigenous rights in this country.

"It's not necessarily about pushing back, but also about taking the space that they're trying to take away from us."



Mark Clifton and Skylah-Lee Dawson on the eve of their journey to Paris accompanying Mardathoonera woman Raelene Cooper (absent) to challenge Environment Minister Murray Watt's narrative to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee about Murujuga and Woodside. They are pictured at the dialogue with Esther Joy Montgomery (centre), all from the Save our Songlines team.



Malgana woman Bianca McNeair from Shark Bay (WA) visited Brazil in April this year, explaining how mining companies had taken Aboriginal Australians there to lead Indigenous Amazonians to believe that mining companies were the best thing that ever happened to Aboriginal people, which of course she corrected.



Kurnai women from Lake Tyer Rhonda Thorpe and Charmaine Sellings pictured centre front, and Garawa and Yanyuwa man Gadrin Hoosan from Borroloola, Jingili and Mudeurra man Buchanan Bates from Elliot and Mangarrayi man Adam Gaston from Jilkminggan at the gathering.



With bellies full of fire – participants of Common Threads Climate Dialogue pictured on the final day (a few had already left) of three days discussing climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, leveraging opportunities ahead and collective action.



Amba-Rose Atkinson presents discussions held from group breakout sessions. Gemma Pol is pictured holding the butcher's paper.



Many of these participants are sporting the 'Land Rights equals Climate Action' t-shirt made to mark the gathering. Pictured are Terri Reid, Yisah Bin Omar Ozies, Shilo Villaflor, Jason Field, Lavenia Niavalu, Polly Cutmore and Gemma Pol.



A powerful panel of First Nations leaders and collective wisdom from across the continent – Larissa Baldwin-Roberts, Polly Cutmore, Rachael Cavanagh, Anne Poelina and Miliwanga Wurrben. "Get out of the colonial coma – we have to, to protect land, air and water, and get people back to cultural law" – Gamilaroi woman Polly Cutmore.



Out learning about the culture and history of Widjabul Wia-Bal people, led by Ashley Moran, on Country.



Indigenous Climate Justice Across the Pacific panel – Joseph Sikulu (Tongan born now living in Sydney), Tiana Jakicevich (Māori), Lala Gutchen (Kemer Kemer, Meriam Nation from Erub Island, Torres Strait) and Larissa Baldwin-Roberts (Widjabul Wia-bal woman from the Bundjalung Nation, Northern Rivers, NSW). "People speak for us, but they don't know the life we live on the island, we can't go inland, once our Country goes [underwater] we will be refugees" – Lala Gutchen. "Crisis unites us, we need to think about uniting when not in crisis" – Tiana Jakicevich, who referred to COP as like going to a family reunion at the end of the world, she has attended six of them.

Photos from *On Country* star at prestigious French exhibition



AUSTRALIA'S photographic talent is taking centre stage with *On Country: Photography from Australia* coming into sharp focus at the prestigious French photo festival the Rencontres d'Arles.

Co-produced by PHOTO Australia Melbourne and the Rencontres d'Arles, the exhibition marks the first-ever major presentation of Australian photography at what is the world's longest-running photo festival until 5 October 2025.

One image Warakurna Superheroes #1 has been selected as the hero image to represent the entire Arles 2025 festival across all branding, catalogues, signage and merchandise.

The image comes from a series by Tony Albert, David Charles Collins and Kieran Lawson, created in collaboration with children from the remote Northern Territory community of Warakurna.

Maree Clarke's *Ritual and Ceremony*, an immersive installation including a three-metre portrait of the late Elder Uncle Jack Charles makes for an unmissable tribute at the heart of the exhibition.

This is the first time the Rencontres d'Arles has dedicated a regional focus to Australian photography, celebrating the richness and diversity of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian artists on one of the most prestigious stages in the world.

Curated by Elias Redstone (Founder and Artistic Director, PHOTO Australia), Yorta Yorta woman Kimberley Moulton, Pippa Milne, and Brendan McCleary, the exhibition brings together more than 200 works by 17 Australian artists including Tony Albert (Kuku Yalanji), Maree Clarke (Yorta Yorta/Wamba Wamba/Mutti Mutti/Boonwurrung), Brenda L Croft (Gurindji/Malngin/Mudburra) and Michael Cook.

On Country Guest Curator, Kimberley Moulton, is also Adjunct Curator Indigenous Art at the Tate, Senior Curator of the RISING Festival and Curator Emeritus at Museums Victoria.

She said the exhibition explores the deep connections First Peoples hold to being 'On Country' and celebrates contemporary Australian photography in all its complexity.

"The land we know as Australia is made of hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations, with complex relationships to waterways, the cosmos, land, the subterranean and embodied knowledge that sits in a relational space of past, present and future, this is what we call Country," she said.

"Today we share Country with many guests that also make it their home and through this exhibition we profile the multiplicity of connections and relationships within this, from our ancestral pasts to our political and social present.

"This exhibition is an important moment in positioning significant photography from Australia to a global audience emphasising the local and the transnational pertinence of their work."

More than 160,000 festival-goers are expected to experience the Rencontres d'Arles this summer.

The exhibition will also include a choir performance held in the Saint Anne Church exhibition space by Djinama Yilaga, an intergenerational Australian First Nations choir comprising Menero-Ngarigo and Dhurga-Yuin performers/singers.

Djinama Yilaga actively revitalises languages in order to connect with ancestors, community, and Country, with many appearing in the powerful portraits by Brenda L Croft featured in the exhibition.



Adam Ferguson, *Cultural burning near Wirrimanu/Balgo, Kukatja Country, Western Australia*, from the series *Big Sky*.



Adam Ferguson, *Pintupi-Luritja Lutheran Pastor Simon Dixon, Ikuntji-Haast Bluff, Arrernte Country, Northern Territory*, from the series *Big Sky*.



Tony Albert and David Charles Collins *Timira Nelson - Warakurna Superheroes*.



Tony Albert and David Charles Collins *Brittany Malbunka Reid - Warakurna Superheroes*.



Tace Stevens *We Were Just Little Boys*.



Tace Stevens *We Were Just Little Boys*.



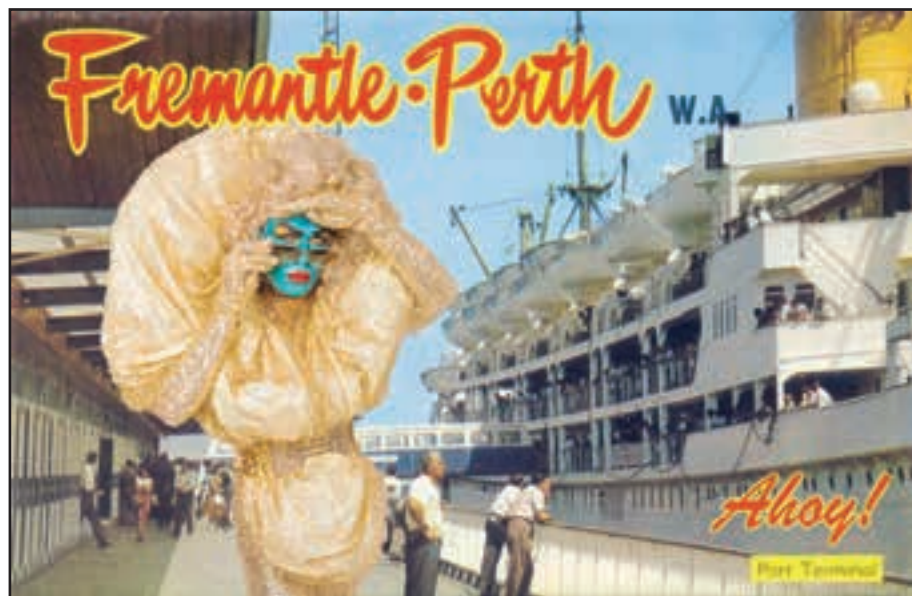
Maree Clarke *Ritual and Ceremony - Uncle Jack Charles*.



Brenda L Croft *Matilda (Ngambri)*.



Brenda L Croft *Tristan (Dharawal-Yuin)*.



The Huxleys *Postcards from the Edge – Searching*.



Robert Fielding *Manta Miilmiilpa (sacred earth)*.



Ricky Maynard *Portrait of a Distant Land – Coming Home*.



Ricky Maynard *Portrait of a Distant Land – Custodians*.



Robert Fielding *Manta Miilmiilpa (sacred earth)*.



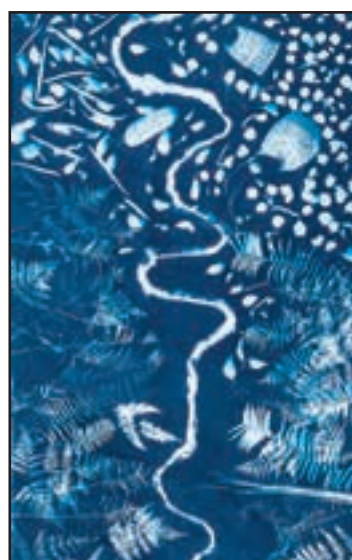
Maree Clarke *Ritual and Ceremony – Maree Clarke*.



Michael Cook *Majority-Rule – Bus*.



Elisa Jane Carmichael and Sonja Carmichael *Capemba Bumbarra 1*.



Elisa Jane Carmichael and Sonja Carmichael *Capemba Bumbarra 2*.



James Tylor *Economics of Minerals*.

Roadshow teaches kids how to trust their gut

By CHRISTINE HOWES



TWO actors and their stage manager/driver have completed a six-town workshop performance tour of the Cape York Peninsula and beyond, helping kids in schools grow their confidence and trust their instincts.

JUTE's *Dare to Dream* team for this year's *I Gut This Feeling* road show was Sam Gray (Sydney), and actors Maci-Grace Johnson (Wiradjuri, Yorta Yorta, Fijji) and Maurice Sailor (Torres Strait).

Sam said they spent a week each in Rossville, south of Cooktown, Napranum, near Weipa, Kowanyama, Cooktown and Gordonvale.

"We start the week with the show, *I Gut This Feeling*, a theatre play, about 45 minutes long," he said.

"It deals with kids and helping them trust their intuition.

"From there, we go to work with the kids in a series of workshops throughout the week, helping them gain their confidence and helping them trust their gut."

He said where possible they finished with a community performance of the play, reinforcing the messages of the week yet again, before moving onto the next town.

"We use that message and the play and the characters and the events of the play as a kind of framework for us to be able to teach those things, like confidence, and be able to relate it to something in the play," he said.

"So we start with the play, and then Mo and Macy will go and relate different things to it.

"Sometimes I help them with the classes and the games with the kids, and I think it's great the way that this all works, where we act as a big ensemble.

"Macy and Mo are not just actors, they're facilitators, they help build the set and they're absolutely incredible.

"They are so engaging and able to grasp some kids that might be labelled as being troublesome or hard to deal with – they were able to take them, start with some simple games and by the end of the week, they are performing their own scene.

"It's great to see, they go above and beyond."

Maci-Grace said it was meaningful work.

"We are connecting with kids from community, different ages, it's some of the most meaningful work that I think we get to do," she said. "We're really working with the kids and trying to get the best out of them, but they're getting the best out of us as well.



On the road (literally!) in Cape York – Maci-Grace Johnson, Sam Gray and Maurice Sailor.

"It's a really good opportunity to connect with kids on that level."

Maci-Grace said she had some experience working with kids previously, but in dance, not acting.

"I've done a lot of dance workshops with my community back in Griffith, focusing on traditional dance, contemporary and hip-hop," she said.

"It's always been a passion of mine.

"During our three-week rehearsals for this play, we were given the tools we could use, in an acting and drama sense, to connect with the kids.

"Various drama games like postcards and freeze frames, that we can really play with the kids, so they have an introduction to acting that's less scary."

Maurice said he found it very hard and easy at the same time to work in the classroom.

"Being able to show them the play, act it out, and try to spread that message before we jump into the classroom is really the icebreaker there," he said.

"When we get into the classroom, it's more like, 'Okay, they've seen us perform', so it will be good to just jump in, introduce ourselves, and always have that icebreaker, just so they can be comfortable, we can be comfortable.

"Addressing that this is a safe place for you to feel comfortable, and get out of that bubble or that shame that you have.

"Being able to act and facilitate at the same time, to try and spread that same message that was in the play.

"I find it hard and easy.

"As actors, we can improvise and see what works, we can see, adapt and switch it over to what



Maci-Grace Johnson and Maurice Sailor performing.

works.

"Every school is different, every student is different and it's how they take on the message."

Maci-Grace said it was a journey they were on together.

"We've never been to these places before, and it's been really fun," she said.

Maurice said it was his honour to work with strong professionals.

"It's awesome being able to have that opportunity," he said.

"The kids as well – seeing them being shy at first on the first day, then when we work with the workshops, and connect and spread that message.

"Then, on the last day that we have with them, you can see that they've come out of that shell, they show, present, be out there, be up front on stage in the performance space.

"Once we break through that shame barrier, that wall, we can achieve anything."



Maurice Sailor with furry friends.

Storytellers scholarship announces its winners



Fashion Design: Gamilaroi man David Leslie will work with international supermodel and proud Dunghutti woman Samantha Harris.



Accessory Design: Elisha O'Leary is a Darkinjung-born woman of Wiradjuri ancestry and will be supported by acclaimed artist Cassie Leatham.



Proud South Sea Islander, Bundjalung and Bayali man Joshua Yow Yeh will be mentored by dynamic filmmaker and producer Jahvis Loveday.



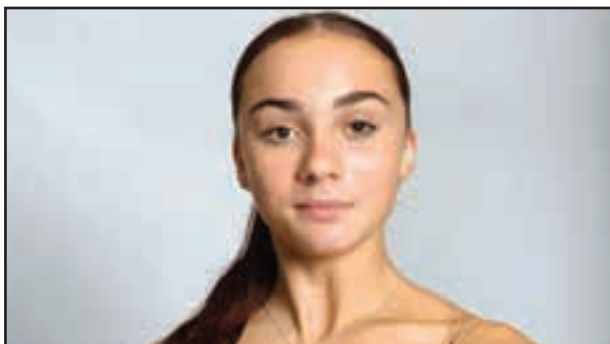
Wiradjuri woman Luca Sawyer will receive guidance from award-winning journalist and author Amy McQuire.



Wiradjuri man Nathan Lamont will be mentored by ARIA Award-winning artist Casey Donovan.



Gamilaroi and Wiradjuri man Sean Kinchela will be guided by visual storyteller Marley Morgan.



Wiradjuri woman Shanaya Buddingh will be mentored by accomplished choreographer Kassidy Waters.



Gomeroi woman Tess Reading will receive mentorship from digital artist Rheanna Lotter.



Zachary Carter is a Kamilaroi artist who will work alongside Gumbaynggirr artist Melissa Greenwood.



THE Indigenous Storytellers Scholarship, presented by *Façon* magazine and supported by Greater Bank, is thrilled to unveil the nine talented finalists selected for

the 2025 program.

Now in its third year, the scholarship continues to uplift and empower Indigenous creatives from across New South Wales, offering access to industry mentors, professional resources, and a platform to share their stories.

For the first time in 2025, eight finalists each received a \$1,000 cash prize, while one outstanding recipient was awarded a major \$10,000 scholarship — provided by Greater Bank.

This year's nine finalists span a diverse range of

disciplines, with each one paired with an esteemed mentor to guide their creative journey.

Façon Australia's founder and editor-in-chief, Lara Lupish, said the 2025 finalists reflect a new generation of trailblazers in creative industries.

"Each year, this program

reminds us of the importance of cultural representation and the strength of Indigenous storytelling," Lupish said.

"These finalists represent bold, fresh voices in Australian art and design, and we're proud to walk alongside them as they shape the future."

Valuing art beyond NAIDOC

By KEIRA JENKINS



AS NAIDOC Week celebrates 50 years of "strength, vision and legacy" artists are calling for Indigenous culture to be valued every day of the year.

Each year the history, culture and achievements of

Aboriginal and Torres Strait people are recognised during NAIDOC Week.

This year marks 50 years of the national celebration and features the theme *The next generation: strength, vision and legacy*.

Awards and flag-raising ceremonies, community events and art exhibitions are held across the country during each edition of NAIDOC, with local councils, businesses and popular brand names taking the opportunity to showcase First Nations culture.

For Wiradjuri artist Brandi Salmon, the uptick in commercial and community interest ahead of NAIDOC Week is something she braces for each year.

She's grateful for the platform this attention can provide for her and fellow artists but Salmon says it can also be disheartening.

"A lot of businesses come right at NAIDOC when they need something done or need an Aboriginal artist to come and paint for them or teach their staff," she said.



Brandi Salmon is grateful for the attention NAIDOC generates but it can also be disheartening. (AAP)

"But it's very inauthentic.

"They'll come maybe three or four days or a week before NAIDOC and it feels like it's an afterthought, like a tokenistic thing."

After teaching herself how to paint 10 years ago, Salmon has made her name as an artist with her work featured at Hobart

Airport and painting for musicians Olivia Rodrigo and Lorde.

She started painting portraits of Aboriginal women as a way to express herself and connect to her culture while living off-Country in Victoria.

Now Hobart-based, she's embraced many

opportunities but has also found herself having to make the difficult decision to turn down jobs that don't feel right.

"In the past I've been asked at NAIDOC to sit in the foyer and do dot paintings with staff, with earbuds," she said.

"That's not even the art that I do. I don't do dot paintings."

Salmon says many artists have similar stories, with some asked to create work or speak at events for free or asked to recommend another artist for a collaboration.

Salmon encourages businesses to do the right thing by artists, saying Aboriginal culture should be valued at all times of the year.

But for those who want to make meaningful engagements with First Nations artists she has some pointers.

She says using the Australian Indigenous Design Charter as a framework for approaching an artist would be a 'green flag' for her.

The charter outlines 10 points for working on projects representing First Nations culture, including ensuring the process is Indigenous-led, respecting community protocols and ensuring respectful, culturally-specific and personal engagement.

"Approaching (artists) more than a week before NAIDOC is important — you need to make it a few months — and also ask what their rates are," she said.

"Don't underpay them."

- AAP

Brothers in music

Birdz and Fred Leone drop new track



BIRDZ and Fred Leone are back, following up their 2024 release *Brother*, with their new single *Wanya Nyin Yanmanj* from their forthcoming project, *GIRA*.

Including artwork from Indigenous legend Richard Bell featured in the video directed by Kieran Mpetyane Satour, the new track speaks to the pairs unending resistance, perseverance and First Nations pride in all that they do.

A homage to traditional language, roots and identity, *Wanya Nyin Yanmanj* sees the combination of Birdz sharp lyrics and Fred's soaring Butchulla vocals once again pushing to start a conversation and advocate for self-reflection.

In the song Birdz and Fred say, "Still we sit, still we rise. You said no to our voice, but you can't silence our truth. Black deaths, no justice. No change, but we stay strong. This land remembers. So do we. Wanya Nyin Yanmanj".

The pair hail from the Ngulungbura Clan of the Butchulla nation with Fred Leone being one of the three Butchulla Songmen.



Birdz and Fred Leone new track is *Wanya Nyin Yanmanj*.

Back in 2020 Their single *Bagi-La-m Bargan* landed at #30 in the triple j Hottest 100 and to date has over 2.7 million streams.

As both cousins and musical brothers, they are a formidable live double act, having performed at Brisbane Festival, Garma Festival, the NIMAs and a headline show at Big Sound in 2024.

Raised in the Northern Territory, Naarm-based Nathan 'Birdz' Bird emerged in 2013 with his first EP *Birdz Eye View* from his debut album *Train of Thought* which won the AIR award for Best Independent Hip Hop Album in 2018.

His second album, *LEGACY* arriving in 2022, was nominated for a National Indigenous Music Award and featured collaborations with Missy Higgins, Ngaiire and Thom Crawford.

An artist, hip-hop musician and Butchulla Songman with Aboriginal, Tongan and South-Sea Islander heritage, Fred Leone's primary instrument is his voice.

He also uses Didgeridoo (Kuluru in Garrwa language), boomerangs (Bargan in Butchulla language), Emu egg (Ngurunj in Butchulla language), tree branches, sand and other objects from K'gari to form his traditional sound pallet.

Leone has been a touring artist for over a decade, throwing rhymes and travelling with Public Enemy, Dead Prez and People Under The Stairs an has been invited to collaborate with John Butler, Xavier Rudd, Amanda Palmer as well as best-selling author, Neil Gaiman.



Artwork for *Wanya Nyin Yanmanj*.

Emily's super power is the love song



Emily Wurramara. Photo by Tony Mott.



SONGWRITING is ceremony for Warnindhilyagwa artist Emily Wurramara, a way of making sense of the world.

"Songwriting is sacred, it allows connection to happen; not to the physical, but to the soul, to the spirit."

She describes her new track, *Adore Me* as a "sun-lit alt/indie/folk-pop meditation on love of all kinds for anyone who simultaneously "has their shit together, but doesn't at the same time".

Co-produced by Wurramara with her

longtime collaborator James Mangohig, *Adore Me* is replete with the sounds of bells, medicine bowls and chimes blending her emotive lyrics into an atmospheric soundscape.

"When it comes to songwriting, I feel like love songs are my superpower," she said.

"I'm very well-versed and experienced in that. I've got a big heart, I'm a lover, and sometimes that can lead to challenges in the self and also within a relationship.

"It's all about growth. You've gotta go through that to understand the love you deserve and need. You grasp onto

this idea of what adoration means, in the hope you find that, only to realise that, hey, maybe you should love yourself first? Set that standard for how you want to be loved.

"Relationships are a lot of work and I firmly believe that fostering these discussions, around love and vulnerability, can lead to greater understanding and connection between people who are longing for that profound experience.

"I think *Adore Me* really captures that essence – and there's this continuation of community with the way we recorded it, which I loved."

Emily is also the first Indigenous woman to ever win an ARIA for Best Adult Contemporary Album for *NARA* (2024) renowned as a performer whose live performances celebrate community.

"I love to turn my audiences into my backing singers," she said

The release of her new single caps of a busy ten months for Emily since *NARA*'s release.

She also is nominated for awards at this year's Australian Independent Records Awards and has three songs eligible for triple j's Hottest 100 of "Australian" Songs.

Terra Nullius meets its match with *Terraglossia*

BY CHRISTIAN MORROW



TERRA NULLIUS, the bogus concept used to justify the colonisation of the great southern continent, hitherto unknown to British Imperialists before 1770, may have met its match in the newly minted term 'terraklossia'.

Terraglossia is the title of a new book by acclaimed First Nations author and academic Dr Debra Dank and a new term coined by her to challenge the grievously false assertion the continent that came to be known as Australia was silent and unspoken for when Captain James Cook happened along and therefore ripe to claim and settle.

Dr Dank, a Gudanji/Wakaja and Kalkadoon woman from the Barkley Tablelands in the Northern Territory, will be appearing at the Byron Writers Festival from 8-10 August at Bangalow Showgrounds talking about *Terraglossia*, a book that invites all Australians to reimagine how we engage with the world's oldest living culture.

"There is no result to be found if you Google the term 'terraklossia' and you won't find it in a dictionary yet, or perhaps not ever," Dr Dank writes in the book's introduction.

"It is a word I have coined because in making the untruth visible, populating the great Australian silence with the sounds that have been yarning here for thousands of years, we must identify the words that illustrate or define Aboriginal and Islander ways of knowing, being, doing and seeing as defined by us through our concepts and not merely non-Aboriginal concepts massaged into something that is close enough."

Throughout the new book, Dr Dank explores how an un-critiqued English language – evolved from a comparatively young language literally on the other side of the world – continues to silence First Nations' voices and suppress more-than-ancient knowledges.

She shares experiences from her childhood and teaching career where she has witnessed first hand the impact of language loss and cultural disconnection.

In one instance Dr Dank came upon a non-Aboriginal teaching colleague from a non-English speaking European ancestry in a classroom shaking a small child and aggressively saying, 'You will not speak that gobbledygook in my classroom.'

"The child, five years old, had spoken their own Aboriginal language," Dr Dank said. "In my almost 40 years of working in a range of educational institutions and contexts throughout much of Australia, I have never once by connotation or by explicit statement, heard anyone voice disquiet about English speaking children speaking their own language in the classroom."

"It's time to disrupt a very erroneous narrative that started here when Cook claimed Country that was never his or open for claiming. We need to begin the business of being able to at least communicate a little more effectively."

Ahead of her appearance at the Byron Writers Festival Dr Danks took the time to speak with the *KOORI MAIL* about *Terraglossia*.

Koori Mail: How did you come to coin the word Terraglossia?

Dr Debra Dank: I went to university at the same time as Eddie Mabo. We were in the same group, so I had a bit of an idea around what was going on for him. At that time this awful term 'Terra Nullius' was a lot bigger than I imagined it should be.

I grew up out bush on a cattle station and my dad didn't speak a lot of English when I was a kid, but my mum spoke amazing English. Both were very aware of language and I cannot remember not being able to read. My very, very young Aboriginal mum taught me to read, I read the all the English children's classics so I had this really good grounding in this whole other world that was nowhere near mine. It was interesting but I had no real interest in becoming part of that world. I was very comfortable being in my world.

Later while completing my PhD, I looked at semiotics (the systematic study of interpretation and the making of meaning and communication of meaning) and thought, you know what? English really doesn't truly have the capacity to articulate Aboriginal ways, our old ways. So I thought if we are really going to be talking about Truth Telling then I don't want the non-Aboriginal world to assume that one set of vocabulary (English) is adequate in explaining two different cultural constructs and contexts.

I knew that officially Terra Nullius was disproved and overturned but there was still so many things (talked about) regarding Aboriginal people, around our cultures and around our civilisations, that really frustrated me.

So I thought, you know one of the big things we need is a word that identifies something really significant within my culture – and I suppose within most Aboriginal cultures though I would not be rude enough to speak on the behalf of everybody – about the way we live with our non-human kin, the way we hear and understand all of those voices across Country.

In saying that, I do get it, we all have to deal with English, but it has to be stretched, stretched enough and built (up) enough so that it actually works for Indigenous people because I'm sick and tired of being translated. And we all know what can happen – (you can get) lost in translation.

KM: In the book you say the coming of the English in 1788



Debra Dank and her book, *Terraglossia*.

decimated and silenced Indigenous languages. Do you see the English language as a kind of weapon that has cleared all before it?

DD: I think it has, and this is the big biggest point, I think we need to be really careful around what we are giving English permission to say about us. For example, the word Country. Aboriginal people know what

Country means, non-Aboriginal people have a whole other understanding of what Country means when we are all (Indigenous and non Indigenous) at the same table trying to talk about it.

My point is that English grew on the other side of the world – and I'm not bagging the English language, I think it's an amazing language and it's a privilege to be

able to speak another language – but it grew on the other side of the world and it grew with and for a different community of people.

So when that language comes to Australia – without Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people all being really careful around critiquing of that language – we will continue to articulate Western ideas and philosophy and constructs together with those philosophical underpinnings (that come with it). And sometimes, not necessarily within our Mob but with non-Aboriginal people, there is an assumption (made) that we are speaking about the same thing when it comes to Country.

So that's what I mean when (I say) when English came along Aboriginal people never got any choice about any of it. Our Mob have always done an amazing job in managing and responding to English but I think we need to be pushing back a bit more now. I think the time is right. I think a lot of us weren't expecting the (Voice to Parliament) referendum to return a yes but I'm still really frustrated at the lack of understanding around the human condition of Aboriginal folk in Australia.

KM: Do you think there is a chance of developing a shared Australian dialogue.

DD: Yes I do. I think the thing holding us back is our national reticence to go there and talk about that really really awful time that isn't so very far away in the memory of my Mob or any Aboriginal family.

KM: It's practically within a living memory.

DD: Absolutely. Because we've lived with it, we've grown up with it, we've dealt with it and we still live with racism and we still live with a depth of ignorance that is deeper than ignorance itself.

But non-Aboriginal people haven't done that so much and I wanted to be really explicit identifying the fact that the first non-Aboriginal people who came to live here came here because they were homeless. They (were put on prison hulks) and kicked out of their country. They had been rejected so they too were deeply traumatised.

But I don't see that as a reason to condone what happened here, it is absolutely not, but non-Aboriginal Australia haven't come to terms with the way this country started from their background and from their historical place.

So in developing a national dialogue we have to have really hard and difficult conversations. That means non-Aboriginal Australians need to own the fact that they come from really deep trauma and when these people arrived all they were concerned about was claiming our place as their home. So this awful, awful horror, the violence (they perpetrated on Aboriginal people) I don't understand it, but I can see why some (of those) people may have felt that they were entitled to use it.

The Guardians touches down in fashion capital Paris



AS NAIDOC Week celebrations got underway across Australia last week, acclaimed artist and designer Grace Lillian Lee

presented her debut couture collection *The Guardians* at 229LAB in the Marais district of Paris during Paris Couture Fashion Week.

The exclusive, invitation-only showcase marked an historic milestone for Australian fashion and First Nations representation on the global stage.

Supported by her digital print and projection partner Epson Australia, Ms Lee said her showcase at 229LAB was more than a runway show, she was offering a living cultural legacy.

"It's a historic celebration of culture, identity, and resilience. From collaborating with Jean Paul Gaultier to receiving my Honorary Doctorate, every moment has led to this," Ms Lee said.

"*The Guardians* is a tribute to my ancestors and a declaration of First Nations excellence on couture's global stage. I am proud, humbled, and deeply grateful to my family, team, and community who make the impossible possible."

According to available records, Grace will be the first Indigenous Australian woman and the first Torres Strait Islander to independently showcase a collection during Paris Couture Fashion Week.

While designers such as Letticia Shaw (Ticia Designs) have participated in collective platforms like *Flying Solo*, Grace's solo presentation aligning with the official haute couture calendar sets a new precedent.

The Guardians builds on Grace's recent solo exhibition *The Dream Weaver: Guardians of Grace* — recently acquired by the Queensland Art Gallery Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) — features sculptural couture works that fuse art, fashion, ceremony, and ancestral storytelling.

The garments incorporate handwoven techniques, laser-cut acrylic beading, and striking silhouettes that honour Grace's lineage across the Torres Strait, China, and Europe.

Taking place during NAIDOC Week, the event is seen by many as a powerful celebration of Indigenous creativity, sovereignty, and global cultural leadership. It was also supported by Jean Paul Gaultier's



Woven sculptures by Grace Lillian Lee that feature in *The Guardians* at Paris Couture Fashion Week.

team, underscoring its significance within the haute couture community.

The showcase also marks the beginning of Grace's artist residency at Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris,

made possible through a Creative Australia scholarship. She is joined by eight First Nations creatives and family members, who will contribute to the storytelling and performance of the show.

Funding for five phenomenal First Nations projects



FIVE large scale First Nations creative projects have won a share of \$7.8 million in funding from the

Australian Government's Creative Futures Fund, an initiative that supports the creation and sharing of Australian stories.

Spread across Australia the recipients are: Juluwarlu Group Aboriginal Corporation in Western Australia; the Community Arts Network in Western Australia; Country Arts South Australia; ILBIJERRI Theatre Company in Victoria; and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

Based in the remote community of Ngurawaana on Yindjibarndi Country in WA's Pilbara region, Juluwarlu Group Aboriginal Corporation will use their grant to bring Yindjibarndi culture to the national stage with a

spectacular large-scale roaming performance, *Ngurra Nyujunggamu: When the World Was Soft*.

Developed with Yindjibarndi Elders and cultural leaders, *Ngurra Nyujunggamu* combines puppetry, projection, music, and promenade performance to bring foundational stories from this ancient living culture to Australia's contemporary cities.

Since 1985, Community Arts Network WA has worked alongside communities to bring untold and overlooked stories to light. Their newest project, *Unfinished Business*, is a First Nations-led, on-Country initiative that sees Noongar women, Elders and artists preserving matriarchal traditions through a cross-cultural exchange between Noongar Country and Sumatra, Indonesia.

This Elder-led work highlights positions matriarchy at the centre

of cultural storytelling, culminating in a multi-sensory exhibition to be premiered at the Indian Ocean Craft Triennial 2027.

Country Arts South Australia will develop the landmark new theatre production, *Kumarangk*, a work centred around truth telling and uplifting the voice of the Ngarrindjeri women who led the community resistance to the construction of the Hindmarsh Island Bridge.

Driven by the cultural stewardship of the Ngarrindjeri mi:minar Cultural Authority, alongside Wathaurong/Ngarrindjeri theatre director Glenn Shea and Wotjobaluk/Ngarrindjeri playwright Tracey Rigney, this production is being seen as a watershed moment for local Aboriginal story telling.

ILBIJERRI, Australia's longest running First Peoples theatre



Rachael Maza – Ilbijerri Theatre.
Pic: Erika Budiman.

company, will use the funding to realise *The Line*, a work by Palawa playwright, Nathan Maynard.

Combining puppetry, live film, movement and text, *The Line* is a searing and darkly humorous retelling of the Black War in Lutruwita/Tasmania.

"The current catchcry sweeping the country is, truth telling. But this isn't a new concept to Creative Australia, who have been enabling First Nations artists to tell their truths year after year," said Mr Maynard.

"I feel extremely blessed to be given an opportunity to tell this dark truth about Australia's history. And the truth around the colony's continuous shape-shifting tactics, that violently keep the behaviours of the past, very present."

The Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra (TSO) led by proud Palawa singer/songwriter Dewayne Everettsmith, will deliver *Songs of Ceremony: Reawakening songs in palawa kaniis*.

This major musical work will be written and performed in Palawa Kani, the language of Tasmanian Aboriginal People, revived and reconstructed from the many languages that existed in Lutruwita (Tasmania) before impacts of British colonisation and invasion.

Wendy Martin, Director of the Creative Futures Fund, said the five projects demonstrated the power, breadth and innovation of First Nations storytelling across the continent.

"They are grounded in Country, in community, and in cultural authority — and through the Creative Futures Fund, these voices will resonate across cities, festivals and generations."



Juluwarlu *Ngurra Nyujunggamu When the World Was Soft*.



Country Arts SA — *Kumarangk*.

Coming together for saltwater and freshwater protection



Nici Cumpston *Oh my Murray Darling* 2019.

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



IN calling attention to the extreme conditions faced by saltwater and freshwater communities, a new exhibition at the University of Queensland Art Museum highlights the importance of water protection to the survival of all species.

Part of the university's ambitious multi-year *Blue Assembly Project* the exhibition, *to come together as water*, is intended to inform policy around climate and the future of global communities.

Curated by Ngugi woman Freja Carmichael, *to come together as water* aims to unite cultural and creative practices as an expansive reimagining of this water protection.

The curatorial notes spell out the exhibition's intention: "Across deep subterranean basins, inland rivers, tidal flats, coastlines and seas, the exhibition reflects on our shared responsibilities to saltwater and freshwater Country."

"Anchored by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and lived experience, the artists translate how we care for place and sustain community, knowledge, and life worlds."

Ms Carmichael herself is connected with the ocean as a Ngugi woman belonging to the Quandamooka people just outside of Brisbane on Moreton Bay.

"I am part of a family working with ghost net weaving, seeing the impacts of what is happening in our oceans and beaches over on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island)," she said.

Ghost nets are abandoned or lost plastic and nylon nets and fishing gear that drift in the ocean, sometimes for years, that can at any time ensnare unsuspecting marine life or wash up onto reefs and beaches.

According to Earth.org, recent figures from the World Wildlife Fund estimate that between 500,000 and one million tons of ghost fishing equipment are abandoned in the ocean each year. Further estimates show that ghost nets make up 46% of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch which is now 1.6 million square km in size (three

times that of France) and up to 10% of all marine litter.

"After those big seas were whipped up by Cyclone Alfred, massive amounts of plastic washed up on Minjerribah and everyone had a big role in collecting that material and weaving it into new baskets and new woven forms," Ms Carmichael said.

"The ghost net story is part of a bigger conversation that has been taking place for a long time across coastal communities, beginning in the 2000s up in Cape York."

Ms Carmichael's thinking about these nets has spurred this new exhibition with the varying works all addressing the idea of protecting the environment.

Thirty members of the JILAMARA ARTS, owned and governed by Tiwi artists from the community of Milikapiti on Melville Island, have produced a video work.

"The members of Jilmara each perform their totem which relate to water and the bigger systems of care and maintenance needed to maintain ecological balance. This is an abstract way of thinking about water protection and being," she said.

"Another work that I think what really exemplifies the message of the exhibition is the collaboratively woven fish trap by Numbulwar Numburindi Arts (NNA) based up in the Cape York."

Numbulwar sits on the Rose River and belongs to the Nunggayinbala clan, one of the Wubuy or Nunggubuyu speaking clans from the region.

Champions of fibre art, NNA artists marry naturally-dyed and locally-harvested pandanus with bright and bold ghost nets, abandoned fishing line retrieved from Numbulwar's shoreline.

"How the NNA artists have worked together as a collective to respond to this challenge, by combining their traditional weaving fibres, such as the pandanus, with the ghost net material, shows not only an adaptation of culture but also a collective will to come together."

"It demonstrates an important aspect of this exhibition, highlighting the importance of collective action, showing that it up to all of us not just the individual."

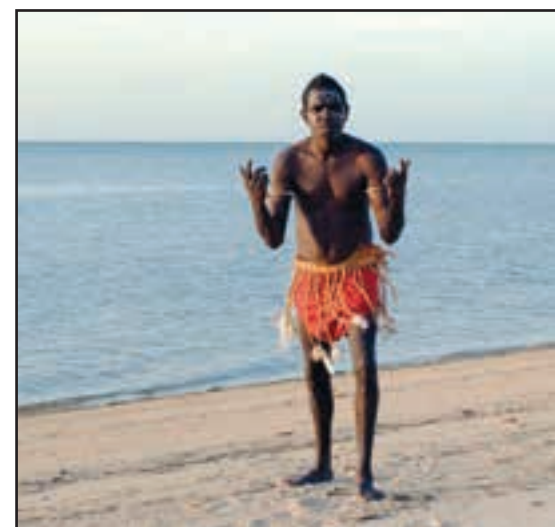
For more information go to: art-museum.uq.edu.au



Brian Robinson Zugubal – *The winds and the tides set the pace* 2022.



Megan Cope *Kinyingarra Poles* 2024.



Jimmy Mungatopi.



Nici Cumpston *Oh my Murray Darling* 2019.

Decolonising words

Darren Blackman is a Gureng Gureng/Gangalu artist, writer and teacher growing up in Nambour on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland. He is also a Kanak man, with bloodlines shared with and through the South Sea and Vanuatu. For many decades he's been frontline and integral to the artistic development and training of many visual arts practitioners of all mediums, right across Queensland. To me, it's his work across Cape York Peninsula communities, such as Aurukun, has seen him be a mainstay in the First Nations arts sector. His work as an artist sees him as one of Queensland's, and his peoples', most well-known and regarded working today.

Speaking on his commitment for artist training, he says, "I'm a product of training and mentoring, so to pass on industry skills and knowledge to Mob practising culture is a true honour and privilege. The cultural arts industry is huge so it's vitally important that Mob are current in their own industry".

"There's an obvious lack of First Nations arts workers. Independent art centres; Mob-run art centres; industry knowledge to support independent artists on community; coordinated cohesive efforts to support remote communities. I have a lot to say which may need an actual summit", Darren tells *Koori Mail*, remarking that more can be done to support such work in such spaces.

Darren is an artist with much to say, and he says it on our behalf (as First Nations communities and peoples). He speaks most pronouncedly through his striking artworks. He employs text and literal, pertinent and political messaging as the cornerstone



Jack Wilkie-Jans

hallmarks of his practice, engaging with contemporary themes which challenge the dominant societal and political accords across Australia, all which reflects the challenges we face. The individual intent of his messaging (or chosen lines) is expressed through the purposeful fonts (many self-created as a gifted typographer), colours and positioning of his words. In speaking on the power language has to dispossess, and the importance of it as a mode for his art, Darren says:

"My father taught me how people of power play this game, before gaslighting became a term. We were always perceived as bad people, so he protected us from falsehoods. I decolonise [their] script with their words, but blackfella way".

Audiences will notice that – of his new, installation light sculpture works – the visualised text (displayed in brilliant and emotive neon colours and styles) is occasionally different to their titles.

Of this, Darren explains:

"There are slogans pitched in a very campaign-like style in politics and media. The works that may have a different title to the work, are directed at those slogans. I felt I wanted to call them out because they're bigoted and weak narratives".

Darren is fundamentally curious, he's one of those incredible artists who are 'witnesses' of the times. He's considered and powerful – he visibly challenges the erasure of our peoples' histories and place on our lands. He responds emotionally and emotively to the pains of our peoples through the striking qualities of his cubist/vorticist/maximalist lines of text (as inquiry) – in paintings and prints – and, yes, also his more recent vibrant light sculptures. As records, his neons are for the eons.

"Branding has really influenced my direction since being in Brisbane. The light sculptures align with the exclusive street wear theme from my last solo exhibition (*Language of Intent*, 2023, at Onespace Gallery Brisbane). Text, style and light is all about the campaign and pushing a product, a narrative. Neon's draw attention, that's their purpose".

You can see new works by Darren Blackman (which debuted at this year's Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, which was held from 11-13 July) at Onespace Gallery in Meanjin (Brisbane) forming his new exhibition *Post Truth*, until 23 August.

● Jack Wilkie-Jans is a Waanji, Teppathiggi and Tjungundji multidisciplinary artist and writer who contributes a regular arts column for the *Koori Mail*.



Artist Darren Blackman, and below, an example of his work.



Master of shifting shapes and sounds

Dr Moorina Bonini is a proud descendant of the Yorta Yorta Dhulunyagen family clan of Ulupna, and the Yorta Yorta, Wurundjeri and Wiradjuri Briggs/McCrae family; and is also of Italian heritage. She's a lecturer at Monash University and is an incredible multi-media artist (specialising in moving imagery), and is the proud daughter of the marvellous Prof. Julie Andrews at La Trobe University.

"When I consider yakapna (family), it is not a fixed idea, nor a single person or single place. Yakapna (family) is the matrix of relations that, woven together, become the foundation for my knowing, doing and being. I am who I am through my yakapna (family). The importance of understanding this is instrumental in my practice-led research. This is also key learning for any Aboriginal person, to know where you're from, your Country, and who your yakapna (family) are", Moorina told *Koori Mail*.

Via the lens, Moorina is a master of shifting shapes and sounds. Her works have a "loud quiet" quality about them which resonates. And, most importantly, this resonance is a visibly shared experience between her and her works; I sense this more palpably than the innate resonance of her works in and of themselves. This is a powerful testament to culture and Country being her muses and, mutually, as her subjects and inspirations.

Moorina's works are examples of how to listen – and if one is Knowing, what to listen to: that being Country. Not only Country... but all the eons of history and emotion and knowledge and spirituality



Dr Moorina Bonini.

there is to feel, when being enveloped into Country's own memory. As much as we have always done, Country also remembers and exalts our ancestors and the spirits which belong to it.

"My practice breaks out from the confinement of 'art-making' and instead exists in the space of cultural practice and expression. In my works where I am also

the subject, I am intentionally drawing focus to considering how embodied knowledge materialises into practice – for instance, how digging sticks are used and how my bawu (body) is intrinsic to the cultural practice", Moorina tells *Koori Mail*.

"The deep relationship between knowledge, bawu (body) and culture is an interest point in my practice. On camera I am portrayed as knowing the practice, but this is also paired with vulnerability as I continue to learn about the cultural practice through making. The spiritual, physical and emotional experience is profound".

Dr Bonini's moving image work – which is rich with juxtaposition of imagery, some contemporary of her own making, with others from archival sources. Her works pose as duality in many senses; they ultimately create a vision between time, place and people. It'd be hard to put into a box all that she does in making art, as audiences might see it. Especially considering much of her work positions the historical stealing and archiving of cultural 'materials' in boxes or crates by institutions (e.g. museums) globally, as one of the most insidious forms of colonialist destructive efforts.

"It's intrinsic that we continue to return to sites of colonial theft because of their history. Globally, museums, archives and collections continue to hold cultural material that was stolen from Aboriginal Country, from our people. These ancestral belongings sit oceans away, or locked away within Australian institutions – these materials need to be returned to their Country and people", Dr Bonini said.

Her artistic callings are overwhelmingly steeped in cultural maintenance, cultural continuity and reclamation – likewise her academic and education work. These are all matters she and I (and you) could discuss at length and with ease and resolution in our collective First Nations wisdom. However, writing on her is (somewhat) hard to do. As to the audience anyway, there's scarcely a scope of her own practice which she herself doesn't readily provide ample and considered commentary on.

"It's integral that cultural practitioners, artists and academics maintain ownership of [their] works. Far too often, the work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in these fields is appropriated or, in some cases the knowledge extracted. We need to be telling our stories, our way. A significant aspect of this is having clarity of message and intent within the work itself".

Recently featured in TarraWarra Museum of Art's *We Are Eagles* biennial (curated by Kimberly Moulton), Dr. Moorina Bonini is certainly somebody I encourage you to continue following. You can do so here: www.moorinabonini.com

Last month, Dr. Bonini's moving image work *MATHA* (2025) was featured in *RISING* Melbourne (multi-arts festival), also curated by Kimberly Moulton, adorning Hamer Hall's façade. Learn more about *MATHA* here:

2025.rising.melbourne/program/matha. She will also feature in the upcoming *Bureaucracy of Feelings* exhibition at Gertrude Contemporary, from 23 August – 12 October, 2025 in Naarm (Melbourne).



Patrol Leader WO2 Annie Schwartz, left, and six of the others.

Cape York's all-women patrol



PATROL leader
Warrant Officer
Class Two
(WO2) Anne
Schwartz with
Mer and Badu

family connections said the first all-women patrol across Cape York helped break down barriers for female Indigenous soldiers.

A group of eight women from 51st Battalion Far North Queensland Regiment (51FNQR) recently completed the patrol.

They are from Weipa, Darwin, Bamaga and the Northern Peninsula Area, Torres Strait and Cairns.

The patrol is called Yotam Wanch (meaning 'many women' in local Wik Mungkan language) and the eight set off for five days to visit remote communities and a careers expo in Weipa.

During June Yotam Wanch honed the skills they need to patrol the country's north.

With an area of operations of more than 640,000 square kilometres, 51FNQR soldiers are the eyes and ears in some

of the most remote and hard-to-reach areas in Australia.

WO2 Schwartz said cultural norms could be a barrier for Indigenous female soldiers.

"They could focus on training in a culturally safe environment. They wanted to do more things together as women," WO2 Schwartz said.

They undertook off-road driving, tactical patrolling, reporting and community engagement.

"There's respect between genders, but some of the women can get a bit shy due to their cultural upbringing around the blokes and male instructors. The purpose of this was to create a better way to integrate and give them confidence for future patrols," WO2 Schwartz said.

Travelling from Weipa around Cape York, Yotam Wanch visited three remote communities.

They spoke with school children, community leaders, rangers, landowners and government officials.

WO2 Schwartz said the reaction from communities was positive when they saw the

women handling traditionally male roles.

"We had a vehicle mechanic who was originally from Mapoon. If we had a breakdown, we could fix it ourselves, and we all know how to drive the vehicles. We were saying to the kids, these are some of the things you will learn and get support from the Army to do," she said.

But the greatest benefit could be summed up in the experiences of one of the patrol members, a new mother.

Sapper Courtney Frape recently transferred from full-time service after maternity leave and joined the regiment as a reservist.

Yotam Wanch gave her a space where she could express her feelings about being away from her new family since returning to work.

"Now she feels supported. She's happy to get back to her job going out on patrol and doing further training where she'll be away from her family. Her first time away was in a supported environment," WO2 Schwartz said.



Private Marietta Matasia from Weipa delivering orders to the patrol members.

ILBIJERRI
THEATRE COMPANY

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Lead with vision. Create with purpose. Centre First Peoples voices.

This is a rare opportunity to shape a multi-year artistic vision that is sovereign, nationally significant, and globally distinctive. You will lead the creation of impactful, artistically ambitious work that speaks powerfully to First Peoples' stories, and resonates with audiences in communities, theatres, and countries far and wide.

Reporting to the Board - and working closely with the Executive Director and a passionate team - you will guide ILBIJERRI's creative direction, develop new and existing partnerships, and champion excellence, inclusion and integrity throughout all facets of the company's work. From visioning the annual program to supporting artist development and education initiatives, your cultural and creative leadership will amplify the voice of First Peoples across the arts landscape.

The Board are seeking a cultural leader, strong communicator, and creative enabler - someone who leads with cultural knowledge and capability, generosity, and strategic clarity. You will bring deep industry knowledge, First Peoples community connections, and the energy to nurture and inspire the next generation of theatre makers.

Join us in making theatre that is bold, Black, and brilliant.

This position is open only to individuals who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

The full-time position is based in Melbourne/Naarm, at Collingwood Yards, a vibrant, mixed use precinct for the arts.

- Three-year full-time contract which may be extended by mutual agreement.

- A competitive salary package \$120,000 plus super.

- One-off relocation expense package to be negotiated as required.

As a performing arts company, this creative leadership position will involve travel and irregular hours, including evenings and weekends and flexibility will be required.

Applications are due before close of business on Friday 8 August.

This process and search is led by REA arts + culture, specialists in executive search for creative industry leaders across Australia. After applications are received, the ILBIJERRI Recruitment Panel will determine who is shortlisted for interview. Interviews will be held in August.

Interested applicants are invited to contact REA to obtain a copy of the key selection criteria and detailed Candidate Pack, and a confidential discussion about the role and their potential candidacy. Before lodging an application, you are encouraged to contact Vanessa Duscio and Richard Evans before 5 August 2025. All enquiries are treated confidentially.

Vanessa Duscio +61 409 977 312, vanessa@reaartsandculture.com

Exciting opportunities in park operations

- **Multiple full-time positions**
- **Location: inner-city**
- **Option of a team based flexible working arrangement – known as a 9-day fortnight**

Caring for our city, creating a future for all

Our people are passionate about their communities and connected to their teams. They're motivated by our genuine commitment to diversity and inclusion, and our clear, compelling plan for our global city: Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050 Continuing the Vision.

Be part of a purpose-led organisation, with care at its core. You'll make a difference by acting in the best interests of our communities and city. Be better together with collaborative and inclusive partnerships. Embrace possibilities and be open to new ideas and creating bold solutions.

The parks and operations team are looking for motivated crew members and gardeners to help care for and maintain more than 400 parks, gardens, sporting fields and open spaces in our local area.

Crew member

\$72,701 a year plus superannuation

You'll use hand tools and equipment such as lawnmowers, edgers and leaf blowers to help maintain our properties to a high standard.

Gardener

\$82,322 a year plus superannuation

Lead and support a team maintaining parks and open spaces, using your horticulture skills to keep our green areas healthy, attractive and well maintained.

For more information, contact parks operations coordinator Jeff Duncum on 02 9265 9333.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates who need support with their application can contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce team on 0474 882 300 or by email at Aboriginalworkforce@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

To apply visit
cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/careers

CITY OF SYDNEY

Apply online
by 11.59pm,
Wednesday 30
July

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT

Agreement to protect cultural heritage



Representatives of YAC's Cultural Advice Committee and Neoen Australia inspect sites for met mast installation in May 2025 (l-r) Jenny Howie, Rob Chandler, Kevin Barron, Noel Yates, Susanne Levett and Julie-Ann Lambourne.



WA have come together for heritage protection.

Neoen, which operates the largest solar power plant in France, and has operations in 12 other countries, and the Yued Aboriginal Corporation in coastal mid-west of Western Australia, recently signed a heritage protection agreement for any future work.

Yued Aboriginal Corporation, representing Yued interests across the coastal MidWest and inland, is working with companies like Neoen Australia to ensure that Yued people are taking part in and benefiting from the significant investment planned to occur on

their lands and waters.

The Yued Heritage Protection Agreement (YHPA) establishes the processes by which consideration is given to activities planned by project proponents.

Under a YHPA, proponents submit their planned Activity Notice which is considered by YAC's Cultural Advice Committee (CAC).

The CAC then provides advice to YAC's management team on how to best ensure that cultural heritage is identified and protected.

Rewi Lyall, Chief Executive Officer, Yued Aboriginal Corporation, said international companies like Neoen Australia realise that a strong relationship with Traditional Owners is a global standard of corporate conduct.

"The Yued Heritage

Protection Agreement delivers certainty and ensures its workers and contractors don't inadvertently harm Yued cultural heritage," Lyall said.

"This commitment to heritage protection is a good start."

Lisa Stiebel, Head of Engagement, Neoen Australia, said the company values its partnership with the Yued Aboriginal Corporation and recognises that genuine collaboration with Traditional Owners is essential.

"The Yued Heritage Protection Agreement reflects a shared commitment to protecting cultural heritage and provides clarity and confidence for all parties, ensuring that workers and contractors operate in alignment in the protection of Yued cultural heritage," Stiebel said.



Kalyna Markwell thanks CQUniCares SAMco Renewable Energy Scholarship for helping her focus on her studies.

Scholarship providing financial relief



From a young age, Kalyna Markwell was drawn to understanding human behaviour and helping others. That passion – sparked by personal experiences and shaped by her family's journey as foster carers – ultimately led her to study psychology at CQUniversity.

"I saw my first counsellor at 11, and it really inspired me," Kalyna said. "When my family began fostering, I became an older sister to children with complex emotional needs. That experience helped shape who I am and sparked my interest in trauma, resilience and child development."

Kalyna enrolled in the Bachelor of Psychological Science at CQU in 2022 and has since graduated and embarked on her Honours, with the goal of becoming a clinical psychologist.

A First Nations woman, she is passionate about combining cultural knowledge with formal training in her future practice.

"I want to work with other First Nations psychologists and Indigenous organisations to ensure treatment is respectful, inclusive and culturally informed," she said.

Her journey has been supported by the CQUniCares SAMco Renewable Energy Scholarship, awarded to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying eligible degrees in Central Queensland regions.

For Kalyna, the scholarship provided more than financial relief – it gave her the freedom to focus on her studies, maintain important relationships, and stay connected to her community.

"In my first year, I focused solely on work and study, and I became isolated," she shared.

"Now, I make time every week for family and friends. Going to my siblings' sports games helps keep me grounded and reminds me why I want to be a role model."

Kalyna continues to be inspired by her studies, particularly in areas like developmental psychology and attachment theory, which she loves seeing reflected in real-life situations.

Looking ahead, she hopes her story encourages other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to follow their passions.

"Take your time – there's no one right path," she said. "Keep trying, even if you fail at first. You'll get there in the end, and you'll never know if you don't try."

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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Justice
and Community
Safety

Aboriginal Wellbeing Officer

- Provide cultural and practical support for Aboriginal prisoners and provide support and advice to key stakeholders
- Full-Time Opportunity to work with high-performing and passionate teams in various locations
- VPS Grade 3: Earn \$79,122 - \$96,073 plus superannuation

This is an Aboriginal Designated Position, classified under 'special measures' of section 12 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010. Only Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are eligible to apply.

Aboriginal Wellbeing Officers are part of Corrections Victoria's commitment to reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system, ensuring that Aboriginal Victorians achieve the same justice outcomes as the broader Victorian community.

Some key responsibilities include:

- Providing cultural, wellbeing and practical support for Aboriginal prisoners for returning to a non-offending lifestyle in their community
- Completing a wellbeing checklist and providing information regarding Indigenous specific programs and services
- Assisting Aboriginal prisoners to access programs and entitlements.

As our ideal candidate, you will possess:

- A demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the Victorian Aboriginal Community and the issues impacting on it
- A demonstrated ability to communicate sensitively with members of the Victorian Aboriginal community.

To apply, please visit careers.vic.gov.au or for more information, contact Alley O'Leary on 0484 640 572 or Alley.O'leary@justice.vic.gov.au



Vice-Chancellor's Indigenous Research Fellowships

'Great minds. Real-world impact.'

Each year, RMIT brings on the world's best and brightest researchers and teams to undertake transdisciplinary applied research that creates positive impact for society, the economy and the environment.

This year, our focus is on building transdisciplinary capability in three key areas:

- Regenerative Futures
- MedTech Innovation
- Digital Innovation

If you are an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander academic with a PhD, we would like to hear from you. The following range of prestigious Fellowships are on offer:

- Vice-Chancellor's Indigenous Principal Research Fellowships (Academic level range D1-D4)
- Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Senior Research Fellowships (Academic level range C1-C6)
- Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Research Fellowships (Academic level range B1-B6)
- Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (Academic level range A6-B2 dependent on the date of PhD conferral)

Successful applicants will receive:

- Between \$10,000-\$40,000* in research funding annually *depending on level
- A four-year Fellowship
- Attractive salary + 17% superannuation
- Flexible work based in Naarm
- Supportive environment with a focus on collaboration

To learn more about the fellowships and apply visit:

rmit.edu.au/careers/vice-chancellors-indigenous-research-fellowships or scan the QR code.



Notice of a non-claimant application for determination of native title in New South Wales

Notification day: 30 July 2025



National Native Title Tribunal

A 'non-claimant' application has been made to the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) seeking a determination that native title does not exist in the area described below. The Applicant has a non-native title interest in the area, which is set out in their application and summarised below.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), there can be only one determination of native title for an area. Unless there is a relevant native title claim, as defined in section 24FE, over the area described below on or before **29 October 2025**, the area may be subject to protection under section 24FA and **acts may be done which extinguish or otherwise affect native title**.

A person who claims to hold native title rights and interests in this area may wish to file a native title claimant application or become a party to this non-claimant application. These may be the only opportunities to have those rights and interests taken into account in the Federal Court's determination. Any other person may also wish to become a party.

If you want to become a party to this application, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, **on or before 29 October 2025**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **29 October 2025**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.



Application name: North Entrance Surf Life Saving Club Limited
ACN 094 089 442

Federal Court File No: NSD804/2025

Non-native title interest: The Applicant is the lessee of Special Lease 1980/2 over Lot 626 on DP 822121. The lease expired on 28 July 2022 and the Applicant remains in occupation on a holding over basis. Crown Lands has approved the granting of a new lease to the Applicant subject to the Applicant obtaining s 24FA native title protection

Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks protection under s24FA of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth)

Description of area: The application covers about 1,352 sq m and is located over Lot 626 on DP822121 in the suburb of The Entrance North

Relevant LGA: Central Coast Council

For assistance and any further information about this application, including the description of the area, call Megan Harris on 07 3052 4040 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



Careers with Queensland Health

Clinical Nurse – Saibai Island

Permanent Full time NRG6(1)

Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service

Remuneration value \$107,960.00 - \$115,604.00 p.a., employer contribution to superannuation (up to 12.75%) and annual leave loading (17.5%) (Applications will remain current for 12 months).

Job Ad Reference: TC641075

Duties/Abilities: The Clinical Nurse (CN) provides best practise nursing care in the assessment and treatment of patients to promote, maintain and improve their health, functional ability, and quality of life. The CN reports to the Cluster Coordinator via the Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) and provides professional support to the Indigenous Health Workers (IHW's).

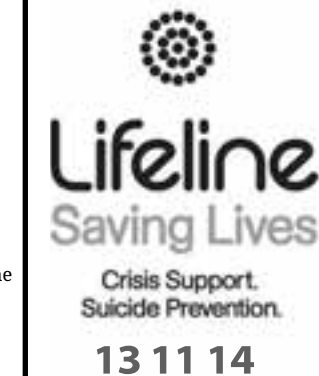
This is assisted by close, productive, and welcoming relationships with community members as well as visiting health service stakeholders. Although recruited primarily to a Primary Health Care Centre, the CN may be required to work in any of the Primary Health Care Centres on the outer islands of the Torres Strait in response to operational demands.

Enquiries: Abby Conry – 0427 645 437

Closing Date: Friday, 25 July 2025

You can apply online at www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au

A criminal history check may be conducted on the recommended person for the job. A non-smoking policy applies to Queensland Government buildings, offices and motor vehicles.



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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 Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 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
15/1943	MANDILLA GOLD PTY LTD	734702	23.17HA	22.9km SW'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 22' S ; Long: 121° 31' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
15/1943	MANDILLA GOLD PTY LTD	734704	34.71HA	22.7km SW'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 22' S ; Long: 121° 31' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
15/1943	MANDILLA GOLD PTY LTD	734707	3.87HA	22.7km SW'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 22' S ; Long: 121° 31' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
57/1030	SANDSTONE EXPLORATION PTY LTD	722086	7.37HA	11.7km SW'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 5' S ; Long: 119° 14' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE

Nature of the act : Grant of amalgamation applications which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals.

Notification day: 16 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 **16 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. 16 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 Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

DMPE_27056



WI2025/005 Marlinyu Ghoorlie Conservation Estate ILUA
Description of the agreement area:
The agreement area covers an area of about 3,545.7 sq km and is located in the vicinity of Mount Manning Nature Reserve situated approx. 150 km north west of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Relevant LGA: Shire of Menzies and Shire of Yilgarn

The agreement contains the following statements:
7.1 Future Acts in ILUA Transactions Each Party acknowledges and agrees that the ILUA Transactions contemplated in this clause 7 comprise future acts to which Part 2, Division 3 of the Native Title Act may apply (**Future Acts**) and that consent to the ILUA Transactions under this clause 7 includes the grant of consent to such Future Acts.
7.2 Consent to Future Acts (a) Each Party irrevocably consents to the following ILUA Transactions in respect of the ILUA Agreement Area: (i) the Helena and Aurora Range National Park ILUA Transaction; and (ii) the Die Hardy Range National Park ILUA Transaction, (each an **ILUA Transaction**), with the intent that such statement of consent satisfies the requirement of section 24EB(1)(b) of the Native Title Act in respect of each of them.
(b) The consents in subclause (a) of this clause include: (i) consent to the doing of every act comprised in the ILUA Transactions to the extent such requirement is applicable to such act, and any and all things ancillary to the doing of the ILUA Transactions, with the intent that such statement of consent satisfies the requirement of section 24EB of the Native Title Act in respect of each future act comprised in the ILUA Transactions; and (ii) the validation of any Future Act comprised in the prior Reservation of any land within the ILUA Agreement Area, including in the Reservation of the National Park R36208, with the intent that such statement of agreement to validity satisfies the requirements of section 24EBA(1)(a)(i) of the NT Act.
7.3 Agreement to Future Acts includes exercise of rights (a) Without limiting clause 7.2, the Parties acknowledge that the consent to the Future Acts includes consent to the doing of all acts involved in effecting the ILUA Transactions, including: (i) classification of the national park reserves as “Class A” by order under section 42 of the Land Administration Act, if required; (ii) the grant, issue or creation, from time to time, of any Tenure over the ILUA Agreement Area; (iii) the exercise of any power, duty, or right, or the discharge of any obligation, now and in the future, under: (A) Conservation and Land Management Legislation and the Biodiversity Conservation Act and any regulations made under those Acts; and (B) any Tenure; (iv) the exercise, now and in the future, of the various powers and functions under the Conservation and Land Management Legislation and the Biodiversity Conservation Act and any regulations made under those Acts, including the preparation and approval of any management plans; and (v) the exercise of any power, duty, or right, or the discharge of any obligation, now and in the future, that arises under the Land Administration Act or other applicable legislation as a consequence of the land comprising a national park, nature reserve, conservation park or marine park.
7.4 Requirements of section 24EB(1)(b) of the Native Title Act The Parties agree that each statement of consent in clauses 7.2 and 7.3 is intended to satisfy the requirement of section 24EB(1)(b) of the Native Title Act.
8.3 No Native Title Act procedures required (a) In respect of the ILUA Agreement Area, if any of the Future Acts in clause 7 are acts to which the Right to Negotiate or any other future act procedure under Division 3 of Part 2 of the Native Title Act (other than Subdivision C) would, apart from this Agreement apply, the Right to Negotiate and those other future act procedures do not apply to the Future Acts and those acts are valid pursuant to this Agreement. (b) The Parties intend that the statement in subclause (a) satisfies the requirements of section 24EB(1)(c) of the Native Title Act.

Biodiversity Conservation Act means the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA). **Conservation and Land Management Act** or **CALM Act** means the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA). **Conservation and Land Management Legislation** means the Conservation and Land Management Act and the *Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002* (WA). **Die Hardy Range National Park Area** means the area identified in Item 3 of Schedule 2 and, for ease of reference only, shown on the Map in Schedule 1. **Die Hardy Range National Park ILUA Transaction** means the Reservation of the Die Hardy Range National Park Area under section 41 of the Land Administration Act for the purposes of “national park”, and the classification of such land under section 42 of the Land Administration Act as “Class A” reserve, to which the CALM Act will apply by its sections 5(1)(c) and 7(2). **Helena and Aurora Range National Park Area** means the area comprising the land identified in Item 1 and Item 2 of Schedule 2 and, for ease of reference only, shown on the Map in Schedule 1. **Helena and Aurora Range National Park ILUA Transaction** means, in respect of the Helena and Aurora Range National Park Area: (a) following its excision from Reserve 48470, the Reservation of the whole or any portion of the R48470 Excised Land: (i) under section 41 of the Land Administration for the purposes of “national park” to which the Conservation and Land Management Act will apply by its sections 5(1)(c) and 7(2), or (ii) by an amendment under section 45(2) or another relevant provision in Part 4 of the Land Administration Act, of the boundaries of the National Park R36208 to include the whole or any portion of the R48470 Excised Land in the National Park R36208; and (b) the classification of the National Park R36208 and any Reserves created as contemplated under (a)(i), under section 42 of the LA Act as “Class A” reserves. **ILUA** means an indigenous land use agreement which meets the requirements of sections 24CB to 24CE of the Native Title Act. **ILUA Agreement Area** means the areas of land, as at the date of this Agreement comprising: (a) the Helena and Aurora Range National Park Area; and (b) the Die Hardy Range National Park Area, and which areas are within the Claim Area. **The ILUA Agreement Area** is shown, for identification purposes, on the Map in Schedule 1. **Land Administration Act** or **LA Act** means the *Land Administration Act 1997* (WA). **National Park R36208** means the area identified in Item 1 of Schedule 2 and, for ease of reference only, shown on the Map in Schedule 1. **No-Native Title Determination** means orders of the Federal Court or High Court of Australia which constitute an approved determination of native title or a revised approved determination of native title under which native title is determined not to exist over the entirety of the ILUA Agreement Area. **Reservation** means: (a) the creation of a Reserve or Reserves, for a particular purpose or purposes in the public interest by order of the Minister for Lands under section 41 or 51 of the Land Administration Act; or (b) where a Reserve for the requisite reserve purpose already exists, adding specified Crown land to the reserve by order of the Minister for Lands under a relevant provision in Part 4 of the Land Administration Act, such as, if applicable, section 45(2). **Reserve** means land, or land and waters, that has been reserved and to which the Conservation and Land Management Act applies pursuant to section 5 of that Act. **Right to Negotiate** means the right to negotiate procedure under and for the purposes of Subdivision P of Division 3 of Part 2 of the Native Title Act. **Tenure** means any lease, licence, permit or other authority which is granted, issued, created or renewed under the Conservation and Land Management Legislation or the Biodiversity Conservation Act and any regulations made under that Act.

Parties to the agreement and their contact addresses:	
The State of Western Australia (State) c/- State Solicitor’s Office David Malcolm Justice Centre 28 Barrack Street, Perth WA 6000	Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (CEO); and Conservation and Parks Commission (Commission); Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 17 Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington WA 6151
Henry Richard Dimer, Maxine Dimer, James Champion, Darren Indich, Simon Champion, Tania Champion, Leechelle Hammat and Darryl Trott on behalf of the Marlinyu Ghoorlie Native Title Claimants (the Claimants) c/- Houston Legal & Consultants PO Box 653, Fremantle WA 6959	Minister for Lands (Minister for Lands) 140 William Street, Perth WA 6000

Responses to an application to register an ILUA—where the application has not been certified:
Any person claiming to hold native title in relation to land or waters in the area covered by the agreement may wish, in response to this notice, to make a native title determination application or equivalent application under a law of a state or territory in respect of any part of the area. **The application must be made by 23 October 2025.** If that application is registered on the Register of Native Title Claims, the registered native title claimants must be a party to this agreement before it can be registered.

Details of the terms of the agreement are not available from the National Native Title Tribunal. For assistance and any further information about this application, including the description of the area, call Huia McGrath on 07 3052 4040 or visit www.nntt.gov.au

Heritage Council of NSW

Heritage Act 1977

Notice of intention to consider listing on the State Heritage Register

The Heritage Council of NSW maintains the State Heritage Register which is a list of places of particular importance to the people of NSW, including Aboriginal and other heritage.

The Heritage Council is currently considering whether or not to recommend the listing of the following place on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgment of its heritage significance.

Heritage Hotel, Dorrigo


Written submissions on this listing are invited from any interested person by 11 August 2025. Enquiries to Meggan Walker on (02) 9873 8500.

The Heritage Council is interested in receiving information in writing, by email, telephone or in person from the Aboriginal community or Aboriginal organisations on the potential Aboriginal significance of this place.

See more details about the nominated place at environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage/request-a-heritage-listing/nominate-an-item-for-listing-on-the-state-heritage-register/comment-on-nominations

Make your submission at: haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/heritagehotel

or direct your submission to:
Heritage Council of NSW
Locked Bag 5020
Parramatta NSW 2124



Aboriginal Heritage

Avoca Drive upgrade, Kincumber

Transport for NSW (Transport) invites Aboriginal people and Aboriginal groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places for Avoca Drive upgrade to register to be consulted.

Information shared will also be included in a Connecting with Country report.

Transport proposes to develop future upgrades along Avoca Drive between Boora Boora Road and Joalah Road, with improvements proposed to key intersections. The project would be delivered in stages, with the priority first stage, which is yet to be identified, to be delivered within the committed \$130 million budget.

The proposal may result in the Transport :

- Applying for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Part 6 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and/or
- Undertaking investigations in accordance with the *Code of practice for archaeological investigations in NSW 2010*, and/or
- Undertaking an environmental impact assessment under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

To register your interest, please contact:

Lee Davison, Transport’s Aboriginal Community and Heritage Partner,
lee.davison@transport.nsw.gov.au
or 0428 683 845.

Registrations must be received by phone or in writing by 30 July 2025.

44 | THE KOORI MAIL, WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025

www.koorimail.com



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 Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Mining Lease	16/593	ZULEIKA GOLD LIMITED	361.76HA	14.2km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 27' S ; Long: 120° 57' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	25/392	LINDSAY, Michael Andrew	30.09HA	42.1km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 53' S ; Long: 121° 54' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	25/393	LINDSAY, Michael Andrew	111.60HA	41.1km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 53' S ; Long: 121° 54' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	26/875	CASCADE RESOURCES PTY LTD LOYAL LITHIUM LIMITED	163.71HA	29.1km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 59' S ; Long: 121° 50' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	27/525	LA ZARZA MINERALS PTY LTD	209.98HA	17.5km N'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 35' S ; Long: 121° 31' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	29/449	DONKIN, Barry James	150.74HA	63.7km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 19' S ; Long: 120° 31' E	MENZIES SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of mining leases, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of 21 years from notification of grant and a right of renewal for 21 years.

Notification day: 16 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 **16 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. The mining tenements may be granted if, by the end of the period of 4 months after the notification day (**i.e. 16 November 2025**), there is no native title party under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* in relation to the area of the mining tenements.For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

DMIRS 27055



NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO RENEW MINING LEASE

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may renew the following mining leases under section 78(2) of the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Mining Lease	24/11	GPM RESOURCES PTY LTD	1.78HA	13.1km N'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat 30° 19' 57" S ; Long 121° 16' 58" E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	24/16	PADDINGTON GOLD PTY LIMITED	18.53HA	11.7km SW'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat 30° 31' 41" S ; Long 121° 15' 12" E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	25/4	LINDSAY, Michael Andrew	9.71HA	42.8km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat 30° 52' 35" S ; Long 121° 54' 30" E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	26/29	POLYMETALS (WA) PTY LTD	212.03HA	17.1km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat 30° 47' 48" S ; Long 121° 38' 22" E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	27/13	MAHONEY, Lyndon Scott	6.57HA	19.8km N'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat 30° 35' 7" S ; Long 121° 32' 56" E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY

Nature of the act: The renewal of mining leases, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of 21 years.

Notification day: 16 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 notice. The 3 month period closes on **16 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. The mining lease may be renewed if, by the end of the period of 4 months after the notification day (**i.e. 16 November 2025**), there is no native title party under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* in relation to the area of the application for renewal.

For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the application for renewal), contact the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

DMIRS 27058



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 Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 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	08/3783	A.C.N. 629 923 753 PTY LTD	70BL	71.1km SW'ly of Pannawonica	Lat: 22° 0' S ; Long: 115° 45' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	08/3784	A.C.N. 629 923 753 PTY LTD	60BL	52.5km E'ly of Onslow	Lat: 21° 44' S ; Long: 115° 36' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	16/664	WEST COAST MINERAL ASSETS PTY LTD	4BL	48.8km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 42' S ; Long: 120° 43' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	24/244	KALGOORLIE NICKEL PTY LTD	1BL	24.9km NE'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 10' S ; Long: 121° 11' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	24/245	KALGOORLIE NICKEL PTY LTD	2BL	21.5km NE'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 11' S ; Long: 121° 9' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	29/1294	KALGOORLIE NICKEL PTY LTD	8BL	30.3km N'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 6' S ; Long: 121° 7' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1381	MCAULAY, Darren Michael	5BL	39.1km SW'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 14' S ; Long: 119° 0' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3061	GOLDEN HORSE MINERALS (AUST) PTY LTD	20BL	49km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 54' S ; Long: 118° 58' E	WESTONIA SHIRE, YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6817-S	REESE, Thomas William Joseph	9.03HA	18.9km SW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 6' S ; Long: 121° 4' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6818-S	REESE, Thomas William Joseph	7.54HA	18.8km S'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 6' S ; Long: 121° 5' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6819-S	REESE, Thomas William Joseph	9.50HA	16.9km S'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 5' S ; Long: 121° 5' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6820-S	REESE, Thomas William Joseph	7.72HA	20.7km S'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 7' S ; Long: 121° 5' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6821-S	REESE, Thomas William Joseph	8.01HA	20.7km SW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 7' S ; Long: 121° 4' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5878	NUSKE, Geoffrey Bryon MAC, Vo Dinh ROSMALEN, Ben Karl	177.24HA	7km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 25' S ; Long: 121° 1' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5879	NORTON GOLD FIELDS PTY LTD	105.44HA	9.1km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 26' S ; Long: 121° 5' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5880-S	RAMSAY, Paul Brian	9.67HA	4.9km NW'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 24' S ; Long: 121° 18' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2856	BEHSMAN, Patricia Mary JOHNSON, Jillian Wendy	195.70HA	39.3km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 50' S ; Long: 121° 51' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	29/2703	AURENNE MIT PTY LTD	176.89HA	59.2km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 22' S ; Long: 120° 32' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	29/2704	AURENNE MIT PTY LTD	197.63HA	59.1km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 21' S ; Long: 120° 33' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	29/2705	AURENNE MIT PTY LTD	194.91HA	58.7km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 21' S ; Long: 120° 34' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	29/2706	AURENNE MIT PTY LTD	195.76HA	57.7km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 21' S ; Long: 120° 34' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	29/2707	AURENNE MIT PTY LTD	186.69HA	56.8km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 22' S ; Long: 120° 34' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	29/2708	AURENNE MIT PTY LTD	165.39HA	56.6km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 23' S ; Long: 120° 34' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	29/2709	AURENNE MIT PTY LTD	185.31HA	57km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 23' S ; Long: 120° 33' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	29/2710	AURENNE MIT PTY LTD	117.34HA	57.6km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 23' S ; Long: 120° 32' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	53/1741-S	ARITI, Steven Ross	9.33HA	97km SW'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 27° 2' S ; Long: 119° 23' E	WILUNA SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of Special Prospecting Licences, which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term up to 4 years from the date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.

Notification day: 16 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 **16 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. 16 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 Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

* - 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km2

DMPE_27052

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Notice of a non-claimant application for determination of native title in New South Wales



National Native Title Tribunal

Notification day: 30 July 2025

A 'non-claimant' application has been made to the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) seeking a determination that native title does not exist in the area described below. The Applicant has a non-native title interest in the area, which is set out in their application and summarised below.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), there can be only one determination of native title for an area. Unless there is a relevant native title claim, as defined in section 24FE, over the area described below on or before **29 October 2025**, the area may be subject to protection under section 24FA and **acts may be done which extinguish or otherwise affect native title**.

A person who claims to hold native title rights and interests in this area may wish to file a native title claimant application or become a party to this non-claimant application. These may be the only opportunities to have those rights and interests taken into account in the Federal Court's determination. Any other person may also wish to become a party.

If you want to become a party to this application, you must file a Form 5 (Notice of Intention to become a Party) with the Federal Court, **on or before 29 October 2025**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **29 October 2025**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.



Application name: Georges River Council

Federal Court File No: NSD891/2025

Non-native title interest: Georges River Council is the Crown Land Manager of Crown Reserve 83252 for Public Recreation for the purposes of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (NSW)

Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks protection under section 24FA of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) in respect of the land described as Lots 1 and 2 on DP1311599 and Lot 543 on DP727276

Description of area: The application area covers about 7.4 hectares within the Carss Park abutting Kogarah Bay

Relevant LGA: Georges River Council

For assistance and any further information about this application, including the description of the area, call Claire Smith on 07 3052 4040 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

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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 dceew.gov.au/national-heritage

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

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

- **Scan:** The QR code
- **Visit:** dceew.gov.au/heritage-nominations
- **Email:** AHC.Secretariat@dceew.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

ExxonMobil

Community Consultation - decommissioning of oil & gas infrastructure in Bass Strait



An ExxonMobil Brand

Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd (Esso), a wholly owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil Australia Pty Ltd, is committed to operating and decommissioning its Gippsland and Bass Strait facilities safely and effectively. After delivering energy to Australia for over 50 years, many of the Bass Strait oil and gas fields are now reaching the end of their productive life. As planning for decommissioning progresses, Esso is focused on safely shutting-down non-producing facilities and ensuring they stay safe throughout the entire decommissioning process.

Community Information Sessions

If you'd like to know more about decommissioning of platforms and pipelines in Bass Strait, the Esso Consultation Team will be hosting community information sessions at the following locations:

Monday 11 August 2025 – Lakes Entrance

On the Wharf Café
Bullock Island, Lakes Entrance

Tuesday 12 August 2025 – Yarram

The Yarram Country Club
322–340 Commercial Road, Yarram

Wednesday 13 August 2025 – Sale

The Criterion Hotel
90 Macalister Street, Sale

Monday 18 August 2025 – Yanakie

Yanakie Hall
Millar Road, Yanakie

Tuesday 19 August 2025 – Foster

Foster War Memorial Arts Centre
79 Main Street, Foster

Wednesday 20 August 2025 – Leongatha

Leongatha RSL
Cnr Smith St & Michael Pl, Leongatha

All the above sessions will run from **5.00pm – 7.00pm** with a **presentation** about Esso's operations, focusing on decommissioning projects.

We encourage you to come along and ask questions or raise any concerns you may have. Please **register your attendance** by emailing: consultation@exxonmobil.com

If these dates and times don't suit, contact us at consultation@exxonmobil.com or by phone on 03 9261 0000.

The Esso Team will also be available to discuss proposed activities, including:

- Bass Strait Environment Plans
- Barracouta Plug and Abandonment Environment Plan
- Campaign 1A Environment Plan

Like to be consulted about these activities?

Esso is working to identify and consult with relevant persons [stakeholders] whose functions, interests, or activities may be affected by one or more of Esso's proposed activities.

Complete the [Esso Consultation Questionnaire \(sli.do\)](#) in the Esso Consultation Hub to let us know if you'd like to be consulted or have any questions or feedback.

Refer to the NOPSEMA brochure [Consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans brochure.pdf \(nopsema.gov.au\)](#) to understand more about consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans assessed under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2023.

Your feedback and our response will be included in the relevant regulatory application documentation and submitted to the regulator.

Please connect us with other interested people

If there is anyone you know who may be interested in our activities, we encourage you to share this information with them.

To find out more information



For more information about Esso's activities and other projects, go to the Esso Consultation Hub at: <https://corporate.exxonmobil.com/locations/australia/our-approach>

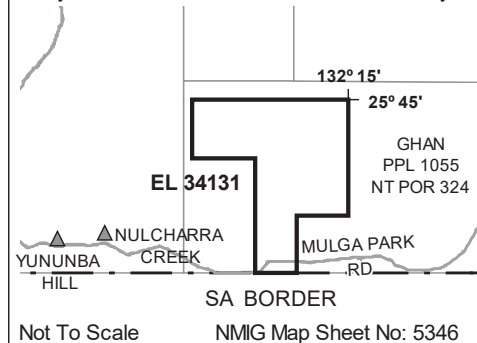
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION LICENCES

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

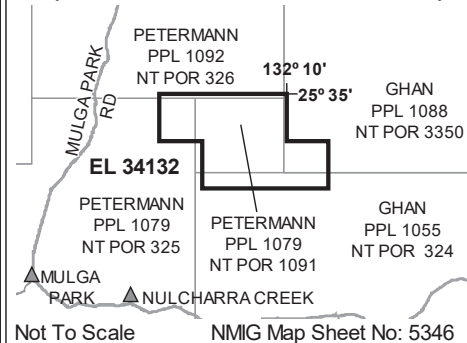
The Honourable Gerard Maley MLA, the Northern Territory Minister for Mining and Energy, C/- Department of Mining and Energy, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) of his intent to do an act, namely to grant the following exploration licence applications.

Applications to which this notice applies:

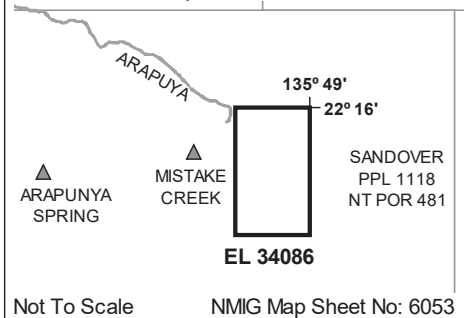
Exploration Licence 34131 sought by NORMAN SYDNEY MCCLEARY over an area of 140 Blocks (432 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the SENTINEL BORE locality.



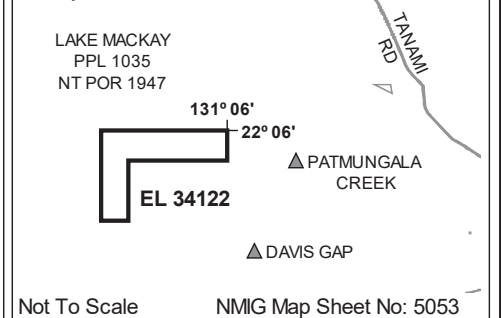
Exploration Licence 34132 sought by NORMAN SYDNEY MCCLEARY over an area of 150 Blocks (465 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the SENTINEL BORE locality.



Exploration Licence 34086 sought by DAILY TENEMENTS PTY LTD, ACN 658 845 786 over an area of 40 Blocks (128 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the ARAPUNGA locality.



Exploration Licence 34122 sought by GSW RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 653 791 130 over an area of 26 Blocks (83 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the VAUGHAN 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 Centrepoin 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: 16 July 2025



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 4 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)
- **Thursday 31 July 2025**, from 12:30 pm to 2 pm, at Collarenebri Sports Club (26-30 Walgett Street, Collarenebri).

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



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**.



LTO357

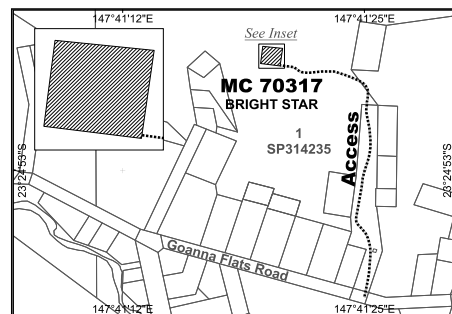


NOTICE OF PROPOSED RENEWAL AND GRANT OF MINING CLAIMS

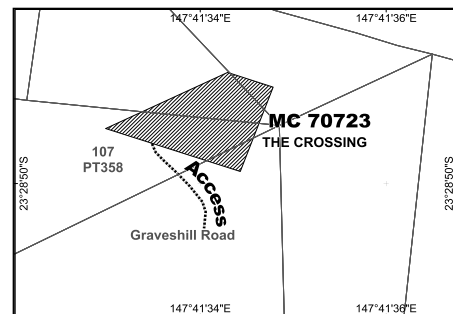
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed renewal and grant of Mining Claim (MC) shown below, subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Act).

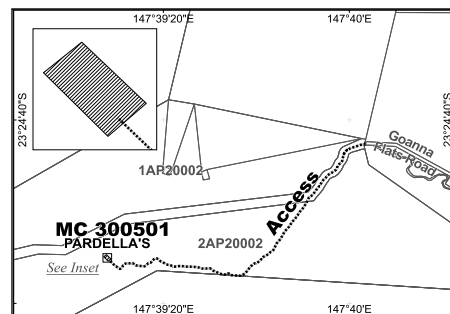
MC 70317 renewal applied for by Jason Lee Zammit, over an area of 890m², centred approximately 1.1 km north west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



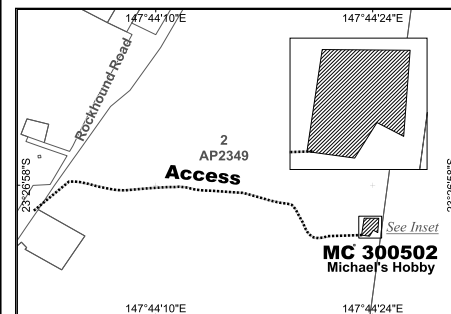
MC 70723 renewal applied for by Christopher David Dangerfield, over an area of 900m², centred approximately 3.48 km north east of Sapphire, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



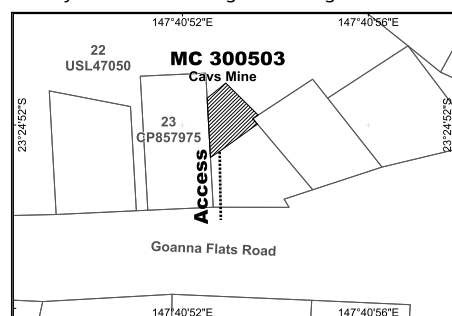
MC 300501 applied for by Christopher John Pardella, over an area of 880m², centred approximately 4.70 km west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



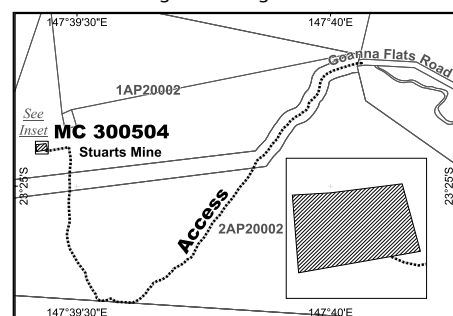
MC 300502 applied for by Michael Ricky Donald, over an area of 900m², centred approximately 2.40 km north east of Sapphire, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



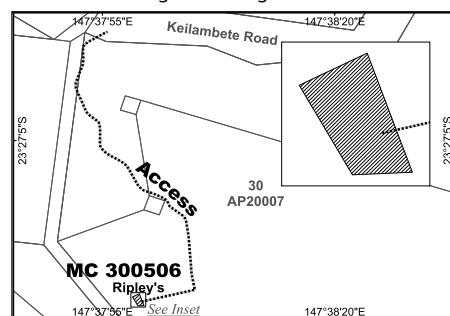
MC 300503 applied for by Cavan Patrick O'Mealley, over an area of 900m², centred approximately 1.77 km west north west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



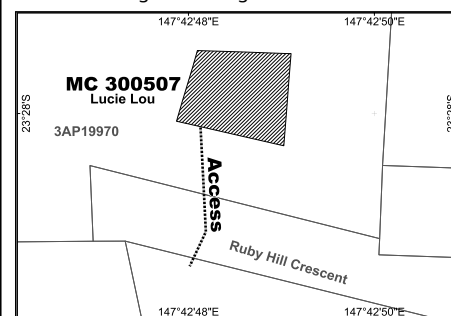
MC 300504 applied for by Stuart Andrew Vaccaneo, over an area of 870m², centred approximately 4.21 km west north west of Rubyvale in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



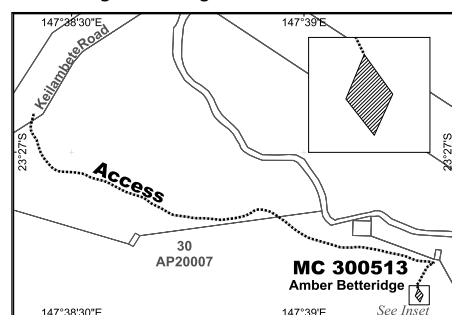
MC 300506 applied for by Craig Steven Porter, over an area of 771m², centred approximately 8.93 km west north west of Sapphire, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



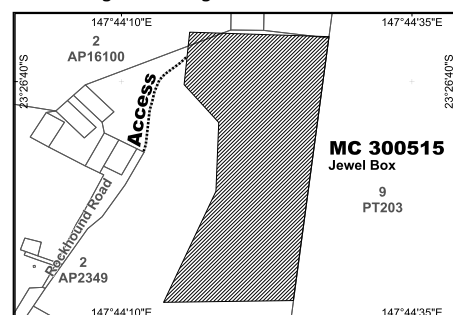
MC 300507 applied for by Deirdre Edith Renforth, over an area of 858m², centred approximately 0.91 km south west of Sapphire, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



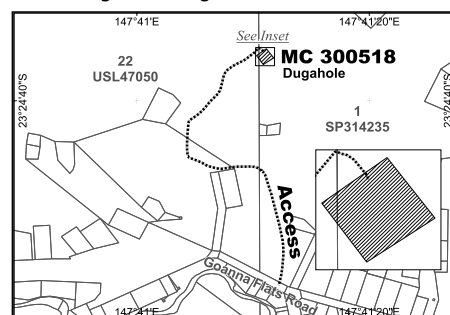
MC 300513 applied for by Amber Louise Betteridge, over an area of 786m², centred approximately 6 km south west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



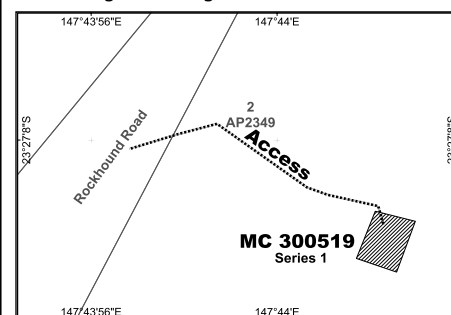
MC 300515 applied for by Billy-Joe Daniel Graham, over an area of 19.84 ha, centred approximately 3 km north east of Sapphire, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



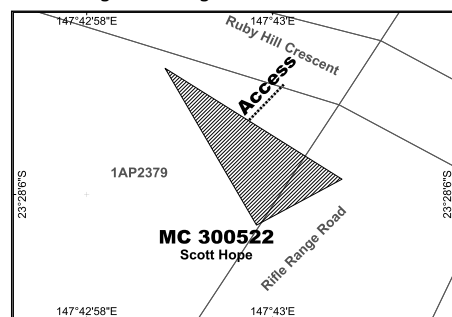
MC 300518 applied for by Michael Herring, over an area of 900m², centred approximately 1.59 km north west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



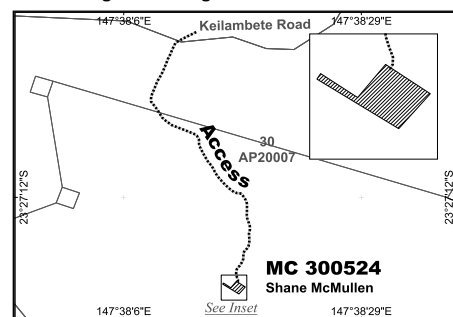
MC 300519 applied for by Patricia Jean Lovett, over an area of 897m², centred approximately 1.74 km north east of Sapphire, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



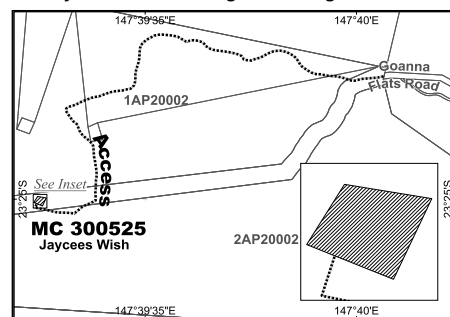
MC 300522 applied for by Scott William Campbell, over an area of 900m², centred approximately 1.2 km south west of Sapphire, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



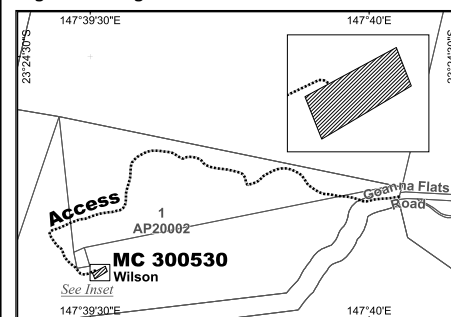
MC 300524 applied for by Shane James McMullen, over an area of 900m², centred approximately 10 km south west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



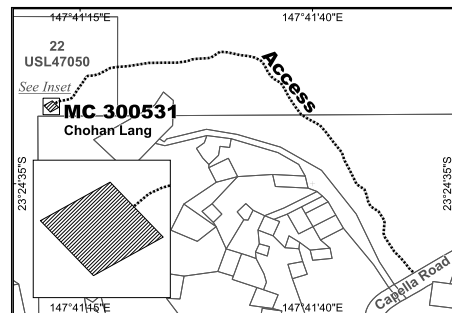
MC 300525 applied for by Collin Edward Lincoln Bright, over an area of 877m², centred approximately 4.30 km west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



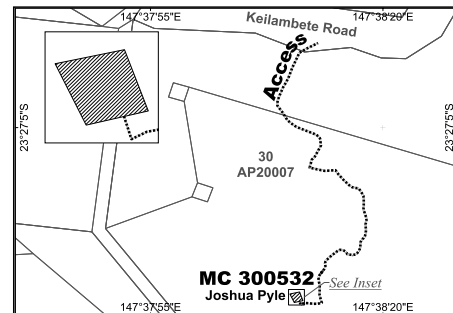
MC 300530 applied for by Daniel James Chafer, over an area of 898m², centred approximately 4.4 km west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



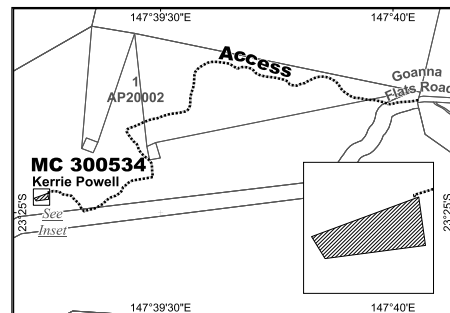
MC 300531 applied for by Chohan Austen Lang, over an area of 867m², centred approximately 1.75 km north west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



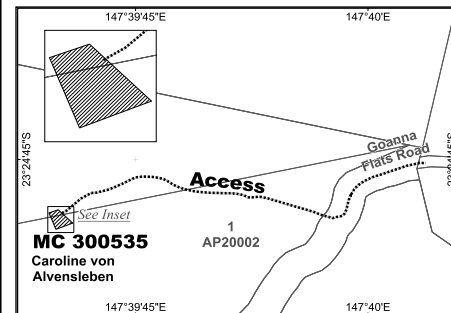
MC 300532 applied for by Joshua Thomas Edward Pyle, over an area of 887m², centred approximately 8.58 km west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



MC 300534 applied for by Kerrie Lynn Powell, over an area of 898m², centred approximately 4.54 km west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



MC 300535 applied for by Caroline Maria Gisela Clarissa Von Alvensleben, over an area of 850m², centred approximately 3.86 km west north west of Rubyvale, in the locality of the Central Highlands Regional Council.



Nature of Act(s): The renewal and grant of Mining Claims 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 and grant of the Mining Claim includes granting of access as shown above.

Name and Address of person doing Act(s): It is proposed that the Mining Claims be renewed and granted subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) by the Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

Native Title Parties: Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) any person who is a "native title party" is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed renewal and grant of a 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, Small Scale Mining Assessment Hub, 99 Hospital Road, Emerald, Queensland, 4720. Telephone: (07) 3078 3031 or Email: SSMHub@resources.qld.gov.au.

Notification Day: 30 JULY 2025



25 First Nations icons in '25

Gavin Wanganeen

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

AFL Hall of Famer with Kokatha heritage Gavin Wanganeen was certainly a man of firsts.

In Essendon's premiership year of 1993, he became the first known Indigenous footballer to win the Brownlow Medal, the AFL's highest individual honour, as a 20-year-old.

He returned to his home state and became the first AFL captain of the Port Adelaide Football in 1997.

In his final AFL game, Wanganeen became the Inaugural First Nations 300-game footballer at this level.

He played 127 games for the Bombers and finished after another 173 matches in the Black, white and teal of Port Adelaide.

At the top level, he won his Brownlow Medal as a running small defender, but was equally adaptable in the midfield and later in his career as a goal-kicking small forward.

Originally, he was collected in the AFL National Draft back in 1989 at pick number 12 overall.

Wanganeen first played SANFL league football as a 16-year-old, back in 1990, being a member of the Magpies premiership that year under Jack Cahill.

He played 24 matches and kicked 46 goals in that 1990 campaign, winning the SANFL Rookie of the Year award.

In the final game of state-league football season before the AFL came to town the following year, Wanganeen was the baby of the team.

In front of a crowd of over 50,000 patrons at Football Park, he was a part of the Port Adelaide Football Club's league premiership, where they defeated Glenelg 16.12 (108) to 13.15 (93), kicking two goals in the 15-point triumph.

He started his AFL career with the Essendon Bombers, having yet to turn 18 in round two of the 1991 season, playing Richmond at the MCG on April 1.

Wanganeen was amongst the young guns, Kevin Sheedy's "Baby Bombers" that won the 1993 AFL premiership, defeating Carlton in the Grand Final.

While he won the 1993 Brownlow with 18 votes, Wanganeen actually polled 21 votes a decade later in 2003, being equal runner-up, one behind the trio of Mark Rucciuto, fellow First Nations Icon Adam Goodes and Nathan Buckley who shared the award.

He was convinced to move back to his home state in 1997, leading Port Adelaide in their first victory over Geelong in round three of that season at Football Park.

After four years as the captain of the Power, Wanganeen handed over the role and continued to play for another six seasons.

He was a part of a quartet of Indigenous champions who played in the Port Adelaide Football Club's



Melbourne, September 25, 2004. Gavin Wanganeen celebrates a goal in the last quarter during Port's win in the AFL Football Grand Final, Port Adelaide Power v Brisbane Lions at the MCG. Photo AAP.

breakthrough initial AFL premiership, and like Byron Pickett, Peter and Shaun Burgoyne performed strongly in the 2004 Grand Final victory over the Brisbane Lions.

Wanganeen, who won his first club best and fairest in 2003, the "John Cahill Medal", has a host of personal accolades a star-studded career.

He was an All-Australian on five occasions across his career – 1992, 1993, 1995, 2001 and 2003.

He played in four pre-season premierships, two with Essendon in 1993 and 1994 and a pair with Port in 2001 and 2002, being the Michael Tuck Medallist as

best on ground in the first of them to start his stellar '93 season.

At the 2004 Deadly Awards, Wanganeen won Most Outstanding Achievement in AFL and he was selected on a half back flank in the Indigenous Team of the Century.

Selected in a back pocket in the Essendon team of the 20th Century, he is number 19 overall in the Bombers, ranked the 25 greatest players to have played for Essendon.

He was elevated to Bombers Hall of Fame Legends status in 2014, after being Inducted in the AFL equivalent in 2010. In his home state Wanganeen was inducted

into the South Australian Football Hall of Fame in 2012.

Starting his football with the Salisbury North Hawks, Wanganeen is one of four Aboriginal players for that community club to have AFL premiership medallions, along with Michael O'Loughlin (Sydney Swans – 2005) and the Bond siblings, Troy (Adelaide – 1997) and Shane (West Coast Eagles – 1994).

After he retired from the top level of the game, Wanganeen played for Koonibba in the SA Aboriginal Football Championship and at the age of 46 in 2019 played A-grade football for the Moonta Demons on the Yorke Peninsula.

NSW have got the blues again

Another huge build up with plenty of promise early on evaporated with a Maroon coloured avalanche to extinguish those dreams and hopes in the 2025 State of Origin.

Blues fans are used to the Maroons pulling a rabbit out of the hat when they need to at vital stages. But this hurt in a different way.

Let's not forget that after NSW won 18-6 on Queensland's home turf, the Maroons axed their captain and halfback, Daley Cherry-Evans. They seemed to be imploding.

But we forget that Queensland are the most dangerous when their backs are against the wall and being written off.

In the final two games, the Blues were blown off the park by an unstoppable Maroons attack. In Game Two in Perth, Queensland raced away to a 26-6 lead at halftime and most thought it was all over.



Kris Flanders

NSW rallied in the second half and were coming home like a freight train only to fall agonisingly short 26-24 and only poor goal kicking probably stopped the Blues from at least taking the match into extra time. But the

blame can't lie on just the boot of Zac Lomax. The Blues should never have given the Maroons such a huge head start.

It was almost the best ever comeback in State of Origin history. But wasn't to be – from almost the greatest of football ecstasies to the lowest of feelings. However – it did leave a glimmer of hope for NSW fans, if they could fall behind so far and then come rumbling home, then Game Three might be something special.

The decider was built up as one of the biggest games in Origin history with NSW having the home ground advantage.

The Queenslanders were certainly up for it and just like Game Two, they flashed out to a big lead. The visitors led 20-0 at the break, however, there didn't seem like there was going to be a repeat of a NSW comeback this time and that proved to be correct.

What went so badly wrong for NSW that in Games Two and

Three that both games were technically gone at halftime?

You can't give away starts like that in State of Origin. The last one was even more head scratching, surely a better performance should have been warranted in Sydney in front a sell-out crowd full of mainly Blues supporters?

You do have to hand it to Queensland though. They never gave up or surrendered. The fact that the Maroons overcame much adversity on and off the field during this Origin campaign makes their victory all the more sensational.

Some serious questions will need to be asked in the NSW camp. The Blues brought back Laurie Daley as head coach. His previous record at Origin level is pretty poor and only got worse after this year's series. He has now coached the Blues in 18 matches with just 7 wins and 11 losses and just the sole series win

which came back in 2014.

Daley said in the days after the Origin series loss that he is "most definitely" the man to coach NSW in 2026 and laughed off speculation that his job could be in the firing line after the collapses in Games Two and Three despite him having the contract for next year.

As a player for NSW in Origin, there were few better or more intense than Laurie Daley, he had that crazed look in his eyes and would do anything for his state to win. He was an absolute weapon for the Blues as a player. But like Lomax's boot in Game Two, can we just put NSW's demise upon Daley alone?

Surely there are some players for NSW after Game Three that should put their hands up and say they let the coach down as well?

Now for another year NSW fans have to listen to that "QUEENSLANDER" call and how "NSW don't get Origin".

Shibasaki shines in fairytale debut

By ALF WILSON



ONE of the biggest shock selections in State of Origin history turned into a fairytale for Gehamat Shibasaki who shone for

Queensland in their 24-12 win over NSW in game three.

With 40 family members from Thursday Island Townsville and Cairns cheering him on at Sydney's Accor Stadium, Gehamat played a great game.

Going into the match, both Queensland and NSW had won a game and this victory ensured the Maroons took out the series.

NSW won the first game 18-6 in Brisbane then the Maroons took out the second encounter 26-24 in Perth.

The rise of Gehamat from being offered a "train and trial" contract by the Brisbane Broncos before this season has been one of the most inspiring in recent NRL history.

Gehamat has played every match for the Broncos this season scoring 12 tries in 15 matches.

By comparison the 27-year-old Gehamat had scored six tries between 2018 and 24 for the Newcastle Knights, North Queensland Cowboys, South Sydney Rabbitohs and an earlier short term stint at the Broncos.

Rising star

Now considered one of the rising stars of the NRL, Gehamat made his Origin debut in style.

His direct opponent was Stephen Crichton who is considered in the top bracket of centres in world rugby league.

But that did not daunt Gehamat who held his own and set up the first Queensland try by PNG international winger Xavier Coates.

Gehamat ran for 119 metres and made seven important tackle busts.

Gehamat's grandmother LJ Shibasaki lives on TI and said being at the ground was "awesome".



From left with the TS flag are Maroons stars Reuben Cotter, Gehamat Shibasaki and Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow.

"He played really well and Gehamat still remains himself, a happy and polite young man. We are all very proud of him," LJ said.

The other Torres Strait islanders in the Maroons side were champion fullback Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow and workhorse forward Reuben Cotter.

Hamiso was picked at fullback because of his support play and set up one of two tries by man of the match Tom Dearden.

He also came up with a couple of try-savers in the second half in the same set and produced a spectacular catch on a bomb, in which he continued to run away deep into enemy territory.

Reuben made a line break which got his side in position to

score the opening try and ran for 87 metres as well as making 18 tackles in the first half.

He finished with 102 run metres and made 41 tackles.

Maroons coach Billy Slater was glowing in his praise of Reuben who has Boigu family connections.

"A couple of times Reuben jumped on the ball tonight and, as a true Queenslander, put his body on the line and saved a couple of tries," Billy said.

Hamiso was switched to his Dolphins club position of fullback after having played in the centres previously for Queensland.

The "Hammer" was dynamic and proved a danger for the defence whenever he had the ball.



In the dressing room after the Maroons win were from left Wally Shibasaki, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow and LJ Shibasaki.

Stars of the Torres Strait shine

By ALF WILSON



A STRAIT Stars team with players from Boigu, Saibai, Dauan, Mer, Masig, Warraber, Ugar, Mabuiag, Badu, Poruma, Iama, Hammond and Moa Islands won four of their seven games at the prestigious Laurie Spina junior rugby league carnival in Townsville on July 4/5.

A total of 78 teams featuring under-11 male and female players from across Queensland took part at Townsville's scenic Queen's Park.

It was estimated that about 25% of the players were either Aboriginal or Torres Strait islander.

Strait Stars team list was: 1 Regory Kepa (Iama), 2 Leviticus Elisala (Dauan), 3 Horace Baira (Badu), 4 Emelda Pau (Ugar), 5 Denzel Naawi (Poruma), 6 Pelista Ketchell (Erub), 7 Stanley Marama (Boigu), 8 Tom Jacksonia (Saibai), 9 Aaron Mene-Ronsen (St Paul), 10 Mahalia Joe (Mabuiag), 12 Davaniel Bosun (Kubin), 13 Connicklas Mabo (Mer), 14 Zayda Pearson-Garnier (Hammond), 16 Darlington Lui-Warria (Warraber), 17 John Wigness (Masig).

The carnival was organised by the North Queensland Cowboys and some of their players were there to meet and talk to youngsters.

The teams were spread across eight pools on as many fields and Strait Stars lined up against Capricorn Coast Brothers in game one.

A large number of supporters were there to cheer them on they looked great in their jumpers.

Other opponents were, day one: Norths Devils Mackay Red, Southern Suburbs and Sarina Crocodiles Red.

Day 2: Wanderers Mount Isa, Blackall Magpies and Townsville Upper Ross Rams.

Team spokeswoman Saintie Joe said the team won two of their first four games.



Strait Stars team shot.

"In the first match they were trying to find their rhythm. Bit scratchy coming up against a team that competes regularly. We must appreciate that our kids have not played or trained together at a competitive level," Saintie said.

Strait Stars coach was former Melbourne Storm NRL player Sam Joe and he said he was delighted with the efforts of the players which included girls.

"I am really proud of their efforts as all the sides they were against had players from much bigger centres and they compete

in weekly competitions," Sam said.

The Strait Stars players displayed great speed which they are renowned for during their games in the "big smoke" and that showed in a foot relay race.

"Of all the 78 teams we finished 10th in the relay," Sam said.

Sam said the players got to meet Melbourne Storm team members who were in Townsville for Saturday night's clash with the Cowboys.

"We got to meet them when

they had their Captain's Run at the Townsville Sports Reserve before the game. On a personal note I caught up with Storm coach Craig Bellamy and assistant Ryan Hinchcliffe who played when I was down there," Sam said.

On Saturday night the players went to Queensland Country Bank Stadium to watch the Storm beat the Cowboys.

"A lot of our boys and girls had never seen an NRL match live before and it was a great experience," Sam said.

Sam thanked his five support

officials from the Torres Strait who were vital in the smooth running on the epic trip.

"We came to Townsville two days before the match and stayed at NQ Cowboys House and returned by bus to Cairns on Sunday and then caught flights to Horn. On Monday everybody returned to their islands," Sam said.

The shield was established in 1997 and is named after the Cowboys inaugural captain Laurie Spina.

Laurie played his junior rugby league in the Herbert River district, playing 169 NRL games for North Sydney Bears (1983-84), Sydney Roosters (1985-89), Cronulla Sharks (1990) and North Queensland Cowboys (1995).

He has also been a tireless contributor to the development of the junior rugby league in North Queensland.

In recognition of his efforts and achievements, a shield is presented in his honour.

Laurie Spina and Cowboys programs manager Ray Thompson, of Saibai descent, walked around the ground talking to players and officials.

Accommodation in Townsville was booked out in what was a big weekend for the local economy.

The Townsville Show was in full swing and on the Saturday the Cowboys NRL match against the Melbourne Storm was on as well the NRLW Cowboys ladies team.



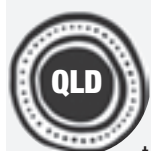
Laurie Spina (Inaugural Cowboys captain), Arlen Querro (Centrals ASA Tigers), Kaliyah Shelford-Finau (past Brothers Gladstone) and Ray Thompson (Cowboys programs manager).



Leviticus Elisala with the ball.

Palm Island to start competition

By ALF WILSON



A DOMESTIC Rugby League competition is set to start on Palm Island this month featuring four teams with an aim by the local rugby league administration to enter a team once again in the Townsville and District (TDRL) competition.

There has been a long drought for local club rugby league on Palm for many years and the first matches are expected to start in mid July.

Talented Palm Island footballers have had to line up with a TDRL club or miss their favourite sport until they line up for a Barracudas side at Allblacks carnivals.

Four sides: Skipjacks, Bulls, Jets and Bayside Tridents will battle it out at the local oval.

Bayside Tridents is a new side



Flashback to when Skipjacks met Bulls in a local competition final.

whilst Skipjacks, Bulls (known previously as Butler Bay Bulls) and Jets had been competing at previous comps there.

Fans are expected to turn out in force to support their side.

Palm Aboriginal shire mayor Alf Lacey confirmed that the council would sponsor player insurance payment.

Coaches will be Fred Bulsey (Skipjacks), Thomas Lloyd (Bulls), Germaine Bulsey (Jets) and William Blackman (Tridents).

Fred Bulsey is also the Palm Island Rugby League Vice-President and said locals are welcoming the return of footy.

"I am sure it will be a great success and our aim is to get a

team back into the Townsville comp as soon as possible," Fred said.

Fred said the comp would be played over 10 rounds and whilst the first matches would be on a Saturday, that may vary during the season.

"We will fit in with the juniors and some games will be played under lights on a Thursday or Friday night which will be popular," Fred said.

Skipjacks look set to have a powerful team with signings already including star backs Clinton Pearson and Miceal Sibley and tough forward Isaac Bulsey.

Palm players who already are with TDRL clubs this season may not be available to also line up for a Palm team.

"We are not sure about dual registration," Fred said.

To the locals ready for these games, a Palm Island team will meet a visiting Dau Dai side in a

representative clash during NAIDOC celebrations.

This will fine tune players for the home games.

A match which was to be played against a Thursday Island side has been cancelled.

Kerri Ritchie, FNQ Area Manager for Townsville, Mount Isa/Midwest and Gulf regions, said the body was excited to support the launch of a new four-club Open Men's competition on Palm Island.

"This initiative will help boost local participation, while promoting positive health and wellbeing across the community. We look forward to seeing the competition kick off soon and watching the local talent in action," Kerri said.

Palm Island hosted a successful Christmas Cup carnival in December which received praise from locals and visiting teams.

SonSon retires after stellar career



Michael Walters of the Dockers celebrates his goal during the 2025 AAMI AFL Community Series match between Fremantle Dockers and Melbourne Demons at Rushton Park on 2 March, 2025, in Mandurah, Australia. Getty Images

After battling a knee injury, we saw Fremantle's Michael Walters known to everyone as "SonSon" retire. After an incredible career of 239 games, five times leading goal kicker at the Dockers, kicking a career 365 goals, second only to Matthew Pavlich.

We will miss SonSon out there, he was not only a flashy player with skills that made us all push our chest out with pride. His hard work and determination saw him captain the winning Indigenous All-Stars team against Fremantle earlier



Shelley Ware

this year. He is everything this NAIDOC Week theme stood for; he has left a legacy that our young

people will look up to for generations to come.

In a club statement SonSon said "I have been working my backside off to try and get back to play some form of footy and while mentally I am still committed, unfortunately my body won't allow me to continue playing."

AFL Diversity Talent Manager Pauly Vandenberg said on his socials directly to SonSon "Hopefully this isn't goodbye, just a new chapter. We need to hold onto leaders like you, your experience, knowledge and voice are too important

to lose."

Vandenberg has an authentic and caring way of connecting to the brotherboys he looks after in his role at AFL House, he went on to say "Congratulations SonSon...what an incredible career, from a kid in Midland to one of the greats of our game...what you've achieved is special, brother. You made us proud every time you pulled on that jumper."

I know the sentiments that Vandenberg holds for SonSon are felt far and wide by not only Freo fans but AFL fans alike. SonSon

is a generous man in his love for his people and community. He represented us, his family and himself with everything he had, week on and week off.

Thank you SonSon and I hope this isn't goodbye too, I know you have so much to offer our next generations of players but whatever you choose to do, in your next chapter, I hope it's everything you deserve and more.

In AFLW news the AFL has announced the practice matches for the 10th AFLW season, will be free for all fans and they

will run across the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of August. There will be match Simulation Training on the 25th and 26th of July.

There was a lot of movement within the AFLW teams – an incredible twenty-four players moved clubs during the 2024 trade period and sixty players selected in the December Draft last year. The practice matches will be the first-time fans can see their new teams in action. If you can't make it to the practice matches, they will be live streamed on clubs' websites.



Michael Walters led the Indigenous All Stars to victory against Fremantle Dockers at Optus Stadium on February 15, 2025, in Perth, Australia. (Getty Images)



Michael Walters of the All Stars celebrates with family during the 2025 Toyota AFL Indigenous All Stars match between the Indigenous All Stars and the Fremantle Dockers on 15 February, 2025, in Perth, Australia. (Getty Images)

Rankine is number one

By **PETER ARGENT**
(*opinion*)



ADELAIDE Crows midfielder-forward Izak Rankine is the most important Indigenous player in the AFL currently.

He has the likes of this round 17 opponent, 2021 premiership Kozzie Pickett and young Saint Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera on his coattails, but for Adelaide to go deep into the '25 major round they need more match winning performances from Rankine.

He is a special game breaker, who can change the course of a contest.

As he proved, yet again in the Adelaide Sunday afternoon, July 6, win over the Melbourne Demons, his is a unique generational footballer.

For a Crows side that underperformed in the first half, Rankine was the game changer and eventually the match winner, kicking five goals.

In the AFL players association coaches award, (voted on by the senior AFL coaches after each game) Rankine received the maximum 10 votes from the contest.

Rankine was simply dominant in that Crows' 13.12 (90) to 11.11 (77), 13-point victory at Adelaide Oval. Along with a game-

high five goals, he had 16 disposals, four marks, four tackles and seven score involvements.

Rankine, a proud Ngarrindjeri man, who together with his teammates, donned the Crows' 2025 First Nations guernsey to mark the beginning of NAIDOC Week against Melbourne.

The third pick overall in the AFL Super Draft of 2018, Rankine spent four years on the Gold Coast Suns list.

Now 25 he is entering the sweet spot of his career. He played his 100 AFL game in the clash against the Western Bulldogs in round 18.

While he didn't play a match in his opening season of the Suns list, Rankine departed from the Gold Coast at the end of the 2022 campaign, after 48 matches.

This year, in the hybrid role, Rankine is averaging 21.7 possessions a game, that is six more than his career average of 15.4.

But it's not about the amount of the ball he finds, it's what he does with it when he has ball in hand.

A big game player, who was already playing against men at 16 in the SANFL, along kicking five-goals in the final of the National Under 18s championships triumph, he has that special talents, that 95 per cent of AFL player don't possess.






Izak Rankine in action. *Picture Peter Argent.*

Know the warnings

When there are bushfires, floods or storms, Emergency Services issue simple warnings to help you make faster, safer decisions.

There are three warning levels:

-  **Yellow** Advice level means you're not in danger yet but stay alert.
-  **Orange** Watch and Act level means start taking action now. Conditions are changing.
-  **Red** Emergency Warning level means take action immediately. Any delay puts your life at risk.

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Get Ready NSW



*Shown here are Fire, Flood and Storm warnings.
Other warning symbols include Heat, Tsunami, Cyclone and Other.

Rioli takes on coaching role with Bombers

By JACKSON CLARK



AFL great Cyril Rioli is set to take on a new challenge, joining the coaching ranks at Northern Territory Football League club Jabiru Bombers.

The four-time Hawthorn premiership star has been appointed assistant coach for the upcoming NTFL season, working alongside senior coach Kingsley Whitehurst, who was reappointed after guiding the Bombers to a historic premiership last season.

Jabiru Football Club confirmed the news in a statement on social media last week.

“Kingsley Whitehurst will be returning as the coach after leading the team to a long-awaited premiership last season (and) he will be supported by Cyril Rioli Jnr as the assistant coach,” the club said.

“This duo brings a wealth of experience, footy knowledge and passion. The JBFC are excited for the season ahead and look forward to the success their leadership brings to the club.”

The 2024/25 NTFL campaign was one to remember for Jabiru, with the club claiming its first premiership since joining the competition from the now-defunct Top End Australian Football

League back in 2010.

Rioli played a pivotal role in the Bombers’ triumph over Banks in the grand final, booting three goals as one of the most influential players on the field.

Based roughly 250 kilometres south-east of Darwin, Jabiru is a small township of just over 1,000 residents, located along the Arnhem Highway.

The Bombers’ players and staff face the toughest schedule in the NT, travelling more than 550 kilometres round-trip on as many as a dozen occasions just to play matches.

The football club, which joined the Northern Territory Football Association as a foundation team in 1982, has remained a cornerstone of the town’s sporting and community life.

Once a thriving mining hub, Jabiru has shifted toward tourism in recent decades as the population has gradually declined.

Rioli is currently playing for Big Rivers Football League club Arnhem Crows during the 2025 season.

Playing mainly in the forward-line, the 36-year-old has provided his trademark class and cleanliness around the footy.

He lit up a large crowd during the footy carnival at the recently held Barunga Festival, which included kicking a brilliant goal from the boundary after reading the ball superbly from a ruck contest.

The Crows currently sit in third position on the BRFL ladder.



Cyril Rioli, alongside AFLNT’s Michael Barfoot, after winning a premiership for Jabiru last season. Picture: David Bradley/AFLNT

Umpire training provides pathway

By JACKSON CLARK



A NEW wave of umpiring talent is emerging from the Tiwi Islands as part of an initiative aimed at empowering

local match officials and strengthening leadership in remote football communities.

The Tiwi Umpire Mentor Program returned in May and June, bringing together a dozen Tiwi-based umpires – including two newcomers – for two weekends of skills development, connection, and mentoring.

The program is a joint effort between AFL Northern Territory’s Umpiring and Indigenous Programs teams.

It’s designed to create a clear and supported pathway for Tiwi umpires to progress from local matches to major Darwin-based carnivals and, ultimately, the Northern Territory Football League competition.

“The enthusiasm to be part of the umpiring group was clear,” said umpire mentor Michael Wellington.

“There’s already a deep understanding of the game – now



Participants from the Tiwi Umpiring Program. Courtesy AFLNT

it’s about continuing to build confidence and staying connected as these umpires develop.”

A key focus of the program has been encouraging greater female involvement, with women and girls

stepping into umpiring roles and contributing to a culture of inclusion, leadership, and community pride.

“Being part of Tiwi football is always special but helping

empower local Tiwi women through umpiring was truly powerful – it created space for growth, passion, and community strength,” said diversity talent programs manager and NTFL

umpire Narelle Long.

The support from local coaches and players has also been critical in building mutual respect on game day and reinforcing a collective responsibility for the success of football on the Tiwi Islands.

“This program is about investing in people and creating long-term pathways for Tiwi umpires,” AFLNT Umpiring Lead Martin Oosthuysen told the *Koori Mail*.

“We’re building real connections that will carry into the NTFL season and beyond, and the potential we’re seeing from these umpires is just the beginning.”

Beyond developing officiating talent, the Tiwi Umpire Mentor Program forms part of AFLNT’s broader efforts to grow and retain umpires throughout the Territory, while providing opportunities for locals to earn, lead, and contribute to the game in meaningful ways.

The initiative is supported through funding from the AFL’s Game Development and Indigenous Participation program, the Australian Sports Commission, and the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

Playing on the field of dreams

By KRIS FLANDERS



DREAMS do come true.

It's how NSW Physical Disability Rugby League (DRL) founder and player, George Tonna, feels when he reflects on the sport he championed so hard for back in 2010.

Tonna is a Paralympian from 2000 when he played football for Australia. But being the founder of the PDRL is one of his greatest sporting achievements. He's also very proud that he pushed just as hard for the inclusion of an All Stars fixture featuring an Indigenous team.

"I know what this game means to Indigenous people living with a disability to play a game where they represent their Mobs. I worked at NTSCORP (Native Title Service provider for Traditional Owners) for 16 years. I also understand the power of rugby league in the community and what culture means to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people," Tonna said.

The Combined Indigenous All Stars versus the PDRL All Stars is one of the biggest games on the calendar since its inception in 2014. It always kicks-off NAIDOC Week and is part of a massive gala day run by one of the oldest and best football clubs in NSW, the famous Redfern All Blacks.

Since 2023, the Indigenous players have run out onto Redfern Oval wearing a jersey with Kullilli man Todd Dorward's amazing handy-work on it. The talented artist says it fills him with immense satisfaction to see the team wearing his design.

"The story of my artwork is about the four teams of the NSWPDRL coming together at Redfern Oval, the big circle on Gadigal land. Connecting with culture and the footy," Dorward explained.

"It's deadly to see the players in our Indigenous team wearing the jersey I have designed. I feel proud to see the young ones like



Indigenous All Star, Jakai Smith, on the burst.

Jakai (Smith) and others having a go. Seeing their faces with pride, ready to rip in and keep going with the game."

Bill Bussell, affectionately known as 'Bunyip', has played in over 100 PDRL games. Not bad for a player who was told he'd never walk or talk or live past the age of 10. Bussell is now 48-years-old and runs and is one of the loudest talkers in the competition.

The Yorta Yorta and Wiradjuri man lives with cerebral palsy and playing for the Combined Indigenous All Stars is something he cherishes.

"It feels deadly. I am proud to play for my Mobs," Bussell said.

Bussell added that to wear such a special jersey designed by Todd Dorward during NAIDOC Week and play alongside the next generation of young Indigenous players, like Jakai Smith and Rowen Grooms,

makes him happy.

"He (Todd) is a deadly painter and I'm glad to wear the jersey. Makes me proud to see young players coming up and play with their Uncle Bill," Bussell said.

Wiradjuri teen, Rowen Grooms, is one of the newest faces to the Physical Disability Rugby League. He lives with 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome which can cause heart abnormalities and developmental delays.

The 14-year-old never really liked footy until discovering the sport, but he's been made to feel welcome into the fold. Now he's kicking footballs with his grandfather and watching NRL games alongside him as well.

His grandmother, Denise Grooms, says playing has turned his world around.

"His confidence is really soaring. He is slowly engaging talks with the other players.



Bill Bussell clapping the crowd in attendance.

Rowen has told us many times how he feels the other players and coaches are like an extended family," Grooms explained.

"I have to say we are very proud grandparents as we watch him take the field to either train or play. To see him running and throw a ball with a smile is absolutely second to none."

History will say that the PDRL All Stars won the annual clash 26-4 over the Indigenous side. George Tonna says it may be a cliché but it's true, everyone is a winner on this field of dreams.

"The score is just one part of the game, for me and I'll give you an example, Billy Bussell who's affected by CP (cerebral palsy) and for him just to play sport is amazing. He is my brother from another mother.

Much respect for blokes like Todd Dorward too. For what they've both achieved, not only on the footy field, but just in life. Life is hard but when they get on the footy field something changes for all of us," Tonna said.

It's been another cracking season of action for the NSW Physical Disability Rugby League with a City versus Country fixture and the All Stars match. There's still plenty of twists and turns for the remainder of the season.

The four-team competition, comprising of defending premiers Newtown Jets, South Sydney Rabbitohs, Wests Tigers and the Roosters has 3 more rounds, followed by semis and the Grand Final.



Todd Dorward, Indigenous All Star and jersey designer.

Soccer program wins innovation award



Participants of the John Moriarty Football program.



A PROGRAM that uses football (soccer) to support health and education outcomes for Indigenous children has been named the Overall Winner and Inclusion Program/Initiative of the Year at the Australian, Sport, Recreation and Play Innovation Awards.

Established in 2012 by not-for-profit organisation, Moriarty Foundation, John Moriarty Football (JMF) is delivered in 17 remote and regional communities to more than 5,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, aged 6 to 18 years old, each year.

Moriarty Foundation Co-Founders, Ros Moriarty and Yanyuwa man John Moriarty AM, said they were honoured that JMF has been recognised for its Aboriginal-designed and led innovation.

As Australia's first Aboriginal Soccerroo, John Moriarty AM knows the life-changing power of sport: "When we started JMF in 2012, we wanted to use football to engage Indigenous boys and girls in a way that would positively impact their health, education, wellbeing and connection to Country.

"JMF's inaugural scholarship holder Shadeene

Evans went from playing barefoot on Borroloola school oval to graduating from one of Australia's top sporting high schools – and now she is now playing for the premiership winning Central Coast Mariners in the A-League," he said.

"But as well as the sporting stars, our success stories lie in the increased school attendance, improved classroom participation, better health and wellbeing outcomes and inspiring the love of sport for children."

Moriarty Foundation Ambassador and former A-League footballer, Allira Toby (Kanolu/Gangulu) said the award is an acknowledgement of JMF's community-led and culturally relevant approach.

"The innovation of JMF is that it is guided by Community Advisory Groups (CAGs) made up of community members, Elders and Traditional Custodians, that ensures it is tailored to local needs and culturally safe and responsive," she said.

The Australian, Sport, Recreation and Play Innovation Awards recognise individuals, government, not-for-profits, the commercial sector, play sector, recreation and sports for their innovations to get more people active in the community.



Danielle scores 2025 NAIDOC sportsperson of the year award

By JACKSON CLARK



AFLW star Danielle Ponter has added another accolade to her already glittering career, becoming the first AFLW player to be named Sportsperson of the Year at the National NAIDOC Awards in Perth a fortnight ago.

The Adelaide forward joins footy legends Andrew McLeod and Lance Franklin as winners of this prestigious award.

The 25-year-old Anmatjere and Marranunggu woman has won two premierships with the Crows and is the AFLW's most prolific goalkicker, with 82 goals across her career.

Ponter remains humble about the honour and the impact she is having as a role model for the next generation.

"When I was younger you had your role models and they were great people — my uncle Michael (Long), Cathy Freeman, they're the names that come up in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander space," Ponter told Adelaide Football Club Media.

"To hear that I am a role model to others is crazy to me because I am just this 25-year-old girl from Darwin who just loved her footy and is lucky enough to be playing it at the highest level.

"There are a lot of times where I am



Danielle Ponter accepting her award in Perth.

surprised that I am a role model, but I need to come around to that and I think in the past few years I have and it's a space that I'm really passionate about.

"Mentoring and leading that next generation and the next wave of players and Indigenous girls and boys is important — to show them they are welcome in every space — whether that's on a football field or in an office."

Ponter admitted that individual accolades are not something she often reflects on, but said this award has given her the chance to pause and appreciate her journey so far.

"I am not one to reflect on my own accolades or individual awards," she said.

"There's moments when you do look back and this is probably one of those moments where I've sat back and gone 'I am deserving of this', I have put a lot of hard work in.



Danielle Ponter of the Crows during the AFLW Round 3 match between the Adelaide Crows and the Hawthorn Hawks at Unley Oval Sunday, September 15, 2024. (AAP)

"Footy takes up so much time and you can get stuck in the cycle of training, expectations, standards and things like that, so I am grateful to be given this opportunity ... and also to reflect back on my career so far."

The Territorian said that sport has been a vehicle to connect with her community and inspire others to follow in her footsteps.

"Footy has been a massive part of my life, not just footy, but sport," she said.

"To be recognised in this category is a reflection of not only what I've achieved,

but the impact footy and sport has had on my life and the impact it can have on other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boys and girls.

"It's about making it visible for others to ensure they can see they can achieve this as well.

"A lot of people say you can't be what you can't see, so it is important for me to be on the field for as long as I can to show these girls it is possible.

"If a young girl from Darwin can do it, then there's no reason why anyone else can't."

Maroons triumphant

By KRIS FLANDERS



THEY'VE done it again!

It was a typical Queensland effort and NSW could see it and feel it coming but, like in previous campaigns, they couldn't do anything about it.

The Maroons wrapped up the State of Origin series with a 24-12 victory over the Blues in the decider in Sydney. Queensland started like a house on fire, like they did in Game Two, and went out to 20 point lead which proved too hard for NSW to reel in.

Queensland Origin debutant, Gehamat Shibasaki, made a huge impact for the winning side which included a try assist for Xavier Coates for the opening try.

"I was so nervous," he said.

"I missed (Stephen) Crichton



The victorious Queenslanders.

twice at the start and that was all because of nerves with me wanting to do something early.

"I took a few deep breaths and then just focused on my next job."

It's a Cinderella story with Shibasaki at his fourth NRL club

with Brisbane and a stint in Japanese rugby before returning to Brisbane on a train-and-trial deal. He's now the club's leading try scorer.

"It's been a whirlwind. If you asked me six months ago, there's

no way I would have thought that I'd be playing here (Origin)," Shibasaki said.

NSW coach, Laurie Daley, said it with one simple word that summed up the feeling that all Blues supporters could relate to.

"Disappointed. You know, we got off to a bad start again and in Origin you give away those type of starts is always hard to come back from. Proud of the way the boys fought. It just wasn't our night," Daley explained.

"We played some good footy but they (Queensland) just won some moments. Just little things that happened in that first half. It felt like an arm wrestle but then, all of a sudden, they'd win a moment which gave them a bit of momentum to create some points."

Indigenous stars were on show with Maroons fullback, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, with a try assist and

also provided 98 metres through 12 runs. He busted 4 tackles and made 5 tackles. Gehamat Shibasaki in his first Origin match, played well at centre, with 123m which was the 6th highest for the Maroons from 18 runs. He busted 6 tackles and made 10 tackles himself. Forward, Reuben Cotter, played the full 80 minutes. The second-rower carted the ball up for 104m from 10 hit-ups. Defensively, he was strong, with 41 tackles. The 3rd highest for his state.

For the Blues, centre Latrell Mitchell, made the 3rd highest in metres gained for NSW with 157 from 15 runs. He busted 4 tackles and produced 13 tackles. Utility, Connor Watson, came off the interchange bench to play 27 minutes. During that game time, Watson, made 24m from 5 darts out of dummy-half. He also made 19 tackles.